



# Chalice in the Mountains

OCTOBER 2008 • Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury

## OUR CONGREGATION

The Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury meets at 10:30 AM (Service and Sunday School), and is located on the corner of Cherry Street and Eastern Avenue (across from the Canterbury Inn).

For further information, please call Rev. Brendan Hadash at 802-748-8074. [bhadash@sover.net](mailto:bhadash@sover.net)

Newsletter Editor: Pat Paine

## CHURCH WEBSITE

[//stevefinner.org/UUChurch/WelcomePage.htm](http://stevefinner.org/UUChurch/WelcomePage.htm)

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WEBSITE

[//www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

## NH VT DISTRICT WEBSITE //

[www.nhvt.uu.org](http://www.nhvt.uu.org)

## MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Brendan Hadash

### Monday & Friday

Days off (Don't hesitate to call in case of emergency)

### Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

Call at home 802-748-8074

### Thursday

Office Hours at the Church 3-5 PM 802-748-2442s

## Parking

The parking lot next to the church is owned by the apartment building. Sunday morning please save the right side of the lot (facing the apartment building) for the tenants. *During the week, please park on the street.*

Thank you.

*OPENING WORDS:* May the glory of the passing away of autumn lie about us fresh gold for a time.  
And when the dark comes, and the cold may we remember how today stands in glory,  
How we walk in bounty heaped upon earth's dark carpet  
How we move knee deep in abundance flung against night's winter curtain.

We are thankful for its coming and for its passing.

*Barbara Pescan*

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Oct. 5 Spirit of the Maya** - Daisy McCoy

**Oct. 12 Who is Our Neighbor?**

**Oct. 19** Recording artist Dawna Hammers of Burlington, director of the Burlington UU Church's Children Choir, joins us for a program on **Music and Spirituality** which she will lead. She will also be favoring us with some wonderful vocal renditions along with the choir.

**Oct. 26 Whatever Happened to Zeus and Hera?**

## Regular Events

**Potluck and Choir Rehearsal** Tuesday, October 7 at 5:30PM

**Choir** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 9AM

**The Seekers** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 7:00 PM

**Community Concerns** Second collection on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**RE Committee** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 9:45 AM

**Board Meeting** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, noon

**Committee on Ministry** monthly

**Movie Discussion** at Catamount 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday after the 7:00 PM show

**Worship Committee** monthly

**Finance Committee** monthly

**Newsletter Deadline** Last Sunday of the Month

## **UU Joke of the Month**

UUs go to church because some questions just can't be answered by Google.

Birthdays  
Oct. 5 Pat M  
Oct. 23 Aren T

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE - Farewell George**

Last night I held the hand of an old UU friend of mine as he lay dying of cancer. I gave his hand one last squeeze and he squeezed my hand in return in what would probably be his final goodbye to me. My eyes are tearing up as I write these words, however, the universe had two messages for me as I drove home. When I turned on my iPod, the first song I heard was "Don't Cry For Me". My eyes have tears in them because I will miss visiting with George. I will not probably cry for him. I had spoken with George a few days earlier and he told me he had no fear of death. He had had a long and a full life. His two sons would be with him at the end. When I think of George in the future it will be with fondness and not sorrow. The second song I heard was "I've got a lot of living to do". I am blessed to be a minister. I am invited into the lives of people at times of great joy such as births and weddings and at times of great sorrow such as illness and death. I am constantly receiving messages that remind me that every day we should live life to its fullest and to love as deeply as we are able.

## **MUSINGS FROM THE MODERATOR**

I think that one must believe in the validity of intuition in order to believe in spirituality. As a materialist, as a follower of the great British empiricists, I do not. Or, at least until quite recently, I did not. That is why, despite my earnest effort, I could never quite define spirituality in a way that I found intellectually acceptable.

I trace the turning point in my struggle with spirituality to this past summer when, inspired by the Rev. Ms. M'Ellen Kennedy, for the first time I looked into Universalism, which is the other half of the present-day Unitarian-Universalist Association.

You may ask: if I could not believe in the theories of knowledge held by Unitarians like R.W. Emerson and all the New England transcendentalists, why was I so intrigued by them for so many decades? The answer is simple: The New England Unitarians had an enormous influence on our literature (and some of that influence continues today). One need recall only Thoreau's *Walden*, his "Civil Disobedience," and Emerson's fertile essays "Nature" and "Self-Reliance," to name but a few of our American classics.

Furthermore, the whole romantic movement — the literature I love — was wedded to intuition. Perhaps this attraction for me is similar to being in love with a woman whose parents one abhors.

Anyway, dear friends, to slightly paraphrase Emerson: Do not look back upon the past, back upon that summer of refulgent days that warmed our souls and bodies, whose floods of life streamed around us! No. Think now only of the present! Live from day to day; gather the harvest in the fields; glean the kernels that are scattered in the furrows; imbibe the boundless beauty of nature — the beauty of our great mother who, to arouse our spiritual delight, clothes herself in the variegated hues of this glorious New England autumn. We welcome October with open arms.

## NOTES FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC



First, I want to thank the choir for their very hard work and dedication in rehearsing "Shalom Aleikhem" which they sang so beautifully last Sunday. With the wonderful accompaniment by Alexandra Patch on piano and Peter Fichte on clarinet, this was our finest hour musically.

I also want to welcome our newest member, Leslie W. This month we will be singing on October 12 and 19th. Our anthem on October 12th, will be "There's a Light" by Beth Nielsen Chapman. On October 19th, we will be graced with the wonderful singing talents of Dawna Hammers, who along with the choir, will sing Joyce Poley's "Sing Your Sorrows Away". Our monthly potluck rehearsal is Tuesday, October 7 at 5:30.

## RE NEWS

Our classroom has been a busy, happy, productive place. The children last week made books and filled the pages with UU principles, ideas and thoughts about our congregation. With Brendan I am told they had a wonderful time learning some flood stories and this week we explored a few creation stories including a silly story from the Inuit's about how Raven brought light and darkness to the world. We will continue to explore these topics across various traditions and play some fun games to get rid of our wiggles.

Next week we are heading over to see the exciting happenings at the Catamount Arts Center. We will be attending a Fiber Fair during our hour of church school and seeing the new facility of the art center and wishing our neighbors well in their new ventures. The kids are in for some hands-on fun. Parents who have not signed permission slips should do so as they arrive next Sunday and parents who have special concerns regarding their children attending the trip should please call me (at 748-8108) so that we have proper support for them during the field trip.

Special thanks to Chris B for arranging NEDO to add insulation to our building so that we stay warm this winter, save some dollars and treat the earth more kindly. Thanks also to Sarah B for her help in RE. I hope you and your family are getting outdoors and enjoying the glory of the fall colors! Blessings. Dana

## CHURCH NEWS

### Parade This Sunday

In honor of our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will march with our banners in St. Johnsbury's fall foliage parade. Nine volunteers are needed. Call Brendan now. We gather at 1:30 on Summer Street and march at 2 pm.

### Honoring the Oddfellows

The Oddfellows who met in our building have disbanded. As a parting gift they gave us a donation of \$6000 toward our wheelchair ramp. To thank them we will give a dinner in their honor on October 10. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Chris.

**Oct. 15, 5:30 pm** Paul Kival group has a potluck and discussion at our church.

**Oct. 28, 7 pm** La Leche League at the church

### Seekers - First and Third Thursdays 7 pm

Oct 2 Buddhism

Oct. 16 Confucianism

### 4th Annual North Country Simultaneous Chess Exhibition

Sat. Nov. 22, 1 PM, USCF Master Doug Grant

For the Benefit of the UU Congregation of St. Johnsbury, VT

Details: \$4/board. Please bring [Staunton] sets. Re-entries will be generally permitted. [dgrant116@gmail.com](mailto:dgrant116@gmail.com).

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Oct. 4** Catamount Arts grand opening

**Oct. 14, 7 pm** Joint Ecumenical Women's meeting Methodist Church

**Nov. 1, 1-5 pm** Healing the Mind, Body and Spirit Health & Wellness Expo St. Johnsbury Academy Field House

## **NNE DISTRICT EVENTS** (details on the bulletin board)

**Oct 2-4 Young Adult/Adult OWL training** in Yarmouth ME

**Oct. 3,4 and 10-12 B & B** weekends offered by UU Church Brattleboro VT

**Oct. 5. 3 pm Rededication of Winchester Church**, Sermon by Rev. Bill Sinkford president of the UUA

**Oct. 6-8 Brendan is at the District Minister's** conference in Eliot ME

**Oct. 24-26 Youth Con(ference) Grades 7-12** Kennebunk ME

**Oct. 24-26 UU Women and Religion Fall Retreat** at Sebago, ME.

**Oct. 24-25 Small Group Ministry workshops** offered by Rev. M'ellen Kennedy, Barre VT

[Mellenken@aol.com](mailto:Mellenken@aol.com)

**Nov. 7-9 Youth Ministry in Your Congregation** Crawford Notch NH

## **UU EVENTS**

**UU New England Fall Conference October 17-18, 2008**

The Future of Unitarian Universalism Worcester MA

**Featuring the candidates for UUA president;** the UUA Board of Trustees and Moderator Gini Courter; President Bill Sinkford; inspiring and practical workshops; and empowering worship experiences (Brendan and Jane are going. Does anyone else want to come?)

**SOCIAL ACTION ISSUE OF THE MONTH** - Iran - [www.uua.org/socialjustice](http://www.uua.org/socialjustice)

## **MILITARY NEWS**

Sgt Brimmer, Nathan M.

Bco 3/187 INF 3 BCT 101 ABN DIV

(AASLT)

APO AE 09344

We have received more emails from Nate. Please check with Chris or Diane for details.

## Citizen Seminars series

With an expert at your elbow, it's a cinch to figure out the next step to take—whether in home energy renovations, diet and health, or connecting with your community—to come through the “crunch” this winter.

On six Mondays, starting Oct. 6, business and professional people will apply their expertise to these “kitchen table” issues in a Citizen Seminars series at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Admission is free; each seminar is limited to 20 participants, first-come, first-served, with no advance registration or reserved seats.

Home energy renovations, household alternative energy options, safe and affordable food, diet and health, discovering community and facing the future are the topics of the one-hour interactive seminars, set for 4 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 6-Nov. 10. Moderated by James Wuertele of St. Johnsbury, a retired electrical engineer and inventor, the series offers not just information but expertise tailored to the needs of each participant. Problem-solving will be the focus at each seminar, and participants will leave with specific plans for “the next step” towards achieving their goals. “No statistics,” Wuertele promises. “Asking questions and getting answers, with analysis and interpretation—and advice on pitfalls to watch out for,” Wuertele said, is the experience the series will offer.

“You can't get information to act on unless it's specific, problem-solving, personalized,” he noted. “People have these issues on their minds. I want to have people come and learn what to do next, and go away with a plan. Presenters are volunteering to share their expertise,” Wuertele stressed, on a person-to-person basis.

Home energy renovations will be the focus Oct. 6, at the “Zero Energy Buildings” seminar, where John Unger Murphy will share his expertise. Murphy advises builders and architects on energy efficiency, teaches classes on insulating and building performance technologies. He has taught since 1992, and now also writes regularly for Vermont Builder/Architect Magazine.

Following is a list of the other seminar topics, presenters and dates:

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Producing Energy at Home with David Bonta

Entering the solar energy arena in 1979, Dave experimented with solar energy collectors for space and water heating, and since 2001, has developed the renewable energy industry by licensing 15 “Solar Stores” retailing conservation and renewable energy products and systems, and by founding bio-diesel development companies “Global E Industries” and “BioQuantum”. Dave has published *New Green Home Solutions*, co-authored with Stephen Snyder, and lives and works powered by solar energy, and bio-diesel.

October 20<sup>th</sup>: Obtaining Safe and Affordable Food with Melissa Bridges

Presently the Education and Outreach Director for the St. J. Food Co-op, Melissa has a B.A. in Education and Sustainability and a degree from the New England Culinary Institute. She is co-founder of the Passumpsic River Valley Community Garden and the St. Johnsbury Elementary School Garden, and has spent the last decade working throughout Vermont to address food education and issues.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: Health and Diet Choices with Susan Taney, MSN, ANP, BC

A nurse for 35 years, Susan has been working in the medical community of the Northeast Kingdom since 1993 as a nurse practitioner in primary, emergent, HIV, and addictions care. She is an adjunct clinical professor at the University of Vermont School of Nursing and has been a certified meditation instructor for 25 years.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Discovering Your Community with Jim Wuertele

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Facing the Future with George Lisi