



The Downeast Beacon
of Liberal Religion

The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

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April 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

Apr. 3. *Traditional Jewish Passover Seder*
(from 10:30 to 12:30) led by Dick Kane, Melody Lewis-Kane, Phil Elkin, and Sandy Phoenix. Passover is one of the most important Jewish holidays and celebrates the night when the Angel of Death 'passed over' the Jewish homes in Egypt around 1200 BCE.

Today we celebrate Passover as a time to remember our past, find its relevance in our lives today, and as a time to renew our resolve to transform our planet into a place of peace. The word seder means meal, and our Passover Seder will include a meal that contains specific foods that have meaning to the service. One of the joys of Passover is sharing food and we hope that all who participate will be able to bring a dish (however, we welcome anyone who wishes to come).

Sign up sheets for attendance and food are in the Church entry. No bread, noodles, or cookies please. FMI e-mail Sandy at kaselehl@gmail.com or call 367-6526.

Apr. 10 *Chasing the Dream*
Stewardship Sunday. A unique service of inspiration and fun with music, poetry, a fairy tale, and dreams and stories presented by UUCE members Stefanie Alley, Dartha Reid, Jean Martin, Marta Rieman, Anne Funderburk, Wayne Smith, Ruth Eveland, and Jude Lamb. There will be special music, original poetry, a modern fairy tale, church history and our dreams for the future with special gifts for everyone. Mark your calendar! Be there to experience it!

Apr. 17. *Ways to show respect for the Interdependent web of existence*

Pam Person and Karen Wigglesworth will lead the 40th anniversary of Earth Day service and talk about our 7th principle "we covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part." In addition to sharing what we are doing in our own lives, there will be time for the congregation to tell about what you think about our 7th principle and what actions you have taken to "affirm and promote." This year's Earth Day theme is "A Billion Acts of Green" leading up to the 2012 Earth Summit.

Some special features are being considered for this service - stay tuned!

Apr. 24. *Creative Goodness: Grace and Renewal Found in Community*

We know that each of us has our dark times – times when we need and seek spiritual renewal. And we know how our UU communities can lift us up when our spirits are low. Is there a liberal theology that can give UUs a framework for the spiritual rebirth we find in religious community? How does our commitment to community unify us in all of our diversity? In addition to providing some possible answers to these questions, this service will be an Easter celebration of our unique UU religious communities.

Rev. Fayre Stephenson is the Program Director at Ferry Beach, the Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center on the shore of Saco Bay. Before entering the ministry, Fayre worked for many years in Massachusetts as a legislative aide and as a lobbyist and writer for the legislative office of a labor union. After graduating from Harvard Divinity School, Fayre served as minister of the Foxborough (Massachusetts) Universalist Church where she is Minister Emerita. Fayre is currently serving her seventh year as Ferry Beach Program Director, a fulfilling community ministry. She is the mother of two grown sons and the doting grandmother of four grandchildren.

Message from the President

*Seeking New Leadership for the Board of Trustees
So What Do They Do?*

Michael Durall, in his book *The Almost Church Revitalized*, describes board members as church leaders, not caretakers. (Quotes in this article and much of the text are liberally lifted from the Durall book.)

Leaders create a congregation in their own image, for better or worse. A strong board will challenge and empower a congregation to consider new ways to expand its ministry. A hesitant, cautious board will create a congregation that has little courage or fervor to chart a course.

Caretaker and leader are equally valuable roles and we need both. Caretakers “are usually the dependable souls who handle the myriad details that make congregations effective in what they do.” Committee work is generally caretaker work. Committee chairs can slip into leadership then back to caretaker to fit the needs of the time. Board work can occasionally (but temporally) include caretaker tasks.

UUCE needs three new leaders to fill board vacancies: two trustee slots and the vice president’s position. The Election Committee is now speaking with people who are interested in running for the Board. The congregation will elect two trustees and a new officer during the annual Congregational Meeting, this May. For more information please speak with any on the Election Committee: Anne Ossanna, Ruth Evelyn, or Wayne Smith. If you are committed to this church and want to take us forward, put your name up for election. If not elected this year, maybe next. Elections are held every May.

Most churches, including ours, do not have a job description for church board membership, and should. “Can you imagine taking a paid job that had no description of your duties and responsibilities?” I will try to address that gap, however inadequately.

Being on the board entails a considerable commitment. Asking potential board trustees for a token effort is a surefire formula for ineffective leadership. We are asking for no token commitment.

As stated in the UUCE By-Laws, the “Board is responsible for long range planning, overall direction of the church, its policies and programs administration, and business affairs as directed by the membership in parish meetings.” As policy-wonk statements go, this is fine. It is a statement of the outcome of our work, not what we do to get there.

What we actually do is lead the church in whatever direction the church needs to be led, as determined by the congregation and the board itself. These goals rise out of the dynamics of the church on an annual basis, if lucky, or on a monthly basis, if the church is in a period of change. And we try to be specific about direction and goals. As UUA Moderator, Gini Courter, says, “Don’t tell people we are going to climb a mountain. Tell them we are going to climb that mountain.”

It is clearly a daunting challenge to write a job description for the board. The best to be done in this short space is list some expected commitments, suggest some homework, and state some constructive attitudinal positions.

1. Commit to serve for three years, as trustee, or one year as vice president to fill an unexpired term. This year’s trustee additions to the board will serve from June 1, 2011, through May 31, 2014. The Vice President will fill an unexpired term from June 1, 2011, through May 31, 2012.
 2. Block off every second Thursday evening of the month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (and occasionally later) for regular Board meetings. Be prepared to have occasional special meetings (usually other Thursday evenings) when church business is “interesting,” like now. Only illness, family emergencies or other significant events are excused absences. Notify the Board President when you need to be absent.
- (Continued on p. 3)

(Continued from p. 2)

3. Attend the weekend retreat each year. It is usually a Friday evening through Saturday in early summer to integrate new members and officers with the incumbents, and plan for the year. Occasionally a second retreat may be held later.
4. Maintain a Board three-ring notebook containing agendas, minutes, budget reports, UUCE By-Laws, church policies, and other information as needed.
5. Read *The Almost Church Revitalized, Envisioning the Future of Unitarian Universalism*, by Michael Durall.
6. As much as possible, make Board leadership your primary volunteer commitment beyond normal family obligations.
7. Believe that you are leading the congregation somewhere, not just overseeing finance, administration, and care of the property.
8. Embody the belief that the congregation should function from an attitude of abundance and not scarcity.
9. Recognize that a leader's role is not to please everyone.
10. When we eventually have a minister, work with her or him to develop a spiritual discipline, otherwise our leadership will resemble that of a secular organization.

The work of the Board of Trustees is challenging, very satisfying, and often fun. The current board is composed of quite different but surprisingly compatible and complimentary personalities. We sincerely look forward to greeting two new members and one new officer.

In ministry,
Diana Cate

Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars. **Our spring Congregational Meeting** will be held on May 22.

Caring Corner

Congratulations to Keith Fisher, son of Donna Madonna and Jim Fisher, who has been accepted for an internship at Goddard Space Center.

On February 27, Judy Rothrock shared her joy that Charles Bassett signed the membership book. Congratulations, Charles!

In late February, Sue and Bill Clark shared their joy that her daughter Robyne successfully came through a recent surgery. Kathy Combs shared her joy that her own daughter, Robin, also had a successful surgery the same day. Both daughters are recuperating well.

Marta Reiman announced at end of February, that she had recently returned from 2 weeks away in California, where she was nursing her elderly mother back to health and was also pleased to be able to stop by Phoenix and visit with her daughter Casey.

Jenn Ryan thanked everyone for the wonderful baby shower given to her at the church on February 27. She and her husband very much appreciate the efforts and Jenn said she is excited to have UUCE's loving community in which to bring up her little girl.

Our condolences go to Anne and Lance Funderburk, who lost a dear friend from Washington, PA, Rosemary Sullivan, in early March.

Carol Rosinski reported her joy that her husband, Bruce Thulin, who has been in hospital recuperating from back surgery, has been up and walking with the aid of a walker. Bruce is scheduled to return home on Tuesday, March 15.

Martha Dickinson is scheduled to undergo hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, March 22, at Blue Hill Hospital, and she expects to be home by the following Saturday. Prayers and good wishes will be appreciated. She expects to be in much better spirits after this difficulty is "behind" her.



Nuts and Bolts

From the President of the Board of Trustees

This column, submitted monthly, will focus on the “nuts and bolts” of Board and committee business, as opposed to policies, planning, or visionary work.

There will be a special Board meeting Thursday, March 17, 6 pm, to review the survey on ministry and make plans for moving forward.

The next regular Board meeting will be April 14th, in the Board Room, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

UUCE Web Site

Would anyone in the congregation be willing to work with Matt Baya on our web site, uuellsworth.org? Matt is a wonderful techie and religiously (pun intended) inserts information from the Weekly News and the newsletter. But we need someone to look at our site with an editor’s eye. Anyone? Anyone?

UUWomen

The Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation still exists. Their web site is www.uuwf.org. However if you are interested in connecting with this organization by mail, please see me. I have their latest mailing.

Buddhist Meditation Group

This is an idea that keeps popping up. All it takes is leadership. Anybody?

Pizza and Movie Night

I’m glad we didn’t get raided by Ellsworth’s finest last movie night at the showing of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*! My how times have changed. The first time I saw it was a midnight showing at an art theatre. The next Pizza & Movie film will be *Phantom of the Opera* on April 9th. I heard that John Fink is going to install extra speakers, the better to hear the awesome music. Sounds divine.

Bill Clark says there will be one more Winter Storm

If it’s a doozer and happens on a Sunday, check

Channel 2 and/or 5 for possible cancellation of services.

In ministry,

Diana Cate

djcate35@gmail.com

207-664-3010

Adult Religious Education

The Adult Religious Education Committee met on February 27 and elected co-chairs for the 2011-2012 church year - Janice Ronco and Stephen Berger. They are already starting to work on plans for new sessions, even though their official start date is May 22nd. Matt Slater is also helping to lead the group as well- planning for Summer offerings of Pizza and Movie nights. -- we are lucky to have such good new leaders stepping forth.

We also reviewed the current season's offerings. All is going well. Many people have participated and learned from the Building Your Own Theology and Listening to be Heard series - thank you, Martha Dickinson and Tom Grogan, for leading such interesting courses that just ended. We are already getting requests to do similar sessions again in the future. Principle 3, Understanding Taoism, Rethinking Afghanistan were well attended sessions. On March 6, the Composting Workshop brought people from the community as well as church members. All not only learned vital new information about how and what to compost, but also gave \$65.00 and some food for Emmaus Center. Three more "food related" sessions in March.

There will only be one Sunday offering from Adult RE in April due to two holidays - Passover and Easter -- and the All Church Canvass.

April 17, 3:00 PM (Note Special Start Time): Richard Komp, internationally known solar energy expert, will present a program on his work with low cost solar energy. This program is being co-sponsored by UUCE's Peace and Social Action Committee and Hancock County Transition Towns.

Pam Person

Chair, Adult Religious Education Committee

Lifespan Religious Education & Exploration

RE Happenings

Pizza and a Movie, Saturday April 9th!

Join us Saturday April 9th at 6PM for Pizza & A Movie! This time, The Phantom of the Opera! In March a great time was had by all as we enjoyed Matt's pizza and The "Rocky Horror Picture Show." As usual, Matt Slater's fine pizza will be prepared just for you. Gluten free pizza will be served too. Matt asks that, if you have particular dietary or topping requests, drop him a note at: brickcircle@hotmail.com. Join us on Saturday April 9th and prepare to enjoy!

Maple Sugaring April 3rd

Maple Sugaring at Karen and Paul Volckhausen's, Happy Town Farm, after church on April 3rd. We'll enjoy maple ice cream sundaes, coffee, tea, juice. We'll learn about the process of making maple syrup and take a tour to the sugar bush. This is an intergenerational event, an opportunity for us older folks to share the wonder and excitement of a child and for them to get to know us a little bit. I hope you'll take advantage of it!

Potluck Social

Join the Religious Education committee for a potluck social at Sara and Dan Huisjen's, house following the church service on May 15th. If there is an adult RE program that day, just come on over when you're done!

"Listening to Be Heard"

The four session adult religious education class, "Listening to Be Heard", was well attended and a joy to lead. I want to thank all those who joined us for their wonderful participation and let everyone know that I would be happy to lead the course again. If you were not there I encourage you to find someone who was and ask about it. You might just decide you'd like to join us if it is offered in the future.

I hold regular office hours on Tuesdays from 10:00AM until 4:00PM. If you have questions or would just like to chat about Religious Education at UUCE I hope you will stop in. 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. If the weather is at all questionable please call me at my cell number to confirm that I'll be in or to meet with me by phone.

Quick R.E. Dates

April 9th 6:00PM - Pizza and a Movie, "The Phantom of the Opera"

April 3rd - After Church, Maple Sugaring at Happy Town Farm

May 15th - After Church, Intergenerational Pot Luck Social at Sara and Dan Huisjen's

Stewardship Committee

Your Stewardship Committee is asking you to consider the following four requests.

1. Plan to attend the Stewardship Sunday Service on April 10th. We promise that you will not be disappointed.
2. Read the special stewardship edition of the NUUS which will arrive in your home soon.
3. Give serious thought to how much you want to pledge this coming church year. What we are able to raise will determine which dreams we can pursue.
4. If at all possible, plan to stay home on Sunday afternoon, April 10th and welcome your canvasser. Canvassers will be calling before that date to schedule an appointment with you.

Stewardship of the church is where it all begins.

Your Stewardship Committee: Evelyn Foster, Kay Wilkins, Carol Rosinski, David Wilcock, Jim Fisher, Don Martin.



A Personal Reflection – Tom Grogan

As this congregation considers the decisions it needs to make over the next several weeks and months, I would like to take a moment to share some observations with you. When I started here as DRE, a little over a year ago, I was in partnership with Leela. Leela's ministerial presence was extended to me, and we essentially shared responsibility for the congregation. She asked me to work with families and children and help integrate them into the rest of the church. I established an RE Advisory Team that was made up of RE folks as well as those who were not involved in RE, about half and half.

When Leela left in April I needed to figure out what my boundaries were. As you know, I am a Candidate for UU ministry. I checked in with colleagues and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and all agreed that I should not behave in a way that would give the impression that I was conducting myself as a Minister. Rather, I should, in all matters, conduct myself as a DRE. With the Board as my supervisor I satisfied myself with focusing primarily on the Children and Youth RE program. When the board asked me to disband the RE Advisory Team I readily agreed, being concerned that that role had me working with more than RE folks. When Diana, made it clear that she wanted me to work primarily with the children and families and not with Adult RE, I said, okay for the same reason. As an employee being supervised, not as a minister, I did what I felt was my job, turned in my monthly reports and have not really been engaged in conversation about the program, except informally or when asked to do so.

Over the past year, we have succeeded in enlarging the RE committee slightly. However, I have been unable to get anyone to agree to serve as chair of the RE committee. As a matter of fact, as I review the year and look at how much more involved RE folks are in running the rest of the church, it's no wonder their time for RE is limited. A member of another committee here at church commented that someone told them, "You need to serve on this particular committee. Your church needs you to do this." I thought, well, there you go, the RE

committee doesn't have any member telling other members, "You have to participate!"

Part of me wishes that over the last year I had been more assertive with both the RE committee and the board. But I really believe that it is up to the membership to set the direction. In the congregational assessment that you all have done over the last year, I'm not sure how much you've engaged the RE committee or the parents. I'm not aware of any, but I'm not a member so, maybe you have.

I would like to conclude by pointing out that you have two congregations in one. You have a growing, dynamic, adult congregation bringing in new people and offering exciting programs. And then you have the Children and Youth RE Program. In a recent conversation I had with the RE committee, they don't seem to have a problem with their size. As a matter of fact they seem to see their smaller size as offering certain benefits of closeness and personal sharing that wouldn't come from a larger program. To me that means you have a "small-medium", growing to "medium" size congregation, but within that, a "small" congregation. Quite literally a clash of cultures.

I don't know if the board or the larger church community has ever worked to establish a vision for religious education, other than, the goal of an increase in numbers. But I fear that this congregation will continue to have problems reconciling parts of itself, if you don't work together as members to figure out what it is you want together. I can support you, but I can't do that for you.

With deep respect and loving concern.

Tom Grogan, DRE



From the Board

Board meeting March 10, 2011

Present: Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen, Don Martin, Anne Ossanna, Cynthia Perkins, Eileen Brennan, Judy Rothrock, Jenn Ryan, John Fink, Tom Grogan

Congregation: Matt Salter, Bob Dickens, Evelyn Foster, Carol Rosinski

Congregational comment

Carol discussed a meeting with Diana indicating concern over the low number of kids enrolled RE and the thought that the money might be better spent on a minister rather than an RE director. Carol and the RE Committee are very concerned about this. They feel that they have a strong program and are working hard to make it a success. The goal is to keep this program. They think it is possible to have both a director and a minister; no one should have to do the RE director job as a volunteer. The committee feels it is not up to them alone but the congregation's duty to become involved in building the RE program.

Comments: no RE program will be successful without parental involvement; we need everyone involved; strong programs grow from within not from without; the LDC is prioritizing RE

Vice-President's position

Beth Allen has submitted her resignation. Motion made and passed that the board charges the election committee to find candidates for this position. Beth will continue serving until the election.

Committee chat- Leadership Development Committee

Evelyn Foster discussed the history and role of the committee. Current work includes: the leading of the February worship service followed by a committee fair. This generated a lot of interest with a number of new committee members. They regularly try to write thank you notes to persons who have made special contributions to the functioning of our church. At the last meeting, they committed to developing a new and strong RE advisory group.

The board recommended that the LDC should help committees function by having an agenda, meeting regularly and keeping minutes and that these

minutes should be kept in the office. Also LDC member should attend committee meetings occasionally.

Board announcement process

Cynthia reviewed a script for announcements and encouraged board members to follow it.

DRLE report

See elsewhere in this issue of NUUS

Treasurer's report

See Treasurer's Corner

Report on Professional Ministry Survey

Will table until a special meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 6 PM

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 21 at 6PM

The first 15 minutes are reserved for congregational comment.

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

Landscaping Committee

We will proceed according to the wiles of the weather and the needs of plants. Please stay tuned to announcements on Sundays and on Wednesdays.

Thanks, Sue Clark

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for February was \$6,183.50. This was \$471.96 less than the total expenses for the month of February, which were \$6655.46. The difference was covered again by prepaid pledges. To help you better understand the budget figures as you read the report: We are, as of the end of February, 66.67% of the way through the current fiscal year. Income that is currently tracking **above 66.67%** is ahead of budget and a positive indicator. Expenses that are tracking **below 66.67%** are below budget and also a positive indicator. For any line of income or expense in this report, comparing the individual "per cent of budget" figure to 66.67% is a way to gauge the status of that budget line item.

Finances are still positive. Total income is at \$72,900, which is 81% or 14.43% above budget. The positive number in income is the result of plate collection, which is at \$6,436. This is 94.4% of the budget figure of \$6,800. Fundraising is at \$5,853. This is 117.07% of the budget figure of \$5,000. Rental income is still running low at \$2,961. This is 42.3% of the budget figure of \$7,000.

Pledge income for February was \$4,631. Total pledge income is at \$53,780. This is 73.43% of the budget figure of \$73,000. Total expenses continue to be running low at \$48,035.93. This is 53.37% of the budget figure of \$90,000. I must remind you again that our largest expenses come in June and will be \$9,000 above normal expenses.

To reach our budget goal of \$73,000 in pledges we will need to average \$4,810 in pledge receipts for each of the next four months. We can do it with each of us making every effort to complete our pledges by June.

April 10th is Stewardship Sunday. It is time to think seriously about how much you want to pledge to the church for the next church year. We have challenging decisions to make, and what we are able to raise in pledges will determine in what direction we can afford to go. The congregational survey indicated strongly that we want to pursue professional ministry. This will require us to increase our pledges substantially. If we are able to raise sufficient funds we will be in a position to consider professional ministry. I realize this is a monumental challenge, and if we are serious about our convictions, we will need to make the sacrifices required to make it real. I am convinced if we make this dream happen, we will be in the best position we have been in for years to build a cohesive and growing congregation.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

Don Martin
UUCE Treasurer

Community Supported Agriculture

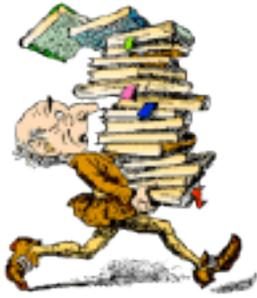
In 2007 the UUCE organized a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) with Happytown Farm, a small, diversified farm located just a few miles from our church. As we watch the snow and ice melt away, it is time to re-enlist to support this vital concept and to bring locally grown, healthy food into our homes.

The basic premise is that CSA members pay in March for vegetables that they will receive beginning in late June and extending through the summer and into the fall. By paying in advance we reduce the cost of borrowing for the farmer(s) and take on some of their risks. We eat what they grow; adjusting our menus as various vegetables come and go in the harvest cycle.

The Volckhausens of Happytown Farm are offering an expanded number of options this year, including 10, 16 and 18 week advanced purchases for vegetables and ornamental flowers. This year they are accepting payment in cash in advance or commitments to help on the farm during the summer, called work shares. They will provide CSA food boxes weekly to members on a prearranged schedule, Mondays, Thursdays or Saturdays at farmers markets in Ellsworth or at their farm in Orland.

There will be information and a sign-up sheet circulating in church for the remaining Sundays in March, including a list of membership options and prices. They need deposits by April 1 and full commitment by May 1. You can also contact Happytown Farm by calling 667-9212 or emailing pkvolckhausen@escrap.com.

A message from the Elections Committee: There are several vacancies on the Board of Trustees and we will hold elections for these spots at the Spring Parish Meeting. There is a 1 year Vice President position available and 2 BOT positions (3 year term) available. If you are interested in running the the BOT, please contact one of us. We will be happy to discuss with you the responsibilities of being on the BOT if you need additional information.
Thank You, Ruth Eveland, Anne Ossanna and Wayne Smith



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Stephen Berger

A Chosen Faith (Beacon Press, 1989) is a book on the Sources of UU by John A. Buehrens (former UUA President) and Forrest Church (well-known Universalist minister). In his chapter on prophecy (Source 2), Buehrens writes:

“Though far from exclusive to Unitarian Universalists, the principal sin besetting many of us today is the sin of sophisticated resignation. This sin is particularly insidious because it comes with its own veil. That is, it appears respectable. It allows us to feel strongly about injustices without prompting us to do anything about them. This sin is tailor-made for many of us because it is fed by knowledge. We know so much about the world’s problems, and their enormity, that however much we want to do about them, we feel impotent. What could we do to affect hunger, homelessness, AIDS, or the threat of nuclear annihilation?”

Buehrens calls this “sophisticated resignation.” Another word for it might be “cynicism.” It is, perhaps, the flip-side of idealism. When we are in an idealistic frame we want the world to be instantly the way we visualize our ideal – the “sin” attached to idealism becomes visible when we become angry at those who resist our idealistic call. In the extreme, we may then become violent in the attempt either to reach our ideal or to express our anger.

In the frame of cynicism, we see all the problems and difficulties. It becomes difficult to see what we might do that might have a significant effect – and why put a lot of effort into something which will not have a significant effect? So we grumble and do little or nothing. Or we retreat into criticism. I know I am often prey to this sin – are you, too?

The February 28 episode of *Harry’s Law*, “American Dreamers,” had a conversation between Thomas Jefferson and Harry Korn in which Jefferson confesses to Harry that he suffers from what Buehrens called sophisticated resignation. It was eerie watching this conversation after I had written the previous paragraphs!

And Harry Meserve, in Meditation 496 in *Singing our Living Tradition*, says: “For telling ourselves and others that evil is inevitable while good is impossible, may we stand corrected.”

Buehrens goes on to claim that once become resigned, we may turn inward: “How much easier it is to watch our diets and tone our bodies. For many of us, self-improvement (both physical and spiritual) has displaced the transformation of society as our principal moral concern.”

What do you think? And what are you reading? You can contact me at sbergernh@roadrunner.com

In-House Swap Shop

Swap Shop--An Exciting Success!!!

On a recent Sunday after the service and during Pot-Luck a new venture was launched. It was easy! It was fun! People walked away with new (to them) treasures or articles of clothing! And a small handful of people (maybe four or five who donated the items are happy to have more space after giving to the Shop a few good items they no longer wanted or needed!

Special thanks to Jean Martin, Nancy Avila, Stefanie Alley and Linda Lang for marking and setting up shop and tending the store on Sunday.

Thanks to those who donated articles!

And great gratitude to Nancy Avila for bagging up the leftovers and cleaning up on Sunday!

We made \$108.50—not bad for a first try. Jean Martin said she was thrilled to watch her mother’s coat go to a very happy new owner. We will be doing this again (sometime in late April). Please consider looking find a few items to donate and you might want to volunteer to set up (get the first dibs) or clean up (it’s easy because we keep it small and lots gets sold because things are in good condition). You will hear more from us later!

Again many thanks to those who gave, those who bought and those who worked to make it all happen.

Work and Play Week at Ferry Beach

An Affordable Week for the Whole Family

June 19 – June 25

Come to this first conference of the season at Ferry Beach for the deep sense of camaraderie and satisfaction that only shared projects and good times can bring. The week begins on Sunday and runs during our staff training week. What better way to break in our summer crew and to help get our buildings and grounds in shape for the summer season! Each morning while parents work on Ferry Beach projects, children join the Ferry Beach Children's Program.

In exchange for working on Ferry Beach projects each morning, Work and Play Week participants pay for meals ONLY – this is a discount from previous years' low pricing! Work and Play Week is truly our most affordable week!

This summer's projects will be focused on landscaping around the new Ferry Beach dining facility. Of course, there will also be carpentry and painting projects, our existing landscaping and gardens need tending, our sewing team will have several exciting projects (If you want to be part of the sewing crew, please bring your own sewing machine) and because this takes place during the crew training week, there will be a lot of general cleanup.

All of the Ferry Beach traditions – chapel services (held in the evening during Work and Play Week), friendship circles, hospitality, vesper service, camp fires, and cookout night - are a part of Work and Play Week. So pack up your tools for a week of satisfying projects, a great vacation, and especially the camaraderie that is unique among people who work together.

We will mail you a list of projects before the conference begins. You can decide what tools you might want to pack, and we have lots stored in the tool-shed.

Coordinators: Jude Lamb and Dave Ruitenber
Minister of the Week: Rev. Kitsie Winthrop
Musicians of the Week: Nelson and Betti Jaquay

For more information, see the Ferry Beach website at www.ferrybeach.org or contact Rev. Fayre Stephenson at fbfayre@maine.rr.com or at 207-289-4489.

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Rev. Dr. Jane Rzepka, Minister Emerita, Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), has gathered some of her favorite sermons published in *Quest*, CLF's monthly worship publication. If purchased along with Jane's meditation book, *A Small Heaven*, you will receive a substantial discount.

Beth Murray
Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
617-948-6150

[The Church of the Larger Fellowship's mission is to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, promote the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism and institute programs to that end.

Learn more about the CLF at www.clfuu.org.]

From Colleen Prentiss

Spring Cleaning? Colleen Prentiss is looking for the following and will gladly take them off your hands! If you'd like to trade, I currently have organic eggs, milk, carrots, onions, and the promise of summertime veggies and flowers!

- wool blankets, any condition
- shelves/bookcase, any condition, but usable
- round cake pans
- measuring cups and spoons
- clean, used once yogurt containers #5 plastic
- glass storage dishes with lids
- glass gallon jars with lids
- and for Charlie: your junk! stuff he can manipulate, open/close, unscrew tops, etc. or just new and odd. He doesn't put things in his mouth, so don't worry about small stuff.

Contact Colleen at 374-5919 or harmonia-gardens@hotmail.com

THANK YOU! HAPPY SPRING!

Peace and Social Action

The Peace and Social Action Committee held a planning retreat on March 11 to review the committee's past work and plan for the future. Attending were: Karen Volckhausen, acting chair, Jon and Jane Thomas, Janice Ronco, Stephanie Alley, Kay Wilkins, and Diana Cate. Full participation, lively discussion and good food helped us to develop our work plan for 2011/2012. Each issue we will be working on reflects one or more of our UU principles. Our continuing mission will be:

To coordinate and support the congregation in its efforts to advocate, educate, organize, serve and witness for peace and social justice; to establish our church as a beacon for social action in our community. As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to work for a democratic, peaceful, equitable and earth-friendly world. The Peace and Social Action Program is committed to empowering church members to keep this covenant.

Corporate domination of every aspect of society is one of our major concerns and will be an overarching theme in our work; a lens under which we can examine the issues. Developing action plans as we go, we will be focusing on:

- ❖ Environmental justice
Ethical eating using the UUA study guide
Local focus on Everybody Eats
- ❖ Immigration
Again, we will use the UUA study guide with one or our goals to encourage as many people as possible to attend GA 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona to support GA's actions on immigration.
- ❖ A continuing focus on restorative justice work

Part of our strategy will be to partner with different committees such as Adult RE and Green Sanctuary, develop urgent response to critical issues, combat truthiness through stories and facts and form coalitions with other local groups/churches.

Upcoming Events

Third Sunday of each month at 9 AM - PASA monthly meeting; anyone interested is cordially invited.

March 20 and 27, after church - PASA/Adult RE presentation on Ethical Eating

April 17, 3 PM after drumming – Richard Komp will present a program on Solar Energy Work in Niger and Maine, detailing his work with low cost solar energy. (See Martha Dickinson's article in current issue for details).

Solar Energy in Maine and Around the World, April 17

Celebrate Earth Day with Richard Komp

Sunday, April 17, 2011, 3 PM

UU Church of Ellsworth, 121 Bucksport Rd.,
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Richard Komp teaches people in Maine and around the world how to make low cost solar energy devices. Several workshops will be held in Downeast Maine in April of 2011. In this past year, he has held workshops in Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Peru, Nicaragua, Columbia and many other places. As a physicist, he has developed new low cost techniques and adapted his devices to use materials that are available in whatever locality he finds himself.

Christina Diebold, of the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, recently wrote, "When I become discouraged by the stunning refusal of Congress to deal with climate change, or even admit it's a problem, I think about Richard Komp, the solar energy apostle from foggy Jonesport. He and his colleagues have improved the lives of numerous poor people in Latin America and Africa by teaching them to make photovoltaic modules using simple materials available at local markets, producing solar cookers, cell phone chargers, well pumps, lighting systems and even a solar air conditioner, while forging local alliances."

The public is welcome to attend this event. For more information, see <http://mainesolar.org> or phone 667-5863.

Sponsored by: UUCE Peace and Social Action and RE, Maine Solar Energy Association (MESEA), and Hancock County Transition Towns.

From HCCN

March 26-27: "Building Bridges of Communication" introductory workshop on Nonviolent Communication to benefit WERU Community Radio, Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 96 Harlow St. #100, Bangor. Call Peggy Smith, 789-5299 or peggy@opencommunication.org.

March 31-April 1: Izzeldin Abuelaish, doctor from Gaza who lost three children in recent war, speaks on "I Shall Not Hate," 7 PM (book signing at 6 PM), Abromson Center, USM, Portland on 31st and 7 PM, Curtis Library, Brunswick on April 1. Robert Schaible, 239-8060 or rmschaible@gmail.com.

April 4: Rally to "Bring Our War \$\$ Home" to focus on federal budget priorities and more funds for state/local programs, 11 AM-3 PM, Hall of Flags, State Capitol, Augusta. Bring Our War \$\$ Home, 443-9502 or globalnet@mindspring.com or www.space4peace.org.

April 4: "Living Downstream" film shown (pollutants causing cancer), 7 PM, Colonial Theater, Belfast. Belfast Co-op, 338-2532.

April 5-7, 15: "Game Changer" (final program in Women's Leadership Series, in Auburn (Public Library, 5th, 11:30-1 PM), Portland (CIEE, 300 Fore St., 6th, noon-1:30 PM), Bangor (Public Library, 7th, noon-1:30 PM) and Rockland (Public Library, 15th, noon-1:30 PM). Maine Women's Fund, 774-5513, thewomen@mainewomensfund.org or www.mainewomensfund.org.

April 9: Rally and walk to Bring Our War \$\$ Home in support of demonstration in New York, 1 PM, Paul Bunyan Statue to Cascade Park, Bangor (Main St. to State St.). Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

April 17: "Flow" film shown (stopping corporate control of natural resources like water), 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center, 96 Harlow St., Bangor. Call the Center, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

April 20: "Up the Ridge" film shown (downsides of for-profit prisons), 6 PM, Free Library, Belfast. Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, 342-3666 (Becca).

April 24 (+ other programs almost monthly thru December): 11/11 forums on poverty with topics such as food issues, literacy, jail, transportation, mental health, classism, 11 AM, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 37 Miller St., Belfast. Call Jennifer Hill, 722-3383 or rooted@fairpoint.net.

April 30: 17th annual HOPE (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival w/organizational fair, music, talks, children's program, 11 AM-4 PM, Student Recreation and Fitness Center, U/Maine, Orono. Peace and Justice Center, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

Notices:

The US congress is debating a cut or zeroing out of funds for public and community radio, which affects WERU and WMPG stations, low power stations, and Maine Public Radio and TV, among others. A campaign thru www.170MillionAmericans.org (the estimated number of listen to or watch public/community radio and TV in the US) is urging people to call or write Maine's congressional delegation to urge them to oppose any budget cuts in this area. Underserved areas (like rural Maine), stations owned and run by people of color groups, and ones run by special community groups are most in danger of disappearing if the funds are lost. The de-funding of the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (HJ Res. 48) will mean WERU radio won't have funds for a new transmitter, which it desperately needs. For more about this legislation, contact WERU community radio, 469-6600 or www.weru.org.

Food AND Medicine's annual Union Supported Agriculture (USA), a variation of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), kicks off another garden year with the opportunity to buy shares of vegetables, eggs, and even flowers. Options run from a large share (\$450) to mini (\$165) and options for work share of 4-8 hours per week. There are several pickup spots, including Brewer, Bucksport, Ellsworth, Orland, and Orono. EBT cards (like food stamps) will be accepted, and some half-price shares are also available. The weekly food distribution usually runs from late June to mid-late October. To sign up or get more details, contact Laura Binger, 989-5860 or laurab@foodandmedicine.org.

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 AA	2 9:30 Canvass training 3:00 Seder set-up
3 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Passover Seder Maple sugaring @Happytown Farm	4 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	5 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 ACS	6 6:30 Coyote Group	7 12:00 Al-Anon	8 6:00 AA	9 6:00 Pizza & Movie Night
10 10:30 a.m. Worship Service- Stewardship Sunday HUNGRY SUNDAY	11 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	12 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 ACS	13 6:30 Coyote Group	14 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting	15 6:00 AA	16 9:00 Lodestar workshop
17 9:00 PASA 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 1:30 Drumming Workshop 3:00 Adult RE/PASA- Earth Day Event	18 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	19 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 ACS	20 6:30 Coyote Group	21 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Board Meeting	22 6:00 AA	23
24 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	25 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	26 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 ACS	27 6:00 Coyote Group	28 12:00 Al-Anon	29 6:00 AA	30 4:00 Midwives of Maine

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
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Ellsworth, ME 04605

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The NUUS

April 2011

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
April, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 4

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.**

