



Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

November 2008

Sunday, November 2 at 10:30 am *Celebrating Samhain*

Samhain (pronounced Sow-en), is the Celtic new year and holiday that honors both the end of the harvest and those who have passed into the world of spirit. The Samhain reminds us that human life parallels the changing of the seasons. In this very special **inter-generational** worship experience, we and the **Moving Spirit Dancers**, will celebrate both memory and hope that is the basis of this ancient festival.

Part of the celebration will be the creation of a beautiful altar representing the harvest, memory and hope. Please bring seasonal fruits and vegetables to create an altar honoring the harvest. These items will then be given to the local food pantry. Also bring with you a photo(s), memento or icon of a loved one who has died, for the altar, in honor of those who have passed. If you so wish, bring a Jack-o-Lantern for decoration, also an ancient symbol of the holiday.

Sunday, November 9 at 10:30 am *The Mask of Religion*

A sermon given by **Rev. Laurel Hallman** on April 6, 1986, at the U.U. Church in Bloomington, IN and previously delivered prior to the MUUF 1991 Annual Meeting by Arletta Rice. Throughout time, religious practice has always had some element of mask-making—masks which revealed by concealing. Fellowship member Sandra Barth will revisit this former tradition of reading someone else's thoughtful sermon on our Annual Meeting Sunday.

Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 am *Clay? Or Potter?*

—Tara Olsen

Tara is a Bangor Theological Seminary student who is also serving as the Youth Programs Coordinator at the Yarmouth Congregational Church. She enjoys her multiple roles at the Church which include leading worship, pas-

toral support, providing support to the Church School Director, as well as supervising many of the youth activities outside of the Church, such as working at the Wayside Soup Kitchen in Portland, putting on a Haunted House for the community, and preparing Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families. One of the most fulfilling parts of her position has been helping to facilitate the young people in conducting a Youth Sunday worship experience.

Sunday, November 23 at 10:30 am *Are We Thankful Yet?*

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

These are trying times what with the war in Iraq dragging on, the Taliban getting a strong foothold in Afghanistan despite our long-time war there, the worry about the upcoming election, and the stock market looking more and more like a roller coaster ride at the amusement park. We are anxious and feeling the stress of these issues, and probably many more. And it's that all-American holiday... Thanksgiving. So as Unitarian Universalists, are we thankful yet?

Sunday, November 30 at 10:30 am *Thanksgiving From the Other Side of the Table*

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

We all have a thanksgiving holiday. Some of us celebrate Thanksgiving all the time. Some of us wait for the third Thursday in November. In many places in the world people have a Thanksgiving holiday. So what is American about this all-American holiday? What do you remember about Thanksgiving from your school lessons? What do you still hold onto? For Unitarian Universalists celebrating Thanksgiving is an opportunity to practice our faith.

UPCOMING DATES:

November 1 Saturday—Sunday Program Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Baileys', Newcastle.

November 6 Thursday—UU Poets, 1:30 pm, Mimi Moore's house.

November 8 Saturday—An Afternoon with Roger F. Duncan, 2:30 pm, Porter Room of Skidompha Library, Damariscotta

November 9 Sunday—Annual Meeting for election of new officers and trustees also 2009 budget approval following Sunday Service.

November 10 Monday—MUUF Board Meeting, 6-8 pm, CEI, Wiscasset. All interested members are welcome.

November 16 Sunday—"Information Please" sessions during the coffee hour, with board members Mary Neal and Anne Flanagan.

November 20 Thursday—Lunch bunch, 12 noon, The Public House, Newcastle. RSVP to Joanne Campbell 832-7565

November 22 Saturday—Make Your Holidays Meaningful, Skidompha Library, 10 am-4 pm, including **Unplug the Christmas Machine,** 10 am-2:30 pm, and the **Alternative Gift Fair,** 1:30-4 pm

Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

These are anxious times for all of us... what with the upcoming election and the economic disaster that our country is facing. Larry and I met with our financial advisor this week. Cheryl arrived at our house, pencil in hand and a folder entitled "Beck/Di Bona." She sat down at our dining room table and said "I'm no longer watching the market these days." Oh my... I'm not sure that's what I want to hear from my financial advisor. But she went on to say that watching the market recently made her feel like she felt when she watched the planes hit the World Trade Towers over and over again on the TV news. And I knew exactly what she was talking about. When I'm driving I have NPR on the radio and, upon reflection I realized that whenever there was a report about the economic crisis, my teeth clenched, my hands tightened on the steering wheel and my breathing changed. I find myself hitting the off button on the radio so I don't hear any more of this bad news. These are, indeed, anxious times. And sometimes I feel helpless. I watch our savings dwindle and feel as if I have no control over it, and no control over any of the systems that have caused this disaster. How easy it is to slide from helpless to hopeless. So I understood completely what Cheryl was saying. But she went on. She talked about her new strategy, which was taken from an experiment in Europe. A man named "Finholm" gathered a large group of people together on a piece of unfertile land. They stood around this piece of land offering positive thoughts of fertile land and crops and plants heavy with the fruit of their work. And then they planted. And the earth produced an abundant crop. Cheryl believes that if she and those she knows use our energy to send positive thoughts for an im-

In the transformation of silence into language and action, it is vitally necessary for each one of us to establish or examine her function in that transformation and to recognize her role as vital within that transformation.

—Audre Lorde

proved economic outlook it will happen. I don't know if it will or not, but it has made her less anxious and more positive about her life. She has a sense of control again. I don't see any reason not to try it, and it may make a difference in your life. After all, when we are striving for the good it can only put our body, our mind and our soul in a state of calm. So, I urge you to try it. I will. In the meantime, if you are struggling in these anxious times, please call me. I'm here for you.

Fondly,
Rev. Danielle

Remember our website: www.uumidcoast.org!

Go there for more information about MUUF events and links to other UU sites. You can also always download the latest newsletter from the website, in case you missed it by mail or email.

Joanne Campbell has volunteered to take over "lunch bunch" organizing duties. The Nov. lunch bunch is scheduled to meet at noon on Thursday, Nov. 20 at The Public House in Newcastle. Those interested in attending should contact Joanne in person, by email or by phone 832-7565.

President's Message

Vote Twice This Month—Legally!
November 4 & November 9

November is an important time for our Fellowship. We begin the month with our Annual Meeting November 9 where we exercise the Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism—the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. At this meeting members will elect the Fellowship Officers and Trustees for 2009 and will vote on a budget for 2009. Every voice in our Fellowship is important and every vote counts in our ballot box. So please, "Show up" and exercise this vital Fifth Principle.

As a result of our Oct 3 and 4 Start-Up Weekend with NNED small congregation specialist, Karen Brammer, MUUF leaders will be pursuing two areas of vital importance together with Danielle in coming months: #1 develop open and ongoing processes for discussing areas of real differences of opinion on future directions for MUUF; #2 use the process developed to implement the Long Range Planning initiative of recognizing MUUF as a ministerial lead congregation and move toward growth with a permanent minister.

In order to answer any questions and share these important bold steps forward with all the members and friends of MUUF, the Board has begun holding "Information Please" sessions once a month during the coffee hour. The next session will be on November 16 Mary Neal and Anne Flanagan will be available for discussions; December 14 June Phillips and Steve Cole (tentative) will be available for discussions.

If you have ideas, questions, need information or just want to talk with these leaders about the future plan, gather around the stage on one of these dates and speak up.

Stay tuned for additional avenues to engage in discussions with other members!

Peace,
Mary Neal



	Coffee/Tea
11/2	Dolham
11/9	O'Brian
11/16	Wolfe/Neal
11/23	Miller
11/30	Kortemeier
12/7	Carlson/Strong

Greeter
Gifford/Cole
Howe/Thompson
Kleinkopf/Goltz
M/J Smith
Fredericks
Barth/Salvo

RE News

We celebrated RE Sunday (entitled "Make Your Own Sunday") on October 5, and it was a great success! We broke into small, mixed-age groups and each created a portion of a service. Then we reconvened to celebrate the newly created service together. It was a great way to get to know each other a little better and build a feeling of community together. Look for more services like it in the near future!

Many of you generously filled out our volunteer sheets saying you would be able to help with RE. Thank you, we will be in touch soon about where we can best use your talents. If you did not get a chance to volunteer to help with RE and would like to, please contact Lindy Gifford at 563-1736 or lindyg@tidewater.net.

RE in November and December

This Sunday, Nov. 2 is an intergenerational Samhain celebration. Bring seasonal fruit or vegetables and a memento of a loved one who has passed. After the service on Nov. 2, we will be having a work session downstairs to organize and clean-up the RE area. Please join us for a little work and some fun!

Canvass Committee Report

As of October 20th we have received 34 pledges with a pledge total of \$28,896. Last year we had 54 pledging units so we expect at least twenty more pledges to be turned in. Just drop your pledge in the collection basket next Sunday, or mail it to

Make Your Holidays Meaningful **Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 am–4 pm** **Skidompha Library**

A daylong event for all ages.
Come for all, or come for some.

Unplug the Christmas Machine

10 am–2:30 pm in the Porter Room of Skidompha Library

A workshop for parents, lead by Danielle Di Bona and Barbara Prose, who will help you create a joyful, stress-free holiday. Bring a bag lunch. Childcare provided. RSVP: 350-0210 and let us know if you will need childcare and for how many children.

Kids' Crafts With Healthy Kids

12:30–3:30 pm in the children's room at Skidompha Library

Make very special gifts for your parents, relatives, and friends.

Alternative Gift Fair (Forth Annual)

1:30–4 pm in the atrium of Skidompha Library

Regional, national, and international non-profits will have tables at which we can purchase gifts that give twice: to the recipient and to a cause.



Sunday, Nov. 9 & 16, we will be creating holiday cards downstairs, to sell at the Alternative Gift Fair to benefit a charity of our choosing. All ages welcome, please join us!

Saturday, Nov. 22: "Make Your Holidays Meaningful," Skidompha Library, 12:30–4, A daylong event for

all ages! Come for all, or come for some. (See boxed ad.)

Sunday, Nov. 23–Dec. 14, we will be working on a holiday play downstairs. Please come on Nov. 23 and bring ideas and favorite books that might make a good play for us to perform for the Fellowship!

Hospitality Housekeeping

Please help the next host/hostess of our Coffee Hour by taking the time to read the labels on the compartments of our dark green coffee supplies bins and put everything back where it all belongs. It will be so appreciated.

MUUF, P.O. Box 2, Edgecomb ME 04556. Please get your pledges in so we can plan our programs for next year. The MUUF board's proposed budget for next year anticipates an income from pledging of \$42,000.
Dick Miller, Canvass Chairman.

An Afternoon with Roger F. Duncan

Who: Maritime writer and historian Roger F. Duncan of East Boothbay, author of *The Cruising Guide to the New England Coast*, *Afloat and Ashore*, *Coastal Maine: A Maritime History* and other titles.

What: A book signing and reading—Roger will read from his works and sign copies. Roger's books will be available at the event for purchase, courtesy of Maine Coast Bookshop. Refreshments will be provided.

When: Saturday, November 8 at 2:30 pm

Where: Porter Room of Skidompha Library, Damariscotta

The event is a benefit for the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Edgecomb, of which Roger Duncan is a founding member. Support for the reading is being graciously provided by Maine Coast Bookshop, Damariscotta.

The Directories Are Here! The Directories Are Here!

Bright orange-covered **directories** are available Sundays on the back table. To help defray cost of printing, please leave a contribution of \$ 1.00 or \$2.00 when picking yours up.

A big thank you to **Iska Cole** and **David Bailey!** Please send any changes to Iska, David or Jean Howe.

Correction, Church Directory: Mimi Moore, kolokythia@verizon.net (the second o was left out in the original).

Sinkford Launching Africa Pilgrimage

Tuesday November 4, Reverend William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA, will embark on a pilgrimage to six countries in Africa. The purposes of the pilgrimage are:

- to meet with old and new colleagues among the Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists of Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa,
- to learn from the experience and wisdom of leaders in Truth and Reconciliation work in South Africa
- to learn from leaders of social justice and human rights organizations involved in diverse struggles, including: LGBT Rights, Fair Wages, HIV/AIDS, Women's Rights, and Socially Responsible Investing,
- to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site and symbolic center of the Atlantic Slave Trade: Île de Gorée.

Individual UU's and UU congregations can participate with Reverend Sinkford during the journey in a variety of ways:

- by joining a Sunday School "web-cast" in real time with Rev. Sinkford each Sunday during the pilgrimage,
- by using the "congregational participation" resource which describes each segment of the journey and the people/organizations Reverend Sinkford will be visiting with,
- by participating in the "Propose a Question" contest—Reverend Sinkford will present the most popular questions to people that he meets with.

Further information about each of these opportunities is available at www.uua.org/sinkfordafrica.

Fellowship Minister and Board of Directors

Minister: Rev. Danielle Di Bona

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 Pennington
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

Music: Suzanne Carlson

Hospitality Schedule November–December

2008	Coffee	Greeters
Nov. 2	Dolham	Gifford/Cole
Nov. 9	O'Brien	Howe/Thompson
Nov. 16	Wolfe/Neal	Kleinkopf
Nov. 23	Miller	M/J Smith
Nov. 30	Kortemeier	Frederick
Dec. 7	Carlson/Strong	Barth/Salvo
Dec. 14	Loney	VanAlsenoy
Dec. 21	McQuaid	Foskett
Dec. 28	Frederick	Kettley/Dolham