



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

Volume 40

No. 9 September 2008

## A Month of Sundays (All services at 10:30 a.m.)

### Sept. 7 *Water for the Desert*

As we make our annual water communion we renew our commitments to each other and to this community. What does the commitment mean? Why this place, why now? What do we have to offer each other? We will celebrate our many gifts on this ingathering Sunday.

[Please note: This is our annual water communion service. If you can, please bring a small amount of water (about a film canister worth) from someplace special to you. It might be from vacation away, from a river near your home, or from your kitchen tap. We will mingle the waters as part of our service.]

### Sept. 14. *You want fries with that?*

Mother Ann of the Shakers said, "Hands to work, hearts to God." Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale nursed the sick; Abraham Lincoln led us through the Civil War; Harriet Tubman ran the underground railroad, but most of us have much more humble futures if we aim to serve. How can we honor that?

### Sept. 21. *Blanket of Stars*

At this time of equinox we pass once again toward the darkness. What richness do our nights hold?

Sept. 28. To be announced.

## Unexpected Grace

If you were cultivating the tree of life in your own heart  
if you were mulching and planting  
and watering and pruning;  
if day after day you confronted the infinitesimal  
increments of bark  
and leaf and twig,  
what would be your harvest?  
This is your orchard,  
this place, these days, these moments.  
Choose your work;  
take up your tools: heart and words and soul;  
and labor every day  
for the fruits of your hands  
must feed us all.

Each fall we harvest, we admire our harvest, and we begin again. What harvest will serve us in the year to come?

blessings,

Leela

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## Adult Education

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### Living Well Later in Life

This class will focus on the overall topic of aging. The sessions are aimed at 50+ UUs and friends but anyone is welcome. The class will meet three times, the Wednesday nights of September 24, October 22, and November 19, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. People who wish to bring their own simple supper to eat together may come at 5:30.

Anne Dickens and Dartha Reid are the co-leaders. The classes will be inspirational, educational, creative, and supportive. There will be time for self-reflection on aging and quality of life, a speaker (or perhaps panel discussion) about tools for self-growth, opportunity for craft activities, and a period for thoughts and reflections.

### Poetry Night

Our first Poetry Night for Fall is September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at church. Several of our own poets will read their work: Dartha Reid, Willow Runningwater, Stefanie Alley and Jim Walker. We will also hear some of Helen Boucek's poems.

Poetry Night will be every second Wednesday evening of the month. Both format and content are open-ended and depend on the interests of the participants. Some of the ideas for topics that have been suggested are:

- Favorite poets
- Local poets
- Love poems
- Clever-with-words poets (Ogden Nash, etc.)
- Religious/spiritual poems
- UU poets
- Lyric poets (Cole Porter, Paul Simon, Randy Newman)
- Poems we memorized in school
- Poems for our memorial service
- Children's' poetry (Lewis Carroll, Dr. Suess, Robert Lewis Stevenson)
- New England poets (Robert Lowell, Robert Frost)
- African-American poets
- Poets from other cultures
- Old chestnuts (Casey at the Bat, The Cremation of Dan McGrew)
- This list could be much longer!

Direction and leadership will depend on the wishes of the group and may change each month. Bob Dickens

will be the overall coordinator. Topics chosen for each meeting will be published monthly in NUUS.

### New UU Intensive

This introduction to Unitarian Universalism will be presented as a three-hour, three-night intensive course, led by Rev. Leela Sinha. The dates and time are September 23, 24, and 25, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. New UU classes traditionally begin with an opportunity for participants to explain the path that brought them here. This course is intended to explore the principles, history, and culture of Unitarian Universalism, as well as the history and culture of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, otherwise known as UUCE.

For those who wish to know more or dig a little deeper, Rev. Sinha is planning to offer an Advanced UU Class in February.

### Practicing Peace

"Maybe we come home from work and we're tired and we just want some peace; but at home all hell is breaking loose for one reason or another, and so we start yelling at people." So begins Pema Chödrön's book, *Practicing Peace in Times of War*. I laughed when I read that passage because it was so true of me. If you can see yourself in that scene too, you'll be glad to learn that this book will be the focus of the newly formed Second Sunday Discussion Group, which will meet before church (9:00-10:15am) on September 14, October 12, and November 9, this fall.

The 3 month format will give us time between meetings to go beyond an academic discussion and try *practicing* (as the title says) being personally less aggressive, and then to check in about our progress. We can also address the question of whether we really believe that changing ourselves can reduce the "times of war" in our world.

Pema Chödrön is an American Buddhist nun, resident teacher at Gampo Abbey, Cape Breton, and author of a number of books including *When Things Fall Apart*, and *Comfortable with Uncertainty*.

Peggy Strong will lead the discussion. For more info, contact her at 266-3006 or [goodnuff@escrap.com](mailto:goodnuff@escrap.com).

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## Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

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We can give ourselves a pat on the back, 25 people volunteered to work at the pantry during August. Many of you came several days, ranging from 2 to 10 days. As coordinator I can't begin to thank you enough, you made my job a breeze this year.

The Loaves and Fishes board and staff are concerned about the coming months. Our shipments from the Food Bank are often less than we need, and we expect the need to go up. The summer months see fewer clients, because of the increased number of jobs available and other factors. However, this July showed a 25% increase in number of clients served over July, 2007.

At the moment we have a need for canned fruits and fruit juices (not grapefruit juice).

Continue to save your Shaw register slips. They give 1 cent for every dollar spent. We are close to having received \$2,000 from this venture—that is \$200,000 worth of tapes contributed from our 13 participating churches and organizations and the clients themselves in the last year.

If you have questions or suggestion please contact me, and again many thanks.

Judy Rothrock 244-3520



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## Knoxville Relief Fund

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In the wake of the tragic shootings at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church on July 27th, UUCE held a solidarity vigil in Ellsworth the following Monday. On Sunday, August 3rd, we collected a special offering of \$441, to assist the UUA in providing support for the UUs in Knoxville. We were especially moved to have a visitor from TVUUC in our midst on that day. On Sunday, August 10th, the UUA ran a full page ad in New York Times affirming that "our doors and our hearts will remain open" in spite of the tragic act of violence in Knoxville. If you wish to make additional contributions to the Knoxville Relief Fund, you may do so online at <http://uua.org/giving/donatenow/117168.shtml>.

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## Drinking Water at UUCE

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A test of the well water as part of the initiation of a new nursery school program at UUCE produced a positive test for E. coli and coliform, likely resulting from seepage of organic material into the well. On August 10th, the well was treated with chlorine bleach according to the guidelines provided by the state testing service. Flushing of the system took place over the week following and a re-test will have been conducted by the time you receive this NUUS. In the meantime, drinking water is being supplied by Mount Desert Spring Water using a new dispenser (hot and cold) in the main kitchen. Although heating the faucet water likely destroys any living organisms, it's recommended that the Spring Water be used for cooking and coffee making until we receive a negative test. Learning that the well has had similar problems in the past and that it continues to produce rusty water despite a rust filter, we are pursuing the possibility of connecting to city water. Please contact David Towle ([dtowle@mdibl.org](mailto:dtowle@mdibl.org)) if you have questions or concerns.

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## Membership Committee

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There will be a **'Newer Folks' Lunch** this fall - probably in October. If you would like to attend in order to meet other 'newer folks', some 'long-time' members, as well as our Minister, Rev. Leela Sinha, please contact Peggie Geiger at 288-2335 or [peggiegeiger@hotmail.com](mailto:peggiegeiger@hotmail.com)

### Here is the most up to date information about Margery Forbes.

- (1) She is really thankful to the members of the church for all the cards she has received
- (2) Her leg is healing quite well, but the doctor does not want her to put weight on it for another two weeks.
- (3) She will be living with her son, Douglas, and his family until she is able to come home. Her address with them is:  
Margery Forbes  
c/o Douglas Forbes  
100 Riddell Road  
Charlemont, Massachusetts 01339
- (4) She is not sure when she'll be back in Maine, probably not before middle to end of September.

Margery turns 80 on September 13, and we are sure she'd love cards.

### Stefanie Alley

I became a member of UUCE on April 27th, 2008. Attending a church on the mainland was a challenge in some ways, because I live on an island, Little Cranberry Island. I enjoyed the boat rides, and staying with friends when the boat wasn't running. I'm not a Maine native, just take out the 't' and I'm naive enough to believe I could be if I wanted to. My father was in the navy, so I lived in many places, like Falls Church, Virginia, and Key West. After he retired from the navy we lived mostly in Minnesota, and Colorado, where I attended high school and college.

I came to UUCE because I wanted to fill a space, I needed to nurture, and explore, and expand, make new connections with people in a place of spiritual welcomeness and exploration.

My parents attended a UU church in Ft. Collins, Co., and also in North Carolina when they lived there for a few years. I was baptized at a Methodist church in Minnesota when I was in about third grade.

I seek my faith in nature, in the natural sequences that surround us, and the connectedness of people who strive for enriching their own lives, and the lives of others.

I try to earn a living by catching lobsters. Lobstering keeps me close to the elements, close to the ebb and flow of tides, and storms, wind and fog. When I step aboard my boat, I'm transported to another world, seagulls follow me out of the harbor and circle and dive for the old bait I throw over, eagles spread their wings and swoop for baby ducks bobbing on the ocean a few yards from shore, while the mother duck huddles close to protect them.

Last autumn, a sparrow took refuge on my boat as she was migrating south. Out on the open water she was faltering, the seas were rising and her rapid wing beats barely kept her above the next crest. The gulls were chasing her, she was able to dodge their hungry attempts to grab her out of the air. The sparrow landed on the stern of my boat, where I had stacked some traps to bring ashore for the winter, and she found some tiny shrimp to eat. I aimed the boat for Baker's Island, a quarter mile away, hoping she would stay safely on the boat until the sheltering trees reached out to her. When she took flight, my sternman and I watched her arrive in the sanctuary of the forest, to rest before she began again on her migration. That was about the time I started coming to this church. I felt very welcomed. I have found a place to stop, a place to grow, a place to evolve, and continue my own journey. Thank you to everyone I have met, will meet, and thanks for all the caring we give to others.

Stefanie Alley.

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## Religious Exploration

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Greetings from the Religious Exploration Program. We are so excited to welcome Sonia. 2008/2009 Programming is all set with the exception of the Nursery. Please contact any member of the RE Committee if you would be willing to volunteer to work with the youngest members of our faith community.

The calendar for September is:

### September 7th

Ingathering - Children 5 and older are in the Sanctuary. Nursery helpers needed.

### September 14th, 21st and 28th

Begin in the sanctuary.  
Spirit Play with Anne Ossanna, Jr.  
Youth with Nicole Leahy  
Sr. Youth with Carol Rosenski.  
Nursery Helpers needed.

The next RE committee meeting will be held on September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. All committee members and teachers are encouraged to attend.

Regards,

Anne N. Ossanna  
Religious Exploration Chair

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## September 13 Peace Rally

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Join hands to end the war, build the peace and rebuild our economy – this is the call to rally at 1 pm at the Paul Bunyan Park in Bangor. At 2:30 pm, participants will begin a peace walk to hear Amy Goodman, co-host of *Democracy Now*, speak at the Hammond Street Church at 3 pm. Let us continue to show our support for diplomacy and negotiation to settle international conflicts and our opposition to war. The Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine has called for this rally and says “Without a

strong peace movement the military industrial complex with its well-funded lobbyists will continue to exert strong pressure to maintain the status quo on whichever candidates are elected. We don’t believe this rally will, by itself, exert such a pressure, but we hope it will affirm our unified power, demonstrate to the candidates there is a peace movement to which they will be held accountable, and help fuel on-going local organizing.” Signatures for a newspaper ad in the BDN are being collected as well. For more information, to sign the newspaper ad, or make a donation, contact the Peace and Justice Center by phone at 942-9343 or online at [peacectr.org](http://peacectr.org) or email [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org).

The Peace and Social Action Committee of UUCE is a cosponsor of these events.

- Martha Dickinson, PASA

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## Assistive Listening System

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Exciting Pilot Program Coming to UUCE the week of September 22-28! Our congregation will be pilot-testing an assistive listening system during the week of September 22-28. That’s why you may see people wearing headphones in meetings or during the September 28th Sunday service.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has created an Assistive Listening System Demo Kit with equipment that can help many people who are hard of hearing to participate in small groups, meetings, classes, as well as enjoy Sunday services.

If you are a person who has difficulty hearing, contact David Towle ([dtowle@mdibl.org](mailto:dtowle@mdibl.org)) about using one of the receivers. Come early to the September 28th service to try one of the many styles of “ear wear” and see how the Assistive Listening System works for you.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to making our community welcoming to everyone!

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## IT'S A PARTY!

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# UUUCE GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

**Saturday, October 4, 2008**

Dear UU Friends,

Half the proceeds will benefit The Washington-Hancock Community Agency's Home Heating Assistance Fund (The THAW FUND).

There will be an Italian Buffet Dinner at 5:00 p.m. – by reservation only. Do invite your friends and sign them up for the dinner. Dinner will be followed by a Silent Auction with the Live Auction beginning at 6:30. Jerry Miller, a professional Auctioneer has donated his services to help us with this event.

The deadline for donations is Sept. 26. Here is a sample of the items donated to date:

- Photography Session (1 hour) (CD of photos)
- Antique Chair
- Garden Fall Clean-Up
- Hand Knit Vest by Ruth Eveland
- Art by Willow Runningwater
- Chocolate Fudge
- Afternoon Cruise for 2 on Frenchman's Bay
- Bar Harbor B & B Package
- Live Lobsters.....etc.

Check [www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org) for an updated list

Organizers: Peggie Geiger, Sally Bell, Peggy Strong, Diana Cate, Colleen Prentiss, Suzanne Forest, and Evelyn Foster.

## 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)

### Religious Education Chair

Anne Ossanna: 565-2057

### Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

### Choir Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

### Newsletter Editor

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

## Caring Committee

September Birthdays:

September 5 Thurlly Royal

September 14 Margery Forbes

[Please save any cards that you receive that are "freebeeies" that you do not wish to use and consider donating them to the Caring Committee in September.]

Thank you!

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## Message from the President

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### *How Will We Make This Decision?*

The Board of Trustees of the UUCE is called upon to make many decisions on behalf of the members of the congregation, but the most important one is actually “*how will we make this decision?*” It is not enough to make a good decision, we have to make it well.

Sometimes there is unanimity amongst the Board from beginning to end on a subject. At other times people need to explore the topic from a number of angles before coming to a conclusion. Occasionally most of the Board is supporting one position, but one or two members strongly believe that a different course is the correct one. How do we then make the decision?

We must bring our minds, our hearts, and our voices to the process. We must evaluate and consider, we must see how it feels, and then we must tell each other honestly how we see the issue. We must examine our perspectives and experiences, and those of the other members of our community. We must act with good behavior and in accord with our principles.

The Board has several tracks upon which it rides. It needs to move forward on the business of the congregation - the financial commitments, the personnel obligations, the kinds of service we will offer. It also must establish policies and plan for our future. These two kinds of decisions require different kinds of discussion.

For a business action we must gather and review facts, weigh alternatives, and draw conclusions based on identifiable data. But the other kind of decision -- it is more complicated. We need to work through the facts and alternatives, of course, but in addition we need to ensure that our resulting decision is as complete and far-reaching as we can reasonably manage. It must take into account not just our current situation, but also what we imagine

the future could and should be like. It needs to express our hopes and dreams and also - this can be the tricky part - how we intend to get from here to there.

In all of this we need to synthesize our particular views to shape a decision that is right for all of us together. We are no longer simply a small, family-type church hidden in the woods. We are moving toward being an organization rather than an “organism,” and this requires some structure that has not previously been necessary.

Let us not lose track of each other as individuals, but let us also remember that we are a community and that some decisions have to be made to support us together. This is why it is extremely important to ask, each time, “how will we make this decision?” Will it be by consensus? by a 50% plus 1 vote? by a two-thirds majority vote? by a series of small steps leading up to a whole picture, or an encompassing sweep?

Serving on a church board is different from serving on other kinds of boards. It requires listening to each other with more than our ears, and focusing with more than our eyes. Our honored former minister, Harry Meserve, said, “A community is not a group of like-minded people. It is a group of different-minded people who are learning to live together among themselves and with the world around them in peace and in nourishing, useful cooperation.”

Let us strengthen our lives together with intentionality and commit to making our decisions with our community held in our hearts.

Ruth Eveland,  
President of the Board of Trustees

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## From The Board

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**Congregational Comment:** At the request of Diana Cate, Chair of the Adult Religious Education Committee the Board approved its spending \$230 to fund the costs of printing, postage and supplies for courses to be offered in 2008-2009. Diana showed the Board a mock-up of the pamphlet they intend to produce outlining the courses. It will have wide distribution to invite those who aren't members to participate.

**Treasurer's Report:** George Marcus, Treasurer, noted that to date our expenses are running well within parameters and that pledge payments are at 18.4%, ahead of the estimated income. As anticipated the Maine Community Foundation report for 6/30/08 shows a realized and unrealized loss of \$985 to our portfolio; there was an income of \$1155 added to it. George anticipates there will be further losses, given the current state of our economy.

The Board had agreed to talk about fund-raising for non-church causes and spent considerable time in discussion stimulated by President Ruth Eveland's memo. The goal was to provide input for a draft of a church policy which the board will review at its next meeting. The Board did decide to set up a small Giving Task Force of Leela and people representing the Worship and Peace and Social Action committees. It will identify organizations to which we will regularly contribute some of the money raised in our plate offerings, such as the Loaves and Fishes.

Anne Ossanna and Kay Wilkins of the 20-K Task Force met and identified some charitable foundations with a history of supporting organizations such as ours. Also, Anne will order a few T-shirts from Café Press to check the quality before launching an online store with several test items for sale. George pointed out that our bookkeeping system does not currently adequately keep track of special funds (e.g. monies for the kitchen) and suggested we get the services of a

professional to restructure our system to allow for this.

There was a discussion of the parameters of the job of Treasurer. George had prepared a useful memo itemizing the tasks. It used to be that the treasurer was also the bookkeeper; now the tasks are separate.

Ruth is making a final pass on the revised Building Use Guide and rate structure. Our rental fees in some cases are quite low and have not changed in years. Discussion included increasing rental fees to match the real cost, whether the fee be based partly on the number of people or how desirable the time slot is. The final version will be ready for board review at next meeting.

The Board elected Cynthia Perkins to fill the open slot for a term expiring June, 2009.

The Board voted to not hold another yard sale unless and until we have a new and good plan for all aspects of the project. This year the church earned \$1100 and paid \$260 to get rid of the stuff left behind.

When the UUCE had its water tested in connection with the new preschool provider's certification process, our well water tested positive for e-coli and coliform. David Towle treated the well as prescribed by the State. We will wait two weeks and have it tested again. In the meantime, there are signs posted to not drink the water from the faucets, only from the bottles of Mt Desert Spring water located in the kitchen. David is looking into connecting the church to the Ellsworth water supply, which, since it involves digging up the Bucksport Road, could be quite expensive, perhaps \$15,000.

Submitted by Mary Ann Solet, Secretary and Ruth Eveland, President