



The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 43

No. 5

May 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

May 1. *Teaching From the Heart*

We are all teachers. Each of our most important ones in his or her own way nurtured and supported, challenged and affirmed, accepted and guided us on our journey toward becoming who we are. Each had faith in the process of transformation and transcendence.

Rev. Roberta Nelson

May 8. *Happy Mother's Day!*

Join us as we celebrate our Mothers and the enduring legacy that is motherhood.

Tom Grogan, DLRE

May 15. *Nature's Lifelines*

During any year we need hope. When times are difficult or scary, we need to be creative in our search. Who helps? What helps?

Sue Clark

May 22. *Does Prayer Work?*

Yes and No, says Rev Mark Worth, current Minister of UU Congregation of Castine and former minister, UUCE.

May 29. *Hiking the Spiritual Path*

A major aspect of Unitarian Universalist Religious Education is preparing young people to embark on their own search for truth and meaning. Join the children, youth and adults of the religious education program as we share some of our journey with you.

Rev. Roberta Nelson is a retired UU Minister. She has served churches in Needham, Massachusetts, Oakton Virginia, and Bethesda, Maryland. She has served on many UUA committees. She chaired the committee that envisioned the sexuality curriculum *Our Whole Lives*. She has taught courses at Meadville Lombard Theological School and at The Pacific School of Religion. She and her husband, Chris, wrote the parent education curricula "Parents as Resident Theologians", "Parents as Social Justice Educators", and "Parents as Spiritual Guides".

Congregational Meeting

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

Spring Clean Up

Saturday April 30th, 9:30 til 1 p.m.

Please help! We need to sweep up and use the gravel to repair the edge of the asphalt half circle.

Brooms and Shovels Brigade needed. Plus opportunities to trim, rake, weed and BEAUTIFY!

Questions? Call Sue Clark at 244-3051

Message from the President

Community Volunteer Opportunities

Every time I am in a group and people begin to talk of our need to raise awareness of UUCE in the local community we begin to make a list of possibilities: advertising, the roadside sign, etc. Inevitably someone mentions participation in community altruistic organizations – visible participation as Unitarians.

Many of us do work with community groups to improve the lives of people in general or to help the needy among us. We contribute to the THAW Fund and support Loaves and Fishes. And several of us do “wave the flag” when participating with a community group. Last November three of our members spoke at the Healthy Peninsula Ellsworth Area Community Breakfast: Anne Ossanna, Pam Person, and Jim Fisher. Pam specifically represented UUCE and described our several community activities. I need to add that Valerie Kenney, who is now active with UUCE, also spoke, representing Everybody Eats.

There were representatives from almost fifty organizations at the Healthy Peninsula breakfast. I’m sure there are at least fifty opportunities needing volunteers in Hancock County. I would like to suggest a few of them for your consideration.

Healthy Peninsula is an umbrella program to bring together people and resources to improve the health of the community. It was begun with money from Maine’s tobacco settlement. Unlike many states, Maine actually put that money where it could do some good. Volunteers are needed to work on nutrition, substance abuse, aging, and other health related causes. They can put your talents to work or find a place for you at other area service providers. Call their Blue Hill office at 374-3257, their Ellsworth office at 479-2663, or email them at info@healthypeninsula.org.

Friends in Action, formally known as Faith in Action, needs drivers to transport folks, primarily to medical appointments. This is a good cause, the need is great, and it is easy to do. If you do not have time to drive, the next best thing is to donate

money. Call Jo Cooper, director of Friends in Action, at 664-6016, or Rev. Priscilla Hukki, pastor, St. Andrew Lutheran, at 610-0480.

Everybody Eats provides a healthy, full meal every Monday afternoon at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church on State Street, Ellsworth. Volunteers are divided into two groups. The preparers work from 11 am to 3 pm and the server/cleaners work from 3 to 6:30 pm. Several UUCE folks volunteer regularly: Valerie Kenney, Karen Volckhausen, Kay Wilkins, and I. Ask any of us what it’s like. Valerie is President of the Everybody Eats board. For more information call or email Marian Wells, the Volunteer Coordinator, at 667-6206 or sagegirlmsw@aol.com.

Finally, Hancock County Habitat for Humanity is seeking people with expertise in public relations, design, construction, fundraising, and volunteer services. For information call 288-5852 or visit www.hancockcountyhabitat.org.

Whatever you do, don’t hesitate to let folks know that you are a Unitarian Universalist, and you should probably have your elevator speech ready. Don’t forget, one of our core beliefs is justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

In ministry,
Diana Cate

Take A Hike!

Howdy Friends and Members of the UUCE, I am trying to organize a hike up Katahdin this summer and in preparation I thought it might be fun to try several short hikes up surrounding Mountains. The first being Blue Hill summit on May 1st after the potluck. This hike is about 45 min. up and a half hour down if memory serves me correct. Please join us! If you have any questions contact me, Matt Slater at Brickcircle@hotmail.com or 460-2154. Happy Trails.....



Nuts and Bolts

from the Board of Trustees President

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

Congregational Meetings - The Finance Committee invites you to attend a Congregational Budget Hearing after services (and after coffee) Sunday, May 8th. All who are interested in financial allocations for the 2011-12 church year are urged to attend. The Board of Trustees will review the final draft of the budget at their regular meeting, May 12th, then present it to the congregation for approval at the May 22nd Congregational Meeting. We will also elect our new Board members at that meeting.

Election Committee – And speaking of new Board members, if you are at all interested in serving on the board now or in the future, please speak with Ruth Eveland, Wayne Smith, or Anne Ossanna. Working on the Board of Trustees is one of the most critical ways to contribute to UUCE.

By-laws – It will soon be five years since the UUCE By-laws were reviewed and modified. Please read through the by-laws at the UUCE web site (in the pull-down menu under “About”) and give your suggestions to any Board member. Your comments are appreciated. The by-laws govern many aspects of church governance. As usual, email is the best way to communicate.

Church Yard Sale? – In years past our yard sale was an excellent fundraising activity. Unfortunately as time went on the number of worker volunteers went down, the degree of trash dumped off at church went up, and the yard sale was indefinitely suspended. However it is still an idea worth considering. Give it some thought. Talk with John Fink or Wayne Smith.

Buddhist Meditation Group – Where are the folks who have been asking for a Buddhist group at UUCE? Please email me, Diana, and I will try to help organize it.

Naming the Community Room and RE Wing – The Board approved a motion to name the

community room the Ethel Schwalbe Room and the RE wing the Carl Stehman Wing. Both of these past members were more than essential in building these spaces. We will be hearing more about Ethel and Carl in the near future from Bob Dickens.

In ministry,
Diana Cate
djcate35@gmail.com
207-664-3010

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 for 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



Lifespan Religious Education

RE Happenings

Movies – Movies – Movies

“Two Spirits”

The movie “Two Spirits” will be shown on Saturday May 14th at 7:00PM.

Filmmaker Lydia Nibley explores the cultural context behind a tragic and senseless murder. Fred Martinez was a Navajo youth slain at the age of 16 by a man who bragged to his friends that he 'bug-smashed a fag'. But Fred was part of an honored Navajo tradition — the, 'nadleeh,' or 'two-spirit,' who possesses a balance of masculine and feminine traits. Through telling Fred's story, Nibley reminds us of the values that America's indigenous peoples have long embraced.

Pizza and a Movie!

Fun was had by all at April's Pizza & A Movie! Those gathered watched, “A Prairie Home Companion” and enjoyed Matt Slater's fine pizza.

Take a Hike! - May 1st

Join the RE Committee for a hike on Sunday, May 1st following the potluck. Hike location and other details, TBA.

Potluck Social – May 15th

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 are done!

A Big Sugary Thank You!

A big sugary thank you goes out to Karen and Paul Volckhausen of Happy Town Farm for their generosity and hospitality. Some thirty adults and children enjoyed making maple ice cream sundaes, drinking coffee, tea, or juice, engaged in conversation and just plain enjoyed one another's company on April 3rd. as we gathered for our first annual Maple Syrup Sundae Sunday!

Wanted: R.E. Teachers

The Children's Religious Education program is looking for teachers for next year. Spending time with our children is fun and can be just as beneficial for you as it is for them. Please consider sharing

yourself with them, you'll be surprised at how much you will get in return! Please contact Tom at: tom@uuellsworth.org or call at 207-951-2873.

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.

Quick R.E. Dates

May 14th - 7:00 - Movie: “Two Spirits”

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

May 29th – RE Sunday, “Hiking the Spiritual Journey”

Tom Grogan, Director

Passover Seder at UUCE

Why is this pot-luck different from all other pot-lucks? Instead of the usual first Sunday meal in April we celebrated Passover with a traditional (more or less) Seder at tables set up in the sanctuary. Thank you to Richard Kane, Melody Lewis-Kane, Phil Elkin, and Sandy Phoenix for leading us through the ritual and cooking and organizing the food. Quite yummy, from matzo ball soup to desert.

Now for something completely different, check out these versions of Passover. The second one is especially clever.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_RmVJLfRoM&NR=1

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlxToZmJwdl&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Adult Religious Education

There are two exciting and varied offerings from Adult RE this month:

SATURDAY, MAY 14 (9AM-12Noon)

Nature's Lifelines -

During any year we need hope. When times are difficult or scary, we need to be creative in our search. Who helps? What helps?

ART AS STORY, METAPHOR AND SYMBOL

Art is a window to our self/soul. The work of art involves decision making, self-responsibility and fun in action. As we create we learn to accept and respect our effort and move on to the next project.

On Saturday May 14th from 9:30 to noon come join me in a work shop with watercolor, acrylics, and pastels as we experiment with creative fun. You are the expert on the meaning of what you do! Bring a bag lunch and we'll chat more after noon. Sue Clark, water colorist and retired Art Therapist.

Sunday, May 15 11:50-1:10PM - UU Principle 5 - "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Open discussion led by Pam Person and Ruth Eveland.

There will be no Adult RE on Sunday May 1 as it is Potluck, Sunday, May 8, as it is Mothers Day, nor on May 22 - when we have our annual Congregational Meeting.

The Adult RE Committee will be meeting on May 15 from 9:15-10:30 to officially transfer leadership to Janice Ronco and Stephen Berger as co-chairs and Matt Slater as Vice Chair to evaluate the Spring offerings and start planning for Summer and Fall. Anyone interested in joining the committee - please contact Stephen or Janice or Matt.

It has been a very busy, exciting and expanding experience for me to serve UUCE as the Adult RE chair for the last two years - to get to know many

different people, their wide variety of skills and talents and willingness to serve our congregation -- as well as to explore new ideas together. I know that UUCE will be delighted with what new things you will be offered this summer and the next year from your Adult RE team.

Best and thanks to all,
Pam Person

Professional Recognition

On March 22nd Anne Ossanna was notified that she was nominated for, and will receive, the Outstanding Field Placement Instructor/Supervisor Award from the University of Maine School of Social Work.

We are proud that one of our own is being recognized professionally.
Congratulations, Anne!!!!

Sixth Annual Emmaus Shelter Concert and Auction

Emmaus Center's annual lunch/concert/auction will be Sunday, May 1st, from 1 to 4:30 pm. Cynthia Perkins has already filled one table and is working on more. The Emmaus auction has been a lot of fun in years past, and will be even more fun now that the venue is changed.

This year it will take place in the new Ellsworth Middle School, behind Mill Mall. Lunch will be catered by the Common Good Soup Kitchen from Southwest Harbor and music will be provided by Joyful Jazz and Big Moose.

Seats are \$50 for couples and \$30 for singles. Contact Cynthia before seats are gone, at 422-6263 or msp41@myfairpoint.net.

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for March was \$6,048. This was \$375 less than the total expenses for the month of March, which were \$6,465. The difference was covered again by prepaid pledges.

Finances are still positive. Total income is at \$79,214 or 13.02% above budget. Pledge income is at \$58,880 which is 5.66% above budget, an amount equal to \$4,050. Total expenses are at \$55,232 or 61.36%. This is 13.64% below budget. Again, I must remind you that an additional 10% of our annual \$90,000 in expenses is due in June.

Plate income of \$6,960 is 2.445% over the budget figure of \$6,800 with three months to go in the church's fiscal year. Fundraising income is at \$6,048, 20.07% above the budget of \$5,000. Rental income is running 28.36% below budget and will need to be adjusted in next year's budget.

I am confident after reviewing third-quarter pledge statements that our shortfall from pledges will not exceed the \$6,000 that was budgeted. Our finances at this time are very healthy and we are in a strong position to complete the year in a positive situation.

The 2011-2012 Stewardship Campaign has been a very positive experience. I want to thank the Stewardship Committee for all their hard work in organizing the campaign. Thanks to those that shared stewardship moments on Sunday mornings with the congregation. Thanks to those who contributed to the special edition of the NUUS. Thanks to those who participated in the Stewardship Sunday service. I was told by a long-standing member of this congregation that it was the best stewardship service she had ever attended. Thanks to those who volunteered to visit and canvass members and friends in their homes. Last, but not least, thanks to all of you for your generous contributions that have made this canvass successful.

Don Martin - Treasurer

Finance Committee 2011-2012 Budget Hearing

The Finance Committee will hold a 2011 – 2012 budget hearing meeting on Sunday, May 8th, after the service. This will be an opportunity for members and friends of the congregation to ask questions and offer suggestions on the preliminary 2011-2012 budget before it is finalized.

The members of the finance committee will answer your questions and listen to your suggestions. Although we cannot guarantee that every suggestion will be incorporated into the budget, we will guarantee that every suggestion will be considered in the process of preparing a balanced budget.

Please plan to attend this opportunity to learn and express your opinions on the finances of the church.

UUCE Finance Committee

Dugald Kell
George Marcus
Tom Martin
Jon Thomas
Don Martin, Coordinator

Personnel

Church Office

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caitlin@uuellsworth.org

President of the Board

Diana Cate
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Tom Grogan: 667-4393
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Wayne Smith: 667-9482

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Lance Funderburk: 276-3301
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Stewardship Campaign Results

On Stewardship Sunday the good fairy Evelyn told us “if everyone puts as much gold as they can into the magical pot, you will have a pot of gold that will be enough for all the dreams you have for your little UU church”.

I suggest that you check the pot of gold in the Community Room and watch it grow. After a week of canvassing our UUCE members and friends, we are pleased with the results. We have raised \$88,191.00 from 77 pledges. We are extremely close to having enough to support our dream of professional ministry.

Some of you have expressed concerns about our ability to support professional ministry because of our recent past experience. The last time, we did not initially raise sufficient funds to cover the costs of ministry and we relied on the savings account which eventually ran out. When the savings account ran out, we could not get the congregational support necessary to cover the additional costs for ministry. This time will be different from our last experience because the congregation will have pledged sufficient funds to support professional ministry.

I am hoping in the next several days that we will accomplish this goal. With everyone’s support we can do this. If you have not made a pledge, please consider doing so. If you have made a pledge, would you be willing to consider the possibility of increasing your pledge slightly? Let your canvasser know if you decide you want to give more. We are so close, it would be disappointing not to reach our goal.

Thank you all for your support. We can make our dream a reality.
If you have any questions, please contact me at 664-0309.

Don Martin - Stewardship Coordinator

Thoughts on Stewardship

Life is not a given, it’s a gift.
In gratefulness we continue to uplift
Through service to all those we can
Lift up along the way. True to our faith
We gather in this place
Not to think alike but to walk together.
Our task is also to care, to bear

A hand in caring for our second home---
This sanctuary, our comfort zone.

Here we drink our fill of peace, friendship,
Support each other as sister, brother.
There is no other place that draws us so.
But service, caring are only part,
We must give money straight from the heart
To heat, maintain, support our staff,
In winter to plow out our snow,
In summer so our youth to camp may go.

Sit in this sanctuary.
Think of the beauty through window glass
Captured for us as seasons pass.
Think of those who came before,
Who worked and pledged so we could have more
To enjoy. Think deep about your pledge this year.
Let’s make this Downeast Beacon of Light shine
bright,
A magnet drawing others here to our liberal faith.

Sing a Song

Sing a song of dollars
A pocket full of cash
Four and twenty canvassers
Are ready to dash

When the door is opened
Invite your canvasser in
Get to know each other
Fill your pledge card in

The treasurer’s in his office
Budgeting the money
His wife is on the computer
“Could you type this up, Honey?”

The Board is in the Boardroom
Planning for next year
Hoping the canvassers
Will return in good cheer

When the cards are counted
Next year’s budget will be made
We’ll have a celebration
You’ll be proud of the part you’ve played!

Dartha C. Reid

From Evelyn Foster on Stewardship

We Hoped We Could, We Believed We Could, We Did It!!!

Our most sincere thank you to Don Martin, the canvass committee and canvassers and all others who helped with the success of our very important stewardship campaign.

This has been a year of important reorganization and growth here at UUCE. Meeting our financial goals to support the 2011-2012 budget seemed almost impossible in these difficult financial times.

As the results come in we are excited about the wonderful response of our people. It has been a stretch and a lot of hard work by many but we have reached the lofty goal set before the campaign.

Don Martin, who is our dedicated treasurer (with the backup help of his wife, Jean) took on the responsibility of coordinating our stewardship drive. He engaged a capable committee who helped with the organization. Members are Jon Thomas, Jim Fisher, David Wilcock, Don Martin, Evelyn Foster, Judy Rothrock and Kay Wilkins.

A team of canvassers volunteered which included Diana Cate, Kay Wilkins, Stefanie Alley, Jim Fisher, David Wilcock, Karen Wigglesworth, Pam Person, Jon Thomas, Betty Massie, Don Martin, Anne Funderburk, Evelyn Foster and Judy Rothrock. The canvassers were trained by Kay Wilkins and Evelyn Foster. Among them they agreed to contact and visit persons representing ninety five potential pledging units.

A special edition of Stewardship News was written by Don Martin, David Wilcock, Sara Huisjen, Judy Rothrock and Diana Cate.

During the three services prior to the canvass personal stewardship moments were shared with the congregation by Ruth Eveland, David Wilcock and Carol Rosinski.

The canvass kick off service was planned and directed by Don and Jean Martin. Participants were Jude Lamb, Anne Funderburk, Marta Rieman, Dartha Reid, Stefanie Alley, Bart Clayton, Ruth Eveland and Wayne Smith. Anyone attending this service 'Chasing the Dream' will long remember the fairy tale written and read by Jean Martin. This church certainly doesn't lack for talent!

The finance committee and the board are at work developing a balanced budget to present to members at a budget hearing on May 8th. A new

budget will be voted on at the congregational meeting on May 22nd.

We are all very grateful for the faith and dedication of our people who have generously pledged to make our dreams possible. A very special thank you to Don Martin for his tireless leadership. And a special hearty thank you to everyone who worked with Don to make our canvass a success! We hoped we could, we believed we could, we did it!!!!

Notices from HCCN

Although there are tons of bad bills in the Maine legislature this year, one is of special concern to human rights and justice advocates: LD 1095, "An Act to Facilitate the Construction and Operation of Private Prisons by Authorizing the Transport of Prisoners out of State." This would be a "barter" by enabling the Corrections Corporation of America to build and run a federal prison in Maine in exchange for Maine sending some of its prisoners to CCA facilities in other states. Not only will this bill create a federal prison in an isolated area of Maine where it will make visits from families almost impossible, it will also take Maine prisoners away from their families as well. For more details and how to respond, contact Judy/Jim, 374-2437 or maineprisoneradvocacy@yahoo.com or www.maineprisoneradvocacy.org.

PICA's (Power in Community Alliances) annual plant sale is approaching, and it's time to think perennial for your garden. Over seventy-five varieties are available, all organic, field grown, and many native. Orders will be taken until just before the May 14 pickup weekend (check web site to be sure). Local sellers of these plants are also being sought, since those purchases would also benefit PICA. For more info, call PICA at 947-4203 or www.pica.ws.

One other bill of note is LD 1077, a bill to ensure that voters have a say on any large public extractions of water in their town. Often town officials make deals with corporations to take water out of town, with no public input or a chance to find out what is happening until after it happens. In conjunction with this bill, there's a petition called "Let the People Decide" that is being circulated to support the concept and the bill. To sign the on-line petition, try <http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org> and look for the petition, and for the web site: www.foodandwaterwatch.org/take-action. Or call Nisha Swinton in Portland at 202-683-4923 or nswinton@fwwatch.org.

From the Board

A special Board meeting was held on March 17, 2011 to review the results of the survey on ministry and plan next steps. In attendance were: Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen Don Martin, Cynthia Perkins, Anne Ossanna, Jenn Ryan, Judy Rothrock, Eileen Brennan. The conclusion of the survey is that there has been a lot of congregational participation without a minister and people want to continue this participation but also want the guidance and leadership that a minister would bring. Fifty nine people took the survey with 83% supporting the hiring of a minister. The ability to do this will depend on the outcome of the canvass next month. The following timeline was created:

March 27- inform the congregation of the survey results

April 21- special Board meeting for the canvas report

May 8- Congregational budget hearing

May 12- Board vote on the proposed budget

May 22- Congregational meeting to approve the budget

Board meeting April 14

Present: Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen, Don Martin, Anne Ossanna, Cynthia Perkins, Judy Rothrock, Eileen Brennan, John Fink and Tom Grogan, Bob Dickens and Matt Slater from the congregation.

Committee chat- Bob reported that the Adult RE Committee has 2 new co-chairs, Janice Ronco and Steve Berger, who will take leadership in a month.

Treasurer's report

See the Treasurer's corner

DLRE report

See report elsewhere in this issue

Naming the community room and RE room

The Board had previously approved naming the community room the Ethel Schwalbe Room and the RE wing, the Carl Stehman Wing. A motion was made and passed to bring this to the congregation for approval at the May 22 congregational meeting and to deputize Bob Dickens to make the signs and arrange a celebratory event including some words and history about these 2 remarkable people.

Election Committee report

There is one definite candidate and 3 other possibilities for 2 trustee slots. No one has stepped up yet for the vice president position.

Special Board meeting

There will be a special Board meeting on Thursday, May 24 to deal with the steps needed to here a minister, assuming that we raise enough money through pledges to do this.

Housekeeping items

Tabled to a future date: Review of finance committee report, review of hiring policy, Board and committee pictures, advertising, UUCE name change, by-laws *pro tem*, yard sale (on agenda for next board meeting).

Issues discussed tonight: The kitchen organization, which is in good hands with Anne Funderburk and Linda Hayman; the Procedures manual is being taken over by Pam Person; a personnel list (who is on which committee) will be revised by Judy Rothrock to send to Caitlin.

The board then went into executive session to discuss the DLRE evaluation

Next meeting: Thursday, May 12 at 6 PM

The first 15 minutes will be reserved for congregational comment

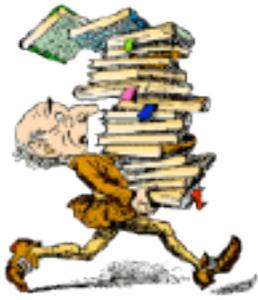
All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Volckhausen
Secretary

Movie Night Update.....

I would like to thank all those who came and contributed to the movie night throughout the winter. Now that winter is making its way to summer this is a perfect time to end the entertaining movie series. I looked forward to starting up next fall if the stars align.

Matt Slater



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 we 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

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

PASA is in the process of creating an Ethical Eating Resource Guide as a first step in its focus on ethical eating for the next year. It will include a section on resources from UUCE and one on resources from the community. We will be contacting many of you for permission to include you and your project or particular talent. If anyone has ideas about something you would like to see in this guide, please contact anyone on the committee.

We also will be collaborating with the Adult RE Committee whenever appropriate to present programs to the congregation. Stay tuned to announcements of exciting presentations in the fall.

Events

Saturday, April 30, 11 AM to 4 PM – HOPE Festival and Green Expo at the Student Recreation and Fitness Center, University of Maine, Orono. Free admission

Featured will be keynote speaker, Jim Merkel, author of Radical Simplicity, Maine's own David Mallett, children's activities, organizational fair with over 70 social change groups and a mini farmers' market and food court with local producers.

Tuesday, May 10, 6 PM - Pot luck supper, slide show, and discussion in the UUCE community room for anyone interested in joining the faith based delegation to El Salvador in the fall. For more information, contact Karen Volckhausen or Tom Grogan.

Sunday, May 15, 9 AM – PASA monthly meeting in the board room. All are welcome.

Sunday, June 26 - Church service led by PASA members followed by a 100 mile pot-luck lunch. Details TBA

From Stefanie

In C/O UUCE

In differences
strength
in diversity
compassion
gather
in fellowship
pause to share
pause to care
possibilities
become aware
pause to reflect
upon challenges
and successes
pause to consider
where
we want to go
we participate
as parts of the whole
peel an orange
segments of an orange
fish in a stream
rush through
rapids
swirl in eddies
gather in pools
birds on the wing
soar
or catch a draft
on the crest of a wave
the ever-changing
parts of the whole.

Visit the Swap Shop—June 5th

So what is a Swap Shop? Actually it is the name given to an event by our new and enthusiastic Aesthetics Committee. It is a time when good used clothing and cast off household goods which have been donated by you are sold back to your friends for a fair fee. The proceeds will be used to begin some projects that the committee has planned to clean up and beautify our common meeting spaces. This is a great way to enjoy swapping things you do not want anymore, don't fit now or never did for something once cherished by a church friend. All proceeds will help the committee to make our building more attractive.

At our last swap shop we collected \$125.00 with only four or five persons bringing in swap items. This time we hope to have more items to sell. Please leave things in bags marked for Swap Shop in the small office next to the sanctuary anytime before the end of May.

The next Swap Shop will be held in the RE wing before church and during Pot Luck on June 5th. Please help by donating good items that your friends might want to buy and by stopping in yourself to find some treasured cast-off for a small price.



Membership Committee

Welcome, Old and New Attendants –We Would Love to Have You Join!

If you aren't already a member and are interested in becoming a full participant in our church please take this next opportunity. A 'Path to UUCE Membership' session will be offered on May 1st at 12:15. That is potluck Sunday so get your lunch and meet Judy and her helpers in the youth room in the RE wing. If this isn't possible for you, call Judy and arrange for a tutorial meeting. New members will be honored during the worship service on May 15th. Active membership includes voting privileges in our congregational meetings, subscriptions to the UU World magazine, eligibility to serve the board of trustees and the good feeling of full belonging that comes with this commitment.

If you would like to join at this time, please contact Judy Rothrock-(244-3520) who is arranging the pre-membership activity.

Directory Updates and Corrections—

A new all-church directory will be published in late May. Please visit the table with the master copy in the community room during coffee hour on May 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd to make corrections to information in your listing. When you have done this, please mark your listing as correct so the committee doesn't have to call you.

Thank you very much,

The Membership Committee



Caring Corner

The Caring Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the reception following the March 19 Memorial Service for **Sally Bell**.

Your assistance with the set-up, clean-up and the lovely array of food brought was greatly appreciated. John Fink also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the congregation for helping to make it a lovely service.

Condolences to **Tom Martin**, whose friend Virginia MacFarland died on March 8 at the age of 93. Tom was grateful to have had a wonderful visit with her a couple of months before her death.

On March 20, **Wayne Smith** shared his joy that he and C.J. Lavertu are now officially domestic partners and he showed us the certificate to prove it!

Congratulations to **Jenn and Ed Ryan** on the birth of their daughter, Anika Maeve on March 28!

Linda Miller, Jenn's mom, was visiting in March while awaiting the arrival of Anika, and shared her thanks for the congregation's care of Jenn and Ed and the baby shower she was given.

Charlotte Young expressed her joy and relief that her son Jacob, age 24, had a successful emergency appendectomy on March 26 and is recovering well.

Charlotte also spoke of her sorrow that her dear friend Lynn has had a recurrence of brain disease which was first diagnosed last year and asks us to keep Lynn in our thoughts and prayers as she makes the difficult decision on what to do next.

Martha Dickinson had successful hip replacement surgery on March 22 and is recuperating well at home.

Margery Forbes was at Sunday service on March 27, showed her bandaged hand and remarked that she was glad her hand surgery had gone well and hopes it will relieve the discomfort she has been experiencing.

Evelyn Foster came through her April 4 surgery in Boston with flying colors and was well enough to

join us for services the following Sunday. Evelyn wishes to express her gratitude to our congregation for the ongoing love and support she has received while going through her medical treatment and surgery. She says she draws a great deal of strength and courage from our love.

A big thank you to **Pam Person**, who cut out a multitude of paper hearts and distributed them at coffee hour on March 27 for everyone to write messages and good wishes to be delivered to Martha, Margery and Evelyn.

Congratulations to **Stefanie Alley** and **Dartha Reid**, who both recently had their poetry published in local newspapers. Stefanie and Dartha shared with us a reading of their poems during the Canvass kick-off service on April 10. Their poems are posted on the bulletin board in the hall at the church, for anyone who would like to read them.

Congratulations to **Paula Marcus**, who celebrated her 80th birthday on April 14!

Valerie Kennney shared with us on April 10 that her brother Greg is ill and not doing well. She thanks the congregation for keeping Greg in our thoughts and our prayers and recently reported that he is doing better.

Flo Reed returned from her most recent trip to Honduras in late winter and shared her joy that a friend there told her he was deriving great benefit from the skills he had learned of making and selling compost, the income from which is enabling him to send his kids to school.

We welcomed back **Peggy Strong**, who has been away since October and is glad to be back with us again.

We offer condolences to **John Fink**, whose mother died the second week of April at age 92.

Dusty Bailey will be having surgery at the end of April to correct a problem he has been having with his hand and hopes that this will enable him to use his hand and arm more comfortably.

From HCCN

April 29: "Gasland" film shown (effects of natural gas drilling/fracking on environment), 7 PM, Public Library, Blue Hill. Peninsula Peace and Justice, 326-4405 or ccdoggmail@yahoo.com.

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.

April 30: Democracy School (rights-based strategy to learn how to protect people from the influence of corporations), 8:30 AM-5 PM, Pleasant St. United Methodist Church, 61 Pleasant St., Waterville. Chad Nicholson, CELDF, 541-3649 or chad@celdf.org.

May 1: Community Rights Forum Protecting Our Health, Safety, and Welfare (corporatization of resources and what to do about that), 2-4 PM, U-U Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. Chad Nicholson, CELDF, 541-3649 or chad@celdf.org.

May 5: "Cross-Pollinating the Grassroots" presentation on "The True Cost of Coal" and other Beehive Design Collective graphics, 5-7 PM, Meg Perry Center, 644 Congress St., Portland. Peace Action Maine, 772-1051 and www.beehivecollective.org.

May 6-7: AIDS Walk Weekend to Support Frannie Peabody Center, especially Saturday morning on the beach and around town of Ogunquit. Call 774-6877 x8013.

May 7: Organic orcharding workshop w/Michael Phillips, 10 AM-4 PM, Common Ground Education Center, Unity. MOFGA, 568-4142 or mofga@mofga.org or www.mofga.org.

May 7: Annual Peace Action Maine Peace Supper May 7: General Assembly of Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine w/speaker Jo Comerford of National Priorities Project, 6 PM, 96 Harlow St., Bangor. Call the Center, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

May 7-8: "Resisting Racism" workshop with Ewuare Osayande, all day both days, location TBA, Portland. Jesse Newcomb, 949-6668 or j.c.newk@gmail.com.

May 8: Mother's Day peace vigil + reading of Julia Ward Howe's "Proclamation for Peace, noon-1 PM, Market Square, Portsmouth, NH. Amy Antonucci, 603-664-2796 or amyla44@juno.com.

May 10: "Know Your Farmer" film shown about Maine farmers, 6:30 PM (with food and drinks from 5-6:30 PM), Brick Church, 126 Union St., Bangor. Food AND Medicine, 989-5860 or laurab@foodandmedicine.org.

May 12: Louis Skolnik Award Dinner honoring Cushman Anthony, 7 PM, Harraseeket Inn, Freeport. Maine Civil Liberties Union, 774-5444 or ereilly@mclu.org.

May 14-15: "Building Bridges of Communication," an introduction to Nonviolent Communication, Waterfall Arts, 256 High St., Belfast. Peggy Smith, 789-5299 or peggy@opencommunication.org.

May 15: Community Rights Forum Protecting Our Health, Safety, and Welfare (corporatization of resources and what to do about that), 2-4 PM, Peace and Justice Center, 96 Harlow St., Bangor. Chad Nicholson, CELDF, 541-3649 or chad@celdf.org.

May 15: "Affluenza" film shown (overwork, shopping fever, huge debt, too much commercialism), 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center, 96 Harlow St., Bangor. Call the Center, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

May 18: "The People Speak" film shown (words from Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States), 6 PM, Free Library, Belfast. Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, 525-7776.

May 20-22: "Speaking Peace in a World of Conflict," the basics of Nonviolent Communication, Augusta. Peggy Smith, 789-5299 or peggy@opencommunication.org.

June 5 (+ 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.

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 a.m. Worship Service POTLUCK 11:50 Adult RE: <i>Misquoting Jesus</i> , book discussion Group Hike: Blue Hill Mtn.	2 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	3 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 ACS	4 6:30 Coyote Group	5 12:00 Al-Anon	6 6:00 AA	7 5:30 Canvass Committee potluck
8 10:30 a.m. Worship Service HUNGRY SUNDAY 11:30 Congregational Budget Hearing	9 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	10 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 PASA Potluck	11 6:30 Coyote Group	12 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting	13 6:00 AA	14 9:00 Adult RE: Art as Story, Metaphor and Symbol 6:00 "Two Spirits" film
15 9:00 PASA meeting 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE: UUA Principle 5 1:30 Drumming Circle Potluck Social at Rev. Sara Huisjen's home	16 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	17 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	18 6:30 Coyote Group	19 12:00 Al-Anon	20 6:00 AA	21
22 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 Congregational Meeting 3:00 Helen Conway recital	23 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	24 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon	25 4:30 Celtic musicians	26 12:00 Al-Anon	27 6:00 AA	28
29 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	30 3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons	31 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon				

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

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The NUUS

May 2011

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
May, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 5

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.**

