THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF GREATER LYNN



March 2017

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn Vision of Ministry

Our vision for our church and our faith is deep and ambitious. We believe Unitarian Universalist values are inspiring and transformative and we intend to strengthen and grow our congregation in order to share those values with more of the world by:

Increasing lay leadership, volunteerism, and hospitality.

Committing ourselves to strengthening our church's sense of unity and community.

Connecting to our surrounding communities and our denomination through service, celebration, and supportive presence. During the next three to five years, articulating a strategy and an action plan for our continued presence in Lynn.

In The Spirit

As winter turns to spring and we travel the road of faith and service together, I want to ask you how you are feeling about your own spiritual centeredness these days. I find that even when I feel overwhelmed, angry and bewildered, it is a huge help to know what tasks I should be focusing on, and why.

I find that much of the time, it is the "why" that actually takes more time to reflect on and understand than an actual task. It is fine to say, "I am doing this out of love" or "I have to do this task because it is my job" or "I will attend that event because I want to learn something," but staying energized for all that we must do invites us to go deeper than that. We must go way down where the wellspring resides. To give you an example of what I mean, the other day I have been in online conversation – actually more like debate – with MA residents who insist that sanctuary ordinances are nothing more than an invitation to crime, expense and "stolen jobs" from people they refer to as "ILLEGALS" (it's always all caps, which amounts to screaming). I have tried to respond to their angry hysteria point by point with information about immigration policy, Supreme Court rulings on the fourteenth amendment, and the perspective from public safety officials who support sanctuary cities. However, these people refuse to grant that they might be wrong or misguided. Why do I bother?

I could say, "Because I want to put information out there that may inform just one person enough to reconsider their virulent opposition." But I need to go deeper than that in order to keep my heart in the work. And so I put in my mind a refugee family and pray for them, and for all the displaced and traumatized human beings who have lost their homes and had to flee under dangerous circumstances. I walk my neighborhood and think about all my neighbors whose hearts will break if and when friends and family members who have never done anything wrong are deported. I dream of the America I want our children to inherit and love as their own nation, and I see their faces in my mind's eye. I walk my dog and hear a variety of languages on Lynn Shore Drive and it sounds like music to my ears.

If you find that you are not able to accomplish quite as much as you used to lately, this might be why. Maybe you, like I, are having to dig deeper to find the *why* that fuels you. As we move together on the "road from greed to giving, love will guide us through the hard night." ("Love Will Guide Us") May the church be your fuel station, a place to re-charge and find wayside companionship and even joy for the journey.

In faith, hope and love, Rev. Vicki

I will be in Israel, Palestine and Jordan from March 10-29th. Please contact the office if you have pastoral needs. They will connect you with a lay pastoral caregiver or the Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell, who will be on call for me in the event of an emergency.



Daylight Savings Time March 12, 2017

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed Saturday night! See you in church Sunday, March 12!

Sunday Worship Services 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister Karen Brown, Director of Faith Development David Collins and Nami Hamada, Keyboard

March Worship Series On the Road

In this continuing series, we will engage with the beautiful and sometimes difficult transformations we experience as we travel through life in community. Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein preaches.

Sunday, March 5

Love Will Guide Us Along the Road Michael Celona, Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein Please bring in your pledge card to support the 2017-18 church budget. We will gather them during the service.

Sunday, March 12 UUs And The Resistance Rev. Tom Schade

Sunday, March 19 Love Will Guide Us and Connect Us Faith Development Sunday

Please join our children and youth on Faith Development Sunday and learn what Guides us and what Connects us. We hope you are able to attend our worship service and celebrate with us. A Youth Group Soup Luncheon will follow the service.

Sunday, March 26 Service Is Our Prayer Social Justice Ministry Team

ECCO New Sanctuary Meeting for Swampscott and Marblehead Wednesday, March 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The follow-up ECCO sanctuary meeting that was snowed out a couple of weeks ago will take place on Wednesday, March 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is for the Swampscott and Marblehead group.

Want to become involved in the New Sanctuary Movement? Join us to standing strong in the belief that "No Human Being is Illegal." ECCO is organizing to establish Sanctuary Congregations and Sanctuary Cities. To be powerful enough to resist hate, we need you and as many people as you can bring!

Sharing Our Sunday Offerings September-June

One charitable organization or cause will be chosen each month; all collections will benefit both the church and charity.

- 1. <u>All loose cash</u> in the collection plates will be <u>split</u> on a 50/50 basis between the church and the charity.
- 2. Checks payable to the church will go only to the church <u>unless otherwise designated</u> (50/50 noted on the memo line). If your intention is to fulfill your pledge, your check, without a memo line notation, will go towards your pledge.
- 3. All checks payable to the charity will go directly to the charity.

Envelopes are available on the ushers table to designate your **<u>cash</u>** contributions. <u>An envelope is</u> not necessary for donations made by check.



March 50/50 Sunday Offerings to Benefit UU Partner Church Council

The Global Congregation Ministry Team has selected the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council to share our offerings during the month of March. The Council's membership includes UU congregations who have partnered with another congregation in such locations as Hungary, Romania, the United Kingdom, Africa, the Philippines and also individual Unitarian Universalists who support the idea of international cooperation and collaboration. The Council assists congregations in initiating and maintaining partnerships. It organizes pilgrimages to places where there are congregations. The programs of the Council also include trainings and conferences, and subsidies to facilitate international travel.

Please make checks payable to: Partner Church Council.

Thank you for your contribution to enhancing international understanding.



Thank You from Francie

This is just a word of thanks to all of you for your good wishes and kindness during my good-byes as the departing Director of Music at UUCGL. The beautiful gift of a Nancy Wolinski silver necklace is something I will treasure, and I'll not soon forget the festive fellowship hour with the most amazing cake I have ever seen! I love the cards made by the children under Karen's guidance, and the choir threw a great, oldfashioned Sunday afternoon musicale party with great food by Dave Aldrich. What a send-off!

I also particularly want to say thank you to Dan Meyers, who is also retiring from the music staff at UUCGL. Dan was a wonderful assistant to me over thirteen of the almost-fifteen years I was with you, and has made it possible for me to carry on my work as a performer while serving this church. He especially made it possible for me to take two wonderfully enriching sabbaticals, and he has shared much talent, kindness and friendship with the choir and the whole congregation. My deep gratitude to Dan and, on behalf of the parish: thank you, Dan.

I am beginning to settle into my new position in Beverly Farms, but I miss you all very much. Thank you for all the goodness, generosity and support I have experienced in your midst. I wish you the very best.

~ Francie

CAN YOU HELP?

The UUWGL (Unitarian Universalist Women of Greater Lynn), Annual Indoor Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, April 1**. Proceeds from this yearly yard sale support our Philanthropic Fund. At our meeting on **March 6**, we will be deciding whether to go forward with our plans. **Can you help?** Please speak to Emmanuela Minnefield, Barbara Helinski, Sarah Drewry or Joanne Brine if you would like to help us continue this tradition. You may also contact Janet Osborne at jposborne37@comcast.net

Socially Responsible Investing Making the Hard Choices at UUCGL Sunday, March 5, 11:30 a.m.

What are your priorities for socially responsible investing of our UUCGL financial assets? Are you concerned about fossil fuels? Labor relations? Workplace diversity? The Investments Committee works to make sure that the church's financial assets are invested to reflect our values, as well as to provide a reliable income stream for our ministries and charitable giving. Currently we screen our investments using a tool that gives a score to companies based on our priorities. But, we want to hear from YOU on what your priorities are! Come to a Forum on Sunday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room for a brief presentation by your Investments Committee on the social, environmental, and governance criteria we use to choose our investments, followed by an exercise designed to discover YOUR priorities. Let's make sure that we put our money where our mouth is!

Ongoing Groups . . .

Covenant Group

The group is open to anyone from the church interested in learning about and experiencing small group ministry. Gatherings are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 11:30-1:00 p.m. in the "Faces" classroom. If you are interested in joining this group, or even just sitting in to see if you like it, please speak to Lyssa Andersson, Suzanne Forgione, or Karen Brown. We encourage visitors to try it out for at least three consecutive sessions to get a real feeling for the group. One need not be a UUCGL member, or even a Unitarian Universalist to join a covenant group here.

Dialogue Group

The Dialogue Group meets **September-June**, the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 11:45 a.m. There is no obligation to commit to attendance, all are welcome when able to attend. Contact Ron Fishman if you have an interest in joining this group. For more information: http://seedsofunfolding.org/issues/04_06/ features_1.htm and http://seedsofunfolding.org/ issues/05_06/features_1.htm.

AA Meets on Saturdays

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets every Saturday at 5:00 p.m. in our beautiful Fellowship Room. The group is open to alcoholics and those who believe they may have a problem with alcohol. We look forward to welcoming all interested.



Growing in Love Faith Development Through the Ages

Love Will Guide Us and Connect Us.....

This is the theme of our children's celebration in our faith development program this year. Love will Guide Us and Love will Connect Us are UUA Tapestry of Faith curricula that is being adapted for our Bright Lights' and Chalice Children. The kids are learning about our sources and how important they are to their faith of Unitarian Universalism. Many faith traditions have one or several sacred sources and commentaries that help their members learn how to delve deeper into the spiritual life. In our faith tradition, our center comes from our own exploration of many sources. I believe that this is the blessing of being a Unitarian Universalist. The children are also learning about our Covenant. We are a covenantal congregation.

You can find our sources and principles in the front of our hymnal or by going to the UUA website. If you want to know more about being in covenant, please visit the link below. Or, just come to our worship service on the 19^{th} of March and the children will teach you what it all means O.

http://www.uua.org/governance/covenant

Blessings, Karen

Explore Your Dreams -



A Great Adventure Starts Sunday, March 19 3:30 – 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Room

A group will be meeting the third Sunday of every month from 3:30 – 5:30 pm. Dreams come to us in the forms of symbols and metaphors with important messages for our lives. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pearl Brown <u>epbrown23@verizon.net</u> or 781-631-4905. You can also contact Karen Brown at <u>uudrek@gmail.com</u>



Children and Youth Programming Updates

First Friends and Little Lights: We continue to welcome the little ones into the Parish Hall on Sundays after the Story for all Ages to meet our child-care providers. Parents can also meet with our child-care providers before the service in the Parish Hall.

Bright Lights and Chalice Children: We continue our lessons on Covenant. One Sunday we focused on *To Dwell Together in Peace* and the children were told a story about Henry David Thoreau and how his essay *Civil Disobedience* influenced Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. In our Chalice Children class room, we played Friendship Tug of War instead of the more traditional Tug of War. The children had to find a way to stand up straight holding a circle of rope and get themselves back down. It took a lot of cooperation!!! The Bright Lights made delightful peace doves and they will be on view on Faith Development Sunday.

Breakfast Bunch in Neighboring Faiths: Our youth had guests from the Muslim faith visit their classroom in February - Keli and Sam Khatib. Next stop? Buddhism.....

Youth Group: The youth continue with their curriculum *A Chorus of Faiths*. On one Sunday in February, the kids gathered in the Fellowship Room and participated in a type of skype meeting with the youth leaders at the UUA. They learned about all the opportunities that will be available to them at General Assembly this year.

Adult Faith Development: We canceled the GSMT movie Chasing Ice in February due to bad weather. This video will be rescheduled – stay tuned!

Rev. Vicki held a successful **Minister's Forum** on Spiritual Activism in February.

March 4 - Birdwalk in Nahant with our favorite birder John Benson - 8:30 am. Meet in the parking lot across from the Coast Guard Station.

March 5 – Forum on Socially Responsible Investing in the Fellowship Room after the Fellowship Hour. Please look at the Weekly Update, THE TIMES, and the Order of Service for more information.

March 12 – Green Sanctuary Ministry Team – The GSMT Book club is reading *Two in the Far North*. We invite all members to read the book and join the team. See Weekly Update, THE TIMES, and the Order of Service for details.

The Kemenyfalva Chronicles 12 Years and 12 Pilgrims

Since 2004, our congregation has had a partnership with the Unitarian congregation in the village of Kemenyfalva located in the Transylvanian area of Romania. Transylvania, once a part of Hungary, includes many villages that reflect Hungarian ethnicity.

Prior to 2004, two UUCGL youth, Hannah Peterson and Raquel Sevilla, participated in a youth pilgrimage to Unitarian and other Transylvanian sites and visited Kemenyfalva. In the twelve years between 2004 and 2016, ten from our UCGL congregation have also visited Kemenvfalva where they staved in village homes and gained a first hand understanding of the roots of Unitarian religion and how a people have been able to withstand years of attacks on their beliefs and organized efforts to suppress their Hungarian identity. Our congregation has provided some assistance to the Kemenyfalva congregation and the village in meeting needs that our partner has identified. Some of these projects are: scholarships for village youth to attend high school, technical institute, and/or university, support of a summer camp for children of Kemenyfalva and other nearby villages in collaboration with two other UU congregations, subsidizing the costs of rehabilitating the parish house, and facilitating visits both to and from our two congregations.

As UUCGL Vice President Lyssa Andersson affirms, it is our people to people relationship that attaches meaning to a partner church relationship. She writes: For me, it's all about community. When I think about what UUCGL means to me, it includes the congregation of the Unitarian Church-and their neighbors in Kemenyfalva. There's Agi and Alpar and Attila (and those are just the A's) who have laughed with me and sung hymns with me and shared their homes and farm harvestings and hearts. We are truly a global community.

Mary Kiene- Gualtieri and her family, visited the Kemenyfalva congregation several years ago, expresses her impressions of her experience as follows: *Visiting our partner church village in Transylvania was an inspiring experience for me as well as my family. We now have first-hand knowledge of the life in this tiny community, where life is simple, the air is clean, and the welcome is warm. The people of Kemenyfalva work hard and do well for themselves, but I'm glad our church can help by providing funding for the needs of their church, and for the children who may not otherwise be able to afford boarding costs to attend the high school in another town (there is no high school in the village). I'm proud that our church community makes a difference in this little corner of the world.*

To the benefits of a broadened sense of community and understanding to be gained from joining a pilgrimage to our partner church community, can be added a deeper appreciation of our Unitarian roots. John Benson shares his thoughts about his visit and writes: Arriving in a small Transylvanian country village, I expected stereotypes, but instead found neat little houses with furnishings, living arrangement, and food that were all surprisingly familiar. As for the people, with the exception of the very different language, I felt that I was at home with my friendly next-door neighbors, with whom I shared similar feelings and points of view. The combination of very familiar surroundings and old cities and buildings put the flow of history into a new and revealing context. And the biggest surprise of all, I came to understand clearly the simplicity, elegance, and power of Unitarian doctrine.

~ Dean A. McKennon

Social Justice Ministry Team News

Happy March from the UUCGL Social Justice Ministry Team! We've been having a busy winter. We changed up our January meeting, and met for dinner in Lynn, and then joined a Beloved Community Meeting organized by ECCO (Essex County Community Organization). As a team we are committed to leveraging partnerships and ECCO is a partner. It is a faith based organization that focuses on Essex County issues including immigration, racial justice and incarceration.

Many of us attended the DC or Boston Women's Marches in late January. It was an amazing experience with 175,000 in attendance in Boston and countless in DC. And some of us went to Copley square a week later to speak out against the immigration ban. If you would like to see pictures of these rallies and other projects we have been working on, head back to the Parish Hall and check out the new "Show Me What Democracy Looks Like" bulletin board. Please add your own photo's – your favorite signs, shots of the crowds – maybe some selfies in pink hats!

Our next SJMT meeting will be on Monday, March 13 with a potluck at 6:30 pm and the meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please stop by, we would love to see new people interested in social justice work!

On Wednesday, March 15, we will be hosting an ECCO meeting on sanctuary communities and congregations. This is a follow-up meeting to another one we hosted in January and will focus on Marblehead and Swampscott.

Thank you, Jeff Gunther, Co-Chair Social Justice Ministry Team



Green Corner Open Space

As most of you know, I chair the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team which is celebrating "open space" this year. I also happen to be a member of the Town of Swampscott's Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee, which updated the town's open space plan a couple of years ago. Lynn also has a formal open space plan setting forth recreational goals and open space opportunities for the town. Both are worth reviewing and supporting.

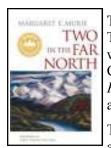
Here is an article I wrote for Swampscott's OS&RP Committee's Blog: Swampscott's Monument Area was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the famous 19th century American landscape architect who designed many urban parks – including New York City's Central Park and Boston's "Emerald Necklace." Popularly considered the father of American landscape architecture, he advocated that, in landscape design, you "consult the genius of the place in all." In other words, any improvements of the landscape has to pay close attention to the inherent character of the land. In our seacoast town, I believe that means enhancing our connection to the shoreline – not creating barriers to it.

Olmsted also believed that "the perfect antidote to the stress and artificialness of urban life (and I'd add here, 21st century suburban life) was a nice stroll through a pastoral park." For that reason, I believe he would wholeheartedly approve of the proposed Rails-to-Trails that would run through our town and create a green space where we can take a relaxing stroll and our children can safely ride their bikes, a space for use by all of the town's residents, one that connects us and gives us space to breath. Such a green space – and not Vinnin Square – could become the "heart" of our community.

Swampscott recently revised its <u>Open Space &</u> <u>Recreation Plan</u>. The plan includes a snapshot of our existing open and recreational space along with goals and a seven-year action plan designed to both enhance and protect what we have before it's all gone. Every Town department and committee and every town resident should take the time to review and, more importantly, support its implementation.

Swampscott needs to pay attention to its open & recreational space. As we move forward – whether it be with a new housing development or a new school – perhaps we should start asking "What would Olmsted do?"

~Toni Bandrowicz



The Green Book Club is Back!

To celebrate our Open Space theme, we invite you to join our Green Book Club; we'll be reading "*Two for the Far North*" by <u>Margaret E. Murie</u> with a forward by <u>Terry Tempest Williams</u>.

This enduring story of life, adventure, and love in Alaska was written by a

woman who embraced the remote Alaskan wilderness and became one of its strongest advocates. Murie's work as one of the earliest female voices for the wilderness movement earned her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Murie, along with her husband and others, went on to found The Wilderness Society.

The Trump Administration calls for more oil and gas drilling, including on federal lands in Alaska. Come experience the wilderness through Murie's work and learn why this extraordinary land needs to be protected.

We will be meeting to discuss the book on Sunday, March 12 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Room (library).



Green Sanctuary Ministry Team Meetings: We get together every other month during the church year at a parishioner's house for potluck and team meeting. <u>All are welcome to join us!</u> This

year the meetings have been tentatively set for the following Fridays starting at 6:30 pm. Upcoming meetings: **March 3, and May 5.** For more information, call or email Toni Bandrowicz at <u>781-599-3541</u> or <u>tbandrowicz@gmail.com</u>

Winter Bird Walk in Nahant! Saturday, March 4

Join John Benson and other members of the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team for a Winter Bird



Walk in Nahant! In the past, we have been treated to sightings of Snowy Owls, Common Loons, Black and White-Winged Scoters, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Eiders and Brants, among other sea birds!

Meet in the parking lot off Ward Road (Off Nahant Road across from the Coast guard Station) at 8:30 a.m.



Something for everyone! Join us at UUCGL !

> No strangers enter here only friends who haven't met. -ANONYMOUS

WEEKLY:

Mondays -Chamber Music, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Tuesdays, -Moran Group, 6:15 p.m., lower level -Concert Singers, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesdays -Ocean Breeze, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Room -OA, 7:00 p.m., lower level Room 9

Thursdays -Choir, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Saturdays -OA, 8:30 a.m., lower level Room 9 -AA, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Wednesday, 1 -Women's Group, 6:00 p.m., lower level Room 9

Friday, 3 -Green Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m., off site

Saturday, 4 -Bird Walk, 8:30 a.m., Nahant

Sunday, 5 -<u>All-Church Breakfast</u>, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall -Covenant Group, 11:30 a.m., Faces classroom -Investing Forum, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Room -YES Potluck, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 6 -UUWGL, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Room

Tuesday, 7 -Global Congregation, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Thursday, 9 -Properties, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Room Sunday, 12 -Green Sanctuary Book Club, 11:30 a.m., Fell. Room -Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom -Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday, 13 -Social Justice, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Tuesday, 14 -Governance, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Wednesday, 15 -ECCO Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Friday, 17 -Ocean Breeze School, Museum of Science, P.H.

Saturday, 18 -TIMES Deadline

Sunday, 19 -Covenant Group, 11:30 a.m., Faces classroom -Dream Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 20 -Season at Symphony Group, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary -Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Thursday, 23 -Concert Singers Lobster Roll Prep, PH/K

Friday, 24 -Concert Singers Lobster Roll Sale, PH/K

Sunday, 26 -Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom -Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary -YES Potluck, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Room -Yard Sale Prep this week (tentative)

Monday, 27 -Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

THE TIMES unitarian universalist church of greater lynn

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Mission Statement

Inspired by meaningful worship, religious education and fellowship, we are a welcoming congregation committed to spiritual growth and diversity, social justice, and serving the greater community.

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Rev. Vann Knight, Minister Emeritus Rev. Robert Slater, Minister Emeritus Ann E. Boynton, DRE Emerita Office Hours Monday — Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Reminder: THE TIMES Monthly Schedule

(EMAILS should be sent to akern@uucgl.org)

The standing deadline for submissions for the monthly publication of THE TIMES is 9:00 a.m. the 18th of each month. This will allow time for the newsletter to be compiled, printed, mailed and delivered, as well as posted on our website, by the first of each month. All teams and individuals responsible for newsletter submissions should think ahead each month and plan accordingly.

Next TIMES Deadlines (EMAILS should be sent to akern@uucgl.org) 9:00 A.M.

Deadline DateIssue DateMarch 18AprilApril 18May

"Like" us on Facebook at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

Website – www.uucgl.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This newsletter will be published monthly on our UUCGL <u>website</u>. As a reminder, please do not put any personal identifying information in your article that you would not want someone looking at the website to access. Personal contact info is deleted before posting THE TIMES to the website. (If you would like your personal contact information left in your article, please include a note of permission when submitting to THE TIMES.)