

North Universalist Chapel Society

2011-12 Adult Religious Exploration Classes

The North Universalist Chapel Society
Woodstock • Vermont

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Courses in Adult Religious Education

This year's series of Adult RE courses began in November with George Wohlgenuth's course on the Bhagavad Gita; George's course will end on December 11, 2011. We will continue after the Holidays with a course on Contemporary Unitarian Universalism in January followed by courses on Avatar (self-empowerment training), Spiritual Poetry (March) and Spiritism (April)

As in previous years, class size will be limited to 12 in order to enable everyone to participate in a conversational style of learning. We would like people to register by filling out and returning the attached Registration Form so that course facilitators can plan and prepare materials.



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Chapel Society
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Woodstock, VT 05091
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If you have any questions you can contact Lynn Peterson (672 3697, or email lpeterson@vermontel.net) or Donna Atwood in the church office (457-2557 or wdstkuu@sover.net).

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Understanding the Bhagavad-Gita

Six sessions on Sundays at 5:30–7:00 PM

Dates: November 13, 20, December 4, 11, 2011

Location: NUCS library

Limited to 12 per class

In this 4 week course the essential reading of the text - To know the Self, to embrace an infinite reality, to find tranquility in action and to offer the fruits of our work to God - will be discussed. A copy of the Bhagavad-Gita as translated by Juan Mascaro or Barbara Stoler Miller is required.

Facilitator:

George Wohlgemuth has been a student of yoga, meditation and Hindu philosophy for 14 years. He spent 4 years in India, two and a half of which were on staff at Shri Muktananda Ashram where he discovered the Bhagavad-Gita.

Contemporary Unitarian/Universalism

Four Sessions on Sundays 5:00 - 6:30

Dates January 8, 15, 22 and 29

Location NUCS Library

Limit 12

Like most religions in the US, Unitarian/Universalism has failed to grow over the past 3 years. One of the leading UU ministers, Galen Guengerich, minister at All Souls Church in NY City, argues that the failure to grow is related to confusion over what is distinctive and important about the UU faith. He argues in a series of talks that Virtue is what distinguishes Unitarian Universalists - Unitarian Universalists are “saved” by Virtue, not by faith or good works. Guengerich presents his argument in a series of dynamic videos using materials ranging from Aristotle and Saint Augustine to Mary Oliver and Tiger Woods. We will watch 4 of the 30 minute videos (one each week) - covering Fulfillment, Justice, Transcendence and Compassion - followed by class discussion.

Facilitators:

Lynn and Nancy Peterson. Lynn and Nancy have been members of NUCS for 7 years and attended the General Assembly in 2010 where they attended Guengerich’s talks.

Introduction to Avatar

Four sessions on Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm

Dates: February 5, 12, 19 and 26

Location NUCS Library

Limit 12

Avatar is self-empowerment training. The Avatar Course is a series of experiential exercises that enable you to rediscover your self and align your consciousness with what you want to achieve. In these six hours I'll teach you some Avatar tools that will help you live more deliberately. We'll explore human attention and learn tools to increase control over your own attention and help you free attention that is trapped in the past. We'll explore the human will that makes choices and decisions, controls motion and attention and learn some exercises to help you take control of your own thinking and eliminate useless worries and quiet your mind.

Facilitator

Jill Davies was introduced to Avatar in 2007 and was so excited by the dramatic change that it had on her state of mind and relationships with family and friends that she took more training to become an Avatar Master, licensed to teach the Avatar Course. By profession Jill is a business consultant working with companies small and large to make change happen. She is a board member of Sustainable Woodstock helping make change happen in town and a board member of the Plymouth Memory Tree Community Fund helping families recover after Tropical Storm Irene.

Spiritual Poetry

Three sessions on Sunday evenings, 5:00-6:30 pm
Dates March 4, 11 and 18
Location NUCS Library
Limit 12

In three classes we will read and discuss memorable poems with the power to transform our senses, heart and mind. We will explore how poetry can bring us to and beyond the threshold of a pervasive awareness of being reconstituted in mind and body, made whole and vividly alive with awareness of an immense power. Is this, we will ask, an experience that we can collectively experience, or is it an experience of solitude?

Poets will include Mary Oliver, TS Eliot, Rumi, Gerald Manley Hopkins, Rilke, Kabir, the Psalms and many others. This course is especially designed for those who wish to expand their access to poetry and spiritual literature.

Facilitator:

Peter Rousmaniere is a member of NUCS and has studied poetry extensively and facilitated other poetry discussions. He is a student of Unitarian thinking and has lived in Woodstock since 2005.

The Spiritist Map of Life's Journey

Four sessions on Sundays, 4:00-5:30 pm

Dates: April 15, 22, 29 and May 6

Location NUCS Library

Limit 12

A conversational exchange using “Kardec’s Spiritism: A Home for Healing and Spiritual Evolution” as a point of discussion. There are approximately 30 million Brazilians who visit 12,000+ Spiritist Centers to treat the spiritual component of mental and physical illnesses and to inspire personal transformation. The centers offer a sophisticated and comforting approach to understanding and developing spirituality, the landscape of life, and life after death of the physical body. Films will be shown to add to our discussion.

Facilitator

Emma Bragdon (PhD Psychology) has written 4 books and co-produced two documentary films on Spiritist themes. She has been spending 3-6 months each year in Brazil since 2001 studying Spiritism and bringing visitors to experience the healing through John of God and witness Spiritist Psychiatric Hospitals.



Registration Form

Your Name: _____
(one person's name only—couples please submit separate forms)

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

We would like to invite as many participants as possible to join in these classes, but need to limit class sizes. Therefore, we ask that you please select only one class to attend, marking your preferences. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list for additional classes (if we have any extra openings) please check waiting list box below.

Please indicate preference by using numbers 1-4 (1 being your first choice, 2 your second choice, etc.). We will try to enroll you in your first choice if possible, but registrations will be processed in the order in which they are received, **so please register early!**

_____	Contemporary Unitarian/Universalism
_____	Introduction to Avatar
_____	Spiritual Poetry
_____	The Spiritist Map of Life's Journey

Please check here if you would like to be on waiting lists for other openings.

For questions on classes call Donna at 457-2557 or e-mail wdstkuu@sover.net

Drop your enrollment form at the church office or mail to:
NUCS/classes, 7 Church St., Woodstock, VT, 05091

Classes held in NUCS library unless noted in class description.

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Woodstock, VT 05091



*Courses in Adult
Religious Education*