

The NUUS

April 2024

Volume 56, No. 4



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org



Celebrating the sacred, we gather in loving community
to nourish souls and live justice into the world.

THE GIFT OF INTERDEPENDENCE



APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

The Interdependence of Belief

Rev. Sarah Gillespie, Worship Leader
Toby Betancourt, Worship Associate

Plate Split Sunday to benefit NextStep Domestic Violence Project

Choir Practice at 9am

R.E. today

Potluck after church, hosted by Membership Committee

Rev. Sarah Gillespie is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and board-certified healthcare chaplain. She works at Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice and tends to the emotional and spiritual needs of patients and families from a wide spectrum of faiths, including the non-religious. She grew up in New Jersey and has lived, studied, and worked in DC, Boston, and western NY before finally planting roots in Lewiston (just down the street from Bates). She lives with her spouse, Adam, and their growing toddler, Luke. You'll see them walking around the puddle or sometimes grabbing a meal at Commons. She looks forward to engaging UU students and spiritual seekers in conversations around religion, reason, meaning-making and the theology of baseball.



UU Minister Marjorie Montgomery once wrote "Life is a gift for which we are grateful..." If we believe in certain UU values, such as gratitude, what happens when we don't personally feel them? How does an interdependent community affect what and how we believe? Let us listen and learn how community and belief intersect, together.



4/7 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94192592952?pwd=dWITN0cxUldZY29lSTJDT3cxWGUxUT09>
Meeting ID: 941 9259 2952
Password: 352005
Phone: 646-558-8656

ZOOM Worship or In-Person at UU Church of Belfast at 10:00am

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

The Department of the Interior

Rev. Amy McCormick, Worship Leader
Margi Pulkingham, Worship Associate

In December of 2022 UUCB's Andrea Butler organized a silent auction where individuals and committees submitted beautiful baskets full of goodies that folks then bid on. I submitted a basket that included one sermon on the topic of the auction winner's choice. A little over a year later the time to deliver that sermon has arrived. We'll explore the nature and importance of caring for, getting right with, listening to, and trusting our own "department of the interior", as a profound tool for good works in the world. As Rumi once said, "Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it." How does growing our self-awareness and centering ourselves, focusing on the practices of inner healing, connection to spirit and removing the barriers of love we have within ourselves actually make us better and more effective at everything else the world calls us to? This is not a service offering permission to naval gaze self-indulgently, this is a perspective on justice that requires bravery, honesty, and a willingness to look at the deepest parts of who we are and how we are connected.

4/14 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87521034152)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87521034152>
Meeting ID: 875 2103 4152
One tap mobile
+16469313860,,87521034152# US
+19292056099,,87521034152# US (New York)

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024 ***In Defense of Hope***

Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Guest Worship Leader
Marta Rieman, Worship Associate



Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes came to New Hampshire from the Midwest in 2016. Her life has been a rich tapestry of experience that includes nearly twenty years as a community college biology professor and organic farmer. Linda received a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology in 1996 from Iowa State University and a Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago in 2015. Her studies included a two-year internship at First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. She also served as a chaplain at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. She was ordained in April 2016. She currently serves as minister at Starr King UU Fellowship in Temple, NH.

On this Earth Day we might be struggling to have hope. When we are hopeless, we narrow our vision to see only the worse. To be hopeless means we are free to give up. Sounds easy, right? Maybe not so much. For this service, we'll defend the power and purpose of hope to bring about the world as we dream of it.

4/21 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91883131366?pwd=cG9LbnRIZlFpK21ldjlYS0tITjgydz09>
Meeting ID: 918 8313 1366
Password: 868537
Phone: 646-558-8656

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 ***Beyond Every Door***

Rev. Amy McCormick, Worship Leader
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

Choir Practice at 9am & singing in worship!
R.E. today!

Rev. Amy McCormick, who serves as settled minister to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, Maine, is also now serving as UUCE's sabbatical minister while our beloved Sara rests and rejuvenates. Amy's ministry had its beginnings at UUCE, when she began attending in February of 2014, realized ministry was her calling, and was then ordained at UUCE in June of 2019.

When worship was cancelled in March, I was very disappointed to not be with you all. I am looking forward to this opportunity to try again and to share the message of this service with you all in April instead. The title of this service is based on a time for all ages designed by UU Minister the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon. Real and lasting change is often as simple as moving through a door just opened, one you've never seen before or one you use each day. What new threshold do you find yourself on? Will you go through the beckoning doorway or turn away?

4/28 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93673095492?pwd=_a0o3NHBVQ3AreE5XNDMyekjISjNIUT09
Meeting ID: 936 7309 5492
Password: 058012
Phone: 646-558-8656



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF ELLSWORTH

Spring Grounds Clean Up

We are hosting our annual
Grounds Clean Up Party!

APR 07, 2024 - NOON-2PM
121 BUCKSPORT RD, ELLSWORTH

There have been a lot of branches down from the wind storms and raging weather systems. We are hoping to spruce up and deal with some of the downed branches and dead leaves. Please bring rakes and a happy attitude as we work in community to clean up.

re



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

As I am writing this to you it is actively snowing! The first day of spring has passed, Ostara has passed, the wheel of the year turns on its axis and we are hit with snow. So much for “In like a Lion out Like a Lamb.” I hope that you know that is said with humor.

Times are changing and the seasons may not be what we always thought they were. Between climate change and the damage we are making to our Mother Earth, is it any wonder that the weather doesn't seem to behave itself as we would expect it? Or that it becomes increasingly erratic? Our world is changing, and we need to be preparing for what can come of it.

We are coming out of our theme of Transformation during March and metamorphosing into Interdependence for April. What does that word mean to you? We espouse it all the time when talking about our principles and the interdependent web of existence, but have we thought about what that entails and how the strands of that web affect us on a regular basis? There is an exercise this month in the Soul Matters packet that I am wondering if the congregation would be willing to take on themselves.

“Write a letter to the Future.” Our future is growing and learning around us. They are exposed to social media, news, the opinions of their teachers, administration, their peers, and their fellow congregates. Are we careful about how we cultivate those opinions in our Youth? Are we careful about how the media consumption we participate in alters our own opinions? This month I am asking for congregants to write letters to the future in two ways. I would like letters to give to our RE Youth, not just in the Ellsworth church, but general letters to our future for the youth in the churches that are part of our DRE Cluster. (Rockland, Belfast, Bangor, Damariscotta, Portland). I also want us to write letters to ourselves. What are we doing to prepare for the future we are creating for ourselves and how do we want those futures to go?

Our interdependent web is real. It ebbs and flows, comes, and goes. Participate in the germination of a better future. Help add strands to the web and connect to your future self and the ever-growing future of our collective churches.

Brightest Blessings to you all,

Charles A Betancourt
Religious Exploration Coordinator



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

BETH PEPPER

Dear UUCE,

As many of you are aware, at our January Congregational Meeting, we voted in favor of PASA & the 8th Principle Task Force (8PTF) drafting a cease-fire resolution for the Board to approve, then send to our elected officials. Since then, Rev. Amy, the Board of Trustees, the Sabbatical Committee, Barb Acosta (Chair of PASA) and Jana Robinson (Chair of 8PTF) have learned that a fair number of you felt that the resolution was rushed (with only the previous Wednesday's e-news announcing the resolution before Sunday's vote) and that you wished there had been more time to talk and learn and ask questions and discuss various viewpoints. Additionally, some were dissatisfied with the lack of anonymity of the voting process or confused about the appropriateness of recommending political action.

In light of these concerns, at the March 14 Board meeting, the Board tabled the resolution, so we (the Board, PASA & 8PTF) can take steps to ensure that everyone has confidence in both the process that brings this resolution (and future ones) to the Congregation and in the content of this resolution.

To address the process and content of the cease-fire resolution, PASA & 8PTF have agreed to lead three Congregational Conversations to allow for discussion of the resolution and its six points, which is attached. These Congregational Conversations will be held on:

- Sunday, April 21, at noon, in person at UUCE after Sunday services
- Tuesday, April 23, 7pm, on Zoom only
- Sunday, May 5, at noon, in person at UUCE after Sunday services

PASA & 8PTF will keep notes of feedback, then work with the Board to summarize what was said, to present at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19, at 2pm, via zoom. At that Annual Meeting, in addition to electing new Board members and voting on our 2024-25 budget, we will vote on the specific wording of the cease-fire resolution and each of its six points. A voting member could vote for or against the resolution and for all, some, or none of the six points.

To address the process of future resolutions, the Board is appointing a Task Force to draft an amendment to our bylaws that outlines the process for the presentation of resolutions to the Congregation. We also understand that Zoom allows for anonymous voting and we will use that at our Annual Meeting.

I am so very thankful to Barb and Jana and their committees for the hard work, time and effort they have devoted - and continue to devote - to this issue and to caring about and addressing these concerns of the Congregation. I also thank Rev. Amy, the Board of Trustees, and the Sabbatical Committee who all contributed to helping find a way forward that respects the January vote of the Congregation, but allows for the time to discuss, question, learn, and feel more confident in the resolution. I hope you will attend at least one of the Congregational Conversations and that at our May meeting, everyone will feel more confident in their vote and the resolution itself.



Thank you,
Pepper c: 207-610-4070





Congregational conversations about the ceasefire resolution in Israel-Palestine.

Since the congregational vote last January for a ceasefire resolution, the board has responded to requests from some of our UUCE members for more opportunities to discuss the resolution and more time to process this congregational action. PASA and the 8th Principle Task Force will be leading a series of congregational conversations around this topic. Join us on:

- Sunday, April 21, noon, in person, at church;
- Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m., via Zoom; or
- Sunday, May 5, noon, in person, at church

Hear more about the ceasefire resolution and why we call for this humanitarian action in response to the devastating loss of life in both Israel and Palestine and as we witness the unfathomable famine, death, destruction of lives, homes and property, and the displacement of populations.

Below is the ceasefire resolution that PASA and the 8th Principle Task Force submitted to the Board of Trustees:



Unitarian Universalist Church Ellsworth Call for Action and Ceasefire

VISION: A WORLD COMMUNITY IN WHICH THE WORTH
AND DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE IS RECOGNIZED

We grieve for the loss of life in both Israel and Palestine as we witness the unfathomable death, devastation and destruction of lives, homes and property, and the displacement of populations. Our hearts mourn and feel the pain of this escalating and continuing violence.

As Unitarian Universalists, we cannot turn away. We call for a just peace in Palestine/Israel that reflects our UU values of respect for the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals, justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and support for democracy. Our values state that we are interconnected and interdependent, that when conflict arises, we will work constructively toward healing, and to build a beloved community. Our UU principles call us to center love, bear witness and interrupt hate and violence wherever it occurs. We must respond with compassion and care and pledge to take action to create a more just and equitable world and to seek liberty with a just peace for all.

In the face of devastating violence in Israel and Gaza, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth joins with many other Unitarian Universalist voices in expressing our deep concern. We acknowledge that the exploding violence is deeply rooted in historical conditions that

can be understood from a multiplicity of perspectives, and we reject simplistic explanations. The narrative we must bring to these tragic circumstances is rooted in multiple truths, and a commitment to justice.

We call for all involved to follow international humanitarian and human rights laws.

We add our voices to those urging Maine's Congressional delegation and the Biden Administration to take affirmative positive action for a just peace. Specifically, we call upon our elected leaders to do the following:

- Advocate for an immediate ceasefire.
- Work for the safe release and return of hostages.
- Ensure ample humanitarian assistance and the free flow of water, food, and medical aid to directly impacted communities in Gaza.
- End human rights violations.
- Curtail US military support.
- Commit to creating a long-term solution that allows all to flourish in peace, justice, and safety.

Let us work to create a world where all people are honored and valued, where all people do not have to fear for their lives and where racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and other forms of historical oppressions can no longer exist.



Recommended resources:

[UUA Condemns Violence Against Gaza, Urges Immediate and Total Ceasefire](#), Feb. 14 Statement developed by the Office of the President and other senior national staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), grounded in the values of Unitarian Universalism and in conversation with previous resolutions, statements, and actions passed by General Assembly, the UUA's democratically-elected governing body.

[Why We Cannot Turn Away, Resources for UUs Engaging Palestine and Israel](#). Webinar. 1.45.17 As our world bears witness to the tragic and traumatic events unfolding in Palestine & Israel, many of us are yearning for a faithful way to discuss and engage with what is occurring. On November 6th, UUA staff and special guests hosted a 90-minute webinar for religious professionals and congregational leaders, "Why We Cannot Turn Away: Resources for UU Leaders Engaging on Israel & Palestine."



April NUUS 8th principle

Hold the date! Anti-racism virtual conversation, Sat. April 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m., hosted by Belfast and Ellsworth social action committees. Title of conversation still being determined, but is expected to be related to the current Israeli-Palestinian war. Come join our conversation as we attempt to figure out how to better negotiate such conversations while upholding our UU values. Everyone welcome. No need to sign up or to attend future conversations. Zoom link will be sent out separately. Questions: contact Barb Acosta or Jana Robinson



UU General Assembly registration. This year's GA's theme is Love Unites, Stories Ignite and is virtual, on June 20-23. Would you consider attending as a delegate of UUCE? General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Activities will include voting on the adoption of the proposed revision to Article II of the bylaws, the section defining the UU values and principles. UUCE can have three delegates in addition to Rev. Sara and our church must affirm its delegates.

For more information: see <https://www.uua.org/ga> or [registration information](#). Current full registration is \$315, good until May 18. It's possible to attend as a business delegate for a donation.

As always, any questions can be directed to Jana Robinson, 347-9008, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com. or you can check with Beth Pepper about being approved as a delegate, president@uuellsworth.org.

More Happenings around UUCE this month!



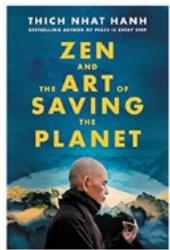
CHAKRA COURSE

Starting in April a 3-part course (April, May, June)

It is currently under development, so please stay tuned for more details from Charles Betancourt, uuce.re@gmail.com

POTLUCK Hosted by the Membership Committee. April 7, 11:30 am

Following the service we will gather together for a potluck lunch. Drop off your dish in the kitchen. You are welcome to join in whether or not you brought something. There is always plenty.



ZEN & THE ART OF SAVING THE PLANET, Book Discussion

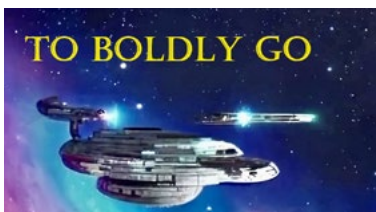
Sunday April 21 9:15-10:15 a.m. @ UUCE

We will continue to discuss this book by Thich Nhat Hanh, exploring ways of seeing and living that can bring healing and harmony to ourselves, our relationships and the earth. We have already met 3x but feel free to find the book and join us. Contact Christine Bowman, ccs9762@aol.com

WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday April 27, 1-2:30 p.m. (and future 4th Saturdays)

Join us to share drum circle songs and rhythms, co-creating the magic of a women's drum circle. All levels of experience and all sorts of drum and rhythm instruments are welcome. Hosted by Evelyn Foster, Linda Laing, Christine Bowman and Mary Murray. Contact Mary Murray, marydmurray@comcast.net



TO BOLDLY GO

Sunday, April 28th, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

We will view and discuss two episodes from Deep Space Nine. Past Tense 1 and 2, Season 3, Episode 11 and 12. These two episodes must be watched back to back and explore USA in the past 2024 and the Bell Riots. This is my all time favorite episodes and is edgy, Star Trek at it's finest that was aired at almost 20 years ago. Veggie Chili and popcorn will be provided. Contact Anne Ossanna, aossanna@aol.com

In the UUCE Gardens at UUCE

After three years of working on this meaningful project,
the Landscape and Grounds Committee has completed the

“Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth History and Development of the Gardens and Memorials”

The history can be accessed digitally [HERE](#)
and for a printed copy, please contact Ellen Sedgwick in the church office.



A Big Thank you to Suzanne Aubrey for the wonderful editing and formatting!

Stories FROM THE Heart

STORIES FROM THE HEART WILL RESUME IN MAY!

(See Dr. Wayne Smith's *Sankofa Corner* on page 18 for part 1 of the transcript of Jude's 2021 interview with Mardi Thompson)



JUDE LAMB WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MEMBERS CONTACT HER IF THEY'D LIKE TO BE INTERVIEWED.

JUDELAMB@MAC.COM



Sustaining & Sharing OUR LIGHT, Together

A MESSAGE FROM THE 24-25 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee got a head start this year so that Sara could rest easily about the campaign while she is on sabbatical. Hopefully, our being able to have a successful campaign while she is away will mean that we will be able to lighten the load on her in future years.

Just to recap the process of how the Stewardship Committee works. The Stewardship Committee gets the proposed pledge budget figure from the Board and reaches out to the members and friends, asking for a financial pledge that will fund the budget.

This year's Stewardship Campaign theme is "Sustaining and Sharing Our Light, Together." We think it reflects the need to maintain UUCE facilities and programs while being "Illuminators," as reflected in one of Rev. Sara's services to the broader community.

We created both the paper and online pledge forms. There is one additional question on the form this year.

OUR LIGHT, Together
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELLEWORTH 304-305

Name(s) _____
 TOTAL Pledge Amount for 24/25 _____
 Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____ In Full \$ _____

Payment Method: Check or Cash PayPal Bank Checking/Savings Account* Credit Card*
 UUCE Website Donation Automatic Bank Payment to UUCE* (*Specific information will be gathered later)

Signature _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Birth Day/Month _____

I/We would like a home visit. (A UUCE member will contact you to arrange the date and time.)

Stewardship Committee Member's Initial _____ Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth Pledge
 Card FY: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

"I/We would like a home visit." Note: the home visit can be about anything related to the church not only the Campaign.

Signature _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Birth Day/Month _____

I/We would like a home visit. (A UUCE member will co

Stewardship Committee Member's Initial _____

The committee will work with members/friends to coordinate a mutually agreed-upon time for this to happen if this box is selected.

The pledge forms will be sent out on March 20th, with the Campaign beginning on March 24th and concluding on April 28th with the Stewardship Sunday celebration.

We will need some more hands on March 20th to assemble the paper pledge cards and stuff the envelopes. Please contact Doug Bird if you would like to help with the mailing. We have a good time.

Within the next few weeks, everyone will get an email asking if they want their PLEDGE CARD sent electronically. Please consider this option. It saves on paper, postage, staff, and volunteer time.

If you choose to receive your Pledge Card electronically, you can still make your Pledge by check or through Breeze or direct withdrawal from your bank account as you indicate.

In closing, I want to remember Margaret Thurston, whose many years of work on the Stewardship Campaign continue as its foundation.

With Love,

Your '24/25 Stewardship Committee:

- Suzanne Aubrey
- Sally Francis
- Mac MacDonald
- Linda Tarlow
- Linda Uberseder
- Doug Bird, Chair

UUCE's annual NAME YOUR OWN PRICE



SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 8AM-2PM!

**Our beloved Name-Your-Own-Price* YARD SALE is fast approaching!
Mark your calendars for JUNE 15 (and the 12th - 14th).**

Repeating the success from last year, We are BACK TO UUCE again for the yard sale!

We will be indoors, and we will set up the various rooms in the church like rooms in your house - kitchen, garage, clothes closets, etc. **We've got LOTS of opportunities for you to come join the fun.** Come for a couple hours, come for a half-day, come before &/or after you run some errands - we can use your help for as long or as short as you've got.

Wed, 6/12, noon - 6pm - move stuff from the "Sunrise" trailer on the parking lot into UUCE

Thur, 6/13, 8am - 6pm - yard sale set up

Fri, 6/14, 8am - 6pm - yard sale set up

Sat, 6/15, 8am - 2pm - YARD SALE!!

Sat, 6/15, 2 - 4pm - magic crew - make the yard sale disappear! Run stuff to Goodwill and put the church back in "church order."

There's still time to gather up your stuff that's just collecting dust in your home and we'll find it a happy new home! Those clothes that "shrank" over the winter? We'll take 'em! Those kitchen gadgets that just never quite worked like you thought they would? We'll take 'em! Books? We'll take 'em! Furniture? We'll take it! As a matter of fact, we'll take anything you've got, as long as it's CLEAN and IN GOOD WORKING ORDER (except old tube TVs and large exercise equipment).

To get your donations to the yard sale:

Bring them to UUCE on Wed, 6/12, noon - 6pm **OR** Bring them to UUCE on Sun, 6/9 and we'll find space for them after the service **OR** Bring them to UUCE on any Tues (9am-noon) or Wed (10am-3pm) when Ellen is in the office and she can direct you to the trailer **OR** if none of those times work for you, contact Jeff Jeude 573-330-4677 or emmaus117@gmail.com) and we'll work something out.

*This year most everything will again be NAME YOUR OWN PRICE, but we will have some big-ticket items that will be priced.

UUCB TUESDAY EVENING VESPERS AT 6PM

Our weekly time of rest, renewal, and reflection Tuesdays at 6pm. Join UUCB Rev. Amy each week for a 30-minute online service to help settle our minds and hearts, provide nourishment and comfort through music, word and ritual. Everyone is welcome. ~ Rev. Amy

Thursday Evening Vespers

[https://us02web.zoom.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814)

[us/j/4695376814](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814)

Meeting ID: 469 537 6814

Phone: 646-558-8656



WEDNESDAY MORNING MATINS AT 8 AM

Continues while Rev. Sara is on Sabbatical



Are you longing for a more intimate space to connect with others in our UUCE community? Do you enjoy poetry, music of all kinds, reading, silence and time for sharing in community? If so, please come! All are welcome to be a part of this ½ hour weekly, contemplative gathering on ZOOM where we companion each other with love and gratitude into the day. While Rev. Sara is on sabbatical, regular attendees of Matins will share responsibility for hosting, creating and facilitating this sacred worship space. We hope you will come!

Wednesday Morning Matins Zoom Invite:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96669607701>

Meeting ID: 966 6960 7701

Phone: 646-876-9923



SAVE THE DATE!

for the Ordination of

**Vanessa Lynn
Titang**

to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

**Sunday, June 30, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Ellsworth**

**121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, Maine
04605**

Home hospitality is available for out-of-town guests. The service will be multi platform for those who cannot attend in person.

For information please contact Anne Ossanna at aossanna@aol.com or 207-479-6338.



ELECTIONS COMMITTEE OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO UUCE

Your Elections Committee (Jill Jeude, Cecily Judd, and Gary Shellehamer) would like to hear from you if you want to give back to UUCE, which gives so much to each of us. You can be even more a part of the church through volunteering to stand as a candidate at the May UUCE Annual Congregational Meeting as either an officer (the positions of Treasurer and Secretary are open, both are 2 year terms - our treasurer Alison Stephens has decided not to run for another term, and Secretary Bob Francis will be running but has indicated it would be good to offer members a choice of candidates for the different open positions), member of the Board of Trustees (one adult position is open and there is an opportunity to serve as an Active Junior member, the board meets once a month and may have special meetings as requested or needed, board terms are 3 years), or Moderator of UUCE Congregational Meetings (3 regularly scheduled meetings and other meetings of the congregation as requested or needed, term is 2 years).

Adult candidates must be a voting Adult Active Member who has been a Member of the UUCE for at least one year and has served actively on at least one committee may serve on the Board, and the Junior member should, as the title of the position notes, be active in UUCE worship and events.

Position descriptions are found in the UUCE Bylaws, which can be found on the [church website](#) or on file with the church. Specific information is found in Article 7-Governing Structure (with more information on UUCE's methods found in Article 6-Governance).

Please contact a member of the Elections Committee either in person or through the method listed below if you are interested in being a candidate for any of the above listed positions which are open for election at our May meeting.

- Jill Jeude: jjeude61@gmail.com
573-366-7688
- Cecily Judd: cecilyjudd@gmail.com
207-422-9003
- Gary Shellehamer: gleeindc@gmail.com
207-667-0034 (home)
202-494-3593 (mobile)

UUCE works to expand our spiritual lives, create a community focused on love, and live justice into our world. This is your opportunity to be even more active in our community, our mission, and living our values.

Thank you,
The UUCE Elections Committee





MARDI THOMPSON-GEORGE (1940-2023)

PART 1

Dr. Wayne H. Smith
UUCE Historian

Margaret Webb Thompson, known by all as “Mardi,” was born on April 18, 1940 in Bangor, Maine, the daughter of Tyler Thompson, a former director-general of the Foreign Service, U. S. State Department, and Ruth (Hunt) Thompson, who ran two American schools after WWII, one in Paris, the other in Prague, and later organized the Association of the American Foreign Service Women in Washington, DC. The majority of this article is drawn from the “Stories from the Heart” interview that UUCE storyteller Jude Lamb conducted with Mardi on Jan. 24, 2021. Mardi recalled:



My mother was a county girl, the daughter of a country doctor [Harrison J. Hunt of Island Falls, ME]. My father grew up in a more affluent family [the son of Merle D. Thompson of Elmira, New York]. [He] trained to be working for the government, and was a foreign service officer. Now the second World War was already in operation when I was conceived and also when I was born. I probably would have been born in war-time France if it hadn't been for a telegram coming onto the boat, where my mother was planning to go to Europe with my father, saying wives can go but dependents can't. She was pregnant with me she had two hours to decide where she was going to have me. So we returned to Maine, and that's how I got to be a real Mainer. I got born in eastern Maine and came down and lived in Hancock as an infant.

My father, meanwhile, was in Paris, France when the Germans marched in, and I was being taken care of by my mother and my five-year old brother. Six months after I was born, my mother joined my father in France. Meanwhile, France was divided in half, half the Germans controlled, and half their puppet government controlled. My father was working at a consulate and my mother joined him at the risk of both their lives. They worked with the French underground. They did spy stories, they were

in danger, they helped organize various intriguing things, and there's certainly some blood and guts involved. I won't go into any more detail because it's my story.

Meanwhile, where's Mardi?

Mardi's living half-time in Hancock, Maine in the summer home of my paternal grandparents [Merle and Louise Thompson], and the other half of the time in Elmira, New York where they lived in the winter. I was taken care of by my grandparents who were loving, but a little distant, and a governess...That sounds romantic, doesn't it: 'A governess.' Wow! It wasn't. I don't have very many memories of that period. But now remember, my parents are overseas, I really don't have any memories of them, I still don't have memories of that time, except for one.

My governess was an Irish, harsh woman whose God, by the way, was one of the punishing kind of gods. If you weren't good, God was going to get ya. And she burned my hand over a candle for some misbehavior. I don't remember what the misbehavior was, I do remember having my hand...the palm of my hand burned. I leave it for your imagination and mine what I did wrong.

Jude: So, Mardi, did you also believe in this harsh, Irish God of your governess's?

Mardi: As a young person I was kind of a positive

person and I did have my brother to hold on to. And we've remained very close to this day. I thought: If he's a God, he should be a good God and he should take care of me. So I tried to hold on to the things that were good in my life, and I think I've always tried to do that. And so, I'm four and a half, and I've not met my father, and I've not seen my mother for...oh, since I was six months old.

Jude: Where were they?

Mardi: They were imprisoned in a hotel in Baden Baden, Germany, when we declared war. The Germans, I think, they'd been watching my parents, you know. My mother pretended to be the mistress of the head of the French underground. That's how secrets were passed from them to the Underground, to my mother, to my father, to the British, and then later to our government once we joined the war.

Jude: So then your parents came back, right?

Mardi: The war's not done yet, but they got exchanged. And that's another story. So I met them at a train. Well what did Mardi do, because she hadn't seen these people. She was used to the governess and the grandparents and my brother. I hid behind them all! But that night, I saw my mother, down the end of a long hall, or in my imagination very long, with her arms open wide and I ran to her and I said, "I guess I can love you," and that was when she hugged me and, for all of you to know, my mother is a person who held on to unconditional love, and I must have known that, and talk about...She carries what I call the creative spirit of God in who she was and in her soul. It was in her eyes and her actions, and she's still known in Hancock, and this area of the peninsula, for all her kindness.

Jude: So, Mardi, I want to ask you about some of your early interests. What would you say were your early interests?

Mardi: Oh, being outside, love of nature, being in Hancock. We also played in the winter in Elmira, New York but everything that I had for those early years, that are good memories, are being outside: playing outside, playing at the beach in Hancock, and we all know what beaches in Hancock are like, they aren't sandy, they're rocky...building little things in the creek. And to me that's what was wonderful and safe. And I had a bunch of cousins who are my age so that was also good. Those were almost automatic friends.

Jude: Perfect. Now, we're going to jump ahead a little

bit and you're going to start when you were about 10 years old and where does your story take us now?

Mardi: I'm going to back you up first, because you wrote in the newsletter about how did I get to ride in the victory parade in Europe.

Jude: Yes.

Mardi: After my parents were there for three months...everything happens fast when you're in the Foreign Service...they got three months relaxation after being in prison. Then they were sent back to liberated France. I, my brother and I, were obviously American kids. We're now in wartime Europe. France is liberated, but we still had air raids. And we would go to parks and play. Well, we talked American English, right? Not English English. Well, guess who we met in the parks: GIs. They followed us all home. I come home from the park with 20 GIs dragging behind us, 18-19 year-olds looking for home. Well, when the war ended, the GIs were in an armory troop truck, and they're driving by. We're watching the parade, and they looked down at me and my brother and they said to my parents, "Can we take them with us?" My parents let us get out in all kinds of adventures, and they said, "Sure, we know you." So there I am, this five year old Mardi and my 10-year old brother, driving in the troop truck, right behind French soldiers. They're much fancier than our soldiers, by the way. So my memory is them, the French soldiers, marching in front of us. With these big ostrich plumes off their hats, flying in the wind.

Jude: What a pretty memory!

Mardi: So, how many American children get to go in that liberation...

Jude: Probably you and your brother. I would say that was it. Thanks for putting that story in. It's a wonderful story, Mardi. Okay, now we're going to move ahead to "Where were you at 10 years old?"

Mardi: 10 years old...now Mardi is away, been living back in the country and so Mardi is a kind of average, not average, American child. And my father gets posted behind the Iron Curtain which means behind the communist lines of control in Europe to Czechoslovakia. What did I know about Czechoslovakia? Not much. One more adventure comes along. So we'd go by boat over to Europe, and we're driving through Germany, and my memory of that is Nuremberg in destruction, still, in 1950. There were apartment buildings in rubble,

churches in rubble, homes in rubble. It was what you see in photographs. And then we get to the border, and that's one of the scariest experiences that I have of my early childhood, or not so early. There were border guards in fatigues holding onto machine guns, which were at the ready, not on their shoulders or anything like that, and not at attention, at the ready, barbed wire, snarling police dogs, and a bunker, which my father had to go into with our passports. I don't remember this, but I'm told I screamed, and I think Mardi can scream pretty loud. All the time he was in the bunker, [I screamed] "They're going to kill him, they're going to kill him, they're going to kill him." They didn't. And we got on to Czechoslovakia, behind the Iron Curtain, where we lived through two years. Do you want a story of a misadventure there?

Jude: Oh yes, we definitely do.

Mardi: Oh yes. Some people know that I'm a rascal; not everybody does. So, there was a small school in the vacant part of the American Embassy, and there was a small gang of ten 12-year-olds in the upper grade. There was a Canadian, son of the Canadian ambassador, son of the Mexican ambassador, two Afghanistan princesses, yes, I said "princesses," and others that I don't quite remember, an English girl. There is outside every American embassy, even today, marine guards. And they always have their rifles at attention. And they would look the other way when we came out of the gateway. And obviously, they were about 18 or 19, so they were still quite young. And we figured out how to build sulfur bombs. For those of you who don't know what sulfur bombs are, they're stink bombs. They make this awful eggy smell, rotten egg smell. We snuck down and put it under the secret police car which parks...at that time parked...every day, all the time outside the American Embassy in this little tiny Czech-made car. There were four secret police, not so secret, in their trench coats; yes, I said trench coats. It looked like the movies. Now, and we snuck down there and I don't know how we did it but we planted it onto the back end of the trunk and lit it. Meanwhile, of course, it made an awful stink under the truck or under the car. And then we run like hell back into the American Embassy.

Meanwhile the marine guard has switched from looking up the street to down the street at us being chased by four secret police with their trench coats flapping. That's what I remember. And he winks at us as

we go by. Now...about four or five times, and yes, we did get caught and got called on the carpet.

I leave that all for your imagination as to what my father and the ambassador said.

Jude: Oh my, my, my. Mardi, who do you think had the most influence over you at that period in your life?

Mardi: Over all my life, my mother, a woman of unconditional love, who even when you were in trouble, you know she loved you. When I stole cigarettes from her at 12...I don't know how I got punished but I felt so guilty I had to tell her. When someone loves you unconditionally, you don't want to disappoint them. And so, she provided a foundation in a rather weird world. Many people think being in the foreign service is romantic. I think it's very hard on the children, and a lot of my contemporaries have had a lot of serious problems as a result of some of the odd...You never know what's going to happen next. And, and I've learned a new word in getting ready for this, Jude.

Jude: Okay, let's hear it.

Mardi: Resilience.

Jude: Resilience. That's a good one. Well, hold on to that word, Mardi, because the next thing I want to ask you: What about religion at this point when you were in Czechoslovakia? What were your beliefs then?

Mardi: Yes, I'm sorry there was not much church going then. But what were my beliefs? Again nature, even in behind the Iron Curtain, my parents were taking me out skiing, going down the rivers, canoes, swimming, and horseback riding. By the way, I'm taking you horseback riding, just for a minute. I ended up...secret police!

I was walking down the alleyway to go to my riding school. And it was daytime, but I heard footsteps behind me. Well, I slowed down, the footsteps slowed down. I sped up, the footsteps sped up. Doesn't it sound like the movies?. When you're ten or eleven years old, it's not fun. And I was so glad to get to the riding rink, and the owner said, "You know, they were watching you, Mardi." I'm a kid!

Jude: You're a kid. Okay. Let's move into your adolescent years. So, when you were say 12-ish, like you said earlier, you didn't get much notice sometimes. Your family didn't get much notice and up you were tugged by the roots and moved off again. So take us to where you went next.

To be continued.....

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S 6 SOURCES

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S 7 PRINCIPLES

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

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



UUCE'S AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law;
this is our great covenant:
to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Minister Rev. Sara Hayman (On Sabbatical January - May 2025) | Children's Religious Education Coordinator Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com |
| Church Office Administrator Ellen Sedgwick (207-667-4393) ucellsworth@gmail.com | Music Director & Pianist Paul Kelly (207-412-9887) ourdreamalso@gmail.com |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

| | |
|---|--|
| Adult Committee on Education: vacant | Hospitality Ministry Coordinator: vacant |
| Aesthetics: Gary Shellehamer | Landscaping and Grounds: Bron Day |
| Annex (former L&F building): Kathy Hall | Membership: Liz True |
| Auction: Jeff Jeude & Liz True | NUUSletter Editor: Lise Williams |
| Building & Maintenance/Safety: Susan Opdycke | Pastoral Care Ministry: Kay Hansen |
| Charitable Giving: Rev. Sara Hayman | Peace and Social Action: Barb Acosta |
| Choir: Megan O'Dell Chittenden | Publicity: Susan Opdycke |
| Collaborative Ministry: inactive at this time | Children's Religious Education: Tobias Betancourt |
| Committee on Ministry: Karen Volckhausen | Small Group Ministry: Mary Murray |
| Congregational Engagement: vacant | Stewardship: Doug Bird |
| Cookie Walk: Kate O'Dell | Ushers: Jon Thomas, Ken Hanson |
| Eggroll Project: Mary Murray | Technology Coordinator: vacant |
| Ferry Beach Coordinator: vacant | Wayside Pulpit: Nancy Guy |
| Fiscal Matters: Connie Bailey | Website: vacant |
| Flowers: Bronwen Day | Worship Arts: Marta Rieman |
| Green Sanctuary: Paul Kelley | Yard Sale: Jeff Jeude |
| History/Archives: Wayne Smith | Youth Advisor: vacant |

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