



# 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 41

No. 9 September 2009

## A Month of Sundays

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

### September 6. *What You Do With What You've Got?*

What matters more than what we have is what we do with it. What do we have? What can we do?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

### September 13. *Water Communion Sunday: As We Mean To Go On*

"Begin as you mean to go on," says author Nicola Griffith. How shall we begin? How shall we go on?

We celebrate water communion on this Sunday, the first of four annual communions. Please bring a small amount of water (a few tablespoons) from someplace special to you. We will pour it into a common vessel as part of the service; at the end of the service you will have the opportunity to take a small portion of the shared water home. We will not drink the water.

-Rev. Leela Sinha

### September 20. *Rock, Paper, Scissors, Hat.*

What are the rules, and when should practicality carry the day?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

**September 27. *The Call to Serve.*** Leadership and vision vs. caretaking and maintenance: your Board develops its ministry.

-Diana Cate and Ruth Eveland

## New UU classes are coming!

Leela will be scheduling new UU classes with anyone who is interested in deeper engagement with the spirit and work of the church. This is the course strongly recommended as a prerequisite to membership by the board. We will have three meetings and explore personal spirituality, UU history, theology, and how things get done locally and nationally. It's an opportunity to meet other congregants and dig a little deeper together. Please email Leela ([minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org)) by September 15 if you would like to take the classes; we plan them according to interested persons' schedules.

## End Of Summer Clean Up

Join us from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday September 12 to rescue our landscape from a strange summer of constant rain and a plowed up side yard. There will be a list to choose from covering raking, weed pulling, limb removal, wood chips for the path to the back door of the RE wing and even more! Bring a favorite tool or two. Questions? Call Sue Clark 244-3051.

Now that the water pipes are in and loam restored we are planning ground cover and a path. First we'll start with an assessment of what we have and prepare our plants for winter.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE-- Sue Clark, Evelyn Foster, Kay Wilkins, Charles Bassett

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## Unexpected Grace

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When you live in a four season climate, summer is time out of time.

Whether it's much busier or much calmer than the academic year, summer gets special notice. Different sports, different pleasures, different annoyances. And when we humans change everything at once, we change ourselves. Pretty much always. We can't destabilize ourselves without adjusting our balance, adjusting ourselves, trying something a little different. Some of us end up over time with two (or more) entirely different selves, like seasonal wardrobes. Every season change calls us to reach for something new, but it also calls us to box something up until next year.

As we ready ourselves for reentry, we could decide to shelve the summer self and don the fall self; we could just switch. But what of your summer self is real? What of your summer self is true? What of your summer self would strengthen, invigorate, inspire the rest of your life?

Maybe this time you can hold onto something, a little something, something real. What would your life be then? blessings,  
Leela

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## Caring Corner

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**Dartha Reid** had successful bypass surgery on 8/6 and has been released from EMMC to recuperate at home. Her daughter from San Francisco will be arriving to assist with her care. Dartha and Paul would like to thank everyone for their support and have promised to let us know if we can help with anything.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for all the cards, care, positive thoughts, flowers, and food sent in my direction. It has contributed tremendously to my continuing recovery. You are truly my church family. With love, Dartha

**Sally Bell** sends the following message: "I am home from the hospital having been diagnosed with pumonary hypertension. This is not too likely to get better, but we may be able to slow down the progress. It explains the continuing fatigue I have dealt with over the past few years. Thanks to all for cards and visits." --Sally

A big THANK YOU to everyone who came out to **Mary Ann Solet and Mike Tansy's** place on 8/8 to visit and help with tidying up the perennial beds.

Mary Ann's daughter Liz says her mom is very pleased to know that her much-loved flower gardens are getting some TLC. We will be making another trip out there in a few weeks to do some more yard work, so if anyone would like to join us next time, please contact Karen Wigglesworth at [karen.wigglesworth@jax.org](mailto:karen.wigglesworth@jax.org).

**Anne Funderburk.** Best thanks to all who have helped and supported me through several months of health problems, even while they were coping with difficulties of their own. This congregation is indeed a family of choice.

Hugs and love, Anne Funderburk

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## Religious Education and Exploration

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### Greetings from Religious Education & Exploration!

I write to you on a glorious mid-August morning, grateful for the bright sunshine after all the summer rain. Things are abuzz outside with wildlife of all happy sorts: crickets, flies, caterpillars, meteor showers - and inside as well as we in the RE wing prepare for an exciting new year of lifespan education offerings.....

#### CHILDREN & YOUTH RE

**Registration** for our 2009 – 2010 children and youth RE program will be available Sunday mornings before church, **September 6, 13, 20 & 27<sup>th</sup>**. Look for greeters with reg. forms.

*\*Please note - we still have room for more children in our RE program; Tell your friends about our exciting program - All our youth class rooms will be focusing on **Peace and Social Justice** as this year's topic!*

We have a great line up for the coming year as we look forward to welcoming back our kids for their circle gatherings on Sunday mornings:

Nursery	Helen Conway will resume as caregiver extraordinaire.
4-7 Y/O	Sarah Hayman Huisjen and Val Frey will be working with our spirited youngin's, 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.
13 – 17 Y/O	Our teens this year will be engaged in an exciting and rewarding challenge: the creation of a

conceptual '*Peace Village.*' (Thanks to Martha Dickenson for providing this great idea). Our up and coming leaders of tomorrow will work together to brainstorm creative solutions for urban planning, economic trade, education, environmental concerns, recreation, conflict resolution, health – in fact all aspects needed to create a community committed to living in peace. During the year special concerns proposed *by the congregation at large* (this mean YOU!) will be brought to the circle to stretch and fertilize the creative process. We welcome teachers Matt Slater and Nicole Leahy who will lead this process using the seven UU principles as guidelines.

#### ADULT RE

We are very fortunate to have Pam Person as our new chair of the Adult Education Committee. Pam comes to the position with great energy, and we welcome her with great anticipation for her organization and enthusiasm. If you'd like more info. about adult RE, please feel free to contact Pam at 469-6770, or Sonia at [Sonia@uuellsworth.org](mailto:Sonia@uuellsworth.org).

Pam has submitted the following update for our Fall adult line-up:

The Adult RE committee met and has planned an exciting and varied number of offerings for you this Fall –all but one to be held on Sundays after church in what we're calling the "BYOL" (bring your own lunch and stay around until 1:15) series....and even more are being thought about for the Winter and Spring...as you can see in the full page of details.

We have a large enthusiastic committee – Diana Cate, Kathy Coombs, Bob Dickens, Sara Huisjen, Nicole Leahy, Pam Person, Tom Stipe, Christina Gagliardi, and Sonia (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Turanski. We also have folks who are offerings to lead courses – Anne Ossanna, Evelyn Foster, Sue Clark!

Please join us or give your ideas. We hope having something every Sunday after church. Pam Person, Chair

### Fall Offerings In Adult RE

#### ***“BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH” FALL 2009***

***All classes will be held at UUCE on Sundays following services unless otherwise indicated***

Sunday, September 20 **“44 Things you can do for free (or almost free) to cut your use of Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Heating Oil, Propane and Electricity”** - Facilitated by Pam Person

See the “44” and bring your own ideas to this round table discussion so we can all save money and energy. This event is also sponsored by Hancock County Towns in Transition and UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee.

October 4, 11 & 18 **Me to We** book discussion, facilitated by Sonia Turanski

“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)

**\*Please Note:** Oct 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a short gathering to distribute books, make introductions, and get assignments.

Saturday, October 24, 10AM to Noon **“Climate Change - why we need to act now”**

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.*

October 25 **Introduction to Paganism - Samhain** Anne Ossanna with guest facilitators

This is the first of an introductory series on 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

#### ***Proposed classes for Winter & Spring 2010:***

**Welcoming Congregations** – Christina Gagliardi

**Substance abuse: prevention and harm reduction** - Panelists with different perspectives- 3 meetings facilitated by Bob Dickens

**The Unitarian- Universalist Principles** – what do they mean & how we apply them to our lives 7 sessions facilitated by Evelyn Foster and Pam Person

**The Powers that be – theology for a New Millennium** – Based on Walter Wink, facilitated by (Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)  
Jon Thomas and Sara Husijen

**Introduction to Art Therapy** – 6 sessions led by Sue Clark

**Atheism** – course facilitated by Nicole Leahy

**World Religions** – series led by Sonia Turanski

For more information on our Adult classes, or to register, please contact Sonia Turanski, DRE at [Sonia@uuellsworth.org](mailto:Sonia@uuellsworth.org) or by calling the UUCE at 667-4393.

Looking forward to a wonderful year in the spirit of community! With Aloha (love), and Mahalo (thanks), respectfully submitted by Sonia Turanski, DRE

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## Goods and Services Auction

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Saturday, October 3 has been set as the date for our fall **Goods and Services Auction**. Jerry Miller, last year's auctioneer, has promised to donate his services once again.

Planning is underway. Donation forms are available in the Community Room, if you missed the one in the July NUUS.

Last year we brought in \$5,000.00 with half of that amount going to the Hancock County Thaw Fund.

It is time to think about what you would like to donate.

Questions may be addressed to Peggy Strong, Diana Cate, Peggie Geiger, Dawn Fortune, or Susanne Forest.

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## From The Board

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### Marriage Equality

Kay Wilkins gave a brief presentation starting with a moving video on the Protect Equal Marriage campaign. "This is our issue, a point of pride for UU's. We can stand up and celebrate!" Kay is the chair for Hancock County. Voter ID phone banking is starting August 19 and she is looking for volunteers to provide finger food for the folks doing the calling. She asked the board if the strategic planning committee could use space at church without a rental fee every Monday for their weekly meetings and possibly at other times if the need arose. She also requested permission to have a table with information about the campaign during coffee hour on Sundays. Motions for above were made and passed.

### Housekeeping

The contract for the Little Acorn Nursery School has been signed and an inspection done. The possibility of their doing nursery care during church services is being discussed.

Ruth and the Leadership Committee have looked over a form for committees to fill out during their meetings. This should be very helpful in keeping the board informed about what is going on in the various committees, particularly in relation to actions taken.

### Treasurer's Report

The end of year report was reviewed. Good news!! We received several 08/09 pledges in July which have decreased our short fall and left more money in our savings account. See elsewhere for the full report.

The rest of the board meeting was spent in conversation about commitment. What does it mean? How do we foster it? See the full board minutes for details.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Volckhausen, Secretary

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## UUCE Stands On The Side Of Love

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Most of you know the Maine Legislature passed and the governor signed a law allowing civil marriage for same gender couples. A group led by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Maine immediately gathered signatures to place a question on the ballot in November rescinding the new law. Therefore implementation of the freedom to marry is on hold until after the November 3, election.

Our church members are among the leaders in Hancock County in a state-wide campaign named "Vote No on 1/Protect Maine Equality." I am campaign chair for the county. Christina Gagliardi is leading our phone banking operation. We are calling voters in the county to identify our supporters so that we can be sure we get them all to the polls in November. Many of the callers are UUs: Beth Allen, Patty Herklotz, Sara Huisjen, Nicole Leahy, Jim Fisher, Peg Walker and me. We'd be delighted to have more of you join us.

Diana Cate has taken on the care and feeding of phone bankers and has recruited many of you to bring snacks to our Wednesday night phone bank, at the Hancock County Democratic Headquarters, soon to be expanding to Sunday night as well. Our UU Castine friends are providing drinks. Thanks to so many of you, we've been eating well and feeling appreciated. We're grateful

Dawn Fortune is organizing fund raising and information sharing house parties like the one Paula and George Marcus are hosting for Hope and Pearl Lewis who are headed to Massachusetts to be wed. We hope others of you would be interested in inviting some friends and neighbors in. Dawn would be delighted to hear from you.

We also attend local events, asking people to pledge to vote "no" in November and seeking volunteers and contributors. For the Bucksport Bay Festival, the most effective solicitors were Pam and Phil Person. Their very presence made clear marriage equality is an issue of justice for everyone. A group, including Dawn Fortune and Laura Dowling worked the crowd at the Machias Blueberry Festival. If any of you would be interested in

helping at the Blue Hill Fair, please see me or phone (667-2901).

Perhaps you really want to get involved, but I haven't listed anything yet you'd like to do? There's plenty more. Write letters to the editor. Kent Price, UU Castine, is leading that effort. He can help you with your letter. Maybe you don't want to call voters, but would be willing to do reminder calls to volunteers. Maybe you'd like making buttons? What's your idea of how to help? Our Board has agreed I can be at a table in the Community Room every Sunday during coffee hour answering questions and soliciting volunteers. See me there under the lavender wedding bells or phone/email.

Kay Wilkins  
667-2901

[kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu](mailto:kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu)

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## Everybody Eats

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Local community activists have banded together to help feed the hungry among us. 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 Peace and Social Action Committee of UUCE has endorsed this activity and encourages UU's to volunteer for a shift some Monday soon. 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. . To join the list of volunteers or ask a question, please email [everybodyeats4free@gmail.com](mailto:everybodyeats4free@gmail.com) or phone Julia at 667-4472. Also, please talk with me if you would like to see UUCE participate on a regular basis. Perhaps UUCE could provide a few volunteers one Monday each month.

-- Martha Dickinson, PASA  
[marthad@gwi.net](mailto:marthad@gwi.net)

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## Message from the President

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### *Your Leadership in Action*

You should be very pleased by what your Board of Trustees is up to! In spite of it being vacation-time in vacation-land, we have been working hard. We have multiple copies of three books that we are using as springboards for our very stimulating discussions. I asked each person to write in the books as they read them (yes, the librarian did indeed not just sanction but encourage that), so as we pass them along we benefit from the reactions of the previous reader.

We are considering our purpose, our meaning. We discussed, in a joint meeting with the Committee on Ministry, what the idea of “ministry” conveys to each of us individually and how we might begin to define it collectively for our congregation. We also explored the concept of “commitment,” and what that could look like in our church. We’ve been pretty loose about asking for commitment over the years, and I don’t think that has served us well. We aren’t as attached to each other as we could or should be, because we haven’t been clear on what the glue is.

Now that we’ve agreed to agree on something, then what is it we will agree on? **If our church, our beloved community, is to be more than a very warm and supporting social club or a stimulating dorm-room late-night conversation, then we must identify some larger purpose.** We must agree on some central glue beyond that of “supporting the Seven Principles.” That’s not enough. We could do all that without being a church. (Besides, that gets perilously close to a creed for me.)

It’s not that the Board will be determining our purpose on its own - that’s why we have hosted our after-service discussions. They have been very thoughtful and we really appreciate those who have engaged with us. We’ll have another one after the last service in September, which will be led by Diana Cate and me. However, there does come a time when the Board needs to say, “This is the journey we are on. Come join us!” This is why you have elected leadership.

We are looking at a range of possibilities and trying to figure out what will be our path for the coming year. We need something more than “journeys toward truth, the free exchange of ideas, intellectual freedom, creating beauty, honoring the democratic process, ennobling harmony, or free inquiry.” We need to say something active, that takes us outside our doors and puts us into the world. We need to include the concept of service as a critical element of our self-definition.

Who are we? What are we called to do? Whom will we serve? What will that service look like? How will we be with each other? How will we present ourselves in the larger community?

These are very hard questions to answer, but we must do that. Perhaps the answers we come up with now are our first step, and we will agree to walk and talk and work together for a year and then revisit the answers. That’s fine. We have no expectation that our plan will be written in stone. We just need to have a plan. We can’t keep going in circles - we need an arrow.

We are all here because we believe that together we are better in some way than each of us is separately, just spinning on his or her own little axis. We worship together, we share fellowship and support, we learn, we give. And underlying this must be something that binds us. There must be a meaning beyond just wanting to be together - a more important point, a *purpose*.

In Christian traditions, this compelling purpose is referred to as a “call.” I see no reason why we can’t use the concept. It means a summoning, an insistent invitation to do a task or to assume a responsibility that is elevated. It is more than just a thing you might or could do; it is a thing you must do to be a complete person. This is a value I would like us to be open to - yes, it may be a stretch for some of us, but please consider the idea even if the word itself makes you wince (it’s just a word.)

We, the members of the Board, are trying to be better listeners and our ears are cocked. Now we need you to speak: please let your Board know what you think.

Yours in ministry - Ruth A. Eveland

## Personnel

### Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393  
[minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org)

### Church Office

Caitlin Tunney: 667-4393  
[caitlin@uuellsworth.org](mailto:caitlin@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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## Calendar Items from the Hancock County Cultural Network

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September 20: "Rethink Afghanistan" film (documentary on key issues on this US invasion/occupation) shown with panel discussion to follow, 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St., Bangor. Call 942-9343 or [info@peacectr.org](mailto:info@peacectr.org) or [www.peacectr.org](http://www.peacectr.org).

September 25-27: Common Ground Country Fair, 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).

September 28-October 3: Banned Books Week to end literary censorship. Thesil Morlan, Amnesty International, 832-6863 or [thesil@midcoast.com](mailto:thesil@midcoast.com) for an information packet.

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## Treasurer's Corner

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On a positive note, we received several 2008-2009 pledge payments in late July reducing our shortfall in pledge payments for last year from \$11,105 to \$8,865. This also reduced our deficit to \$13,811. Thank you!

On the other side, our nine year old office copier died and it cost us \$1,800 to replace it. No, it doesn't print in color, but it does have several features that our old copier did not have. It does two sided copying. It will collate. We can connect it to our computer and save on Ink Jet copies. It will also fax which we have need of from time to time. Stop in to see Caitlin and she will be glad to give you a quick course on how to operate the new machine.

The water line from the city water main is completed. We discovered that it is going to cost us an additional \$1,000 to connect our system to the city. If you would like to make a special contribution to help with this additional expense, it would be greatly appreciated. The contingency funds in the budget will cover the cost of replacing the copier. Otherwise, expenses for July and August have been running normal. Please keep your pledges current and we should be fine.

Remember to support the auction on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The auction is our major fund raiser. A successful auction in the fall will get us off to a great start this church year.

### Breaking News On The Water Project

The switch from our well to the city of Ellsworth water system is completed and the water coming from our faucets is now safe to drink. Thank you to all that contributed and special thanks to Margery Forbes who contributed \$10,000 to the project in Irving's memory. We still have a balance of \$1,355 to cover the entire project. If you would like to contribute, please feel free to do so. Just indicate "Water Project" in the memo portion of your check. If you have any questions, contact David Towle or Don Martin.

Don Martin  
Treasurer

## Goods & Services Dinner & Auction

- A great book you've read and that others might enjoy
- A very nice gift you received years ago that sits in the china closet unused (it's not your style)
- A bicycle, skis, snowshoes, ice skates in good shape that the kids left behind when they moved out
- A great collection - vinyl records, stamps, your 50 china cats – that is now just taking up space
- A skill you have for organizing clutter, reconciling a check book
- The willingness to simply mow the lawn, weed the garden, cook a meal, drive someone to the doctor
- The ability to tune up a lawnmower or cut down a dead tree

What do all these things have in common?

They are IMAGINATIVE GOODS & SERVICES you could donate to the UUCE Goods & Services Auction on October 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Do it NOW! Yellow donation forms are available in the Community Room or contact Peggy Strong, 266-3006.

Then come to the Dinner & Auction.

It's a fun way to earn money for your church and The Hancock County Thaw Fund!

*THANKS!*

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## Notices From The Hancock County Cultural Network

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GayMaine is a travel guide with GLBTQ people in mind. This glossy booklet features especially gay-friendly spots like Ogunquit as well as interesting attractions in on-the-beaten-path places like Portland and off-the-path locations as well. Sections include "dining," "night life," "excursions," "lighthouses," features with business owners, and a list of gay-friendly businesses. To get a copy or to be included in future editions, contact TravelMaine, [info@gotravelmaine.com](mailto:info@gotravelmaine.com) or [www.gotravelmaine.com](http://www.gotravelmaine.com).

A new report from the Maine Center for Economic Policy, "National Health Reform: Lessons from Maine," suggests that some kind of public health care system can work, that states can't do it themselves, that cost containment is crucial, and that a watered down system will not solve the problem. Maine has had some successes: a 20 percent drop in the number of uninsured people, a reduced rate of increase in health insurance costs, and some documented savings in health care spending. For a copy: MeCEP, 622-7381 or [nwitherbee@mecep.org](mailto:nwitherbee@mecep.org).

Everyone's buzzing about the upcoming tour of the Beehive Collective. The Bees are looking for groups, in Maine and beyond, to host their fall Mesoamerica Resiste (MR) tour. The MR graphics are the third part in a trilogy to graphically show the story of colonization, globalization, and over-industrialized development of our world's economy, especially as it affects North and South America. The Beehive Collective is also looking for new members--to learn graphic arts and to work with its programs in Machias. For details: call 255-6737 or [pollinators@beehivecollective.org](mailto:pollinators@beehivecollective.org).

The huge single payer health care rally in Portland last month, the withdrawal of test wells by bottled water company Nestlé, the premiere of the film "Tapped" on the problems of bottled water, and the demonstration at Bath Iron Works against continued production of weapons of mass destruction: These are topics from the Maine Video Activists Network #38, which is posted on the web under that title. FMI on the Network, try [craig@roundpointmovies.org](mailto:craig@roundpointmovies.org).