



# Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

September 2008

## Sunday, September 7 at 10:30 am —On Stewardship

**Ron Phillips** is the president of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), the Wiscasset-based community development corporation he founded in 1977. CEI's mission is to "help create economically and environmentally healthy communities in which all people, especially those with low incomes, can reach their full potential." Ron will consider "Stewardship" from his 30-year perspective at CEI—there may be some parallels for MUUF as we reflect on our Fellowship of a quarter century.



## Sunday, September 14 at 10:30 am Stepping Westward— Poetry as Cairns —Martin Steingesser & Judy Tierney

Traveling sometimes unmarked fields, forests, vast sierras, deserts, we come upon a cairn that says someone has passed this way and are reassured, a little less lost.

Aging—or more broadly, changing—is the journey, life itself the path. In our program, we envision poems as cairns, stones someone has had the presence to assemble and compose. We will explore ways some poems guide, some reassure that others have traveled this far, understood something of the terrain and moved on. Or, like cairns, some poems celebrate, pay tribute to a passing. And the program itself is a journey, the poems, markers to help keep us on a path we might be nourished to take together. We mean to have fun, too, stopping before some of these cairns to lift and touch the words, what joy and light we find in them.

Martin Steingesser is a poet and performer and author of a book of poems, *Brothers of Morning*. He is Portland's first Poet Laureate.

Judy Tierney has been presenting poems in Maine for several years and has been nourished in the garden of poetry over many life seasons. She was creator and host of a weekly radio program, "Walking in the Air," celebrating poetry and its voices, on WRFR, Rockland's community radio station.

*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

## Sunday, September 21 at 10:30 am Sit Naomi, And Pay Attention —Rev. Danielle Di Bona

We who live in this fast-paced world of the 21st century have little time to contemplate who we are, where we are and who we want to be. Life seems to move faster than the speed of light and we often stumble along wondering what we've missed. Today I invite you to take a breather and contemplate life and its fullness and joy.

Danielle is, of course, the newly official interim minister of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!



## Sunday, September 28 at 10:30 am —Tom Grogan

Join me as we consider the questions, "How do we encourage one another to keep the faith?" and, "What do we mean by that anyway?"

Tom Grogan is a student at Bangor Theological Seminary and is in Candidate Status with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA. He lives in Bangor with his wife LyAnn and their children Conor and Caleigh. Tom recently returned from San Diego, California where he spent ten months engaged in his Ministerial Internship at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego.

### UPCOMING DATES:

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

**September 9 Tuesday**—Sunday Program Committee, 9:30 am at the Baileys'

**September 13 Saturday**—Harvest Supper, 5:30 pm at the Edgecomb Town Hall

**October 3 Friday**—Fellowship Potluck, 6 pm with Danielle and Karen Brammer at the Edgecomb Town Hall

**October 4 Saturday**—Leadership Retreat with with Danielle and Karen Brammer, 9 am–3 pm at the Edgecomb Town Hall

**November 9 Sunday**—Annual Meeting

## Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

I am delighted and humbled to be called as your quarter-time interim minister. I am excited about the opportunity to serve you and to be in relationship with you. This will be an exciting year for all of us, as it is the beginning of your plan to call a permanent minister.

I hope that I will have many opportunities to learn about the history of your fellowship and how your community has impacted the larger community around you. I also am very much looking forward to knowing all of you. Relationships and the trust that comes from good, healthy relationships are built on stories. I hope that we will spend time together and that each of you will seek me out and tell me your stories. I, in turn, will tell you mine.

Although I do not have a schedule yet, I plan to be with you in your beautiful town hall once a month. I will also be available for pastoral care, conversation and visits. And you will see me around committee meetings here and there as well as social events! I love to cook, eat, and talk so I'm sure we'll have many opportunities to know each other.

May each of you be blessed with joy, good health, and a compassionate heart until we meet again.

Fondly,

Rev. Danielle

## President's Message

Once again it's time to commit to MUUF's financial support for our collective future. Each year every member of the Fellowship determines how much he or she wants our Fellowship to be able to prosper in the coming year. If we each give generously of our money and time we will surprise ourselves with the dreams MUUF can bring to reality.

During this transitional time it is very important for everyone to be a part of building our future together. MUUF's second twenty-five years will depend on a second generation of "Founders" to provide the guidance and strength to reach our Fiftieth Anniversary. Fortunately we have some of our original Founders still leading the way for MUUF. But there is a need for everyone to participate more fully in growing the Fellowship, both with generous financial support and time commitments to our many volunteer needs.

I am frequently asked "How much should someone give?" This is not an easy question to answer but it's a very important one. Our individual charitable giving budgets would express a wide range of financial commitments of which gifts to MUUF are only a part. For every single adult member (72 members in 2008) it costs \$670.30 (\$1,340.60 per couple) to run our programs and pay the salaries

and bills. This is only \$56 per month, cheaper than cable TV and a lot better for our mental well being! There are some in the Fellowship who may not be able to afford \$670.30 per year but most can. We are very grateful to those who can pledge above this base level and underwrite the support for those whose resources are more constrained.

So what does the Fellowship do with the money it receives? It provides for our wonderfully diverse Sunday Program Speakers, our new Interim Minister, our gifted Music Director and hopefully soon an RE Director. All our salaries are determined to provide parity among our employees and to pay at the 50% level for our geographic location as determined by the UUA. Additionally we are proud to be contributing our fair share to the UUA/NNED. It takes a significant percent of our budget (14% in 2008) to pay for the unglamorous items like rent, insurance, cell phone and printing/ mailing our great newsletter each month.

In fact in 2009 we all need to give something extra so that our guests and future members, who do not yet give to our budget, will have their expenses covered. When we support MUUF we receive not only personal nourishment but we are also providing a gift of a liberal religious opportunity in our Midcoast neighborhood for those who may want to join us. So pledge generously to MUUF for 2009.

Peace,

Mary Neal



### "Start-up" Weekend Gatherings Oct. 3 & 4

There will be two special meetings with Karen Brammer, our NNED Small Church Specialist, to help us begin our work together with Rev. Danielle Di Bona for MUUF. Friday, October 3 at 6 pm there will be a Fellowship Potluck at the Edgecomb Town Hall. The next day, Saturday, October 4, 9 am-3 pm there will be a leadership meeting, also at the Town Hall.

### What is a "Start-up?"

In the words of Karen Brammer: It is a gathering of everyone who can come on Friday night, and for leadership to work together the next day. It is a way for your new minister to get to know you well, and for the whole congregation to get 'on the same page' with expectations for what your ministry together might be for the coming year.

**Friday night pot-luck and stories.** Generally the congregation tells stories of the high points and rough spots of the congregation's history. It is also a time to share expectations of the ministry and spin dreams of what the congregation might become. This is fun and a great way for newcomers to get to know the congregation as well.

**Saturday is a work session for lay leaders and minister** to clarify and agree on how they will work together in the coming year (goals, process, covenant, etc.).

## Treasurer's Notes

25th Anniversary contributions (some mailed in after our celebration Brunch): \$492

Blueberries Fundraiser, Aug. 17: \$267  
Contributions to the Washburn & Doughty Employees Fund (to help them replace their tools lost with the building in the fire): \$288

Thanks to us all who responded to these helpful and worthwhile calls for financial actions.

Jean Howe

## Report of August 17 Special Meeting

The special business meeting of the membership of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for the purpose of voting on Rev. Danielle Di Bona as candidate for interim minister was called to order after a brief social time. Two separate items were addressed.

The question of acceptance of absentee voting was discussed. It was a unanimous decision that presence at the meeting and discussion was required in order to cast a vote. It was asked that the Board discuss this issue and bring a recommendation to the Fellowship.

With a quorum of twenty-nine the vote to invite Rev. Danielle Di Bona was 28 yes and 1 abstention.



## Fund Raising Events News

Fall is in the air and children everywhere are gathering notebooks and pencils for school.

Our fall fund raiser is the Harvest Supper, Saturday, September 13, at 5:30 pm at the Town Hall. We plan to feature local foods from local gardens. (We are "locavores," to use a popular, new term.) The menu will include baked ham, vegetable dishes, salads, rolls, apple pie, tea, coffee and fruit juice. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under ten.

Local musicians, *The Narrow Gauge String Band*, will play for us this year. Children from the Fellowship, who play instruments, are invited to share the spotlight.

Young people are needed to carry food from the kitchen to the tables upstairs. Please contact Mabel O'Brien—586-6113.

We had hoped to offer prizes for the best, home-grown pumpkin, but the weather has been so unpredictable, we can't promise that the crop will be ready on time.

Again, like last year, this is an all church effort. It was successful last year because everybody took part. If you have not been asked to participate please call Mimi Moore, 882-6299 or email kolokythia@verizon.net

## Knoxville This Week

We learned pure aggressive rage  
fighting lions;  
then returning to the arms of love,  
aggression receding into a sea  
of comfort, consolation.

What could be more potent  
than to sacrifice oneself for one's  
companions?  
—a close cousin to revenge.  
What could be more potent  
Than to sacrifice oneself to avenge  
a wrong done to one's tribe?

Samson brooding in captivity,  
when his seven locks of hair grew  
back,  
avenged his defeat by Philistines  
pulling down the pillars of the house  
upon his enemies and himself  
(the world's original suicide bomber).  
His tribesmen and women  
wrote poems of his valor, his sacrifice,  
buried him with honor in the family  
tomb.

This past week a man out of the blue  
seated himself in the congregation  
of the Knoxville, TN, UU Congregation.  
He had been there before with his  
then wife.

Both had wandered away years before,  
had divorced and were lost to view,  
to any connection,  
so far as anyone knew.

After years of lonely brooding  
and unemployed, society's discard,  
he reappeared and seated himself.  
There was no joyful reunion  
for nobody remembered.

The congregation had now become  
the focus  
of long brooding projections by this  
stranger.

Its liberal outreach was now the  
cause of his woes.  
It supported oppressed minorities,  
especially the gays.  
It supported the liberation of women,  
while he, unemployed, cast aside,  
anonymous,  
drifted depressed in the shadows.  
His one competence remained a gun.  
His resentment, his blaming, his  
raging moods  
pulsing, consuming, he set out  
to kill the Lion.

He seated himself towards the front  
while hormones and readied genes  
coursed through amygdala,  
hypothalamus,  
no counter chemicals breaking a  
rising revenge.  
Not even children singing could calm  
the roiling Samsonian storm.  
He began firing!  
A large man rose and hurled himself  
into this rage, pushing him to the floor,  
dying there as others now held down  
the intruder from dark atavistic  
violence  
until police carried him away.  
He will be punished.  
He will not return to loving arms  
of solace, of comfort.

"Greater love has no man than this,  
that he lay down his life for his friends."  
Consider the usher who rose in an  
instant  
and hurled himself into gun and  
assailant.

In an instant the same chemical wash  
coursed through amygdala,  
hypothalamus,  
unchecked by doubts,  
or considerations of self-preservation  
—he could have been one of us.  
Now mourned by loving hands,  
grateful hearts in grief,  
traumatized friends  
returning to each other,  
comforting, consoling,  
healing torn hearts  
in a world needing justice.  
Have compassion for the broken  
among us;  
compassion for the loving who must  
prevail!

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August 3, 2008  
Edgecomb, ME  
UU Fellowship



**The new MUUF directory is going to press in September. Please notify David Bailey of any address or email changes right away.**

**Our first ever Maine blueberry sale** added \$267 to the MUUF coffers and well over 100 pounds of plump berries to members fridge's and freezers. It was all profit thanks to the donation by Donna Dolham for the hand-raked nuggets from her family's farm in Warren. I will be making some blueberry cake with some of mine for our fund raising **Harvest Supper on Sept. 13**. Hope to see you there!

**Remember our website: [www.uumidcoast.org](http://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.

**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

	<b>Coffee/Tea</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
<b>9/7</b>	Mathews/Rich	Miller
<b>9/14</b>	Kleinkopf	McQuaide
<b>9/21</b>	Gifford/Cole	Carlson/Strong
<b>9/28</b>	Linker	Elwin
<b>10/5</b>	VanAlsenoy	Hancock/Drums



**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](http://www.uusmv.info) (B&B Weekend link) or e-mail us at [cdevito@comcast.net](mailto:cdevito@comcast.net). We'd love to see you on the Island.

**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](mailto:uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com) or (802) 353-7969.

**Hospitality Schedule July–December**

<b>2008</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
July 6	Balch/Matrai	O'Brien
July 13	Salvo	B&A Flanagan
July 20	Fosket	Linkers
July 27	E.Davis	Wolf/Neal
Aug. 3	Barnes/Howe	Leff/Fenster
Aug.10	Barth	Pennington
Aug.17	A/B.Flanagan	Kortemeier
Aug. 24	Elwin	Lannan
Aug. 31	M&J /Smith	Moore
Sept. 7	Mathews/Rich	Miller
Sept. 14	Kleinkopf	McQuaide
Sept. 21	Gifford /Cole	Carlson/Strong
Sept. 28	Linker	Elwin
Oct. 5	VanAlsenoy	Hancock/Drums
Oct. 12	Ginger	Mathews/Rich
Oct. 19	Pennington	Balch/Matrai
Oct. 26	Bailey	Gifford/Cole
Nov. 2	Dolham	Wolcott/Twaddle
Nov. 9	O'Brian	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