



Midcoast UU News

Minister Consultant: Reverend Katharine Winthrop Telephone: 773-7738

June 2008

Sunday, June 1 at 10:30 am
"Fragile and Rooted"
Our Annual Flower Ceremony
—Kitsy & helpers

This is the Sunday when everyone is invited to bring a flower (or two) to our service. Together we shall create a bouquet of great beauty. We'll remember the man who created this simple, meaningful ceremony—and why. And following the service each of us will take home a flower different from the one we brought.

During our time of refreshment following the service, we'll honor with words and a special cake long-time members Iska and the Rev. David Cole who have moved to Brunswick.

Sunday, June 8 at 10:30 am
"We'll figure it out"
—Rick Prose

Rick Prose is the executive director of lowernine.org, a home rebuilding and social service agency located in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. When not in New Orleans, Rick lives in West Boothbay Harbor with his wife, Barbara, and daughters Sophia and Celeste.

Sunday, June 15 at 10:30 am
"Affirming Life and Love"
—Rev. Robert Wolf

This service emphasizes the importance of mutual caring and respect in our everyday lives, as well as in the larger life we share. It is illustrated by examples from life and from the literature of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Rev. Wolf is one of our regular returnees. He has served churches in Maine and other New England states, with the longest time at Allen Avenue

"If you have no anxiety, the risk you face is probably not worthy of you. Only risks you have outgrown don't frighten you."

— David Viscott

UU Church in Portland. Now retired, he is a member of the Auburn church and does occasional services at other UU churches in the area.

Sunday, June 22 at 10:30 am
"When Past Is Prologue"
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our Fellowship

We'll be sitting at tables this Sunday so that we might enjoy a special brunch as part of the service. The past, the present and the future of the Fellowship will be celebrated in myriad ways, among which will be a brief story of how we got to today, remembering the members from our past and present as well as welcoming new members, a "bridging" of our two high school graduates (Ben Millett and Thomas Balch), and the singing of a new song composed by Barbara Prose. There will also be a dedication of our new chalice, being given to MUUF by Jean Howe in loving memory of Bert.

We ask that you plan to stay through noon—an extra half-hour of worship (but there will be no coffee hour!). There will be no RE program for children this Sunday, though a caregiver will be on hand to go downstairs with the very young and the restless.

Each of you will be receiving a special invitation to this celebratory event. We do ask that you be sure to

RSVP so that we'll know how many places to set for brunch (as always, we'll set a few extra). Kitsy has offered to solicit food for the brunch: a variety of quiches or stratas; muffins or quick-breads; fresh fruit cup. If you are willing to make something, don't hesitate to call her at 773-7738 or 350-0210. And, in keeping with our becoming a Green Sanctuary, we hope to have CLOTH napkins hemmed and ready—and to use as few paper products as possible.

We will be receiving your offering toward the end of today's service. In honor of MUUF's 25th "birthday," we invite you to give a birthday gift of \$25 to MUUF, if you feel able and willing to do so. There will be envelopes on the tables in which to place your checks (marked "gift" on the memo line) or cash (in any amount, of course). Thank you

Sunday, June 29 at 10:30 am
"Hello; I Must Be Going"
A Farewell Love Letter to MUUF
—Kitsy & friends

Months ago I heard someone mention that one of Groucho Marx's hallmark greetings was "Hello; I must be going." I wrote it down so I wouldn't forget it, come the end of June. I like it still because it conveys, in part, how this departure feels for me. I took the liberty (with Barbara's okay) of inviting John Adams to sing three songs which have special meaning for me. (Turns out it is the only Sunday he had available through August.) I realize that this Sunday follows right on the heels of our 25th anniversary celebration, but I do hope to see you this Sunday, so we might say goodbye in this way—as well as all the others—on the next-to-last day of my being your part-time minister.

Imaginings

Hard to believe: this will be the final newsletter column I shall write for MUUF. Perhaps my best use of this space is to set out what our relationship (the one between all of you and “moi”) will be, come July 1st. First, the facts of the matter: I will no longer be your minister and, therefore, will no longer be available to fill any ministerial functions for the Fellowship, including rites of passage and pastoral care. This is as it must—and should—be so that you will turn fully to each other and to the person who will be serving you in a ministerial capacity in the future. (The one exception to this will be my probable involvement in Sue Ripley’s memorial service on July 12th, okayed by your Board.) This is not the first time I have moved on from a long-term ministry, so I have become well-practiced in maintaining appropriate boundaries. Now for the heart of the matter: Just because I will no longer be your minister does not mean that I must never see you or talk to you again. One cannot form relationships (some of them very strong) with others over a decade and suddenly stop caring about what happens in their lives. And, because the Boothbay Harbor area will continue to be the summer gathering place for my family of origin—and because I have developed some friendships outside MUUF in the midcoast area—I am sure I will be in your environs from time to time. My immutable rule over the years has been that, in any future contact with previous parishioners, we speak about our own lives—as interested friends would do—and not the life of the Fellowship (I will count on reading MUUF’s newsletter for that.). My parents, devoted lifelong UUs, set a good example for me in this regard. They often did stay in touch with their previous ministers, even inviting them for visits to Newagen in the summer, but it was always clear to me that all involved stayed away from topics that might in any way undermine my parents’ relationship with their current minister—or his ministry (Back then it always was a “his.”) Even though I myself have been in a partial state of denial about the ending of our ministry together, I have been aware of a deep sense of grief as well as some sense of relief within. More than one of our denominational “guru’s” has mentioned to

me that they think I have probably set the UUA record for staying with a lay-led fellowship for more than five years—“and you stayed TEN!” said one. Of course, that means that YOU have set that record, too. It may have been too long; I really don’t know. I do think—or at least hope—that I am leaving the Fellowship in as good shape as I found it. I have learned a lot from you over the preceding decade—from you as a congregation and from many of you as individuals with your own life stories, successes and struggles. I thank you for the privilege of serving you. I also want to take the opportunity here to let you know that I am aware of times when I surely must have disappointed some of you as well as myself. Whether through acts of commission or omission, I offer my profound apology if I ever offended you or caused you pain. It was not my intent. Please forgive me. I, in turn, forgive those very few times and individuals whose words or acts felt hurtful to me. We are all “more human than otherwise.” As I have written and said many times over the past few months, I depart MUUF with a full heart and many wonderful memories, knowing that you have already set yourselves on a good course toward your future. Au revoir!

With much love and gratitude,
Kitsy

LUNCH BUNCH?? Would anyone like to have one in June? If so, call Kitsy (773-7738) and let her know.

Fair Trade Report

Agriculture is big business, but for most small farmers the benefits are small. The paths leading from their farms to your table are long and filled with many intermediaries. Equal Exchange purchases coffee and other crops directly from farmer co-ops, eliminating middle men and adhering to “Fair Trade” standards. When you purchase “Fair Traded” products you help farmers stay on their land, support their families, hope for the future and care for the environment. Equal Exchange “Fair Trade” products are available most Sundays before or after fellowship.

June Phillips

President’s Message

Summertime will be here soon and with the Solstice rapidly approaching it is time to kick back and relax. There is no snow to shovel, the gardens are planted and growing well, school will soon be over and it is time to party. So mark your calendars, get out your sandals, put on your shorts and be there!!!

Everyone is invited—June 22 at 10:30—MUUF’S 25th Anniversary Bash

Please remember to RSVP by your method of choice:

- mail—MUUF, P.O. Box 2, Edgecomb ME 04556
- phone—Jean Howe (207) 633-7380
- email—howe50@roadrunner.com

Lots of folks have been working to create this wonderful event. It has included Kitsy, the Sunday Program Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Board and many other individuals in our MUUF family. You will not want to miss this special time and everyone is sure to learn something new about MUUF. Come and be a part of this celebration of our Fellowship.

Peace,
Mary



About Us

David and Sylvia Bailey recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary! They were married on May 30, 1958, at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, went to NYC that night, then to the old Elbow Beach Hotel in Bermuda for their honeymoon. David and Sylvia returned in time for David to get to the Boston Garden and graduate from Boston University. A few weeks later, when Sylvia finished teaching at Matapoiset MA elementary school, they settled in Rochester NH. They chose the 30th thinking it would always be a holiday—until a few years later when the holiday was moved to the 4th Monday!

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
Thank you to Bonnie Ginger who masterfully facilitated the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven UUA program for members of our Fellowship. Bonnie used the structure and materials offered by the UUA. She is a gifted facilitator and was generous of her time and energy.

Green Sanctuary

From the National Resources Council of Maine, Spring 2008

"Maine can't control the price of oil or electricity, but we can control how much of them we need to buy. Improving energy efficiency saves Maine people money, strengthens our economy, and protects the environment."

Brownie Carson, NRCM Executive Director

NRCM Wins Federal Court Battle to Clean Up Power Plant Mercury Pollution

"Mercury causes serious health problems, particularly in children. It can cause brain damage, learning disabilities, and motor skill problems. Because of this, health officials warn Mainers not to eat many of the fish we catch in our local lakes and rivers. Pregnant women are especially advised.

"Recent scientific studies show that mercury is also poisoning the wildlife that makes Maine so special."

Maine's Hallmark E-Waste Law a Huge Success

"The law has saved Maine people \$3 million, kept a million pounds of lead out of our environment, and ensured safe recycling and disposal of over 8 million pounds of toxic electronic waste."

Matt Prindiville, NRCM's toxics Policy Advocate

NRCM Tip of the Day

Take it easy. Each mile per hour you drive over 60 mph is like paying an extra 15 cents per gallon.

According to the Associated Press, many pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, mood stabilizers, and sex hormones, have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans. Please dispose of your unwanted medicines, including over-the-counter products like acetaminophen and ibuprofen, in an environmentally-friendly manner.



If you've been attending for a while and would like to formally become a member of the Fellowship, please contact our minister, Kitsy Winthrop, at 773-7738 or 350-0210. A "Welcome to New Members" will be part of the Anniversary Celebration on June 22.

RE News

Update on the RE Coordinator job search:

The RE Committee has discussed the RE Coordinator position with interested applicants and is continuing to review resumes and schedule interviews. If any members of the Fellowship know someone who is interested in the position or would like to know more about it, please contact Kate Pennington at 563-8933 or katepenn@roadrunner.com.

May 21 RE Summit

On the evening of May 21 members of the RE Committee and several others from the Fellowship met with Benette Sherman, the NNED Religious Education Program Consultant, for a thought-provoking and energizing three-hour RE "summit." Benette began by encouraging us to talk about what experiences at MUUF have been most meaningful and significant for us and to think about what we hope our RE program gives to our children and teenagers. Benette discussed our current RE Coordinator job search and gave suggestions for ways we can direct and support the new RE Coordinator after the right candidate for the job is found. We talked about various options for Sunday morning children's programming as well as ways to keep the older youth involved and connected with the Fellowship. Benette



Religious Education Coordinator

Creative, responsible, organized adult, interested in liberal religion, education, and working with people of all ages, to coordinate the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's religious education program. Includes oversight of Sunday morning RE programming and youth group activities. 18 hours/month. Contact Kate Pennington for more information at 563-8933.

offered some ideas for the RE Committee structure and made some important suggestions regarding safety issues in our RE space. We closed the meeting by discussing possibilities for growth in the RE program.

Youth News

Chiara Azzaretti and Kate Pennington attended the Spring Youth Conference at Ferry Beach on May 3 and 4. The weekend closed with a ceremony honoring nine high school seniors from the District who are bridging from being youth members to being young adults. At the conference Chiara was elected as Secretary of the Youth Adult Committee (YAC). Over the next year Chiara will work with other members of YAC to plan youth conferences. She will also be working to encourage connections and communication between youth members of the various UU congregations in Maine.

September 26 – 28, 2008

Fourteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 1, \$250 (single) and \$450 (double). After August 1, \$300 (single) and \$500 (double). For more information contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802) 353-7969.

Interim Search Committee

Your interim Committee has been busy at work meeting (in person, on the phone and e-mail), ironing out the details of the interviewing process. We have also been communicating regularly with the UUA where we have posted our interim application and an opportunities listing. These are posted for any UU minister to see and respond to. We have also reached out to our District Consultant, Karen Brammer, who has been a valuable resource.

We are starting to receive and follow up on applicants. We are glad to share the process with you and also want to remind you that the details of who the applicants are is confidential and will not be shared. Please feel free to approach us; we're glad to fill you in on what we can. Submitted by: Donna Dolham Interim Committee; Lindy Gifford, Jim McQuaide, Kenneth Kortemeier, Donna Dolham, Sandra Barth.

UPCOMING DATES:

June 9 Monday—Sunday Program Committee, 9:30 am at the Bailey's, Newcastle

June 9 Monday—MUUF board Meeting 6–8 pm at CEI in Wiscasset

June 22 Sunday—Worship & Brunch in Honor of MUUF's 25th Anniversary. All sorts of special things are being planned for this day!

June 25–29—UU General Assembly 2008 in Ft.Lauderdale, FL

June 29 Sunday—Kitsy's final Sunday with us as our part-time minister

Fellowship Minister and Board of Trustees

Minister: Rev. Katharine H. Winthrop

President: Mary Neal

Vice-president: Stephen Cole

Secretary: Mimi Moore

Treasurer: Jean Howe

Trustees: Sue van Alsenoy
Anne Flanagan
June Phillips

Nominating Committee:

Charles Reinhardt
Kate Pennigton
Dick Miller

Minister of Music & Pianist:

Barbara Prose

Director, Religious Exploration:

Open

Newsletter: Lindy Gifford

Donna Dolham

Public Relations: David Bailey

Judy Linker

Committee Chairs

Sunday Programs: Sandra Barth

Membership:

(Contact Rev. Katharine Winthrop)

Music: Suzanne Carlson

Recommendation from the Board: At the May meeting of the Board of Trustees, it was suggested that the MUUF email list and the newsletter pages be limited to Fellowship business and not include items of outside social activities. News of upcoming performances etc. should be mentioned in the "About Us" column. Please let Donna Dolham know about things important in your lives (celebrations, losses and interesting tidbits) to be added to the About Us column. She can be reached at ddolham@tds.net or 273-2171 or at the number listed in the church directory.

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
6/1	Mathews	M&J Smith
6/8	Strong	Twaddle/Wolcott
6/15	Salvo	Kleinkopf/Goltz
6/22	Dolham	Ginger/Moore
6/29	Balch/Matrai	Fosketts



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
P. O. Box 2, Edgecomb, ME 04556

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