



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 42

No. 1 January 2010

A Month of Sundays

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

January 3. *One Word*

In the beginning, there was the word. Coach and musician Christine Kane suggests that rather than resolutions, we choose a word for each new year. What is your word? What is ours?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

January 10. *Singing and Dancing*

Joyful Noise Sunday! In 2 Samuel, King David is said to have been "leaping and dancing before the Lord". Despite some traditions' prohibitions, music and movement seem to turn up again and again. What's so special about embodied worship, with or without a god? This is a Joyful Noise Sunday, so expect a little more music, a little more energy, a little different style.

-Rev. Leela Sinha

January 17. *The Words of Change*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior was an orator, old school. So is President Obama. Elocution and rhetoric are dying arts--we simply don't attend to them the way we used to. What can language do for us?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

January 24. *From Independence to Interdependence, A Homecoming*

New Director of Lifespan Religious Education and Exploration, Tom Grogan, will explore the ways we move from "me" to "we" in a faith tradition that calls us to live out both *personal* and *group* integrity.

January 31. *Bonus Round*

Lagniappe is a Creole word meaning "unexpected gift". Every so often we get a little extra: an extra paycheck, an extra day off, an extra Sunday. What of these breaths of grace?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

Touchstone Circles Opportunity – Ellsworth and Blue Hill Areas

Touchstone Circles offered last spring was a well received program offered by Sara Huisjen. The purpose of the Touchstone program is to give a short term experience of small group ministry with the possibility of forming more permanent groups for those who are interested.

Two more groups are being planned for late January...one in the Ellsworth area to be held on a weekday afternoon and another in the Blue Hill area held in the evening. The group runs for six consecutive weeks and it is important that participants attend all six weeks. Groups are limited to 6-8 members. If you are interested, please contact Sara Huisjen or Evelyn Foster by January 17th

Down East Discussion Group

The January meeting of the Down East Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at noon at the church. Peggy Drake is the hostess. Topic for discussion: "If you were an artist, what picture would you paint and why?" Bring your own sandwich; Peggy will provide beverages and dessert.

A Congregational Meeting will be held after services on Sunday, January 31, 2010. It is important that everyone attend and should be a relatively short meeting. We will discuss the upcoming board vacancies and some options for replacing our furnace.

Unexpected Grace

As I write this, the Washington, D.C. Council has just passed marriage equality. Not by some tiny little margin, but 11-2. That means a margin of victory over 80%. Our legislature passed it. The Vermont and New Hampshire legislatures passed it. The prophetic voice of our elected leaders is rising. And in that rise, especially in states where the controversy is high, we are seeing examples of what it is to lead.

Leadership is tricky, edgy business, shot through with adrenaline and risk. There's no way to know when you take a stand how your constituents are actually going to respond. You can guess. You can poll. But in the end, people can get scared or change their minds or be cranky. Leaders can be perceived as being pushy or out of touch when they take a controversial stand. But the fact is, we need leaders so people can follow them. In every arena there are some people who are so passionate that they are willing to do anything, including stick their necks out, to help things be better. They will sing, dance, talk to people, write letters, learn new skills, go way, way outside their comfort zone, so that something really important can happen. And those people are on the cutting edge so that everyone else can know they are not alone, so that everyone else can open their minds, so that everyone else can take a chance and feel safe about it. When leaders stand up, they create space, a wake in which others can follow.

The UU Church of Ellsworth is in a position to lead. We have talent, we have wisdom, we have strength, we have the capacity for dedication when the cause is important and real. We led in the No on 1 Campaign and our presence in the community feels different now. We have more people who know who we are and more people who know what we stand for. As we move into this new year and new decade, leadership is needed. How shall we serve our community? How shall we lead?

blessings,
Leela

Religious Education and Exploration

I'm thrilled to have been named your new Director of Lifespan Religious Education! Thanks to each of you for your generous offers of congratulations. I'm looking forward to us getting to know one another over the coming weeks. I have initially set 12PM to 2:30PM every Wednesday and Friday as my regular office hours. I am more than happy to meet at other times by appointment. I will leave a note on the white board on the RE office door if I know that I will be out of the office for a planned meeting. If the weather is at all questionable please call me at my home #990-2612 to confirm that I'll be in or to meet by phone.

I expect the children's program to continue through the rest of the church year with no major changes. As I get to know the teachers, children and their families better I'll have a chance to assess what changes may be necessary if any. The Spring adult program is almost ready to be announced. For this issue of The NUUS I have listed the January offerings. Please let Pam Person or Tom Grogan know which classes you are interested in attending so we can plan effectively. Again, I am very happy to have joined you and look forward to all we will accomplish together, thank you!

Youth Con Planned
February 5th – 7th Youth Con at the Unitarian
Universalist Society of Bangor! See Tom to sign up.

January 2010 Adult Education Offerings

*All will be held at UUCE on Sundays from Noon -1:30
PM, except potluck Sundays
Session will be cancelled if church is cancelled due to
weather*

January 10. UUA Seven Principles – #1&2
Session 1 of this 3 part series on our Seven Principles, come and discuss how each Principle works in your life.
Facilitators: Pam Person & Evelyn Foster
January 17. UUA Seven Principles -#3&4
Session 2 of this 3 part series
Facilitators: Pam Person & Evelyn Foster
January 24. UUA Seven Principles # 5,6 &7
“We Covenant to Affirm and Promote”
Session 3 of this 3 part series
Facilitators: Pam Person & Evelyn Foster
January 31. IMBOLG – Pagan Sabbat
Facilitators: Anne Ossanna & Mike Tansey

Tom Grogan-Lifespan Religious Education &
Exploration Director

Call to Participate in UUA Decisions on Social Witness

Some of you have attended a General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and have shared in the excitement of participating in the decision making process there, together with congregants from all over the world. This winter you can participate in GA affairs right here at UUCE. The UUA calls on all congregations to participate in a number of social witness decisions in the next few months. We will hold a congregational meeting in January 2010 to discuss the issues involved and to vote on the following questions:

1. Do you approve placing the Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on "[Peacemaking](#)" on the Final Agenda for General Assembly (GA) 2010?
2. Which five of the following six proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) do you recommend be placed on the Final Agenda of General Assembly 2010?
 - [Ending Slavery](#)
 - [Energy, Peace, and Justice](#)
 - [Immigration as a Moral Issue](#)
 - [National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative](#)
 - [Nuclear Disarmament](#)
 - [Revitalizing American Democracy](#)

Background information on all of these questions is available on line at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/index.shtml>. If you are viewing this article online, just click on the underlined topics above to connect to the documents online. If you do not have easy access to the internet, please ask Martha Dickinson or Ruth Eveland for a hard copy. Each document is several pages long.

Comments are also solicited on the Draft SOC "[Peacemaking](#)" by February 1, 2010 and on the Draft CSAI "[Ethical Eating](#)" by March 1, 2010. The Peace and Social Action Committee will discuss these issues at their December meeting.- *Martha Dickinson, for PASA*

Mardi Gras Variety Show

The winter fundraiser at UUCE will be presented the evening of Saturday, February 6th, with a Mardi Gras theme. This traditional celebration of life prior to the start of Lent is on February 16th this year, just in time for our winter variety show on the 6th. The Cajuns in Louisiana celebrate with a masked ball and costume parade through town, gathering makings for a big gumbo to be shared with all. The Brazilians celebrate Carnivale in much the same way, with music, elaborate costumes, and parades. Let's get into the spirit and have some fun!

If you would like to participate in the variety talent show with music or a story or dance, especially on a Mardi Gras theme, please contact David Towle (dtowle@mdibl.org, 460-8881) or Jean Martin (jmartin2@myfairpoint.net, 664-0309) with your ideas. David is planning to break out his Cajun accordion for the occasion, so who knows what else may happen! "Laissez les bons temps rouler".

There will be a dinner by reservation before the variety show. Contact Peggie Geiger (288-2335) if you would like to reserve a place or if you would like to help in the kitchen. Proceeds will be divided equally between Loaves and Fishes and UUCE. Mark February 6th on your calendar!

Winter Gifts

from the
Church of the Larger Fellowship

www.clfuu.org/catalog/

20% discount on chalice pendants and lapel pins

Looking for that **special gift** for the Unitarian Universalist in your life? The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) offers UU gifts for friends, family & volunteers of all ages!

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) sells several styles of **chalice pendants & lapel pins** for all genders and all ages.

To reach a real person, contact The Church of the Larger Fellowship: e-mail clfshop@clfuu.org 617-948-6150

Guest At Your Table

The colorful boxes you used to collect money for those in need around the world may be returned any time in January to our RE Director, Tom Grogan, or to members of the PASA committee, Martha Dickinson and Margery Forbes. You are encouraged to use an envelope to return the money you collected, either as a check made out to UUCE or as cash. If you use a check, please earmark it for UUSC. You may use your own envelope or pick up one of ours from the "Guest At Your Table" table in the community room. Please put your name, address and amount given on the envelope to help our bookkeeping.

We encourage you to become a member of UUSC when you return your contribution. The membership levels are:

\$40.00 General or \$75.00 General [dual]
\$10.00 Student/Youth or \$20.00 Student/Youth [dual]
\$20.00 Senior or \$40.00 Senior [dual]

If your Guest At Your Table contribution reaches the above amounts, you will be enrolled as a member of UUSC. As a member, you will join a community of more than 40,000 UUSC supporters who share your ideals. You will also stay up-to-date on human rights issues through regular mailings, action alerts, and a subscription to the newsletter, *Rights Now*.

Why join UUSC? UUSC believes in *acting locally and supporting globally*. UUSC can increase the power of UU social justice by allowing all congregations and individuals to join together as one voice for human rights. UUSC is not a replacement for local social action but a powerful extension of it. For more information, see uus.org.

- Martha Dickinson, Peace and Social Action Committee

Everybody Eats

A free meal is available every Monday in Ellsworth, at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, from 3 pm to 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to eat and enjoy the good vibes. We also need volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up. We have two shifts: 11 am to 3 pm for preparation and 3 to 7 pm for serving and cleanup. Shorter shifts are also welcome. Everyone, including UU'ers, is encouraged to stop by to enjoy the excellent food and company and to think about volunteering some of your time. Go to the website: <http://everybodyeats4free.blogspot.com/> or see Martha Dickinson for more information.

Personnel

Minister

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

Church Office

Caitlin Tunney: 667-4393
caitlin@uuellsworth.org

President of the Board

Ruth Eveland: 288-5727
president@uuellsworth.org

Director of Religious Education and Exploration

Tom Grogan: 667-4393
groganfam@roadrunner.com

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301
lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

From The Board

Retreat

On a November 21 the board met at the home of Evelyn Foster to explore many of the ideas we have been reading about in the past 3 months. It was a lively discussion and helped to focus our thoughts on vision, mission and direction for UUCE. We will be continuing these discussions in small groups and at board meetings.

Board meeting, December 10, 2009

Present Anne Ossanna, Ruth Eveland, Don Martin, Karen Volckhausen, Cynthia Perkins, Diana Cate, Eileen Brennan, Judy Rothrock, Leela Sinha, Bob Dickens, Johanna Stacy, Randy Sprague

Heating system

Randy Sprague from Sprague Heating and Plumbing presented information and quotes for several propane heating systems. We will be getting additional quotes from other area businesses.

Housekeeping

Portfolio groups formed- executive, stewardship, community building, outreach/service and board members divided up among them. These groups will meet before the next board meeting to look at what we are doing now and come up with ideas that will help us look toward the future.

Sunday Announcements - discussed sign up and issues including not taking announcements from the floor

LREA Guidelines – discussed in relationship to staff

Follow up discussion with Committee on Ministry

We reviewed our respective and joint meetings in the summer. Now our task is to see where we are, be clear on what we are working on and where it is all going. A mission statement is essential to finding our focus.

Treasurer's report

We are holding on but thin around the edges. Zero budgets in some areas are having their effect. Dawn Fortune will be helping us brainstorm some fund raising options. For full report, see elsewhere in this newsletter.

Minister's report

Pastoral care needs are less urgent but Leela is making a lot of visits and phone calls to sick and hospitalized congregants. Thursdays continue to be an invaluable time to do this.

The No on One debriefing was held at UUCE.

Thank you to Dawn and Laura.

They recommend having UUCE material out and available during any event at the church.

We are looking for a big and clear monitor for Tom Grogan's Mac mini. Anne may have one but if anyone else has access to one please let Leela know. The new member class starts December 11 with at least 4 people signed up.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Volckhausen, Board Secretary

Empty Bowls Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the EMPTY BOWLS fundraiser. Together we raised \$300.00 for the Ellsworth Area Ministers Discretionary Fund, distributed by the Emmaus Center to our Hancock County neighbors in need. With gratitude – Anne

Treasurer's Corner

Pledge receipts continue to flow positively. Thank you! We will be mailing out second quarter statements this month. This will let you know exactly where you stand. If you have fallen behind, you will have the next six months to catch up. While you are preparing your income taxes, if you have any questions about how much you have given to the church in 2009, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will help you. There is not any significant financial news to report at this time. Expenses are in line. We will be paying fuel bills and snow plowing has begun. I will have a better handle on how we stand financially after all the December reports are run and I have an opportunity to analyze the results. Please keep up the good work and support the fund raisers that are planned for this year. Please let me know if you have to adjust your pledge. It really helps in budgeting. Have a good year!

Don Martin
Treasurer

Message from the President

New Year, New Approach

Before I tell you about what your Board of Trustees is embarking upon, I need to mention something personal first. Many of you are aware that I have made a big change in my personal life. After twenty-one years of a child and community focus, I have returned to the work-world, as the new Director of the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor. I hadn't really thought about going back to work, but the opportunity to be a librarian again and in the town I have lived in and loved for sixteen years was just too compelling. So, that forty hours a week I'm now at the library is forcing some changes in how I have been doing things. Please bear with me as I may appear a little less attentive for a while as I adjust. I don't love you any less; I'm just juggling my time.

Now, your Board is also making some changes. We had a great mini-retreat in November to review what we'd been reading and to develop an action plan. (Thanks very much to Evelyn Foster for the use of her space and hospitality!)

One of the first questions we confronted was: are we (the Board) leaders or caretakers? In other words, are we just sort of churning along and reacting to what is before us, or are we actively identifying what needs to be done and figuring out how to tackle it and move ahead? We concluded that we are trying to move from the caretaker to the leader role. One of the ways we could do better would be to set up some "portfolio clusters" (aka subcommittees) to examine these areas: "housekeeping," stewardship, outreach, and community building. Each group will meet and begin to line out some specific actions.

The second big question was both very complicated and at the same time easily answered. What is our "product?" What is it we hope to achieve by being a part of this church? The only answer that resonated with everyone was "spiritually mature." In an attempt to define what that actually means we each spent a few minutes reflecting ways we might begin to live this. Since everyone's definition was unique, all the methods and practices were individual, but were very thoughtful reflections.

The last big idea we addressed was the essential elements of a Covenant of Leadership. This is beyond a group covenant of how we will work together; it gets to the fundamental basis of how we will be your leaders.

We agreed we need to be leading the congregation *somewhere*; we will develop spiritual discipline; we will read; we will give (see also the Not There Yet section); we will nurture younger leaders; we will adapt to rapid change; we can't please everyone; we will consider how other traditions live their faith; we will say "yes;" and, we will reach out without losing the focus on ourselves. We also decided that we were not all to the point of agreeing that this will be our primary volunteer commitment; that we will give at a specific higher percentage; that we will take risks; and, that we are in a state of abundance not scarcity.

Our Action Plan for the next four months will solidify our Covenant of Leadership, will make us develop our own credos and share them with the congregation (a little scary for some of us), and will move us forward in identifying our mutual ministry. We will work through our portfolio clusters to initiate some specific actions to bring the congregation along the path we have taken. We identified a particular need to work with the young adults among us to encourage their movement into our leadership ranks.

We have set out a very ambitious plan. We will accomplish as much as possible, understanding that perhaps everything will not work exactly as we might have initially expected but that we will all be better off for our work together. Thank you very much for your support of the Board through this process.

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

P.S. Okay, no one has stepped forward with the ability to print large sheets to give us some new signs for the Wayside Pulpit. However, we still need the signs. Is there anyone who would be willing to do some lettering if we give you large sheets of paper and the words we need? We really, really need some new Wayside Pulpit signs and I'm trying to figure out some way to make it happen. If you have a workable idea, please let me know.

