

THE NUUS ♦♦♦ JUNE 1994  
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELLSWORTH

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote ..."Acceptance of one another and encouragement to growth in our congregations"

..Excerpt from the Principles of  
The Unitarian-Universalist Association..

WORSHIP SERVICES AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: SUNDAY 10:30 AM THROUGH JUNE 5  
Nursery and Child Care Provided

CALENDAR - JUNE 1994

- |           |         |          |  |
|-----------|---------|----------|--|
| Sunday,   | June 5  | 10:30 AM | Rev. J. Glenn H. Turner<br>**"Reflections on Pilgrimage"<br>HUNGRY SUNDAY: PLEASE BRING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY                         |
| Thursday, | June 16 | 6:00PM   | Meeting of Church Board<br>of Directors  |
| Thursday, | June 9  | 5:00 PM  | Women's Alliance Meeting at the Church<br>All women of the church are welcome  |
| Friday,   | June 10 | 7:00 PM  | Understanding Sexual Orientations<br>Dessert Potluck   |
| Sunday,   | June 12 | 10:30 AM | "Flower Communion" Service<br>by the Sunday School   |
| Sunday,   | June 19 | 10:30 AM | Kathleen Sikkema<br>"The Healing Power of Music"   |
| Thursday, | June 23 | 6:00 PM  | Women's Read & Feed<br>Potluck followed by Book Discussion   |
| Sunday,   | June 26 | 10:30 AM | Rev. J. Mark Worth<br>"Character"  |
| Sunday,   | July 3  | 10:00 AM | Gail Geisenhainer<br>PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME FOR SUMMER SERVICES: 10:00 am<br>Services will be held every Sunday in July and August |

\* Glenn will be speaking about his recent trip to Nepal and Thailand, and his talk should be of great interest.

The NUUS is published monthly. In the past we have not published a newsletter during July and August, but this summer we do plan to do so. The deadline for news is the 3rd Sunday of each month. Your contributions are most welcome. Presently the editor is Kathleen Sikkema. Any items you wish for us to include in the next newsletter may be given to her personally, left on the bottom rack of the shelves in the library room, or mailed to her (PO Box 1342, Ellsworth)

## NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As we approach the Children's Flower Festival and the close of another year in the children's program, it seems only natural to take time to reflect on the past months and do an informal evaluation.

The program has many strengths. About forty children have been involved this year, with weekly attendance hovering around twenty since Thanksgiving. A dozen attend every week, while several attend on alternating weeks.

Parental support has been adequate to cover supplies and many of the materials we used were donated. We are in the process of purchasing some new child sized tables and chair to replace the broken ones, as well as some outdoor play equipment.

Our goals for this year were broader and less defined than we hope to have in the future due to the difficulty we had finding an appropriate curriculum. Next year, we are offering World Religions using the interfaith calendar and Holidays and Holy Days curriculum.

After discussing with the children what they want next year, it is clear that they wish to continue many of our "rituals" such as Thanksgiving centerpiece making, candlelight Christmas Eve, and Ukrainian Egg decorating. (they also identified Beach Cleanup, Halloween Haunted House, Big Gingerbread cookies, Tree ornament making, Earth Day, Sledding Sunday, Flower Communion with skits, and Potluck, as our church rituals.) They were decidedly interested in learning to make May Baskets, developing friendships with more adults in the congregation, doing more outdoor and "hands-on" activities, requested some summer outings as a group, AND reminded us that we started both a playground and a nature trail which we have yet to complete.

Our most persistent need in the program is volunteer teachers. Within the next month the calendar for next year will be circulated. If you have an interest in helping with the children's program next year, please contact Mark Worth, myself or anyone on the RE Committee. Our next meeting is June 6th, 7:00 PM at the church.

Doni Whitehead  
RE Coordinator

## CLEANING SCHEDULE

June 4th: Carol Fink and Doris Watkins  
June 11th: Art and Martha Brieger  
June 18th: Mary Peirce and Ade Conroy  
June 25th: Harry Cunningham and Nancy Glista

## SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING

MAY 12, 1994

In a memorandum to nominee Laura Clewly, retiring Treasurer, Phil Person, stated that pledge income is down by \$2,056 compared to April 1993, and so are receipts from rentals. Noting that our investment in the Government Bond Fund matures on May 15th, he listed a comparison of yields on Money Market Accounts, O-Coupon Treasuries and Treasury notes.

Along with the Government Bond Fund, our other major investments will mature over the next four months, for a total of \$50,000. In a letter, Ross Keller of the Investment Committee recommended that twenty percent be put into mutual funds and the balance into C.D.'s for 36 to 40 months.

The Flower Communion on the second Sunday in June marks the end of the Religious Education program until the fall. Childcare will be provided throughout June and, if Kasha Ellsworth is available, it will continue during the summer.

Each September, there is a lag in attendance at services, and ideas that might spark the congregation were tossed in the air. It was pointed out that one reason for the lag is the number of fairs that beckon to people throughout the fall.

Roadside signs have been rented to announce fund raisers. At \$50 an event, it would make sense to purchase a sign, albeit they are unattractive. Instead, the vision of a wooden Wayside Pulpit with glass doors and a roof to protect it from the rain was set before the Board. Since we have members who do beautiful things with wood, it was decided to approach them.

At least three bids are coming in for the new roof, and they will be evaluated by John Fink and Howard Glefke of the Building Maintenance Committee. There will be specifications that will have to be met by each contractor, and the committee will make sure they are included in each bid.

The next Board meeting, including old and new members, will be on May 16th at 6:00 PM.

Carol Fink  
Secretary

## READ & FEED

This month the Read & Feed date is June 23, at the church, at 6:00 PM for Potluck, followed at 7:00 with the book discussion. For more information please contact either Micky Worth or Sally Bell.



## MARK MY WORD

*Who's liberal?* David Usher, the minister of the Unitarian Church in Peterborough, New Hampshire, tells this true story: After the Sunday service not long ago, two visitors came to him and introduced themselves, announcing that they were Ulls from X church in the mid-west. He welcomed them. One of the visitors could hardly contain her eagerness to put Rev. Usher in his place. "In *our* church," she said, "We are much more liberal than you."

"In *our* church, if you used the word 'God' people would object, and if you used the word 'Lord,' they would get up and walk out, right in the middle of the service." She told him this with evident pride and satisfaction. "You are so conservative here," she continued, "but in *our* church, we are much more liberal."

Rev. Usher managed to keep his cool with the visitors who took such glee in their imagined liberalism, but he was fuming underneath his smile. He had used the word "Lord" in a quote, clearly labeled as such. It was from a historic document, and he had explained that he felt it was improper to change the author's words. He uses the word "God" without apology.

David Usher's experience with the visitors reminds me of the mixed messages I received the first time I preached in the church where I did my student internship. After the service two men passed me notes. One was the order of service from a Congregational Church. In the margins were approving references to hymns which emphasized God and Christ. The man said we should sing more of those hymns. The other note sent the opposite message. It read, "You used three words that we do not use in this church: blessed, holy, and amen." (It happened that I had not used the word "God." Perhaps if a minister pleases one person, s/he is bound to offend another.)

How liberal are we? How tolerant are we? When Mickey first started attending a Ull church with me in Massachusetts, I bragged about our tolerance. She replied, "Yes, we're tolerant. We're tolerant of everyone who thinks exactly as we do." She had noticed that we were tolerant of religions, like Hinduism, that we really knew very little about. But the religion we were closest to, Christianity, was sometimes the object of unfair ridicule.

I have wondered about the loose way in which we sometimes use the words "liberal" and "conservative". (Are Russian Communists left wing or right wing today?) Surely liberalism is not a matter of content, but of style. A liberal keeps the door open for dialogue, and would be generous, not closed-minded, to those with different viewpoints. The visitors to the Peterborough Church might be fundamentalists of the left, but they did not express a liberal view. I've been glad to find that our Ellsworth Church is almost always liberal, in the best sense of the word. Thank you for your warm-hearted liberalism!

Shalom, *Mark*

::

**SERMON SEGMENT from May 10, 1994:**

**"Humanist Universalism" Rev. Mark Worth**

"Are you a humanist or a theist?" Some people still ask ministers this, as if the label could tell them what they want to know. The question doesn't mean much today, but I'll answer it anyway! To the extent that my primary concerns are human concerns -- this life, this day -- I'm a humanist. I believe that religion is a human creation. I believe in the laws of nature. I respect the accomplishments of science. I love and weep for the human condition.

Yet to me that does not mean that I cannot also call myself a pantheist or even a Christian -- or perhaps a Taoist as well. I am, at my core, a universalist; not only in the traditional definition that a universalist is one who believes in a God (whatever God may be) whose love embraces all people, but also in the more modern definition of one who looks for value and wisdom in the various world faiths -- those things which unite us rather than those which keep us apart.

My humanism must have room for poetry and metaphor, not just the literal interpretations of a strict scientific view. "What do you think that cloud looks like?" asks Susie, the little girl in Bill Wasserstein's comic strip Calvin and Hobbes. Calvin answers without mercy, "A bunch of suspended water and ice particles. Why?" She stares at him and wanders off, and Calvin faces the readers proudly, hands on his hips, grinning. "Everybody hates a literalist." I don't want people staring at me blankly and then wandering off. Therefore, my humanism must realize that religious language is poetic and imprecise -- that sometimes people say God and mean an old man in the sky, and sometimes they mean something else.

My humanism must be open to the intrinsic value and mystery in natural things, the miracle in the every day, the holy in the ordinary. I agree with Maria Mitchell, the astronomer and Unitarian who wrote in 1874, "How strange it is that some people cannot believe in both the Book of Nature and the Book of God." My "humanist universalism" must remember the brokenheartedness of so much of society; it must leave room for the life of the spirit and the care of the soul. And it must have a conscience -- it must be a faith which reminds me of my responsibility to others. It must remind us of the things we have done and left undone, and still recognize that there is health in us.

### OUR NEW COPIER!

You may have noticed that these last two issues of the newsletter look a little different. That's because we now can make the copies with our wonderful new copier.

In the past we used the cranky old mimeograph machine, thanks to the perseverance and patience of Howard Glefke and other brave souls.

Now, with the new copier, we can use "camera ready" copy. That means that we can add artwork:



handwritten copy:

*Summer is coming  
Toa la, Toa la!*

and almost anything else on paper which can be photocopied. If you have any contributions to the newsletter which include such things, we will be happy to add them to the letter.

The person who provided the copier to us wishes to remain anonymous, but we can tell you that Gail Geisenhainer did the necessary leg work to make it all a reality. Our heartfelt thanks to both Anonymous and Gail!!

### WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Women's Alliance will meet on Thursday, June 9, from 5 to 7 PM at the church for its final meeting of the 1993-94 year. Bring a sandwich or snack if you wish; coffee and tea will be provided.

We'll review the results of this year's experiment in trying to meld two generations and sets of interests: younger working-for-pay women with the traditional Alliance members. Then we'll discuss and decided "What Next?" All women of the church are welcome.

### THANK YOU HELPERS

A hearty "Thank you!" to everyone who helped sell Easter and May Baskets this year. Special thanks to Carol Fink, who did the scheduling and follow-thru for the pre-May Day sales; Anne Dickens, who transported the display rack and baskets to the Mall; and Dot Noe, who is always there when needed and offering to help "above and beyond".

Ethel Schwalbe

### DOWNEAST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Downeast Discussion Group (which is open to all interested persons) will meet Wednesday, June 15, 1 PM, at the home of Peg Walker in Sullivan. Call Peg (422-3047) for directions if you need them.

The group will continue its discussion of the issues in George N. Marshall's CHALLENGE OF A LIBERAL FAITH. The June meeting will address "The Need for a Contemporary Religion" (Ch. 3) and "The Religious Liberal Faces Life" (Ch. 4). No need to stay away if you don't have the book; the chapters and their study guides are simply a way to help us focus discussion of our own ideas.

May Alice Thurston

### NEWS ABOUT JEAN HAY

Jean, a member of our church, is a Democratic candidate for Maine's Second Congressional District, as most of you know. She has been travelling about, visiting various organizations and churches to meet and talk with people, explaining her three basic campaign cornerstones: Respect for diversity, sustainability and common sense. Quoting Jean from an interview in the May 1994 *Maine Progressive*:

*"I would really like to see us get hope and joy back into politics because good politics can really do wonderful things . . . I feel Congress is our government in the same way I feel town meetings are our government."*

THIS SPACE HAS BEEN RESERVED

FOR

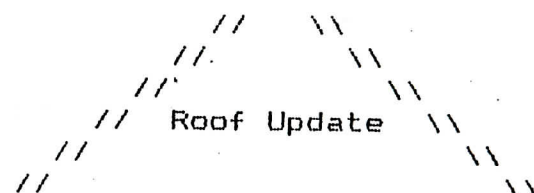
YOUR CONTRIBUTION

TO

THE

NEWSLETTER

But we couldn't find it anywhere



```

=====
||
|| Monday mornings, join us for
||
||           Yoga
||
|| with Diana Richardson.
||
|| The class starts promptly at
|| 9:00 in the sanctuary.
||
=====

```

Our Building Maintenance Committee is growing quickly, with three new members joining recently. John Fink is Chair, taking Howard Glefke's place. Howard was Chair for a looong time and finally decided to retire. He is, however, still on the committee. Recent new members are Judy Lehi, Greg Whitehead, and Alan Scease.

+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!+!

Committee members have been seen climbing around on the roof at various times. Bids have been solicited from four contractors, based on specifications drawn up by John. Two bids have been submitted and the other two should arrive shortly. The Building Maintenance Committee will review these and check references before making its recommendation to the Board.

**Take Note! Take Note! Take Note!**

In the summer, Sunday services will begin at 10:00 am rather than at 10:30. This will start with the beginning of the summer program and end with the last service in August.

Any interested member of the church is invited to read and comment on the bids. The committee welcomes additional information about the work done by the different bidders. To find out where we stand on the bids, call John Fink at 667-7181 or 667-7186. Bids have so far been received from Sinclair Builders of Ellsworth and Vincent Gill of Sorrento.

Also ... we will stay open all summer, including the last two weeks in August. This departure from our usual program is prompted by information from the Small Church Growth Workshop. We learned that many people are "shopping" for a church during August. They may have moved to the area recently or they may just be reordering their lives at summer's end before the start of school. Whatever their reasons, we felt it was foolish to be closed at a time when new people are very likely to be looking for us! If you have comments or thoughts about this, call Sally Bell at 667-7186.

} } } } } } } } } } } } } } } } } } } }

**Fundraisers**

**Services Auction:** This popular event has, sadly, to be postponed until the fall. A firm date has not been set, but it is planned tentatively for the end of September. As the time gets closer, the date will be announced in church and through this newsletter.

IN THE MEANTIME . . . this gives everyone much more time to plan wonderful services and items to be auctioned off when the time is here! This is a major fundraiser for the church, as well as being a lot of fun. Anything's fair game, from special dinners to cleaning to new pets to (maybe) a sermon topic (if we can persuade Mark!).

**Yard Sale:** We're eagerly collecting items from everyone's spring cleaning, so don't throw out all your usable -- or even unusable -- discards. (People buy the most amazing things at yard sales!) If you can keep your box(es) of yard sale items until July, that would be great. If you can't keep them, bring them to the church and put them in a corner of the common room. And don't forget -- the bake sale table will need your contributions, too.

**Very Important!** We need a yard sale coordinator this year. Can you help? We have volunteers to help out, but not to run it. We need you.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Parish Meeting

May 22, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Sally Bell at 11:45. Acknowledging the fact that a summary of the January 23rd Parish Meeting had appeared in the Newsletter, a motion to accept those minutes as printed was unanimously passed.

The Treasurer's Report for April was available for viewing. A motion to accept the report was unanimously passed.

In the absence of Anne Dickens and Betty Jane MacMichael of the Nominating Committee, retiring Treasurer Phil Person presented the slate of officers and Board members recommended by the committee:

President: Sally Bell	Board term, 1 yr: Frank Best
Vice-President: George Schelling	Board term, 2 yrs: Marjery Forbes
Treasurer: Laura Clewley	Board term, 3 yrs: Phil Elkin
Secretary: Laura Fellerano	Board term, 3 yrs: Doug Trenkle

There being no additional nominations from the floor, a motion to close nominations was unanimously passed. A further motion to accept the slate as presented was unanimously passed.

Sally Bell asked that the Minutes reflect gratitude to those Board members and officers who are leaving and who have served so consistently well: Phil Person, Carol Fink, Anne Dickens, Tom Stipe, and Gail Geisenhainer. The congregation responded with enthusiastic rounds of applause which swelled even more when a member acknowledged the excellent job Sally Bell has done.

At least four bids have been sought for the new roof. A few have been received and are in the \$6,000-\$8,000 range. The Parish was asked to consider giving the Board the authority to make the choice among the bids. A motion to do so was made and seconded.

Discussion followed. To keep members informed, it was noted that:

1. The bids will be available to anyone who wishes to review the specifications and figures.
  2. These figures will be printed in the newsletter as they are available.
  3. Board meetings are always open to members wishing to attend.
  4. Hearings could be held at a Board meeting or after a service.
- Comments were requested from those having knowledge about the contractors involved.

The age of the roof is 25 years over the sanctuary and 15 years elsewhere, with the newer area having the worst leaks. Initial examinations by the contractors do not reveal structural damage. Since that cannot be determined until the roof is removed, structural damage is not included in the bids.

The motion to give the Board the authority to make the choice among the bids was amended to include regular updates from the Board to the congregation. The motion was unanimously passed.

Carolyn Keller's motion to adjourn at 12:00 noon was seconded by Gail Geisenhainer. Sally Bell asked those in favor to stand up, and the meeting was happily ended with the swift sound of moving feet.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Fink  
Secretary