

## “The Living Universalism Project”

For several years, changing our name has been a common topic of conversation by the Board of the Universalist Heritage Foundation. Now, that change has happened. *At its May 1 meeting the Board voted unanimously “that we begin referring to ourselves in all our materials as ‘The Living Universalism Project,’ and begin the process of researching how to make this name change legal.”*

‘Universalist Heritage Foundation’ was chosen as our name when the founders of the organization had only begun to discern what the nature of our work was to be. Although initially we were focused on our history, that quickly began to change. Infusing the vitality of the Universalist message into contemporary Unitarian Universalism, and influencing the future of this faith have increasingly been our passion. Although we treasure our heritage and remain grounded in it, to be labeled by it is not a true reflection of the work we are doing.

Our “Applied Universalism” conference at Ferry Beach this summer, our Sermon Award Program that encourages reflection on the contemporary power and relevance of the Universalist message, the “Modern Preaching in an Old Style” workshops, and the “Love Saves Project,” are affirmations of the Universalist faith today. Increasingly our attention and our budget turn toward such projects, including funding scholarships for seminarians to deepen their understanding of this saving faith.

For a time you will often see us called “The Living Universalism Project – of the Universalist Heritage Foundation,” to make it easier for folks to follow this transition. But, soon the new name will stand alone. We hope you join our rejoicing at the clarity and power of this new title.

## Other News from the Board

As we send our best wishes to the Winchester Learning Center, which will be moving into new facilities next year, we are engaged in a process of discernment and conversation regarding how our building may best be used in the years ahead. Members of the Board are meeting with a council of local organizations to gather more information and to let the community know of

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## “Applied Universalism”

### *A Week Long Conference at Ferry Beach – August 18-24, 2012*

Ferry Beach was founded on a beautiful stretch of shoreline in southern Maine in 1901 as a site of Universalist summer meetings. For more than a century it has provided education, support, worship, fellowship and recreation for generations of Universalists and Unitarian Universalists.

“Applied Universalism” is a practical conference sponsored by the Universalist Heritage Foundation, focusing on how Universalism can strengthen the Unitarian Universalist movement. *Lay people as well as religious professionals are welcome to register.*

Each day will begin with a short chapel service in the outdoor chapel, followed by presentation and discussion of some aspect of Universalist theology. Topics will include:

- Bridging the divide between Humanists and Theists that can so often paralyze theological discussion in our congregations
- Helping people to confront their Christian or Jewish religious pasts, and to re-appropriate what can still nourish them
- Approaching nature-based spirituality from the Universalist perspective.

Also, each day participants will share and reflect on one or more stories on the theme, “Love Saves.” We will share meditations, hymns, and other worship material. We will hear or preach Universalist-style sermons, delivered without a manuscript.

#### **Conference leaders: Rev. Richard Trudeau, Rev. Paul S. Sawyer**

The Rev. Richard Trudeau is the author of *Universalism101: An Introduction for Leaders of Unitarian Universalist Congregations*. For 17 years he has served the Unitarian Universalist Church of Weymouth, Massachusetts, which is the successor of three Universalist churches.

The Rev. Paul S. Sawyer is the minister of the First Universalist Society of Hartland, Vermont, one of the “Sister Societies” that called Hosea Ballou as their minister in 1802. Paul worked as a teacher and wilderness educator prior to entering the ministry.

Register for this conference through Ferry Beach Park Association’s website: [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org).

Scholarships are available. Until June 1 these are reserved for seminarians. After that time they will be made available to other religious professionals. Please send your request for financial assistance to: [UniversalistHeritageFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:UniversalistHeritageFoundation@gmail.com). Include a brief description of your present professional situation and how you expect that this conference will enrich your service to the Unitarian Universalist community.

# SUMMER SERVICES 2012

## Universalist Memorial Church

### Winchester, New Hampshire

*Beginning Sunday, July 8 at 10:30 am with our*

### -- Centennial Celebration --

Members of the United Church of Winchester and the Winchester community will join with Unitarian Universalists from near and far to mark this centennial.

**Rev. Mark Harris, preaching**

*Minister, First Parish Church  
Watertown, Massachusetts*

### ***Sermon: "A Classless Heaven"***

Universalists once believed that everyone, regardless of wealth or station in life, would be admitted to heaven because God's love embraces the whole human race. How does that theology inform our vision of how Universalism calls us to bring heaven to earth today?

This topic is particularly relevant as the Living Universalism Project of the Universalist Heritage Foundation is exploring how the Memorial Church may best be used in the years ahead. We hope to hear from people of the Winchester area as we consider how the building can best serve the needs of the community, fulfilling Universalist values of justice and of service.

A celebratory reception will follow the service.

## **ALL ARE WELCOME !**

Complete listing of Summer Services on Page 8



*Following the fire that demolished the original building, in which the 1803 Profession of Belief was adopted, Universalists from across the nation contributed to the building of a new Church on this site. With this nationwide support, in July of 1912 the cornerstone was laid for this elegant, brick Memorial church. The vision and commitment of those forebears continues now in the work of the Living Universalism Project of the Universalist Heritage Foundation.*

## “Love Is All Around Us”

*Excerpted from a sermon by Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern of Palo Alto, CA*

### *Universalism – Now More Than Ever*

A song has been singing itself in my head, a song written by a Unitarian Universalist minister named Meg Barnhouse. It expresses this struggle through a dialogue with the most famous words of Julian of Norwich. Julian, sometimes called Juliana, was an English mystic of the 14th century who is as loved as a saint, and has been venerated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. The beautiful and perplexing words that inspired Barnhouse’s song are “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of thing will be well.” That refrain is sung repeatedly in the clear, sweet voice of faith. But the singer challenges,



*Amy Zucker Morgenstern*

*Julian, do you not know, do you not know about sorrow?*

*And Julian, do you not know, do you not know about pain?*

*Julian, do you not know, do you not know about hunger?*

*And Julian, do you not know, do you not know about shame?<sup>1</sup>*

Julian just replies, “all will be well, and all will be well,” and the singer continues, “Do you not know about loneliness? . . . about disease? . . . about cruelty?” She voices all the doubts I’ve ever shouted back at Julian’s apparent complacency. “It’s too much!” she says. “It brought me to my knees.”

And then Barnhouse puts these chiding words in Julian’s mouth:

*No one does not know, does not know about sorrow*

*And no one does not know, does not know about pain.*

Julian knows, too; she also has been brought to her knees by hunger, shame, loneliness, disease, cruelty, and all the troubles of the world. And yet, she affirms, what she heard there on her knees was the assurance, “*All will be well.*” For as she goes on to sing, lovingly addressing her challenger, “*Baby girl, do you not know, do you not know about tenderness? . . . do you not know about friends? . . . do you not know about the spirit? . . . do you not know--it’s only love that never ends.*”

And so she sings, “*All will be well. All manner of thing will be well.*”

Oh, my friends, I’m still arguing with Julian. It isn’t only love that never ends. Pain and loneliness and cruelty all seem to have an awful lot of staying power too. And not everything will be well, not when we turn on the radio a week after the earthquake in China and hear the wails of a woman who has just found her child’s body in the rubble of her school. All the tenderness, love and friendship in the world will not wipe the pain from her heart. And yet . . . and yet . . . they are a blessing and a balm. Julian had a vision,

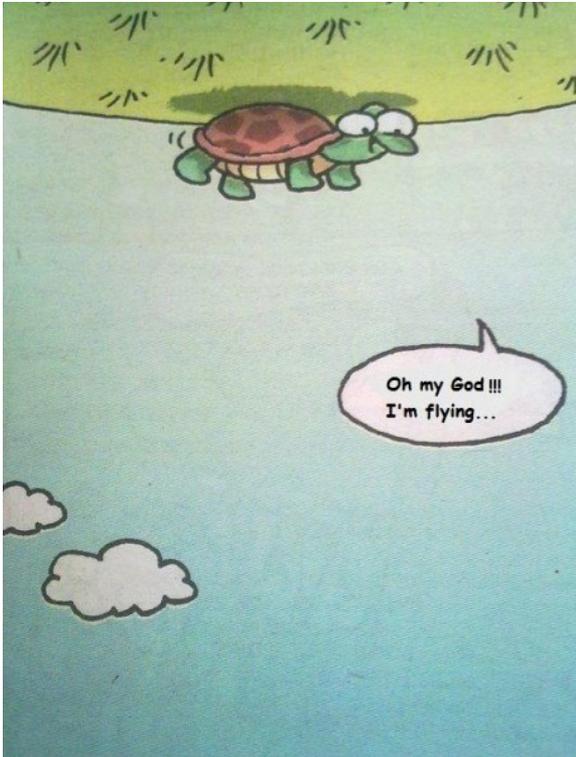
recorded as the Revelations of Divine Love, in which she was assured that God loves and saves everyone. Small wonder she is known as a universalist in her own way: her vision looked into our future and revealed there not hell, but enduring love. Our suffering is not the whole story. Love is as solid as pain.

Love is all around us. It springs forth within us, and it flows from us. It is within our power to make a world in which pain and sorrow do not have the final word. We can give the people something of our new vision. We may possess a small light, but we can uncover it, let it shine, and use it in order to bring more light and understanding to the hearts and minds of men and women.

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<sup>1</sup>Meg Barnhouse, *Mango Thoughts in a Meatloaf Town*, Meg Barnhouse, Spartanburg, SC, 2007.

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HOPE -- It's the best way to see Life

## Our Second Universalist Heritage Tour

*Monday, September 24 – Sunday, September 30, 2012*

For a full week participants will travel through areas of New England that are rich with Universalist history. At most sites informative guides will be on hand to share their expertise and to engage participants in lively discussions of the significance of our history to our lived Universalism today. The itinerary will include:

***Mount Auburn Cemetery***, a National Historic Landmark which is the final resting place of many prominent Universalists and Unitarians, including John Murray, Hosea Ballou, William Ellery Channing, Fannie Farmer, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Dorothea Dix.

***Tufts University***, just one of the many non-sectarian schools of higher education founded by Universalists, and the site of Crane Theological School, 1869-1968.

***Gloucester, Massachusetts***, where the tour will visit the Independent Christian Church, organized in 1779 and the oldest Universalist church in America, as well as the Judith Sargent Murray House, home of the essayist, poet, playwright, advocate for women's rights and wife of John Murray.

***Ferry Beach Park Association***, now in its second century as an oceanfront camp and conference center founded by charismatic Universalist preacher Quillen Hamilton Shinn.

***Boston*** sites will include a tour of the UUA as well as glimpses of 16 Beacon Street, once the headquarters of the Universalist Church of America, and the Charles Street Meeting House, an innovative Universalist venture in the mid-twentieth century. Neither of these sites is presently home for a program of our faith.

***Clara Barton Birthplace Museum and the Barton Center for Diabetes Education***. This residential camp for girls with diabetes was founded by Universalist women in 1932, continuing the work of Universalist Clara Barton who was a teacher, battlefield nurse during the Civil War and founder of the American Red Cross.

***Hopedale Unitarian Parish*** which formed as a worshipping community with Adin Ballou as their first minister following the ending of the communal farming venture in Hopedale founded by Ballou to live out principles of ethical idealism.

***Hosea Ballou's Sister Churches***. Travelers will trace Ballou's circuit-riding route through central Vermont (where foliage should be at its peak), visiting two of the churches in which Ballou preached and hearing a sermon in the tradition of this great founder of the Universalist faith.

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**Universalist Memorial Church in Winchester, NH**, site of the signing of the defining Profession of Belief in 1803. The tour will conclude here with a Sunday morning service.

Registration materials for this rich program are available on our website [www.universalistheritage.org](http://www.universalistheritage.org). The \$850, double occupancy, or \$900, single occupancy, fee will cover travel by van throughout the week, all overnight accommodations and most meals. If you have questions or would like more detailed information, please contact Liz Strong at [estrong110@comcast.net](mailto:estrong110@comcast.net).

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*News from the Board - Continued from page 1*

our intention to serve them in a meaningful way.

Display tables with Universalist Heritage Foundation materials were present at several District conferences in New England this spring, providing a welcome way to spread the news of our activities. If any of you reading this newsletter would like to be a UHF representative at meetings in your District next year, please be in touch with us. We are eager to become more widely known.

Reflecting our name change, a second name has been added to our website: [living-universalism.org](http://living-universalism.org). And, soon there will be a Paypal button on the website to facilitate donations and registration for events.

One of our emerging initiatives is a “Universalist Pulpit Supply Program.” We are in the process of compiling a list of ministers who will be available to offer sermons reflecting our Universalist message. Instead of the usual speaker’s fee, we will ask that the morning’s offering be donated to the Universalist Heritage Foundation. More details on this should be available soon.

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## **Universalist Heritage Sermon Award Winner**

Our panel of sermon readers has selected for this year’s award a sermon titled “Unknown Visions of Love” by Rev. Colin Bossen of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland. It is a deeply thoughtful reflection on organic universalism, which Bossen describes as rising ‘up out of communities of historically marginalized and oppressed people.’ Excerpts from this sermon will be included in our fall newsletter, and the sermon in its entirety will be posted on our website. Thank you, Colin Bossen, for this contribution to our conversation on the contemporary relevance of Universalist theology.

## **Grant Received from the Vermont-Quebec Universalist Convention**

We are very grateful to this body for a grant in support of our Universalist Heritage Tour, helping us to make this rich program available at a modest cost.

**Universalist Memorial Church**  
**Winchester, New Hampshire**

**SUMMER SERVICES**

**Sundays, July 8 through August 19 at 10:30 am**

**July 8**

**REV. MARK HARRIS**

Minister, First Parish Church, Watertown, Massachusetts

*"A CLASSLESS HEAVEN"*

**July 15**

**REV. COLIN BOSSEN**

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, Ohio

**2012 UNIVERSALIST HERITAGE SERMON WINNER**

*"UNKNOWN VISIONS OF LOVE"*

Rev. Bossen is unable to be with us; his sermon will be presented by a member of the Board of the Living Universalism Project

**July 22**

**REV. CAROL TAYLOR**

Retired Minister of Religious Education, Wayne, Pennsylvania

*"THEOLOGAINS ONE AND ALL, 24/7"*

If theology is the meaning making process we believe it to be, then we are constantly sharing our theology with those we encounter every day. Several complications present themselves as we go about our living. This sermon will reflect on those complications.

**July 29**

**REV. AARON PAYSON**

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church, Worcester, Massachusetts

*TITLE TO BE ANNOUNCED*

**August 5**

**REV. MARY EDES**

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes  
Tamworth, New Hampshire

*"THE THINGS WE CARRY"*

What we choose and what we are given to carry with us in this life can affect the direction, the duration, and the degree of joy or sorrow with which we make the journey from womb to tomb. What's in your bag?

**August 12**

**REV. DOUGLAS TAYLOR**

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Binghamton, New York

*"UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S THREE BEST STORIES"*

Our history matters as a touch-point for our values and our identity. But we don't need to go over the whole history of Unitarian Universalism. These three best stories will be enough to have a sense of what this faith is all about.

**August 19**

**REV. ALBERT BOYCE**

Unitarian Universalist Minister, Bangor, Maine

*"EMBRACING THE BENEVOLENT DIVINE"*

The sermon will focus on the spiritual journey of an openly gay Unitarian Universalist minister who travelled spiritually from Christianity to Humanism and back to Christianity.