



# 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 40

No. 11 November 2008

## A Month of Sundays

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

**Nov. 2** *Between Truth and Community*  
Democracy as faith

**Nov. 9** *One Nation, Indivisible*  
The election is over, now what?

**Nov. 16** *Reawakening*  
When religion moves, who do we become?

**Nov. 23** *Breaking Bread: the intimacy of eating*  
This service will include the second of our annual four-communion cycle, the bread communion. Our communions serve to connect us in community by ritual that reaches into our hearts through the combined power of mind and body. This one will be a Unitarian Universalist celebration of our interconnected existence, of abundance, and of gratitude. The bread will be provided and all are welcome.

**Nov. 30** (guest speaker)

## Advent Reading Series

We will be having an advent reading series in early December, hosted by Rev. Leela Sinha. Plan to come to one or both sessions with your favorite short (no more than five minutes) readings for the season of contemplation. Anyone interested in reading and sitting quietly in meditation is welcome. Please call Sonia Turanski, our DLREE, with questions and to let us know you're coming so we know not to cancel for lack of interest and so we can be prepared for the right number of people.

## Personal Ministry Statement

Would you like to share your personal ministry statement? If you would, please email Rev. Leela Sinha at [minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org). If you haven't written yours yet, look for the schedule of workshops elsewhere in this newsletter. Ruth Eveland will be guiding groups through the process this month. It's a fun, easy, fast way to articulate why we make the choices we do. The board and several small groups kicked off the process, and now we'd like to hear from everyone else. We all have ministries. We all have talents. Let's get explicit and organized about them!

## Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 4, to encourage voting and other participation in the election process.

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## Unexpected Grace

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There's something striking about the beginning of most folktales. They start not with place, but with time. "Long, long ago," they might say, or "Once upon a time." *When* we are matters, in many ways, more than *where* we are. And time is one of the few resources we always have; unchangeable, unshakeable. No climate changes it; no politics shake it; for 24 hours every day we are alive. What we do during those hours changes, but by virtue of our birth we each have exactly the same precious gift.

By our faith we find any number of possibilities for what to do with this gift we have, as pure today as yesterday and tomorrow. In this month, in this year especially, there is so much we can do:

**Vote.** We use the democratic process faithfully in our congregations. The national elections are coming. Please, if you are an eligible voter, vote. Regardless of whether you are a voter, help others to the polls. We are the people. Democracy only works if we work it. Let's make it work.

**Commit to thankfulness.** When we set aside the political and sectarian overtones in Thanksgiving, what we have is a unifying secular holiday devoted to gratitude. Imagine that: in the midst of everything we still have a national holiday built around connection and relationship and mindfulness and the cycles of the seasons. It hasn't been overly commercialized; even the shopping season it heralds starts the day after Thanksgiving. It's a breath of sanity and fresh air. Enjoy it.

**Refuse the rush.** Thanksgiving is late this year and still stores are already hanging decorations for Christmas. Slow down. Let each holiday have its own time. This is the season for slowing down, for celebrating harvest, for preparation and rest before the winter sets in. Let the growing darkness bring you peace, the good kind. Breathe each breath. Live each day. Reach out, connect, make commitments that will keep your heart warm and

your spirit lively.

These are the days we have, each following the other. Live them rich in love.

Blessings,  
Leela

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## Treasurer's Corner

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For the remainder of this church fiscal year the financial challenges will be unique. Next year, we will be faced with important financial decisions which will affect the direction of our church in the future. I will make every effort to keep the congregation informed and provide financial information to assist the congregation in reaching these decisions. The present status of our national economy is having an effect on family budgets and people may have less discretionary money. If you believe you need to make an adjustment to your pledge for this year, please let me know. It will be better for us to know sooner than later. I thought long and hard before accepting the treasurer's job again. Decision made, I am committed to use my past experience in church finances to help UUCE meet the financial challenges ahead.

Don Martin

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## Fall Clean-up

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The Fall Clean-up will be held on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 9:00am. Your help is needed to rake, clip, prune and plant spring bulbs. If enough helpers show up we can get much of the fall yard work done before lunch. Please bring tools and if you wish, some spring bulbs to plant. The storm date is Sat. Nov. 8th.

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## Drinking Water Update

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After testing the water at UUCE as part of the initiation of the new weekday pre-school program and finding it positive for coliform bacteria, the well was shocked according to state agency guidelines and re-tested. Again testing positive for coliform, the well was shocked a second time and re-tested during the first week of October. The latest results have arrived -- again positive. The well is situated close to an area behind the church that remains swampy much of the year, and the coliform (not the human-inhabiting version E. coli, by the way) likely arises from decaying animal and plant material in the swamp. These bacteria are likely to be non-pathogenic, but precautions must be taken in any case, particularly for children and older people.

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## Music Program Development

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The UUCE Music Committee is actively seeking musicians among us who might be willing to present special music on Sunday mornings. Vocal or instrumental or a combination -- if you are hiding your talent under a basket, it's time to let us all see AND HEAR you shine. For many, music is a very special part of the Sunday service, supplementing the spiritual and intellectual practice that Leela and guest speakers bring to us. If you are even a little interested, please contact committee chair Jean Martin ([jzmartin2@verizon.net](mailto:jzmartin2@verizon.net)) or Wayne Smith, Director of Music ([wayne@mrlanguage.com](mailto:wayne@mrlanguage.com)).



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## Winter Solstice Choir

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"If you can walk you can dance. If you can talk you can sing." The UUCE music committee wants to affirm this Zimbabwe proverb by forming a special choir to sing at the morning service on Sunday, December 21st. Everyone is welcome to participate in what may become the renewal of a tradition at UUCE -- a choir open to all, composed of people who love to sing. We will sing music appropriate to the winter holidays, particularly the solstice, and plan to have a good time doing it! All are welcome. Four rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday mornings, 9:00 to 10:15, on November 16th and 23rd and December 7th and 14th. To participate in the Sunday service on December 21st, you should plan to attend at least three of these rehearsals plus the last practice on the 21st. Please sign up in the community room or call Janine Galeski (359-2483) or David Towle (288-4121).

### Personnel

**Minister**

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393

[minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org)**President of the Board**

Ruth Eveland: 288-5727

[president@uuellsworth.org](mailto:president@uuellsworth.org)**Director of Religious Education and Exploration**

Sonia Turanski: 667-4393 (H); 266-9530 (cell)

[Sonia@uuellsworth.org](mailto:Sonia@uuellsworth.org)**Music Director**

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

**Newsletter Editor**

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301

[lfunderburk@roadrunner.com](mailto:lfunderburk@roadrunner.com)

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## Kitchen Renovation

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Now that the kitchen renovation is completed and it has been successfully tried out, it is time to provide this generous congregation a full accounting of the funds available and the expenses for this exciting project.

Sources of funds available:

Donations from congregation	\$8477.22
Donations earmarked for stove	\$7100
Board appropriation (April 08)	\$3500
Sale of old stove	\$ 200
Insurance check	\$5300

(received for water damage from  
leaking roof mainly in kitchen area)

Donation of dishwasher	(\$1900)
	Total \$24577.22

Expenses for kitchen renovation:

Home Depot (cabinets, counter tops, sinks, faucets)	\$8328.52
New stove	\$7100
Materials from EBS (dry wall, paint, wood for trim, etc. includes repair of community room water damage)	\$1076.06
General contractor (includes community room repair)	\$3035
Electrical	\$2070
Plumbing	\$3329.90
Hobart Service (dishwasher)	\$ 70.70

Total \$25010.18

Over budget Total -\$ 432.96

(due to higher than expected plumbing costs)

Many thanks to Helen Kazura who was willing to dig up this numbers from the closed books of the last fiscal year and to George Marcus and Don Martin for their contributions.

Betty Massie

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## A Note From Diana Cate

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My surgery Monday went very well. This new minimally invasive knee replacement technique is wonderful. Today is day-5 post op and I am walking unassisted and feel mostly pain free. Of course I am taking a boat load of pain killers, and the physical therapy hurts like PT should. I already have almost 0-90 degrees flex, and improving daily.

PLEASE DO encourage your friends who need knee replacement to find a surgeon who does this technique.

Surgeons who use the traditional technique are probably slow to change and are comfortable with what they do. But patients should not subject themselves to the longer, more difficult recovery that follows traditional knee replacement just because they are comfortable with a surgeon. I have had both styles of replacement now and there is no comparison.

My Physical Therapist told me, yesterday, that there is a minimally invasive hip surgery available now also, but I don't know anything about it.

Love,  
Diana



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## Guest at Your Table?

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The “*Guest at Your Table*” program has long been an effective vehicle for UU’s to learn more about the needs of others outside our immediate communities and to pool resources with other UU’s around the country to make a significant impact in improving the lives of people in this country and abroad . This year, the Peace and Social Action Committee will work with the Children’s RE program to provide resources for our congregation. Our inspiration and materials come from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), of which a few of us are members. It has been a few years since our church here in Ellsworth has participated in this worthy program, so we will have a rather modest participation this year.

This year's *Guest at Your Table* program celebrates the **60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. This program connects the underlying values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to UU values. Through [\*Stories of Hope\*](#), written for children, young adults, and adults, you will learn how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights helps guide activists and how your support helps win struggles.

The basic activity is that we each place a colorful box – sort of a piggy bank – on our dinner table, or some other convenient place, and put money into the box as we think of feeding and caring for a guest-at-a-distance. We will collect all the boxes a month or so later and send the proceeds to the UUSC to distribute. Look for the colorful boxes at church soon. All members and families will be encouraged to take a box and learn more about the work of UUSC.

For more information, check the website [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) and/or see our RE director, Sonia Turanski or Martha Dickinson, chair of PASA.

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## Goods and Services Auction

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It was a party! On Oct. 4 we had a terrific Italian Buffet as well as a successful Auction. The proceeds came to just over \$5,000 with \$2,500 going to the Washington-Hancock County Agency's THAW Fund. Tim King, Executive Director of WHCA came to our service on Oct. 5th to receive our donation.

Many thanks to all who donated to the auction and/or participated in the event. We received some wonderful support from businesses in Ellsworth and on MDI. Jerry Miller, the auctioneer, donated his services and has said that he will return again next year. We plan to do it all over again the first Saturday in October in 2009.

"The Organizers": Diana Cate, Evelyn Foster, Susanne Forest, Colleen Prentiss, Peggy Strong, and Peggie Geiger

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## Membership Committee

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### Welcome to our newest members:

- Eileen Brennan, Bar Harbor
- Angie Bouchard, Bar Harbor
- Matt Slater, Brooksville.

### Changes for the directory:

- Nicole Leahy:  
new address: 23 Linden Lane  
Bar Harbor, 04609,  
new phone: 288-4165
- Willow Runningwater:  
new email: [rundellart@verizon.net](mailto:rundellart@verizon.net)

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## Religious Exploration and Education

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What is RE&E? While RE&E is a slightly longer than the usual moniker of RE, the Adult RE committee is comfortable with the term 'Education,' while the Youth RE committee prefers the term 'Exploration.' To honor the diverse hopes and desires of our parish we use both.

The RE&E wing has been a-buzz with lively activity as we get back into the swing of our calendar year. Stepping into the new position of Director of RE&E I have also been plenty busy: I have been in conversation with the Adult Religious Education committee and the Youth Religious Exploration committee; I meet on a weekly basis with Reverend Leela and I am in frequent discussion with President of the Board, Ruth Eveland; I am working to creating an RE&E mission statement and vision for future years and will be attending an upcoming UU seminar for building Youth & Young Adult Ministry in New Hampshire in early. Last but not least, I have been busy trying to introduce myself to all of you *and* to remember your names! If we have not yet met, please come and say hello in person or contact me through email at, [sonia@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sonia@uuellsworth.org); I would be happy to hear from you about your ideas, hopes and concerns for our RE&E program.

*Aloha* (with love) and *Mahalo* (with thanks),  
Sonia

### Adult RE

**Sunday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Second Sunday Discussion Group*

Last meeting for '*Practicing Peace in Times of War.*'

9 am – 10:15 a.m. in the '*Justice*' classroom.

Check with Peggy Strong to see if the group plans to continue.

**Sundays, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>**

*The System Belongs to God.*

Continuing, 1pm in the '*Acceptance*' classroom.

Co-leaders, Jon Thomas & Sara Hayman.

**Tues, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Menu for the Future* wraps up; 6:30 pm in church social room. Leader- Karen Wigglesworth.

### Youth RE

All Sundays in November:

- **Nursery:** 10:15 – 11:30a.m.  
With Helen Conway, in '*Harmony*' classroom.

Children & youth will begin each Sunday in the Sanctuary with their parents before moving to the RE wing for classes. *Please note:* In order to allow RE classes to finish their sessions in a focused and timely manner, **we ask that parents and caregivers refrain from entering the RE wing prior to 11:30am** following Sunday Service. If you need to retrieve your child early, please speak with Sonia. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- **Children:** 10:45 – 11:30a.m. with Anne Ossanna, in '*Truth*' classroom.
- **Jr. & Sr. Youth:** 10:45 – 11:30a.m. with Carol Rosinski and Nicole Leahy, in '*Acceptance*' classroom.

\* **Sonia will be away Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** at the UU District Leadership Training on Youth & Young Adult Ministry in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire.

## Winter Note Cards

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) offers seasonal note cards

Purchases made at the **CLF Shop** support the many UU ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), serving UU individuals and small groups all over the world.

**Visit the CLF shop:**

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

Click on "CLF Shop" or call: 617-948-6150

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## Message from the President

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### *Why are you here?*

We come to be and to do. We come to receive and to give. We come to open up to the world and to focus on one small internal truth at a time. We come to be in community and to be in the presence of one spirit. We come for known truth, and we come for serendipitous experience.

And, we come for ministry. At its most basic, ministry is attending to the wants and needs of others. There are a great many wants and needs, and each of us has different capabilities and passions. This means that there are LOTS of possibilities for ministry within our church and larger communities. Leela is not the only minister we have, although she is the one we called to lead us in our ministry.

### *What is your ministry?*

“Wait, I’m not a minister,” you say. I think you are, you just don’t think of it in those terms yet. Each of us is engaged with groups, causes, and/or organizations; sometimes we give money, sometimes we give time. What would happen to your commitment to those causes if you thought of it as “ministry?” What would happen to you, if you began to think of yourself as a minister?

The Growth Team, a team of five that has made a three year commitment to participating in a series of workshops to address church vitality and growth, invites you to join in an experiment. We have an exercise we are calling “Defining Your Personal Ministry,” and we’d like you to try it. It will take half an hour to an hour. While it can be done individually, and that will be offered as an option next month, we recommend doing it with other folks. You don’t actually have to share it with anyone else if you don’t want to, but we’ve found that it enhances the experience to be part of a group.

### *Why is this exercise different or better than other such assessments?*

Personally, I’m not really excited about most experiences like this. I don’t tend to spend much time in self-reflection, and generally think I know myself well enough. When we first went through it I was skeptical, but I found at the end that I had a simple statement that was profoundly meaningful. I wrote it on a couple of sticky notes and posted it on my calendar and desk, and then would find myself considering it. I tinkered with a couple of words, and now have a version that I refer to regularly.

What is different is that it has given me a clear way to connect my work with why I do it. I like that. It has helped me understand that I have a personal ministry and what it is. Each of our statements will be different from others’, but each will be expressions of ministry.

Think of the hymn we sing fairly often, “Wake, Now, My Senses.” The last verse is:

*Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear;  
Brighten my pathway with radiance here;  
Mingle my calling with all who will share;  
Work toward a planet transformed by our care.”*

I’ve always resonated to that, but now I understand why - because I what I do is ministry.

### *Okay, I’ll give it a try. When can I do it?*

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon  
Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am  
Other times to be arranged.

These sessions will be held in an available classroom in the RE wing of the church. They are open to any member of our community, whether you are a formal member or not. If you come to one on Sunday, bring your coffee or tea.

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

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## From The Board

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NOTE: A number of the topics discussed at this meeting will have been addressed in the parish meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> by the time you read this.

The Board meeting began with the members present taking part in the Defining Your Personal Ministry exercise. Most seemed to think it a worthwhile experience, and were looking forward to seeing others in the congregation try it. Look for a display in the hallway soon with people's statements on it. [See the full explanation in the President's column, elsewhere in this issue.]

Our new Treasurer, Don Martin, gave us the basic report. He is concerned about our pledge receipts and will work with the bookkeeper to get out statements more regularly, so people will know where they stand and not be surprised at the end of the year. He will be going over the numbers with the congregation at the parish meeting in October.

The new Policy for Non-budgeted Fund Raising Practices was passed, with some clarifications made to the wording. It too will be shared with everyone at the parish meeting.

The Board authorized David Towle, in his role as building maintenance guru, to explore the actual costs involved in joining to the City water source. Since the source of our contamination is the natural effect of our much valued acreage, the second shock treatment was not successful in ridding us of every nasty element. At this point it is probably less expensive to purchase bottled water for drinking purposes, but at some time in the future we will need to plan for switching our water source.

After discussion, it was agreed that the non-pledge funds collected in the plate on Association Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, would be used to increase our fair share pledge.

Toby Manring has taken some first steps in getting the information necessary for us to develop an

emergency plan. This will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting. If anyone in the congregation is interested in working with Toby on this, please get in touch with her.

Summary provided by Ruth Eveland

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## UUCE Down East Discussion Group

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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 12:00 noon. Bring a sandwich for yourself. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the host of the month. For directions, please call the host of the month.

### **Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

Hosts: Jodi and Dick Faust (664-0227)

Topic: Dick will give us a brief preview of a course he will teach at Acadia Senior College in January: The Broadway Musical. What are some of your favorite Broadway Musicals? What makes them memorable or special for you?

### **Wednesday, December 10, 2008 Pot-Luck Lunch**

Hosts: Don and Jean Martin (664-0309)

Topic: Jean will lead the discussion: Can we "Un-Plug the Christmas Machine"? What brings you peace and joy during the holidays and what doesn't? Suggested Reading: Unplug the Christmas Machine by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli.

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## Small Group Ministry Openings

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We have several openings in our Small Group Ministries group. We meet in the Brooklin-Blue Hill area. If anyone is interested please contact me. Willow Runningwater: 359-8934.

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## Sacred Singing Circle

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A few of us intend to start a Singing Circle at UUCE. One of us has been singing with Women With Wings, at the Bangor UU Church, for years and has recently begun singing with Voices for Peace. We would like a singing group here at UUCE with some aspects of Women With Wings. The date and time will be determined once we have a core group. Singers would arrive at a particular time, say 7:00 pm, and after 10 minutes or so, form into a circle at the sound of a gong or bell. The leader would then begin the singing. The singing could include a healing time to think of those in need and a “birthday” time. After an agreed time, say an hour, the singing would end with a closing song. During the singing, there would be no “chatting”, but after the closing song, we could share announcements and such. We could take turns playing the “leader” role, which would include choosing songs to sing and providing copies, as needed. At first, we will probably want to sing from a songbook or printed copies of songs. Our hymnals have lots of good songs, and we have a number of other sources, such as the Wings songbook. Someone can play a tune or harmony on the piano as needed, but I’d hope we’d become a capella, with perhaps some percussion – drums, etc and/or guitar, depending on who is there. At Wings, we sing without anything written down, almost all the time; we learn songs and chants from each other by repetition. At Voices, our leader passes out copies of the songs with harmonies written in. At Wings, harmonizing is done with experience.

This singing circle is not meant as a performance group. The intent would be spiritual nourishment of those gathered in song. Perhaps more like a Small Group Ministry – we could add a time of sharing joys and concerns, or a reading.

Everyone, women and men, who agrees with our guidelines would be welcome to attend, and occasional attendance would be fine as long as we have a core group to keep it going.

Should we aim for a monthly, weekly or a bi-weekly gathering? Once we have four or so people who can agree on a time, we will begin! Look for an announcement soon for singing times. If you have any interest or questions, please contact Evelyn Foster, Dartha Reid, Mary Ann Solet or Martha Dickinson. – *(from Martha, 667-5863)*

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## Listening Assist System Coming

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After testing two different assistive listening systems, thanks to a demo program provided by the UUA, the Board has approved the purchase of a Williams Sound PPA375 Hearing System with 4 receivers and earphones, the less expensive (~\$750) and actually more effective of the two systems that we tested. The FM transmitter will connect directly to the current sound system and each user will have a wireless pocket-sized receiver for individual volume control. We will have three different styles of earphone available for try-out and anyone can bring their own headset as well to plug into the receiver. In fact, individuals may purchase their own receiver from Williams Sound if they wish to be assured of having one available for use. We will monitor the demand and may be able to find the funds to purchase additional receivers and headsets. The system may be on the scene by the time you receive this newsletter. Try one out! Contact David Towle ([dtowle@mdibl.org](mailto:dtowle@mdibl.org)) for further info.

Many thanks,  
David



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## ADVOCACY NEWS

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A Newsletter of the UUA's Advocacy & Witness Staff Group

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### **SUCCESS: Connecticut Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Marriage Equality**

The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled on Friday in a 4-3 decision that same-sex couples have the right to marry. The ruling makes Connecticut the third state to allow same-sex marriage. Marriage ceremonies will begin in less than a month. Check out [President William Sinkford's statement on the ruling](#).

From the book "[Love Makes A Family](#)":

"It's very important for people to understand that love makes a family. Without love, there's no family. Gay families do the same thing straight families do - which is to love each other. Gay parents have the same power of love as anyone else." - Rob Cooper

### **RESOURCE: Election 2008: Faithful Democracy & Getting Out the Vote**

With just three weeks until the November elections, it's time to activate congregational Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) drives. We suggest that your congregation partner with UU state advocacy networks in states where they exist, community organizations such as ACORN's Project Vote, Student PIRGS and other organizations that focus on getting historically disenfranchised groups such as youth, people of color, and low-income women to the polls. For a listing of partner organizations and complete election resources for UUs see [www.uua.org/election2008](http://www.uua.org/election2008).



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### **Ethical Eating Resource Guide to be Published Nov. 1, 2008**

The "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice" Core Team will publish the Resource Guide for our new Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) on November 1, 2008. This Resource Guide goes beyond

its predecessor Guides in several respects. It includes resources to maximize congregational involvement, such as a worship supplement to launch the program from the pulpit. The guide's attractive graphic design will help draw leaders of all experience levels into the CSAI process, while its extensive content will provide flexibility to seasoned activists. In addition to an annotated bibliography of books, articles, DVDs, and websites congregations can use for study, the Guide also provides tools that help identify the human and organizational resources available in readers' local communities. The Guide will help Unitarian Universalists explore how our personal and congregational food choices relate to Environmental Stewardship, Climate Change, Global Hunger, Domestic Labor, Cultural Imperialism/Neo-Colonialism, and Animal Welfare. It will also deepen our understanding of the ethics involved in trends like organics, fair trade, plant-based diets, going local, and slow food. We will be announcing the Guide's release through this list, or you can find it at [uua.org](http://uua.org) on November 1st.

### **November Action of the Month: HIV/AIDS**

On December 1st, World AIDS Day, the entire world pauses to honor those impacted by HIV/AIDS. For our [November Action of the Month](#), we invite you to prepare for World AIDS Day by pursuing and/or strengthening partnerships with organizations, particularly those in your community, working with people impacted by HIV/AIDS.



We will be highlighting many ways to build and strengthen partnerships. But we start with the suggestion that you invite one of these groups to come to the congregation to speak at a special meeting or forum. Consider holding a World AIDS Day service and invite an expert or an affected person to the pulpit. The UU United Nations Office maintains an excellent [World AIDS Day Worship/Resource Packet](#). The packet contains background information, worship materials, and religious education materials. Now is a good time to start planning a World AIDS Day service and it is always a good time to be thinking about building partnerships. Tell us about your partnerships on HIV/AIDS by emailing Adam Gerhardstein at [agerhardstein@uua.org](mailto:agerhardstein@uua.org).