

# THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF GREATER LYNN



July/August 2017

Volume 87 #1

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## Meet Our New Director of Community Life and Learning



Dear UUCGL,

My name is Julian Baptista, and I am very happy to introduce myself to you as your newly hired Director of Community Life and Learning. I am a life-long Unitarian Universalist, from just next door in Salem. I've been a religious educator for

seven years and credentialed for two. I have a true passion for meaningful, fun, and spiritual religious education, and I believe that religious education is a life long journey which we all take part in.

When I first saw the posting for my new position, I was immediately intrigued. For years I have said that Unitarian Universalism is a religion which has a huge potential. We are the curious and adventurous people for whom one religious doctrine is not enough. We search for our meaning in so many different places, that we sometimes forget our closest friends and greater community need this meaning as well. When I look at the growth of the statistical identity of "spiritual, but not religious" I want to bring our questions and our answers to them, so that one day they can find their way to saying "I'm spiritual and a UU."

After speaking with the incredible search committee and Rev. Vicki, I knew that this congregation would be the perfect fit for me. I am blown away by the enthusiasm and passion every person I have met so far has shown, and I believe that the UUCGL community has the potential to truly transform the whole concept of whole life religious education and to do a great deal of good in the Lynn, Swampscott, and surrounding areas.

My background gives me a bit of a different view on things, and I think that this is what attracted your search committee and Rev. Vicki to working with me. First of all, I am a musician. I've been playing guitar and singing in a variety of solo acts and rock bands for sixteen years. I was classically trained as a vocalist, and I even taught myself how to DJ and record music.

The second part of myself which is in some ways even more important is that I am strongly committed to social justice. When I was sixteen I went door to door for two years, convincing people to contact their legislators in favor of marriage equality. I was honored to sing at the most recent (legal) wedding for my two moms, and ever since, I have always sought out how I can help to make the world a better place. Unitarian Universalism gives me a place to work on these and many other issues, along with a community to work with.

For these reasons, and many others, I can't wait to meet and work with every single one of you to help build an even more vibrant, meaningful, and fun community.

Yours,

Julian Baptista  
Director of Community Life and Learning

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**CITIZEN  
CARING  
COMMUNITY . . .**

Messages for You  
. . . Page 3

## **Sunday Worship Services 10:00 A.M.**

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister  
Julian Baptista, Director of Community Life and Learning  
Debra Basile, Interim Music Director  
David Collins and Nami Hamada, Keyboard

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## **Summer Worship Services**

Our summer services are more casual than they are the rest of the year: our choir takes a break, our minister takes some vacation time, and our formal religious education program for children and youth goes on hiatus until the fall. Children of all ages are always welcome and we will have a comfortable playroom for parents who may need to take them out of the service if they get fidgety.

Most of the summer services will take place in the air-conditioned Parish Hall for a change.

What doesn't change, no matter the season, is our need to be together, to connect with old friends and welcome new ones. We gather in the spirit of peace and reverence, taking a deep breath to prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the week to come. If you have questions about our church or about Unitarian Universalism, please don't hesitate to ask someone on the staff or to e-mail our minister. You can learn a lot about us on our website but we want to learn about you, too. It is good to be together.

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## **Summer 2017 Worship Leaders**

### **July 2 – Claire Wilson**

Claire is a member of our church who has given many beautiful services. She is a social worker with compassionate and keen insight into the human struggle.

### **July 9 – Colin Bossen**

An award winning preacher, scholar, and social justice organizer, Colin Bossen is currently working on a doctorate at Harvard University where he studies the relationship between theology and populism. Prior to returning to academia he served as the parish minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland. He is a member of the Board for the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society and is the author of two religious education curricula and close to three dozen published essays, articles, book chapters, and poems. He keeps a blog at [www.colinbossen.com](http://www.colinbossen.com). His brother is the painter Jorin Bossen.

**July 16, 23 and 30 – Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein,  
Parish Minister**

### **August 6, 13 and 20 – Kevin Carson**

Kevin Carson, M.Div. graduated from Andover Newton Theological School in 2013. He lives in Johnston, Rhode Island with his wife and teenage daughter. Originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Kevin and his family moved to New England in 2004. He was raised Methodist but has been a UU for over 30 years as a member of congregations in Tennessee, Texas, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Kevin is joining us as a Ministerial Preaching Intern.

### **August 27 – Rev. Susanne Skubik Intriligator**

Raised Catholic in Michigan, Susanne became an active UU in the 1990s, while working at *Ms. Magazine* in New York City. She then earned a Masters of Divinity from Harvard and was ordained as a minister in 1999. Later, while living in Wales with her husband James and their three kids, she earned a PhD in community development via digital media. She is the Director of Community Engagement at the Follen Church (Unitarian Universalist) in Lexington, MA.

### **September 3 – Worship Leader TBA**

Please check our website [www.uucgl.org](http://www.uucgl.org)



## **Ingathering Service Water Communion**

**Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein  
September 10, 2017**

We will gather on September 10<sup>th</sup> for our Ingathering Service and Water Communion. Water Communion is a meaningful ritual for Unitarian Universalists who observe it all over North America around this time of year. Please bring a small vial or container of water from a meaningful place for the Water Communion. During the service, you will be invited to co-mingle the water in one common vessel. The water will then be boiled to remove impurities and saved for use in child dedications, commissionings and for the anointing of the dying. The water doesn't need to be from a far-away locale or any place exotic. When we pour ours into the common vessel, we will be invited to state where it came from and, in a few words or sentences, what it represents to us.



## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn Vision of Ministry

### Draw a Wider Circle

***You are all part of my thread . . .***

#### ***Thank You!***

You will always be my community. I can't find the words to express how much I appreciate the outpouring of love and affection and the recognition of my ministry here at the church in the woods on the hill. I love the poem by William Stafford called *The Way It is*. You are all part of my Thread. I'll never let it go..... ♥

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change.  
People wonder about what you are pursuing.  
You have to explain about the thread.  
But it is hard for others to see.  
While you hold it you can't get lost.  
Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old.  
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.  
You don't ever let go of the thread.

With much love,  
Karen

#### ***Dear church community,***

Thank you for your generosity, graciousness and support during this time of change and bold initiative. You will meet our new Director of Community Life and Learning, Julian Baptista, soon, and we will also be announcing our permanent Music Director in coming weeks. The board hosted two evenings of open conversation with the congregation regarding the decision to close Ocean Breeze Nursery School next June, and the congregational meeting was positive and full of expressions of gratitude. Our youth and adult delegates and Karen Brown have been in New Orleans at our General Assembly, and we are readying the Parish Hall for its new role as summer sanctuary. The sun is shining and gardens are blooming. My yard now has a beautiful lilac tree in it, a gift from the Search Committee -- and a gorgeous chime that I received as a gift from the congregation for the 20th anniversary of my ordination. Thank you for the beauty. The church does not close in the summer; we just slow down. Stay connected to each other, to the God of blessing and peace whose presence I hope you feel surround you at all times. When you cannot feel blessing, please reach out.

In faith, hope and love,  
~ Rev. Vicki

Our vision for our church and our faith is deep and ambitious. We envision a spiritual community committed to cherishing each other and to sharing our gifts with the world by,

#### *Committing Ourselves to Strengthening Our Church's Sense of Unity and Community*

- Providing hospitality to visitors and one another
- Welcoming visitors warmly
- Articulating a path to membership
- Matching members with new or existing small and large group activities
- Gathering for worship together
- Offering opportunities for fellowship and fun

#### *Reimagining the Use of Our Buildings and Grounds in Response to Changes in Church and Community Needs*

- Increasing our ability to respond to community needs
- Providing appropriate facilities and grounds for worship, fellowship, education, programs, events and staff
- Communicating our identity as a religious community
- Hosting events that promote Unitarian Universalist values, designed to attract people to our community
- Following and promoting responsible environmental principles

#### *Deciding (Together) On How to Best Utilize our Endowed Funds to Champion Our Unitarian Universalist Values through an Alliance with a Community Partner(s) in Lynn*

- Harnessing our endowment to do more good in the world
- Engaging in conversation about our endowment
- Engaging in conversation about pledging
- Organizing our alliance under a representative council
- Drawing a wider circle through partnering and presence in Lynn

Unanimously approved by Board of Trustees  
May 22, 2017..



## Green Corner Into the Woods

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### Go Take a Bath in the Woods

“Forest Bathing” – or Shinrin-yoku in Japanese – is the new trend in reducing stress and depression, lowering blood pressure, boosting immunity and improving overall mental and physical health. For those unacquainted with the term, it essentially means taking a quiet, leisurely, mindful walk in the woods. No water is involved. Just soaking up the forest “atmosphere.” That this type of activity would be good for both the mind and body should come as no surprise. People have been extolling the benefits of spending time in nature for centuries and modern studies just keep confirming them.

Beginning in September, the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team will begin focusing on its new theme **“Into the Woods,”** a celebration both on a global as well as a local level of the Earth’s woodlands and forests. We’ll be planning a number of activities revolving around this theme, so stayed tune for more information in coming months ... in the meantime, go take a bath in the woods!



*Nature is the greatest place to heal and recharge.  
Take a walk in the forest and smell the wild air.*



The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life and activity; it affords protection to all beings . . .

~ GUATAMA BUDDHA

## Hiking the Lynn Woods

It was a bright spring morning in May, as 15 members of the UUCGL gathered at the Pennybrook Road entrance to the Lynn Woods ready to embark on a short invigorating hike into the woodland. Led by Ranger Dan Small, the group headed off to the Stone Tower (pictured). Set on the highest point in the Woods, the 48 ft. field stone tower was constructed as part of the WPA in 1936 for fire observation. Renovated and rededicated in 2010, the Tower today provides visitors to the Woods with grand views of Lynn’s waterfront, Boston, and neighboring North Shore towns. The hike was sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team who's theme this coming year will be "Into the Woods."



### Sand Castle Building Contest!

Keeping with our theme of “open space,” this past church year, the **Green Sanctuary Ministry Team** is inviting everyone to get outside and to the beach this summer to build sand castles!

Send photos of your creations to:  
[clareuucgl@gmail.com](mailto:clareuucgl@gmail.com)

Or drop them off in the Green Sanctuary mail box  
in the church foyer.

Prizes will be awarded in the Fall!



## Summer Camp Experiences



### Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center Summer Theme: "Love"

Are you looking for a different kind of vacation adventure? Ferry Beach might just be the place. You can find out all about their conferences at:

<http://www.ferrybeach.org>

### Star Island Retreat and Conference Center Summer 2017

Star Island is in the Isles of Shoals. It's an amazing place for a vacation or learning experience. There are multigenerational programs for families. For more information:

<http://starisland.org/programs>

*My family spent many summers at both these conference centers and we have collected wonderful memories of fun, learning, creativity, personal and spiritual growth, and building community.*

~Karen Brown

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## Help Us Welcome Our Newcomers!

It's so important to have a friendly, warm, and welcoming presence in the foyer on Sunday mornings before worship. You don't need to be trained or signed up. Just park yourself there and say hello, get folks name tags, and show them where the sanctuary is.



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## Sharing Our Sunday Offerings

We will resume our 50/50 sharing of our Sunday morning offerings in September. One charitable organization or cause will be chosen each month and announced through THE TIMES, the Weekly Update email and the Order of Service.

## 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, or Suzanne Forgione. 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](http://seedsofunfolding.org/issues/04_06/features_1.htm) and [http://seedsofunfolding.org/issues/05\\_06/features\\_1.htm](http://seedsofunfolding.org/issues/05_06/features_1.htm) .

### Explore Your Dreams: A Great Adventure

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 [epbrown23@verizon.net](mailto:epbrown23@verizon.net) or 781-631-4905.

### 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.



### Jackets

Are you missing a jacket? If so, please take a look in the coat closet next to the office. Some have been here for awhile, if unclaimed, they will be given to a local shelter. Thank you.

# Unitarian Universalist History



Unitarianism and Universalism started out as liberal expressions of Christianity but, since the mid 1800s, have increasingly drawn wisdom and inspiration from other religions. From their beginnings, both faiths were non-creedal, encouraging persons to follow their reason and conscience. In 1961, the two movements merged to become Unitarian Universalist.

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## Unitarianism

The concept that gave rise to Unitarianism was the Jewish belief that God is one. However, after the Council of Nicea in 325, those who held Unitarian theology became religious heretics and enemies of the state. To be guilty resulted in torture and death.

During the Protestant Reformation, Michael Servetus insisted errors had been made in the doctrine of the Trinity. In 1553, Michael Servetus was burned at the stake, “by slow fire.”

The beginning of organized Unitarianism was in Poland in 1565. Because of brutal persecution, Unitarianism survived there only a hundred years. Meanwhile, Unitarianism took root in Transylvania. Almost every Unitarian church in Transylvania still has engraved over its door, “God is One.” In England, Unitarianism started in the 1600s. American Unitarianism has roots reaching to the 1620s. Four famous Unitarians are Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, and Susan B. Anthony. By the mid 1900s, Unitarianism was no longer defined by theology. Unitarians were now drawing inspiration from the wells of all religions and philosophies of good will.

## Universalism

The concept that gave rise to Universalism was the belief that all persons would be saved. It was not until 553 that Universalism became a heresy.

Universalism in England and America arose in the 1700s as a reaction against the doctrine of the Depravity of Humanity and the hell-fire preaching of that doctrine. Universalist theology was rooted in the conviction that the grace of God was greater than human sin. In 1750, James Rely organized a church in England based on universal salvation, and in 1779, John Murray organized the first Universalist church in America.

In 1863, Universalists ordained Olympia Brown. She was the first woman ordained in America by a denomination. Universalists were opposed to slavery and supported public education, prison reform, and public health. Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, was a Universalist.

## Unitarian Universalism

In 1961, the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America merged to form the Unitarian Universalist Association.

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*No strangers enter here –  
only friends who haven't met.*

~ ANONYMOUS

*True religion is the life we lead,  
not the creed we profess.*

~ LOUIS NIZER

## **The Unitarian Universalist Church WELCOMES YOU**

In the fellowship of this congregation, dedicated to freedom of religious thought, we covenant together to engage in the unceasing search for truth, the establishment of justice and the nurture of the life of the spirit.

This congregation has roots in the First Church of Christ of Lynn, organized in 1632. In 1822, a group of liberals withdrew to form the Second Congregational Society. Its first building was dedicated on South Common Street in 1832, and its second at the corner of Atlantic and Baltimore Streets in 1910. The congregation was renamed the Unitarian Church of Lynn in 1919.

The First Universalist Society, located in Lynn, was organized in 1833. Its first building was dedicated on Union Street in 1835 and its second on Nahant Street in 1873.

The Swampscott Universalist Church was organized in 1889, and its building on Burrill Street was dedicated in 1891.

Between 1964 and 1966 these three churches merged to form what is now the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn. Of the original Lynn churches, the Baltimore Street meetinghouse was sold in 1971, and then on January 7, 1976, the Nahant Street meetinghouse burned. During the time of relocation, the Burrill Street (Swampscott) meetinghouse and the building next door were used for worship, meeting and office space.

On March 22, 1981, our present meetinghouse, on seven and a half acres of wooded land in Swampscott, was dedicated.

We welcome your participation in the life of this congregation. If you would like to have a conversation with the minister, please call her directly.

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### **WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

As a diverse, liberal religious community, we affirm that every person is unique and has the potential for good. In this spirit, we welcome persons of every sexual orientation, race, nationality, ability, age, gender, and gender identity to participate fully in all aspects of our church.

## **ABOUT MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this congregation is both simple and difficult. It is simple because we have no set creed but maintain an open door to all people of goodwill. It is difficult because of the diverse nature of our congregation. Unlike some religious communities, we are not brought together by a common set of beliefs. Rather, we are united by our common commitment to religious freedom. For us, ultimate religious authority is internal, not external. It is vested in reason and conscience and expressed in a free and responsible spiritual community.

Within the guiding principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn set forth its own 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.

Before becoming a member of this congregation, you are encouraged to become acquainted with our Unitarian Universalist principles, the history of the denomination, our organizational structure, and the ways we worship and support each other. For more information about becoming a member, please contact the Parish Minister.

Welcome!

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### **Our Principles and Purposes . . .**

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**THE TIMES**  
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**OF GREATER LYNN**

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Rev. Robert Slater, Minister Emeritus

Ann E. Boynton, DRE Emerita

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**Office Hours**

**Monday – Friday**

**8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

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**Reminder: THE TIMES**  
**Monthly Schedule**

(EMAILS should be sent to [akern@uucgl.org](mailto: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.

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**Next TIMES Deadlines**

(EMAILS should be sent to [akern@uucgl.org](mailto:akern@uucgl.org))

**9:00 A.M.**

Deadline Date	Issue Date
August 18	September
September 18	October

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**at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn**

**Website – [www.uucgl.org](http://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.)