

The NEWS



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Vol. 40, No. 2

121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Feb, 2008

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

A Month of Sundays

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

Feb. 3. *On the Shoulders of Giants*

We're standing at the top of a very tall acrobat act. Who's under our feet? Who have we forgotten?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

We will also celebrate Irving Forbes, and the years of dedicated service he has given to this congregation as choir director and talented musician. Come prepared to honor one of our own wonderful members!

Feb 10. *The Things We Do for Love*

Love is an intrinsic human emotion: for other people, for institutions, for activities, for life itself. What really is loving, and what else gets mixed up in there?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

Feb 17. *For the Greater Good*

When do we support our institutions and when do we speak up against them? Is this really a binary choice?

Feb 24. *Through the eye of a needle: the Mysticism of Meister Eckhart.*

Dr. John Visvader, philosophy professor at College of the Atlantic, will speak on the topic of mysticism. He has spoken at UUCE several times and has taught a variety of courses including: Mysticism in World Religions, the Age of Reason, and Theories of Human Nature.

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

Care Corner

Birthdays:

February 3: Richard Thurston

February 7: Jane Thomas

Elections Committee Seeks Interested Candidates

Are you interested in serving on the board of trustees? If so, contact a member of the elections committee to learn what is involved.

Tom Martin 667-8182 thosedmartin@verizon.net

Sue Clark 244-3052 snbclark@gwi.net

Tom Stipe 667-8628 thomasstipe@yahoo.com

The following positions are vacant:

President; Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Board of Trustee members

Unexpected Grace

shoveling meditation

there is snow
there will always be snow
nothing you do will prevent or eliminate snow
there are a fixed number of muscles
and a fixed number of minutes
what you can do with those muscles
in those minutes
is not a measure of worth
it simply is
like the sky is blue
like the land breathes beneath your feet
yes, even beneath the snow.
begin with your door
with your porch
with your walk.
you must get from here to there before you make
bigger plans.
begin with one shovelful
or a broom
push what you can
lift what you must
move as little as possible
this is an endurance
a marathon
--not a sprint
even if you will be late
even if you were late last time
even if you slept through your alarm
for now,
there is snow
there will always be snow
you will move some snow today
it will be enough
it must be enough
in this moment you will stop hurrying
and shovel snow.

When Janine and I were living in Portland, Oregon,
it snowed one day. We got about four inches--
enough to slow things down a bit, especially in a
city unused to snow. The first day was incredible.

No one left their house by car; the roads turned into
broad pathways dotted with people in boots towing
children sporting snowballs. No plows, no salt
trucks, no sanding, just quiet. I found myself
wondering if that was what it was like 150 years
ago, so much closer to silence than we usually get
today. Night came and went, and day two dawned
cold and clear and brisk...and it was another snow
day. Still, no one left home. Still no plows. Still
no salting or sanding. That night we puzzled over
it. What was going on? Where was the snow
equipment? Finally it dawned on us: they were
waiting for it to *melt*. An entire city had stopped
what it was doing while it waited for the weather to
change. By day three it became clear that melting
was a few days off, so the 55 plows of the city of
Portland started rumbling around, clearing major
arteries, and eventually even sanding a little.
But those first two days were a revelation. Soft,
silent, pristine, enforced days of rest. Living here,
of course, we see snow as a medium for life, the
way Portlanders see rain. It might interrupt for a
few hours, but if we waited for it to *go away* we'd
miss out on all kinds of fun, not to mention half the
year. Here winter is the low-friction zone, when
houses slide across lakes, when people slide across
trails, and when That Heavy Thing can glide across
the yard with barely a breath if you have the right
sled.

Still, there's something to staying in the moment. It
doesn't matter what you planned to do, the weather
will have its way. It will make us change our plans,
take an extra half hour on the way to work, stay
home, stay at work. It will demand our attention on
its schedule. It will be irritating and beautiful and
insistent...and it will teach us, every winter, the
lessons we promptly forget in the spring.

If we are lucky, there will always be snow.

winter blessings,
Leela

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.

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

Futon for Sale

(LL Bean mission style)

All Proceeds to UUCE

Best Offer to Martha Dickinson (667-5863) asap

Down East Discussion Group

February 13:

Location: Church

Host: Richard Thurston

Topic: Music: Bring a piece of music (CD or Tape) that you would like to have played at your memorial service or music that you feel expresses the real you.

March 12:

Location: Church

Hosts: Don and Jean Martin

Topic: TBA (George Hoffman is sorry that he will be unable to join us.)

April 9:

Location Snyder's home

Hosts: Jean and Fred Snyder

Topic: TBA

May 14:

Location: Peggy Drake's home

Host: Peggy Drake

Topic: TBA

Group members attending are asked to bring a food item for Loaves and Fishes.

Message from the President

The Fun of Doing Something

As President, the By-Laws say I am an *ex-officio* member of every committee of the church except for the Elections Committee. So does that mean I really show up at every meeting of every committee? Well, hardly. I do, after all have a life outside of UUCE. If a committee chair calls up and asks me to attend for some particular reason, I will make every attempt to do so. That rarely happens.

One committee actively meeting right now which I'm part of and having a great time doing so is Green Sanctuary. I'm not going to spend time here repeating what you've read or heard about the big "Focus the Nation" event on February 2. That's but one example, and that's not my point.

I love showing up at Green Sanctuary meetings and helping moving the work ahead because I believe the UU Seventh Principle matters:

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Also, there are such interesting, smart people involved in that committee. I'm constantly being challenged to learn things, like what is my carbon footprint? I'll keep being part of that committee after I am no longer president, just because I enjoy it.

If Green Sanctuary work doesn't sound like what you'd like to be doing, there are lots and lots of other committees, task forces and just plain tasks which could use your time and energy and which you might like. Take a look at this newsletter for some ideas of what's going on and where you might be needed. Look at the list in the Directory titled, "Leadership & Tasks." Although it is a bit out of date, it will give you a place to start. For example, I know that our Religious Exploration program is growing rapidly and that committee could really use some more members. Anne Ossanna is the person to call about RE, while Fran Stehman, RE Chair, is

in Florida. You'll find smart, interesting and enthusiastic people on that committee too!

Showing up on Sundays, listening to Leela's sermons and singing hymns feeds my spirit, but so does committee and task force work. Try it! You'll like it!

Kay Wilkins, President

Notes from the Giving Corner

The Stewardship committee has set the dates for the annual Stewardship Canvass to be held from April 6th to 18th. This canvass is considered key in the planning for a growthful new year. As in the past few years the every-person visitation method will be used.

** This is a time when all those who attend church are given an opportunity to discuss the current state of the church and share their ideas for the future.

** It is an opportunity to review one's own involvement in the work of the congregation and make changes that are appropriate for you at this time. Notes from your comments will be used by the Leadership Development committee to make changes in committee and task forces.

**This is the time when pledges are made for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and a budget for the coming year is designed from the result of those pledges. All members and friends are asked to continue to give within their means and with careful consideration of their personal values. Stewardship is an old word. We use it to refer to the ways in which we use our skills, time and finances. Generous stewardship is what allows our church to flourish, and generosity of time, talents, spirit and money seem to be the mysterious key for happy people.

Evelyn Foster, Stewardship Chairperson

What is Unitarian Universalism?

On January 8th, Rev. Leela Sinha began a five session course on the history and principles of Unitarian Universalism and what it means to be a UUCE member. Several newer folks attended, as well as a few “old” members.

Seven people, plus Rev. Sinha, were present for the first session. After introductions, Leela spoke about her own UU background then led several exercises. One of the attendees, Karen Volckhausen, most liked getting to know the other folks better. When asked what she remembered from the exercises, she said “Lifeboat.” So Karen, who did you keep in your lifeboat?

For the next session the participants were each asked to select a religious practice of interest, do a little research, and report back to the group. Karen reported on the varieties of communion. Steve Votey explored some of the practices in paganism. Simon Beckford also reported on a pagan topic, a subject he has been interested in for some time. Diana Cate spoke about the imagery of women in ancient and medieval western religion. A variety of topics were described by the other classmates, Wayne Smith and Angie Bouchard.

All are welcome to attend the next offering of this course, which will be repeated in the spring. If you are interested in learning more about our liberal religion, whether you are a current member or not, let Rev. Sinha know. If you are considering membership, completion of this course is encouraged.

The steps to membership are as follows:

1. Meet with the Minister.
2. If new to Unitarian Universalism, attend a four to six session course taught by the minister on the history and principles of Unitarian Universalism and responsibilities of membership.
3. If transferring from another Unitarian Universalist church, attend a one session

course on the culture of UUCE and how it functions.

4. Candidates will sign the Membership Book at a “Welcoming Ceremony” on a Sunday morning.
5. A pledge card listing both financial and time support will be signed previous to the ceremony, or at that time.

The “Welcoming Ceremonies” will be held two or three times a year, or more often if necessary.

First Wednesdays Begin

Attention, attention! First Wednesdays are beginning! You may have heard some talk about moving major committee meetings to Wednesday night so that we can offer childcare and carpooling, a simple meal, and a brief chapel service. Several committees have already begun meeting on Wednesdays.

Our first big First Wednesday will be February 6th. If you chair a committee, please schedule your monthly meeting for that evening, if possible. Contact Sue Aubrey (office@uuellsworth.org), our keeper of the calendar, so that she can assign you a room.

Rev. Leela Sinha

New Address for Leela and Janine

Leela Sinha and Janine Galeski
100 Rob Rd.

Brooklin, ME 04616
359-2483

(for personal communications and pastoral emergencies; for church business please leave a message at the church or email

leela@uuellsworth.org)

Parish Meeting

January 13, 2008

President Kay Wilkins called the meeting to order. Secretary Anne Ossanna established there was a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: George Marcus stated he is pleased to report some positive financial results for this fiscal year at 50% of the time. Our income has reached 71% of the anticipated amount largely due to excellent fundraising, good plate collection and successful rental income. Because we do not have a Director of Religious Exploration and don't anticipate having one until next fiscal year, the Board of Trustees has authorized some changes to the budget to reflect certain realities. We have eliminated the unpaid portion of the DRE salary from the budget and added a \$3,000.00 item for an administrative clerk who has undertaken many valuable coordination and record functions for the various committees. We have also added \$600.00 for non-Sunday childcare during the planned Wednesday evening all committee meetings. Our endowment now stands at \$201,000. The BOT has agreed that \$16,000.00 of this amount should be considered a building maintenance reserve. Pearl Lewis thanked George for his efforts. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

Election Committee: Anne Ossanna stated the current Elections Committee recommends Tom Martin, Tom Stipe and Sue Clark to serve on the new Election Committee. Their function is to contact members of the congregation and encourage them to run for office at the spring election. Having received no nominations from the floor, the committee was approved by majority vote. Anne Funderburk suggested the list of BOT openings be posted in the next newsletter.

Safe Congregation Policy: Ruth Eveland, Bill Clark and Bob Dickens were introduced as the editors for the draft of the Safe Congregation Policy. Kay Wilkins emphasized that since this was

a hearing, no decisions would be made today. The Jr. and Sr. Youth Group will also have the opportunity to share their thoughts under the direction of the Sr. Youth Advisory Group and Carol Rosinski. The policy will be reviewed at the February BOT meeting and a decision made at the March BOT meeting. Leela Sinha began the discussion with comments on this difficult topic. After Ruth Eveland, Bill Clark and Bob Dickens each presented a brief statement regarding their thoughts, the policy was open for comments from the congregation. Kay Wilkins encourages members of the congregation to have continued conversation with the editors and to have written comments to them by January 31, 2008. Copies of the proposed policy are available at the church and on the UUCE website, <http://uuellsworth.org>.

Kitchen Renovation: Betty Massie led a hearing on the Kitchen Renovations Plan. Members of the Committee, Susan Walsh and Anne Funderburk were also present to field questions. The following was taken into consideration: Sanitation, Traffic Flow, Green Sanctuary Priorities, Code Compliance, Functionality, Affordability, Durability and Attractiveness. Currently, approximately \$9600 has been raised for the project. Full implementation of the plan is estimated to cost \$11,000. The committee will continue to discuss additional fundraising and cost-cutting options. No kitchen reconstruction will start until the roof insulation over the kitchen has been completed. Betty Massie invited members of the congregation to join their committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

A full report of the Parish Meeting, including copies of the Budget Report are located in the black notebook on the hallway table.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna
Secretary

Adult Programs at UUCE

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, ME 667-4393**

1. **Living Well Later in Life**, led by Anne Dickens and Sara Hayman will be offered on three Tuesdays (1/29, 2/5, and 2/12/08). This program invites participants to consider, in a supportive community, how well they are living their lives as they grow older. The first meeting will focus on participants' self-reflection re: aging, their aspirations, and quality of life. At the second meeting a panel of professionals will share information and field questions about tools for self-growth and volunteer opportunities. The third class, like the first, will focus more on participants thoughts and reflections. Participants are asked to register in advance (see below), and to make every effort to attend all three sessions. **No fee.**
2. **Conflict Resolution**, led by Bob Dickens and Judy Rothrock. Discussion and role plays on topics such as: "Why conflict?" "Cause and types of conflict" "Good results from conflict" "Meditation and Negotiation". Settings considered will include: organizations, between organizations, and between individuals. Meetings will happen Saturday mornings beginning late Feb. or early March. Please register to show your interest (see below). Final schedule to be determined. **No fee.**
3. **Focus the Nation Event**: Come to UUCE to find out about global climate change and what Maine and other states and nations have done and need to do – and what we can do individually and as a community to reduce our carbon footprint and our energy bills. Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008 1-4 p.m. **Open to all. Please register.** (see below) Sponsored by Green Sanctuary, Peace and Social Action and Adult RE Committees of

UUCE and the League of Women Voters
Down East.

4. **Changing Course**: Karen Wigglesworth is organizing a self-facilitated group discussion on global climate change as a follow-up to the Feb. 2 **Focus the Nation Event**. Meetings of 1 ½ hours are planned on four consecutive Thursdays, beginning Feb. 21 at UUCE. Please register in advance (see below). Cost for the book **Changing Course is \$18.00.**

Register by mail or email or leave the form at UUCE.

Name _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Registering for _____ (give number/s)

Registrar:

Tom Stipe : thomas.stipe@verizon.net

Old UU World Magazines Wanted

Do you discard your UU World magazine after you have read it? If so, please pass it on to the Membership Committee by placing it in the mail slot for Membership. If you have a stack of copies to donate please give them to Diana Cate before or after church services.

The Membership Committee will offer these magazines to frequent visitors and others who do not receive UU World from the UUA.

Thanks for your assistance in this effort.

Religious Exploration

The children have settled quickly into the rhythm after the December holidays. Recently church services have ended before RE classes have finished, so we are asking parents and members of the congregation to refrain from coming into the RE wing until 11:30 a.m. The Jr. and Sr. Youth group will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.; parents of the children in the Spirit Play class are encouraged to enjoy conversation in the Community Room until 11:30 a.m. We thank everyone for their cooperation.

We will continue to have the children join their parents in the sanctuary for the start of Sunday Worship Service. Once the Chalice is lit, the children and teachers will be dismissed to their classes. Please make sure the Spirit Play children come with coats, mittens, hats and boots each week.

February Schedule:

2/3/08 - Nursery provided
Children begin service in the sanctuary
Spirit Play with Anne Ossanna, Jr. Youth with Carol Rosinski
Sr. Youth with Toby Manring and Bob Dickens.

2/10/08 - Nursery provided
Children begin service in the sanctuary
Spirit Play with Anne Ossanna
Jr. Youth with Carol Rosinski
Sr. Youth with Toby Manring and Bob Dickens.

2/17/08 - Nursery provided
Children begin service in the sanctuary
Spirit Play with Anne Ossanna
Jr. Youth with Bob Dickens
Sr. Youth with Carol Rosinski.

2/24/08 - Nursery provided
Children begin service in the sanctuary
Spirit Play with Anne Ossanna
Jr. Youth with Bob Dickens
Sr. Youth with Carol Rosinski.
Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna

From The Board

Summary of January Meeting

Treasurer George Marcus reports that at 50% of the elapsed time in this fiscal year, our income is at 70.1% of the budget, while expenses are at 41% of the budget. A preliminary report from the Maine Community Foundation shows our fund at \$200,935.00, which does not include earnings for the fourth quarter. There is currently \$9,600.00 in the kitchen renovation fund.

Leela reports attendance is stable. The Committee Meetings will move towards meeting the 1st Wednesday evening of the month; childcare will be provided. The New Member classes have begun with an enrollment of seven.

The Safe Congregation DRAFT Policy can be viewed at our Website or by paper copy. Members of the congregation are encouraged to review this policy and give comments to Ruth Eveland, Bob Dickens or Bill Clark. The Senior Youth Group Advisory will determine the best approach to address this issue with the Sr. and Jr. youth groups so their opinions can be heard.

The BOT welcomes comments from the congregation on their thought of changing the name of UUCE. Please see any member of the board to share your thoughts.

Betty Massie has been named the chair of the Kitchen Renovation Planning Committee. We thank Betty and her committee for all of their efforts.

Roof repair estimates are pending. Fortunately there have been no leaks in the ceiling with our recent January thaw.

The Green Sanctuary/Peace and Social Justice/Adult RE will jointly sponsor a "Focus the Nation" event at UUCE on February 2, 2008. All are encouraged to attend this worthwhile event.

Complete minutes of the January 10, 2008 BOT meeting can be viewed in the black notebook on the hallway table. The February BOT meeting will be held on February 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. All members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Anne N. Ossanna, Secretary.