



Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

June 2009

Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 am
Never Waste a Good Crisis
—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

Have you noticed that innovation and change often happen in the face of a crisis? Your board of trustees have told you that this is a time of impending change for this fellowship. Each of you will be part of the conversations and changes that are coming. Don't waste this opportunity. Have faith!

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

SPECIAL MEETING

At a special meeting held after the service on May 24 the congregation voted to support the Declaration of Religious Support for the Freedom of Same Sex Couples to marry. This had previously been supported by the board.

Following a brief discussion about the two candidates for president of the UUA, the vote to support Rev. Peter Morales was unanimous. Two proxy votes will be cast for us at General Assembly.

UPCOMING DATES:

June 8 Monday—Sunday Program Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Bailey's.

June 8 Monday—Faith in Action Committee meeting, 12 Noon at Midcoast Book Store & Cafe.

June 8 Monday—Lunch Bunch, noon at the Publick House in Newcastle. Bring a short poem or reading to share (or not). Expect revelry.

June 14 Sunday—Board Meeting, 9 am, before Sunday service at Edgecomb Town Hall.

Just because creating a perfect community may be beyond our grasp doesn't mean we should give up our aspirations to be more than we already are.

—Barbara Wells

From *Articulating Your UU Faith*

Sunday, June 14 at 10:30 am
Summertime. Is the Living Easy?
—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

Summertime is quickly approaching and this is a great time to replenish your body, mind, spirit and soul. It is not always easy to find the time or to take the time. It is a spiritual discipline to prepare yourself for the work to come.

Sunday, June 21 at 10:30 am
Flower Communion
—David and Iska Cole
with Chuck Reinhardt

Please bring a flower from your garden or the roadside. The flowers will be gathered together, symbolizing our gathering. After the service, please take a different flower home.



Sunday, June 28 at 10:30 am
Lifespan Faith Development
Intergenerational Service
—RE Committee

“What appears to be a generational conflict between what some call the old humanism and the new spirituality is a sign that we are presently living in a mixed state of modernity and postmodernity, and that this is a creative time, in which significant renewal and deepening is possible.”

—Dr. Rebecca Parker

Is the very diversity of our core beliefs an opportunity for renewal and deepening for ourselves and our beloved community? Join us as we explore the possibilities—for all ages.

There will be an opportunity to begin the discussion in small groups during the service. Last time we did this, many found the time for small group discussion to be too short, so this time, anyone who wants to continue the conversation is invited to stay after the service for more. If you'd like, please bring a bag lunch.

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
6/7	Linker	VanAlsenoy
6/14	Bailey	Wolcott/Twaddle
6/21	Wolcott/Twaddle	Foskett
6/28	Gifford/Cole	Dolham

Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

Recently we celebrated the “bridging” of three of our young people, Celeste Angelita Prose, Phoebe Elizabeth Cole and Chiara Maria Pennington Azzaretti. This ritual is one that is used by many Unitarian Universalist Churches and by the youth community at General Assembly to recognize the transition from youth to young adult or from high school to college or work.

As I thought about this bridging ceremony, it occurred to me that we are all bridging all the time. Some life changes are major, like the one that Celeste, Phoebe and Chiara are experiencing now. But most are un-noticeable. Every day when we accomplish our to-do list, we are bridging from undone to done. Every day when we share our knowledge, our love, our compassion, our faith...we bridge into a new being.

This fellowship is bridging all the time too. And right now feels like a time of major change for MUUF. There is excitement around initiating parts of the Long Range Plan and many of you have signed up for the September kick-off of the next steps. I see many decisions for you to make. I see a community that will come together to move into the next major phase of its being. As you do this work, remember that you as a community are “bridging” into a different community. Remember to celebrate that.

See you in church!

Rev Danielle

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

President's Message

Before your thoughts turn to summer, before the guests arrive and the garden needs weeding, I need you to do some introspective thinking. In fact, all of us need your input so we, as a community of religious liberals, can determine the paths to a vibrant, healthy Fellowship that serves all of our diverse needs.

I use need instead of want because if you are reading this, you are important to the survival of this Fellowship. As a lay led congregation we—members and friends—determine our future. We may call a minister, but it is still ‘we’ who call the shots!

From the discussion at our meeting with Karen Brammer, the small church coordinator for the NE District, I learned that we need to know more about your needs. There’s that word again, ‘need.’ Most of us come to Sunday services to fill some sort of need. It could be spiritual, philosophical, or as simple as being among some people that you only connect with on that day. Before we ALL (each and everyone of us) participate on one of the four Task Force groups this Fall, it would be advantageous to

have some knowledge of these needs and passions.

Please take the time to think about your reasons for being a member, or friend, of MUUF. What do you find personally rewarding in a service? Is it a spiritual message, a sense of community, a time for introspection, an opportunity to learn something new? What is ‘meaningful worship’ for you? Are you finding what you need? If not, are you looking elsewhere—or just biding your time, hoping for change?

I would like to hear from all of you, just a few lines expressing your answers to these questions. Keep it anonymous if you wish, send it via mail or drop it in the Sunday basket with your monetary contribution. A compilation of your meaningful words will be provided to each task force group for guidance in their deliberations.

Be assured that none of this will be used to point us in a single, narrow path. We want to fill the needs of the minority as well as the majority, to have a Fellowship with a sense of purpose and a spiritual depth for a wide range of philosophies.

David



Fellowship elders with their May Baskets, presented by the young people at the Beltane service, May 3. For a CD with this and other photos from Beltane, contact Les Frederick. Proceeds to go to the Sound System Fund.

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

From the Interim Minister

Your Board of Trustees has asked you to participate in 4 groups that will articulate the major points of the Long Range Plan. These groups will begin meeting in September for 3 months. This is an opportunity to participate intimately in the governance of your fellowship. This is democracy at its best. Don't miss this great opportunity to make a difference in the life of your faith community.

From The President

Our challenge this year is to create a Finance Group that would direct budget development, annual canvass, long term investments and planned giving. Somewhere among us are two members who would join two board members to accomplish this in order to ensure the sustainability of this beloved community.

The intergenerational **Beltane (May Day)** Celebration on May 3, was well attended and lots of fun. We danced the May Pole and were joined by the May King and Queen. There was a Fairy dance and the kids distributed May Baskets to church elders. The next wheel of the year service will be Lamas (First Fruits) August 2.

On May 17, Kate Pennington and Mimi Moore taught a Spirit Play basket of the Paper Bag Princess downstairs.

Sunday, May 24, Danielle lead us in an intergenerational **Bridging Ceremony** for Celeste Prose, Chiara Azzaretti, and Phoebe Cole, all of whom are graduating from high school this June. The younger children sprinkled apple blossom petals at their feet as they ceremonially walked from youth to young adulthood and the congregation generously gave the girls their memories, wise words, and good wishes.

On May 31, Jean Howe and Lindy Gifford helped the children prepare an **all local lunch** downstairs while Tim Goltz and Karen Kleinkopf spoke on local food upstairs. We then served nearly 30 Fellowship members and friends our yummy lunch and raised \$139 dollars for the new sound system.

Small Group Sundays

After our lunch May 31, we all had a very open discussion of the RE committee's **Small Group/Life Span Faith Development Sundays**, the next of which will be on June 28.

Background: The RE committee first conceived of these Sundays as a way to open deep discussion among all ages about our personal and communal faith. We have had three such Sundays so far. On 10/5/08 and 2/22/09, Danielle lead us in two explorations from the UUA's Tapestry of Faith curriculum. We received much positive feedback, though reservations were also expressed. On 3/22 Barbara and Lindy lead us in a more informal service generally focussing on how Unitarian Universalism could remain relevant in a rapidly changing world. This service sparked much intense discussion. (The conversation continued with a few people at the Town Hall for nearly an hour after the end of the service!) On June 28 anyone who wants to can continue the discussion after the service.

A quote from *Articulating Your UU Faith* by Barbara Wells, the book being used in the small Adult RE group that meets Tuesday nights:

In our various UU configurations, I hope we can be places that accept the ambiguity inherent in life. I hope we can be open to wrestling with the questions life brings...together, for we can learn more by sharing our questions than by just insisting that our answers are correct.

From the meeting: Is Sunday service the place for these discussions? The RE committee feels that having these discussions on a Sunday morning opens them to a far wider cross section of the Fellowship, including our young people, and that this is essential. We will work hard to make these services reverent and worshipful as well as fun and challenging!

Upcoming in RE

June 7: We will have our regular First Sunday Programming for the younger children downstairs with Michelle LaRocque-Tipton and Lindy Gifford. The middle schoolers will be driving with Steve Cole & Kate Pennington to the service at the Rockland First Universalist Church, to hear about their recent service trips to New Orleans.

June 14: Mary Duncan will be teaching the children about starting with the rhythm to compose poetry and the miracle of how the poem can then come of it's own accord. (Lindy Gifford will be downstairs, too, just in case Mary needs any help, which we doubt.)

June 21: Spirit Play with Mimi Moore and Kate Pennington.

June 28: Intergenerational Life Span Faith Development (see write-up on first page of this newsletter.)

Faith in Action

The Faith in Action Comm. met at noontime on the first Monday of May to set goals for 2009/10. Several projects were discussed. Among those chosen for action were:

Tom Hagan's African educational endeavor, AFPP and URDT.

Mimi's suggestion to pursue closer association with other community-based organizations for a wider outreach and more effective impact for our effort.

Jean Howe's Food Pantry project will be continued and emphasized on occasion to spark more help.

June will continue her Fair Trade

Coffee as well as look for a worthwhile water issue.

Climate change, the country's leading environmental problem, will also provide some project possibilities we can address and Mark Smith is expected to provide a possible leading issue from the Green Sanctuary.

Other business attended to was Tom Hagan's kind offer to Co-Chair Faith in Action, as he is online as well as being in residence during the summer months. The members present also agreed that monthly meetings were desirable.

June Phillips

Local Food Pantries Need Our Help More NOW than Ever!

Many more families are seeking help at our local Food Pantries. All Pantries have been reporting the doubling numbers of clients. Bring non-perishable food to Fellowship on any and every Sunday. If you, or a family you know, need help, the Boothbay Region Food Pantry is open Fridays, 12-2 pm at the Boothbay Harbor Congregational Church, and the Ecumenical Food Pantry for the Newcastle/Damariscotta area is open Tuesdays, 9-11 am at the Second Congregational Church, Newcastle.

The following is a list of food and items they welcome: peanut butter, jellies, soups, veggies and fruits and juices, cereals-hot & cold, tuna fish, pastas and sauces, coffee and tea, and paper towels.

Both Pantries accept checks. Remember, we learned that the Pantries can buy a lot more food with your dollars at the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn, than you can buy at your grocery store.

Jean Howe



Sound System Fund

Our Sound System Fund is growing—must be this Springs warm weather! In April 30th reports to the Board, the total was \$842. Some generous members added \$70, Bonnie Ginger's sale of tomato plants contributed \$105, and the local foods lunch last week generated \$139, for a total of \$1,156, leaving a balance of approximately \$545 to raise.

Also, thanks go to Les Frederick for displaying on his computer on Sunday, May 17 the great pictures he took of our Beltane May 3 service with the colorful Maypole and intergenerational dancing. He has made many disks for people to have and generously wishes donations for these disks to go to the Sound System Fund.

As a Summer Sun Bird (as opposed to our Snowbirds) he will be gone soon, so if you want one of his disks, please get in touch with him soon.

Jean Howe, Treasurer

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Host travelers in your home to meet new friends and 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 or write to info@uurehome.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
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

For all who asked about the poem on the vegetable quilt, Sunday May 31 here it is:

by Max Coots

Let us give thanks:

For generous friends with hearts and smiles
as bright as their blossoms, and feisty

friends as tart as apples:

For continuous friends, who like scallions
and cucumbers keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends as sour as rhubarb
and as indestructible;

For handsome friends who are as gorgeous
as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn

and the others as plain as potatoes and as good for you;

For funny friends who are as silly as
Brussel sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes:

And serious friends as complex as cauliflower
and as intricate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as
subtle as summer squash, as persistent as

parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as
zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be

counted on to see you throughout the winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in
the evening-time, and young friends coming on

as fast as radishes;

For loving friends who wind around us like
tendrils and hold us despite our flights,
wilts and witherings;

And finally for those friends now gone like
gardens past that have been harvested and who

fed us in their time that we might have life thereafter.

For all these we give thanks!

Dear Midcoast UU Fellowship,

Today marks the fifth anniversary of marriage equality in the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts granted full legal rights for committed same-sex couples, followed by Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and Maine over the last five years. We have much to celebrate—but our work has only just begun!

In keeping with the first principle of Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations is proud to support nationwide public witness and social justice work in support of same-sex marriage through the President's Freedom to Marry Fund. Since its inception in 2004, the Fund has supported 37 grants to Unitarian Universalist congregations and groups across the country for work in lobbying, advertising and educating about marriage equality.

Celebrate this special anniversary by making a gift to the President's Freedom to Marry Fund! Donate \$1 for each of the 45 states that has not yet legalized same-sex marriage—or since the number of states with marriage equality has more than doubled in the last month, double your donation! You can make your gift of \$45, \$90, or any level online, by phone at 1-888-792-5885, or by sending a check made out to "UUA—Freedom to Marry Fund" to:

President's Freedom to Marry Fund
Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

In faith and gratitude,
Rev. Terry Sweetser
Vice President for Stewardship and Development