



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Vol. 39, No. 9

P.O. Box 5141 (1211 Bucksport Road), Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Sept, 2007

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

A Month of Sundays

All services at 10:30 a.m.

Sept 2. Labor Day. Bob Dickens

Sept 9. Drink Your Fill. The human body is flesh and blood, bone and sinew...water. If we don't drink, we don't thrive. After a long summer we come together to drink deeply at the well of community and connection. Let us celebrate new and old in this time of beginning.

Please note: We will be having a simple, silent water communion this year. Water communion is a ritual of community building and connection in which each person or family adds water to a common vessel. Please bring a small container (two or three tablespoons) of water that is special to you. It could be water from the well that nourishes your family, or water from the Union River or from the ocean, or from the rain that has been blessing our gardens and flooding our basements. For those who can't or don't bring water, we will have some available in the service.

Sept 16. Same River Twice. The name is the same, the water is different. Can we step in the same river twice? Do we want to?

Sept 23. A Little and a Little. "The drop of water makes a hole in the stone not by its weight but by its constantly dropping." (Ovid, as rendered by Krister Stendahl) What can we do, for good or for ill, by our constantly dropping?

Sept 30: Sara Hayman, chaplain

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Coffee Hosts for September

Sept. 2 No volunteers

Sept. 9 Potluck
RE will provide desserts
Please bring meat, vegetable and salad dishes

Sept. 16 No volunteers

Sept. 23 No volunteers

Sept. 30 No volunteers

Thank you to all that have signed up as coffee hour hosts. Please do not sign up any one other than yourself. This has happened in the past and has caused much confusion and extra work for others.

UUCE Fall Parish Meeting
Sunday, October 21, following the
Service
Agenda to be published in the
October NUUS

Unexpected Grace

...redemption everywhere I look.

Unknowingly we slow our pace

in the shade of unexpected grace...

--Carrie Newcomer, "Holy as a Day is Spent"

One of the pleasures of being a minister is engaging with beauty and calling it work. In pursuit of inspiration, I read Free Will Astrology, consult the complete works of several poets, go for walks in the woods, listen to Bach, Pat Humphries, Melissa Etheridge, and whoever is popular, go to the ocean, call colleagues, and stare out the window. I also get a slightly irregular poetry feed in my email called Panhala. Like everything else I do, some days it has nothing to do with the life around me. Today, however, Wistawa Szymborska writes: *I'm working on the world, /revised, improved edition, /featuring fun for fools, /blues for brooders, /combs for bald pates, /tricks for old dogs...* Today, it fits. We are all working on the world, revised, improved. For all of us it is not only our internal call but the work of our faith and the work of our community. Our vision is imperfect, our hopes are overblown...for just this one day we are hoping that old dogs will by hard work and miracles learn the one new trick that will allow them to save the day...and every moment that we spend in connection with each other can be a moment of building hope from thin air and from our successes, so that we might once again get up and go out into the world.

I'm working on the world, Szymborska says.
She is not alone.
None of us are.

What a joy to be together.

blessings,
Leela

Social Action Committee

Peace and Social Justice

The Social Action Committee has changed its name to Peace and Social Justice as more reflective of our intent. We are still in our formative time and are looking for new members. We hope to engage in several areas including (1) Environmental Concerns such as Climate Change, (2) World Peace Issues such as working for peace in the Middle East and (3) Social Concerns right here at home such as Emmaus Center. There are many issues needing our attention and as we develop, we hope to do more. Please let us know your interests.

We met recently with Margaret de Rivera to learn of her experiences as a volunteer with AFSC in Counter-Recruiting. That means helping to inform high school students about alternatives to joining the military and about experiences of others who have joined up and later regretted it. We hope to help with this activity next fall.

We'll announce our next meeting once we find a time that suits the most people. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Martha Dickinson
marthad@gwi.net or 667-5863



Religious Exploration

The RE committee has been busy this month preparing for classes to begin in September. Fran Stehman and Anne Ossanna met with Leela in early August regarding our Ingathering Service, which will be held on September 9th. A celebration will be held after the service in the RE wing.

The WERU Friendraising booth was fun and successful. Many thanks to those of you who donated goodies, water and your time. We raised \$133.00 to benefit the RE programs, but more importantly made lots of friends with promises to explore UUCE in the fall.

The Movie Series will continue in October. We have several wonderful films lined up for the fall, and welcome your suggestions of movies reflective of our UU Promises. Please remember films must be rated G, PG, PG-13 or NR and appropriate for intergenerational discussion.

We are delighted with the fall programs lined up and thank the lead teachers for their efforts. Below is a brief description of each class:

Anne Ossanna, with Donna Madonna assisting, will continue working with children ages 4 to 4th grade. Using Spirit Play, emphasis will be placed on our 7 promises. Spirit Play activities develop a community where children and adults think and learn together, creating cohesiveness, friendships and a helping environment. In support of the 7th promise, we will only be serving organic products during our feast ritual this year.

The Jr. High Youth group will practice the Unitarian Universalist Promises by continuing their study on the Holocaust with Toby Manning. Inspired by the documentary "Paperclips", the children will honor those who experienced the Holocaust by creating a Memorial Garden. This project will end in late October, volunteers are needed to lead this class in November.

Led by the Senior Youth Advisory, a year of exposure to diverse thoughts, questions, options and challenges, will empower the Sr. Youth members to learn about themselves, celebrate their uniqueness and honor the gifts they have contributed to the world.

We are also working on the Infant/Nursery having a structured program this fall with rituals reflective of our UU Promises.

September Schedule:

Sunday 9/02/07 (Labor Day Weekend)
Activities for ages 4-4th grade in RE,
Infant/Nursery care provided.
Jr. High - Sr. High in church.

Sunday 9/09/07 Ingathering Service
Infant/Nursery care provided.
Ages 4-Sr. Youth Group in church.
Desserts for POTLUCK
Collection for Loaves and Fishes.
Celebration after the service in RE Wing.

Sunday 9/16/07
Classes for all age groups in RE Wing.

Sunday 9/23/07
Classes for all age groups in RE Wing

Sunday 9/30/07
Classes for all age groups in RE Wing

If you would like to volunteer to work with the youth or serve on the RE committee, please contact Fran Stehman or Anne Ossanna.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna

Food Pantry

Many, Many Thanks! to all the Volunteers who help so willingly and with such good cheer. Twenty-two different individuals took part. Many volunteering two or three days, a couple more than five times.

With Gratitude, Your Food Pantry
Coordinators:
Ellen Hughes & Judy Rothrock

Caring Committee

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR PEOPLE COPING WITH ELDERS OR LOSS will start on Tuesday, October 16th. Sara Hayman will lead a Workshop from 7-9PM to get us started. If you are interested, call Dartha Reid (667-5434) or e-mail her at darthcr@yahoo.com.

Thanks to all who contributed and worked on the WERU Fair. Each of you DID make a difference!

Personnel

President of the Board

Kay Wilkins: 667-2901

Religious Education Chair

Fran Stehman: 244-4122

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Choir Director

Irving Forbes: 374-2068

Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301

lfunderburk@adelphia.net

IT'S A PARTY! UUCE GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

October 13, 2007

Dear UU Friends,

It is time for some Fun(d) Raising. By now I trust you have marked your calendars and are planning to be at UUCE for an evening of fellowship and fun as well as a chance to support the stewardship of our congregation. Here is an opportunity to know one another better as well as to have a great time.

As of this writing a number of donations have already come in: a belly dance class, an oriental cooking class, acupuncture treatment, tai chi instruction, expert examination of that diamond tipped needle on your record player, delicious cookies, brownies, etc. etc.

There will be a display of donated items for the auction. Check it out the next time you are at the church. Included will be a "wish list" of items that people would be interested in bidding on – if someone else could supply them.

I am more than happy to organize this event. (I love to organize!) However, it is not a one-woman show. Evelyn Foster and Diana Cate will be helping. More helpers will be needed. Please be in touch if you can help with advance work, and/or are available to help that evening.

--Peggie Geiger: 288-2335,

peggiegeiger@hotmail.com



From The Board

At the August BOT meeting, Treasurer George Marcus reported he is currently incorporating the large amount of "Off Budget" items into the income/expense report. The money received from the Domini Funds has been deposited into our account at The Maine Community Fund. Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee requested the Maine Community Foundations investment policy be reviewed as part of the criteria for being certified as a Green Sanctuary. The BOT voted unanimously to invite a representative of The Maine Community Foundation to attend the September meeting and discuss their investment policy.

The Kitchen Task Force presented an update on renovations to the kitchen. The BOT voted unanimously to include in this month's newsletter "An anonymous member of the congregation has pledged a challenge grant of \$2,000.00 toward renovation of the kitchen if the congregation will match this amount by Sunday, September 30, 2007." The BOT thanked the Kitchen Task Force for their efforts.

Mary Higgins, District Executive, will conduct a Start-up Weekend with us on Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13. She will meet with the congregation on Friday night, from 6:30 to 8:30. Committee chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. This will be an opportunity to tell Leela our story. The BOT retreat will be on Saturday, October 13. Board members will return to UUCE in time for our SERVICE AUCTION.

Members of the congregation expressed a need for better communication within committees and requested committee chairs meet regularly to coordinate efforts. Affirming this as a desirable direction to be heading towards, the BOT voted unanimously that Steve and Lyana Votey proceed with initiating a Committee Chair Council.

Leela is pleased to be at UUCE. Her first Sunday at the pulpit will be our Ingathering Service on

September 9th. The BOT acknowledged this service needs to be well publicized and explored options within the community at large. The RE committee has graciously offered to host a celebration in the RE wing after the service.

Detailed minutes of the August 9th BOT meeting are available in the black notebook located on the UUCE table in the community room for interested parties to review. The next BOT meeting will be held on September 13th at 7:00 p.m. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Anne N. Ossanna, Secretary

"UNIVERSALIST SPIRITUALITY"

"Universalist Spirituality" will be the theme of the New Mass. Universalist Convention's Annual Conference on Sat., Sept. 29, at All Souls UU Church, 196 Elm St., Braintree, MA.

Worship "The Gift of Forgiveness" will be led by the Rev. Olav Nieuwejaar. The keynote address "Universalist Spirituality" will be by the Rev. Richard Trudeau. The day's program will also include a presentation by the Rev. Edmund Robinson "Universalism: Means of Salvation or the Coming World Religion?", a panel of old-time Universalists reflecting on how Universalism as they remember it differs from today's UUism, a presentation about the new Universalist Heritage Center in Winchester, NH, and a sing-along of Chris Raible's parodies of UU hymns.

The day will run from 8:30 to 4:30 and include continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. YELLOW registration fliers will be sent to all UU churches in New England. For full information please go to www.nmuc.org and click on Annual Meeting.

Kitchen Task Force Report

“An anonymous member of the congregation has pledged a challenge grant of \$2000 toward renovation of the kitchen if the congregation will match this amount by Sunday, September 30, 2007.”

A proposal for kitchen update possibilities was presented to the Board of Trustee on 8/9. Three options were presented, including:

Plan “A”-A plan that meets basic priorities of updating counter tops and installing a used commercial dishwasher (total cost approx. \$6000).

Plan “B”-A total kitchen update (cost approx. \$16,000).

Plan “C”-Starting with Plan “A” and incorporating as much of Plan “B” as funds available allow.

The Board unanimously voted to accept and activate the challenge grant. The members of the congregation will “vote” for the kitchen renovation option by the response to this very generous challenge grant. Should you want to participate, please write your check by September 30, 2007 to UUCE with a notation that it is for the kitchen update and send to the treasurer, George Marcus, at the church. Should you have any questions or suggestions please contact one of the members of the kitchen task force, Anne Funderburk, Betty Massie or Susan Walsh.

Greeters!

Sign up one and all! There will be a meeting of all experienced greeters and those interested in greeting on September 30 after church. Get your coffee and snacks and bring them to watch a 15 minute segment of a CD called Ideas for Growth. The segment that will be shown is entitled “Repelling Fewer Visitors”. We would encourage all members of the congregation to sign up to greet at least a few times per year as there is no better way to learn to keep in the forefront of your mind the need to be warm and friendly, especially to those people you do not recognize.

New UUCE website URL:

http://uuellsworth.org



Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been very busy getting ready for this coming year...

On September 9th, there will be a “Welcome Rev. Leela Sinha” potluck that will coincide with the “In-Gathering” potluck the Religious Exploration Committee will be putting on. The RE Committee will be providing many luscious desserts. We are counting on the rest of the membership to provide their usual yummy foods to share.

On Sunday, September 30th @ noon, there will be an “Experienced Greeters” training session, complete with a video. It is very important that the “Core Greeters” attend and anyone else interested in being a greeter is welcome to attend.

Do you remember your first visit to UUCE? Perhaps the welcome you received that day helped you in your decision to return and become a member... Wouldn't you like to be able to extend a welcoming hand to another visitor? Every member of our congregation is encouraged to be a “greeter” at least once during the year. Speak with Betty Massie or Julie Thielen-Montgomery to sign up for a Sunday. And “Thank you” in advance!

An e-mail update: please note – Dartha Reid's e-mail is listed in the directory as darthacr@downeast.net... this is incorrect... it should be darthacr@yahoo.com. If there are any more corrections or additions, please let me know and I will put together a page to insert into your directory.

Now for the latest new member biography... mine...

I am Suzanne Aubrey, aka, the name-tag lady... I am originally from upstate NY, Lake George more specifically. I moved to Maine in 1980 and taught sailing and then school on Deer Isle. I married a local boy, then moved to Ellsworth with my 2 children in 1996 as a single mom. :(I have been a teacher, an EMT, and the first female firefighter in

Stonington...(among other things). I owned a home-based business... Aubrey Graphics and Design... for quite a few years, with a one-year adventure on Main St. in Ellsworth. After some major health issues floored me, I gave up my business and worked on my health and watched my children grow into beautiful young adults. Elizabeth, 21, is my oldest. She is working on a pre-med degree at UMO. My son, Samuel, 17, is a senior at Ellsworth High School... watch for him during basketball season! I am presently unemployed due to health concerns, but am looking for opportunities to do more graphic design work, photography work or even data entry kind of stuff. I am pretty handy at computers as far as helping people get organized and helping them to get the most out of the programs they have on their computer... *shameless self-promotion! I love making “one-of-a-kind” name-tags for the UUCE folks... just give me your ideas!

I am so happy to be a part of this congregation, this community... this family.

I think that is it for Membership News. Our next meeting is September 2nd. Let us know if you have any ideas or thoughts for our committee. See you at the September 9th pot-luck dinner!

Suzanne Aubrey – Secretary, Membership Committee

Steve and Cynthia Phinney's new address:

205 Saddlewood Trail, SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Message from the President

Waiting for Leela

“When Leela gets here, she’ll probably....”
“Don’t you think we should wait to decide that after Leela gets here?”
“Leela will see to it that we....”
“What will Leela think about?”
“But Leela may want to”

Poor Leela! Just how many opinions/decisions is she facing now that she is indeed here among us? And if she just jumped right in and started taking all these actions we say we’ve wanted, just how many sacred cows would she inadvertently slaughter? I’ve done my best as have many, many others to keep us moving along. UUCE has indeed had a busy, active summer. However, I’m sure that I might have fallen into the “waiting for Leela” trap too.

I hope we’ll all, me included, take a few deep breaths, slow down and take our time to get to know one another. Have you seen Peggie Geiger’s face book, a little photo album Peggie Geiger made to help Leela associate names and faces? Then there’s the dandy map of where we each live that Karen Wigglesworth has made for Leela. I know there are other getting acquainted activities planned.

On October 12 – 13, Mary Higgins, our District Executive, will be with us, conducting what she calls a Start-up Weekend. On Friday night (10/12), she’ll be holding a session for all members of the church, encouraging us to tell Leela our stories. Yes, we spent an interim year pulling that together, but now we need to share with Leela what makes us tick. Mary will help us do that. She’s also promised us a chance to create an organization chart of our multiplying and interlocking committee structure which Leela finds confusing. We can all benefit from that exercise, I’m sure. On Saturday, (10/13), the Board will be having its annual planning retreat with Mary Higgins and Leela. Mary says she’ll help us plot some “bold initiatives,” but she wisely

added she’ll also encourage us to set realistic expectations.

Kay Wilkins, President

Green Sanctuary Committee



The Committee’s current steps towards an environmental audit are to gather the energy bills for the past 12 months. This will give us a base line for comparison as we improve our environment for energy efficiency. Have you considered doing the same for you home? We are also trying to find a copy of the environmental assessment done on our church a few years back and will likely have another one done.

One easy step towards improved energy efficiency is replacing the light bulbs in your home with the high efficiency ones that are now available at most hardware and grocery stores.

There was some concern expressed about the sanitation of using cloth napkins at coffee hour. Some extra research was done on this and we were assured that as long as the used napkins are washed then dried in a dryer that the heat of the dryer will sanitize the napkins. By the way, Diana Cate has volunteered to wash and dry the napkins each week and when she is unavailable she will make sure she enlists another person to do this. Thank you Diana!

