



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Vol. 39, No. 10

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

Oct, 2007

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

A Month of Sundays

All services at 10:30 a.m.

Oct 7. *Come out, come out wherever you are.*

Rev. Leela Sinha

Oct 14. *Of convents and covens.*

Rev. Leela Sinha

Oct 21. *If I sing less than usual...*

Rev. Leela Sinha

Oct 28. Guest speaker TBA

Coffee Hosts for October

Oct. 7 **Potluck**
No volunteers

Oct. 14
No volunteers

Oct. 21 No volunteers

Oct. 28 No volunteers

Coffee Hour Hosting is Simple!

Signing up for coffee hour should not be a strenuous task. As a matter of fact, we are making it easier than ever. By signing up for a Sunday host, all you need to do is call on a few others in the directory to bring something to share for coffee hour. We want to limit items to simple things such as cookies, fruit, veggies and bagels with butter or cream cheese. We have our potlucks starting in October, every first Sunday, so that should be the big day for food items. Signing up also includes clean up after coffee hour. If you have any questions or concerns or for more information, don't hesitate to find me and ask away. This should be enjoyable for everyone, including our very special hosts!

Your Coffee Hour Coordinator
Barbara Hadowanetz

UUCE Fall Parish Meeting

Sunday, October 21, following the Service

- * Board of Trustees "State of UUCE"
- * Financial Report
- * Update from Religious Exploration

New UUCE website URL:

<http://uuellsworth.org>

New e-mail address for the NUUS editor:

lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

Unexpected Grace

I think fall in New England is glorious. Really. When it's sunny you can feel the heat and the trees positively glow. When it rains you are cold enough to curl up in front of your wood stove with a mug of tea until it goes away, which it does.

Those brilliant colors that draw the last wave of tourists north and east are a product of transformation. They are a result of complex plant chemistry which peels back the layers of green, rushes forward with reds and purples, then retreats slowly to reveal yellow and gold. It is a stunning ebb and flow of pigments pulled into place by sunny days and cold nights. This liminal season, marked at the end by Samhain and the shift toward winter, is all about the beauty of transition.

We got through September successfully: first meetings, ingathering, water communion, new sound system, new minister, new religious exploration leadership, new choir rehearsal times...and we have landed, on two feet, in October. First days of school have given way to homework and dinner and chores; evening comes earlier, and morning later. The trees are glorious and the weather is cooler and the traffic is lighter and we can get down to the business of settling into our new routines...right?

As we go through these next few months we will indeed stabilize some things. Other things will continue to shift as we feel our way into new ways of being. We think of the seasons as four distinct periods, but they tend to blend seamlessly into each other, reds to yellows to browns, first frost to first snow, first melt to spring thaw, first buds to full leaf.

Let's try for nature's grace as we find our path. I'm so glad to be on this journey with you. Thanks!

Warmly,
Leela

Social Action Committee

The Military in Our High Schools

Recruiters from the Armed Services are in our high schools trying to convince students to sign up for military service when they leave school. They use a variety of techniques, some subtle, to reach students. The Peace and Social Justice Committee has begun a project (**Counter-Recruitment**) to reach those same students with information about how some of these methods are misleading and some of the information is incorrect. We will also provide information about alternatives to military service and how students can opt out of receiving recruitment information altogether. As part of this long-term project, we will co-sponsor a public meeting on Counter-Recruitment at 7 pm on November 5 at the Ellsworth Library. Several people who have worked with the American Friends Service Committee will present materials and discuss their work. We hope that some of the attendees at this meeting will work with us to do similar work in other high schools including Ellsworth. We hope to convene a meeting of UU parents, students, teachers, counselors, and others in early October to talk about these issues in advance of the November 5 public meeting. Please contact members of the PASJ Committee, Martha Dickinson (marthad@gwi.net or 667 5863) and/or Tom Stipe, if you want to be a part of this effort.



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, October 10

Hosts: Dick and Jodi Faust (664-0227)
Topic: Humor

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



Message From Willow

Jim and I want to thank everyone for their good wishes and the crew of people who came and helped out. We are so grateful and felt so privileged to have such good friends in the church. Both of us are back on the mend now and I'm looking forward to the day when I can get back to church. Hopefully, I will be allowed to bend my knee by November, so I can sit in a chair and attend services. This has been a long, long recovery. In the meanwhile I hope you enjoy my artwork on the walls. There will be a Harvest Dinner on the third Sat. in November, even if I have to be carried there. So plan on coming.

Willow Runningwater

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.



Religious Exploration

We were delighted to see so many familiar and new faces at our Ingathering Service on September 9th. Three families, with a total of 5 children are intrigued with our RE curriculum and intend to visit UUCE again. If you haven't had the opportunity, please visit the RE wing. Dartha Reid donated the lovely posters in the bathrooms and the Children's Banner was a gift from Evelyn Foster. Thank you Dartha and Evelyn for your thoughtful generosity.

The RE committee has experienced some membership changes over the past month. We would like to thank Dartha Reid, Melissa Schaffer, Sue Aubrey and Susan Stahlberg for their service. A heartfelt THANK YOU is extended to Kay Hansen for her years of service as DRE. Additionally, we welcome Becka Gagne and Flo Reed to the committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of the RE committee, please contact Fran Stehman or Anne Ossanna.

Fran Stehman attended a "Spirit Play" Workshop in southern Maine earlier this month. She will share her experience with Anne Ossanna and Donna Madonna who are currently teaching the Spirit Play class at UUCE. So we are certified to use the official "Spirit Play" material written by Nita Penfold in our program.

The movie series will continue on October 20th at 4:30 p.m. The film "Freedom Writers" will be shown in the RE wing. This film is 2 hours in length and is rated PG-13, children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent. Inspired by a true story and the diaries of teenagers after the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Wilson Classical High School teacher, Erin Gruwell engages her students into a debate about racism and the Holocaust. Gruwell finds ways to teach her students about respect. As she listens to their stories of hardship, she begins to understand the teens believe that surviving is enough. For the first time, the teens experience hope they can show the world their lives matter and they have something to say.

September/October schedule:

Sunday 09/23/07

Classes for all age groups in the RE Wing

Sunday 09/30/07

Classes for all age groups in the RE Wing

Sunday 10/07/07

Classes for all age groups in the RE Wing
Potluck after church

Sunday 10/14/07

Classes for all age groups in the RE Wing
RE committee meeting after Church

Wednesday 10/17

First Youth Choir meeting 5:30-7

Saturday 10/20/07

Movie "Freedom Writers" at 4:30 pm

Sunday 10/21/07

Classes for all age groups in RE Wing

Sunday 10/28/07

Classes for all age groups in RE Wing

WISH LIST:

The Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups are in need of clean and fluffy Beanbag chairs. If you have one to donate or you would like to purchase one (approximately \$25.00) please see Fran Stehman or Anne Ossanna.

Volunteers are needed to work with the Jr. Youth Group beginning in November, Please see Fran or Anne.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Ossanna

Caring Committee

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

Elder Care Workshop and Support Group: On Tuesday, October 16 from 7-9 PM, Sara Hayman will lead a workshop for those caring for elderly loved ones or who would like support in coping with the loss of a parent or elder. Possible topics for discussion may include: recognizing when help is needed, providing support and care long-distance, accessing community resources, making end-of-life decisions, letting go and grieving, All are welcome. Please contact Karen Wigglesworth at 288-2338 or by email at karen.wigglesworth@jax.org for more information or to sign up for this workshop.

October birthday: October 25 Arthur Dole

Personnel

Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha:

President of the Board

Kay Wilkins: 667-2901

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

IT'S A PARTY!!!

UUCE Goods and Services Auction

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Chili Dinner at 5:00 p.m. by Reservation/Free-will donation

Entertainment between dinner and auction

Bidding Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Organizers: Peggie Geiger, Sue Aubrey, Diana Cate, Evelyn Foster

The following have been offered as of Sept. 17:

Tai Chi Instruction; Oriental Cooking Class; Fall Garden Clean-up; Handmade Porcelain Casserole; Full hour massage; Three hours of computer organizing; Knit Dish Cloths + "Bowl Cozies"; Expert diamond stylus examination; Bicycle Tune-up; Gourmet Dinner Cruise on Frenchman's Bay for two people (offered twice); Fudge; Cookies; Poppy Seed Almond Bread; Watercolor Painting; Chinese Dinner (1p.m.) for 6 people; Frozen soups (ready to take home); Collagraph Print by Sandrak Yocum (framed); 3 Free Passes to Owls Head Transportation Museum; 2 Free Passes to Downeast Family YMCA; Belly Dance class for back & digestive rehab (2 classes); Acupuncture Treatment; Homemade Cookies; Week-end in Acadia: August 2008: Bed & Bath Suite; Musical Frog; Walkie-Talkie Set; Table Runner from Germany; Octoberfest at Stehman's with Music, Food, Plus... October 27, 2-6 p.m.



From The Board

At the September BOT meeting, James Geary, CFO, Maine Community Foundations provided an overview of UUCE's account performance and information detailing MCF investment strategy and policy. The mission of the MCF is to strengthen Maine communities by working with non-profit organizations which has resulted in approximately 28% increase in our fund.

The BOT retreat will begin on Friday, October 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 and is open to the congregation; committee chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. This will be an opportunity to tell Leela our story. Board members will meet the following day at the home of Patty Holt in Hancock, returning to UUCE in time for our SERVICE AUCTION on Saturday evening.

Leela is pleased to be at UUCE. Her first Sunday in the pulpit, September 9th, our ingathering service, was well attended. Leela has been interviewed by the Bangor Daily News, the published article is pending. She is impressed with the welcome and effectiveness of the congregation.

The Religious Exploration classes will begin on September 16th. All classes are staffed for the year with the exception of the Jr. youth group. Teachers are needed for this group starting in November.

The BOT approved unanimously the ratification of Cynthia Perkins as Chair of the Worship Committee.

The fall Parish meeting will be held on October 21, 2007 directly after the worship service. Items on the agenda are: Report from the BOT, Financial Report, and an update from Religious Exploration.

Detailed minutes of the September 13th 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 October 11th at 7:oop.m. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Ossanna, Secretary

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 December 31, 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 December 31, 2007 to UUCE with a notation that it is for the kitchen update. 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.



Music Notes From Wayne Smith

I have just created a **mailing list just for the choir members and other musicians and vocalists** at UUCE. This is a place to share information about music and raise questions about the music program at UUCE. To use the list, just send e-mail to: music@uuellsworth.org and your message will go to all members of the group. Replies to messages will go only to the person who sent the original e-mail.

If you wish to change your e-mail address or unsubscribe from this mailing list, just write to me at: wayne@mrlanguage.com

I want to send a message of appreciation to the members of **the choir** for putting up with me last week at our first rehearsal and this past Sunday before church. I feel that you did a good job, especially after such a short period of practice, on a rather difficult piece, and I think that with time we will be able to do an even better job.

A couple of reminders about the choir:

1. The normal choir rehearsal schedule, at least at present, will be on the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 p.m. in the choir room. Additional rehearsals may become necessary in the future, especially if we're working up to participate in any community choral activities, such as the choir festivals held around Christmas.
2. We will also meet from 9-10 on Sunday mornings on those days when we are performing in the church service.
3. We've no sooner gotten started on this rehearsal schedule when it's getting interrupted on Sept. 19 by a meeting of all the committee chairs (including many of you) at 7:00 p.m. at the church, organized by Steve and Lyana Votey. That means that the next evening rehearsal will be on Oct. 3, followed two weeks later by a rehearsal on Oct. 17. If we are

ready, we might be singing on Sunday Oct. 7, but we might hold off and wait until Sunday Oct. 21 to perform. I will let you know as soon as I know what Leela's sermon topics are for those dates and have an opportunity to choose appropriate music.

Also, would someone like to volunteer to bring some light snacks to our rehearsal on Oct. 3?

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concerns that you might have about music at UUCE. I'm all ears! My personal e-mail address is: wayne@mrlanguage.com.

An invitation to one and all to take part in the musical life of the church, be it in the choir, singing a solo, performing on an instrument (solo or group), or assisting with the proposed "Family (children's) Choir". Certainly I'm open to all suggestions: what about a UU barbershop quartet? what about a church-sponsored dance? what about performing a musical? There's so much we could do. Let's just do it!

Hugs,

Wayne Smith

Youth Choir

CALLING ALL YOUTH WHO LIKE TO SING!
Let's get a youth choir going at UUCE.
First meeting will be Oct 17 from 5:30-7:00.
And we'll have Pizza and SING!



CONVERSATION WITH THE CONGREGATION

Friday, October 12, 6:30 - 8:30
p.m.

Rev. Mary Higgins, Maine, NH, VT, District
Executive will facilitate
as we tell Rev. Leela Sinha our story.

This is an IMPORTANT start-up activity.



Notes from the Canvas Committee

Good things are happening at our church!! We have welcomed Leela and found that our high expectations are well met. Meetings are full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas. We are developing programs and making plans that will better serve our community and our members. Much of our progress was possible because the church took financial 'leaps of faith'. We depend on the commitment of our congregants and friends for the maintenance and growth for our little church. We are entirely self-supporting. If you have not previously pledged or if you are new to our congregation and would like to make a six month pledge (we will have our yearly canvas in the spring) please contact George Marcus, Treasurer or Diana Cate, Membership Chair or myself and arrangements will be made. Your new support is needed!

Evelyn Foster, Canvas Chair

Adult Education Committee

The Adult Education Committee thanks you for your participation in its survey during the summer. We received 30 responses and found some helpful answers.

Our first offering this fall will be a "tune-up" for a longer series in the winter-spring. Karen Wigglesworth will be leading a four week book-based discussion program on *Global Warming: Changing Course*. While we don't have all the details by "press time" (for example, when it will be held) we will get the information out shortly. We are also planning for a *Conflict Resolution* program series, led by Bob Dickens and Judy Rothrock, and a *Living Fully to the End* series led by Anne Dickens and Sara Hayman. Stay tuned for details.

In the winter we will begin our "Green Sequence," which will include several segments of related programs. We expect our new minister, Leela Sinha, will be offering *Articulating Your Faith*, and we hope to persuade Janine Galeski to offer an astronomy course in the spring. We'll get out the word as soon as we have all the details nailed down.

If your committee is thinking about offering a program, would you please check in with the Adult Ed Committee? We can actually help - not do it for you, but help. We don't mean to step on anyone's toes, but attendance for everyone's activities would be better if we aren't scheduling competing offerings. **We are bursting with so much energy and vibrating with ideas, but to be effective we need to work together.** Thanks.

Questions? Ideas? Volunteers? Speak with: Bob Dickens, Fran Stehman, Peggie Geiger, Tom Stipe or Ruth Eveland



Membership Committee

Not much to report this month, but I would like to make note of the following e-mail changes:

Lance Funderburk's new e-mail is:

lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

Kay Hansen's address is: hansen85@verizon.net.

The Greeters are doing a wonderful job welcoming visitors and "regulars" each Sunday. More volunteer greeters are always welcome! And take a look at the fresh, new contents of the "Welcome Packets" that are offered to visitors. They can be found on the Greeters' Table in the entry. If you would like any of the information found in the packet, just let one of the greeters know and they will help you out.

That is all for now.

Sue Aubrey



Brief Notes From The Committee On Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) has two primary charges. First, it serves as a resource and support for the minister. Second, it is a communications channel between the congregation and the minister. If someone has a concern, he or she can bring it to the CoM for consideration **with the complete understanding that all proceedings are confidential**. The CoM is open to anyone's concern; its only requirement is that the Committee be approached non-anonymously.

Our nascent mission statement will include these elements: we promote and support ministry within the UUCE in all its forms; we work to grow a practice of shared ministry; we will explore with and educate the congregation about ministry; we will support and monitor the health of church-wide ministry; and, we will conduct periodic assessments of the ministry. As we clarify the tasks necessary to implement these goals we'll be in touch.

The CoM is also helping to set up some small groups to give Leela a way to get to know us as individuals. When we met her during the candidating week, that was our opportunity to get to know her; now it is time for us to let her discover us.

Questions? Concerns? Our lay members: Bob Dickens, Judy Rothrock, Tom Stipe, and Ruth Eveland.

Message from the President

We Are Not Alone

As UUCE president, I can easily get caught up in the whirl of activities here and in my busy life and forget to look at the big picture. I was sorting the church mail yesterday and glanced at the newsletter from the Waterville UU church which announced the launch of their Green Sanctuary program. I read in the Bangor Daily News that the Bangor UU church has also started the quest for Green Sanctuary certification as well. I'll bet we can pool ideas and all get ahead more easily if we know who is on the journey with us.

That's just one example of many. The Fall Conference of the ME/NH/VT District takes place in Portland, Friday, October 5, and Saturday, October 6, with our very own Rev. Gail Geisenhainer as keynote speaker. There are workshops on various topics of interest and pertinence to us such as, "Growth in Our Congregations," and another which really intrigues me, "The Values of Congregational Transformation." Part of the description of that workshop states: "What happens when congregations seek greater understanding, appreciation and respect from each other? What happens when churches cooperate? What happens when they peel away the residues of old history and see themselves for who they can be?"

By the time you get this issue of NUUS the stated registration date of September 24, will have passed, but I'm sure you'll be able to go if you get the registration information and form from www.ned-uua.org or call the district office at 603-228-8704. I'll have been busy between the time of this writing and the time you receive this, posting information and making announcements to encourage many of us to go.

The Fall Conference is a great way to get connected, but there are others. There's "Gather the Power: Ten Years of Small Group Ministry,"

happening on November 17, at UU Community Church, Augusta. Somebody from UUCE should definitely attend that.

How about the Second Annual Welcoming Congregation Conference at Ferry Beach in Saco, November 2 – 4? "Welcoming Congregations come together to share, learn and celebrate." Think we've been a Welcoming Congregation so long we don't have anything left to learn? Think again. Church youth with adult sponsors are especially encouraged to attend this year. Wayne Smith represented us at this conference last year. Who wants to attend this year?

Kay Wilkins, President

