

U-FIRST

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

66 Elm St. — P.O. Box 637, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440
(978) 632-0222 — www.uusg.net

October 2005

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Special Insert:
Fall Fair & Pie
Making



Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

October 2—Getting “Closer to Fine”—lay led worship by Cindy Malley

In our quest for perfection, do we ignore the joy in just being fine?

October 9—On Being Your Own Columbus

An exploration of the life of the spirit. The text is from Thoreau's *Walden*:

"...be a Columbus to whole new continents and worlds within you, opening new channels, not of trade, but of thought."

October 16—Mercy Is Twice Blest

An exploration of the dictionary definition: "A disposition to be kind and forgiving."

October 23—Robert Frost, The Poet of Autumn

Guest speaker Carl Lee Howard, Stephen's brother. Watch for his pictorial article in the Fall Edition of *Vermont Life*.

October 30—In Joy and Confidence

The text is from *The Ethics* by Spinoza:

"...he, who strives to conquer hatred with love, fights his battles in joy and confidence."

Everyone is invited to join us for coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall downstairs following worship.

Time for Fun: Potluck & Game Night

On Saturday, October 8th at 5:30pm we will be hosting a potluck supper and game night for the entire congregation. Please come, bring a game or two (board games, cards, anything that you think we would enjoy) and a dish to share. Everyone's welcome for a night of great food, fun and community!



Stray Church Documents

Anyone having in their personal possession documents pertaining to the church (for example: reports, leases, insurance information, meeting minutes) are asked to provide them to a current member of the Executive Board.

Minister: Rev. Stephen Davies Howard — Phone: 413-253-5868
Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-2pm

Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

U-First Editors: Julie Pera — pera.cj@verizon.net
Cindy Malley — b.charmer@verizon.net

Church Office: Catherine Azora-Minda, Secretary — 978-632-0222
Office Hours: Thursday 10am-2pm

Minister's Message

"O hushed October morning mild
Begin the hours of this day slow
Make the day seem to us less brief."
—Robert Frost

Recently, quite early, just as dawn was breaking, I could hear the honking calls of Canada geese. About seventy-five in number, they passed overhead, in an almost perfect V-formation. They were proceeding southwest toward the Connecticut River. Autumn is a migration season for birds and Monarch butterflies. While in Pennsylvania, I often visited mountaintops to observe the passage of hawks catching the wind currents on their journeys south. "Does the hawk soar by the wisdom?" asks the author of Job. As humans we are the measure of some things, but certainly not all things. We sense we are part of the interdependent web of existence—an irreducible mystery. The first rays of morning light reassure us that a new day is being born and that it is always pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun.

—Stephen Davies Howard

Thank UU

To Sue Faucher, Heather Mahoney, Dana Malley, Cindy Malley, Chris Pera and Julie Pera for their efforts over two days to clean the nursery. What a difference! Thanks also to Mary Ann Faucher for keeping track of the toddlers while they worked!

If you know of a contribution or accomplishment that deserves mention in this column, please be sure to send a note to one of the newsletter editors via e-mail or "in-box".



Can You Help?

Winter is right around the corner and with the price of oil quickly rising, heating the church may be more expensive than ever. If you'd like to donate directly to the cost of fuel oil to heat our sanctuary, envelopes labeled "UU Church Fuel Assistance Donation" are provided in each pew.



Children's Religious Education

The GOOD News

The Clara Barton District will be helping us create a children's religious education program. Deborah Levering, a Religious Education specialist, will be assisting the church as we grow in exciting ways. Church members will be involved as the process develops. Although we are attempting to contact everyone by phone or email, please contact Vicki Heidorn at 978-630-2340 (work) or 978-632-7623 (home) if you are interested.

Safety: Our board priority is to make and maintain a safe environment in which to grow spiritually. At the suggestion of the UUA and by our board decision, CORI background checks will be done on all paid staff and anyone working with children.

Child Care & RE Classes will be provided as follows:

Infants: Heather Mahoney

Toddlers - Preschool: Dana Malley

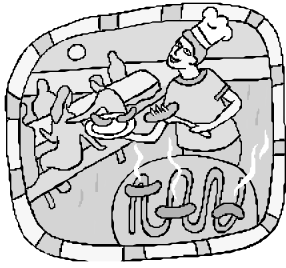
Kindergarten - 4th Grade: Vicki Heidorn

These children are dismissed after the children's story.

5th Grade and up: At this time, please remain in the sanctuary with your parent or caring adult during worship service.

Children who leave the sanctuary for any reason during the service must be accompanied by their guardian, for the safety of all.





Summer Fun

We are creating a wall of our summer memories. Please bring a summer photo with you for our bulletin board!

UUA Gulf Coast Relief Fund

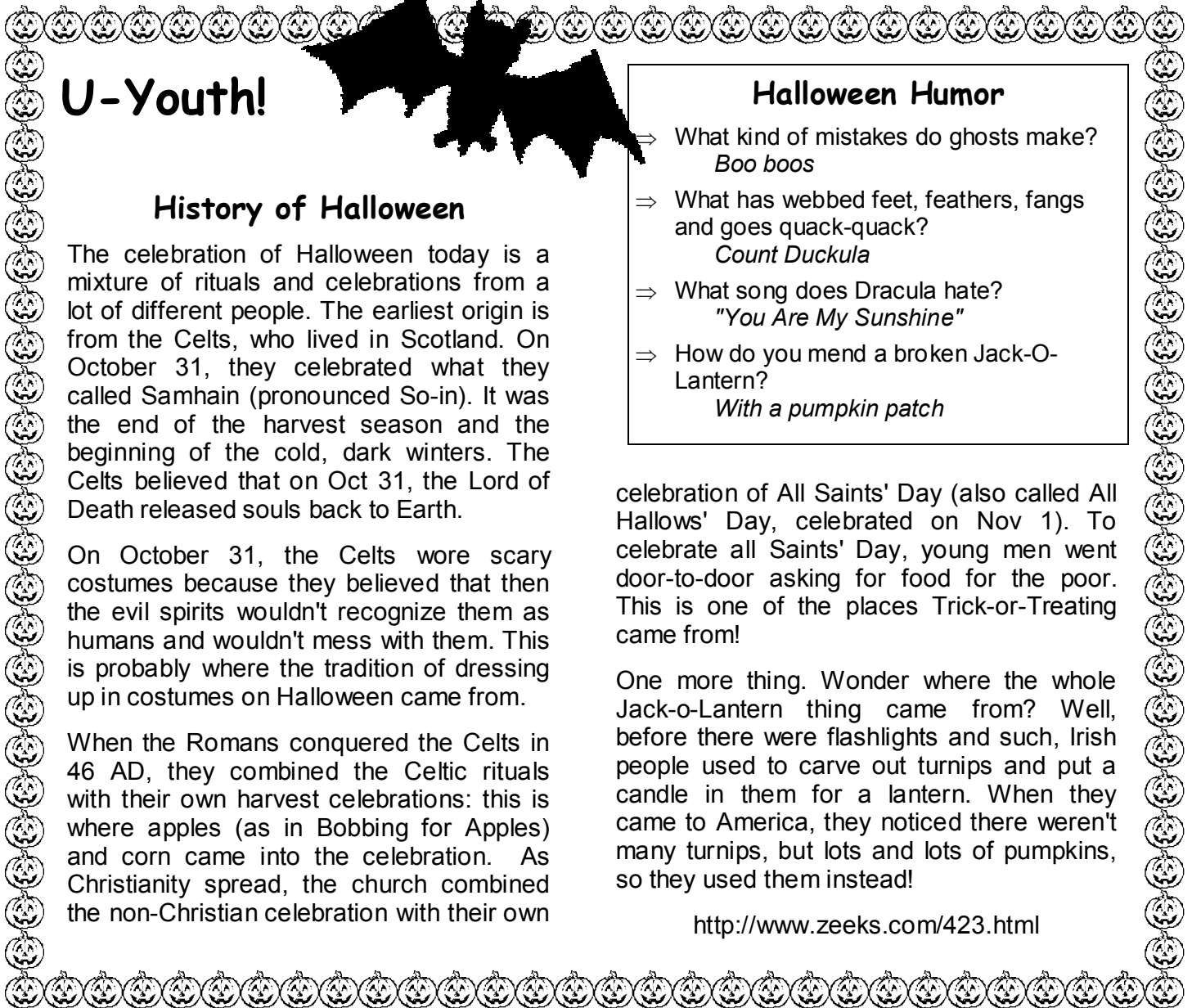
The UUA has established the UUA Gulf Coast Relief Fund to assist in the recovery of Hurricane Katrina. Your generous response will be appreciated. Send checks payable to the UUA Gulf Coast Relief Fund to:

Larry Stritof
UUA Gulf Coast Relief Fund
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108-2800

Please indicate church affiliation on the check. For tax purposes, the UUA is a tax exempt 501 charitable organization. The federal tax exempt number is 04-210-3733. Your donation qualifies as a tax deductible charitable gift.

For more information, please visit:

http://uua.org/news/2005/050831_katrina/donate.html



U-Youth!

History of Halloween

The celebration of Halloween today is a mixture of rituals and celebrations from a lot of different people. The earliest origin is from the Celts, who lived in Scotland. On October 31, they celebrated what they called Samhain (pronounced So-in). It was the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the cold, dark winters. The Celts believed that on Oct 31, the Lord of Death released souls back to Earth.

On October 31, the Celts wore scary costumes because they believed that then the evil spirits wouldn't recognize them as humans and wouldn't mess with them. This is probably where the tradition of dressing up in costumes on Halloween came from.

When the Romans conquered the Celts in 46 AD, they combined the Celtic rituals with their own harvest celebrations: this is where apples (as in Bobbing for Apples) and corn came into the celebration. As Christianity spread, the church combined the non-Christian celebration with their own

Halloween Humor

- ⇒ What kind of mistakes do ghosts make?
Boo boos
- ⇒ What has webbed feet, feathers, fangs and goes quack-quack?
Count Duckula
- ⇒ What song does Dracula hate?
"You Are My Sunshine"
- ⇒ How do you mend a broken Jack-O-Lantern?
With a pumpkin patch

celebration of All Saints' Day (also called All Hallows' Day, celebrated on Nov 1). To celebrate all Saints' Day, young men went door-to-door asking for food for the poor. This is one of the places Trick-or-Treating came from!

One more thing. Wonder where the whole Jack-o-Lantern thing came from? Well, before there were flashlights and such, Irish people used to carve out turnips and put a candle in them for a lantern. When they came to America, they noticed there weren't many turnips, but lots and lots of pumpkins, so they used them instead!

<http://www.zeeks.com/423.html>

Schedule of Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Hosts

Date	Coffee Hour Host(s)
October 2	Kathy & Greg Leung
October 9	Chris & Julie Pera
October 16	Jen Aitken
October 23	Dave & Sue Faucher
October 30	Doreen Noble & Mary Lee Muessel
November 6	Marion Lyon & Rita Libova
November 13	Heather & Trish Mahoney



Coffee Hour Hosts should plan to arrive 30 minutes before service to set up tables and chairs, and start the coffee. A detailed list of coffee hour responsibilities is posted in the kitchen.

Volunteers are still needed for November and December.

Please sign up on the list located next to the kitchen door.

Scrapbooking, Craft & Conversation

The scrapbook and craft club has met twice, with excellent attendance by both church members and outside friends. The time spent together was so enjoyable and productive that a decision was made to meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month.



**Please join us at our
next meeting:
Tuesday, October 11, 6-9pm**

Bring a current project
and a friend or two!

Chocolate Chip Cream Cheese Squares

From the kitchen of: Sue Faucher

- 3 - 20 oz. packages refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough
- 2 - 8 oz. packages of cream cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 t. vanilla
- 3/4 c. sugar

Chill dough, cut 1 1/2 packages of dough into 1/4 inch thick slices. Line bottom of 13X9 cake pan with dough. Beat cream cheese, vanilla, sugar and eggs until smooth. Spread over dough layer. Cut remaining dough into 1/4 inch slices and place on top. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes Cool and cut into squares.



Please share your Coffee Hour or Church Supper favorites for publication here!



The VERY Best Pie Crust Recipe, ever!

From the kitchen of: Leeann Lamsa

Yields: 4 crusts

In a large bowl, mix together: 4 c. flour, 1 T. sugar and 2 t. salt. Cut in 1 3/4 c. shortening, mix till crumbly.

In a small bowl, beat together: 1/2 c. water, 1 large egg, and 1 T. white/cider vinegar.

Combine both mixtures until well mixed and stuck together. Separate into 4 portions, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least a half hour, or freeze for later use.



Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

P.O. Box 637

Gardner, MA 01440

TO:

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or be on our mailing list, or if your address has changed, please send a note to the church, "Attention: U-First Editor."

Oct 05

Your Executive Committee

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding church policies or programs, please feel free to speak with any of the church trustees.

Trustees for Church Year 2005-06

Vicki Heidorn, Chairperson

Sue Blain

Keith Casavoy

Bob Gifford

Cindy Malley

Connie Thompson



Save the Date!

October 2—Board Meeting 11:30am

October 8—Potluck & Game Night, 5:30pm

October 11—Scrapbooking & Craft Club, 6-9pm

October 29—Pie Making for Fall Fair, 9am

November 5—Annual Fall Fair

Look for details inside!

Please note:

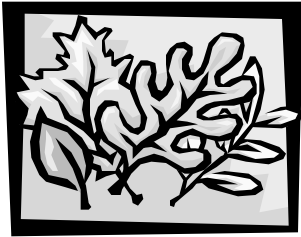
A single issue of U-First will be published for December and January.

Please be ready to submit your contributions for these months by November 13th.

Newsletter Contributions

The deadline for newsletter contributions is usually the second Sunday of the month. Send your contribution via e-mail to pera.cj@verizon.net or b.charmer@verizon.net; or on diskette, typed or *neatly* handwritten in the newsletter "in-box" located on the bulletin board downstairs. No phone submissions, please. Contributions may be edited for length or content at the discretion of the editors.

The deadline for the November newsletter is October 9th.



121st Annual Fall Fair

Saturday, November 5, 2005

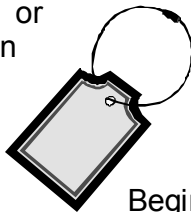
9 am – 2 pm

Donations Needed

To make this a successful event, we need donations of all sorts—used and new!

Flea Market

☞ Furniture (please no pillows or mattresses), books, dishes, kitchen items (in working order please), knick-knacks, clothing, linens, tools, holiday decorations, etc.



Auctions

☞ Any new items donated will be placed in one of the auctions.

Baked Goods

☞ Homemade pies (no apple please—see below!), cakes, cookies, breads, muffins, pickles, jellies, candies

Beginning October 2nd, you may leave your donations in the screened off “library” area in the Fellowship Hall. If you need to have heavier items picked up, or have a van/truck to pick up donations, please contact Dorcas.

Your assistance is needed sorting donations, setting up the night before, staffing tables during the fair, and cleaning up after. To volunteer please contact Dorcas.

**Dorcas Hurd — 978-874-2350 or
dorchashurd@comcast.net**

Featuring something for everyone!

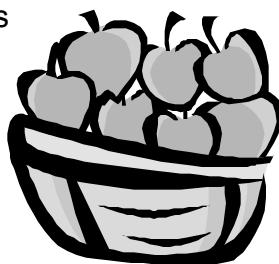
- ☞ Silent Auction
- ☞ Teacup Auction
- ☞ Cutlery for Sale
- ☞ Bake Sale
- ☞ Lunchroom
- ☞ Flea Market
- ☞ Gently Used Clothing & Books



Annual Apple Pie Making

Saturday, October 29th — 9 am

Please join us in the church kitchen to make pies for the Fall Fair. Bring your favorite paring knife, corer, rolling pin and anything else that is essential to you when making pies. The ingredients will be supplied.



If you can't attend, you can still help out by:

- ☞ Making a donation—we will need 9-inch aluminum pie plates and **large** plastic food bags.
- ☞ Making pie crusts ahead of time—see recipe on page 5 of October newsletter!

Please contact Dorcas to let her know of your intended donations or to obtain supplies to make crusts ahead of time.