

THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF GREATER LYNN



FEBRUARY 2010

Volume 79 #8

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

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.

FROM THE PARISH MINISTER

3 Questions about Vision of Ministry

At its December meeting, the Board of Trustees articulated 3 priorities for our 2010-11 Vision of Ministry:

- (1) Continue to develop a presence in the city of Lynn while improving personal and institutional relationships.
- (2) Implement and integrate a new vision of religious education within the church.
- (3) Develop and expand efforts toward membership retention and growth.

One reason for articulating a vision of ministry is to guide our budget process. We want to be sure we fund the work we name as our priorities. The other and most important reason for articulating our vision of ministry is to encourage us all to work together in common cause.

Let me explain how this can work. When you and your ministry team or group next meet, please discuss two things: your budget for next year and the 3 priorities that constitute our vision of ministry. As part of this conversation, please ask three questions: (1) How might we help implement the vision related to **Lynn**? (2) How might we help implement the vision related to **religious education**? (3) How might we help implement the vision related to **membership retention and growth**? You and your ministry team may, or may not, engage in all 3 priorities; but please, ask the questions. This is truly a process of spiritual discernment.

Then incorporate your answers into your budget request. During last year's budget process (for the budget we're now using), we had to cut the budget by around \$70,000. This year, we will probably have to cut out another \$50,000. But to the degree possible, we want to fund all of our work as it relates to our 3 priorities. So please, look at the work of your ministry team *through the lens of our vision of ministry*.

As individuals, and as groups, let's work together – focusing our available money, time and energy – to develop our presence in **Lynn**, enhance our **religious education**, and help **grow the church**. Please, find ways that work for you and your group that honor your gifts and limits and bring you joy and meaning.

May our vision of this congregation's future be brighter than our memories of its past.

Namaste,
Vann Knight

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Parish Minister
Upcoming Worship Services
February Special Collection
Haiti Special Collection Report
Thank You for Your Generosity
The Budget Begins
A New Musical Initiative
Monthly Book Club
Lynn Initiative Updates
Coming Soon! FOOD INC.
Green Corner
Ethical Eating Book Club
Religious Education Visioning
Frozen Pickles Pen Pals
UUWGL Sweet Sale
Annual Indoor Yard Sale
About Membership

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:00 A.M.

Reverend Vann Knight, Parish Minister
Reverend Jeanne Nieuwejaar, Consulting Minister
Frances C. Fitch, Director of Music
Nami Hamada and Laura Hargrove, Organists
Jesse Jaeger, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

We offer childcare for our infants through preschool children with Louise Gallo and Jayne Leahy. Following the service, all are welcome to join us for Fellowship Hour the Parish Hall.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

These themes reflect the rich tapestry of our worship.

February 7	Parish Minister Death, Dying, Grieving, and Care Giving
February 14	Parish Minister Challenges and Benefits of Prayer
February 21	Parish Minister A Story from Transylvania
February 28	Global Congregation Partner Church Ministry Team Special Collection

FEBRUARY 28 SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BENEFIT PARTNER CHURCH PROJECTS

During the service on Sunday, February 28, a special collection will be taken for our Partner Church activities which include scholarships for high school and university students from our partner village of Kemenyfalva, and sponsorship of a summer camp for children from Kemenyfalva and two nearby villages in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist churches in Bedford, MA and Yarmouth, ME. Please make checks payable to UUCGL with Partner Church on the memo line. Lyssa Andersson and Dean Mc Kennon will speak at the service, which will focus on our Partner Church connections. Members of the Global Congregation Ministry Team have planned and will participate in the service. They include Sarah Drewry, John Benson, Betty Williams, Susan Thomas, Lyssa Andersson, Sharon Paster, and Dean Mc Kennon.

HAITI SPECIAL COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Haiti earthquake special collection recently. Because of your generosity, the UUCGL will be able to donate approximately \$4,500 to the UUSC to support their earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. This amount includes matching funds from the Social Concerns Ministry Team and a donation from the YRUU of their proceeds of their recent band night.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

December 29, 2009

To the Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn,

On behalf of the clients and the staff of the Lynn Community Health Center's Community Programs I would like to thank you for your outpouring of generosity at this holiday season. It was truly amazing to walk into the case management office of Community Programs after the gifts were delivered. The office was so filled with gifts it looked like a mini North Pole. Our clients were thrilled and thankful for your gifts for their children and grandchildren. The gifts were so beautifully wrapped too. We truly appreciate all your efforts and wish you a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New year.

*Julie Talbot, Assistant Director
Community Programs*

Lynn Community Health Center

And the Staff and Clients of Lynn Community Health Center Community Programs

The staff of the Pediatric Dept. at Lynn Community Health Center sends a warm thank you for the great supply of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves (including so many beautiful handmade items)! We loved picking out sizes and styles for our young patients, and seeing the smiles on their faces as well as their parents'. Many of your donations went to warm the heads and hands of new refugees experiencing their first New England winter. As always, your generosity is most appreciated.

Also, on behalf of the families we serve, the Lynn Community Health Center staff sends our deepest gratitude for your kindness and generosity in providing wonderful holiday gifts for the children in our community program. Your time and attention to detail is so appreciated. Please know that you have brought warm smiles to many faces. With sincere thanks, we wish you a happy and healthy 2010.

Lucy Emple for the
Lynn Community Health Center

THE BUDGET BEGINS

Requests for budget submissions have been sent out to ministry teams and other parish groups that seek funding for the next fiscal year. The church is still feeling the effects of the economic downturn on the investment income and we shall have to cut approximately \$50,000 from our overall operating budget. Here are the 5 Ws (and 1H) of budgeting. Make your plans, set your priorities, and be part of the process!

WHO? Committees, ministry teams, and other parish groups that seek funding will receive budget submission requests. Please contact me if you did not receive one.

WHAT? The request will ask for a month-by-month projected budget for fiscal year 2010-2011, which is July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011. **While the numbers are important, the narrative backing up the numbers is equally important.** Please briefly, yet convincingly, state your case for the funds, especially in light of the new Vision of Ministry:

- Continue to develop a presence in Lynn while improving personal and institutional relationships.
- Implement and integrate a new vision of religious education within the church.
- Develop and expand efforts toward membership retention and growth.

Please prioritize the components of your request. If you have five projects and we find we can fund only three, we need to know the priority.

WHEN? You should have your submission request by now. They are **due in the office by February 15**. In February there will be opportunities to discuss the budget priorities and the Vision of Ministry. Later in February and early March there will be opportunities to discuss the draft budget.

WHERE? Please e-mail your request and narrative to the church office at emuller@uucgl.org, or deliver the hard copy to me.

WHY? It is very important to write strong narratives of your funding requests. The church has a finite pot of money, the vast majority of which is investment income. This income is calculated on the average of the past three years. The past two years have been considerably lower because of the economic downturn—therefore, we have had less money the past two years. Pledges represent approximately 10% of our operating budget.

HOW? Follow the directions in the budget request and submit your budget AND supporting narrative. Come to the meetings to discuss your priorities and the Vision of Ministry. Listen to the priorities and see how they can be woven to present a tapestry that reflects our principles, vision, and mission. **Be part of the process!**

Elizabeth Muller
Administrator

A NEW MUSICAL INITIATIVE (and one you may not know about...)

The first meeting of a new **Handbell Ringing Group** will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 28 in the Sanctuary.

Handbell ringing has a long history, dating to the era of cold stone churches, when gathering to practice ringing the large church bells would have been a hardship. Instead, the ringers would gather at the local pub and practice with the much smaller handbells. They practiced ringing “changes” – complex mathematical patterns of sound that produce an ordered and joyous cacophony. Nowadays, church handbell choirs tend to play arrangements of hymns or classical pieces, or music composed just for handbell choirs.

If you would be interested in seeing what a handbell choir is like, we hope you will come to try and/or observe the rehearsal. There will be a weekly meeting on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Adult Choir is always looking for singers and would-be singers interested in sharing the special bond and heartfelt contributions to worship that this group is known for. Anyone from Junior High on up is welcome to sing, especially if you think you have a lot to learn.

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and on Sundays before the service, starting at 9:00 a.m.

MONTHLY BOOK GROUP



Monthly book group meetings are on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. one block from church at Mary O'Connell's house. Please join us as your schedule permits, for one meeting or every month. For more information contact Mary O'Connell.

LYNN INITIATIVE UPDATES

Teen Center:

On January 6, we started a rotation of five volunteer teams who each have volunteered once per month to cook and enjoy a meal with the teens on Wednesdays. These are adults who wish to develop a genuine relationship with these teens. Their pledge is to be there in body and spirit to learn how best to support the teens in exploring life's possibilities. Because of the special and sensitive nature of this volunteer opportunity, we need very thoughtful and dedicated individuals. The response from the teens has been very enthusiastic and all who have volunteered thus far are in agreement. If you are asked to consider this opportunity, please consider the rewards as well as the commitment. Anne Principe, through her student chaplaincy, has led this effort and has been invaluable in helping to construct and facilitate this volunteer effort. If you are interested in this particular challenge, please contact Anne or Mary Best, co-chair.

The Younger Set:

On January 12, about 40 children between eight and ten-years old were led in some simple arts and crafts project with volunteers Suzanne Chapman, Sylvia Willis, Linda Lee Knight, and Mary Best. While leading them in snowflake making, all of the volunteers were aware how important it was to respond and really notice these kids. They are incredibly polite and they seemed to welcome our attention. We could have used many more volunteers to enjoy this opportunity.

These kids arrive by bus about 3:00 p.m. often with no other safe place to go. Due to staffing shortages, these kids do not get individual attention.

Our involvement at the Boys and Girls Club really matters. When we show up, you can see the anticipation and excitement on these kids' faces. Would you like to help contribute and be one of the volunteers to engage in productive play, like arts and crafts or music or just game playing? If this volunteer opportunity interests you, please contact Mary Best

Family Nights:

We hosted our fourth Family Night on Wednesday, January 27. If you would like to make and serve dinner to some hungry and appreciative families, engage them in conversation, in playing

games or in helping with some crafts projects, please consider coming down to the Boys and Girls Club from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on one of our next dates. All ages and abilities are welcome. So come on down, make someone's day and enjoy yourself!

We also need contributions of desserts if you cannot make it down to the Club that day. Please contact Mary Best if you are interested in any or all of this experience.

Mary Best

Feature Presentation Coming Soon!

"FOOD INC."

**Sunday, February 28 at 4:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall at the UUCGL**

How much do we really know about the food we buy at our local supermarkets and serve to our families?

Food, Inc. lifts the veil on our nation's food industry which is controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment. We have bigger-breasted chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won't go bad, but we also have new strains of E. coli—the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. We are riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among children, and an epidemic level of diabetes among adults. Featuring interviews with Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), Michael Pollan (The Omnivore's Dilemma, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin.

Join us for a free showing of this important film!

Shown recently at the Salem Cinema
and other major movie theaters.
RATING: PG for some thematic material
and disturbing images

Hosted by the
UUCGL Green Sanctuary Ministry Team.

GREEN CORNER

Ethical Eating – “Slow Food” Movement

The Slow Food movement is a cultural movement to preserve traditional social customs around food and eating, including preserving regional cuisines and cultural diversity. Cultural practices emphasized by the Slow Food movement include sitting down to relax while eating, eating with friends and family, and enjoying meals that have been prepared with fresh, locally grown ingredients produced using sustainable agricultural practices that do not exploit labor. Proponents of the Slow Food movement emphasize that the enjoyment of food, eating, and the social (and spiritual) rituals tied to meals are intimately connected with an awareness of the ethics of food production, including human rights and environmental sustainability.

“Slow Food” is also a resistance movement to what is termed “Fast Food” in the United States, typified by highly-processed mass produced food, devoid of regional or cultural variation and individual attention to detail, selected for efficiency and broad taste appeal, thus often high in fats and sodium and of low or poor nutrition. Drive through windows and eating “on the run” or at desks while working typify a Fast Food approach to eating. The intensive high-yield farming is generally not sustainable, but depends on extraordinary levels of fossil fuels, water, and chemicals that lead to environmental degradation. Fast Food is also characterized by low-paid employees from farm to market, with exploitative labor practices in production and employees at restaurants paid less than a living wage.

If you’re interested in learning more, pick up a copies of an extended reading list on this topic which can be found on the Green Sanctuary/7th Principle Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

ETHICAL EATING BOOK CLUB

The Green Sanctuary Ministry Team invites you to join the “Ethical Eating” Book Club. We’ll next be reading Raj Patel’s “Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System.” We’re scheduled to discuss the book on March 5th at 7:00 pm, meeting at a parishioner’s house for a potluck. If you’re interested, let Toni Bandrowicz know.

Religious Education Visioning— Ways for YOU To Be Involved

The Religious Education Visioning Task Force has begun its work!

For the next few months we will be focused on the first charge from the Board to this Task Force, which is to *Develop a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for Religious Education. The process is to include opportunities for input from the whole congregation.*

We are designing a number of ways for congregational input and invite everyone to participate in as many of the following events as possible, so that your hopes and dreams and creative energies may become part of these important statements.

- 1) A *Retreat* for deep reflection on the powers and possibilities of religious education in the lives of children, youth and adults will be offered on Saturday morning, February 6, 8:30 – 12:00. The Retreat will be facilitated by Jeanne Nieuwejaar and childcare will be available. Please let the Jeanne know, if you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly.
- 2) Brief, but structured, *Fellowship Hour Conversations* will be held after church on Sundays, February 7 and February 28 for those whose schedules do not allow them to participate in the Retreat.
- 3) On those same Sundays, February 7 and 28, after church there will be *Activities for Children and Youth*, to learn from them what they treasure of the present RE program and what they dream of for the future.
- 4) Sometime in February a questionnaire will be sent to everyone in the congregation to gather still further input. We hope you all will respond to that mailing.

In March the Task Force will work to synthesize all of the voices and visions from these events, to create draft statements of Vision and Mission. These will then be circulated through the April issue of THE TIMES, with an opportunity in early April for further conversation before the final statements are prepared for consideration at the Board’s April meeting.

Beyond these programs, you are encouraged to chat with any of the members of the Task Force to share your thoughts, dreams, questions, or concerns. Members of the Task Force are: Barbara Paik, Martha Curry, Clarence Dow, Lucy Emple, Chris Koerber, Tom Lunt, Clem Schoenebeck; also, Jeanne Nieuwejaar and Vann Knight, ex officio.

Coming Soon!

FROZEN PICKLES SECRET PEN PALS and Haiti Special Project

It's that ever-popular Frozen Pickles Secret Pen Pals time again, when adults and Pickles youth pair up to get to know each other. Secret names are chosen, secret letters and notes "mailed" in Ye Olde Pickle Barrel, guesses are made but only revealed at the Secret Pen Pals Luncheon hosted by the Frozen Pickles Jr. Youth Group. This year our special Pen Pal project will benefit Haiti. Stay tuned for more information and be sure to support the Pickles in their efforts to help the people of Haiti!

Angie Kern and Patti Pendexter, Advisors
Frozen Pickles Jr. Youth Group

FEBRUARY 14 VALENTINES DAY SWEETS SALE BY THE UUGL

Just in time to buy something for your loved one or yourself. In the Parish Hall after morning service.

ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE! Saturday, March 27, 2009 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Get a head start on your spring cleaning and start collecting articles for the Annual Indoor Yard Sale. You can start bringing your items in on Sunday, March 20. Please place your items on the stage in the Parish Hall.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Emmanuela Minnefield.

Emmanuela Minnefield, Co-President UUGL

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 has set forth its own statement of purpose: 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. When you feel ready to become a member, please fill out an application and place it in the offering plate during the service or mail it to the church, attention Parish Minister. Your name will be submitted to the Membership Committee for ratification. You will be invited to sign the Membership Book and extended the right hand of fellowship.

Welcome!

UUGL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President	Claudia Luck
Vice-President	Becky Richardson
Past President	Linda Jones
Treasurer	Sarah Pruett
Assistant Treasurer	Sarah Cecil
Clerk	Dean McKennon

TRUSTEES

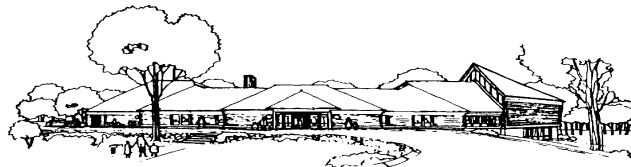
Serving until June 2010	Ben Tittler Ted Emple
Serving until 2011	Mary Ann Hayes
Serving until June 2012	Mary Best Barbara Paik
Youth Representative Serving until June 2010	Lora Barish

THE TIMES
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF GREATER LYNN

FEBRUARY 2010
Volume 79 #8

Periodicals
POSTAGE
PAID
USPS 629-980
Lynn, Mass.

Postmaster: Send address changes to THE TIMES
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
101 Forest Avenue Swampscott, MA 01907
Published monthly.



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

Rev. Vann Knight, Parish Minister
Church – 781-595-8836 Ext. 11
Home Study – 781-595-8536
vknight@uucgl.org

Rev. Jeanne Nieuwejaar, Consulting Minister
781-595-8836 Ext. 12

Frances Conover Fitch, Director of Music
781-595-8836 Ext. 21
ffitch@uucgl.org

Jesse Jaeger, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator
781-595-8836 Ext. 24
jjaeger@uucgl.org

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

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

Kathy Lique, Grants Administrator
781-595-8836 Ext. 23
klique@uucgl.org

Ocean Breeze Nursery School
781-595-8836 Ext. 16
OBNS Business Office Ext. 13
obns@uucgl.org

Claudia Luck, President
781-599-3435
president@uucgl.org

Rev. Robert Slater, Minister Emeritus

Ann E. Boynton, DRE Emerita

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

TUESDAYS — OFFICE CLOSED
Please leave a phone message
or email the person you wish to contact.

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. With the exception of July and August, we will put time-sensitive late-breaking important news in the Sunday Announcements, which will also be included in a weekly email.

All teams and individuals responsible for newsletter submissions should start thinking ahead and plan accordingly.

NEXT TIMES DEADLINES

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

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
February 18	March 2010
March 18	April 2010