



# THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

## OUR MINISTER

Though it is appropriate every day of our lives, it seems that November is a time to be especially thankful for the gift of life, friendship, love and community. Melanie, Roger Pierce and I visited "occupy Boston" the other day and, among other things, we spent an hour or so in the "faith and spirituality" tent. The young man facilitating (he dismissed the term leading) the hour-long session of planning and quiet time, kept repeating the words "thankful" and "grateful" for the movement for change and the opportunity to gather in solidarity with others. The conditions at the camp are pretty spartan, yet the attitudes were, in general, quite chipper and full of energy and hope and determination.

As I preached last week without having yet visited the camp site near South Station, the message from this now international social movement is pretty clear: social and economic inequality is destroying the very fabric of our communities and we must figure out better ways of sharing the goods of the earth. There is simply too much poverty and insecurity in our world that does have the resources to improve the conditions of many, many of us. The central message is pretty clear, the strategy to make that happen less so. Hopefully, with lots of dialogue and widespread input, strategic directions will emerge.

As I reflect on all we are thankful for at this time, I look at our November calendar and realize how much activity is going on in the congregation and around us. Although all of the month's activities are rich, I want to highlight congregational events espe-

cially from Saturday, November 19th, through Sunday, November 27th.

On November 19th, along with the other churches in Essex, we'll have our annual holiday fair. It's always a blast. Try not to miss it. The next day, November 20th, some of us will be with retired UU minister, and now Essex UU member, Sylvia Howe, as she is installed as minister emerita in the Beverly UU church where she served for 10 years. Meanwhile, we will still have regular Sunday service at Essex with a wonderful friend, Rev. Rona Tyndall. Later on Sunday we will gather to hear a rich musical event in our sanctuary, Kibou (Music of Hope), with Japanese pianist, Naoka Sugiyama, and Maria Benotti and Lynn Nowels from Eden's Edge. The benefit concert for orphaned Japanese children will take place at 3pm in our sanctuary. Finally, we will celebrate our congregational thanksgiving with service, choir and a leftover potluck on Sunday, November 27th, at 10am.

Meanwhile, I realize that church does not represent anyone's entire life or set of relationships! Thanksgiving is also a special family time and I pray that each of us is able to celebrate with family or close friends in this special time of the year. I am grateful for our community of faith and I am looking forward to being together in many or all of these ways this month.

*Blessings,*

*Art*



*Social Justice &  
Community Outreach*

C A L E N D A R

Tues. Nov. 1	PFLAG, 7pm
Wed. Nov. 2	Membership/Fundraising, 7pm
Thurs. Nov. 3	Adult Ed., 7pm
Sat. Nov. 5	Coffee House, 8pm
Sun. Nov. 6	New Member Sunday, turn clocks back!!!
" "	ECCO Gathering on Economic Justice, 3-6pm
Tues. Nov. 8	ECCO-Gloucester, 7pm
Wed. Nov. 9	Film: "The End of Suburbia," 7pm
Thurs. Nov. 10	Adult Ed., 7pm
Tues. Nov. 15	Board of Trustees, 6pm
Wed. Nov. 16	Book Club, 7pm
Fri. Nov. 18	Fair Drop off day, 12-6pm
Sat. Nov. 19	Annual Holiday Fair, 9am-2pm
Sun. Nov. 20	Sylvia Howe, minister emerita Beverly UU, 10am
" "	Regular church service in Essex, 10am
" "	Cape Ann Interfaith Thanksgiving, 2pm
" "	Kibou: Music of Hope, 3pm
Sun. Nov. 27	Leftover Sunday, service at 10, potluck at 11
Thurs. Dec. 1	ECCO annual meeting & potluck, 6pm, Lynn
Thurs. Dec. 8	Cook at Open Door Pantry

TURN CLOCKS BACK NOV. 6TH

Look for **Guest at your table** collection boxes in church very soon. This project supports the UU Service Committee.

Our annual **Thanksgiving Food Drive** is well underway for Open Door Pantry. Please remember to bring foodstuffs for needy families. A list of important items is on the collection basket at the front of the church.

We collected over \$400 for our bulb sale to support the **Refugee Immigration Ministry**.

**PFLAG** had an all day presence at the annual Essex Clam fest. The next regular meeting of PFLAG will be Tuesday, Nov. 1.

**ECCO** is part of an educational on the economy at Stonehill College in Easton, MA., on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 3-6pm. Art will be going and is looking for other interested members. Our next ECCO meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 8th**, at 7pm, at the Gloucester synagogue. Finally, ECCO's annual meeting in Lynn will take place on Thursday, December 1, at 6pm. I am hoping to bring **10 people** from **UU Essex**. Any takers? We will be hearing from Daniel Lesser, ECCO's new organizer.

As I mentioned above, I visited "**occupy Boston**" with Melanie and Roger Pierce. As time goes on, we will see how we can support this democratic movement for change.

## CHURCH UPDATES

### SUE PHILLIPS

#### DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Thanks so much to Rev. Sue Philips, District Executive of the UUA, for a wonderful visit on October 16th. Sue offered an inspiring message of the importance of institutional religion and need for individual UU churches to stay connected to our larger UU movement. We are very grateful for Sue's presence and look forward to building stronger ties to our denomination.

#### MEMBERSHIP

For anyone interested in official membership in the church, we will be taking in new members at church service on Sunday, November 6th. If you have interest or want to know more about what this means, please speak with Art.

#### PLEDGE DRIVE

Each year we operate a pledge drive to give members and friends an opportunity to donate what they are able to the maintenance of the church. We sent out a pledge letter a few weeks back. Whether you are able to give a lot or a little, or, at the moment, nothing at all, it would help the Board of Trustees to have as many as possible fill out the pledge forms. Thanks so much for your participation in this important aspect of church involvement.

Also, Eileen Duff, a real estate agent, has offered to share part of her selling fee with the church if a member or friend refers someone to her. Eileen works for Keller Williams.

### MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

We are putting together dinner circle groups. If you haven't had the opportunity to sign up as of yet, please check the list in church. We'll map groups together very soon. Also, we are trying to update the church directory. If you would like to be listed, please sign up at church or contact Debbie Frontiero.

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

We are close to finishing the painting of the front of the church, thanks to a great group of building committee folks. Next we hope to install ceiling fans in the sanctuary, mostly to push the heat down from the ceiling, but also to provide some cool in the Summer. We are in the process of getting bids for painting the Sanctuary as well. As of now we have not set a timeline for that. Nevertheless, with the front steps done and other projects underway, we are making nice progress.

#### FUNDRAISING

Thanks to Barbara Corning-Davis for generating constant ideas around raising of funds. Recently Barbara suggested that anyone who has a get away house might consider renting it to members or friends of the congregation and donating the fee to the church. Please speak with Barbara if that is something you could consider doing. Alan Budreau and Diana Hughes have already done this with their cot-

#### INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

An interfaith thanksgiving service will take place at the Gloucester United Methodist church, at 2pm on Sunday, November 20th. Details are at church.

## ART AND EDUCATION

## THE END OF SUBURBIA

Thanks to Frank Camarada, we will be showing the film, "The End Of Suburbia" on the night of Wednesday, November 9th, at 7pm. The film speaks to the post WWII phenomenon of the development of suburban America and how it became related to the notion of the "American Dream." However, it raises the question as to whether or not this dream is sustainable, i.e., it is so dependent on oil for our cars. A discussion will follow the film. For more information, call Frank at 978-500-2319.

## KIBOU: MUSIC OF HOPE

Don't miss this wonderful afternoon of chamber music ensemble performance with internationally recognized pianist Naoko Sugiyama, cellist Lynn Nowels, and violinist Maria Benotti. This event will take place at our church on Sunday, November 20, at 3pm. It is a benefit concert for Ashinaga, a nonprofit organization that supports Japanese children orphaned in the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Tickets are: \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, \$40 for families. Thanks to Eden's Edge for putting this program together, And to Max Schenk for his work in promoting it.

## Artspace

Thanks to Rollie Ricard for displaying his wonderful art work through October. Next artist up is Kim DeAngelis. Any other artists ready to show?



You can drop off items for the Fair on Friday, Nov. 18, from noon til 6pm. The Fair itself goes from 9am until 2pm on Nov. 19th. Please only donate items that really have worth. We are also doing an art space upstairs, so if you know anyone who would want to display art, please have them contact Lynne Marchetti. A planning committee meets on Wednesday evening, Nov. 2., at 7pm at church. This meeting is open to all. We'll have a list for all to sign up to help. Look for it in church.



## Book Club



The Book Club next meets on Wednesday, Nov. 16th, at 7pm, and will discuss *Maus*, by Art Spiegelman. On December 14th the group will gather to discuss *Meetings with Remarkable Men* by G.I. Gurdjieff. If you really want to read ahead, start with *Hearth and Eagle*, by Anya Seton, the January (18th) selection.

Maryanne Askwyth is now updating the website, so shoot her any photos or ideas that may belong on our online presence.