

The NUUS



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Vol. 39, No. 11
Nov, 2007

P.O. Box 5141 (121 Bucksport Road), Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Phone: (207) 667-4393 Web: <http://uuellsworth.org>

A Month of Sundays

All services at 10:30 a.m.

Nov 4. *Wool Socks and Dry Towels*

We are seekers. Where do we find our answers?

Rev. Leela Sinha

Nov 11. *Risen From the Ashes*

What can come of troubled ground?

New Member Sunday

On this day we will welcome our new members.

Please come prepared to celebrate this wonderful commitment to our community and our faith.

Rev. Leela Sinha

Nov 18. *An Elegant Sufficiency*

When is enough, enough?

Rev. Leela Sinha

Nov 25. To Be Announced

Coffee Hour Obituary!!!

Poor Coffee Hour. We loved her cookies and bagels, but the breath of volunteer life has left the body.

We will still have coffee, and we will have juice for the youngsters. But no longer will we plead for folks to sign up as hosts. Washing the coffee mugs will still have to be done by volunteers or by each individual coffee or tea drinker, so there will still be a sign up sheet in the community room for "clean-up crews."

Special occasions may certainly be celebrated by serving a cake or whatever, with the planners responsible for setup and cleanup.

Potluck dinners, when we all bring our favorite dishes on the first Sunday, will continue as usual. Each month Barbara Hadowanetz will be asking four people to setup and cleanup for potluck.

So now we can invite people to stay for coffee, not "coffee hour."

The Membership Committee

New UUCE website URL:

<http://uuellsworth.org>

New e-mail address for the NUUS editor:

lfunderburk@roadrunner.com



Unexpected Grace

"As long as we are able to be extravagant we will be hugely and damply extravagant. Then we will drop foil by foil to the ground. This is our unalterable task, and we do it joyfully."

So writes Mary Oliver, channeling the heart-speech of roses ("When the Roses Speak, I Pay Attention" Thirst, p. 9, 2006). How grateful we can be, that the world around us is extravagant just as long as it is able, that it offers up everything it has; how thankful we can be that we are surrounded by trees and skies and flowers and shrubs and ocean that give and give and give, and, unlike Shel Silverstein's giving tree, do not, at the end, find themselves exhausted.

And why not exhausted?
Why not spent?

Because they stop before they are completely gone. They give leaves but not trunks, or trees but not forests. We get rain and sunshine but not the bright and marvelous star itself. The flowers give blooms but not leaves; the ocean offers fish and seaweed but not everything, not to the last molecule, not the last drop.

In these days of harvest and bounty, let us sing gratitude for our riches, for all that we are given, for all that blesses us; let us share generously, let us hope deeply, and let us know what is enough:

Enough left that we maintain balance;
Enough left that the well does not run dry.
Enough left that we may give and receive, and give and receive, and give and receive again.

Blessings for a graceful holiday journey,
Leela

Social Action Committee

PICA--Peace Through Inter-american Community Action

21st Annual PICA Auction
Saturday, November 3, 2:30-6:00 p.m.
College Center at the University College, Bangor
201 Texas Ave, Bangor

With both a silent and live auction, the Auction's format works for the most introverted and extroverted among us. Browse tasty treats, enjoy the creativity and generosity of our region, and support great work for social and economic justice, here in Maine and in El Salvador. What better way to spend a November afternoon?

Event on "Truth In Recruiting"

The UUCE Peace and Social Action Committee is co-sponsoring a public meeting on **Truth-in-Recruiting** on November 5 at 7 pm in the Riverside Room of the Ellsworth Public Library. Information about recruitment methods, alternatives to military service, and how students can opt out of receiving recruitment information will be provided. Youth, parents, and educators are especially encouraged to attend. For more information: 667-5863

Thanks,
Martha Dickinson
667-5863
marthad@gwi.net



Down East Discussion Group Schedule for 2007 - 2008

The Down East Discussion Group is open to all and welcomes new members. Meetings are usually 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, Noon, November 14

Host: Judy Hart (963-2145)

Topic: "A Letter I'd Like to Write"

Wednesday, Noon, December 12,

Pot-Luck Lunch

Hosts: Don and Jean Martin (664-0309)

Topic: TBA

January 9: Church

February 13: Church

March 12: Church, George Hoffman

Topic: Music

April 9: Hosts: Fred and Jean Snyder

May 14: Host: Peggy Drake

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who contributed to and/or attended the Chili Supper and Goods and Services Auction on Oct. 13. It was a good time. Monies raised for the General Fund total \$2,406.67 as of Oct. 14. A special thank you to our Auctioneers: Hope Lewis and David Towle.

Brought to you by: "The Organizers": Evelyn Foster, Sue Aubrey, Diana Cate, and Peggie Geiger

Harvest Dinner

The Harvest Dinner will be held on November 17th at 5:00. I was hoping to be out of my brace by then, but it doesn't look like it, so I will need some help setting up and taking down. Jim has been helping me since June, and now his knee is acting up, so he can't do a lot either, but, by golly, the dinner will go on.

BUT we are going ahead with the dinner. I will cook the turkey and stuffing. You all bring the potluck stuff. We are going to have a feast! Oh.... and bring your appetites as well.

Willow

Now on News Stands

Unitarian Universalist Association advertisements in TIME Magazine

The October 15 issue of *Time* carries a full page ad for Unitarian Universalism. This ad, with the message "Is God Keeping You From Going to Church?", represents the first of four appearances Unitarian Universalists will have in *Time* between now and the end of 2007. All ads carry the slogan, "Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World."

With the launch of this campaign you will find updated information on UUA.org. There you'll find a graphic of the ad itself as well as links to much more information including samples of the *Time* ads available for congregational use and hospitality and welcoming resources. The UUA will also publish an "advertorial" in the November 5 issue which will be available on news stands on October 26. With that ad the new UUA/*Time* co-sponsored TIME.com religion pages will also go live. More information about the campaign will appear in further newsletters.

Super Greeters

Betty Massie is our Super Greeter and “leader of the greeters.” She and her volunteers make our guests feel warmly welcomed. But ALL of us can and should be Super Greeters by following a few basic steps:

1. Wear your name tag. Guests will feel much more comfortable speaking with you if they can see your name.
2. Smile. Assume an attitude that you are a host or hostess in your own home.
3. Chat with a guest after the service. “What brought you here today?” is a good conversation starter, and fits even if the guest has visited before.
4. Encourage them to stay for coffee or potluck. We usually have plenty of food. Escort them to the community room.
5. Find something to make a personal connection, either with yourself or with another member (profession, mutual interests, how-bout-those-Red Sox/Patriots, etc.)
6. Introduce the guest to at least one other church member.

Don't be shy. We were all first-time visitors once. Let them know you, and your goodness will shine through.



Worship Committee

On October 28th the Sunday worship services the pagan holy day Samhain will be celebrated. This is a time believed to be when the veil between the natural and spiritual world is thinnest. A feast is spread, windows and doors ajar, and spirits of departed loved ones are invited to join. The congregation is encouraged to bring a photo of a departed loved one to place on the alter. Perhaps you have felt their presence or had an encounter with a spirit? You are invited to share that story during the service.

Immediately following the service an informal discussion, led by Mike Tansey, will be held in the Religious Exploration wing. Mike will tell of other Samhain traditions and beliefs.

For additional information regarding this service please contact Chris Burdette, Toby Manring, Anne Ossanna or Mike Tansey.

Personnel

Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393

minister@uuellsworth.org

President of the Board

Kay Wilkins: 667-2901

president@uuellsworth.org

Religious Education Chair

Fran Stehman: 244-4122

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Choir Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301

lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

Religious Exploration

With gratitude, we are pleased to announce that the Religious Exploration program is well underway. Attendance has been stable, approximately 20 children ranging from ages 1 to 17 gather each week, settling quickly into the rhythm and ready to explore. In need of an update, the Safe Congregation Policy is almost complete; we thank Ruth Eveland for her time and effort in creating procedures that offer a nurturing and safe environment for our children.

The Spirit Play class is enjoying the lovely fall days exploring Earth's Life Boat. With great enthusiasm we fill the bird feeder together and watch the chipmunks and squirrels prepare for the change of season. The early days of October found us learning about harvest and exploring the magic and wonder in the Sukkot shelter that magically appeared near the woods. We also planted bulbs for the congregation to enjoy during the festive December Holy Days. Together we made a beautiful chalice for the classroom and learned how we each are special and bring our talents together to create community. We sing, have a healthy feast, share and learn together. It is a sacred space, full of joy and wonder.

The Jr. Youth Group has been working hard on creating meaningful bricks for their Holocaust Memorial Garden. Words reflective of our promises have been engraved and will enhance the peaceful space the children have created. Please, take the time to follow the path to the Memorial Garden, it is worth the while. The Jr. Youth Group is small in numbers, but mighty in wisdom. These children are mature, insightful and full of joy; Toby has done well!

The Sr. Youth Group is BIG, in size and number. What a delight to see so many older teens attend church on a regular basis. The program challenges them to respond appropriately to "real life" challenges. Admitting when a mistake was made, remaining calm when you find yourself in an

uncomfortable situation, and communicating are all lessons learned even before their Adventure Day on October 21st. This is a powerful group with excellent leadership; Carol is an inspiring leader.

Due to the VERY busy UUCE schedule we will be postponing the MOVIE SERIES to January 2008.

SAMHAIN CELEBRATION: On October 28th we will Celebrate Samhain in the Sanctuary. The Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups will be attending the celebration. Spirit Play children are invited to attend the celebration with their families. Limited child care activities will be provided for children 6 and under. Costumes are encouraged, however, please not too scary as they might frighten the young ones.

Calendar

October 28th - Samhain Celebration in the sanctuary. There will be no RE classes. Children are invited to attend the service in costume and sit with their family. Child care will be available for children 6 and younger in the RE wing. An informal discussion on Samhain will be held in the RE wing following the service.

November 4th - Classes for all ages in RE wing. Fran Stehman will lead the Jr. Youth group.

November 11th - Classes for all ages in the RE wing. Bob Dickens will lead the Jr. Youth group.

November 18th - Classes for all ages in the RE wing. Bob Dickens will lead the Jr. Youth group.

November 25th - Holy Day crafts for all ages with Sue Clark.



From The Board

At the October BOT meeting, Treasurer George Marcus announced he has forwarded budget reports to all of the committee chairs. George will meet with the Finance Committee and discuss making recommendations to reserve a percentage of our endowment fund for a major maintenance reserve instead of the current practice of a fixed amount of \$20,000.

Leela emphasized the need to nourish our volunteers. She reported that attendance has been good and growing. Working with the Worship Committee she has begun experimenting with small alterations to the order of worship. The Safe Congregation Policy is being updated. The Leadership Development Committee is beginning to be able to shift from filling gaps in leadership to planning leadership training and other development activities. Formulation of a plan for a DRE search has begun. During this time of transition, Leela remains committed to providing quality religious exploration programs for children and adults.

The Fall Parish Meeting will be held on October 21, 2007, directly after worship service. Reports from the Board, Finance and Religious Exploration will be given. Additionally, Tom Martin will present a draft of the revised Procedure Manual to the parish.

5 copies of *Small Congregations, Big Potential* by Lyle Schaller have been ordered for the BOT to read. Members of the congregation are also encouraged to read this book, which challenges small congregations to use strategic thinking.

Details of the October 11th BOT meeting are available in the black notebook located in the UUCE Hallway for interested parties to review. The next BOT meeting will be held on November 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne N. Ossanna, Secretary

For Better Committee Communication

As your web caretaker, I suggest that our various committees, task forces, small groups, etc., could better communicate with the rest of the congregation if we use our web pages for sharing information. (See <http://uuellsworth.org> .) For example, I just posted some web pages for the Peace and Social Action Committee. You get there by looking over our list (alphabetical, I hope) of committee names and clicking on the committee name. I would be most happy to do that for every committee. Just email me the information – a word document or a text file will be fine. I also like to list meeting times and places so please email your plans to me and I'll post them. By the way, I do not have a proofreader and am very glad to hear of corrections to our web pages.

- Martha Dickinson, marthad@gwi.net

WERU Benefit Concert

Lou & Peter Berryman
Musical Humorists

November 2, 7:30 PM



Music Notes From Wayne Smith

Attention all UU Musicians and Musician Wannabees!

The UUCE Choir has taken a bold step forward in presenting all new music at our church services and they are doing a good job. But that doesn't mean that we don't need your support. We need a few more voices, especially tenors and sopranos. You don't need to be a Pavarotti (which wouldn't be a good idea right now) or a Sutherland, but just have the desire to work hard, attend rehearsals, and contribute to our church community by making a joyful noise.

On another note (pun intended), the UUCE Youth Choir had its first rehearsal on Oct. 17 and was scheduled to perform during the church service on Oct. 21st. I'm not sure, but I think this is the first time in the history of UUCE that we have had a youth choir. I'm hoping that our youth will take advantage of this opportunity to share their music with the rest of us. As the song goes, "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir".

The tentative rehearsal schedules of the two choirs is as follows:

Adult Choir (high school-aged youth are also welcome to attend):

The first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7-9 p.m., and

Those Sunday mornings when we'll be performing from 9-10 a.m.

Youth Choir (elementary school through high school students welcome):

The first and third Wednesdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (includes pizza!), and

Those Sunday mornings when we'll be performing from 9:30-10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in participating in either (or both!) of these choirs, please contact Wayne Smith at: wayne@mrlanguage.com or call: 667-9482.

History Committee Seeks History Freaks!

Over the years, we have amassed a large amount of historical documents relating to the history of UUCE, and the History Committee would like to enlist a few of you to help go through, evaluate, organize, and archive these documents and then make periodic presentations on our history as part of or as a supplement to our church services. As Historian, I'd like to schedule a morning-long session some Saturday morning to go through what we have and make decisions as to what we should keep, and how we should organize it.

As part of this effort, we're also calling upon all UUCE members to donate what you might think of as old junk, but which could be very valuable in preserving our history: old orders of service, old NUUSletters, old photos (or for that matter even recent photos) of church activities (preferably with notations on the back of who, what, and when), your own thoughts about our congregation, poems, recipes, etc. If you want to submit these materials digitally, please send them to me at history@uuellsworth.org. Please contact me with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Thanks for helping to preserve our present-day history for future generations of UUCEers!

- Wayne Smith, UUCE Historian

UU Singer/Songwriter Jim Scott

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 9, UUCE will once again play host to a concert of one of the most popular and exciting UU singer/songwriters alive today: Jim Scott. An exciting acoustic guitarist, singer, and composer of powerful music that furthers the ideals of ecology, justice, and peace, Jim makes an impact on hearts and minds across the world.

One of the rare musicians who have transcended stylistic boundaries, Jim has recorded or shared the stage with luminaries from the jazz, classical and folk music worlds. From Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival with the Paul Winter Consort; to a concert at the end of the Great Peace March with folk legends Pete Seeger and Peter Yarrow, Jim's travels have taken him around the world, including a European tour with the Griffith Singers performing his choral music; recording in the gardens of Findhorn, Scotland with jazz flautist Paul Horn; touring Nicaragua with Holly Near and performing in Australia for colleges and the Institute for Earth Education international conference. In his years as guitarist for the Paul Winter Consort, Jim led thousands in the song "Common Ground" and his own eco-anthem, "A Song For The Earth." He was co-composer of the Consort's monumental choral work, "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass," and recorded "A Concert for the Earth" in the Great Hall of the United Nations. While a member of the Consort, Jim also wrote several PBS soundtracks and composed and arranged an entire concert for the group with the Indianapolis Symphony.



Lately, Jim has devoted more time to composing and arranging. Performing often with choirs, he has created a lengthy catalog of choral compositions and arrangements. His choral song cycle "Vessels of the Sun" involves Latin, Celtic, African and Caribbean rhythms. "The Tree and Me," Jim's stage musical, is largely in an American folk style and tells a story of saving the ancient forests of the Northwest. This past year, sponsored by a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association, Jim has compiled, edited and arranged an anthology of songs of ecology and peace, *The Earth and Spirit Songbook*. Book One is now out and Book Two should follow in early '04.

A testament to Jim's artistry is the community of musicians that he has performed and recorded with. Former Eastman School of Music classmates - renowned drummer Steve Gadd and bassist Tony Levin - back Jim on "Earth, Sky, Love and Dreams." Jazz greats, Nelson Rangell (sax and other woodwinds) and Ed Tossing (keyboards) also grace Jim's recordings. Departing from the Consort, Jim formed the instrumental group Radiance with fellow Consort veterans oboist Nancy Rumble, cellists David Darling and Eugene Freisen and other musicians in exploring the new convergence of jazz, classical, folk and ethnic influences now often referred to as "world music." Out of print for a while, some of their finest recorded collaborations are now available on "Instruments of Peace."

Jim regularly performs and offers workshops for young people in elementary schools and libraries. The CD and companion video of songs for children, "Big and Little Stuff" includes some songs he has written in workshops with kids. Drawing on another side of his repertoire, he takes his music to high schools and colleges. Further description of workshops in Improvisation and Self-expression as well as Guitar and Song writing are described in the Workshops section. His book on guitar technique, "All Scales in All Positions" was published in 2000 by Hal Leonard.

Jim has long been active in the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church, and has visited over 300 UU churches across the country, leading services, presenting concerts, and offering workshops. Three of Jim's songs are included in the new Unitarian Universalist Hymnbook, and "Gather The Spirit," has become a favorite across the denomination. Jim has served on the board of the UU Musicians Network and was Co-Chair of the ecological/spiritual activist group the UU "Seventh Principle Project." Their "Green Sanctuary" program for church congregations to become more environmentally conscious, is described in the Ecology section.

You may read more about Jim at www.jimscottmusic.com. Please tell all of your friends about this concert and make it a point to be there. A goodwill offering will be taken at the door, and any proceeds over and above Jim's expenses will go towards furthering the music program at UUCE. We hope to see you all there!

Membership Committee

Steps To Membership

On October 11, 2007 the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve a policy regarding the paths to membership. This policy will become part of our "Policy and Procedures Manual". A course on the history and principals of Unitarian Universalism will be offered this winter, taught by Rev. Sinha.

1. Person(s) expresses interest in joining the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
2. Member hearing statement of interest notifies both:
 - a) Minister, and
 - b) Membership Chair
3. Either Minister and/or Membership Chair meets with candidate(s) to explain our path to membership, which include:
 - a) If new to Unitarian Universalism a four to six session course taught by the minister on the history and principals of Unitarian Universalism, and responsibilities of membership.
 - b) If transferring from another Unitarian Universalist church a one session course on the culture of UUCE and how it functions, and a meeting with the minister.

After completing the course, the candidate(s) will sign the Membership Book at a "Welcoming Ceremony" on a Sunday morning. A pledge card listing both financial and time/task support will be signed previous to the ceremony, or at this time. These "Welcoming Ceremonies" will be held two or three times a year, or more often if necessary. At this service a flower, plant or some other welcoming gift celebrating their new status will be presented to the new member(s).

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

Please join with us to celebrate our newest members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. The new members are Kathy Combs, Patty Thielen, Cindy Thielen, Joshua Walsh, and Elliot Ossanna

The ceremony will be held during the Sunday service, November 11, 2007, conducted by our minister, Rev. Leela Sinha, and the Board Chair, Kay Wilkins.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the UUCE please speak with Rev. Sinha or the Membership Committee Chair, Diana Cate. The updated "Steps to Membership" document appears elsewhere in this issue of NUUS.



Message from the President

Which Comes First?

Yup, it's that old chicken or egg question again. Lots of us said we wanted to call a full-time minister to help us grow. We maintained that we were willing to deficit spend in the faith that having the undivided attention of an energetic minister is how we will serve Downeast Maine. A few equally sensible souls said we should grow first until we were big enough to afford a full-time minister. One book I've read recently, *Small Congregations, Big Potential* by Lyle Schaller, suggests a church needs at least 125 in average attendance at Sunday services to afford a full-time credentialed minister.

Well, folks, we're well into it with our wonderful, inspirational and very full-time Rev. Leela Sinha. So now what? In Lyle Schaller's book and in what those of us who attended the Northern New England Fall Conference heard from Gail Geisenhainer and yet again from our District Executive Mary Higgins, all three concur that growth requires intentional and often painful and disruptive change. I suppose we could wait till the people flock in the door and then think about whether we're ready, but what makes more sense (say all the folks who know) is to start preparing first to make growth possible.

Your Board spent Saturday, October 13, with Mary Higgins and Leela at Patty Holt's splendid old cottage at Hancock Point looking at an incredible view of Frenchman Bay and contemplating the next year. Parenthetically, how's that for an incentive to run for BOT seats next May? We decided that one of our growth strategies will be to move many of UUCE's major committee meetings to Wednesday nights once or twice a month from about 6:00 to 8:00 with a short meditation or worship time and a bit of supper and child care and Junior Choir practice happening at the same time. We want to encourage active participation from young families who have found it difficult to find sitters or stay around church on Sundays. Not only that, some

parents have told us that their youngsters would enjoy seeing their church buddies on a week night.

Will this happen quickly and without any difficulty? No, of course not. Some folks may have other, non-negotiable commitments on a particular Wednesday. Not all committees can make this shift immediately, although the Religious Exploration committee has already voted to do this. Evening meetings can be a hardship for some of our most active older people who find driving after dark problematic. Then there are the overly-involved like me who serve on so many committees that I may be making hard choices of what to drop or running from room to room.

I hope you can see why this makes sense as a growth strategy and will consider how your committee or task force might give this a try. You'll be hearing more details as we move along over the next few weeks. Meanwhile, I'd like to challenge all of you to be grab the "that's the way we've always done it" rag and give it a mighty shake. Let the BOT know your ideas about keeping UUCE meeting your needs while attracting all those new folks, young and old who can't wait to meet us.

Kay Wilkins, President

