

UU Medford **Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford**

Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

October 2009



147 High Street

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

There is a stone in the narthex of the Unitarian Church in Kolozsvar, Transylvania (Cluj in Romanian) which sat outside one of the nine gates of the long-since destroyed wall that once surrounded the city. What makes this stone, known as “round rock,” so important as to be housed within this church is that it was upon this stone that the great Francis David is said to have preached a sermon in March of 1568.



@ MapZones

Now it was not just any sermon, and Francis David was not just any minister. He was a council to John Sigismund the king of Transylvania, and on that day David had just completed a ten day formal debate on the doctrine of the trinity, and he had won. His arguments on the Unity of God ushered in an era of religious tolerance, which was narrow by today’s standards, but was in fact the first of its kind in Europe.

Upon returning home he was met by a large crowd at the “round rock” and David stood on the stone and announced “WE WON!” He then preached a sermon so convincing and so compelling that they say he converted the entire city to Unitarianism that day. The crowd was then said to have carried him on their shoulders to the church in the city where he preached some more.

I love that story, as a young child growing up in a region where everyone was a religion other than Unitarian Universalist, the idea of a city where everyone was my faith seemed like a wonderful fairytale. I have not yet been to Transylvania (it’s part of Romania), but when I do go I know that I will be deeply moved by seeing that stone Europe.

So in this month of jack-o-lanterns, vampires and plastic fangs remember the role that a stone in Transylvania played not only in the history of our faith, but also in bringing the light of religious tolerance to Europe. -- Rev. Hank

Worship Services for October

October 4th: Association Sunday

11:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce

Today we join with other UU churches across the nation as we celebrate the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association and recognize and support our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism both in spirit and financially. This special service is dedicated to the UUA's comprehensive campaign to grow our faith.

October 11th: Tryworks

11:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce

On whaling ships the place where the blubber is rendered into oil was called the tryworks. It was also the name of the folk music coffeehouse that my mother ran for 25 years. What sort of work do each of us need to do to get to the essential parts of who we are?

October 18th: Labor in Pulpit

11:00 - Daryl Bridges

Looking at how we, as Unitarian-Universalists, can and should assist workers in their fight to be treated with human dignity, better wages, and good jobs. With information on how to get involved provided afterward.

October 25th: Save Ferris

11:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce

Just after the death of John Hughes this past summer a colleague challenged a number of us to write a sermon on the role of this film maker on our culture. So I am taking up the challenge and preaching on the themes found in the film *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

ONGOING EVENTS

TUESDAY PROGRAMS for OCTOBER!

Every Tuesday for 8 months, October through May, there will be a UUCM program starting at 7 pm.

Please use the ramp door in the back of the church. It will be open at 6:45 pm every Tuesday. As we did last year, every program ends with a cookies & tea party.

We aim for fun, relaxed Tuesday evenings where we can get to know each other and talk about our lives and our UUCM community.

- 10/06: Rise up singing sing-along with Paul Estin
- 10/13: Once & Future Church Group w/ Heather Munn
- 10/20: Meditation Group with Michael Glenn
- 10/27: Immigration Reform film and talk with Centro Presente

If you have any questions about these programs call Hank Driscoll at 781-393-1852.



The UUCM meditation group will resume sittings on Tuesday night, October 20th from 7-9 pm. This activity, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, will be a regular part of our Tuesday night events. The evening will follow the same format as our previous meetings: sitting, standing and walking meditation; a tea ceremony; a reading; and time for participants to comment "from the heart." You do not have to be a UUCM member to attend.

Benker Hall Bins

The Ecology group has placed four labeled containers in Benker Hall to encourage recycling by social hour attendees. Here is a list of the bins and their intended use:



- Green containers (composting): Fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds and thin paper napkins
- Blue bins: Sheets of paper, paper plates and paper cups
- White bins: All glass or metal containers, and numbered plastics (except #6). Anyone buying plastic cups should buy ones that have a recycling number on the bottom.
- Black bins: All other materials which cannot be recycled or composted. These are Styrofoam (#6) and unnumbered plastic, clear plastic wrap/cellophane, and greasy foods such as animal products, cheese, baked goods, etc.

Please help us reduce our amount of waste - and hopefully continue this habit at home, too! The trash/garbage collected in Medford is incinerated, and adds to the world's pollution.

The Eco-Social Justice committee thanks you for participating in this project!

Worship Service Volunteers Acknowledgment

A belated thank you to the following people who were worship service volunteers during the end of the spring season, as well as those who contributed at our homecoming service.

Social Hour Hosts: Camilla Fox (twice!), Bea Grayson, Gretel Munroe, Russell Tripp (twice) and all those who helped with the homecoming service potluck.

Greeters: Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, Bob Stockwell, Chris Fiorello, Gretel Munroe, Dana MacNamee, Steve Schmidt (multiple times), Bob Stockwell, Meghan Chan, Linda Squires

Bell Ringers: Arden Ingersoll

Flower contributors: Helen Silver, Chris Fiorello, Cathy Collins, Linda Squires

Thank you Mary Stevenson for her wonderful weekly flower arrangements and to Russell Tripp for his ongoing help with making the coffee for Social Hour.

Worship volunteers will be acknowledged monthly in this news-

This is the last planned paper version of the newsletter. Printed copies will be at the church for visitors and those members who do not have email.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who donated new school supplies for distribution to families who come to the Food Pantry. Also thanks to those who helped sort and organize the donations. Your generosity and labor are much appreciated!

The Food Pantry will continue to be very busy this fall because the poor economy is forcing more and more people to rely on emergency food relief. So we greatly appreciate your continued help to bring food for the Pantry on Sunday morning and placing it in the basket at the back of the church as part of our community offering. Also we desperately need plastic grocery bags. If you have some, just bundle them up and put them in the Food Pantry area. Thanks so much!

-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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(617) 966-1526
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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 Meghan O'Sullivan 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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Update from the Task Force on Immigration

The Task Force on Immigration operates under the Eco–Social Action Committee. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 19th at 7 pm at 26 Farragut Avenue, Medford, and you are invited to join us. Here is what we are currently doing:

(1) Hands-on “service”:

- We are working with the local interfaith Metro North “cluster” of the Refugee Immigration Ministry, aiding refugees and asylum-seekers. (Several members of the Task Force and three other members of our church have volunteered to do this work. But we are always open to more volunteers.) We expect new refugees to be placed in our community soon. Daniel Velasquez is representing us at RIM’s monthly meetings.
- Some Task Force members are taking English-at-Large training to help immigrants learn English. Two additional fifteen-hour trainings are available this fall, if any other church members are interested.

(2) Educational work:

- We will begin a local interfaith study group on October 1st. It will examine the history of immigration and immigrant rights in the US. If anyone else wants to join, please contact us immediately.
- On Tuesday, October 27th, as part of our Tuesday night programs, our friends from Centro Presente will present the documentary “De Nadie.” Afterwards, there will be discussion and refreshments. Please attend if you can!
- We continue to maintain the TFI bulletin board in Benker Hall.

(3) Liaison and support work:

- We just recently staffed a table at Tufts Community Day (September 27th). There we distributed information about the Task Force and gathered signatures for a petition demanding an end to the deportation of any undocumented immigrant that would result in breaking up a family.

(4) New Sanctuary Movement:

- Our Task Force voted in September to endorse the New Sanctuary Movement. The NSM is a national interfaith organization committed to immigrant rights and humane immigration reform. This month, Hank Driscoll and Michael Glenn will ask the UUCM Board to endorse the NSM pledge at its November meeting. If you are interested you can obtain a copy of the pledge and other NSM documents by writing michaellandsusan01@comcast.net.
- Task Force members are now helping create an interfaith NSM chapter in Boston. As of this writing, we have been joined by the Arlington Street Church (UU), the Community Church of Boston (UU), the UUA, and Anthony Zuba and the Boston chapter of Interfaith Workers Justice. Over the next several weeks we will be approaching other faith-based groups and organizations in an effort to expand the group. We are also planning an interfaith vigil in late October at the Suffolk County House of Detention in Boston, calling for an end to deportations of undocumented immigrants until the immigration laws can be rewritten.

The Task Force is actively looking for new members to help us approach other Boston area congregations.

For more information about the task Force, contact Michael Glenn at michaelglenn01@comcast.net or Hank Driscoll at hank.driscoll@comcast.net.