



Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

October 2008

*Any idea seriously entertained
tends to bring about the
realization of itself.*

—fortune cookie found by Phoebe Cole

Sunday, October 5 at 10:30 am ***Make Your Own Sunday***

Religious Exploration is not just for children—spiritual growth and faith development are things we do throughout our lives. Come for a taste test of “Lifespan Faith Development,” a UUA RE perspective offering original flavors of community, choices of spiritual toppings, and sprinkles of Peace, Love, & Justice. The RE Committee and Danielle will indulge us in exploring the transformative power of the “Tapestry of Faith Lifespan Curriculum,” a program sure to satisfy all ages and backgrounds.

Sunday, October 12 at 10:30 am ***Who’s On First?***

—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

The UUA, the UU congregation or fellowship, the UU Minister. How does the process work? What does it mean to be called to ministry? We will examine what “ministry” means and looks like and how we are all called into a “shared ministry.”

Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am

“The Only Proof He Needed for the Existence of God Was Music” is based on the epitaph author (and Unitarian) Kurt Vonnegut requested for himself. The service will include reflections by MUUF members **Barney Balch, John Adams, Sue Carlson, and Jean Howe** about the spiritual powers of music and the many ways it touches us.

Sunday, October 26 at 10:30 am ***Awakening the Sleeping Giant in Each of Us***

—Tom Hagan and Patricia Seybold

Tom and Patty will relate some of their experiences working as volunteers for the Uganda Rural Development and Training Program. The organization uses a “bottom up” approach with the guiding principle that “no one can develop you except

you yourselves.” It has helped build new businesses and educational programs since its founding 21 years ago. Tom and Patricia have been able to apply their entrepreneurship and educational skills to this volunteer work. They have been living part of the time on Back Narrows Road in Boothbay since 1986 in the former YMCA day camp, previously owned by our own Mimi Moore. Tom is the newest member of the Fellowship.

SAVE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3rd for POTLUCK SUPPER

WITH Rev. Danielle Di Bona and Rev. Karen Brammer 6 pm
For conversations – “high points and rough spots of our history”



And “getting to know you” – Rev. Danielle
“getting to know all about you” – US

AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 9 am–3 pm

For current and/or future leadership

**Board members, Minister of Music, representatives of Committees:
Nominating, Sunday Program., Music, Green Sanctuary, Membership,
Hospitality, Faith in Action, Long Range Planning, Religious Exploration et al**

sharing expectations of the ministry and Fellowship future

UPCOMING DATES:

October 3 Friday—Fellowship Potluck, 6 pm at Edgecomb Town Hall

October 4 Saturday—Leadership retreat, 9 am–3 pm at the Town Hall

October 6 Monday—Faith in Action committee meeting, 12 noon at North Cottage Coffee shop, 77 Main Street, Damariscotta

October 6 Monday—MUUF Board Meeting, 6–8 pm, CEI, Wiscasset

October 16 Thursday—Sunday Program Committee, 4:30 pm at Baileys

October 23 Thursday—Lunch Bunch, 12 noon at the Schooner Landing Restaurant in Damariscotta.

October 29 Wednesday—UU Poets, 1:30 at Mimi Moore’s house. For directions, contact Mimi at 882-6299.

October 29 Wednesday—Community Supper, 5 pm at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle.

November 9 Sunday—Annual Meeting

Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

As I write this reflection, there is a definite "nip" in the air. Fall is tiptoeing into our lives and some of us are not ready. Although winter is my favorite season, and I'm invigorated by the icy cold air that surrounds me when I leave the house, it is that bridging time called Fall that I find unsettling. I hate that the days are getting shorter. I hate going out to my large vegetable garden and pulling up more plants that have "gone by." And yet, I have a sense of expectation and excitement as I feel the cooler air and look forward to the snow and cold. This dying off period in our trip through the seasons is early preparation for the new birth and new growing period that seems so far down the road today. Some of our Christian brothers and sisters would tell us that we must die in order to live, and this is the time of year in our calendar that we celebrate and remember those who have died, as All Souls and All Saints days are coming up on the "liturgical" calendar. This is also the time of year that we celebrate Mabon, the Pagan holiday of gratitude. I like the idea put forth by Summer Fey Foovay on her website that this is a time of "coming in—preparing for the cold season when activities will be inner rather than outer." And so, as we begin our inner activities, for me this is an opportunity to contemplate the cycle of birth and death, living and dying, and celebrating the wonders that come forth from our earth that sustain us through the cold of winter. Enjoy these days of beauty, dear ones!

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.

Refreshment/Social Hour

Sharon Crosbie has offered to be responsible for coffee hour supplies—thank you Sharon. If you find a necessary supply getting low, please let her know. scrosbie@207ME.com

President's Message

Mark your calendars for the Fellowship Potluck on **Friday October 3rd from 6–8:30 pm** at the Edgecomb Town Hall. This is our **Start-Up** weekend facilitated by Small Church Specialist of the NNED, Karen Brammer.

So what is a Start-Up? Friday night will be a gathering of all members and friends of the Fellowship joining together in greeting and getting to know our new interim minister Rev. Danielle Di Bona. We will share dinner and stories of the high points and rough spots of our history. It is also a time to share expectations of the ministry and spin dreams of what the Fellowship might become. On Saturday, October 4th from 9–3 pm the lay leaders, staff and minister will work together to clarify and plan our goals, process and covenant for the coming year.

Come participate and find your special place in helping build our dreams for Midcoast UU Fellowship.

There are many opportunities for everyone to participate in the present and future of the Fellowship. This is the perfect time to get involved and help make a real difference in providing a home for liberal religion in Midcoast Maine.

I hope to see all of you at the Potluck!
Peace, Mary Neal

Fund Raising Events News

When the Harvest Supper was over, and I was saying "good night" to friends at the door, a woman stopped to shake my hand. "Thank you so much," she said. "It was a treat to sit down to dinner with a pretty tablecloth and real, cloth napkins. I look forward to coming again next year."

I pass this conversation along because it shines a spotlight on the kitchen duties that could have been done much easier with paper products, but instead spoke to the community about our resolve to go green. Let's hear it for the men at the

Chips from the Board

After much discussion, the following **motion** was made and seconded and **passed** with a unanimous vote: "That at this time, proxy-voting and absentee ballots in all matters of Midcoast UU Fellowship not be allowed, because the discussions before any vote at business meetings are very important."

UUA's October Action of the Month

For October's Action of the Month, the UUA invites you to join UUs across the nation to **Publish for Peace**. The goal is to get one letter-to-the-editor (LTE) or op-ed published in each UU district. Many UUs write letters as a spiritual discipline; as an opportunity to persuasively articulate how their faith informs their actions in the world.

To get you started, the UUA has launched their Publish for Peace Campaign Headquarters. There you will find tips on writing LTEs and op-eds, sample LTEs, background information on Iran and diplomacy, candidates' positions, and more. Let the UUA know you are participating by emailing your completed letter (published or not) to la_international@uua.org.

sink and three cheers for the young people (and sturdy oldsters) who made many trips up and down the stairs bringing clean plates and silverware to the tables.

Financially the supper was a modest success adding \$610.95 to the church treasury. Socially it was a winner: attractive hall and tables, delicious food, upbeat music, happy crowd. Again this year, it was an all fellowship project. Thank you all!

Mimi Moore,
with planning committee,
Mabel O'Brien and Sylvia Bailey

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
10/5	Pennington	Hancock/Drums
10/12	Bailey	Mathews/Rich
10/19	VanAlsenoy	Balch/Matrai
10/26	Gifford/Cole	Wolcott/Twaddle]
11/2	Dolham	Gifford/Cole

Green Sanctuary Gleanings

Going green with tidal energy in Wiscasset

At the end of August, it was announced Natural Currents Energy Service has filed an application to create a tidal power plant on the Sheepscott River. A far better alternative to a coal gasification facility, one would hope!

In Boothbay Harbor, St. Andrews Hospital's Green Initiative

Since this program began in October of 2007, the hospital has been making a number of changes and plans on making more. Recycling of newsprint, cardboard, bottles and cans happens at various collection points. Staff are asked to bring in their own mugs and wash them themselves. China and silverware are used for patient meals. A Green Team has been formed to explore and implement more measures. Turning off of lights and equipment when not in use and car pooling are encouraged.

From The National Resources Council of Maine:

Tip of the Day:

Plan for Winter Eating: In the summer, can or freeze fresh produce to enjoy in the winter. Hint: canned roasted red peppers are an excellent winter substitute for tomatoes on sandwiches.

Fast Facts:

- Is your sunscreen safe? Check out <http://cosmeticsdatabase.com/special/sunscreens2008/> to make sure.
- American divorces result in an additional 173 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and 627 billion gallons of

water each year caused by the creation of more households with fewer people in them.

- In April The United Methodist Church became the first church to pass a resolution officially opposing the use of mercury in medicines.

Global Warming Lawsuit

According to the August 26th issue of the Portland Press Herald, Maine is one of twelve states to join in a suit against the federal government to force the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate global warming pollution from oil refineries. Good going!

From the Sierra Club "Green Tips":

"Drinks made with organic, local, and seasonal ingredients can get even greener if served in recycled glassware. Sure, nixing single-use plastic cups is a step in the enviro direction, but why stop there when eco-minded designers now give you such chic alternatives? The Wisconsin-based Green Glass Company (<http://www.greenglass.com/>) offers, simple, colorful wineglasses, goblets and tumblers made of reclaimed and recycled wine and beer bottles, and Uncommon Goods (<http://www.uncommongoods.com/>) sells beer glasses made in Colombia from recycled car windshields." Of course, mixing an matching your glass set from thrift stores works just as well. And by using different glasses, your guest should always be able to tell which one is theirs.

Canvass Committee Report

We sent out 80 pledge drive letters in late August. Only fifteen (15) responses have been received as of Sept. 22. They total \$12,116.00. Thank you to you early responders and for your generosity.

The Board's proposed 2009 Budget was offered to all for your input on Sunday, Sept. 7th. Copies have been and should be on the back table at Fellowship for your taking and studying. They show:

Total Income: \$47,100

Pledge part of that income: \$42,000

Total Expenses: \$47,061

Please help us by mailing in your pledge as soon as possible (or bring to Fellowship on Sunday). Please think about our exciting year ahead with our new Interim Minister, Rev. Danielle Di Bona, the petite lady with the great sense of humor, for whom David Bailey has promised to build a sturdy stool. Also remember we are hoping for a new Religious Exploration Director; how fortunate we are to have Barbara Prose as our Minister of Music, pianist and Choir Director, who puts together all our inspiring Sunday services music; all the work that goes into our monthly newsletter and Lindy Gifford's skill and artistry as editor and graphic designer—Town Hall rent, our uplifting diversity of Sunday speakers, thanks to our Program Comm.; the usual business expenses, our community outreach, and our Fair Shares support of UUA and our Northern New England, UUA, District.

Jean Howe, June Phillips, Dick Miller, and Rev. Chas. Reinhardt

Community Supper

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

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on October 23 at the Schooner Landing Restaurant in Damariscotta. The topic will be: **What is the best case you can make for the election of the party you will not vote for in November.**

Celebrate Samhain, November 2

In our theologically diverse fellowship, we find meaning in all the world's religions. On November 2 we will be celebrating Samhain (**pronounced Sow-en**), 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 ritual keeps us steadfast in the understanding that human life parallels the changing of the seasons. In this very special intergenerational worship experience, we together, young and old, along with 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. We ask that you **bring** with you on that day **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.

**UU New England Fall Conference
"The Future of Unitarian Universalism"
October 17-18, 2008**

The DCU Center Arena & Convention Complex, Worcester, MA

Friday: 6 pm Registration

8:15 pm Worship with the Rev. Sara Ascher, Minister Brookfield, MA
UU Church

Saturday: 7:30 am Registration

8:30 am Worship with The Rev. Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA

9:30 am Keynote Address:

The Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales, both candidates for next President of the UUA

11:30 Board of Trustees Conversation

12:30 pm Lunch

1:45 pm Workshops

3:45 Closing

Web site: www.NewEnglandUUs.org

For more info call (508)559-6650

Registration: \$110. No refunds after Oct. 8.

Mail to: BCD Office, 325 West Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301

Or pay by credit card on-line at www.mktix.com/uuc

Lodging: Hilton Garden Inn, Worcester, MA, adjacent to DCU Center
(508)753-5700; www.hiltongarden.com

100 Rooms have been reserved for the conference at \$109/night
(mention UU New England)

Limited home hospitality available (visit our website)

Meals: All breaks and saturday lunch are included in fee.

**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 October–December

2008	Coffee	Greeters
Oct. 5	Pennington	Hancock/Drums
Oct. 12	Bailey	Mathews/Rich
Oct. 19	VanAlsenoy	Balch/Matrai
Oct. 26	Gifford/Cole	Wolcott/Twaddle]
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



Columbus Day Weekend on Martha's Vineyard

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard invites you to join us over Columbus Day Weekend, October 11–13, 2008. Fall is the best season of all on the Vineyard. Just ask any year-rounder. The crowds are gone, the air is crisp, the water is still plenty warm for a swim. Birdlife is on the move along with the striped bass and the blues. There's no better time to hike and bike our unspoiled trails and backroads. So come on over. We'll put you up with host UU families, treat you to a seafood supper and entertainment, offer an Island tour and welcome you to Sunday service at historic Stevens Chapel. For complete information, see our website at www.uusmv.info (B&B Weekend link) or e-mail us at cdevito@comcast.net. We'd love to see you on the Island.