



### Inside this issue

In the Interim...	1
From the President	2
Passover Seder Time	2
Membership Memos	2
April Full Moon Vespers	2
Building and Grounds April 16	3
Spring Potluck Picnic	3
Enhanced Worship	3
Frequently Asked Q & A	4
TJD Annual Meeting	4
From the Health Ministry Team	4
Worship Assoc. & Pastoral Care	5
Share the Plate-Japan Relief	5
UU's Got Talent!!!	6
Share the Plate Nominations	6



## In the Interim: The Courage of Covenant

by Reverend Dacia Reid—Interim Minister

This congregation, a beloved community, is in the process of adopting a Covenant of Right Relations. It begins: *In our church community we strive to relate to each other in positive and supportive ways. We recognize that there will be times when we misunderstand each other and need to clarify our communications, our intentions and or our interactions.*

It continues: *Our primary tool is the faithful use of "I" statements. We use our own voice to speak about our personal response or concern.*

"I" statements are powerful. Powerful because an "I" statement helps to keep the topic in focus and it can change an argument into a conversation.

"I" statements are a deceptively simple idea. It sounds simple enough to agree to use "I" statements when talking with one another and it is easy enough when the conversation is congenial. As we all know, not all conversations in a congregation are congenial. Our experiences differ. Our hopes, expectations and ideas differ. It is precisely at these moments when "I" statements are most effective and most challenging. Choosing to use an "I" statement in response to a difference of opinion or expectation is an act of courage because it is an honest sharing of your-own-self.

The Rev. Dr. Dana McLean Greeley, last president of the American Unitarian Association and first president of the Unitarian Universalist Association wrote about courage saying, in part:

*Courage is the mastery of fear.*

*It is faith and resolution.*

*It is will power in spite of disappointment and frustration.*

*It is high morale regardless of adverse circumstances.*

*There are different kinds of courage:*

*Physical courage and courage that has a strong moral element;*

*There is courage that is highly celebrated;*

*And there is courage that is modest.*

*Courage makes us honest.*

*It enables us to face people as we are.*

From Forward Through the Ages, First Parish Concord, MA, 1986, page 99.

"I" statements make us honest and enable us to face people as we are. They are a gift each of us can give to one another and to this congregation. I commend this congregation's exploration of these issues and celebrate the growing commitment to right relations. Do take time to review the draft covenant posted on the window wall between the sanctuary and the common area and or review the draft Covenant of Right Relations attached to E-announcements of March 17th.

Yours in Transition and "I" statements,  
Many Blessings  
Rev. Dacia

# Uncommon Sense

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## From the President

As this newsletter goes to press (or format?), we are in the midst of our annual pledge (budget) drive. I'd like to thank each of you who has filled out and turned in your pledge card. For those who haven't yet, please look for a contact from one of our members and please take the time to make your commitment to UUCA for the coming fiscal year. Remember, your pledge for the next fiscal year can be paid at a rate of your choosing between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

-Jim Bentley,  
Board President



## Passover Seder Time at UUCA

by Gaye Ortiz

Sign up this Sunday, April 3rd to reserve your seat at the Seder Passover meal! In the Jewish calendar of festivals, Passover recalls the liberation of slaves from Egypt with food, wine, music and stories.

Passover has been observed for more than 3,000 years. It commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew people from Egyptian bondage as well as the springtime renewal of the earth. Its message of freedom is a sacred inheritance from our Jewish spiritual ancestors. Over the centuries Passover has come to symbolize humanity's renewing, ongoing move toward freedom.

The word Seder (SAY-der) means the order of the ritual followed at this celebration. It is a cross between a service and a meal; the story of the Exodus is retold in the company of our community of family and friends. The celebration is adapted for the Unitarian Universalist community but remains true to the spirit of the Seder. We welcome people of all ages, and in fact a successful Seder meal depends on the participation of children as well as adults.

The Worship Committee is planning to hold a Seder lunch this year after the Sunday service in the Common Room. The menu includes both meat and vegetarian options. We still need volunteers in several areas: cooking/preparing food; set-up/clean-up; readers of the Passover narrative.

If you can help please contact Gaye Ortiz at [gwortiz@comcast.net](mailto:gwortiz@comcast.net).

Sunday, April 17 12:30pm - Come join us!

Page 2

## Membership Memos

Tracy Craig & Liz Goodson, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Greeters are the welcoming face of UUCA each Sunday. They meet everyone at the door, pass out programs, encourage guests to fill out guest registries, help youngsters find the right R.E. class and have a smile for all of us. The Membership Committee would like to invite you to consider becoming a greeter. There will be a sign-up sheet (similar to the snack sign-up) available each Sunday in April for anyone who is interested. "Seasoned" greeters will be available to answer questions and explain the duties involved. This is a great way to get to know everyone at UUCA.

*Upcoming Events -*

Mark your calendars now for the **New Member Recognition Potluck Breakfast** on April 24th (Easter Sunday). This is the time when we recognize all members who have joined UUCA since the previous Easter. Established members are asked to bring a breakfast dish to share. A sign-up sheet is available beginning on April 10<sup>th</sup> — but you can bring something even if you don't have a chance to sign up. New members will be our guests. We will begin serving at 9:30am and New Members will be the first through the line. Please take this opportunity to visit with our newest members of UUCA.

**Orientation Conversations** (UU101 & UU102) will be held May 1st and 15th. (See January 2011 Newsletter for class details)

Watch April's E-announcements for more details.

## April Full Moon Vespers



Join us on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for our Full Moon Vespers. These are earth-centered services where we form a circle. They're more participatory than traditional styles of worship, and include chanting and time for sharing. Last month for the Spring Equinox we walked the labyrinth. This month we're celebrating the full moon. Feel free to bring drums and other percussion instruments.

For more information, contact Jezibell [kyria-panagia@yahoo.com](mailto:kyria-panagia@yahoo.com).

## **Building and Grounds—April 16th**

*by Frank Carl, Building & Grounds Committee Chair*

Winter is over and the growing season has begun! With your help, UUCA will receive a much-needed spring cleanup on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Coffee, bagels and cream cheese will be ready at 8:30am. We will discuss jobs that need doing over a light breakfast before digging in for this spring workday. Please plan on lending a hand to clear the way for those who will be keeping us trimmed and clean for the coming summer months.

Building and grounds will need regular help over the summer taking care of the grounds and keeping the building in repair. I would like a volunteer or two for each month to do the mowing. We have a working gas lawn mower, and a working electric weed eater with enough line to last the summer. We need a person each month to mow around the rocks in the parking lot with the weed eater. A second person to operate the lawn mower would make work lighter. The church has one hundred foot extension cord, but two 100 ft cords will be needed to reach the entire parking lot from available plugs.

We will know more about other regular jobs that will need to be done after the workday on April 16<sup>th</sup>. We have numerous jobs that need doing both on the building and on the grounds at the workday. I will keep an updated list of potential projects posted on the bulletin board. You can pick one (or more) of those for the workday or you can suggest a project of your own choosing to the committee. Since the church has a limited number of tools, please bring the tools for the job that you choose. Make sure you label your tools with your name. See you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!



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## **Spring Potluck Picnic on Goodson Pond**

Spend an afternoon at a pond, out in the woods, with good food. Plan to share the afternoon of April 16<sup>th</sup> for a Potluck Picnic at Liz Goodson's pond off Hwy 56 barely into Burke county. Grills will be hot to cook something for your family if you wish. If you are patient bring your fishing rod and bait to catch bream. Try horseshoes. Visit the earth sheltered house. Directions and maps will be available at church.

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## **Enhance Worship Share Your Musical Talents!**

*by Jessica King, Music Committee Chair*

We all know that we have extraordinary musical talent in our congregation, but we rarely hear from some of you! Our choir is wonderful, however the choir season will soon end until the fall. This is an invitation for all of our musicians to participate in our worship services.

If you have musical talent you'd like to share during our worship services, please let us know! We're looking for soloists and ensembles to fill our anthem slots - not just during the summer, but all year round - to complement the choir and provide variety to our music program. If you have certain pieces in mind, that's great! If you'd like to sing alone or in a group or play an instrument but don't know where to start, that's ok too :)

Now this invitation is not restricted to any one age group, any one genre of music, or just for people who have performed in front of audiences before. This is an open invitation to sign up or to talk to us about the possibilities.

In addition to worship service, we also have a great opportunity for you to share your talents - the "UU's Got Talent" Talent Show on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign up board in the church hallway if you're interested.

Thanks so much for your support of our music program and for sharing your talents.

If you'd like more information or to sign up, please contact:  
Josef Patchen - Music Director - [music@uuaugusta.org](mailto:music@uuaugusta.org)  
Jessica King - Music Committee - [jessica@jessicaking.com](mailto:jessica@jessicaking.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions & Answers About the UUCA Pledge Drive

### How much does it cost to run the church?

The budget for the current church year is \$213,000. The total pledge income for last year was \$189,000. The remainder of the operating budget came from Sunday morning plate donations, some rental income, some fundraising and a \$17,000 deficit to be withdrawn from an ever-smaller savings account. Ideally pledged income for the 2011 – 2012 church year will match or exceed the \$189,000 pledged for the current (2010 – 2011) church year.

### How much should I pledge?

This is an individual decision and depends on your income and expenses. We hope that UUCA is important enough in your life that you will want to stretch to pledge as much as you can. We did send a pledging guide out in one of our Building Bridges mailings and it is also on the back of the pledge cards. If you can pledge 3%, 5% or even 10% of your income that will be a satisfying commitment for you and your commitment will be greatly appreciated. We know that not everyone can pledge to this level and, regardless of size, every pledge is important and helps UUCA continue to thrive and plan for the future.

### How much does it cost per member?

If we just divided the budget by the number of members, (currently 149), the cost per UUCA member would be at least \$1,400 per member. This would include the payment of annual per-member fee to the UUA and the Thomas Jefferson District. However, we do not ask our members to pay a set amount in order to participate in the life of the church. We do ask our members and friends to pledge their financial commitment to the best of their ability which means that some members may pledge less than \$1400 and others can and do pledge far more. We want members and friends to pledge and encourage everyone to stretch to pledge as much as possible and we want people to pledge to the level that works in their own lives and budget.

### What if my income changes?

We know that life can change and our ability to meet our pledge can also change. In the event that you need to reduce your pledge or want to increase your pledge you can talk to the minister or to our office administrator.

### How many people know about my pledge?

Individual pledge amounts are held in confidence within a small circle of members who work on the pledge drive and later by the Receiving Treasurer and Office Administrator and the Minister. Any conversation about your pledge will be held in confidence.

**Questions or concerns** – Contact any member of the Building Bridges Team; Margaret Sargent Meyers, Pat Lynch Hayes and Jan Parsons, or Rev. Dacia.

## TJD Annual Meeting



The 2011 Thomas Jefferson District (TJD) Annual Meeting will meet on April 30th, hosted by Eno River UUF, in Durham, NC.

This year's Annual Meeting will be a one-day affair, as we endeavor to support the 2011 GA in Charlotte in June. We hope that you will attend both meetings.

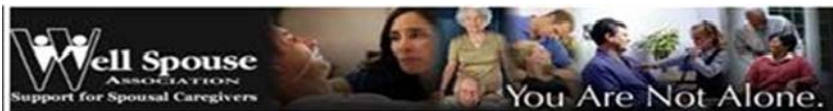
For further information and to register, visit - <http://www.tjdistrict.org/events/tjd2011annualmeeting.html>



Building Bridges... Our Faith, Our Future!

## From the Health Ministry Team

This item was recently published in the International Parish Nurse Resource Center newsletter. We thought it might be of interest.



The Well spouse Association™ provides support for the caregiving spouse or partner of chronically ill or injured individuals. We provide services to all – and are not disease specific. WSA provides peer-to-peer support, one-on-one mentoring, round-robin letter writing, and an internet forum for discussions on best practices, personal issues, fiscal challenges and support. We produce a quarterly newsletter by and for spousal caregivers, as well as a bi-weekly e-newsletter. We organize weekend respites in various areas across the U.S. Our annual conference brings people from across America as well as Canada and Europe. Anticipatory grief and stress impact most spousal care-givers and often drive them into illness. We allow spouses to cope and continue with their lives during and after caregiving needs end.

Find us at <http://www.wellspouse.org/> – you will be welcomed as one of the 'family'. 800-838-0879

## New at UUCA: Worship Associates & Pastoral Care Team

**Applications are now being accepted for two new ways to volunteer here at church.**

*Applications attached to this newsletter and available from the church office – call or e-mail your request.*

**The Worship Associates Program** involves a team of people who engage the sacred and public work of worship. The Worship Associates work closely with each other and the minister to select themes and topics for worship services. And then each worship associate works directly with the minister to help craft a meaningful worship service related to a particular theme and or topic. The time commitment after an initial 4 hour workshop (Sat May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1 – 5 pm) and a follow-up 2.5 hour planning meeting (TBA) should be about 3 hours per quarter for the team meeting and 4 to 6 hours once a quarter when the worship associate is involved in a specific service. Applications are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**The Pastoral Care Team** involves a team of people who work closely with the minister to do the sacred and confidential work of facilitating Pastoral Care within the congregation. Pastoral Care is as simple as coordinating cards and arranging transportation or meals. And Pastoral Care is as challenging as visiting someone who is ill, supporting someone who is facing surgery or a critical or terminal illness. Pastoral care is supporting those who are caring for a loved one who is elderly or ill or disabled. Pastoral care is support upon the death of a loved one. Pastoral care also includes providing support in times of transition from aging to down-sizing or job loss. Personal difficulties ranging from debt to depression, relationship struggles, the challenges of parenting as well as the challenge of caring for elderly parents, also benefit from Pastoral Care. The time commitment after an initial 4 hour workshop (Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> 1 – 5 pm) is anticipated to be 2.5 hour for a monthly team meeting, plus 2 to 4 hours a month of individual activity and occasional follow-up with the minister. Applications are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

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## Share the Plate – UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund

Due to a confluence of school vacation and Master’s Week our regular Second Sunday Share the Plate envelopes will be available from Sunday April 3 – Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>. The compiled donations will be forwarded to the UUA immediately following Easter.

Following the devastating earthquake and resulting tsunamis on Friday, March 11, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has been in contact with our religious partners in Japan to express our concern and our willingness to partner with them in recovery efforts.

UUA President Peter Morales issued a statement in which he said, "We, at the UUA, will hold the country of Japan in our hearts, as we work to support them in their time of great need."

Our partners, including Rissho Kosei-kai, Tsubaki Grand Shrine, the Konko Church of Izu, the Tokyo Dojin Church, and the Japan Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom are all in discernment about the specific efforts they will be taking to support recovery work, and the UUA and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) will walk with them in the directions that are ultimately chosen and will make all appropriate decisions about the distribution of the funds.

We, UUCA, join with Unitarian Universalists throughout the United States by contributing to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund which will support the work that our Japanese partners pursue.

FYI: UUSC = Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. For more information visit the UUA or the UUSC website.

<http://www.uua.org/giving/funds/179219.shtml>

[http://www.uusc.org/content/uusc\\_joins\\_uua\\_in\\_responding\\_to\\_japan\\_disaster](http://www.uusc.org/content/uusc_joins_uua_in_responding_to_japan_disaster)

### March Attendance

March 6th  
122

March 13th  
114

March 20th  
104

March 27th  
118



## UU's Got Talent!!!

### And, we're putting on a Talent Show!!! April 30th

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, Our Congregation is putting on a Multi-generational Talent Show organized by Owen Zylla, the Teen Group and the C.R.E. Committee. Admission/Participation is \$5.00 per person with a maximum of \$20.00 for a family. Infant and young toddler childcare will be provided as needed. (If possible, please let us know ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.)

**We are looking for all sorts of people to share their talents.**

**Perform:** Sing – Play a Musical Instrument – Dance - Read Your Favorite Poem - Tell Jokes - Magic Tricks

**Display:** Your Science Project - Paintings – Photos - Architectural Drawings - Jewelry – Potted Plant/ Arrangement - Sewing Project

**Or Any Other Talent You May Have !**

It doesn't matter what your talent is as long as it can be performed/demonstrated between five to ten minutes or displayed on a wall, table or floor.

Sign-up sheets are available at the Talent Show display table in the hallway. Submit it to Ruth Garrison, Pam Harris, Owen Zylla or to the Church Office mailbox.

### **There are also other ways to participate:**

- Bring some culinary delights for the bake sale
- Bring some horticultural successes for the plant sale
- Donate an item for the raffle drawings – items for young and old
- Volunteer to take a turn working a table, set-up or clean-up

"I think creativity is very important to have. It's a way for other people to recognize your achievements' and that makes you feel good about yourself. Expressing a talent, making art or anything else you may be good at is an excellent way to make other people feel good too. That's why I've created the UUs GOT TALENT Fundraiser that anyone can join. " —Owen Zylla

## Share the Plate Nominations Sought

*April Wilson, Social Justice Committee Chair*

Thanks to the generous Share the Plate donations in March, we were able to give nearly \$500 to Threshold to Freedom to assist homeless women in Augusta!

Help us continue to support non-profit organizations in Augusta by nominating a group to receive upcoming Share the Plate collections. If you are affiliated with a non-profit that shares our UU values, please fill out a Share the Plate nomination form. The forms are located in the mailbox on the office door.

In addition to seeking an organization for May's Share the Plate, we are accepting applications for organizations to support in the 2011-2012 church year. For more information about Share the Plate, please contact Ann Sutherland.

We welcome stories, news and pictures sent in for our monthly Newsletter. Guidelines can be found at: [UUAugusta.org](http://UUAugusta.org) or e-mailed directly to the church office [officeadmin@uuaugusta.org](mailto:officeadmin@uuaugusta.org)

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Church of Augusta**

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