

THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF GREATER LYNN



April 2017

Volume 86 #10

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

One of the most memorable moments in my trip to Israel was standing at sunset overlooking the location that is referenced in the twenty-third Psalm in the phrase, "Yea, though I walk through the shadow of the valley of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

The valley of the shadow of death is a real place in the Judean desert between Jerusalem and Jericho. The valley is very narrow and was quite a dangerous place in ancient times, as robbers and bandits often hung out there waiting to jump travelers making the journey between the two cities. Today, it just looks like a deserted chasm to my eyes, adorned by a stunning monastery that is nestled within it like a limestone gem. It was a breathtaking place to be after a long day climbing around the fortress of Masada and trying to float in the Dead Sea (so much for that: I kept losing my balance and falling in the mud!).

Also sadly a real place is the West Bank, a place I have heard of hundreds of times in the news but needed to spend time in to understand. Even though I am an American of Jewish heritage who feels at a visceral level the need for Jews to have a homeland after their slaughter under the Nazis, I cannot support Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. I went on the trip feeling concerned and I left horrified. The Separation Wall that runs about 450 miles through the West Bank is Trump's dream for America's Mexican border. It is

an appalling spectacle and a dehumanizing reality. I visited a woman named Clare Anasti, a Palestinian Christian whose family has been in the region for generations, whose home and shop is now cornered in at three sides by the Wall. She told us that the children went to school in the morning and when they got home, the Wall was up and they were, in her words, "buried alive in concrete."

This trip has clarified and strengthened in me our Unitarian Universalist values, commitments and covenant. I will speak more about what I mean when I am back in the U.S., grateful for our church and the freedoms we cherish. Much love to all of you.

Rev. Vicki



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

April Worship Series

You Are Here

Through this month, we explore the specificity of place and how our lives, work and dreams are influenced by where we are.

Sunday, April 2

"Be Here Now: History In The Holy Land."

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Rev. Vicki returns from Israel and Palestine with thoughts on unhealed wounds of history, and how traumas among entire peoples can function just like generational traumas in families.

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Sunday, April 16

Easter Sunday

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Sunday, April 23

Earth Day Service

Green Sanctuary Ministry Team



Passover Seder Saturday, April 15 5:00 – 7:00 -p.m.

This is our third annual Seder and we hope many of you will enjoy this Jewish Ritual Feast. Everyone participates, and we end the Seder with a meal. Once we have the list of participants, everyone will be mailed a list of foods to bring. Please contact Karen Brown at uudrke@gmail.com to sign up. Or you can sign up at the Ministry Table in the church foyer. We would love to see our Breakfast Bunch in Neighboring Faiths at the Seder. Little ones might get restless, but children in upper elementary school might really enjoy the ritual feast.

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.



April 50/50 Sunday Offerings to Benefit Friends of Lynn Woods


For Earth Month, our 50/50 Sunday offerings will benefit Friends of Lynn Woods. Lynn Woods Reservation includes 2,200 acres of undeveloped land and is a great local resource for open space, wildlife, forest and scenic trails. Friends of Lynn Woods is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the perpetual existence of the Reservation. They are now at work to secure a conservation restriction to permanently protect the reservation. The Green Sanctuary Ministry Team chose Friends of Lynn Woods as the recipient to support that effort.

The Social Justice Ministry Team will match all contributions to a maximum total of \$1,000, so it's a chance to double the value of your donation. **Please make checks payable to Friends of Lynn Woods.**

Also, watch for an announcement for a church-sponsored hike in the Woods during May.

UUWGL News

The UUW's Annual Sweet Sale was a success – we sold everything and raised almost \$300! A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who donated and purchased fudge and other goodies at the Sale on February 12th and to those who volunteered to prepare and package the items for sale. THANK YOU !

 **Food Pantry bags** will be distributed by the UUW on Sunday, April 2nd. We ask that you fill the bags with items on the Shopping List (included with the bag) and return them on April 9th or April 16th. We will deliver the bags to the recipients on April 20th.

College Scholarship Applications can be obtained at the church office. The deadline for returning the application is **May 15th**.

Annual Indoor Yard Sale



Date Change: APRIL 22 – 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The UUWGL (Unitarian Universalist Women of Greater Lynn), Annual Yard Sale is now scheduled for Saturday, April 22. Proceeds from our Yard Sale support our Philanthropic Fund which provides support and financial assistance to local and denominational organizations and offers college scholarships.

Have you been collecting items to donate to this year's Indoor Yard Sale? Your donated items, in good condition, will help make our Annual Yard Sale a success! Remember – one person's junk is another person's treasure! You can begin putting your donated items on the Parish Hall Stage on Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16. Please note that we cannot accept TV's, computers, or stuffed animals.

A sign up sheet can be found on the table in the church foyer, please consider helping us! If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Janet Osborne, Barbara Helinski, Emmanuela Minnefield, Sarah Drewry or Joanne Brine.

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.

New Book on the Rolling Cart Library in the Parish Hall Sundays during Fellowship Hour

Middle Class Heroes: Voices from Boston's Suburbs By Steven A. Rosenberg

Steven Rosenberg, a staff writer for the Boston Globe from 2002 - 2016, is our Swampscott neighbor. In his own words: *This anthology is not meant to paint a pure picture of Boston's middle class. Rather, it's a snapshot of the early days of the millennium – a time when the country was rocked by two major recessions and the near-collapse of our economy.* Steven Rosenberg says, “everyone has a soul and a story; that people are eager to share their thoughts and beliefs and are mostly respectful of others. We have two books available in our rolling cart library. We hope you enjoy them.



Growing in Love Faith Development Through the Ages



Children and Youth Programming Updates

Our Faith Development Sunday on March 19th was well attended. Our children and youth did a wonderful job creating a beautiful worship service called *Love Will Connect and Guide Us*. It was amazing to experience the children in rehearsal the week before the service. I really felt like I was herding cats. But when the time came for the ‘real thing’ they settled down, became focused, and the border collie in me was able to direct the flow. The children were totally engaged in every aspect of the service. Except at the end when I asked them to stay in the reception line. The goodies in the Parish Hall kept calling to them and the cats in them took off. And who could blame them. They sat long enough and needed to stretch their legs. Our Youth Group YES provided us with delicious soup and we enjoyed eating chocolate cake in honor of our teachers.

April is a busy month for faith development programming. I hope to see many of you at these events.

Blessings, Karen

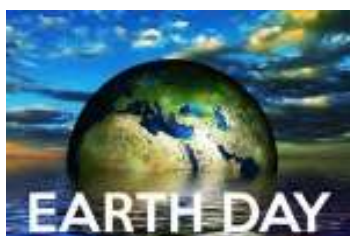


**Kids! Our annual
Easter egg hunt
is just around
the corner!**

On Easter Sunday, April 16, immediately after the service, all children (teens too!) are to meet Suzanne Chapman in the Fellowship Room to get baskets and instructions. This means no stopping in the Parish Hall for snacks first. We want everyone to hunt at the same time, because, as you know, it's over pretty quickly. So don't miss out. Also, some kids will pick up a lot more eggs than others, so please share if you see someone who doesn't have a lot in their basket. You're all such great kids, I know you would anyway!

**Chasing Ice Movie
April 2—4:00 pm**

**Save the Date!
Earth Day
Sunday Service
April 23**



Multi-generational Events

Documentary Movie – April 2

Chasing Ice, an award-winning documentary on climate change, will be shown on April 2nd at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall, sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team. Older elementary children and youth are welcome.

Passover Seder – April 15

We hope to see some of our families at our Passover Seder on Saturday April 15th at 5:00 pm. We create a child-friendly and participatory ritual. Younger children might become restless at our Seder, but older elementary children and youth will enjoy this sacred ritual feast celebrated by Jews all over the world. We'd love to see our Neighboring Faith's class at our Seder this year.

Indoor Yard Sale – April 22

Come to our yard sale on April 22. The UU Women of Greater Lynn host this event. The money they collect supports their Philanthropic Fund which provides support and financial assistance to local and denominational organizations and offers college scholarships. They could use some help and they would love to see you there. Collect those treasures now for the sale.

Ferry Beach Retreat April 28 – 30 Saco, ME

Pay attention to this seagull telling you to come to Ferry Beach! Many of our adults, children, and youth gather in community at the beach every spring to do nothing but sit around, eat good food, play on the beach, eat s'mores at our bonfire, have fun at a talent show, read a book, take a walk in nature, worship together on Sunday, play volleyball, put together a very big puzzle, chat with and make new friends, attend a Friday night Pizza Party, and the list goes on and on..... Do you need some unscheduled time to wind down? Sure you do! You can find registrations on the ministry table in the foyer of our church. Fill out your registration and put it in the box provided. Or you can call or email Michael Celona at michaelcelona@yahoo.com our registrar for the event or email Karen at uudrek@gmail.com. Camperships are available.



Regional Assembly: Awaken! New England

April 21-22

Join in Worship, Singing, and Sharing!
Woburn MA

Unitarian Universalists from congregations in New England will convene at the regional assembly set for April 21 and 22 in Woburn, MA. Theme for the gathering is "Awaken". The event will be highly participatory. It will include a community sing, a worship service, and a forum with the candidates for the presidency of the Unitarian Universalist Association.



Dr. Ysaye Barnwell will lead the community sing. She is a health professional and a former member of **Sweet Honey in the Rock**, a nationally known acapella musical group.

Rev. Robin Bartlett, Senior pastor of First Church in Sterling, MA, will deliver the worship service sermon entitled **Heart Surgery**. At that service, liturgist and song leader will be **Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout**. He is Music and Worship Director at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI.

The assembly begins on Friday evening and runs through Saturday afternoon. It is possible to attend one or both days' activities. Child care for children through eleven years of age is available. For details on cost, how to register, schedule and accommodations, go to www.uua.org/new-england and click on **Regional Assembly**. For additional information and/or to indicate your interest, contact Karen Brown at uudrek@gmail.com.

Social Justice Ministry Team News

Syrian Refugee Collection was a roaring success. Thank you for your generous donations. The response was so great they filled not one shipping containers, but two. SJMT voted \$2000 in support and we purchased and donated \$1750 of infant formula and \$250 of clothes and toiletries. Though the effort was spearheaded by a few groups, our connection, after Clare Campbell set up the first week's collection, was through a group I am involved in, S.U.R.E. (Swampscott Unites Respects Embraces diversity) that Reverend Vicki introduced me to early last summer. We are planning activities for next year – for both children and adults. We also held a diversity training for the group and we are exploring another training and inviting community members. See me if you would like to learn more about this new group.

ECCO (Essex County Community Organization) Mark your calendars, on Thursday, April 6 - from 7 to 9 pm, we will join with people from across the North Shore for a Legislative Assembly at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn. We will ask our state lawmakers for their commitment to reforms such as: an end to mandatory minimum drug sentencing, bail reform, diversionary programs for substance abuse, resources for mental health services and job training, etc. This event is an all-hands-on-deck occasion! Your presence shows support for a law enforcement system that works to improve society rather than tear it apart. The current system eats people's lives and is always hungry for more. Now is the time to serve and protect our beloved community.

Consider Marching for Science, Earth Day, April 22. After shopping at UUWGL's Indoor Yard Sale! Their theme? **Science, not Silence**. It's from 2:00 - 4:00 pm on the Boston Common. Check out their web page. MarchforScience.com. Their mission : The March for Science champions robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity. We unite as a diverse, nonpartisan group to call for science that upholds the common good and for political leaders and policy makers to enact evidence based policies in the public interest.

Please see me or Jeff Gunther, if you are interested in joining our group, or have questions or want to carpool to the ECCO meeting. We meet second Monday of the month: 6:30 pm potluck; meeting 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

Martha Curry, Co-Chair SJMT



Green Corner Open Space

March was a good month for... Braving the cold! Although the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team's annual **Winter Bird Walk** on March 4th was cancelled due to the extreme cold weather, Green Team members John Benson and Bruce Campbell went out to the designated meeting place in Nahant just in case someone hadn't gotten the word – and lucky they did! Two non-church members, a Marblehead man and a photographer for the Lynn Item showed up. Despite the cold, these hardy souls went out in search of winter birds. They were treated to sightings of a Cooper's Hawk, a Downy Woodpecker, and a flock of Cedar Waxwings, among other birds. Photos of the birds they saw were published in the *Look!* Section of the Lynn Item on March 6th (copies have been put up on the Green Team's Bulletin Board). Note that John will be leading another bird walk on **May 6th** at the Marblehead Bird Sanctuary – Save the Date!



The Green Sanctuary Ministry Team's book club selection this year was **"Two in the Far North"** by **Margaret E. Murie**. "Mardy," as she was known, was raised in Fairbanks and then later in life followed her biologist husband to the far reaches of northern Alaska – the first time shortly after they were married in the 1920's – well before the invention of Polypropylene thermal underwear and Polartec fleece outerwear:



Marty and Olaus Murie

"Thirty below zero this morning. Frost has crept through the walls and caused the bedclothes to stick to the wall on that side, and it is mortal agony to crawl out of the warm nest in the center of the bed ..."

This type of weather may not be for everyone, but as her memoir unfolds, we share with Mardy the beauty of the vast open space that is the Upper Koyukuk of Alaska.

"It was a beautiful world between Coldfoot and Wiseman [two towns above the Arctic Circle] ... a delight to be tramping along behind the [dog sled] team, to breathe deeply the challenging keen air, to

gloat over the rugged white peaks glimpsed through an opening in the forest; a joy to feel blood pound in your cheeks, every ounce alive and going ... Redpolls and chickadees sang greetings from every side; ravens made patterns across the blue sky, wheeling back and forth over the river below us; pine grosbeaks flitted across the trail; a willow grouse cuddled serenely under some low branches; and flitting through the trees, keeping us company and questioning in liquid rippling notes, were the gray jays called by various names – Alaska jay, Canada jay, camp robber, whiskey jack – but which are always and everywhere the companionable spirits of the wilderness."

Margaret Murie, who died in 2003, was a naturalist, author, adventurer, and conservationist. Called the "Grandmother of the Conservation Movement" she helped in the passage of the [Wilderness Act](#), and was instrumental in creating the [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#). She, along with Olaus, her husband, and others, founded The Wilderness Society. In 1977, when testifying on behalf of the Alaskan Lands Bill, she had the following to say:

"Beauty is a resource in and of itself. Alaska must be allowed to be Alaska that is her greatest economy. I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by – or so poor she cannot afford to keep them."



Unfortunately, today, there are real concerns that the Trump Administration and a conservative Congress will hand our public lands – Alaska and elsewhere – to energy developers. We must all join in the effort to protect these public lands – *our* public lands.

"There may be people who feel no need for nature. They are fortunate, perhaps. But for those of us who feel otherwise who feel something is missing unless we can hike across land disturbed only by our footsteps or see creatures roaming freely as they have always done, we are sure there should be a wilderness ... Having finished all the requisites of our proud, materialistic civilization, our neon-lit society, does nature, which is the basis for our existence, have the right to live on? Do we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness this right?"

For Mardy – as well for many of us – the answer is a resounding yes.

~Toni Bandrowicz

Something for everyone!
Join us at UUCGL !



April 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
-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

Sunday, 2

-Covenant Group, 11:30 a.m., Faces classroom
-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary
-Chasing Ice Movie, 4:00 p.m., Parish Hall
-YES Potluck, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 3

-UUWGL, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Room
-Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Tuesday, 4

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

Wednesday, 5

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

Friday, 7

-Ocean Breeze School, Special Person event, P.H.
-Ocean Breeze School, Movie Night, P.H.

Saturday, 8

-Parish Hall in use, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, 9 - Palm Sunday

-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom
-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday, 10

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

Tuesday, 11

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

Wednesday, 12

-Recital, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary/Parish Hall
-Women's Group, 6:00 p.m., lower level Room 9

Thursday, 13

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

Friday, 14

-Ocean Breeze School Closed/Good Friday

Saturday, 15

-Seder, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall/Kitchen

Sunday, 16 - Easter

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

Monday, 17

-Yard Sale Prep all week
-Ocean Breeze School Vacation Week
-Office Closed, Patriots Day
-Rochester COA, lower level
-Season at Symphony Group, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
-Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Tuesday, 18

-TIMES Deadline
-Rochester COA, lower level

Wednesday, 19

-Rochester COA, lower level

Saturday, 22

-Indoor Yard Sale, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 23

-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom
-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary
-Dream Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Room
-YES Potluck, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 24

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

Friday/Sunday, 28-30

-Ferry Beach Weekend

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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.

Church Office – 781-595-8836
FAX – 781-595-2009
E-MAIL – office@uucgl.org
WEBSITE – WWW.UUCGL.ORG

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister
Church – 781-595-8836 Ext. 11
Home – 781-599-6364
victoria.weinstein@gmail.com

Karen Brown, Director of Faith Development
781-595-8836 Ext. 12
uudrek@gmail.com

Elizabeth Muller, Business Administrator
781-595-8836 Ext. 10
emuller@uucgl.org

Angie Kern, Administrative Assistant
781-595-8836 Ext. 14
akern@uucgl.org

Chris Hansen, Interim Grants Coordinator
781-595-8836 Ext. 23
chansen@uucgl.org

Ocean Breeze School
obns@uucgl.org

Clare Campbell, President
president@uucgl.org

Directions to the Church - 781-595-8836 Ext. 15

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 Date | Issue Date |
|---------------|------------|
| April 18 | May |
| May 18 | June |

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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.)