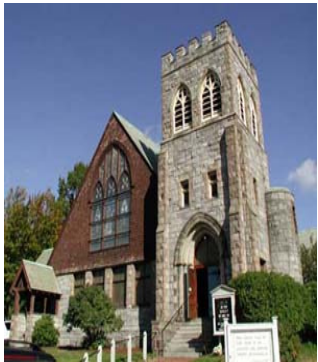


UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford  
 Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

April 2009



147 High Street

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

From 1936-1951 the Rev. Robert Dale Richardson was minister of the First Parish Church in Medford (Unitarian) one of the founding churches of our present congregation. I recently found the monthly newsletter column of Rev. Richardson from April 1949, I think there is much for us to learn from this 60 year old message, considering what we face as a nation and as a people of faith in Medford. Here it is in it's entirety.

**Easter**

"What ever values Easter stands for, we associate the great Festival, with returning hope. Just as returning spring signalizes the end of winter, the conclusion of climatic difficulties, so in the realm of spiritual values the fact that Easter stands for the victory of the essential spirit of humanity over seeming defeat and frustration.

It is the high function of religion to supply this hope in generous proportions. Our own age needs it and this year in particular the Easter message of hope falls on grateful hearts and minds. Since the war the whole world has been drifting in dangerous uncertainty, our fondest hopes of a brave new world have not been realized. Difficulties have piled high and our ability to cope with them has seemed insufficient to arrest the growth of anarchy. In such a period we can do two things. We can do all within our power to alter circumstances, bolster the other nations, promote better trade relations, etc. But we can also affect some changes within ourselves. It is the particular function of religion, and especially our Unitarian kind of religion, to supply just the idea of change within ourselves. Let us begin with ourselves, see where we have gone wrong, what path we have pursued which ended in a blank wall. Then, my friends, realizing that we are each of us intimately related to God, highly resolve to turn in the right direction, strengthen those better forces within ourselves, show our faith in ourselves by acting in honorable fashion towards those about us. The Easter hope teaches us that from our old dead selves a new soul shining and pure and good can grow by the grace of God and human effort. This hope will give us both courage and strength and vision in the days that are ahead. We simply cannot give way to despair and cynicism, and drift. We need, on the other hand, to put down our roots into the deep soil of worthful living, into the warm earth of human affections, into the mighty life of God which continuously surrounds us and supports us all the days of our lives.

The same God who watched so tenderly over Jesus when defeat threatened him, watches over us, and has given us Easter as a promise." - Rev. Hank

**Worship Services for April**

**April 5: Fun, Fun, Fun (Willow Sunday) - Rev. Hank Peirce**

The great Universalist Leader Hosea Ballou taught the "happification" of religion. As we look at our own personal faith's is there room for you to "happify" it?

**April 9: Maundy Thursday - 7:00 First Parish Universalist Malden**

Please come and take part in this service where the last supper of Jesus is celebrated in a truly Unitarian Universalist way. We will again share this event with the members of our sister congregation in Malden. (2 Elm St. 781-322-0474)

**April 12: Easter Sunday: Your Passion - Rev. Hank Pierce**

The word passion comes from the Latin to suffer or to happen, thus "The Passion" is a term used to describe the suffering Jesus before his death. The meaning of the word has changed to mean what we most desire, so what is it that you desire for your life? A service of communion will take place after the regular service.

**April 19: Immigration Task Force**

**April 20: Patriot's Day 10:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce**

Join Rev. Hank as he leads the cities Patriot's Day events in prayer at the Medford Burring Grounds

**April 26: Return to Walden (Earth Day) - Rev. Hank Peirce**

On this Earth Day let us look for wisdom from the Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau.

**Easter Pancake Breakfast 9:30am**

Gentlemen start your griddles! It has been the tradition in this church that the men of the congregation serve a pancake breakfast to the rest of the church on Easter morning. Tickets are \$5 per-person, \$7 per-couple, and \$10 per-family. Tickets will be sold in advance as well as at the door.

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**On Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>** Olan Mills will be at our church to take photos for a new free church directory. This is free, and a great way for us to keep in touch with each other. Please sign up in Benker Hall. If the date is a problem there are three days in May where we can have our photos taken at Grace Church across the street. Please sign the "spill over" sheet if this is the case.

**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.

APR 7: Theology Talk by Daryl Bridges

APR 14: Sing-along, led by Paul Estin.

APR 21: Meditation Study/Support Group, led by Michael Glenn.

APR 28: Composting Workshop, led by Heather Gomez and the Eco- Social Justice Committee.

**A HUGE thank you to Brad Chapman for all of the work that he has done in editing this newsletter. He is ready to hand it off to someone, maybe you. But I hope we all take the time to thank Brad for his great work in producing this, our newsletter. - Rev. Hank**

**Thank You**

Thank you to the following people who were worship service volunteers during February and March.

**Social Hour hosts:** Helen Silver, Karen Johnston, Bea Grayson, Mary & Bill Stevenson, Lorraine Corso, Linda Coultas, Carol Schachet, Chris Fiorello

**Greeters:** Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, Julia Hendrix, Lynne Merl, Liz Ammons, Lourie August, Mark Castle

**Bell Ringers:** Mark & James Castle

**Flower contributors:** Steve Schmidt, Chris Fiorello, Denice Sakakeeny-Smith, Michelle Piasta

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. **Please let Rev Hank know if you are interested in taking over as the new Newsletter Editor.**

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

**Paul Grayson Scholarship Award****THANK YOU**

Your most generous donations to the Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund will grow immensely in human value and accomplishment and we are most thankful. When someone learns something as a result of receiving a scholarship, that knowledge grows with the subsequent years of experience. Like a pebble in a pond, the circles of your giving keep expanding.

Your donations have raised the fund to \$2,900. and so we will be able to distribute \$1,450 in parts to the applicants to the 2009 Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund.

Now send in your applications. Beatriz Grayson and the Board of Trustees  
- Bea

**Passover - Seder**

As many of you know, a group of us get together for a potluck Seder every year, and we've held it at the Church for the past bunch of years.

While it's not a Church function, the Church community is welcome. Note that this is a traditional Seder and tends to be long. If you are looking to expose young children to the Passover tradition, you are more than welcome but please keep in mind that this is a (long winded) religious ceremony and, for many children, can be rather tedious. You know your child (ren), so please plan accordingly." Please contact Karla or Miles for details and to RSVP. Thanks.  
- Miles

**April: The Month of Stewardship**

The 2009 Every Member Canvass is underway! The kick-off was held on Sunday, March 28, and the Canvass winds up on Sunday, April 26. Please welcome the Canvass Committee member who contacts you. It's a chance to get to know each other, to talk about what the Church means to us all, and to explore ways in which you can be part of our church community.

This year we are all being challenged to increase our pledges by 23%. Of course, we want everyone who is a part of the UU Church of Medford community to pledge, whatever the amount. The leadership of the Church has already submitted their pledges, and as a group their pledges increased by 28%. This is a wonderful start and a demonstration of their faith that, to coin a phrase, "Together we can!"

Here is some information on the pledges for 2008-2009: Total Amount Pledged: \$48,738., Median Pledge: \$1040, Number of Pledge Units: 41, Double units: 27, Single units: 14, Individuals Pledging: 68

*Every bit counts! The stewardship of our church and its community is a responsibility we all share. Let's do our part with joy and gratitude for what our religious community has meant to us and for what this community will be in the future.*

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# UU Medford

147 High Street  
Medford, MA 02155  
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www.uumedford.org

## **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

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!

The talk by Aviva Chomsky last month was a highlight of our spring activities. We are now winding down our first year as a Task Force and will soon be discussing our future plans.

**1. Here's what still lies ahead:**

- We'll be leading a lay service on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We'll be co-sponsoring (along with the Medford Human Rights Commission) another public talk on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. John Willshire-Carrera, a lawyer with Greater Boston Legal Services will be speaking about "Prospects for Immigration Reform."

**2. We're co-sponsoring a film series with the Medford Public Library.**

***Thursday, April 23rd at 6:45 pm: "House of Sand and Fog"***

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.

After a novel by Andre Dubus III, the film depicts an emotionally broken woman, Kathy, who finds herself homeless after her house is wrongly repossessed and auctioned off. Her house has been purchased by a proud immigrant, Behrani, formerly a colonel in the Iranian army. He moves in with his family, but soon Kathy and the local sheriff, Lester, who has befriended her, begin harassing them. The result is a tragic chain of events that leaves no resident unscathed in the House of Sand and Fog (2003). Come and join us!

**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 working 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.

We will be discussing whether to ask the Church to endorse this activity at its annual congregational meeting.

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

**Community Cupboard Food Pantry**

Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

Next month, May, is a big one for our Food Pantry. The Walk for Hunger takes place early in the month. If you want to walk or to make a pledge to the Walk, that would be great. One of our Food Pantry grants comes from the Walk for Hunger, so this event directly benefits our Pantry. Please see Liz Ammons for more information.

Then, on the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend, May 9, the annual Post Office Food Drive takes place. If your letter carrier participates, you will be asked to leave nonperishable food for the carrier on that Saturday. Our Food Pantry benefits enormously from this drive, so we hope you will donate. Also, in the past we have received a large load of food from the postal workers on that Saturday between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. If you can volunteer at the church on that day at that time to help sort and store food, that would be super. Children old enough to work accompanied by an adult are welcome. Just talk to Liz.