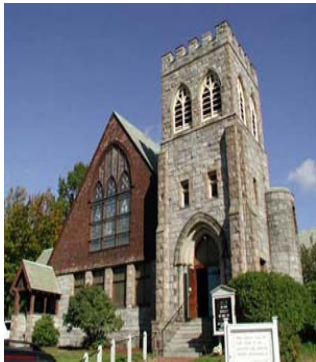


UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford
 Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

October 2008



147 High Street

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Moxie *The ability to face difficulty with spirit and courage.*

The first person I ever cast a presidential vote for was Gary Hart, I know, I know. I was 18. But I have from that time until now never missed voting in a presidential election, OK I've never missed any vote. I've voted in schools, in town halls, by mail and in person, I voted after waiting close to an hour in line in the rain in Somerville, and I've also been one of the only to vote in Medford when none of the races were contested. And once when living in Chicago I walked into the voting booth and was surprised to see one lever that read "pull this lever to vote for all Democratic slate."

Why am I mentioning this? Well I see voting not as a duty, but as a privilege, a permit that due to the US Constitution I have been granted and it would be irresponsible of me to neglect. It was not that long ago that in our own nation whole groups of citizens were denied the vote, while others have been tricked or bullied into not casting a ballot for the candidate of their choice. So for me to not get out and exercise this right that we have been given would be disrespectful to all those who longed to vote and fought for this right. I hope that you too understand the importance of your privilege when you wake up on the morning of Tuesday November 4th. I hope that you will join us for a returns watching party on the evening of the 4th at the church as part of our Tuesday evening programs.

I have the sad task to report that long time member of our church Barbara Strovink has died. Barbara had been active in the Liberal Religious Adult group before moving into a nursing facility, first in Melrose and eventually in Framingham, where she was close to her son Eric. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara's friend's and family.

- Rev. Hank

Upcoming Services & Events

Worship Services for October

OCT 5: Running the Victory Lap - Rev. Hank Peirce

Prof. Randy Pausch of Carnegie Mellon University knew he was dieing when he deviled a last lecture, a speech that was usually reserved for those retiring. The recording of his lecture has been watched, read and listened to by millions. His words touched many and it has allowed many to ask themselves what would I say?

OCT 12: "Our UU Honor System" - Colleen Squire

What dose our faith ask of us? How are we challenged by our Principals? Colleen is not only a member of our congregation, but also on our Board of Trustees, a student at Andover-Newton Theological School, and has just begun a chaplaincy at st. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boston. We are lucky to have her with us leading worship this morning.

OCT 19: Coming of Age - Rev. Hank Peirce

Russell Fidelman, James Castle and others. All communities of faith have rituals that mark rites of passage in its members lives. Today we will be celebrating Russell Fidelman and James Castle's coming of age. Though this has not been celebrated in our community for quite a while we are pleased that they and their family have taken part in an extensive program of education and service to get her to this point. This will be an exciting and meaningful service for all of us.

OCT 26: Day of the Dead - Rev. Hank Peirce

This intergenerational service of personal remembrance, is a chance for everyone to recognize a loved one who has passed. you are invited to bring a small token that reminds you of this person, it may be a photo, a CD, a book or something else. They will be added together in front of the pulpit and each will have an opportunity to speak briefly on whom this person was and what they mean to them.

EVENTS and ANOUNCEMENTS

Jenn Vento is the Worship Associate for the month of October.

Tuesday Night Events

- OCT 7: Steve Schmidt "Buddhist Talk".
 - OCT 14: Linda Coultas "Ergonomics".
 - OCT 21: Immigration Task Force "Welcoming Campaign".
 - OCT 28: Colleen Squires "God Talk".
- Doors open at 6:30pm. Talks start at 7:00pm , followed by discussion and socializing.*



Fall Clean Up Day

Please join us for our annual fall clean up day on Saturday October **18th** at 9 am. Pizza lunch will be provided.

Children are welcome.

NOTE: Rain date is October 25th.

Thank You

Thank you to the following people who got our fall season off to a great start the first two September services.

Social Hour hosts: Camilla Fox and Liz Ammons; Lourie August and Loren Bernardi, with some help from the RE students!

Flower contributors: Karen Johnston

Thank you to Russell Tripp for his ongoing help with making the coffee for Social Hour.

Newsletter Volunteer Acknowledgement

Brad Chapman has been editing this church newsletter for the last year. Thank you Brad, for all your hard work.

(Editor's note: Thank you!)

Worship volunteers will be acknowledged monthly in this newsletter. Please let us know if we missed anyone.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

Last month's B&G report was inadvertently omitted from the newsletter, so it was sent later via an all-church email. I have decided to include my opening remarks again to reiterate our committee's plan for the coming church year:

As another church year begins, the Building and Grounds Committee enthusiastically looks forward to maintaining and beautifying our property. This year our committee plans to concentrate on landscaping the front of the church. Also we will continue efforts towards making the interior of our buildings energy efficient, safe, comfortable and attractive. To accomplish these goals the B & G committee needs your help - even an hour or two of your time. Volunteering with us is fun, gratifying and a great way to get to know people better. Please contact Maria Muller if you are interested. Also gifts to fund memorial plantings to honor your loved ones are welcome.

Accomplishments:

Building: Thank you to the following volunteers who removed the old carpeting from the sanctuary aisles: Liz Ammons, Karen Johnston, Phillip Johnston-Haberstroh, Maria Muller, Heather Munn, Steve Schmidt, Colleen Squires, Bill Stevenson, Mary Stevenson and Russell Tripp.

A special thank you to the anonymous donor who generously paid for the new carpeting for the sanctuary aisles and its installation.

The loose front pew end has been re-glued. (Thank you Fred Humphreys.)

Four new wheels have been put on the table in the back of the sanctuary. (Thank you Mark Ammons.)

The church's front vestibule floor has been stained and polyurethaned. (Thank you Liz Ammons who did this on Labor Day, no less.)

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to everyone who contributed new school supplies last month to distribute to Food Pantry families at the beginning of the school year. And thank you to all the adults and children who volunteered to assemble the distribution bags. Great job! The clients are very grateful to everyone for the supplies.

If you can contribute nonperishable food, do bring it each Sunday and place it in the wicker basket at the back of the sanctuary to be brought forward with the collection. Because of the terrible economy, the number of clients has been high and our food reserves are running low. All donations of food that has not expired are most welcome. Also if you have paper and/or plastic grocery bags, leave them in the Food Pantry area. We can always use them!

-- Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

UU Medford

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Church Office Hours

Tues-Wed-Friday: 9 am–2 pm
Thurs: 9 am–12 noon

Rev. Hank Peirce, Minister

revhank@uumedford.org
(781) 643-2523
Office: (781) 396-7309

Esther Rosado

Director of Religious Education
dre@uumedford.org
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Lynn Battinelli

Church Administrator
(781) 396-4549
info@uumedford.org

Thom Lissey

Music Director
(617) 966-1526
music@uumedford.org



Ongoing Events

Please check calendar section on web-site for an updated listing.

Thursdays Community Cupboard Food Pantry

6:00 –7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday Buddhist Meditation

8:30-11:30 am, Moore Room

Keep in Touch — Announcements E-mail List

To join the announcements e-mail list, contact Miles Fidelman at mfidelman@fidelman.net. You will receive an e-mail confirming that you have been added to the list.

Newsletter Submissions

All articles for the newsletter are due the 15th of each month, for the following month's issue. Please send submissions to Brad Chapman at: newsletter@uumedford.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford is a diverse, welcoming community striving to provide a nurturing environment for the spiritual journeys of people at all stages of life. We foster social engagement among ourselves and seek to make a difference in our community and in the world at large.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

147 High Street Medford, MA 02155

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From the Trustees

Greetings from the Board of Trustees! We worked hard this summer preparing for a great church year. Board Chair **Geoff Ward** and Board Vice-Chair **Jesse Jaeger** planned a very successful Board Retreat on Saturday September 6, 2008. Held atop the historic Hawthorne Hotel in coastal Salem, Director of Religious Education **Esther Rosado** joined the Board to draft a Board Covenant affirming how we are going to work together as a team. We also kicked off the process of goal setting.

At the last Congregational Meeting the Members asked the Board to report quarterly with progress towards the goal of selling the building back to ourselves. **Miles Fidelman** and **Karen Johnston** are Trustees working hard on this task. If you have an interest in deepening ties with some like-minded organizations in our greater community please see Karen or Miles at coffee hour for more information.

We are still searching for a Treasurer. Basic knowledge required and training will be provided. It's a key position and we're in need of help. Please see **Sue Driscoll** or **Colleen Squires** on the Nominating Committee if interested. The Board would like to thank **Helen Silver** for her service as Assistant Treasurer and her continued efforts in the financial operations of the church.

We thank **Phillip Bloom** for all of his Board service as he stepped down from the Board this fall. Let's give a warm welcome to our newest Trustee, **Colleen Squires**.

The Board will meet Wednesday, October 15th beginning at 7 PM in the Osgood House. Some parts of our meetings are open to members of this community and we encourage you to come and see first hand your Trustees in action!

Many Blessings,
Denice Sakakeeny-Smith
Trustee, Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

"Calling Home"

I've spent most of the year trying to get a web series up and running, and now it finally is. "Calling Home" is a new monthly web series from produced in association with Arlington Studio. The show deals with Angelo Arriaga, a US soldier stationed in Iraq, communicates with his family back home in Arizona via webcam-- including his fiancée, his war protesting brother, and his undocumented worker parents. The first episode is online and one episode will follow every month for the next nine months.

Check it out at: http://www.myspace.com/calling_home

- Thanks. David Concepcion

Building and Grounds Committee Report (continued from page 3)

Grounds:

A new bike rack has been installed in back of the Osgood house. (Thank you Hank Peirce)

The poison ivy near the bike rack has been sprayed. (Thank you Mary Stevenson)

New evergreens have been planted in the front and back of the church. The pots at the front and side entrances have been redone for the fall season. A new daylily and bulb garden has been planted on the side near the front church door. Also ongoing weeding and mulching has occurred.

Many people have admired the delightful branch-bordered path in the side garden at the church. (Thank you Joan Parker for designing and building it)

- Maria Muller, chairperson, Building and Grounds Committee

Report from the Task Force on Immigration Issues

The Task Force on Immigration Issues' first church-wide event—Tuesday, September 23rd—was quite successful. Thank you, everyone, who came to it! That September program launched our support of the Welcoming Massachusetts Campaign, (we will be collecting petitions and signatures through mid-October). We also heard an outstanding presentation by Anthony Zuba entitled “For You Were Once a Stranger: Economic Justice and Immigration in the United States.”

Church members are carrying out fund-raising efforts for the Task Force on several fronts. Heather Gomez organized a raffle of New England Revolution soccer tickets, the proceeds of which will go to help the Medford ESOL program buy supplies. The Religious Education group is raising money for the ESOL program via a bake-sale. In addition, we took up a collection at the September 23rd event. ***All funds collected through November 15th will be distributed to groups serving immigrant communities or projects.*** (A full accounting of funds collected and dispersed will be distributed in early December.)

Members of the Task Force are joining the October 1st “Witness for Justice” vigil in Boston, organized by the Arlington Street Church. This demonstration calls for an immediate end to the raids, arrests and deportations of immigrants, and for laws that provide a path towards citizenship.

Our October program will be **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21st, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM**. It will focus on (1) the current wave of attacks upon immigrant communities and (2) the difficulties immigrant communities are facing today. The program features the documentary “Detained,” by local Malden-based filmmaker Jenny Alexander and her colleague Michelle Fuentes, which describes the March, 2007 ICE raid on the Michael Bianco factory in New Bedford, and interviews a number of the workers who were arrested there and detained. The filmmakers will be present to speak about their film.

During this evening we will also host speakers from the Central American advocacy group Centro Presente who will share their stories with us and describe what is happening in their community. We are also hoping to have Mr. Emmanuel Exilhomme talk to us at this meeting about the difficulties our local Haitian community is facing.

Please plan to attend this event, as it promises to be an exciting and educational time.

TUESDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 21st 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Preceded by an informal “bag” dinner at 6:30PM

A DISCUSSION OF THE ATTACKS AND DIFFICULTIES

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES ARE FACING TODAY

FEATURING: The documentary film “DETAINED” by Jenny Alexander and Michelle Fuentes - with appearances by the film-makers

Appearances and discussion by members of: CENTRO PRESENTE AND OTHERS

Thanks go out to everyone who worked on the September 23rd program and/or who has been active in or helped out with the Task Force. This includes Steve Schmidt, Michael Sandberg, Liz Ammons, Eileen Dunne, Nancy Kurtz, Hank Driscoll, Esther Rosado, Heather Gomez, Philip Bloom, Annette Bloom, Susan Jhirad, and Michael Glenn.

The Task Force is meeting monthly, studying together, and planning further programs. If you are interested in working with us, please contact Michael Glenn at 781-396-6424 or michaelglenn01@comcast.net.