



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Vol. 39, No. 12

P.O. Box 5141 (121 Bucksport Road), Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Dec., 2007

Phone: (207) 667-4393 Web: <http://uuellsworth.org>

A Month of Sundays

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

Dec 2. *Let It Begin With Me*

Where are the beginnings of change, of peace, of contentment? ---Rev. Leela Sinha

Dec 9. *...Except to Love One Another*

Owe we no one anything...with one exception. How do we live in the ebb and flow of this most demanding of debts? ---Rev. Leela Sinha

Dec 16. *Pass the Peace*

...and the potatoes. ---Rev. Leela Sinha

Dec 22. *To Warm The Winter's Night*

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
A Winter Solstice Celebration. ---Anne Ossana

Dec 23. *Embers and Acorns*

What stands between embers and bonfires; between acorns and oak trees? ---Rev. Leela Sinha

Dec 24. Christmas Eve (two services at 6PM and 9PM)

We celebrate this evening in a service of Christmas carols and stories. Readings, special music, and the beauty of our sanctuary at night will draw us toward the sacred in tradition, connection, and family, born and chosen. At the close of the service we will share a flame in the second of our annual communions as we light candles for the final hymn. The two services will have the same format and content, so please come to the one that better suits your schedule. ---Rev. Leela Sinha

Dec. 30. Guest speaker

Podcasts from Leela's recent sermons

are now online, thanks to Leela, Matt, and David. Listen at your leisure. Look for the link on the menu at the left of the main page at

<http://uuellsworth.org>.

Let me know if you have any trouble with the links.

--- Martha Dickinson, webtender

New Member Classes Begin in January

Unitarian Universalism celebrates questioning, so it's not surprising that it often raises more questions than answers. If you are new to UUism and want to learn about who we are, where we came from, what we do, why we do it, and what holds us all together, and get some practice talking about it, please plan to join us! The 5-session class will be offered at the church on consecutive Tuesday nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting January 8th, 2008. Please plan to attend all sessions. Please register ahead of time by calling the church office or emailing Rev. Sinha directly at minister@uuellsworth.org. This course fulfills the board recommendation for a membership class.

UUCE January Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 13, 2008, following the Service

- Election of the Election Committee
- Financial Report
- Other business to be announced in the January NUUS

Unexpected Grace

The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.
You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.
People are going back and forth across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.
~ *Rumi*

When I was growing up, my parents would ask me for a wish list twice a year. Truthfully, I think they forgot (and sometimes I forgot) that the gifting day was coming unless something reminded us. Once a year was my birthday, once was Winter Solstice. I learned early that I could not speak in generalities unless I was feeling very flexible, so I got increasingly specific—brand names, model numbers, whatever I could do to get the picture in my head into theirs.

As children we learn from the world around us that what we want is stuff.

I have been meeting with small groups of people these last weeks, groups organized at my request by the Committee on Ministry so I can meet all of you. There is no planned topic, but the rising theme is interdependence. This is not a surprise: we are desperate to know each other in this culture, in this world. We are wanting, more than anything, to know what those near us believe or hope, what gets us up in the morning and what lulls us to sleep.

When we peel back the layers, our cherished memories are about connection and emotion, about pleasure, about love.

As we step into the deep, still peace of winter, may our hearts and spirits take comfort in the quiet connections, may the revelry sing high and long, and may the sun's return embrace us all.

Blessed holidays,
Leela

Social Action Committee

Truth-In-Recruiting and Alternatives to Military Service

UUCE's Peace and Social Action Committee, together with the Ellsworth Area Peace and Justice Group, sponsored an inspiring and successful public meeting on Truth-In-Recruiting on November 5. Participants of the meeting included parents, a student and concerned citizens. We decided to call our project TIRA, for Truth-In-Recruiting and Alternatives. Our purpose is to work with the local high school communities to help get out the truth about military recruitment and to ensure that students receive solid information about alternative career/job/service/travel opportunities. Some members of the group have been working with local high schools for several years and some of us are new to the effort. We watched an excellent short DVD, "Before You Enlist", which uses interviews with veterans of Iraq and former military recruiters to tell the story of the misleading information that entices many students to enlist in the military. Margaret de Rivera of Orland, Nancy Hill of Stonington and Jan Church of Southwest Harbor, who have already begun work in this area, gave the group many interesting ideas and stories of their experiences. Most of the people who attended the meeting have been and will continue to work in this area. We want to make it clear that we are not opposing the military in general; we do want to ensure that students that decide to enlist do so with correct information about their options. The military presence in our schools is strong and needs to be balanced by other views.

We will have a planning and strategy meeting on Monday, December 3, 2007, 7 p.m., at the UU Church of Ellsworth. UU's are encouraged to join our efforts! We hope to be able to work with about six high schools in Hancock County.

Haitian Refugees Need Help Now

Haitian refugees on their way to Canada need help now in Hancock County. They are here legally. Some churches and others are helping with hospitality, medical treatment, funding and transportation. If you can help in any way, please contact Margaret at 469-8972 or Martha at 667-5863. The next meeting of the group is at 6:30 pm, Nov. 29 at HOME's Learning Center in Orland.

For more information, call Martha at 667-5863.



Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee has been busy these last couple of months.

We continue to focus on the energy audit of our building, and on October 20 had an energy day in which we caulked the windows in the sanctuary, cleaned and replaced light bulbs as needed, installed weather stripping, cleaned inside and behind the refrigerator as well as other energy saving activities. All of the light bulbs in the church building that can be replaced with energy efficient ones have been changed. Have you noticed the new toilets in the bathrooms by the main entrance? These are new high efficiency ones using less water with increased efficiency in the flush. Be sure to take action on as many of these steps as possible in your own home.

We are getting organized to apply for certification as a "green sanctuary" by the UUA. This is a specific process which has several components and you will be hearing more about it as we go along. We encourage you to follow us along and take action in your own home and work place. Your ideas and comments are welcome and your participation is encouraged.

In October, members of the Green Sanctuary Committee spent a Saturday cleaning up & winterizing. Last month, Fran Stehman and Anne Ossana painted the bathrooms in the RE wing. Vice President David Towle has been a one man fix-it committee. Among other projects, he has scraped and repainted the roadside sign, painted trim, washed windows and put up a mailbox. Materials used, such as paint and lumber (red cedar), were chosen for durability and lower environmental impact. Inside, David installed new water-conserving toilets as well as new paper towel dispensers and replaced the old bulbs in the entrance lights and exit signs with energy-saving compact fluorescents.

Thank you Steve Votey for cleaning up the recycling container areas in the kitchen and thank you Kay Hansen and Jared Hansen for taking the collection of recyclables to the recycling center. The Green Sanctuary Committee is evaluating whether UUCE should continue to offer containers for recycling. After Kay and Jared took everything away we are starting with empty containers and will be evaluating if we collect enough to continue to recycle from the church. Kay has kindly volunteered

to continue to take whatever recyclables there are to the transfer station. We would ask that all using the church do your best to carry out what you carry in. Be sure to take it home to recycle. We will keep you informed about this.

Let's have a round of applause for all the volunteers who have rolled up their sleeves and gotten to work making our church more attractive, more comfortable and more energy efficient!

If you have not started to recycle from your home, there is no better time than now to begin. Call you municipal office to see where your locality's center is for collection of recycling and ask them exactly what they will accept. In Bar Harbor the center accepts only #2 plastic while Ellsworth will accept #1 and #2.

Another way to recycle is to have cloth grocery bags with you at the grocery store so that new paper or plastic ones are not needed. Consider taking these cloth bags with you for all your shopping therefore eliminating the need for paper or plastic bags from any store. Every little bit helps and with each of our "little bits" we make a big difference.

Support "America's Climate Security Act of 2007"

Call the Bangor offices of Senator Snowe: **945-0432** and Senator Collins: **945-0417**.

Tell them who you are, your address, that you are a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth and that you would appreciate Senator Snowe's/Collins' support for S 2191: "The America's Climate Security Act of 2007" (the Lieberman-Warner cap and trade bill) when it comes to the Senate floor. Also let them know that you appreciate their work on global climate change.

It is vital that the United States start to take meaningful action this fall on global climate change so that we start to restore our international credibility. For more information on this bill, visit this website:

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/nov2007/2007-11-02-10.asp>

Thanks from your Green Sanctuary Committee!

Service of Ordination for Sara Hayman

Greetings, Friends & Members of UUCE.

After years of discernment and preparation it is with great joy and appreciation that I look forward to the celebration of my service of ordination at UUCE on **Sunday, January 27th at 4:00 p.m.** As it is solely power & privilege of the congregation to ordain me, I hope you will plan to attend this service & celebration.

I am fortunate to be working behind the scenes with a small, yet enormously capable committee of UUCE women who are helping to make all the necessary arrangements for this occasion. I want to thank Betty Massie, Dartha Reid, Lyana Votey & Evelyn Foster for their support.

After our first planning meeting, we identified a few requests for support & assistance that we'd like to put out to the congregation. If you're able to help with any of these requests, please contact Betty Massie via phone or email at info@mditours.com and 288-4121.

1. Does anyone have frequent flyer miles they'd be willing to donate to help augment the costs of flying a few honored guests who will participate in the service? Please let Betty know by December 1st.
2. Are there any folks willing to offer home hospitality that weekend to guests from away that would appreciate such assistance?
3. Finally, if anyone is interested in making a financial contribution to cover the expenses associated with my ordination, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Again, please speak to Betty Massie to make such arrangements.

I will write again with an update in December. Again, thank you very much for your support & affirmation of my role as community minister at UUCE. I'm excited about our future work together in this vibrant church community.

In faith,
Sara Hayman

Time Magazine Ad Campaign Continues

The Unitarian Universalist Association's national marketing campaign continues in TIME Magazine and online at Time.com.

The November 5th issue of Time carries a UUA ad on p. 71 with the headline "Find Us and Ye Shall Seek" and an innovative "advertorial" on p. 72 with the headline "Seek and You Shall Find." The advertorial directs readers to Time.com/ReligionPages, sponsored by the UUA and located on the TIME magazine website. Time.com/ReligionPages features TIME magazine content and links to features on the UUA website, including UU Perspectives, a new collection of essays on issues at the intersection of religion and society.

The UUA marketing campaign also offers a ten-minute DVD and thirty-second video advertisement, both carried on YouTube and on UUA.org (<http://www.uua.org/visitors/index.shtml>); web banner ads for use in blogs and on websites; and advertisements, banners, and resources for use by Unitarian Universalist congregations. For further information on the UUA's national marketing campaign, go to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/marketing/index.shtml>.

Down East Discussion Group Schedule for 2007 - 2008

The Down East Discussion Group is open to all and welcomes new members. Meetings are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon. Bring a sandwich for yourself. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the host of the month. For directions, please call the host of the month.

Our December meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 12th**, at noon at the home of Don and Jean Martin in Ellsworth. This meeting is a pot-luck so bring a dish to share. Also please bring a food item to donate to Loaves and Fishes. The Discussion Topic: How are you feeling as we move into another Christmas season? What meaning does Christmas have for you personally and as a UU?

The Down East Discussion Group is open to all and we welcome new members. For information about this month's meeting and for directions, please call Don or Jean Martin at 664-0309.

January 9: Church

February 13: Church

March 12: Church, George Hoffman
Topic: Music

April 9: Hosts: Fred and Jean Snyder

May 14: Host: Peggy Drake

Wanted: Coffee Coordinator

Able to organize and work with volunteers to prepare coffee for the after-the-service coffee hour/social time. Contact Sue Aubrey (479-4424) if interested.

The Giving Corner Notes from the Stewardship Chair

When I was a young child, I used to attend a small Methodist Church with my grandparents, in Pembroke, Maine. The minister was shared with another small church and was often a student from Bangor Theological Seminary. My grandfather was the church Treasurer and my grandmother was Superintendent of Sunday School in those days. Although every child in town was sent to Sunday school, adult attendance at church was sparse and the contributions were even thinner. Each Sunday, my grandpa would collect the offering from the two deep red velvet collection pouches that were on long poles and put it in his zippered banking envelope. Later at home, he would count the coins. Occasionally there was a one dollar bill. He always used his pencil – and then took money from his own wallet adding several bills of his own. I would quietly watch sensing the gravity with which he worked. Soon after my grandparents died the little church was closed.

Today, I read with interest and joy the current treasurer's report from George Marcus. It is gratifying to be in a church where people have a strong commitment and good stewardship habits. There are many generous contributors who make it possible to pay the bills which support our small church.

During the Spring Canvass, you pledged generously. Because of this we are now able to support a full time minister. Some improvements have been made to the building and our equipment is all in working order. We are looking better - programs are developing - people are coming and more children are beginning to come because their parents share our vision. Many "thank you-s" to the solid base of generous support from members and friends. Without you, we wouldn't have this lively and growing spiritual community.

Evelyn Foster

Religious Exploration

November has been a very active month in the Religious Exploration wing. We continue to see enrollment increase, especially in the younger classes. Parents have been very happy with the structure of the program and the children are enjoying being together. Four of our Senior Youth Group members were recognized in November as new members of UUCE.

Jean Martin has joined the Religious Exploration Committee and Bob Dickens has agreed to work with the Junior Youth Group. The committee and teachers remain steadfast to provide a quality program during this time of transition.

Sue Clark has graciously volunteered to work with the children on gift giving projects. We asked children to arrive in comfortable clothing that is ok to get paint/glue/glitter/wax and other “stuff” on.

On December 22nd UUCE will be hosting “To Warm The Winter’s Night” A Winter Solstice Celebration from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is a family friendly event and everyone is encouraged to join in the festivities. A spiral will be made in the “Spirit Play” classroom for individuals and families to walk through. The spiral will remain until Christmas for people to enjoy.

Calendar:

November 25: Nursery provided, gift-giving projects with Sue Clark and Anne Ossanna for all other classes.

December 2: Nursery provided, gift-giving projects with Sue Clark and Anne Ossanna for all other classes.

December 9: Nursery provided, gift-giving projects with Sue Clark and Anne Ossanna for all other classes.

December 16: Nursery provided, gift-giving projects with Sue Clark and Anne Ossanna for all other classes.

December 22: “To Warm The Winter’s Night” Winter Solstice Celebration 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Singing, dancing, feast, merry making and spiral.

December 23: Nursery provided for children under the age of 6. All other children attend Worship Service in the sanctuary.

December 30: Nursery provided for children under the age of 6. All other children attend Worship Service in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna

Personnel

Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393
minister@uuellsworth.org

President of the Board

Kay Wilkins: 667-2901
president@uuellsworth.org

Religious Education Chair

Fran Stehman: 244-4122

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Choir Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301
lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

From The Board

The BOT met on November 8th for their monthly meeting. Sara Hayman and Tom Martin attended the meeting as guests.

On Sunday January 27th at 4:00 p.m. UUCE will ordain Sarah. Her planning committee members are Betty Massie, Lyana Votey, Dartha Reid, and Evelyn Foster. There are some expenses associated with the ordination, which will exceed the \$500.00 allocated. Sara will be seeking donations from members of the congregation to help with the cost.

Tom Martin has made good progress on updating the procedure manual and the BOT thanks Tom for his efforts. He will be sending an email to those committee chairs who have not completed their portions of the committee descriptions. The Board will endeavor to complete its section as well.

George Marcus reports a dishwasher has been donated for the kitchen renovations. The BOT voted by majority to underwrite the WERU program Radio Active for a maximum of \$400.00 per year. George recommends discussion regarding UUCE Fair Share contributions occur when formulating future budgets. The BOT unanimously approved a policy defining the uses of the endowment funds and the designation of a portion of them as a building maintenance fund.

Leela reports the possibility of centralizing non-Sunday church activities on Wednesday nights has generated positive feedback especially from parents who need childcare so they can participate more fully in our programming. New Member classes and developing a worship associates program will begin in January. On a personal note, Leela and Janine hope to close on their new home in Brooklin on December 20th.

The BOT voted by majority to hire a clerical assistant to perform administrative tasks and provide office support. This part time position will

not exceed \$100.00 per week nor will it replace the DRE or the bookkeeper positions.

The January Parish meeting will occur on January 13, 2008, immediately following the worship service.

The next BOT meeting will be held on December 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend. Complete minutes are located in the black notebook located in the hallway.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna
Secretary

To Warm The Winter's Night

A Winter Solstice Celebration December 22, 2007 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

UUCE will be hosting a festive event celebrating the return of the light. This is a family friendly evening with much making merry. The celebration will begin at 6:30 in the sanctuary with dancing, singing, poetry, meditation and storytelling. We will then gather outdoors for a bonfire and release ceremony. A feast of hearty soup, bread, dessert and cider will begin at 7:30 in the community room. Dancing and a Spiral will fill the RE wing. Suggested donation for the feast is \$5.00/person and \$10/family with proceeds to benefit The Ellsworth Ministers Discretionary Fund, which is distributed by the Emmaus Center to Hancock County residents in transition.

Please mark your calendars, tell your friends and join in the festivities. Sign Up sheets are in the community room for needed tasks and donations.

For more information, contact Anne Ossanna at 565-2057 or aossanna@aol.com.

Food Pantry

There is a serious problem stocking the shelves of our food pantry, Loaves and Fishes. Cut backs in funding at USDA, many fewer items available from our Good Shepherd sources, and Hannaford and Shaws meager contributions of fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread are alarming. So our contributions in money and goods is truly needed at this time.

One bright spot is that Shaws is contributing one dollar for every one hundred dollars spent, if we save and turn in our receipts. There will be a box for the receipts, look for it and bring in your receipts. Other churches and individuals have already collected \$12,000. That is \$120 for the pantry to spend on needed items. It is amazing how quickly the receipts add up.

Of particular need are protein (canned fish and chicken, peanut butter, beans), cereal, canned fruits, and pasta. If you have any questions or ideas please talk with Judy Rothrock or Ellen Hughes.

Caring Committee

Bravo! to the web masters and recorders who have made sermons on the UUCE website and on tape so accessible. We plan to share sermons with members who cannot attend regularly.

People who were interested in our support group for those who are caregivers or dealing with grief have decided to hold off on meeting again until after the holidays. They want to attend the Adult Education course that Anne Dickens and Sara Hayman are offering entitled, LIVING WELL LATER IN LIFE, which will be offered on three Tuesdays, 1/29/08, 2/5, and 2/12. Then they will decide when to meet again.

May the holidays be gentle and meaningful to each of you at this stressful time of year.

A Note From Anne Funderburk

Thank you to all the members of UUCE who visited me, telephoned me, sent me cards and flowers while I was in hospital and rehabilitation with my knee replacement. A further great thanks to all of you who have sent or brought precooked meals for Lance and me at home. We're proud to be part of such a caring congregation. Love, Anne F.

Dave Rowe Trio

Friday December 7th, 2007 @ 7:30 PM
WERU BENEFIT presented by the Downeast Concert Collective. <http://downeastmusic.org/>
\$12 for WERU members, \$15 for non-members.

The Dave Rowe Trio is a high-energy musical freight train that blends in-your-face, three-part harmony with hot guitar pickin', jaw-dropping fiddling, and dry Downeast wit. The result is a show that grabs an audience and makes them hold on for dear life through the final chord of the encore.

The band started soon after Dave Rowe's father passed away in 2004. His dad, Tom, was a founding member of the revered folk group, Schooner Fare, and was also Dave's bandmate in the roots band, Turkey Hollow. Needing some uplifting and a new direction, Dave asked Kevin O'Reilly and Ed Howe to join him to become the Dave Rowe Trio. They held their first rehearsal on St. Patrick's Day in 2004 in front of a live audience. After this trial by fire, the trio started on a path of CD production and live shows all over the country, recording five critically-acclaimed CDs in three years and leaving audiences from Maine to Milwaukee gasping for air. At the same time, the boys found themselves performing on stage with some of the brightest stars in folk and acoustic music including Christine Lavin, Tommy Makem, Noel Paul Stookey, The Shaw Brothers, Bill Morrissey, The Nields, Gordon Bok, Tom Paxton, and Schooner Fare.

Message from the President

Seasonal Thoughts

Are you at least 70 ½? If not, what follows is not for you so, skip to the next paragraph. I'll bet some of you young ones are reading anyway, aren't you! Well, don't say I didn't warn you. This will be a little dense. As you know if you're 70 ½ or better, and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), every year you must take what's called a Required Minimum Distribution, so the IRS can start collecting taxes on what has so far been a tax-free investment. Starting last year and ending this year, you can avoid paying all or some taxes if you donate all or some portion of your RMD to a charitable organization. However, you have to have the RMD check made out in the name of that charity. You can't have your RMD sent in your name and then you write the check. Are you following me? If so, you probably can tell where I'm going next. Diana and I are planning to pay the rest of this year's ('07-'08) pledge and prepay our next year's pledge as well from the proceeds of her RMD. She has received the forms from Putnam and we'll get them filled out, notarized and sent back shortly. All this has to be accomplished this calendar year. George Marcus tells me he's doing the same thing and Fidelity Investments is much easier to deal with for him than Putnam has been for Diana. I'd encouraged any of the rest of you who will be getting RMD's to think through the tax advantages using this method of making and perhaps increasing the contribution you intend to make to UUCE. Feel free to give me or George a call if you'd like some help with this. According to everything I've read so far, this will be the final year this little loophole will be offered, but who knows, for sure.

All right, now the rest of this month's column is for everyone. Do you have a will, an up-to-date will? Do you also have a Living Will, called in Maine, "Medical or Advanced Directives?" As far as I am able to determine, all of us will die. I know this is unpleasant, but think of the scene as your friends, relatives and your minister try to determine, just what to do with your remains and your possessions if you have given them no written guidance? Leela and I talked about this today. She's had training and experience with the writing of Advanced Directives and would be willing to help anyone who would like some assistance in getting through the kind of decision making that is necessary. This is not to say you don't need a lawyer, perhaps you

do. I know Diana and I certainly did, particularly given the extra difficulty gay and lesbian couples face since legal marriage which conveys certain rights and protections automatically is not yet available to us in Maine. Is UUCE in your will? I'm looking forward to beginning a conversation with all of you about what is called "Planned Giving." That will be my next endeavor after completing my term of office as your president next May. I'd encourage anyone else who is interested in working with me to be in touch.

The UU Leaders listserv had an intriguing entry from Michael Durall:

I subscribe to Net Results magazine, a really good churchy publication. The most recent issue contained a really interesting idea. A growing number of churches are asking people to keep track of how much they spend on Christmas gifts, and to give that same amount to the church. I'd recommend half going to the church, the other half to people in need. In addition to supporting the church, this is an excellent way to teach our children and grandchildren that Christmas is not just a spending frenzy.

In closing, Sue Aubrey, our intrepid keeper of the calendar, tells me she is working to sort out just which Wednesday nights we can use for our committee meetings and adult education classes starting in January. If your committee has let her know you intend to move to a Wednesday, expect to hear from Sue very soon.

Kay Wilkins, President

Progress from Kitchen Task Force

Thank you to all who have given to the update for our kitchen! On the date of this writing (11/6/07) we have collected \$3217 which meets our challenge grant for the \$2000 from the very generous anonymous donor. That totals \$5217 for a new kitchen update but this amount does not reach the basic renovation cost of approximately \$6000. The basic renovation is replacing the base cabinets where the sinks are, replacing the long low table with an island and installing a commercial dishwasher. Several have said they intend to donate, but (continued on page 10)

Summary of October 21, 2007 Parish Meeting.

President Kay Wilkins called the Fall Parish meeting to order.

Rev. Leela Sinha, Kay Wilkins and members of the Board of Trustees stood before those present to covenant how they will work with each other as follows:

Leela's Covenant with the Board of Trustees

- *I will listen to you.*
- *I will ask my questions and any others I think need asking.*
- *I will tell you what I think as gracefully as I can.*
- *I will work with you toward a shared vision.*
- *I will be your minister first.*
- *I will continue to lift up joy and gratitude for your presence and service.*
- *I will support and encourage healthy infrastructure.*
- *I will help us remember that this is work of the spirit.*
- *I will work for balanced, excellent (worship) services.*
- *I will care for myself, body and spirit, including setting boundaries as necessary, so that my ministry is rich and sustainable.*

The UUCE Board of Trustees' Covenant with Leela

- *We will communicate directly and honestly.*
- *We will provide positive feedback.*
- *If criticism is necessary, we will state what we need.*
- *We will pledge to maintain our high level of energy, dedication and commitment.*
- *We will respect your need for personal time and help you maintain boundaries with the congregation.*

- *We are available to listen and minister to you.*
- *We will endeavor to provide you with necessary resources:*
 - *Time for intellectual and spiritual growth*
 - *Material*
 - *Staffing.*
- *We commit to growing the congregation and working with you to do that.*

George Marcus provided a Treasurer's report. He reported that UUCE's income is running well ahead of expectations due to timely receipt of pledges and successful fund-raising events. Expenses are slightly ahead of projections from increases in utility costs and maintenance.

Anne Ossanna presented an update on Religious Exploration. Currently all classes are staffed until May. Approximately 20 children attend each week and have settled into the rhythm ready to explore. The Safe Congregation Policy is almost complete.

Progress From Kitchen Task Force

(continued from page 9)

we must have money in hand before beginning the work. Please give your donation to George Marcus, church treasurer or Helen Kazura, church bookkeeper by the end of the year. Thank you to all who have given to this project. If you have any questions or comments please contact Betty Massie (288-4121).

And a special thank you to Betty and Dave Towle, who have generously donated a new \$1900 commercial dishwasher towards the kitchen improvements. Thanks for your generous support of this effort!