



Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

September 2009

Sunday, September 4 at 11:30 am

(Note time change)

Annual Labor Day Weekend Picnic

We are trying a new venue this year at Barrett's Park, Boothbay Harbor. It's a hidden gem, but not too difficult to find. Get to Atlantic Ave. on the east side of Boothbay Harbor. Turn left at the Catholic Church onto Lobster Cove Road. It will be on Lobster Cove Road about a 1/2 mile in from the church. Parking is in a lot on the left and the park is on the right. It will be potluck—bring a dish to share (main dish, salad, or dessert), place settings for your family, and folding chairs. Beverages will be provided. There is a gazebo that we should be able to use, but we will cancel if it's a rainy day. Unfortunately, the tide will be high that day at 12:30—at low and mid-tide it's wonderful place for kids to play in the intertidal zone. Bring frisbees and balls to play with.



Marriage is our last, best chance to grow up.

—Joseph Barth, 20th-century clergyman and a founder of MUUF

Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 am

Home, Sweet Subversive, Home

—Rev. Kathleen Allan

Kathleen will focus on the many expressions of our consciences, our ethics and our creativity. Kathleen conducted a monthly service for MUUF in the early 1990's before she left for Manassas, Virginia. Since returning to Maine, she has led several Sunday services for us. Currently she is in the Dexter pulpit every 4th Sunday. We always look forward to her return to our "pulpit."



**Remember our website:
www.uumidcoast.org
for more information!**

Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 am

A Leukemia survivor's tale of recovery and spiritual journey

—Rupert Neily

Using the intervention of a life-threatening crisis, Rupert Neily has followed his muse on a yellow brick road over nature's alluring landscapes, both the external kind and the ones inside each of us. Along the way, he encountered the tricksters of Coincidence and Serendipity, who keep leaving him clues about life's mysterious questions. Rupert will reflect on his journey and show some of his unlikely clues, one of them being a holy grail.

After the service Rupert will lead a short walk across the street to a lovely, hidden pond obscured by the trees along the highway. Wear or bring appropriate shoes for this unique and enjoyable experience—a small Rupert Ramble.



UPCOMING DATES:

September 10, Thursday—Adult RE, 7 pm at Friends Meeting House, Damariscotta.

September 13, Sunday—RE Committee Meeting, 9 am downstairs at the Town Hall.

September 14, Monday—Program Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Fosketts.

September 20, Sunday—Special RE Meeting for parents and others, downstairs after the service.

September 27, Sunday—Board Meeting, 9 am downstairs at the Town Hall.

September 30, Wednesday—Community Supper, 5 pm, Second Congregational Church in Newcastle

Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 am

Long Range Plan Sunday

—Anne Flannagan

Our Vice President, Anne Flanagan will lead us in service dedicated to the fall effort to implement the Long Range Plan.

President's Message

Do we need a minister? The Board believes we do. Should it be someone who lives nearby, who can devote time to help us grow? Yes, and we agreed that growing membership and working with our Religious Exploration program should be the most important tasks. Why? Because growth has to come from younger families and most of them have children who should have some religious education before seeking their own spiritual path.

We also agreed that our new part-time minister should lead two services most months. Why? For thematic continuity. Rev. Danielle has been helping us formulate these plans and we agreed with her that without the consistency the sermons become stand-alone lectures. The Board also agreed with her that we should pursue the lay leaders concept and she will provide help with this even though she will no longer be with us—except in spirit.

Money, of course, factored into this discussion. We decided to keep the same amount budgeted for the current year, covering a one-quarter time person, to offer to a candidate. That will require us to be absolutely stubborn if the pledge drive fails to generate at least as much as this year. Trained lay leaders would provide

more services and reduce the cost for other speakers. The only other budget item we feel should absolutely be maintained at the current level is for R.E.

The canvass will begin in September. We do not want to hold the annual meeting until we have a budget predicated on a realistic amount of income. The meeting will be in November, before the holiday season begins. Danielle has challenged us to do a real canvass—with about 6 people taking on the work of making direct contact with every member and friend. This may mean home visitations, to listen to ideas or complaints, to explain why a pledge is important to keep this community alive and well. We need to convince some of our members that MUUF is more important to their mental well being than any other charity

they might support.

We are at a crossroads. The task force groups should have every one of you bringing your ideas to the table, working together to implement the long range plan and keep this Fellowship moving forward toward our 30th anniversary and beyond.

Sylvia and I are off to France on the Sunday of the picnic. Use that time to talk with each other, to find out how your ideas and talents can make the process work. We will be traveling with 26 other UU's, mostly from the Seattle area, and hopefully will learn something that will be useful to all of us. When I return on the 27th I expect to find a list of volunteers for the canvass and reports of task force group progress with every one participating.

David

Sharing Your Personal Spiritual Journey

We are looking for volunteers, probably on a monthly basis beginning in November, who are willing to share with the Fellowship their personal spiritual quest. What has been your search for truth and meaning and where have you found answers? What traditions have you been attracted to—earth-based, American Indian, Buddha, Jesus, etc., etc.

This would not mean putting together an entire service by yourself unless you wished to. If what you had to say only took 10 minutes, we can team you up with someone else to do an additional 10 minutes. Please contact Sandy Barth sbarth@roadrunner.com or someone else on the Program Committee if you would like to explore this further.

From the Long Range Plan:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Major Initiatives: | 1. Community Outreach | 6. Religious Exploration | |
| | 2. Future Visioning Process | | 7. Small Groups |
| | 3. Governance/Finance | | 8. Sunday Services |
| | 4. Membership | | 9. Spiritual Leader |
| | 5. Music | | 10. Future Growth |

From The President

The Religious Exploration program is a major key to the growth needed to sustain this Fellowship. We have an enthusiastic RE Director in place, an adult program is on-going and we are prepared for the children when they are present. Our task now is to attract the young families with children that need an opportunity to explore religious concepts and teachings so they can make a choice as adults.

From The Director of Religious Education

It is part of our job as a Fellowship to help nurture and grow the souls of the next generation—and it is much needed work. It is also work that will ultimately strengthen and grow our own Fellowship and community. We will need the involvement of the entire Fellowship to build a strong Religious Education program for the children and youth living in Midcoast Maine, as well as for our own future.

Community Supper

There will be a Community Supper hosted by the Fellowship at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle on **Wednesday, September 30. Serving time is 5 pm.** We need helpers and cooks. Please call Billie Flanagan (563-8656) if you are able to provide food, help cook, serve, or clean up.

Our Canvass

We need at least five members who believe in the future of our Fellowship to volunteer for the Pledge Canvass Committee. Only one brief meeting required, then it is telephone calls, personal contacts, lunch with a bunch, or home visits. This needs to be completed by mid-October. If you can commit, please tell Jean Howe.

Fund Raising News

Mabel O'Brien and I are disappointed to announce that the Harvest Supper, slated for September 12, has been cancelled. Although every household was contacted, there were not enough offers from cooks and workers to pull it off successfully.

I remember things were different, years ago, when my family went to the First Parish Unitarian Church in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Those were the days when church suppers were a source of fun and fellowship, as well as income; when some of us "girls" got together in the church kitchen and turned out ten or fifteen pies, enjoying the opportunity to talk about our aspirations as we peeled apples. My husband, who wasn't drawn to organized religion, was surprised to meet some others much like himself on the supper dishwashing crew... I won't continue reminiscing—times have changed—I know that.

Being too small a congregation to put on a church supper is not the issue here. I think it's time to ask ourselves seriously who are we any way? What do we want? Did the Long Range Plan get it right? I think it's crucial to our survival to sign up for one of the four task force groups and participate in the discussions. Without everybody's commitment to going forward as a community our small boat will eventually sink.

Fortunately for us, we will have a second chance to earn the money that was budgeted for this year. The Jim Scott concert, October 2, at the Eddy School, should offer a good program that will interest friends and neighbors in the surrounding area. No cooks or waiters are required, but we will need a large attendance to cover the cost of Jim's fee.

Please mark your calendars for 7pm, Saturday, October 3 and plan to invite a friend.

Mimi Moore

Please remember that the deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 20th of each month. Email your contribution to lindyg@tidewater.net.

Jim Scott UU Activist/ UU Artist

Over the past 25 years Jim Scott has visited more than 500 UU Churches across the US, Canada and UK, leading services, providing special music for services, presenting benefit concerts, and offering workshops. His new CD, "Gather the Spirit" features many of his songs included in the UU Hymnbook and the new "Singing the Journey" songbook. "Gather the Spirit" has become one of the most used hymns across the denomination and Jim's music is sung from church choirs to campfires.

Formerly the Co-Chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program. He was awarded a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to create "The Earth and Spirit Songbook", a collection of over 100 songs of earth and peace by many contemporary composers, providing worship and RE materials that celebrate these ideals. A past board member of

the UU Musicians' Network as well, Jim has long been at the forefront of the movement for new music in the denomination.

Years of activism are reflected in Jim's work. His songs, poetry and short stories address issues of ecology, justice and peace with insight and gentle wit. As a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim was co-creator of the monumental choral work *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*. His list of published choral works continues to grow and his musical creativity includes soundtracks for PBS, a stage musical, and many recordings of songs. Jim's musical-activist journeys have included concert collaborations with renowned Jazz, Classical and Folk artists as well as numerous concerts with choirs. He regularly performs his engaging songs for children in schools and intergenerational concerts.

Further info can be found on Jim's web site www.JimScottMusic.com



Jim Scott in Concert!

October 3, 2009, 7 to 9 pm
at the Edgecomb Eddy School
Midcoast UU Fellowship, Sponsor

RE News

Since September 6, the first Sunday in September, will be our Labor Day weekend picnic, Lindy Gifford and Michelle Larocque-Tipton will be teaching our regular **First Sunday** programming downstairs on **September 13**.

On **September 20** Mimi Moore and Kate Pennington will present a **Spirit Play** story basket. Parents and anyone else interested are invited to join us downstairs after the service for a meeting explaining our plans

for RE for the year and how you can become involved. Families can register their children at this time, and we will explain the Spirit Play curriculum.

Please make a note of the **Jim Scott** concert on Saturday, October 3 at 7pm, at the Edgecomb Eddy School. This will be a great concert for children and adults and a great way to introduce families to Midcoast UU, so please invite a family who might be interested. See the article on Jim Scott above for more information.

Coffee/Tea

9/6	Labor Day Weekend Picnic
9/13	Kate Pennington
9/20	Cole/Gifford
9/27	A & B Flanagan

Greeter

Elizabeth Guest
Mabel O'Brien
Judy Linkers

Lincoln County “No On 1” Effort:

This November Maine voters will be asked: “Do you want to reject the new law that lets same-sex couples marry and allows individuals and religious groups to refuse to perform these marriages?” I’ll be voting “No” to protect marriage equality. I’m also helping launch the “No on 1/Protect Maine Equality” effort in Lincoln County. We are phone banking in Waldoboro every Sunday from 4 to 8 PM from now until the election.

If you can help with phone calling, or in any other way, please let me know (563-8933, email <katepenn@roadrunner.com>). Please pass this information along if you know others who might be able to help. For more information go to www.protectmaineequality.org.

Fellowship Minister and Board of Directors

Minister: Rev. Danielle Di Bona

President: David Bailey

Vice-president: Anne Flanagan

Secretary: Phyllis Loney

Treasurer: Jean Howe

Trustees: Allen Millett
Mimi Moore
June Phillips

Nominating Committee:
Andrew Twaddle
Mabel O’Brien
Lindy Gifford

Minister of Music & Pianist:
Barbara Prose

Director, Religious Exploration:
Lindy Gifford

Newsletter: Lindy Gifford
Donna Dolham

Public Relations: David Bailey
Judy Linker

Committee Chairs

Sunday Programs: Sandra Barth

Music: Suzanne Carlson

Faith in Action: June Phillips

New Webmaster

Natasha Salvo has volunteered to be our new webmaster and quickly brought everything up to date. If you have anything of interest regarding Fellowship activities, please forward them to her at tasha112760@gmail.com. Photos of your meeting, special service, etc. are especially welcome. Check it out, it is reputed to be one of the best UU websites: www.uumidcoast.org

FALL TASK GROUPS

Every member has been asked to serve on one of the four groups that will meet regularly for three months in an effort to determine the future of this Fellowship. Please sign up for your choice, we need everyone involved in this effort.

Virginia Countryside & UU History Mystery Tour—October 9-11, 2009

Enjoy a beautiful fall weekend in the historic Virginia and West Virginia countryside and learn about a piece of little known UU History in the process. The day trip to beautiful Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia marks the 150th Anniversary of the John Brown raid.

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun (UUCL) will guide you through your tour:
o Friday to Sunday, October 9-11- you will stay at historic Carradoc Hall/Holiday Inn in Leesburg, Virginia (rates available for local UU’S to participate without hotel). Members of the church will be at the hotel to greet you on Friday afternoon.

o We will have dinner together Friday evening and enjoy a presentation that will reveal the truth about three UU’s who abandoned their pacifist roots to support the historic John Brown raid.

o Saturday will be our busiest day with visits to local historic towns and villages in Virginia, lunch and a stop at Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia where the John Brown raid occurred. We cap off the evening with dinner and a coffeehouse concert by local folk artists at our historic church.

o Sunday begins with a tour of George Carter’s Plantation (now called Oatlands), also the origin of freed slaves who came to Gleedsville Road to build the church we now call home. We’ll enjoy a casual lunch at a local historic barn featured in House Beautiful magazine, and we’ll conclude our weekend with a choice of activities coordinated by church members for smaller groups of participants (hiking, wine tour, etc.)

A special children’s program is offered on Saturday by our Religious Education Director (for ages 10-17).

Tour Costs:

- o EARLY BIRD RATE—\$425.00 per adult for the first 20 participants
- o FULL TOUR PRICE—\$475.00 per adult after first 20 participants register
- o Friday Night & Saturday only with one night hotel—\$300 per adult
- o Full Tour with no hotel—\$225.00
- o Friday Night & Saturday only no hotel—\$175.00 per adult
- o \$150 per child staying with a parent (ages 10-17)

Pricing is based on double occupancy rooms. For single occupancy add \$75 to cost.

For more information and to register for the tour, visit www.uuloudoun.org/tour. If you have questions, contact Brenda Davis at tour@uuloudoun.org