

UU-FIRST

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

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April 2013

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Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

April 7—Catch the Higher Vision

Where do we find the inspiration to keep us moving in a forward moving direction?

April 14—Regional Association Sunday 10 AM

First Church Unitarian Universalist of Leominster. The Rev. Don Southworth, Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, will be offering the sermon message, "Excellence in Ministry." Carpooling is encouraged.

April 21—Walking the Unfrequented Road—Rev. John Pastor

The road less traveled is often more interesting, but can also be more challenging.

April 28—What is Climate Justice?—Sue Blain

How is climate justice inter-connected with other aspects of justice, such as social, economic, and racial justice?

Spring Fair: May 4, 9am-2pm

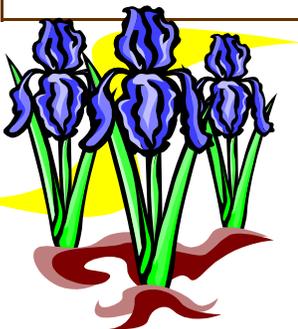
Start rounding up your donations for the **Flea Market, Silent Auction, Tool Table, Book Sale and Fabric/Notions/Craft Supply Table.**

Cull some of your garden and flowers to share at the **Plant Sale.**

Plan out some baked goods for the **Bake Sale and Café.**

Plus **Dean's Beans Coffee, Rada Cutlery, 50/50 Raffle and MORE!**

Please speak to Laura to let her know what you can help out with. Feel free to print out the flyer from the website or email attachment to post around town!



May 5—Many Paths, One Truth— Rev. John Pastor

Who can say where a path toward truth might appear? We UUs follow some traditional and not traditional paths. Each of walks our own path, but we all appear to be headed in the same direction.

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

Spring Cleaning: April 28



Bring your work clothes to service on April 28th. After service, we will spend time in community cleaning the inside and outside of our spiritual home. Don't forget a rake, broom, dusting rags or gardening tools if you have some.

Minister: Rev. John Pastor — Office Hours: Thurs. 1-6pm,
Call for an appointment or to arrange another day or time.
For pastoral emergencies — 508-277-6113

Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

U-First Editor: Julie Pera — uusg.newsletter@gmail.com

Church Office: Catherine Azora-Minda, Secretary — 978-632-0222

Last August 15th, would have been Julia Child's 100th birthday... When her cooking program was on television, I would watch her "religiously." She was entertaining and made creating French meals look fun and even easy. She's known, of course, for her distinctive voice and willingness to make a mess.

Julia had a lot to say on and off camera. Here are some of her quotes on life:

- Find something you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it.
- You must have discipline to have fun.
- I think the inner person is the most important.... I would like to see an invention that keeps the mind alert. That's what is important.
- Drama is very important in life: You have to come on with a bang. You never want to go out with a whimper.
- Everything in moderation, including moderation.
- It's fun to get together and have something good to eat at least once a day. That's what human life is all about -- enjoying things.



- You find yourself refreshed by the presence of cheerful people. Why not make an honest effort to confer that pleasure on others? Half the battle is gained if you never allow yourself to say anything gloomy.

Julia Child was a woman who isn't afraid to be herself and show the world what she loves to do. Her openness and awkwardness made many people fall in love with her. When she made some errors in the kitchen, she was not embarrassed; instead she showed us how to fix them and taught us that it's okay to make mistakes.

Although she did not like organized religion, she once said something that hints of Unitarian belief, "I think you have to pick your own God." And, with a lean toward Universalism, she told us, "Hell only exists on earth."

Julia Child was all about food, fun, and fellowship. She was also about taking risks, and when there is a mess, moving confidently forward. Bon appetit!

With love,



Our newly formed Welcoming Congregation Committee will be presenting an educational and fun evening for all.

Potluck dinner at 5:30, followed by the documentary "Switch: A Community in Transition" and an opportunity for discussion

Join us for good food, good friends and good conversation!

Welcoming Congregation

The Welcoming Congregation Committee includes members Bo Azora-Minda, Susan Blain, Deborah Fabian, Melody Fortier, John Pastor, Julie Pera and Chris Pera. They are meeting monthly to plan the Action Steps for our congregation.

At the first meeting, the committee decided to provide a documentary movie and opportunity for discussion at one of our regular Saturday Night Socials as a way to formally begin the process within our congregation. The committee hopes to hold an inclusive service in June on what is often referred to as "Gay Pride Sunday" to inform and welcome the Greater Gardner community into worship, discussion and fellowship with us.





The Council of Social Justice at First Church Unitarian Littleton

presents

Retired Undercover Drug Agent, Jack Cole

Wednesday, April 3, 7-9pm

in the Community Room, 500 Great Road, Littleton, MA

The event is free and open to the public. Building is handicap accessible.
Light refreshments will be served.

Retired undercover drug agent Jack Cole has spoken more than 1350 times in 27 countries on ending the drug war and treating drug abuse as a health problem rather than a crime problem. Cole will describe the cost of the drug war on people, politics, lives and laws. For more information, contact Susan.Tordella@gmail.com, 978-772-3930.

Cole spends his retirement advocating, "This is not a war on drugs. This is a war on people." In 2002, Cole founded Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, now with 100,000 members internationally – including police, judges, prosecutors and prison wardens. See more at www.leap.cc.

After a 25-years career enforcing U.S. drug laws in New Jersey as a detective lieutenant with the state police, Cole realized the War on Drugs needlessly

destroys millions of lives. Cole shows that America has the highest rate of incarceration per capita of any country in the world; the failed 50-year War on Drugs has cost more than a trillion dollars; and drug laws are unjustly enforced against poor and minority peoples. Ending drug prohibition and regulating its sale will end illegal drug trade in the US and abroad, where drug lords wreak havoc in communities and countries.

Like the 21st amendment to the Constitution ratified in 1933 ended prohibition on liquor, ending drug prohibition will solve myriad problems. Legalizing the distribution of drugs will save lives, reduce government spending, and allow addicts to receive necessary treatment. Whether you agree or disagree, ask questions, learn and debate at Cole's presentation on April 3.

UU-Youth!

UU-UNO Spring Seminar is on Global LGBTQ Justice: From April 4-6, 2013, 175 youth, young adults, and adults will gather in New York City to learn about and dialogue around LGBTQ justice issues. The event is hosted by the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office.



Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

P.O. Box 637

Gardner, MA 01440

TO:

Your Executive Committee

The Executive Committee usually meets on the third Monday of the month. 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 2012-13

(year in parentheses indicates term ending)

Bo Azora-Minda (Chair, '15)

Barbara Bartl ('15)

Tom Brady ('14)

Melody Fortier ('13)

Bob Gifford ('13)

Chris Pera (Clerk/Treasurer, '15)

Laura Reichsman ('14)

Newsletter Contributions

UU-First is published nine times per year:

September, October, November, December-January, February, March, April, May-June, and July-August.

The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

Save the Date!

April 7—Congregational Forum, after worship

April 14—Regional Sunday at Leominster UU Church

April 20—Saturday Night Social: Potluck & Movie, 6pm

April 27—Contradance, 7:15pm

April 28—Spring Cleaning, after worship

May 4—Spring Fair

Now through May 31—Religion in Gardner display at the Gardner Museum

Clara Barton & Massachusetts Bay District Assembly, Saturday, 04/27/2013 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Join hundreds of Unitarian Universalists at the United Congregational Church of Worcester for an afternoon of celebratory worship, vigorous conversation, and rampant optimism about the future of our faith.