



The NUUS

The Gift of Renewal



JUNE 2024 VOLUME 56, NO. 6

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

MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Click [HERE](#) for Rev. Sara's June Ministry Matter's Video



*To journey without being changed is to be a nomad.
To change without journeying is to be a chameleon.
To journey and be transformed by the journey is to be a pilgrim. - Mark Nepo*

Beloveds,

I'll be so glad to see you again very soon and to meet new folks in our UUCE community! I want to know how you are, and what you've learned, and where you've been and journeyed together these last five months! I'm ready to listen and ask questions and I'm excited to begin sharing some of the wonderings and insights about ministry—mine, yours, and ours—at work in me given the incredible gift of sabbatical time away I've known.

I return to you with a full and rested heart, deeply grateful to be your minister.

Yours, in our shared ministry,
Rev. Sara

Friday, April 19, 2024, Kerry County, Ireland.

My first day of walking a portion of the Kerry Way from Annascaul to Dingle town.

I'm sitting in the Lispole Church now, having a bit of water and preparing for the rest of the day's walk... at least 8 more miles to go. It's been a beautiful morning and not too hard.

*A little up and some downs, and beautiful views all around me. One step at a time, I tell myself. And why am I walking, I wonder and ask myself and listen:
I walk for myself.
I walk to remember I am strong.
I walk to be able to listen for what rises in me. Why am I walking? And Alone?
I walk to be present to all my feelings; to hear more clearly through my heart what my best work ahead might be.
I walk to feel connected to earth, to Love, to God, to the generosity and strength of all those who came before me and are helping me make my way.*

JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

Welcome Home

UUCE Sabbatical Committee, Worship Leaders
Tobias Betancourt, Worship Associate

Today we welcome back our beloved minister Rev. Sara Hayman from her well-deserved sabbatical, just in time for June's theme of Renewal! The Sabbatical Committee will lead the service of welcome and share what we have learned as a community during the sabbatical. Members of the Sabbatical Committee are: Helen Kazura, chair, David Dietrich, Liz True, Bronwen Day, Christine Bowman, Mary Haynes, and Beth Pepper. Rev. Sara will share reflections about her experiences and her visions for UUCE.

Plate Split Sunday to benefit NextStep Domestic Violence Project!
Special Music: Jim Fisher & Abby Tadenev with a woodwind duet!
R.E. today!
Finger food refreshments after church!

6/2 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95167253613?pwd=bER6VENyempYMkhaTHlmMlgxWUhnUT09>
Meeting ID: 951 6725 3613
Password: 470336
Phone: 646-558-8656

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

Glimmers Calling Back Spirit

Vanessa Titang, Worship Leader
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

Vanessa Titang (she/her/they) is a minister in Preliminary Fellowship. She attended Smith College for a BA in Philosophy and Sociology, and Wheelock College for a MS in Organizational Leadership, before finding Unitarian Universalism and her call to ministry. She graduated with her M.Div. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2022, after serving as intern minister for the 3 church collaborative of the UU Church of Belfast, UU Church of Ellsworth, and UU Congregation of Castine, 2021-2022. She is to be ordained in June 2024. Vanessa is the proud mother of her child, Amélie. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth.

6/6/9 Worship Service Zoom Meeting
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91626569079>
Meeting ID: 916 2656 9079
Passcode: 560763

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

Rest is the Medicine

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Jill Jeude, Worship Associate

The root word of sabbatical is sabbath – time set aside to refrain from working and open oneself to experiencing the Sacred that grounds and nourishes us and helps us connect again to Source, the Holy, God as you understand God. In this service, Rev. Sara begins sharing how her recent sabbatical time helped her remember again to value rest and sabbath-taking more regularly and intentionally. How does resting help us to live differently and with more clarity? Rest is the medicine.

Choir Practice at 9am!

R.E. today!

Special Music: SATB quartet sings!

Happy Father's Day!

6/16 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: [https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98235146113?](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98235146113?pwd=UmxvNDZmWld4Z3g3WGJqdkVvMzBrQT09)

[pwd=UmxvNDZmWld4Z3g3WGJqdkVvMzBrQT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98235146113?pwd=UmxvNDZmWld4Z3g3WGJqdkVvMzBrQT09)

Meeting ID: 982 3514 6113

Password: 341567

Phone: 646-558-8656

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

A Gorgeous and Messy Bouquet

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

Drawing from our Unitarian roots and the prophetic ministry of Rev. Dr. Norbert C. Peck, this Sunday all are invited to create and share together in our annual Flower Communion ritual. Please bring a flower of your choosing to church and place it in the vase when you enter the sanctuary. If you're worshipping with us online, please email a photo (JPEG file) of you and a flower, or just a flower, to Suzanne Aubrey at suzanneaubrey57@gmail.com by Friday, June 20th at 5pm.

UUCE's Annual Flower Communion!

Choir Rehearsal at 9 am!

6/23 Worship Service Zoom Meeting

[https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99152326528?pwd=dXdrZlhLTmxvZkNZeHd2Z0V](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99152326528?pwd=dXdrZlhLTmxvZkNZeHd2Z0VjdjVBT09)

[jdjVBT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99152326528?pwd=dXdrZlhLTmxvZkNZeHd2Z0VjdjVBT09)

Meeting ID: 991 5232 6528

Passcode: 648039

one tap mobile

+13092053325,,99152326528# US

+13126266799,,99152326528# US (Chicago)

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

Be still and know...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Marta Rieman, Worship Associate

In his work, *A Book of Psalms: Selected and Adapted from the Hebrew*, Stephen Mitchell writes about psalms, poetry and God: "The Psalms speak as both poetry and prayer. Some of them are very great poems. But as prayer, even the greatest poems are inadequate. Pure prayer begins at the threshold of silence. It says nothing. Asks for nothing. It is a kind of listening. The deeper the listening, the less we listen for, until silence itself becomes the voice of God." In this service, Rev. Sara shares some of the questions, wonderings and burgeoning insights at work in her about her need and longing to connect with God.

Choir Practice at 9am & singing in worship!
Vanessa Titang's Ordination is at 4pm today!

6/30 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92487404514?pwd=TzM4MUNGS2xLZXEzYnptZks2b2I5QT09>
Meeting ID: 924 8740 4514
Password: 742757
Phone: 646-558-8656



The membership committee is creating new nametags!

Please let Liz True know if you would like a different name on your tag than your "official" name in Breeze. I.e., Mac, Pepper, Liz, etc.

Please send an email to eatrue9@gmail.com with your full name and what name you would like on the nametag.

ALSO, the membership committee is compiling a list of corrections and additions to the **hard-copy directory** so we can print and distribution it for folks to insert in their directory. Please let Liz True know of any edits at eatrue9@gmail.com by **June 15th**.



MEDITATION BEFORE SUNDAY SERVICES

June 2, 9, 23

9:30 Walking Meditation - Meet us at the front door or join in when you arrive. (Weather permitting)

9:45 Sitting Meditation - Tidewater Room

Feel free to join for whatever you would like.

Contact Christine Bowman for more information ccs9762@aol.com



WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday June 8 & 22, 1-2:30 p.m.

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

And then it was June! We are here at the end of our 2023-2024 Church year. This has been a wild ride to say the least. Admin changes, position changes, global UU changes, and half the year without our beloved Rev Sara as she was on sabbatical. Let's take a second and congratulate ourselves for making it through another year and another turning point in our congregational lives. Be proud of yourself for your accomplishments, your struggles, and how you persevered through them. Well, Done!

This month's theme is Renewal and do we ever need some of that energy right now. This is always the hardest time of the year for me. The "home stretch" before the next year begins. Colleges let out for the semester, Schools let out for the year, and the church year finishes and begins again. It's all part of the continuing cycle of existence, right? And that right there is why renewal is so vital. We are cogs in the great wheel that turns forever onward, and right now we need some WD40 to grease this squeaky wheel.

What do you do to "grease your wheel"? Do you ride out the energy of the year ending and just rest, or do you have something you do to keep your energy elevated after the wheel turns anew? I like to think that I ride that energy to its natural completion and then use the excitement of the next year to bring me back up after a short period of rest. Do you do something different? How can we as a congregation take the energy of this time of endings and elevate it to the thrill of a new beginning?

I challenge you this month to keep in mind that this is a time of endings and beginnings for everyone, and everyone we interact with is in different stages of those states. Give grace to those in flux like you would want given to you. Keep your heart open to the states changes in yourself and others and let the chalice flame which we light every Sunday be a beacon of hope for those that need it most.

Brightest Blessings to you all,

Charles A Betancourt
Religious Exploration Coordinator



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.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, and The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine

Invite You to Join in Celebrating
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

Reception to Follow

Seminarians and Ministerial Colleagues
are Invited to Robe and Process or
join in a virtual procession.



RSVP: vanessa.titang@gmail.com

The service will be multi platform with a Zoom link
provided for those who cannot attend in person.

MULTI-CHURCH FERRY BEACH FALL RETREAT

**WILL BE
OCTOBER 4-6, 2024!**

REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 2 AT UUCE.





Letter from Barb Acosta

Beloved friends and members:

It has been three years now since I took on the role of chair of the Peace and Social Action Ministry, for what originally was to be a one-year stint. We have not yet found someone new to take on this role, but it is time for me to step down. I will be resigning this role as of the end of June.

We accomplished a lot in the last three years: our ongoing Cookie Ministry with Ellsworth High School's Gender/Sexuality Diversity Alliance (GSDA); our alliance with our Wabanaki neighbors, with a focus on lobbying for sovereignty legislation; advocating for gun safety; and efforts related to Green Sanctuary. Together with the 8th Principle Journey Task Force, we have led our congregation to engage in anti-racism and anti-oppression work, including the recent series of congregational conversations and the vote on the ceasefire for Israel-Palestine. I would like to acknowledge our dedicated PASA members: Doug Bird, Cecily Judd, Paul Kelly, Tom Martin, Jana Robinson and Kay Wilkins, as well as our beloved Mickey Worth (RIP) without whom these endeavors would not have been possible.

There is, of course, lots left to do in each of these areas of work as well as new issues of importance to UUs that continue to arise – notably, as democracy in the U.S. and in the world faces multifaceted and ominous threats. We face a number of challenges as well. I am particularly concerned that the Green Sanctuary chair remains vacant just as the climate crisis deepens. The hard reality is that we have faced both a loss of capacity and the loss of several key committee members due to a death, illnesses and a generally aging membership. We need more help!

Before I go, I wanted to respond to a question that came up recently: How does PASA choose what to work on? The short answer is that this work belongs to the entire congregation – not just to an isolated committee of passionate individuals.

You do not have to be a member of PASA to propose an area of work. Here's how an issue gets on the table: First, a UUCE member feels called to act on an injustice that feels important for the congregation. They email the chair or bring it to a PASA meeting for discussion. The committee assesses whether the work is consistent with our UU values and with our congregational mission. Next, we assess whether we've got the bandwidth to do it (usually this means whoever proposed it has got at least 2-3 people willing to put in the time. We also need to ensure PASA has the resources to carry it out (or a way of getting those resources). Peace and social action is at the core of being a UU. The extent to which we are able to carry out this work depends on the interest, capacity, and willingness of individuals to put in the work.

Might you want to be a part of this valuable endeavor? Contact Rev. Sara if you want to discuss this leadership opportunity.



Congregational approval of Palestinian cease fire and humanitarian relief effort.

We appreciate all who participated in the conversations about the Gaza Ceasefire Resolution and the support that was received. Both PASA and the 8th Principle task force members remain grateful for the opportunity to create a space in which we could gather respectfully to hear differing points of view. And we would be glad to hear from congregational members about other issues that folks think need to be addressed.

Looking for volunteers. The 8th principle task force needs more volunteers to work with us to advance the 8th principle and to support work to oppose racism and to build a vibrant, diverse, multicultural, and beloved community. Won't you join us? Attend a congregational conversation. Help plan and facilitate an antiracism conversation. Suggest a topic that you'd like to discuss. Share resources that helped you better understand our community. Support efforts to create safe spaces to hold difficult conversations. We welcome your input and your participation. Please contact Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com



Hold the date! Anti-racism virtual conversation, Sat. May 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m., hosted by Belfast and Ellsworth social action committees, UUCE facilitating. Title of conversation is Intergenerational Trauma and Resilience. Come join our conversation as we attempt to figure out how carrying the pain of history affects our current lives and choices, how our UU values call for us to work to eliminate the pain and the conditions that perpetuate that pain. Everyone welcome. No need to sign up. Zoom link will be sent out separately. Questions: contact 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. Board president Beth Pepper has confirmed both Barb Acosta and Jana Robinson as delegates. It's still possible for another person to register and be confirmed as a delegate.

For more information: see <https://www.uua.org/ga> or [registration information](#). Current full registration is \$400. Or it's possible to attend as a business delegate for a donation. If interested, check with Beth Pepper, president@uuelsworth.org.

JUNETEENTH. What is this holiday? "After the Union Army captured New Orleans in 1862, slave owners in Confederate states migrated to Texas with more than 150,000 enslaved Black persons. For 3 years, even after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved Black Americans in Texas remained in brutal bondage, immorally and illegally deprived of their freedom and basic dignity. On June 19, 1865 — over 2 years after President Lincoln declared all enslaved persons free — Major General Gordon Granger and Union Army troops marched to Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and free the last enslaved Black Americans in Texas." ~The White House (2022)



Juneteenth Downeast [Wed. June 19] I'm seeking volunteers willing to help with general table and tent set up (probably about noon, possibly earlier), and take down beginning about 7 PM. Interested folks should contact Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com. UUCE will be loaning out tables and help is needed to transport and set up, and then take back down and return to church, as well help set up/take down tents. Like all jobs, the work goes faster with many hands. Last year's event was great, and this one should be also. There will be outstanding free food for all volunteers.

Premiere Invitation. Building Hope: a film to build hope for those caught in the daily crisis of homelessness

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine cordially invites you to attend the Premiere of BUILDING HOPE Saturday, June 29, 2024 4-6:00 pm. In-person panelists will include: Rachel Talbot Ross, Maine Speaker of the House; Tracey Hair, former director of H.O.M.E.; Cullen Ryan, Executive Director of Community Housing of Maine (CHOM); and Katie Spencer White, Director of Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. The premiere will be in person and via Zoom. Please RSVP for in-person attendance or to receive a zoom link, indicating which:office@uucastine.org



Dawnland Festival of Arts and Ideas on July 12-14, 2024, at the College of the Atlantic (COA). This unique multi-day event is an evolution of our popular Abbe Museum Indian Market (AMIM) and Native American Festival that featured invitation-only Native arts markets and performances. The Dawnland Festival of Arts & Ideas includes those elements but will also spotlight conversations by Wabanaki and other Indigenous leaders on some of the biggest questions of our time, including climate, democracy, and food systems.



PRIDE FEST 2024

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

Ellsworth Pride is a group of volunteers committed to supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Ellsworth and the surrounding areas. Beginning in 2021, Ellsworth Pride has organized and run the annual **PrideFest** in Ellsworth, held on the second Sunday in June at the Knowlton Park. For 2024, the Fourth Annual PrideFest will be on **June 9**, from midday to the latter part of the afternoon. Our group would welcome interested folks who'd like to volunteer to help with planning, doing specific tasks as the event gets organized, and/or helping on the day of the event. If interested, please contact Sue Collins at 546-6735 by call or text.

Want to learn how to become an effective advocate? MUUSAN's Advocacy Toolkit is full of resources for giving testimony, writing letters to the editor, contacting your representatives and more.

Visit PASA's web page to find resources and to learn more about ongoing peace and social action efforts.

In the UUCE Gardens



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Happy June, one and all!

Besides bringing us the first day of summer, lupines, Pride Month, and our annual yard sale, June also brings us ... SARA! I look forward to welcoming her back at our service on June 2 and I hope lots of you can join us in celebrating her return. As a congregation, we did well in these past five months that she was gone on sabbatical and we learned lots about just how strong we are and how much we can do without her guiding us on a daily basis.



March 2013 at the Supreme Court

I congratulate and look forward to welcoming our newly elected Board members to our June Board meeting: Kate O'Dell (Treasurer) and Jana Robinson (Member at Large), and Bob Francis (Secretary) who's just been elected to serve his second term. Congratulations also go to Gary Shellehamer, our newly elected Moderator. Many thanks to these newly elected members for serving our Congregation and to the Elections Committee of Gary Shellehamer, Jill Jeude and Cecily Judd, who put together our slate of candidates.

Thank you to everyone who attended our May annual meeting. We met quorum, elected the folks mentioned above, passed our FY24-25 budget, and passed the ceasefire resolution. *whew!* It was quite a busy meeting!

Thank you to PASA and the 8th Principle Task Force, especially Barb Acosta and Jana Robinson, for leading our Congregation in the three Congregational Conversations on the ceasefire resolution. I believe those conversations helped us understand the issues on all sides more completely.

I also thank - immensely! - Rev. Amy McCormick who served as our Sabbatical Minister and the Sabbatical Committee, led by Helen Kazura and including Mary Haynes, Bronwen Day, David Dietrich, Liz True, and Christine Bowman. They were ROCK STARS during sabbatical, making sure every little and BIG thing that came up was handled well. We owe them a HUGE THANK YOU!

And finally, WELCOME BACK, SARA! We have missed you and are so glad you're back with us.

Hope to see you at Ellsworth Pride on June 9!





Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth 121 Bucksport
Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605
24 May 2024

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

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.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth A. Pepper
President, Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, Maine

Cc: Senator Susan Collins
Senator Angus King
Representative Chellie Pingree
Representative Jared Golden

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

Tuesday Evening Vespers
<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



MARDI THOMPSON-GEORGE (1940-2023)

PART 3

Dr. Wayne H. Smith

UUCE Historian

To catch up a bit, soon after Mardi and Don adopted Andrew, the family moved to Iowa City, Iowa where her husband settled into the role of professor at the University of Iowa. Mardi enrolled in the School of Social Work at the University of Iowa and graduated in her early 30s. She had several full-time positions in the Iowa City area while still busy raising her family. The family relocated to California in the 1980s and Mardi became the Clinical Director of a large program for court-involved juveniles. She later founded and ran her own private practice that employed multiple people under her supervision.

Mardi: Because a lot of my life lessons have come from social work. I have worked with all kinds of populations. I became a clinical social worker. And I always wanted to work with the most difficult cases. I don't know why, but I think that the experience of the hotline really helped me decide that [they're] the ones who needed me the most. So, I would work mostly with disturbed families, and their children. But in Los Angeles...oh yes, I lived in Los Angeles. I worked with gangs. And here comes another life lesson.

I had the girlfriend of a gang member in the hospital. I'd gone to visit her about seven-eight o'clock at night. Her boyfriend was not glad I was helping her. I was helping her disengage from the gang part for the females. And I realized I was being followed home. Well, in LA you learn to watch your back. And when you do the work I did, you watch your back even harder. I said, "OK, I'm being followed." Remember at 10 years old I learned about being followed.

Jude: It's true. Early lessons.

Mardi: So I drove to the fire department, where you're told to drive: to a police station or fire department, drive up and say somebody's following you if you're a woman, or even a man. And I got escorted by the fire department home.

So, life remains both adventures and

misadventures. So that lesson is, "Don't give up when you're in trouble." And the other thing: I think it's important of not being focused on yourself. Again, that's my mother, it's the experience that I've had. Don't, don't just get self-centered and get all wrapped up in yourself. Think about what you can do for others.

What do I love about the Unitarian Church? It's that that our belief is, it's our job to help the world be better. We don't have to wait for heaven to get there.

Jude: Now, let's go into the resilience a little more deeply because you said you had a lot of freedom as a child.

Mardi: Yes. As you can tell, riding in the troop truck at the victory parade, not with my parents. I'm five. In Hancock, Maine we were allowed incredible freedom. My cousin Jean and I at six were taught how to sail. At nine, we were allowed to sail in a cat boat on Frenchman's Bay five miles away from the house, as far as binoculars can see you. Can you imagine? I mean, how did my mother do that? And to this day, the children that are raised on this Youngs Eddy Road, the grandchildren I've seen...I don't have any of my own... are allowed the same kind of freedom. They're taught. We were given sandwiches, and me and my cousins were sent off and were not expected to be seen from 10 o'clock in the morning to two or three in the afternoon.

Now, did we get ourselves into trouble? Of course we did. We were told if you tipped the canoe over or you get swamped, go ashore.

Now, not everybody's going to allow their kids to do this. Think how protected kids are now. I was not protected. I'm obviously... Survival is something that I was taught early, early on, both by necessity, and by my mother's and father's belief. And something, Jude, I didn't tell you is that when you're overseas, your father tells you, "You know, you're representing the country.

Jude: So, that's a heavy burden for a child.

Mardi: So at five...through the rest of my life I've been told I was representing the United States of America, and I'd better behave. Well, obviously, I didn't always behave.

Jude: Well, I haven't heard any bad reports, Mardi, so I guess you didn't misbehave too badly. What, what delights you? What delights you?

Mardi: Oh... I'm, right now... one of my delights is right here in my living room. You all got a few glimpses of Leo. He is a cool dude tabby cat. I have another scaredy cat. And then I have a wonderful golden. They delight me. Every morning they delight me. If you get greeted in the morning with the love of an animal, they... it is delightful it... how can you be sad if a tail's wagging at you? How can you be sad looking out... I'm looking out my window. I am going to glance away from all of you for a minute. There's a blue sky, there's beautiful maple trees standing elegantly waving; I think they're more than waving today. They're dancing in the wind.

That delights me. It delights me to live in nature.

I did live in LA for a while. That was probably the worst place I've ever lived, just emotionally. Not the most dangerous, but the most... It was hard to get to the outdoors and to the freedom that I feel, and the delight I feel in seeing the ocean, skiing with my parents... I got to ski in the Alps too. Just that whole delight of going out there, sailing, the whishing of the wind, it's, it's... If you get out there and see the world, there's delight in every corner, and at 80 I'm slowed down, and I still have delights.

Jude: You have delights and you have so many wonderful memories as well.

Mardi: Yeah. And you guys... I mean your faces... The Unitarian Church is my delight. Do you want to hear how I got there?

Jude: I do.

In 1994, Mardi made the decision to return to Maine to take care of her parents. She divorced Don a year later and thus began the final chapters of her life. Back in Maine, she worked as a clinical supervisor for Community Health and Counseling until 2001. She met and married her second husband, Clifton E. George, around 1999. Clif and Mardi ran a set of cabins called Pleasant Point Wilderness Camps near Fourth Debsconeag Lake, just east of Moosehead Lake and near the foot of Mount Katahdin. After eleven years of marriage, Clif passed due to leukemia.

Mardi: Well, my second husband [Clifton E. George] was the love of my life, and there are more stories there we can go back to if we have time. But he had died, and I had three years of grieving, and I would say that that was another period of depression in my life for sadness. But I also knew... he was a guy who loved life and he would have been pushing me to get out there and do something. Well, he was a Unitarian too. You guys come sneaking... you guys are all over the place. We are. He was president of the board in Haverhill Universalist Church in his earlier life. And we would drive by UUCE, and we'd say, "Well, we should go there sometime." Well, Clif was always off on an adventure, so we never did go. So I thought I'd give it a try. I said, "What's the worst? If I don't like it, I can leave." I'm told that I arrived with a smile on my face. I'll be truthful to all of you and say I arrived with a smile on my face and butterflies in my stomach. Because from my life, I am both an introvert and an extrovert. It's a weird combination to have but it's... that's who I am. So, I'm walking in, smile on my face, butterflies in my stomach, a little scared, and I get met by Evelyn and Nancy Avila. Talk about smiles on your face. All of you who greet, and including now on Zoom, remember: "You're welcome" is what gathers you in. I felt like I'd come home. I got these big hugs from them. And by chance, guess who was the minister that day: our Sara. And I listened to the service, the hymns, the words, and even to this day I can feel the sigh coming out of me, the sigh of relief that I'd found a place where I could be: the community that welcomed me and didn't tell me how to think. I didn't do very well when people told me how to think... the rebel in me. I can be a rascal, but I also can be a rebel. So that's how I got to the Unitarian Church. And for all of you... but most of you are the people I already know. But the joining of various committees, doing work with the church, going to programs with like

Sara on spirituality and other programs I've gone to, they all helped me get better connected. I know a lot of the old timers and medium timers for me... I've been there quite a while now... and I look forward to the time when we don't have to Zoom and I get to talk to everybody.

Jude: Don't we all, don't we all, Mardi. I love hearing your stories. And I know you have lots more stories. And I think when we get back together and we have coffee hour, you are not apt to have very many questions or comments from people about the weather. I think they might say, "Mardi, stink bombs? Really?" Oh, I so look forward to hearing more of your stories. So I want to thank you, Mardi, and I want to thank everyone for joining us. And I think we maybe have just a very few minutes.

Mardi: I'll jump, I'll jump in. Okay. I, by chance, I married a guy from a dating service out of Bangor who was a North woodsman and became the love of my life, my second husband, and he taught me how to grab hold. We ran sporting camps in the north woods. I went to the north woods. I learned to ride snowmobiles at sixty! I'm complaining now that at eighty I'm moving more slowly, but at 60 I was riding snowmobiles eight miles off the grid. Don't stop adventuring! Now my adventuring is living alone with my furry family in Hancock, Maine surrounded by woods. I don't feel isolated. I have such good friends. I think... the Unitarian churches, it welcomes what I call characters, people... I mean, I'm looking at the people who, who are there and I just, I love you all, and I know a little bit about many of you.

Mardi passed away in the morning of October 7, 2023 at Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital in Ellsworth. She was survived by her sons David and Jackson and by her older brother Tyler, but was predeceased by her adopted son Andrew.



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

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Minister Rev. Sara Hayman rev.sara.hayman@gmail.com	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Beth Pepper to 2025 (207-610-4070)	Vice President: Jill Jeude to 2025
Treasurer: Kate O'Dell to 2026	Secretary: Bob Francis to 2026
Trustee: Tori Bell to 2026	Trustee: Jana Robinson to 2027
Trustee: Doug Bird to 2026	Moderator: Gary Shellehamer

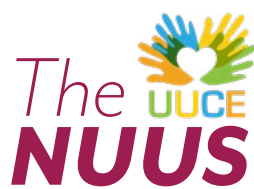
COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Adult Committee on Education: vacant	Landscaping and Grounds: Bron Day
Aesthetics: Gary Shellehamer	Membership: Liz True
Annex (former L&F building): Kathy Hall	Music: Tori Bell
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: vacant
Choir Director: Megan O'Dell	Pianist: Paul Kelly
Collaborative Ministry: inactive at this time	Publicity: Susan Opdycke
Committee on Ministry: Karen Volckhausen	Children's Religious Education: Charles Betancourt
Congregational Engagement: vacant	Small Group Ministry: Mary Murray
Cookie Walk: Kate O'Dell	Stewardship: Doug Bird
Eggroll Project Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Murray	Ushers: Jon Thomas, Ken Hanson
Ferry Beach Coordinator: Anne Ossanna	Technology Coordinator: vacant
Fiscal Matters: Charles Betancourt	Wayside Pulpit: Nancy Guy
Flowers: Bronwen Day	Website: vacant
Green Sanctuary: Paul Kelley	Worship Arts: Marta Rieman
History/Archives: Wayne Smith	Yard Sale: Jeff Jeude
Hospitality Ministry Coordinator: vacant	Youth Advisor: vacant

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
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Ellsworth, ME 04605



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