



The NUUS

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

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www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 41

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A Month of Sundays

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

October 4. *Dancing With Sticks*

Dasshera is a major goddess festival in Hinduism which includes a dance of celebration involving large groups of people and a pair of short bamboo rods for each dancer. The key with this dance (and some others from around the world) is not to get whacked while continuing to share in the joy of the dance and contributing to the music. How are we dancing with sticks?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

Potluck

October 11. *The Dove and the Olive Branch*

In the stories of Genesis, Noah sends a dove out of the ark to see if there is land. The first time she returns with nothing, the second time she returns with a branch or a leaf, a first gesture of peace between the god who destroyed the earth and the people and animals who were allowed to survive. When we hold power, how can we take that first step?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

October 18. *Free Your Feet, Your Mind Will Follow*

Back when Teva only made sandals, and they were pretty much the only sport sandals out there, Teva's slogan was on every one of their boxes. They were right, maybe more right than they knew. How does where we are and how we move impact what we think?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

October 25. *The Art of Letting Go*

Beloved poet Mary Oliver once wrote, "To live in this world, you must be able to do three things: to love what is mortal; to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it; and, when the time comes to let it go, to let it go." How do we, or how might we learn to love and to let go? Rev. Huisjen, Hospice Chaplain with Hancock County Home Care & Hospice, will explore this question and offer her reflections on living with loss.

It's a Party!

Saturday, October 3rd is upon us!!

Starting at 4:30 you're in for lots of fun while supporting THAW (The Heating and Warm fund) for the benefit of low income, elderly and disabled folks in Hancock County, and your church, in equal measure!

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

This year, more great stuff has been donated including original Art Work & Photos, some great Books, Boat rides, Hand-Made items, Recorder Lessons, Labor and other Services

ITALIAN DINNER by reservation with antipasto, meat, vegetarian & vegan dishes, wine and other beverages

Please call Peggie Geiger at 288-2335 to sign up (or to cancel if you can't make it)

Unexpected Grace

Money is nothing. It's not news that the economy is still struggling. There are a lot of folks around here who need money, shelter, clothing, food—parts of the daily baseline. But one of these things is not like the others. Money is not the same. Money is not directly useful; it is useful because of what it can do for us, because of what it allows us to do...but not because we can eat it or stay dry under it. It is both the most useful thing because it makes it all possible, and the least useful, because it is nothing by itself.

But the strangest thing about it is that we have the most control over the money we have. People would otherwise have to give us shelter and food by sharing them, open their homes and their tables to us, being with us, sharing space as well as resources, sharing companionship.

They would have to keep company with us to give us those things. But money gives us distance, space between the food we eat and the deaths it requires; space between the things we make and the people who buy them, space between the work we do and the people who hire us. It creates gaps--and it creates possibilities in those spaces...because those gaps mean that you don't have to have a farm to give someone food; you don't have to have an extra house to offer them shelter. It means we can be given a piece of what we need, and we can collect the pieces and exchange them for a whole. It means we can have a little task to do and become an employer, and give someone work. And that perhaps is the best choice of all, dignity and an even exchange. Almost all of us hire people to do things for us all the time: we pay for prepared food or childcare or oil changes or tomatoes.

Who do you know who can hire you? Who do you know who needs hiring? Change is in our hands, always. We just have to find the way in. Let us celebrate the change of the seasons, the riot of color, and the coming of new times, and always hope made real by our work.

blessings,
Leela

Caring Corner

Sue Clark broke her ankle on 9/12. She is okay for help at the moment, but may need some assistance later. In the meantime, we're sure cards would be appreciated.

Toby Manring wishes to express her gratitude to her UUCE family for their support and caring this summer before, during, and after her big surgery. She says it was the first time she didn't feel alone going through such a scary event in her life.

We have had two weddings within our congregation this past month to celebrate! Please join us in offering congratulations and best wishes to the happy couples:

Congratulations to Hope and Pearl Lewis, who were married in Massachusetts on Saturday, 8/29.

Congratulations also to Christina Gagliardi and Johanna Stacy who were married on Eggmoggin Reach on Saturday, September 5.

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

This article is first and foremost a note of gratitude to the members and friends of UUCE who staffed the food pantry for thirteen days during the month of August. There were 25 different individuals who helped for a total of 56 morning slots filled, a little better than 4 persons per day. Special thanks to Sue Clark for being coordinator for the week I was unable to be there and to Nina Turner, Sue Clark, Peggy Strong, Eileen Brennan, and Sue Walsh who volunteered 3 or more days. There were also 7 people who signed up to be subs if others were unable to make it. This I believe is our largest level of participation in service to the larger community on a yearly basis. Thank you one and all, Judy Rothrock

OTHER FOOD PANTRY NEWS. Walmart gave the Pantry a generous donation of \$5000 in celebration of the opening of their new store. Loaves and Fishes will be partnering with EVERYBODY EATS a free community meal served at St. Dunstons Church every Monday from 3 to 7 PM. This year the Ending Hunger campaign will

take place during the months of November and December.

explore developing a conceptual Peace Village using the seven UU principles as guidelines.

Religious Education and Exploration

Greetings from Religious Education & Exploration!

It has been great to see the children and teens returning as the RE wing picks up steam for a new year of Sunday religious exploration. We are excited to have received the donation of a beautiful couch for our youth room (previously called the Board room), and I hope to track down the name and address of the donor so that a formal Thank You can be sent! Let me know if you can assist me in locating this information.

As a reminder, all the groups in RE will be focusing on Peace and Social Justice this year.

CHILDREN & YOUTH RE Sunday Mornings

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| Nursery | Helen Conway will resume as caregiver extraordinaire. |
| 4-7 Y/O | Sarah Huisjen and Val Frey will be working basing classes on the UU curriculum for Peace and Social Justice. |
| 8-12 Y/O | Carol Rosinsky and Anne Ossanna are happy to be offering classes to this newly formed age group circle. They will also be offering classes based on the UU Peace and Social Justice curriculum. <i>Please note that we are specifically looking to recruit children of this age group. Let Sonia, Carol or Anne know if there are any children of this age in our extended community – we will send them a personal invitation.</i> |
| 13 – 17 Y/O | Teachers Nicole Leahy and Matt Slater will lead this group as they |

Me to We book discussion, facilitated by Sonia Turanski, October 4, 11 & 18: Sundays Noon – 1:30 **Please Note:* Oct 4th meeting will be a short gathering after Potluck to distribute books, make introductions, and get assignments.

“In this profound and practical book, Craig and Marc Keilburg outline their life-changing philosophy – one that redefines success and happiness by turning the focus away from”me” towards “we” – our communities, our nation, and the world. Weaving together lessons, stories, and inspirational contributions from people from all walks of life, *Me to We* shows readers how to grow and develop by being socially conscious and responsible, engaging in daily acts of kindness, and building meaningful relationships through community.” (from the book jacket)

“Climate Change - why we need to act now”

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10AM to Noon

Carbon emissions have risen worldwide 40% from the 1990 to 2008. The international Community is posed to reduce fossil fuel use – will the US lead or obstruct? The Arctic and Greenland ice sheets are melting faster than anyone predicted – what does that mean for Maine? Wars are predicted due to shrinking climate- constrained resources – land, water and food. Find out what Maine has done and is doing to reduce our carbon footprint and build a new energy economy. What kind of help can you get for energy efficiency improvements such as more efficient appliance or furnace? Come find out what you can do to help as an individual and as a citizen on this international Day of Action called “350”. *This event is also sponsored by Hancock County Towns in Transition and UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee.*

Introduction to Paganism - Samhain w/ guest facilitator (Anne will be in AFRICA!)
Sunday, October 25, Noon -1:30 PM

This is the first of an introductory series on
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Paganism to be offered throughout the year in conjunction with the eight sacred Sabbats.

Upcoming Fall Classes:

November 8, 15, 22 & Dec. 6 **Judaism in the Ancient World** - Diana Cate and Sara Huisjen

December 13 **Yule** – the second in series on the eight Pagan sacred Sabbats – Anne Ossanna

Special Message from Sonia:

Dear Members of the Congregation,

I have accepted a position working for WHCA at Friendship Cottage in Blue Hill, in the newly developed position of Community Caregiver Advocate. In this position I will assist in determining and implementing community based support systems for caregivers of stay-at-home seniors and adults with special needs. On a practical level, this is a full-time position with benefits (with a guaranteed three-year budget) and an easy commute from my home to boot. I am very fortunate for many reasons to have this rewarding position, and I have Anne Ossanna, my boss at Friendship Cottage, to thank for extending to me the opportunity to serve the community in this meaningful and needed way.

I have opted to begin the new position at 32 hrs per week. This will allow me to remain as DRE at the UUCE, but with a drop in my schedule to only 10 hrs. per week. We all expect this arrangement to be somewhat temporary; eventually the Board and Leela will locate someone appropriate to replace me as DRE. Please know that I am not in a hurry to leave you, and I look forward to continuing in the meaningful and rewarding work I do at the church until such a time as it is convenient for everyone to make a change.

With Aloha (Love) and Mahalo (Thanks), I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Sonia

Peace and Social Action

The Peace and Social Action of UUCE has several ongoing projects and would also love to hear about your ideas and plans. We know many of you are engaged in community projects, and we would like to hear from you. Our next meeting is planned for Oct 11, 9 am to 10 am, in the RE wing. Please phone or email if you may attend. Our current projects include Guest At Your Table, Truth in Recruiting, Everybody Eats, Mountaintop Removal Mining, and Peace Actions.

The UUCE Board recently endorsed the **Everybody Eats** program, which was described in the September NUUS. The program, **Everybody Eats**, has been serving free meals to all comers every Monday, 3 pm to 7 pm, in the basement of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church at 134 State Street in Ellsworth. The first shift, which cooks and preps, usually fills first. The second shift serves and cleans up. See <http://www.everybodyeats4free.blogspot.com/> to keep up to date on Everybody Eats. If you can participate or want more information, please phone Martha at 667-5863, and we may be able to coordinate UUCE's participation on a regular basis. It's a great opportunity to not only fill a need but also to get to know like-minded people in this community. It's fun!

PASA recommends that folks attend the Climate Change program on October 24 at UUCE that is organized by Pam Person for RE and Green Sanctuary. It's in sync with the International Day of Climate Change. See www.350.org for interesting information.

-- Martha Dickinson, PASA
marthad@gwi.net



“I Love Jesus, But I Love Justice, Too.”

It was at Blue Hill Fair. I was working at the Protect Maine Equality/Vote No on 1 booth. A woman walked up to me and wanted to speak confidentially. She told me she was a member of a conservative Christian church, but that she and a number of her friends there were planning to vote “no.” Then she uttered the most hopeful line you see above. It’s folks like her that will make the difference.... if we all do whatever it takes to persuade more people currently struggling with marriage equality to understand that it is an important civil rights issue, and if we turn out “our” vote on November 3.

OK, it’s after Labor Day. It’s all hands on deck time. Phone banking continues on Wednesday and Sunday nights led by UUs Beth Allen and Christina Gagliardi. Even if phone banking is not your favorite activity, unless you are truly physically unable, I’d encourage you to come join us. Our newest phone banker (as of this writing) is UU Dorothy Jordan. If Dorothy in her walker can make it in to phone bank, well, yes, this is an attempt at guilt tripping. From mid-October on, the calling changes from identifying which voters are willing to vote “no,” to calling voters we have previously identified, encouraging them to vote early and reminding, err, nagging them to go vote. Actually those are easier calls, but we really need lots and lots of callers.

Speaking of phone banking, thank you from all the phone bankers for the care and feeding of us you have so generously provided. Diana Cate has all Wednesdays and Sundays covered right through the election. You might check with her to see if she needs back up cooks.

Our own Dawn Fortune, now assisted by UU Lyana Votey is coordinating both large and small house parties for fund raising and information sharing. Would you consider hosting one? How about attending? I’ll post a list of parties or call me for late breaking news.

Has your guest room emptied out? If so, would you be willing to house one or more young (mostly)

volunteers who will be coming in October to help with the big get out the vote push? All they need are beds and access to a bathroom. They will have transportation and be fed.

Other activities? Kent Price, UU Castine, could use more letter writers. Wear your button(s) everywhere and engage people in conversations about marriage equality. We’ll have lawn signs shortly.

I’ll be at a table in the Community Room every Sunday during coffee hour answering questions, handing out buttons, and soliciting volunteers. See me there under the lavender wedding bells or phone/email.

Kay Wilkins
667-2901

kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu

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From The Board

Attending were Eileen Brenan, Don Martin, Ruth Eveland, Judy Rothrock, Cynthia Perkins, Toby Manring, Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen, Anne Ossanna from the board; our minister Rev. Leela Sinha; Charles Bassett from the congregation

Landscaping committee project

Charles reported that members of the committee will be planting 1000 daffodil bulbs this fall outside the sanctuary. Next spring they will be putting in ground covers plus paths. There will be no cost for the church but they will be looking for plant donations from willing members of the congregation.

Minister's report

Leela discussed her recent Life Coach Training. It has clarified things for her and given her tools she can use with institutions as well as individuals. She has already been able to use her coaching skills with several members of our congregation.

She has been doing research on advertising for small businesses, which she feels is a useful model for us. She would like to concentrate on membership retention, working on a deeper level of spiritual engagement for people, studying, writing, and communication skills. She happily reports that her transportation issues have been solved for now as her car is back on the road due to a kind donation from a non-church individual.

The board thanks Leela for the time she took from her studying and vacation this summer to do pastoral work.

Housekeeping

The Peace and Social Action Committee asked for endorsements for Everybody Eats, the weekly free dinners held at St. Dunstan's and for support endorsing a letter to Senator Collins on immigration.

A motion was moved and passed to endorse Everybody Eats. One way we could directly support this project is by joining the dinners.

A motion was moved and passed to table the letter endorsement until we have more information.

Anne Ossanna is going to Kenya in October and would like to bring material donations for the

Ashley Bryant's schools. She will fill out an application to set up a table to collect the supplies.

Paula Marcus wrote us a letter expressing her interest in changing the name of UUCE from church to congregation. There are many precedents for this. The steps in this process would be to have many larger conversations with the congregation and then bring it to a parish meeting. This will involve costs to the church and most likely be a long process.

Discussion

We discussed our thoughts and reactions to the books the members of the board are reading in our quest to find our path. Leela offered to facilitate a conversation around who we are and where we want to go.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Volckhausen,
Secretary

Peace Troubadour

Singer/songwriter Cecilia St. King, known as the Peace Troubadour, will perform in concert in the sanctuary of UUCE on October 11 at 7:30 pm. She has performed with Pete Seeger and performs nationally. Co-sponsored by Arnold Greenberg and the Peace and Social Action Committee. For more info, see <http://www.sonicbids.com/ceciliastking>.

October 25: "Capitalism Hits the Fan" film (understanding root causes of economic problems) shown with panel discussion to follow, 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St., Bangor. Call 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

A lot of attention in October will be going to a number of election issues on the November 3 ballot. Question 1 is a people's veto question. The No on 1 campaign to preserve marriage equality will be holding fundraising and voter calling parties thruout Maine. For more on how to get involved or attend a local organizing meeting, contact the campaign at www.ProtectMaineEquality.org.

Message from the President

You Spoke, We Listened

First, on behalf of your Board of Trustees, we thank you very much for your thoughtful participation in the three listening sessions we hosted during the summer. We appreciated your honesty and wide perspective. We'll be setting up further opportunities at irregular intervals. In the meantime, if you have something you want us to think about, you are always welcome at the Congregational Comment period at the beginning of every Board meeting (and we do begin right at 6:00!)

“Trustworthiness”

One of the books I've read recently ([The Almost Church; redefining Unitarian Universalism for a new era](#) by Michael Durall, not to be confused with his most recent book [The Almost Church Revitalized](#)) challenges many dearly held beliefs of UU's. I agree with enormous amounts of it, although there are some points I'd like to have a discussion about with him. I recommend both books to everyone. We have five copies of the second book and will be circulating it when the Board members have all read it.

I am preparing for a worship service I will be doing with Diana Cate (which probably will have happened by the time you read this) and have been pondering perspectives on leadership. I was seized with this line of Durall: *“The spiritual trait I look for in a religious leader is trustworthiness, and how that is built and maintained.”* I kept coming back to reread it. Why had this grabbed me so?

I had never identified “trustworthiness” as a spiritual value per se. I know that it is critical to me in developing a relationship (and in breaking one - that was the core of why I divorced my first husband). I realize that my pattern is to be open and to assume trustworthiness, unless and until I find otherwise. Others follow the opposite path: assume untrustworthiness until trust is earned. And there may be people for whom this is not a terribly critical trait, although I would find that difficult to understand.

So why is this *“the spiritual trait?”* I mean, my web browser has a “trustworthiness” mark - why is it *spiritual?* I believe because it is essential to developing the connections we need within our church community. To be able to connect soul-to-soul we must be able to trust each other. It requires us to be caring and reliable, dependable and discrete.

The most critical element of trustworthiness, and often the most difficult part, is being truthful. Sometimes this means that hard things must be said or heard. However, if we trust each other and believe, really believe, that we are speaking from love then we can trust the truth and the person. (It goes without saying, I hope, that hard truths must be told kindly and carefully.)

Trust can take time to develop. When someone new joins, he or she doesn't necessarily trust us right away. We must prove ourselves. We must do the right thing, must speak the truth, even if it is uncomfortable.

One of the reasons I go to church each week is to help me be a person of good character, to have integrity. I need to work at this and find that our church is a good place to practice this work. By having many shared values, we are several steps along the way to being able to develop trust in each other.

Let's go back to the leadership aspect of “trustworthiness:” I'm asking you directly, do you think your Board is trustworthy? Have we earned it? Have we done the right thing, consistently? Do we do what we say we will do? Do you believe we are speaking truth to you? If you think we haven't earned your trust, can you tell us why you think that? The work the Board is doing together, I believe, does rest on trust, but for us to bring our work to you, the congregation, then you need to be able to enter this circle with us.

I often ask for feedback in my columns and sometimes I get it. I hope this is one that really does provoke a response.

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

Landscape Committee

Saturday, September 12, 2009 - What an efficient group of gardeners! We accomplished a lot! with folks working as they chose. Many thanks to Diana Cate, Sue Clark, Evelyn Foster, Peggie Geiger, Pearl Lewis, Kay Wilkins, and Judy Rothrock.

We weeded, tidied up, clipped, cut, laid out a path, rescued the Boucek tree from smothering, removed low or broken branches, and enjoyed working together. Pearl sold two of us on her high branch lopper - great tool.

Thanks to Jon Thomas for the final removal of branches to high for the vertically challenged. In October the yard work will continue - probably on the 10th and/or 17th to prepare for winter and spring.

On a separate day the Landscape Committee will have a section roto-tilled for a grand gift of daffodils! Then we will be able to plant on the 10th/17th. We will be planning for now, 2010, and 2011, "Step be step; row by row. Please help with the offer of plants, ideas, and gardening help. We are aiming for perennials, Maine butterfly and bee plants, low maintenance and low water demands - we will care for existing plants as best we can.

We will need one more truck load of David Towle's and Betty Massie's wood chips for the nursery area and path - Sue's ankle has her stopped.

From the Landscape Firm of Clark, Foster, Rothrock, and Wilkins

October 2-4: "Food for Thought, Time for Action" conference on sustainable food systems w/speakers on food politics. College of the Atlantic, 288-5015 or www.coa.edu/foodforthought/.

November 3: Election Day--votes on Tabor II, Marriage Equality, school consolidation, excise taxes, and medical marijuana.

Treasurer's Corner

September ended the first quarter of the 2009 – 2010 church year. We will be mailing out the first quarter statements. Please review them carefully. If you are behind in your pledge please make an effort to bring it current. It is extremely important that we don't fall short this year. We have no cash reserve in our savings account to cover a short fall in pledges with a budget that does not have any wiggle room.

In September we experienced several large expenses: \$1,800 for a new copier (unbudgeted); \$12,210 for the new water line (\$315 of which was not covered by donations); we are expecting an estimated plumbing bill of \$1,000 for connecting the water line to the building (unbudgeted); we also paid an invoice of \$539 for a service call on a Sunday to repair our fire alarm; and an invoice of \$1,065 for installing a heat detector in the kitchen that was required by the city fire marshal. We were able to cover these obligations because of excellent pledge receipts for July, August, and September. It is expensive to keep this organization going. I am confident that by keeping our expenses and income as budgeted we will do just fine this year. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me. Don't forget to support the Auction on October 3rd.

Don Martin
Treasurer

We will hold our **fall Parish Meeting** on Sunday, October 18th, after you get your coffee or tea. (The Adult Ed class scheduled for that day will begin after the meeting - don't forget to bring your lunch!) The primary item on the agenda will be the review of our budget for this year, as we had promised when we passed it in June. If you know of further business that must be done at this meeting, please get in touch with Ruth Eveland, Board President at 288-5727 or president@uellsworth.org.