



Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

May 2009

Sunday, May 3 at 10:30 am *Beltane Celebration*

*It's May It's May
The Lusty Month of May
It's mad, it's gay
That gorgeous holiday*

In an intergenerational service, with story, music and dance, we will joyfully celebrate Beltane, known as May Day, a Pagan Wheel of the Year fire holiday. Come to welcome the fairies and dance the Maypole. How better to honor the true coming of Spring in Maine than with May Day merry-making?

Following the service we will present a 10 minute DVD, followed by discussion on the reasons for allowing same sex couples to marry in the state of Maine.



Sunday, May 10 at 10:30 am *African Rural University for Women*

—Mwalimu Musheshe

Mwalimu Musheshe, CEO of the Uganda Rural Development and Training Program, will be receiving an honorary doctorate from Unity College on Saturday May 9 and, in a most unusual ceremony, Unity will grant honorary bachelors degrees to all 22 seniors in the first graduating class of the African Rural University for Women.

In November Tom Hagan and Patty Seybold introduced us to URDT and its new African Rural University for Women. We will have the opportunity to hear directly from Musheshe and three of the ARU graduates on Sunday morning.

Everyone is invited to brunch at Tom and Patty's home following the ceremony to meet the honorees.

Religion in the mind is not credulity and in the practice is not forms. It is a life.... It is not something else to be got, to be added; but is a new life of those faculties you have.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 am *Whose Job Is It?*

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

This is a time of great opportunity and challenge for MUUF. We are all being called upon to "step up to the plate" for the benefit of this fellowship. Who is "we" and what is the commitment that we need to make?



Sunday, May 24 at 10:30 am *Bridging Ceremony & New Members Welcome*

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

It is time to honor our youth and celebrate a time of change in their lives. This service is a service of "bridging," where we will recognize an important life event in the lives of our young people. We will also be recognizing and welcoming new members. All who have signed the membership book in the past year, up to May 24 will be welcomed into the MUUF community.

Sunday, May 31 at 10:30 am *Healthy foods in Schools and Health Care*

Karen Kleinkopf and Tim Goltz

Karen Kleinkopf and Tim Goltz will speak about their experience promoting healthy foods in the schools and health care settings. Karen is an educator and co founder of Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools. Tim is a family physician in Damariscotta who in addition to his clinical work is active in a variety of health promotion activities with MaineHealth.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Special membership meeting following the service **May 24** to vote on two items:

1. Support of the Declaration of Religious Support for the Freedom of Same Sex Couples to Marry.
2. Choice for president of the UUA (we have 2 votes at GA).

UPCOMING DATES:

May 4 Monday—Faith in Action Committee meeting, 12 noon at North Cottage Coffee, Main Street, Damariscotta.

May 11 Monday—Sunday Program Committee, 9:30 am at the Baileys'.

May 14 Thursday—RE Committee meeting, 3:30 pm at Lindy Gifford's house, Damariscotta.

May 17 Sunday—Board Meeting after Sunday service at Edgecomb Town Hall.

May 24 Sunday—**Special membership meeting** following the service. See box above.

Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

I am writing this column to share some news with you. As you all know, I have a contract with MUUF through this August with the possibility of a second year. I will be ending my time as your Interim Minister at the end of this August as I am moving to Massachusetts to accept a hospice position.

My time with you has been a wonderful experience. I have gained so much from each one of you and I hope that my ministry with and to you has been rewarding and rich.

I see many things in your future. They include finding the voice of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and sharing it with your community; continuing to encourage and support families and children; planning for a permanent home, and finding and settling a minister.

I have faith that you will accomplish much in the future...you have accomplished much this year! It has been an honor to serve as your minister and you will remain in my thoughts and prayers forever. Now...go out and change the world!

See you in church.

Fondly,

Rev Danielle

New members will be welcomed on May 24 when we also have a Bridging Ceremony for our teenagers. Anyone who wishes to become a member and participate in the ceremony should sign the book and notify either our minister or board president.

President's Message

The plants I found pushing up under the leaves in our gardens this afternoon spoke to me of the challenge that was announced at this morning's Earth Day service. And the blooming crocus that pierced the leaves on their way up reminded me that we too have the resourcefulness to continue our work as a liberal religious community.

Our interim minister will be with us through August, and she will be assisting your board of directors as they determine a course of action to present to the membership. The work began at the Apr. 25 board retreat. As our glorious spring propels us toward summer we need to hear from all of you regarding your thoughts on the long range plan and the future of this Fellowship.

We also need to hear from more of

you on ideas for community outreach, including the use of last year's surplus (\$2500) to help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. The board voted to send \$500 to the Good Shepard Food Bank in Auburn as it will be doubled by matches from three funds and foundations. Our local food banks draw supplies from Auburn.

I am proud of the stand the board has taken on the gay marriage issue, unanimously endorsing the Declaration of Religious Support for the Freedom of Same Sex Couples to Marry in the State of Maine. All of you will have an opportunity to discuss it after viewing a brief video following the service on May 3. You can then vote, hopefully to support it as a congregation, at a special meeting which we are calling for May 24.

David

Meeting the Ten Tree Challenge

At our Earth Day service on April 19, an enthusiastic congregation met and exceeded the UUA's Ten Tree Challenge. The Ten Tree Challenge was issued by the Ministry to Earth of the UUA. The Challenge was for each UU Congregation to pledge to plant, adopt, or donate ten trees in 2009. The Midcoast UU Fellowship got the challenge started by raising \$260 for a magnificent Accolade Japanese Cherry Tree to the Town of Boothbay. The tree will be planted in the

Harold B. Clifford Playground in Boothbay Center and will be accompanied by an appropriate plaque recognizing our contribution. After the service Twenty one members and friends pledged to plant or donate at least one tree. We more than doubled the pledge target. Thank you to all members and friends of the congregation for this demonstration of our commitment to improving our earth and the seventh principle of Unitarian Universalism.

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
5/3	Miller	Matrai/Balch
5/10	Foskett	Linker
5/17	Carlson/Strong	Leff/Fenster
5/24	Loney	Pennington
5/31	McQuaide	Barth/Salvo

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

You all have a wonderful opportunity to participate in one of the four task forces that will be in place this September. These task forces will help MUUF in its **Future Visioning Process** and will help you move forward on the goals of the long range plan. It is everyone's responsibility, as a participant in the life of MUUF, to participate fully in these task forces. Remember, the work you do on this future visioning process will help make MUUF a strong and vibrant religious community for future generations.

From The President

We will all be involved in the **Future Visioning Process** when we participate in a task group assignment this fall. In advance, you should be asking yourself how you can meet the goals of growth—spiritually, volunteerism and giving.

Treasurer's Notes

At our Easter service, Rev. Danielle, waving her check in her hand, made an appeal for a second collection for the Sound System Fund. \$271 was donated at this time. Added to the current Fund total of \$571, we now have \$842. You read in our April Newsletter from Jim "Sound Man" McQuaide that our old P.A. system has been "cranky" of late, possibly presaging its imminent demise; so please, if you couldn't take advantage of our Easter appeal, feel free to put a check in the collection, marked "Sound System" anytime or put one in the mail to either Jim or our Treasurer.

The Board of Officers and Trustees voted unanimously at its January Meeting to set aside the 2008 budget surplus of \$2,500, rather than carry it forward to the 2009 budget. Pres. David Bailey appointed a 3-member Ad Hoc Finance Comm. (Tom Hagan, Dick Miller, and Mark Smith), charging them to discuss options for investment and/or give us other suggestions. They reported at our March Board meeting some wise investment opportunities for the current economic climate and also a strong suggestion of one or more sizable contributions to a worthy cause at a time when there is so much need in our community.

At our April 19th Board meeting, because the Faith in Action Comm. had not been able to meet, as we had hoped, to give us their suggestion for a local need, we decided to take a check for \$500 to the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn. Our donation will be matched by a grant, so our money will be doubled, a fact brought to our attention by Mimi Moore.

Let us know if you would like to make a suggestion for one or two local causes who could use a good-sized infusion of dollars from the \$2,000 balance. Our next Board meeting is scheduled for May 17th after the service.

Jean Howe, Treasurer



RE News

Our Second "First Sunday" on April 5 was again very well attended, with six middle school youth, seven younger children and too infants/toddlers who joined us with their parents! We're up to three teachers downstairs on First Sundays (Lindy Gifford, Michelle Larocque Tipton, and Steve Cole, but it's now clear we could use a dedicated childcare provider for the very young on these Sundays. anyone interested in helping out, please contact Lindy Gifford, DRE.

On **Easter Sunday**, April 12, Kate Pennington and Tim Goltz colored eggs with the children and Karen Kleinkopf talked with them about Passover. Thank you, Kate, Tim, & Karen!

The intergenerational **Earth Day** Celebration on April 19 was a wonderful event. (Thanks to Bonnie Ginger, Elizabeth Guest, Sue Van Alsenoy, and Mark Smith.) The performance of the **Great Kapok Tree** was fabulous! Elizabeth Guest narrated, Sue Van Alsenoy was the tree, Matt Newberg was the woodcutter and Dylan Newberg, Emma, Lily, and Clara Goltz,

Phyllis McQuaide, and Bonnie Ginger were rain forest animals, using masks made by the children.

On April 19, Lindy Gifford and Bonnie Ginger reviewed the sacred Celtic Wheel of the Year and made **May baskets** with the children in preparation for the Beltane service this week. Thank you Bonnie!

Coming Up:

May 3: "First Sunday" is a special intergenerational Beltane (May Day) Celebration this month, designed for all ages. Don't miss it! Regular "First Sunday" programming with two age groups downstairs will resume next month.

May 24: Rev. Danielle will lead an intergenerational Bridging Ceremony for graduating high school seniors: Chiara Azzeretti, Celeste Prose, and Phoebe Cole. It's great for the younger children to witness this important passage. This will also be New Member Welcome Sunday, so if anyone is considering becoming members and/or dedicating your children, please sign the book and contact Danielle.

Fund Raising News *Please read!

by Mimi Moore (kolokythia@myfairpoint.net)

The first, big, all-church Fund Raiser of the year is a Yard Sale, 8:30-11:30 am, Saturday, May 30. (That's only a month away.)

Deliveries, setup, and pricing: Friday, **May 29**, at the Town Hall. We are looking for someone with a truck (and muscle) to pickup heavy, unwieldy objects from donor's homes.

Every household will be contacted and asked for volunteer workers and saleable contributions. To make the Yard Sale a success each of us will have to do something. The Baileys have offered their storeroom to house early donations, otherwise Friday, at the Town Hall, will be soon enough.

A Yard Sale is a good excuse to clean the attic and get rid of stuff that has accumulated longer than you want to think about. Thrifty shopping is patriotic.

Wanted: I'm looking for **Publicity Ideas**, ways to get Yard Sale articles printed in the local papers.

How about reframing the title "yard sale" into "thrift shopping" or just **Thrift?** How about "How to live frugally in difficult economic times?" Or "Value Village—the upscale place for discerning shoppers?"

Do we have a big, colorful sign to put near the road?

Is it customary to distribute posters?

At the Yard Sale could we offer **Free Coffee** and sell muffins to go with the coffee?

How about volunteers to model some of the **Freaky Outfits** we (hope to) have for sale?

And lastly... **Wanted: Sponsors for the Musical Evening with Jim Scott, Sept. 12, 2009.**

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

Bangor Theological Seminary requests the honor of your presence at the one hundred and ninetieth Commencement
May 22, 2009
First United Methodist Church
703 Essex St
Bangor, Maine
(Barbara Prose's graduation!)

10:00 a.m. Senior Service of Worship
11:00 a.m. Family and Friends Brunch (reservations required)
1:00 p.m. Commencement

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

The full text of the Declaration of Religious Support for the Freedom of Same Sex Couples to Marry on which we will vote on May 24 appears below.

- 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

Declaration of Religious Support for the Freedom of Same Sex Couples to Marry

We, the undersigned, unite as one religious voice in unwavering support of the right to legal marriage for same-sex couples. While we bear witness to a broad range of religious beliefs and practices with regard to marriage for same-sex couples, we believe the State of Maine should not deny the legal status of marriage to same-sex couples who choose to accept that obligation and commitment.

As religious people we are called to stand for justice for all people in our common civic life. After the necessities of food, clothing and shelter, the right to affection and the supportive love of an other human being is considered a most vital part of human dignity and fulfillment. Equally important is the right to form familial bonds, to share economic resources, and to provide care and support to loved ones in sickness and in health. Marriage is an institution that offers a host of legal, economic, and social protections and responsibilities to couples who choose to enter into this covenant. Denial of the status of marriage to same-sex couples who would freely accept its responsibilities creates legal, economic, and social hardship and is inherently a form of discrimination.

Furthermore, good marriages benefit the entire community and express the religious values of long-term commitment and faithfulness. As many of our traditions affirm, where there is love, we find the presence of

the divine among us. We believe this is no less true in the love between same-sex couples. We would judge relationships not by the gender of the partners, but by the quality of the love between them.

We respect the fact that debate and discussion continue in many of our religious communities concerning the theological and ethical issues of marriage. We support the right of all religious communities to make their own decisions about whom to marry within their faith traditions. By the same token, a denial of civil recognition dishonors the religious convictions of those faith communities and clergy who do officiate and bless the marriages of same-sex couples.

We draw on our diverse religious traditions to arrive at a common conviction: the State of Maine should allow same-sex couples to share fully and equally in the legal institution of marriage and do all that it can to eradicate current discrimination and the lingering effects of past discrimination against our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters.

As religious leaders, we commit ourselves to public action, visibility, education, and mutual support in the service of the right and freedom to marry.

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Board of Directors
April 19, 2009