

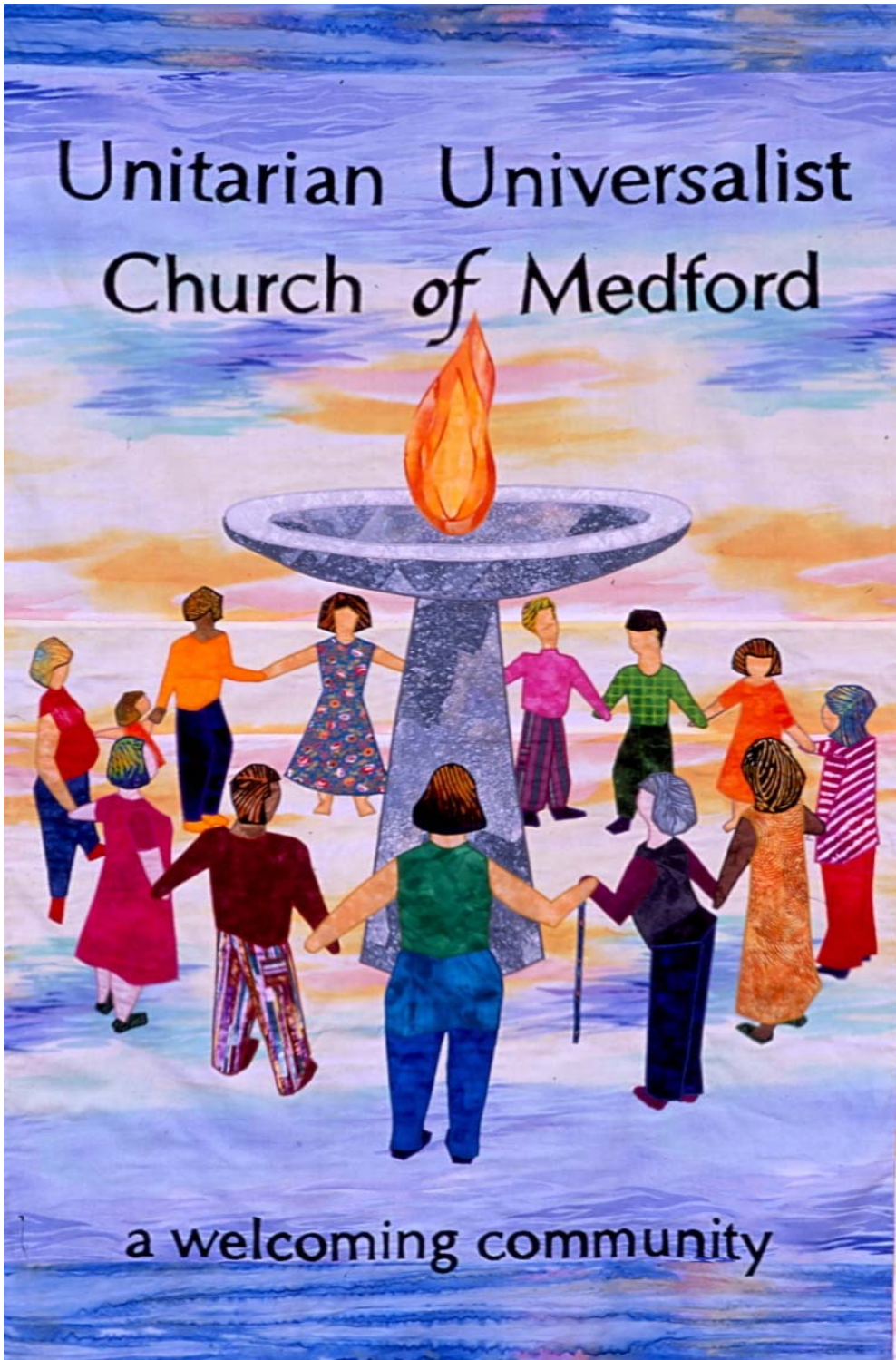


# HIGHLIGHTS

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(781) 396-4549

February 2010



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

It started with the Puritans when they came to the “New World” in the 1600s. Their churches lacked two features that secure religious institutions against the progressive forces of evolution: they did not have a creed, nor did they have a hierarchy. The members of each congregation were allowed to read the Bible for itself, and no external authority could impel a congregation to read it in a particular way. They believed that an external authority was unnecessary, because the *Will of God* would keep pulling congregations back to Christian truth. What happened instead was that many of those congregations gradually drifted towards liberalism over the centuries.

Today the center of who we are as Unitarian Universalists is found in both our congregational polity and the type of theology that comes from that: one based on a shared covenant. Historically the covenant was a three-way contract between individuals and with God. Today we understand it as a contract between people, and before God. How we understand and define the word *God* has changed greatly over time, yet in its deepest sense it has become the articulation of our greatest aspirations informed by the community of which we are a part. It is in these two aspects of our faith, that we find our greatest strengths and perhaps our greatest weaknesses.

For if we do not exercise our shared responsibility in leadership we limit both our own ownership of this religious franchise, and remove our individual spirit from the process of discovering the communal aspirations of the spirit. We are now at one of those times in our church's history when it is important for all of us to be involved in discovering what the *aspirations of the spirit* may be saying to us. I hope you are able to glean what I am trying to say and that it does not sound too metaphysical for you, but I want to stress the importance of all of us being part of the communal decision making. Using our rational thinking minds along with our passionate hearts are part of the gifts we bring when we join together to suss out the direction our community is called to go.

I want all of you to know that all of us in leadership are focused on creating ways to solve the financial problems facing our church community while also defining a vision of the church that is not limited to who we are today and what issues have caused us problems in the past. You will find a letter from Geoff Ward, the chair of the Board of Trustees, who tells of the hard work that one group of church members have undertaken and one set of options that they have presented. It is one of many examples of the work that the leaders of this church are undertaking to address the challenges facing us, in a way that will not limit our ability to grow and flourish.

Speaking of growing and flourishing. This coming month we'll have a the “Bring A Friend To Church Sunday” on the 21<sup>st</sup> and you'll be hearing a lot about this soon. I will be putting together a meeting to talk about fund raising, and we will have a guest or two from our sister UU churches to inspire us help us to create events that will bring us together and help keep the wolf from the door. Beginning in March begin a new adult education curriculum called Harvest the Power that provides leadership skill development that goes hand-in-hand with faith development, a very exciting class.

See you in church,

Hank

## SUNDAYS AT UU MEDFORD



### Worship Service Volunteers Acknowledgments

#### Social Hour Hosts:

Casey Chapman and Richard Schultz, Jenn Vento, Liz Ammons, Pauline Fiorello, Steve Schmidt

#### Greeters:

Steve Schmidt, Linda Squires, Joan Trudell, Loren Bernardi, Cathy Collins, Kim DeAndrade, Liz Ammons, Bob Stockwell

**Bell Ringers:** Geoff Ward, Sophia Mahoney, David Concepcion, Jason Boyd, Karen Lean Boyd

#### Flower Contributors:

Thank you Mary Stevenson for her creative and beautiful weekly flower arrangements

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

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

### SOCIAL HOUR

Join us every Sunday for coffee after the service. If you are new to the church, please take a blue mug so people can come meet you.

Coffee hour provides an important contribution to parish life by encouraging friendly gatherings and offering attendees a chance to get to know each other and to welcome newcomers.



## Worship Services for February —11 am

### **Feb. 7: The Cathedral of the World** **- Rev. Hank Peirce**

Contrary to popular opinion, Universalism is the most morally rigorous of theologies because of its call to respect and even embrace otherness, rather than merely to tolerate or, even worse, dismiss it.

### **Feb. 14: My Gratitude Attitude—Colleen Squires**

We as humans live our lives in relationship with one another not just on Valentine's day but everyday.

### **Feb. 21: Rational Mysticism; Bring a Friend Sunday** **- Rev. Hank Peirce**

On this Sunday you are encouraged to invite a neighbor, ask a friend, coerce a co-worker or nudge your spouse. Do you know someone who is UU and doesn't know it? Now is their chance to find out more.

### **Feb 28: TBA - Daryl Bridges**

One of the things that our congregation is blessed with is a number of members who are studying for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. This morning we will hear from Daryl fresh from his preaching class at Boston University."



**Meditation**

The UUCM meditation group meets 7-9 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting is on

Feb. 16th. 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.

**Yoga**



Starting on **Sunday January 3**, you are welcome to attend a Kripalu yoga class at **9:30 am** every Sunday before service. Enjoy an hour of gentle yoga taught by Karen Lean Boyd, RYT. Bring your yoga mat if you have one, wear comfortable clothing and bring a blanket to keep warm. You can participate in a chair if you aren't comfortable on the floor or don't have a mat.

**This is yoga for everyone!** Pay what you can \$1 - \$15. For more information please contact Karen at [presentjoy@gmail.com](mailto:presentjoy@gmail.com) or 617-448-4964. Namaste



**Choir Practice**

The choir rehearses at 10am most Sundays from September to June, and sings during the service two or three times a month. Anyone is welcome to join!

There are no auditions, and music-reading skills are not required. For more info, contact Thom Lissey at [music@uumedford.org](mailto:music@uumedford.org).

# February

**at a glance**

**Week 1:**

- Tues. 2/2, 7 pm Singing
- Sun. 2/7, 9:30 am Yoga
- Sun. 2/7, 10 am Choir Practice
- Sun. 2/7, 11 am Worship Service

**Week 2:**

- Tues. 2/9, 7 pm Board Meeting
- Tues. 2/9 6:15 pm Eco-social Justice
- Sun. 2/14, 9:30 am Yoga
- Sun. 2/14, 10 am Choir Practice
- Sun. 2/14, 11 am Worship Service

**Week 3:**

- Tues. 2/16, 7 pm Meditation
- Sun. 2/21, 9:30 am Yoga
- Sun. 2/21, 10 am Choir Practice
- Sun. 2/21, 11 am Worship Service

**Week 4:**

- Tues. 2/23, 7 pm Talk
- Sun. 2/28, 9:30 am Yoga
- Sun. 2/28, 10 am Choir Practice

**TUESDAY PROGRAMS**

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

- Feb. 02 Sing-a-Long with Paul Estin
- Feb. 09 Open Board Meeting
- Feb. 16 Meditation Group with Michael Glenn
- Feb. 23 Legalize Drugs Talk with Jack Cole

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECENT EVENTS



### PAUL GRAYSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Paul Grayson, a member of the UUCM since April of 2001 until his demise on March 12, 2006, was above all a teacher and a lover of learning. In his honor his widow, Bea Grayson, and the Board of Trustees have established the PAUL GRAYSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

The Fund was established with an initial donation from Bea Grayson. The Board has also voted to dedicate the plate collection on the second Sunday in March of every year to the Fund. The Scholarship Award will be made annually to one or more members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, young of age or young at heart, who plan to achieve an educational goal in the coming year.

Since its inception in 2006, Grayson Scholarships have been awarded to 12 recipients in the total amount of \$5,300. In 2009, Grayson Scholarships were awarded to Jennifer Vento, Colleen Squires, and Ariana Fiorello. This year the fourth annual Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund collection will take place on March 14, 2010. Application forms for the Paul Grayson Scholarship Award for the 2010-2011 year will be available for pick up at the Church. They will also be available online at the UUCM website. Applications will be accepted up to **April 15, 2010** and the award will be announced at the Congregational Meeting in Spring 2010. The selection committee consists of Beatriz Grayson, Nancy Kurtz and Linda Schwetz.

Members who are awarded a scholarship will be asked to share their growth experience with the Congregation on Grayson Sunday. Members and friends of UUCM may contribute to the Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund by check made payable to Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, with the notation Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund.

### Save the Date

UU Medford will be visiting Ferry Beach for our annual weekend retreat. The dates are **May 14– 16th**.

### Family Fun

Janice Dallas, in the church choir, is performing in the Sudbury Savoyards production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Princess Ida" **February 20 to 27**. And Ron Dallas is the set designer. Proceeds from the Sudbury Savoyards productions are donated to the relief of world hunger. More details are on the web at <http://www.sudburysavoyards.org/shows/2>

## COMMITTEES &amp; GROUPS

**Community Cupboard**

Because many of the clients who come to our food pantry are Haitian American, we are aware in a direct way of the terrible loss and suffering that the earthquake has caused. Our thoughts are with the people in Haiti and with those here who are worrying about family and friends and grieving. We are grateful that we have ample food supplies right now to help those who come to the pantry.

We are also grateful for two recent generous contributions of financial support to the food pantry. Again this year we applied for and received a Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund Grant. If you know anyone at Tufts, be sure to say thank you! Also, we have received a donation from the estate of a person in the community who specified that money be given to a charity. A volunteer in the food pantry from the community, Mary Werowinski, told the estate executors about the pantry's work, which led to this contribution. We are most grateful to the estate and to Mary.

Finally, thank you to Jim Kennedy who has taken over the job of teamster for the pantry--renting and driving a U-Haul van to the Greater Boston Food Bank once a month to pick up food. It's a crucial job and it's great to have Jim doing it! --Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

**Buildings and Grounds Committee Report**

The Building and Grounds Committee took a well deserved break this month.

**Report from the Task Force on Immigration**

The Task Force continues working to build a Greater Boston chapter of the New Sanctuary Movement and to participate in the Metro North cluster of the Refugee Immigration Ministry. (The New Sanctuary Movement is a national interfaith organization dedicated to immigrant rights and to fair, just immigration reform. For more information about NSM, check the Task Force bulletin board in Benker Hall or [www.sanctuarymovement.org](http://www.sanctuarymovement.org) or ask for more info from Michael at the below e-mail.)

Our most exciting news is that our RIM cluster group has just welcomed its first 2010 client, a twenty-five year-old single woman from Rwanda, named Valentine. Valentine met UUCM's representatives to the monthly RIM meetings (Heather Gomez, Lori Gardinier and Michael Glenn) on January 20<sup>th</sup>, at a dinner at Michael and Susan's. Alex Gomez and Lori's three year old daughter also came. We've just now found a room for Valentine—in Medford! UUCM folks have already donated furniture and household goods, and we expect that more members of our church (a dozen or more of you have volunteered to help our clients in different ways) will meet this remarkable young woman in February. We are hoping to introduce her to the church community as a whole on... Valentine's Day!

Susan and Michael attended a potluck dinner meeting of Metro North RIM cluster volunteers on January 10<sup>th</sup> and met a number of other immigrant refugee clients, as well as volunteers from Winchester, Melrose and other towns. Task Force members will be bringing its worship "service on immigration" to our neighboring First Parish Church in Malden on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be an updated version of the service we held at UUCM last spring. (One of our projects has been to develop a "portable" UU "Service on Immigration" that other churches interested in learning about immigrant rights can use to jump-start their own activities.)

We've tried to keep the congregation informed about immigration-related issues, such as the recent (and successful!) campaign to free the Haitian NYC New Sanctuary Movement activist Jean Montrevil. Look for further updates on such topics as the Gutierrez immigration reform bill in coming months.

Finally, we are in the process of applying for a grant from the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, which would involve UUCM in a church-to-church, person-to-person project with members of an immigrant Latino church in Somerville. Further information on this will be forthcoming. Anyone interested in any part of the work of the Task Force should contact Michael Glenn at [michaelglenn01@comcast.net](mailto:michaelglenn01@comcast.net) (617-515-9342) or Hank Driscoll at [hank.driscoll@comcast.net](mailto:hank.driscoll@comcast.net) (781-393-1852).

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Fellow Members of the UUCM Community,

We have been engaged in an ebbing and flowing discussion on how to best secure a viable and robust long-term financial foundation for our church for many years now. Our 2009 Annual Report (downloadable here: [http://uumedford.org/docs/UUCM\\_2009\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://uumedford.org/docs/UUCM_2009_Annual_Report.pdf)) included a report from our Treasurer-elect (now Treasurer) briefly summarizing major ideas and initiatives to date. She challenged us "to make some changes in our comfort zone in order to be successful" in reaching a resolution that both works financially and honors our shared experience of community.

Following the 2009 annual meeting, a group of UUCM lay congregants took that challenge to heart and began meeting regularly. This group calls themselves "The Once and Future Church Task Force" and has been reporting to the church Board of Trustees. Its first goal was to gather and highlight all the work that had already been done on securing our church's future. In brief:

The depletion of our endowment, despite substantial help from outside grants, required to accomplish the massive rehabilitation of our physical structures in 2004 revealed the need for intentionally engaging with the issue of our financial structure as well. At the 2005 annual meeting, three options were presented: sell land, fund-raise aggressively, and deferred property sales; no decision was made. Subsequent efforts expended throughout 2006-2008 included café conversations, explorations seeking a major partner to share our space, and initiatives by the Stewardship Committee, Development Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Following a review of prior years' work, the Task Force's initial recommendations were: First, commit to formulating a concrete plan - a well-defined course of action which we are aligned and will follow through with. Second, perform a simple analysis of the most viable opportunities facing UUCM today, given the changes in economics and time frame since past discussions. Third, make sure our clear sense of community identity and mission (synopsized on our website here: [http://uumedford.org/community.html#Who\\_we\\_are](http://uumedford.org/community.html#Who_we_are)) and our community's undeniable vitality provide the spiritual "fuel" to spur us to fulfill our financial challenges, thereby clearing the way to focus on what really matters to us. Unless the love and care we have for our wonderful church is present, any discussion will likely devolve into a narrowly focused money- and scarcity-driven debate - a virtual guarantee against a fulfilling resolution.

The Once and Future Church Task Force has proposed the following discussion framework:

- Engage as many church members and participants as possible in the discussion of our future, via the hosting of house meetings, after-church socials, making phone calls, and writing letters.
- Present the most viable options to the church community at large in a format that is factual, nonconfrontational, and easily understood.
- Determine the most appropriate time for a vote by the UUCM congregation to choose a course of action.

As President of the Board I support the efforts of the Task Force, and indeed of anyone who is actively engaged with the issue. At the January Board meeting, those members present unanimously voted to bring the Task Force's recommendations and proposed framework to the members-at-large. The Board also conceived timetables for initial discussions and for when the options will be winnowed down to a manageable number. Once that is achieved, their respective merits will be communally hashed out over a predetermined time period.

Your investment in this process is crucial and your opinion matters. We want to hear from you! Our "church" means our community, minister, staff, leaders, rituals, programs and panoply of activities - and of course you and your relationship to all that. The time to ensure a future for all of them is now. Our café conversations revealed an astounding collection of talents and capabilities within the people of our congregation. I believe if everyone contributes an effort consistent with the value which our community has to his or her own life, our future will be secure and vibrant.

In closing, I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Once and Future Church Task Force for taking a leadership role with regard to this most important issue.

Sincerely,  
Geoff Ward  
UUCM Board President

# UU Medford

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford



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Medford, MA 02155  
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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  
(781)396-4549

### Lynn Battinelli

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

### Thom Lissey

Music Director  
(617) 966-1526

### Ongoing Events

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

#### Wednesdays– Al Anon

7:30 –9:00 pm, Benker Hall

#### 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 20th of each month, for the following month's issue. Please send submissions to Meghan Chan 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.*