



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 44

No. 2

February 2012

A Month of Sundays

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

February 5. *Looking at Islam. How learning about Islam deepened my understanding of my Christian faith.*

Moorehead Kennedy

Best known as a former hostage in Iran, Moorhead Kennedy is a licensed preacher in the Episcopal church. He is also a long-time student of Islam.

February 12. *Love Will Guide Us*

Rev. Sara Huisjen

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for NOLA Service Trip at 8:30am!

In I Corinthians 13:13 it written, *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* On this Sunday before Valentine's Day, we will consider together what love truly is and how we are called to live our lives guided by it.

February 19. *On Making a Difference: Why Does Church Matter?*

Rev. Sara Huisjen

UUCE Committee Fair following the service in the Community Room!

Why do you come to church? What purpose does church serve in your life? What do you get and what do you give in being part of a congregation? This service will invite you to consider *your own* answers to these questions, and to begin imagining together the more communal purposes the liberal church.

February 26. *Open Communication: Speaking and Thinking Nonviolently*

Peggy Smith

Peggy Smith is a certified trainer with *The Center For Nonviolent Communication*. She has studied Nonviolent Communication with Marshall Rosenberg (creator of NVC), and other international trainers. Peggy is the founder and principle trainer of Open Communication, a Maine based business.

Peggy taught school in Maine for 32 years. She brings her extensive teaching skills, humor and presence to her work. Peggy has a keen interest in connecting people with their innate compassionate nature. She has a life-long interest in spiritual traditions and the fostering of compassion. She has studied with Zen teacher and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh sine 1991. She is a member of his Order of Interbeing. She lives in Lincolnville, ME and greets the day watching the sunrise over Islesboro.

Ministry Matters

by Rev. Sara Huisjen

Like it or not, February is here, a month on the calendar that reminds us to celebrate African-American History, and Women's History and, of course, love. For many I know, Valentine's Day has become a bit too much to deal with, a surfacy, Hallmark kind of holiday that does little more than encourage people to eat chocolate and candy hearts, to buy and send cards, and to feel badly if there's no one to whom they might say, "BE MINE."

The historic roots of Saint Valentine's Day reach back to the early Christian church and the martyrdom of Valentine of Rome (a priest), and Valentine of Terni (a bishop). In 496 AD, Pope Gelacius established the feast day, and in 1969, Pope Paul VI deleted it from the General Roman Calendar stating too little was known about the lives of these martyrs for its continued, formal observance. Even *before* the early Christian church, it's known that the Romans celebrated Lupercalia, an archaic rite connected to fertility and purification that happened sometime each year between February 13-15th.

Whatever the history of this holiday, this year, I am grateful to have been invited by folks at the UUA sponsored *Standing of the Side of Love* public advocacy campaign to participate in their most recent public witness action, THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE. Beginning on Martin Luther King Day (January 16th) and running through to Valentine's Day – 30 days later—the *Thirty Days of Love* action sends daily emails to all folks who sign up, reminding us (and encouraging & prodding us, too) to reflect on the ways in which we will translate LOVE as a force for justice into action in the world, particularly on behalf of people who are oppressed and in need of our voice and action.

How will you celebrate LOVE this month? How will you keep LOVE alive all year? To sign up and support this campaign, go to www.standingonthesideoflove.org.

Yours in ministry together,
Sara

Monthly UUCE Book Discussion Group

This month's Book Discussion Group will be held on two Thursdays, February 9th & 16th from 12-1:30pm at the church. The book we'll read is **A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century**, by John Buehrens & Rebecca Ann Parker, two leading progressive theologians. On the inside cover of the book, you can read this:

In lively and engaging language, *A House for Hope* suggests that liberal religious commitment is based on expansive love for life rather than adherence to narrow dogma. With chapters that reveal the political and personal relevance of the enduring questions at the heart of this theology, *A House for Hope* shows how religious liberals countered fundamentalist for generations, and provides progressives with not only a theological but also a spiritual foundation for the challenges of the 21st century. Books can be purchased on line through Beacon Press:

ISBN #: 978-0-8070-7738-2

Hope to see you there!

Second Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Upcoming New Orleans Service Trip

Sunday, February 12th from 8:30-9:45 a.m.

UUCE Community Room

We hope you like pancakes and sausage, and that you'll join us for breakfast at church on Sunday, February 12th from 8:30-9:45am to raise money for our upcoming Service Trip to New Orleans over the April School Vacation Week. 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

The Unitarian Universalist Association has for years been active in seeking justice. This year, as usual, the UUA has proposed five study/action issues to be considered at this year's General Assembly: climate change, class barriers, population and the environment, ending slavery, and reproductive justice. One of them will become the focus of study and action over the next few years in most UU churches, including ours. The UUA calls these Congregational Study/Action Issues, or CSAI's.

Immigration as a Moral Issue is a current CSAI and the subject of a series of Peace and Social Action/Adult Ed classes being conducted at UUCE now. I helped teach the last class and had good time in both preparing to teach and in participating in the class. Each participant had a chance to tell his or her family history and think about how it fit into the broader history of U.S. immigration. Other classes will be held in March and April. Look for announcements in this and future NUUS.

The story of European, African, and Asian immigration into the United States is full of drama seasoned liberally with injustice. For starters, the founders and later political leaders considered the landmass that became the U.S. a blank slate upon which they could write a modification of British and European culture. And this they did to the everlasting detriment of the indigenous peoples who had lived here for 10,000 years.

Fast forward about 300 years. Immigration into the U.S. is still both a goal of many people and an occasion for gut wrenching stories of injustice. Rev. Sara Huisjen's January 19th and February 2nd Book Discussion Group is reading *The Death of Josseline*, by Margaret Regan. Check it out on Amazon. But if you buy it, get it from a local bookstore or the UUA bookstore, www.uuabookstore.org. You will shed a few tears and learn a lot about immigration in the southwestern U.S.

The next General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Church in the United States will be held June 20-24 in Phoenix, Arizona. The focus of the assembly will be immigration justice. Kay Wilkins and Rev. Huisjen will attend. If you can go, you should. GA is an inspiring experience. And as an added bonus Rev. Sara is expected to be honored with Final Fellowship as a UU minister at this GA. I hope we have a number of folks to cheer her on.

In ministry,
Diana Cate

By Laws Congregational Hearing

Please mark your calendar. There will be a Congregational hearing after services on March 25th to review the changes to our By Laws proposed by the By Laws Revision Committee, Ruth Eveland, John Fink, and Pam Person. After thorough review, the Committee proposes some significant changes to the way we do the business of the church.

The Congregation is the final arbiter of changes. At this hearing the committee will present possible changes to membership requirements, Board structure, and the structure of Standing Committees. The By Laws Committee may also make other recommendations for change.

The purpose of this meeting is to elicit response and recommendations from the membership. The vote to adopt our new By Laws will be taken at the May Parish meeting.

Lifespan Religious Education

The Carl Stehman Wing has been very busy. We currently are averaging 11 children. In January all the classes spent time learning about Dr. Martin Luther King. As you know, Rev. Sara and Sr. Youth Group members Maria Burdette and Vincent Ossanna will be traveling to New Orleans with a delegation from the UU Churches in Belfast and Bangor during the April vacation. They will meet up with other UU teens from around the nation to help rebuild New Orleans. Fundraising efforts are underway. We thank everyone one who came to the Pancake Breakfast on January 15th, your donations and well wishes have been greatly appreciated. A huge THANK YOU to Chris Burdette for his wonderful pancakes!

A very special thank you to Matt Slater for his work with the Senior Youth Group and to Helen Kazura who floats to where ever she is needed.

RE Calendar:

February 5th - Rev. Sara to meet with Senior Youth during Worship Service

February 12th - 2nd Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to benefit NOLA - 8:30 - 9:45 am

RE Committee Meeting directly after Worship Service

February 26th - Rev. Sara and Bob Dickens Passage Meeting with Sr. Youth after Worship Service

RE Committee Members: Bill Clark, Carol Rosinski, Dugald Kell and Becka Gagne

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna

Adult Religious Education

Adult RE has several offerings this month. We hope you will join us!

Meditation Group

Wednesday, February 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the Justice Room

All are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Janice, jronco2@gmail.com.

“Call Me Malcolm”

A film and discussion with 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.

Muhammad: “Legacy of a Prophet”

A film and discussion with Stephen Berger (Part Two)

Sunday, February 12, 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.

Janice Ronco's e-mail has changed to jronco2@gmail.com.

From the Board

UUCE BOT Meeting January 13, 2012

Present: Diana Cate, President; Cynthia Perkins, Vice president; Karen Volckhausen, Secretary; Don Martin, Treasurer; Trustees- Pam Person, Jenn Ryan, John Fink

RE- Anne Ossanna

Rev. Sara Huisjen

Aesthetic Committee: Sally Littlefield, Linda Laing,

RE Committee: Doug Kell

Congregational comment: None

Aesthetics Committee report

Linda Laing and Sally Littlefield attended the meeting for a repeat visit requesting feedback on their report to the congregation at the January 22 meeting. They reviewed and discussed their mission statement, short term

plans, tasks already accomplished, maintenance issues, long term design plan for future, and long term plans and dreams.

Committee chat- RE Committee

Doug Kell represented the committee to speak in favor of increasing the RE director's pay. Diana read statements by Carol Rosinski and Bill Clark supporting this point. Diana commented that when we start the budget process, we will be making decisions about priorities and will consider their request. Knowing the committees goals, program, and actions will help advocate for an increase.

Treasurer's report

See Treasurer's Corner

Diana requested that Don present committee requests including salary increases at the February meeting so we can start prioritizing.

RE Coordinator's report

See elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS

Executive Committee's report

Three recommendations were presented to the board:

1. Recommended the revision and update of the non-budgeted fundraising policy- **motion to revise made and approved**
2. Recommended the formation of a subcommittee of the board to begin a process for planning for long range planning. **Recommendation tabled**
3. Recommended splitting of the plate once a month per quarter with a local group. A Giving Task Force as outlined by the Policy on non-budgeted fundraising will select the group each quarter. **Motion made and passed.** This will begin in March.

Anyone from the congregation who wants to make suggestions on deserving groups, contact Karen, Cynthia, or Sara from the Giving Task Force. Their next meeting is February 2.

Minister's Report

Ministry of Worship

I enjoyed leading worship services at UUCE through the holidays on 12/24, 12/25 and 1/1/12.

Ministry with Youth & Children

I meet regularly with the Senior Youth to plan for our upcoming Service Trip to New Orleans. I will meet once a month with the Senior Youth during the Worship Service over the next 6 months.

On the last Sunday of each month, I will spend the afternoon with Senior Youth and their R.E. Teacher, Bob Dickens. Together, we will work on our NOLA trip and get to know each other better. In December, I met with Anne Ossanna, R.E. Coordinator, to discuss the needs of the Senior Youth Group. The end result of that meeting was a plan for teacher coverage for the remainder of the year.

Outreach & Public Ministry

I continue to deliver cookies to the Ellsworth High School GSA (Gay Straight Diversity Alliance) Meeting every Tuesday as part of UUCE's Cookie Ministry.

Conversation is still underway with a UCC minister in Machias to explore the possibility of creating a local PFLAG Chapter in Hancock County this year.

Teaching Ministry

I will teach an Intro to Unitarian Universalism Class at UUCE on three Wednesdays, 1/18, 1/25 and 2/1 from 6-7:30pm.

A New Member Recognition Ceremony is scheduled to occur on 2/12 during the worship service.

Pastoral Care Ministry

I continue to meet and/or speak with congregants each week who request pastoral care

I continue to facilitate a monthly support group at the Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center about Spirituality & Living Well w/ Illness.

In Other Miscellaneous News

On Sunday, January 22 from 5-7pm, we will host the 2nd of three meetings scheduled for the youth and ministers participating in NOLA Service Trip over April Vacation.

I continue to meet with the Bylaws Committee as they prepare their review & recommendations for the Bylaws.

A person who claimed to be "inspired" by my December 18th service (with Karen Wigglesworth as Worship Associate and Stephen Berger as Scrooge) made a generous contribution of \$2000.00 to my Minister's Discretionary Fund.

I continue to attend monthly Ethics Committee Meetings at the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, as well as facilitate a Spirituality & Illness Support Group at the Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center.

Agenda for Congregational Meeting, January 22

Agenda set.

Executive session on minister's evaluation

Meeting adjourned: 8:09

Next meeting: February 9, 2012 at 6 PM in the Board room

The first 15 minutes are reserved for Congregational Comment. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Volckhausen

Secretary of the BOT

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for December was \$17,248.45. This was \$7,471.16 more than the total expenses for the month of December, which were \$9,777.29.

Pledge income for December was \$14,185.33, giving us a total of \$60,225.95, which is 13.42% above where we should be at the end of December. This is better than last month.

Plate income is at \$3,585.62, which is 5.18% below the 50% of the year to date or \$414.38 less than where we should be.

Rental income is at \$3,103.00 or 62.06% of budget, which is 12.06% more than the year-to-date percentage of 50%, or \$603 more. This is a significant improvement and if it continues we should be able to reach our budget goal of \$5,000.

Fundraising is still in an excellent position. With the Music Committee fundraiser in March we should exceed our budget goal of \$7,000.

Expenses are continuing to run low at \$47,432.26 or 9.85% below the year-to-date percentage of 50%. I must remind you that in June our monthly expenses almost double and that our winter expenses for this year, of fuel and snow plowing and sanding, are just beginning to accrue.

If you haven't received your second quarterly pledge statement ending December 31, 2011 or if you need additional information to complete your taxes, please contact me and we will be glad to assist you.

Finances are very positive for the first half of the church year and will require all of us to keep our pledge payments current to continue this trend in the second half of the church year.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Don Martin

Treasurer

2011/2012 Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship of the church is the responsibility of each and every one of us. Canvass Sunday will be on April 10th. Would you be willing to Canvass? Canvassing is a short term commitment, a positive way to contribute to the church, and training will be provided. If you are interested in serving in this way, speak to one of the members of the Stewardship Committee.

Please start thinking seriously about how much you would be willing to pledge to support the church next year. Watch for the special Stewardship Edition of the NUUS which will be full of information for you.

Don't miss the service on Canvass Sunday, April 10th (15th or 22nd?). It will be full of surprises. Stewardship of the church is where it all begins.

Stewardship Committee: Evelyn Foster, Kay Wilkins, Don Martin, David Wilcock, Jim Fisher

Reflections from the Committee on Ministry

Mid-February brings the deadline for sending in our final evaluation of Rev. Sara to the UUA for approval of full fellowship as a UU minister. Mid-February also brings St. Valentine's Day. Friendship blossoms at this time of year encouraged by card, candy and flower shops. Here at UUCE friendship blossoms every Sunday from the time you walk in the door and are greeted with warm smiles and cheery voices to the camaraderie in the Community Room over coffee after the service.

Take a moment to reflect on what it was like when you first came here to visit. Why did you come? How did you feel? What made you feel comfortable and what, if anything, did not? Bearing all those answers in mind next time you come to church, keep an eye out for the new people or someone that you have not talked to before and start a conversation. Be a good listener as you get to know them. Most people come seeking friendship with others. They are looking for a place to talk freely about what they believe and find a supportive audience. Look for the person standing alone and strike up a conversation. We are a Welcoming Congregation and this is one way to make guests comfortable in our church home.

Kahlil Gibran in The Prophet speaks of friendship. "Your friend is your needs answered. He is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving. He is your board and your fireside. For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace....And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit."

Members of the Committee on Ministry enjoy conversing too. Look for us identified by our blue-shaded nametags. We want to hear any of your thoughts about how our church is functioning, or how our minister is serving you. Tell us what is on your mind. We meet monthly with Sara to communicate how everything is going.

In closing, a childhood verse comes to mind:

Make new friends
But keep the old
One is silver
And the other gold.

Darth C. R



Nuts and Bolts and Tidbits

from Cynthia Perkins

Plate Sharing Evelyn Foster has presented a recommendation to Leadership Development and the Board requesting that we share our Sunday offering with local groups which are assisting those in our community who are in need of special help. (We are already contributing to THAW, Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Emmaus Homeless shelter and others.) **You will be hearing much more about this very soon.** This tidbit is to get you interested in participating. Basically the Board is proposing a one-quarter experiment to determine whether plate splitting increases our overall cash contributions and whether we collect enough to make a helpful donation. We plan to begin the last Sunday in March, and continue the last Sundays in April and May. We have a Giving Committee in our Board policies, which is the Minister and the Chairs of PASA and Worship, which is designated to determine where our gift will go in this type of fundraising activity. Congregation suggestions are very welcome. Look for more information and clarification soon!

Reminder The Redemption Center on Water Street is still accepting our recyclables and giving the proceeds to Emmaus Center, if we ask them to. We simply take recyclables to the Redemption Center and designate them for helping Emmaus. No standing in line, no counting while you wait. And the good feeling that we have done one more little thing to help those who are in great need.

Thanks to Lance Funderburk for the superb job he is doing to get our ever-growing and informative NUUS out every month. He clearly has the patience of Job since so many of us are either late or last minute in getting info to him by the 15th of each month.

Jean Martin for Chairing the Music Committee during often difficult times in our church life. She has been incredibly diligent in coordinating music activities, leading the Spring Fever Relievers and in volunteering as pianist from time to time when Wayne is away. Incidentally, thanks to the other volunteers who help out when Wayne cannot be in the service.

Haydee Foreman for agreeing to be Music Chair as well as continuing to be Co-Choir Director with Marta Rieman. Our choir is getting better and better all the time. We look forward to their singing in our services.

Our **Aesthetics Committee** is proof positive that new members can make huge contributions to UUCE. In addition to Evelyn (who has been a major contributor to many, many activities) Linda Laing, Nancy Avila, and Sally Littlefield (Please forgive any omissions) are developing a long range dream plan which will vastly improve our church's appearance. See the article elsewhere in this NUUS describing their ideas.

Now is the time to begin thinking of our priorities for the church for the year beginning in July. Talk to Don Martin, Diana Cate or any Board member about your ideas and wishes.

A new Elections Committee will be elected at our January 22 Congregational meeting. Please let them know if you would like to be nominated for a board office or one of the two board positions whose terms are ending (all of the above might also be seeking reelection, but that should not deter others from running.)

Music Committee

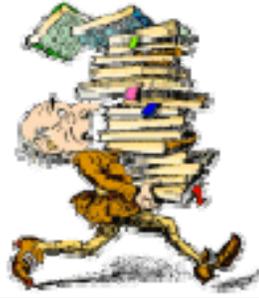
Tropical Beach Party: On March 3rd there will be a Tropical Beach Party sponsored by the UUCE Music Committee! You don't want to miss this 4th annual fund raiser for UUCE and Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. The fun will begin with a delicious pot-luck dinner coordinated by Toby Betancourt and assisted by Cecily Judd. Look for the sign-up sheets soon. We are in need of a Master of Ceremonies and performers for the Variety Show. If you have a talent to share, please contact Haydée Foreman, Jenn Ryan, Doug Kell, or Jean Martin. We'll have a few games like the Limbo and a Hula-Hoop contest and we are hoping to get some Ukulele players. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to participate in this fun evening event for all ages.

UU Choir Festival: On Sunday, March 25th, our own UUCE Choir will participate in a Choir Festival in Bangor with choirs from Castine, Waterville, Belfast and Bangor. The event is in the evening at the UU on Park Street in Bangor, the exact time is to be announced. Come support your choir if you can!

Jean Martin and Haydée Foreman

Special Event to Pack a Punch during Coffee Hour

A Committee Fair will be held after the service on February 19th. In the Community Room and RE wing each committee and task force will have an opportunity to create a space to show and tell everyone about their focus and function. It is an opportunity for each of us to think about the way that we would like to be involved in UUCE in the coming year. This also is an opportunity to change from one committee to another, to take a break from the way you have been serving or to add on something that might be of new interest to you. It is the time when committees get to show others what they are doing, answer questions and recruit new helpers. They also will probably offer you some special treats to lure you into their exhibits. This is an informative and enjoyable event and packs a great amount of information into a short time. Come and be with us as we dream on into the coming year.



Food for Thought

by Stephen Berger

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Universalist Communitarianism and Unitarian Individualism

In December, some of us read Mark W. Harris' *Elite* with Rev. Sara. One of the points in the book which fascinated me is a juxtaposition of Universalist Communitarianism with Unitarian Individualism. Harris writes: "What is perhaps most startling about these early Universalists, in addition to their evangelical approach, is the understanding that the embrace of God is meant for all humanity. This contrasts sharply with the cultural underpinnings that associate salvation with individual achievement and success. Early Universalism emphasized that there was a moral community of all people in the Godhead. Central to the Universalist gospel is an egalitarian, classless idea of salvation. It is not our individual acts that will save us but our connection with that larger moral force which unites the universe." (56)

Harris describes the view of Hosea Ballou: "The Universalist perspective that he elucidated emphasized a human relationship to a loving God who wishes for all to be happy and ultimately redeems all. In this vision, people are not distinguishable from one another, nor judged as saved or unsaved. Rather than asking about the role of human will in being saved from damnation, Ballou's vision centered on discerning God's will for all of creation: How are we bound up together?" (69)

Again he writes: "...Ballou rejected the hierarchal social vision of the Arminians, or proto-Unitarians, who argued that a person could achieve salvation based on merit, complemented by God's grace. This new Universalist vision did not make distinctions between people: 'One's lot was cast with the rest of the human race.'" (73)

Harris tells us that Samuel Longfellow (Henry's brother) "observed that Christianity and capitalism were based upon different values. The accumulation of wealth was founded upon 'organizing competition and antagonism instead of cooperation and brotherhood.'"

I find Harris to be reasonably clear about the sources and nature of Unitarian "individualism" – the need to develop one's Christian character and the danger that such individualism can lead to an emphasis on one's property (e.g., the mill owner Nathan Appleton's point that "The central belief in individual freedom of faith included the right of 'every individual...to the benefit of his own acquisitions.'" (p. 41) and a smug assumption that those who work hard and develop themselves will succeed, implying that the poor lack these qualities.

On the other hand, I think that his discussion of Universalist "communitarianism" remains general and, to me, unclear. I – perhaps we – need to know a lot more about this.

So, I have two questions for you: What do you know about communitarianism? And, how do you juggle your individuality and self-development with your concern for and identification with the whole?

Political and Social Action (PASA)

Standing on the Side of Love Month

Standing on the Side of Love Month begins on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and culminates with Valentine's Day! This is not an event but a collective process of envisioning, helping us make sense of NOW and what we are called to do. It includes reflection, active listening, sharing stories, and celebrating ours and others' lives. Learn more and how you can participate by linking to <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>.

Occupy Movement

The theme of the 18th Annual Changing Maine Gathering on Saturday, January 28 is "Visions and Strategies for the Occupy Movement in Maine. This very important gathering will focus on brainstorming such issues as goals and strategies, hopes and visions, and working with other groups to achieve their goals. It will be held at the Randall Student Center, U of Maine, Augusta, from 9AM - 4:30 PM. Snow day is January 29. If you are interested in attending, you can find an application form on the Ellsworth Occupy Movement website, www.meetup.com/occupy-ellsworth. This is also a very good site to find what is happening locally. Occupy Ellsworth continues their weekly vigil on the bridge from 12-1 then moves to the corner of Oak and Main Sts. from 1-2 PM. They meet for general assembly every Tuesday, 4-5 PM. They welcome interested people to both events.

Everybody Eats

This community meal which takes place every Monday from 3 PM to 6 PM at St. Dustin's Episcopal Church continues to be a vibrant, important community event. It provides an absolutely delicious meal to any community member that wants to attend. EE has been successful in feeding the hungry and not so hungry, dealing with social isolation, and breaking down social class lines. At least 8 people from UUCE have volunteered to date and PASA continues to encourage church members to volunteer for this worthwhile organization. There are 2 shifts: working with the head cooks to prepare the meal from 11.00 AM to 3 PM or serving and clean up from 3 PM to 6:30 PM. Email Nancy Daly at gimmeshelter2@hotmail.com to sign up.
Karen Volckhausen

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.

The third session is:

Sunday, February 26, (subject to change) from 12:00 – 1:30, Economics of Immigration

Led by Dr. David Wilcock* and Kay Wilkins. The objectives of this class are:

- Understanding the economic forces that drive immigration
- Understanding the deleterious effects low-wage labor has on the working conditions of everyone who works in the U.S., both with documentation and without.

There are several important handouts to be read before the class. Everyone is welcome to attend even if you were not able to be at the first two sessions. Please contact Kay Wilkins, kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu, or 664-3070, as soon as possible to sign up and receive the readings. An excellent resource on this topic is the Interfaith Immigration Coalition of which the UUA is a member. <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/> They

are sponsoring an important webinar, "Congregational Resources for Immigration Advocacy in our Communities," Thursday, February 2, 8:00 PM.

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=6419

*We are very fortunate to have Dr. David Wilcock as a member of our congregation and a resource for this class. David is an Agricultural Economist who has travelled widely and worked in Africa and many third-world nations. Don't miss hearing David even if this is the only one of these classes you can attend.

Kay Wilkins

Caring Corner

After careful consideration, the Caring Committee has made the decision to discontinue our practice of providing a written report of the weekly "Joys and Sorrows" comments for inclusion in the weekly UUCE news and monthly UUCE newsletters.

This decision came about as the result of hearing from members who said that they would prefer keeping Joys & Sorrows comments "in the moment" of our Sunday service, rather than written up and disseminated through the newsletter. We have also been made aware of concerns of maintaining security and privacy given the often sensitive and personal nature of the comments shared.

The Caring Committee will continue to make note of remarks shared during Joys & Sorrows and respond by sending cards, etc, as appropriate. We are exploring the possibility of other approaches by which congregants could share personal information via the newsletter, website or other venues and we will keep you informed of what we come up with.

We are aware of the importance of Joys & Sorrows in sharing our lives as a congregation, and we will continue working together to find an approach which will best serve us all. We welcome your feedback!

Aesthetics Committee Report

In the short time since the Aesthetics Committee was established, we have looked carefully at our building's interior physical appearance and assessed its functionality.

We have obtained layout drawings and analyzed colors and materials currently in use. And, with our talented member, Sally Littlefield's, professional assistance, made visuals to help us see what is here now, and what we hope to create in the future.

These visuals were available to the congregation at the annual meeting and can be viewed upon request by anyone who missed the annual meeting. Ask any member of the committee: Nancy Avila, Evelyn Foster, Vicki Fox, Sally Littlefield, or me, Linda Laing.

These are the 5 priorities we plan to implement in the short term:

1. Re-paint the Community Room walls
2. Paint the Sanctuary -- We request \$800 to be allocated in next year's budget
3. Commission an artistic, hanging Banner that draws upon our sacred UU design elements
4. Refurbish the front doors, inside and out, and enhance our entrance welcome area with lighting and colors, yet to be determined
5. Paint the Tidewater Room (former RE office) walls and seek wall decorations—pictures, quilted works, etc.

We have already:

Painted the Nursery

Assisted in the design of signage for the newly named RE and Community rooms

Arranged the Tidewater Room with tables, lamps, cushions, chairs, sofa and coffee table for use by small groups

Placed a large Bulletin Board on one wall in Community Room, a gift of Peggy Strong. (This is NOT a permanent placement as it is a congested area.)

We are in the process of purchasing a round glass table top for the Sanctuary Altar Table—A gift from this committee

Obtained painting quote for professional painting of sanctuary—other quotes pending.

In many indigenous societies it is believed that their dreams create reality. The members of the Aesthetics Committee function as your Dreamers. We look, assess, and then dream of what CAN be. We will keep these dreams before you because we sincerely believe that the creation of a welcoming, calm, comfortable place of worship, a place filled with beauty and harmony in every imaginable way, is very important.

We also are well aware that these Dreams will not be easily manifested, that funds are ever in short supply and that there will be many priority issues that must, and will, come before Dreams.

We have many Long Term Dreams. For example, repaint all rooms as needed in a coordinating color scheme (yet to be determined); replace carpets with other durable materials, recover chairs, revamp lighting in some areas, and several others.

We will continue to work toward these goals, taking the small steps first, but keeping our eyes on the larger Dreams, implementing them as they become possible, with your kind permission and minimal funding.

Linda Laing, on Behalf of the Aesthetics Committee



Kitchen Corner

By Anne Funderburk

From the Kitchen Crew: Guess what! The ants are back! Don Martin will be talking with our friendly local exterminator to discover the most ecological way to deal with them (as well as the mice). However our little guests are telling us something: "There's good stuff for little critters to eat at UUCE!" Once again we need to remind everyone who uses the kitchen to REALLY clean up after themselves. A crumb for us is a mighty mouthful for an ant; a box of crackers on the counter is a supermarket for a mouse. SO:

- (1) Thoroughly wash down all prep surfaces.
- (2) Sweep or mop the floor before leaving.
- (3) Store foods in mouse-proof (metal) containers.
- (4) Store sweets (sugar, honey, syrup, jam, etc.) in refrigerator.

Thank you very much for helping to keep us pest-free.

Photo Page

From the pancake breakfast





Karen Volckhausen, chairing the PASA meeting, January 15th



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
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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?	

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:00 Meditation 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group 6:30 Intro to UU	2 Membership 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Book group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA 6:30 Music Committee	3 6:00 AA	4 10:00 Adult RE
5 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 Worship Service POTLUCK 3:00 Next Step rehearsal	6 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	7 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	8 2:00 Meditation 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group 6:30 Comm on Min.	9 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting 6:30 SIA	10 6:00 AA	11
12 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 9:00 RE committee 10:30 Worship Service HUNGRY SUNDAY 11:50 Adult RE 3:00 Next Step rehearsal	13 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	14 10:00 PATT playgroup 11:00 Tidewater NVC 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	15 2:00 Meditation 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group	16 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA 7:00 Downeast Audubon	17 6:00 AA	18
19 9:00 PASA 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service COMMITTEE FAIR 3:00 Next Step rehearsal	20 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	21 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:00 Acadia Choral	22 1:00 Ells Sm. Grp 2:00 Meditation 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group 6:30 Equality Maine	23 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA	24 6:00 AA 7:00 The Next Step fundraiser	25 1:00 The Next Step Fundraiser
26 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 9:00 Membership Greeter Training 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 PASA 2:00 CSA Fair	27 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	28 10:00 PATT playgroup 11:00 Tidewater NVC 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	29 2:00 Meditation 4:00 Beth Israel RE 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group			

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

February 2012

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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.**

