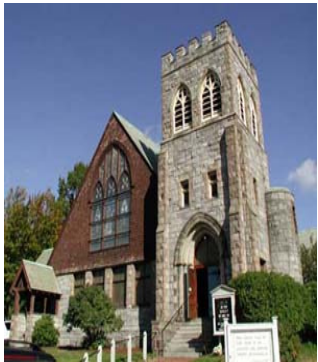


UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford
 Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

March 2009



147 High Street

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

The Secret Church

Last summer my family was on vacation up in mid-coast Maine in a community called Ocean Point and among all of the pizza menus and flyers for whale watches was a pamphlet for the local church. The pamphlet informed me that the Wilson Memorial Chapel was open only during the summer and the pulpit was supplied by visiting clergy of a variety of denominations. On the back of the pamphlet I found this historical tid-bit.

“On August 4, 1917 the Janet M. Wilson memorial Chapel was dedicated, in memory of the Rev. Lewis G. Wilson's wife who had died two years earlier. Almost single handedly Mr. Wilson raised the money for it from Ocean Pointers and friends. Among the contribution was a generous one from the American Unitarian Association.”

A secret UU church I thought; how interesting. I wonder what the story was about Rev. Wilson and this little chapel. The following week I was minister of the week at Ferry Beach and I asked if anyone had ever heard of Rev. Wilson's chapel. What I heard was amazing. Ocean Point had been where many of the old Unitarian families of Maine would spend their summers. Although none of the these Unitarian families summer there anymore, the committee that takes care of the chapel ensures that a UU minister fills the pulpit at least once each summer.

Although our church is not the shores of the Atlantic, it is important to make sure that our church isn't a secret church. It is essential to the life of this congregation that we let people know that we are here, what we believe in and what we do. Most people who come to church come because someone has asked them. In these difficult times people often want to find a supportive community, but don't know where they could go. You may be able to help them more than you know, by talking about your involvement in our beloved community.

- Rev. Hank

Worship Services for March

MARCH 1: Why Can't We Be Friends? - Rev. Hank Peirce

Many have said that the term "friend" has been cheapened by the new on-line social networks. In an age when so many people feel so separated from each other, what is the value of friendship?

MARCH 8: Keepers of the Flame (Grayson Sunday) - Rev. Hank Pierce

With all of the cultural advances going on in our society has the role of women improved? Has the attention paid to other minorities advanced the cause of women? The Grayson Sunday occurs each year on the date closest to Paul Grayson's birthday, some of the recipients of last years Grayson Scholarship will take part in today's service.

MARCH 15: Living on the Island of Misfit Toys - Coleen Squires

Self Love, the art of silencing those nagging critical voices and embracing our true selves.

MARCH 22: Go Ask Alice - Rev. Hank Peirce

Last October when talking about the election, the strongest response was around the decriminalization of marijuana. This sermon will explore the legalization of drugs as well as use of drugs in religious ceremonies.

MARCH 29: Getting the Job Done (Canvass Sunday) - Rev. Hank Peirce

Mary Stevenson has set before us a very practical assignment in regards to our annual canvass. Get the job done. This will be a fun Sunday with a meal following the service.

New Member meetings Sunday March 8th and March 22nd after the service in the sanctuary. This is for any and all who are interested in becoming part of our thriving community.

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. All Tuesday Events are followed by discussion, socializing, tea and cookies. Any suggestions, questions, complaints, etc., call Hank Driscoll 781-393-1852.

MAR 3: Memoirs, a talk by Mary Stevenson.

MAR 10: Church sing-a-long, led by Tom Lissey and the UUCM Choir.

MAR 17: Meditation Study/Support Group, led by Michael Glenn.

MAR 24: Aviva Chomsky talk on Immigration Reform.

MAR 31: Linda Coultas talk on Ergonomics..

Upcoming Tuesday Night Meditations

Because of scheduling difficulties, Steve Schmidt will not be leading Tuesday night meditations in February, March and April. They will be led by Michael Glenn instead. These sessions are planned as a tranquil time easing your mind from the day's stresses. The March 17th session will be a guided meditation; the April 21st session will present a typical meditation-with-reading-and-tea-ceremony. Please mark your calendars so that you can attend.

Thank You

Worship Service Volunteers Acknowledgement for January and February 2009.

Social Hour hosts: Gretel Munroe, Liz Ammons, Nancy Kurtz, Lynne Merl, Camilla Fox, Dana MacNamee, Casey Chapman, Richard Schultz, Emily Hanna and Omri Schwarz

Greeters: Bob Stockwell, Sue Driscoll, Karen Johnston, Steve Schmidt (multiple times!), Helen Silver, Loren Bernardi, Daryl Bridges, David Concepcion, Brad Chapman

Bell Ringers: Matt and PJ Haberstroh, Clay and Maya Gomez-Coultas

Flower contributors: Julia Hendrix, Tom and Beth Innis, Susan Jhirad, Mark Koenig, Kim DeAndrade and Cathy Johnson

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: 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.

Announcement of Paul Grayson Scholarship Award

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 has been established with an initial donation from Bea Grayson. Additional contributions are invited from those who wish to honor Paul. 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 in an amount up to one half of the endowment of the Fund 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.

In 2009, Grayson Scholarships were awarded to Emma MacNamee, Tamara Coger, Michelle DerVartanian, John Bailey, and Steve Schmidt.

This year the Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund collection will take place on March 8, 2009. At that service, the application forms for the Paul Grayson Scholarship Award for the 2009-2010 year will be available for pick up. They will also be available online at the UUCM website. Applications will be accepted up to April 15, 2009 and the award will be announced at the Congregational Meeting in May 2009. The Board has appointed a selection committee which this year consists of Beatriz Grayson, Nancy Kurtz and Linda Schwetz. Members who are awarded a scholarship will be required to share their growth experience with the Congregation.

Announcing Our 2009 Every Member Canvass

Before each Sunday offering, Reverend Hank reminds us that all that our congregation is, and has, we bring; the first act of affirmation is the giving of yourself. During the Every Member Canvass, which will take place in April, we will be asked to think more deeply about what being part of this church community means to us, and how it sustains our life and gives it richer meaning.

Throughout February and March, members will share with us why the Unitarian Universalists Church of Medford is important to them. Mary Finn and Mary Stevenson started us off on February 8. Mary Finn recalled coming to this Church in 1994 and finding inspiration in the nine women in their eighties who had grown up and raised their families in this Church. Mary Stevenson recalled that one year ago she lay in the parking lot, her head in a puddle with a broken hip. She credits her rapid recovery to the love and support she received from the congregation.

In April, a member of the canvass committee will contact each member and friend of UU Church of Medford. We hope you will welcome these meetings and use them to enter into a meaningful conversation about our shared commitment to this community.

The 2008 Canvass was our best canvass to date, yielding both an increase in pledge units, as well as the amounts pledged. With the participation of "all of us", we can do even better. In the words of Mary Stevenson, "Failure is impossible!"

UU Medford

147 High Street
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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

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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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REPORT FROM THE TASK FORCE ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

We are now working on a number of projects. Join us!

1. Aviva Chomsky will deliver a major public talk on immigration on March 24th at the church.

On Tuesday, March 24th, at 7pm, professor (Salem State) Aviva Chomsky, author of "They Take Our Jobs!" and 20 other myths about immigration, will present a public talk at our church entitled, "Immigration and Human Rights." This talk will be co-sponsored by the Medford Human Rights Commission and the Students at Tufts Acting for Immigration Reform (STAIR). We feel this is one of the highlight events of the spring. Please make plans to attend.

2. We're co-sponsoring a film series at the Medford Public Library.***Thursday, March 26th at 6:45 pm: "Golden Door"***

The Task Force has partnered with the Medford Library to present a monthly series of films on immigration. 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.

March's movie is "Golden Door" ("Nuovomundo"), 2006.

This story takes place at the beginning of the 20th century in Sicily. Salvatore, an impoverished farmer and widower, has heard that in America rivers run in milk and coins fall off of trees. He decides to emigrate with his entire family. Before they embark, they meet Lucy, a British woman who is also emigrating to the United States. Lucy wants to marry someone before arriving at Ellis Island, and Salvatore accepts her proposal. Once they arrive in Ellis Island they have to pass the customs officers' tests, which are not simple for poor Sicilian farmers. Their journey to the boat, across the ocean, and at Ellis Island constitutes a magical movie that illustrates the humble, tough passage to the new world.

3. We continue to support the Equality in Education Act.

This bill would grant in-state tuition to Massachusetts high school graduates who are children of undocumented immigrants. We continue to work to make this bill into law.

4. Some of us have joined the local Melrose-Malden-Medford "cluster" to support refugees and asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers have left home because of war, famine, or religious, political or other kinds of persecution. Refugees, seeking a better life, come to this country through international agencies. A **cluster** offers these people group social support until they achieve a durable self-sufficiency and become productive members of our community. The cluster relies on persons from several different congregations. Their ministry includes helping clients find a place to live; rental assistance and help with medical and legal referrals; and aid with education, transportation, food and acculturation. Most clients become self-sufficient within six and eighteen months. Our work will be done in cooperation with Malden's Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM), a group with nine years of experience that currently administers seven different clusters in the state. You too are invited to become a part of this exciting ministry.

If you are interested in working with us, please contact Michael Glenn at 781-396-6424 or michaelglenn01@comcast.net. And check out our bulletin board in Benker Hall.