



The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 44

No. 6

June 2012

A Month of Sundays

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

Sunday, June 3. WOYAYA

Please join us as we celebrate the end of the Youth Religious Exploration/Education School Year. The Youth and Jr. Youth will perform a play "The Story of Kumba" during the Time For All part of the Worship Service. **This service will be led by Anne N. Ossanna and members of the Religious Education Committee.**

Sunday, June 10. Flower Communion Service Rev. Sara Huisjen

Please join us for this year's annual Flower Communion Service that helps us celebrate the uniqueness & beauty of each person who joins together in fellowship. All are invited to bring a flower (or two) to share and each person will leave with a flower someone else brought.

Sunday, June 17 ...the light of the world Rev. Sara Huisjen

On this Sunday just a few days before the Summer Solstice, we will celebrate the longest days by naming our thanks for the lights return, and considering together how we share our *own* light in this world.

Sunday, June 24. *Happiness Is ---*

According to Aristotle, "Happiness is the meaning and purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence." Philosophers and modern scientists say that to be happier is a worthy goal. **The Ellsworth Small Group Ministry will share their exploration of the topic of happiness with the congregation.** Join us for a joyful experience.

Ministry Matters

by Rev. Sara Huisjen

It's hard to believe that the end of the program church year is so fast approaching. From my perspective, this has been an *incredible* year for UUCE! Peoples' generosity & investment in this community is evident at every turn. To name just a few things I am *particularly* grateful for...you have launched a new, weekly Cookie Ministry that communicates our support of Gay-Straight-Alliance Groups in three area high schools; you sent two youth (and your minister) to New Orleans on what is hopefully the *first* of many annual Service Trips; you arranged for a whole slate of dynamic speakers & presenters as part of this year's excellent Adult Education offerings; several new Worship Associates among you have regularly assisted in creating meaningful worship & nurturing a deepening sense of shared ministry on Sunday mornings; since January, you have welcomed 10 new members into your midst, and through tender times of loss & sadness, you have been there for each other. For *all* of this, and for *each* of you, I am enormously grateful. I look forward to our continued work & ministry together in the year to come.

Later this month (from 6/18 6/25), I will attend this year's *Ministry Days* (an annual gathering of UU ministers) and *Justice GA*, our association's General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. On Friday evening at GA, I will be recognized during the Service of the Living Tradition for having reached Final Fellowship, the last of the credentialing hurdles with our association. Please know I am grateful, too, for your support in helping me reach this milestone. Kay Wilkins & I will look forward to bringing back information about our experience in part by leading worship together on Sunday, July 1st.

In other news, a little over a week ago, I met for the first time with a small group of folks that are helping me think about & plan for several new small group ministry offerings beginning in the fall. Over the next few months, you will be hearing more about these opportunities, what we hope will provide for even more opportunities for fellowship & sharing among members & friends of our congregation.

And last but not least, I want to close my column this month by thanking several folks whose dedication & leadership have been an enormous gift to UUCE: Thank you **Diana Cate**, Board President, **Cynthia Perkins**, Vice President, and **Karen Volkhausen**, Secretary, for your service as Officers of our Board of Trustees. Your steady presence through all manner of circumstance and during this last year in particular has been invaluable. We are a stronger, healthier congregation with your leadership. My thanks to **Don Martin**, too, our dedicated Treasurer, whose skills & commitment to UUCE have helped insure our strong financial standing. Don's commitment to UUCE is evident every day, and I am incredibly grateful. And thank you also to each of the current Board Members: **Eileen Brennan**, **Evelyn Foster**, **Tom Martin**, **Flo Reed**, **Matt Slater** and **David Wilcock**. Your good nature & willingness to work and serve our congregation together is a rich blessing.

May the summer months be good to you all! I hope to see you on June 3rd for the Religious Education Sunday Service, and on June 10th for our annual Flower Communion.

Yours in ministry together,
Sara

Evensong: A Series of Gatherings

Are you interested in having a small group ministry-like experience with folks connected to this congregation? Do you enjoy exploring questions regarding your personal & spiritual growth? This summer, our minister, Sara Huisjen, will facilitate five 2-hour evening gatherings at church based a UU adult education curriculum called EVENSONG. These structured & facilitated gatherings will provide occasion for participants to listen to each other & share about themselves. Pre-registration is requested, as there is 'homework' to prepare before several sessions. Folks can choose to attend one or several (up to all) of these gatherings. To register, or for more information, email Sara at sara@uuellsworth.org or leave a message for her at church, 667-4393. There is space for up to 12 people at each evening gathering. The dates & topics are listed below:
All sessions will be on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm

June 28th *Childhood Memory & Knowing*

July 12th *Prayer & Spiritual Practice*

July 19th *Fear*

August 16th *Generosity*

August 23rd *Being Alive*

Lifespan Religious Education

The children have been very busy creating costumes and memorizing lines for the play they will be performing during the June 3rd Worship Service. "The Story of Kumba, the Boy Afraid to Try" takes place in a village in Africa. To help set the stage, it would be wonderful if members of the congregation could wear colorful clothing to help set the stage. Parents, please help your child(ren) memorize their lines. The June 3rd Worship Service marks the end of the Youth Church School Year however, I am asking for volunteers to help with the nursery and activities for children ages 4-8 during the summer months. Please see me if you would like to help with the youngest members of our congregation. Two Family and Friends events have been scheduled for this summer, the first will be held the afternoon of June 3rd at the home of Evelyn Foster and in July will gather together and celebrate the joy of swimming at the home of Linda Hayman - date to be announced.

Finally a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who baked goodies this year for Cookie Ministry. I have heard from so many Gay Straight Alliance students and advisors how delicious and very much appreciated the treats were. Cookie Ministry will start up again in September.

Religious Education Calendar:

May 20th - Dress Rehearsal

May 27th - NOLA Led Service

June 2nd - Dress Rehearsal 10:00 - 2:00 Sanctuary. Pizza Lunch and snacks will be provided

June 3rd - WOYAYA, RE Service - Please have all children arrive by 10:00 am

Family and Friends Party at the home of Evelyn Foster - 1:00 pm - 4:00 (Games, food, and general Making Merry).

In the event of inclement weather, it will be held at UUCE.

Parent/Teen Meeting with Bob Dickens, Rev. Sara and Anne Ossanna - time TBA

Woyaya - Anne N. Ossanna

Adult Religious Education

Summer finally arrives this month along with Father's Day. The Adult Religious Education Committee would like to wish all the Dads at UUCE a very happy Father's Day.

This month Bob Dickens will be facilitating a discussion on the subject of Harm Reduction. Please join us to discuss this controversial topic. The Wednesday Meditation Group continues and anyone interested or just curious is invited to attend.

Please Save the Date for the NVC Workshop in July hosted by Adult RE and PASA. Make sure you make the pre-registration deadline if you would like a discount on the cost.

Harm Reduction

A discussion with Bob Dickens, Sunday, June 24, 11:50 AM in the Board Room

Bob will lead a discussion based on the following: Harm Reduction is a world-wide

public health oriented set of programs dealing with harmful behaviors in areas like drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, smoking, cutting, etc.. Like UUism, Harm Reduction has no creed or simple definition. Various practitioners are free to use their own pragmatic approaches. The basic ideas are that one should start working with others where they are, not where we wish they were, and that every positive change is a positive change even if it is not perfect change. Although total abstinence may be a desirable final result, it may not be a useful starting point.

Meditation Group

Every Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 PM 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.

Save the Date

Connecting Across Differences: The Journey of Nonviolent Communication -

A workshop with Peggy Smith, certified NVC trainer, Friday July 27, 6-9 PM (registration at 5:30 PM),

Saturday, July 28, 9-5 PM in the Board Room or Sanctuary depending on number of participants

The Nonviolent Communication model presented in this Level One workshop was developed by peacemaker, mediator and healer, Marshall Rosenberg. Rosenberg's teaching reflects his understanding that violence begins in the language we use. Similarly peace is rooted in the way we communicate with each other.

Rosenberg teaches that everything that people do is in the service of their needs: what they do to others is the best possible thing they know to do to get those needs met. NVC teaches simple skills that enable people to connect with their own and others' needs in a way that inspires compassionate response and the possibility for peace – interpersonally and in the wider community.

The Workshop:

Would you like to deal with conflict more skillfully?

Be sensitive to others without giving up on your own needs?

Deepen intimacy and have more ease within relationships?

You will leave this workshop with practical concepts and skills you can put to immediate use.

Whether you want to improve your relationship with yourself, your family, co-workers or community, your participation in this workshop will open new doors and expand your options.

You will gain concrete skills for using daily conflicts to relate more authentically and compassionately – building trust in a multi-sensory learning environment that fosters safety, depth and fun.

Participants will be empowered by embracing empathetic presence to transform our usual ways of thinking - opening opportunities for radiant connections.

Peggy Smith is the only certified trainer with the Center of Nonviolent Communication living in Maine. She has been sharing NVC for over six years. Peggy taught elementary and middle school for 32 years. She brings her extensive teaching skills, humor and presence to this work. With her business, Open Communication, Peggy offers workshops, seminars and coaching to individuals, organizations and businesses. Peggy has studied with Marshall Rosenberg and other internationally recognized trainers. Peggy has also studied with Zen teacher and social activist, Thich Nhat Hanh, since 1991 and is an active member of his Order of Interbeing.

For more information on the workshop contact: Peggy Smith at peggy@opencommunication.org , 789-5299, or Peggy Strong at goodnuff@escrap.com, 266-3006.

To register go to www.opencommunication.org or pickup a brochure on the table in the foyer at UUCE.

Early registration by July 6, 2012 - \$105, Registration after July 6 - \$120

Peggy values participation by all who wish to attend and will endeavor to create space regardless of ability to pay. Please contact Peggy Smith or Peggy Strong for information.

The next Adult RE Committee meeting is June 10 at 9:00 AM in The Board Room. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

From the Board

UUCE BOT Meeting May 10, 2012

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

Congregation: Peggy Strong

Congregational comment

Peggy Strong has been working on the web page since she returned home. She made some quick changes to modernize it, now is working on content. She has various church members willing to help. Peggy's objective is to make it visitor friendly to spark interest. She will be getting input from different people.

RE Coordinator's report

See elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS for details.

Anne asked the Board to authorize \$200 for 2 youth to go to Ferry Beach. This would be taken from this year's RE budget. A motion was made and passed.

Anne would like to set up an account at the Union River Redemption Center with proceeds from UU congregation bottle returns to go into a youth scholarship fund. People would be responsible for taking their bottles to the Center. The Board expressed their support.

Covenant discussion

This was discussed in executive session.

Treasurer's report

See the Treasurer's Corner for details

Don pointed out the new column in the budget report that lists the monthly expenses

Canvas and budget report- see written report

See the Treasurer's Corner

A motion was made and carried to authorize the President to send an email to those not present at the budget hearing on May 20. The objective of this letter is to explain budget Option A and Option B and to give people who were not there the opportunity to increase their pledges to raise the money to accomplish Option B if they desire.

Executive Committee report

Discussion points of the meeting were covenant issues, items from the Leadership Development Committee, Board membership on LDC, plate splitting and the budget. .

Minister's report

See elsewhere in this issue of the NUUS.

Sara is asking what we think about the following: The Ellsworth Area Minister's Association has agreed to make lunches for the Downeast Spirituality Conference on August 25th. She committed to providing 10 lobsters and 5 blueberry cakes and 3 people willing to help.

As this is for a fundraiser, Sara will bring proposal to the next board meeting

Retreat plans

The retreat is planned for May 23 with an alternate date of June 6. The consultant we were going to hire is not available on these dates so we will look into alternatives.

By laws changes that affect the Board

These changes were reviewed.

Housekeeping

A motion was passed to skip the July meeting as new members would already have attended one Board meeting and a retreat.

Board notebooks will be sent out by email.

Board report for the July through September NUUS was reassigned.

Announcement schedule will be out tomorrow

Sara would like to give a report at the May 20 meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

The next meeting is Thursday, June 14 at 6 PM. This will be the first meeting of the new Board. The first 15 minutes are reserved for congregational comment. All are invited. For the complete minutes, see the bulletin board in the Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Volckhausen

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for April 2012 was \$5,683.43. This was \$3085.73 less than the total expenses for the month of April, which were \$8,769.10. The difference was covered by again pre-paid pledges and other income that we have accumulated.

Pledge income for April was \$4,360.33, giving us a total of \$78,907.27, which is on target for where we should be at the end of April.

Plate income for April is \$4,360.33, which is 1.74% below the 83.33% of the year to date. This is a slight improvement over last month and moving in the right direction.

Rental income is at \$4,903 or 98.6% of budget, which is 14.73% more than the year-to-date percentage of 83.33%.

Expenses are continuing to be positive at \$85,243.80 or 72.16% of budget.

The total amount in the plate for the last Sunday in April was \$313.00. The split is \$156 for GLSEN and an equal amount for UUCE. This 50% figure is itself a strong weekly plate total for the church. The total amount in the plate for the final Sunday in March was \$181.00. The split is \$90.50. This wasn't bad.

We will provide a complete evaluation of the plate sharing project at the June BOT meeting, after we have the results of the May plate. The total to date for GLSEN is \$271.50.

The church year will be ending on June 30th. If you haven't completed your pledge for the 2011-12 church year, if at all possible please make every effort to do so. We have had an excellent financial year to date. June is our most expensive month with \$12,000 in additional expenses on top of our normal monthly expenses to be paid. It would be great to complete the year on a positive financial note and start the new church year on solid footing. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Don Martin



Nuts and Bolts and Tidbits

from Cynthia Perkins

John Fink was term limited off the UUCE Board (6 consecutive years) in May. We will truly miss his dry, often arid, wit, his wise comments and his crucial knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order. We may never have an orderly meeting again, until he returns to the Board. THANK YOU very much, John. Surely some committee will grab you soon.

We are fortunate to have Peggy Strong coordinating efforts to make our web site more appealing and informative to members and visitors and those just surfing around church web sites. Peggy is being assisted and advised by new member Lisa Williams and will have proof reading assistance from Lisa's partner Pepper. Check us out at uuellsworth.org.

Our new Directory will be issued soon. Please look at the list in the community room to be sure that you are listed correctly for the coming year.

We continue to have lots of people who like to drink coffee after each service, but VERY FEW who are willing to make it occasionally. Clean up volunteers are also all too rare. Bill Clark will be quite happy to teach any member the skills involved in making a good cup of coffee.

Major Kudos once again to Don Martin for his work as Treasurer and Stewardship Chairman. If at once we don't succeed he and the able committee of Kay Wilkins, Evelyn Foster and David Wilcock (Please pardon me if I left anyone out.) will just keep on trying. Our members have come through generously once again. Maybe we should charge the Stewardship Committee with recruiting coffee makers???

Political and Social Action (PASA)

The Banner Occupies Ellsworth

Six folks from UUCE marched down the hill with our *Standing on the Side of Love* banner to stand on the bridge with Occupy Ellsworth and the 99% on Earth Day. We will be doing it again!! If you are interested in joining, contact anyone from the Peace and Social Action Committee.



Book Smuggling to Justice General Assembly

As many of you know, Rev. Sara and I will be representing you at UU General Assembly in Phoenix, AR, June 20 – 24. This General Assembly has been labeled “Justice GA” and will be unlike others since it will be focused largely on taking action to stand by our values on immigration issues. I learned recently of an intriguing protest in which I intend to participate.

The HUUmanists group is committed to delivering multiple sets of the 83 books, which were removed from classrooms earlier this year when Arizona passed a law outlawing the teaching of “Ethnic Studies” or any course that promotes “resentment of another class of people” or “ethnic solidarity.” The banned books include Sandra Cisneros’ “The House on Mango Street” and “The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child” by Francisco Jiminez. The books will be donated to Tony Diaz’s “underground libraries” set up around the state. Tony is the original “librotraficante” who smuggled hundreds of copies of the banned books into Arizona in a January caravan.

Full details for the project are available on the home page of HUUmanists.org or on the Blog, “Cooking Together: Recipes for Immigration Reform.” <http://immigrationjustice.blogs.uua.org/education/smuggle-a-banned-book-to-ga/#comment-10533>

If you would like me to carry a book for you into Arizona, truly, it’s not illegal, I would be happy to do so.

Kay Wilkins, kwilkins@alumnet.simmons.edu

It's spring!

Think UUCE Goods & Services Auction

when you do a spring clean out of that cupboard, closet, attic, basement and/or garage. If you find something really nice that you'll never use, call Peggy Strong NOW. No need to wait until fall. We can store your item until the auction, which by the way, will be Saturday, October 6, 2012. No yard or rummage sale items please. Peggy can be reached at 266-3006 or goodnuff@escrap.com. And thanks.

Susanne Forest, Care Committee has a new email address: susf458@gmail.com

Travelling to GA?

The [Church of the Larger Fellowship \(CLF\)](#), a unique congregation without walls, will be at this year's General Assembly in Phoenix. Join us for worship on June 21st. The Revs. Meg Riley & Jeremy Taylor will be preaching, and music will be provided by Namoli Brennet. Never been to GA? It's a time for ideas, conversation, friends, and spiritual renewal. See you there!

"Love Free or Die"

A Film Screening and Q&A with Bishop Gene Robinson on Wednesday, June 6 in Ellsworth

Mainers United for Marriage Equality is hosting a special screening of the documentary film, "Love Free or Die," followed by a conversation with Bishop Gene Robinson about his experience and the path forward to acceptance for all families.

**When & Where: Wednesday, June 6th, at The Grand Theater in Ellsworth
Doors open at 6pm, Film starts at 6:30pm**

FREE ADMISSION

"Love Free or Die" is about a man whose two defining passions are in direct conflict: his love for God and for his partner Mark. Gene Robinson is the first openly gay person to become a bishop in the historic traditions of Christendom. His consecration in 2003, to which he wore a bullet-proof vest, caused an international stir, and he has lived with death threats every day since.

"Love Free or Die" follows Robinson from small-town churches in the New Hampshire North Country to Washington's Lincoln Memorial to London's Lambeth Palace, as he calls for all to stand for equality inspiring bishops, priests and ordinary folk to come out from the shadows and change history.

Personnel

Contact Information

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman Huisjen: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	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 office@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, djcate35@gmail.com	Vice President: Cynthia Perkins
Treasurer: Don Martin	Secretary: Karen Volckhausen
Trustee: Eileen Brennan, to 2012	Trustee: John Fink, to 2012
Trustee: Flo Reed, to 2014	Trustee: David Wilcock, to 2013
Trustee: Matt Slater, to 2014	Trustee: Evelyn Foster, to 2013

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: Ruth Eveland	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: Karen Wigglesworth & Vicki Fox	Worship: Cynthia Perkins
Loaves and Fishes: Sue Clark, Nina Turner	

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 AA	2 10:00 RE play rehearsal
3 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 Worship Service Family & Friends party	4 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	5 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	6 2:00 Meditation 6:30 Coyote Group 6:30 Comm. on Min. 7:00 Adult RE	7 12:00 Al-Anon 12:00 Tidewater NVC	8 6:00 AA	9
10 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 9:00 RE committee 10:30 Worship Service 11:50 PASA HUNGRY SUNDAY	11 3:00 Violin Lessons 7:00 St. Augustine	12 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	13 2:00 Meditation 4:30 Worship Comm. 6:00 Adult RE 6:30 Coyote Group	14 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting 6:00 HCMT	15 4:00 PASA 6:00 AA	16
17 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	18 2:30 Violin rehearsal 7:00 St. Augustine 7:00 Non-violent Communication	19 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	20 12:00 LDC 2:00 Meditation 6:30 Coyote Group	21 12:00 Al-Anon 12:00 TidewaterNVC 5:00 Violin concert	22 6:00 AA	23
24 9:00-1:00 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE	25 7:00 St. Augustine	26 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Restorative Justice	27 2:00 Meditation 6:30 Coyote Group	28 12:00 Al-Anon 12:00 Book Group 6:30 MS Support	29	30

To reserve space at the UUCE, Email: 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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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

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Vol. 44, No. 6

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.**

