

The NEWS

The Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ellsworth

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MAY 2002

A Month of Sundays

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 5 – Rev. Mark Worth,
"Three Tenets of Faith for the Free." Both
faith and freedom are inescapable. Since
we are "fated to be free" and fated to put
our faith in something, ours must be a
critically examined and freely chosen faith.
SERVICES AUCTION, POT LUCK.

Sunday, May 12 – Rev. Mark Worth,
"Prophetic Sisterhood." For Mother's Day,
we will discuss the struggles of the coura-
geous women who sought ordination as
Universalist or Unitarian ministers in the
nineteenth century. HUNGRY SUNDAY,
MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 19 – Ann Funderburk,
"Forgiveness." Forgiving is not forgetting,
it is letting go of the hurt.

Sunday, May 26 – Rev. Mark Worth,
"Pilgrims of a World Forever New." Re-
membering those who have gone before.
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

**Sunday, June 2 – Rev. Mark Worth, Kay
Hansen and the Sunday school, "Flower
Communion."**

1994 INAUGURAL SPEECH

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is not that we are powerful
beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most fright-
ens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant,
gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's

nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other
people won't feel insecure around you. We were
born

to make manifest the glory of God that is within
us.

It is not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we uncon-
sciously

give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our
presence

automatically liberates others.

- NELSON MANDELA



MARK, MY WORD

There is bad news and worse news from the "Holy Land." In a region where retaliations from one side are answered by even more outrageous retaliations from the other side, the situation seems to be spiraling out of control.

At this point, it seems impossible to discover where the offenses and retaliations began. It all goes back to ancient history. A supporter of Israel recently told me the following joke:

Ariel Sharon and Yassir Arafat were going to sit down to negotiate, when Sharon said, "Before we talk, can I tell you a story?" Arafat agreed, and Sharon said, "Moses was leading the Hebrew people through the wilderness to the Promised Land, when they found an oasis. There was a small pond at the oasis, and Moses decided to take a bath. When he got out of the water, his clothes were gone. He asked the Israelites, 'Who took my clothes?' And the Israelites said, 'Some Arabs took them.'" At this point Arafat interrupted and said, "But there were no Arabs in that region in those days." Sharon said, "Now that you've made my point, let's begin."

The other day on television a Palestinian spokesperson made the opposite point: "Yes, there were Jews here 3,000 years ago. But around 2,000 years ago they dispersed into other parts of the world. The Jews who are in Palestine today came here recently, long after we arrived. They have no connection to the ancient Jews who lived here once."

Each side sees the situation – and the historical context – through their own eyes. Both sides claim the land as their own. Both sides seem to believe that a military solution is possible. Both sides accuse the other of terrorism.

The United States has been criticized for its unquestioning support of Israel. President Bush has leaned toward even greater support of the Israelis. Recently, however, he asked Sharon to end the military offensive. Sharon

replied, "We have a right to defend ourselves." In the Palestinian refugee in Jenin, it appears that many innocent people were killed when Israeli tanks destroyed their homes.

We are told that only American leadership can bring the two sides together. But it is hard to know how we can be helpful.

Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban once said that Arafat "never misses an opportunity to miss an opportunity" for peace. A persuasive article given to me by a friend says that it is worse than that. Arafat, the article suggests, may be a man without a conscience. Like Shakespeare's villain Richard III, and like Osama bin Laden, Arafat cannot be trusted. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (a good man, and a Unitarian) thought Hitler could be reasoned with. He did not realize that he was dealing with a man with no conscience, no moral scruples. Arafat, the article suggests, is a similar sort of person. If that is so, then there is probably no way to deal with him except by military force.

On the other hand, Rabbi Michael Lerner, writing in the Jewish magazine Tikkun says, "Israel is not more secure but less secure because of the Occupation. The daily realities of the Occupation are not only cruel to the Palestinians, but also distorting to the Jewish soul. The torture of civilians, the targeted assassinations, the bulldozing of Palestinian homes, the uprooting of their trees, the seizing of Palestinian land by Jewish settlers, the murdering and maiming of Palestinian civilians, and the systematic refusal to learn about these things... this is a pattern of life that destroys the very foundations of our Jewishness. If the Jewish people want to build a state in our ancient homeland where another people already resided, we have got to take into account the needs of that people..."

How can peace be achieved? How do we, as a nation, respond to the violence of terrorism without losing our very soul? The problem is perplexing, but the questions must be asked.

Shalom and Salaam,
Mark

ANGEL DONOR

Good news! Some of you already know this. A generous person (who had heard about the budget problem) came to me last week and offered a challenge for the congregation.

This person will match, dollar-for-dollar, any increase of \$100 or more on the pledges individuals have made for the coming fiscal year.

The matching money is only on a raise of \$100 or more of the pledge you have already made. The offer is good until July 1, and this person will match us up to \$10,000. So if John Doe has already pledged \$1,500 for the coming fiscal year, and raises his pledge to \$1,650, our anonymous donor will give an additional \$150. (And if Jane Jones has pledged zero, and makes a new pledge of \$100, our anonymous donor will match it with another \$100.) This is a great opportunity for UUCE to have a balanced budget AND restore some of the cuts we have been anticipating. This is truly excellent and unexpected news!

-MARK WORTH

CANVASS

ANNUAL REPORT- Our annual canvass is just about complete. There are a few pledge cards we are waiting and hoping for. As of April 15th we have heard from 69 pledge units who have pledged a total amount of \$64,712. (A pledge unit is an individual, household, or family.)

Unfortunately, we are still far below the amount needed to pay our bills and address our loans. A new budget has been formulated by the UUCE Budget and Finance Committee and approved by the Board. This budget was presented to the congregation at the April 28th Parish Meeting- the final results will be reported in the June NUUS.

- KATHLEEN SIKKEMA

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 20-24, 2002

In Quebec City, Canada. For more information, visit the website: www.uua.org/ga

NED ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 3-4, 2002

The annual meeting of the Northeast District, UUA, will take place Friday evening and all day Sunday at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Kennebunk.

NEW ENGLAND LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

(NELS)- August 4-10, 2002

At Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod. Participants must be sponsored by UUCE. See Mark Worth or Sue Clark. For more information, contact Registrar Patricia Anderson at 860-533-0329; email panderson07@snet.net or panderson@crec.org; website: uua.org/nels. Look for the yellow flyer on the foyer bulletin board.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

May 9-11th, 2002

7PM May 9th till 5 PM May 11th

OWL presents the Sexuality Education Curriculum-interfaith training for all levels of OWL for Maine Congregations. The program runs from Thursday May 9 at 5 pm through Saturday May 11th at 5 pm at the Pleasant Street United Methodist Church in Waterville.

MEMBERSHIP

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

DONNA MINNIS

dminnis6@hotmail.com

CATHY BURDETTE

catherinedburdette@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to welcome four new members this month. Please add their addresses to your directory. We welcome you to our spiritual community.

Burton Smith
P.O. Box 246
Gouldsboro, Me 04607
422-3112

Caroline Andrews Allen
104 Oak Point Rd.
Trenton, Me 04605
664-2575

Dick Greenfield and Christi Boyajian
Box 942
Blue Hill, Me 04614

Membership committee will be meeting at Patty Herklotz' home for a potluck meal in May. Date will be announced at a future time. We will be discussing, among other things, ideas to improve. Please send any ideas to Patty so we can discuss them at the meeting.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Approximately 12 children and adults from our church walked for MS on April 7th. Thanks to all those who helped make it possible for our children to participate and thanks to those who sponsored "The UUCE Team" with their donations. Again this year, Helen Kazura did a great job of organizing this event in Ellsworth.

During April, our children had a great deal of fun making "dirt pies," "ants on a log" and other fun foods for coffee hour on April 21st. We appreciate the donations that were given for our "School in a Box" project to help children in Afghanistan return to school.

RE CLOSING ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATION

The first Sunday in May concludes our study of Jewish-Christian heritage. Thanks to the teachers and helpers who worked with our children during these last three months: Carol Rosinski, Jeanne Bustard, Donna Madonna, Jim Fisher, and Ronda Alley.

During the last three Sundays of May, we will focus on our traditional Unitarian Universalist celebration of Flower Communion. We will prepare for Flower Communion Sunday, June 2nd, which in our church has two purposes. First, it is a closing celebration for the religious education program in which we recognize those who have participated throughout the year and we demonstrate, in some way, what we have learned. The second purpose of this day is to join with the adults in the Unitarian Universalist celebration of Flower Communion. The following is a short summary of the history and mechanics of this event.

FLOWER COMMUNION

Flower Communion, originated by the Rev. Norbet Chapek in his native Czechoslovakia in 1923, is perhaps the most widely celebrated ritual in Unitarian Universalist congregations of today. Every spring most of our churches devote a Sunday to this festive celebration of both the earth's beauty and the oneness of humanity. Its simplicity makes it meaningful for children as well as adults. Each flower involved in the service symbolizes the personality, spirit and beauty of a particular human being.

The mechanics are simple. Each of us brings a flower, significant of our contribution to the common life we all share. At the end of the service, we each take a different flower, representing the sustenance we all receive from that common life. During the service, we celebrate the fellowship we share in song and story, with people of all ages participating.

**BRING A FLOWER AND JOIN US FOR
FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY ON JUNE
3rd!
HELP**

We need volunteers during the month of May to prepare for June 2nd. Contact Kay Hansen if you can help out with a variety of short term projects.

CALENDAR

May 2nd
RE Committee Meeting, 6:30, at the church

May 5th
Final day of curriculum
Jr. Youth with Margaret Beckman
Potluck

May 12th Mother's Day

Hungry Sunday/story in church
Flower Communion practice
Jr. Youth with Margaret Beckman
Sr. Youth Group, 5-7 PM

May 19th
Flower Communion practice
Youth Groups--Social Action
Sr. Youth Group, TBA

May 26th
Flower Communion Practice
outh Groups----Social Action
Sr. Youth Group, TBA

June 2nd
FLOWER COMMUNION---Bring a flower.

The Downeast Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, May 15, 1 P.M. at the home of Mary Forsmark in Birth Harbor. (If you need directions, call Ethel Schwalbe 546--7436). More information on topic for discussion will be sent directly to regular participants.

"Reality "is what we take to be true.

What we take to be true is what we believe.

What we believe is based on our perceptions.

What we perceive depends upon what we look for.

What we look for depends on what we think.

What we think depends upon what we percieve.

What we perceive determines what we believe.

What we believe determines what we take to be true.

Whate we take to be true is our reality.

CLASSIFIEDS

Sailboat seeking shelter. Kim Hawkins is in the midst of building her first boat- a 19 foot dream come true. The delemma is that she has moved to a home with no place to store the wood and work one it. Do know of a barn or garage around the Trenton (Oak Point) area with some space available? Kim would be eternally grateful and would be happy to rent the space. Call Kim Hawkins 664-0994 or email at aardvark340@hotmail.com

" Hi there:

This marks the 10th anniversary of the Emmaus Center- the homeless shelter in Ellsworth.

They would like to have a poster that might be placed in store windows and bulletin boards to celebrate the anniversary and thank Hancock County folks for their support.

Is there a graphic designer in our midst who would like to contribute their skills to preparing such a poster?

If so please get in touch with me directly at rkates@acadia.net

Many thanks,
BOB KATES"

PERFORMERS SHOWCASE (COFFEE HOUSE)

MAY 18, 7:30 P.M.

At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth - OPEN MIKE

every third Saturday of each month.

Come to perform or listen - music, storytelling, poetry, good food etc.

\$4 at the door- \$2 for performers.

For information call Dusty (422-0980) or Kathy (667-7327) or Bruce (667-5225).

UUUCE

COFFEE HOUR

Please help us to be a "greener" church. We are now providing organic, shade grown, "Equal Exchange" coffee at our coffee and conversation hour. Please help by donating \$1 (or more if you like) for each cup.

SERVICES AUCTION

The UUUCE Services Auction is May 5th. It is not too late for you to participate. What do you have to offer? This is a fun way to support our church.

FUN FUN FUN FUN

And with a goal for safety on the roads. We will have our first REST STOP SATURDAY on May 25th! We will put up signs on Route 3 into Ellsworth - perhaps with balloons and cheerful wavers - and offer free coffee and sell BAKED GOODS along with hot dogs and veggie sandwiches plus canned soda, ice tea & lemonade from 10 am to 3 pm for the Memorial Day weekender travelers. We will have at least two bath rooms open and it will take place either outdoors for sun or indoors for rain. We are trying for a radio station to broadcast from the church....or at least to carry the word!

Help needed for a variety of effort - moving tables and chairs outside; selling goods; cooking hot dogs; socializing while creating fresh sandwiches; cashiers; and inside host/hostesses. Maybe 10 people.

SPRING CLEANING

Coming soon to a church near you. There will be a May cleanup inside and out. New ideas have surfaced on how to tackle those sanctuary cobwebs. What is your pet peeve and how can we deal with it? Sue Clark needs to complete the yellow paint in the corner of the community room. How about you?

Hello Everyone,

This is just a note from the new editor. My name is Kim Hawkins and I've taken over the editing from Bill Clark.

Alas....We will miss you Bill. I guess you have probably noticed by now the NUUS looks a bit different. This will be an ongoing experiment until I get it perfected. Please bear with me during this changing of the guard. On that note just a friendly reminder, I prefer getting stuff at my email- aardvark340@hotmail.com or by snail mail at 20 Eiderway Lane Trenton, Me. 04605. I will continue to check in the newsletter box at church when I'm there which is usually on Sundays. The deadline is still the 15th of the month (I can dream can't I?) or as soon as you can. I hope you will all be pleased and your comments are welcome.

ETHEL'S CORNER

Even if you have seen them before, the following "realities" about the world we live in bear contemplation one more time:

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would something like this:

- There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South America) and 8 Africans.
- 70 would be non-white, 30 would be white
- 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth. All six would be from the United States.
- 80 would live in substandard housing
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition.
- 1 (yes, only 1!) would have a college education.
- If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead, and a place to sleep- you are richer than 75% of this world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace- you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- When we consider our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

- ETHEL SCHWALBE

May 2002

To reserve space at the church, contact Bill Clark at 244-3051;
or P.O. Box 443, Southwest Harbor, Me. 04679

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 MCMH 10 MS EXERCIZE 6 Craft Group 7 Men's Groups	2 3:30 Beth Israel 6:30 RE Committee 7 Zen	3 11 Home School 5-7 GLESN 6 AA	4 5-10 Scrapbookers (Vachon - Com. Rm.)
5 8:30 Member. Comm. (At Riverside Cafe) 9:30 Choir 9:30 Social Action Comm. 10:30 Worship Service Noon POTLUCK	6 5:30-8 Casey Family Planning - Susan Knowlton 973-2491 X12	7 9 PATT	8 7:30 MCMH 10 MS EXERCIZE 6 Craft Group 7 Men's Groups	9 7:30-3:30 MCMH 3:30 Beth Israel 6:30 RE Commit- tee 7 UU Board 7 Zen	10 11 Home School 6 AA	11
12 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE HUNGRY SUNDAY	13 5:30-8 Casey Family Planning - Susan Knowlton 973-2491 X12	14 9 PATT 5-10 Scrapbookers (Vachon - Com. Rm.)	15 7:30 MCMH 10 MS EXERCIZE 6 Craft Group 7 Men's Groups	16 3:30 Beth Israel 7 Zen	17 11 Home School 6 AA	18
19 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE	20 5:30-8 Casey Family Planning - Susan Knowlton 973-2491 X12	21 9 PATT	22 7:30 MCMH 10 MS EXERCIZE 6 Craft Group 7 Men's Groups	23 3:30 Beth Israel 7 Zen	24 11 Home School 6 AA	25 10-3 Rest Stop Saturday 7-9 Concert - Gray Parrot West African coro player
26 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE	27 5:30-8 Casey Family Planning - Susan Knowlton 973-2491 X12	28 9 PATT	29 7:30 MCMH 10 MS EXERCIZE 6 Craft Group 7 Men's Groups	30 3:30 Beth Israel 7 MS Support 7 Zen	31 11 Home School 6 AA	

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
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THE NUUS

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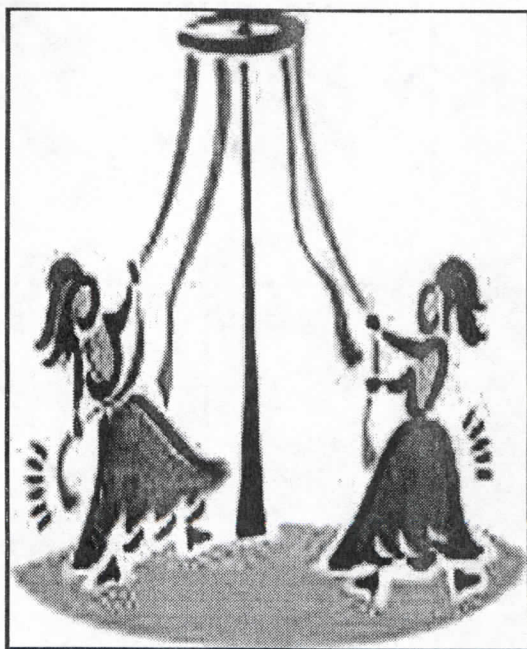
Excerpts from the Principles of the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION:

"We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote...

...A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING.

The living tradition we share draws form many sources:

...JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS WHICH CALL US TO RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE BY LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES.



The NUUS is published monthly. The deadline is the 15th of each month. your contributions are solicited. Please email or leave them in the bottom metal shelf of the hall table. Articles may be edited for space. Letters will be printed at the editors discretion, space allowing, as long as they do not express criticism of UUCE members & friends by name or inference.