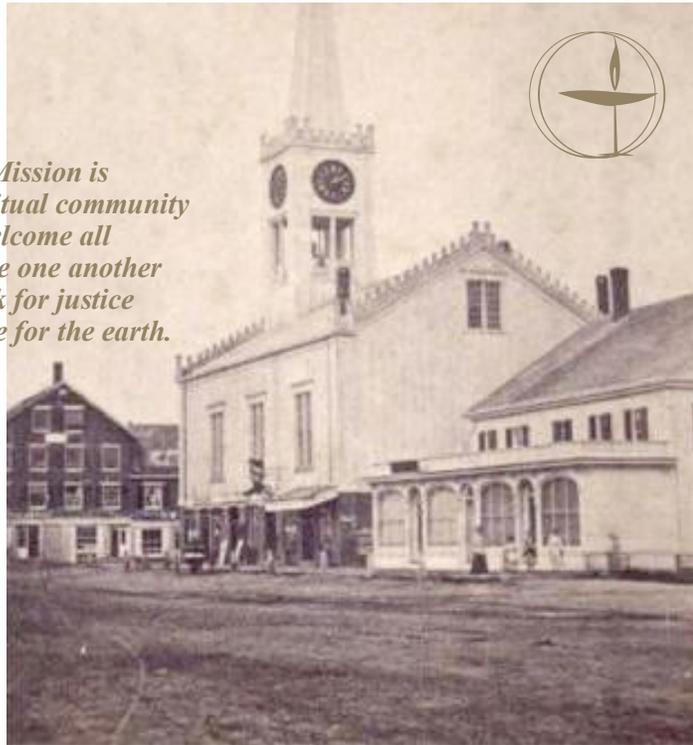




Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick

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*Our Mission is
To be a spiritual community
To welcome all
To nurture one another
To work for justice
And to care for the earth.*

MOST SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

**The Unitarian Universalist
Church of Brunswick**

- Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister
- Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus
- Nicole Shanks,
Director of Religious Education
- Stephanie Bernier,
Music Coordinator
- Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director
- David Dean, Accompanist
- Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator
- Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

Newsletter editor:
Susan Michaud
michaud_susan@comcast.net
NEXT DEADLINE
for February issue is
Fri, March 23, 2011, 5 pm
Rare exceptions: 729-4857

March 5 – "The Faith Journey of an Agnostic."

Our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Brad Mitchell will take us on an expedition through Ecclesiastes to explore "The Faith Journey of an Agnostic." Music provided by Grace Lewis-McLaren & John McLaren

March 11 – "Celebration Sunday."

Held at the Morrell Room at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick

After an amazing church year, today we celebrate the community we are, through easy times and hard, joy and sorrow, and highs and lows. Our kids will make special presentations. Jud Caswell will provide special music. Sylvia and Nicole will be there with bells on to bring the message of celebration and commitment home. Gala hospitality will follow. Your part in this? As part of the celebration, we will have the opportunity to make our individual commitments to the our church for the coming year. Show up, garner meaning, bring goodies, have fun, hand in your pledge card for the coming year. During the service we will announce the results of the Annual Budget Drive, the pot of money that will carry us through the coming year.

March 18 – "Perseverance" – Music Sunday.

Our celebration of our community continues in this service devoted to music. Many of our musicians will offer pieces that represent this year's theme, "Perseverance," a quality we are discovering we have in abundance this year. Rev. Stocker will lead the service.

March 26 – "Be Not Afraid."

Rev. Stocker preaching. Music provided by Larry Lemmel.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Last month I used my newsletter column space to write about parents as primary religious educators and this month I wanted to continue with that theme. Unitarian Universalism is an unorthodox faith and that can present challenges to parents who want to be effective spiritual guides for their children. It can be hard to know where to get started! Below I've listed some concrete ideas that a family can utilize at home. These ideas should be credited to Michelle Richards and you can read more about them and about Unitarian Universalist parenting in *Tending the Flame*. I have a copy of the book available for anyone who would like to borrow it to learn more.

- ♦ Engage in a regular spiritual practice as a family or one on one, parent and child. Martial Arts, yoga, nature walks, meditation, and creative expression are just a few examples of spiritual practices that can be family friendly.
- ♦ Model radical hospitality. Radical hospitality is being open to those

who are different from us and accepting and affirming those differences. When we as adults lift up the good in others we can teach our children to let go of judgments and find the divine spark within people we wouldn't necessarily choose as our friends. This serves as a powerful guide for peaceful living.

- ♦ Teach generosity. Parents can model generosity by letting their children witness their acts of kindness to people in need. Let your children see you giving money to the charities you support and talk about why you support them. Think about how to involve your children in volunteer opportunities. Parents and children can work together serving meals in a soup kitchen, buying holiday gifts for a needy family, making greeting cards for nursing home residents, collecting for food drives, and more.
- ♦ Celebrate rites of passage and holidays. What holidays and rites of passage are important in your

family and how can you celebrate them? Creating rituals and traditions that are meaningful to your family allow everyone in the family to anticipate their arrival each time they come around. Rather than celebrating only secular holidays or the secular aspects of religious holidays, take time to consider what holidays mean to your family based on your values and use that as a starting point for creating or continuing meaningful traditions.

Blessings,
nicole

Flowers and Focal Points



Sign up at the back table.

IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 4 - RE Classes,
Youth Group

March 11 - NO RE Classes;
Intergenerational Service

March 18 - RE Classes,
Youth Group

March 25 -
RE Classes



HOW TO REACH US

**The Unitarian Universalist
Church of Brunswick
PO Box 129
Brunswick ME 04011**

The church office, (at 7 Middle Street) is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4 and on Wednesday from 12-4. The office administrator is Shirley Bernier.

The Director of Religious Education, Nicole Shanks, is in her office at 7 Middle Street, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am - 1 pm and by appointment. Contact her by telephone at the church office: 729-8515.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker, has office hours Tuesday and Thursday 1-4 pm and by appointment. In an emergency, do not hesitate to call her anywhere or any time. (Consult the church directory for her home number.) For routine church business, please call her at the church.

Monday is the Sabbath for the Minister, the DRE, and the office.

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515
E-mail: uubrun@zwi

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



What do celebration and commitment have to do with each other? People love to celebrate happy things. Making commitments is hard for some folks, though. Fun is fun. Commitment may imply work or entrapment, and it can produce anxiety and fear.

Here's the thing, though. The two do go together sometimes. When one makes a commitment that proves meaningful and fruitful, the deeper satisfaction that ensues is particularly joyous – and that is cause for celebration, indeed.

Our church continually offers opportunities for both celebration and commitment. When people sign our historic membership book, they make a commitment. Their commitment usually springs from a sense of celebrating what they have found here.

In truth, the congregation will never be more perfect than it is the moment one signs the membership book. Soon enough, our congregation will begin to show its warts. How can it not do so? The congregation is made up of imperfect people.

So what happens when the honeymoon ends? The opportunity for something deeper and ultimately more satisfying takes its place. For most, the discovery that the congregation is not perfect will offer a chance to practice the spiritual arts of forgiveness, compassion, and understanding. In addition, knowing our congregation is imperfect means all of us can show up with our imperfect selves.

In other words, by staying the course and living into the commitment to the congregation, one can grow spiritually and be accepted for who one is. One can delve deeper into both relationship and self-understanding than would be possible otherwise. One's commitment to the congregation allows a harvest of rewards that help yearning souls, seeking minds, and hopeful hearts to expand and open into their best selves. And that is cause for even deeper celebration.

We're doing something very different and special this year. Sunday, March 11, is Celebration Sunday for UUCB. **(PLEASE NOTE: The service will be held at 10 a.m. in the Morrell Room of Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick.** The temple is using the Minnie Brown Center that morning.) We will celebrate the amazing strength, flexibility, understanding, compassion, and creativity that makes our congregation special. In truth, our congregation always possesses those qualities. In "rising to the occasion" after the fire, however, we have demonstrated more vividly than ever who we are at the core – a congregation that possesses verve and pluck, open hearts and questing

minds, energy and perseverance. I celebrate those qualities of our congregation every day.

Celebration Sunday will also be the day of our Annual Budget Drive, which produces the funds for the day-to-day work of the congregation. We will collect everyone's pledges during the service, tally them up, and announce the results then and there. That afternoon, Dave Kew, Bill Clark, and a team of volunteers will contact folks who were unable to attend the service. By the end of the day, the Annual Budget Drive will effectively be over. (Yes! That's right! A one-day budget drive!)

Please bring your favorite goodies to share at the celebration.

Why a one-day budget drive? First, many other UU congregations have successfully established Celebration Sundays like ours. We will follow down a path well paved by others. Second, doing our budget drive quickly will make room for the capital campaign that will follow a few weeks later. Third, by doing our work quickly, we will free up volunteers in a more timely way. But, perhaps the most important reason to do the budget drive this way is that it will create and capture energy – it will provide a real celebration for us.

For Celebration Sunday to be successful, we ask your presence at the service. The service will be great fun and not to be missed. Our kids will have a parade of banners depicting what they love about the church. (Who knows? Maybe some adults might like to make banners, too!) Jud Caswell will provide special music. Nicole and I will team up to present a lively and meaningful message. After the service, we will hold a gala hospitality hour to celebrate our congregation and our connection to it.

So come! Participate! Celebrate and commit! Join in the fun and in the meaning making! This is your home, and that is something to honor on Celebration Sunday.

Love, Sylvia

NEW MEMBER - SARAH BROWN



Sarah is the Adult Services Manager at Curtis Library, seems ecstatic to be living in Maine, and embraces all the outdoor activities our state has to offer. She belongs to a Geo-Caching group and if like me, you have never heard of this, ask her to share how it works! She is also an avid hiker, kayaker, and can't wait to go snowshoeing with all this fluffy snow. Sarah, who loves spontaneous road trips, enjoys traveling and has begun exploring Maine. She lives in Harpswell and feels fortunate to be able to see the ocean from her house. She has been a vegetarian for ten years.

Part of the appeal of our church is its inclusiveness and lack of dogma. Compassion for all is her personal creed. She is active on our Membership Committee as a result of feeling so warmly welcomed and included as a new-comer herself.

Sarah says she is passionate about reading and libraries. Even though she is a beginning knitter, she is starting a craft meet-up group at the library. She says craft and home and garden books are the most popular non-fiction books in the library. She feels strongly about the role of the library as a community builder and strives to be customer service and community focused in all aspects of her job.

Sarah is looking for a group to play board games and would love it if it were a group from the church. Any takers?

I'm sure you will see her lovely smile at the Membership table one of these Sundays...

Jessica Tracy

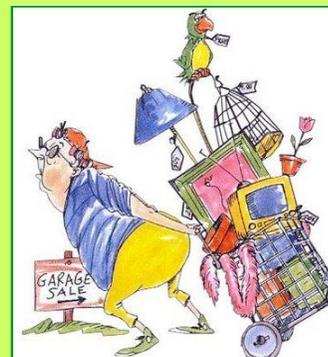
Welcome, Sarah Brown.

Sarah got involved in the West Lafayette, Indiana UU church about a year and a half before moving to Maine last June. Although she was born in Arkansas, Sarah had always wanted to live in Maine and was thrilled to find job opening in her field, in a town with a good library and a UU church.

YARD SALE

Save Your Stuff for our YARD SALE this spring!
Held at All Saints Church on McKeen Street

IMAGINE
a light fixture in our new church
GLOWING
from those items you wanted to get rid of anyway!



GREEN SANCTUARY



THE OTHER END OF AWAY

Away. Throw it away. Get away. Away down South. Put it away. Go away. They put her away. He was sent away. The bird flew away. And that Maine favorite: from Away.

We think we're advanced. We think we're high tech. We think we love our neighbors, or at least don't hate them, and that peace is a good target. But there's that word: *away*. As if there were a place called Away, where the insane, criminals, and trash could be sent, never to bother anyone again. To Australia. To Siberia. Away.

Look at the examples: In almost every case, the actual *site of away* is different. You *throw it away* in the trash, hence to the transfer station and a dump. *Get away*: out of sight of the police or responsibility. *Away down south* — clearly not in Maine. *Put it away*: in a closet, in a drawer. They *put her away*: in a mental hospital, not unlike a drawer. *Go away*: out of my sight. He *was sent away*: ditto, or maybe off to school. The bird *flew away*: disappeared. And *from Away*: anywhere on earth you neither know nor care about.

Away, of course, is relative. It's anywhere out of sight, out of mind, of the speaker or speakers. It's not inclusive; it's not considerate. It's dismissive. And in this crowded world, can we afford to be dismissive?

People lived in Australia and Georgia when criminals were sent *away* from England. I seriously bet those people did not appreciate criminals being dropped off in their midst.

The trash we throw away goes away from *us*. But there are people, birds, animals, and plants at the other end of Away. In the center of every major ocean gyre drift thousands of acres of trash, carried *away* from cities in scows, drained *away* from streets into sewers, streams, bays, oceans. Human or not, the thrown-away does not leave the earth: It stays to poison, pollute, to kill baby birds whose parents take bottle caps for clams, to alter male fish to something less male. Recyclable plastics, 3 through 7, go *away* to massive dumps in China to poison the neighbors and people whose job is to sweat out the plastic.

There is no Away that isn't someone else's Home. And there is no Away to go to when the thrown-away appears in your front yard or covers the ocean. There is only one big place, the Earth. There is no away and no way to get away.

What we flush down our toilets is processed near home: it stays. We no longer deport our prisoners; they stay. Can we process waste at home instead of sending it to someone else's home? Can we avoid making or buying what can't be processed at home? What if we said, "Throw it *home*," instead? It will take a major attitude shift. Join it.

—Robin Hansen

First Parish Church, UCC, a member of the 3 Churches Earth Care with UUCB and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, has focused their 2012 winter education program on the environment. Here is their program for March:

Sun, Mar 4; 3 pm at Orion Theater. Haydn's Creation. First Parish Choir with Orchestra. FMI and tickets: 729-7331.

Sun, Mar 11, 11:30 am. Caring for God's Creation: the role of faith communities. The Rev. Jim Deming, environmental justice minister for the United Church of Christ.

Sun, Mar 18, 4 pm. Screening of *Renewal*, presenting ways various faith communities have responded to environmental issues. Followed by a soup and bread supper. Call 737-7331 for reservations.

Sun, Mar 25, 11:30 am. Environmental Issues facing Maine. Panel: Pete Didisheim, Sr. Director of Advocacy, Natural Resources of Maine; Tim Glidden, President, Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Jennifer Burns Gray, Staff Attorney and Advocate, Maine Audubon Society; moderated by Becky Holbrook

Please call 729-7331 for more information or to make reservations for child care. All programs held at Pilgrim House, 9 Cleaveland Street, Brunswick, unless otherwise noted.



**April 5, 7 pm
Crooker Theater at Brunswick HS
Students Speak: an Environmental Forum**

Nine students from Mt. Ararat, Brunswick, & Morse High Schools speak out on environmental issues in a forum moderated by a Bowdoin College environmental science student.

Question and answer period to follow the forum.

Hosted by Brunswick High School and sponsored by 3-Churches Earth Care (UUCB, First Parish UCC, and St. Paul's Episcopal churches).

No charge; the public is invited.

For more information, contact Shirley at the UUCB office. 729 8515.

MARCH CHARITY WITH SOUL

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT OF THE MIDCOAST

This month's charity is new to UUCB. The Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast promotes fundamental change in our communities, justice system, and schools. Our responses to wrongdoing and crime seek renewal and safety for the community, support and healing for victims, and accountability and reintegration for offenders.



In a recent interview, Margaret Micolichuk, Executive Director of the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast, summarized the Program's status by saying "In five years we have accomplished great things, but our successes show there is much more that we can and should do. Interestingly it turns out that our biggest challenge is funding, not building a team or delivering results.

Accomplishments

"Maybe our best accomplishment is we have shown that the Restorative Practices which emphasize accountability and healing are very effective and are broadly supported by the community, educators and the criminal justice system.

"During our first five years we have developed strong working relationships with a number of partners, including: Waldo County Sheriff's Office, Waldo County District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Community Corrections Officers, courts, schools across the state and local service organizations. We see this as a strong endorsement of what we do."

More specific accomplishments include:

- RJP's mentoring program has given more than 40 adult offenders a second chance as they re-enter the community, with a recidivism rate less than half the statewide average.

- In cooperation with the courts, RJP has given more than 20 adult offenders in a second chance by offering mentoring in lieu of a jail sentence and none has re-offended.
- RJP work, in partnership with the Juvenile Community Correction Officers in Waldo and Knox Counties has reduced recidivism by two thirds for first time offenders;
- RJP Community Resolution Teams (CRT) working with 87 juvenile offenders have a recidivism rate of only 5%.
- Newly implemented Restorative Practices at the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center (MCRRC) provide maximum support for an inmate's successful reentry back into their home community.
- RJP has given thousands of school children practice in solving conflicts through restorative processes. The work includes giving children, who have had more serious disciplinary problems, a second chance by bringing victims, offenders and other parties together to seek healing and restitution rather than detention, suspension or expulsion.

For more information go to their website:

<http://www.rjpmidcoast.org/>

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

**Tuesday, March 27 at 10:30
at**

**Helen Johnson's House
743 Cundy's Harbor Rd, Harpswell**



Amy Witt, a Habitat Steward and horticulturalist with the University of Maine Extension Service will speak on "Garden Myths." Hope to see you there.

SUMMER WORSHIP



Summer's coming! (It's not so hard to believe this year with the non-winter we've had). The Worship Committee has turned its attention to Summer Services. Thank you so much to those of you who filled the pulpit last summer. The unity and support you helped to provide in the aftermath of the fire was invaluable. Last summer our services were the most attended in memory, which proved that a church is its congregation, not its building! Our church has more vitality than ever.

The Worship Committee would love to hear from those of you who would be willing to help carry that same awesome energy through this summer season. New service leaders are welcome, too. A Worship Associate will be chosen to help you with the planning of your service. If you have an idea for a service please contact Pat Harris

at PJBHarris@aol.com. Be sure to let us know if there are dates that do NOT work for you or whether your topic is tied to a particular date.

The Building Team will need the congregation's input over the summer so it will continue to be important for us to get together regularly. Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

MEDITATION FOR WELL-BEING AT PEOPLE PLUS



Guided meditation can :

- ◆ bring you back to center
- ◆ help to create more resource for living
- ◆ quiet your nervous system to promote healing
- ◆ help you function more calmly
- ◆ help you become more intentionally present in your life

Meditation for Well Being at People Plus is nondenominational and not connected with any specific religious practice.

Our facilitators Stephanie Batterman and Karen Foley have extensive experience, leading and teaching guided meditation.

4 Wednesdays in March from 3:30-4:30,
starting March 7th

Cost: \$20/month (People Plus members);
\$28 (non-members)

Call People Plus at 729-0757 for details and to sign up.

People Plus, 35 Union Street, Brunswick

WHAT IS A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST?

- A: Someone who believes in life *BEFORE* death.
- B: Someone who prays, "To whom it may concern..."
- C: Just a Quaker with Attention Deficit Disorder.
- D: Someone who faces all questions with an open mouth.

A UU bumper sticker: "Honk If You're Not Sure."

NNED WORKSHOP REMINDERS

SPIRITUALITY OF GRANDPARENTING

March 31, 2012, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Concord UU Church, Concord NH

JUSTICE MAKING TOGETHER

2012 NNED Annual Spring Conference
April 13-14, 2012
Red Jacket Inn North Conway, NH

For more info and to register: WWW.NNED.UUA.ORG

Online Auction

March 5-18

at <http://biddingforgood.com/uuch>

WE'VE GOT THE DONATIONS- NOW WE NEED BIDDERS!

Thanks to Gretchen Kamilewicz, Sue Ellen Damour, Robin Hansen, Karen Foley, Julia Dahmer, Janet Alexander, Mike Heath, Andrea Brimlow, and myself, we have solicited almost 200 great items for our online auction.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

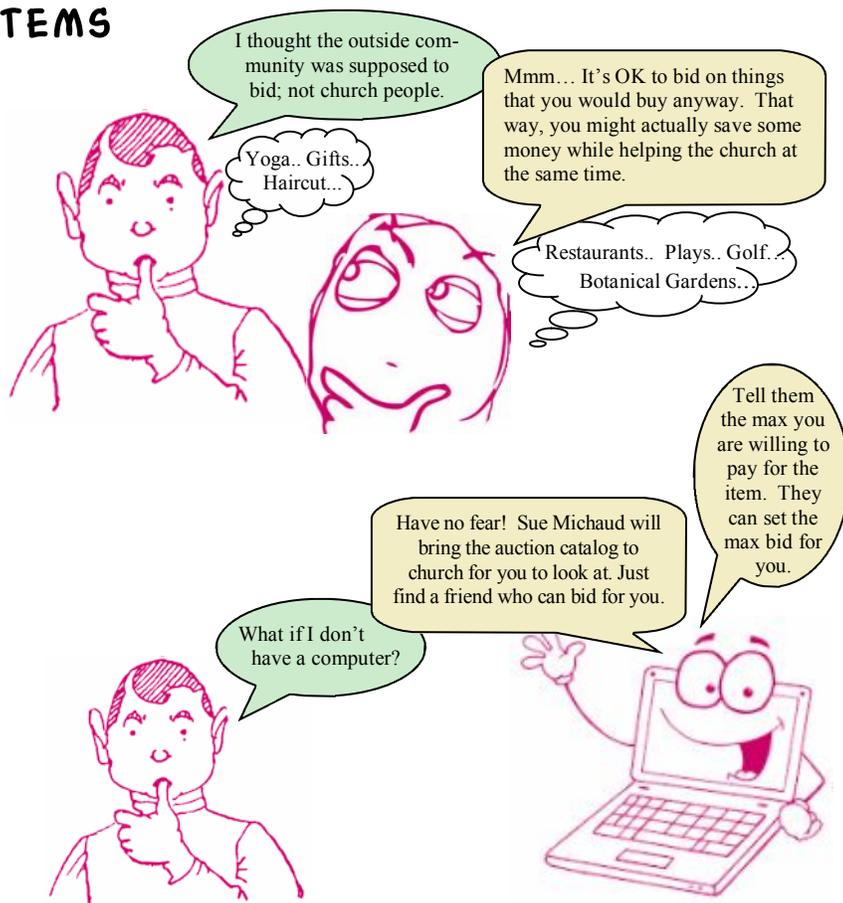
START SPREADING THE NEWS



1. Pick up flyers at Church and post them in visible spots around town.
2. Our Church Administrator, Shirley, will send you an email with details about the auction, and we would like you to **forward the email to EVERYONE you know**, and ask them to email to their friends as well. There are items that will interest people no matter where they live. We ask that you send out an email before the auction starts (They can take a look at the auction but can't bid yet), another one on March 5th when the auction begins, and another on the last day of the auction to remind them that it's their last chance. You can also tell them that they can donate money to our cause right from the auction site as well.

BID ON YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS

1. Go to <http://biddingforgood.com/uuch> and look all around the site. It's easiest to view the items by category. So, if you're interested in the restaurants, go to the DINING category on the left to see what's available.
2. To bid on an item, you must **register** first. To do this you just click on the "Register to Bid" link near the top of the UUCB auction page at <http://BiddingforGood.com/uuch>. You will be asked to enter your contact information and a username & password. Then before you can bid on an item, you will be asked to enter your credit card information. Have no worries. BiddingforGood is a secure site.
3. Once the credit card information is entered, you can bid on the chosen item and any other items that interest you.
4. You will be contacted via email if someone out-bids you so that you can bid again if you'd like.
5. The winning bidder will receive an email stating that you have won. Most items will be mailed out within one week of end of the auction. Consignment items will take longer, 3-4 weeks.



MEET OUR NEW DISTRICT EXECUTIVE OF THE NNED: JOE SULLIVAN



On behalf of the Board of the Northern New England District, I am delighted to announce that **Joe Sullivan will become the District Executive of the Northern New England District of the UUA on April 1, 2012.**

Joe brings a wealth of Unitarian Universalist and business leadership experience to our District. A geologist by training, Joe worked for 23 years in exploration, project development, and management in the international energy business. He chose early retirement in 2005 to follow a call to work with leadership in churches and non-profits.

As a charter member of the Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation in suburban Houston, Joe served in nearly every lay leadership role during the congregation's formative years from the mid '90's through 2008, and continues today in what he enjoys most -- teaching religious education for the children and youth. Through his congregation, Joe currently volunteers as board president for the Family Promise affiliate of Fort Bend County, Texas, an interfaith effort to empower homeless families to self-sufficiency.

Joe became active in District leadership (SWUUC) in 2000 when he joined the staff of the Southwestern Conferences annual week-long leadership experiences, and has served as the school's dean since 2009. He was among the District's first co-

hort of congregational consultants beginning in 2001, and served as SW District President from 2003-2008.

From district work, Joe became involved in greater UUA initiatives. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he served as project manager for the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund during 2006-07 and assisted in a consulting capacity with leaders of the Greater New Orleans Unitarian Universalists to help them restore their congregational lives and renew their visions. Through his involvement in the District Presidents Association, Joe served from 2006-08 on the UUA *Congregations Come First* task force concerning UUA and district services, and later co-chaired the *Fifth Principle* task force concerning the future configuration of General Assembly. Currently Joe helps as one of the senior facilitators for the UUA's *Gathered Here* initiative.

Since 2009, Joe has been a church consultant in partnership with Unity Consulting, a subsidiary of Unity Church-Unitarian of St. Paul. He specializes in custom governance and leadership development services for progressive congregations and related organizations. With Unity Consulting, he has helped develop and lead the programs on governance for the UUA General Assembly and the National Conference for Large Congregations.

The Board wishes to thank Nancy Chaddock and Rev. Johanna Nichols (Co-Chairs), Rev. Olivia Holmes, Jennifer McAdoo, and Thomas Pistole for their service on the DE Search Committee, and for their faithful and comprehensive work in finding us a new District Executive with such a breadth of experience and demonstrated commitment to Unitarian Universalism. We are all so lucky to have such dedicated and capable folk among us who are willing to take on the necessary and time-consuming tasks!

Please join us in welcoming Joe to NNED. We on the Board are looking forward to working with Joe in service to our congregations and in furtherance of this great faith of ours.

Regards,
Sue Buckholz
Board President for the NNED

A BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

UNITARIANISM IN BRUNSWICK

January 3, 1830 – The Unitarian movement was born in Brunswick when a group of 23 residents organized the Second Congregational Society of Brunswick. This group included Governor Robert Pinckney Dunlap and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a professor at Bowdoin College.

The members of the Universalist congregation had dwindled at this time and were unable to afford a minister, so they offered the use of their building on Federal Street to the Unitarians. Members of the Universalist congregation attended and supported the Unitarians for six years. The meetings were well attended. Professor Longfellow taught a popular Bible class for several years and he often played his flute for church services.

There was at this time a group of Unitarians in the First Parish of Topsham and they soon reached agreement with the Brunswick Society to alternate worship services between the two towns.

1835 – The Universalists reorganized and resumed holding services in their Federal Street church and the Unitarians moved their services to the Topsham church. By 1847 the Universalists had grown enough to build a new building on the corner of Mason and Maine Streets.

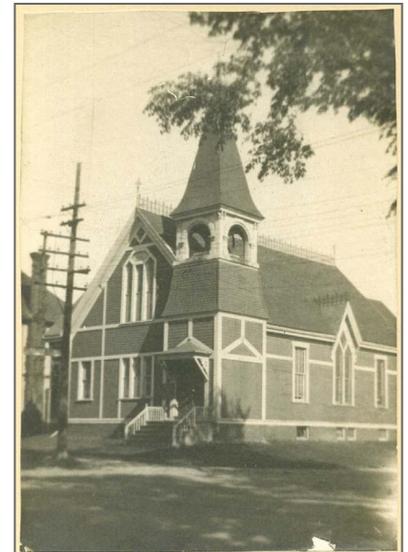
1850 – Both the Unitarians and Universalists had dwindled in numbers and so joined forces forming the Mason Street Religious Society. The Unitarian minister from Topsham, Rev. Amos Wheeler, became their pastor for the next 15 years. Two more Unitarian preachers followed.

1870 – A Universalist preacher was called to the Mason Street Religious Society, and the Unitarians gradually withdrew their support and their legal interests in the Society were liquidated in 1874.

1875 – The Unitarians legally organized the Brunswick Unitarian Society, bought land on the corner of Federal St. and Jordan Avenue and built a new building. There is no copy of any covenant extant, but the order of worship for the “Dedication of the Chapel” on Wednesday, December 4, 1878, included four addresses given by Unitarian pastors from Boston and Portland dedicating the church to worship, fellowship, freedom and truth.

1894 – What had been an active and lively congregation gradually dwindled and became unable to support the building upkeep or its ministry, and it closed its doors in May of 1894.

1961 - The remnant of Unitarians joined with the Universalists once more in their home on the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets. They contributed their investments from the sale of the Federal Street property to their new consolidation, and in 1964, the name of the society was changed to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, Maine



By *Christine Mitchell*

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Come to a discussion of Eboo Patel's book *Acts of Faith* on **Wednesday, March 28**, from **10-12**. The UUA has selected *Acts of Faith* as this year's Common Read. Congregations all over the country are reading it and discussing it.

Eboo Patel is founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), an international, nonprofit, youth service leadership organization. Ten years after 9/11, the book describes the vulnerability of youth to violent, fundamentalist influences and makes a case for all of us, particularly youth, to promote pluralism by engaging in interfaith dialogue and social justice work.

Lots to talk about here! Come, join the discussion.

Sylvia has several copies of the book available for \$13.50 (a slight discount from the cover price).

STRATEGIC PLANNING

AN APPRECIATION:

OUR WELCOMING MISSION AND OUR SPECIAL "NEW-MEMBER CORRESPONDENT" TO THE *PARISH MESSENGER*

We know how busy and effective our committees are, each one working as a group to fulfill one of the central functions of our church. But one person can make a valuable contribution, too, as Jessica Tracy does with her New Member articles in the *Parish Messenger*.

Jessica succeeded the late Barbara King in the practice of interviewing new UUCB members and printing a *Messenger* feature about them. Her innovation in this tradition has been to add photographs, a particularly valuable service because we can then put a face to a new name. If by chance you've gotten to know one of the featured new members before the interview has come out in the *Messenger*, you can appreciate how well Jessica captures the interviewee's personality and style. She does an impressive job of presenting them to us just as they might introduce themselves to us in person. Some folks clip the interviews, in fact, and make an improvised photo directory for themselves. It's obvious from her rich, lively articles that Jessica not only has excellent active-listening skills, honed by her professional experience as an educational counselor, but also gets a lot of enjoyment out of her role of interviewing new members.

When new people sign the membership book and are welcomed to the UUCB congregation, Jessica contacts them one by one, inviting them to be interviewed for the *Messenger*. If they agree, she either meets them at some mutually agreed-on place or visits them at home for the interview. Home visits work best, Jessica says, because it gives more sense of the person, all the more so if a couple or a whole family are the interviewees. There is no fixed set of questions that she raises with every person interviewed, but she usually asks about prior places of residence, previous religious affiliation, and about interests and hobbies that other members might have in common with the newcomer. This makes it easier for the rest of us to introduce ourselves and start a conversation, and it also makes the newcomer feel welcomed and acknowledged.

Jessica is one of the first members of our congregation to meet new members and talk to each one in some depth. Her profiles give us a head start on getting to know them, too. In a growing congregation like ours, Jessica's articles provide a natural path to new connections, a boon to all of us.

Nancy Dorian, Chair

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Two very important votes were taken at the Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, Feb. 12.

We voted to direct the architects to develop plans for fully renovating Pennell.

We voted to allocate money to rebuild the Swanson window for up to \$15,000.

We're on our way!



The Swanson Window

SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITIES LOOK AGAIN!

How might you choose to serve our church at this important time in the life of our congregation?

1. **Elected positions** – Each year, at our spring Annual Meeting, the congregation votes to fill the elected positions in the church. These positions include Board Trustees, Board Officers, Church Moderator and Nominating Committee members. Nominating Committee is now looking for people who might be interested to be nominated to serve the church in one of these positions. In order to serve on the Board, it is necessary to have been a church member for a minimum of one year. Please see a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested.
2. **Website Coordinator** - Now, more than ever we need our website to be a welcoming and accurate reflection of our church community. UUCB needs someone to oversee the gathering of current, relevant and appropriate information to pass on to our Webmaster, Steve Wellcome who will then post the information in a timely manner on the website. If you might be that person, see Cathey Cyrus who will connect you with others who are thinking hard about this needed service.
3. **Publicity Coordinator** - The church continues to discuss the best way to assure effective communication within UUCB and out into the wider community. We are most immediately looking for someone who can oversee our church communication with the “outside” – newspaper articles, posters about events, signs, etc. (For now the website will be overseen separately.) Please see Cathey Cyrus for more information.
4. **Planned Giving Program** - The UUCB Development Effort is looking for someone to review, renew and make available to the congregation the church’s Planned Giving Program. Members and friends need to understand and be familiar with this particular option for making contributions to the church. Several people in the congregation have knowledge and wisdom about what already exists and will be pleased to offer consultation. The UUA offers a wealth of resources. Speak with Cathey Cyrus if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Thank you.
Nominating Committee

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Finishing February...Flying Through March

Our congregation is getting creative with Hospitality, and we LIKE it!

One person asked a friend to join her in hosting, 3 decided to bring a couple of food options each and one helped with cleanup; one volunteer asked us to pair her with a partner, a creative person who loves to cook went wild in the kitchen while another donated \$\$ for ingredients – there are as many ways to take care of this part of our church life as there are people drinking coffee and eating treats on Sundays!

What can YOU do? No time (or inclination) to bake? No problem, “store-bought” is fine. Got little kids for whom arriving a bit early and/or leaving later is difficult? Try pairing up with another family you know – one parent can take all the kids outside or home if need be.

Short on funds? Bet there's someone willing to help - and we'll ask them for you, if you like! If there's something else getting in your way, let us know; we'll help you make it work.

A great big THANK YOU to hosts Judy Chamberlain, Karen Marlin, Pamela Ericson, Jon Powers, Susan Chandel, Daphne Holden, Donna Bann, Jane Danielson, Jim Michaud, and Helen Johnson.

If you think you're seeing names repeated in these blurbs – you're right. There are people volunteering for the 3rd time at Minnie Brown. Have you taken a turn?

This is your chance to share in Hospitality – what part can YOU play?



Cheers!

Valerie Heath
for the Hospitality Team

vheath@zwi.net
729-9254



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Below you will see the Working for Justice Steering Group commentary published on 2/13 in *The Times Record*. We at UUCB now have the opportunity to strengthen our social justice mission – the prevention of prejudice and hate – by joining with others in the community to build on the energy, interest and concern generated by the 1/31 gathering. Our planning efforts for the January Conversation have resulted in a newly developing relationship with Bowdoin College students and administration, and we have made meaningful connections with several Brunswick churches and the local high schools. The Working for Justice Steering Group looks forward to engaging more and more UUCB members and friends in our congregation's chosen area of social justice ministry. We are gathering information about books and films that would encourage further gatherings, discussion and action with our new community partners. Let us know of your thoughts and ideas for moving forward.

We thank all who supported the 1/31 event by adding your voices to the conversations as participants or co-facilitators and by bringing sumptuous amounts of delicious food. Thank you particularly to SueEllen Damour and Penny and Reg Elwell for overseeing and assuring a seamless banquet.

Working for Justice Steering Group

Cathy Cyrus, Jane Danielson, Catherine Knowles, Ed McCartan, Hope Russell

A Cause for Concern and Celebration

Times Record Commentary – Monday, February 13, 2012

Not everyone feels welcome and safe in our community.

On January 31, close to 90 people braved snow and ice to gather at the Curtis Library Morrell Room for a conversation about prejudice. The event was organized by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick and Bowdoin College under the leadership and guidance of Steve Wessler, human rights advocate and educator. Gathered that evening were representatives from at least seven faith traditions, students and faculty from Bowdoin College, staff from a local high school, and community people of all ages and occupations.

In small group discussions, co-facilitated by Bowdoin students and community members, we shared painful personal experiences - incidents of dismissal and disrespect, bullying and intimidation. Some incidents were too subtle to confirm; others were too obvious to ignore.

All were frightening.

Consider the impact of daily teasing about the way you look or speak; of

being the focus of hostile stares; of hearing racial or sexual orientation slurs hurled from a passing car; of receiving threatening and racially tinged phone calls.

We learned of the reality of the classic town/gown divide that contributes to some students feeling unknown or un-welcomed by Brunswick residents even though students volunteer in the local schools, help at local service organizations and frequent Maine Street businesses. Some neighbors of the college, uncertain about the youthful energy and academic excellence on the Bowdoin campus, enter the campus as cautious tourists in a strange land, if they enter at all.

Participants were heartened to hear of ongoing programs in grade schools, high schools and the college that invite student dialogue about differences and teach awareness about the impact of hurtful language and behaviors. Some participants expressed the need for more courage and commitment to reach out and speak up where their voices and actions might offer support to a person at risk of exclusion or harassment.

Throughout the conversation was the hope that we could live as one community, valuing the richness of our differences and acting on shared values of respect and compassion – a community where no one experiences isolation or fear of intimidation.

Suggestions at the end of the evening included: continued opportunities for interaction among all segments of the community; the chance to hear each other's stories; training to practice speaking up in support of those at risk; and the creation of celebratory public gatherings that demonstrate our commitment to be a welcoming community.

Our community has more to do to live the values that were affirmed in this discussion, and we invite everyone to join in this effort. Initiatives can begin anywhere; your voice could make a difference. Be alert for opportunities to participate as this important conversation continues.

*Members of the Working for Justice Steering Group
Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick*

BUDGETS. FUND-RAISING. CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS. PLEDGES. OH, MY!

Confused? The co-chairs of Capital Campaign (Sally Horne, Cindy Parker), and Annual Budget Drive (David Kew and Bill Clark) strive to clarify and keep you up to date. Here are some questions that we are hearing and anticipating.

Will I be asked to pledge more than once this year – and when?

Yes, (but not more than twice!).

First, for the Annual Budget Drive (ABD). Our **RIGHT NOW** drive is crescendo-ing up to **Celebration Sunday on March 11**, and then it will be over.

Second, the Capital Campaign (CC) is happening mostly behind the scenes at this moment. Kick-off will be **May 5**, in a party shared with the Bicentennial Celebration, and everyone is invited!

What is each drive for?

The ABD sustains UUCB's ongoing operations. Pay your **RIGHT NOW** pledge July 1, 2012- June 30, 2013.

The CC seeks pledges to replace our Church! Pay it 2012-2014.

Why is each drive important? Can you name one key issue?

ABD – Fund-raising experts say that successful annual campaigns predict successful capital campaigns. Showing support for our present programming

is a determining factor for CC success. We must grow our spirits and live our dreams in the present (**RIGHT NOW**).

CC – The graciousness and integrity of our new Church depends entirely on our own generosity, “outside” funds and insurance money notwithstanding. Quality of Pennell renovations, special touches (like the Tower, the Bell, the stained glass), seating, flooring, finish work and on and on will be as good as we are generous. We must envision the next 200 years in a lovely building on the corner of Pleasant and Middle. (**FUTURE**)

What else should I be asking?

ABD – re-read the letter we mailed to everyone on 2/16, listen up on March 4, read the information you'll get in the mail before you pledge on March 11. (Oh, and we predict that the gala after the service March 11 will be very celebratory, thanks to our generosity!)

CC – our consultant (Peter Heinrichs) will report “feasibility” (what amount we could expect to raise) to the congregation soon; our Building Team will prepare options; we'll kick off at a fun party (NOT a pot-luck!), and more details will be revealed as we march along together.

We invite your questions. Our addresses and phone #'s are in your directory. We're pumped.

Bill, Cindy, Dave, Sally.

LONGFELLOW DAYS



Just completing a successful ninth year, Longfellow Days is a month long celebration honoring the life and works of our own Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. A wide range of activities included community poetry, lectures, tours, dining and film events, and much, much more. The chair of Longfellow Days was our own Maryli Tiemann. Several people from our congregation also took part in the singing events and poetry readings. In addition, Brad Mitchell led the final event, a worship service at the Bowdoin Chapel.

Did you know that the money from the collection at this service went to our church?

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

It's the little things that fill our days and make the time go by so quickly. But little things are just that – little. Last week my head was so full of little things that it was all I could do to keep up with the list, and even those details started to drop out of my short term memory. Only when I made myself stop...sit...and let go of the buzz in my brain I was able to recapture some of the big picture. And what came out most clearly was a sense that UUCB has so much to celebrate. Already, even before we have a building.

We are well on our way to having a new church home, thanks to the diligent work of many people. With the whole congregation's participation and patience in the democratic process we have passed an important decision milestone to guide the architect in the design. And we are poised to have even more to celebrate after our upcoming (I know it will be) successful Annual Budget Drive.

We are influencing and serving the justice in the wider community with fabulous programming, and we are taking care of ourselves through the nurturing activities of Chalice Circles, home visits and other gatherings as

well as Sunday services. We haven't slowed in our really important work of living our mission, and our congregation continues to grow and thrive. We have so much to celebrate – if we take the time to remember the many, many accomplishments. The Board applauds all the committees, the Council, the working groups and of course our minister and staff. I, for one, am proud to be part of such a vibrant force in our community. Wow!

A few of us on the Board will be attending the spring conference of the Northern New England District of the UUA. The theme is "Making Justice Together" with sessions led by Meck Groot and Rev. Deborah Holder. This gathering will be held April 13-14 in North Conway, NH. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to learn more and to join us – check www.nned.uua.org for details.

Oh, details again. They are important so we don't miss out on opportunities that come our way. But let's also keep the big picture in mind. We are headed toward our new building, but we are doing the important work of the church, RIGHT NOW. Thank you.

In love and peace,
Mike Heath

JUST A FEW ITEMS FROM THE UPCOMING AUCTION...



MARCH 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7:00-8:30 Choir: MBC	2 9:30 AA : 7 Pennell Upstairs	3
4 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Green Sanctuary Mtg following service: TBA	5 ONLINE AUCTION BEGINS: biddingforgood.com/uucb	6 2:15-6:45 violin : Par Worship Committee	7 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com: McLellan Bld	8 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC International Women's Day	9 9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs	10
11 10:00 Service: ML Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick !!Celebration Sunday!! New Comer's Comer following church service	12 10-12 Chalice Circle-Par 1-3 Chalice Circle - Par 7:00 Chalice Circle- Karen Foley's Home 7-9 CUUPS - Par	13 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 6:30 Stories with Soul Parlor	14 3:45 - 6:30 violin : Parlor 6:30-7:30 violin: Office 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com: McLellan 7:15 Songwriters Grp: Par Council: TBA	15 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	16 9:30 AA : Pen 7-10 Sidedoor Coffee House -MR	17 
18 10:00 Service: MBC Music Sunday Beth Israel in Bath ONLINE AUCTION ENDS	19	20 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 6:30 Board Mtg 	21 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld	22 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 12-2 Strategic Plan: Par 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	23 9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs Parish Messenger Deadline	24
25 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath New Comer's Comer following church service	26 7-9 CUUPS - Par	27 10:00 Womens Alliance: Helen Johnson's 1-3 Chalice Circle 2:15-6:45 violin : Par 3-5 Chalice Circle: Pen 6:30 Stories with Soul Parlor	28 10-12 Book Discussion: Parlor 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld	29 2:30-6 Violin: Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	30 9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs	31

Church events are in **bold** type.
Guest events are in regular

- CO - Church Office
- MBC - Minnie Brown Center
- MR - Morell Room, Library
- MH - Member's Home
- MO - Minister's Office
- PAR - Parlor in 5 Pennell (downstairs)
- PEN - 7 Pennell House Upstairs
- SP - Saint Paul's