

## Seminary Garden

*Theresa Novak*

*Novak is a third-year Starr King M.Div. student. During the 2006-2007 academic year she'll serve as a ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, Maryland. This poem was written in May 2006.*

We live in a wild garden here.

Strange plants

Surround us as we wander.

Some with thorns

And some with -- Oh so fantastic blooms.



Sometimes we tarry on a bench

In rapture captured by

What feels like awesome possibilities found.

Other times we struggle,

Bodies and souls clenched in yearning,

Lost amidst the tough weeds

Deep in the dank muck of despair.

Twisting paths through shade and light

Cooling breeze and warming sun

Graced by solemn mysteries

Giddy laughter

Leads us on.

Forever on

And back

Again, again

To where it seems we started.

Gates we find,  
Some open  
Some locked and rusted shut.  
We enter --  
Or we don't.  
We leave the gate unlatched behind us --  
Or we don't.  
Others wander with us for a time  
Dear souls.



Our fingertips touch in passing  
A whispered exchange  
Passwords shared,  
Promises given.  
The garden feeds us as we grow  
Then  
Too suddenly it seems  
It is time.



Farewell friends  
There are more gardens  
And wonders to share  
We may meet again.  
-- Or not  
But still  
Always  
We have shared this particular garden,  
This particular time.  
Many blessings on the journey.