

The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

MAY 2013

First Universalist Society
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Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

Sunday Services

May 5 Coming Back and Going Forward Paul S. Sawyer

Recently back from his three-month sabbatical, Paul will reflect on his learning and thinking from his time away.

The collection will support a team or two of young go-kart designers for the Hartland Community Connections Go-Kart Project.

May 12 Active Hope—Transience and Impermanence Paul S. Sawyer

The first of two services wrapping up this year's "Active Hope" series. This one reflecting on the realities of the coming changes in our environment and community.

In honor of Mothers' Day, the collection will benefit The Family Place.

May 19 Active Hope—Duration Paul S. Sawyer

The second of two services wrapping up this year's "Active Hope" series. This one reflecting on what's worth our time and energy to build and hold in the face of the challenges to come.

The collection will support Association Unitarienne Francophone Africaine, Unitarian Universalist congregations in Burundi and the surrounding region of Africa.

May 26 Seeking Shelter in a Time of Turbulence Worship Service Circle

In honor of Memorial Day, the collection will benefit Veterans' Place in Northfield, VT.

**OFFERING RECIPIENTS
MAY**

We rely on the planned, committed financial pledges of our members and friends to support the needs of our church. We dedicate our collections during Sunday morning worship to organizations doing good work in our local communities or in society as a whole. Checks for the collection can be made out to "FUSH" and we will consolidate donations to pass on to the organization.

For those wishing to make a pledge payment, or a donation specifically to support our congregation's budget, there is a box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary.

Please contact Paul if you have nominations for organizations you feel would be good choices for our support.

May 5— The Go-Kart Project of Hartland Community Connections

This summer, Hartland Community Connections will sponsor their second annual Go-Kart Challenge for young people in Hartland and surrounding communities. With funds from this collection, our congregation will sponsor one or more teams, providing materials and support for children and youth who will design, build, and race their own human-powered go-kart. Contact Jaxon Morgan for more information; information for those interested in participating will be available very soon.

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SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

THE SPRING SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF HARTLAND
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2013.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN
APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES
AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE REGULAR SERVICE,
AND BE FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK LUNCH.

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING IF POSSIBLE.

THE PRELIMINARY AGENDA INCLUDES
THE ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THE COMING YEAR,
AND THE REPORTS OF THE MINISTER,
BOARD, AND VARIOUS CIRCLES.

re: RE

With everything going on recently in the world, it is so nice to feel comfortable, safe and supported in our community. The way we are raising our children here is doing our part to make a difference in the world.

April's RE program included an early Green Up along the Brownsville Road from the Church to the Activity Center (4CCC). We collected a couple of very stinky bags of litter. Before we headed out on the road, we discussed the 7th Principle of Unitarian Universalism and the children thought about how the litter affects the earth and everything on it. The children also shared poems and thoughts honoring the Earth during Children's Chapel later in the month.

Big thank you to our RE volunteers in April: Chris Doolan, David and Sara Morin, Jill Lloyd, and Dianne Rochford.

Sara
DRE

May RE Calendar

5 10:00 Faith in Action: trail blazing at Connie Tessier's
12 10:00 Guest Artist: Bess Klassen-Landis
19 10:00 Children's Chapel: "Deciding to Cooperate"
26 10:00 Gardening/Planting

Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 2

*May 12— The Family Place
Founded in 1985.*

The Family Place is a parent-child center serving the entire Upper Valley region. They offer comprehensive services for families and children, including home visits, training and support for new parents, early intervention for children with special needs, and ongoing education, playgroups, resources for financial aid for child care, and other support for families. They also operate an important service through their child advocacy center, working with state agencies to offer special resources in a safe environment for children who have made a disclosure of abuse. More information is available at www.familyplacevt.org

May 19— Association Unitarienne Francophone Africaine

The AUFA is a small but dedicated and growing group of Unitarian Universalists in French-speaking Africa. Centered in the UU congregation in Bujumbura, Burundi, the AUFA has already established satellite groups in other areas of Burundi as well as in Congo Brazzaville and Kigali, Rwanda. This organization has arisen among the local peoples of the region (it is not an American UU missionary effort), and they are doing remarkable things in a tough place, professing a liberal message of hope in an area that has known so much war and destruction. A few leaders of our congregation had the opportunity to meet the president of the Bujumbura congregation at

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Youth - Be the Change

Our congregation offers activities for youth in grades 7-12 (or the home-school equivalent) through two youth groups—the Junior Youth Group, for those in grades 7 & 8, and the Senior Youth Group for high school students. Both groups are offered in conjunction with our friends and neighbors from the Hartland Congregational Church, and are led by the Reverends Lucia Jackson and Paul Sawyer, along with lay leaders David Morin and Nancy Cone.

For further information about our youth groups and youth events, please contact Paul or Lucia. To stay in touch with youth group happenings, make sure that Paul and Lucia have your e-mail address, keep an eye on the newsletters and weekly e-mail updates of both churches, or better yet, come to church and read the bulletin!

Youth Group Schedule

May 5	5:00–6:15 pm	Last (of the school year) Junior Youth Group Meeting at the UU Church
	6:15–6:45 pm	Mission Trip Logistics Meeting at the UU Church
	6:45–8:00 pm	Last (of the school year) Senior Youth Group Meeting at the UU Church

This year's trip will take place July 28–August 3 and we will lead worship for both churches in a joint service on August 4.



The Board's Broadcast

Much of this month's Governing Board meeting was taken up with discussions of the imminent steeple repair process, as Sue Taylor and Jill Crowley visited to report on the progress and get Board decisions.

Doug Hart and Jill reviewed the state grant application and Doug will sign the application and send it to the state. This is our commitment to repair the steeple. The state requires that the contractor, Jan Lewandosky, be paid in full and that we have a receipt before the grant money (\$20,000) will be given to us. The Board authorized Doug to withdraw money from the endowment, with repayment, if we don't have enough in the capital fund to cover the steeple repair cost before the grant money is forthcoming.

Jan needs to send his insurance bond to the state. Jill will talk to him about this.

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Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3

a Northern New England district event in New Hampshire last fall, and our congregation member Gary Shapiro was able to attend worship in Bujumbura in March while he was working in the region. Those of us who have been lucky enough to have contact with this remarkable group of Unitarian Universalists have found the story of their efforts inspirational and hopeful. We will be sending our collection to the Concord, NH UU Congregation, which works closely with the AUFA, to be bundled with funds from their own special collections. For more information, please speak with Paul Sawyer, and you can read more about the efforts of this group on the International page of the UUA website: international.blogs.uua.org/uu-judicatories/africa/unitarians-of-bujumbura-burundi-dedicate-new-church-home

*May 26—The Veterans' Place
Based in Northfield, VT*

The Veterans' Place offers transitional housing and support services with the goal of helping homeless vets find a home and return to society and true health. The Veterans' Place partners with more than 25 other agencies in our region, including the Veterans' Administration system, and by all accounts does some remarkable work. More information is available at www.vermontveteransplace.org

Board's Broadcast cont. from pg. 3

The Board discussed the timing of an event planned to celebrate the steeple repair, planned for May 31. The steeple will be on the ground and under repair at that time. Sue is planning an event celebrating the history of the church. The Board discussed timing of the repair completion, and decided the steeple should be replaced on the church as soon after May 31 as possible, but not before.

The Board also discussed the possible replacement of the weather vane. The board recommended that the entire congregation be involved in decisions about the design. Jill Crowley will follow up on a process to involve the membership.

The Treasurer's report and minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Doug Hart has asked the Board to create a financial circle to support his efforts in getting pledges in, and evaluate pledging and in coming money. This was deferred to the May meeting. Also deferred was obtaining a new laptop for Doug to do the treasury work.

The Board has not found a person to perform an annual audit yet. Dan Poor, via e-mail, suggested we may need to bond the treasurer. Doug investigated if the church's current insurance carries a bond. There is a \$5,000 bond as part of the insurance. E-mail discussion seems to agree this is adequate.

We discussed upcoming events, there doesn't seem to be any Board actions required to support events in April or May.

No further progress on church bylaws this month, John Osborne will continue to search for a lawyer with corporate experience to review the bylaws, once revisions are done.

In new business, John brought up that the visitor information cards are unattractive and having them on hooks in the pews may be a problem. The Board agreed that a box in the back of the church, with new cards, would be better, if this was announced every week before the service.

John announced that the first version of the church membership database is complete, ready for data conversion from the old database. After adjournment, he gave a brief demonstration to interested Board members.

The next Board meeting will be May 6 at 7:00 pm. As always, any member of the congregation is welcome to attend.



Building and Grounds Committee

Certainly the most exciting news is in regards to the steeple, which is scheduled to come down at the end of April and go back up after the presentation by Jan Lewandowski, our steeple builder, who will be speaking to the community on May 31 at our church in a joint effort with the Hartland Historical Society. (See more details on page 6.)

While the new steeple is on the ground I am hoping to get help with painting it. I think we can do this ourselves, even though it will still be a tall structure. It is one way we will be able to save a little money. Please let Jill Crowley 802-299-0639 know if you are willing to help.

Once the steeple goes back up we will schedule the grading project and try to get that completed in early summer. We also have plans for painting the church at some point and have considered using the inmates from the Windsor Correctional Facility. We originally thought we could get the belfry and the structure below it painted by Jan's crew using scaffolding for the steeple but it turns out there is no appropriate scaffolding so it is back to the drawing board on this one. The one bid we got to include these structures atop the roof is from a person who is no longer doing this type of work.

There is a work day scheduled before the end of May so if you have any projects you would like to see addressed, please let us know.

Weather Vane Musings

As we move forward in the plans for the steeple renovation, we're in the process of deciding whether we'll replace the weather vane, and if we do what it'll look like. Church members have suggested to have no weather vane; to replicate the previous fish weather vane, (since the original is beyond repair); and other design suggestions such as chalice or a pine tree. Everyone who submitted suggestions provided rationale for their idea, which led me to wonder about the history of weather vanes associated with the First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners.

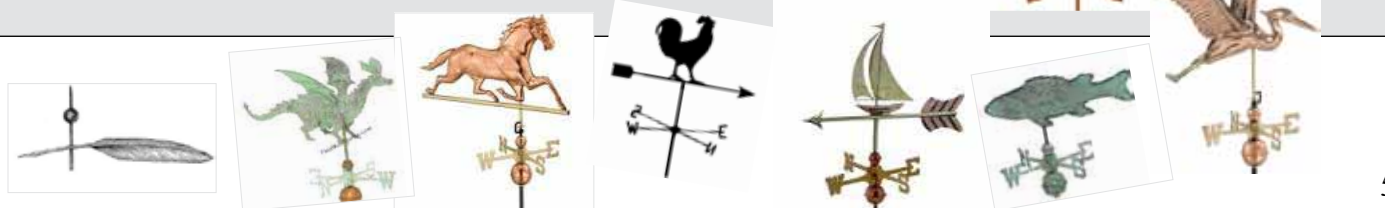
According to the *Complete Encyclopedia of Signs and Symbols*... "a symbol represents something else, but also hints at a missing 'something', an invisible part that is needed to achieve completion or wholeness. Whether consciously or unconsciously, the symbol carries the sense of joining things together to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts, as shades of meaning accrue to produce a complex idea."

A weather vane indicates the direction of the wind, but it also can be meant to be a symbol. Did previous members of our church make a deliberate choice of weather vane designs because of its symbolic representation? We can easily hypothesize the choice of a fish which symbolizes, "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior," if we consider the church's Universalist Christian roots.

It likely will surprise many of you that the fish weather vane was not the first to adorn the steeple. Its predecessor was a man lying down. Symbolism of a man lying down piqued my interest! I first researched Christian symbols to no avail, then broadened it to religious symbols, and out of desperation to find meaning, I opened my research to any symbolic roots. No results. It appears that the weather vane was unique to FUSH, giving it an intrigue. Did we have an "avant garde" artist amongst the FUSH membership who fabricated it; did it represent a secret society; or perhaps it was nabbed for a good price?

Over the next month, the building and grounds committee will narrow suggestions to three designs which will then be submitted for fabrication bids. The congregation will vote on the weather vane during the annual meeting on May 19. It will be up to the congregation to decide if we want the weather vane to incorporate our past roots; our present identity, simply for its aesthetic beauty, or vote to not replace the weather vane.

Jill Lloyd
Building & Grounds Committee Member



Connections Circle

Notice that our name has changed (Membership, Communication & Growth Circle) to more accurately reflect our goals and our work. We are exploring new ideas as to how we can achieve more “connections” within FUSH and within the community. We would love to have anyone interested join us. The present members of our circle are: Joan Fariel, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, Sue and Dave Taylor, and Nancy Walker.

History, Theology, Nuts and Bolts of FUSH

Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 pm

This is a discussion for newcomers who want to learn more about our church community and/or are considering membership. The discussion will be led by our minister Paul Sawyer and the Connections Circle.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all those of you who have hosted the Coffee Hour in April! Nancy Walker and Glenn Walker; Sue Buckholz; Jandra Oliver; and Pattie Eckels and Mary Erdei worked hard to make sure we could have good conversation, hot coffee, and tasty treats after the services. Sara and Chris Doolan will host Coffee Hour on May 5 and Joan Fariel, Bridget Fariel, and Amy Nickerson on May 12. We still need hosts for May 19 and May 26. We appreciate all of your generous hospitality!

Goodbye Get-Together

for Joan and John Keramis

Our long time members, friends, and leaders Joan and John Keramis have sold their home and are looking forward to going on the road exploring. We will miss them greatly and hope that they come back to visit often. We had an opportunity to wish them the best on April 14 during Coffee Hour. Nancy Walker made a special cake with a map of the East Coast and the Keramis Camper. John Osborne created a beautiful picture of our steeple as a gift from our congregation. In addition to these gifts, we appreciate all the delicious treats that people brought.

Capital Campaign Committee

We are happy to report that the congregation, with the help of the community, has raised \$93,000 (including a state historic grant for \$20,000 and \$5,000 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation) towards our \$100,000 goal. We hope that everyone in the congregation will be able to make a contribution.

Overseen by Jill Crowley, work will have begun on the steeple by Jan Lewandoski in the last weeks of April followed by drainage work and the painting of the building. We also hope to have enough funds to repair the front steps and to refurbish the Fellowship Hall.

Save the date of Friday, May 31

for an all community celebration given jointly by
FUSH and the Hartland Historical Society.

At 6:00 pm after the bell we will gather will be on the ground to ask questions of steeple jack.



ringing of our historic around the spire which and have a chance Jan Lewandoski, our

Then we will have a potluck buffet for everyone which will be provided by FUSH and the Historical Society. We are also envisioning some music and skits from this historic era when our Church was built.

At 7:30 pm we will go to the sanctuary for a slide show and talk by Jan Lewandoski. People from the State will also be there to speak about the grants program

To celebrate this important occasion if anyone has historic clothes of the 1850's you are welcome to wear them. Also, for the cooks at FUSH if you have your grandmother's cookbook, you are welcome to make dishes which would have been served in the same time period.

We hope everyone can come and bring friends. It is an opportunity to thank all those who have helped us from the community, to celebrate, and to reach out to new people. We welcome your ideas and if you have any please contact: Kim Dittrich, Doug Hart, Judy Howland, Rob Jaarsma, Jill Lloyd, Nada Pierce, or Sue and Dave Taylor.

Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - Rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 12 and Sunday, May 19 to sing in the service that day.

Children's Choir - No rehearsals in May since they sang twice in April.

FUSH Member in the News - Beth Rice has been recognized by Mascoma Savings Bank for her service to the community. The bank asked people to nominate an individual who has made a profound difference in people's lives. The bank received many nominations in its "Who Would You Thank" contest and Beth was the deserving winner. She won \$1,000 to give to her favorite charities-The Hartland Christmas Project, The Hartland Food Shelf, and the Hartland Elementary School PTSF. Congratulations Beth! We are proud of you.

Rummage Sale - A success inspite of the bad weather. We brought in \$ 1,045.50.

Thank you from Mary Estey and Nada Pierce to Debra Hart, Sue Botzow, August Lang, Sue & David Taylor,

Dianne Rochford, Carol Perry, Nancy Walker, Karen Coombs, Judy Howland and especially Judy Winans, Elaine Smith, Ann Adams, Ruthie Quimby, Paula & Gary Staples and Lynn & Tim Pierce.

We had lots of hard workers and enjoyed ourselves while doing it.

My fellow Unitarian Universalist,

I am delighted to tell you that last night the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of a new headquarters for the UUA at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Innovation District and the sale of our current Beacon Hill properties. This is truly a historic moment for our UU movement.

Rev. Peter Morales
President, Unitarian Universalist Association
dated 3/15/2013

A video highlighting UUA staff's insight into this important and historic opportunity can be viewed at <http://www.uua.org/headquarters/284716.shtml>.

Thank you, dear friends

We were so touched by the beautiful reception you gave for us. The food was delicious, & the cake was amazing. The cards & all the good wishes will be treasured. The picture of the church's steeple will always hang in a special place wherever we live.

The church & all our friends have been a very important part of our lives since we moved to VT 34 years ago. We will come back here often to visit family, friends & our dear church.

*Love,
Joan & John Keramis*

June Newsletter Deadline

Please be aware that the deadline to submit your items to the next newsletter will be earlier than usual. Because of vacation plans I will need to receive articles, news, circle reports, etc. no later than noon on Thursday, May 16.

I will send out a reminder as we approach the deadline.

Thank you in advance.

Nancy Walker

Calendar - May 2013

5	Sun.	10am	Worship Service
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp, FUSH
		6:15-6:45	Mission Trip Logistics Meeting, FUSH
		6:45-8	Sr. Youth Grp, FUSH
6	Mon.	7 pm	Governing Board meeting
9	Thurs.	7pm	History, Theology, Nuts & Bolts
10	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
12	Sun.	9 am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service
16	Thurs.	Noon	Newsletter deadline
17	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
19	Sun.	9 am	Adult Choir rehearsal and sing
		10	Worship Service
		after serv.	Semi-Annual Business Meeting
24	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
26	Sun.	10am	Worship Service
31	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		6pm	Steeple Celebration



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