



The NUUS

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

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www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 44

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March 2012

A Month of Sundays

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

March 4. *The Great Story - The Great Work*

Rev. Kitsy Winthrop

In 1988 I read a book which challenged me to begin a process of self-transformation unlike any I have ever experienced. I am still on that journey, learning every day from this evolving story, both scientific and sacred, which calls me/us to re-think what it means to be human - and the work to which I feel called."

Kitsy was born into a Unitarian family in Cambridge, MA many decades ago. In early mid-life she experienced a call to UU parish ministry, and has served a number of congregations in the intervening thirty-five years. In 1996 she finally achieved her childhood dream of living beside the sea in Portland, Maine. Kitsy has also served as a hospice chaplain, and considers herself a "deep ecologist".

The last time she led worship with us was in the summer of 1982, and she is happy to be making a return visit.

March 11. *On Liberation Theology*

Rev. Sara Huisjen

At this year's annual Service Auction, Kay Wilkins purchased a sermon and chose Liberation Theology as the topic. Come find out what Liberation Theology is, and how its justice orientation is of great relevance today..

March 18. *...as lovely as a tree*

Rev. Sara Huisjen

On this Sunday before the official beginning of spring, this service & sermon will explore the brilliance of trees – their majestic and often healing presence in our world. The life & activism of 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Wangari Maathai also provided inspiration for this service.

March 25. *Lelania Avila Shares "The Toolshed of My Heart": A 3-D piece of Calligraphy and Collage*

The service is an invitation to explore our hearts together, and experience some of the tools Lelania uses daily to be the peaceful change she wishes to see in the world.

Her toolshed includes: Living from the Heart with mindfulness, nonviolent communication, yoga, meditation and breathwork, self-care techniques, art and journal writing, relaxation and play, the 13-moon calendar, gratitude and forgiveness practices, and more!

A 1992 graduate of College of the Atlantic, Lelania chose MDI, Maine as home in 1997. She is currently living in Northeast Harbor with her beloved husband, Kyle Avila and their two children Rosie(11) and Haji (7).

They're living "the good life" celebrating with gratitude all the local, organic food they eat, the bounty of community connection, the beauty of MDI/Acadia, and the abundance of opportunities for life-learning homeschoolers! She can be reached at oasis@heartcraftcalligraphy.com.

Ministry Matters by Rev. Sara Huisjen

As I write this, I'm at home after a busy Sunday morning at church, preparing for a week's vacation which will include a brief trip to NC with my niece, Ellie, to visit my mother, now known by everyone in our family as *nana*. I remember spending almost every weekend in the 7th & 8th grade at *my* own nana's house. It is still wonderful to be able to spend special time with family.

Church feels as busy as ever to me, with many great things underway. On Sunday, February 12th, we welcomed five new members into our congregation: Linda Barsanti, Mary Chamberlin, Toby Betancourt & Scott Levaseur, and Katie Mann. Please join me in welcoming these good folk among us when you see them. Also, check out their pictures and brief bios posted in the Community Room courtesy of Evelyn Foster & the Membership Committee.

I have heard from Rev. Deane Perkins at the UU Church of Belfast that members & friends of our congregation have been *extremely* generous with their financial support of the upcoming New Orleans (NOLA) Service Trip that I will make with two of our youth, Maria Burdette and Vincent Ossanna, over the April Vacation week. Over \$7000+ has been received thus far between the three churches and plane tickets will be purchased at the beginning of March. We still hope to see you at the rescheduled Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast on this Sunday, February 26th at 8:30am, and the Spaghetti Dinner – Public Supper we're planning for Saturday, March 17th. Please know we are *enormously* grateful for all your support and for the wonderful opportunity it is creating for the three of us.

In other news, at the suggestion of a beloved church member the church board made a generous and thoughtful decision. On the third Sunday of the next three months, beginning in March, the church will donate half of the undesignated plate offering monies collected to a local non-profit agency engaged in meaningful work. The first recipient of this collection will be Downeast GLSEN, the local chapter of this national advocacy group engaged in making our schools safer for *all* students, especially those who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, queer and/or transgendered youth. Keep an eye out for more information about this wonderful new initiative at UUCE. I continue to feel grateful & inspired by this congregation's generosity!

Finally, please consider attending the upcoming Lenten Series of Worship Services organized by the Ellsworth Area Minister's Association. These ecumenical services are set to begin on Wednesday, 2/27 at 7pm and run for five weeks through 3/28. I will be preaching at the Wednesday, March 21st Service to be hosted at the United Methodist Church of Ellsworth. (See the article on page 3 about this series.) I look forward to attending each of these Wednesday evening services and hope many others from UUCE will be interested & able to do so, as well.

Yours in ministry together,

Sara

Upcoming Ecumenical Lenten Services

Here in the Ellsworth area, we are blessed with a group of clergy from a wide range of faith expressions who work together collegially to provide worship experiences for this community. As has been the tradition, we will again provide weekly worship during the Lenten period. At 7:00 p.m. on the five Wednesdays of Lent there will be an opportunity to worship with your neighbors in five different churches. Each service will reflect the style of worship that is customary for the host church, and will include a message from a clergy person who is the pastor of another local church. Each week there will be an offering which will be donated to the Church Discretionary Fund administered by the Emmaus Homeless Shelter.

The theme this year is **“A Call to Repair & Rebuild Relationships:”**

1. With the world
2. With our faith
3. With the church
4. With the Lord and the Holy
5. With others, oneself, and community.

A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow each service.

All services are at 7:00 PM and the schedule is as follows:

Feb. 29 St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Junction of Routes #1 and #184

Preacher: Pastor Joanne Douglass of Community of Christ Church

Mar. 7 Union Congregational Church of Ellsworth Falls, UCC, Junction of Routes #1A and #179

Preacher: Rev. Keith Bowie of Union Congregational Church of Hancock, UCC

Mar. 14 First Congregational Church of Ellsworth, Junction of State and Church Streets

Preacher: Fr. Scott Mower of St. Joseph Catholic Church

Mar 21 United Methodist Church, Hancock Street

Preacher: Rev. Sara Huisjen of Unitarian Universalist Church

Mar. 28 St. Dunstan Episcopal Church, State Street

Preacher: Pastor James Heard, of Church of Life and Praise

Message from the President

THE UUCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESIGNATIONS

It is with regret and yet understanding that I announce and accept the resignation of two of our valuable Board members.

Because of her work at Jackson Laboratories, Jenn Ryan realizes that her time will be spread thin between her professional responsibilities and fulfilling her roles as a loving parent and wife. She will continue to be involved with the music life of this church. We wish her the best and look forward to having her back in a leadership role in the future.

For personal reasons, Pam Person decided she is unable to make the contributions as a Board trustee that she had expected to offer. Pam does indeed have an excellent array of talents and experiences, which we hope will not be lost to UUCE. She remains on the By Laws revision team where she makes invaluable contributions.

REPLACEMENTS AND ELECTIONS

So now the Board needs to appoint two new trustees. When a trustee resigns, the Board is responsible for appointing a replacement to serve the remainder of their term. Jenn's position runs until June 2013. Pam's position runs until June 2014. The Elections Committee will work with the Board to identify potential appointees. If you are interested please see Ruth Eveland, Peggy Strong, or Evelyn Foster.

Officers and trustees are elected at the annual meeting in April or May. This year our annual meeting will be after services, May 20th. Members of the Board of Trustees are the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, six trustees (members), and the minister (*ex officio*, without vote).

Each of the six trustees is elected for three-year terms, two trustees to be elected each year. Officers are elected for two years. No officer or trustee may serve for more than six consecutive years.

All four officer positions are to be voted on this year. I will have served on the Board for four years, two as vice president and two as president. Our vice president, Cynthia Perkins, will have served for four years, three of those as trustee. Don Martin, our treasurer, will have served for four consecutive years. And our secretary, Karen Volckhausen, will have served for four years. Each of these persons has the option of running again.

Two trustees' terms expire as of this June, John Fink and Eileen Brennan. John will have completed six years as a Board member and cannot run again. Eileen will have completed three years and may run again if she so wishes.

Being a member of the Board, whether trustee or officer, is usually a gratifying experience. It is rather like being a member of a Small Group ministry, but with specific tasks and goals. Working together closely over two years, or more, generally results in an unusual level of interpersonal understanding, sometimes in lasting

friendships. Some Boards may even forge a tight bond. And working closely with the minister is a distinct privilege.

If you are interested in running, please do consider it seriously, and consult with any member of the Elections Committee, Ruth Eveland, Peggy Strong, or Evelyn Foster.

COVENANT

The Board of Trustees has a covenant, which appears on every meeting agenda: *We, the Board, commit our care and strength to love and inspire one another – for the vitality, harmony, and growth of our faith community.*

Board members are leaders. While doing the Board's work we endeavor to always keep the best interest of the church in mind.

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

Winter Greetings,

The Carl Stehman Wing has been very busy this winter. We continue to average 10 children each week, it has been a joy to witness the children develop friendships with each other and their Religious Education teachers. Members of the congregation have been very supportive of Religious Education at UUCE. Books have been donated, treats have been left in the kitchen, but what warms my heart the most is watching multiple generations talk to, listen to and support each other.

A very special thank you to Nancy Avila and Stephen Berger for their generous donation of a beautiful wooden doll house. The children were so delighted with the unexpected gift and have enjoyed exploring every nook and cranny.

We also appreciate the overwhelming support the congregation has displayed for our NOLA project. The first fundraiser, a Pancake Breakfast was well attended and \$300.00 was raised. Informational letters were provided to members of the congregation and well, let's just say YOU responded. Thank you so very much! Unfortunately do to illness and probable inclement weather the second fundraiser had to be postponed to February 26th. Please join us from 8:30 to 9:45 in the Community Room where Chris Burdette and Vincent Ossanna will be flipping pancakes.

Calendar of Events:

February 26th:

8:30 - 9:45 NOLA Pancake Breakfast - Suggested donation of \$5.00/person or \$10.00 family

Sr, Youth Meeting after Worship Service with Bob Dickens and Rev. Sara

NOLA meeting at Bangor UU

March 4th

Rev. Sara and Bob Dickens to meet with Sr. Youth

March 17th - NOLA Italian Dinner 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Anne

Spaghetti Dinner - Public Supper Fundraiser for Upcoming New Orleans Service Trip

Saturday, March 17th at 5 pm at UUCE

We hope you will join us for a wonderful meal, complete with the raffling off of a special King's Cake to be made by Kay Wilkins! All proceeds collected will help subsidize our travel & accommodation expenses for the upcoming Service Trip to New Orleans. THANK YOU for all you are doing to help get us there!

- Maria Burdette, Vincent Ossanna and Rev. Sara Huisjen

Adult Religious Education

In March please join us for a thoughtful discussion with Bob Myers and the peaceful silence of the on-going meditation group.

Meditation Group

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2:00 – 3:00 PM in the Justice Room

All are welcome to attend. You don't need to register or commit to attending all sessions to participate. Drop-ins are most welcome! If you have any questions please contact Janice, jronco2@gmail.com.

Women in the Pulpit: 19th Century Women Advocates

A discussion with Bob Myers, Sunday, March 18, 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.

Next Adult Religious Education Committee meeting will be on March 11 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room. All are welcome to attend. Come join us and share your comments and ideas.

-Janice Ronco

From the Board

BOT Meeting February 9, 2012

Present: Diana Cate, President; Cynthia Perkins, Vice President; Karen Volckhausen, Secretary; Don Martin, Treasurer; Trustees- Eileen Brenan, Matt Slater, Pam Person, John Fink; Reverend Sara Huisjen

RE report: See elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS

Treasurer's report: See Treasurer's Corner

Executive committee report: At our meeting on February 2, we discussed setting the calendar for the next fiscal year, Executive Committee role, having a table at the Committee Fair, congregational buy-in and how decisions get made, interactive technology and the need for a committee, priorities, mission statement, and plate splitting.

Giving Task Force report: The committee had their first meeting and selected the Downeast GLISEN chapter for local organization to split the plate with each month for 3 months. This will begin the last Sunday in March.

Board vacancies: Jenn Ryan recently resigned due to work responsibilities. Tonight we accepted Pam Person's resignation from the Board.

Per UUCE by-laws, we will ask the Election Committee's advice finding replacements for the Board to appoint.

Minister's Report

Ministry of Worship: Led three services in January, 1/1, 1/15 (MLK Service) and 1/29, Continues to work with Worship Associates to create & lead worship.

Work & Ministry with UUCE Committees: In January, attended the following committee meetings: Executive Committee of the Board, Stewardship Committee Meeting, Caring Committee, Aesthetics Committee, Membership Committee, By-Laws Committee Mtg & Working Group Meeting with the Board, Leadership Development Committee, COM Meeting, Board Meeting

Ministry with Youth & Children: Met with the youth during 1/8 worship service, hosted the 2nd of 4 meetings scheduled for all youth participating in NOLA Service Trip over April Vacation Week, 4/14-4/21, assisted with Fundraising Campaign for NOLA trip, worked with senior youth who participated in 1/15 MLK Worship Service.

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism Class: 9 people participated in the 3 session class on 1/18, 1/25 and 2/1 at UUCE- In the future, this Intro Class will be offered in the fall and spring.

Pastoral Care Ministry: Meet with congregants as requested. This month, saw 9 people in their homes or the hospital, and met with 7 people in the office to provide pastoral care. Has a handful of pastoral calls made to congregants on a monthly basis, continues to be in regular communication with members of the Caring Committee.

Public Ministry: Attends the monthly meetings with the *Ellsworth Area Minister's Association* and the *Ethics Committee Meetings* at MCMH, facilitates a monthly *Spirituality Group* for residents at Collier's nursing home in Ellsworth, will lead the Lenten Worship Service on Wednesday, March 21st hosted at the United Methodist Church in Ellsworth, met with Beth Allen of *Equality Maine* Community Organizer in order to understand the upcoming People's Vote on Marriage Equality that will be on the November 2012 ballot.

Revisit Board covenant from retreat: A lengthy discussion was held on how we are with ourselves and our guests at Board meetings. We will honor and revisit frequently the covenant made at the fall retreat. *Be listened to respectfully; Feel heard; Feel liked; Be understood; Do a brief check at the beginning of meetings; Be comfortable enough to disagree; Feel equal and valued as an equal participant; Feel trusted and feel trust in the group; Okay to enable and empower one another; Agree to objectives and have a way to contribute to that; Be recognized, thanked and appreciated; Be included with good communication; Space to be heard and time for those who take a bit longer; Honest criticism, speaking truth as gently or compassionately as possible.*

Revisit goals for Board: Tabled until next meetings. We will work from the list of priorities from fall retreat.

Boards' priorities for UUCE's budget: We did a preliminary brainstorming session on this and will continue at the next meeting. We are interested in seeing what the congregation says during the priority exercise after church on Sunday, February 12.

Next Board Meeting: March 8 at 6 PM

The first 15 minutes are reserved for congregational comment. All are invited!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Volckhausen, Secretary

Stewardship Thoughts

Several members and friends posted their dreams for the church on the wall in the community room on February 12th. They are as varied as you would expect – full time ministry, improving the looks of our facility, community outreach, removing the water tanks, attracting more young people, investing more in Religious Education, and many others.

Some of our dreams will need to wait because there is no way we can make all of the dreams a reality in just one year. So we need to decide what will benefit the church the most and what will help us the most in making our dreams a reality in future years.

This year we have seen many of our dreams from our Stewardship Campaign last year come true and it has been only eight months since we adopted our last budget. We all have our preferences and we will need to decide what is the most important for our church at this time.

Will full time ministry bring us closer to all of our other dreams? Though our decision last year to hire Rev. Sara Huisjen as part time minister was a big leap, it has moved us closer to having a vibrant, healthy church. There is certainly excitement in the congregation with increased programs and activities, a positive environment in the religious education program. Five individuals joined the church in February and we have many visitors on Sunday mornings. We have experienced inspirational services from our minister two or three Sundays each month.

We are moving steadily in the right direction and, with Rev. Sara's support, I believe we can achieve all of our dreams. We need to reach deep into our pockets and decide what is important to each of us and how much we are willing to give to make our dreams a reality.

Remember what we did last year. With everyone making an effort, we made professional ministry a reality at UUCE and it has made us proud and excited about the future of our church. Now, if we can continue to work together in harmony, we know that eventually, step by step, we will be able to make all our dreams a reality.

Don Martin
Stewardship Coordinator

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for January 2012 was \$5,347.33. This was \$3,940.84 less than the total expenses for the month of December, which were \$9,208.17.

Pledge income for January was \$4,032.33, giving us a total of \$64,358.28, which is 9.44% above where we should be at the end of January. This is a little lower than last month which was 13.42% above where we should have been at that time.

Plate income is at \$4,379.62, which is 3.58% below the 58.33% of the year to date. This is a slight improvement over last month.

Rental income is at \$3,604.00 or 72.08% of budget, which is 13.75% more than the year-to-date percentage of 58.33%. Rental income continues to show strong improvement and I anticipate that we will reach our budget goal of \$5,000.

Fundraising is still in an excellent position. We need to support the Music Committee's fundraiser on March 3. With a successful event we can prove to ourselves the ability to raise additional income for our church. Expenses are continuing to run low at \$56,720.33 or 10.32% below the year-to-date percentage of 58.33%. I am projecting approximately \$60,000 in expenses over the next 5 months. Pledge income will continue to be low over the next 5 months. We have collected \$64,358 of the \$94,960 budgeted, leaving only \$30,602 to be received. It is important that we receive as close to this amount as possible. I have projected approximately \$60,000 in expenses between now and the end of June. Twenty four of you have paid your pledges in full. Thank you. It will be important that the remainder of us continue to keep our pledges current so that we can respond to our expenses in a timely manner. If you feel that you won't be able to complete your pledge, please let me know so that I can plan accordingly. Finances are still positive and I don't anticipate any unexpected expenses. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Don Martin

Reflections from the Committee on Ministry

Committee on Ministry - Ministry encompasses all the ways in which we care for, nurture and support one another. In our church, ministry is the calling of each one of us. The Committee on Ministry is a vehicle for finding out how we are doing - how we can improve - what we can change - what we can let go of - what we need to maintain. And the committee exists to nurture and support our official minister - Sara.

Members of the Committee on Ministry wear blue name tags on Sunday mornings. If you need to talk to one of us about ministry, we are generally available after services and in our homes via telephone or email. Talk with -

Ruth Eveland (chair), Bill Clark, Evelyn Foster, and Dartha Reed



Nuts and Bolts and Tidbits

from Cynthia Perkins

Sara and Caitlin have now teamed up to get Sara's sermons onto our UUCE website, www.uuellsworth.org. This is a great opportunity to read and be thoughtful about her messages- and especially to share them with those who were not at church to hear her powerful sermons. When guest speaker sermons are available to us, Caitlin will also include these.

We are working to make our website a useful place for members and the community at large to see the great things happening at UUCE.

Music Committee

Tropical Beach Party: On Saturday, March 3rd at 5:30 PM there will be a Tropical Beach Party sponsored by the UUCE Music Committee in the Community Room followed by a talent show in the Sanctuary. 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 assisted by Cecily Judd. We'll have the Limbo, a Hula-Hoop contest, the Maine Women's Balkan Choir, Stephen Berger singing songs from "Fiddler on the Roof", the Peninsula Ukulele Guild, Dan Wheatly, the New U.U.Q. with Chuck Colbert, few cameo appearances and surprises plus our own UUCE Choir. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to participate in this fun evening event for all ages. For tickets call or email Haydée at 374-5718 haydee@mainestylecoach.com

UU Choir Festival: On Sunday, March 25th at 5:30 at the U.U. on Park Street, our own UUCE Choir will participate in a Choir Festival in Bangor with choirs from Castine, Waterville, Belfast and Bangor. Come support your choir if you are able!

-Haydée Foreman

Membership Committee

UUCE Welcomes Five New Members!

On February 12th in a ceremony during the morning worship service the congregation was joined by five new members:

Katie Mann was raised in upstate New York. After graduation from University of Maine she earned a Master's of Science degree in primate conservation. Her internship was in the Brazilian Amazon as a monkey specialist for the Ocean Future's Society, the next generation of Cousteau work. She then began work in Costa Rica as a monkey biologist, conservation practitioner and project catalyst. Katie is the very proud mother of two years old, Phoenix Celeste. Her interests are domestic arts, motherhood, crafting, nature, community, sustainability and travel. Katie's aspirations are to live simply and close to the earth, to raise her daughter as a conscious global citizen and to help create and participate a culture that she can be proud to pass on to future generations.

Linda Barsanti grew up in Northampton, MA. She graduated from Paul Smith's College--"College of the Adirondacks" with a degree in Forestry. Following college Linda moved to Oregon to work for USDA-Umpqua National Forest as a Forestry Technician. While there she attended Oregon Institute of Technology. Her interest in forestry had derived from her love of nature and when she found that her job was basically to manage the forest as a commodity Linda moved back to New Hampshire. There she worked as a preschool teacher and daycare provider. She stopped working to raise her children. In 2003 Linda and her husband Kirk moved their family to Corea, Maine and built a solar powered log home which she explains is 90% off grid and 10% generator powered. In 2010 Linda went back to college at UMM to pursue a degree in

Psychology/Community Studies. Her interests are in gardening, hiking, kayaking, knitting, cooking, alternative energy and sustainability. Linda is very proud of her two sons Justin age 26 and Gabriel age 20.

Scott Levasseur hails from Presque Isle, Maine where he was raised with an older sister. His religious upbringing was Christian, although as an adult he is following more naturalistic teachings. Scott enjoys his work at Jackson Laboratory and is committed to learning more about biomedical research. He likes to play cards, play his guitar and hike in Acadia National Park. Scott is the father of Shaun Levasseur, a very inquisitive eight year old and the happy partner of Toby Betancourt.

Tobias Betancourt is from Selden, New York. He decided to stay in Maine almost as soon as he arrived to attend college at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. From a Jewish and Greek Orthodox background, Toby is decidedly agnostic, but he finds spiritual peace in a loving community and strives to find balance in all things. He loves to read, write, and spend time outdoors. He is the youngest of seven half siblings and has a mischievousness to prove it. Toby lives happily with his partner, Scott and their eight year old son on Maddocks Ave. in Ellsworth.

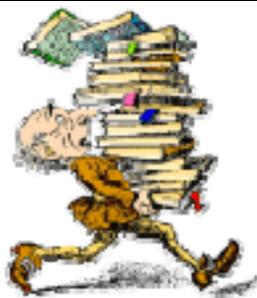
Mary Chamberlin was born in Mississippi. Her family moved often but she grew up in Augusta, Maine. She considers that she has been very much influenced by two years that she spent working in AmeriCorps. The loves of Mary's life are her two children, Lynx (7) and Yarrow (10). Although Mary herself did not grow up in the UU faith, she began coming to our church as soon as her first child was born because she wanted to raise her own children with training in our UU values. Mary works at Salsbury's Hardware and Rose's Little School, (a Waldorf School) and Sea Glass Gardens. Mary likes to hike and swim and do gardening but her favorite times are hanging out with her children and their two dogs, Lucy and Jody. She can't wait to see Lynx as a goose in his school play and listen to Yarrow play her saxophone in a duet.

-Peggy Strong and Evelyn Foster

What R UU Doing?

Stephen Berger is rehearsing with the Acadia Community Theater. Their production of Fiddler on the Roof will take place April 13, 14 and 15. Watch for him as Tevye the Milkman.

[Editor's Note: "What R UU Doing?" is a new addition to the newsletter. If you have been/are being/are soon to be involved in any way with any activity in the church's regional community and would like to go public with the congregation, please send us a note. You will never find publicity at a better price!]



Food for Thought

by Stephen Berger

#

Tired of Waiting for A Better World?

In February Rev. Sara's book group looked at *A House for Hope*, by John A. Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker (Beacon Press, 2010). In this interesting and important book, Rev. Parker suggests that working for needed social changes – for social justice, an end to poverty and oppression, peace, a green world – while important and necessary, can be incredibly tiring and wearing. She calls this kind of work “Social Gospel Christianity” and writes that she “learned first-hand its strengths and limitations. Social Gospel Christianity locates paradise in the ideal of what could be, of what God dreams, as voiced by the prophets: liberation of the oppressed, food for the hungry, peace for all people, and reverence for the earth. These are exalted and exalting hopes. I believe in them.

“At the same time, I know that when their chief habitation is in the divine imagination, as hope for a future toward which we are impelled to strive, all of life is lived in the tension between what is and what could be. The hoped-for future perpetually condemns the present. Now is never enough. The failure of the world to conform to God's vision of justice and abundance is laid at humanity's feet: we have not yet worked smart enough, been well-enough organized, convinced enough people, or corrected the flaws in our approach. Striving to realize ‘the dream’ can be exhilarating, but it can seem to create a spiritual hole that can never be filled and to demand hard work that can never stop. To take a break, indulge in rest, is apostasy. To enjoy life and take pleasure for a moment is at best an indulgence and at worst a moral failing.What do we do when we realize that working with all our might and determination, our strength is not enough? The mountains of injustice are too high for us to climb. We falter in spiritual exhaustion.” (p. 8)

Rev. Parker suggests a change in perspective (don't be put off by the name she gives it, “radically realized eschatology”): “It begins with affirming that we are already standing on holy ground. This earth – and none other – is a garden of beauty, a place of life. Neglecting it for some other imagined better place will be a self-fulfilling prophecy – it will make earth a wasteland. There is no land promised to any of us other than the land already given, the world already here.

“If we can recognize this, our religious framework can shift from hope for what could be – for a ‘better world’ to come – to hope that what is good will be treated with justice and love and that what has been harmed will be repaired. This is a different kind of hope. It could be called *responsive* hope, hope grounded in respect for what is here, now. ... Our first prayer can be one of thanks. Instead of striving to get somewhere else, our goal can be to fully arrive here and greet each day of life with gratitude, expressing hospitality for the mysterious goodness that is new every morning and engaging in compassionate care for the present realities of suffering, injury, and injustice that call for our active response.” (pp. 12-13)

I'm old enough to have been involved in, and remember, the 1960s – the excitement of seeming to work for significant change, and then the enormous disappointment when the world didn't change that much, when we couldn't make peace happen. Some of us (The Weathermen) turned to violence to try to hurry the process. I have watched myself often become cynical and not very involved. So I take her first point. Her proposed alternative seems like an attractive idea to me. What do you think?

Political and Social Action (PASA)

UUCE splits the plate!!

UUCE will be splitting the plate once monthly per quarter starting the last Sunday in March. The Giving Task Force, which is charged through the by-laws to deal with non-budgeted fundraising, has chosen the Downeast Chapter of GLSEN (The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) to receive the proceeds from the first quarter.

GLSEN strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Since homophobia and heterosexism undermine a healthy school climate, we work to educate teachers, students, administrators and the public at large about the damaging effects these forces have on youth and adults alike. One of our most important efforts is establishing and supporting Gay Straight Alliances in high schools. GSAs have proven their worth in supporting school safety and improving the learning environment for GLBT students and in suicide prevention. GLSEN is a nation-wide organization with two Maine chapters. In addition to support of our local GSAs, a major activity of Downeast GLSEN is outreach to isolated students in Aroostook and Piscataquis counties. For more information about GLSEN see <http://www.glsen.org/>.

The PASA Committee wholeheartedly supports UUCE's efforts to raise money to non-profit groups in Hancock County, many which have been hit very hard by deep funding cuts. We feel that GLSEN is a good first choice. If anyone has a proposal for other groups, please let us know and we can pass it on.

Occupy

The statewide meeting of Occupy Maine, which took place in Augusta on January 28, was attended by about 130 people from across the state. After a generalized discussion, people broke into the following interest groups: corporate power and personhood; electoral reform- getting money out of politics; the environment; media; internet; outreach; housing; self care; education; prisons; art; war and militarism; health care; alternative economics; land; food. To find out what is going on with Ellsworth Occupy, check their website at www.meetup.com/Occupy-Ellsworth/.

They continue to have weekly vigils on Sundays from 12:00 – 2:00 starting on the bridge. Their planning meetings take place on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00. You can sign up on line.

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 fourth session is:

Sunday, March 11, from 12:00 – 1:30, Security, Enforcement and Human Rights

Led by Karen Volckhausen and Kay Wilkins. The objectives of this class are:

- Understanding the enormity of the human suffering caused by the U.S.' enforcement-only immigration policy.
- To consider how human rights are protected (or not).

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 three 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/>

-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!

-Suzanne Forest

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

The Board of Loaves and Fishes has thanked the members and friends of UUCE for gifts totaling \$1200 in the memory of Judy Rothrock. There continues to be a great need in the Ellsworth area for help with food. Just as we search for ways and means to raise funds so does the Loaves and Fishes Board. Since becoming a representative to them I am once again aware of the importance of the fall effort to sell pies at the Common Ground Fair. Homemade pies at their booth are major fund raisers.

Please mark your calendar for our August turn at staffing our chosen social action of supporting Loaves and Fishes. Let's surprise Nina Turner when she returns to us from Texas by being ready to sign up for our Monday, Wednesday or Friday volunteer days. I noticed cat and dog dry food in our collection baskets! That is greatly appreciated by folks whose pets are hungry too.

Thank you.

Sue Clark, UUCE representative to Loaves and Fishes.

Photo Page

From the Committee Fair, February 19



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: Haydee Forman
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?	

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 Membership 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA 6:30 Music Committee	2 6:00 AA Music Fundraiser set-up	3 5:30 Tropical Beach Party Fundraiser!
4 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 Worship Service POTLUCK	5 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	6 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	7 2:00 Meditation 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group 6:30 Comm. on Min.	8 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting 6:30 SIA	9 6:00 AA	10
11 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 9:00 RE committee 10:30 Worship Service HUNGRY SUNDAY	12 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	13 10:00 PATT playgroup 11:00 Tidewater NVC 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	14 2:00 Meditation 4:30 SIA 6:30 Committee on Ministry 6:30 Coyote Group	15 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA 7:00 Downeast Audubon	16 6:00 AA	17 5:00 NOLA Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser
18 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 9:00 PASA 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE	19 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	20 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:00 Acadia Choral	21 12:00 LDC 2:00 Meditation 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group	22 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA	23 6:00 AA	24 9:00 Canvass Training 9:00 Lodestar
25 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Congregational Meeting	26 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	27 10:00 PATT playgroup 11:00 Tidewater NVC 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	28 10:00 Downeast Sr. Coll. 2:00 Meditation 4:30 SIA 6:30 Coyote Group	29 10:00 Winter group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA	30 6:00 AA	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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Ellsworth, ME 04605

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The NUUS

March 2012

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

March 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.**

