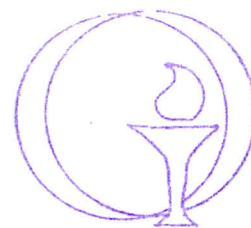


UNITARIAN CHURCH

ELLSWORTH, MAINE
Sundays 10:30 am
Phone: 667-4393



Dr. Harry C. Meserve, Minister
Box 1066, Southwest Harbor, Me.
Phone: 244-7124

NEWSLETTER March 1978

The following was the meditation on Sunday, January 29. It was suggested that it be printed in the Newsletter:

Let us turn our minds to our church. May we who have come here from many places and many walks of life, with many different needs and capacities, and with the common sorrows, joys, fears, and hopes that are part of the human condition, pay attention to the things that unite us. As we worship and work together, may we put first things first; may we care more for the health of the church than for our own opinions. May we speak the truth as we see it with boldness, but also with love. May we listen with patience, help one another with gladness, respect the freedom and rights of others as we wish our own to be respected.

In all things may we seek to create and nourish here the seeds of a free religious community where all sorts and conditions of people can find the warmth of friendship, the light of shared hopes and the strength of human purposes.

We remember all who have been part of this church over the years: ministers and lay people, the aged, the mature, and the very young, all strangers and pilgrims, all seekers after truth. We remember that others have labored and that we have entered into their labors. May we have the wisdom to know what our commitments are, and strength, when we know them, to persevere with firmness, with kindness, and with hope.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Mar 5 Dr. Harry C. Meserve
Mar 12 Dr. Arthur Foote
Mar 19 Dr. Harry C. Meserve
Mar 26 Dr. Arthur Foote

SERMON DISCUSSION

Dr. Meserve will continue to deal with Unitarian-Universalism in his March sermons, and on Sunday, Mar. 19, will hold a general discussion after the service, on this topic. This would be a good time to invite friends or relatives who are interested in finding out more about the U-U way of life and thought.

* * *

The trustees will meet at 7pm on Wednesday March 8. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SEXTON DUTIES

Mar 5 Fred & Eleanor Shea
Mar 12 Helen Silver and Louise Tweedie
Mar 19 Audrey Moody and Louise Tweedie
Mar 26 & Apr 2 Lester and Emma Wass

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The Women's Alliance will meet on Mar. 1, with Augusta Bromley and Emma Wass as hostesses. Following the business meeting, Phyllis Canfield will give a talk about Star Island.

Members will be selling "Easter" Maybaskets at the Mall on March 16, 17, 23, and 24.

OPEN LETTER

Dear Friends,
Inter-Religious Urgent Action Network is a group of people within the Amnesty International USA, who spend a few minutes once a month to write cards or letters to authorities indicating their concern for the safety, well-being, and freedom of "prisoners of conscience." People throughout the world are imprisoned for their religious beliefs or because of their involvement in efforts to relieve social, economic, and other human injustices.

I would like to discuss this effort and other AI activities in more detail with all who realize their responsibility to the World Community. There will be a brief meeting after services Sunday, Mar 5 for anyone (member or non-member) who would like to know more about AI. Please come to listen and to share.

Chris Rusnov-Benedum

A FORUM?

Would you like to hear some interesting, thought-provoking speakers on non-religious topics such as local or political issues? Would this be a community service as well as a way of creating interest in our church? Anyone with suggestions for speakers or topics, for some sort of a Public Forum, please tell Dr. Meserve or Eric Benedum, and perhaps a series can be set up

WELCOME!

We are happy to welcome two more new members, Maurice & Ruby Crews of Southwest Harbor! At the morning service on Sunday April 23, there will be a reception for all who have joined the church since last spring. Anyone else thinking of formally doing so before Apr. 23 should speak to Helen Pease, membership chairman, or to Dr. Meserve.

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If you have any thoughts on what should become of the communion service, etc. from the old church, please tell your trustees.

FOR THE LAND

Since the church voted to buy the adjacent land, the response has been most gratifying! Fund-raising ideas, donations and pledges have all come forth. Treasurer Stan Richmond says \$4300 has been received, and \$850 pledged (from a total of 12 members) to date.

(March 8 is the deadline for immediate cash gifts, then a loan will be arranged for whatever amount is still needed.)

Eleanor Carlson reports that Walter Nowick, famed pianist of Surry, has generously offered to put on a benefit concert for us!

Others have suggested card parties, sales, etc., and Eric Benedum will coordinate these plans. Let him know what YOU can help with!

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Our special music at Easter will be provided by Kristin Lindley, violin, and Masanobu (Mike) Ikemiya, piano.

Please note the change of date for our third concert, from March 26 to April 30.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Since the discussion group's February potluck supper was such a success, there will be another in March. Join in at 6:30 pm on Thursday March 23, for supper, followed by a discussion of "The American Dream." Everyone is welcome. Call Terry Garnett (667-5855) if you have any questions.

INTEREST CORNER

Even before retiring to Maine in 1970, EDDIE and IRMA KAMPS were enthusiastic Unitarians, in Quincy and Weymouth, Mass. Now they live in Sedawick, and keep busy fixing up their home.

Eddie was an electrician with the railroad. He also used to fly, and is hoping to renew his pilot's license again soon. Irma has always enjoyed the outdoors, children, swimming, and nature. They are faithful members of our congregation, and always interested in meeting newcomers.

March 1978

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

I always associate that familiar proverb with a Latin teacher I once had. When, as often happened, some confident boy was translating his ten lines of Virgil boldly and well, he was almost certain to stumble toward the end over some nasty and stubborn adverb, participle, or gerundive form and miss perfection or sometimes even adequacy. At such moments our teacher would say with a compassionate smile, "Sic transit gloria mundi."

I now associate the blizzard of 1978 with this famous line. It was not only that the storm in a widespread way frustrated human glory, power, and even patient endurance. But as with everyone else, something special happened to me. I'll tell you my story, and you tell me yours. It was, in fact, two days after the blizzard when our trusty plowman hurled his truck in vain against the drifts in our drive, at the end of which two cars were imprisoned. After his failure he had left a place near the road just large enough for one car, if we could get it out. We pondered the problem, shovels in hand, surveying the six-foot drifts the storm had left as well as the higher one the plow had built right in the middle of what was once the driveway. A creative idea came. The meadow next to the drive was almost clear of snow. Kay and I, like "stout Cortez. . . and all his men. . . look'd at each other with a wild surmise." Could we get a car up the hill over the meadow and out of the driveway of the house next door? Maybe. We cleared a hole through the drift in the neighboring driveway. We started a car. And then, shades of Walter Mitty, I took off across the field and up the hill, driving as fast as I dared, narrowly missing a pine tree and a doghouse, and getting stuck only once briefly as I entered the other driveway. So we were freed from snow's imprisonment and even had a good place to park at the entrance of our own drive. "Free at last," as the song goes.

That afternoon I took the newly freed car. I was still glowing with the sense of triumph of getting it out across that field and around all those still unplowed drifts. I drove to the city of Ellsworth with earnest purposes and pious thoughts. I got out of my car to go to a couple of shops. When I started back to the car, I could not find the keys. I looked everywhere, my ego shrinking with each passing moment. No keys. A piteous suppliant, I walked to the VW place. No, they could not make a duplicate, even if they had a number. Their key man was in Florida. I borrowed a car, drove home, got another key, returned, started my car, had the key duplicated and drove home, having covered 80 miles.

As I drove, I thought I saw on a pink cloud in the golden western sky the mysterious and profound words: "Sic transit gloria mundi."

R.C.M.