

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.



NEWSLETTER Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth JANUARY 1989

WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAY at 10:30 am-- Child Care Provided
(Except on JANUARY 1 and 29 - service starts at 11:00am)
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES START ON JANUARY 8 at 10:30am
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-- January 15

OUR LOVING AND HEALING THOUGHTS GO TO ROBERT ROYAL, who is ill with cancer. He is at home now, at 79 Court Street, Ellsworth.

JANUARY 22- PARISH MEETING SUNDAY! PANCAKE BREAKFAST at 8:30am; PARISH MEETING, 10 am; SERVICE (with BARRY STODDARD) 11 am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Religious Education Committee is pleased to announce that 4 R.E. Classes will begin on Sunday, January 8th, from 10:45 to 11:45 am. The classes and leaders will be as follows:

"HOW MIRACLES ABOUND" (Ages 3-5)- Joni Fitzgerald and Kay Hanson (Kay will teach from March to June.)

In this curriculum, miracles are explored; such as the miracle that all creatures have a place in nature, the miracles of the cycles of life; the miracle of our body, etc. Each miracle has a corresponding UUA principle; such as "We care about our universe", "We help take care of our world." The children will be involved with a lot of arts, crafts, music, and movement that will help them experience the uniqueness of our hands, the place of snails in nature, how winter affects us, et al.

"EXPERIENCES WITH LIVING THINGS" (Ages 6-8)- Charlie Schelling and Ellen Hatch

Stories, songs and experiences such as becoming an earthworm are offered in this curriculum. Much like "How Miracles Abound", this will offer our 6-8 year olds ways in which to begin to connect themselves to basic UU values, using the medium of the natural world.

"EXPLORING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM" (Ages 9-11)- Nancy Guy and Charlie Lerner

The heritage of the UU Church of Ellsworth, exploring the music of Malvina Reynolds, finding out about what Unitarian Universalists think about Jesus, God, and the Bible are all on the menu of this curriculum, one that is geared to helping our 9-11 year olds discover what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist.

"WORLD RELIGIONS" (Ages 12-14)- Sandy Phoenix and Kate Morse

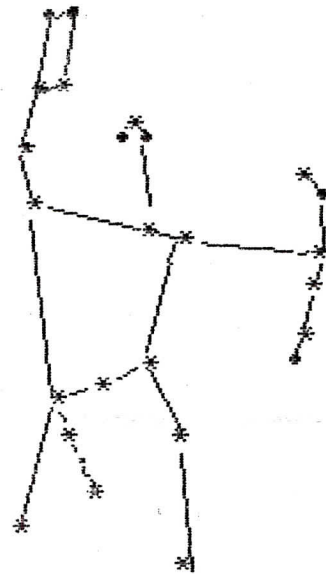
A brand-new curriculum that offers a look at not only the predominant religions in the world, but Native American, African, and Wiccan religions as well. Of importance to us is its focus on what Unitarian Universalism shares with them, and connections held in common.

We hope you might pass this information along to any of your friends and acquaintances who may be wanting a religious foundation for their children but are unhappy with the traditional Sunday School offerings in their neighborhood. We have a strong and caring group of leaders who will welcome and encourage visiting children and their families. Pass the word (the word, not the Word!

Plans are taking shape for next year as well! Vyvyenne Richie, Tom Hanson, and Doug Trenkle have enthusiastically agreed to attend the 3-day leader training workshop for the UUA's "About Your Sexuality" curriculum for Junior Highers. They will be offering this curriculum to our church and surrounding communities in the Fall of 1989. If you run into Doug, Tom or Vyvyenne, please ask them about their "enclave" at All Souls (UU) Church in Augusta, January 20-22!

(RE NEWS continues on page 2.)

Charles J. Stephens, Minister
 Rt. 1, Bx 7B, Blue Hill 04614; Ph. 374-2285
 Church Office Hours; 111 Court Street, Ellsworth
 Mon. & Wed. 1-3pm, or by appointment
 Church Phone 667-4393
 Kathleen Allan, Intern Minister
 Severn Towl, Intern Minister
 Harry C. Meserve, Minister Emeritus
 Doug Houck, President
 Blue Hill 04614; Ph. 374-2168
 Laura M. Clewley, Treasurer
 RFD1, Bx 464, Ellsworth 04605; Ph. 667-3923
 Mary Alice Thurston, Editor, Typist and Sketchist
 RR1, Bx 75A, Steuben, 04680; Ph. 546-2235
Unsigned copy has been written by the editor.
 Carol and Howard Glefke, Printing
 Nancy Guy, Mailing



WINTER-
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 IN HIS
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 WORLD!

R.E. NEWS (con't.) A SECOND LEADER TRAINING SESSION will be held on SUNDAY, JAN. 15TH from noon-2 pm, for our R.E. Leaders. Charles Stephens will be offering "Basics of Unitarian Universalism", and any interested visitors are warmly invited to attend.

We are excited about the momentum in Religious Education and hope you will stop in, visit us, and share in the learning and fun. And read on for other Religious Education announcements. There are offerings for everyone! --Kathleen Allan, R.E. Coordinator

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL BEGINS JANUARY 29th- As many of you know, the congregation of children in our church has been sharing the first part of our services every Sunday since September. By doing this, we have had the opportunity of being together as a whole community and sharing the experience of worship together for a time. This has also provided an education and a challenge to your ministers- both intern and seasoned- about how to facilitate intergenerational worship! We believe we have all benefited by the awareness granted through remembering ourselves whole.

The Religious Education Committee, in response to parents and other members and friends of our church, has decided to provide our youth with their own chapel space and time, in addition to joining the adult congregation. Beginning Jan. 29th, and every other week thereafter until the end of May, the children will spend the first 15 minutes of their R.E. time in a Children's Chapel Corner of the Community Room. With the help of Sandy Lerner and others, the children will decorate this space with their own hands and share in exploring the "Word for the Day" with music, dance, quiet, and a sometimes puppeteering leader. Each week in between, the children will continue to join the adults for the first 15 minutes of that service.

We hope some of you may want to visit with us in the Children's Chapel and share in this new adventure. You are warmly invited to partake of the spirit of our children. -- K. Allan, for the R.E. Committee

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BREWING!- Beginning weekly on Monday night, February 13, from 7-9pm, a range of Adult Religious Education experiences will be offered. "Lifespan R.E. Night will include 3 main dishes on the menu. Courses will begin at 7 pm; at 8 pm all three groups will break for refreshments, returning to the individual groups from 8:15 to 9 pm.

(1) "HOW CAN I HELP?", an 8-session program will be offered by Kathleen Allan, based on the book, *How Can I Help? Reflections on Service* by Ram Dass and Paul Gorman, which explores the personal side of service to others. A chapter by chapter study of the book, this course will encourage awareness of the spiritual dimensions of caring, draw on the personal stories of participants for exploring how human beings help one another, and help participants look at helping situations through a wider

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, Cont.- and to experience the unity of all people. A fee of \$15, which includes the cost of the book, is asked. Limit: 12 participants.

(2) A course on HUMANISM is in the process of taking shape.

(3) A third exploration will be offered, but before we plan this, we want to hear from you. What do you want/need in this slot?

Registration begins now. The third course offering will be announced. We ask that you register and/or share your ideas for a third course as early as possible in January. To register, call the church (667-4393) and leave your name, phone number, and the course which interests you. In February, we plan to advertise these to the public.

The **CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN** group continues meeting every other Monday evening. Because of planning for a January worship service, and the slow arrival of books on order, they have been delayed on getting underway with Riane Eisler's *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future*. This book has received a wide range of rave reviews, has been billed by Ashley Montague as "the most important book since Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, and is receiving a lot of attention in UU circles. This group is open to the women of our church and surrounding communities, and would welcome newcomers to join in the Eisler explorations. Beginning in February, this group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

—Kathleen Allan, R.E.

Coordinator

SEVERN TOWL INTRODUCES HERSELF, WARTS AND ALL

As I look ahead to my full-time involvement with all of you, I am very aware of how much and how far many of us drive in order to be together. This willingness speaks well for the spirit of our two churches!

Another thing the distances speak to is the fact that we don't live near one another, and don't see one another much except at church. I thought, therefore, that I'd introduce myself by telling you some things about me that you wouldn't know unless we were neighbors--the "warts", the oddities, and what makes me me!

I have a 9-year-old gray Araucana chicken named Marian, the last of her flock. I have a 10-year-old gray cat named Willie, who adopted me when he was 1. I have an 18-year-old (not gray!) son named Nat (Nathanael), a freshman at UMO. More accurately, they all have me.

I live on 11 acres in Guilford in a home we built when we moved here in 1973. I am constantly aware that I am part of the natural world, and that "my" wildlife allows me to share the land with them. Nature, in all its beauty and violence, is essential to my health and world-view.

I have run my own herb business, founded and directed a project for battered women and children, done and taught calligraphy; I am an editor, a dancer, a carpenter, a risk-taker, and a struggler for a better world.

I love going barefoot. I like a lot of solitude. I talk to myself, even sometimes when other people are around! I like most kinds of music except country, though I often listen to rock and roll in my car (I miss my son!)

My favorite animals are cats, chickens, crows, camels and chickadees-- I don't know the significance of the letter c.

I look forward to our time together, and to getting to know the many things that make up each of you. --Severn Towl

CRITIC'S CORNER

-We enjoyed very much the "Celebration of Christmas" by the combined Acadia Choral Society, Bagaduce Choral Chamber Orchestra and Brass Ensemble- and were especially pleased to note the numbers of UU's in their ranks. (We get triple credit for Irving Forbes.)


News Flash ✓ Our choir will practice and sing on January 15th!

CIRCLE SUPPERS- will be held on Friday the 13th of January. If you want to participate in one of these sociable gatherings, let Caroline Goering (374-2175) know by Sunday the 8th.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM- will be led by Bob Dickens on Sunday, Jan. 15th at 9:30 am. A VCR tape entitled "Heroes", offered by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change will be shown. This will be followed by discussion. --Bob Dickens

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE- will take Jack Frost Vacation in January & Feb.

G. STEUBEN AREA DISCUSSION GROUP- No meeting in January. The topic on Wednesday, Feb. 15 will be Abraham Lincoln.

WELCOME TO EMILYNNE PARKHURST BELL who was born on September 18, 1988 at MDI hospital! (and we apologize for the lateness of this announcement). Stephen and Alison drew on several family names when they decided on her name: There's Alison *Lynne Parkhurst* Bell (Emilynne's Mom); *Carolyn* (Alison's Mom); *Emily* (Carolyn's Mom) and *Emeline* (Steve's great great grandmother)!

A MESSAGE FROM SARAH SMITH: "Thanks to all church members and especially to Charles and Alison who presented the Award of Service to me on the anniversary of my 100th birthday. It was a lovely affair and so deeply appreciated by my family and myself."--Sarah S. Smith

A MESSAGE FROM THE SWEENEYS- "Peace on Earth, to all our Friends at the Unitarian Church. Best Wishes and Good Health to everyone at Christmas and the New Year." --John and Nancy Sweeney

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE NOV. 88 CHURCH DIRECTORY-

*Ellen Hatch, Oak Point Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605. Ph 667-8590

Pam Feeney, Rt. 1, Box 76, Steuben, ME 04680. Ph 546-7472

Ron Muir (& Kate), Box 592, Ellsworth, ME 04605 Ph 667-7183

A WARM WELCOME TO PAM, RON, and KATE!

REMEMBER THOSE SPECIAL HOLIDAY GUESTS- We are all asked to entertain special guests during this season. The guests come to us from our UU Service Committee. GUEST AT YOUR TABLE boxes were distributed Nov. 20th and are still available. At every meal, we are asked to reach out to others by placing coins in the box. (Some may do better to put the box near the microwave for those eat-and-run meals.) Whatever works for you, please don't forget your guest. Our service committee uses the monies collected for their projects, helping people around the world. RETURN YOUR BOXES ON CHRISTMAS EVE, NEW YEARS DAY, or soon after. If you have no box, or would prefer to give by check, please feel free to do so. --Charles

THERE IS INFORMATION AT CHURCH ON: ++UU SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS reports on our work in Sudan, Jamaica, El Salvador, Eritrea... ++STAR ISLAND 1989 Summer Conferences, off the coast of Portsmouth, NH. ++THE MOUNTAIN, Highlands Camp and Conference Center at Highlands, NC. ++SUUSI Southeast UU Summer Institute, in the foothills of the Appalachians, Radford, VA.

CAMBRIDGE FORUM- MPBN- MONDAYS AT 12:30 PM

Jan. 2- "The U.S.-Japan Relationship", Akio Morita; Jan. 9- "Japan Considers Its Future", Ezra Vogel; Jan. 16- "Negotiating Good U.S.- Soviet Relations", Roger Fisher; Jan. 23- "*Beloved: A Novel*", Toni Morrison; Jan. 30- "Molecular Biology Reaches Maturity", David Baltimore.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE A UUA TRUSTEE FROM NED, speak to Charles immediately. The nominating process is underway.

SUMMER SERVICES QUESTIONNAIRE

It is very important that we receive your response to this opinion survey. There was some discussion at the October Parish Meeting and it was decided to ask all of you for YOUR opinion and YOUR offer of volunteer assistance. Your response to this survey will help the Church Board make plans for this summer. Thank you! --Charles

- (1) Are you in favor of having Summer Services? Yes () No ()
If so, do you favor having services during JULY ONLY? Yes () No ()
Or, do you favor having services during both JULY AND AUGUST? Yes () No ()
(2) How often will YOU plan to attend these services?

- (3) If you want to have Summer Services, with which of the following tasks will you help?
() making coffee
() cleaning the church
() helping arrange for regular music for hymns, and any special music
() working on publicity about our guest speakers
() being in church some Sundays to greet, welcome, and orient the guest speakers

CHARLES' COMMENTARY- THE PLIGHT OF TRANSYLVANIA- 1988

Because of his progressive Unitarian faith, Francis David died a martyr's death in 1579. In 1858 the first English Unitarian minister, Rev. E. Tagart, visited Transylvania. He bought a gift of 2000 pounds to help the Unitarians, then persecuted by the Austrians. In 1926, Frederick Weis, an American Unitarian minister (father of Virginia Bourne of Castine) visited and interviewed many Transylvanians and wrote, "The future of Unitarian Christianity in Transylvania hangs in the balance. Every day the Romanian government, by unjust laws and misused power, causes the issue to become more doubtful."

Unitarians in Transylvania once again suffer the threat of increased oppression. The plight of the liberal religious men and women I talked with and shared hospitality with last year, during my sabbatical, is precarious. The Ceausescu government of Romania wishes to fully "Romanianize" Transylvania. They wish to neutralize the entire Hungarian-speaking minority, including not only Unitarians, but also Lutherans, Calvinists and Roman Catholics.

Some 8000 villages and cities are scheduled for destruction. This is a destruction not only of buildings, but of people and their way of life. They are to be moved to large, concrete, high-rise agro-industrial centers. The Romanian claim is that this is planned in order to enhance agricultural production.

Many Transylvanians are not waiting to see what happens. 10,000 have already sought refuge in Hungary, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union. I think of Bishop Kovac, and Michael, Fulop, Sandor and other Unitarian ministers I met, the villages and churches we visited, and I feel a chill. If I were to return, even next summer, would they still be there? Would their churches or villages remain standing?

The United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and many others signed the Treaty of Paris giving control over Transylvania to Romania. In that treaty, Romania agreed to respect the Transylvanians without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. That commitment has never been kept. Now it looks as though it will be totally forgotten, unless we do something about it. The Romanian plans violate not only the Treaty of Paris, but the Helsinki Accords and the United Nations Treaty outlawing genocide.

Our UUA president, Bill Schulz, wrote that he was "...in the process of approaching the top leadership of the Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic churches with the request that they join me in seeking appointments with the ambassadors and other appropriate officials of the signatory powers of the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty. ...We will make a similar direct approach to Romania itself..."

The UUA is also asking the United Nations to undertake an investigation of Romania's treatment of her minority populations, and is attempting to get permission from Romania for a small delegation of UU's to visit our churches in Transylvania next spring.

SOME OF THE THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW:

- (1) Write the American Secretary of State urging that the U.S. government begin consultations at once with the other signatories of the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty in order to persuade Romania to cease its abrogation of the treaty.
- (2) Write the American Ambassador to the United Nations with the request that this situation be referred to the UN Commission on Human Rights and that a UN investigation be undertaken of Romania's treatment of minorities.
- (3) Send financial support for the Transylvanian refugees in Hungary to our church, payable to our church, and we will transfer the funds to the International Association for Religious Freedom, which is distributing contributions.
- (4) Possibly plan to be part of the IARF Congress in 1990, meeting in Hamburg, West Germany, Aug. 2-11. And then join in the tour of East Berlin, Budapest, and Transylvania. More information about that will be available soon.

--Charles J. Stephens

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY
111 Court Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

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January 1989 CALENDAR

- Sun. 1 11 am HAPPY NEW YEAR!- service will be fashionably late
"LET IT BE NEW!", Rev. Stephens speaking
NO RE CLASSES, but child care available
Bring a few holiday cookies to share at Coffee Hour
- Tues. 3 7 pm Church Board Meeting
- Sun. 8 10:30am RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES START! *(see p. 1)*
Children participate in church service first 15 minutes
SEVERN TOWL, who begins serving full-time as an
Intern Minister, will conduct the service. Come and
welcome her to our pulpit. (Rev. Stephens in Castine.)
- 11:45am Ministerial Relations Committee Meeting
- Mon. 9 9:30a-3p UU Ministers meeting in Bangor
- 7-9 pm "CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN" Group. *(see p. 5)*
- Fri. 13 CIRCLE SUPPERS *(see p. 4)*
- Sun. 15 9:30am DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
PROGRAM ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., led by
Bob Dickens *(see p. 4)*
- 10:30am RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
"THE CREEDAL DEVELOPMENT OF A NON-CREEDAL
CHURCH", sermon by Rev. Stephens
- 12-2pm R.E. LEADER TRAINING SESSION (brown bag lunch)
The basics of UU beliefs about God, the Bible, Jesus...
Non-teachers are welcome, if curious. *(see p. 2)*
- Mon. 16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY- "The ultimate weak-
ness of violence is a descending spiral, begetting the
very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing
evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you murder the
hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence
merely increases hate...adding deeper darkness to a
night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive
out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only love can do that." M.L.K., Jr.
- Sun. 22 JANUARY PARISH MEETING DAY
- 8:30am PANCAKE BREAKFAST- The men who prepared our
Pledge Cook-Off Kick-off enjoyed themselves so much
they have agreed to a return engagement.
- 10 am PARISH MEETING- election of Nominating Committee
- 11 am REV. BARRY STODDARD will be featured. *(Note
change of time!)* R.E. CLASSES at the same time.
- Mon. 23 10 am Local Humanist Study Group Meeting in Bangor
- 7-9 pm "CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN" group meets.
- Thurs. 26 6:30pm RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE meeting
- Sun. 29 10:30am CHILDREN'S CHAPEL in Community Room *(see p. 2)*
Word for the day: "Church". RE CLASSES follow.
"PARTNERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE", a
service by the "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" group.
We recognize and celebrate, among other things, the
rich history and presence of our Unitarian Women's
Alliance.