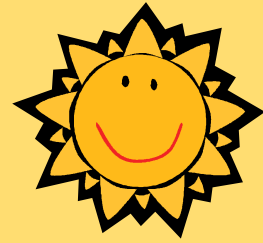


# The Gleam

Summer 2009 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, especially now that we have seen some sun! I made a trip to the sun when I attended the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in June in Salt Lake City. For those of you who have never been, this is the gathering in our Association which takes place each June which brings together delegates and friends from our congregations along with our religious leaders. This year was the year we elected a new president of our Association: Peter Morales. The theme of this year's General Assembly was "Standing on the Side of Love". This is a public advocacy campaign which promotes respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the first of our seven principles which we covenant to affirm and promote. We believe that no one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion,

oppression or violence because of their identities. Standing on the Side of Love is about lifting strong religious voices proclaiming love in the face of fear and hate.

Unitarians Universalists have long stood for justice. This national campaign hopes to elevate and focus religious voices in the public square to influence public attitudes about the worth and dignity of all. However, the organizers are aware that the most important place that change is created is on the local level. We here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield understand this, as we ended the church year with a special ceremony mounting a rainbow flag that will be flown during services. But of course flying the rainbow flag is not enough to truly stand on the side of love. And sometimes standing on the side of love can stretch us into uncomfortable new areas, perhaps "agreeing in love" but not always agreeing how to get where we want to go as a church or a community member. This campaign asks us all the question, "what would love demand of us?" Food for thought as we move through these summer months and towards our ingathering on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

What would love demand of us as we think about how to be together as a faith community? What would love demand of us as we think of our place in the larger community of Wakefield and beyond? How do the demands of love and our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person shape what we plan for programming within our walls—how we reach to those outside our walls who may be looking for a liberal religion where they can explore their spirituality without the religious trappings that may have gotten in the way of going deep into the place of meaning?

You may wish to learn more about the Standing on the Side of Love initiative by visiting [www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org). It's worth a trip just for the pictures from General Assembly. As you enjoy your summer plans, I would encourage you to think about what this place means to you, where we can stand of the side of love. There will be ways to share that wisdom in the coming months, whether you start now by attending the Sunday morning walks at the Breakheart Reservation and chatting with each other or sitting with the Meditation Practice Group Sunday evenings.

You may wish to join the Rise Up Singing group on August 21<sup>st</sup> or give me a call just to chat or let me know what is happening in your life. And in the fall we will discern together in various ways how we can stand on the side of love.

Walking with you in faith,

Maddie

## Table of Contents

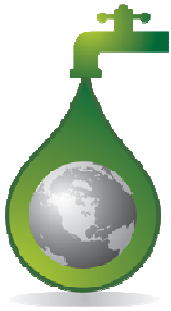
Pages 1-3	Worship, Ministry, Stewardship
Pages 3-7	Committees News, Music, Happenings
Page 8:	Volunteers, Church Officers
Page 9:	Church Events List for July & August

## Meditation Practice Group—The Sacred Pause

Our Meditation Practice group meets weekly on Sundays at 5:00 PM on the stage in our Social Hall. We continue to meet during the summer months. We often reflect together on our meditation practice and are currently reading a passage each week from Gunilla Norris' *Sharing Silence: Meditation Practice and Mindful Living*. Allow about an hour and bring your meditation cushion, if you have one, or you can sit in a chair. The group is open to everyone; there is no commitment to be there every week and no cost. For more information, call Maddie Sifantus at 508-358-7091 or email her at [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org).



### An Aqueous Reminder...



At our ingathering service on **Sunday, September 13**, we will have our traditional **Water Ceremony** at which small amounts of water from around the world, the country, and Wakefield will be gathered into one bowl, signifying our coming together for a new church year. On your summer travels, please remember to bring back a small amount of water--perhaps a film canister's worth--from near and far. At the service we will have a chance to say where our water is from and to commingle our waters for us in future child dedications and ceremonies. **Don't forget your water!**

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### **A Big Thank You to All Members and Friends!**

We are pleased to inform you of the success of our Supplemental Pledge Drive this past spring. Many thanks to all who increased their pledges or made a building fund donation.

This Pledge Drive totaled \$4993. Our 2009-2010 approved budget included \$5204 in Supplemental Pledges. (For more information about the shortfall of the 2009-2010 budget at the April 15, 2009 all-church meeting, please refer to your May Gleam.) In order to balance the 2009-2010 budget we needed \$5204, and we just about accomplished this. We made excellent progress in accumulating enough monies in our building fund. Our trustees have agreed to transfer \$5,000 from the Trustee Fund to the Building Fund, which is more good news. These two things will allow the church to put up a new roof this summer, which is very exciting news! We will keep you updated on the progress of the new roof. Without your support, these goals could never have been attained.

Thank you! Together we will make sure that our wonderful church community continues to thrive!

From the Board of Management



**Please remember to send in your pledge amount over the summer.** Payments can be mailed to the church, left in the Collector's mailbox at the church or mailed directly to the Collector during

the summer break. Thank you. If you have any questions regarding pledges, please contact the Collector - Kelli Parece at 781-245-3965 or [kparece@verizon.net](mailto:kparece@verizon.net).

**Don't Forget! We are an Amazon.com affiliate!** Shopping online? Start by going to our website: [www.wakefielduu.org](http://www.wakefielduu.org). Scroll down to the Amazon.com search box on the left and start shopping! All purchases made after entering Amazon.com via our website will earn our congregation a referral rate up to 8.5%, depending on the shipped items' volume. How easy is that?

July 1 – July 21 = \$24.98 2009 YTD = \$93.18 (our fiscal year) Thank you, shoppers!

## From the R.E. Committee - Our Fall Curriculum:

### Christianity and Uus.

How do we talk about Christianity as Unitarian Universalists?  
How do you talk about Christianity as a Unitarian Universalist?  
For me, it is more my past than my present.



I grew up in a town where the churches were named after saints.  
The two choices of schools were public school and catholic school.  
In catholic school there was a religion class.  
I felt REALLY bad about how our family didn't go to church.  
Now, I wish public school had a religion class too.  
My thinking is that in public school, they would have presented religions;  
Presented them as the historical happenings – Is ritual, is belief not something that happens?  
Or rather, I wish we learned about more than ancient belief systems of foreign continents.

I went to a summer camp in the Adirondacks.  
I sang songs about Jesus and the fruits of the spirit.  
I made friendship bracelets and contemplated bible verses.  
My favorite song was "Faith like a child," by the band Jars of Clay.  
I came home trying to convince my mom to take me to church.



I moved to a new town, a new state, on the other side of the Mason-Dixon line.  
My mom took me to a church where they had gay lay people in the pulpit.  
At the church they celebrated both Passover and Easter.  
We moved again and I went to a new church.  
The minister sang to us and with us as we met in a school cafeteria.  
She came to visit me when I was ill and brought me books about goddesses.  
I did a reading about the reality of the biblical Mary, around Christmastime.  
I remember talking about how she would be my age.  
Saying that the word used for virgin really could be translated as a girl of marriageable age.  
In school I would say "no, as a UU Church we are not Christian.  
But, we do as a community value our Jewish and Christian heritage."

I wonder what life would be like if I didn't know the story of Noah's Ark?

I wonder what I would think of Jesus if I had never wandered into a Unitarian Universalist Church. If I had never heard the words, "The unexamined Faith is not worth having."

I still remember the words to my favorite song from that camp  
They say that love can heal the broken  
They say that hope can make you see  
They say that faith can find a Savior  
If you would follow and believe  
with faith like a child  
The concept of 'Faith like a child' is deeper for me now.



How do you talk about Christianity as a Unitarian Universalist?

### Call for Volunteers to Help with R.E...

We need people sign up for the fall:

We need help with talking to the kids about each of the subject areas. Our fall curriculum will focus on the Christian history of our church and our community. The four subject areas are local and global Christianity, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. Each session will run three weeks and would require you to be downstairs two out of three weeks.

We need help from people who have toolboxes. The wheels on our rolling walls are coming off.

We need help giving the nursery some love and affection in the form of cleaning all the toys and surfaces and also in volunteers to stay down during intergenerational services so that there are always two adults with the children.

We need help with a guest at your table skit - Looking for ideas and actors.

We need help Spreading the word!

Come join us as we wander around in the spiritual woods of Unitarian Universalism and the many faiths of our community and of the world.

Sign up by emailing Starbuck at [SarahStarbuck529@GMail.com](mailto:SarahStarbuck529@GMail.com)

**The RE Committee** will be meeting during the summer. All are welcome to attend! We will be planning our curricula for next year. If you would like to attend and need to know when and where we'll meet, or can't attend the meeting and have a suggestion or concern to share, please contact Starbuck Hersey, our DRE, or Committee member Susan Kilkelly or Lucy Skeldon.

**Don't forget -- Summer  
Reservation Walks**



**Sunday**



**Breakheart**



Each **Sunday from June 21 through August 30:**

9:00 am—meet at the Wakefield entrance of **Breakheart Reservation** for a walk. Children and dogs welcome!

10:30 am—meet at Brother's, 404 Main St. Wakefield for breakfast.

POC: Wendy, (781) 246-9751 [wendy.dennis@verizon.net](mailto:wendy.dennis@verizon.net)

Come once or twice, come every week—a great way to stay in touch over the summer!

### **Safe Congregations**

The Safe Congregations Committee (SCC) meets once a month and updates/checks various aspects of church safety. All are welcome.

The August meeting as of this publishing is yet TBD; please refer to the church calendar or contact Committee Chair Kelli Parece at 781-245-3965 or [kparece@verizon.net](mailto:kparece@verizon.net) with any questions or SCC concerns.

## ***RISE UP SINGING!***

If you get an email from me, the tagline at the bottom, along with my contact information and links to places like our church website, is the West African phrase, “If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing.” There was a time, not so long ago, when singing was a part of everyday life, as much as talking, dancing and religion. I truly believe that singing together is each of our birthrights, whether we are singing songs in church, while we weed the summer garden or together with other folks as we have been these last months in our Rise Up Singing group at the church. You can join in the fun on the third Friday evening of each month at 7:30 PM. We meet in the Social Hall downstairs at the church. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome to this informal and spirited evening of shared music making. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one. Some copies will be available for those who don’t have their own. There is no charge to attend. All ages are invited to join me, members of our church and the larger community. Our next meeting will be Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> and our first meeting of the fall will be Friday, September 18. For more information, call me at my home office: 508-358-7091 or leave a message on the church answering machine (781-245-4632).



Yours in singing,

Maddie

### **Linden Tree Food Cooperative**

Our church is home to the Linden Tree Food Coop which orders a variety of food, household products, personal care items, pet items, etc. for its members each month. The members select their choices from a catalog they receive in the mail monthly which includes sales items for that month. They submit their orders by the Sunday

before the second Thursday of the month (see calendar) and pick up their orders at the church on the second Thursday between 7-8 pm. Contact George Snow at 781-246-0365.

### We Are a Welcoming Congregation



Having fulfilled the requirements of our denomination to be a "Welcoming Congregation", the Wakefield UU Church is intentional about celebrating the presence and full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life. We also welcome all persons regardless of race, economic status, theological and political perspective, or other distinctions that keep us from embracing our common humanity. We acknowledge that we still have work to do and we welcome your advice about how we may be more welcoming. We want to say, truthfully: All are welcome here!"

### **With Mugs, Red Means Go...**

...and introduce yourself!

The Membership Committee purchased **RED** mugs and asks that guests and visitors use them at coffee hour so we will know who is new to our church. Please look out for the **RED** mugs and take a minute to say "Hi" to our guests and visitors during coffee hour. If you are a guest or visitor, or have been away for a while, please use one of our **RED** mugs for your tea or coffee.



### See Something Needing Fixing?



Talk to a Property Committee member: Mike Blake, Steve Breton, Matthew Jewett, Matt Lowry, George Snow, or email [admin@wakefielduu.org](mailto:admin@wakefielduu.org).

To see the current Property Committee Task List, which includes what has already been done this winter, go to:

<http://www.wakefielduu.org/PropertyCommitteeTaskList.PDF>

### Calling all Potential Piano Students!!!!

**Alla Vishnevetsky**, our esteemed accompanist, is not just an extremely talented pianist; she is also an excellent teacher. If you, your child, or anyone you know has ever thought about taking piano lessons, this is the perfect opportunity.



For more information, you can call Alla at 617-776-5362 or email her at [markalla@hotmail.com](mailto:markalla@hotmail.com).



### UUA Connection

We've had a lot on our plate the past few years, and we still have a lot of challenges to face as to our building and congregation. However, it is worth our while to keep in tune with the happenings in the larger Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

If you are a member of the congregation, you should be getting The UU World magazine delivered to your home. And anyone can access the online version at <http://www.uuworld.org/>.

Yet another resource is the Monthly Mailing to Congregations, a collection of announcements and updates from the staff groups and committees of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, and from the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). You can access these packets online by going to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/congregationalmonthly/>

#### **From the Editors:**

All submissions to the Gleam must be in writing -- e contact name, phone #, and/or email address for each submission. Please email submissions to [news@wakefielduu.org](mailto:news@wakefielduu.org), and include the word "Gleam" in the subject line.

#### **The next Gleam deadline**

NOTE: If you receive a "paper copy" of the Gleam, you could receive an electronic copy of the Gleam, please let us know. If you do not want a paper copy, we will put you on the "online" Gleam email list. The cost is \$5.00. Every bit helps!

**The following volunteer positions are available each week. Please consider helping out on a monthly or occasional basis.**

Worship: Usher, Announcer,



## **Church Officers and Staff**

**Minister** - Rev. Maddie Sifantus  
7 Holiday Rd., Wayland, MA 01778  
(508) 358-7091 [msifantus@aol.com](mailto:msifantus@aol.com)

**President** - Wendy Dennis  
12 Armory St., Wakefield, MA 01880  
(781) 246-9751 [wendy.dennis@verizon.net](mailto:wendy.dennis@verizon.net)

**Vice-President** - Dennis Fardy  
68 High St., Stoneham, MA 02180  
(781) 279-1445 [dfardy@tridentinsurance.net](mailto:dfardy@tridentinsurance.net)

**Treasurer** - Matthew Jewett  
30 Byron St., Wakefield, MA 01880  
(781) 224-0135 [mdjewett@hotmail.com](mailto:mdjewett@hotmail.com)

**Clerk** - Janet Schuchter  
68 Holland Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880  
(781) 245-0735 [jschuchter@verizon.net](mailto:jschuchter@verizon.net)

**Collector** - Kelli Parece  
16 Rossmore Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880  
(781) 245-3965 [kparece@verizon.net](mailto:kparece@verizon.net)

**Board of Directors** -  
Janine Fabiano: 781-245-0631  
[j9fabiano@yahoo.com](mailto:j9fabiano@yahoo.com)  
Michael McLane: 781-224-0133  
[mmclane2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mmclane2002@yahoo.com)  
Sheila Moran: 781-246-9442  
[Semoran12@yahoo.com](mailto:Semoran12@yahoo.com)

**Religious Education Dir.** - Starbuck Hersey  
652 Essex Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930  
(443) 745-8338 [SarahStarbuck529@gmail.com](mailto:SarahStarbuck529@gmail.com)

**Pianist** - Alla Vishnevetsky  
88 Wheatland St. # 3 Somerville, MA 02145  
(617) 776-5362 [markalla@hotmail.com](mailto:markalla@hotmail.com)

**Church Rentals** - Wendy Dennis  
(781) 246-9751 [wendy.dennis@verizon.net](mailto:wendy.dennis@verizon.net)

#### **How to Reach Us:**

**Address:** - 326 Main St, PO Box 529,  
Wakefield, MA 01880

**Telephone:** 781-245-4632  
**Website:** [www.wakefielduu.org](http://www.wakefielduu.org)  
**Email:** [admin@wakefielduu.org](mailto:admin@wakefielduu.org)

**Yahoo Group:**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/>  
**mail the Yahoo Group:**  
[wakefielduu@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wakefielduu@yahoogroups.com)

Greeter

Coffee hour: Set-up, Clean-up, Baked goods

And, since we don't have a dumpster or town trash pickup, we need to take turns bringing a bag or two of trash home with us.

Having one or two folks available to take a turn, here and there, opening the sanctuary radiators early Sunday mornings would be great!

**You can sign up on the database at:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WakefieldUU/database> or contact the following person for the specific task:

Greeter: Serena Murley – 781-481-9177

Usher: Janet Schuchter – 781-245-0735

Announcer: Peter Stickel - 781-245-8029

If you can help with Coffee hour Baking, Set-up, or Clean-up, please sign up on the Yahoo database, email [admin@wakefielduu.org](mailto:admin@wakefielduu.org) with the date and task or, if you are not online, call Nancy Trimper at 781-245-8562.

**July/August Events at the Church**

**Better Know a UU**

Don't forget—One of the best way to meet folks or get to better know others in the congregation is to join a committee or volunteer for a one-time, occasional, or ongoing task or project.

Another way is to simply attend church-sponsored events. There is a lot going on, so check your calendar and come have some fun!

- |           |          |                                                     |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 7/19/2009 | 9:00 am  | <b>Sunday Morning Breakheart Walk</b> (wakefielduu) |
| 7/19/2009 | 9:00 am  | Joyful Hands set-up (wakefielduu)                   |
| 7/19/2009 | 3:00 pm  | Rental - Laugh Club (wakefielduu)                   |
| 7/19/2009 | 5:00 pm  | <b>Meditation Practice Group</b> (m_sifantus)       |
| 7/20/2009 | 9:00 am  | Joyful Hands Art Camp (wakefielduu)                 |
| 7/20/2009 | 7:00 pm  | <b>Choir Committee</b> (j9fabiano)                  |
| 7/21/2009 | 6:30 pm  | dog training class (wakefielduuchurch)              |
| 7/25/2009 | 12:45 pm | <b>My Brother's Table</b> (wakefielduuchurch)       |

7/27/2009	9:00 am	<a href="#">Joyful Hands Art Camp</a> (wakefielduu)
7/27/2009	7:00 pm	<a href="#">Choir Practice</a> (j9fabiano)
8/3/2009	7:00 pm	<a href="#">Choir Committee</a> (j9fabiano)
8/8/2009	9:30 am	<a href="#">Board of Management Retreat</a> (wakefielduu)
8/9/2009	11:00 am	<a href="#">Jake Fortier Child Dedication</a> (m_sifantus)
8/13/2009	7:00 pm	<a href="#">Food Coop pickup</a> (j9fabiano)
8/16/2009	3:00 pm	<a href="#">Rental - Laugh Club</a> (wakefielduu)
8/17/2009	7:00 pm	<a href="#">Choir Committee</a> (j9fabiano)
8/30/2009	10:15 am	<a href="#">Sunday Morning Breakfast</a> (wakefielduu)

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield  
PO Box 529  
Wakefield MA 01880