



# The NUUS

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

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

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## A Month of Sundays

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

**March 1.** *Becoming More:* Our nonfiction common reading this winter has been *Radical Evolution*, a 2004 book about trends in human development that are being driven by technology and inventions rather than by natural mutations. What does it mean for us to acknowledge the full measure of power we have over our own destinies? Is our moral development keeping pace with our intellectual development? What role belongs to religion, or does separation of church and state keep us out of the fray?

Rev. Leela Sinha

### Pot Luck Lunch

**March 8.** *Gratitude:* Sr. Lucille MacDonald, founder and director of The Emmaus Center, Homeless Shelter in Ellsworth, will speak.

**March 15.** *Joyful Noise Sunday: Loving Diversity.* Rumi wrote that there are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground. He was a Muslim--there are a thousand ways, he said, to worship. We already know that if you ask ten UUs for their opinions you get twelve answers, but if you visit ten UU churches you see almost the same thing, over and over--so what are we missing? We'll explore the question in the sermon, but we're also going to try a new kind of worship this morning, one that's meant to be more participatory, more edgy, farther from the model we inherited from our Protestant forbears

than anything we're used to. It will be a celebration of living, a celebration of life. If you have ideas about things to include in this or a future worship, please email them to Leela ([minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org)). We can't use everything, but the more ideas that go in, the more interesting the result.

Rev. Leela Sinha

**March 22.** *Let's be Rich* Liberal values often seem directly at odds with amassing wealth. In a world where so many have so little, we are caught between the power of the dollar and the plight of the hungry. That doesn't look like the balance we strive for. Our choices often reflect this tension. On this Equinox Sunday we'll kick off our annual Stewardship drive and ask the question: is there a way to be ethical AND have lots of money?

Rev. Leela Sinha

**March 29.** *Worship That Works* UUCE members visit other UU churches, coordinated by Kay Wilkins.  
Note: If you want to share a recent worship experience visit, please contact Kay.



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## Unexpected Grace

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Dear ones,

A number of you have spoken to me or to other leaders about joys and sorrows. Some of you have said, among other things, that "joys and sorrows was the heart of the service". Others of you have said that joys and sorrows is an *interruption* in your worship experience.

That's a big thing to say. That's a huge difference in the way you experience worship, and in what you appreciate. Part of my job is to create worship with integrity—worship that never feels interrupted; worship that picks you up and moves you in ways you don't even think about, because you're too engaged in the experience itself. And what you have told me is that your worship styles are profoundly diverse.

Neither style is better than the other; meditative worship has a long and venerable history and an active present, and so does ecstatic worship. They are both profound ways to connect with ourselves, each other, and the divine. Even Jewish and Christian scripture supports the both/and: 1 Kings says that God arrived not as an earthquake or as a fire but as a still, small voice that must be heard (1 Kings 19:11-13) and yet the ancient poetry of psalm 100 calls us to gratitude and hope by this line: "make a joyful noise unto the Lord". 2 Samuel 6:16 shows king David "leaping and dancing before the Lord". Somewhere on our journey through the 19<sup>th</sup> century we UUs lost our traditions of leaping and dancing, but it is still within us. It is still among us. And in our longing for expression and emotion, in our conflicted worship identity, we find conflict and tension and stress over and over again. And that, while a good growth and learning experience, feels icky.

So what do we do? You who love emotion and personal expression and risk, how would you minister to those for whom quiet meditation is the

deepest spiritual place? How would you address the need for more silence, more stillness, more contemplation? And you who love the stillness, how would you minister to those who need lots of voices? What of those who need to balance between closeness and crisis just to feel alive?

People have been unwilling to name it like this, but I am hearing it: those who miss joys and sorrows in the old way want you all to listen, want you all to witness their journey. Not just some of you. They want your absolute focus. And those who don't want to listen will not listen. Some are able to understand it as a spiritual practice of tolerance, but the others will not engage. They will hum or meditate or ignore you or stop coming to church rather than be forced to listen. You are all working at cross-purposes, and deeply mired in "I won't and you can't make me".

It's true. I can't make you. I can't make ANY of you, and neither can anyone else. And you will be divided until we find some common ground. Finding common ground takes time, and it takes discomfort, and it takes compromise, but it can happen. And once it happens, I can develop liturgy and we can develop programs to meet the needs we've discovered. That's why the question of function that Bob Dickens mentioned on Sunday is so very important.

There are two great revelations that are coming out of this process:

One: we need more and better ways of connecting to each other within this congregation. If joys and sorrows is all we have, we are operating with a great gaping hole where our heart ought to be. The fundraiser on Valentine's day was a great success because in the end it was a party for us--time to enjoy each other. Casual conversation reveals that our congregation claims to be about two things: liberal witness in the world and connection to each other. I challenge you to think about ways that we  
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can connect as a community, because I don't think we're there yet.

Two: we need two kinds of worship. I just don't think there is one kind of worship that holds it all with integrity. The people for whom joys and sorrows is "the heart" of the service are, in the best case, twiddling their thumbs through the rest of the service. The people for whom joys and sorrows is an interruption are disengaged by it. Essentially, we have pentecostal UUs and we have meditative UUs, or perhaps pentecostal moods and meditative moods. What we may need is pentecostal and meditative worship services. The meditative worship services are making a number of you fidgety. I am predicting that a pentecostal worship service will make at least an equal number of you at least equally fidgety. But I think we should try it. Here's the thing: we might all need to be willing to be a little uncomfortable for a while.

It might look like this (subject to change--these things evolve):

Sanctuary arranged sideways with chairs in concentric arcs, with a section for people who would prefer to stand. Opening words and lighting of the chalice as we practice them now. Rousing music throughout. Visitors invited to stand and tell who they are and what brought them to the church. Lots of clapping. People invited to respond to what is said with "amen" or "thank you" or "yes" or "preach it" as they are moved. A sermon--yes, we'd keep the sermon. And a time of testimony when people can stand up and say what they need to say. Joys, sorrows, how has religion moved in your life, what has inspired or saddened you, and I will carry the mike around to people and we will hear the outpourings of the community. It would not be just about joy or sorrow. People would not have to take what they wanted to say and fit it into the "brief personal joy or sorrow" box. It would indeed be the heart of the service. I would expect it to take a lot of time—possibly as long as the sermon, possibly longer. We would probably respond to each

testimony with something: a sung "amen" or a ritual phrase—not usually with applause, although occasionally it might be appropriate. The service might run long—much longer than we are used to. If it runs really long, the children will come streaming in toward the end when their classes are over. And then some days it might be shorter. The whole service would be built on emotion and risk. Over time the sermon might become a from-notes sermon instead of preached from a text. (No promises!) We would do a lot of singing, we would not try to avoid repeating hymns, and we would learn them so that over time we could sing some of them by heart. We might use a projector to work with music that isn't in our hymnal and readings that aren't printed. We would probably not have an order of service, because they distract people from being in community—people end up being in relationship to the piece of paper in their hands instead. We would probably hold hands in meditation and in prayer.

And in that context, passing the mike around would have integrity. I think we should try it. But we need open minds. Ordinarily I preach three Sundays in a month. Let's give it a try for one of those Sundays for March, April, and May. Some of you who don't like your service interrupted have offered a willingness to try and "live with" joys and sorrows. Instead, let's try a different kind of experience altogether, but please do try it. Please do come, even if you think you'll hate it. At this point all of you have "put up with" something that someone else loves. Do each other the favor of trying this together. Please come ready to make a joyful noise, because we are going to have a celebration.

It'll be fun!

Blessings,

Leela

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## Religious Exploration and Education

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Greetings from RE! Please take a moment to look over all of the wonderful upcoming programs for our UUCE youth and Adults.

### SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PROGRAM

**March 1, 18, 15, 22\*, 29**

#### Nursery

Care provided by Helen Conway for our tiny tots

#### Early Youth

Spirit play under the loving guidance of Anne Ossana

#### Sr. Youth

Ongoing creativity based classes led by Carol Rosinski

\***March 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Special Guest, renowned artist and social activist, **Rob Shetterly**, will be guest teacher for our youth group.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### AN EVENING PROGRAM WITH THE MAINE/EL SALVADOR SISTER CITY PROJECTS

Everyone is welcome to attend a program about “sister” relationships between groups in El Salvador and in Maine on Friday, March 20, 2009, at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ellsworth. A Sister City relationship between a village in El Salvador and Bangor has been in existence since 1991 through the efforts of Peace Through Interamerican Community Action (PICA). The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) links with two Salvadoran grassroots organizations working toward sustainable

agriculture. They explore issues such as organic certification, free trade, and marketing that affect farmers in both countries. WERU, our local community radio station, maintains a sistering relationship with Radio Sumpul in El Salvador that was started in 1992, after the end of a twelve-year civil war. These three sistering projects strive to build relationships, create a new kind of globalization built from the ground up, share mutual concerns, and support community sustainability. Active members of these projects will tell, through slides and stories, about the history of these sister city relationships and their work in El Salvador. There will be a mini marketplace for display and sale of fair trade products. This program is sponsored by the Peace and Social Action Committee and the RE Program. Come, learn and think how our church could be involved in these projects. For more information, call 667- 5863.

- Friday, March 20, 2009 at 7 PM

#### AN AFTERNOON WITH ROB SHETTERLY

Following coffee hour on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, artist Rob Shetterly will speak with us about his current work surrounding his ongoing project, Portraits of Americans who Speak the Truth.

- Sunday, 12 – 1:30, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### ADVANCED UU CLASS - TESTIFY: ARTICULATING THE SPIRIT

What is the burning core of your spiritual life? Do you have a particular experience or set of beliefs that lift you up or changed you profoundly or move you to greater religious depths? In this class we will take three days to create brief statements of belief or experience that are meant to be aural, to move people, to tell our own stories of faith. Members who take this class will be invited to (Continued on page 5)

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worship service. This is an advanced UU identity course.

Prerequisite:

membership at UUCE or completion of Intro UU class + 6 months' attendance at this congregation  
OR

6 months' attendance in UU RE + 6 months involvement at UUCE (may be concurrent)  
OR

Two years' regular involvement in a UU congregation (this or another).

If you're not sure whether this class is a good fit for you, please call or email Leela Sinha and we'll talk.

- Three meetings, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6-9 p.m., March 24 – 26

*Please pre-register with Rev. Leela or Sonia.*

**A SHORT HISTORY OF MYTH – BOOK DISCUSSION**

*A Short History of Myth*, by Karen Armstrong, consists of a seven brief essays about the role of myth and its development over time. Armstrong concisely explains how material and economic conditions of civilization interacted with the basic human need to transcend our immediate condition to create various epochs of myth. Facilitated by Diana Cate

**NOTE – Change of Date**

- 3 meetings, Sundays after church, noon – 1:30 (or following potluck on April 5<sup>th</sup>), March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Books are available through Bookstacks bookstore in Bucksport at a %10 discount and will be available for pick up 2 weeks prior to class dates. Bookstacks, 71 Main Street, Bucksport, 469-8992  
*Please pre-register with Rev. Leela or Sonia.*

**COMMUNITY REMINDERS:**

- **EVERY ONE IS INVITED to the RE Brainstorming Get -Together, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

We are looking forward to seeing you at the rescheduled RE Brainstorming Get-together following Sunday services on March 8th. Please see the projected RE timeline included in this edition of NUUS for a proposed outline of the agenda topics. All ideas and questions welcome! A soup lunch will be provided.

- It is time to return the **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE** collection boxes.

Please bring them to Sonia by the end of

March, and thank you in advance for

your generous participation.

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**PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMMIING**

**MARCH 8th – Congregational RE Brainstorming Meeting**

To strengthen our communal understanding, commitment to, and goals for the Lifespan RE program.

Goals to consider for THIS year:

- Identify teachers for children and youth RE program
  - Address safe-congregation requirements for back ground check for all providers

- Identify providers (both in-house and at-large) for specialty children/youth RE program

Goals to consider for NEXT year:

**CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

- Identify teachers for children and youth RE program
  - Address safe-congregation requirements for back ground check for all providers
  - Children, youth , teen class volunteer teachers & back-up teachers
    - We need a minimum of 2(two) teachers for each class, children, youth & teens
      - Children’s program
        - 1)
        - 2)
      - Youth program
        - 1)
        - 2)
      - Teen program
        - 1)
        - 2)
- Discuss options for staffing and financing nursery care
  - Paid coverage vrs. volunteer coverage
    - Current budget only allows for \$10 per Sunday for nursery coverage
  - Back-up coverage
    - 1)
    - 2)
    - 3)
- Identify providers (both in-house and at-large) for specialty children/youth RE program
  - ‘Way Cool Sunday School’ option
- Discuss options and commitment to youth ‘Our Whole Lives’ program

- Brainstorm community social action opportunities
- Identify outreach opportunities
- Identify new members for RE committee

**ADULT:**

- Identify desired curriculum options
- Discuss scheduling concerns
- Carpooling
- Discuss options and commitment to adult ‘Our Whole Lives’ program
- Identify providers (both in-house and at-large) for adult RE program
  - Discuss budget for programming
- Identify outreach opportunities
- Identify new members for RE committee

**LATE MARCH, EARLY APRIL –Teacher Training**

All prospective teachers will attend an afternoon teacher training to be scheduled ASAP. We will also arrange for back ground checks at this time.

**LATE APRIL /MAY – New teachers begin in children/youth RE**

Our current teachers (Anne Ossana/ children, Carol Rosinski/youth) have been full time in the RE wing for the past several years. New teachers will trade off with Anne and Carol for the remainder of the year, enabling them to have several Sunday’s a month in the sanctuary.

**AUGUST – Hire Nursery Care?/ Children & Teen teachers meeting**

- If we decide to hire nursery care, an ad would be placed & interviews held during August. Candidate would then undergo back ground check prior to the start of church in September.

- Towards the end of August all teachers would gather with DREE for a pre start-of-the-year meeting.

### **SEPT – New programs begin**

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## **New UU Class is coming!**

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Have you been thinking about membership? Curious about UUism? Looking for a place to have some conversation and discussion about who we are and how your spiritual path might fit here? Look no farther. Our New UU class is taught by Rev. Leela Sinha. Originally a six-session class, the intensive format has been so successful that we're trying it again. For three nights we gather and talk about personal spirituality, UU history, theology, worship, opportunities in the congregation, and how to get connected. 6-9 PM March 16, 17, and 18. This course fulfills the board recommendation for an introductory class prior to membership, and the next Membership Sunday (for joining the church) will be March 22. Please help us plan! Preregister by contacting our Director of Lifespan Religious Education and Exploration, Sonia Turanski at the church or by email ([Sonia@uellsworth.org](mailto:Sonia@uellsworth.org)). Registration deadline is March 9.

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## **UU Earth Day Choir**

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After a fun contribution to the Valentine's Variety Show, the UU choir is taking a bit of a break. We will start up again the first Sunday in April (the 5th) with rehearsals from 9 to 10 am in the sanctuary and plan to be part of the Earth Day Sunday service (the 19th). All are welcome! Remember, if you can talk you can sing! Contact David Towle (460-8881, [dtowle@mdibl.org](mailto:dtowle@mdibl.org)) with questions.

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## From The Board

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PLEASE NOTE: As of next month, the Board of Trustees will begin its meeting at 6:00 P.M. instead of 7:00.

Attending: Ruth Eveland, David Towle, Toby Manring, Don Martin, Cynthia Perkins, Judy Rothrock and Leela Sinha.

The meeting began with a forty-five minute long Congregational Comment discussion about Joys and Sorrows. Present were Carol Rosinski, Wayne Smith, Matt Baya, Bob Dickens, and Fran Stehman. The bottom line was that we need to continue to be in dialogue and to work together to find a method that will work for now.

In the Minister's Report Leela Sinha spoke eloquently about learning to be in community, even with tension, and about finding other ways to be intimate and meet each other's needs. She also talked about different ways of adding congregants' voices to the worship service.

Don Martin's Treasurer's Report said that we are okay at the moment. The endowment lost about \$30,000 last year in the general debacle, and as a result we will expect a much smaller distribution from it for the coming year. He explained how we had fixed a discrepancy in how Leela's benefits were being paid. President Ruth Eveland asked people to be cautious in spending, even on budgeted items, so as not to end the year with a deficit beyond the planned use of the "floating funds."

After discussion, it was decided that we will experiment with the nomination process for next year's Board. We had only one volunteer for the Nominating Committee, Jim Fisher (thanks!), so rather than make him do the work of three people we will ask those members who might like to be on the Board to let Jim know and he will keep the congregation informed. We have two regular seats up (John Fink's and Cynthia Perkins') and we will need to elect a Secretary, since Mary Ann Solet has

resigned due to iffy health. We know this isn't the method our bylaws call for, but we concluded that it was more important to have people running for the openings than to get stuck in a problematic process.

In other business, Bob Dickens was designated to serve as our local fire marshal. He will work with our building guru, David Towle, and the Ellsworth Fire Department and others to ensure that we are up to code and adequately protected. Assignment for new members: ask Bob why he cares so deeply about this issue.

Matt Baya is now handling the recording of our Sunday worship service and is preparing for the possibility of streaming the services. There are some thresholds we need to surmount (although the technological ones are the easiest, curiously enough, thanks to Matt's skills and generous contribution of time and materials), but the Board agreed to move forward in principle.

The youth group would like to paint a wall in its room in order to create some ownership of their (shared) space, and there was a lot of discussion about what this might entail. The Board agreed to support it moving forward and asked Judy Rothrock and Carol Rosinski to work with the group and DLREE Sonia Turanski to make it happen.

The Stewardship Committee (raise your hand if you know what important work this group actually does) asked the Board to make a change to next year's budget to create a "tithing" line. This would be a new line item in our budget that says "we give ten percent of our resources to good works." This would include (at least in the beginning) our Fair Share contributions to the denomination, and the monies we raise for special causes which do not now actually go through our budget. For example, this budget year we have raised \$2,500 for the Thaw Fund, about \$850 for Loaves and Fishes, an amount I can't remember for the Knoxville church, and several bunches for Emmaus Center. None of this is shown in our budget - it all just passes along to (Continued on page 7)

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the designated organizations, but it should be recorded because it says that we are in fact generous, committed people. The Board agreed to take this approach and asked our Treasurer to pass it along to the committee which will make the first pass over our next budget. Don will work with Caitlin to figure out how to make it work with our bookkeeping system.

We regretfully accepted Mary Ann Solet's resignation as Secretary, and will hold her in our hearts so that she can regain strength.

Also, Cynthia Perkins reported that she finally tracked down the necessary information and we can indeed move ahead with getting the infamous roadside signs up; she and Stefanie Alley will be making it happen. And, the Board agreed to support the request from the Leadership Development Committee to conduct a targeted fundraiser to send the President to GA.

Ruth reminded people about signing up for the Northern New England District annual meeting May 1 – 2. Keynote speaker will be Rebecca Parker! Find the forms on the bulletin board in the Community Room.

Compiled and submitted by President Ruth Eveland

**Addendum: Home Hospitality for a Meeting**

We will be hosting the spring meeting of the Planning for Growth six-church meeting Friday, May 15th - Saturday, May 16th. A number of people attending would appreciate home hospitality for one or two nights. If you have never done this, it is very simple. We need one or more beds, with access to a bathroom (it doesn't have to be separate - they can share with your family) for that Friday and possibly Saturday night. That's it. You don't even need to provide breakfast, since we'll be doing that at church, although some people appreciate a cup of coffee or tea before heading out.

While this is "home hospitality" you can set the boundaries. You don't need to do more than provide the space, although I will say that I (Ruth) have had some great conversations with hosts (including the widow of a minister who wrote several of the hymns we sing regularly) in the number of places I have stayed over the years. If you have questions, ask Ruth Eveland (handknit@myfairpoint.net or 288-5727) or if you have space to offer, get in touch with Cynthia Perkins (cynthiaperkins6@msn.com or 422-6263.) Thanks!

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## Valentine's Day Dinner and Variety Show—a Report

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Our Valentine's Day Dinner and Show was a great success. We raised \$1,685.00 to be divided equally between Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry and UUCE. Many thanks to folks who supported this event. By all reports, those who attended had a great evening.

### Common Conversations

We've had two books for common reading this winter: *Radical Evolution* and *Small Gods*. Look for announcements in the coming weeks as we start to use these two fascinating works. We'll have lay-led conversations, references in sermons, and whatever else we dream up. Looking for an icebreaker at coffee hour? Bring up the book!



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## Message from the President

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### *Glue*

Last month I wrote about trust, and my concern that we don't seem to have enough of it with each other. The month before I wrote about being a congregation. The one before that was about covenant.

There is obviously a theme running along here, people, and it has to do with glue. What is it that actually holds us together? How can we make more of it? Can we ensure that we have the really best quality of it, not just the kind that sort of works but lets things fall off the page in a week or two?

Some people are sure that Joys-and-Sorrows-the-way-we-used-to-do-it is the best glue. Others have said that that doesn't work for them, but we should do more fun stuff together. There are exhortations that to get to know each other we should pitch in on one project or another. A number of people quietly offer that just going to church on Sunday morning and hanging out is enough for them.

I think the key components of the right glue are that ***we genuinely want to be together and that we share faith in our larger purpose.*** For me the rest is details.

I want to be in community for my faith expression, and the UUCE is my chosen home. As a life-long Unitarian and now a Unitarian-Universalist I can't be anywhere else. So, I'm here for the duration.

I did take a brief sabbatical a while ago, although no one commented to me at the time. (Much of it was over a summer, so it's possible that's why.) When I stepped down from serving on the Board and all the committees I had been on I took about four months off and didn't come to church at all. I was trying to see how it felt and whether I truly wanted to keep going. Obviously I decided I did need to belong and even decided, when the time was right, that I could step back into service.

So, I feel the glue, whatever it is made of. I've tried to do my part to make sure that it is of excellent quality, and I try to spread it liberally. Another important question: is it better to focus on the glue or on the bits that it holds together? Well, right now I think I need to concentrate on the glue.

### ***The Tree Grows Really Slowly in Ellsworth...***

Folks, about a third of the congregation has now been through the Personal Ministry Exercise. Why are there so few leaves up on the tree? If you are waiting until you have the most polished, carefully crafted statement of which you are capable then you may have missed some of the point. What we need is your statement for now. Where are you going today? The point is to get a bunch of people up there so that we can share and appreciate and celebrate the range of who we are and what our work in the world is.

### **At the moment it feels to me that the barren tree is the statement, and that makes me very sad.**

Does the idea of writing a leaf feel too much like you are putting yourself ... out on a limb? (Sorry. Couldn't help myself.) Is a brief, written statement, even if you chose not to sign it, somehow too personal, too revealing? This kind of activity may not be the way you would first pick to share your hopes and dreams, but I'd encourage you to push through your hesitation and try it.

So, if you've been through the exercise, get some construction paper (or ask me for some - I bring it, hopefully, every Sunday) and get that leaf up there. If you haven't done the exercise yet then I'll keep running the workshop until everyone who wants to do it has had a chance. I'm available any Sunday after church, or if you get a couple of people who are willing to give it a try, let me know and we'll find a time. (Have papers, will travel...)

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



## Cottage Meetings??

Most of you have heard that this year instead of individual home meetings with a canvasser, the Stewardship Committee is using a different model for the important discussions with our members and friends about their ideas for the future of UUCE, and what we're each willing to contribute in time, talent and treasure to "Planting for Plenty."

So, what's a cottage meeting? In the first place, I don't imagine that particularly starting on March 22, many of these meetings will actually take place in cottages or camps as we Mainers call them. Instead, you will be invited to the home of a member who has agreed to host one of the small gatherings. Two Canvassers will also attend and lead the discussion. Some of these gatherings may be potlucks, or coffee or whatever arrangement the host wants to offer. After a conversation about our future each of you, or each couple will give the Canvassers a sealed and private pledge of what you plan to contribute in '09-10.

We are doing our best to keep these groups small and arranged by geography. In some cases that may just not be possible, given your schedule, so we'll offer a group at church or in some other suitable venue. A Canvasser can meet with anyone individually if that's what you need.

Expect a call in early March inviting you to one of the "Cottage Meetings." Our goals are to provide a comfortable setting in which you will share and just as importantly hear from others. We also hope this

will save gasoline and time for our trusty Canvassers, surely a green solution.

Diana and I are spending January and February in Florida, taking a break from snow shovels. We've been warmly welcomed to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Emerald Coast. February 15 was the kick-off for their Stewardship Drive. They too are using the cottage meeting method this year for the first time. The theme of Rev. Ron Debs' sermon was gratitude for UUs who came before us and a challenge to think about what kind of church we want to leave for those who will follow. He concluded with a quotation from the Bible, "*We drink from wells we did not dig; we are warmed by fires we did not kindle.*" (Deut. 6.11)

Kay Wilkins for the Stewardship Committee

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## A Note From Anne Osanna

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I just wanted to let folks know that my father, Donald passed away peacefully this evening at Faith Hospice (an inpatient Hospice Home) in Michigan. He led a full 81 years, so proud of his family. We will be returning to Michigan later this month to celebrate his life. Please keep us in your thoughts; his passage is hard on Joey, Elliot and Vincent as he is the only grandfather they have had.

Peace,

Anne



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## Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nonviolence

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Guest column by Jonathan Thomas

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As we observed Black History Month in February, it was natural to look at the role of Martin Luther King, Jr. in that history. King's commitment to non-violence was central to his life and ministry. Methodist theologian Walter Wink writes in his book *The Powers that Be*, "Although nonviolence has been used effectively for centuries, it was not developed into a movement complete with strategies and tactics until [Mohandas] Gandhi and King."

In *Engaging the Powers*, Wink writes that King, Gandhi, and others lived by Jesus' words, and "point us to a new way of confronting evil whose potential for personal and social transformation we are only beginning to grasp today."

King developed six principles of nonviolence that were included in the first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, published in 1958. As listed in the glossary on the King Center website, they are: "(1.) Nonviolence is not passive, but requires courage; (2.) Nonviolence seeks reconciliation, not defeat of an adversary; (3.) Nonviolent action is directed at eliminating evil, not destroying an evil-doer; (4.) A willingness to accept suffering for the cause, if necessary, but never to inflict it; (5.) A rejection of hatred, animosity or violence of the spirit, as well as refusal to commit physical violence; and (6.) Faith that justice will prevail."

The civil rights movement in the mid-twentieth century was created in response to oppressive racial practices that were often enforced by violence that included lynching. In Jesus' time, the Jews were oppressed by an occupying Roman army whose ultimate punishment was death by crucifixion.

Wink explains that some of Jesus' familiar teachings, such as going the second mile when there is an injustice, have been misinterpreted or misunderstood as advocating submission or passivity. The call to go the second mile needs to be looked at in the context of the Roman occupation, which was "the relatively enlightened practice of limiting to a single mile the amount of forced or

impressed labor that Roman soldiers could levy on subject peoples. ... What we have overlooked in this passage is the fact that carrying the pack a second mile is an infraction of military code," and that an offending soldier could be punished by his commander.

By declining to put down a pack after the first mile, an oppressed person would have seized the initiative. Wink writes, "Imagine a Roman infantryman pleading with a Jew to give back his pack! The humor of the scene may have escaped us, but it could scarcely have been lost on Jesus' hearers, who must have been delighted at the prospect of thus discomfiting their oppressors."

Wink says that Jesus was "helping an oppressed people find a way to protest and neutralize an onerous practice despised throughout the empire."

In a summary, Wink adds, "Jesus is not advocating non-violence merely as a technique for outwitting the enemy, but a just means of opposing the enemy in a way that holds open the possibility of the enemy's becoming just also. Both sides must win. We are summoned to pray for our enemies' transformation, and to respond to ill treatment with a love that is not only godly but also from God."

Note how several of King's principles of nonviolence listed above follow from Jesus' second mile teaching, as explained by Wink. Standing up to a Roman soldier by declining to return his pack was not a passive response, but required courage. It did not seek to defeat the soldier, but to end the practice of impressed labor. It did not inflict suffering on the soldier, while recognizing that the soldier might respond in an unpleasant way.

In his chapter entitled 'Practical Nonviolence' in *The Powers That Be*, Wink cites respect for the rule of law as an important principle of the of nonviolent struggle. He writes, "Martin Luther King's insight was that blacks, if they wished to achieve their rightful share in American society, could not begin by destroying the institutions and violating that respect for law that were the sources of the benefits they sought."

Later in that chapter, Wink writes about the importance of "not becoming what we hate. ... We (Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

want to be able to oppose evil without evil making us over into its likeness. The agenda is contained in Jesus' command 'Don't react violently against the one who is evil. (Matt. 5:39, Scholars Version).'" Wink continues, "This refusal to pay back in kind is one of the most profound and difficult truths in Scripture, however. Since our hate is usually a direct response to an evil done to us, our hate almost invariably causes us to respond in the terms already laid down by the enemy."

Wink notes that King had similar thoughts, and quotes the following from King's 1967 book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos Or Community*: "The ultimate weakness of violence ... is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy."

This writer, while working as a newspaper photographer, had a brief encounter with Martin Luther King during a peaceful civil rights march in Boston in April 1965. This was the year after he received the Nobel Peace Prize, and less than a month after the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

As one of a crowd of anxious photographers riding on the back of a flat-bed truck that overtook and slowly passed King and others in the front of the line of march, I was able to attract King's attention by calling out "Dr. King, Dr. King," while waving broadly with my left arm, and holding my camera to my eye with my right hand. He heard me, looked in my direction, and responded with a broad wave of his own, for a photograph that was on page one the following day.

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Editor's note: Thomas is now a reporter for the Penobscot Bay Press newspapers. This column, which represents his personal opinions, appeared in recent editions of *The Weekly Packet* (Blue Hill), and *The Castine Patriot*.

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## Treasurer's Corner

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I received the last quarterly statement from the Maine Community Foundation. We started 2008 with a balance of \$204,200. We contributed \$15,800 plus \$2,900 in interest to the fund, giving us a balance of \$222,900. We removed \$42,500 for the roof and operating budget. Our invested assets dropped in value to \$49,600 and the MCF administrative fees of \$1,500.00 leaves us with a balance at the end of December of \$129,300. The MCF estimates that our distribution for this year will be \$3,990. This will be \$3,470 less than last year when we received \$7,460 for our operating budget. It is not good, but with the state of the economy it is not surprising. If we plan to borrow \$50,000 from the MCF next year to invest in growth of the church, it will not leave us with much to work with in the endowment fund. Unfortunately, it does not take long for a small endowment to disappear. A roof, a new furnace, a water project can absorb a large portion of it. By June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, we will have used all of the approximately \$30,000 of discretionary money that was discovered three years ago. If we are going to continue on this path of investing in growth, we need to have a definite plan in place on how we are going to succeed. Everyone will need to get involved to support the project whatever it is going to be. Pledge payments continue to be positive. Thank you! The \$1,695 raised in the Valentine's Day Dinner and Variety Show, divided equally between UUCE and Loaves and Fishes put us \$847.50 closer to the \$6,000 we budgeted for fund raising. I encourage you to call me if you have any financial questions or suggestions. I will be glad to hear from you.

Don Martin  
Treasurer

**Bill Conway** has a new phone number. He can be reached at 546-7650

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## The Giving Corner

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Then she said to herself, “I think I can. I think I can.” She tugged and pulled and slowly, slowly they started off...up, up the mountain...faster, faster, faster until at last they were almost at the top.” - from “The Little Engine that Could” by Watty Piper

March 22 is kickoff Sunday **for the 2009-10 All Church Canvass**. Once again we think about who we are and all the hope, love and resources we have to share with each other and with those in our world who need what we have. Each year at pledge gathering time you have been asked to dream of the church toward which you would like to build. We have been asked to financially support our collective dream and encouraged to serve in volunteer work as well.. The responses over the past several years have been exciting. Your generous stewardship of time, money and talent has brought exciting results. We have been able to put into place many of the major pieces toward the church we envisioned...a full-time minister and part time music director, religious exploration director, administrative assistant, and janitor. Our building and grounds have received major renovations and improvement. There are many new programs in place as well. While accomplishing all this, UUCE has significantly increased its own contributions to charitable causes and is hoping to be much more generous in benevolence in the next year. These results are astounding and have come about because of the dedication of so many of you to your dreams for the future of our church.

Yes, we have been giving and working to make our dreams come true. Each year income from pledges has increased. However, members have also voted in good faith for budgets that were somewhat higher than our income. We have been spending money based on deficit or badly stretched budgets, believing that if we took these steps we would be building for the future and the money would follow.

As the canvass approaches you will have the opportunity to examine the actual cost of our regular expenses. You will see that in order to meet our budget the collective income has to increase yet again. There is very good news in all this. In the near future we should not face any more large increases in the budget. Extra money raised can be spent for programming and further outreach. This year we are just a little distance from the top of the mountain. Either we push on toward the top or face cutting back where we have made advances. **If we all pull together –we can-we know we can!**

There is more good news. No one of us has to do this alone. We have a history of pulling together to make things happen. Among us we really have all we need to pay for what we believe in. It becomes a matter of personal conscience and fiscal integrity for some. For each of us it is a matter of decision about what we wish to do or must do with the money we have. Miraculously, our increases have continued as a result of new pledges and increased support from people committed to sustaining our church. Together we can do what any one of us could not do alone.

When the total from the pledge drive is known, the UUCE members will vote on a budget that reflects the collective wisdom of the group. We have all the pieces in place. Let’s make it all happen with our gratitude and generosity.

“And the little engine smiled and seemed to say as she puffed steadily down the mountain taking toys and food to the people on the other side,  
“I thought I could. I thought I could. I thought I could.”

Evelyn Foster, Stewardship Chair



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## Important Dates for Stewardship Activities

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March 6-9 Invitations are made to attend neighborhood Cottage Gatherings

March 10 Tues (7:00pm) - Facilitator training (at church) for canvass committee and all canvassers

### March 22 --Stewardship Sunday—Canvass kickoff

March 22-April 8--Cottage Gatherings

April 9- (5:30) at church- windup of canvassing- canvassers and committee gather for light meal and reporting on their work

April 12—Celebration of new beginnings—results of the canvass, recognition of the workers, Special coffee hour. Happy Easter!

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## From the New Coffee Crew Chiefs - Sue and Bill Clark

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It's our turn to have some fun with Coffee/Tea Hour. Thanks to Caitlin, the Coffee Sign Up Sheet is up through March on the Information Board in the gorgeous new Kitchen. We are still finding our way around and thank all those who have been doing coffee hour for months. If you're new to the process we will help, including a step by step dish washing process guide. It is so great to be able to leave by 12 or 12:30 instead of after 1 pm.

We are no longer responsible for seeking snack foods or bringing them. However, they do turn up and can be put out by the tea set up. Plus people leave great items in the frig. with NO LABELS which can be put out for the hour, such as juice for the children or anyone not drinking coffee/tea. (There is a request that we label items if they are for

a different group.)

That's all folks. Questions? Call Sue Clark at 244-3051.

PS Thanks to those of you who donate crackers or cookies or bread or carrots. As the kids say "That's sweet."

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## UUCE Down East Discussion Group Winter – Spring Schedule 2009

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Host: Grace Schimpf (422-6240) Hancock

Topic: "What are we willing to let go of as we age?"

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Host: Judith Toland (546-4244) Milbridge

Topic: "Our Gifts" Evelyn Foster will lead discussion.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Host: Peggy Drake (546-8970) Steuben

Topic: TBA

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Host: Richard Thurston (546-2235) Steuben  
Picnic and Planning Meeting



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## News About Our NUUS

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If you receive newsletters from other organizations, you may have been told that if you want to continue receiving their newsletter, then you must go to the organization's website and get the newsletter online, and that your organization is no longer mailing the newsletters. Our church board has decided to be more kind to people in our congregation, knowing that some of us need more time to allow a change to take place, even though our rates have increased, just as those of other organizations. Our annual permit fee, which allows us to use the bulk mailing rate for a year has gone very quickly from \$100 a year to \$180 per year. Also, printing costs have increased. Our church must now pay about \$70 each month to print copies of the newsletter, and the mailing cost each month is over \$30 even with the bulk rate. So, our church must now pay about \$100 each month to mail the newsletters and also pay \$180 for the annual fee to use bulk mailing. All these rates are sure to go up again, and soon. There is a need for us to save money. The board would like for all who are able, to go to our church website, [www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org) and click on "newsletter" and read it on your computer. If you prefer to read a printed copy, you could just press "print" and presto, there is your printed copy. If you decide you can help save the church money, you can tell both Peggie Geiger and Dusty Bailey that there is no need to keep your name on the mailing list, that you will use the church's website to receive your copy of the NUUS. Please be sure to let both of us know. Dusty's address is P. O. Box 123, Hancock, ME 04640 email [margodusty123@yahoo.com](mailto:margodusty123@yahoo.com). Peggie's address is 44 Young's Mt. Rd. # 4, Bar Harbor, ME 04609, email [peggiegeiger@hotmail.com](mailto:peggiegeiger@hotmail.com). Thanks for your cooperation.

## Personnel

### Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393  
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### Church Office

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### President of the Board

Ruth Eveland: 288-5727  
[president@uuellsworth.org](mailto:president@uuellsworth.org)

### Director of Religious Education and Exploration

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### Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

### Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301  
[lfunderburk@roadrunner.com](mailto:lfunderburk@roadrunner.com)

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## UU Sacred Singing Circle

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Our UU Sacred Singing Circle has recently changed to singing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month, starting on January 28. We gather from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in the sanctuary of the UUCE church. We sing for about an hour and then share our thoughts and ideas. We are currently singing songs from our hymnals and other songbooks, particularly songs from Women With Wings. We are not a performance group, rather our aim is the spiritual nourishment of those gathered in song. Everyone is welcome to join us. You don't even have to sing! If you are coming for the first time, please try to arrive a few minutes early to get oriented, or just enter quietly.

Martha Dickinson, 667-5863 or [marthad@gwi.net](mailto:marthad@gwi.net)