

*Love is the spirit of our church, where ...
 ...we gather to worship...
 ...we create a welcoming, nurturing religious community for all...*

Sunday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. J. Mark Worth

"Why Agnostics Go to Church"

Theists say, "Yes, God exists." The atheist says flatly, "There is no God." But the agnostic says, "It is impossible to know for certain." And Rabbi Sherwin Wine says that, because there is no agreed-upon definition of God, we can't even have a meaningful discussion regarding God's existence or non-existence. Many UUs are agnostics -- so why do we come to church? Come to church and see whether Mark has a good answer!

(Coffee Hour Hospitality in the Fellowship Building: Walk for Hunger Pep Rally)

Sunday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. J. Mark Worth

"If I Had a Song"

Mark will be joined by the musical talents of Bill Corder, Keith Myles, Ted Johnson, Britt Argow and Donalisa Johnson for a celebration of the life of the late singer, songwriter, and activist Pete Seeger, in words and music, on what would have been Pete's 97th birthday.



Sunday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. J. Mark Worth

Music Sunday

Ted Johnson and the Choir will lead our Music Sunday on Mother's Day, with excerpts from Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*, celebrating our Mother Earth. *Missa Gaia* is an environmental liturgy of contemporary music. (See page 7 of this Belfry for more details.)

Sunday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.

Senior High Youth Group

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Mark, My Word

Earth Day is observed on Friday, April 22. In my Earth Day Sunday message to our congregation, we talked about the retreating glaciers. On visits in the 1970s and '90s to the great Athabaska Glacier in Canada's Jasper National Park, I've seen how rapidly the glacier is disappearing. Markers show how far back the glacier has receded since last year, ten years ago, twenty, fifty, etc. In the past 125 years it has lost half of its volume. The glacier is currently receding at two to three meters every year.

Why? Most climatologists say that since we started putting large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere global temperatures have risen sharply, despite a slight dip between 1950 and 1980. Because of current orbital cycles, we should actually be in a cooling trend that would lead toward another ice age. But instead, the earth is warming rapidly. Average global temperatures rose dramatically over the course of the 20th century, and the temperature rise appears to be accelerating in this century. These temperature rises appear to correlate with the amount of CO2 we have been releasing into the atmosphere.

If the glaciers and polar ice caps continue to retreat, the oceans will continue to rise. Partial deglaciation of the Greenland ice sheet, and possibly the west Antarctic Ice Sheet, could contribute 13 to 20 feet or more to sea level rise. This would put several island nations – and Manhattan, and most of Florida – under water.

As Unitarian Universalists our seventh principle is, “We covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are apart.”

The Book of Job tells us, “Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the Earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you.” (Job 12:7-8). Are we listening to our planet and its creatures? If we are paying attention to the way we are causing the Earth to change, how much time is left in which to act?

Environmentally aware Christians might take note of the lifestyle of Jesus and his disciples. Jesus said that wealth tends to be a hindrance on the spiritual journey. He taught, “Do not store up treasures on Earth, where moth and rust consume and thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matt. 6:19-20).

The Buddha's teaching on walking the middle ground between extremes of over-consumption and austerity fits perfectly into the modern, environmental practice of living in balance with nature. It's what we speak of today as "sustainability," or living within our means. It's not necessary to live like a caveman to be an environmentalist in the Buddhist sense, as that would be living out of balance in austerity. It's structuring our lives, so that when we utilize nature's resources, we do it in a balanced and sustainable way.

So this Earth Day, let's be mindful of our only home, this fragile planet. Mindfulness might not change global conditions, but we can change the world one person at a time, starting with ourselves.

In the meantime, we can remind our president and representatives in Congress that they have a responsibility to be mindful of our national policies and international agreements. We have only one inhabitable planet. Let's do what we can to keep it!

-Mark



Board Report April 2016

Happy spring from your Board! Thanks everyone for your participation in the selection of your HUUC Ministerial Search Committee at our special church meeting last month. Mark tells us that we are right on track with where we should be in our search. The next year will be full of activities and exploration of our spiritual views, shared values and what qualities we are hoping for from our new called minister.

Annual Church Meeting – The Board has set the date for our Annual Church Meeting. It will be after church on May 22nd. We are developing the agenda now and will include voting for the open church positions as provided by the nominating committee, reviewing and voting on the proposed budget and other items that will include recommendations for the HUUC Endowment. Please mark your calendars!

Ministerial Search Committee- Your MSC has met several times already. Fernando Catalina, Cary Browse, Britt Argow, Darrell Wickman, Rebecca Wright, Stacie Green, John Chapman and myself have two initial priorities; getting organized with roles and responsibilities and developing approaches to collect feedback from the members and friends of HUUC that will provide direction for our search. We would like to collect this information from everyone through an electronic survey method, small group meetings and one to one discussions. From a timing standpoint, we hope to deploy the esurvey before the end of the church year and to ask each of you to submit your responses back to us as soon as you can. The UUA provides sample surveys that we are customizing for our needs. Right sizing is an important goal. If you are interested in what other churches have done in this area, you can google UUA Survey Monkey Ministerial Search and you can see other examples. It is a quite interesting process and a time for thoughtful feedback. We thank you in advance for your time and effort with this very important step. Everyone's feedback is important and valuable.

Financial – Rick High has volunteered to be our interim treasurer. As the bylaws state, the Board has the authority to appoint interim positions. His candidacy was discussed and approved at our recent Board meeting. Rick has been the treasurer of HUUC on two other occasions and we are tremendously fortunate to have his help in this important role. We want to again thank Charles Redinger for his contributions this year. Rick comes on board at a perfect time as we are working to finalize the budget. Thanks Rick!

Faith Formation – The search for our DFF continues and at least one candidate has been identified. The DFF Search Team, Risa Goldman, Britt Argow, Sarah Graffam and Leslie Neville are working hard to find someone qualified and a great fit for our church. Please spread the word and forward any interest to these team members. The Board has been discussing the role and responsibilities of the DFF and the interaction with the FF committee to provide the structure needed for great success for this individual. Very exciting times!

Social Justice Ministries – Steve reported at the recent Board Meeting that the social justice group is off to a great start. Initial priorities are to develop consensus about what we desire to focus on as a group and how this team will fit with the other social action and social justice efforts in our church.

Welcome! – It has been an exciting transition year so far for HUUC. Reverend Mark has provided wonderful sermons, spiritual teaching, friendship and guidance. We have had many new people come share their time with us to learn more about us and our UUA principles. We welcome everyone and we hope that you will join us on our journey!

For the Board, Tom Daniells

Ginger Kendall, William Kellogg, Kate Stamm, Paige O'Brien, Steve Farough

“The Secret to Happiness”

David Rynick followed his worship service on "dark secrets" with a workshop on "the secret to happiness". About 25 people joined this circle in Sutherland Hall.

David gently reminded us that the secret to happiness is not a secret at all. It involves accepting where you are, how you feel and what is happening every moment of every day. With curiosity, not with any expectation for change. Get rid of the "shoulds" in your thoughts.

He challenged us, with a guided meditation, to check-in with every part of our bodies and mind. The goal was not to fix, or to adjust, just to notice what is going on. This is harder than it sounds! We had an opportunity to discuss what this felt like with another participant and then shared with the larger group. Some of us fell asleep (or almost), some of us marveled at the challenge of not making changes to what we thought or felt.

One piece that I will keep with me for a long time to come is that the stomach is designed to digest, the brain is designed to create thoughts. We can't turn off either of these essential functions.

This workshop was brought to us by funds from the Jeff Harris Trust. When Jeff died he left \$10,000 to the church with no specific instructions on how it should be used. The Board at the time decided to set up a trust with the money that would fund speakers, workshops, activities that Jeff would have enjoyed. The Worship Team felt that Jeff would have supported any workshop led by David Rynick.

-Attendees of the workshop

Poetry Reading

Georgia Sassen will be reading her poetry at the Stow Public Library on Saturday April 30 from 2 to 3.30 pm, along with three other poets, Kirk Westphal, Franny Osman and George Clark. A reception follows. All are invited!

Sharing Our Plate – May

In May 50% of the offering plate will go to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kampala, Uganda, and to their programs such as New Life School, which is home

to many HIV/AIDS orphans. The UU Church of Kampala, founded in 2004 by Rev. Mark Kiyimba, has 150 members, and is the only congregation

in Uganda that openly welcomes and is inclusive of LGBT people. The Church sponsors social action missions such as New Life School of 550 children, most of whom lost their parents due to HIV/AIDS. The Orphanage Home is for 23 children who are living with HIV/AIDS. Rev. Kiyimba has been a vocal opponent of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2014 (often called the "Kill the Gays Bill" in the Western mainstream media because of a death penalty clause in the original version of the bill).



June's Sharing Our Plate will go to National Religious Campaign against Torture. As members of NRCAT our congregation is committed to opposing torture and taking some anti-torture action every year. June is an awareness raising month for NRCAT to raise awareness through churches. Torture is a violation of UU principles and of the US Constitution as well as the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

-The Social Action Committee

Georgia Sassen, Chair
Pat Westwater-Jong, Chris Ready, Ibbly Chiquoine,
Nancy Reifenstein, Steve Farough

Paper version has month of May building use calendar here.

Electronic version: please see attached pdf of weekly building use calendar for April 20th through June 30th.

Celebration Concert Was Thrilling!

On March 20th, Sonya Ovrutsky Fensome, internationally acclaimed pianist, showed off our recently revamped Steinway B piano with dazzling music by Saint-Saëns, Ravel, Prokofiev and Schumann. Much to my delight, she returned to the stage with an encore of Bach's Prelude Number 1 from the well Tempered Clavier, more elegantly played than I have ever heard before.

Thanks again to the memorial gift from Rita Lancaster that allowed Thomas Rourk, piano technician, to make these major renovations. Thomas was in the audience, as well as 2 other piano technicians who came to hear Sonya and our piano. They had high praise for the performance and the instrument.

Stay tuned for concerts in the future featuring our "new" piano.

-Eleanor Toth

Songs of Love

**Harvard Pro Musica Concert
Sat. April 30th 7:30 p.m.
in our sanctuary**



Music by: Johannes Brahms, Daniel Pinkham, Maurice Durufle and Samuel Barber.
For info and tickets:
<https://www.harvardpromusica.org/2015-2016-season/>

Need a Name Button?



Whether you are new to the church or just ready for an upgrade, requesting a name button is quick and easy. Send an email message

to buttons@uuharvard.org indicating your style preference: HUUC photo or sketch; green sanctuary, rainbow or standard chalice (samples on display in the Sanctuary Foyer) or attach an image to really customize! Next time you're in church look for it on the button screen in the Foyer. Compliments of the Welcome Team.

~ Cary Browse, Holly Grant, Stacie Green,
6 Pamela Fredrick, Paige O'Brien

Update on the Social Justice Ministries Council

The Social Justice Ministries Council (SJMC) is well on its way! Last meeting twelve congregants participated in developing our charter (see below). In our next meeting, we plan to pick our first social justice project. The finalists include:

- Presidential Elections (Building Bridges, Not Walls)
- Ending Gun Violence in America
- Black Lives Matter
- Income Inequality
- Educational Equity
- Sponsor Syrian Refugee Family

The date for our next meeting will be announced soon, so please stay tuned. If you would like more information on SJMC or want to join, please contact Steve Farough (farough.steve@gmail.com or 617-650-4581). All are welcome!

Social Justice Ministries Council (SJMC) Charter

The Social Justice Ministries Council (SJMC) is a committee designed to address the social justice issues that concern our congregants and to help foster a "culture of social justice" in our church community. Our aspiration for social justice is deeply rooted in the principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith that view each person and the planet as sacred. The SJMC will help illuminate the root causes of inequity and work toward resolving systemic forms of injustice. The council will comprise of representatives from our justice ministries, individual congregants, our minister, and a board liaison. The Council will also:

- Amplify and support the work of the existing justice ministries in our congregation.
- Address the relationship between social justice and the tenets of our UU faith.
- Create space in our congregation to address social justice issues and act as a community (this could be through sermons, music and arts, coffee hour discussions, workshops, evening meetings, etc.).
- Help the congregation connect their social justice work with activist organizations outside the church and the social justice work of the UUA.
- Help support social justice action in the broader community (the support could be through donations, volunteering, etc.).
- Act to raise awareness and educate our congregants and members of the surrounding community about social justice issues.
- Be a clearinghouse to prioritize specific social justice issues.

Upcoming Film

The Women's Alliance presents *The Year We Thought About Love*, an award winning movie at film festivals from Mumbai to Edinburgh, will be shown at the Fellowship Building, on Saturday, May 7 at 7p.m. Discussion with film participants to follow.

With wit, grace, and attitude, a Boston youth theater troupe, *True Colors* brings actors together across race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity to explore OUTNESS. The power of BEING OUT may be the queer community's greatest contribution to all of us. Learning how to be true to oneself is often the first step to personal liberation and political change. Talking truthfully about their lives, they highlight both the unique and universal struggles of LGBTQ adolescence. For more information go to www.theyearwethoughtaboutlove.com or call Karen Davis (978-368-1846).

Music Sunday May 8 Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia/ Earth Mass*

The choir will be joined by instrumentalists playing piano, oboe, soprano sax, percussion, cello, electric bass, and guitar, as well as voices from the wild-Sister Loon, Brother Wolf, and Sister Whale. In addition to Paul Winter, our own UU troubadour, Jim Scott, wrote parts of this mass, along with Paul Halley, Oscar Castro-Neves and Kim Oler. It was premiered on Mothers' Day at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1981, dedicated to St Francis, the patron saint of ecology.

This folk style music is infectious. I hope you can join us and be surrounded by the sounds and sensations of Mother Earth!

-Eleanor Toth



UU Seder

The Annual UU Seder was held on Friday, April 8th and Reverend Mark did a wonderful job leading us through the HUUC Hagaddah with everyone present participating in reading various parts of the Passover story. The beautifully laden tables with candlelight and flowers bathed us all in a warm glow and reminded us that spring is arriving. Singing the songs and observing the rituals brought me back to past Passover Seders and the richness of the traditions. Everyone learned something new and shared their own stories. We devoured the delicious Matzoh Ball soup prepared by the Youth Group and ate the most delicious pot luck ever had in the Fellowship Building. Thankfully, the kids found the Afikomen so we were able to have dessert and finish the Seder after the meal! Most of all, we continued to create community and remember that we can never forget any groups who are being persecuted and experiencing exodus from any land.



I want to thank Reverend Mark, Cary Browse, Risa Goldman, Patty Ruze, Paige O'Brien, Mary Ellen Miller and Tim Clark for their assistance and grace in making this year's Seder a wonderful success! We hope you will all be able to join us next year!

-Ruth Silman

Our Thanks Go To ...

Andy Perkins, Patty Ruze, Darrell Wickman, Pat White, Risa Goldman, Kerry & Glenn Alexander, Janice & Ralph Goodell, Britt Argow & Jesh Sniderman, Imre Toth, Pam Frederick, Audrey & Fifi Ball for Sunday morning help.

Tyler Stamm & Iby Chiquoine for help with last month's Belfry.

Chuck McCormack & Carol Panek-Clark for helping organize Easter flowers.

(If we forgot to thank someone, please let me know and I'll add them next month, 978-456-8752, admin@uuharvard.org -Elinor Stapleton.)

BARGAINS IN THE BELFRY

It is springtime at Bargains, and there are lots of cool and comfy things available for both men and women. We're also looking for more things to sell, so if you have items to consign or to donate, stop by to drop them off on Tuesdays, 10/00 am to 4:00 pm, or Sundays May 1 or 15, and do some shopping at the same time.

Thanks,
Audrey Ball

May Birthday Wishes Go To ...

Tim	Arnold
Brooke	Bourgeois
Nick	Browse
Haley	Day-Newsham
Risa	Goldman
Ted	Johnson
Lily	Perkins-High
Liz	Rotter
Emma	Sullivan
Pat	White



If you missed the opportunity to give us your birthday month please contact the church office: 456-8752

May 1, 2016

Loaves and Fishes is In Need of Cereal

Please consider looking through your cabinets or going out to purchase an extra box or two of cereal for Loaves and Fishes. They request no oatmeal or Cheerios but any other kind is fine. As always, if you have something other than cereal to donate, Loaves and Fishes will gratefully accept that also. Once you have gathered your donation, please leave it in the Loaves and Fishes labeled baskets in the church foyer for **Sunday, May 1st**. If you have questions, please contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com. Thank you.

From the Admin Office

If you have updates to your address, phone, email or the way you want to receive church communication, please let me know.

Belfry deadlines Tuesdays: 5/17, 6/14, 8/23, 9/20.

If you want an **updated Church Directory**, please send me an email and I will send you the pdf file, or I can print a paper copy for you. And if you want to be listed in the Directory, please let me know.

If you want a **printed copy of a sermon**, call me, or try the church website. Or **if you want the list of committee chairs and members**, let me know and I will send that to you.

Thanks.

-Elinor Stapleton admin@uuharvard.org 456-8752

One Last Pot Luck Planned for 2015-2016

June 12 (The Board)



What's Coming Up, Church Events

- Sat. Apr. 23
9-2 Blood Drive, FB
- Sun. Apr. 24
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Rev. J. Mark Worth
"Why Agnostics Go to Church"
Coffee Hour in Fellowship Bldg
Pep Rally for Walk for Hunger
- Sun. May 1
Walk for Hunger (Boston)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Rev. J. Mark Worth
"If I Had a Song"
Pot Luck for walkers (Fellowship Bldg)
- Tue. May 3
6:30, 7:30 p.m. Alliance Annual Mtg
- Sat. May 7
7:00 p.m. Movie in FB
"The Year We Learned About Love"
- Sun. May 8
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Rev. J. Mark Worth
Music Sunday
- Thu. May 12
7-9 p.m. Board mtg.
- Sun. May 15
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Senior High Youth Group
- Tue. May 17
Belfry Deadline
- Sun. May 22
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
12:00-1:00 Annual Congregational Meeting

MUSIC NOTES



Musicians:

April 24- John Chapman, jazz piano
May 1- Bill Cordner and choir-re Pete Seeger
May 8- Choir and instrumentalists with Missa Gaia
Earth Mass for Music Sunday
May 15- Sr. High Youth
May 22- Choir

Jr. Choir:

Our next rehearsal will be May 1 at 11:20. We'll skip Mothers' Day but resume on May 15 and 22. We will be singing in the Religious Education Sunday service on June 5. Happy vacation!

Chimers:

Enjoy some down time that is well earned!

Sr. Choir:

All voices on deck! In addition to singing Pete Seeger songs along with Bill on May 1, we need to get the Missa Gaia into our heads. Several instrumentalists have agreed to join us to make this a special Music Sunday.

We also sing on May 22 and 29th. In addition to regular Thursday rehearsals we will meet on Saturday, May 7, at 10 a.m. with instrumentalists for Missa Gaia.

-Eleanor Toth

Other Regular Events/Classes in our Buildings

Fellowship Building

Yoga in Sutherland Hall with **Joyce Vassallo**: Tue. 7-8:30pm and Sat. 9-10:45am, 617-201-3532.

Council on Aging: Tai Chi Tue. & Thur. 9-10am & **Zumba** Fri. 9-9:45am, 978-456-4120

Fitness class, during the cold months, **Theresa Hoberman**, Exercise Classes Mon. & Wed. 8:30-9:30am, 978-875-0829.

Music Lessons, contact michaelgeezil@gmail.com. *Pastel Drawing Lessons*, Mon & Thu. pm, **Joële Feldman**

Fine Art 978-456-8191 joelle.feldman@gmail.com

Sanctuary

Harvard Pro Musica, community chorus rehearsals Tuesday evenings, contact **Kathy Hewett** 456-8692 or **Eleanor Toth** 779-2876.

Concerts: Harvard Pro Musica, April 30.

Recitals: Bolton Community Music School, Dec. & June, Valerie Ritter 978-779-2896

Nikolaus Hunt's piano students, Mar. & June, 978-368-7759

Eleanor Toth's piano students, June, 978-779-2876

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Rev. Mark Worth
Ted Johnson
Elinor Stapleton
Lorrie Clark
Lori Daniels

Interim Minister
Organist and Choir Director
Parish Administrator
Faith Formation Admin Assistant
Bookkeeper

Admin Office Hours
Mon. 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Tue. 10:00-3:00
Wed. Noon-3:00
Thu. 10:00-3:00
Fri. 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Please call first: 978-456-8752.
-Elinor Stapleton
admin@uuharvard.org

Minister's Office Hours
I expect to be in the office most Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons, sometimes into the early evening hours. You may call (office: 978-456-9021) or e-mail minister@uuharvard.org to schedule an appointment during those times or to find another time that might work.
-Mark Worth