



The Downeast Beacon  
of Liberal Religion

# The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

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

Volume 42

No. 3

March 2010

## A Month of Sundays

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

**March 7.** TBA

### **March 14.** *Saving Time*

Twice a year we adjust our clocks to keep us saving daylight--but for what? We're trained to stay busy, but when we manage to have a little extra time, what then? ***Daylight Savings Time begins this morning: set your clocks forward!***

Rev. Leela Sinha

### **March 21.** *Caught in the Balance*

As equinox arrives, what pulls, what pushes, and what happens when the forces are well-matched?

Rev. Leela Sinha

### **March 28.** *Triumphal March: Joyful Noise!*

Come sing, come dance, come celebrate, because the longest month is almost over. We'll have more hymns, more bounce, more energy, and invite the children to stay for the whole service. Let the fun begin!

Rev. Leela Sinha

## Down East Discussion Group

The Down East Discussion group will not be meeting in March.

## Serendipity and Art Stuff with Sue Clark

Sundays March 28, April 11 and 18th, 12:00 to 1:30

We learn best by doing. Since we know we can each make marks on paper (dictionary definition of drawing) let's create. Come explore personal symbols, totems, dreams, wishes, feelings, mandalas, and happenstance. Give more room to your creative self and fun.

## DRUMMING CIRCLE:

All are welcome to join a drumming circle on Sunday February 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We intend to meet the 3rd Sunday of each month, all levels of experience are welcome. To be put on the email list please send an email to Hope Lewis at: [woovle@earthlink.net](mailto:woovle@earthlink.net) with DRUMMING in the subject line.

Anne N. Ossanna

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## Unexpected Grace

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This church is positively hopping. Any day, any time, you might show up here and find the parking lot full, the building busy. It's good stuff: everything from twelve step groups, community meetings to violin lessons--and that's just the rentals. Rentals are good for us in a number of ways: they help us become better known in the community, they bring new people through our doors, they can be a way for us to support something we believe in, and they help us pay for the cost of having a building. It's all good. But even better, rentals are a smaller and smaller fraction of our building use--because we are using the building for our own programming, too. We're also recognizing that not all our programming needs to happen in the building. There's now a traveling UU kids playdate, a number of Touchstone Circles, the four continuing small groups programs, and, best of all, a wonderful developing habit of...fun.

Last month at the Mardi Gras celebration there were dancers and singers, Cathy-with-a-C on keyboard, stories and sea shanties and balloons and fantastic food, and people, people everywhere. We raised \$1000, which we will split with Loaves and Fishes, but as good as the money was the party itself. We like each other. And what happened among us was that thing that Henry Nelson Wieman called "creative interchange": when a group of people gather for creative common good and something ineffable, indescribable, possibly divine emerges.

This community does that very well. The love and care and affection and pleasure here is palpable when we are enjoying one another. And that is one of our best sides. The more we practice, the more we do it, and the more we do it in public, the more it becomes part of who we are, of how we understand ourselves, and of how we are known. And the better known we are for the best things we do, the more we and others expect it of us, and the easier it becomes to do it again. And again.

Coming to church should be fun. When it's something we love to do, something we enjoy, something we look forward to, then it shows. And when people have fun and good connections and community, that's when they engage. That's when

they trust. And that's when the deeper spiritual engagement begins. We need volunteers. We need board members. We need pledges. But all of that rises from and supports the work of the church: which is community and spiritual deepening and outreach.

We're doing well. The fun is not superfluous. I've said it before: people are pleasure-driven. Let's enjoy it. What would set you afire?

blessings,  
Leela

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## Change over in Worship Chair

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I have resigned as Worship Chair, which means that none of the five of us originals are left. Leadership Development has selected Dawn Fortune, one of our new members, to take on the job. I am sure that all of us, certainly including me, wish her well.

I am glad to have had the opportunity of serving UUCE as Worship Chair. I feel really good about most of the services we planned in the last 2.5 years. These were among my very best experiences at UUCE, and I treasure the memories.

I do not feel so good about not being more effective in other ways in which I think Worship should function. But what about Rev Sara, Rev David Henry, Ashley Bryan, our choir, drumming, great words from congregation members, Toby Manring as Pulpit Host, and lots more? Leela was very helpful in steering us to good pulpit subs.

I am sure Dawn will be asking for ideas and volunteers. Let's do it!

Thanks much. I hope to continue serving UUCE in other ways.  
Cynthia Perkins

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## Religious Education and Exploration

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I want to send out a BIG thank you to everyone that helped out with our breakfast on January 31<sup>st</sup>! I would especially like to thank Dawn Fortune for taking the lead in the kitchen and coordinating all of the wonderful homemade food that we were all lucky enough to enjoy. Thank you!

Our breakfast was a wonderful way to celebrate each other and begin thinking about how we want to move forward together. We had a chance to share our appreciation of those volunteering their time to teach in both the youth and adult programs. We lifted up joys, such as the high level of participation and the rich offerings available for adults this spring, while we also shared our concerns. We are in clear agreement that we would like to see greater youth participation in our program and wonder how much local demographics might play a role in reduced numbers. There was also enthusiastic agreement that we would like to see the children, youth and adults interact more dynamically together. To that end we have three sign-up forms for you to consider. I would like to challenge you to offer your insight and wisdom by joining our Visioning Team. We need people of all ages and experience levels to share themselves with us as we grow consciously together, please sign-up! If you are curious about teaching, you can also sign-up to learn more about that. Finally, if you'd like us to know that you're available to help out with special events, please sign-up for that!

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or would just like to say "Hi!" I hope you will get in touch with me. I am in the office, unless I have a scheduled meeting, from 12:00PM to 2:30PM every Wednesday and until 4:00 on Fridays. I am more than happy to meet at other times by appointment or by telephone. My home number is 990-2612. 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 to confirm that I'll be in or to meet with me by phone.

### March 2010 Adult Education Offerings

[All will be held at UUCE on Sundays from Noon -1:30 PM. The Potluck Sunday Session will be cancelled if church is cancelled due to weather.]

#### March 14 - *What I Saw in Africa*

Presented by Anne Ossanna

Slides and talk about what Anne saw and thought during her visit this past Fall. ***Remember that daylight savings time begins today!***

#### March 21 – *OSTARA, Pagan Sabbat*

Facilitators: Anne Ossanna and Mike Tansey

#### March 28 – *Introduction to Art Therapy*

Led by Sue Clark, 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 Sessions

We learn best by doing. Since we know we can each make marks on paper (dictionary definition of drawing) let's create. Come explore personal symbols, totems, dreams, wishes, feelings, mandalas, and happenstance. Give more room to your creative self and fun.

- Tom Grogan

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## Everybody Eats

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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, UUs included, 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.

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## From the Care Corner

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**Betty Jane MacMichael** will remain in her house in Trenton this winter. The renovations of her daughter's house are still underway and will not be completed before spring. BJ enjoys phone calls from church friends and is looking forward to starting her garden this spring. Sally Bell is housebound at this point and also enjoys phone chats preferably in the afternoon after 2 PM.

**Anne Funderburk** would like to thank the members of the Care Committee and the congregation for all their love and support for the past 12 months. Beginning last Spring with her mother's commitment to a nursing home (with attendant emotional uproar), on through her own struggles with poor health, and into the last 7 weeks of MumCare in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, you have all been a strong and steady source of strength. BEST THANKS!

**The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is having a spring UU jewelry sale. A 20% discount will be offered on pewter pendants, pewter lapel pins, and enamel lapel pins. From the CLF site ([www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org)), click on "CLF Shop." Your 20% discount will be processed within a week, and offered as a credit card refund, when you write the words "CLF Rocks!" in the Add Comments field!**

Questions? Call: 617-948-6150.

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## Peace and Social Action News

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On behalf of the UUCE, the Peace and Social Action Committee unanimously approved the **Ethical Eating** Draft CSAI for the UUA and will consider how our various activities tie in.

Peggy Strong, Karen Volkhausen, and Martha Dickinson, members of this congregation, recently participated in the **MOFGA delegation to El Salvador**. They visited small farms, coffee processing and fruit drying facilities, took part in community educational workshops and meetings, and got to know some wonderful people in the region around Carasque, which is Bangor's sister city. We hope to host a public program once Karen returns to Maine.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **End Mountaintop Removal Week** will be held in Washington, D. C. the second week in March. We will collect signatures on a petition for Martha to hand to our congressional delegation during this intensive lobbying and educational effort. PASA endorses this effort.

We agreed to co-sponsor the March 20 teach-in at UU Church in Bangor on "**Bring Our War Dollars Home — The impact of the war in Afghanistan**". Mary Alice will speak at this event and Martha may participate in a workshop on Alternatives to Military Service for Youth. More information is at <http://peacectr.org>

We will co-sponsor the **16th annual HOPE (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival on Saturday, April 24th from 11 AM to 4 PM** at the U Maine Student Recreation & Fitness Center in Orono. Last year Mary Alice had a table at this event but will not this year.

We encourage everyone to attend a fundraiser for the Open Door Recovery Center at the Grand Theater in Ellsworth on Saturday, February 27 at 7 pm. **Rob Shetterly and Voices for Peace** will perform around Americans Who Tell the Truth. Among the Truth Tellers to be honored is **Charlie Clement**, who served as UUSC's president for the last 6 ½ years.

- Martha Dickinson, for PASA

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## Personnel

### Minister

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

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### 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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## A Thank You

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**Thanks to Eileen Brennan and Cynthia Perkins** for your good works chairing the Worship Committee. You will be missed.

Thank you from all of us to Dusty Bailey, Eileen Brennan, Christina Gagliardi, Peggie Geiger, Jean Martin, Cynthia Perkins, Matt Slater, Wayne Smith, Johanna Stacy, and David Towle - and whoever else we missed - many thanks for your much appreciated contributions to MARDI GRAS!!!!

And thank you to Andrew Coates, Dawn Fortune, Evelyn Foster, and Jill Smith - and all the others deserving of thanks - for the very well received RE Breakfast.

Thank you from all of us at UUCE.

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## A Ride to Church Needed

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There is a young woman in Bar Harbor that would like to have a ride to church on occasion. If someone is able to help her out, they can contact me at [tmanring@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmanring@roadrunner.com).

Thank you!

Toby Manring

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## St. Patrick's Day Lunch

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Wednesday, March 17th there will be lunch at 12:30 in the Community Room at UUCE. We will have the traditional corned beef and cabbage and more. Other contributions of food are welcome. If you would like to come, please call Peggie Geiger (288-2335) or Evelyn Foster (667-5998) so we can prepare enough food. This will be a fun way to enjoy the holiday with a few friends.

Please remember that donations of non-perishable foods for Loaves and Fishes are always gratefully received.

Checks can be made out to UUCE with Loaves and Fishes indicated in lower left corner.



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## Treasurer's Corner

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The Mardi Gras Dinner and Variety Show sponsored by the Music Committee in February, raised \$1,010. This brought the total of our fundraising for this church year to \$3,205. This leaves us with \$1,715 more to reach our budget goal of \$5,000. Our challenge will be to plan one or two more events to raise the additional funds.

From the Mardi Gras event, Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will receive \$505.00, bringing our total raised for charitable organizations to \$4,704.87. Thank you for supporting this effort.

In reviewing our pledges, we have a total of eighty pledging units. Nineteen of these pledging units are nonmembers pledging \$14,150 to the canvass campaign and averaging \$744.73 per pledging unit. Thank you for your support.

Speaking about pledges, it is that time of year when we need to start thinking about what we plan to pledge to the church for this coming church year. If you recall, we had difficulty balancing our budget last year and we will need to raise more funds if we are going to avoid a similar situation again this year. You are probably tired of me always talking about money, but, as treasurer, what else do I have to talk about?

In January, four additional individuals paid their pledges in full bringing the total of pledges paid in full to \$21,830. This has definitely improved our cash flow. We have approximately a \$15,000 balance in our checking account which should carry us through the end of March, barring no unexpected expenses. Plate is running 21.49% behind budget or \$1,720.00. Rental is running 10.20% behind budget or \$714.00. Expenses continue to be in line running 53.21% of budget or \$5,475 under budget. Several committees have spent very little of their budget to date. We budgeted \$4,000 for shortfall this church year. Shortfall projection at this time is \$10,922.00. This would leave us with an additional \$6,922 in estimated shortfall. I continue to hope that the figure projected will be less than estimated for shortfall. Only time will tell. As of the end of January, financial figures are positive. The fourth quarter which begins in April will be the time to watch carefully. We have several large expenditures to pay.

Don Martin  
Treasurer

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## A Special Thank You

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**Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Mardi Gras Dinner and Variety Show a joyous church community celebration.**

The event was a huge success. The decorations were splendid. The food was delicious. The costumes were fantastic. The entertainment was outstanding.

A special thank you to the following folks:

**David Towle and Jenn Ryan** for their enthusiasm about Mardi Gras and the work they did to help make the event a success.

**Peggie Geiger** for carefully planning the Mardi Gras meal, keeping tabs on the reservations, setting up the tables, and organizing the kitchen.

Also thanks to **Sue Clark, Betty Massie, and Dawn Fortune** for keeping order as food arrived and thanks to the many others who helped carry hot food to the serving tables.

Thanks to **Matt Slater** for being Master of Ceremonies and thanks to the entertainers: **Wayne Smith, Gary Watson, Holly Thulin and the Dance Group, Jenn Ryan and company, Abby Greene, Bill Clark, Jim Fisher, Toby Manring** and her **"Wolf Moon Spirit Tribe" dance group, Jane Thomas, Shawn Mercer, and David Towle** and the **UUCE Choir**.

Thanks to all **those who stayed to help clean up** so the building would be ready for church and church school classes on Sunday.

And a big THANK YOU! to everyone who attended and gave money so that we could have a successful fund raising event! The money raised will help our UUCE budget and will also help those in need in the larger Ellsworth community.

Jean Martin  
Music Committee Chair

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## From The Board

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Present: Ruth Eveland, President; Diana Cate, Vice-President; Don Martin, Treasurer; Eileen Brennan, Anne Ossanna, Cynthia Perkins, and Judy Rothrock. [Secretary Karen Volkhausen is doing her annual work in El Salvador.] Also attending: Bob Dickens.

Housekeeping. Diana reported on behalf of the Furnace Committee about our options for the replacement of our boiler. No decision is yet obvious; more research needs to be done and further reports will be forthcoming. As was supported at the winter Parish Meeting, Bob requested that we proceed immediately with the installation of a stove hood for the kitchen at a cost of \$6,800. The people who will construct and install it are more easily available at this time of year, and we are planning a number of activities soon that will make it necessary that we have this protection. The Board agreed to: apply to the Chalice Lighters program to help fund this work; authorize Bob to proceed with making the arrangements for its installation; and, authorize Don to make a drawdown from the MCF fund to pay for it with those funds to be replaced when other support is obtained. The bottom line is that this work is necessary to maintain our insurance.

The Leadership Development Committee requested that the Board approve its recommendation that our annual canvass be conducted with a bean supper (with homemade pies!). Since no one has stepped forward to organize this event, the LDC requested that our minister, Leela Sinha, be authorized as a co-coordinator with a lay leader yet to be named. There was a very thorough discussion of the pros and cons of this plan, and the Board finally agreed to support the LDC's recommendation.

There were a number of announcements from the NNED. Ruth urged people to try to attend the annual meeting to be held April 30th – May 1<sup>st</sup> in North Conway, NH. She heard the keynote speaker when you sent her to General Assembly and he was very impressive, talking about how they grew their congregation through what they called “Nurturing Relational Curiosity.” Also, Judy reported that the Elections Committee would like to add a youth

member to the slate if possible; the Board was very open to this possibility. There was some clarification about the process we will be using on March 15<sup>th</sup> for our all-day ministry evaluation meeting.

The Treasurer's report is included elsewhere in this issue.

The minister was on vacation and the DLREE was speaking on a panel at the University of Maine, representing our UU perspective.

Future. We agreed that our meeting in March will focus on the work of our portfolio clusters, particularly on the recommendations from the Stewardship, Outreach and Community Building groups. We will use this work to make a final recommendation to the Parish at the annual meeting in the spring about future direction for our congregation.

Submitted by President, Ruth Eveland on behalf of the Board.



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## From the Hancock County Cultural Network

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**February 26:** Filmmaker Tom Jackson speaks about his experience in and film about Gaza, 7 PM, Public Library, Blue Hill. Call Peninsula Peace and Justice, 326-4405, for details.

**February 27:** Robert Shetterly with "Americans Who Tell the Truth" and Voices for Peace concert to benefit the Open Door Recovery Center, 7 PM, Grand Theater, Ellsworth. Call 667-9500.

**February 28:** "Who's Got the Power?" film shown (causes of global climate change), 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor. P&J Center, 942-9343 or [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org) or [www.peacectr.org](http://www.peacectr.org).

**February 28:** Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and Fisheries (CSF) Fairs in twelve towns/cities in Maine (Bangor to Farmington to Sanford), 1-4 PM. For specific locations: MOFGA, 568-4142 or [mofga@mofga.org](mailto:mofga@mofga.org) or [www.mofga.org](http://www.mofga.org).

**March 13:** Annual Spring Growth conference on "From the Ground up: Soil Improvement," all day, Common Ground Education Center, Crosby Brook Rd., Unity. MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association), 568-4142 or [mofga@mofga.org](mailto:mofga@mofga.org) or [www.mofga.org](http://www.mofga.org).

**March 17:** "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" film shown plus discussion to follow, 6 PM, Free Library, Belfast. Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, 338-5089.

**March 20:** Active Community Teach-In on "Bring Our War Dollars Home" w/speaker Mariam Raqib on Afghanistan, 1-5 PM, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 120 Park St., Bangor. Peace and Justice Center, 942-9343 or [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org) or [www.peacectr.org](http://www.peacectr.org).

**March 20:** National March on Washington (US out of Afghanistan, Iraq NOW! and money for human needs.) Buses from Boston and maybe Maine and NH. Contact 857-334-5084 or [boston@answercoalition.org](mailto:boston@answercoalition.org) or [www.March20.org](http://www.March20.org).

**March 21:** Doris (Granny D) Haddock speaks on clean elections and money out of politics, 3-5 PM, Public Library, Portsmouth, NH. Nancy Brown, [nrgbrown3@comcast.net](mailto:nrgbrown3@comcast.net).

**March 24:** Eat Local Celebration and Variety Show, 5-8 PM, location TBA, Belfast. Belfast Co-op, 338-2532.

**March 27:** Annual Seed Swap and Scion Exchange, Common Ground Education Center, Unity. MOFGA, 568-4142 or [mofga@mofga.org](mailto:mofga@mofga.org) or [www.mofga.org](http://www.mofga.org).

**March 28:** "Union Maids" film shown (union organizing from the '30's to the present), 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor. P&J Center, 942-9343 or [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org) or [www.peacectr.org](http://www.peacectr.org).

**April 1:** "Grow Your Own Organic Garden" evening courses in many parts of Maine. MOFGA, 568-4142 or [mofga@mofga.org](mailto:mofga@mofga.org) or [www.mofga.org](http://www.mofga.org).

### Notices:

Thanks to the campaign for legislation to reduce solitary confinement in Maine prisons, I have a packet of information on what the legislation means, how solitary can be a form of torture, and how to help pass the bill, LD 1611. Contact me (Larry Dansinger, 525-7776 or [rosce@psouth.net](mailto:rosce@psouth.net)) for a copy of the information (which is not electronic, although the Maine Civil Liberties Union, 774-5444, should have at least some of it in that form).

The 16th annual HOPE (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival will take place on April 24 in Orono, sponsored by the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine. This Earth Day + gathering always features scores of nonprofit groups, and the Center is encouraging more nonprofits (justice, peace, environment, whatever) to have information tables at the event. (They are also seeking local food vendors and ads for the program.) For an organizational table application:

<http://peacectr.org> or call 942-9343 for an application.