



The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 43

No. 2

February 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

Feb 2. 8:00 pm *Candle Light Service and Meditation*

With readings from the Tao Te Ching
Please be prompt. Once the service has started the doors will be sealed to late comers.

Matt Slater

Feb. 6. *The Work WITHIN our Church*

UUCE will present a Committee Fair in the community room. Members and friends will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the UUCE committee chairs to find out what each committee does, what kinds of abilities and expertise are needed, and find out if there is a fit for you. Members are invited to bring cookies and other munchables to help make this a festive occasion.

Presented by the Leadership Development Committee.

Feb. 13. *Job 4:7: consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed?*

Based on a trip to Guatemala, her message will examine the role religion played in the torturing and murder of indigenous Guatemalans in the 1980's. The sermon will explore the general question of why the poor and often righteous suffer so much more than, and often at the hands of, the wealthy and often unrighteous.

Rev Ellis, a minister of the National Baptist Convention, is Instructor in Hebrew Scripture at Bangor Theological Seminary. She was Instructor of Religion at Huntingdon College, Associate

Minister of Unity Congregation UCC in Montgomery, AL, a Teaching Fellow at Brandeis University and United Theological Seminary in Dayton. She has an MA in Theological Studies from United Seminary and is currently a Ph. D. candidate at Brandeis in the area of the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East. Rev. Michelle Ellis

Feb. 20. *Ethical Culture and Unitarian Universalism*

Does it matter, and where did it come from?" Ethical Culture was begun in 1876 by the son of the rabbi of the NYC reform Temple Emmanuel. He found that he could no longer function as a rabbi and began preaching Ethical "deed not creed", in many ways similar to UU teachings. While UU was originally a Christian denomination, Ethical never was a Jewish one. Stephen Berger, a new member of UUCE, will lead the service, which will conclude with a congregational discussion of what the Christian background of UU means, if anything.

Stephen and his wife Nancy Avila, longtime visitors to Bar Harbor, recently moved here. They raised her three children and his two and now chase grandchildren whenever the parents allow it. Stephen is Jewish by background but grew up in the Ethical Culture Society. As an adult he began exploring his Jewishness and went through a bar mitzvah. He has a Ph.D. in Sociology and was a college teacher. He is an avid book collector, and sings in the UUCE Choir, the MDI Summer Chorale and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Steven Berger

Continued on Page 2...

Lifespan Religious Education & Exploration

RE Happenings

Pizza and a Movie, Saturday February 5th!

Join us Saturday February 5th at 6PM for Pizza & a Movie! This time, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." You are encouraged to come and participate in this campy musical romp. If you're unsure what participation might mean, check out the web site at this URL for ideas:

<http://www.timewarp.org.uk/1virgins.htm> As usual, Matt Slater's fine pizza will be prepared just for you. So join us and enjoy!

Young Families Tea

Later this winter we will host a tea for the families of our youngest members, those three and under. I am hoping to touch base with as many as possible so that we can come up with a date that will accommodate as many families as possible.

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Thanks to all of you who participated in our, "Guest At Your Table" project this year/ The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UUSC, provides disaster relief and promotes justice around the world. Your contributions will help the UUSC to build awareness and ensure the continuation of its important work. We don't yet have the final tally but when we do, we'll share it here!

I hold regular office hours on Tuesdays from 10:00AM until 3:00PM. If you have questions or would just like to chat about Religious Education at UUCE I hope you will stop in. I am more than happy to meet at other times by appointment or by telephone. My cell phone number is 207-951-2873. I will leave a note on the white board on the RE office door if I know that I will be out of the office for a planned meeting during my posted office hours. If the weather is at all questionable please call me at my cell number to confirm that I'll be in or to meet with me by phone.

Feb. 27. *The Prophets of a Loving God*

Some reflections on the tough love and the tender love expressed on God's behalf by the Hebrew prophets.

Rev Kowalski has served congregations in New York, New Hampshire and Maine. She has a Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary and has taught Biblical Hebrew and Hebrew Scriptures at seminaries in New York and Maine. Now retired and living on Mount Desert Island, she enjoys presiding at occasional Sunday services and teaching Senior College classes.

Rev. Vesta Kowalski, Episcopalian priest

Worship Committee Request:

The Worship Committee is very interested in knowing the worship service topics which you would like us to put together. While we are without a minister, we have the opportunity to explore many worship topics. We want to know what the members want to hear!

Thanks, Cynthia, Kay, Marta, Steve Berger and Cecily Judd.

Hawk Henries CDs Available

Following the moving and excellent worship service on Jan 16, a number of people wanted to purchase one or more CDs. They are available at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor and a number of other places. Please visit Hawk's website, www.hawkhenries.com, or email him at hawkhenries@hotmail.com.

Spring 2011 Congregational Meetings

Please mark your calendars. Our spring Congregational Meeting will be held on May 22, 2011.

Message from the President

Warning: Decisions Ahead

Our two biggest decisions ahead of us are ministry and money. What do we want to do about professional ministry? How much ministry? What would it cost? How would we pay for it?

The work of the Congregational Conversation Committee (CCC) is completed. From cottage meetings to reports from ad hoc committees, the congregation has spoken. Now we must make decisions. But how? By what process?

The decision-making process in any democratic group depends, of course, on its size. Some UUA scribes use four parish categories, based on average Sunday attendance, to describe the differences.

They are the Family Church, averaging fewer than 50 in attendance; the Pastoral Church, averaging 50 to 150 people; the Program Church, averaging 150 to 350; and the Corporate Church, averaging more than 350 attending each week. (note: including children)

By definition, small Family Churches usually do not have a minister, and each member knows most other members. Important decisions are typically made by the matriarchs and patriarchs or by the congregation as a whole in a 'town meeting.' Over a third of UU churches are family sized.

By definition, in the Pastoral Church both the minister and the Board play central roles. Since it is hard to know everyone, the minister spends a lot of time maintaining relationships. Board members often function as volunteer staff, committees become stronger, and part-time paid staff is added. Almost half of UU churches fall in this category.

UUCE's average worship attendance for the past nine months is 60, plus children. According to these categories, we are a Pastoral Church. However we cling to some Family Church practices and attitudes that may not serve us well.

The shift from Family Church to Pastoral Church is more than numbers. The decision-making process must change. Family Church folks can debate

decisions till the cows come home and talk till they reach consensus (or split). In the larger church, members must make peace with working within and through the organization.

We are Pastoral Church size, but in fact we have no minister. Ultimate responsibility for leadership, in our case, falls on the Board of Trustees. Whoever leads UUCE must listen to the congregation or fail, whether minister or Board.

That is why the work of the Congregational Conversation Committee is so important. The Board of Trustees hears you. Your top four priorities for UUCE, as distilled from the CCC reports, are:

1. Financial health
2. Discussion of professional ministry
3. Strengthening communications
4. Outreach to the community

The Board asked the Professional Ministry ad hoc committee to continue for another few weeks to survey the congregation about its wishes and commitment. Reports concerning Finance and Communications have, or will be, discussed during the January 23rd Parish Meeting. Outreach to the Community will be the focus of the newly reorganized PASA, or Social Action Committee. (Many of you have social action interests and activities. Most UUs do. Please take your energy to this revitalized committee.)

Each of the final reports from the CCC, via ad hoc committees, contains multiple ways to improve our processes – too many to take on at once. The Board identified two or more items in each report for immediate action and will discuss our plans at the Parish Meeting. Excerpts from the Finance and Communications reports will be distributed at the meeting. Comments will, of course, be welcome.

Your Board of Trustees serves you, the congregation. We requested and received your collective wisdom. We must now take leadership, which is our charge. We need your trust. We pledge to do our best for our beloved congregation.

In ministry,
Diana Cate

From the Board

Notes from BOT Meeting, January 13, 2011

Present: Board- Diana Cate, President; Beth Allen, Vice-President, Karen Volckhausen, Secretary; Don Martin, Treasurer; Eileen Brennan, Cynthia Perkins, Anne Ossanna, Judy Rothrock, Trustees
Ad hoc committee chairs- Phil Person, Pam Person, Jude Lamb

Congregation- Mike Tansy, Bob Dickens

Congregational comment

Bob Dickens spoke about Welcoming Congregation II. The group working on this is Tom Grogan, Kay Wilkins and Bob. They are currently identifying members for a steering committee with plans for a steering committee meeting for the end of January. In the future they will schedule 2 films. Bob has been in contact with someone from UUA who is willing to be a resource for us at no charge. She has had several good ideas including involving young adults on the steering committee. She has also pointed out that the last 4 sections of the program have to do with oppression and are broadened from the scope of GLBT.

Treasurer's report and DLRE Report

See elsewhere in this issue!

Ad hoc committee reports:

Finance - Phil Person-acting Chair in Betty Massie's absence

Key points from the report are:

- #1. Congregational participation
- #2. Reorganizing of the finance committee

He also stressed the importance of creating performance indicators.

Board actions in re/Finance

The Finance Committee will meet before the Parish meeting to talk about an expanded committee and use parish meeting for recruitment

Communication – Pam Person, Chair

Key points from the report are:

- #1 Increasing tolerance and respect
- #2 Learning about each other
- #3 Processing major decisions

Board actions in re/Communications

Survey with deadline of Jan 28

Ad hoc committee report: Professional ministry – Jude Lamb, Chair

The report was purposefully short as full congregational involvement is needed in this discussion.

Board actions in re/Ministry

The board commissioned this ad hoc committee to continue for another month or so in order to develop and administer a survey to gather people's opinions about whether or not they want a minister. The survey will be ready for review by the next board meeting.

Tabled Items: committee chat, canvass, hiring policy (due Feb.), Board and committee pictures, Who Does What, name change (report Jan. 23), Everybody Eats, Board notebooks, advertising
Committee chat- Eileen will speak with committee heads to see about how to be in better communication

Name change- Meeting scheduled for sub-committee on Sunday, January 16. Cynthia spoke with Karen Brammer who feels we may have too much going on right now to take on such a large issue. Cynthia will discuss this at the meeting.

Everybody Eats- This will be discussed Sunday at the PASA meeting. Church involvement is growing and we will be recruiting.

Advertising- Contract with the Ellsworth American is due. Eileen will to speak to her small group. The rest of the items will remain tabled for now.

Next meeting: Tentatively set for Wed. Feb 9. Date will be confirmed in the weekly bulletin and on the web page

The first 15 minutes are reserved for congregational comments.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Volckhausen,
Secretary



Nuts and Bolts

This column, submitted monthly, will focus on the “nuts and bolts” of Board and committee business, as opposed to policies, planning, or visionary work.

ATTENTION - Next Board Meeting

To allow Jenn Ryan to attend her Thursday night birthing class and still participate with the Board, the Board meeting is moved up one day. It will be Wednesday, February 9th, at 6:00 pm.

ACHTUNG - Congregation Calendar

Committee Chairs and other task-group leaders: Please be faithful in sending ALL dates/times of meetings and other activities to Caitlin (office@uucellsworth.org) to be included in the monthly calendars. THIS IS IMPORTANT. Please try to plan meetings far enough in advance to get them in the NUUS. Our calendar, with church activities as well as rentals, is an important way to communicate. Look for the calendars on the bulletin board inside the front door at church, and in the monthly NUUS. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

Pizza and Movie Night

Check it out: First Saturday night in February, second Saturday night of the month after that. Matt Slater’s pizza rates four stars in Zagat’s.

Attendance Figures to Ponder

Jon Thomas keeps, and has kept for years, an awesome log of worship services: dates, weather, attendance, speaker, and topic. I recently created a spreadsheet to track attendance by speaker over the past six years. Results: Mark Worth (Jan. 05-June 06) average attendance 62; Stephen Phinney (Sept. 06-June 07) avg. 54; Leela Sinha (Sept. 07-June 08) avg. 64; Leela Sinha (Sept. 08-June 09) avg. 56; Leela Sinha (Sept. 09-April 10) avg. 52; lay & guest services (April 10-Jan. 11) avg. 60. These numbers do not include the children. (Statistically, small changes in average numbers are significant when dealing with low figures.)

Winter Storm Cancellation

If a winter storm seems serious enough to cancel services, a decision will be made by 7:00 am that Sunday morning and sent to WABI, Channel 5, Bangor. Other TV stations may be notified but

Channel 5 will be first and the primary source of cancellation information.

In ministry,
Diana Cate
djcate35@gmail.com
207-664-301

“Cabin Fever Reliever” Saturday, February 12, 2011

Could you use a break from the monotony of the winter months? Are you feeling sluggish or out of sorts with being closed up in your “cabin” because of snow and ice and long, cold, dark nights?

Our winter fund raising event to benefit Loaves and Fishes and UUCE may be just the remedy for your “cabin fever”. A dinner filled with “comfort food” will be served at 5:30pm followed at 7:00pm with a Variety Show including UUCE members, friends, and folks from the community. Our UUCE choir will sing. Dancers, story tellers, and a variety of vocal and instrumental talent will do their best to raise your spirits, brighten your mood, and warm your heart.

Dinner will be served at 5:30pm and entertainment will begin at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for youth (7 -16), free (children 6 and under). If you would like to participate in the variety show or help in the kitchen please contact Jean Martin (jmartin2@myfairpoint.net, 664-0309).

Wanted: A New Name-Tagger

For quite some time now, under the direction of the Membership Committee, I have been responsible for creating nametags for new members and friends or folks who wanted new ones. I like fooling around with my computer, and it’s not really much trouble, but I have several other responsibilities around church coming up and would love to hand this task along. If you’re interested, I will provide both materials and a lesson or two.

Kay Wilkins

Caring Corner

David Towle passed away unexpectedly January 3rd. On the following Sunday, January 9, during the morning worship service our president Diana Cate gave a poignant eulogy for David illustrating how he embodied the concept of the third principal. That afternoon, UUCE hosted a tearful, moving and joyous celebration of David's life, with an estimated 200 family, friends and colleagues whose lives were touched by David.

Julie Thielen-Montgomery was in church on December 12 using a walking cast after her knee surgery on 12/7. Her recovery is proceeding well.

John Fink thanked the members of UUCE for the great support Sally received and thanked us for all the support he has received. "It has made all the difference."

At the beginning of December, Owen Baya, who is part of a boy's team from Springers' Gymnastic Center was in a competition in which he competed at Level 4 (ages 6-7) and received a 1st place on floor exercises, rings, parallel bars and horizontal bars, a 3rd on pommel horse and vault and a 2nd all around. A nice photo taken by Emily and an article were in the 12/9 Ellsworth American.

Jim Fisher shared his joy of the birth of his niece, Sophia, in Spain in mid-December.

Melissa Schaffer and her son Robert, former members of UUCE, were visiting Maine for a few days at the holidays and joined us at the 12/19 service. Melissa shared her sorrow at the death of her father last year. She also shared her joy to be back in Maine for a visit and said that she and Robert are doing very well and Robert is now half way through his senior year in high school. Cathy Burdette shared the joy of having enjoyed a great gathering at Anne Ossanna's house during the Open House Anne held on the 26th for Melissa and Robert. Cathy said it was great seeing old friends she hadn't seen for four years and that the party was lots of fun, especially hearing all of the [now 4 years older] kids playing guitars and singing together.

Congratulations to Cecily Judd- in December, she passed her licensing exam to become a licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor.

Carol Mathiesen shared that she and husband Al had a "most wonderful Christmas." They both spent Christmas in New Hampshire with Alan's two sons and grandchildren. She also got to visit later with another young grandson who was born in Maine but had never seen the snow before. Since his family's visit to Maine coincided with the Christmas weekend snowstorm, Carol had the pleasure of watching him enjoy it.

Jenn Ryan shared the joy on January 2 that her father made it through knee surgery and is recovering very well.

Stephanie Alley shared the joy [with beaming smile!] of having jumped in the ocean on New Year's Day as part of her Dip of the Month Club's monthly plunging.

Jude Lamb shared her happiness that her mother's shoulder surgery was successful and she is recovering comfortably at home now.

Dusty Bailey has had a recurrence of a medical condition which will keep him from performing in the choir.

Anne and Lance Funderburk spent some time in New Hampshire in mid-January helping out Anne's sister following her hip replacement surgery. Anne was encouraged by her sister's successful surgery but disheartened that her elderly mother is now having difficulty recognizing family members.

Wisdom from a Five-Year-Old

There's been much news, recently, about The Beatles, after the release of their catalog on iTunes. My daughter, Carol, and family were watching Paul McCartney on Saturday Night Live (recorded). They explained to Cait, my granddaughter, that Paul was a Beatle, the best band that ever was. Cait didn't skip a beat and replied, "No, the Chipmunks are the best band." --Diana Cate

Treasurer's Corner

I encourage you to take time to read the Treasurer's Corner. Effort is made each month to keep you informed of the status of our finances. Nothing is held back and, at your request, I will provide you with a copy of the budget report. I am always available to answer any questions or to have an open discussion about our finances.

Income in December fell to \$5,605. This is \$4,027 less than we have been averaging for the first six months. Expenses for December were \$7,511.62. This was \$1,906.12 more than the receipts for the month.

Finances are still positive. Total income is running 14.28% ahead of budget or \$12,796. Total expenses are still running low at 38.27% below budget or \$10,857.

Pledge income has slowed down. The extra revenue we have in our budget has primarily come from prepaid ledges. This will have a direct effect on our income over the next six months.

Rental income is still running below budget at 34.29% and our projection is that it will come in \$2,000 below budget at \$5,000.

Thanks to Jim Fisher, who generously donated a computer for the church office, we do not need to spend \$800 to replace Caitlin's computer which was crashing regularly. The transition went smoothly thanks to Jim and Caitlin's efforts. Thanks to George Marcus who suggested that we back up our computer on line through Carbonite. It assisted in the smooth transition of the information to the new computer.

I want to express a special thank you to Caitlin for the work she did in the office to help with David Towle's service. I believe the congregation can be proud of how we all pulled together to help Betty in making David's service an inspirational and memorable event.

Again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 664-0309 or email me at jzmartin2@myfairpoint.net.

The Membership Committee

Each year in January we are asked by the UUA to update our membership roles. Those who have joined or reinstated their membership status are added. Members who do not wish to participate actively at UUCE or who have not made a financial contribution of record during the prior year are moved to associate status. Active refers to attendance at services and participation in our church programs and activities. Members can move between active and associate status as their circumstances warrant. Contribution of record means \$'s given by check or in an envelope identifying the giver during the calendar year. Many associate members continue to contribute financially making UUCE part of their benevolent giving.

A member may withdraw from membership by making a written request to the membership committee. A person's membership may be terminated if the member has neither given support nor attended services for at least one year without explanation. The membership committee recommends terminating the membership and asking in writing whether he/she wishes to continue membership. If no response to the written request is made, after sixty days the member may be dropped from the membership role.

Our congregation pays to UUA \$65.00 for each active member. Those members then automatically receive copies of UU World-the magazine published by UUA. Active members have the privileges of debating, making motions, voting in congregational meetings and of holding office.

These practices are outlined in the By-Laws of UUCE. The church is governed by the active members but it values the full participation of its many friends and attendees. Thank you to all of you who so generously support the vibrant life of UUCE.

On January 23rd we welcomed seven new members into membership. Please check the bulletin board in the hall for their pictures and biographical sketches. These will be printed in the March NUUS.

- Evelyn Foster, Membership Chairperson

In Memorium

David Walter Towle died early Monday morning, January 3, 2011.

There is a Senegalese proverb, "When an old man dies, a library burns." When David died, a very large library burned.

David was an award-winning biological scientist and teacher.

In 1978 the University of Richmond gave David one of their annual Distinguished Educator Awards. After 18 years at Richmond, David spent the next 13 years at Lake Forest College in Illinois as Chair of the Biology Department. To honor David, Lake Forest created *The David W. Towle Research Award*, given annually to their best research student.

In 2001 David joined MDI Biological Laboratory as Senior Investigator and Director of the Marine DNA Sequencing and Analysis Center. During a leave of absence in 2005, he spent five months on a Fulbright Scholarship at the Center for Marine Research in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

David retired from the MDI Lab on June 30, 2009. One of his favorite sayings, at the Lab, was, "If you can't make things work in the lab, then it's time to go sailing."

David was an inveterate builder. With Betty, his beloved wife, and his son Aaron, he built their Bar Harbor home, from site selection to completion, including much of the furniture. He had begun a complete restoration of the 1962 wooden boat "Spray," the 36-foot prototype for all Grand Banks cruisers. This boat was to be their vehicle for many more adventures.

David had amazing musical talent. He played piano, organ, cello, piano accordion and fiddle. He was a bit of an expert at the button accordion. He was a member of the contra dance band, Big Moose. He sang with the Bagaduce Chorale. And of course he revived and revitalized the choir at UUCE.

David did so much for UUCE. The four major improvements he facilitated were updating the sound system, a complete reconstruction of the kitchen, installation of the metal roof, and replacing our ancient oil furnace with an efficient new propane furnace.

As Chair of the Building Committee, David bought cleaning supplies, changed the quotes on the roadside sign, and assumed responsibility for

anything broken. Actually, we do not know all that David did. Even now, we are making a list of each thing as we discover it.

David loved people and brought out the best in all he worked with. He was an instinctive healer. Our choir disbanded about a year ago, discouraged and hurt. David gathered a few singers and taught them that singing could be fun again. More joined. Soon we had a real Church Choir.

David would have been an excellent minister. The services he conducted were memorable, especially the one he led last year after the trauma of losing our minister. He knew what to say and what not to say. And he helped us express our emotions in a very difficult time.

People like him do not often walk among us.

We will miss you so much, David. Rest in peace.

Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: An Experience with *Lectio Divina*

Lectio Divina, or "sacred reading," is an ancient method of reading scripture which lets it sink deeply into us for its meaning in our own lives. We will use it with scriptures from different traditions as well as secular poetry, which so often touches the spiritual.

Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:30-3:30 (home-cooked lunch included) \$50.00.

Living Water is about 1½ hour north of Portland.

To register: 207-872-2370 or

info@retreatinmaine.com

Registration required by March 5.

Please note: Living Water's required registration date is very firm. Living water cancels events that are not sufficiently subscribed two weeks in advance. People have waited to register until a few days before only to find their choice already canceled!

Karen Lewis Foley, a Unitarian Universalist minister, has been teaching *lectio divina* since 2000. A graduate of the Shalem Institute's Spiritual Guidance and Retreat/Group Leadership programs, she offers spiritual direction, retreats, and pastoral care consultation for congregations.

The Peace and Social Action Committee

Our mission is to coordinate and support the congregation in its efforts to advocate, educate, organize, serve and witness for peace and social justice; to establish our church as a beacon for social action in our community. As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to work for a democratic, peaceful, equitable and earth-friendly world. The Peace and Social Action Program is committed to empowering church members to keep this covenant.

After years of hard work and devoted service, Martha Dickenson recently resigned as PASA chair. We want to thank you Martha, from the bottom of our hearts, for everything you have done. Karen Volckhausen is currently serving as temporary chair but we are looking for a permanent chair. We also are in the process of recruiting new members and will have a presence at the committee fair on February 6. You can talk to us there or come see any of the following: Jon Thomas, Karen Volckhausen, Janice Ronco, Stephanie Alley for more information. Meetings are the third Sunday of the month at 9 AM although we would be open to change as this sometimes conflicts with some choir rehearsals and other meetings.

Congregation involvement and interest is growing in Everybody Eats, the weekly meal served at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Ellsworth. We encourage people to volunteer for any Monday either as choppers and cooks, 11-3 or setter uppers and servers, 3-6:30. It's a lot of fun and provides a wonderful sense of community both with the people putting on the meal and the people eating the meal. We will have sign-up sheets so come see us if you are interested. And if it seems a little daunting, sign up with a buddy!

Up coming events:

The film, Revisiting Afghanistan, after church on Sunday, January 30, co-sponsored with Adult RE **Committee retreat**, tentative date, Friday, March 11, 10-2 at UUCE for the purpose of talking about our mission and program and integrating new members.

Dr. Richard Komp will present a special Earth Day program on Low Cost Solar Energy Installations in Maine and around the world on Sunday afternoon, April 17, at UUCE. This event will be sponsored by PASA and Adult RE. **Ongoing-** planning of UUCE involvement in a faith-based delegation to El Salvador in fall of 2011.

Next meeting: Sunday, February 20 at 9 AM

Karen Volckhausen

Instant Runoff Voting?

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a public informational meeting on Instant Runoff Voting on Saturday, February 5, at 2 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth. Terry Bouricius, a senior policy analyst for FairVote, is the featured speaker. Terry is also a former five-term member of the Vermont House of Representatives and is an active member of the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters in Maine is studying whether or not to endorse Instant Runoff Voting as an alternative voting system in state and local elections. For more information, phone 667-5863.

Personnel

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Adult RE Committee

There are two important events coming up in February – a Fair and a course.

First is the Committee Fair on February 6. Stop by the Adult RE table and find out what we have been doing, who is involved, and start to tell what things you would be interested in having as an Adult RE offering – and get a warm invitation to join our busy, fascinating, hard working committee.

The second February “event” is a special course - ***Listening to be Heard*** led by Tom Grogan, UUCE’s Religious Education Director. There will be four sessions - to be held on 3 Sundays in February and the first Sunday in March. This course will help us to learn to listen to one another. Listening uncritically and empathetically is the best way to really “hear” what someone else is saying and have the positive result of encouraging others to truly listen to us. This course is a result of the Congregational Conversations held this past summer, when many folks expressed a real interest in learning more about how to communicate better in all areas of their lives. The Strengthening Communications Ad Hoc Committee also recommended that this course be developed and offered as soon as feasible. “Communication” is not only speaking and writing, but also listening and reading. I am planning to attend! Please join us.

The full Winter-Spring 2011 Adult RE schedule is ready and copies will be sent to all in the Wednesday email news. Hard copies will be available at church on January 23.

Best
Pam Person, Adult RE chair

From the Hancock County Cultural Network

January 28-29: Maine Farmers Market Convention w/workshops, panels, speakers, Hutchinson Center, Belfast. MOFGA, 568-4142 or mofga@mofga.org.

January 29: (snow date: January 30): “Beyond Capitalism: New Economies for Maine” annual Changing Maine gathering, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Pine Tree (Viles) Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta. Larry Dansinger/ROSC, 525-7776 or rosc@psouth.net.

January 29: "Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream Symposium" (how to take action on environmental and social issues locally and globally), 10 AM-4 PM, Allen Avenue U-U Church, 524 Allen Ave., Portland. Call the church, 797-7240 or 978-771-6535.

January 29-30: "Marx in Soho" play by Howard Zinn on ideas of Karl Marx presented, 2 PM, Center Theater, Dover-Foxcroft. Trisha Smith, 564-4918.

January 30: "Rethinking Afghanistan" film shown w/discussion w/Katrina Bisheimer on "Bring Our War \$\$ Home," 11:45 AM-1:15 PM, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth. Call 667-4393 or Pam Person at Phppwp@aol.com.

February 1: Speakers Bureau for Equality training (speak on marriage equality), 9 AM-4 PM, Unitarian-Universalist Church, Saco. Diane Gilman, 272-2658, dgilman@glad.org. (Also offered, February 12, 9-4, UCC Church, Saco.)

February 1-18: Paintings by political prisoner Antonio Guerrero displayed, 5th floor, Glickman Library, USM, Portland. Let Cuba Live, 743-2183 or www.letcubalive.org.

February 1 (also 2, 3, 11): "Doing Well by Being Well" presentation as part of Women's Leadership Series, 11:30-1 PM (1st) and noon-1:30 PM, (2nd, 3rd, 11th), Auburn Public Library (1st), CIEE/300 Fore St., Portland (2nd), Bangor Public Library (3rd), Rockland Public Library (11th). Maine Women's Fund, 774-5513 or www.mainewomensfund.org.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

February 3: Southern Poverty Law Center director Morris Dees speaks on "A Conversation about Fighting Hate" and "With Justice for All," 2-4 PM Strafford Room, MUB, Univ. of New Hampshire, Durham, and 7-8:30 PM, Johnson Theatre, UNH, Durham. David Diamond, ddiam42@earthlink.net.

February 5: Open House and discussion of "Defeating Islamophobia through Understanding," 5 PM, Islamic Center of Maine, 151 Park St., Orono. Call 866-7932.

February 10: "Scarred Lands, Wounded Lives" film shown (environmental effects of war), 6-8 PM, Abbott Room, Free Library, Belfast. Judy Williams, 338-1852.

February 12 (snow date, February 13): Annual Workshop and meeting for war tax resisters and supporters in Maine, 10 AM-3 PM, MEJP office, 126 Sewall St., Augusta. Larry Dansinger, Maine WTR Resource Center, 525-7776 or rosca@psouth.net.

February 12: "Mountaintop Industrial Wind Summit" to focus on responding to legislative bills on industrial wind, 8 AM-4 PM, Harraseeket Inn, Freeport. Jonathan Carter, 628-6404 or fen@207me.com.

February 16: "Farming with Nature" (permaculture and food production) film shown, 6 PM, Free Library, Belfast. Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, 338-3854 or Susan Cutting, New Forest Institute, 722-3625.

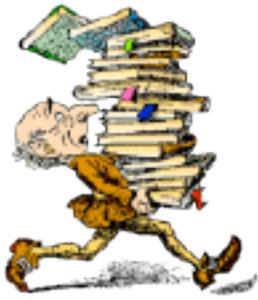
Notices:

Looking for local foods to buy especially when the weather gets warmer? Two web sites might help. One is www.eatmainefoods.org, sponsored by the Eat Local Foods Coalition of Maine, whose mission is to promote and establish an active, sustainable, and vibrant local food system for Maine. There's also the Maine Food Trader, www.Mefoodtrader.org, which also has lists of who's buying and selling Maine foods and food production supplies in the state. This site is sponsored by the New England Environmental Finance Center.

Sudan is undergoing rapid changes, with its recent vote to divide south from north. Some Sudanese in southern Maine have created the Sudanese International Organization to improve the lives of Sudan's people thru support from those in the US. Their specific focus is on helping to build schools in the south of the country. They are raising funds for all kinds of school equipment--chairs, paper, pens and pencils, computers, food, teachers, and medical personnel. Contributions can go to the Sudanese International Organization, 48 Salem St., #607, Portland 04102 or call Charles at 899-9965 or charlesgoui@yahoo.com or www.sudaneseinternationalorg.com.

Farming isn't easy these days, and some are facing foreclosure. Food for Maine's Future has set up a hotline for those facing this problem, thru a partnership with the Worker Rights Hotline run by Food AND Medicine. That number to call is 1-866-933-9236. There have also been calls for a moratorium on farm foreclosures in Maine and other states. For more on this issue, contact Bob St. Peter, Food for Maine's Future, 244-0908 or bobstpeter@gmail.com. And for those who want to farm but are having trouble with the financing part, the Organic Farmer Loan Fund, sponsored by MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association) gives loans of \$5-20K for capital, equipment, and other start-up needs. The application deadline is January 28, but there are more funding cycles coming. Contact: MOFGA, 568-4142 or www.mofga.org.

"A Proposal to Reduce the Cost and Occurrence of Crime in Maine" is a summary of a plan to create more effective re-entry strategies for inmates being released from Maine's prisons. It's written by former Maine State Prison chaplain Stan Moody to Maine's new governor and anyone else who is interested. Moody has ideas on how to more effectively use volunteers, how to partner with social services and business communities, and how to reduce the current recidivism rate in the first year from 35% to one fifth of that. For a copy and more on his proposal, contact Stan Moody, 626-0594 or www.stanmoody.com.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Stephen Berger

Reinhold Niebuhr's View of Human Nature

Some of us are reading through Richard Gilbert's Building Your Own Theology, under Martha Dickinson's leadership. Session Four is devoted to our understanding of human nature. In the readings preparing for that session Gilbert twice refers to the Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. In the first case he quotes Carl Rogers on Niebuhr speaking "of 'original sin' as a function of self-love, claiming too much, grasping after self-fulfillment, thinking of oneself more highly than one ought to think." In the second, Gilbert makes Niebuhr a proponent of "the traditional Christian view of original sin." He quotes Niebuhr as saying "...the view that men are 'sinful' is one of the best attested and empirically verified facts of human existence."

Since I thought I knew that Niebuhr had seen himself as a socialist – at least in his younger years – and that he had helped Miles Horton found the Highlander Folk School, it occurred to me to find out more, and I picked up the first volume, on human nature, of Niebuhr's 1941 Gifford Lectures, The Nature and Destiny of Man (Scribner's, 1941). I've not yet gotten far in the book, but I was struck by a few sentences in his preface to the 1960s paperback reprint, and I thought I'd pass them on and see if they resonate for you as well.

"I believed and still believe," he wrote in 1963, "that human evil, primarily expressed in undue self-concern, is a corruption of its essential freedom and *grows with its freedom*. [emphasis mine] Therefore, every effort to equate evil purely with the ignorance of the mind and with the passions of the body is confusing and erroneous." A page later he makes clear that this growth is a matter of history: "...both good and evil grow in history ... evil has no separate history ... a greater evil is always a corruption of a greater good."

I find this a fascinating thought and look forward to see how Niebuhr developed it. Perhaps it will help me in my ongoing conversation with my wife Nancy Avila, in which she tends to stress the positive developments of humanity where I am depressed by the horrors we humans commit. As someone who learns a lot through reading, I would like to know what others are reading. Perhaps you can pick a favorite quote and write a short description of something you are reading that strikes you as important?

Thinking About Afghanistan Film and Discussion

Please join us to watch the award winning film "**RETHINKING AFGHANISTAN**" on Sunday, January 30. Afterwards, view the reports of the recent reevaluation of the war, and join a discussion led by Katrina Bisheimer about the national Bring the War Dollars Home campaign.

Since policy makers are considering next steps for our military and our federal budget, it is important that, as citizens and taxpayers, we learn all we can about the current status of the war in Afghanistan – that is costing not only lives but \$2 billion a week from the defense budget directly and more in indirect costs, for example veterans' care. What could our nation do with \$104 billion in the next year (52 weeks times \$2 billion) to rebuild our economy? How many soldiers and civilians would be spared physical and mental injuries?

This event will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2011 from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Ellsworth, 121 Bucksport Road (US Route 1).

This event is sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee and the Peace and Social Action Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Ellsworth and Peninsula Peace and Justice. The event is open to the public and there is no charge.

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 Hospice 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Building Your Own Theology(closed) 6:30 ACS	2 6:30 Coyote 8:30 Candlelight Service	3 12:00 Al-Anon	4 10:00 Yoga 6:00 AA 6:00 UUCE Choir	5 2:00 League of Women Voters 6:00 Pizza & Movie Night
6 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 Committee Fair	7 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons 6:00 UUCE Choir	8 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Building Your Own Theology(closed) 6:00 ACS	9 12:00 Downeast Discussion Group 4:00 Celtic Musicians 6:30 Coyote Group	10 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting	11 10:00 Yoga 6:00 AA 6:00 UUCE Chorale rehearsal	12 5:30 Cabin Fever Fundraiser
13 10:30 a.m. Worship Service HUNGRY SUNDAY POTLUCK 11:45 Adult RE: Listening to be Heard	14 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	15 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Building Your Own Theology(closed) 6:00 ACS	16 4:00 Celtic musicians 6:30 Coyote Group	17 12:00 Al-Anon	18 10:00 Yoga 6:00 AA	19
20 9:00 PASA 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 Adult RE: Listening to be Heard 1:30 Drumming Circle	21 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	22 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 ACS	23 4:30 Celtic musicians 6:30 Coyote Group	24 12:00 Al-Anon	25 10:00 Yoga 6:00 AA	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 Adult RE: Listening to be Heard	28 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons					

UUCE Church events are in **RED**. Building use and rentals not otherwise connected to UUCE are in **BLACK**.

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605

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The NUUS

February 2011

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
February, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 2

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.**

