



Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona Telephone: 350-0210

April 2009

Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am
Unionized, Civilized and Domesticated... What I'd really like is to be Married
—Donna Dolham

Our UU principles guide so many parts of our lives. This service will be an exploration of Marriage Equity as it ties in with our principles; What is marriage?; Why marry?; Who's it for anyway?



Easter Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 am
Resurrection and Transformation
—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

In this season of spring and rebirth we remember the story of Jesus' resurrection. How can the Christian story speak to Unitarian Universalists? Join me as we explore transformation in our own lives.



Sunday April 19 at 10:30 am
Earth Day Celebration

We will honor Earth Day in an intergenerational service that will include storytelling, the 10 Tree Challenge and music with Hawk Henries.



Sunday, April 26 at 10:30 am
Huston Smith and the Transcendent Unity of Religion
—Dana Sawyer

Dana Sawyer is professor of religion at the Maine College of Art and author of *Aldous Huxley, A Biography*. He is currently writing the authorized biography of Huston Smith, the famous scholar of world religions. This service originally scheduled for January 18, was cancelled due to snow.

“So the fate of religious liberalism rests with us. We may cling to the old paradigm, proclaim individual freedom of belief as an absolute value.... Then we may dwindle in numbers and influence until we end up a museum piece, like the Shakers, the Schwenkfelders, and the Swedenborgians. But on the other hand, we may learn how to relate to new social forces, to master a new paradigm. If so, we may not simply assure our own church survival as a segment of the Church Universal, but we may even contribute something to the humanizing of what threatens to be a far less comfortable world than the one you and I have known.”

—Conrad Wright

Professor emeritus of American church history at Harvard Divinity School, author of *The Beginnings of Unitarianism in America and The Liberal Christians*

UPCOMING DATES:

April 1 Wednesday—Faith in Action Committee meeting, 12 noon at North Cottage Coffee, Main Street, Damariscotta

April 4 Saturday—Haiku Tea Party and Cherry Blossom Festival, 2-4:30 pm at the Town Hall

April 5 Sunday—“First Sunday.” Programming for two age groups downstairs. Start upstairs for Time for All Ages.

April 6 Monday—Sunday Program Committee, 9:30 am at the Baileys’.

April 16 Thursday—RE Committee meeting, 3:30 pm at Lindy Gifford’s house, Damariscotta.

April 25 Saturday—Earth Day: *Changing the Dream Symposium*, 12-5 pm at the First Universalist Church, Rockland. Poster at Fellowship.

April 29 Wednesday—Community Supper, 5 pm at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle.

May 3 Sunday—Beltane (May Day). Including a May Pole Dance!

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
4/5	Pennington	O'Brien
4/12	Dolham	Kleinkopf/Goltz
4/19	Thompson	M&J Smith
4/26	Wolf/Neal	Frederick

Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

Is it really spring? Soon after I moved to Maine someone described Maine's four seasons to me. They are almost winter, winter, still winter and mud. There are times when I believe this description. But I cannot help but be filled with anticipation and hope when I get a slight reminder of spring. One day there is a little warmth in the breeze. Another day the sun feels warm and strong on my face. Just this week I saw tulip buds in my yard. The most obvious sign of spring for me is when I take Spenser to Merryspring to play and he returns to me covered in mud. There it is again....mud. For me spring is a season that reminds me that hope lives. Hope lives in our hearts and in our lives. If the tulip can push up through the earth after being buried for months in many feet of snow, surely hope can push up into our hearts and beings. I pray for you this spring, a season filled with a hopeful heart that encourages you each to move forward with confidence, believing that you can change a small part of this world.

Fondly,
Rev. Danielle

Community Supper

There will be a Community Supper hosted by the Fellowship at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle on **Wednesday, April 29. 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.



The MUUF Poetry Group cordially invites you to attend a Haiku Tea Party and Cherry Blossom Festival on April 4, from 2:00-4:30 pm. There is a \$5.00 admission charge.

Martin Steingesser has offered to do a writing workshop which in itself will be a treat. And Sachiko Clough, teacher of Japanese at the Penobscot Language School, will do the Japanese Tea Ceremony, an ancient art, very beautiful to watch. Also participating will be writer Liga Jahnke, of Friendship and Yaeko Collier, Sue van Alsenoy's sister in law. Time will be given for tea and conversation.

Please come. Bring a haiku poem to share. Bring a friend.

President's Message

Community outreach happens everywhere as we found in our travels to the other end of the globe, to developed countries and one that seems to be in no rush to catch up. Our tour group took up a collection for people burned out of their homes in Australia, we purchased books for the outback School of the Air and an elementary school in Fiji and bought some souvenir items at the Royal Flying Doctors headquarters because the profit helped support their mission. In addition we knew that a small portion of Grand Circle Travel's fees support a foundation that helps worthwhile causes in countries they visit.

On our first Sunday at home, at our monthly board meeting, we were presented with a suggestion for significant action to reach out to our community. For many years we have had a Social Concerns budget and have given a few hundred dollars to some worthy groups. But, we have never really made a difference in the life of these organizations and have not received the public exposure we need if we are to influence the area community.

The board voted in January to not include the surplus from the previous year in the current budget. I pointed out that non-profit groups should never use a budget surplus to fund a new year because it is not continuing revenue. If a religious organization has a surplus every year then the budget needs to be revised and the additional funds put to good use.

Initially the board voted to add this money (\$2500) to our savings. But after the report of the ad hoc Finance Committee there was a proposal from one of its members. Mark Smith suggested we "give away" the

surplus, buy oil or food for the needy, put our Faith into Action.

The Board agreed, but needs to hear from you with some specific suggestions. We think it should be just one or two large donations, significant enough to get us some general public recognition.

We also discussed the possibility of bringing back the monthly collections for charity, each for a different group. The Faith in Action committee will be meeting on April 1 to discuss these proposals. Speak to June Phillips about your thoughts or to any board member. It is time we begin the steps outline in the Long Range Plan, time we put our principles into action - "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

David

Sound System Up-Date

In the last couple of weeks, we have been experiencing some troubling glitches with our present sound system. One time we developed a short in the switching mechanism and I had to give it a severe kick to restart it. And just recently we had to turn the sound down, to almost off, to clear some annoying humming. I believe this is the beginning of the end folks. I mean, for this sound system. We can't wait much longer.

I have been working with our new potential member, Mat Newberg, and the Sweetwater Music and Audio Corp. and have arrived at a fairly decent portable sound system design and estimate. This is not a deluxe design, but a good basic system, that includes a CD burner/recorder. We can grow with this.

I now have the final spec sheets and photos of the component items. And am anxious to share same with any who is interested. I have done a lot of research on this, and seriously feel this system will do wonders for our Fellowship.

This will cost us \$1,700, but it's something we have to do asap. Currently we have \$571 in the Sound System Fund.

Your "sound man," Jim

Changes for your Directory

Iska Cole's correct e-mail address is: iskacole75@yahoo.com

Tree Fund

In honor of Earth Day we are going to do a 10 Tree Challenge (more about that in the Earth Day service). We have been joyfully given permission to plant a tree at the Harold B Clifford Playground in Boothbay Center. It is a wonderful place where parents and grandparents take their children to play. Families congregate and have picnics in the gazebo. It is a perfect place for this community to give to the community of Boothbay in a way that that will beautify and shade a favorite place for the children of the peninsula. Alden Jordan has volunteered to get us a tree wholesale at O'Donal's nursery, their trees are of good quality and guaranteed. He will transport it to Boothbay for us and has also kindly agreed to plant it for us. If you are unaware Alden was the one who rallied the community to plant trees along Rte 27 at the Meadow Mall. He has done a great deal to beautify the Boothbay Region. After discussing kinds of trees we selected an Accolate Japanese Cherry. It is hardy to this area, vigorous and fast growing. It will have a full canopy in 5 years, not only shading the area in which it's planted but providing elegant beauty when it flowers in the spring. The tree we will purchase is 2" diameter and will cost \$260. We have collected \$80.00 toward the purchase already. If every member gave only \$5.00 toward the purchase of the tree we would make the goal easily. This is not only our gift to the

community but a gift to the earth. We will also place a plaque of some kind at the tree so the community is aware of the gift. We would also like to have a tree planting ceremony and/or dedication, when weather permits, and publicize it in the local paper. All this depends on how fast we can acquire the funds to purchase the tree.

The new Website of the Northern New England District of the UUA is up and running at:
<http://nned.uua.org/>

General Assembly is June 24-28 in Salt Lake City this year. This is a presidential election year and MUUF has two delegate votes which can be made in person or by mail. The candidates are the Reverend Laurel Hallman and the Reverend Peter Morales. If you are interested in learning more about these candidates please go to their websites:
www.hallmanforuuapresident.com
www.moralesforuuapresident.org

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

RE News

Our First "First Sunday," March 1, with Danielle Di Bona, Steve Cole, and Lindy Gifford was fun and well attended by twelve children: six middle school youth and six younger children. Also in March, we started Spirit Play Sundays with Mimi Moore and Kate Pennington and made rain forest animal masks with Phyllis Loney and Lindy Gifford. You will see the masks in action in the performance of the Great Kapok Tree during the intergenerational Earth Day service on April 19! Bonnie Ginger, Elizabeth Guest, and Sue van Alsenoy are working with the children on the play. It's going to be great. Don't miss it!

Thank you to all the enthusiastic, willing adults who have offered their knowledge and love as volunteers downstairs in the RE program! Last month, it was Jean Howe who helped us for two weeks as we prepared and served our very successful "Sound System Lunch." Thank you all! (Due to popular demand, we will be offering another such lunch in May. Look for the announcement.)

Coming Up in RE

April 5: First Sunday! We start our two age appropriate UU Beliefs curricula.

April 12: Easter! Egg coloring.

April 19: Earth Day! and the Great Kapok Tree performance. (Upstairs)

April 26: Making May baskets and preparing for Beltane, with Bonnie.

May 3: Beltane/May Day celebration upstairs with everyone together again.

From the Long Range Plan:

Major Initiatives:

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

1. Community outreach is accomplished through events that are open to the public and by the publicity for these events, as well as publicity for important Fellowship happenings such as the 25th Anniversary celebration, the hiring of an RE Coordinator or an interim minister.

From the Interim Minister

MUUF has identified community outreach as one of the major initiatives in the long-range plan. When a congregation or fellowship desire to reach out to others in their area it is a sign of visionary thinking. Community outreach is a way for MUUF to "share the good news" of Unitarian Universalism with those who are searching for a religious home but don't know who we are or where we are. I believe ours is a life-saving faith and should be shared with others. Community outreach gives us the opportunity to do that.

From The President

Community outreach is a major initiative of our long range plan because by publicly helping others we will be helping ourselves! How? Through the resultant publicity. Good news, spread by the media and by people talking to people, will make our Fellowship better known in the communities we serve. We need a strong presence if we are to grow and meet our goals.

Bunchberry Farm & Kitchen *CSA Programs*

*The Maine Dish * The Cook's Night Off * Veggies Only*

Sign-up by April 15

Deliveries available after Fellowship on Sundays at Edgecomb Town Hall
Willing to customize plans to meet specific timing or other needs

For more information or to receive our brochure, please call Heather
Burt @ 882-8135 or email info@bunchberryfarm.com
You can also visit our website at www.bunchberryfarm.com

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
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Nominating Committee:
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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

"Articulating Your UU Faith":

Join Rev. Danielle for this adult RE program

This curriculum is designed to help UUs explore and better understand our liberal religious faith and to speak effectively about it. Minimum 10 people. Five sessions, beginning April 14 at 7 pm every other Tuesday at the Friends Meeting House in Damariscotta. Sign up on Sunday mornings at the information table.

Conversations with Chuck. Coming in May

Join others from the Fellowship for an evening of conversation about our congregation and its future. More information to follow in the May newsletter.



Our Earth Day Event: **Awakening the Dreamer...** **Changing the Dream** **Symposium**

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Registration 12:00/Symposium 12:30~5:00

*Children's Earth Day Program: all ages welcome

First Universalist Church in Rockland
345 Broadway, Rockland, Maine 207-594-8750

Matthew Fox, Episcopal priest, radical theologian and author, will present an evening lecture and a day-long workshop in Portland, Maine, May 1 and 2.

Sponsored by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine, Fox will speak on "Marriage of the Divine Feminine and Sacred Masculine" at 7 pm Friday (\$20) and "Creativity: Where the Divine and Human Meet" from 9 am to 4:30 pm (assisted by Priscilla Dreyman from Spiral Arts) Saturday (\$80) Both events will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Forest Avenue and Coyle Street. To register contact ChiMe at chimeadmin@gmail.com or 347-6740.

Fox is the author of 28 books, including *Original Blessing*, *Re-invention of Work* and *One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springing from Many Faiths*. Thomas Berry, author of *The Universe Story*, says, "Matthew Fox might well be the most creative, comprehensive and challenging religious-spiritual teacher in America."

Additional information is available at the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine web site: www.chimeofmaine.org