



Midcoast UU News

Minister: Rev. Nancy J. Kennedy Telephone: 751-4091 www.uumidcoast.org April 2010

Sunday, April 4 at 10:30 am

Easter Service

—Members of the Fellowship

This service will honor both pre-Christian and Christian aspects of Easter—a fun, yet thoughtful service, including an egg hunt and songs and readings that will lead us all through a celebration of the natural cycles of birth, death, and the rebirth of spring. Special music will be sung by John Adams.

Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 am

Finding the Right Lines

—Glen E. Rainsley

Glen is currently the Development Director at New Hope for Women. He served churches in Maine, Connecticut and Wisconsin for thirty years, and has written four books of prayers, parables and children's lessons. In addition, he has written for a financial newsletter and a political campaign. Glen's wife, Susan, is a history teacher, and their daughter, Abby, is employed at Jackson Labs in workplace safety. Glen has taught tennis professionally for over three decades.

.....
*And those who were seen dancing
were thought to be insane by those
who could not bear the music.*
.....
—Friedrich Nietzsche
.....

Sunday, April 18 at 10:30 am

In the beginning...

Revisiting the Creation Story

—Rev. Nancy Kennedy

The Creation Story found in the first chapter of Genesis—so foundational to Jewish/Christian theology—is one story of the beginning of all things. Nancy will situate that passage in its historical context, take a few moments to consider what it does and does not say, and suggest how the spirit of that ancient work might have contemporary relevance in the rich tapestry of environmental literature.

After the service: Earth Day Celebration and Open House!

Sunday, April 25 at 10:30 am

You Are What You Eat...

Literally and Spiritually

—Members of the Fellowship

“Making good choices about what and how we eat matters. Like many of the choices we face—what's good for us is what's good for the earth.”

Ethical Eating is the UUA's 2008–2012 congregational study/action issue. This year, for the 40/40/40 campaign, UUs across the continent are turning Earth Day's 40th anniversary into a 40 day call to action. How? Asking 40 (or 40%) of the Fellowship to take small or large lifestyle changes for a 40-day “test drive,” for the sake of the earth and all who live here.

“Ethical Eating, like ethical living, is not about absolutes. It's about doing the best you're willing and able to do—and nurturing a will to keep doing better.”

UPCOMING DATES:

April 10, Saturday—Haiku Tea Ceremony/Cherry Blossoms Festival, 2 pm, Edgcomb Town Hall, sponsored by Poetry Group. Contact: Mimi Moore.

April 11, Sunday—Membership Committee meeting, 12 noon. Planning Sunday April 18 Earth Day Celebration.

April 12, Monday—Sunday Program Committee meeting, 9:30 am at the Baileys, Newcastle.

April 12, Monday—Lunch Bunch & Faith in Action meeting, 12:15 pm at the Publick House, Newcastle. RSVP to Joanne Campbell for reservations at 832-7565 or joabc@roadrunner.com.

April 16 & 17, Friday & Saturday—Energy Fair at Damariscotta YMCA, MUUF will have a table for environmental information and Equal Exchange coffee, etc. Contact June if you can help “person” the table 633-2473.

April 18, Sunday—Board Meeting, 9 am at Skidompha Library.

April 18, Sunday—Earth Day Celebration & Open House for the community to meet us & Rev. Nancy Kennedy after the service at Skidompha Library. Soup luncheon and crafts. See Donna Dolham's article.

April 27, Tuesday—Religious Exploration Committee Meeting, 10:15 at Lindy Gifford's house.

40 Years of Earth Day
40 Days of Commitment
40 UUs Stand Up for the Earth
40/40/40
April 25 –
June 3, 2010
List of sample actions
and program details at
www.tr.im/404040
for the Earth!

Minister' Message

Today, as Spring takes its first steps among us, and birds start to return from their winter abodes, I am thinking about journeys. This time of year reminds me of the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt as Passover nears, and Jesus making his Palm Sunday approach. And as I remember these stories and the movement of Spring, it seems to me that there are times in life that are ripe for the journey. Sometimes, of course, there is little choice. The ancient Hebrews left Egypt without the luxury of being able to wait for the bread to rise. Mother Nature visited that fateful storm upon the midcoast area and we in the MUUF found ourselves in need of a new home—and fast!

But for most of us, to journey or not, or when to journey is a choice. We can go on our pilgrimages to where we feel our spirits restored. We can make travel plans to exotic locations for a much needed adventure. We can search out the places where early bulbs are sprouting or where the sunrise first greets the day and feel a sense of both grounding and inspiration.

Sometimes our journeys will be less about changing our physical location and more about a inner move-

ment—a spiritual journey from one way of knowing to another. May Sar-ton describes how the arrival of Spring calls forth this urge for new growth within us in her poem, "After a Winter's Silence."

*After a winter's silence
I feel the shock of Spring.
My breath warms like the sun,
Melts ice, bursts into song.
So when the inner one
Gives life back the power
To rise up and push through,
There's nothing to it.
We simply have to do it,
As snowdrops know,
When snowdrops flower.*

Whether you find yourself on a journey away from a job that confines you, or toward a life that reflects more who you are; whether you try a new class or make a new friend or find a sense of peace and healing from an old wound—whatever it is that coaxes you onto new paths of discovery, and whatever you learn along the way, or find at the journey's end I wish you peace, shalom, on your travels, and look forward to those times that we can share the stories of our own journeys with one another.

Blessings, Rev. Nancy

President's Message Greetings Everyone!

March has been a busy month for MUUF. Thank you to all of the members and friends who have devoted so much time and energy in support of major initiatives and changes. I am so grateful for your high energy and enthusiasm.

On March 7th we conducted our first Sunday Service at the Skidompha Library in Damariscotta. This followed a snow and wind storm that caused the chimney to collapse at the Edgecomb Town Hall. Ironically, this move had been in the discussion phase as recently as February at the Board Retreat. The need for a more visible and accessible location had once again been discussed. A decision was made at that time to find a temporary location by the beginning of June to meet our need to secure our membership base and set the stage for future growth. These goals had also been articulated in the Long Range Plan. On short notice, we were able to secure the space

at Skidompha without incurring any additional cost, a welcome relief.

The newly reactivated Membership Committee has been meeting. Donna Dolham has stepped in to take the lead in the absence of a Membership Committee Chair. Please contact Donna with your suggestions. Your participation in this Committee will help us capitalize on our new more visible site.

MUUF Circle Suppers, brought back by popular demand, were held on March 19 and March 20. As in the past, these occasions allow for an opportunity to build relationships and share ideas.

Another group has been meeting to prepare for the Blueberry Festival and Harvest Fair to be held at the Damariscotta River Association farm on August 14. You may recall that this is our one and only fund raiser this year. The rationale was that by doing so we would not dilute the energies of our volunteers. Lindy Gifford is contacting members and friends to

"Hospitality" Series, First Edition

The Adult RE class has been reading and discussing the 2005 report from the Commission on Appraisal, *Engaging Our Theological Diversity*. We thought this selection from the chapter on Community would be of interest to others in the Fellowship:

“Why should UUs take the time and make the effort to focus on hospitality? For one thing, all faith traditions share universal ideas about being welcoming. Hospitality is a religious practice, one that allows us to open our hearts to strangers, especially marginalized persons whom we could easily ignore. Our whole beings are stretched when we create and develop new ways of creating community.... Hospitality takes people beyond their personal boundaries. It demands reaching out past discomfort as though the empty seat next to yours in the pew belongs to the stranger. We underestimate the power of a greeting or other sharing during the service whether the other is known to us, or not. Hospitality is far more than ‘hello.’ It is far more than receiving news in the sharing of joys and concerns. It is the tap on the seat next to yours that effectively says ‘Welcome, dear stranger. This seat belongs to you....’ Sister Joan Chittister asserts that ‘hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step toward dismantling the barriers of the world....’ When we recognize and welcome ‘the other,’ not only in our midst but also within ourselves, true hospitality is at work.”

Directory Update

Rev. Danielle Di Bona
416 Adams Street, Rear
Milton, MA 02186
danielle7248@gmail.com

secure participation and make this event an unforgettable, well attended, and fun event. Please take an inventory of your talents and be in touch with Lindy Gifford or David Bailey.

Rest assured that your Board has been busy as well keeping up with a busy calendar. As always, I encourage you to give us feedback. We want to hear from you. This promises to be a banner year!

Anne Flanagan

Membership Update

The Membership Committee is excited to sponsor the **Earth Day Celebration and Open House** for the Community on **April 18!** We will be including a soup luncheon immediately following the service, children's activities, seed planting and a drawing for a Basket of Earth Day theme goodies. We've been coordinating with the Board, Lindy Gifford, the Director of Religious Education, Reverend Nancy Kennedy and David Bailey, Publicity Guy about this exciting kick off event. We will be inviting the community to come and get to know us and meet Nancy. We will also be taking another All Fellowship picture for our brochure this day, since the children in the old brochure that are under 3 feet in the picture are now in middle school!

We need your help! (please stop by the Welcome Table to sign up)

Are you able to make a finger desert?

Do you have anything with an Earth Day theme that you'd like to donate to the basket?

Do you have any seeds from last year that you've saved and would like to donate to the seed planting event (mark if you know what they are)?

Would be willing to hang posters?

Are you willing to come and help with any parts of the event Sunday, April 18th

And what about music???? Would you be willing to play, sing or know someone who would like to share some music during some part of the lunch time?

Our Membership Committee Meeting schedule is: Sunday, March, 28 at noon; Sunday April 11 at noon; May 2 at noon. All are Welcome to check us out!

News on the Welcome Table:

We've given away 8 welcome bags, sent 8 notes and had approximately 4 new visitors come to visit us since we've moved to Damariscotta! If you'd like to help "person" the Welcome Table some Sunday, or are just curious about it, please stop by.

Rev. Chuck Reinhardt has agreed to provide some classes for new people who are curious about Unitarian Universalism, more about that in the future. The committee is working on ways to offer more information about who we are and develop further areas of engagement!

Donna Dolham, Interim Chair
ddolham@tds.net

To my home fellowship,

When I started my studies at Bangor Theological Seminary I was not thinking about becoming a UU minister. It took a few years of study, my eagerness to do some hands-on learning not just classroom study, and your steadfast support, to lead me toward that door. Still, when I left Maine to drive West I had no idea whether I would like parish ministry or not. It has been a great pleasure to discover that I more than like it, I actually love it. Every part of it.

I love preaching and teaching, working with staff and with people in the surrounding community, encouraging new leaders, and always learning. I even like meetings, partly because I am beginning to understand that in a church community, people have the opportunity to practice being their best selves and that then they take their church-honed skills back to their workplaces and into their homes. I find it to be exciting and rewarding work and I have been heartened all year to feel that I am slowly becoming someone I respect.

This is all prelude to some bitter-sweet news. I will be home at Harborfields this summer but I will be at All Souls in Tulsa next year. They are creating a special position for me and it will be another ten-month gig. If you go on-line to www.allsoulschurch.org/ you can see what's going on in Tulsa, although you may already know because of a relatively recent article about the church in the UU World, which you can read by going to www.uuworld.org/life/articles/145503.shtml

[uuworld.org/life/articles/145503.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/145503.shtml)

This feels like a tremendous opportunity and although I have an occasional flash of terror, I am also thrilled.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon. I will be back in Maine around June 8 and back managing Harborfields for the summer. The four Proses are looking forward to all being under the same roof for a while!

With love and anticipation of summer services together,

Barbara Prose

Haiku Tea Ceremony

*Write five—seven—five
At the Haiku Tea Party,
April 10 at two.*

*Watch Sachiko Clough
Perform the Tea Ceremony
Lovely indeed!*

*Cherry Blossoms
Will decorate the Meeting House
Come celebrate Spring.*

**Edgewood Town Hall,
Saturday, April 10, 2-4 pm**

About Us

We are very saddened by the loss of Dick O'Brien, who died at Miles Hospital on March 12. Dick had served MUUF as Treasurer; and, as an attorney, he read and interpreted our insurance policy changes when asked. Our love goes out to Mabel and their family.

Welcome, Joan Thompson, to one of the exciting passages of life—the joy of becoming a grandparent.

RE News

On March 21, Billy Flanagan told us about the community supper which MUUF hosts every fifth Wednesday at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle. We made macaroni and cheese under the expert direction of Steve Cole, which we will bring and serve at the supper on March 31 at 5 pm.

On March 28, Karen Kleinkopf told us about Passover and we made charoset, a sweet paste made of fruits and nuts, that symbolizes the clay used to make bricks during the Jewish people's slavery in Egypt and... colored eggs for the Easter service.

Don't miss the multigenerational **Easter service on April 4!** We will hunt for the eggs we dyed the week before, but we will also hear in an age

appropriate way about the more serious themes of Easter.

Then we will be preparing for the Earth Day event on April 18 and the **multigenerational Earth Day service on April 25**. The 40/40/40 challenge which we will kick-off at that service has simple action ideas for kids, too.

Adult RE Groups

Look for sign-ups for several adult RE groups to start soon! Some classes that will be offered: Unitarian Universalism 101, Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Emerson and the Transcendentalists, *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, and an informal discussion group with Nancy, among others...

The Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship invites you to an

Earth Day Celebration and Open House



You are
here



April 18, 2010

Skidompha Library,

Damariscotta

Elm Street Entrance

Open House at 12 noon

(After the service)

Soup lunch, seed planting, children's crafts,
(maybe) Jim McQuaide's barbarshop quartet.

We need volunteers to make this a great event!

Please sign up at the hospitality table this Sunday.

Update from the Blueberry Festival Steering Committee

We have a name. We have a date. We have a location. We even have a logo! Now we need YOU!

Blueberry Festival & Harvest Fair

August 14 (there's PLENTY to do before the event, so "I will be away" is not an excuse)

10 am-3 pm

DRA Farm on Belvedere Road in Damariscotta

Focus: Environment/Sustainability/Local agriculture/aquiculture (picture a mini Common Ground Fair)

A portion of the proceeds will go to the DRA's Summer Camp program and the rest will be used for a MUUF project or initiative.

We will need EVERYONE's help, but the committee is planning the event in such a way that MUUF will not be doing this alone. We will be tapping many resources in the community to make this a really great event & we will keep the number of booths and activities actually manned by MUUF volunteers to a minimum.

BUT, we will need volunteers to help organize and make arrangements with other organizations NOW, volunteers to prepare during the weeks just prior to the event, and volunteers to set up and man our booths on

the day. So there is a place for everyone! If you will be away for the event itself, all the more reason to get involved now, so you can do your bit in the advanced

Please look at the areas below and let us know where you can help. (We need a dedicated team for each area.)

Publicity: Press, Posters, email. Other ideas? We need to get going on this, NOW.

Tables: To be rented for a modest fee to local non-profits, artists/crafts people and farms/food producers. We need to publicize this and find vendors NOW.

Activities: Especially for children: games, wagon rides, art, face painting, pie eating contest? (Find outside groups to provide most of these. We can host one or two, especially if you have a great idea for an activity you can help organize!)

Food: Find vendors to sell food & make arrangements..

Music: Find local musicians to provide music and schedule them.

Blueberries: This is us. We will be selling fresh berries and we will do a great ALL BLUEBERRY bake table. (Think about what wonderful blueberry dish is your specialty and you can provide in quantity! These can be baked ahead & frozen. Anyone do jams or syrup?)



Celebrate the Native Blueberry Harvest

SPRING CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Friday, April 30, 2010, and Saturday, May 1, 2010
North Conway, NH

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Mark Stringer: GETTING UNSTUCK:
Nurturing Relational Curiosity as a Means to Break Through**

Speak to Lindy Gifford or Donna Dolham for more information and register at www.nned.uua.org or stop by the Welcome Table for a hard copy of the registration form.

Earth Day Celebration and Open House April 18, after the service. (Coming right up!)

(See article inside.) We need volunteers to help make this a great event. Please stop by the welcome table and sign up this Sunday!

Then think about The Blueberry Festival & Harvest Fair on Aug. 14. We will need volunteers starting NOW!

Talk to David Bailey or Lindy Gifford

Fellowship Minister and Board of Directors

Minister: Rev. Nancy J. Kennedy

President: Anne Flanagan

Vice-president: Donna Dolham

Secretary: Phyllis Loney

Treasurer: David Bailey

Trustees: Mimi Moore
June Phillips
Jim McQuaide

Nominating Committee:

Steve Cole
B.J. Frederick
Sue van Alsenoy

Director of Music & Pianist:

Kevin Kiley

Director of Religious Exploration:

Lindy Gifford

Administrator: Jean Howe

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

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
4/4	Mimi Moore	Billie Flanagan
4/11	Elwins	Strong/Carlson
4/18	Thompsons	Fosketts
4/25	TBA -volunteer?	McQuaides

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Respecting Earth Day and Our Children and Grandchildren

From information from a Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn. past Newsletter, we need to recognize the potential health and environmental dangers of using chemical fertilizers and pesticides on our lawns now, as we imagine lawns of green grass. Studies have shown a clear link between lawn chemicals and cancer rates among dogs.

I'm concerned about the level of toxins already in the environment—all of which ultimately find their way into our bodies. No one is completely safe from this danger - not even unborn babies. Recently, the Environmental Working Group took blood samples from umbilical-cords of unborn children and found that the samples contained an average of 287 contaminants, including among other things, mercury, fire retardants, lawn chemicals and PFOA, a chemical released from Teflon pans.

Although the lawn companies would like you to think otherwise, it is possible to maintain a healthy and good-looking lawn without the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

Simple steps like mowing high—very important, leaving your clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer and annual lime (a natural rock powder) applications can help you achieve your field of dreams. If you're set on using a local lawn service, look for one that uses 100% organic methods. There are plenty of them now in nurseries and garden centers.

A great help is Paul Tukey's book, "The Organic Lawn Care Manual".

Wishing you happy, healthy children and grandchildren,
Jean Howe

Small and Vital

From *The Power of Story in Local Congregations* by L.A. Golemon (emphasis in bold has been added)

The playwright Paul Auster wrote, "Stories happen to people who are able to tell them." Otherwise, stuff and crises "happen" to them. People who learn to shape life experiences into narrative form find patterns of meaning and response open to them. People who can reframe life events—especially those of hardship and tragedy—into stories of resilience, discovery, and growth can shape a life narrative that funds personal agency, faithfulness, and civic responsibility.

Narrative leadership in American churches and synagogues has the potential to transform personal lives, congregational practice and mission, and even the wider social fabric. If a person's location in the world can be mapped in and through congregational life, then his or her sense of moral agency to make a difference in that world can be enhanced. If congregations can encourage **community-based individualism** among their members, their personal stories will be entwined with that primary community and they will learn a form of story linking that can extend to other areas of their life: from family to work to civic engagement. As ... congregations become intentional story-forming communities, they can shape the lives of millions of Americans as generative, faithful, and civic-minded adults.

From Touchstone: A Quarterly Communication for Small Unitarian Universalist Congregations of the Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.