



The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 42

No. 9 September 2010

A Month of Sundays

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

Sept. 5. *Standing on the Side of Love in Phoenix*

The service is planned by Andrew Coate, a member of UUCE, who recently participated in the immigration equality events in Phoenix, AZ with many other UUs from across the country, including UUA President Peter Morales.

Sept. 12. *Paths to Forgiveness*

The Rev Mark Worth, former UUCE minister. This will be Mark's first return to our pulpit to lead a worship service

Sept. 19. The Rev Sara Huisjen will conduct the service.

Sept. 26. An All Music Sunday planned and coordinated by our choir director, David Towle.

The Worship Committee now is Cynthia Perkins, Eileen Brennen, Mike Tansey, David Towle, Kay Wilkins, and, as their time permits, Marta Rieman, Zoe Weil, and Sara Huisjen.

We are always searching for service leaders who will provide meaningful, worshipful (in its many aspects) and timely experiences. We also need pulpit hosts who will contribute to the experience.

Any of us will be glad to receive and consider your suggestions. Thanks much!

Hot Off the Press--Stay Current!

The UUCE directory has been updated and is available on the welcome table just outside the sanctuary. Don't miss all the changes in the bright yellow copy available for you.

If you are unable to get to church, please call Evelyn Foster (667-5998) or the church office (667-4393) and someone will deliver a copy to you.

COME SING IN THE CHOIR!

The UUCE Choir is starting up once again, promising a fun and rewarding fall season. Rehearsals are held in the sanctuary most Sundays, 9-10 am, beginning September 5th. All who love to sing are welcome.

Contact: David Towle 460-8881 or dtowle@bhwoodenboat.com.



Message from the President

Death and Dying

Four years ago I came very close to death. A dedicated ICU nurse kept me from slipping deeper into the void. I was clearly aware that I was trapped inside my brain, and was in abject horror that I would not get out. At three a.m. she simply would not quit making me tell her where I was.

The doctors told Kay, my partner, that major organs were failing and if I lived I might have lost some brain function. My family was summoned from New York and Arkansas.

I lived. I think I have most of my faculties, but you may be a better judge.

Many, many UUCE people helped my family, and me, in multiple ways, including, of course, cooking. One of the first things I ate, when I could, was Marta Reiman's zucchini squares, and it tasted amazing. These powerful memories came flooding back because it is again zucchini season, and Kay baked zucchini squares for dinner.

So today's meditation is on death and dying.

[Rev. Forrest Church](#), acclaimed author of more than two dozen books and longtime minister of the [Unitarian Church of All Souls](#) in New York City, spent his final years reflecting on the importance of living each day with love and gratitude. He writes in *Love and Death*, "The goal is to live in such a way that our lives will prove worth dying for...The one thing that can't be taken from us, even by death, is the love we give away before we go."

We have a lot of love in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. I feel it in our Sunday services. I see it in the work of volunteers who minister to us in so many ways. It is obvious in hugs and conversations. And I hear it when we talk about our members and friends who have passed. We give love. We receive love. We talk about those whom we loved and who loved us.

I have been a member of UUCE since 2001. It took a few years to be truly connected and feel the depth of loss when members and friends died. This began to happen for me about 2005.

I went through my old directories and made a list. You who have been around longer will have a longer list.

Death comes in waves. Five names appeared last in the 2006 directory: Frank Pollien, Dorothy Warriner, Dorothy Noe, Nick Holt, and David Crispin. Two names were last included in the 2007 directory, William Stone and Irving Forbes. One name disappeared after 2008, Bill MacMichael. 2009 was the last listing for Peter Andersen, Jim Walker, and Mary Ann Solet.

Farewell my friends. Thank you. We love you. We will not forget you.

In ministry,
Diana J. Cate
President of the Board of Trustees

Special Congregational Meeting

Furnace Replacement

At its regular August meeting, the Board voted unanimously to recommend replacement of our ancient and inefficient furnace, borrowing up to \$15,000 from the endowment and repaying the loan over four years from the money saved in reduced fuel costs. An estimated 60% of the energy consumed by the furnace is lost to the environment as wasted heat, while a new energy-efficient propane-fired boiler wastes less than 5%, enabling a reduction in annual fuel costs by \$4,000 and an 18-ton reduction in greenhouse gas production.

A special congregational meeting will be held immediately after the Sunday service on September 5, 2010, to vote on the Board's recommendation. If approved, we will have a new furnace installed before cold weather sets in. Please plan to attend the meeting. Questions may be directed to David Towle, Chair of the Building Maintenance Committee and member of the Furnace Task Force.

Notes from the Membership Committee

Do you know where your nametag is?

The nametag board is being cleaned up and many new nametags are being made by Kay Wilkins. New tags can be found on the board so check for yours and if it is missing, please put your name on the clipboard on the hospitality table.

Membership Sunday-Sept. 19th

There will be new members joining the church on Sunday September 19th. If you are a new UU and missed one of the classes in August please call Judy Rothrock 244-3520 or Evelyn Foster 667-5998 to arrange for a makeup. If you are already a UU and want to sign our membership book please make your intentions known to Judy or Evelyn.

Keep your little yellow directory up to date!

Do you have your new yellow directory? You may pick one up on the hospitality table in the entry way. If you see errors or if your information changes please email or call Caitlin at office@uuelsworth.org. We will post the changes in the NUUS so that everyone may make changes to their own directory.

Dan Wheatly

dwdpwheat85@gmail.com

Diane Kidwell

DSKidwell@verizon.net

David and Karen Wilcock

Kew_maine2@yahoo.com

Peggie and Jon Geiger have a new address as of Sept. 15th

779 Prospect Ave. unit B5
West Hartford, Conn. 06105

Special thanks to Martha Dickinson, founder and creator of our UUCE website. And not to be overlooked are Martha's many years of leadership in area of Peace and Social Justice.

Have you noticed that our NUUS comes out on time and in good form? **We thank you so much, Lance Funderburk**, for over five years of faithful, quiet service as editor of our monthly newsletter.

The grounds just look better and better with much gratitude for the work of **Sue Clark, landscape chair and her faithful crew: Charles Bassett, Matt Slater and David Towle.**

Were you not thrilled to see a captivating message on **our wayside bulletin**? For new letters and metal board that correct a most difficult situation we have **David Towle** to thank. David, as chair of building and grounds, takes very good care of our facilities with the help of his task people: Bob Dickens, Matt Slater, Don Martin and George Marcus. There are many others who keep us going with their anonymous and many deeds of good housekeeping and ground keeping. Thank you all.

The **August Lobster Party at Cynthia Perkins'** was a huge success and more fun than some of us have had in a long while. Betty Massie and David Towle cooked up unbelievable lobsters, mussels, corn, and veggies. The blueberry desserts were scrumptious. David and Betty with crew Matt Slater, Jenn Ryan, Cynthia Perkins and Don Martin topped off the meal with group singing, a huge bonfire complete with s'mores and fireworks. What a happy affair! Thank you all!

September Birthdays

- 5 Thurly Royal
- 14 Marjory Forbes
- 17 Vincent Ossanna
- 18 Jim Applewhite
- 19 Tom Hansen
- 21 Evelyn Foster
- 26 Kay Hansen
- 28 Charles Bassett

Please contact the office with any birthday dates that we are missing or put the information on the birthday calendar in the hallway.

From the Board

The August board meeting was held August 12. In attendance were: Diana Cate, Beth Allen, Karen Volckhausen, Don Martin, Cynthia Perkins, Eileen Brennan, Judy Rothrock, Anne Ossanna, and Jenn Ryan from the board, Bob Dickens and David Towle from the congregation.

Congregational comment

Bob is talking to Maine Fire Protection about switching the alarm system to their company. They will be preparing an estimate for the sensors and control panel.

The Executive Committee is meeting monthly and dealing with such issues as automatic payment, the first quarter finance report and simplifying the calendar update process. Inviting a committee chair to report to the board each month will begin with the August meeting.

Treasurer's report

See the Treasurer's corner.

Furnace task group

David Towle reports that there is growing consensus that we need to replace the furnace ASAP. Each year it is costing us \$4000 in wasted energy and putting 28 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The board unanimously approved the recommendation to take up to \$15000 from the endowment fund to be paid back at the rate of \$4000 yearly from the fuel budget. A special meeting was set for September 5 for congregational approval and will be announced in church and the weekly bulletin.

Music Committee

David reported on the annual music events. The committee is working on ways to control the humidity to protect the piano.

Committee on Ministry

A committee has been formed to look at role of the Committee on Ministry in the absence of a minister. The areas of pastoral care, administration and worship are being discussed. Board members emphasized the importance of have a referral list of outside resources for serious problems.

Advertising

The MDI small group ministry is proposing to increase our community visibility by advertising in local papers for the next 9 months using UUA created ads. Individuals in the group will be responsible for paying for these ads. The board gave

support for this idea and asked to be kept in the loop.

Membership Committee

Judy reported that there are possibly 15 people joining the church on September 19 and 5 others considering it on a later date.

Pastoral Care

Anyone needing psycho therapy should be referred to an outside source.

Housekeeping

The Congregation Conversation Committee reports that 7 cottage meetings have been held so far with 43 people attending. The last one will be on September 11. The committee will have recommendations ready for the October 24 Parish Meeting.

The next board meeting will take place on Thursday, September 10 at 6 PM. The first 15 minutes are reserved for congregational comment.

A board retreat was held August 13 and 14 to set this year's goals and priorities and bond as a new board.

Get Acquainted Luncheons for Newcomers

One of the new programs at UUCE this fall will be the 3rd Sunday in September. **Luncheons for Newcomers** are planned for those newcomers within the last year, folk coming back to UUCE after absence or any person just wanting a smaller group experience to become better acquainted with others.

The lunch will be a simple meal with the emphasis on some aspect of the church or an integrative group activity.

The first meeting was held on July 25th. The second will be on September 19th. If you are interested in attending or helping with the membership committee, please call Judy Rothrock or Evelyn Foster. If you know newcomers, please invite them to sign up to attend.

Lifespan Religious Education & Exploration Director - Tom Grogan

It is a joy to be writing to you in August and thinking about our work together beginning in such a short time. We are planning a fun and exciting year! I am especially looking forward to leading a new offering entitled, "The Sources from Which We Draw," a three session program reviewing the "sources" that our UU Principles are based upon. The first session will be September 26th. I hope to see you there!

The RE Advisory Team met on Monday August 15th and decided to discontinue use of the term, RE Advisory Team, to go instead with the traditional, RE Committee. The RE Committee as a whole will meet quarterly and be responsible to work with both the Adult RE Committee and the Children and Youth RE Committee. Pam Person has resigned as chairperson of the Adult RE Committee but will remain active with the committee. A new chair has yet to be identified. I look forward to working with them as soon as they are named.

Registration for Children and Youth Religious Exploration classes will begin on September 5th. A registration table will be available shortly before and following the service on those Sundays so that families can sign up.

This year the younger children will meet as two separate RE classes. Their teachers for the first unit, September to through November, will be Eileen Brennan, Carol Rosinski, Sara Huisjen and Becka Gagne. They will be using a curriculum entitled, *Wonderful Welcome*. The older youth will be using a curriculum entitled, *Sharing the Journey*. They will be working with Matt Slater and Mike Tansey for the entire year.

I will be available after Labor Day and will post regular office hours after Sunday September 12th. If you have questions or would just like to chat about Religious Education & Exploration at UUCE I hope you will get in touch with me. I will be available during posted office hours and 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.

September 2010 Adult Education Offerings

All will be held at UUCE on Sundays from Noon - 1:30 PM, except potluck Sundays or when otherwise noted.

September 5 - Potluck Sunday
- Children & Youth Registration Day

September 12 - Everybody Eats – Nancy Daly,
Coordinator

Peace and Social Action Committee event
- Children & Youth Registration Day

September 19 - Drumming - 1:30-3:00

September 23 - Film: "Food Fight" - 6:30-8:00 PM
Co-sponsored by UUCE Adult RE, Peace and Social Action, Hancock County Towns in Transition & Sierra Club

September 26 - The Sources From Which We Draw
- DLRE Tom Grogan
1ST of 3 sessions





Nuts and Bolts

from the Board of Trustees President

This column, which I intend to submit monthly, will focus on the “nuts and bolts” of Board and committee business, as opposed to policies, planning, or visionary work. Communication will be a frequent theme.

I hope you noticed the Board of Trustees agenda in the Wednesday, August 11th email news. A Board agenda will be included in each Wednesday e-news just prior to second-Thursday-of-the-month Board meetings. The Board always sets aside fifteen minutes at the beginning of each meeting to hear from anyone who wants to speak with us. Do take advantage of this. Communication is a two-way street. Of course anyone may come to Board meetings at any time to observe.

Committee Chairs and other task-group leaders: Please be faithful in sending ALL dates and times of meetings and other activities to Caitlin (office@uucellsworth.org) to be included in the monthly calendars. THIS IS IMPORTANT. Lots of folks have complained that they do not know what was going on around UUCE. I don't blame them. Our calendar, with church activities as well as rentals, is just one more way to COMMUNICATE. Look for the calendars on the bulletin board inside the front door at church, and in the monthly NUUS. The Board has begun to invite Committee Chairs to Board meetings. Martha Dickinson, Chair of Peace and Social Action, will meet with us in September. Let me know if you, Madam or Mister Chairperson, would like an invitation to an upcoming Board meeting. We want to hear what you are doing and planning, and if you have issues we might be able to help with.

Good news: We have a Potluck Goddess! Carol Mathiesen will be calling on us to help with set-up and clean-up, the first Sunday of each month, September through June. (Cooks have time off in July and August.)

One final note: The Board is very much looking forward to the report from the Congregation Conversation Committee. I understand that participation in Cottage Meetings has been almost 100%. The CCC report is scheduled for the October 24th parish meeting. As most of you know, the goals CCC for include determining our priorities and exploring what we want our congregation to be.

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



Treasurer's Corner

Forty-six tickets were sold for the July 31st Lobster Bake. This was just short of our goal of 50. Income from ticket sales and donations totaled \$2,390.00. Expenses totaled \$752.72, leaving the event with a net profit of \$1,637.28. This event was a financial success as well as a strong community builder for the church. Another fund raiser by Jane Thomas, who sold seventeen of her hand made tote bags netting \$251.00, brought our fund raising efforts to a total of \$1,888.28. With this good start, there is an excellent chance that we could reach this year's fund raising goal of \$5,000. We were \$1,589.00 short last year. We will need a successful auction and music fund raiser during this church year to reach this goal.

Pledge receipts are positive at 20.4% of goal. Eight pledging units have paid their pledges in full totaling \$9,714.00. We are still \$2,038.00 short of our budgeted pledge goal of \$73,000. I am hoping that pledges from new members will make up this difference. We have \$3,397 in contingency funds in the budget that would cover this shortage if necessary.

In July, we made our last severance payment to Rev. Leela Sinha. Her benefit package of health and life insurance ended on July 31st.

At the end of June, the value of our endowment was \$141,764.46. This is \$11,904.19 less than the value on January 1, 2010. We withdrew \$7,500.00 in April to pay for the stove hood. The unrealized growth was \$4,583.08. The Maine Community Foundation Portfolio is down 2.7% for the first six months of this year. This result bettered the S&P 500 drop of 6.7% over the same period. We earned \$761.89 in interest. The MCF administrative fees for this period were \$663.00. The S&P 500 did improve in July.

The congregation will be considering in September to withdraw up to \$15,000 to replace the furnace. There will be a plan to pay this back over the next 3 or 4 years from fuel savings from the new furnace.

Don Martin
UUCE Treasurer

Landscape Update

We have removed grass, mixed peat moss and two kinds of compost into the builder's soil in our north landscape. We still need to use metal rakes and long handled claw tools to mix the additions to the soil one more time. According to the Extension Service we will continue to use compost materials as we begin to transplant ground cover. While we will use some Pachysandra and Periwinkle for the area behind and beside the old lilac, we will use native Bearberry for several areas with the most sun. We will also be able to use some of the Cotoneaster from in front of the church as I rooted some branches last year. And we can try scattering some of the berries at a later date.

Great news! We are fortunate to have on our land Wintergreen, Bunchberries (Canadian Dogwood) and an assortment of ferns. At various times we will transplant our native ground cover this fall and the coming spring.

Depending on rain and heat, a little planting will start during the last week of August. I hope to finish up with willing helpers on Saturday morning September 11th between 9:30 and noon. Please let me know if you are available to offer TLC to plants at that time. Phone 244-3051 or e-mail susan.clark@mygait.com.

Will folks who have Bunchberries on their land please collect some of the red berries when they are ripe for us to drop hopefully for more plants next spring. It is a suggested way for those who are patient.

Dates to mark down: September 11 for planting
October 16 for Outside general clean up: raking of leaves, cutting dead wood, spreading gravel on the walk...preparing for winter!

Personnel

Church Office

Caitlin Tunney: 667-4393

caitlin@uuellsworth.org

President of the Board

Diana Cate

667-2901

president@uuellsworth.org

Director of Religious Education and Exploration

Tom Grogan: 667-4393

groganfam@roadrunner.com

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301

lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

Early this summer the following "**Dear Abby**" column appeared in many newspapers across the United States. A few newspapers, mostly in the South, cut the Unitarian Universalist phrase.

Dear Abby: I recently had a child and would like to join a church for the community, moral messages and the music. I grew up going to one and got a lot out of it.

However, exploration throughout my 20s made me realize that I didn't believe what was being taught. I tried hard to accept the doctrines, but truthfully, I doubt I ever will. Would it be dishonest to start attending again? -- *New Mom in Arkansas*

Dear New Mom: Many people consider themselves to be more "spiritual" than "religious."

I encourage you to select a denomination with which you feel most comfortable. Some -- like the Unitarian Universalist faith (www.uua.org) -- have no dogma or creed and support their members in following their own spiritual paths.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Upcoming Touchstone Circle Small Group Ministry Program Offering

This coming church year, the Touchstone Circle Small Group Ministry Program will be offered four different times, in the fall, winter, spring & summer periods. The first of these offerings will begin in this fall on Thursday, September 23rd from 6-8pm and run for six Thursday evenings (see specific dates below). These facilitated meetings are designed to allow people to get together in an informal gathering with topics selected by the group. The purpose of this program is to offer people an opportunity to relate and deepen friendships with others from the congregations. Touchstone Circles are much like our existing small group ministry gatherings but they are time limited.

Touchstone Circles are limited to eight persons and folks who sign up are asked to make every effort possible to be present at all six gatherings. Folks are invited to join as many different Touchstone Circles as they would like.

The upcoming 6-week session dates are:

Thursday, September 23rd, 30th, October 7th, 21st, 28th and November 4th.

All gatherings will be at the church from 6-8pm.

If you are interested in receiving more information and/or wish to sign up, please contact Caitlin at the church office at 667-4393 or caitlin@uuellsworth.org. Thank you!



Building Your Own Theology

Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) is an RE course that has been around for more than twenty years. It is a structured UUA course with the aim of encouraging each participant to study, reflect and formulate her/his own theology. What we mean by the word theology is open for discussion, but in general, we mean our deepest spiritual or religious beliefs. Some UU's prefer to speak of the divine rather than use the word "God", some UU's like to use the word "God". Some think GOD means the Great Out Doors. As UU's we are free to explore and define our own spiritual path and our sense of ultimate reality. As UU's we also value the shared journey. This course will be an opportunity to work together, to inspire and support each other in our spiritual development.

The BYOT curriculum comes in three parts. The first part, the Introduction, is offered in 10 sessions that could be condensed into 8 sessions. Although there are suggested readings and exercises, we could substitute some readings of our own, depending on the interests of the participants. The BYOT booklets are available from the UUA bookstore. Several people expressed interest in taking the course at the last RE Committee meeting. If you think you might be interested, please sign up with Tom Grogan, Martha Dickinson, or Pam Person. We'd also be interested in knowing your time and day of week preferences. I'd encourage a late afternoon or evening time when we can relax as well as study.

- Martha Dickinson, marthad@gwi.net of 667 5863



Alleviating Poverty and Deforestation in Central America

Planting Hope, a documentary from Sustainable Harvest International, will be shown on Friday, September 17, at 7 pm at the UU Church of Ellsworth. UUCE member Flo Reed founded SHI in 1997 after serving in the Peace Core in Panama. She now serves SHI as president and will share some of her personal story of involvement with SHI. Randy Morrison of SHI staff will present the short film and lead a discussion afterward.

Planting Hope captures life in rural Honduras from the perspectives of SHI field trainer, Juan Carlos, and graduate farmer, Don Cheyo. Juan Carlos has worked for SHI for ten years and exemplifies the commitment to community and sustainable farming that is at the heart of SHI's mission. Watch as he visits rural villages to provide assistance and advice to farmers transitioning to sustainable techniques. They are abandoning the traditional slash-and-burn farming that destroys, on average, 33.8 million acres each year. However, success requires long-term commitment from both the organization and the farmer.

SHI graduate farmer Don Chemo provides a tour of his farm and insight into how his life had changed since working with SHI. He talks about the importance of the forests and his family's new financial security. He shows the audience images of the healthy soils that have been created with sustainable techniques. Most importantly, he shows us that there is hope for change and stability in a degraded landscape. He has become a community leader in sustainable farming and helps teach others that production booms with sustainable techniques.

Everyone is welcome to attend this informative event and participate in the discussion.

-Martha Dickinson for the peace and Social Action Committee

Caring Corner

Anne Ossana welcomed her “surrogate son”, Naked, from Bangladesh at the beginning of August and he joined her on August 15 for Sunday service.

We are also keeping Anne in our thoughts as she has had a couple of serious bouts with asthma recently.

Andrew Coate thanked the congregation for all the help and support provided in getting him to Phoenix, Arizona to participate in the protest against Arizona’s new immigration law.

We congratulate Charles Bassett and his wife Annette on their anniversary. They met some years ago at a Unitarian fellowship in New York.

Congratulations also to Paula and George Marcus, who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in August.

Kathy Combs and her husband Ted had a productive trip to Boston on August 2nd for a medical consult and Ted is now scheduled for surgery on August 31. It will be a procedure known as “hybrid cardiac surgery” and will include the placement of stents and an aortic valve replacement.

Kathy says: “We are relieved to have a plan, a date, and a great surgeon...now our next goal is to get to the other side of the surgery. Thanks again for your support and kindnesses...we'll be in touch”.

A couple of our own UUCE members have been making news recently:

Stephanie Alley was featured in a nice article in the Ellsworth American's waterfront section: Thurs., Aug 5, 2010, Sect. 1, p. 10; "Cranberry Island Lobsterwoman Offers Educational Trips" Ellsworth. Amer. online's (/fenceviewer.com <<http://fenceviewer.com>> 's) condensed version: http://fenceviewer.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=42180:Little%20Cranberry%20Island%20Lobsterwoman%20Offers%20Educational%20Trips&catid=39:maritime&Itemid=65

Ruth Eveland was invited to meet President Obama at the airport when the first family arrived on Friday, July 9 for their vacation on MDI.

We are also keeping Ruth in our thoughts as she faces eye surgery in Portland on August 25th for a macular pucker in both eyes (scar tissue on the macular).

Everybody Eats at UUCE September 12

Nancy Daly, Coordinator of **Everybody Eats**, will present a special program for UUCE at noon on September 12, as a RE/Peace and Social Action offering. *Everybody Eats* serves a free meal every Monday at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church in Ellsworth, from 3 pm to 6:30 pm in the summers. This Sunday noon program is intended to inform folks at UUCE about why and how Everybody Eats works and to encourage volunteers to sign up. It will be a short (30 minutes or so) meeting, so please attend, in the RE wing. Nancy will talk about hunger and loneliness and the displaced in communities such as Ellsworth.

EE has been feeding 75 to 100 people every Monday for more than a year. There are two shifts for volunteers: 11 am to 3 pm for the cooking and setup crews, and 3 pm to 7 pm for the serving and cleanup crew. We need head chefs as well as potato peelers and dish washers. It’s lots of fun with a wonderful bunch of volunteers and friendly and appreciative eaters. The whole community is welcome to eat, without questions. Please drop by any time, and eat and meet the crew. For more information, contact the volunteer coordinator, Nancy Daly at gimmeshelter2@hotmail.com or Peace and Social Action Committee Chair, Martha Dickinson, at 667-5863. We hope many of you will be able to welcome them and attend this short program. (This EE program is a replacement for the Jail Volunteers of Hancock County, who had to cancel.)

- Martha Dickinson, PASA

Eschatology for Dummies

A two session course meeting Oct. 17th & 31st after church, with Tom Stipe and Bob Dickens

Eschatology is not likely to come up in casual conversation. Unless you were a philosophy major in college or attended seminary for a few years, you may never have thought much about the word. It has been particularly avoided in liberal religious circles, in fact it's almost taboo. For religious conservatives, on the other hand, eschatology, or the study of the "End Times", has been the main course at many a religious meal. Even if the word has too many syllables to use, the subject matter is compelling and can be twisted to fit their purposes. Indeed, fundamentalists of many persuasions have used eschatological ideas quite effectively, to keep people in line, supporting one dogma or another.

We religious liberals much prefer "happy talk", and eschatology is decidedly not "happy talk". Who wants to even think about the end of things or ultimate human destiny, much less talk about it? Ultimate human destiny is just a remote abstraction with no bearing on us, isn't it? Yet, religious liberals also value rationality and facing the facts. As things now stand, it's becoming increasingly difficult to face the facts of our current human predicament without being forced into eschatological territory. The confluence of growing human overpopulation, shrinking fossil fuel reserves, and the apparent acceleration of global warming, all point toward the end of industrial civilization as we have known it. There are those who believe we can maintain a new form of industrial civilization founded entirely on renewable energy sources, private vehicles and all. Others believe the only way humanity can survive is by abandoning "civilization" entirely. Returning to a more or less prehistoric tribal existence. For some the issue is rebalancing technology and creativity since creativity is now on the short end, but is eschatological in import.

Neither Bob nor I claim to know what the future holds for us as a species, but we both see stormy seas ahead. If you see storm clouds on the horizon and feel a need to talk about them, join us for a two session course confronting this great taboo. We intend to frame the discussion on the

Serenity Prayer. Here it is, just in case you're unfamiliar with it.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

The first session will be devoted to trying to discern what we may have to accept. Here's a link to an article on the Internet which describes, in painful detail, one possible scenario.

<http://www.321energy.com/editorials/chefurka/chefurka051207.html>

The second session will focus on how we got into this mess, and just what kind of changes may be needed to rectify things. Here is a link to a fascinating article which describes some of the more corrosive aspects of the pervasive mindset which dominates our world today.

http://jpe.library.arizona.edu/volume_14/pattberg.pdf

These articles are recommended to frame the discussion, but no reading is required. We have all spent our entire lives in the belly of the beast, contributing in one degree or another to the growing crisis. I think most of us have a vague sense of unease about the future, but because the world continues spinning on its merry way, and because it's frightening to question the foundations of what passes for the common wisdom of our global culture, we choose not to examine our unease too closely. We urge you not to ignore your own concerns, and not to be stampeded into some kind of self defeating apocalyptic fervor. You needn't worry about being "left behind". You are not alone. As human beings, we all share a common destiny, whatever that fate may be.

Tom Stipe and Bob Dickens

From the Hancock County Cultural Network

Calendar:

September 1: Showing of DVD featuring Ami Ayalon of Israeli navy, on ways to peace in the Middle East, 5:30 PM, Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library. Joyce Schelling, J Street Eastern Maine, 944-4395 or jkschelling@gmail.com.

September 6: Music w/Bill Morrissey, art show, and local foods dinner to celebrate Labor Day, 4 PM, Solidarity Labor Center, 20 Ivers St., Brewer. Food AND Medicine, 989-5860 or martin@foodandmedicine.org or www.foodandmedicine.org.

September 17-19: GROW (Grass Roots Organizing Workshops) weekend to help people become organizers or improve their skills, noon (Friday)-4 PM (Sunday), Tanglewood 4-H Camp, Lincolnville. Call Jacqui at 934-1911 or Iggy at 415-4458 or rosc@psouth.net or <http://resourcesfororganizing.org>.

September 24-26: Common Ground Country Fair, Crosby Brook Rd., Unity. Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn., 568-4142 or mofga@mofga.org or www.mofga.org.

Notices:

"Make Jobs, Not War" is the simple message of bumper stickers being distributed thru the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine. \$2 or any donation will get you one or more of these black on white messages. For larger numbers or just to get one: Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org.

The University of Maine's Women in Curriculum program has a lot of resources. They have a "bundle" of posters on gender roles and work, a second bundle of women in history (posters include Delores Huerta, Fannie Lou Hamer, Mother Jones, and Amelia Earhart), and a third bundle on "Lifelines--Stay in School" for teens and women trying to get an education despite various difficulties. You can get a list and choose individual posters or the whole bundle. Donations are welcome; you can pick them up or have them

mailed. For a list and more information, email angela.hart@umit.maine.edu or www.umaine.edu/wic.

FEN (Forest Ecology Network) has a new DVD documentary on the Highland Mountains in west-central Maine to help the public see the land being proposed for an industrial wind power facility. According to FEN, "the Highland Mountain Industrial Wind proposal would cause irreversible ecological damage, result in no greenhouse gas reduction, create noise and visual pollution, decimate wildlife and habitat, and have a profound negative economic impact." For a copy of the documentary and more about the proposal: FEN, 628-6404 or fen@207me.com.

"Save the hopper, use a stopper" (with a picture of a frog) is the slogan on a box of condoms produced by the Center for Biological Diversity in Arizona. The point is that less birth control means more humans, and human impact on the planet is dangerous to frogs and other living beings. Similar boxes (2 condoms/box) have slogans of "Wrap with care, save the polar bear," "wear a condom now, save the spotted owl," "cover your tweedle, save the burying beetle," and "wear a jimmy hat, save the big cat." To get some of these special message condoms, contact Larry Dansinger, 525-7776 or rosc@psouth.net.



A Poem By Stephanie Alley

HOLDING ON

Books cram driftwood shelves
pages turn unwritten past
into moments
when life stuck out its hand.
Books enfold
smell of baking bread,
sound of wailing loons
thoughts of exploring
into one being.
As waves
clang the harbor buoy
rolling seas
rumble the front porch
swing.
A house, or a boat
in a storm
of emotions tumbling
over the deck like water
rushing out the scuppers
becomes a book
you can't put down.

July 08

Committee Chairs to Meet with Board of Trustees

During the July meeting of the Board a suggestion was made to invite, each month, the Chair of a UUCE committee to a Board meeting. Beginning in September, *Committee Chat* will be a rolling agenda item. This idea came during a discussion about giving the Committee Chairs an opportunity to communicate with the Board. We want to hear committee concerns and to share current endeavors. The Board is looking forward to hearing from the Peace and Social Action Chair, Martha Dickinson, during the September meeting. If you are a Chair of a UUCE committee, look for more information to come from us in an email. If you are a member of a committee, talk with your Chair and share your thoughts with them.

The Board looks forward to hear all the fantastic things going on with our committees and to offer any support or assistance we can.

Beth Allen

Vice-President of the Board of Trustees

Italian Buffet Silent & Live Goods & Services Auction

Scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 2010

Time flies when it's summer in Maine! Here we are on the brink of September; before we know it, October will be here and so will the UUCE Italian Buffet and Auction. It's a great chance to have fun with friends while raising money for both our church and The Heating and Warmth Fund (THAW) for the benefit of low income, elderly and disabled folks in Hancock County. Last year, with the help of all of you, we raised over \$5,500; this year we hope to do at least as well.

But before we can enjoy the auction we all need to find a way to contribute. When you poke your nose in a closet, garage, or basement and see that great, unused gift from Aunty Susie, THINK AUCTION DONATION. When you are using some gadget you can't live without, THINK AUCTION DONATION and buy a similar one for the auction. When you are enjoying a hobby, or skill you have, or a ride in your boat, or a great meal you prepared or a loaf of bread you baked

THINK AUCTION DONATION!

Then grab a donation form from this NUUS, fill it out and leave it in the box at church, give it to Peggy Strong or mail it to UUCE, 121 Bucksport Rd, Ellsworth, ME 04605. This will be the only NUUS call for donations – so please, respond soon.
THANKS!

Contact Peggy Strong with any questions –
266-3006.

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00 Celtic musicians 6:00 Music Committee 6:30 Coyote Group	2 12:00 Al-Anon	3 6:00 AA	4
5 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Potluck 12:00 Adult RE: What I Saw in Africa	6	7 8:00 Hospice 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	8 12:00 Downeast Discussion 4:00 Celtic musicians 6:30 Coyote Group OOS deadline	9 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting	10 6:00 AA	11 8:45 Violin lessons
12 9:00 Choir rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Hungry Sunday 11:45 Newcomers Lunch 12:00 Adult RE: PASA 1:30 Baby Shower	13 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	14 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral Society	15 6:00 Celtic Musicians 6:30 Coyote Group OOS deadline NUUS deadline	16 12:00 Al-Anon	17 6:00 AA 7:00 PASA/Sustainable Harvest program	18 8:45 Violin lessons
19 9:00 Choir rehearsal 9:00 PASA 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 Adult RE: Hard core Issues 1:30 Drumming Circle	20 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	21 8:00 Hospice 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral Society	22 6:00 Celtic musicians 6:30 Coyote Group OOS deadline	23 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Touchstone Circle 6:30 MS Support 7:00 Film: Food Fight	24 6:00 AA	25 8:45 Violin lessons
26 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 Adult RE: Hard Core Issues	27 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	28 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral Society	29	30 12:00 Al Anon 6:00 Touchstone Circle		

UUCE Church events are printed in **RED**. Building use/rental events not otherwise connected to UUCE are printed in **BLACK**.

To reserve space at the UUCE, Email: office@uuellsworth.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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S Postage Paid
Permit Number 93
Ellsworth, ME 04605

The NUUS

September 2010

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
September, 2010 **Vol. 42, No. 9**

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.**

