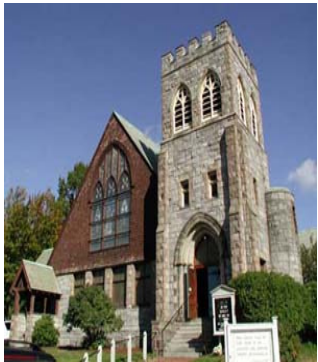


UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford
 Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

January 2009



147 High Street

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

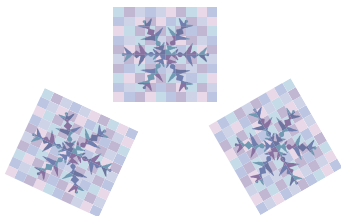
We don't get out much these days what with all the snow and two young children, so we've been watching the HBO series on John Adams that came out last year. As you may know, I did my student ministry at the United First Parish Church of Quincy, our sister congregation where the Adams' attended and which is the burial place of US presidents John and John Quincy Adams and their wives Abigail Adams and Louisa Catherine Adams. I always enjoyed giving tours of "the crypt" to young UUs on a coming of age trip.

We've had a great time watching the show and as a history buff *I've focused in on a few things*. Door knobs, I know that is not what you expected me to say, but yes I was pleased to see that at least in the home that where the Adams' lived was a door knob just like the door knob to my office in the Osgood House. It is strange how excited I was when I saw them, and I realize that my excitement comes more from a link with history than with the historical accuracy of the show.

We all do that don't we? When you're shown a group photos of an event, the first person you look for is yourself. It's a frame of reference that allows us to situate ourselves as part of something larger than ourselves. I think of this often while sitting in the Osgood House. I think of all of the historical figures who lived there or visited there and how we are linked in some way to them. When the abolitionist Mary Day Brown, wife of John Brown, was turned away from speaking at city hall Lucy Osgood brought everyone into the Osgood House for the first anti-slavery meeting in Medford. The Osgood House was also the site of a meeting of the Transcendentalist Club, where Emerson Thoreau, and Jones Very met in what is now the church office. A lot of history has occurred at the Osgood House, but my favorite is the story that pertains to President Washington who visited Medford on his farewell tour.

While visiting the home of his friend John Brooks, who home stood where St. Joseph's School now stands, and before entering he noticed the Osgood family all standing in the doorway of their home, to whom President Washington tipped his hat.

-Rev. Hank



Worship Services for January

January 4: What if... - Rev. Hank Peirce

They say that those who do not know the past are doomed to repeat it, but often our futures are impacted by decisions made in the past, and the over questioning of these choices. On this first Sunday of the new year let us look at freeing ourselves from our pasts and moving forward to the future.

JAN 11: Hidden Treasures - TBA

TBA

JAN 18: New Day Rising: MLK Sunday Rev. - Hank Peirce

Barack Obama will take the oath of President in just a few days from this Sunday, what sort of expectations do we have for him and how do they intersect with our beliefs about faith, and race and the future.

JAN 25: Robert Burns 250th Birthday Rev. Hank Peirce - Rev. Hank Peirce

Today is the 250th birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's favorite son. Not only was the people's poet he was also a co-religionist with us. We will also celebrate the dedication of Trudie Innis.

TUESDAY NIGHT EVENTS

A UUCM board of trustees project originating in the past year's strategic planning café conversations project. It is a response to requests for more community-building, spirituality-exploring, social action events at UUCM.

Our goal is to provide a Tuesday night program every Tuesday night from September to June.

Every Tuesday night 7pm in Benker Hall, doors open at 6:45pm.

Any suggestions, questions, complaints, praise, etc., call Hank Driscoll

JAN 6: Uranium Pollution, a talk by Gretel Munroe..

JAN 13: Rise Up Singing Group, led by Paul Estin.

JAN 20: Meditation Study/Support Group, led by Steve Schmidt

JAN 27: Immigration Task Force Talk, speaker TBA.

Benker Hall: Doors open at 6:30pm. Talks start at 7:00pm, followed by discussion, coffee, tea and socializing. Please call Hank Driscoll (781-439-1529) if you have any questions about or suggestions for future events.

The next **eco-social justice committee meeting** will be on January 27th. There will be a meeting from 6:45-7:30 PM in the church quiet room, followed by a short talk afterwards that will be part of the Tuesday night series at 7:30 PM in the Church Hall.

Sincerely, Heather Gomez

Thank You

Thank you to the following people who were worship service volunteers during November and December.

Greeters: Emily Hanna, Omri Schwartz, Bob Stockwell, Steve Schmidt, Mary Finn

Bell ringers: those who volunteered to ring.

Social Hour hosts: Camilla Fox, Annette Bloom, David Conception, Karen Johnston, Helen Silver, Russell Tripp

Flower contributors: : Matt Haberstroh, Mark Koenig

Thank you Mary Stevenson for her wonderful weekly flower arrangements

Thank you to Russell Tripp for his ongoing help with making the coffee for Social Hour.
 Newsletter Volunteer Acknowledgement:
 Thank you Brad Chapman for his ongoing contribution as editor in chief of this newsletter. *Worship volunteers will be acknowledged monthly in this newsletter. Please let us know if we missed anyone.*

Building and Grounds Committee Report

Grounds:

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped out on our second Fall Clean Up Day: Rita Bamford, Hank Driscoll, Maria Muller, Bill and Mary Stevenson, and Geoff Ward. An enormous quantity of leaves and twigs were raked and bagged. Also more flowers and foliage were trimmed for the winter - all in time for Medford's yard waste recycling program.

- The protective tent for the hydrangea tree was erected but alas the heavy winds blew it down ... to be continued.
- The two new arborvitae have been staked for their first winter.

Building:

Thank you to Bea Grayson for donating fabric and using her creative talents to sew many beautiful table cloths for the Benker Hall tables. This made our church Thanksgiving lunch very special this year. The table cloths will enhance many church events in the future.

- Several of the church sanctuary bench cushions were patched. (Thank you Liz Ammons and Helen Silver.)
- New wheels were put on another sanctuary table. (Thank you Mark Ammons.)
- A plastic covering was put over the inside front door of the Osgood House. This should help with drafts and heat conservation.
- The church front vestibule door latch was repaired. (Thank you Geoff Ward.)

Many thanks to all those who helped.

- Maria Muller, Building and Grounds Chairperson

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Both in the church and in the community, people have been very generous with their time and money. Fallon Community Health, Century 21 Advance Realty in Medford, and the Kiwanis Club of Medford each gave the Pantry financial donations. The Rotary Club of Medford contributed five baskets of food at the holidays. During the fall and winter, many individuals from the community have kindly sent donations to support the Pantry's work; and church members have been bringing food each Sunday, plus special food at the winter holidays, which has been wonderful. Thank you to everyone! Especially in these hard economic times, we are most grateful for all these gifts from so many people who care about others in need. Also, THANK you to the volunteers who give so amazingly of their time and energy. Every week, Chris Fiorello comes in and sorts food and stocks shelves, Geoff Ward buys and brings in dried beans, Hank Driscoll picks up and delivers food donations from Whole Foods, and Michael Glenn and Clare Gallup (with Helen Silver as back-up) buy and deliver outlet bread. Once a month Mary Werowinski and Sue Gerould, often with the help of Dal Coger, deliver a ton (literally) of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank. And during the fall and winter these people from the church and the community shared the job of staffing the Pantry every Thursday night: Dave Pinckney, Joan Parker, Steve Schmidt, David Grayson, Naomi Wilson, Julia Alvarez, Liz Ammons, Jim Calorio, Celia Suarez, Anna Seleny, Karen Johnston, Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw, and Byron Alvarez. Behind the scenes, Lynn Battinelli helped us with our correspondence and Fred Humphreys cleaned up each Friday morning. The work of all these people allows the Food Pantry to function smoothly (and even rocky, when we had a huge increase in the number of clients in the fall!). Thanks to everyone who makes it possible for the Food Pantry to reach out and support people in need in the community. Finally, thank you to the Task Force on Immigration in the church which gave the Food Pantry one of its awards this fall for service to immigrants. Check out the beautiful certificate hanging in the Food Pantry. We are honored! If you would like to volunteer, we could use two more people to help sort food and stock the shelves on an every-other-week basis. Talk to Liz Ammons if you are interested. Happy New Year to everyone from all the volunteers at the Food Pantry! --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

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 (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 TASK FORCE ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

We are now reaching out to the broader community. Join us! Here is what we are doing this month:

1. ***Open meeting of the UUCM Task Force on Immigration***

Monday, January 12, 2009 7:15 – 9:00pm UUCM Sanctuary

Help form a Medford "cluster" to support local asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers have left home because of war, famine, religious or political persecution, or persecution for other reasons. A **cluster** offers them group support to help them become productive members of our community. The results of this process are amazing. As one client stated: "You took me from nowhere to somewhere." Another client insists she would not have survived without her Cluster. Our helping work will be done in cooperation with Malden's Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM), which also helps resettle refugees who, like asylum seekers, are seeking a safe place to live. Our Cluster will help them from the airport until they are independent.

You are invited to become a part of this exciting ministry. We will work on an interfaith basis with persons from other congregations to offer support services (housing, educational, medical, transportation, acculturation and employment) to asylum seekers until they achieve a durable self-sufficiency.

Please join us on January 12th to learn more!

2. **Film series on Immigration: Medford Public Library**

Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:30 pm "The Visitor"

The Task Force has partnered with the Medford Library to present a monthly series of films on immigration, starting in January. The films, all successful commercial movies, present the human side of immigrant experience, and can help people better grasp the reality of the issues around immigration.

In January, we start with the "The Visitor," (2007) is a simmering drama about a Connecticut college professor and recent widower, Walter Vale (Richard Jenkins), who discovers a pair of undocumented aliens living in his New York apartment. After the mix-up is resolved, Vale invites the couple—a young, Syrian musician named Tarek (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend (Danai Gurira)—to stay with him. An unlikely friendship develops, and Vale is deeply affected by the events which follow.

3. **Tuesday evening discussion: Equity in Education**

Tuesday January 27th UUCM 7:00pm

Join us for a discussion on the campaign to grant in-state tuition to Massachusetts high school graduates who are children of undocumented immigrants.

If you are interested in working with us, please contact Michael Glenn at 781-396-6424 or michaelglenn01@comcast.net.