



# 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. 11 November 2009

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## A Month of Sundays

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

### November 1. *On the Threshold*

When we stand in the between-space, everything seems both clearer and far less divided. How shall we hold the spirit of Samhain this year?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

### Potluck

### November 8. *Honoring our Heroes*

We celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11, as it was the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month that the Armistice was signed to end WWI. Mary Alice Horrigan will consider the needs of veterans and the power of community. Ms. Horrigan is the mother of a vet and a co-founder of Honor Our Heroes. She and Rev. Sinha will present the service together.

-Rev. Leela Sinha

### November 15. *Dancing In the Dark*

As the darkness wraps its cloak around us, we turn to celebration, to light, to its opposite. How can we find the place where darkness and celebration intersect?

-Rev. Leela Sinha

### November 22. *Food for the Spirit*

When our ministry is shared, what food do we crave? This Sunday will also be bread communion. In our annual cycle of communions, this is the time when we focus on the nourishment we share with one another. Bread will be provided, please come prepared to give and receive.

We will also launch our annual Guest At Your Table celebration.

-Rev. Leela Sinha

### November 29. *Now Here Be*

As the "holiday season" moves into high gear we need to find our spiritual center. How can we be attentive in and to the moment?

- Karen Foley

[Rev. Karen Lewis Foley served Massachusetts congregations in Concord, Chelmsford, and Monson for 18 years. She now engages a ministry of spiritual direction, retreats, pastoral care workshops, church consulting, and hospice chaplaincy. She and her husband, Dan, live in Topsham, Maine, where she also writes and gardens.]

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## New Members Class Postponed From September!

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The No on 1 campaign required a lot of attention, so our fall class was postponed. If you are interested in deepening your relationship with the church, exploring questions of spirituality, and seriously considering membership with us, please email Leela at [minister@uuellsworth.org](mailto:minister@uuellsworth.org). She will be organizing this three-session course around as many people's schedules as possible. Course will be held during the month of November, in time to join in December.

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## Unexpected Grace

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Take a deep breath. It's Samhain and All Soul's Day and the beginning of November. There's an election coming, an election on which a huge chunk of human rights is teetering. It's been a slow summer for tourism, and winter is on its way. Take a deep breath. We are going to be okay. We are going to make it. We are going to make it because we have each other, but more important, because the world is with us.

There has been more demonstrated support for equal rights than we dreamed at the beginning of this campaign. The tide is turning. It's slow--every vote, every voice, every dollar matters, and every one of us matters to every other one of us. If you're reading this before the election, we need you to vote, make no mistake. But the change is so big that it's not just the picture changing, it's the frame, and the wall on which it hangs. The whole context of the conversation is different. Major religious leaders are refusing to tolerate homophobia in the ways that they refuse to tolerate racism and sexism.

The world is changing, and we, with it. We still need to work hard. We still need to save. We still need to be careful. But we have it in us to make it through, all the way through, and be whole in the end. This coming season is the Northern Hemisphere's resting-time, the lull, the gentle rocking of calm waters and slow slumber. Take a deep breath, and feel the thinness of the veil and the slowing of the earth. This is the time to pause and take stock and know that we are not alone. We are not alone, and we are really, truly okay.

Be good to one another in this season. Hold each other, have celebrations and dinners and share lavishly what you have. Sing and laugh and celebrate, whatever happens, because you are alive and together, and that is good. Love one another. Be well, be whole.

Blessings,  
Leela

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## Religious Education and Exploration

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*Unitarian-Universalist Church of Ellsworth  
ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
late October - November offerings*

*All will be held at UUCE on Sundays from Noon - 1:30 PM unless otherwise indicated*

**Saturday, October 24 (10AM to Noon)**

***Green Jobs, Energy and the Changing Climate - why we need to act now***

You will hear speakers from University of Maine, Maine state government, local and national organizations to learn how the new "green economy" can help you and Maine and the US. (Panel)

**October 25. *Introduction to Paganism - Samhain***

Introductory series on Paganism about the eight Pagan sacred Sabbats

**November 8, 15, 22 and December 6.**

***Judaism in the Ancient World***

4 part study of historical roots of Judaism.  
Facilitators: Diana Cate and Sara Huisjen

**December 13. *Yule***

Second in series on Paganism about the eight Pagan sacred Sabbats

Facilitator: Anne Ossanna and others

Lots of new ideas for the Winter 2010 -- join the Adult RE committee and bring your ideas.

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## Empty Bowls Fundraiser

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The Annual EMPTY BOWLS fundraiser will be held on Sunday December 6th following the service. This modest meal of soup, bread and beverage will replace the monthly potluck. Donations will be accepted and donated to the Ellsworth Area Ministers Fund, a discretionary fund administered by the Emmaus Center. Sign up sheets will be posted in the kitchen soon. Please contact Anne Ossanna for additional information.

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## Evolutionary Evangelists, Dowd and Barlow, now on the Web

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Some of you may remember Michael Dowd, the Epic of Evolution Evangelist, who spoke at UUCE several years ago and had a great flair for integrating the spiritual and the scientific. He and his wife, Connie Barlow, have had a traveling ministry for many years now and have served many UU churches. Their traveling ministry has been halted because Michael has very serious cancer, and I thought some of you may want to know about it. They have started a web ministry, including a regular podcast. To tap in, see <http://www.thegreatstory.org/evolutionary-times-001.html>

- Martha Dickinson

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## Goods and Services Auction

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Many thanks to all who supported this year's Goods and Services Auction. We received great support from the congregation as well as area merchants. The amount raised was \$5,500.00 which will be divided between UUCE and the Hancock Washington County Community Association's THAW Fund (Fuel Assistance). The Organizing/Soliciting Committee: Peggy Strong, Diana Cate, Evelyn Foster, Susanne Forest, Dawn Fortune, Laura Dowling, and Peggie Geiger. As you shop this fall and winter, and when you redeem your gift certificates, please thank our area merchants for contributing to this annual UUCE event."

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## Treasurer's Corner

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Cash flow for October was very good. We received a check from the Maine Community Foundation for \$3,990 from interest earned from our endowment. This equaled the figure budgeted. I have not received the quarterly statement from the Maine Community Foundation. I will report the results in the next newsletter. Our Auction in October raised \$5,500. Half of this will go into our operating budget and the other half will be donated to THAW. We still need to raise an additional \$2,205 to reach our fundraising goal of \$5,000. Expenses have been quiet this month compared to last month.

By now you should have received your first quarter pledge statement. If you feel that you need to make any adjustments please contact me. This will help us better plan for the remainder of the year.

I have done an analysis of our rentals and, if everything continues as it is, we should reach our budgeted goal of \$7,000. We have received an additional \$1,190 in pledges. This is great! However, with things as they are now, I am projecting that at the end of the church year, we will have a short fall in pledges of \$4,800 to \$5,800. We budgeted for a shortfall of \$4,000 for this year. I am still confident that we will be just fine as long as everyone is able to complete their pledge goal. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

Don Martin  
Treasurer

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## Calendar Items from HCCN

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

November 4: "Eat Local Year 'Round" discussion on getting local food throughout the winter; also plans for local buying clubs, 5:30-7 PM, Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor. Jane Livingston, 947-4117 or [jane\\_livingston@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jane_livingston@myfairpoint.net).

## 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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## Down East Discussion Group

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The Down East Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at the home of Jean and Fred Snyder. The topic for discussion: "If you were to write a book, what would be your subject and why?" The group is open to all and welcomes new members. Bring a sandwich for yourself. The Snyders are making soup and dessert. For directions or questions, please call the Snyders. (546-2824)

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## Cut Your Own Christmas Tree!

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Have the fun of cutting your own Christmas tree and helping UUCE at the holidays.  
Place: Dartha and Paul Reid's in Lamoine  
Time: Dec. 5th through Dec. 13th  
Suggested donation: \$20 for largest and \$5 for smallest.  
Call before you come 667-5434

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## Guest at Your Table

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The "Guest at Your Table" program has long been an effective way for UU's to learn more about the needs of others outside our immediate communities and to pool resources with other UU's around the country to make a significant impact in improving the lives of people in this country and globally. The Peace and Social Action Committee will work with the Children's RE program to provide resources for our congregation. Our inspiration and materials come from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), of which some us are members. Last year, we raised around \$250 for UUSC. I hope we can do at least as well this year.

The basic activity of Guest at Your Table is that we each place a colorful box – sort of a piggy bank – on our dinner table, or some other convenient place, and put money into the box as we think of feeding and caring for a guest-at-a-distance. We will send the proceeds to the UUSC to distribute. Look for the colorful boxes at church on November 22. All members and families will be encouraged to take a box and learn more about the work of UUSC. At the end of the collection period, in mid-January, we ask you to put the money from your box into an envelope with your name and information on it.

UUSC promotes and defends the human right to water and is engaged in several projects abroad and at home. The UUSC has a Climate Justice Offset Program to effect limits to green house gas emissions and a Gulf Coast Advocacy Program for victims of hurricane Katrina. In partnership with the American Friends Service Committee, UUSC works in Gaza to empower youth to help lead renewal in their community. Please see [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) for more information on the many projects UUSC does alone and in partnership with kindred organizations.

For more information, check the website <http://www.uusc.org/guest> and/or see our RE director, Sonia Turanski or Martha Dickinson, chair of PASA. We'd love to have a few more helpers.

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## From The Board

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**Present:** Karen Volekhausen, Ruth Eveland, John Fink, Anne Ossanna, Diana Cate, Don Martin, Toby Manning, Judy Rothrock, Eileen Brennan, Rev. Leela Sinha

### Housekeeping

**Toby Manning** announced her resignation from the board due to family and work obligations. The board accepted this with regret and thanked her for her years of excellent and committed service. Happily she will continue to be an active church member.

**The board** is in the process of revising the current policy for non-budgeted fundraising practices and will review a redraft next month.

**We discussed** the need for a policy on hiring a RE director and a job description

**Caitlin** is requesting that anyone who wants a press release on an event to please fill out a one page form that is available electronically and send it to her. She can then make it into a press release and send it to the appropriate place. The board discussed the idea of a 3 pronged publicity plan- weekly announcements, special events, and publicity that needs direct contact with media. Ruth will get a draft around to us.

**Judy will be** ordering copies of [The Almost Church Revitalized](#) as there is a great deal of interest among congregation members.

### Treasurer's Report

See elsewhere in newsletter for report

### Minister's Report

Pastoral care needs are very high right now. It's great to have Thursdays set aside to do this.

Leela is feeling really good about worship. Joys and Sorrows seem to be getting longer again. We'll make an announcement in church to keep it short and sweet so we can continue this practice which is important to so many of us.

We need to do a better job on integrating new members. She is feeling really good about the work the board is doing with the emphasis and clarity on mission.

**Board retreat: November 21 at 10 AM**

**Next board meeting: November 12.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Volekhausen, Secretary

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## Marriage Equality Down To The Wire

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Here in our church it is sometimes hard to believe that polls show the November 3, "Vote No on 1" will be a very tight election. A study by the well-respected Public Policy Polling released on October 20, showed:

*Public opinion on Question 1 in Maine, which would reject the state's law allowing same sex couples to marry, is knotted up two weeks before election day. 48% of voters in the state support it and 48% oppose it. With most voters' minds made up the election is not really about persuasion at this point but turnout. Even a small difference in the ability of supporters and opponents of the referendum to get their folks out to the polls could tip the scales with the issue this close.*

In spite of this, I feel surrounded by and buoyed up by all of you at UUCE who are "Standing On the Side of Love." Phone banking goes on every Sunday from 4:00 to 8:00 PM and Wednesday 5:00 – 8:00 PM. We've outgrown Democratic Party headquarters and moved phone banking here to the church. For those of you who can't drive at night, we're also phone banking on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 AM at Democratic headquarters. At this point we're calling all the people we've identified who plan to vote with us and to make sure they understand that they need to vote "NO." You might be surprised how many voters are still confused on that point. Even if you just hate making phone calls, please, please consider giving us just a bit of your time to help us get out the vote.

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

Kay Wilkins  
667-2901

kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu

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## Message from the President

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### *Filling the holes, completing the patterns*

Everyone has a couple of things he or she likes to do in those odd moments of downtime - when you are waiting for something to start or finish and it will only be a couple of minutes, so you don't want to get into a new project. Some call these things "timewasters," but I think of them as hole-fillers. They fill some obvious hole of time, but they also fill some need in me.

For example, if I am in the kitchen, I turn to that word puzzle in the Bangor paper called Cryptoquip©, which is a letter substitution process to reveal a bad pun. I'm pretty good at figuring out likely words and phrases. (Perhaps this is due to the time I spent with my grandmother, helping her with Doublecrossics, if anyone remembers those.) If I am at the computer, I usually turn to Tetris. Occasionally I try some other game like solitaire, but it's usually Tetris. I find it compelling to try to figure out how to fit the blocks together optimally. When it gets going fast, it seems like it's all instinct, but I realize that I must have some underlying sense of pattern which makes this relatively easy for me (even as it drives my family nuts to watch me.)

I have come to understand that, much as I would like to, I don't approach things analytically. My husband, John, is a point-A-to-point-B kind of person; I make hyperlinks. Sometimes I can go back later and figure out what path I took, but not always. I think this is consistent with my all-too-frequent willingness to step over the edge of a cliff with an inappropriate degree of surety that there is something below to catch me. This, I believe, is related to my understanding that I am a person of faith, even if I can't readily identify exactly why at that moment I have faith.

I was stunned to hear this quote, attributed to Lewis Mumford, cited in a talk on the radio the other day: "I'm a pessimist about probabilities; I'm an optimist about possibilities." For me, that was a perfect way to express my approach. If I'm being analytical, going step by step, then it's hard to justify some paths. However, I know that even though it may be proverbially fraught with peril, there are some paths

that are worth trying anyway. It may not work out the way you had expected, but it will be worth the adventure. It will fit into the pattern somehow.

There are two recent examples in our church life to which I can point. The first is the addition to the building we did nine years ago. It was an enormous and scary stretch for us, but the Religious Education program was so crammed into the Community Room and the kitchen and even the hallway that we had no choice. There are a couple of reasons why we weren't able to maintain the momentum on the RE program (and it's not out of the question that it will be rebuilt), but the result of that process - while not exactly what we planned or anticipated - is that we have the wonderful space some of us think of as the Carl Stehman wing. It is used by us in small groups and large, and by the community at large. We could not be who we are today if we had not taken that chance.

The second example is (no surprise) deciding to call a full-time minister. This too is an enormous and scary stretch for us. We did so because we knew we wanted More Ministry. We wanted the additional time and attention of a full-time person, but we also wanted *someone to help us* achieve More Ministry. We had a need for holes to be filled, for patterns to be completed, so we could find a better way to work with each other.

We have made progress. We are close to naming our Church's ministry vision. We are having more conversations about what our ministry to each other and to our wider communities is all about. So, I continue to be "an optimist about possibilities." I hope that you will also remain open to our possibilities and work together to help fill in the holes.

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

P.S. If anyone would like a copy of the service that Diana Cate and I did, please let me know. It's easy to email it, or I could print a copy for you.

NOTE: We have multiple copies of The Almost Church Revitalized to share with anyone who would like to read it. Ask Judy Rothrock or Diana Cate, and thank them as well!