

# THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF GREATER LYNN



October 2017

Volume 87 #3

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## In The Spirit

This is our last issue of the monthly Times, as we adjust to changing times (with a small t) and information overload. The staff and leaders analyzed and assessed the effectiveness of our newsletter over a period of years: how was our newsletter being used? Was it being read? Were people getting information in other ways? Did our publishing schedule work? Was it worth all the staff time it took to compile all the articles and information and write material? Did it communicate our mission, vision and ministry in a coherent and powerful way? Was it cost-effective?

After many conversations and lots of consideration, we determined to stop production of the monthly newsletter for now, at least. A major consideration was the fact that by the time the issue got into people's hands, quite a lot of the details were already inaccurate. We felt the mad scramble to make the mid-month deadline to publish information about the following month wasn't working, but setting a later deadline didn't work, either. We live in an age of instant information. People carry computers around in their pockets. We wanted to direct people to use the website and Facebook page more, where we can update content on a much more constant basis. We send out a Weekly Update e-mail blast that recipients have asked us to keep brief: essential information only so they can scroll through content fast. We have respected that request.

We publish a lot of calendar items every week in the order of service, which is another good way to learn about what's going on.

So along with the rest of the world, we are going more digital. I will be starting a Minister's Blog that will be available on the website where I will occasionally post a column or sermon excerpts. For those who cannot get to church and also do not use the internet, we will mail print-outs of our Weekly Update and any requested

pages of our website. The Green Sanctuary Ministry Team, which curates a lot of interesting material on environmental issues, has its own section on the website that will be designed for greater visibility in coming weeks. Denominational Connections will also post items of interest to inform you about what's going on in our wider faith community.

The most important source of communication in a church is the people. Talk with each other. Call or e-mail someone and ask them to come to church or attend something with you. Share your interests and your passion and keep "circling around" to see who needs to be drawn into the circle of community.

In faith, hope and love,  
Rev. Vicki

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## Contact the Office If You Do Not Use a Computer

We want to make sure that everyone receives timely church news as we transition from the monthly newsletter. Please notify the office if you do not use the Internet (and cannot get the Weekly Update) and are not able to attend Sunday services (and do not see the announcements in the Sunday Order of Service). The current plan is to mail printouts of the Weekly Update to these individuals.

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

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister  
Julian Baptista, Director of Community Life and Learning  
Kenneth Griffith II, Director of Music  
David Collins and Nami Hamada, Keyboard

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### 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.

## 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.



### October 50/50 Sunday Offertory to Benefit the UUA Disaster Relief Fund (formerly Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund)

As the Caribbean and coastal U.S. continues to be threatened by additional storms, your donations will allow the UUA to respond flexibly as new situations arise.

The UUA stands with its congregations which have been impacted by these natural disasters and has established the **UUA Disaster Relief Fund** to assist congregations in repairing any damage, and to respond to the needs of their members' and their community's efforts to get back on its feet. UUA staff is working closely with leaders in the Association's Southern Region, to ascertain where the need is greatest and distribute funds efficiently.

**Please make checks payable to the UUA with Disaster Relief Fund on the memo line.**

Thank you for your generosity!



## **Speak to Your Spiritual Spark – You’re Here...Let’s Make It Happen!**

Some people don’t get it – spirit, spirituality, that spark – but I’m betting you do. Lonely, or looking for a way to belong? Any group will do...Zumba class or senior yoga or Raise the Minimum Wage Task Force. But feeding your spirit, rediscovering your spiritual spark? That takes a special kind of community, a spiritual community. And if your religion of origin didn’t feed that spark? Enter Unitarian Universalism, and this UU community in particular.

So you found us. We see you and we embrace you and your spark, burning brighter.

Don’t stop there! Where does your spark lead you? Make a difference, yes. Share your skills, okay. Be the difference you want to see, of course. Enter into deeper conversation (Covenant or Dialogue Group), keep us financially healthy (Investment or Finance Committees), be a welcoming presence to new spiritual seekers (Membership and Hospitality Ministry Team), fix things (Properties Committee), care for your community (Caring Ministry Team or Grants Committee) and more, more, more. You’re here in this place of your spirit, so let that spark lead you. Make a difference, share your skills, and be the difference you want to see, of course.

Lyssa Andersson  
UUCGL President  
Board of Trustees

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

### **Draw the Circle Wider**

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 the circle wider through partnering and presence in Lynn

Unanimously approved by Board of Trustees  
May 22, 2017.

## Community Life and Learning

Hello UUCGL!

This is my first, and last Times article, but I know that you'll be happy to hear about all of the amazing programming for children, youth, adults, and all ages that will be coming during the 2017-18 church year.

This year is going to be one of trials and experimentation. I have met three times now with the Faith Development Ministry Team, and we are extremely excited to be working on a lot of new ideas for UUCGL programming. Our key goal this year is to work with Rev. Vicki in our mission to draw our UU circle wider. To welcome new people, to explore new ideas, and to build deeper connections. Over the coming year there will be a wide variety of events and programs which are brand new to our community, and we will be exploring new ways of revitalizing our traditions in exciting ways too.

One way we can draw our circle wider is to engage with our community in a fun environment. To this end, the Faith Development team hosted a Game Night Potluck in September. It was a great opportunity to have a great evening with UUCGL friends of all ages as well as invited friends and neighbors!

A second way that the Religious Education program is seeking to draw the UU circle wider is in our presentation of the Our Whole Lives program. For those unfamiliar with it, Our Whole Lives is an honest, realistic, and open sexuality and relationships program created by the UUA and United Church of Christ churches. This program is in my opinion, the most important one which UU churches run.

In the past, UUCGL has presented this important program collaboratively with the First Church in Salem. However, this relationship was somewhat strained with our schedules only some times matching up, and the future of that relationship in doubt. Luckily I was able to meet with the DRE at First Church in Salem, and we were able to negotiate a way that both of our congregations will alter our plans to allow work on OWL collaboratively going forward. This means that for the foreseeable future, UUCGL and First Church will be presenting the Our Whole Lives program to the greater Lynn and Salem communities starting in 2018.

In addition to this exciting development, the youth group advisors of both UUCGL and First Church have engaged in discussions on how to best work together. The groups are currently considering events including dances, Lock-in overnights, youth conferences and social justice projects.

Now you may ask, how do I and my kids take part in these and all of the other amazing UUCGL programs?

Well the answer of course is Registration!

This year we are supporting both paper (which can be filled out at UUCGL) and digital registration. In order to register, just visit this link and fill in your families' information: [tinyurl.com/UUCGLREG](http://tinyurl.com/UUCGLREG)

It has been wonderful being a part of the UUCGL community so far, and I can't wait to see you all at church!

Julian Baptista  
Director of Community Life and Learning

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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.

## Unitarian Universalist Women of Greater Lynn News

### Food Pantry Bags to be Distributed



#### Feeding the Community

It's our church's turn to collect groceries for the Swampscott Interfaith Food Pantry. There are currently 34 elderly and/or disabled individuals from Swampscott requesting this assistance. You can help by picking up a shopping bag and grocery list in the Parish Hall

on **Sunday, October 1st**. Just purchase everything on the list, write your name on the bag and return the bag on **Sunday, October 8th** or **Sunday, October 15th** and the UUWGL will do the rest.

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### Social Justice Ministry Team (SJMT)

Hello from the Social Justice Ministry Team! Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 9th in the Fellowship Room. We start with a pot luck at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Please join us to find out more about this ministry team and all that we do in the community. Also, we will be reviewing funding requests at our October meeting. If you are actively involved with a local charity or group working on social justice issues, we welcome you to submit a form and attend our October meeting.

Throughout the month of October and into November, the SJMT in conjunction with Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) will be sponsoring signature gathering events for getting important matters onto the 2018 Massachusetts Ballots. More details will be announced in the weekly update or you can reach out to myself or Martha Curry if interested in participating.

We are working on keeping our SJMT bulletin board in the Parish Hall up to date with community updates and information about the ministry team. Please stop by during Fellowship Hour to take a look!

Jeffrey Gunther, SJMT Co-Chair

## 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 11:45 a.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 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.



## Green Corner Into the Woods

### The New England forests of today are not the same forests of yesterday

When the Pilgrims landed, eastern North America was dominated by *Castanea dentata* – or the American Chestnut. But you won't find any majestic 100-foot tall American Chestnuts around today. The species was devastated by a fungal disease in the first half of the last century. The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)'s website notes that the American Chestnut "was one of the most important forest trees and ... considered the finest chestnut tree in the world." Its nuts provided food for wildlife and livestock and chestnut wood was ideal for making everything from fence posts and barn beams to fine furniture. (As to this latter point, I can personally attest as I own a coffee table made from recycled chestnut wood found in an old barn.)

*What happened?* A fungal pathogen was accidentally imported into the U.S. from Asia. Arriving in New York, it spread rapidly throughout the tree's range which ran from Maine to Florida, and from the Piedmont plateau in the Carolinas west to the Ohio Valley. Sadly, it is estimated that billions of the chestnut trees were destroyed. The American Chestnut may not dominate eastern forests today – but maybe they can tomorrow? The species has not gone completely extinct, rather it is considered to be "functionally extinct" because of the blight fungus does not kill the tree's roots. American Chestnuts survive by sending up stump sprouts – unfortunately, they do eventually succumb to the blight and die back to the ground. (In the Green Sanctuary-sponsored hike through Lynn Woods last year, the leader of our group, Ranger Dan Small, informed us that there are some of these sprouting stumps right in the Lynn Woods!)

*What can be done?* Organizations like TACF are working to restore the American Chestnut. One avenue is to cross Chinese chestnut trees, which are naturally resistant to the blight, with American chestnuts. So perhaps someday these once-majestic trees will be back!

*Take away from all this?* Beware of invasive species, which are animals, plants or – the case of the American Chestnut – fungi that are not native to an area and which have a tendency to spread rapidly and cause damage to the environment. Upcoming *Green Sanctuary* articles will talk more about invasive species and how they are affecting woodlands – including Ewing Woods right next door to the church!

## At the Movies!

If you missed one of the movies that the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team has hosted, remember that you can borrow them for home viewing! GSMT will have all of its environmentally-themed DVDs on the book cart during Sunday Fellowship Hour along with a sign out sheet. We request that you only keep the DVD out for a 14-day period. Below is list of the movies that are available.

**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.

**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 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.

Something for everyone!  
Join us at UUCGL !



# October 2017

Sunday Worship Services - 10:00 A.M.

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

-ANONYMOUS

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## **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**

-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, 1**

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

### **Monday, 2**

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

### **Sunday, 8**

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

### **Monday, 9**

-**Office / Ocean Breeze Closed / Columbus Day**  
-Season at Symphony, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
-Social Justice, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

### **Tuesday, 10**

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

### **Saturday, 14**

-Sangha Group, 8:30 a.m., all church

### **Sunday, 15**

-Covenant Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom  
-Path to Membership, 12:00 noon, Fellowship Room  
-Dreams Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

### **Monday, 16**

-Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, 18**

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

### **Friday, 20**

-Ocean Breeze School Fair, Parish Hall  
-Healing Mandala, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

### **Saturday 21**

-MBT Food Prep, 8:00 a.m., Kitchen/Parish Hall

### **Sunday, 22**

-Youth Salad Fundraiser, Fellowship Hour  
-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom  
-Path to Membership, 12:00 noon, Fellowship Room  
-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### **Monday-Thursday, 23-26**

-Ocean Breeze Parent Conferences, 8:00 a.m., F.R.

### **Monday, 23**

-Knitting Group, 7:00 p.m., classroom  
-Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

### **Wednesday, 25**

-Ocean Breeze School Picture Day, Parish Hall

### **Thursday, 26**

-Ocean Breeze School Picture Rain Day, Parish Hall

### **Sunday, 29**

-Halloween Party, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

### **Tuesday, 31**

-No Concert Singers

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



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.

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### **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.

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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### **Office Hours**

**Monday — Friday**  
**8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

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**Like” us on Facebook**  
**at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn**  
**Website - [www.uucgl.org](http://www.uucgl.org)**