



# Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

February 2009

## Sunday, February 1 at 10:30 am

### *Celebrating Imbolc*

—Bonnie Ginger et al.

Imbolc is a cross point holiday on the astrological Celtic Wheel of the Year between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. It is the time of the year, where, being at the threshold between winter and spring, we honor the coming of the perceivable light, the arrival of the Goddess Brigid, and the changing of the season. As the animals begin their awakening from hibernation and our groundhog heralds either the continuation of winter or the awakening of spring, we too look forward to creative new beginnings, the finishing of the old to welcome the new. This intergenerational worship experience will be led by members of the **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven** group.



## Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 am

### *Happy 200th, Charlie and Abe*

—Judith Hancock

Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln were both born on February 12, 1809. While they were very different men and made their considerable contributions in very different realms, they shared unconventional religious views of the sort that appeal to us. They were religious thinkers, questioners, doubters, and both had Unitarian connections. They are part of our heritage, and so it seems proper that we honor them on their joint 200th birthday.

*Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find the right road.*

—Dag Hammarskjold

## Sunday, February 15 at 10:30 am

—Rev. Danielle DiBona

After the service, please come downstairs for a soup lunch, hosted by the young people. (They will gratefully accept a \$5 donation for the Sound System Fund.) After lunch, please join Danielle and the RE committee for an introduction to upcoming Religious Education programming.



## Sunday, February 22 at 10:30 am

### *Life Span Faith Development*

—Rev. Danielle DiBona et al.

Join Danielle and Fellowship members as we once again break into small groups to explore our faith together. For all ages. This Sunday we will be **"Meeting Our Spiritual Guides."** Originally scheduled for Jan. 11 and cancelled for bad weather



## Sunday, March 1 at 10:30 am

—Max Alexander returns

**Remember our website:  
[www.uumidcoast.org](http://www.uumidcoast.org)  
for more information!**

### UPCOMING DATES:

**February 1 Sunday**—RE area cleanup, after the service

**February 9 Monday**—Sunday Program Committee meeting, 9:30 am at the Baileys

**February 9 Monday**—Lunch Bunch, 12 noon at the Public House, Newcastle. RSVP to Joanne Campbell.

**February 15 Sunday**—**Sound System Fundraiser Lunch**, hosted by the young people, downstairs after the service. **Special RE meeting** for parents, children, and anyone interested, after the lunch.

**February 19 Thursday**—RE Committee meeting, 3:30 pm at Lindy Gifford's house, Damariscotta.

**2/1**  
**2/8**  
**2/15**  
**2/22**

### Coffee/Tea

Barth  
A&B Flanagan  
Elwin  
M&J Smith

### Greeter

Kortemeier  
Doug Fowle  
O'Brien  
Miller

## Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

I stood in the waiting room of Pen Bay Medical Center with a large group of people. It was 11:45 am on January 20th and we were all watching the television. History was in the making. As we watched, waiting for 12 noon, more and more people stopped what they were doing and joined our small group. We turned up the sound and sat and stood quietly. The beautiful music being made by YoYo Ma, and others made our setting feel like a cathedral or a Buddhist temple, meditative and holy. A time to prepare for what was coming.

The crowd grew. One by one, people were drawn to the television set. Quietly, people joined us. Physicians, contractors, housekeeping staff, patients—all quietly waiting, waiting. It felt to me like a religious experience.

Finally, it began. The swearing in of the President of the United States. Of our president. As he stood with his hand on the Lincoln bible, his family surrounding him, he began to repeat the pledge. And I wept. The tears flowed down my cheeks as I watched what I thought I would never see in my lifetime. A President for all times. My president.

Whatever your political leanings, I hope that you were moved by this historical moment. I am lifted up by this event and hope that you found it to be a blessing to you.

I would like to commend to all of you the reports by Rev. Meg Riley, Director of the UUA's Washington Office. You can find them on UUA.org. Go to members, news and there it is. I also recommend The Reverend Bill Sinkford's reports on his time in Washington before and during the inauguration. Enjoy!

See you in church!

Fondly,  
Rev Danielle



## President's Message

I am writing this at a time when we should all be at the Meeting House, but instead were snowed out for the second Sunday in a row. This has not been an auspicious beginning for your new Board! Hopefully by the time you read this we will have been in Fellowship again on successive Sundays.

As we move into our new year I am pleased that some of you have chosen to increase your monetary support to our efforts to support our endeavors. Some of you, like me, may have been forced to take a large withdrawal from your IRA to avoid a huge tax penalty. The amount was based on the 2007 year-end value despite the fact that for most of us it was down as much as 50 percent by the December deadline. (Congress has given us a reprieve for this year.) This was much more than was planned for our budget, so I will make a donation to help us restore our Social Concerns budget. Please consider adding to your pledge with some of your excess if you were in the same situation.

The Social Concerns line was zeroed in order to balance the overall operating budget. We need to restore this because we are not defined by merely looking inward. To be a recognizable force for good in our communities we need to reach out to those

in need, to participate in and support the good causes that help shape the quality of life in our Midcoast communities.

During hard times many non-profits retrench to the point that they are no longer fulfilling their mission. A fellow member pointed out to me that this is when religious groups need to step up, perhaps even endure some deficit financing, in order to live our mission statement: "...to stand as a beacon on a liberal religious path..."

How about a mile of pennies? This was suggested at one time by our new minister. Someone could provide a donation container, we could all bring our extra pennies each Sunday, the young people could connect them with tape. When we reach a mile—or some other shorter length—we could meet with the young people, present options for the best use of the funds in our communities, and come to an agreement.

Please note that we will be traveling in the far reaches of the Southern hemisphere from Feb. 8 to Mar. 11. I leave the Board in the capable hands of vice-president Anne Flanagan and sincerely hope those Sundays we miss will be rewarding for you—and not affected by the weather. And I hope to find a long, long row of pennies!

—David

### SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S REPORT JANUARY 14, 2009

BUDGET (Approved Dec. 28, 2008)

PLEDGES 45 in number (Individuals: 70) \$ 35,600.00

Thanks to four people upping their pledges 498.50

PLEDGES NOW \$ 36,098.50

Making Total 2009 Budget Income \$ 41,198.50

Expenses - 41,759.12

Deficit now only \$ -560.62

How about some more of us upping our pledge 10%? We can have a balanced budget and no withdrawal from Savings Account.

—Jean Howe

### Winter Youth Con: SpiritUuality and the Arts

**When:** Feb 27–March 1, 2009

**Where:** Bangor, ME

Who's planning and coordinating? The Bangor youth group and Wendy Erickson, interim DRE

**Kate Pennington and Chiara Azzaretti are attending. Call Kate right away if you are interested. The deadline is soon!**

## RE News

Lots going on with the children, upstairs and downstairs! Please join the RE committee and Danielle, after service on February 15, for a **Special Meeting** for an introduction to some of the programming planned for the coming months. Between service and the meeting, the children will be serving a soup lunch that they made that morning, so please join us for that, too. (\$5/person donation to the Sound System Fund is requested.)

**January 11**, Life Span Faith Development with small groups for all ages was cancelled due to bad weather. It has been rescheduled for February 22.

**January 25**, Bonnie Ginger gave the kids some background information on Imbolc and The Wheel of the Year, in preparation for the service Feb. 1.

### Upcoming in RE

**February 1**, Bonnie Ginger will lead us in a special **Imbolc** celebration for all ages upstairs. After the service, we will go downstairs to clean and organize our RE space. (Something that has been needed for some time!) Please join us if you can!

**February 8**, Jean Howe and Lindy Gifford will talk to the children about **intergenerational communities** (like ours!) and our responsibility for everyone's welfare. We will also be planning our Sound System fundraiser soup lunch for Feb. 15.

**February 15**, Jean Howe and Lindy Gifford will help the children **prepare and serve a delicious soup lunch for the Fellowship** to enjoy after the service. We are asking for a \$5/person donation to go to the Sound System Fund. After the lunch we will have a meeting about planned RE programming, Parents, children, and anyone who is interested are invited!

**February 22** will be **Life Span Faith Development** with small groups for all ages upstairs, with Rev. Danielle DiBona and others. Originally scheduled for Jan. 11, we will be "Meeting Our Spiritual Guides."

**March 1 "First Sunday" programming starts!** Rev. Danielle DiBona will be downstairs to help us get started on our monthly UU faith development. Children will work in two separate age groups.

Danielle has offered to organize carpooling to the first of these. Call her cell if you are interested.

## WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay

There is so much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys, e.g. wine education and tasting, art, history of the regions, gourmet dining, bicycling and hiking to explore the natural beauty of our hills and valleys and only an hour to San Francisco!

Sites of particular interest include Jack London's home; renowned and boutique wineries; numerous fine restaurants including the Culinary Institute of America; the diRosa Art and Nature Preserve; many museums and galleries; miles of bicycling and hiking trails, etc.

We offer two choices: Comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights), or lodging plus our renowned Wine Country Excursion 2-day tour package.

In 2009 our program will run from April through October. Our fees for lodging are at least 25% below market rate (and include a scrumptious breakfast!) and tours are about 50% below commercial rates. All proceeds go to our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

### TWO WORKSHOPS

For **LAY LEADERS** and **MINISTERS**  
in  
**SMALL CONGREGATIONS** of the  
**Northern New England District**

Facilitated by District Small Church Specialist, Rev.  
Karen Brammer

**Preparing to grow from about  
75 members to 150**

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2009  
Hartland 4 Corners, VT 10am - 3pm  
(Simple lunch provided)  
(Snow date Feb 28, 2-6pm)

**Strategies for Lay Leadership Development**

Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Rutland, VT 10am-3pm  
(Simple lunch provided)  
(Snow date March 14, same hours)

**\$8 PER PERSON** to cover lunch and offset for CO2



- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit  
[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
 or write to  
[info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)



[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
 43 Vermont Court  
 Asheville, NC 28806  
 828-281-3253

**Fellowship Minister and Board of Directors**

**Minister:** Rev. Danielle Di Bona

**President:** David Bailey

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**Director, Religious Exploration:**

Lindy Gifford

**Newsletter:** Lindy Gifford

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**Public Relations:** David Bailey

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**Committee Chairs**

**Sunday Programs:** Sandra Barth

**Music:** Suzanne Carlson



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