



The Belfry

June 18th 2013

Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church

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



Do You Want to See the Peace Float in This Year's Fourth of July Parade?

Social Action Committee has been a sponsor of the peace float in the Harvard July 4 parade . we are looking for some new organizers for this year, because we cannot organize it this year. Some of us can participate but we need people who can get the truck together with the peace sign and recruit musicians and singers. Please call Georgia Sassen at 456 3545 if you are interested.



10th Annual Joint Summer Service – Sunday, August 4th @ 10:00AM



This year's joint summer service of the Harvard, Littleton, and Stow/Acton UU churches will be in Stow #353 Great Road (Route 117). The service is at 10:00AM on Sunday morning, August 4. Choir rehearsal begins at 8:30AM. We are excited to be celebrating our 10th year. There will be cake! The service is modeled after a Sunday morning, minister-led service and incorporates worship traditions from the three churches. Rev. Thomas Rosiello of the Stow UU church will lead the worship service.

There will be a "pick-up" choir. Mike Pfitzer, Music Director of Stow, will direct the choir. Rehearsal begins at 8:30AM and all singers are welcome. The choir will sing a choral introit and anthem.

Children are welcome. However, baby-sitting is not offered, and there are no Religious Education programs during the summer. Refreshments will be served after the service. Looking forward to seeing you in August. Contact Cary Browse at cbrowse@earthlink.net.

-Cary Browse & Dorothy Solbrig,
Joint Summer Service Team

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“From the Hearth”

During July and August, as in past years, I will spend 4 weeks on vacation and 4 weeks on “study leave,” preparing for the new church year. I will not hold office hours during this time, but **there will always be a minister available to cover pastoral emergencies.** When I am on study leave, I will be on-call. When I am on vacation, one or more of my very able area colleagues will be covering for me in my absence.

If you need a minister from July 1 through August 26, please call the church office (the minister’s study number is 978-456-9021) and listen to my voicemail greeting to learn who will be on-call in case of an emergency and how to reach that minister. The out-going message will be updated regularly throughout the summer. Our Parish Administrator, Elinor Stapleton, the Caring Committee, and Rick High, our President, will also know how to reach the minister on-call.

In July, Cathy and Katelynn and I will be in Stowe, Vermont, for the annual week-long gathering of Cathy’s extended family. Katelynn and I are also planning to visit my mother, sister, and nieces in Maryland for a week in July. In August, we will again head north to Maine for a two week camping trip with members of my extended family.

Every year at this time, I think fondly of Mary Oliver’s poem “The Summer Day,” in which she describes in detail her experience of watching a particular grasshopper eating sugar from her hand and washing its face before snapping her wings open and flying away.

*I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

In the days leading up to summer, I’ve been watching the runners on the bean plants drifting to and fro, seeking the support of poles around which to wrap their delicate tendrils. I’ve been following the antics of a fledgling Robin as it feathers out and hops around my yard learning to find its own worms. And I’ve been enjoying Katelynn’s exuberance as we prepare for her rather exciting 5th birthday party.

Though it all, I’ve been trying to remember how to stop and pay attention, how not to get caught up in the frantic rush of time. It’s a struggle, but it’s a worthwhile one! And I am looking forward to more opportunities to practice being “idle and blessed,” and wishing you the same, for what else should we do?

May your summers be filled with moments of idleness and blessing!

~Rev. Wendy

PS - I plan to be back in the office for “regular” office hours beginning on Tuesday, August 27.

PPS – Our first service of the new church year will be on Sunday, September 8th. I look forward to seeing you then!

From the Board

Making Magic on Sewership Sunday

In thousands, seventeen seems a lot,
But divided among us it's not."

"The results will be epic,
We'll tie to that septic,
And for the earth, we'll do what we ought."

But how shall we raise the capital?
Said Wendy: "Let's try something radical."
"Take a one-day collection
To fund the connection.
Together we'll do something magical!"

So ends the only limerick submitted in the Tie to Septic System limerick contest. And make magic we did! Mid-way through the service on June 9 Wendy announced that it was time to "take up this morning's offering for the work of the church septic system and for the work of the septic system in the larger community!" and the ushers passed the plates. When Nick and Darrell completed the tally, the collection totaled nearly \$30,000, far exceeding the \$17,000 needed to connect the church to the town center septic system.* Magical indeed.

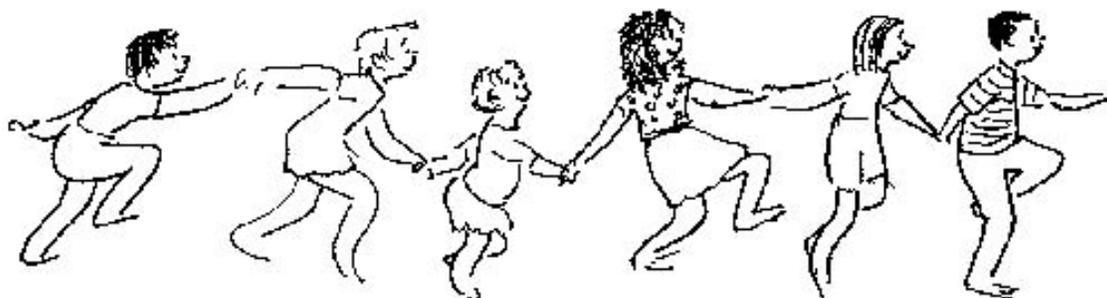
Here's how we made it happen. More than 70 people contributed and gifts made by check or stock donation broke down in the chart to the right:

So thanks to all for making this such a great community effort and making the last Sunday of the regular church year so memorable. Together we displayed the transformative power of collective imagination, showed what we can achieve with our connectedness, demonstrated the fundamental strength and power of our community. A special thanks goes to Wendy for her innovative, entertaining, informative and inspiring script and her dramatic portrayal of "Le Minister"; to Melinda, for her unforgettable performance in the role of Pierre Brunseau ("Le Rat"), complete with rat nose, rat tail, and spot on (flawless really) Franco-American accent; and to Mac Perkins-High for his equally compelling, if brief, appearances as "Le Plumber" (Acme Plumbing, #1 @ #2).

Rick High (rhigh@charter.net), For the Board

*Proceeds in excess of the project's cost will be contributed to the Buildings & Grounds Endowment.

Making Magic	
#	gift
3	\$ 25
8	\$ 50
1	\$ 75
16	\$ 100
2	\$ 150
1	\$ 170
5	\$ 200
3	\$ 250
1	\$ 375
2	\$ 400
1	\$ 450
15	\$ 500
1	\$ 650
1	\$ 700
1	\$ 888
5	\$ 1,000
1	\$ 4,000
1	\$ 5,000



Children and Youth Programming

The Lesson of the Supply Closet

We have reached the quiet time of the church year, and just in time, if the Religious Education supply closet in the Fellowship Building is any indicator! Week after week, volunteers and staff of all the congregation's ministries dip into myriad wellsprings of energy, creativity, problem-solving and fun. In the Children & Youth ministry, the RE closet disgorged supplies (crayons, eye droppers, pom poms, buttons, beads, markers, etc.) for art-making, poster-painting, and all sorts of hands-on expressions of the children's creativity. And now, after 9 months of this, how fares the closet? Like many of us, well, it needs a little rest.

This has got me thinking: all the classrooms in the Fellowship Building have been named for famous Massachusetts Unitarians from history: e.e. cummings, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Louisa May Alcott, etc. But the supply closet has not been so honored. But I am tempted to make a sign for the closet: the Beatrix Bartók room – a combination of British children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter, and Hungarian composer Béla Bartók.

Beatrix Potter's stories and illustrations of rabbits, mice, and other small animals, are treasured reminders of childhood, as well as the 7th UU principle (the interconnected web of existence, of which we are a part). Beatrix, a self-trained artist, had an isolated childhood, and said of her art education: "Thank goodness I was never sent to school; it would have rubbed off some of the originality." She was also mycologist (study of fungi) who experienced discrimination because of her gender.

Béla Bartók, composer and ethnomusicologist, composed music that challenged the ears and minds of his time. A child prodigy, he was plagued with health problems. As an adult, his vision of a "unity* of people, unity in spite of all wars and conflicts," led him to refuse to perform in countries with fascist leaders. His Unitarian theology resonates today, saying his prayers would be said, "In the name of Nature, Art, and Science."

"Beatrix Bartók:" I love the connection to Unitarianism's Hungarian and English roots. I love the striking, unexpected combinations: Victorian England and modern Central/Eastern Europe; self-taught and academy-educated; comforting and disturbing. There's a synergy to the combination, and an energy that just feels right for the Religious Education Supply Closet, in as much as the materials contained within seem to

represent the vast possibilities inherent in children and youth. Even a little bit of chaos in the supply closet seems appropriate to me, as creativity seems to need it, and chaos is a reality of traveling with children and youth.

And creativity and growth are also served by rest. As such, our Religious Education and Youth programming take a break over the summer. Over the summer, an intrepid gathering of RE volunteers will tackle the task of taking stock, purging, and refreshing the RE Supply closet. The RE Team and the YLD Team will gather later in the summer to chart the course of next year's programming for children and youth. We will have information to share with you in August. Until then, may the coming months of summer offer you opportunities to rest, play, create, serve, reflect, and recharge.

See you in the fall!

Melinda

*adapted for inclusive language



Backpack Drive 2013

Do you remember the excitement of back-to-school shopping as you picked out a new backpack and school supplies? Today, choosing just the right crayons, pencils, folders, markers and notebooks is still a much anticipated ritual prior to going back to school in the fall. Unfortunately, without the Backpack Program offered by Loaves and Fishes (L & F), many of their youngest clients would not have that experience.



At L & F, they try to make life feel as normal as possible for the children who are served there, and the Backpack Program is one way that they can do that. Every year, because of generous donations of school supplies and cash donations, L & F is able to allow each of about 400 children to select his or her own backpack and grade-level appropriate school supplies.

Each grade has a different list of backpack requirements which can be found at www.loavesfishespantry.org (click on the picture of the backpack). Filled backpacks or individual back-to-school supplies can be dropped off at L & F during any open pantry sessions as well as Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. The goal is to collect all backpacks no later than July 30th so that distribution can begin in early August.



Thank you for any contribution you can give. The children are truly grateful to be able to head back to school with brand new supplies.

Questions? Contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com.

WHEAT -- Community Café in Clinton MA

Big thanks to the Social Action Committee for cooking and serving in May, and to Scot and Charlie Broadbent who helped in June.

As we continue to serve our neighbors in need throughout the summer, there are a few opportunities to cook and/or serve at the Community Cafe this summer.

I am looking for volunteers for Sunday, July 7 and Sunday, September 1. It would be really great to have someone take on the organization (menu, buying, etc.). We now have some money to help cover the cost of the food. If you can only commit for a portion, that's great too. Please let me know if you can help either of those days.

Many thanks, Susie Macrae susiemac@charter.net

Rev. Wendy's Upcoming Sabbatical

Later this year, Rev. Wendy will start a **five-month sabbatical**. As many of you know we honor the recommended practice of offering our minister a chance to take a break every seven years and recharge away from all congregational responsibilities. All the regular church activities continue, but are organized a bit differently.

In January the Board appointed a Sabbatical Planning Committee to work with Wendy in planning for her absence, as well as to oversee the sabbatical in process. We will provide you with complete information in September, but here are some basics:

The sabbatical is from December 1, 2013 – May 1, 2014;

The pulpit will be filled on the twenty-three Sundays, sometimes by ministers and other times by lay leaders;

A part-time "sabbatical minister" will be hired who will have regular weekly office hours, provide pastoral care, and preach several times; and

When you return from the summer break we will have all the details set.

Questions? Contact a member of the Sabbatical Planning Committee (Mary Ellen Miller, Steve Miller, Charles Redinger, and Betsy Williams, Chair)

Social Action Committee Suggests

From UUMass Action, Regarding Preventing Gun Violence:

June 14th marked the six-month anniversary of the unimaginable tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Since that day, more than 15,000 more Americans have lost their lives to gun violence. We can do better, and the time to act is now. Feeling compelled to help insure that our families, our communities, and our nation become safer from the danger of gun violence, UUMass Action has officially signed on to be a member of the <http://mapreventgunviolence.org/>

While current laws in our state are stronger than in some parts of the country, they still fall short of perfect in a number of ways. The Coalition will speak out for universal and strengthened background checks, suitability standards for all gun licenses, prohibition of high-capacity magazines and military-style assault weapons, and improved law enforcement.

You can find out more and sign the petition to lawmakers at the UUMass Action website: <http://www.uumassaction.org>

Sharing Our Plate (SOP) Summary - Thanks to all who contributed.

In church year 2012-13, the congregation has contributed a total of \$13,800 to "Sharing Our Plate" during the services, of which \$9,800 has been given to the various charities and \$4,000 retained as the church's share of the cash donations. In addition, \$3,600 has been provided to some of these charities from our Social Action Trust proceeds, including \$2,000 to the Loaves & Fishes campership program, as approved by the annual meeting.

-Dave Andrew

2013 Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast Raises \$1,040 for Loaves & Fishes

The 17th Annual Harvard Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, organized by Dave Andrew and sponsored by our church, was held in our Fellowship Building on May 27, 2013. This year the \$520 we netted from the breakfast was matched by an additional \$520 from our church's social action trust, so checks totaling \$1,040 have been sent to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Devens. Our yogurt pancake recipe, introduced by Ed Pieters and enhanced by Jane Andrew, again received rave reviews from many of the participants.

A huge thank you to all 29 of you, including a number of seasoned veterans of our event, who helped to make the 17th annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast a rousing success! We recorded 118 paying customers, about the same as last year. The efforts and enthusiasm of the kitchen and floor helpers easily accommodated the large crowd. And the eight MSYG and RE volunteers did an outstanding job in greeting and serving customers, as well as helping with decorating and cleanup. We're very pleased with their contribution.

MSYG /RE Volunteers:

Jamie Aciukewicz, Gevin Argow-Sniderman, Reval Argow-Sniderman, Nicky Chapman, Paul Chapman, Mitch Coonahan, Owen Krause, Addie Stamm

Adult volunteers:

Dave Andrew, Britt Argow, Audrey Ball, Carol Barnes, John Chapman, Iby Chiquoine, Tim Coonahan, Mary Donald, Glen Frederick, Jan Goodell, Ralph Goodell, Jon Green, Janet Johnson, Donnalisa Johnson, Ted Johnson, Patti Ruze, Jeshuah Sniderman, Dorothy Solbrig, Kate Stamm, Ken VanWormer, Cassandra Werthman

The primary purpose for this event from its inception has been to provide additional motivation to the Harvard-area folks to come out for the parade, but it also provides a great opportunity for us to work together and get to know each other better while raising money for a very worthy local charity. We look forward to continuing this tradition.

Dave Andrew

July & August Birthday Wishes Go To:

Lisa Aciukewicz
Nellie Agosta
Olivia Alfano
Beth BluttAnders
Jane Andrew
George Babich
Ross Brown-Cullinane
Daniel Colony
Jim Colony
Cheryl Coonahan
William Cordner
Colby Day-Newsham
Mary Donald
Eric Dyer
Thea Eiland
Janice Goodell
Claudia Jarratt
Erik Johnson
Helena Justicz
Geoff Koetsch
Nikko Koetsch
George C. Krusen
Sawyer Madison
Tucker Madison
Chris Payne
Ethan Payne
Hannah Payne
Kate Sobalvarro
Brenton Stoddart
Ara Tyler
Alec Vilain
Becca Weast



If you missed the opportunity to give us your birthday month and would like to have it posted in our Belfry publications, please contact the church office: 978-456-8752, admin@uuharvard.org

Our Thanks Go To ...

Belatedly: David Kendall, Worth Robbins and Bill Cordner for continued computer help.

The whole congregation for voting a budget that includes raises for the staff.

Carl Hein for his donation of some very nice paper.

Gus Medjanis for donating yellow lined writing pads, hanging folders and manila folders.

Top Five Ways You Can Help Loaves and Fishes Clients This Summer

Summer is historically a time when food inventory diminishes on pantry shelves so here is a list of five easy ways you can help those in need during this time.

1. Plant an extra row of food in your vegetable garden and donate the results.
2. Participate in Loaves and Fishes annual backpack drive by filling a new backpack full of school supplies for children returning to school in the fall (see related article in this month's Belfry).
3. Continue purchasing food and other necessities for Loaves and Fishes, just as you always do on the first Sunday of each month, and leave your donation in the collections box at the post office.
4. Volunteer at Loaves and Fishes by stocking shelves, sorting clothing donations, escorting clients through the pantry to choose their groceries or helping out in the office.
5. Join the HUUC's Glean Team and help rescue food from farms, orchards, farmers' markets and grocery stores.

For more information about volunteering with Loaves and Fishes, contact them directly at tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org. For more information about the HUUC's Glean Team, contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com. Thanks!



Our Thoughts are With ...

Li Liang's father died on Saturday, at 92. A memorial service will be held in Bethesda, Maryland in July. Li and Georgia can be reached by email at li.s.liang@siemens.com.

Q & A with the Glean Team

Have you heard of the Glean Team? If you have been at all curious about what we do, below are some answers to questions we have recently been asked:

What is the Glean Team?

The Glean Team is a group of dedicated people who rescue food that would otherwise go to waste and donate that food to food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Currently, we glean from Roche Bros. super-market in Acton, the Harvard Farmer's Market, the Acton Farmer's Market, Applefield Farm in Stow and various other local farms and orchards. We donate the gleaned food to Loaves and Fishes, WHEAT Community Services in Clinton and Transitions at Devens (a transitional shelter for women and their children).

When did the Glean Team start?

We started almost 3 years ago, in the summer of 2010.

Who started it? Who runs it?

The Glean Team was started by a small group of people from our church who were inspired by a sermon given by Wendy, our minister. She explained that gleaning is an age-old practice of picking produce from fields that is leftover after the main harvest. We currently have four Co-chairs (Cary Browse, Risa Goldman, Ellen Joseph and Lisa Oldham) so that we can share in the work of organizing the Glean Team and its various activities.

Why did it start?

It started because we were inspired to combat local hunger, reduce food waste and increase community awareness.

How many volunteers do you have?

We have more than 60 people on our email list but only about a third of those are active gleaners. The rest enjoy receiving our emails to find out what we are up to or are just too busy to help out right now. We are always looking for more volunteers.

How much food a week do you collect?

We pick up food from Roche Bros. five days a week. On most of those days, we completely fill a small SUV with cartons and crates of food and milk. Last year we picked up and delivered about 45,000 pounds of food from Roche Bros. alone. During the harvest season, we donate much more because we are gleaning from farmer's markets, farm stands, farms and orchards.

How is it distributed? How many deliveries/pick-ups a week do you make?

We deliver twice a week to Loaves and Fishes, twice a week to WHEAT and once a week to Transitions at Devens. We deliver more often than that to each place during the harvest season. Once the food is delivered to the organization receiving the donation, they decide how best to distribute the food to their clients.

Do you ever use the food and prepare it or turn it into something?

We have done that a few times with squash in particular because we like to think of ourselves as "Squashing Hunger". We have prepared squash bread and squash soup from gleaned squash and sold it at the Harvard Flea Market. We have also prepared a luncheon with gleaned squash for the Harvard Historical Society's House Tour.

Who can join?

Even though the Glean Team started at the HUUC, anyone can join. We have gleaners from age 5-75, many from Harvard but also several from surrounding towns including Stow, Westford, Sterling, and Ayer.

Tell me about gleaning from farms.

Gleaning from farms is really fun. We almost always go as a group so it becomes a community event. Parents can bring their children to help harvest the food while at the same time, the children gain a greater understanding of where their food comes from. We are usually contacted by a particular farm when they have grown more than they can sell. Rather than till it under, they call us to glean what is leftover.

Why is gleaning important?

We believe gleaning is important because it gets food that would otherwise go to waste into the hands of people who need it.

Do you raise funds or just collect food? What do you use the monetary donations for?

We have done several fundraising initiatives for different purposes. Our first fundraising effort was for the purpose of purchasing a dedicated refrigerator for the church's Fellowship Building. We needed that so that we could glean from the Harvard Farmer's Market, store the food overnight, and then deliver the food to WHEAT the next day. They are not open on Saturdays, the day of the Harvard

Farmer's Market. This past winter, we raised funds by selling donated accessories (jewelry, scarves, purses, etc.) at the HUUC's indoor yard sale. We raised over \$600 for the purpose of reimbursing Glean Team volunteers for their mileage. Additionally, we have received money through the Social Action Committee at the HUUC. When we have raised more money than we need, we have donated that money directly to the organizations we serve.

Do you have regular meetings?

We do most of our communicating by email but we have occasional meetings, maybe 2-3 times a year to make important decisions and to pass on information.

What else does the Glean Team do?

Since it is a bit quieter in the winter, we are able to undertake related projects. A few months ago, members of the HUUC, in combination with the Glean Team, collected Donelan Supermarket stickers. We collected over 1600 stamps and traded them in at Donelan's for Cuisinart coffee makers and mini choppers to donate to Transitions at Devens. The women who live there will be able to use these appliances in their current apartments or when they move out into their own living situations.

How Can I Sign Up?

If you are interested in joining the Glean Team, you can send an email to Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com and she will put you on our email list. She can also answer any questions you have about gleaning from Roche Bros. or any of the farmer's markets, fields and orchards we glean from.

Here we celebrate our traditions and our lives, with all their sorrows and joys...

What's Coming Up, Church Events

July 21

10:00-4:00 Religious Education Team Retreat
in the Fellowship Building

Sun. Aug. 4

8:30 a.m. 'pick up' choir rehearsal Stow/Acton
10:00 a.m. Annual Joint Summer Service
Harvard, Littleton, Stow/Acton UU's
in Stow this year: **#353 Great Road** (Rt 117)

Mon. Aug. 26

Regular Office Hours resume
Belfry Deadline

Wed. Aug. 28

7:30 p.m. Caring Network mtg.

Mon. Sept. 2

Labor Day/Office Closed

Sun. Sept. 8

10:00 a.m. Ingathering Worship Service
Rev. Wendy L. Bell

Mon. Sept. 16

Belfry Deadline

MUSIC NOTES



Jr. Choir:

Happy almost summer!
I'll be in touch with you to see
if we can plan a miniature golf/ice cream party
Saturday, June 29th or Sunday, June 30.

Sr. Choir:

Happy summer!

I hope you've all received the notice and considered joining the tri choir in Stow on August 4. The singers meet at 8:30 to rehearse for the 10 a.m. service. Meeting with our UU members mid summer is always joyous!

If any of you are interested in checking out new music for our choir to sing in the future, please be in touch with Bill Cordner, Ted Johnson, or myself at your earliest convenience.

-Eleanor Toth

Minister's Summer Contact

If you need a minister from July 1 through August 26, please call the church office (the minister's study number is 978-456-9021) and listen to my voicemail greeting to learn who will be on-call in case of an emergency and how to reach that minister.

Admin Summer Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:00 — 11:30 a.m.
Please call first: 978-456-8752.

-Elinor Stapleton
admin@uuharvard.org

Reverend Wendy L. Bell
Melinda Green
Elinor Stapleton
Ted Johnson
Louise Potter

Minister
Interim Religious Education Director
Parish Administrator
Organist and Choir Director
Bookkeeper

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