



# The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth  
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[www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org)

Volume 44

No. 5

May 2012

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## A Month of Sundays

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

### **Sunday, May 6.** *Life as a River.*

Rivera Sun Cook

Playwright/performer Rivera Sun Cook brings her visionary poetics from stage to sermon, as she speaks of the great ever-flowing river that surrounds us, moves through us, transforms and carries us. A spirit-motivated artist, Rivera weaves words of wisdom from many cultures into stories for our own, offering heart-warming, inspiring, and deeply profound experiences for contemplation and reflection. Rivera will perform two of her plays at the Schoodic Arts for All, Hammond Hall, Winter Harbor, ME: *The Imagine-a-nation of Lala Child* Fri 5/8 7pm and *The Education of Lala Girl* Sat 5/26 7pm.

### **Sunday, May 13** "Hey Momma..."

Rev. Sara Huisjen

On this Mother's Day Sunday, the service & sermon will explore and honor the phenomenon of mothering. What does it take to nurture and encourage others (and ourselves) into a sense of strength & beauty? Who does this, and how?

### **Sunday, May 20** **Living in Community**

Rev. Sara Huisjen

Our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition readily honors the worth & dignity of every person. The individual's search for truth and meaning is nurtured and encouraged in our congregations, too. But what of community & striving together is honored & esteemed in our tradition? What's the glue that binds us together in this congregation? This service & sermon will explore these questions and share a few insights about nurturing community from our history.

### **Sunday, May 27** **New Orleans Service Trip Worship Service**

UU Youth

**Community Room Dedication** in honor of Ethel Schwalbe immediately following the service.

Nine youth from three UU churches (Bangor, Belfast & Ellsworth) traveled to New Orleans over April Vacation on a week-long Service Trip, Vincent Ossanna, Maria Burdette & Rev. Sara Huisjen among them. This worship service will bring back to *this* congregation some of what they learned, and what this trips means to them still. We hope you'll be there!

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## Ministry Matters by Rev. Sara Huisjen

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*Pulling the weeds with Vincent and Sue and Jamal, remembering something I already know...that a beautiful place, a cleared spot, a bit of green and flower and grass — that it all make a difference; it all nurtures my spirit, awakens a sense of beauty and healing and pride inside. Working together I can see that we change things, maybe ourselves just as much.*

I wrote these words on Thursday evening, April 19<sup>th</sup>, during the youth led worship service in New Orleans. Evening worship led by the youth (also called Vespers) was a part of our daily routine on the Service Trip. Sitting on the floor in the library of the First UU Church of New Orleans where we stayed, we were invited to think and feel and share our experiences with each other from the day's work.

That night, we'd been asked to write or create something *poetic* about our day, about a moment that spoke to us, an encounter that was alive in us still somehow. I wrote about pulling weeds around a metal fence that housed the air conditioning unit in the courtyard at Clark Preparatory School, a historic high school near downtown New Orleans. Many prominent African Americans have graduated from that school and last year it was almost shut down for being a "failing school." But that didn't happen. Instead, community members, parents, teacher and administrators came together and agreed to make Clark a Charter School.

For a few hours that day, we weeded, and gardened, and planted flowers and shrubs along a fence-line, and a handful of us made a beautiful spot under a staircase in a courtyard that had looked sad and depressing before. The work was hard (harder for some more than others!) and hot and meaningful. When we left and piled back in the vans at the end of the day, I felt tired and good and grateful to have been a part of loving & nurturing that place. I felt honored, too, to have heard some of Jamal's story about surviving Katrina and being a dad to three beautiful kids.

Being in New Orleans with nine youth from three UU churches was a profound and inspiring experience. I knew it would be worth-while and meaningful, but I'm just not sure I knew *how much* that would be true. Thank you for helping to get us there. I hope a tradition of Service Trips (near & far) has now begun among us.

On Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, several of the youth who were in NOLA will lead worship at UUCE and share from their own experiences. In music and pictures and their own voices, they'll share some of what this Service Trip has meant to them. I hope you can plan to be there.

Yours in ministry together,  
Sara

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## Monthly Book Discussion Group

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We will be meeting Thursdays, May 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30pm at UUCE.

This month, we are *continuing* to read and digest **A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century**, by John Buehrens & Rebecca Ann Parker, two progressive theologians. On 5/10, we'll Chapters 5 & 6, and on 5/24, we'll discuss Chapters 7 & 8. An Adult Religious Education Class on this book will be offered sometime over the summer months.

All are invited to come and join in the conversation. Please contact Rev. Sara Huisjen for more information at [sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org).

Books can be purchased on line though Beacon Press:

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

Hope to see you there!

### Community Room Dedication

On Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service, the Community Room will be named in honor of long-time member (now deceased) Ethel Schwalbe. Bob Dickens wrote this of Ethel recently: "Ethel was the church's mother. She simply did things because they needed to be done (eg., buying all paper products -- in green form -- for the church.) She did not let her own needs stand in the way for doing what the church needed. She was unassuming and a sort of individual Caring Committee. She was loved because she loved." Please plan to join us in celebrating this important person in the life of our congregation. For more info, speak with Rev. Sara Huisjen at [sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org)

**The WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS NEW MEMBERS, LAY LED SERVICE TOPICS AND LEADERS, AND COMMENTS ON OUR SERVICES OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.**

**Please speak to Cynthia Perkins, Stephen Berger, Cecily Judd and/or Rev Sara if you have an interest in any of these three vital topics.**

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## **Lifespan Religious Education**

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### **Spring Greetings from Religious Education!**

The Carl Stehman Wing has been quite lively recently. As I write this article on a brisk Sunday morning, my thoughts are with Maria Burdette, Vincent Ossanna and Rev. Sara who are spending their first day in New Orleans. The forecast in New Orleans is Sunny and Breezy with a high of 83 degrees. On April 14th 10 members of this congregation gathered in the parking lot of UUCE at 7:45 am to send them off on their journey of service. By the time you read this, they will have returned from their journey and will have many stories to share. You may follow their blog at: [3churchyruuservicetrip.blogspot.com](http://3churchyruuservicetrip.blogspot.com)

The younger children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon hosted by Evelyn Foster. 100 eggs filled with treasures of shells, rocks and gems were hidden by Matt Slater and Vincent Ossanna. The children and their parents had a delightful time, many thanks to all those who helped.

The Youth and Jr. Youth will be performing a short play on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, entitled: The Story of Kumba, the Boy Who Was Afraid to Try. If you would like to help with set props and costumes, please see me.

Finally, I will be out of state from May 11th - 14th. Sue Clark will be working with the Youth and Jr. Youth on May 13th.

With gratitude,  
Anne N. Ossanna

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## **Adult Religious Education**

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Well, May is here and it brings that special day for Moms. The Adult RE Committee wishes mothers everywhere but especially in our congregation a very Happy Mother's Day. May also brings some very interesting and informative offerings from Adult RE.

### **"Life as a River"**

**A discussion with Rivera Sun Cook, Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM**

This discussion with Rivera Sun Cook of the Rising Sun Dance Theater is a follow up on the May 6 Sunday Service on "Life as a River". It will be held in the Sanctuary if lots of folks show up otherwise in the Board Room. All are invited!

### **“The Story in Your Heart”**

**A storytelling workshop led by Rivera Sun Cook, Saturday, May 12 at 2:00-4:00PM** Rivera Sun Cook of the Rising Sun Dance Theater will lead a storytelling workshop on the topic of “The Story in Your Heart”. For all who tell stories, or have stories to tell. Bring your friends. It will be held in the Sanctuary if lots of folks show up, otherwise in the Board Room. **This is not limited to the church community! There will be a charge of \$20.**

### **Good to Go**

**A workshop with Kathryn Booth, about what you and your loved ones need to know to be prepared for your final days, Wednesday, May 16 at 6:00-8:00 PM.**

We often put off things that feel overwhelming and that don't have a clear deadline, as is often the case with 'getting our things in order'. And we all know that we would rather be unhurried and well prepared for something as important as the final days we have with our loved ones.

National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16, and it's a good time to focus on helping your loved ones know what's right for you at the end of your life, especially if there comes a time when decisions are very hard to make. It's a day for making sure your voice is heard when you can't speak for yourself. It will give you peace of mind and be a gift to those who care most about you.

On the evening of May 16 we will join in this national conversation which is emerging around kitchen tables and in churches and doctors' offices. We will cover:

- How to have the 'opening conversation'
- Two important medical decisions
- Two important legal steps
- Choices about after death care

Participants will receive a packet with basic and helpful handouts, including the *Good to Go Resource Guide and Tool Kit* (prepared by Compassion and Choices), *Five Wishes*, and a *Survivor's First Year Checklist* (compiled by a hospice volunteer).

Led by Kathryn Booth, office manager at Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County, who originally prepared this workshop for a Volunteer Enrichment Day. The inspiration for the workshop came after she spent two inspiring weekends with her mother, getting everything in order so her mother could keep on living with gusto and without worry.

It will be held in the Board Room unless participant size requires the Sanctuary. **This workshop is open to the community and is at no cost.**

### **Meditation Group**

**Every Wednesday, 2 – 3 p.m. in the Justice Room**

All are welcome to attend this on-going meditation group. You don't need to register or commit to attend every session to participate. Drop ins are most welcome! If you have any questions please contact Janice, [jronco2@gmail.com](mailto:jronco2@gmail.com).

**Next Adult RE Committee meeting is on May 13 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room. All are invited and encouraged to attend.**

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## From the Board

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UUCE BOT Meeting, April 5, 2012

**Present**

Diana Cate, President; Cynthia Perkins, Vice-President; Karen Volckhausen, Secretary; Don Martin, Treasurer; Trustees- Flo Reed, Eileen Brennan, Evelyn Foster, David Wilcock, John Fink, Matt Slater; RE Coordinator, Anne Ossanna; Reverend Sara Huisjen

**Welcome to new members Flo and Evelyn. We are so happy to have you!!!**

**Congregational comment**

None

**Minister's report- See elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS**

**Executive Committee report**

The Committee recommended to the Board that we discuss the relationship between the RE Coordinator and the Board in executive session later on in this meeting

The Committee recommended that we hear from the RE coordinator and the committee about our priorities for RE later in the year

**Treasurer's report- See Treasurer's Corner**

The Board reviewed a very preliminary 12/13 budget. After the results of the canvass are in, we will devote a special Board meeting to discuss this.

**Executive session to discuss a personnel issue.**

**Motion unanimously passed to cover Sara's GA expenses up to \$3000.**

**RE Coordinator report- see elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS.**

**Website:**

Peggy Strong said she would be willing to work on the website and keep it updated.

**Covenant and Board of Trustees:**

Diana, Sara, Matt, and Eileen attended a workshop about covenant in March.

A covenant is a statement of right relationship that is created by a group. They discussed their impressions and growing awareness of the importance of such a statement. We will continue to look at this issue in future Board meetings.

**Board meetings and special meetings through calendar year:**

April 26- special meeting to review the budget, 6 PM

May 3 -Executive Committee meeting, 10 AM

June 7- Exec Committee meeting to lay out calendar, 10 AM

June 14 first Board meeting of new Board

June 16- Board retreat- 9-5; Evelyn will host

July 5- Executive Committee meeting 10 AM

July 12 Board meeting, 6 PM

**Doctrine of Discovery report:**

PASA reviewed this issue and agreed that it was important to have a statement from the congregation that would go to GA with Kay Wilkins. David Wilcock will write up a statement which the Committee will review and agree to. It will appear in the May issue of the NUUS and be available to the congregation in hard copy. We will present it for agreement at the annual meeting in May.

## Housekeeping

NNED annual meeting is April 13 and 14 in New Hampshire. Cynthia has forms if anyone is interested. They are due April 9.

Newly revised and approved Non Budgeted Fundraising Policy was distributed.

The RE/Board relationship discussion was tabled until next month.

### Next Board Meeting: May 10 at 6 PM

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

For review of full Board minutes, see copy hanging on the bulletin board in the community room.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Volckhausen, Secretary

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## Treasurer's Corner

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Total income for March 2012 was \$6,492.83. This was \$2,797.23 less than the total expenses for the month of March, which were \$9,290.06. The difference was covered by pre-paid pledges and other income.

Pledge income for February was \$4,748.33, giving us a total of \$74,546.94, which is 3.5% above where we should be at the end of March. This is a little lower than last month which was 6.83% above where we should have been at that time.

Plate income is at \$5,684.07, which is 3.95% below the 75% of the year to date. This is a slight improvement over last month, which was 4.41% below the year to date percentage.

Rental income is at \$4,635.00 or 92.7% of budget, which is 17.7% more than the year-to-date percentage of 75%. Rental income continues to be strong.

The \$580.50 raised by the Music Committee Fundraiser provided the church with a total of \$7,364.00 in fundraising income this year. This is \$364 above our budget goal of \$7,000. Loaves and Fishes also benefitted and received \$580.50.

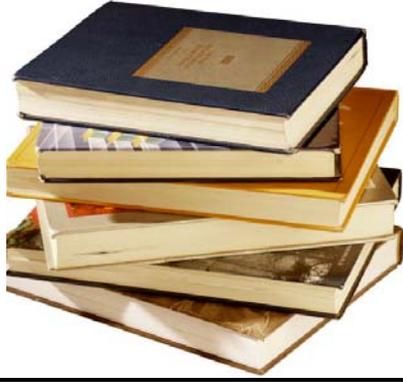
Expenses are continuing to run low at \$75,597.38 or 63.99% of budget, 11.01% below the year-to-date percentage of 75%.

Pledge income will continue to be low over the next 3 months. We have collected \$74,546.94 in pledges of the \$94,960 budgeted, leaving only \$20,413 to be received. I am projecting a shortfall of \$5,000 in pledge income. I am pleased that the Board of Trustees approved my proposal of providing Rev. Sara Huisjen with \$3,000 to assist her with her expenses in attending UUA General Assembly in Arizona. This is an important moment in her career. Rev. Sara completed her requirements and will be welcomed and inducted into the fellowship of UUA ministry at the General Assembly.

We were able to accomplish this with budgeted funds that were available from not having to pay Sara's salary last July, 2011. Sara certainly earned this from working full time for a ¾ time salary, and she did work some hours last July during the transition period.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Don Martin  
Treasurer



## Library Note

Since the current reorganization of the church library began late last year, 95 books have been given a Dewey classification number and added to the card catalog, labeled and provided with borrower cards. Another 55 are in process, and when these are in place we will have filled the easily-accessible shelf space available. A small basket has been placed to receive borrower cards, and a large basket for returned books. There is also a folder containing a fairly detailed breakdown of the topics covered by the Dewey numbers, since the two- to four-letter abbreviation on the back spine label doesn't convey much information.

If we were to add more books, through donation or purchase, others would have to be removed. These could be offered to the members of the congregation for a donation, or perhaps given to the Ellsworth library for one of their book sales. Are there books in the library that are of no interest? Are there books that should be added? How might they be acquired? The library has no budget and has relied on donations of books, such as the lovely set of Joseph Campbell's works on mythology recently given by Diana Cate.

If these matters are of interest to enough people, perhaps we could arrange a meeting to discuss them. Or perhaps, given the very low level of actual book-borrowing activity, the entire concern is over-blown. What do you think?

Paul Reid

### ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES:

The Church of the Larger Fellowship offers weekly [online worship](#). Have you ever had to work on a Sunday morning, been sick or housebound? For times when you can't get to church, now church will come to you. Join the spiritual expedition! Sundays at 7:00 pm and Mondays at 1:30 pm (Eastern Time.)

[www.QuestForMeaning.org](http://www.QuestForMeaning.org)

Click on *Reflecting*

Click again on *Worship*

Questions? Call Beth: 617-948-6150.

## POTLUCK NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On Sunday, May 6, there will be a Congregational Budget Hearing immediately after the service. Since this is a Potluck Sunday, which is also a very important activity in our church, we are asking that people bring easy to eat and handle foods, snacks and sweets, and NO hot foods or foods which require serving utensils, etc. By bringing simple foods, we can get our food and coffee and go immediately back to the sanctuary for the Budget hearing. Cleanup will also be no hassle with this procedure.

If this is a successful plan to eat and meet simultaneously, we will continue this practice on any first Sunday which includes a Congregational meeting.

As always, your comments will be appreciated.

**Announcement** – UUCE has a Facebook page! I recently discovered this fact and want to get the word out in case there are others who'd like to join – just search for "UUCE" and you will find the group. It's a great place to share photos from church events, promote an event at church that you're involved in and share what's going on with you outside of church. It's a closed group, so only people from church will see what you post. At this time there are 71 members. (posted by Peggy Strong, [goodnuff@escrap.com](mailto:goodnuff@escrap.com), 266-3006)

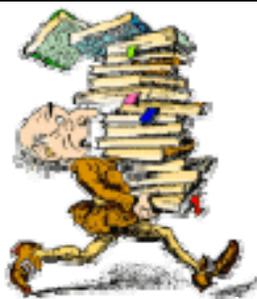
**Announcement** – The UUCE website is languishing. I have agreed to "mother" the UUCE website at least until it is back up to speed. In today's world, our website may well be the first impression we make on a person thinking of visiting UUCE. I think it's important to convey that we are a happening community. For members, an up-to-date site could be an important tool for those who miss a service because of other obligations, travel or illness, and who want to read or listen to the sermon. It should be a way to promote upcoming public events, and it could be used to disseminate study guides for PASA and Adult RE. Do you have a vision for our website? If you'd like to take charge of a particular page or two or have ideas for improvements, please get in touch. Email or post to my facebook page. (posted by Peggy Strong, [goodnuff@escrap.com](mailto:goodnuff@escrap.com), 266-3006)



## Nuts and Bolts and Tidbits

from Cynthia Perkins

REMINDER: There will be NO Pot Luck lunch on May 6 because of the important Congregational Budget Hearing. Instead please bring easy to serve and eat finger foods and snacks so that we can go back into the sanctuary quickly. We will have coffee and tea as usual.



## Food for Thought

By Lance Funderburk

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**"Lead with your head, follow with your heart"**

In Bryce Courtenay's novel, "The Power of One", the hero, Peekay, becomes a champion boxer. One of his coaches instilled in him the principle: "lead with your head and follow with your heart". That is, if the boxer does not prepare intellectually for the task -- that is, lead with the head -- then he will not enter into the match with an overall plan. His energies will be spent foolishly and he will have a greater chance of losing. If he leads with his head, that is, if he has a well thought out game plan, he will be able to pursue that plan and make adjustments along the way. His energy will be spent effectively and efficiently. However, once he has led with his head, it is important for him to make all of his energy available for the task at hand, that is, to follow with his heart. Otherwise, the well-thought-out game plan will fail from lack of energy.

This metaphor strikes me as representing a good principle for Unitarian-Universalists. We believe in the development and use of reason and we like to discuss principles and issues. We also need to support our interests with enough energy to get something done. And, we need to be sufficiently in touch with our feelings to be able to enjoy life.

For another approach to the need for balance between the head and the heart, let's turn to the "Autobiography" of John Stuart Mill, in which he described a period in which he became severely depressed and recovered only when he became more aware of his feelings. To quote Mill:

"I sought no comfort by speaking to others of what I felt. If I had loved any one sufficiently to make confiding my griefs a necessity, I should not have been in the condition I was...I felt, too, that mine was not an interesting, or in any way respectable distress. There was nothing in it to attract sympathy...Of...friends, I had

at that time none to whom I had any hope of making my condition intelligible. It was however abundantly intelligible to myself; and the more I dwelt upon it the more hopeless it appeared."

"For I now saw ... that the habit of analysis has a tendency to wear away the feelings: as indeed it has, when no other mental habit is cultivated, and the analysing spirit remains without its natural complements and correctives.

"The very excellence of analysis is that it tends to weaken and undermine whatever is the result of prejudice...we owe to analysis our clearest knowledge of the permanent sequences in nature; the real connexions between things...(Analytic habits) are therefore favourable to prudence and clear-sightedness, but (are) a perpetual worm at the root both of the passions and of the virtues..."

"Analytic habits...tend altogether to weaken those which are a mere matter of feeling.

"All those to whom I looked up, were of (the) opinion that the ... feelings which made the good of others the object of existence were the greatest and surest sources of happiness.

"Of the truth of this I was convinced, but to know that a feeling would make me happy if I had it, did not give me the feeling. My education ... had failed to create these feelings in sufficient strength to resist the dissolving influence of analysis, while the whole course of my intellectual cultivation had made precocious and premature analysis the inveterate habit of my mind. I was thus ... left stranded at the commencement of my voyage, with a well-equipped ship and a rudder (head), but no sail (heart); without any real desire for the ends which I had been so carefully fitted out to work for: no delight in virtue, or the general good, but also just as little in anything else.

Then comes the passage in which Mill was reading Marmontel's Memoires and was moved to tears:

"The oppression of the thought that all feeling was dead within me was gone. I was no longer hopeless: I was not a stock or a stone. I had still ... some of the material out of which all worth of character, and all capacity for happiness, are made. Relieved from my ever present sense of irremediable wretchedness, I gradually found that the ordinary incidents of life could again give me some pleasure; that I could again find enjoyment ...

Someone whom I was talking with earlier this week said that "being in her head" felt comfortable, but kept her distant from other people; and that when her emotions got the upper hand she felt out of control and anxious. That is a good description of two of the out-of-balance states that we can be in.

My own background includes an extensive education in science, and somewhere along the way I became a very serious-minded egghead who had difficulty "lightening up". One of my goals in life is to achieve a better balance between my intellect and my emotions. In particular, I want to be able to enjoy the world around me without having to analyze it first. Maybe analyze it later, but, when first standing in front of something beautiful, I just want to stand back and say WOW! I did a lot of that a few weeks ago when we were in the Rocky Mountains. Maybe we could call it "primal joy", but then that would be redundant. Feelings *are* primal, and they become otherwise only after the intellect deals with them.

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## An Evolving Point of View—Linda Laing

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Change is inevitable. Knowledge and new ideas are ongoing and feed the human spirit. Here is a bit of historical background on the god concept and human spiritual understanding, condensed and possibly controversial, but very interesting, I thought.

### The Shaman Cycle and Human Spirituality

At the dawn of human history, during the Upper Paleolithic Period, or Late Stone Age, as we emerged as *Homo sapiens*, rock art reveals that we were animists, believing in the natural elements as all powerful and that animal and plant spirits could manifest help in many forms. This spirit energy assistance no doubt included healing the sick, finding edible plants and facilitating successful hunts. Everything, animate and inanimate, was believed to have its own spirit essence, consciousness or life force. This period lasted roughly from 42,000 to 11,000 years ago. The Shaman was the spiritual assistant and petitioner to the natural cycles of life exhibited in all living things—as well as the spirits of mountains, rivers, lakes, the thunder, rain, sun and moon.

How successful our stone-age ancestors were can be inferred by the fact that mankind prevailed through some pretty dreadful cycles of rapid climate change that spurred geographical wanderings pushed by the desperate need for food and shelter—with dangers at every turn. We emerged over these centuries, as the most dominant, successful species on planet Earth.

The second age in this historical cycle was the Neolithic Period, which began with the closure of the Stone Age and lasted about 4,000 years. During this time humans learned to rely more heavily on agriculture and to domesticate animals. We began living in villages and establishing permanent settlements.

The shaman, or medicine man or woman, was most likely still in charge of the religious spheres. Yet it is during this period that numerous clay and stone representations of the pregnant female were created. Archeologists are not sure what this signifies, but clearly the bearer of life, the female, was a focus of spirituality in addition to nature.

This age ended about 5,000 years ago with the founding of city-states as exemplified by the Sumerians and other growing, class-stratified metropolises in Mesopotamia. Gradually, in this third age, these settled cultures came to include the Babylonians, Hittites, Assyrians, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Celts and eventually the Romans, to name just a few. During this period Polytheism emerged, affirming the existence of numerous “high” gods and goddesses. This new form of religion was managed and run by the first bureaucratic priesthoods. Prior to this era, there was no concept of gods or goddesses.

Finally with the demise of the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago a new kind of religion came into dominance: Monotheism. Three primary expressions of monotheism developed: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, each professing a belief in a single great god, who created everything in some singular event and added minor spiritual beings like angels, prophets and saints—and the Satan concept evolved, as well.

These new monotheistic religions struggled for earthly dominance and still do. Their deity is seen alternately as wrathful or beneficent, called Jehovah, Allah or simply God. Each monotheistic religion is convinced it is the one true expression of the one true god. Wars are fought among them for dominance, territory and converts, and are ongoing in various parts of the world, even today. The denigration of life on this earth, in favor of a heavenly, spectacular “life after death,” is a common theme.

There are many concepts and arguments that can be brought forth about the history of this current fourth age and many of these ages overlap. I should point out that some historians say this new concept of a monotheistic god was the result of human societies becoming more centralized and hierarchical, with a king, queen, emperor or dictator—therefore the idea of a single leader at the head of any endeavor was transferred easily to the spiritual realms.

Thus, the single, patriarchal god as the supernatural Father in the Sky has been the dominant face of religion in the Western world for 2,000 years...but the last 300 years have seen massive changes in human spirituality as the rise of science and intellectualism, and the world corporate state bring forth a secular age dominated by scientific rationalism. We are entering a spiritual reawakening in which science and spirituality are integrating and transcending previous ages.

The shamanistic (or perhaps mystical) understanding of the natural world as integral to the well-being of the human race is already shifting the cultural norms of Western society. While not commonly known as shamanism, but incorporating many shamanic practices, this spiritual complex is emerging with no name at present. The single distinguishing feature is the realization that each human has the ability to acquire spiritual knowledge and power by making direct, transpersonal contact with the sacred elements that define the shaman/visionary--without the need for a priest or religious organization. Each person has the ability to become their own teacher and receive their spiritual revelations directly.

In *Awakening to the Spirit World, the Shamanic Path of Direct Revelation*, (in which many of these intriguing ideas are laid out) Sandra Ingerman writes: “It is not surprising that this new spiritual impulse seems to be integral in nature, drawing on all the world’s wisdom traditions, from the East to the West, from animism to Zen. What is surprising is that right at its core a cluster of principles can be found that were embraced at one time by the world’s indigenous peoples.”

We are in transition as a species and our world is changing rapidly. We enter this new era with a nod to our beloved ancestors and the courage to explore new ways of understanding spirituality, ourselves and our world.

**Note:** *There will be an Introduction to Shamanism class on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 pm, at the UU, for those interested in exploring contact with the natural world on a deep transpersonal level.*

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## Political and Social Action (PASA)

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### Retreat and Potluck

The Peace and Social Action Committee will be having their yearly retreat with a potluck supper on Friday, May 18 from 4-7 PM. We will evaluate our work over the last year and plan for the next. What are our passions and interests which will guide our work for 2012/2013?

**We cordially invite folks from our congregation with an interest in social justice issues to join us.**

### Proposed UUCE Resolution on Repudiation of the “Doctrine of Discovery” for the May 2012 Congregational Meeting

**Background on the Doctrine of Discovery (DOD):** The DOD is a concept in public international and United States law that asserts a right of dominance for Christian nations over originally free, independent, and non-Christian indigenous peoples. According to the January 2012 UUS Board report on this subject (see reference next page), the Doctrine of Discovery,

“was used by European nations to justify their conquest of Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Americas. It was the justification--theological and political--for the appropriation of the lands and resources of indigenous peoples and efforts to dominate native nations and undermine the sovereignty of indigenous nations and peoples. Among other things, it formed the basis for the slave trade, the partition and colonization of the Near East, the colonization of the Americas, and the genocides of the indigenous peoples of Africa and the Americas.

The DOD is the basis for United States policy regarding native peoples. After the American Revolution, the tenets of Christian Discovery were continued by the new United States. In the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Johnson v. M'Intosh* (1823), Chief Justice John Marshall wrote that “Christian people” who had “discovered” the lands of “heathens” had assumed the right of “ultimate dominion to be in themselves” and that this presumption of “dominion” had “diminished” the Indians' rights to complete sovereignty as independent nations, and had resulted in the Indians having a mere right of occupancy to their lands. This decision stripped native nations of any and all sovereignty agreed to in treaties with the U.S. Unlike many regretful decisions of the past, this decision has never been overturned, and is still referred to in legal decisions on a regular basis (as recently as 2010 in the Federal courts).”

The effort to repudiate the doctrine of discovery was started about five years ago by the Bangor Episcopal Church and is now a high priority for the World Council of Churches.

**Proposed Resolution for the 2012 UUA General Assembly:** The UUA has been asked by partner organizations working with the Arizona Immigration Ministry to educate member congregations about the DOD and pass a resolution repudiating it. The draft resolution in total is on the following page and the key provisions are:

- we, the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, **repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery** as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples globally, and American Indians nationally; and
- we **call upon the United States to fully implement the standards of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** in U.S. law and policy without qualifications.

### **Proposed Resolution for UUCE congregational approval:**

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, Maine call on our delegates to the UUA 2012 General Assembly to approve the proposed draft UUA resolution (or a modified version) that repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery and calls on the government of the United States to fully implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### **Draft UUA Resolution for 2012 UUA General Assembly: <sup>1</sup>**

#### **A Responsive Resolution to the Report of the Board**

WHEREAS the delegates of the 2010 General Assembly instructed the UUA Board to create a "Justice General Assembly" in 2012, whose business is accountable to partner organizations doing human rights work in Arizona; and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association has been asked by partner organizations working with the Arizona Immigration Ministry to educate our member congregations about the Doctrine of Discovery and to pass a resolution repudiating it; and

WHEREAS the UUA Board of Trustees has submitted to the member congregations a report explaining the Doctrine of Discovery and why the Board believes it to be contrary to Unitarian Universalist principles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples globally, and American Indians nationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Association to make a clear and concise statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and its current use in U.S. laws and regulations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage other religious bodies to reject the use of the Doctrine of Discovery to dominate indigenous peoples, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the United States to fully implement the standards of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in U.S. law and policy without qualifications. In doing so, we support the establishment of commissions that include accountable representatives of American Indian nations.

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<sup>1</sup> The entire UUA report is available at [http://www.uua.org/documents/boardtrustees/rrmc/120109\\_motion.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/boardtrustees/rrmc/120109_motion.pdf)

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## Personnel

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### Contact Information

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

### Board of Trustees

<b>President:</b> Diana Cate, <a href="mailto:djcate35@gmail.com">djcate35@gmail.com</a>	<b>Vice President:</b> Cynthia Perkins
<b>Treasurer:</b> Don Martin	<b>Secretary:</b> Karen Volckhausen
<b>Trustee:</b> Eileen Brennan, to 2012	<b>Trustee:</b> John Fink, to 2012
<b>Trustee:</b> Flo Reed, to 2014	<b>Trustee:</b> David Wilcock, to 2013
<b>Trustee:</b> Matt Slater, to 2014	<b>Trustee:</b> Evelyn Foster, to 2013

### Committee and Task Force Chairs

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

## May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 10:00 PATT Playgroup 12:00 Al Anon 12:00 Tidewater NVC 6:00 Acadia Choral	<b>2</b> <b>2:00 Meditation</b> 6:30 Coyote Group	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 Membership</b> 12:00 Al-Anon <b>6:30 Music Committee</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 AA	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>9:00-1:00 RE office hours</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> <b>Congregational Budget Hearing</b>	<b>7</b> 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	<b>8</b> 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	<b>9</b> <b>2:00 Meditation</b> 6:30 Coyote Group <b>6:30 Comm. on Min.</b> <b>7:00 Adult RE</b>	<b>10</b> 12:00 Al-Anon <b>12:00 Book Group</b> <b>6:00 Board Meeting</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 AA	<b>12</b> <b>2:00 Adult RE</b>  7:00 Maine Women Balkan Singers
<b>13</b> <b>9:00-1:00 RE office hours</b> <b>9:00 RE committee</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> <b>Community Room Dedication</b> <b>HUNGRY SUNDAY</b>	<b>14</b> 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	<b>15</b> 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	<b>16</b> <b>2:00 Meditation</b> <b>6:00 Adult RE</b> 6:30 Coyote Group	<b>17</b> 12:00 Al-Anon	<b>18</b> <b>4:00 PASA</b> 6:00 AA	<b>19</b> <b>9:00 Lodestar</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:00-1:00 RE office hours</b> <b>9:00 PASA</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</b> <b>Congregational Meeting</b> <b>2:00 UCC lecture</b>	<b>21</b> 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	<b>22</b> 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 12:00 Tidewater NVC <b>5:30 Worship Comm.</b> 4:30 BH Library event	<b>23</b> <b>12:00 LDC</b> <b>2:00 Meditation</b> 6:30 Coyote Group	<b>24</b> 12:00 Al-Anon <b>12:00 Book Group</b> <b>7:00 Adult RE</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00 AA	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:00-1:00 RE office hours</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</b> <b>11:30 Newcomers lunch</b>	<b>28</b> 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	<b>29</b> 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral	<b>30</b> <b>2:00 Meditation</b> 6:30 Coyote Group	<b>31</b> 12:00 Al-Anon <b>12:00 Book Group</b>		

To reserve space at the UUCE, Email: [office@uellsworth.org](mailto:office@uellsworth.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

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# *The NUUS*

## May 2012

### *The NUUS*

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth**

**May 2012**

**Vol. 44, No. 5**

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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.**

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