

The NEWS



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Vol. 40, No. 1

121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Jan, 2008

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

A Month of Sundays

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

Jan 6. *Solitary Wisdom*

Is it really just a pack of cards? -Rev. Leela Sinha

Jan 13. *Not Water But Fire*

Wiping the slate clean. -Rev. Leela Sinha

Jan 20. Gray Cox, Professor of Ethics, with emphasis on peace studies, at College of the Atlantic

Jan 27:

10:30 a.m. *Growing Values*

What are they, how do we get them, and if we water them will they grow? -Rev. Leela Sinha

4:00 p.m. Special service to ordain Sara Anne Hayman

In our tradition it is the congregations which ordain, not the hierarchy, not other clergy, not the districts or the Association as a whole. This precious and vital rite confers the title of "Reverend" and is the one thing recognized across denominational and international lines as the marker of ministry. This congregation has voted to ordain Sara Hayman, our affiliated community minister, with all the privileges and responsibilities it carries. Mark your calendars! This is a very special time in the life of a minister and congregation, and in the relationship between them. Please be present to participate and to enjoy the full pageantry of one of our oldest and most foundational rituals. The Rev. Mike Morran of the First Unitarian Society of Denver will be preaching, and clergy from around the district will honor us with their presence and participation.

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

UUCE January Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 13, 2008, following the Service

- Election of the Election Committee
- Financial Report
- Discussion of plans for the kitchen renovation – Betty Massie
- Discussion of proposed Safe Congregation Policy – Ruth Eveland



Unexpected Grace

I have lived ten years of my adult life north of Boston: two in Ottawa, two in New England, six in Minnesota, and I've got this theory about snow. I've been thinking about this for a while, and I think it makes people better neighbors. There's what I call the "snow line": it stretches across North America from Boston westward, and cuts sharply north along the Rockies, ending up in British Columbia somewhere. Below this line, snow is an annoyance to be avoided. You buy as little warm clothing as possible and when winter hits you huddle inside and wait for it to get warm again. North of the line it's a whole different story. It snows, regularly and significantly. We go out in it. We play in it. We expect it, and own entire wardrobes for use in it. We figure it's not *really* cold until it's below zero--Fahrenheit.

There may be a little bit of machismo, a little perverse pride involved, but what it does to our social structure is striking. Mainers and longtime Maine residents are not known for being friendly in the traditional sense. There's a strong dose of New England reserve here; you have to have a reason to get to know someone. But come the snow (or sleet or freezing rain) and their attendant crises, and the secret gets out. The deal is simple: you help anyone who needs help. If I have four wheel drive and you're stuck, I stop. If you show up at my door and it's snowing, you come in. If things didn't work that way we probably wouldn't dare to go out in the snow; certainly we would have thought twice a hundred years ago.

...or several thousand. The other climate that inspires this radical hospitality is the unbelievable heat of the desert, that pressure cooker that gave rise to ancient Egyptian culture and the various Middle Eastern groups that became Jews and Christians and Muslims, among others. That oft-misquoted Bible passage about Sodom and Gomorrah is about the consequences of inhospitality in a world where a night without shelter could mean death.

Christmas and Solstice, Diwali and Chanukah and Kwanzaa are over. We are regrouping from the mayhem and recovering from the intense social microclimate that they create. As we take a deep breath and choose our direction for the newly-turned year, may we remember to keep our hearts open and our arms wide; may we look for ways to carry our legacy of welcome with joy and pride...and maybe just a touch of machismo.

Blessings in the returning light,
Leela

PS: as this goes to press we have a good group of people volunteered to help us move to our new house in Brooklin. Thanks so much to everyone who has signed up and everyone who wishes they could. We are so lucky to have landed here.
--Leela and Janine

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@uuelsworth.org. This course fulfills the board recommendation for a membership class.



Green Sanctuary Committee

FOCUS THE NATION EVENT
SATURDAY, FEB 2, 2008 1-4 PM
Unitarian-Universalist Church,
Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605

***COME FIND OUT ABOUT GLOBAL CLIMATE
CHANGE AND WHAT MAINE AND OTHER
STATES AND NATIONS HAVE DONE AND
NEED TO DO AND WE CAN DO
INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A COMMUNITY TO
REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT AND
OUR ENERGY BILLS!***

The UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee, the Peace and Social Justice Committee and the Adult Religious Education Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Ellsworth and the League of Women Voters Down East are pleased to present a very special and important event on Ground Hog Day – when we take our heads out of the snow to focus on global climate change – what is known and not known, what has been done, what needs to happen, what we can do as individuals and as a church and community at the FOCUS THE NATION EVENT – one of many taking place throughout the nation..

We will start with a panel of people including:

- Dr. Kirk Maasch, climate modeling expert from the University of Maine Climate Change Institute who will bring us all up to date on the science behind the conclusions reached by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and what researchers at University of Maine's Climate Change Institute have been contributing to the effort. He will also talk about what's happening in Maine's three climate zones.
- Representative Ted Koffman from Bar Harbor has been House Chair of the Maine Legislature's Joint Committee on Natural Resources for the last four years – he was the lead sponsor of the first- in-the-nation climate change action plan legislation and

has been involved with action at the College of the Atlantic as well as in Maine, regionally and nationally.

- Pam Person is a member of UUCE, the League of Women Voters Down East, the League of Women Voters of the United States' Climate Change Task Force. She will discuss the work the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition's Environment and Energy Committee has been doing to reduce individual energy use. In addition she will tell of Bucksport's Energy Policy as well as the League of Women Voters of the United States' work on national global climate change policy.
- Jim Fisher, member of UUCE and staff person at Hancock County Planning Commission will discuss how Smart Growth planning in Hancock County can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as talk about his son's independent study on alternative energy.

We'll then have a short break, have some refreshments, and look around at some posters from the University of Maine Climate Change Institute and some material that you can take home. Then we'll come back and brainstorm with a "WHAT'S NEXT PANEL" -- how each of us can make a difference in our homes, our church, local communities, at our jobs and with our extended families and friends.

- Karen Wigglesworth will be describing the Maine Earth Institute's Global Climate Change 3 session course she will be organizing starting February 21 through UUCE's Adult Religious Education.
- Erika Shriner will be talking about what her group, ROOTS, on Mount Desert Island, is doing and her "Sustainable Living" column in the *Bar Harbor Times*.
- Steve Votey will talk about what the Green Sanctuary Committee is planning to do.

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(Green Sanctuary, Continued from page 3)

If there's time, perhaps we'll break up into small group discussions or take a "Citizen Energy Quiz" to see how we're using energy and what commitments we are willing to make.

Please plan to come and participate. Please sign up at church during the next month so we know how many to plan for.

Open to all – bring your friends and neighbors.

Thanks from your Green Sanctuary, Peace and Social Action and Adult RE Committees and the League of Women Voters Down East.

Notes From Green Sanctuary December Meeting

The Green Sanctuary Committee is in the process of preparing our Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy and expects to have it ready for submission soon. Meeting the requirements will be a long-term process, covering many aspects of our life as a congregation, with many opportunities for all to contribute. Watch this space for ideas on how you can get involved!

Many of you may have noticed the impressive icicles hanging from the edge of the roof over the mid-section of the church building, indicating that there is significant heat loss occurring in that area. After examining the evidence, the Green Sanctuary Committee made a motion to the Board to direct the Building Maintenance Committee to investigate roof and insulation issues. We'll keep you posted on the results.

Included with this month's newsletter is a handout detailing "Things you can do for free (or almost free) to cut your use of gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, propane & electricity." Thanks to Pam Person for bringing this information to our attention and thanks to Steve Votey and Kay Wilkins for getting it printed up and out to you all. We hope this info gives you lots of good ideas for saving energy!

Safe Congregation Policy

A draft version of the very important "Safe Congregation Policy" has been posted on the UUCE Website, <http://uuellsworth.org/>. Ruth Eveland, the policy's author and the BOT need feedback from every member of the congregation. If you are unable to download this file, there will be copies available in the church lobby. A hearing on the policy will be held at the January 13, Parish Meeting. No final decision on the policy will be made at that time. As the policy states, "We have a responsibility to assure that children, youth and adults will be safe within our boundaries, free from sexual abuse, assault, exploitation, or harassment."

Please take time to read and carefully consider this proposed policy.

Kay Wilkins, President

Adventures In Libya

Slide presentation by Katherine Thompson
Friday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.
Snow date: January 25



Service of Ordination for Sara Hayman

UUCE is hosting an ordination ceremony for Sara Hayman on January 27, 2008. While the holidays are upon us and everyone is scrambling, those of us planning this event still need your help. We are in the process of choosing recipes for the hors d'oeuvres for the reception but need volunteers to make them. We ask to have the finished products delivered to us at the church the day of the event, where we will place them on decorated trays and platters. Speaking of.....we need to borrow as many silver trays and platters as possible. C'mon, you know you've pulled them out and polished them for the holidays! We also need silver candlesticks, of all sizes, with white candles. These items need not be sterling. In fact a mix is more interesting. They can be silverplate, chrome, nickel, mercury glass, etc. The important thing is color. We need masses of them. We would like to start collecting them as soon as possible so we know what we have to work with in plenty of time. Please place your name on the bottom with masking or painter's tape so we can return them to their owners. Contact Lyana Votey at 276-3808 or llpscv@hotmail.com (lower case Ls not ones). Thank you so very much for your support of Sara at this joyous time in her life.

And, A Note From Sara

Happy New Year, Folks.

As promised, I'm writing with a brief update about my upcoming ordination at UUCE on January 27th at 4 p.m. I still continue to hope I'll see many of you there!

During our last planning meeting, I was encouraged to write a bit more in this article about what a service of ordination is, and how community ministry works in our UU tradition. To that end, I offer the following brief reflections:

In Unitarian Universalist churches & fellowships, it is solely the members of these congregations who have the power to ordain a person as minister. A service of ordination is that public occasion (and a worship service of sorts) when the members of a UU church officially "call" a person into ministry. Several ritual traditions are typically incorporated into this service—among them, the minister-to-be is extended the "hand of fellowship" by a more seasoned fellow minister, and both the ordinant & the congregation are given "charges" to strive to practice & to live by our faith with integrity & passion. A service of ordination is both a solemn & joyous occasion, and congregational participation is essential.

Given my work as hospice chaplain with Hancock County Home Care & Hospice, my official and covenantal relationship with UUCE is that of an "affiliated Community Minister." In short, this means I will be a minister who is a member of the congregation, and whose primary ministry is found outside of the walls of the church. As a Community Minister, I will have also the opportunity to lead worship services occasionally each year at UUCE, and to engage in teaching classes and working with our youth. In truth, I think of my work as hospice chaplain as an extension of the ministry we create together at UUCE.

Please feel free to track me down and ask any questions you may have about ordination or community ministry. Again, I am grateful to be part of the UUCE community.

May health, happiness & passion color your days in the year to come.

In faith,
Sara Hayman



UU Denominational News

ANNOUNCING THE NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT:

Our new district name, effective July 1, 2008 was announced at the Joint District Fall Conference held in Portland, Maine. Until July 1, please continue to use our two district names: Northeast District of the UUA (that's us, by the way) and NH/VT District of the Unitarian Universalist Societies.

FIRST JOINT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT: Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the New England Center of the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. The keynote speaker will be Bill Sinkford. If you are interested in attending, mark your calendar and let Peggie Geiger or Kay Wilkins know of your intentions. Registration materials will be available beginning Jan. 1, 2008.

HOT TOPICS FOR

CONGREGATIONS:MANAGING OUR

DIFFERENCES: An all-day workshop, "Polarity Management and Nonviolent Communication", facilitated by Rev. Mary Higgins and Rev. Karen Brammer will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008 from 8:30-4:00 at the Brunswick Universalist Church. Registration is due January 25. The fee is \$18.00. Contact Peggie Geiger or Kay Wilkins for more information.

- Submitted by Peggie Geiger



Kitchen Update

We have some wonderful news! Arthur Brieger has generously donated \$2000 towards the renovation of the kitchen. He is giving this in memory of his late wife Martha Alexander Brieger who passed away in October of 1999. Arthur and Martha joined our congregation in January of 1987 and many of you may remember Martha. In giving this memorial contribution Arthur said that Martha was very concerned about the unsanitary conditions of the kitchen and at the time of her death had been talking about wanting to do something about it. We are so appreciative to receive this contribution. Thank you, Arthur!

We have met the terms of the challenge grant! As of this writing (12/14/07) we have a total of \$7217 in contributions. This includes the Brieger memorial contribution, the donation of the commercial dishwasher, the challenge grant and the numerous other donations received. Thank you to everyone who gave to this project. It is not too late! We had a time limit of the end of the year to meet the challenge but contributions are still welcomed up to the time that we will actually order the new cabinets which will be no earlier than the end of January and could be later depending on some insulation issues in the roof.

A special thank you to the anonymous donor who issued the challenge grant and sparked this entire project. Without this person's generosity this project would not have happened.

We encourage everyone to be involved with your suggestions. Do go and study the existing kitchen and come to the annual congregation meeting on 1/13/08 where the Kitchen Task Force will share our current thoughts about the update. We want to hear your thoughts and suggestions as this will be everyone's kitchen.

ADULT PROGRAMS AT UUCE

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

1. **New Member Classes** led by Rev. Leela Sinha: This five-session class will be offered at UUCE on 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings starting January 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Plan to attend all sessions. Please register ahead of time by calling the office (207) 667-4393 or email Rev. Sinha directly at minister@uuellsworth.org.
2. **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.**
3. **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.**

4. **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.
5. **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

Caring Committee

Congratulations to the Diaz family!!

Helena Diaz, 6 pounds and 15 ounces, was born on Saturday, December 15, at 1:30 a.m.

As 2007 closed, we marked **the passing of long-time member BILL STONE**. He will indeed be missed.

January brings a **birthday for JON THOMAS** on January 6th.

Are you concerned about the welfare of your UU friends? Are you a person who enjoys sending cards and uplifting notes to people? If you are, we would like to have you **join the Caring Committee**. We want to share the rewards of caring among more of our regular attenders. Please call Dartha Reid (667-5435/darthacr@yahoo.com) or Karen Wigglesworth (288-2338; karen.wigglesworth@jax.org) if you are interested. Help us broaden the caring circle.



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.

Choir Schedule

The UUCE Choir rehearsal schedule is changing again. Rehearsals are no longer being held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. except for those Sundays when the choir will be performing. For January, the only two rehearsals are scheduled for Thursday nights, Jan. 3 and Jan. 17. We are preparing some special music for the Feb. 3 service during which we will be thanking Irving Forbes for his twenty years of directing the UUCE Choir. We're always looking for new faces in the choir. If interested, please contact Wayne Smith, choir director, at wayne@mrlanguage.com or at 667-9482.



Down East Discussion Group

January 9:

Location: Church
Hosts: Janet and Bryce Smith
Topic: What does the 1st Amendment to our Constitution really mean? For background reading see “America’s Founding Faiths” by Forrest Church in the Winter 2007 UU World.

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.



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

Religious Exploration

December has been an active month in the RE Wing. The children worked hard on their gift giving crafts. We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Sue Clark for her generous donation of time and materials. What a joy it was watching the children work so creatively together.

We also thank Becka Gagne for helping the younger children make beeswax ornaments. Please take the time to see their creation of stars, moons and suns outside their classroom. The fragrance is delightful!

We are very pleased with the increased enrollment, with the biggest increase in the Junior Youth Group. We consistently have 25 children each week ranging from infants to age 18. The children have settled into the rhythm and are working well together.

In January the children will begin in the Sanctuary
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(Religious Exploration, continued from page 9) and then dismissed to their classes after the lighting of the Chalice. The RE committee extends Holy Day Greetings and looks forward to the blessing 2008 will bring us.

January Calendar:

January 6th - Nursery provided for infants. Spirit Play - Anne Ossanna,

Jr. Youth Group - Bob Dickens, Sr. Youth Group - Carol Rosinski

January 13th - Nursery provided for infants. Spirit Play - Anne Ossanna,

Jr. Youth Group - Bob Dickens, Sr. Youth Group - Carol Rosinski

January 20th - Nursery provided for infants. Spirit Play - Anne Ossanna,

Jr. Youth Group - Bob Dickens, Sr. Youth Group - Carol Rosinski

January 27th - Nursery provided for infants. Spirit Play - Anne Ossanna,

Jr. Youth Group - Bob Dickens, Sr. Youth Group - Carol Rosinski

Respectfully submitted--Anne N. Ossanna

From The Board

The December 13 meeting was postponed to December 17 due to inclement weather. At the recommendation of Treasurer George Marcus, the BOT voted unanimously to reallocate funds to the UUA and District. This amount is not an increase in funding but rather an adjustment. UUCE will pay \$2,250.00 to the UUA and \$750.00 to the District. Realizing UUCE needed to provide childcare for non-Sunday church events, the BOT voted unanimously to reallocate \$600.00 from the RE budget to fund childcare for non-Sunday church events.

Leela reports her small group dinners are going well. She is working with the Worship Committee to integrating a period of reading and discussion about worship with committee meetings. Leela is

also recruiting 5-8 members of the congregation be liturgists, participants with her in services. New member classes are to begin in January; Leela invites interested members and friends to contact her.

Ruth Eveland presented the BOT with a Draft of the Safe Congregation Policy. Once minor revisions have been complete, copies will be available for the congregation to review and give input.

Initiated by George Marcus, there was discussion regarding changing the name of UUCE. The common dictionary definition of the word church is "A house of Christian worship." Last year's survey indicated that only 14% of the congregation identify themselves as Christians. We are a community of people with widely different spiritual beliefs, yet have a common belief in the principles of Unitarian Universalists ethics. The Board considered replacing the word Church in UUCE to Congregation or Community. The BOT decided they needed time to consider the full implications of such a change and invites members of the congregation to share their thoughts on this subject with any member of the Board.

After the recent major snowfall, it is apparent the shortcomings of insulation in the mid portion of the building need to be addressed. There have been ice dams and leaks over the kitchen in years past. David Towle will further investigate the cost of installing spray-on material that would both seal and insulate the roof. Donations for the kitchen renovation are growing with an anticipated \$9,000.00 available in January. An update will be provided at the January 13, 2007, Parish Meeting.

Detailed minutes are available to review in the black notebook located on the hallway table. The BOT will meet on January 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne N. Ossanna