



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
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Volume 44

No. 1

January 2012

A Month of Sundays

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

January 1. *The beginning is now...*

Rev. Sara Huisjen

On this first day of the new year, this service and sermon will invite folks to consider what seeds they wish to plant in themselves to nurture health, growth and spiritual awakening in this present moment.

January 8. Service on the 6th Principle: *We covenant to uphold and promote the goal of World Community with peace, liberty and justice for all.* The service will be co-ordinated by Anne Funderburk with guest speakers and participation by the congregation.

January 15. *The Fierce Urgency of Now:* Martin Luther King Sunday
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for NOLA Service Trip at 8:30am!

Rev. Sara Huisjen

What is *our* work with regards to understanding racism today and taking action to address it? On this MLK Sunday, we will consider this question, as well as the prophetic teachings of the great civil rights activist Dr. King. Members of the Senior Youth Group will participate in this service.

January 22. *For Love of Winter*

UUCE member since January of 1999, past Board of Trustees member and current chair of the Leadership Development Committee, Marta Rieman will share with you her deep love of this often ostracized and unappreciated season. In our beautiful corner of the world, a cold and often snowy winter is a given, so let us strive to embrace it and explore how it can feed our souls. Marta Rieman

January 29. *Candles to Be Lit*

Rev. Sara Huisjen

What inspires you? What gets your creative juices flowing? How do you tap into that *place* in yourself and then live from it in the world—inspired, awake & alive? This service will explore the value of creativity in our lives.

Ministry Matters by Rev. Sara Huisjen

In my mind, there is something about the beginning of a new year in the midst of winter's darkness and cold that invites self-reflection and some intentional planning for the days and months ahead. Like so many others, it has become my habit to make New Year's Resolutions; just one more effort to begin again the daily practices that help me live a healthier and more balanced life, in turn making me a more generous and capable person (I hope). And, so I wonder...

Where have *you* been this past year?

What events have shaped you?

Which doors have opened or closed?

What questions do you carry into the unknown of this year ahead?

In his work, *Letters to a Young Poet*, Rainer Maria Rilke offers this wise counsel: "...have patience with everything unresolved in your heart, and try and love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for answers, which could not be given you now, because you would not be able to live them. The point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answers."

For one week in April, I will be traveling with two of our youth, Maria Burdette and Vincent Ossanna, to New Orleans as part of a Service Trip planned for youth from three area UU churches: Ellsworth, Belfast, and Bangor. While there, we'll work with others to assist in on-going recovery efforts still needed these six years after Hurricane Katrina hit and the levees broke. I know we'll meet interesting people, and see things we haven't before. I know we'll hear stories, and be challenged to think about what happened there—Where things went wrong before and after the hurricane hit? How racism and urban poverty still play a role in our world? When we get back, we'll share some of our impressions and learnings with you.

In the meantime, we are enormously grateful for your support in helping to get us there. Though none of us can know for sure what will come of this adventure, I'm confident it will prove to be a worthy and powerful experience for each of us who makes this journey.

Blessed be,

Sara

Monthly UUCE Book Discussion Group

This month's Book Discussion Groups facilitated by Rev. Sara will meet on Thursdays **January 19th** and **February 2nd from 12-1:30pm** at the church. The book we will discuss is *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan. Ted Robbins, a Correspondent for National Public Radio, said this of the book: "There may be no better way to understand the muddle that is U.S. immigration policy than by reading these portraits of people who cross the border in hopes of a better life. . . . *The Death of Josseline* is an excellent way to understand-on a human level-the ebb and flow of human labor across political boundaries."

Four copies of this book have been ordered and will be available for folks to purchase as soon as January 1st. Please contact Sara if you are interested in purchasing a book at sara@uuellsworth or 610-2872. Reading & discussing this book will tie in nicely with the UUCE Adult R.E. Class about Immigration being taught by Diana Cate & Kay Wilkins. All are welcome!

Intro to UU Class

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism? Do you have questions you'd like answered about the UU faith and this congregation in particular? Are you potentially interested in becoming a new member at UUCE? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, please consider joining Rev. Sara for an *Intro to Unitarian Universalism Class* that she will facilitate at UUCE on three Wednesday evenings, 1/18, 1/25 and 2/1 from 6-7:30pm. For more information and/or to sign up, please contact Peggy Strong (Membership Committee member) at goodnuff@escrap.com or 266-3006.

Fundraiser for New Orleans service trip

What: A Pancake Breakfast

When: Sunday, January 15th from 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Where: UUCE Community Room

Please plan on attending our 1st Fundraising Event to raise money for our upcoming Service Trip to New Orleans over this year's school vacation week in April. We are traveling with eight other youth from the UU churches in Belfast and Bangor, as well as Rev. Deane Perkins & his wife (the new UU minister in Belfast). While in New Orleans, we'll work with relief agencies to continue on-going recovery efforts re: Hurricane Katrina. We're excited to be going and grateful for your help with getting us there!

- Maria Burdette, Vincent Ossanna and Rev. Sara Huisjen

Message from the President

BOARD UPDATE, TWO MORE BIOS

Karen Volckhausen

Karen is currently the Board of Trustees Secretary and Chair of the Peace and Social Action Committee.

She was born on Long Island, New York, and lived in various mid Atlantic States as a child. Her family settled in a community near Reading, Pennsylvania where she finished elementary school and graduated from high school. Her father was a patent attorney, her mother a housewife. She had one sibling. Karen described her as a “bossy but wonderful older sister whom I idolized.” The family moved to a new community known for its excellent school system. However they found it to be a very upper middle class, exclusive, and excluding community. Although Karen had her circle of buddies, she never felt she belonged there. Although she didn’t know it at the time, this was the beginning of her life as an activist.

Karen attended nursing school in Philadelphia. As a very green 21 year old she came to Maine with her then husband. At that point in her life she had never written a check and or cooked anything beyond hard boiled eggs and box cakes. The young couple survived, however. While her culinary arts were expanding, she worked at Maine Medical Center as a staff nurse and attended the University of Maine at Portland to start working towards a degree. Her beautiful children, Betsy, Molly and Peter were born in 1964, 1965, and 1968. Once she started having children she did not work outside the home for the next eight years.

It was during this time that Karen started becoming more and more aware of the world through the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and the women’s movement. She was an avid anti-war activist deeply involved in community organizing. Because of her beliefs she saw the inside of Washington DC and Maine jails during civil disobedience actions.

Karen’s first marriage ended but another relationship was born when she met Paul Volckhausen. They married 35 years ago and bought 50 acres of land in Orland in 1978. Here they built an efficient, solar/wood heated house and established Happy Town Farm, a certified organic, diversified farm now in its 31st year of operation. Her years have been incredibly busy. As the off-the-farm worker, Karen held a variety of nursing jobs, obtained two degrees from the University of Maine, and, before retiring two years ago, worked for 13 years as a family nurse practitioner at EMMC’s Center for Family Medicine. Karen spent many summers farming with Paul and many summers not farming at all. She gradually eased back into farming life near the end of her nursing career and is now an official farm boss and worker on Happy Town Farm. Karen is in charge of the growing and marketing of cut flowers, among many other things.

Karen feels so blessed. She has three superb adult children who are productive, responsible citizens of this world, two of whom have gifted her with three amazing, beautiful and brilliant grandchildren. Visits to South Carolina, New York City, and Vermont, plus a big family gathering in Maine every summer, are joyful events Karen and Paul look forward to every year.

Much of the rest of her life is taken up with El Salvador solidarity work that has been an inspirational and life changing experience. She is an active member of two sister city projects and co-president of the board of Power

in Community Alliances (PICA) in Bangor. Karen travels to El Salvador as frequently as time and money allow.

Karen has had an on again, off again relationship with Unitarian Universalism since the late 60's. Originally attracted to UU's commitment to social justice, she at times found UU'ism too focused on the intellect and would wander off to other pursuits. In 1997 she returned to UUCE, craving a spiritual community with heart connections. She found it, and it has stuck.

Karen loves the freedom of religious expression that liberal religion embraces. And in her own words, "I have found a wonderful community here of caring, welcoming people who nourish my spirit."

John Fink

John is a member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the By-Laws revision committee. He is a policy wonk and tries his best to help the President follow Robert's Rules of Order. John has a dry sense of humor with a particular aptitude for punning. (Editor's note: I tried to retain the essence of his unique voice in editing his biography.)

The bare basics: Born: Ft. Knox, KY, 10/19/44. Raised: NYC, Manhattan and Queens. Education: Bronx Community College, AA; Hunter College, BA (political science/history); Stint at post-graduate work.

A bit less bare below:

While at Hunter College, John met the woman who became his first wife. Four years after the wedding, they became a divorce statistic. It was, on the whole, a fairly reasonable process.

After a short stint at the American Museum of Natural History an opportunity came along to work in his field of obsession, high fidelity sound reproduction. John spent a number of years in audio retail, learning how not to run a business. He remembers getting the mail out only by reusing uncanceled stamps taken off the incoming mail.

From retail, he went into the manufacturing end of the business at Dahlquist, Inc. There, he was (all at the same time): inside sales; credit manager; bookkeeper; warranty service manager; technical writer; customer service manager; traffic manger; non-production parts manager. There were some really strange items on hand that had nothing to do with making high-end loudspeaker systems and John knew all of these virtually useless things. Oh, yes, he also worked at various trade and consumer hi-fi shows. Take another look at the list. Sales wants to get the goods out the door while credit wants to get paid, the two often being at odds with each other. They are never combined, except at Dahlquist in the 1970s.

It was fun, it was strange, working with industry veteran and legend Saul Marantz. It was also a semi-dysfunctional company and furthered John's education in what not to do.

He remained a rabid audiophile and began to establish a new company to manufacture and market a high-end (read expensive, very expensive) turntables. The timing was not great. The Compact Disc was making inroads and the days of the LP were numbered. Anyhow, technical problems with the design delayed product

introduction and the momentum was lost. End of story. But all involved learned a lot about turntable design. John is still wondering what use this knowledge is.

Then he met Sally R. Bell. While it wasn't instant love on both sides, it was fast enough. They moved in together in February 1982 and married in July. He also joined Sally as a freelance writer and editor. She was doing educational writing/editing and he did technical writing/editing and advertising copywriting. The latter was a process of making everything look good, no matter what.

Within a fitting and proper time after marriage, daughter Katherine appeared. And, as Katherine grew up, so did the fruits of Katherine's 4H projects: rabbits, sheep, chickens, and geese, although she would disown the geese.

On the work front, the 90's mergers and acquisitions craze hit the publishing business and Sally and John lost eleven clients within a year or two. So, they became, of all things, Local Plumbing Inspectors for a couple of towns and later went on to being Code Enforcement Officers as well. (The things writers will do!)

After daughter Katherine insisted that "I need to go to Sunday School," Sally, a fifth generation UU, got the prompting she needed to seek out the UUCE. John, reluctantly, tagged along to see what it was all about and found a new home here.

Over the years, John found himself involved with the district Youth-Adult Committee (YAC). He and Sally ferried many a bunch of teenagers back and forth to twice-yearly district youth conferences, as well as many monthly YAC meetings in Augusta.

Enough?

Lifespan Religious Education

The children have had a wonderful time creating Holiday gifts with Sue Clark. Glitter, giggles and glue fill the room as they make ornaments, pine cone trees and other magical "stuff". Helen Kazura has been a good natured elf helping Sue. Attendance in November increased. Our weekly average in November is 14.5 children attending. We continue to provide delicious treats to the students in the Gay Straight Alliance chapters at Ellsworth, Sumner and MDI high schools through our Cookie Ministry. So teachers and workers can spend time with their family, there will be no RE offerings on December 25th or January 1st.

As you know, Sr. Youth Group Members Maria Burdette and Vincent Ossanna will be joining a delegation of other Senior Youth Group Members from the Belfast and Bangor UU church's, along with their ministers, for a service project in New Orleans during their April Vacation. Fundraising plans are underway. Donations letters will be available in the Community Room within a few weeks and on Sunday January 15th they will hold their 1st of 3 fundraisers, a PANCAKE BREAKFAST, starting at 9:00 am.

Important January Dates:

Sunday January 8th - Sr. Youth meet with Sara and Bob

RE Committee Meeting

Sunday January 15th - Pancake Breakfast
Sr. Youth in Worship Service

Sunday January 22nd - NOLA meeting at UUCE with Belfast and Bangor UU.

Sunday January 29th - NOLA-Movie/Food of New Orleans

My office hours are Sunday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. or by appointment.

Anne N. Ossanna - RE Coordinator

Adult Religious Education

The Adult Religious Education Committee wishes you a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year! January brings three very interesting and informative offerings. We hope you come and share your thoughts.

Theodore Parker

A discussion with Bob Dickens

Sunday, January 8, 11:50 AM, in the Board Room

Theodore Parker had a theory of class and class as it affects UU's long before Harris' "Elite" was thought of. In addition, he had a theory of "three falsehoods of Christian Churches". Let Bob know (bobdickens@myfairpoint.net) and readings will be provided. We will discuss Parker's remarkable relevance.

Women in the Pulpit: 19th Century Women Advocates

A discussion with Bob Myers

Sunday, January 22, 11:50 AM, in the Board Room

Should women speak in public, preach from the pulpit, be ordained? Historically, most men said "No," citing the Apostle Paul as authoritative. In the nineteenth century, eighteen American women said "Yes," formulating counter-interpretations of alleged Pauline passages and making additional arguments. We will identify these women and hear their assertive responses to the men's attempts to maintain the status quo.

"Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet"

A film and discussion with Stephen Berger (Part one)

Sunday, January 29, 11:50 AM, in the Board Room

The film takes viewers to the ancient Arabian sites where Muhammad's story unfolded, and also to the homes, mosques and workplaces of some of America's Muslims to discover the many ways they follow Muhammad's example. Part two will be shown on Sunday, February 12 at 11:50 AM.

Save the Date!

"Call Me Malcolm"

A film and discussion presented by Bob Dickens

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 AM in the Board Room

Malcolm Himschoot completed his undergraduate study at Amherst College and then went on to get his Masters of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. He was ordained into the United Church of Christ in 2004. Over the course of Malcolm's final two years in seminary he took part in filming the documentary "Call Me Malcolm" where he openly discussed his transition from female to male along with his personal faith journey.

As the film begins, so does Malcolm's final year of seminary. Before the school term begins, he sets out on a road trip to educate himself (and us) as he visits many people along the way including other transgender individuals and groups. Each has a different perspective on the issues of identity, faith and love. A very informative and moving film.

The Adult RE committee is aware of some interest in forming a meditation group. If you are interested in a meditation group on a weekday, please contact Janice at jronco2@roadrunner.com and indicate a preference for day or evening.

From the Board

UUCE BOT Meeting

December 8, 2011

Present: Diana Cate, Cynthia Perkins, Karen Volckhausen, Don Martin, Trustees- John Fink, David Wilcock, Eileen Brennan; RE Coordinator, Anne Ossanna; Reverend Sara Huisjen

Congregational comment: None

RE Report (See elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS)

Anne thanked the board for the opportunity to be RE coordinator. It's fun and wonderful to develop relationships with parents, children. The RE committee is coming together and will come to Committee Chat next month.

Minister's report

Ministry of Worship: Led the worship at Belfast UU on 11/13; 46 people attended the Interfaith Thanksgiving service on November 20; met with Worship Associates for reviewing and planning

Ministry with Youth and Children: Traveled to Belfast with Vincent Ossanna and Maria Burdett to meet with the youth and minister of Belfast UU regarding the youth service trip to New Orleans; met with the senior youth to continue developing a fundraising plan

Teaching ministry: Did a presentation about Spirituality in End-of-Life Care for 90 people at a Palliative Care Education Day sponsored by Blue Hill Memorial Hospital and HCHC Hospice; facilitated a discussion about Spirituality and Care-giving as part of a Caregiver Fair organized by the Friendship Cottage; led a two hour class on Unitarian Universalism as part of the Ellsworth Senior College class on Viewpoints in Religion; twice monthly facilitates a book discussion group at UUCE

Outreach and Public Ministry: Delivers cookies weekly to the Ellsworth High School GSA meeting; continues to explore the possibility of creating a PFLAG chapter in Hancock County

Ministry of Hospitality at UUCE: Attended her first Membership Committee Meeting; agreed to send notes to people who visit our Sunday services; agreed to facilitate an Intro to UU class for prospective new members or any interested current members; at the November Membership Committee meeting agreed to plan this

Introduction course twice a year and have New Member Recognition Ceremonies as part of a worship service twice a year.

Pastoral Care Ministry: Continues to attend to pastoral care needs of congregants; Continues to facilitate a monthly support group at the Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center about Spirituality and Living well with illness.

Miscellaneous: officiated at Judy Rothrock's memorial service; attending Bylaws Committee meetings, the Leadership Development Committee meetings, monthly Ethics Committee meetings at MCMH, and the monthly meetings of the UU Minister's Association; hosted a Board social at her home

In addition:

The Board reviewed a fund raising proposal from the youth for the New Orleans service trip in the spring. There is still money (\$435.00) in the UUCE Youth account which should be used.

Motion made and passed unanimously for board to approve this fund raising plan as an extension of our fundraising policy for non-budgeted fundraising practices.

Motion made and passed unanimously that with the approval of the RE committee and senior youth group we approve the transfer the money from the inactive youth fund to a fund for the trip.

She will be participating in the inter-faith Lenten services, will host one service, and will preach one time at a different church. EMA is considering having them either at noon or 6 pm.

There will be a Spirituality conference sponsored by the St. Francis Episcopal Church in Blue Hill in August at the Grand. There will be a luncheon sponsored by one of the churches.

Finance

Treasurer's report- see Treasurer's Corner

Overall we are looking very strong.

Splitting the plate issue

PASA met with Don and proposed that we select a local group per quarter and split one plate a month with them. PASA also would like to include the senior youth in this decision. Don has discussed this with his finance committee.

Diana has found a church policy that already deals with splitting the plate. A Giving Task Force consisting of the minister, the head of the PASA and Worship Committees can make the decision without approval of board.

Recommendation made that the Executive Committee review this policy but there is general agreement that the board supports the PASA/Finance proposal. The congregation will be kept up to date on this issue.

Executive Committee report

The committee met for almost 2 hours on December 5 to discuss how decisions should be made. The November board minutes were reviewed and the following discussed.

Minister's evaluation- the Minister's Evaluation subcommittee met tonight before the board meeting and went over forms. This will be Sara's 3rd evaluation and she will get fellowship if she passes. The subcommittee will meet again next Wednesday at 10AM. . This will be on the agenda for the January board meeting.

Procedures on rentals of space, AV equipment needed. Don will work on this.

The announcement procedure was reviewed.

How decisions get made

By-laws on roles and responsibilities of the executive committee

Congregational comment

We will make the following recommendations to the Board:

That the Aesthetics Committee submits an up-to-date report to us and communicates with the Building Committee.

That any public action made in the name of UUCE must have congregational approval.

This was discussed at tonight's board meeting. More refinement has to be done on this policy before approval but the board supports PASA's efforts toward in-house education on Occupy issues.

At our next meeting on January 5 we will continue the discussion of decision making plus discuss long range planning and financial prioritizing.

Recommendations from the Leadership Committee

This committee is recommending that Sue Clark become the representative to the Loaves and Fishes board and that we establish an IT committee to look at all our computer activities.

A motion was made and passed unanimously that Sue Clark and Nina Turner (as she is taking over for Judy in the summer) to be our representatives for Loaves and Fishes.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to establish an IT committee. There are several people in our congregation who could potentially chair this committee. We will check to see if they know anything about our system before recommendation is made.

The Executive committee will flesh out in more detail for the next meeting.

By laws *pro tem* report

Review of the by-laws is progressing but there is still a lot to do.

Old RE office use

There was a meeting on Nov 16 about this which included the players and concerned people. The Aesthetics Committee has plans to make this a comfortable space for meetings, conferences.

Report on adding names to the commemorative plaque

No action yet.

Housekeeping items

Road sign-Peggy Strong has volunteered to improve our roadside sign. This will be done in the spring.

Mice control- dishwasher stopped working and 4 dead mice were found in the control panel. Don consulted a pest control expert who came today and installed traps, outside and inside. He will come in once a month. He said it is not an infestation yet. The costs are: \$241 for initial evaluation then \$65 per month. We have a one year contract which we can cancel anytime

Newsletter deadline Friday is December 16. Please send Board biographies before that date.

Next meeting: January 12, 6 pm in the Board room.

The first 15 minutes is reserved for congregational comment. All are welcome.

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for November was \$7,598.50. This was \$1,540.67 less than the total expenses for the month of November, which were \$9,139.17.

Pledge income for November was \$6,351.30, giving us a total of \$46,040.62, which is 6.82% above where we should be at the end of November. This is a little less than last month.

Plate income is at \$3,110.10, which is only 2.78% below the 41.66% of the year to date or \$222.70 less than where we should be.

Rental income is at \$1,549.00 or 30.98% of budget, which is 10.68% below the year-to-date percentage of 41.66%. This is a slight improvement over last month.

Fundraising is in an excellent position, only \$241 below our total budget figure of \$7,000. Thank you Jane Thomas for your help.

Expenses are continuing to run low at \$37,654.97 or 9.78% below the year-to-date percentage of 41.66%. This is just about where we were last month.

Attendance was low on November 27th, with only 45 people in church. I hope total income will improve in the month of December. We will be mailing out the second quarter pledge statements ending December 31, 2011 this month. The pledge statements will cover from July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. If you need a yearly statement from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 covering all donations you have made to UUCE and through UUCE to Loaves and Fishes, UUA, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me and we will be happy to produce one for you.

Don Martin
Treasurer

Reflections from the Committee on Ministry

In a timely way, when most of us are reflecting on the past year and anticipating new adventures, the Committee on Ministry is hard at work evaluating the ministerial relationship of Sara Huisen in her new position as three-quarter time here with us at UUCE. This is the third and final annual assessment of Sara's ministry necessary for her acceptance into full fellowship as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Her first two and one half years were an evaluation of her community ministerial affiliation with us and her position as full time chaplain for Hancock County Home Care and Hospice. Evaluations are also submitted to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of Universalist Unitarian Association by the UUCE Board of Trustees and Sara herself. Sara was called to become three quarter time minister of our congregation beginning in August of 2011.

In the evaluation it is clear that the UUA understands that the health and well-being of a church results from the quality of involvement and ownership of both the congregation and the minister. The application for full fellowship evaluates all areas of ministry including worship, counseling and pastoral care, attention to finances and fund raising, organization and growth of the congregation, long range planning, administration, education of all ages, interpersonal relationships, spiritual growth, involvement in anti-racial, anti-oppression and community/social justice issues. It is very important for us to understand that our participation as a congregation is addressed in the evaluation.

Sara passed her first two reviews with flying colors with her employer, Hancock County Home Care and Hospice submitting as her congregation. This will be her final UUA evaluation and we are her congregation.

Much more pertinent to each of us, however is the understanding that we are all involved in the ministry of our congregation. The health and spirit of UUCE depends equally upon the efforts and interrelatedness of the people as well as the minister. Let us each really listen and try to understand the needs of the other remembering that in giving we receive and in receiving we give.

Quoting from A Well Body Book for Congregations by Rev. Anne Skinner, "The responsibility of the Committee on Ministry is to track the heartbeat of the ministry within the congregation: how the members take care of themselves and each other, how both the lay ministerial leadership and the called minister serve the congregation. It seeks to understand, assess, support and advocate for robust ministry throughout the context of congregational life."

The members of the committee on ministry have blue shading on their nametags. The chairperson is Ruth Eveland. They welcome any of your thoughts or concerns. The committee meets with Sara on the second Wednesday of every month.

Evelyn Foster



Nuts and Bolts and Tidbits

from the Board of Trustees Vice President

Tis the season for giving THANK YOUS to a few more people who have contributed, usually very quietly, to UUCE in significant ways:

Caitlin Tunney, Administrative Assistant and bookkeeper par excellence. Most members have no idea of the multitudes of ways in which Caitlin helps us, often out of tight spots: scheduling rentals, printing NUUS, Wed Announcements, Order of Service, all kinds of Committee assistance, money matters, telephone referrals to Emmaus Center to those in need, gentle reminders when we need them, and on and on. I can give a first-hand testimonial to the countless ways she has helped with Worship Committee activities.

Paul Reid, with suggestions from **Ruth Eveland**, has organized our Library into a useful tool. We can see what we have, as well as books we don't have which would be an asset to us. Visit the Library in the Community Room, and maybe learn something. I did.

Jane Thomas for hanging her artwork in the sanctuary when the walls were bare. And we are especially grateful for her fundraising (over \$400.00) for us by making and selling her bags and other items. Her work is now hanging in the community room as well as in the Carl Stehman RE wing.

Jude Lamb has agreed to create a gallery of fine art in our sanctuary, with the help of other members. You have surely noticed the current display, which consists entirely of work by Jude. She will be a hard act to follow, but do speak to her about what you might be able to contribute. The plan is not to have one person shows.

Anne Funderburk has done a masterful job of organizing our kitchen (and will appreciate our putting all food away and putting utensils, pots, etc back where they live when we finish using them, and by taking home the containers you bring food in). In addition, Anne has done an excellent job of planning and presenting a UU Principles service every quarter (No 6 in January). Thanks also to those who have participated with Anne.

Sue Clark has worked tirelessly to continue the landscape beautification begun when **Charles Bassett** introduced the breathtaking daffodil field. And now Sue has agreed to be our representative on the Board of Loaves and Fishes, a position so excellently filled by our wonderful **Judy Rothrock**.

This is a very incomplete list. If there is someone you want to be thanked in this column, please let me know. And your nuts, bolts and tidbits are also sought.

The UUCE Board Executive Committee (officers) will begin meeting the week before each Board meeting to follow up on the previous meeting, discuss the agenda for the next meeting and try to take care of administrative matters which consume so much time at board meetings. Please be assured that any action taken or suggested by the Ex Com will be referred to the Board for approval. The Ex Com will also be glad to discuss congregational comments any members wish to bring to us. We can help to decide whether comments are in fact comments or whether the Board should make the specific comment a Board agenda item.

Richard Thurston donated the impressive Holiday/Christmas Tree for the sanctuary. Rev Sara and Don Martin took lunch to Richard, went shopping and banking for him, and then went out and gave Sara the honor of cutting down the smallest tree in the field. Don't you wish you could have seen Sara and Don hoisting the tree onto Don's Jeep, and then getting it in to the sanctuary and setting it up? Thanks to y'all.

Here are interesting and encouraging data re our THAW (heating assistance) contributions: 2008 \$1245.00, 2009 \$2780.00, 2010 \$3382.00, 2011 \$4600.00. Our Auction Fundraiser contributed an equal amount to UUCE each year.

And the most extraordinary gift received by UUCE this year is our minister, **Rev Sara Huisjen**. The Evaluation Committee of the Board reviewed her Job Description this week and discovered that **every task we set for her has been accomplished!** We are writing an evaluation which we believe will insure that UUA grants Sara Full Fellowship this spring, an accomplishment which is often far from assured, especially for those applying for the first time, as Sara is. THANK YOU for the blessing which you are to us and our community, Sara.

Announcements for the Soul

When you drive into the UUCE parking lot during the week and see so many cars, it's often impossible not to wonder what all is going on inside. When you have to choose between PASA and Adult RE meetings at 9am on the same Sundays, you realize just how active we are. Sometimes we even have to decide whether to visit with friends or attend a UUCE meeting at 5pm on a Wednesday. UUCE is a very active group these days.

And on top of that, we have to remember who/what is meeting, and when! Sometimes we miss important stuff because we simply were unaware it was happening.

When you are not able to get to church by 10:25 on Sunday, you are very likely to miss an announcement of an event you really wanted to participate in. That is the reason we are trying to have an announcement procedure which is, No.1, helpful to the congregation, and, No. 2, not burdensome to the people who are responsible for keeping us informed about activities during the coming week or two.

As you probably know, Caitlin, our Administrative Assistant, edits and formats both our Order of Service (OOS) and our Wednesday Announcements. We believe it would be helpful to all of us if the Wednesday Announcements form the basis of a Weekly UUCE Activities Insert as part of the OOS. This means that Caitlin ideally will have the Sunday Insert contents by Wednesday morning if at all possible. Information that becomes available later in the week **must** be to her by Fri at 10am. This will require some thinking and planning ahead, which probably is already being done, and it will also lessen the rush to get announcements onto the lectern by 10:15.

Thus the new announcement process will be as follows: Events occurring on Sunday will be in the insert but may also be made by the Board Announcer. All other events would be in the Insert, which will be referenced by the Announcer. A key purpose of the Insert is to provide a take home reminder for events in the coming week or two. Announcements from the floor are strongly discouraged.

We hope that you will give this process a good chance to work for UUCE. Many, many small, medium and large UU churches have adopted the concept, with excellent results.

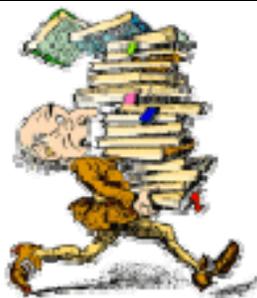
“Tropical Beach Party”

The Music Committee is planning a “Tropical Beach Party” which will include a Dinner and Variety Show at the church on March 3, 2012. This will be our 4th annual fund raiser for UUCE and Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

Toby Betancourt is Dinner Chairperson for the event this year. We are looking for a Master of Ceremonies and performers for the Variety Show. If you have a talent you would like to share at the Variety Show please contact Haydee Foreman, Jenn Ryan, Cecily Judd, or Doug Kell.

This evening event will be fun for all ages. Please mark the date on your 2012 calendar and plan to attend.

Jean Martin



Food for Thought

by Stephen Berger

#

On "Myth"

In October we read Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* in Sara's book discussion group. Armstrong writes: "No teaching that is simply a list of directives can be effective. We need inspiration and motivation that reach a level of the mind that is deeper than the purely rational and touch the emotions rooted in the limbic region of the brain." (Knopf, 2010, p. 26) She calls the kind of picture which can inspire and motivate us, a "mythos."¹

In 2005 Armstrong published a little book called *A Short History of Myth* (Cannongate). Myths, she says, are stories "that enabled us to place our lives in a larger setting, that revealed an underlying pattern, and gave us a sense that, against all the depressing and chaotic evidence to the contrary, life had meaning and value." (p. 2)

She makes five general points about myths: Myth "is nearly always rooted in the experience of death and the fear of extinction." (p. 3) It "is usually inseparable from ritual. Many myths make no sense outside a liturgical drama that brings them to life, and are incomprehensible in a profane setting." (p. 3) Fourth, "the most powerful myths are about extremity; they force us to go beyond our experience, [taking us] to a place that we have never seen, and do what we have never done before. Myth is about the unknown; it is about that for which initially we have no words. Myth therefore looks into the heart of a great silence" (pp. 3-4) "Fourth, myth is not a story told for its own sake. It shows us how to behave." (p. 4) "Finally, all mythology speaks of another plane that exists alongside our own world, and that in some sense supports it. Belief in this invisible but more powerful reality, sometimes called the world of the gods, is a basic theme of mythology." (p. 4)

Much of the first part of the book is a fascinating brief cultural history of how myths come out of and respond to the problematic of the particular kind of civilization we live in: hunters and gatherers; agriculturalists; urban civilizations. Then: "urban life had changed mythology. The gods were beginning to seem remote. Increasingly the old rituals and stories failed to project men and women into the divine realm, which had once seemed so close. People were becoming disillusioned with the old mythical vision that had nourished their ancestors." (pp. 77-8) This "malaise" led to a "great transformation" (on which she has a chapter here, and a whole book, also called *The Great Transformation*) which produced the great philosophical and religious systems of Confucianism and Taoism, Buddhism and Hinduism, Middle Eastern monotheism and Greek rationalism. Finally she deals with the "great Western Transformation" of science, technology and capitalism which has made it "very difficult for people to think mythically."

Armstrong's view of myth sidesteps the traditional intellectual questions of are they "true" – they are illuminating stories which have meaning for us while also telling us what to do and how to celebrate what we are supposed to do. (Of course, one great direction of descent into creedal chaos is when we believe they are true, the only truth, God-given.) She raises the question of what myths may motivate us now (one for UUs might be the myth

¹ In October I wrote about Israel Salanter's view that unless the cognitive and emotional become connected, the beliefs don't lead to action (rather, our emotions lead us to action).

of the adventures of the seeker after truth). She is convinced that such myths are not merely important but vital for us.

So what's your central guiding myth?

Political and Social Action (PASA)

Peace and Social Action: How are we supporting the Occupy Movement?

By David Wilcock, member UUCE Board of Trustees and PASA

I would like to share a few thoughts on the "occupy movement" as a follow-up to President Diana Cate's thoughtful article in the December NUUS.

It is difficult to know quite what we might do, as individuals or as a congregation, to support the occupy movement since the movement is local, has many objectives, and is in constant evolution. It is clear that most, if not all, of us UUs in the Ellsworth area are disturbed by the growing income and wealth inequality that is decried by Occupy. We are dismayed at related deregulation and lack of proper governmental oversight of the financial sector that has helped this to occur, compounded by changes in the tax treatment of country's wealthiest citizens (the 1%). Equally disturbing is that these trends are undermining the "upward socio-economic mobility" that was always one of the hallmarks of the "American dream". Many European countries now offer substantially more mobility than does the US. For a short summary of and hyperlinks to the latest studies in this area (by the OECD, Brookings, etc.) see a short article by Fareed Zakaria in the Washington Post: http://www.fareedzakaria.com/home/Articles/Entries/2011/11/10_The_downward_path_of_upward_mobility.html

It is good that the occupy movement does not seem to have been captured, as the "tea party" movement was, by powerful interest groups that used it to help the Republican Party in the 2010 elections. Occupy is going to intersect with the coming 2012 elections, but it is not clear how. Will some portion of the Occupy energy be captured by the Democratic Party as occurred in 2008 with President Obama's election? The latest evictions of occupy campers from public parks and squares is starting to lead to the emergence of new Occupy strategies and local tactics.

So what is UUCE doing? Support to Occupy has become one of the topics that is regularly discussed by the UUCE PASA committee (come join the group if you'd like to participate in this and other social action planning and discussion) and the Board of Trustees. UUCE allowed the Occupy Ellsworth group to rent and use our facilities for a meeting and potluck dinner. Individual members of the congregation have been participating in Occupy activities. We will be following things carefully as spring and summer arrive. If any non-partisan support actions are planned in the name of UUCE, these will first be brought to the congregation for approval (or rejection) in ways that are under development by the Board of Trustees.

Think globally, act locally! Get involved (as you are willing and able)!

David

Immigration as a Moral Issue, the Congregational Study/Action issue for 2010-2014 (cont.)

PASA is presenting a series of six Adult Education workshops this fall and winter. The over-arching goal is for each of us to determine, using UU principles and values, what would be a just and humane immigration policy. Our first class on understanding the causes of migration was well attended and enthusiastically received. We learned together what a complex and frustrating situation current US law presents.

The second session is:

Sunday, January 15, from 12:00 – 1:30, History of Immigration in the United States

Led by Diana Cate and Kay Wilkins. The objectives of this class are:

- Understanding the history of migration to what is now called the United States
- Understanding how immigration policy has been tied to race/ethnicity.

There are several important handouts to be read before the class. In addition, participants are asked to bring pictures if they have them, of family members who first came to the U. S. Everyone is welcome to attend even if you were not able to be at the first session. Please contact Kay Wilkins, kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu, or 664-3070, as soon as possible to sign up and receive the readings.

Caring Corner

Anne Ossanna shared the news of a joint venture of our church with two other UU churches to take senior youth to New Orleans during Spring Break for a service project. Maria Burdette and Vincent Ossanna are attending with Rev. Sara from UUCE.

Sue Clark expressed her gratitude, shared by many in the congregation, to Jude Lamb for her lovely paintings which have filled the sanctuary, making it so welcoming for Judy Rothrock's memorial service and for us to enjoy.

Becka Gagne and her family spent a week in mid-November visiting her parents in North Carolina. Becka said it was a good visit but her father is not doing well and she finds it hard to see her parents going downhill.

Amy Gaspar asked us to keep her son Avery (9 years old) in our thoughts as he recovers from a November surgery to repair a hernia.

Charlotte Young shared her joy on the Sunday after Thanksgiving to be back with us after a busy and successful farming season. Charlotte said she was very sorry to have missed Judy Rothrock's memorial service but said that she has been keeping fond memories of Judy in her thoughts.

We learned on December 4 that Bruce Thulin is now under the care of Hospice at home. Carol Rosinski expressed deep appreciation for the help and care of hospice workers, saying that "it's the kind of thing you hope you'll never need, but when they're there, they're angels."

Jude Lamb shared a sorrow on December 4 for her Acadia Senior College friend Ginny Blaney's recent death. Ginny was a gifted dulcimer player from whom Jude had hoped to take a few lessons. Jude says that, with Ginny's passing, a little music went out of this world and that we'll all have to work that much harder to bring music into the world.

Diana Cate asked on December 11 that we hold her son-in-law and his dear long-time friend in our thoughts and hearts. Her son-in-law's friend is in the last stages of cancer.

Haydee Foreman shared her joy at attending the Bagaduce Chorale's beautiful performance at the December 11 holiday concert, and her sorrow that David Towle was not there to participate this year.

Evelyn Foster asks that we hold her family in our thoughts and hearts. Bob Foster, father to Evelyn's children

and grandfather to her grandchildren, has recently died. Evelyn's family will be attending his service.



By Anne Funderburk

As noted a few weeks ago, we have MICE! Don Martin is trying to cope with extermination without endangering any of our children. However, we need to remember that mice come where they get fed. This means that we must take much greater care of foodstuffs in the kitchen. A crumb for us is a mouthful for a mouse. SO:

1. Place ALL non-refrigerated food left in the kitchen into mouse-proof containers (metal tins with tightly fitting lids).
2. Carefully wipe down ALL prep. Surfaces, discarding food scraps into garbage can. N.B. The floor is NOT a garbage can!!
3. Before leaving the kitchen, sweep or mop the floor, discarding food bits.
4. "Orphans of the Storm": Reclaim your dishes etc. from the hall table or they will be officially adopted by the kitchen. (Labeling helps!)

Thank you very much for caring.
Anne Funderburk, for the Kitchen Krew.

Personnel

Contact Information

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman Huisjen: 610-2872 (cell) Huisjen@gmail.com	Religious Education Coordinator Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 anne@uuellsworth.org
Church Office (M,W, F, 1:00-5:00 P.M.) Caitlin Tunney: 667-4393 caitlin@uuellsworth.org	Music Director Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com
President of the Board Diana Cate: 664-3010 president@uuellsworth.org	Newsletter Editor Lance Funderburk: 276-3301 lfunderburk@roadrunner.com [Submit articles by the 15 th of each month]

Board of Trustees

President: Diana Cate, 664-3010 djcate@myfairpoint.net	Vice President: Cynthia Perkins
Treasurer: Don Martin	Secretary: Karen Volckhausen
Trustee: Eileen Brennan, to 2012	Trustee: John Fink, to 2012
Trustee: Jenn Ryan, to 2013	Trustee: David Wilcock, to 2013
Trustee: Matt Slater, to 2014	Trustee: Pam Person, to 2014

Committee and Task Force Chairs

Aesthetics: Linda Laing	Leadership Development: Marta Rieman
Art in the Sanctuary: Jude Lamb	Library: Paul Reid
Adult Education: Stephen Berger & Janice Ronco	Lobster Bake: Bettie Massie
Auction: Peggy Strong	Membership: Peggy Strong
Budget and Finance: Don Martin	Committee on Ministry: Ruth Eveland
Building Maintenance: Don Martin	Music: Jean Martin
By laws: John Fink	Peace and Social Action: Karen Volckhausen
Coffee Hour: Bill Clark	Potluck: Carol Mathiesen
Caring Committee: Suzanne Forest	Procedures: Pam Person
Choir: Marta Rieman & Haydee Foreman	Stewardship: Don Martin
Elections: Anne Ossanna	Swap Shop: Nancy Avila
Flowers: Nancy Avila	Sunday order of service: Send to: office@uuellsworth.org
Green Sanctuary: Kay Wilkins	Small Group Ministry: Rev. Sara Huisjen
History Committee: Wayne Smith	Ushers: Jon Thomas
Kitchen: Anne Funderburk	Web Pages: Caitlin Tunney at church office
Landscaping: Sue Clark	Worship: Cynthia Perkins
Loaves and Fishes: Sue Clark, Nina?	

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship Service POTLUCK	2 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	3 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	4 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group	5 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA	6 6:00 AA	7 Swap Shop set up 7:00 private concert
8 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 9:00 RE committee 9:00 Membership training 10:30 Worship Service HUNGRY SUNDAY 11:50 Adult RE Swap Shop, after services	9 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	10 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	11 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group	12 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting 6:30 SIA	13 6:00 AA	14 10:00 History Committee in community room
15 8:30 Pancake breakfast fundraiser 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 Worship Service 11:50 PASA presentation	16 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	17 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	18 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:00 Intro to UU 6:30 Coyote Group	19 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA 7:00 Downeast Audubon	20 6:00 AA	21
22 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE	23 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	24 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:00 Acadia Choral	25 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:00 Intro to UU 6:30 Coyote Group	26 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA	27 6:00 AA	28
29 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE	30 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	31				

To reserve space at the UUCE, Email: office@uuellsworth.org ; phone: 207-667-4393. Leave a message and someone from the church will contact you. Or you can reach us by mail – Calendar Person, UUCE, 121 Bucksport Rd. Ellsworth, ME 04605

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
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The NUUS

January 2012

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

January 2012

Vol. 44, No. 1

We covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every human being;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

**Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual
growth in our congregations;**

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

**The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
within our congregation and in society at large;**

**The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice
for all;**

**Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which
we are a part.**



