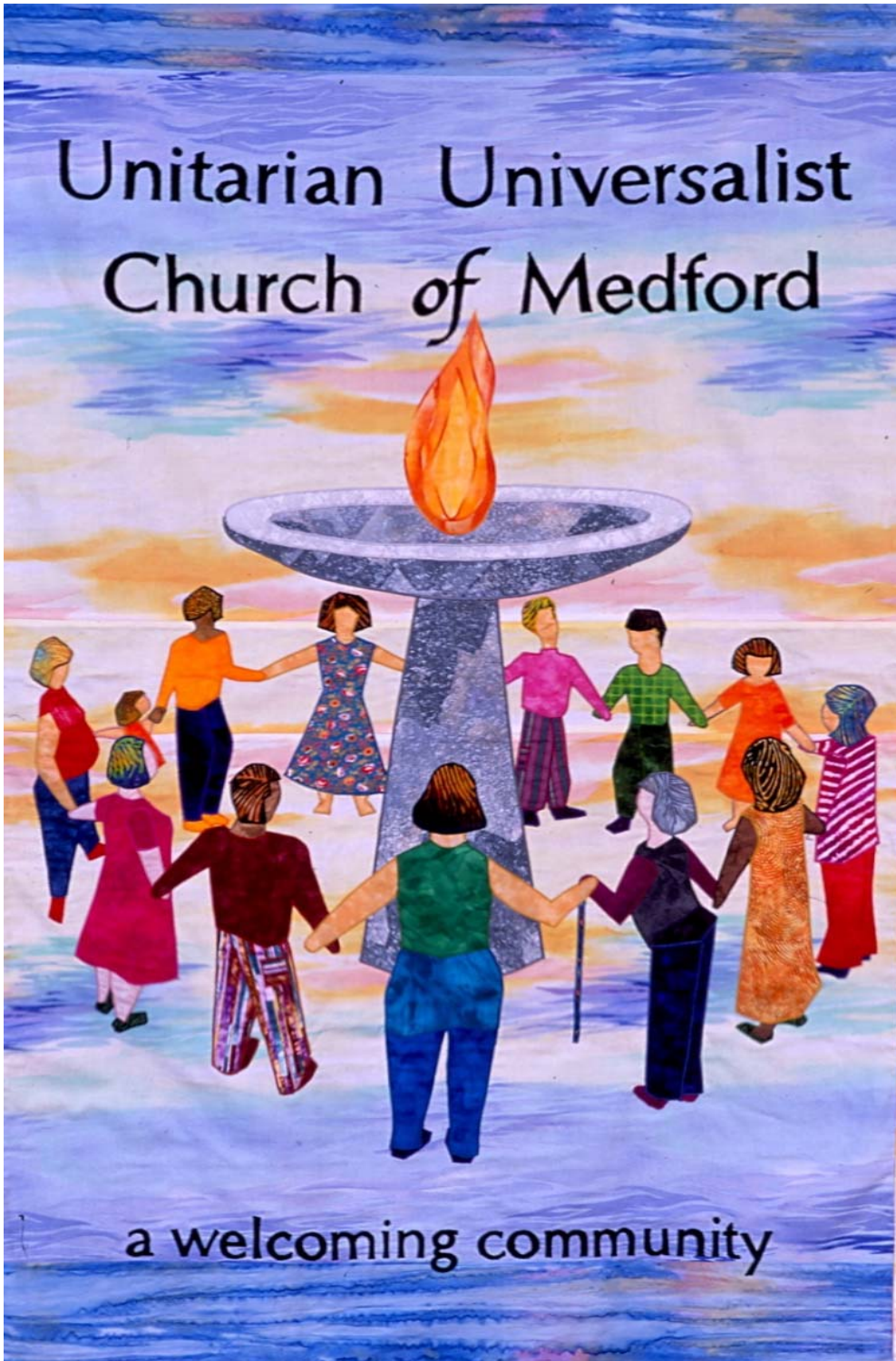


# HIGHLIGHTS

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(781) 396-4549

March 2010



**MOXIE**  
page 2



**SUNDAYS AT UU  
MEDFORD**  
page 3



**MARCH AT A  
GLANCE**  
page 4



**ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
COMMITTEES & GROUPS**  
pages 5 - 6



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

**Rev. Osgood's inquiring mind and Medford's first Koran**

Rev. David Osgood D.D. was the third minister of our church from 1774 until his death in 1822. The contents of Rev. Osgood's library are split between the Medford Public Library and the church's archive room. A few years ago I asked a book conservator to come and look at what we had and to tell me about them. He told me that in many ways they were what an average minister of that era would have in their library. However there were a few that stood out.

One book contained a number of Rev. Osgood's sermons painstakingly hand copied by his daughter Lucy. Let me share with you a brief aside about Lucy Osgood; she was a woman who is credited with using the Osgood House as the site of the first abolitionist meeting in Medford, when John Brown's widow was turned away from speaking at city hall. She is also credited with opening her father's library to two famous women who grew up in our church, Lydia Maria Child and Fannie Farmer.

Let me get back to the books in Rev. Osgood's library; he had two different versions of Homer's *The Iliad* in Greek. When I inquired why he would have them, the conservator told me that as Rev. Osgood must have been reading the Christian scriptures in Greek and having these two different versions would allow him to better understand the subtle differences that occur in language, and allow him to interpret the scriptures for himself and not be reliant on the translations of others.

The last book that truly stood out to me was one titled *Sale's Coran*. There among his books on Christian history and theological debates was a copy of the Koran. George Sale's translation of the Koran was the first fairly credible version of the Islamic holy book in the west. Although it was published by an Anglican Missionary group it was free of the anti-Islamic writings that appeared in previous versions in the west.

Taken all together these books are an amazing example of the openness of Rev. Osgood, and the generosity of his family in sharing his openness. Rev. Osgood is credited with bridging the time between the Puritan era and the more liberal Unitarian era that followed it. His vision set the stage to transform our church from the strict faith of its founders into the open place that we find it today.

Peace,

Rev. Hank

## SUNDAYS AT UU MEDFORD



### Worship Service Volunteers Acknowledgments

**Social Hour Hosts:** Karen Johnston, Rita Bamford, Camilla Fox (twice), Maria Muller, Lorez Gomez

**Greeters:** Bob Stockwell, Russell Tripp, Heather Gomez, Steve Schmidt, Karen Johnston, Dana MacNamee, Benjamin Holmes

**Bell Ringers:** Sophia Mahoney

**Flower Contributors:** Mark Koenig, Rita Bamford

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

Thank you to Russell Tripp for his ongoing, dependable 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 March —11:00 am

### **Mar. 7: Five Rings - Rev. Hank Peirce**

On this Sunday my sermon will be on the ideals and experiences of the Olympics.

### **Mar. 14: Harvest the Power: - Rev. Hank Peirce**

On this Sunday when we mark the life of Paul Grayson let us think about the importance of leadership in our church, and its part in our spiritual development.

### **Mar. 21: Ethical and Sustainable - Carol Schachet**

Carol will be preaching on her experiences running a large non-profit organization and help us look to the future of our lives.

### **Mar. 28: From Nomads to Pilgrims: Willow Sunday - Rev. Hank Peirce**

How do we transform ourselves from individuals to a religious community?

### **Apr. 1: Maundy Thursday Service**

This year our annual joint Maundy Thursday service with our sister congregation will take place at the 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Malden UCC. Please look for more information in the coming weeks.

# March

## at a glance



### Meditation

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

This month, the meeting is on March 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

Sunday Morning Yoga started in January and the past two months has seen a steady group of dedicated folks who brave the cold on Sunday mornings before service to come stretch and relax.



This is yoga for everyone! Join us next Sunday 9:30 - 10:30, bring your yoga mat if you have one, wear comfortable clothing and bring a blanket to keep warm.

Members have expressed interest in a class midday during the week. If you are available during the weekdays, please contact Karen.

Pay what you can \$5 - \$15. For more information please contact Karen at [presentjoy@gmail.com](mailto:presentjoy@gmail.com) or 617-448-4964.

### Week 1:

Tues. 3/2, 7 pm	Singing
Sat. 3/6, 9 am	Adult R.E Class
Sun. 3/7, 9:30 am	Yoga
Sun. 3/7, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 3/7, 11 am	Worship Service

### Week 2:

Tues. 3/9, 6:30 pm	Board Meeting
Sat. 3/13, 9 am	Adult R.E Class
Sun. 3/14, 9:30 am	Yoga
Sun. 3/14, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 3/14, 11 am	Worship Service

### Week 3:

Tues. 3/16, 7 pm	Meditation
Sat. 3/20, 10 am	Adult R.E Class
Sun. 3/21, 9:30 am	Yoga
Sun. 3/21, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 3/21, 11 am	Worship Service

### Week 4:

Tues. 3/23, 7 pm	Talk
Sat. 3/27, 9 am	Adult R.E Class
Sun. 3/28, 9:30 am	Yoga
Sun. 3/28, 10 am	Choir Practice
Sun. 3/28, 11 am	Worship Service

### Week 5:

Tues. 3/30, 7 pm	Seder Service
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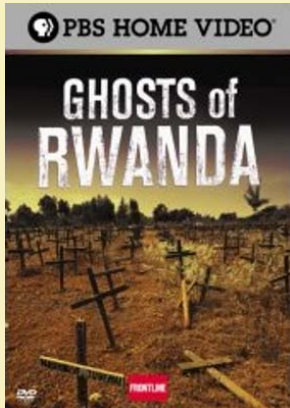
## TUESDAY PROGRAMS

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. 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.

- Mar. 02 Sing-a-Long w/ Paul Estin
- Mar. 09 Board Meeting
- Mar. 16 Meditation Group w/ Michael Glenn
- Mar. 23 Moonies, Maoists, Marines: Coercive Persuasion & Undue Influence in Organizations w/ Tammy McKanan
- Mar. 30 Seder Service

## March at a Glance continued



### FILM SHOWING: "Ghosts of Rwanda"

The "Frontline" documentary, "Ghosts of Rwanda" will be shown in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm. This is a two hour film describing the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed one million Tutsi people in one hundred days. Valentine Iribagiza, our RIM client (who survived the genocide),

wants to show it to our congregation to express her appreciation for the warmth and help she has received. She will speak after the film.

NB: This documentary is difficult to watch, and children younger than sixteen should probably not come without their parents' consent.



### 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).

## Announcements

### Adult R.E. Class

Rev. Hank recently completed a ten week Adult R.E. course in Spiritual Practices. Many of those who did not get a chance to attend those classes have expressed an interest in doing so if the course could be offered again.

Colleen Squires and Steve Schmidt will offer this ten week course again starting Saturday, March 6, 2010 at 10 am. The class will be held in the Osgood House on the second floor in the room above Rev. Hank's office.

### Path to Membership

For those interested in becoming members of UU Medford, the Path to Membership class will be held on **April 10, 2010** in the Osgood House from 9am to 1pm. This is also a great opportunity to learn more about the church.

For further information contact Colleen ([csquires@partners.org](mailto:csquires@partners.org)) or Steve Schmidt ([lesapeur929@gmail.com](mailto:lesapeur929@gmail.com)).

## COMMITTEES &amp; GROUPS

**Community Cupboard**

Volunteers from the church and from the community do an amazing job of keeping the food pantry humming--food trucked from the Greater Boston Food Bank, bread delivered from a local outlet and Whole Foods, beans brought in from the supermarket, donated food sorted, shelves stocked, records kept, bills paid, and clients served with respect and good cheer each week. MANY thanks to all who in one way or another make these things happen every week without fail: Dave Pinckney, Steve Schmidt, Joan Parker, David Grayson, Helen Silver, Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw, Liz Ammons, Hank Driscoll, Michael Glenn, Jim Calorio, Jen Vento, Geoff Ward, Laura Adams, Jim Kennedy, Sue Gerould, Chris Fiorello, Mary Werowinski, Clare Gallup, Esther Rosado, Naomi Schmidt, Dal Cogger. The hard work and generosity of spirit of these volunteers are much appreciated. -Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

**Report from the Task Force on Immigration**

This month our Task Force welcomed its first 2010 client from our Refugee Immigration Ministry "Metro North" cluster, a twenty-five year-old woman from Rwanda named Valentine Iribagiza. Lori Gardinier introduced Valentine to our church community on Valentine's Day, and she came to church the following Sunday as well. This past month, many church members helped Valentine in various ways: Liz Ammons introduced her to the food pantry; Sue Jhirad brought her to English at Large; Hank Driscoll helped gather furniture; Pauline Fiorello took her shopping for bedding; Ronda Zelezny-Green, Evan Zelezny, Linda Squires, and the MacNamee family offered furniture and household goods; Aaron Donovan and Tara Krueger showed her around Boston's transportation system; Karen Johnston and Matt Halberstrom hosted her for dinner, as did Susan Jhirad and Michael Glenn; Michael Glenn brought her to New Hampshire to collect possessions she'd left at her previous home; Chris Fiorello made a generous contribution to RIM. Valentine has been very touched by this outpouring of warmth and affection, and she wants to

express her appreciation by showing us the "Frontline" documentary "Ghosts of Rwanda" and talking to us about the 1994 genocide she experienced. This will be on Saturday afternoon, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm.

The RIM cluster has also just welcomed two new refugee families - one from Iraq and one from Eritrea. Another Iraqi family will be arriving in early March. They have found housing in Chelsea, Melrose, and Lynn. UUCM volunteers will be working with others in the cluster to meet these families social and other needs. (Remember that refugees receive stipends from the government to help with their expenses, and they can work. Asylum seekers like Valentine receive no government support until they are granted asylum.) UUCM is hosting the March Metro North cluster meeting, at 7pm Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the Board Room of Osgood House. Everyone interested is welcome to attend. Finally, we were thrilled that the children and teenagers in the R.E. program voted unanimously to donate the \$45 proceeds from their soup sale to help RIM. Thanks, everyone involved!

The Task Force continues to build the Greater Boston chapter of the New Sanctuary Movement. [The New Sanctuary Movement is a national interfaith organization dedicated to immigrant rights and to fair, just immigration reform. For more information about NSM, please 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 address.] A Boston-wide meeting of NSM members met on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Arlington Street Church set goals for the coming months - most notably, around support for the Gutierrez immigration reform bill, recently introduced in the House of Representatives. We will hold an open Task Force meeting Monday night, March 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Sanctuary to discuss this immigration reform bill. Our special guest will be Marcony Almeida from the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Everyone is invited to attend. We'll probably follow up this meeting with a drive for signatures in favor of the bill.

Task Force members brought its "worship service on immigration" to our neighboring First Parish Church in Malden on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This was 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.) The service was held cooperatively with the FPC Social Action Committee (Karen Lynch, Chairperson). Members of our Task Force who took part in the service included Heather Gomez, Bill Barbeau, Hank Driscoll, and Liz Ammons. Steve Schmidt spoke on "The Spiritual Basis of Our Immigration Work," and Michael Glenn presented an update on what we have been doing at UUCM and NSM. Catherine Wang-Hsu created two large calligraphies for the occasion, which will later be displayed at UUCM.

**Coming Events:** Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Osgood House: Board Room: 7:00 - 9:00pm. Monthly meeting of Metro North Cluster of RIM. Open to all. Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Sanctuary: 7:00 - 9:00. Meeting of the Task Force to discuss Gutierrez immigration reform bill. Guest: Marcony Almeida of MIRA. Open to all.

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  
(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

**Saturdays - 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.*