

Among Ourselves

Lifelines



Every Sunday morning, we (re)commit to “help one another” when we state our Covenant. The Connections Team is a group of people gathered by this congregation who covenant to be especially deliberate about meeting this commitment.

Congratulations and best wishes to:

John Kielb, who celebrated his 50th birthday on August 16 while vacationing in Colorado.

Healing thoughts and love are with:

Les Couture, who is undergoing back surgery on August 27.

Bruce Blumenthal, who is making very positive progress with his cancer.

Please keep all of our members and their families in your minds and hearts.

Please let a member of the team know about any life event we have missed or should know about.

Open Pantry

Our congregation has donated 209 foods to the Emergency Food Pantry so far during July and August. On August 16 alone we counted 100 donations, and we thank those donors so much. Other contributions this summer have been 22 Big Y coins, \$27.00 and two dozen toiletries.

Our donations are always gratefully received as there is a great need in the community this year for all kinds of foods. Thank you all for your generosity and compassion!

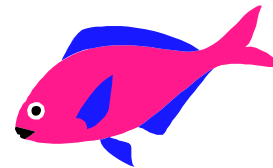
--Carolyn Hale & Robb Grace

YOU can contribute food donations anytime – just leave dry goods in the red cupboard at the back of Friendship Hall, or cold items, labeled, in the fridge or freezer.



LOAVES and FISHES Soup Kitchen

I wish to thank all those who enthusiastically helped Bill and I with the Soup Kitchen on July 26. It was a warm day but we did a speedy job from cooking to cleanup. Roger Kellman, who really knows his way around the kitchen, and Sue French and daughter Marissa, newcomers to the program were super. At the serving site we had lots of volunteers, Ann Cimini Pennel, Ray Peck and partner Jay and again Sue French and Marissa. There were only about 50 needed persons, and they were fed quickly and with plenty of food. They seem to love our tuna casserole and green beans and return for seconds even thirds.



Sue French liked doing this so much that she has volunteered to be a coordinator for the program. She will be replacing Sarah Meyer who has done a wonderful job as coordinator and did many more Soup Kitchen Sundays than were required. Thank You Sarah, we will miss you and your daughter Paulie too!

If you've ever wondered where our food comes from, well our Society buys it, and each month it is purchased at Costco. For the longest time Robbie and Julian Crowell have done this every month, and now Julian is doing it alone. We thank you Julian for bringing in those big cans of tuna and green beans and boxes of pasta. Robbie we appreciate all you have done for Loaves and Fishes over the years. Thanks for being there for us.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing then here's your chance to cook or serve or both

The Coordinator for the next Soup Kitchen on September 27 is Ellen Bash.

Please call her or sign up on the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen sheet on the door of Friendship Hall.

Eunice Stolecki

Among Ourselves

News from Talmadge:

Congratulations to our very own Mary Kapner who was nominated for the Phyllis B. Sullivan "Unsung Hero" Award! Our goal this year is to : (1) help students succeed; and (2) purchase books for the library and computers for the classroom. Thanks to you, 2008-2009 was another incredible year. We volunteered in the library and in classrooms and helped with special events. We truly do work side-by- side with staff to provide what is best for students. If you are interested in learning

more about our mission and how you can help, stop by the Supermarket Sales table any Sunday morning before or after service or e-mail Mike Greenwood.

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to say hello and to introduce myself to you and to tell you how much I am looking forward to serving as your Interim Minister.

I've had a tour of the Meeting House and I think it is lovely and, on these 90 plus degree-days especially, I find myself imagining how wonderful it must be to worship on Sunday mornings and look out through the beautiful windows at falling snow !

We do have some time before that is likely to happen however and, in the meantime, I am looking forward to meeting each of you and getting to know you and getting to know how everything happens at UUSGS.

I plan to be at the Worship Service on Sunday, August 30 (just to say hello) and will preach for the first time on Homecoming Sunday, September 13.

I am still settling in to my comfortable new apartment in Georgetown and am beginning to meet with committee chairs, members of the Board, staff and anyone who would like to see me.

I am delighted to be here and both Gene and Carl can tell you that you were my first choice of Interim Congregations. I have heard only good things about UUSGS from colleagues in the area and from Georganne and I can see from your newsletters and Annual Reports that you are a thriving congregation.

It goes without saying that transition times are, by their very nature, challenging times so we can expect to find ourselves with, what interim trainers euphemistically call, "growth opportunities" this year but my hope for all of us is that this year will also be filled with possibilities that not only explore new ideas but that also honor your traditions and respect your most cherished practices and rituals as you move steadily towards the day when you will eventually call your new settled minister.

Meanwhile, I will be with you all along the way.

Faithfully yours,
Phyllis

Among Ourselves

INTRODUCING...

Meet The (new) Minister Rev. Phyllis O'Connell

“I love ministry,” Phyllis states proudly. “Especially Interim Ministry. That is my specialty. My work here is to help the congregation with its transition from saying good-bye to Georganne (Greene) to eventually welcoming the new settled minister. This will be a one to two year position.” A Search Committee is being formed to look for said permanent minister.

Born in New York, Phyllis grew up outside Washington D.C and has lived most of her adult life in the immediate Boston area. “My husband and I have been married for thirty-nine years, although we have lived separately for the past fourteen; our two daughters are in their early thirties,” she says.

Before ministry, Phyllis worked for Planned Parenthood, the Center for Parenting Studies from Wheelock College (where she received a Masters in Family Studies) and had her own consulting business helping parents and children communicate about sexuality.

She graduated with honors from Andover Newton Theological School in 1989.

Her UU ministry history? By coincidence, her first job was that of an Interim Minister for the Area Church of Sherborn right after graduation for a year and a half. Then, she held the minister’s position for ten years at the Melrose Church and eight years as senior minister of The UU Society of Wellesley Hills where she has just left her tenure. “That experience was a ministry of change,” asserts Phyllis.

She has just completed a semester-long academic course on Interim Ministry at Andover Newton.

“I am drawn to Interim Ministry... (I can) minister in all the ways that parish ministry requires...and...be in the role of ministerial consultant,” Phyllis continues. “I look forward to being here and serving UUSGS and discovering the congregation’s passions and learning about its history. As part of this process, I will get to know who you are, what your values are, support you in all of your strengths and give feedback on any changes that might be important. My job is to help you with your *transition* – to access where you’ve been, where you are now, where you hope to go. I will walk this journey with you.”

Phyllis’ favorite activities are reading, attending operas and concerts, visiting art museums, traveling to Europe (though not often) and “spending time with family and friends.”

She concludes, “I’m already happy in Springfield. It’s pretty and quieter (than Boston). I’ve got some exploring to do.”

Welcome, Phyllis, from all of us!

Interviewed by Polly Paquette

Among Ourselves

Warrant for Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

To: Ann Barone

**Clerk, Third Congregational Society
Springfield, Massachusetts**

You are hereby directed to notify and warn the members of the Third Congregational Society in Springfield (also known as the Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield) qualified to vote, that, on **Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 12:00 noon, a meeting will be held in Friendship Hall** to hear and act upon the following articles:

Article I To choose a moderator to preside at the meeting.

Article II To approve the minutes of the Congregational Meetings of May 17, 2009 and June 14, 2009.

Article IV To fill any vacancies for the Governing Board, Nominating Committee and officers of the Society

Article V To determine how to address the deficit in the current budget currently estimated at \$21,000.

To transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

And you will serve this Warrant by posting it, or a copy thereof, on the front door of the Meeting House eight days at least before the date of the meeting.

Given under our hands at
Springfield, Massachusetts,
this 23rd day of August, 2009.

**GOVERNING BOARD
THIRD CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY**

I have served the above Warrant
as therein directed this 23rd day of
August 2009,.

Ann Barone, Clerk

Among Ourselves

Exploring Growth Group Update

Dear members and friends of UUSGS,

Since the Exploring Growth Group was formed at our Future Search event, we've been meeting and this is what we've been up to! After getting to know each other and sharing some history, especially the past work of the Second Service Committee, we agreed on a mission statement.

The mission of the Exploring Growth Group is to identify and encourage congregational actions to turn our vision of growth into reality.

That sounds pretty simple, but what does growth really mean and what might it look like? Why should we want to grow? Here are some of our thoughts:

- Sense of mission to spread the UU word to enrich the lives of others who see value in our principles
- More opportunities and possibilities for depth of experience and for meeting new people
- Increase UUSGS's influence in the wider community/world
- Increased chance for connection around common interests/goals
- More resources at UUSGS – human, leadership, etc.
- Growth of “structure” – increased pool of folks from which to form services, committees, etc.
- Increased membership allowing folks to concentrate on their “passion” or “ministry” alleviating burn-out from folks serving on multiple committees.

The group agrees that adding a second service is an integral part of our desire to grow. We see the key reasons for the desire to add a second service as:

- Encourage growth by providing more space and diversity in worship.
- Help to fulfill the mission of the congregation as a welcoming place for seekers.
- Growth in numbers should be a by-product of adding a second service, not the primary reason.

Identifying the primary reasons for adding a second service will also help to define the specifics of that service.

As we go forward, we intend to meet with staff, committee leaders and you, our members and friends. In the meantime, if you'd like to provide us with any feedback or wish to join the team, don't hesitate to contact any of us!

Among Ourselves

The Exploring Growth Group: John Kielb, Jackie Shanti, Gail Adams, Carolyn Bradley, Joyce Genet, and Frank Shea.

UUSGS- Survey of Support Resources—

There are five resources for support in our Society. Each of them depends on our Members' and Friends' commitments. Please take a moment to consider where this "Ministry of All" calls to you. You may fill out the survey when you receive it in September and return it to the office. The following gives you an idea of what the five resources are and where you may fit in!!

The Caring Network is in need of members who can offer occasional, short-term service to other members of our Society with specific or particular tasks. i.e. Meal Preparation, Transportation Assistance (Sunday Services), Transportation Assistance (Appointments), Shopping and Errands, Emergency Childcare, Emergency Pet Care, and any other area that maybe needed.

Jo Joel Marcia Kielb Karen Knight

The Connection Team is in need of members and friends who would be willing to send cards and make phone calls to members and friends who have joys and concerns. We also make a special effort to speak to visitors during social hour. We are also looking for folks to visit with a homebound member on occasion. **Carolyn**

Bradley MaryAnn O'Shea

Open Pantry Emergency Food Supply is an ongoing, year-round, and ever-present need in our community. The RED donation cabinet can be found in the back of Friendship Hall. All foods and toiletries are accepted (Perishables may be put in the kitchen fridge, with a note left in the Open Pantry Cabinet). Cash, Big Y coins, or check donations (Payable to Open Pantry) are also welcomed. **Carolyn Hale**

Loaves and Fishes prepares and serves the noon meal to the homeless and hungry people in Springfield on the last Sunday of every month. To do this we require 4-5 persons for the cooking crew in our kitchen from 11AM until 12:30 PM. We then require 6-7 people to help serve the food at Shiloh 7th Day Adventist Church on upper State St. Volunteers can do one or both of these jobs. We are also in need of 1 or 2 Coordinators to lead this program, usually twice a year. For more information, please call **Eunice Stolecki**

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to make once-yearly contributions to members and friends in our congregation who are in financial need. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to that fund, please consider doing so. (Please write "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the check's memo line.)

Our Society thanks you for caring!

Among Ourselves

To All My Summer Saints, A Big Thank You!

“Ask and ye shall receive?” I guess so. “No such thing as a free ride or lunch?” Not true. “Put it out to the universe, and ...” You get the picture. You were there.

This gratitude piece might just be called “How I Spent My Summer Vacation” *plus* “My Confirmed Faith in a Giving Humanity.” You see, donned with chemo straw hat and foot-healing boot, I put forth a *Sundial* request for transportation to and from doctor appointments. You kind people came through with flying colors!

Volunteers, from friends to little-knowns, not only “covered” all the medical visits, but went way beyond the call of duty. Like the folks who brought me along on full day trips...a stranger who signed up to inject my dear, diabetic Abbie Cat in case of an emergency...an acquaintance who took me out to, then made me, a salmon dinner. The examples, but not the allotted space, do go on and on.

Don't know what the next steps to foot and cancer treatments will be; maybe my generous helpers will expand into seasonal saints. So thanks for stepping, er, that is *marching in* when needed. With promised smoothies all around.

Appreciatively,
Polly P.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

? Choir Practice

Every Thursday, 7:30 – 9 pm

In the Choir Room

Every first Sunday of the month, all singers—including young voices—are welcome to join our Choir-for-a-day! We rehearse before the service and then sing the anthem.

? Croissants and Choir

Every First Sunday, 9:00—10:00 am

In the Choir Room

All singers welcome to join us for our weekly gathering & good old hard work. Longish-term commitment requested.

? NVC Practice Group

Bi-weekly on Wednesdays Sept 9 and 23

(in Room 26)

This group welcomes all who are willing to make a commitment to studying and using non-violent communication principles. Interested in joining? Contact Becca Bryer or Gail Adams. For more info about NVC, see www.cnvc.org

? Women's Spirituality Group

7:30 pm, Last Friday of the month: Sept. 26

In Friendship Hall

*Facilitated by Women's Spirituality Group members; contact Cynthia Sommer or Julia Kay. We welcome all women and girls for whom the symbolism of the Divine Feminine carries meaning. Anyone wishing to help set up is welcome to come early between 6:45 and 7:15.

Among Ourselves

Memory Walk

Join Libby and I to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association on 9/27/09 as we walk 1.5 miles through Stanley Park @ 11 AM.

At age eighty-five 48% people have Alzheimer's. It could happen to you or to a love one.

Support for caregivers and training for professionals are provided by the Association. Fifty percent of the Association's budget comes from this walk.

If you don't want to walk, donations are always accepted. Contact Doug Barnshaw.

THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

August 20th the FM Committee met and Jim Scheffler passed the chairmanship over to Eunice Stolecki. He will remain on the committee and former chairperson Pat Banusewicz has rejoined us.

The next scheduled work party will be held on September 12th. 9AM till 12 noon.

This is the time to clean and polish our building and grounds to usher in the start of our fall services

There will be outside work weeding, raking and checking the play areas.

Inside workers will be washing as many windows as we can, especially classrooms and the sanctuary.

Please bring favorite tools, gloves, and /or cleaning equipment if you want to.

Snacks and beverages will be served.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN OLD, GAS POWERED LAWNMOVER TO BE USED FOR COMPOSTING LEAVES. CONTACT LARRY CONTI

Eunice Stolecki
for Facilities Management

Quilt Raffle!

Raffle of a unique Queen - size quilt is part of a "small fund raising projects" effort, arising out of Future Search and Living Our Values, to supplement the stewardship fund drive and restore cut funds to the operating budget. The Women's Spirituality Group is sponsoring the raffle to participate in the "small fund raising" effort for this fiscal year. Proceeds of the raffle will not be shared with the Women's Spirituality Group; all funds raised will go to the UUSGS annual budget.

Raffle tickets are on sale for \$5 each and \$10 for three. We are hoping that UUSGS members and friends will agree that this wonderful piece of needle-work is worth the effort to buy raffle tickets and to take some to sell to friends and relatives or acquaintances you meet during your summer's adventures. Whether you, yourself, hope to win the quilt or would like to make a gift of it to a valued friend or family member, it is a work of art of special value. Please pitch in! Raffle ticket sale is in Friendship Hall, and through Julia K Grace and Cynthia Sommer.

The drawing will be held **October 11, 2009**, and the winner needs not be present at the drawing.

Among Ourselves

The uNi COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT SERIES

Sat. **September 12** at 8:00 p.m.

Bring a friend to Friendship Hall to hear

Celebrate the beginning of the 25th year of this congregation's own coffeehouse-style concert series

The Johnson Girls

"The Johnson Girls" is the **four woman vocal group** that can **raise the rafters with the best of them in the traditionally male musical domain of sea chanteys.**

Pete Seeger said, "I didn't know women could sing like that!"

Formed in 1997, their singing home port is the South Street Seaport, New York City. But, as **the leading all-woman maritime song group in the world**, they have headlined at major sea music festivals in the U.S. from Mystic, CT to San Francisco, CA, as well as Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Portugal.

Their **extensive repertoire of both traditional and contemporary material** includes sea chanteys and work songs of many traditions: African-American, Canadian, Caribbean, Irish, French, Italian as well as songs from the inland waterways and fisheries, sensitive renderings of haunting ballads and laments, and hair-raising harmonies.

"The Johnson Girls" three Folk Legacy CDs have received **rave reviews in the leading U.S. and U.K. publications** that cover folk music.

Their sound and energy is visceral and infectious.

Perhaps one secret to their success is the **diverse musical backgrounds and extensive experience of all four women** - Joy Bennett, Alison Kelley, Bonnie Milner, and Deirdre Murtha.

\$15 at the door

Further Info: Ed & Beth Brown

Website: uNicoffeehouse.org

Please take some fliers from the Meetinghouse to share with friends or post for the public. Thanks.

Among Ourselves

First Hour Forum

9 – 10 am, Every Sunday

In the Balcony Room

**Open to all; no registration required.*

Presentation, dialogue, & conversation about current events and/or a topic of special interest, facilitated by Society members or outside guests.

Sunday, Sept. 6:

No Forum Today

Sunday, Sept. 13:

The Day Cycle Updated

by Andrew Day

In two previous forums Andrew described what he calls the Day Cycle—a biological and chemical process to transform waste and sewage into electricity and biofuels, without emitting greenhouse gases. Andrew and his father, Eric, have multiple patents pending on this process. Today Andrew will summarize his proposal and update us on what has happened to it over the year.

Sunday, Sept. 20:

Guns Are Us!

by Marty Gelinias

Marty will share his perspective on the use, care and danger of guns in our society. As a former gunsmith for a local manufacturer, Marty has a unique and balanced view of guns in our society. On the one hand, he supports the right to gun ownership under the Second Amendment, especially as defined by the recent Supreme Court case on the issue; but, on the other hand, he feels gun owners need a lot more training and more awareness of the dangers of guns. Also, he feels society needs more controls on the ownership of guns. Marty has worked as a criminal investigator for local attorneys and is currently a property manager for a local landlord.

Sunday, Sept. 27:

Encountering Korean Buddhism

by John Kielb

John will describe and show photos of his trip to Buddhist temples in South Korea. He will also share the results of his studies of Korean Buddhism and what it, and Buddhism generally, may mean for UUs.

Among Ourselves

Inspiring Heart and Soul

Our vision reflects the transformation this faith community seeks to effect over the next ten years. It reflects our deepest dreams and yet is articulated in the present tense to create a concrete image of our hopes and possibilities.



Save the Date!! Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009 . . .

The LOV Team (Living Our Vision) is sponsoring a 1st Anniversary Future Search gathering at the UU Meetinghouse with:

- Forum/ book discussion
- Worship
- Lunch made from locally grown produce
- Workshops
- Activities for all ages!

Come to celebrate the journey and explore how we can reach our goal of sustainability: environmentally, spiritually and financially.

Come for part or all of the day! More details will follow, just SAVE THE DATE!

If you have questions or you'd like to be involved in the planning, contact LOV chair, Andrew Oxman.

Music Connection- We are still adding people who want to contribute to our Sunday Music menu for the Sundays that the choir and others have not committed to in the Fall. Please see anyone on the Music Committee if you are those persons! We will be contacting anyone

who has already participated in our survey or who has participated in a service! Thanks and see you in September --*Verne McArthur*

Adult Seminars and Programs: Contact Mike Greenwood

Music and Singing Action Group: Contact Verne McArthur

Diversity in Worship and Congregations: Contact Cher Baulding.

Exploring Growth: How will being in search for a new minister effect our priorities regarding growth? Questions or ideas? Contact John Kielbor Jackie Shanti.

Youth and Young Adult Outreach and Green Team: Contact Kate Strong

JUUST FOR FUUN: Contact Nancy Francisco for further information.

Technology Focus Group: Contact co-chairs Wayne Coste or Nicole Coocen.

Financial Resources Action Team: Contact Cynthia Sommer Ted Welsh about stewardship, Maggie about the financial system and Julia Kay Grace or Stephanie Judd about fundraising ideas.

Improving the Appearance of Our Society's Building and Grounds: Contact Ellen Bash, Joanne Miller and Kar Frickenhaus.

Land Use: Contact Alan Banusewicz.

Used Book Sale—Coming Soon—October 11, 18 and 25



Looking for a good book? Do you have some books that need a good home? Are you ready to get some new music or videos? It's time for our every-now-and-then Used Book Sale. This is one of our Society's important fund-raisers to help balance the budget.

Bring in your used books, CDs, videos beginning [2 weeks before the sale] in sturdy bags or boxes and place them in the soon-to-be-designated spot. Then come back and enjoy browsing through the fantastic assortment of goodies. Prices are very reasonable. The third Sunday of the sale will be a bag day.

Lots of help wanted! Volunteer as a book sorter, or with set-up, clean-up, and sales. For more info call Ann Barone or Tim Wing.

Among Ourselves

Welcome Back!

Volunteers Still Needed... in Spirit Play (1), Primary (1), Elementary (2), Middle School (1) & High School **(3!)**. Please contact Joyce as soon as possible if you can help!

New Meeting Time for the RE Committee... Starting September 15, the REC will meet on Third Tuesdays from 6:00 – 7:30 in the Crabtree Room. **All are welcome!** If you need childcare to be able to attend please contact REC co-chairs Nancy Rose or Maureen Kellman .



September Calendar

- 9/13 Intergenerational Water Ceremony
Nursery & Preschool only
- 9/15 **RE Committee Meeting**
Tuesday, 6:00-7:30,
Crabtree
- 9/20 **All RE Groups Meet**
-

What's up for this year?

Tapestry of Faith (ToF) is a series of free on-line curricula from the UUA for preschoolers through adults. They weave together the strands of Ethical, Spiritual, & Faith Development, along with UU Identity. For more information see: uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula.

Group/Curriculum	Description
Preschool <i>Me and My World</i>	Each session in this fun curriculum for little ones focuses on a theme & provides stories and creative activities - from singing and dancing to painting and cooking.
Spirit Play <i>Creating Home</i>	We'll be using the Spirit Play way of storytelling and wondering to explore this ToF curriculum that helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith and introduces the concept of a faith home -- our congregation.
Primary <i>Faithful Journeys</i>	In this ToF curriculum, participants embark on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions.
Elementary <i>Windows & Mirrors</i>	This ToF curriculum nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. By unpacking topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences, it teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's

Among Ourselves

viewpoint matters

Middle School
Amazing Grace

Along with their usual fun projects, this curriculum will help our middle schoolers understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding. It will equip them to move safely and productively through the middle- and high school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum.

High School

We have a unique opportunity right now to transform our youth program. We are looking at lots of alternate ways of being for this group, including a ToF curriculum, service projects, different meeting times, and small group ministry. **If you'd like to be a part of this exciting process, contact Joyce a.s.a.p.**
