

THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF GREATER LYNN



May 2017

Volume 86 #11

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

Things are chugging along nicely at UUCGL and we are riding big waves of change and transition. The board and I have been meeting frequently to strategize for a future that sees UUCGL not merely surviving, but thriving. I can't possibly express deeply enough my admiration for the combined intelligence, commitment and goodness of the group, which is more than ably led by President Clare Campbell. Please be full of thanks for this team. They deserve more than you can imagine.

I am working with two Search Committees to hire a new Music Director and a Director of Community Life and Learning and hope to have staff in place by late summer who will help us live into our mission and our vision.

We are all trying to learn how to manage frequent shocks and fears, and a sense of uncertainty and instability in a nation whose leaders don't have a clear or transparent policy. I personally struggle with a great sense of sorrow about the prevalence of random violence in our country, and specifically the Easter afternoon shooting of two of our ECCO community friends, Len Clement and Prince Belin, outside the Lynn Arts building. Len has died. So many are hurting. The ECCO clergy are having a retreat early in May to focus on framing our work in an affirmative way instead of always organizing against injustices. It is very important to know what we are against but more important never to lose touch with what it is we are for.

What are you for? How can you express that commitment today, in your own way according to your own abilities? Perhaps you can do something. Perhaps you are limited by physical restrictions from action, and can pray. If you are alive and reading this, the love of God and the blessing of creation is moving through you. You have power.

In faith, hope and love,

Rev. Vicki



Love is the doctrine of this church,

The quest for truth its sacrament,

And service its prayer.

To dwell together in peace,

To seek knowledge in freedom,

To serve human need,

To the end that all souls shall

grow into harmony with the Divine –

Thus do we covenant

with each other and with God.

Sunday Worship Services 10:00 A.M.

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

May Worship Series

Sunday, May 7

One

Musician Jim Scott will join us this morning. We explore the theological concept of the unity of God and the humanist concept of the unity of humankind, both central convictions within the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

Sunday, May 14

Birthing

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Never mind the sweet fluffy lambs on the nursery wall, birthing is bloody business. Nothing new comes into being without courage, pain and sacrifice. Bring your mom. She knows.

Sunday, May 21

**Bridges Between
The Youth Group**

At our annual Youth Service, we will learn about how our young people have been engaged with faith development and spiritual growth through interfaith work this year. Sara Beatty, Meredith Charney and Joshua and Nathan Young will be participants in our bridging ritual for high school seniors.

Sunday, May 28

The Intentional Erosion of Memory

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

A Memorial Day service inspired by Sean Spicer's "holocaust centers" and other creative interpretations of history.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

If you are looking for a liberal religious community
that is a Welcoming Congregation,
sees the sacred in the ordinary,
draws wisdom from many religions,
celebrates children, enjoys music,
works for peace and justice,
and encourages every person to follow
their own reason and conscience,
then you may have found your spiritual home.

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. All loose cash in the collection plates will be split on a 50/50 basis between the church and the charity.
2. Checks payable to the church will go only to the church unless otherwise designated (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 cash contributions. An envelope is not necessary for donations made by check.



May 50/50 Sunday Offerings to Benefit Promise the Children

Promise the Children has been chosen by our youth to be the May recipient of our 50/50 Sunday worship service offerings.

Promise the Children recruits volunteer advocates to speak out for our nation's very young children. About half of our parent(s) salaries are so low that their children depend on our school meal's programs funded by the government. Children also need affordable and safe childcare while their parent(s) work. Our Promise the Children advocates are urged to voice these needs to the public and to our elected officials. You can sign up at:
<http://promisethechildren.org>.

Thank you for your generosity. **Please make checks payable to: Promise the Children.**



**An Interfaith Dinner
Sponsored by our Youth Group YES
Saturday, May 13, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.**

Our youth have been engaged in an interfaith study this year called A Chorus of Faiths, a UU Tapestry of Faith Program. We are a congregation made up of people from different faith traditions. In our global world, having conversations about how we are the same, how we are different, and getting to know each other will build a more compassionate world. We hope you can join us. We have invited neighboring congregations. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Ministry Table in the foyer of our church; or you can call Karen at 862-432-0173 or email at uudrek@gmail.com **Please join us!**

Music Program Survey



Dear Congregation,

As we go into search for a new Music Director, we are taking the opportunity to think about our music program. We would love it if you would fill out this survey that will help us know more about how music ministers to you, and to know more about your musical preferences. Thank you so much. The link for the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DTTSYGK>.

The Music Director Search Committee
Misha Gerson, Shauna Guidici,
Trudi Olivetti, Whisky Wolinski
and Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

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.

**Unitarian Universalist Women
of Greater Lynn
Scholarships Available**



College Scholarship Applications, available through the UUWGL Philanthropic Fund, can be obtained at the church office. The deadline for returning the application is **May 15th**.



Growing in Love Faith Development Through the Ages

There was a time when I couldn't read the news or look at the news on television. The Vietnam War and Watergate is a blur in my memory. I didn't engage like I probably should have. I just wasn't ready. I'm not ready now to listen to the news or absorb what I'm reading, but I know I need to. I've been watching Democracy Now and all the web interviews when I can. I'm frightened. I don't want to admit it because I like to stay positive. But I can't deny how I'm feeling. And I wonder how our congregation is doing.

I remember when my daughter Rebecca was a teen in Indianapolis. One of her first jobs was a hostess in a trendy restaurant. On the first night of her employment, she came home and I asked her how the evening went. She looked at me with these big sad eyes and said, "I just figured out that I don't like people very much." All I could say was "I know what you mean."

Sometimes I ask myself why the news doesn't show more of the positive side of our human nature. While we need to know the difficult, sad, and many times violent news to keep current and active in changing things for the better, I wonder why we do not have a news station devoted to people's goodness. It might even be called *Hopeful News*. In this newscast, we would find out all the wonderful, interesting, and exciting things people are doing all over the world. *Hopeful News* would be what we turn to first before we turn to the news of a world filled with corruption, violence, and war.

I think about the years I've spent in faith development and I see the wonderful children who graduate from our programs. The future rests in their hands. We have served them well and I hope they bring their children to our congregations. They need us. What the world doesn't need are religious people fighting each other. As we all struggle with the isms in the world that lead to war and poverty, I will be keeping my eye on what's good with the world, knowing that I am in a faith tradition with a set of principles and a covenant that helps us look at ourselves. We are not perfect for sure!

Our Association is now facing a tough time reexamining white privilege and white supremacy in their own ranks. Let us join them in looking at our own implicit biases and strive for a better world for ourselves, our children, and the world's children and adults. The world depends on it. Maybe in the future, when a young teen is asked how they like their new job of working with people, that teen will say "I just figured out that I like people very much!"

~Karen



March Happenings and into the future.....

In the month of March, we all enjoyed an inspiring Faith Development Sunday where our children created the worship service and read their statements about their favorite Source of our faith and what part of our Covenant they liked best. Our Youth Group fed us a delicious soup luncheon. A perfect Sunday in Faith Development. We also thanked our teachers for volunteering and served up a delicious cake during Fellowship Hour.

Many members of UUCGL went to St. Stephen's in Lynn for an ECCO event to learn about the sanctuary movement and the immigrants who will need our help.

The documentary **Chasing Ice** was shown and the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team had 19 people in attendance.

May 6 – Green Sanctuary Ministry Team Bird Walk in the morning with our host John Benson

May 13 – Youth Group YES Interfaith Dinner

May 20 – Green Sanctuary Ministry Team – Lynn Woods walk

May 21 – Youth Service and All Church Picnic



Green Corner Open Space

**Lynn Woods Guided Nature Walk
Saturday, May 20 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**A spring outing hosted by
the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team
and led by Lynn Woods Reservation
Park Ranger, Dan Small.**

Spring Bird Walk – Saturday, May 6, 8:30 a.m. Marblehead Bird Sanctuary

Join John Benson and other members of the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team for an early morning spring bird walk at the Marblehead Bird Sanctuary on Saturday, May 6. We will meet at the UUCGL parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and then carpool to the bird sanctuary on Marblehead Neck (or meet us there – Atlantic Avenue to Ocean Avenue to Risley Road).



Spring is the best time to see and hear our feathered friends as they migrate back north! Free bird coloring and sticker books for children who join us!

Ranger Dan recently provided us with a virtual “hike” through the Lynn Woods at the UUCGL Winter Forum – now’s your chance to experience this wonderful natural resource in person!

Children 8 years or older are welcome and are invited to build “fairy houses” after the hike with natural material collected during the walk. Younger children may participate at their parents’ discretion. Sorry, dogs are not invited to this event.

There will also be the opportunity for joining in a brown bag lunch after the hike.

The hike is limited to 30 participants. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the church foyer.

The hike will proceed rain or shine, unless the weather is severe.



Questions?

Contact Jim Olivetti at jim.olivetti@gmail.com or Karen Brown at uudrek@gmail.com.



At the Movies!

If you missed the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team’s (GSMT) hosting of *Chasing Ice* – an eye-opening documentary about an environmental photographer’s journey to the Arctic to capture images of the Earth’s changing climate – you can borrow it for home viewing! *Chasing Ice* as well as other environmentally-themed DVDs are on the book cart during Sunday Fellowship Hour, along with a sign out sheet. Below is list of the movies that are available. Additional information on each of the movies will be at the cart. We request you only keep the DVD out for a 14-day period.

Arctic Dance – The Mardy Murie Story: Companion film to the book “Two in the Far North,” this film documents the remarkable life of Mardy Murie (the “Mother of the Conservation Movement”) and her special connection to Alaska.

Bag it: This touching and often flat-out-funny film, follows “everyman” Jeb Berrier as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world.

Behind Closed Doors: a documentary evaluating the science, ethics and politics of animal welfare.

(continued on page 6)

At the Movies!
(continued from page 5)

Chasing Ice: environmental photographer journeys to the Arctic to capture image of the Earth's changing climate.

End of the Line: a documentary about the devastating effects that over-fishing is having on fish stocks and the health of our oceans.

Food Inc.: An unflattering look inside America's corporate controlled food industry.

Greening of Southie: Set on the storied streets of South Boston, a documentary about Boston's first residential green building, and the skeptical workers who are asked to build it.

Hoot: Three teens team up to save a local population of burrowing owls that are about to have their home destroyed.

No Impact Man: A film following the Beaven family as they abandon their high consumption Fifth Avenue lifestyle in an attempt to make a no-net environmental impact for the course of one year.

Ocean Frontiers: An inspiring film about ocean stewardship efforts around the country, including New England.

Ocean Frontiers II: Part 2 of ocean stewardship efforts.

Play Again: At a time when children play more behind screens than outside, this documentary unplugs a group of tech savvy teens and takes them on their first wilderness adventure.

Renewal: Eight stories that represent the growing religious-environmental movement. Each story is set in a different religious-tradition, addressing a different environmental concern.

Seeds of Time: A documentary tracking the history and mission of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault – sometimes called the Doomsday Vault.

The True Cost of Food: A short, 15 minutes, video for children about sustainable food put out by Sierra Club.

Thirst: A documentary that questions whether water is a right for all people or a commodity to be bought and sold in a global marketplace.

Water First: An inspiring story from Malawi showing that clean water is essential for the achievement of the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

Social Justice Ministry Team News

Please mark your calendars for the **North Shore Pride Parade on Saturday, June 24th in Salem.**



We welcome all church members to join us on short parade route from the post office in Salem to the common. It's a wonderful event for all ages with plenty of activities at the end of parade on the common. We have 'UU Love' t-shirts available to wear for the parade. Please contact myself or Jack Butterworth if you have any questions about the event.

SJMT will host a **"700 Meatballs"** event on a Saturday morning in May (exact date TBD- we will put an update in the bulletin once it's figured out). Please join us to roll out 700 meatballs that will be donated to My Brother's Table. This is a fun event for anyone in the church community to participate. Come for as long or short as you like. Sign up sheets will be posted on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Michael Celona ordered more **"Love thy Neighbor"** lawn signs. If you would like one, please contact Michael at michaelcelona@yahoo.com or (978) 835-7724. The signs cost \$13.

The SJMT meets the second Monday of the month starting with a potluck at 6:30 p.m. and followed by the meeting from 7:00 to 8:30. Please see myself or Martha Curry if you are interested in joining us.

Jeff Gunther, Co-Chair
Social Justice Ministry Team



Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge card. If you have not yet made your pledge for fiscal year 2017-2018, please return your card to the pledge box in the foyer, or e-mail mypledge@uucgl.org. Thank you.

Something for everyone!
Join us at UUCGL !



May 2017

Sunday Worship Services - 10:00 A.M.

*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

Wednesdays

-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

Monday, 1

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

-Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Tuesday, 2

-Global Congregation, 6:00 p.m., classroom

-Investments, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

-Concert Singers, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesday, 3

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

Friday, 5

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

-Concert Singers Concert, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary/P.H.

Saturday, 6

-Bird Walk, 8:30 a.m., Marblehead Bird Sanctuary

Sunday, 7

-Covenant Group, 11:30 a.m., Faces classroom

-Dreams Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 8

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

Tuesday, 9

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

Thursday, 11

-Properties, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Saturday, 13

-YES Interfaith Dinner, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall/Kitchen

Sunday, 14

-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom

-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Tuesday, 16

-Concert Singers, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Thursday, 18

-TIMES Deadline

-One Salem Street, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Saturday, 20

-Lynn Woods Guided Walk, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, 21

-All-Church Picnic following the Youth Service

-Covenant Group, 11:30 a.m., Faces classroom

-Dreams Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 22

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

Wednesday, 24

-UUW Annual Meeting, Fellowship Room

Friday/Sunday, 26

-Ocean Breeze Beach Day

Sunday, 28

-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom

-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday, 29 – Memorial Day

-Office & Ocean Breeze School Closed

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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. 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 Date | Issue Date |
|---------------|-------------|
| May 18 | June |
| June 18 | July/August |

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at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

Website – www.uucgl.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This newsletter will be published monthly on our UUCGL website. 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.)