



Midcoast UU News

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

July 2009

Sunday, July 5 at 10:30 am

We The People

—Barbara Prose

Barbara Prose, recent graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary is heading off to California for a year internship. She is the recipient of UUA scholarship to go to Tsubaki Grand Shrine in Suzuka Japan this year.

I believe that Unitarian Universalism is growing up. Growing out of a cranky and contentious adolescence into a more confident maturity. A maturity in which we can not only claim our Good News, the values we have found in our free faith, but also begin to offer that Good News to the world outside these beautiful sanctuary walls. There is a new willingness on our part to come in from the margins.

—the Reverend Bill Sinkford, outgoing UUA President



Sunday, July 12 at 10:30 am

Blessing of the Animals

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

Today we will have an animal blessing. All animals are welcome as long as they are friendly and either crated or on a leash. If you prefer you may bring pictures of your animals. Animal blessings are often offered in the Roman Catholic faith as well as many other faith traditions including Hinduism and Buddhism. It is a way for us to remember that we inhabit this planet with other creatures and that our behavior often impacts their well-being. We will have a brief ceremony outside, followed by coffee inside.

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
7/5	Patty Seybold/Tom Hagan	Kate Pennington
7/12	Ros Strong/Sue Carlson	Phyllis/Jim McQuaid
7/19	Ann/Roger Foskett	David/Sylvia Bailey
7/26	TBA	Elizabeth Guest
8/2	Mabel O'Brien	TBA

Sunday, July 19 at 10:30 am

Lifespan Faith Development

—The RE Committee

In our last LFD Small Group Sunday we asked the question "What if you took it away would leave us with something that is no longer Unitarian Universalism?" Great discussion in small groups resulted. We will again break into small groups for enriching spiritual discussions, please join us. (The format may change a bit, as these services continue to evolve.)

Sunday, July 26 at 10:30 am

Bumper Sticker Theology

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

How often have you noticed a car because of the bumper sticker on it? Have you been anxious to engage the driver in a conversation because of the bumper sticker? Or maybe, given the content of the bumper sticker, you've simply been anxious, not the least bit interested in talking with the car driver. Have some bumper stickers caused you to wonder or think about a topic? Have some caused you to laugh or get angry? What do bumper stickers say about what we believe and hold dear? Bring your favorite with you.

UPCOMING DATES:

July 6 Monday—Faith in Action Committee, 12 Noon, Publick House, Newcastle

July 9 Thursday—Poetry Group, 2 pm, (note change of time) at Sue van Alsenoy's house

July 19 Thursday—Board Meeting, 12 noon, after Fellowship

July 13 Monday—Sunday Program Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Bailey's

July 15 Wednesday—Lunch Bunch, 12 Noon, Publick House, Newcastle. Bring a poem or short reading to share.

July 29 Wednesday—Community Supper, 5 pm, Second Congregational Church in Newcastle

There will be an extended Board Meeting with Danielle on Sunday, July 19 after Fellowship, to discuss our next step after she leaves us in September. Please bring a bag lunch if you would like to attend.

Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

I spent the past week in Salt Lake City for our Association's General Assembly. Every morning as I walked to the convention center, I could see the snow covering the mountains to the east. It was a wonderful view to start my day. The air is clean, sweet and thin. I found that walking and talking at the same time made me sound like a bulldog, wheezing and panting. I will never be climbing mountains, except metaphorically.

As you know by now, the Assembly voted to call the Reverend Peter Morales as our next President. This is the beginning of a new era for the UUA and our congregations and I'm excited about Peter's ideas, vision, and love for our faith.

Throughout this General Assembly there has been a deep affection for the Reverend Bill Sinkford, our outgoing President. It was hard for the assembly to let him go, and as we filed from the hall, there were pictures on the jumbotrons of Bill's presidency. I found myself weeping many times throughout the assembly as I lived

through the waning days of Bill's presidency.

I hope that some of you have had the opportunity to get on-line and watch some of the events at General Assembly. I recommend the Sunday morning worship service, The Ware Lecture, and the John Murray Lecture.

General Assembly is an invigorating and exhausting experience for me. There are events, lectures, worship opportunities, friends to catch up with, displays to peruse. I always look forward to attending, and by the second day am ready to come home, then re-invigorated, and by the end, somewhat sad and very satisfied.

As I prepared to leave Salt Lake City this morning, I felt satisfied that I had done the best work I could do while there and I had been filled up by encounters with good friends and colleagues. Although somewhat tired I am content and anxious to return to Maine and to all of you.

See you in church!

Fondly,

Rev. Danielle

President's Message

We all have a moral compass. We were reminded of that on Flower Communion Sunday by our fellow member, Rev. Charles Reinhardt. The service was led by Chuck, and he told us of some interesting people that shaped his. Not something most of us ponder very often, but we should.

There is a website called moral-compass.com where you can actually assess yours. It suggests that the four main points are well known universal principles honored in some form by people of all races and religions regardless of gender. North is Integrity, south Forgiveness, east Compassion and west Responsibility. I think we would all agree that these are very much a part of our personal moral compass, but that we have others, perhaps given to us unknowingly by someone who was a part of our life. We also, as Chuck noted, gather ideas that influence our actions from authors and poets and speakers and ministers.

Ministers. My first was John Brigham, a quiet man who made me feel welcome when we joined a UU congregation in order to ensure that our children would have an opportunity for a religious education. The minister who certainly influenced, or added to, my moral compass was Mark Morrison Reed. He was able to transport me on Sunday mornings from the hectic life of a fast-paced work environment and a family with four active children to a more thoughtful place, one of introspection and inspiration.

Ministers. Ours will only be with us for four more services—then what? Will we have someone who might add to, or strengthen, our moral compasses? So far only two of you have given me your thoughts on the next step. In the meantime I am urging the program committee to fill the pulpit with visiting ministers on at least two Sundays a month. I know of one who might be willing to consider it on a regular basis, to be a consulting minister. At the July board meeting we will have a long conversation with Rev. Danielle as she leads us in our thinking toward a decision that we can present to the congregation. Bring a lunch and join us at noon on the 16th.

David

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 Interim Minister

What does it mean to be a member of an organization?

In one of our UU Churches in Minneapolis the expectations of membership include participation in a spiritual growth group, a financial contribution, and a commitment to participate in some way in the life of the church. In some organizations, Like the Humane Society, membership means simply to send a check in support of the work of that organization. For many UU churches, membership and growth become a central effort of the whole congregation for many reasons, including the most popular, "more members equals more money." I believe that MUUF has much to offer the communities that surround it and what I call our saving faith is something that appeals to so many people. Our job is to spread the good news so that those people know who we are, where we are, and how we are. In this way, membership becomes a spiritual event. Those of us who are members will grow spiritually as we introduce this faith to others and those who find us will be spiritually enriched.

From The President

Membership needs to be strengthened by numerous initiatives, all of which require an active committee. We need to work at growth rather than just hope it will happen on its own. Prospective members come—and go—because we are not providing the information and programs that will encourage newcomers and benefit all of us.

10 Tree Challenge

U Central issues a challenge to all congregations and fellowships to plant at least 10 trees. We here in Midcoast Maine rose up to and exceeded that expectation. Below is the result of our effort.

Bonnie Ginger and two town employees from the Boothbay Public Works Department planted the Accolade Japanese Cherry tree at the Harold B Clifford playground in Boothbay Center. It is quite a nice size and a lovely shape and should give shade by next year. It's placement, right behind a bench, will give nice shade for those sitting and watching the children play. A dedication is planned for the picnic at the park on Labor Day Sunday.

Stella Fizazi, our lady in Morocco, has reported that the money we contributed to the tree planting efforts in that country should pay for at least 41 trees! It was the club that Stella has been a member of for many, many years, the American Inter-tenation Club of Casablanca, that sponsors this ongoing effort.

The planting itself will take place in October, and Stella has been asked to keep us informed on the progress of our saplings. The initial work will be done by Peace Corp volunteers who will then train the local population on how to care for the orchards. The apple and almond trees they plant will help prevent soil erosion as well as provide food, work, and a cash crop for people in the western part of the country. Stella has sent a note thanking us for our efforts.

In addition to this, many members pledged to plant trees on their own. Well done all!

There are still **CDs available** with the photos, by Les Frederick, of the May Day/Beltane service. See Dave Bailey and make a donation to the new sound system.

Community Supper

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

RE News

Things have been pretty quiet in RE as families are busy with other summer obligations, but programming continues: First Sundays, Spirit Play and more! Don't forget the RE committee's Life Span Faith Development Sundays, when we break into small mixed age groups to discuss our faith. Children learn much in these discussions and also have much to offer. Our next Life Span Faith Development Sunday will be on July 19.

Adult RE

A small group has recently completed a five-week course entitled Articulating Your UU Faith. The experience of grappling with complex and profound questions of identity, philosophy, belonging and theology was so

satisfying that the group would like to continue meeting through the summer and to open the group to others. We had our first meeting of the expanded group June 30 and three new members joined, but it's not too late to join! We are reading the most recent Commission on Appraisal Report entitled Engaging Our Theological Diversity in chapters before each meeting. The link to the report is <http://www.uua.org/documents/coa/engagingourtheodiversity.pdf>. Read the first two sections if you can join us next time. We will be meeting at the Friends Meeting House in Damariscotta every other Tuesday or Thursday. (Final dates will be announced & emailed.) Contact Lindy or Barbara for more information.

Faith in Action

Present at the June 15th meeting were 5 members plus Andy Burt from the Friends' Meeting. Andy is organizing a mid coast outreach group to meet at the Friends' Meeting-house to discuss and act on regional social concerns. Our FIA Comm. intends to be involved.

Tom Hagan discussed more detailed information re single payer health care and will write article for the local newspapers, announcing this committee's support of HR 676. We're approaching the Board for additional support and hopefully from the entire Fellowship. Andrew Twaddle will also be working on the single payer health care issue and is checking on newspaper ad costs.

Jean will send additional info re the Committee's current projects to be added to our Fellowship details on the news-papers church page, as do other churches.

Future FIA Comm. meetings: 1st Monday of each month—July 6th and August 3rd—12 Noon at Publick House, Newcastle.

Come join us. Tom Hagan (633-4368) is the Summer Chair-person while June Phillips is in Nova Scotia, Canada.

June and Jean

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

Local Food Pantries

The needs are great both for non-perishable foods and for dollars to purchase foods on the pantries' basic nutrition lists.

Jean wants to be over-burdened with your food donations for the two Boothbay and Newcastle regions pantries. If you aren't sure what to donate, just buy something you buy for yourself. How about cookies? Or canned fruit? Bring it on any or every Sunday and deposit it in the large Purple Bin by the back table. Or, you may also deposit your check there - made out to MUUF and in the Memo Line, write "Food Pantries" or "Good Shepherd Food Bank". This enormous charitable facility is in Auburn, Maine, and serves the entire state—food pantries, large free meals kitchens, et al. If you donate money to them, Exec. Dir. Rev. Rick Small says your \$1.00=\$12.50 to them. They can purchase so much more from their sources than you can at your grocery store.

The Dirty Dozen

Organic produce can be slightly more expensive than conventionally grown produce. However, consider that the following fruits and veggies, when conventionally grown, have the highest concentrations of pesticides: fruits: apples, cherries, imported grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, and strawberries; and veggies: bell peppers, celery, lettuce, potatoes, and spinach.

Fund Raising News

The May 30th Yard Sale, Recycle Sale, added almost \$500. to the Church bank account - only half of what we've made in other years - however, it was a huge success in terms of donations made and hours of work given. I don't like yard sales, but it was actually a lot of fun: Allen Millet, single-handedly brought the tables up from downstairs... Joanne Campbell donated blueberry muffins for the workers, which helped us get through the arranging and pricing on the Friday before the sale... Judith Hancock designed the publicity poster... David Bailey placed the ads... Elizabeth Davis gave me two pages of "how to do it" - instructions... Jean Howe and Dick Miller acted as cashiers and Mabel O'Brien, Ann Foskett, Sue van Alsenoy, Sandy Barth, Elizabeth Guest, Roz Strong,

Phyllis Loney, Michelle Tipton and my daughter, Sara, were the engine that made the wheels go 'round.

Thanks to everyone involved and those I am forgetting to mention.

The next big event will be the Harvest Supper on September 12. Like last year we plan to feature locally grown vegetables and homemade pies, decorate with pumpkins and our pretty tablecloths. We hope to have music and a full house. Please think about how you want to participate.

Music with Jim Scott has been re-scheduled for October at his request. Plans are in the works to take advantage of his experience with young people and his life long commitment to preserving the environment. Stay tuned for ways you can help make this a successful community fund raiser.

Mimi Moore

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

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.



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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