



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 43

No. 10

October 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

October 2. *A Time for Turning* Rev. Sara Huisjen

At this time of year, when the leaves begin to burst into color and the warmth of the sun gives way to cooler days and nights, the change in seasons might remind us again of the value and necessity of turning? What in *you* longs for change and transformation? What relationships in your life are most in need of attention and care? Come, and consider together the how, and why, and where in our lives of making such change possible?

October 9. A service on the 5th Principle of Unitarian Universalism:

We covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Speakers on the 5th Principle will include Ruth Eveland and Tom Stipe. Members of the congregation are invited to share their thoughts on this Principle.

Anne Funderburk, a member of UUCE for 10 years, has been presenting one service on a UU Principle each quarter. She will co-ordinate the 6th Principle on the 2d Sunday of January. The 2d Sunday of April she will have a special guest from the Penobscot Nation of the Wabanaki Confederacy who will help present the 7th Principle: "respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part."

Co-ordinator: Anne Funderburk

October 16. "...It Might Have Been Otherwise" Rev. Sara Huisjen

"You do not get to choose how you're going to die. Or when," writes singer-song-writer Joan Baez. "You can only decide how you're going to live. Now." In this service, we'll consider the value of cultivating our own personal sense of death awareness as one means to strengthen our efforts to live well in the here and now of lives.

October 23. *Whose Are We?* Rev. Sara Huisjen

Different from the question, *Who Am I?*, to ask *Whose Am I?* is an invitation to consider the nature of our relatedness. To what, or to whom do we belong? To what purpose do we aspire to live our lives? By what vision, or principle, or underlying sense of unity in this world are we guided?

October 30. Please join us as we celebrate the Pagan High Holy Day Samhain. We will gather in a circle of community as we honor the changing season and the great Wheel of Life. We will remember our beloved friends, relatives and pets by placing their photo on the altar. We will rejoice in the birth of the babies in our community. This is an intergenerational service where all are welcome. Please bring a framed photo of a departed loved one and their favorite non-perishable food items as an offering.

Anne Ossanna, Rev. Sara Huisjen and Toby Allen

Ministry Matters by Rev. Sara Huisjen

A blessing is not something that one person gives to another. A blessing is a moment of meeting, a certain kind of relationship in which both people involved remember and acknowledge their true nature and worth, and strengthen what is whole in one another.

--Rachel Naomi Remen, MD in *My Grandfather's Blessings*

I first discovered Rachel Naomi Remen's books while re-stocking the "Spirituality & Religion" section of the bookstore I worked at during high school and on college breaks. On that day, I remember sitting in the cafe after work and reading *My Grandfather's Blessings* from cover to cover, laughing and crying through much of it, and folding down the corner of pages I knew I'd want to read again.

Dr. Remen's description of what a blessing is—a certain kind & quality of *meeting*—still resonates for me today. It strikes me, too, that these moments of meeting, of *truly* listening to and seeing each other are what make up the building blocks of ministry. Ministry *not* being some thing we do, or give, or bestow on each other, but rather ministry being a quality of relating and relationship that we create and enter into together; ministry as a kind of inviting & caring attention that we bring into our encounters and conversations with others.

Two plus months into my work with you as parish minister, and *this* is the ministry and ministering I most often see, and feel, and experience *with* you. Ministry that looks like the invitation you extend to each other, and to *me*, to say how it's *really* going in your life. Ministry that looks like a circle of people gathered in a couple's home, talking about some of the most difficult & real transitions they have lived through, or are living still. Ministry that looks like the care with which you seek to address and resolve a tricky situation in an honest, kind and thoughtful way.

I am grateful and grown by you, honored to be a part of our many *shared* ministries. With this, I feel myself more awake and alive in this world.

Namaste,

Sara

Monthly UUCE Book Discussion Group

All are invited to participate in this month's book discussion groups to be facilitated by Rev. Sara on Thursdays, October 13th and 27th from 1:00-2:30pm at UUCE. This month's book selection is *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, written by renowned religious historian, Karen Armstrong.

In this book, Armstrong puts forth her belief that while compassion is intrinsic in all human beings, each of us needs to work diligently to cultivate and expand our *capacity* for compassion. Written in a straightforward, thoughtful, and provocative style, the author sets forth a program that seeks to lead people toward *living* a more compassionate life.

For the first discussion group on 10/13, please read chapters one through six, and bring your thoughts, questions, and insights to share.

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life, by Karen Armstrong

ISBN#: 978-0-307-40065-9

Alfred A. Knopf Publisher, 2011

Hardcover = \$22.95

Touchstone Circles: A Small Group Ministry Experience at UUCE

Are you interested in getting to know folks at UUCE a little bit better? Does the idea of exploring questions and/or topics related to spirituality and well-being intrigue or excite you? Do you enjoy listening to others, and sharing your *own* thoughts & feeling in small group settings? If you answered *yes* to any of these questions, and you have *not* yet experienced small group ministry at UUCE, Rev. Sara invites you to attend an informational session before church on Sunday, October 30th from 9:15-10:00am. At that time, she will answer questions and provide information about *Touchstone Circles*, a 6-week, small group ministry program that's been offered at UUCE in the past. If enough folks are interested, another session of this program will be offered in the near future. For more information, and/or to RSVP your attendance, please leave a message at church for Sara, or email her at sara@uuellsworth.org.

Pizza Party and Ministerial Start-Up Meeting

Friday, September 30 at 5:30 p.m.

When a congregation calls or hires a new minister, the UUA district, in our case the Northern New England District, sends a staff person to facilitate congregational discussion about our expectations of the ministry and of what the congregation might become.

Our UUCE Congregational Meeting will begin with a pizza party--drinks provided. This meeting will be a time to share our expectations of our minister (and hers of us) and to spin dreams of what the congregation may be under Rev. Sara's leadership. We also will be invited to share what we've learned about ourselves as a congregation through the past months of growth. Rev. Karen Brammer, from the District, will facilitate our discussion.

We will not set up for a pot-luck meal so everyone can participate in this important discussion.

Please note that due to this special meeting, there will be no potluck the following Sunday, October 2.

Message from the President

BOARD UPDATE

The Board of Trustees has some very good news. Cynthia Perkins, Board of Trustees member, is now our Vice President; and David Wilcock is a new Trustee, filling Cynthia's position for the remainder of her term. Cynthia has already begun to assume some of the President's tasks. She is writing the "Nuts and Bolts" monthly column and is the Board representative on the Leadership Development Committee.

Many of you know Cynthia and David, of course, but here is some background that you may not know.

Cynthia Perkins

Cynthia was born in Georgia and lived there till 1990 except for four years of college in North Carolina. She graduated from Wake Forest University with majors in history and philosophy/religion. She taught history for one year, the one in which John F. Kennedy was killed, an event that brought little shock or sadness to her students, much to her dismay and anger. Teaching in small town GA was not for her.

Cynthia was hired to develop a scrapbook for then Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders, which led to several years as a bureaucrat who intensely objected to bureaucracy. However she was fortunate to be asked to be the Deputy Director of the "War on Poverty" and helped initiate those programs in Georgia. She went on to be Coordinator of the first Maternal and Infant Health Council for the State. Next she was Director of the first WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutrition and education program in Georgia.

Some question whether Jimmy Carter was an adequate President, but Cynthia can tell you he was an amazing gubernatorial candidate and very progressive Governor. It was during this time that Dr. Martin Lewis King was killed. Cynthia marched in the funeral procession.

Cynthia declined to be considered for the position of national WIC director. She had had enough of government, and the feeling was mutual. Cynthia and her partner moved away from Atlanta and owned a "pick your own" Christmas tree and blueberry farm for about 10 years.

Cynthia moved to Maine in 1990 where she opened a fine art gallery and upscale mail order wreath business. It was a satisfying but unprofitable challenge.

Initially and unexpectedly she found herself alone here in Maine. She heard about a church that was socially progressive and decided to visit. She has been a member of UUCE pretty much ever since.

Cynthia grew up as a very active and dedicated Southern Baptist Christian. When she went away to college that church lost its meaning for her, but not religion. She considered, at one point, attending Duke Divinity School. Religion and spirituality have always been of great interest and importance to her.

In Cynthia's own words, *"The freedoms inherent in UUism (if that is a word) are completely compelling to me, and who we really are remains mysterious to me at times. My interest in learning, growing and participating have never been so meaningful and fulfilling as they are here in this church."*

David Wilcock

David grew up in Urbana, Illinois, where his father was a professor in an institute of labor and industrial relations, and lived there through his BA in Political Science at the University of Illinois. He joined the Peace Corps in 1968 and went to the Ivory Coast in West Africa as a secondary school English teacher for two years. He first became interested in agriculture in developing countries at that time.

He received a MA degree in African politics at UC Berkeley in 1971. David was a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War from 1971 to 1973. He returned to graduate school at Michigan State University in 1973 to study agricultural economics with a focus on Africa.

In 1975 David married Karen Eskildsen. Their two sons Daniel and Andrew were born in 1976 and 1979.

When David finished his PhD in 1977 they went to Burkina Faso (Upper Volta at the time) where he was the "chief of party" of a USAID-funded regional agricultural development project implemented by Michigan State. They lived in the small town of Fada N'Gourma for three and a half years.

From 1981 to 1986, after returning to the states, David managed the farm management extension program for the cooperative extension service at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, while Karen worked on her PhD in Epidemiology.

Beginning in 1986 and for the next eleven years David worked for an international development consulting firm in the Washington DC area designing, evaluating, and implementing a wide variety of agricultural development projects sponsored by USAID. During that period they lived overseas again in Morocco from 1991-1993 when he headed up a cereals marketing policy reform project with the Government of Morocco.

From 1997 through 2002 David was in charge of the "Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System" at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

Since 2002 David has been an independent consultant on agricultural development based in Switzerland, New Jersey, and here in Maine. He has worked with the World Bank, two UN agencies, two university groups, four consulting firms, and Oxfam America.

David's first exposure to Unitarian Universalism was as an undergraduate at the Channing-Murray Foundation, meeting in the UU church of Urbana, Illinois. It was a center of anti-war activity and alternative cinema for the University of Illinois in the 1960s.

Karen and David first started occasionally attending UU services in Amherst Mass in the 1980s, then also occasionally in the Northern Virginia area when they lived there. They were members of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, New Jersey from 2004-2009 where David was active in the Peace and Justice and History and Archives committees. They joined the UU Church in Ellsworth about a year ago in the fall of 2010. David served on the very successful Stewardship Committee earlier this year.

We are so fortunate to have these people as members, leaders, and Trustees at UUCE.

In ministry,
Diana Cate



Nuts and Bolts and Tidbits from the Board of Trustees Vice 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.

NUUS by Mail - If you have requested that the monthly NUUS be mailed to you, and are not receiving it, please call Caitlin in the church office, 667 4393, and be sure she has your correct mailing address.

Leadership Development Committee - The LDC has done an excellent job for many months now in thanking members who have made a meaningful contribution to UUCE. One such person is due a public thanks, and that is Wayne Smith for his remarkable ability to know and play beautifully exactly the best music for virtually any circumstance. The Gathering Music, Prelude and Postlude are essentially ideas that come to him when he sees the Order of Service - or even sometimes when he suddenly knows exactly what to play as events occur within a service. Incidentally, he is also our Church Historian. Thank you, Wayne, for being a vital part of UUCE.

Aesthetics Committee – This committee reported to the Board of Trustees (BOT) in September. They have reviewed the sanctuary, rooms and nooks and crannies of the interior of the church. Recommendations include painting the sanctuary and some other rooms, replacing carpet with hardwood floors, repairing or replacing and cleaning sanctuary windows, and performing other needed upgrades. Final decisions are pending until – you guessed it! - we determine our financial status for these services. The Committee has done a fantastic job. Members are Linda Laing (Chair), Nancy Avila, Evelyn Foster, Vicki Fox, Sally Littlefield.

Church Library - Paul Reid has agreed to be our church librarian. Ruth Eveland, our library guru, has offered to work with Paul on setting up a plan to make our library available and useful to the members.

Board News - The BOT Executive Committee (officers) is working on an annual church calendar that will include the major annual events and seasons of our church life.

Tom Grogan - We are happy to report that Tom Grogan, our former RE Director, has been employed by the WINGS organization in Bangor. They work to provide resources for children.

Donations for Emmaus – Here’s an easy way to contribute to Emmaus. Gather your redeemable bottles, take them to Union River Redemption Center, tell the person at the counter they are for Emmaus, and the cash goes to Ellsworth’s homeless shelter. Doing good has never been so easy. You don’t have to stand in line or wait for the bottles to be counted. They will simply ask you to put your bags in the corner till they can get to them. Let’s all do this. Union River Redemption Center, 242 Water Street, Ellsworth, 667-9452. Hours M-F 8-5, Sat 8-2.

By-laws – It will soon be five years since the UUCE By-laws were reviewed and modified. John Fink is the chair of the new By-laws Committee. Please read through the by-laws at the UUCE web site (in the pull-down

menu under "About") and give your suggestions to John. Your comments are appreciated and needed. The by-laws affect many aspects of church governance. Send your thoughts to John at corp1030@myfairpoint.net.
October Board of Trustees meeting – The next Board meeting is the second Thursday night, as usual, October 13th at 6:00 pm. The first 15 minutes are reserved for congregational comment. If you want to talk with the Board put the date on your calendar and do attend. All are invited to come and observe.

In ministry,

Cynthia Perkins

csp41@myfairpoint.net

207-422-6263

Lifespan Religious Education

Fall Greetings from RE. The children are getting settled into the rhythm of the class and seem quite content. Please remember to turn in your Registration Form if you have not yet done so. Childcare will be available for the September 30th Start Up meeting and October 8th during the Live Auction, please see me if you will need childcare.

COOKIE MINISTRY: PASA and RE will be offering a Cookie Ministry to the students from 3 Hancock County High Schools who are members of the Gay Straight Alliance. Delicious cookies will be provided for their monthly meetings along with a note from UUCE thanking them for the wonderful work they are doing. So, calling all bakers.....we need your help. If you can provide cookies once a month that can be easily frozen, please contact me.

APPLE PICKING: October 2nd. Intergenerational Apple Picking directly after Worship Service.

PASSAGE Program: Bob Dickens and Rev. Sara Huisjen will be working with the Sr. Youth Group members on a Passage Program. There will be an informational meeting for Sr. Youth Group members and their parent(s) on October 2nd from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Dinner will be provided and the movie Spirit Bear will be shown.

SAMHAIN Festivities: There will be a Pumpkin Carving party on Saturday October 29th from 11:00 - 1:00. Pumpkins and pizza will be provided. On Sunday October 30th we will honor the Pagan High Holy Day Samhain with an Intergenerational Service. A Baby Dedication will be part of the ritual, please see Sara or Anne if you would like to have your infant/toddler to be included in the Baby Dedication. Children are encouraged to wear a costume to church on the 30th.

Listed below are the RE activities for the month of October:

October 2nd - Intergenerational Apple Picking after Worship Service.

Sr. Youth Group and Parents Passage Informational Meeting - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

October 9th - RE Committee meeting directly after Worship Service

October 23rd - RE Teachers meeting directly after Worship Service

October 29th (Saturday) - Pumpkin Carving/Pizza Party - 11:00 - 1:00

October 30th - Samhain Celebration - Intergenerational Service/Baby Dedication. Children are encouraged to wear a costume.

If you have any questions, please contact me at: 565-2057, anne@uuellsworth.org or aossanna@aol.com

Anne

Adult Religious Education

Fall is in full swing and so is your Adult Religious Education Program. October brings four diverse, informative and interesting offerings. Two are being presented in the evening for those of you who find it difficult to stay for programs held after the Sunday service.

From Maine to Lesotho: Living and Working in Southern Africa

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Sandy Phoenix and Phil Elkin, long time Blue Hill residents and local health care practitioners, share the story of their three years of living and working in Lesotho, the Mountain Kingdom of Southern Africa. Although Lesotho has one of the world's highest rates of HIV/AIDS and TB, the people maintain their love for their country and the visitors who come to help.

What Do We Want in Sunday Services?

Sunday, October 16, October 30 and November 13, 11:50 – 1:15 PM, in the Board Room

A discussion co-facilitated by Rev. Sara Huisjen and Stephen Berger

Worship is central to our life as a congregation and yet for many of us the worship words are loaded. What do we want out of a service? What do others want different from what we want? When do I need to be comforted and when do I need to be challenged? How do we create a worship service that works for all of us at the same time? How do we become open and aware to different expressions of worship?

We hope you'll join us through conversations, reading and creating.

"Call Me Malcolm"

Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 PM in the Board Room

A film presented by Bob Dickens

Malcolm Himschoot completed his undergraduate study at Amherst College and then went on to get his Masters of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. He was ordained into the United Church of Christ in 2004. Over the course of Malcolm's final two years in seminary he took part in filming the documentary "Call Me Malcolm" where he openly discussed his transition from female to male along with his personal faith journey.

As the film begins, so does Malcolm's final year of seminary. Before the school term begins, he sets out on a road trip to educate himself (and us) as he visits many people along the way including other transgender individuals and groups. Each has a different perspective on the issues of identity, faith and love. A very informative and moving film.

Anne Ossanna and Chris Burdette Offer Olde Time Religion 101

Sunday, October 23, 11:50 AM in the Sanctuary

In honor of the High Holy Day Samhain on October 30th, Anne and Chris will lead a discussion on the history of Samhain, Circle Protocol and Tools of the Trade. Folks should be prepared to come with an open mind and heart!

SAVE THE DATE!

Buddhism with a Small "b"

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Buddha means "The Awake One". His teachings were given on so many levels, and they have all assumed so many varied cultural forms, that we may now be a bit like the proverbial blind man with the elephant when we say, "Oh, so that's Buddhism".

In this talk, Paul Weiss will look at the essential teachings of Buddhism, including the process of "awakening", in terms of the practical psychology of everyday life. We will experience several meditation processes that help us to open our minds and our hearts. What does it mean to be Buddhists with a small "b" - people who are just who are just trying to wake up in our lives?

Paul Weiss has been Director of the Whole Health and Counseling Center in Bar Harbor since 1981, and a student of Buddhism for half a century. He trained in Zen monasteries and with many teachers; and has studied in India and China. He has integrated his training with science, psychology, and a wide spiritual perspective that he brings to his teaching and to his counseling work with individuals, couples and groups.

Adult RE wants to spread the word about an exciting class Downeast Senior College is offering featuring our own Rev. Sara Huisjen and Anne Ossana.

View points in Religious Experience

Wednesday, October 26, November 2, 9, and 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

This class will explore what some view as 'alternative' religious practices and beliefs. None of them are 'anti' Christian, but all approach their spiritual or religious practices in less traditional ways.

October 26: Pagan, led by Anne Ossana, practicing pagan.

November 2: Humanism, presented by Downeast Humanists and Freethinkers.

November 9: Spiritualism and Healing, led by Rev. Betty Simpson, Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Church, Bangor.

November 16: Unitarian Universalist, led by Rev. Sara Huisjen, Minister and former Hancock Co. community Hospice chaplain.

DSC Contact: Cynthia Perkins Phone: 422-6263, csp41@myfairpoint.net Site: Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

The next Adult RE Committee meeting will be held October 2 at 9:00 AM.

From the Board

BOT Meeting, August 18, 2011

Present: Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen, Don Martin, Trustees- Matt Slater, Eileen Brennan, John Fink, Cynthia Perkins, Jenn Ryan

Reverend Sara Huisjen

Congregation: Judy Rothrock

Committee on Ministry

Sara is putting together a Committee on Ministry which will be strongly invested in the health of the church, will have a newsletter article each month and will have an open forum twice a year.

Minister's start up and Board retreat

Continuing discussion was held on the format for the start up event on September 30. The purpose of start up, as described by Karen Brammer, is to create an opportunity for the congregation to gather, socialize and have conversation time, facilitated by a consultant. This will include a timeline exercise and looking back at the successes and challenges over the last 10 years. Concern was expressed by many board members that we will spend unnecessary time rehashing what we have spent many hours discussing over the last year. Sara will speak to Karen B about this.

Worship Committee

The committee is forming a group of 6-8 people called worship associates. Their function will be to plan and participate in services with the minister.

Housekeeping

Sara will be interviewed for an article for the Ellsworth America for the September 1 issue.

Matt agreed to be responsible for gathering people and a photographer for Board pictures.

The Aesthetics Committee in on for the September committee chat.

Minister's gift

The congregation will be giving a gift of a stole for Sara which has been chosen by her and ordered. A motion was made and carried to take the money from the surplus.

BOT Meeting, September 8, 2011

Present: Board- Diana Cate, Karen Volckhausen, Don Martin, Eileen Brennan, Jenn Ryan, Pam Person, Cynthia Perkins, John Fink

Reverend Sara Huisjen, RE Coordinator, Anne Ossanna

Congregation-Linda Laing, David Wilcock

Board Appointments

Diana read the by law on board vacancies: "If a vacancy occurs (except the office of President), the Board, after seeking advice from the Elections Committee, will, by a majority vote appoint a new officer or trustee from the membership too serve the remainder of the term. Members of the Board may be appointed to fill vacant officer positions. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice president will succeed to the position for the remainder of the term and the Board will appoint a new vice president.

Anne spoke for the Elections Committee who had previously discussed possible candidates for vice president. A motion was made and passed unanimously to move Cynthia to the vice-president slot (term ends June 2012) and a motion was made and passed unanimously to have David Wilcock fill Cynthia's term (ends June 2013).

Committee chat this month was a report from the Aesthetic Committee given by Linda Laing and included mission, short and long term goals and questions for the board. The committee consists of: Linda, Nancy Avila, Evelyn Foster, Vicki Fox, Sally Littlefield.

Treasurer's report- see Treasurer's Corner

RE report- see elsewhere in this issue

Minister's report

Sara formatted her report by ministries: worship ministry, teaching ministry, small group ministry, pastoral care ministry, outreach and public ministry. See complete report with board minutes.

Minister's start up and retreat

Sara and Diana have conferred with Karen Brammer and are reassured that the start up event on September 30 will be positive, upbeat with a conversation highlighting our accomplishments. The timeline exercise will be dropped. The evening will start at 5:30 with a potluck (there will be no potluck after church on October 2) and end at 8:30. Emma Kell will provide childcare.

The Board retreat will take place on Saturday, October 1 from 10 to 4 at Diana's house.

Parish annual calendar

The executive committee will meet Wednesday, September 21 at 1 PM to develop an annual parish calendar.

By laws *pro tem* Committee

There is no report. Diana recommended that the committee develop a timeline.

Housekeeping

October committee chat- History Committee

Tom Grogan has a job in Bangor working with WINGS!

Karen requested a letter of greeting to the village in El Salvador that she and Kay Wilkins will be visiting during the faith-based delegation later this month.

The issue of people, who don't use computers, not getting a snail mail newsletter was discussed.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 13 at 6 PM. The first 15 minutes is reserved for congregational comments.

The congregation is cordially invited.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee will be hosting a luncheon for people who are new to the congregation in the last year and haven't attended a previous luncheon on Sunday, October 23 following the service. It will be an opportunity to get to know each other a bit better and to meet Rev. Sara, members of the committee and a few members of the Board. Sunday morning can be hectic and this will be a more relax opportunity to become better acquainted with each other. Please call Judy Rothrock at 244-3520 or catch her at church on Sundays to let her know that you would be interested in attending.

Landscape Committee

OUTDOORS CLEAN UP! SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH

TIME TO PREPARE FOR winter...it's coming. Our north side path looks splendid thanks to many hands. Now it's time to pick up sticks all around our church/meeting house. We will start at the garden by our sign and the children's play area, then move on to the Meditation Circle and parking area. A few plants could be trimmed and fed and the wood chipped paths weeded. That seems to do it!

Time: 9:30 to noon and as always, even 30 minutes contributes to our looking loved! Bring a bucket, snippers and weeders

Caring Corner

Bruce Thulin went home from hospital in early September, to be cared for by family, friends and hospice. Holly went away to school on August 27. Assistance in providing meals for the family and helpers would be greatly appreciated. We're sure the family would also appreciate receiving cards and notes from the congregation to let them know they are in our thoughts. It was wonderful to see Bruce at Sunday service on September 18.

Flo Reed returned from a trip to Panama in late August where she reunited with "22 amazing women" there. Flo also shared her joy that she is hosting for one year 17-year-old Stephanie, the daughter of the host family with whom she lived 20 years ago when she was in the Peace Corps in Panama. Flo also shared her sorrow that her husband has gone back to Minnesota and may not be returning this time. Flo is looking for a housemate to share her home in Surry and would like anyone who is interested to contact her at flo@sustainableharvest.org or at her home phone at 669-8254.

Congratulations to Marta Reiman, who shared her experience of climbing Mount Katahdin to the summit (including the Knife Edge!) in August.

We learned on September 4 that Dawn Ray's youngest daughter Meredith has thyroid cancer. She is undergoing treatment, which looks like it will be successful. Dawn asks that we keep her daughter in our thoughts.

Laura Cooper and Rocky Flosi are expecting their first child in late September and Laura shared her joy on September 11 that she has reached the safe level in her pregnancy. She expressed concern that their living situation has become somewhat threatened and hopes that there will be a safe and welcoming space available to have their baby. Laura said she feels lucky to have a supportive and wonderful husband and is also grateful for the warmth and caring of our church community.

Dan Huisjen expressed joy on September 4 for Sara's being inducted as minister of UUCE, but deep sorrow for a young man from Blue Hill who he had tutored at George Stevens Academy, Private Jacob Fox, who has just this past Friday lost his leg due to injuries sustained in Afghanistan.
<http://weeklypacket.com/news/2011/sep/2/local-marine-sustains-injuries-in-afghanistan/>

Pepper and Lisa shared that on their way back to Maine from Virginia, they stopped through at the Washington D.C. courthouse and got their marriage license and planned to return on September 11 to be married. Congratulations, Pepper and Lisa!

Pam Person expressed deep gratitude for all of the healing support that she'd gotten from peoples' calls and e-mails following her hip surgery. She also appreciates Evelyn Foster for having baked her a delicious blueberry pie!

Jude Lamb is in the midst of a family story project involving a book and finding the research very absorbing.

She is researching the 1870's for this story and would like anyone who could share details of that time period to please talk to her. Congratulations also to Jude for welcoming into her household a 10 week old kitten, adopted from the SPCA.

Ruth Eveland shared her joy on September 18 that her younger son David has received admission to the Culinary Institute of America and will be starting classes in December.

Peggy Strong is delighted at all the wonderful items that have been received for the UUCE Good & Services Auction and reminded everyone to come out and bid on October 8!

September 19 would have been the 99th birthday of Dartha Reid's mother, Dorothy Warriner's. Dartha shared her fond memories of making dried flower arrangements with her mom at this time of year.

Stephen Berger was admitted to MDI Hospital on September 16 after he passed out at his doctor's office after having some blood drawn. He was admitted to the hospital for a few days to run some tests and get his blood pressure stabilized and was scheduled to be released on the afternoon of 9/18.

Congratulations to Sharr Mellott, who announced on September 18 that she has been accepted to Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary and also interviewed for admission to the Seminary's work-scholarship program.

Congratulations also to Wayne Smith for adding yet another language to his teaching repertoire. Wayne shared that, at his language school in Surry, he plants a tree to commemorate each language he teaches. He recently planted his 30th tree to represent that he now teaches Hungarian!

Outdoor Sanctuary Report

The clearing of the outdoor sanctuary is essentially done, there are however a few dead trees that will be taken down to finish up the final clean up. This now enters the second phase of the project to create this very special place where we as UU's can gather and celebrate a shared space outside in nature; the second phase being the leveling of the land. The outdoor sanctuary is beautiful but also very bumpy so to be conducive for all to gather there will have to be high spots taken down with pic-ax and spade and some fill brought in this will get us one step closer to allowing the multitude of events in at private outdoor setting with enough space for the whole congregation to gather.

In service,
Matt Slater

The Annual Goods & Services Auction

Saturday, October 8th, 5 PM

Whom are you inviting?

The auction is near! Saturday, October 8th, is just a few days away. The digital *CATALOG* of items and services is, or will soon be, in your inbox (also available in print at church) and you are deciding what you want to bid on. You signed up to bring a plate of food and bought your tickets. You're ready!

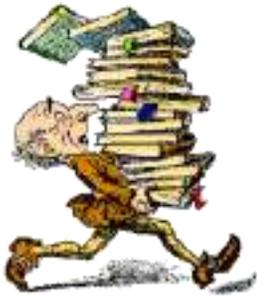
Well, maybe not quite. I bet you have a friend or two that would enjoy the dining and fun of bidding and be happy to support THAW. Maybe you saw something in the catalog that you know might interest them. Have you thought of inviting that friend or couple to the auction as your guests (i.e. buying tickets for them)? Last year we had 74 bidders and only about 12 of them came from outside the church community. For the auction to continue to grow, one of 2 things can happen: the economy can suddenly get better or we can reach out to the community beyond UUCE to increase attendance.

While we'd prefer the former, we can do the latter. Think about it.

See you there,

Peggy Strong

266-3006, goodnuff@escrap.com



Food for Thought

by Stephen Berger

Types of Religious Thinking

Kate Braestrup (*Beginner's Grace*¹, p. 85) suggests the "way to judge the merits of any religion or philosophy [is]: Does it seem to make its adherents kinder, more understanding, and helpful?"

Not all of our beliefs do this, certainly not all of the time. Christians, Jews and Muslims (not to speak of others) commit murder, cause pain and inflict degradation.

If our religion (or philosophy) doesn't always make us better people, why is that?

A group of people who have tried to address this question are a group of Jews, followers of the 19th century Rabbi Israel Salanter, who call themselves the *Musar* movement.² Salanter's view (prior to Freud) was that beliefs are cognitive, but the motives for action are emotional, and unless the cognitive and emotional become connected, the beliefs don't lead to action (rather, our emotions lead us to action).

One of Salanter's followers, Rabbi S. Z. Braude, used the metaphor "childish beliefs" for beliefs that we retain encapsulated from our actions. Braude "suggested that... 'childish understanding of religious beliefs persists throughout life, resisting change. Childish beliefs, he asserted, are only *professed beliefs*, and they remain superficial cognitive concepts which cannot lead men to commitment and ethical conduct. Such beliefs are not internalized by the individual and they do not become *actual beliefs*. Only *actual beliefs* guide human conduct." (Ury, p. 43)

I'm not sure that the metaphor of "childish" beliefs is helpful – it feels like a put-down to me, and to say that only "actual" beliefs guide our conduct seems to me to be a circular definition. Yet, Rabbi Braude's distinction can be a spur to us. It asks us, I think, to examine what we claim to believe, and look at how our different beliefs function for us: which lead to appropriate, caring, just action? Which lead only to loud and repeated assertion? Which function to separate people into two groups – people who agree with us and are therefore good people, and people who disagree with us, and are therefore ... (fill in your own adjective)?

In the extreme, does it matter what we say believe? Rather, doesn't it matter what we do? If so, and our beliefs are getting in the way of our acting humanely, then ...

On the other hand, what if our beliefs would lead to horrific actions, if we carried them out? Kate Braestrup has a chapter on the importance of "hypocrisy" as a way of not acting on our "beliefs" (such as the Deuteronomic injunction to stone those who try to turn you away from "The Lord your God" (13:6-10), the Johannine "Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch" (John 15:6) and the Koranic injunction to slay non-Muslims "wherever you find them. Idolatry is worse than carnage.")

What do you think?

¹ Free Press, 2010.

² See Zalman F. Ury, *The Musar Movement*, Yeshiva University Press, 1969.

Art in the Sanctuary

Anyone interested in hanging their artwork or wall hangings in the sanctuary should contact Jude Lamb. Contact by email preferred, jude@judelamb.com

Political and Social Action (PASA)

Our new Banner!

Thanks to PASA's leadership, UUCE has its own Standing on the Side of Love banner which we can use inside and outside the church and while representing ourselves during events and parades.

So what is Standing on the Side of Love? According to their website, <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>, "Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcomed to join."

The bright yellow banner and similar T-shirts, which many of us wear on special occasions, have come to make UUs seen as the "Love People." These shirts and banners were very visible during the demonstrations last year in Arizona about their draconian immigration laws, during New York Pride and more recently in North Carolina at a protest of their legislature's passage of a constitutional ban on marriage equality.



As UUCE strives to become better known as the "Downeast Beacon of Liberal Religion," PASA and other groups will find their own uses for our bold new banner.

Another Challenging Pot Luck

Mark your calendars!! The Sunday, potluck in **November** (Nov. 6) will once again be sponsored by PASA. This time we challenge you to an all Maine, including off shore Maine, event. We hope we can have some table discussion about how we did with all the hard stuff: Maine produced flours, oils, spices (good luck) or substitutes for those spices. Please join us and bring your all Maine sourced dish!!!

Our monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 9 AM in the Board room. We welcome all people interested in peace and social issues.

Karen Volckhausen
Chair of the Peace and Social Action Committee

[Ed. Note: The Hancock County Community Network (HCCN) publishes a monthly list of events related to the peace and social action theme which you can reach at

http://mainetalk.org/mailman/listinfo/hccn_mainetalk.org.]

Treasurer's Corner

Total income for August was only \$4,420.07. This was \$3,985.69 less than the total expenses for the month of August, which were \$8,405.76. Prepaid pledges covered the difference. August was the first month with ministerial expenses of salary and benefits for our minister.

Pledge income for August was only \$3,351.33 giving us a total of \$19,137.66 which is 3.48% above where we should be at the end of August.

It is important for our pledge income to improve in September or we could begin to fall behind our income goal. Plate income is at \$1,066.24 or 13.33% which is 3.34% below the 16.67% of the year to date. Rental income is at \$469 or 9.38% which is 7.29% below the year date percentage of 16.67%. Rental income should improve in the 2nd quarter. We have added a new weekly rental.

Fund raising income is at \$2,231.83 or 31.83% of budget goal of \$7,000. It will be important for us to have a successful Auction if we are going to reach our budget goal of \$7,000 that we set for ourselves.

Expenses are running low at \$12,674.78 or 9.87% of the year-to-date percentage of 16.67%. Worship is at \$1,255 or 58.33% of the budget figure of \$2,100 with 10 months to go in the fiscal church year. We need to understand that our payroll cost per month from here out will be approximately \$6,706. This will require steady income from pledges each month. Early figures for September are very positive. Keep up the positive support.

For your information, George Marcus tells me that if you are over 70 1/2 and have an IRA account, you are required to take out a "minimum required distribution" which is taxed at the full rate. However, last year and this year you may make a charitable contribution out of that account as part of the MRD and that amount is not taxable. Thanks George! If you have any questions about this, contact George Marcus at 288-3753.

Don Martin
UUCE Treasurer

Personnel

Contact Information

| | |
|--|---|
| Minister Rev. Sara Hayman Huisjen: 326-0576 Huisjen@gmail.com 610-2872 (cell) | Religious Education Coordinator Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 anne@uuellsworth.org |
| Church Office (M,W,F, 1:00-5:00 P.M.) Caitlin Tunney: 667-4393 caitlin@uuellsworth.org | Music Director Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com |
| President of the Board Diana Cate: 664-3010 president@uuellsworth.org | Newsletter Editor Lance Funderburk: 276-3301 lfunderburk@roadrunner.com [Submit articles by the 15 th of each month] |

Board of Trustees

| | |
|--|--|
| President: Diana Cate, 664-3010 djcate@myfairpoint.net | Trustee: Eileen Brennan, to 2012 |
| Vice President: Vacant | Trustee: Cynthia Perkins, to 2013 |
| Treasurer: Don Martin | Trustee: Jenn Ryan, to 2013 |
| Secretary: Karen Volckhausen | Trustee: Matt Slater, to 2014 |
| Trustee: John Fink, to 2012 | Trustee: Pam Person, to 2014 |

Committee and Task Force Chairs

| | |
|---|--|
| Aesthetics: Linda Laing | Leadership Development: Marta Rieman |
| Art in the Sanctuary: Jude Lamb | Library: Vacant |
| Adult Education: Stephen Berger & Janice Ronco | Lobster Bake: Bettie Massie |
| Auction: Peggy Strong | Membership: Evelyn Foster & Judy Rothrock |
| Budget and Finance: Don Martin | Committee on Ministry: Suspended until August |
| Building Maintenance: Don Martin | Music: Jean Martin |
| By laws: John Fink | Peace and Social Action: Karen Volckhausen |
| Coffee Hour: Bill Clark | Potluck: Carol Mathiesen |
| Caring Committee: Suzanne Forest | Procedures: Pam Person |
| Choir: Marta Rieman & Haydee Foreman | Stewardship: Don Martin |
| Elections: Anne Ossanna | Swap Shop: Nancy Avila |
| Flowers: Nancy Avila | Sunday order of service: Send to: office@uuellsworth.org |
| Green Sanctuary: Kay Wilkins | Small Group Ministry: Sara Huisjen |
| History Committee: Wayne Smith | Ushers: Jon Thomas |
| Kitchen: Anne Funderburk | Web Pages: Caitlin Tunney at church office |
| Landscaping: Sue Clark | Worship: Cynthia Perkins |

October 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:00 Adult RE mtg 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Apple Picking 4:00 Passage program | 3 3:00 Violin Lessons | 4 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral | 5 4:00 Beth Israel RE 6:30 Coyote Group 6:00 Adult RE | 6 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30 SIA | 7 12:00 Auction Set-up 6:00 AA | 8 5:00 GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION |
| 9 9:00 Membership 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 RE mtg 11:50 PASA presentation HUNGRY SUNDAY | 10 3:00 Violin Lessons | 11 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral | 12 6:30 Coyote Group | 13 1:30 Book Group 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Board Meeting 6:30 SIA | 14 6:00 AA | 15 9:30 Outdoor Cleanup |
| 16 9:00 PASA 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE | 17 3:00 Violin Lessons | 18 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral | 19 4:00 Beth Israel RE 6:30 Coyote Group 5:00 GLSEN 6:30 Adult RE | 20 7:30 Downeast HS 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Downeast Audubon 6:30 SIA | 21 6:00 AA | 22 |
| 23 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE 12:00 New Folks Lunch | 24 3:00 Violin Lessons | 25 10:00 PATT playgroup 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Acadia Choral | 26 10:00 Downeast Sr. Col. 4:00 Beth Israel RE 6:30 Coyote Group | 27 12:00 Al-Anon | 28 6:00 AA | 29 11:30 Pumpkin Carving pizza party |
| 30 9:15 Touchstone Info Session 10:30 Worship Service 11:50 Adult RE | 31 3:00 Violin Lessons | | | | | |

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605

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The NUUS

October 2011

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

October, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 10

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.**

