



# The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth  
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-4393

[www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org)

Volume 41

No. 8 August 2009

## A Month of Sundays

(All services at 10:30 a.m.)

**August 2.** *Dance as Spiritual Practice.* Chrissy Fowler, contradance caller and dancer from Belfast, will share her musings. Can moving to music bring us closer to the divine? Insights from Sufis, shakers, and shamans inform our exploration.

**August 9.** *The Magic of Music.* The UUCE Music Committee will provide a service dedicated to music and the vital role it plays in our lives. "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." (Berthold Auerbach) Come and clean out the cobwebs!

**August 16.** *UUs Linking the Local with the Global.* Jean Davison, an anthropologist who resides in Maine and Austin, TX.

**August 23.** *Me to We - living the interconnectedness of all life.* Sonia Turanski, UUCE Dir. of Religious Education and Exploration.

**August 30.** *Why Are We Here?* What are we running from? What are we running to? A congregational exploration. Anne Funderburk

## CONVERSATION WITH THE BOARD

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INVITES YOU TO STAY  
AFTER SERVICES FOR  
CONVERSATION – TO LISTEN  
AND TO TALK

**TOPIC:  
WHY DO WE COME TO  
CHURCH?**

THE BOARD WILL BE  
AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING  
SUNDAYS: JULY 26, AUGUST 9,  
AUGUST 23

Please mark your calendar and  
plan to join us

Ruth Eveland, Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen,  
Don Martin, John Fink, Eileen Brennan,  
Toby Manring, Anne Ossanna, Cynthia Perkins,  
Judy Rothrock

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## Unexpected Grace

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When I was in elementary school, one of my favorite musicals was Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, a rock opera that tells the Bible story of Jacob's twelve sons, including the rise to fame of his favorite, Joseph. I liked it because I liked the music, because I liked the lyrics, because it was a good story. It has a hero who falls from a place of relative grace to abject desperation but rises from there to become, among other things, a key advisor to Pharaoh. His dream interpretation skills save Egypt from a major famine, as he predicts seven years of plenty followed by seven years of scarcity and is invited to implement the obvious solution: store the excess for the lean years. There's an old saying: moderation in everything. It's hard to find the blessings in scarcity. It's hard to find the blessings in excess. Even the basics of life: food, water, clothing, and shelter can become objects of obsession or overwhelm. This summer's lesson in too much is rain, keeping gardens soggy, beaches empty, and slugs happy. Pity the people who planned their vacation for months and have arrived to find that March got here first, riding the clouds over the long lines of cars that fortunately are still stretching back toward the border and points south.

*Yes and....* there's another perspective. Odds are there are two or three or ten. This is a dramatic lesson in abundance, a chance to find out if we really do understand what to do when we have plenty. Unlike Pharaoh and Joseph, we don't have the capacity to store it all for seven years of famine that will come later. Water is, well, fluid like that.

It comes and it goes. But what can we do with a summer like this? If slugs are good for bait, perhaps we should go fishing.

Blessings,

Leela

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## Caring Committee

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- **Dartha Reid** has received the news that she needs to have triple bypass heart surgery. As of July 15th, the date had not been set. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. The Committee would like to thank Dartha for her excellent service as Co-Chair of the Caring Committee .

- **Evelyn and Peter**: It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Peter Andersen on Friday, July 17, 2009. A Memorial Service will be held at UUCE in late August. Further details will be posted in the Weekly Bulletin and announced at Sunday Services. We hold Evelyn and their families in our hearts and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

- **Toby Manring** planned to enter the hospital to have a hysterectomy on July 22nd. We hope by now she is home and recovering.

- **Betty Jane McMichaels** reportedly is 'looking very good, loved the flowers, and the pain in her leg comes and goes'.

- Please join us on September 26 for a road trip to Brunswick, Maine to attend a workshop on **“Congregations as Caring Communities: Training for Pastoral Caregiver Groups”**, offered by the UU Northern New England District. This training will address the theological and spiritual underpinnings of pastoral care as well as practical issues and “how-tos”. This one-day program is not only for Caring Committee members – it is open to all who are interested in attending. There is no fee to participate. Please email Karen Wigglesworth at [karen.wigglesworth@jax.org](mailto:karen.wigglesworth@jax.org) for more information or to sign up.

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## Religious Education and Exploration

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Greetings from RE with a brief summer hello and update:

- Thank you to Sara, Peggy and Florence for their willingness to step in and cover the nursery during the summer months so that we could continue providing daycare during services.

- The UUCE is now the proud owner of a new digital projector and speaker system. This will allow us the ability to offer computer-generated slide shows, Power Point presentations, and DVD movies for our church. Please contact Sonia if you have presentations that can utilize this new equipment.

- I will be sending out a letter to all returning and prospective RE kids and youth in August. If anyone has ideas for families that I should include in this invitation, please contact me at [sonia@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sonia@uuellsworth.org) or on my cell phone at 266-9530.

- The first few weeks of September I am looking for several people to help register kids at the beginning of church for the new year of RE. This would be similar to what the greeters do at the door, but would include facilitating the beginning of the year signing in process. Let me know if you are available to help.

\*\*\*\*\*REMINDER TO UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: There will be an orientation day for the new year at church Sat., August 22nd from 9 - 12. We will go over curriculum, organize supplies, discuss scheduling of teachers, and all other aspects of the year's RE strategy. This is an important meeting - please plan on being there.

Looking forward to the new year...  
Sonia

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## Goods and Services Auction

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Saturday, October 3 has been set as the date for our fall **Goods and Services Auction**.

Jerry Miller, last year's auctioneer, has promised to donate his services once again.

Planning is underway. Donation forms are available in the Community Room, if you missed the one in the July NUUS.

Last year we brought in \$5,000.00 with half of that amount going to the Hancock County Thaw Fund.

It is time to think about what you would like to donate.

Questions may be addressed to Peggy Strong, Diana Cate, Peggie Geiger, Dawn Fortune, or Susanne Forest.

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## Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

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During the month of August our church community is responsible for staffing the Loaves and Fishes food pantry three mornings each week.

There are sign-up sheets for each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (13 total days in August) on a yellow poster board on the Social Action bulletin board in the community room.

As of July 11 when I am writing this, we have done a wonderful job at signing-up. The majority of the slots have been filled in. But there are several holes. So I may be making calls towards the end of July to fill in those blanks. This willingness on your part to sign-up early is a first. I am so proud of our congregation, I can't stop smiling.

If you have any questions, please call me:  
Judy Rothrock 244-3520

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## From The Board

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### Highlights of the June and July board meetings

June 18, 2009

The whole board was on board for the June meeting as well as Bob Dickens, Dawn Fortune and Rev.

Leela Sinha

#### **Minister's Report**

Leela has been very busy with pastoral care, UUA work, traveling for a wedding and life coach training. The church still doesn't have internet. She leaves for GA June 20 followed by vacation and study and will be back the last week in August.

#### **Housekeeping**

##### **Fire Protection**

Bob stressed the urgency of getting a heat detector as we have no protection 50% of the time. Costs will be: \$700 to install, \$400 yearly. Don reports we are close to having that amount.

##### **Fundraising**

Dawn Fortune is offering us her organizing and fundraising skills to help us raise money. She would like to assemble a team of volunteers to brainstorm ideas and strategies. This was met with cheers and whistles and after a lengthy discussion a motion to approve was unanimously passed.

##### **Other**

Nicki Fox and a friend will be starting up a nursery school in the fall which will fill the gap left by the closing of the Forest Moon nursery school.

There will be Congregations as Caring Communities training for pastoral caregiver groups on September 26 in Brunswick. The cost is \$125. The water project is currently stalled after running out of pipes.

##### **Treasurer's Report**

There is an expense vs. income deficit of \$4,961 and outstanding pledges totaling \$10,000. It is not certain we will have enough money to cover July expenses. Here is some good news: most committees are running below budget, we will not delete our savings account this year and we should have the money for the heat detector.

##### **Meeting with Sara Huisjen**

Sara is in the process of working toward final fellowship which is a 3 year process. She will be asking for board endorsement of her written covenant. She also will provide the board with

monthly written reports of her activities and attend board meetings twice a year.

July 9, 2009

Present: Ruth Eveland, Don Martin, Karen Volckhausen, Eileen Brennan, Anne Ossana, Cynthia Perkins, Jon Fink, Diana Cate.

#### **Housekeeping**

##### **Sonia's contract**

Sonia has been offered a 32 hour position as care giver advocate at Friendship Cottage starting in September. For now, she is committed to continuing her work with RE for 10 hours a week. Everything is in place for the fall, she know where to ask for help. We will need to redraft sections of her new contract. Motion made and passed to accept above with Anne abstaining.

##### **Contract for Little Acorn Nursery School**

They will have a similar contract as previous providers with some clarification about the use of the space plus the addition of a damage deposit. They will start the first of September. A motion was passed to have the board president sign the contract. Negotiations are also proceeding over the possibility of the women who run the school taking over daycare during church starting in the fall.

##### **Treasurer's report**

There are \$3000 of unpaid expenses and a larger short fall of 2008/2009 pledges than anticipated (\$11,105). We need to encourage people to send in their pledges if able; doing it on the installment plan would be acceptable. Enough money has come in to cover July expenses. \$315 was received last Sunday for the Kenya project.

##### **Governance ideas from GA**

Ruth will be dispensing information to us on church governance and ministry through books, condensed summaries, a board appearance from Mary Higgins to help us with structural questions.

We want to keep the congregation informed and will invite congregational participation in conversations after church on July 26, August 9 and August 23.

For full board minutes, see notebook in vestibule.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Volckhausen,  
Board Secretary

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## Message from the President

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### *WHITHER UUCE? Or, What Ruth Got Out of GA*

I can tell you what I learned at General Assembly, but I can't really tell you clearly how it felt. One of the best things about going to GA is there is *so much heart*. The people attending are so open about what the faith and their churches mean to them, you can't help but feel the love. It is a wonderful experience, and I will share the ideas I learned with you so we can all try to find a way to be in that same space (in the words of my generation) within our congregation. (For those of you who want the vicarious experience, I'll also be sending out my day-to-day session-by-session notes around the time this issue of the NUUS gets out.)

### *“Let us begin in love.”*

How we will be moving forward? The Board has done a lot of hard work in the last few months, specifically around the budget development and the ministerial evaluation. It has made complicated decisions, together, by openly discussing its various points of view and absorbing reams of information. I believe it has started down the path to improving how we make our decisions together and I'll be offering some suggestions about how we could do it better.

I will take the next several months to share with the Board and the congregation some of the ideas that have worked well for others. I would also like us to figure out how we can take the necessary first steps toward improving our decision-making methods. There are lots of books and exercises to help us, and I'll be bringing some of those possibilities to our discussions. Heads up to the congregation: this means you, too!

We need to begin by articulating our values, by clarifying what overarching difference we want to make in the world, and by listing the steps we'll take to get there. *We will find a succinct way to express this so everyone in our congregation will know exactly who we are, how we are to be in the world, and how the Church will help them.* I know it sounds daunting and possibly you are skeptical we can do this, but I promise you we can.

Then, we need to determine how we will set up our church structure to provide the best support possible for us to live our values and to do our work.

Making this happen will take a while. I'm going to suggest we set ourselves some short goals (three months worth) so we are looking at eating the elephant bite by bite, rather than facing the whole beast. Again, I really do believe we can do this. Eventually we will need to talk about the nitty-gritty methods for actually doing the organizing and about how we will make changes to allow us be more effective. This can serve as direction for possible changes to the bylaws next year.

The Board has, I think, been seen as the “head” of the congregation in the sense of being the place where sensible decisions are made and plans are worked out. I am suggesting it needs to be, instead, the heart of the congregation. It needs to be the place where we listen to the congregation and share and weigh what we as a whole believe and feel, and then distill it down to directions and ways to get there. The Board will consider several models for listening, which we will evaluate and then will establish a good channel. In the meantime, the Board has set up several “listening sessions” over the next few months to get us started, so please take advantage of this.

Thank you all for being open to these ideas. Thank you for sending me to GA. Let's figure out a way to be the best church community we can be. This is going to be exciting!

Let me close with a quote I picked up at GA: “Leadership is the spiritual process of discerning what one believes (*clarity*), acting on that belief in the public arena (*decisiveness*), and standing behind that action (*responsibility*) despite the varied responses of people (*courage*).”

Rev. Frank Thomas

Yours in ministry,  
Ruth Eveland,  
President of the Board of Trustees

## Personnel

### Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393

[minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org)

### Church Office

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### President of the Board

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[president@uuellsworth.org](mailto:president@uuellsworth.org)

### Director of Religious Education and Exploration

Sonia Turanski: 667-4393 (H); 266-9530 (cell)

[Sonia@uuellsworth.org](mailto:Sonia@uuellsworth.org)

### Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

### Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301

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## Treasurer's Corner

July 1st marked the beginning of our 2009-2010 church fiscal year. It will be a challenging year for us financially. I will make every effort to keep you informed each month on how things are going. We ended the 2008-2009 church year with a shortfall of \$11,105 in pledges received. This means instead of receiving \$87,000 in pledges we received only \$75,895. In the 2009-2010 budget we budgeted for only \$4,000 in shortfall with no cash reserve to fall back on. This means we all need to make every effort to pay our pledges in full. Many thanks to all who were able meet their pledges last year. I am sure there were genuine circumstances for those who were unable to complete their pledges. It is easier if you keep your pledges current throughout the year.

We ended the 2008-2009 church year with a deficit of \$16,108. We were able to cover this deficit by using our cash reserve which is now down to \$1,306. This balance is committed to installing a heat detector in the kitchen and any remaining balance on the water project. This leaves us without any cash reserve. Our miscellaneous income fell short last year. Fund raising was \$2,214 less than budgeted and rental income fell short by \$1,898. We need to do better in fundraising this year. We budgeted only \$5,000 and we should be able to do this. It is \$1,000 less than budgeted last year. Fortunately, our expenses last year ran a lot less than we budgeted or we would have had a deficit of approximately \$30,000. Our estimated expenses are reduced to bare bones in this year's budget leaving us no margin to work with. I am not trying to scare you. I am trying to be realistic. We can do this if we all do our part in fundraising and keeping our pledges current.

Don Martin  
Treasurer

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## From the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)

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As you travel to work or on your way to some wonderful summer vacation, wouldn't you like to take along some UU friends?

**Unitarian Universalist Podcasts** -- sermons, meditations, RE materials and more, are available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship anytime and any place for your ipod, MP3 player, or computer. Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication, "Quest" (also available in print and on-line), gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

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Questions? Contact Beth Murray:

[bmurray@clfu.org](mailto:bmurray@clfu.org)  
617-948-6150

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## Get Your NUUS While It's Hot!

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You know how annoying it is when a business makes a change and tells you it's for your benefit, when you know full well it is just to save them a nickel? You wouldn't mind so much if they'd just tell you the truth? Well, we're about to make a change because it will save us a few nickels.

Beginning in September we'd like to send the NUUS out primarily through email. It will still be available in its regular format for those of you who don't use a computer. However, we really need to reduce the costs associated with the printing and mailing.

Some of you have given Caitlin Tunney, our office-wizard a note to the effect that you're okay with getting it via email, but that hasn't generated the number of volunteers we'd hoped for. So, push is coming to shove. Caitlin will cross-check the Wednesday NUUS bulletin email list with the regular NUUS mailing list and if you're on the midweek update, we'll be sending you the eNUUS that way, fresh off the presses, so to say - no having to check the church website; it will just come to you in an email as soon as Lance Funderburk has worked his editing magic.

We understand that there are some people on our list who have had address changes we haven't yet caught up with. This will give you the entire month of August to resolve this with Caitlin ([caitlin@uuellsworth.org](mailto:caitlin@uuellsworth.org)).

I'm not always thrilled with getting my information this way either, folks, but it will save us a chunk of change in a very tight budget. You can print out just the pages you need to have in hard copy. The back issues will always be available at the UUCE website ([www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org)) if you need to check something you didn't print before you hit that delete button. If you have any questions, please talk with Caitlin.

Ruth Eveland,  
on behalf of the Board of Trustees