

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick



February, 2016

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SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 A.M.

- February 7** “Bittersweet—Lessons from an Invasive Species”
Rev. Slvia Stocker Preaching. Music by Derek Herzer.
- February 14** “Evangeline and Love by Longfellow”
Rev. Slvia Stocker Preaching. Music by Derek Herzer and the church choir, under the direction of Heidi Neufeld.
- February 21** “Seeds Part One.”
Rev. Sylvia Stocker Preaching. Music by Derek Herzer.
- February 28** To be announced at a later date. Music by Derek Herzer.

*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.*

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

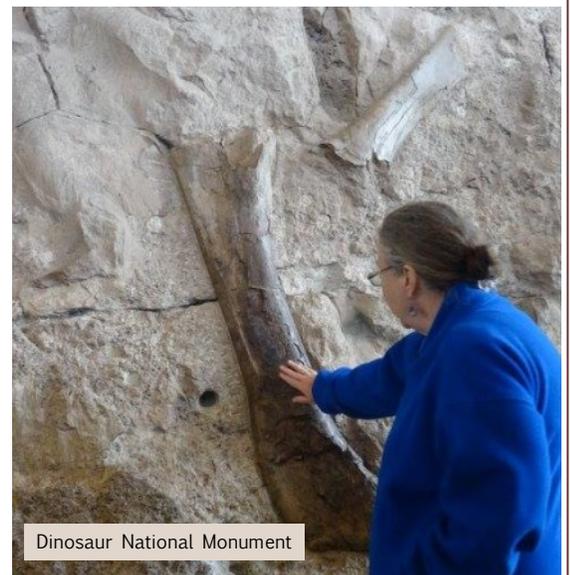
Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

Derek Herzer, Choir Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

**WELCOME
BACK
SYLVIA!**



Dinosaur National Monument

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



HOW TO REACH US

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

Office Hours at 1 Middle Street are
Tues through Friday from 10-4
The office administrator is
Shirley Bernier.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker
works from home and her church office.
Her regular office hours are on
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm.
She is also available by appointment.
To guarantee an appointment, it's always
best to call and schedule a meeting. 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.

The Director of Religious Education,
Nicole Shanks, is available
by appointment. You can call her
at the church office or email her at
uubrunswickdre@gmail.com.

Monday is the Sabbath for church staff.

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515
E-mail: uubruns@gwi
Website: <http://www.uubrunswick.org>

In thinking of February, Valentine's Day tends to come to mind. According to history.com, Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century, but has origins in Lupercalia, a Roman holiday. There are legends surrounding St. Valentine and his death. One is that when the Roman Emperor Claudius II decided to outlaw marriage for young men because he felt that family distracted soldiers, St. Valentine, a priest, continues to perform marriages of young couples in secret and he was put to death for it. Another legend is that St. Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons. Some people claim that Valentine's Day was created to 'christianize' the Roman holiday Lupercalia, a celebration of fertility.

Whatever the specific origins, Valentine's Day today involves a lot of commercials about jewelry, flowers, chocolates and other material expressions of love, typically between heterosexual couples. There can be a lot of pressure surrounding Valentine's Day- getting the just the right gift, creating just the right atmosphere, doing just the right actions. While lots of people have fun with Valentine's Day celebrations, many others struggle with feelings of rejection, inadequacy, or loneliness. It's a holiday that celebrates love without really sending any messages about what love really is.

There are a few UU World articles encouraging UUs to make Valentine's Day into a day for social justice, a day to promote the 6th Principle of "affirming and promoting the goal of world community, with peace, liberty, and justice for all." I like that idea. In addition to whatever traditions your family may have to celebrate Valentine's Day, I would encourage you to engage in discussion during the month of February about what love means, how love is expressed, and what work we can do to move society toward making love more inclusive. Consider deciding as a family about one concrete way you can show love to your community. To get you started, here are a few examples: shoveling the walkway of an elderly neighbor, signing up to put together food boxes at a food pantry, or sending a card or paying a visit to someone who is housebound because of illness or injury. If your family engages in any social service activities to celebrate love this February, let me know- I'd love to hear about what you've done!

Blessings,
Nicole

IMPORTANT RE DATES

- Feb 07:** RE Classes, OWL
- Feb 14:** Multi-Age Activity PreK-6
- Feb 21:** Multi-Age Activity PreK-6
- Feb 28:** RE classes, OWL

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

The first part of my sabbatical began on October 1. In truth, I wasn't able to leave work until October 2. That's because when I returned to the center of town from a pastoral call on September 30, Middle Street was completely flooded, making it impossible for me to reach the church office without waders. So, my last bit of organizing and cleaning out had to wait until October 1.

The string of world events that have transpired in the intervening months leaves me breathless when I recount them: the shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon (October 1); approximately 150 terrorist attacks at locations all over the world, including the Russian plane blown up by a bomb over the Sinai Desert (October 31), suicide bombings in Beirut (Nov 11), terrorist attacks in Paris (Nov 13), and the terrorist attack in San Bernadino (Dec 2); and daily doses of vitriol from various vituperative presidential hopefuls. Islamophobia and hatred of all varieties are on the rise.

There was good news, too, of course. Zahra Abu became the City of Portland's first Somali police officer in January. In December, 195 nations reached an agreement on climate change. Having that many nations agree on *anything* in these contentious times seems nothing short of a miracle to me.

Then of course there is the much more local good news that UUCB has continued with gusto and verve in my absence. I have been thrilled to hear occasional reports and even to witness the wonderful energy of our community first-hand when I rehearsed and played with the Intergenerational Orchestra in December.

We live in momentous times. As human history has twisted and spun on the earth's sturdy, turning axis, I have missed being with you more than I can express or you can probably imagine. I am accustomed to speaking from pulpit or newsletter whenever anything happens, so I found myself very disoriented at times during my absence. Living with the quiet of my own thoughts – which were, themselves, often disquieting – was in interesting experience. But even more than feeling challenged by not having a public voice, I have missed *you*. I have missed being in this beloved community, making sense of life as we go. I so look forward to seeing you February!

One of my projects during sabbatical has been to go through various files, purging what I no longer need and organizing what remains. I found this little blurb in a file of materials my mother had assembled years ago, when she edited her church's newsletter. I don't know the author, but I like the sentiments expressed:

Suggestions for a Healthy Congregation

- Always be kind to one another, even if you think meanness is justified.
- Always attribute the best possible motives to one another, even when you do not understand one another's words and/or actions.
- Promise to one another only what you really intend and are capable of delivering.
- Laugh and cry together, sharing both your joys and heartaches.
- Be quick to praise one another and slow to criticize.
- Accept one another's gifts with gratitude; accept one another's deficiencies with grace.
- Do not tell one another how to feel. Remember that feelings are valid and treat them accordingly.
- Greet each day with anticipation and each hour of rest with thanksgiving.
- Let your eyes light up when you come into one another's presence.

Our congregation is one place where we can practice all those things. We all stumble and fall at times, but, in my experience, our congregation is well-rehearsed in the above-named qualities. I give thanks for this community, where all of us – young and old – band together to learn and practice how to be a healthy band of travelers. Sometimes one of the best antidotes to a hurting and often scary world is to *be* what we hope to see in others. *Be* the change, as the saying goes. What a privilege it is for me to walk with you as all of us try to do that.

And the last quality on that list? The one that asks us to let our eyes light up when we come into one another's presence? Well, my eyes will light up when I see you!

Love,
Sylvia



Sylvia at Bryce Canyon

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

JANUARY CHARITY WITH SOUL

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS



History and Principles

Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in 1971. Today, MSF provides aid in more than 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters. MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF speaks out to bring attention to neglected crises, to challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols. In 1999, MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Humanitarian Action

MSF's work is based on the humanitarian principles of **medical ethics** and **impartiality**. The organization is committed to bringing quality medical care to people caught in crisis regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation.

MSF operates **independently** of any political, military, or religious agendas. Medical teams conduct evaluations on the ground to determine a population's medical needs before opening programs. The key to MSF's ability to act independently in response to a crisis is its independent funding. Ninety percent of MSF's overall funding comes from private sources, not governments. In 2009, MSF had 3.8 million individual donors and private funders worldwide.

MSF is **neutral**. The organization does not take sides in armed conflicts, provides care on the basis of need alone, and pushes for increased independent access to victims of conflict as required under international humanitarian law.

Who is MSF?

On any one day, more than 27,000 committed individuals representing dozens of nationalities can be found providing assistance to people caught in crises around the world. They are doctors, nurses, logistics experts, administrators, epidemiologists, laboratory technicians, mental health professionals, and others who work together in accordance with MSF's guiding principles of humanitarian action and medical ethics.

MSF field staff are supported by their colleagues in 19 offices around the world, including one in New York. The vast majority of MSF's aid workers are from the communities where the crises are occurring, with ten percent of teams made up of international staff.

Quality Medical Care

MSF rejects the idea that poor countries deserve third-rate medical care and strives to provide high-quality care to patients and to improve the organization's practices. Through the Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines and, in recent years, in partnership with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, this work has helped lower the price of HIV/AIDS treatment and has stimulated research and development for medicines to treat malaria and neglected diseases like sleeping sickness and kala azar.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

MUUSAN

Highlights from the MUUSAN Network Meeting held January 9th

There were 20 in attendance with 10 congregations represented. Pat Moore went on behalf of UUCB. Cush Anthony presented a **legislative report**. The Maine Legislature opened Jan. 6. Every legislator received a copy of the Maine Council of Churches civil discourse letter. Stephanie Ralph reports that there were 96 bills approved for second session, plus 150 carry-over bills. MUUSAN partnered with the Maine Council of Churches in this action.

ISSUE GROUPS

Climate – Melanie Lanctot and Mary Ann Larson. Melanie has been focused on solar energy bills. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is generating recommendations, and our partner the Natural Resources Council of Maine is tracking. NCRM is opposing and trying to amend LD 1398 – An Act to Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses. Mary Ann reported that at the national level, a small group will meet with Senator Collins's staff in her Lewiston office, on January 26, to thank her for support of Maine Power Plan and a couple others she has sponsored. On December 9th a rally was held in support of solar energy outside the Public Utilities Commission office in Hallowell, with 15 UU congregations in attendance (50 people in all). Rev. Carie Johnsen spoke and the Kennebec Journal featured it on the front page. The solar energy bill vetoed by the Governor last year would have expanded incentives projects in Maine and will likely be vetoed again. Allen Avenue UU's recent capital campaign includes getting ten individuals to buy into a solar farm on church property. Eventually ownership of the farm will be turned over to the church itself.

Health Care - Dale McCormick. Our biggest push has been to urge the Governor to accept the federal money for health insurance (Year 3 of this effort). We are now trying to piggyback on the issue of addiction to press for Medicaid expansion. A task force with three subgroups focusing on prevention, law enforcement and treatment will hold six regional hearings on the problem of addiction in Maine. Cover Maine Now, a huge, 100-member coalition, has the idea to attend each of these

hearings and speak about the role of expanding Medicaid and how that would affect the addiction problem. Many people who are addicted would be eligible for treatment and recovery services if Maine passed Medicaid expansion. These forums are funded by the Maine Community Foundation and Maine Health Access Foundation. Sen. Saviello is sponsoring LD 633, another bill to expand Medicaid. Last time the bill came within two votes of overriding the Governor's veto. We have 16 votes in the Senate and need eight more votes to override a veto.

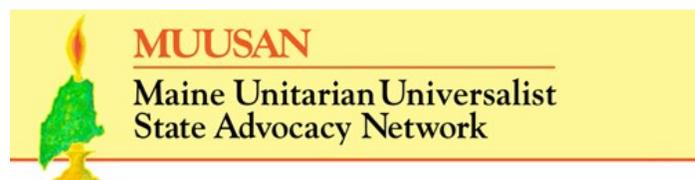
Democracy in Action - Trudy and Betsy designed and conducted a four-question survey on what our congregations did to support last November's victory for Clean Elections. This information is necessary as we seek to get renewal of grant funding because it shows a strong involvement of our congregations -14 of 17 congregations who received the survey responded, for an 82% response rate. Trudy targeted just one respondent in each congregation and asked that person to gather and submit the information, resulting in this high response rate. Lynn Ellis provided this information on behalf of UUCB and will continue to do so.

LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE INFO:

We were delighted to welcome presenter Stephanie Ralph, who worked for 20 years at the legislature's Law and Reference Library and is a member of the UU Community Church of Augusta, to help us understand how to find and decipher legislative documents at www.maine.gov

NEXT MEETING:

March 12, 10:00 AM-noon,
UU Community Church of Augusta.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE



PUBLIC FORUM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:30 – NOON

MAY SARTON ROOM

(hosted by Working for Justice)

Speaker Amy Halsted

Mainers for Fair Wages Campaign Manager
and Maine People's Alliance Associate Director

The Fair Wage Maine Campaign submitted 85,000 signatures on January 14th to put the wage increase on November's ballot. Why is this important? The annual take-home pay for a minimum wage worker averages to just over \$12,000. For a single person, studies show that a "living wage" (enough to pay for necessities such as housing, food etc. is \$39,967 or \$15.85 an hour. Studies show that there are not enough livable wage jobs to go around. Mainers, in this situation, find themselves in low wage jobs and unable to meet basic needs.

The initiative would:

- Increase the minimum wage to **\$9 an hour in 2017** and then by **\$1 a year until it reaches \$12 by 2020.**

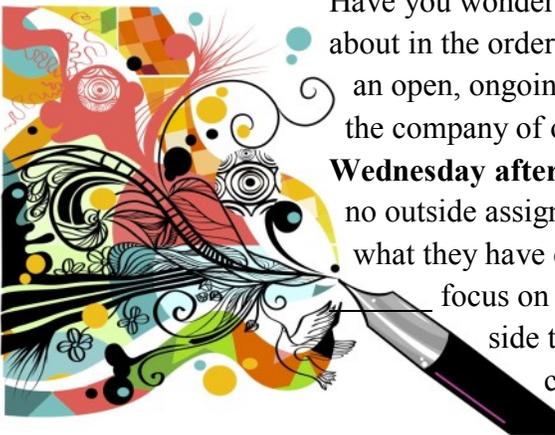
- After 2020, the minimum wage would **increase at the same rate as the cost of living.**
- The tipped minimum wage (currently \$3.75 an hour) would be increased to **\$5 an hour in 2017** and then **raised incrementally until it matches the minimum wage for all other workers by 2024.**

Why increase Maine's minimum wage?

Low pay is not OK. Maine families work hard and should be able to earn a fair wage. It's not right that a single mother of two can work full time and still not make ends meet for her family. Raising the minimum wage is good for our communities, and good for small businesses. The Mainers who would benefit the most from raising the minimum wage are also the people who are more likely to spend that extra money



UU WRITERS



Have you wondered about that **Wednesday afternoon** writing group that you read about in the order of service or on the monthly calendar? The UU Writing Group is an open, ongoing, non-critical gathering of people who enjoy writing and being in the company of others who feel the same way. Each session meets **every other Wednesday afternoon from 3:00-5:00PM** in the May Sarton Room. There are no outside assignments. Writers select prompts, write for short periods, then share what they have created. Feedback is positive and supportive. This group *does not* focus on learning how to write or edit manuscripts in progress created outside the group. There is no charge to participate. All are welcome - come give it a try!

Upcoming meetings: January 27, February 10, February 24, March 9, March 23
All sessions from 3:00 – 5:00PM.

CHURCH DIRECTORY NEWS

QUARTERLY PDF UPDATES

If you are a member of UUCB (have signed our Membership Book) or a friend (a person who is actively involved in our church community and/or contributing financially), you are eligible to receive our church directory. An electronic copy, in the form of a PDF, will be sent quarterly to everyone who is on the list. If you would like to be on the directory email list, or if you have a change in your contact info, please contact Shirley Bernier, UUCB Office Administrator. Her preferred method of contact is via email at uubruns@gwi.net. If you are not on email, and would like an updated copy of the directory, please contact Shirley.

THOSE CHURCH ANGELS ARE STILL FLITTING THEIR STUFF!

Are you looking for a way to help out or be of service around the church, but can't commit a lot of time? Could you spare two hours one Friday morning a month to join the UUCB Church Angels as they do some light cleaning, dusting and straightening out around the sanctuary? Looking for a service project for your Chalice Circle? What a perfect idea! Come join the fun, apply a little elbow grease, and perhaps get to know someone new. Bring a friend, and go out for lunch after you finish. Make it a fun activity. The Angels meet from 9:30-11:30 on the last Friday of every month. Will we see you some month soon?



Next two meetings: **Friday, January 29th, and Friday, February 26th at 9:30AM.**

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

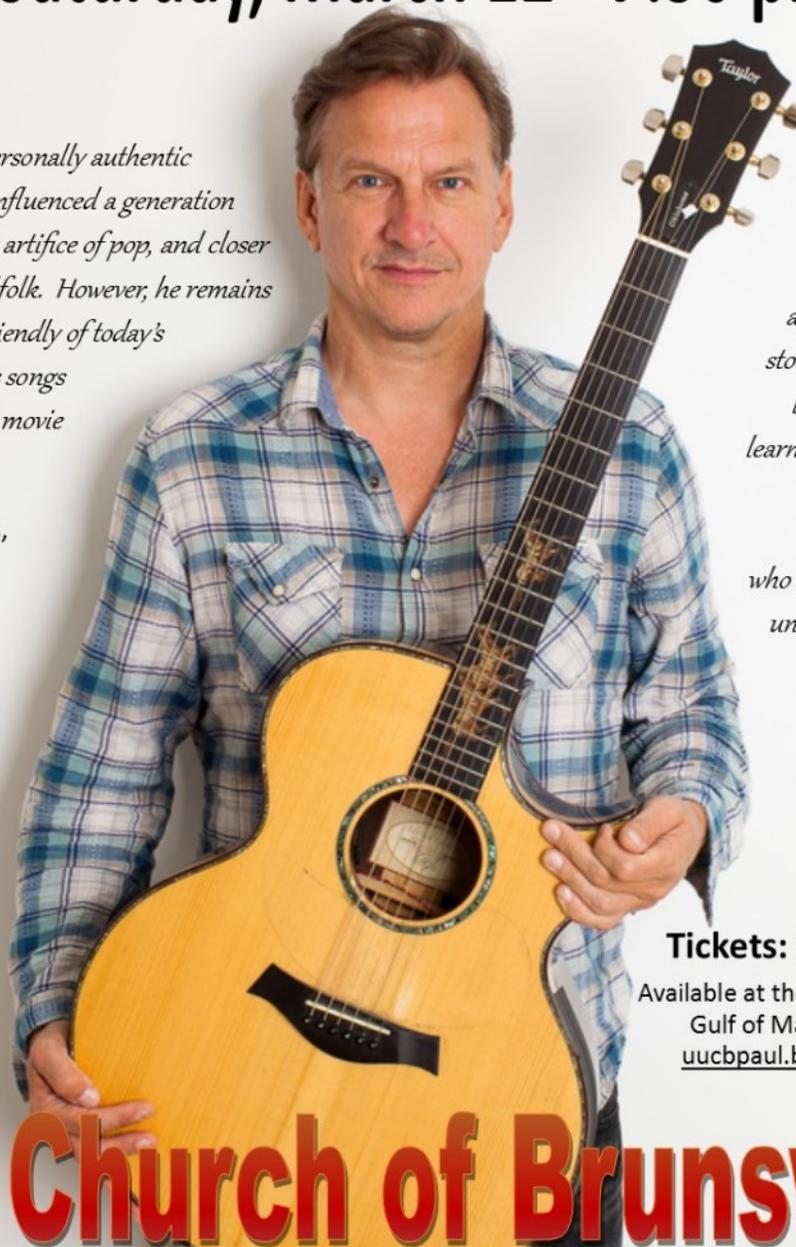
UUCB CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

Ellis Paul

Saturday, March 12 - 7:30 pm

His charismatic, and personally authentic performance style has influenced a generation of artists away from the artifice of pop, and closer towards the realness of folk. However, he remains among the most pop-friendly of today's singer-songwriters. His songs regularly appear in hit movie and TV soundtracks.

- Six Strings Concerts,
Columbus, OH



Paul is an observer, a philosopher and an astute storyteller who shares with his listeners the life lessons he's learned, and in turn, life lessons they ought to heed as well. By affirming and defining who he is, Ellis Paul affirms and uncovers the essence of us all.

- Marblehead Reporter

Tickets: \$20, \$22 at Door

Available at the Church Office (729-8515),
Gulf of Maine Books or online at
uucbpaul.brownpapertickets.com.

UU Church of Brunswick

1 Middle Street, Brunswick (Corner of Pleasant & Middle)

The UUCB Concert Series raises money for the UUCB Church and local non-profits.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

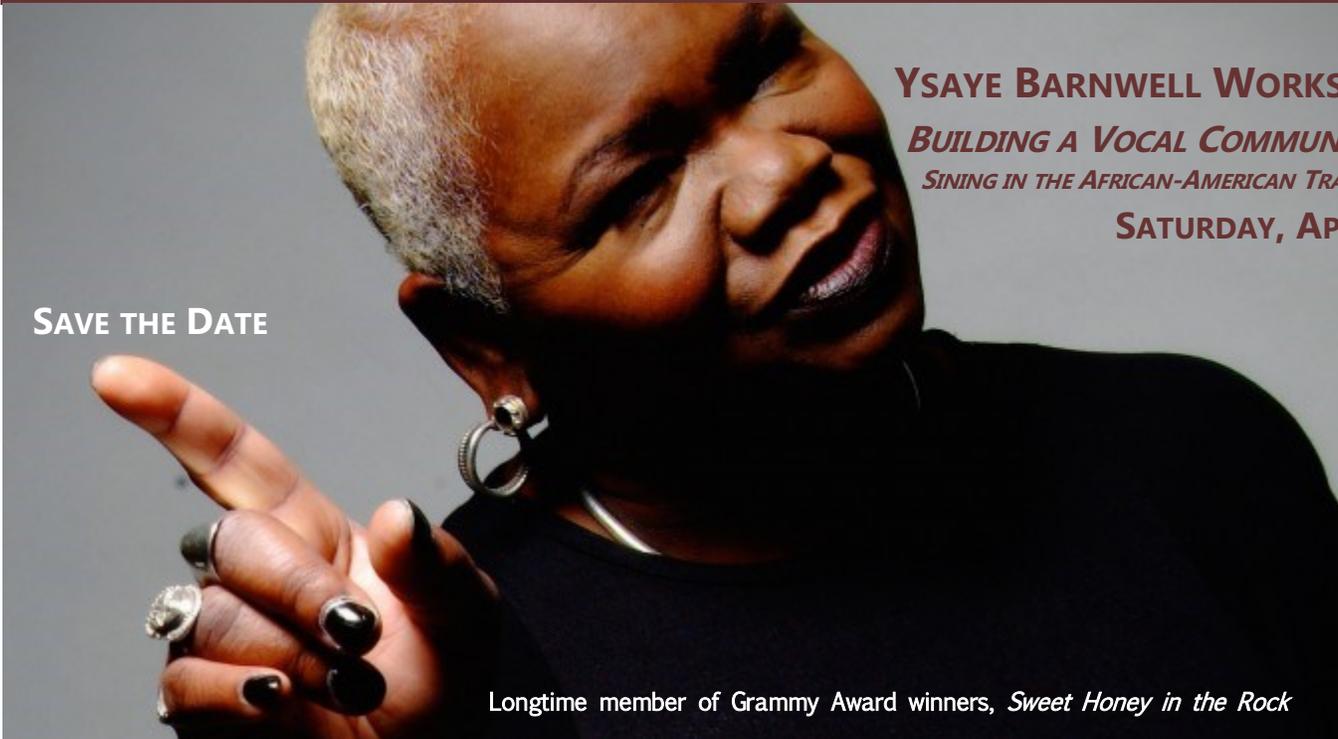
YSAYE BARNWELL WORKSHOP

BUILDING A VOCAL COMMUNITY...

SINING IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITION

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

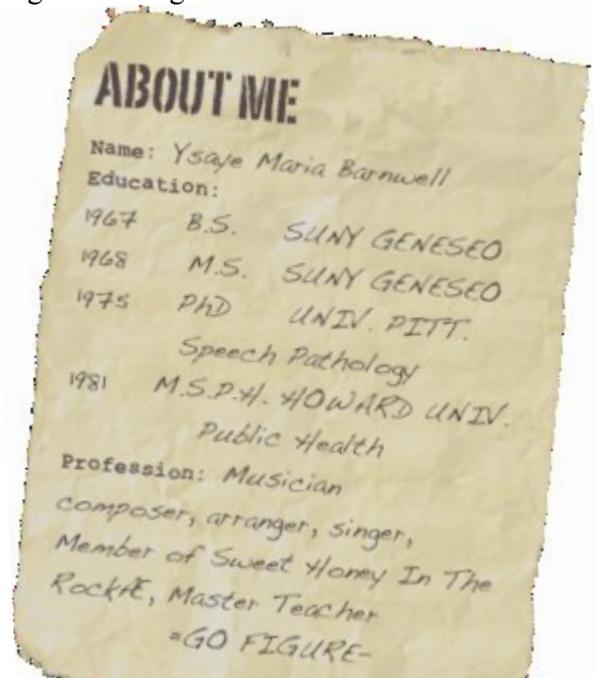
SAVE THE DATE



Longtime member of Grammy Award winners, *Sweet Honey in the Rock*

There is an awesome power in the human voice and when uncommon voices are blended for the common good, they become a “vocal community at its best. Masterfully led by Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, singers and non-singers alike will share the common experience of learning in the oral tradition and singing rhythms, chants, traditional songs from Africa and the diaspora, and a variety of songs from African American culture including spirituals, ring shouts, hymns, gospels, and songs from the Civil Rights Movement. The historical, social and political context will be provided as an introduction to the songs. Throughout this experience, the

group will explore from an African American world view the values imbedded in the music, the role of cultural and spiritual traditions and rituals, ways in which leadership emerges and can be shared by and among community members, the nature of cultural responses to and influences on political and social struggle, and finally the significance of a shared communal experience in ones’ personal life. All that is required is a willingness to sing.



Please contact **Heidi Neufeld** if you would like to help make this workshop a community success!



HOLIDAY FAIR 2016

While the Holiday Fair is ten months away, the Fair committee is already thinking ahead. We thought it might be nice to have a **children’s room** where the younger members of church could buy gifts for their parents and siblings at a lower cost. Therefore, we are looking for a chair and co-chair to head up this room, maybe two parents who have children in the RE program. If you are interested or want more information, please contact me by phone at 833-5125 or by email at gkamilewicz@gmail.com. I am also looking for a **Fair co-chair** to work with me. If interested, please contact me. Thanks again to everyone who helped with the 2015 Holiday Fair. It was a huge success, plus it was much fun. Gretchen Kamilewicz, Fair 2016 Chairperson

UU WRITERS

Have you wondered about that **Wednesday afternoon** writing group that you read about in the order of service or on the monthly calendar? The UU Writing Group is an open, ongoing, non-critical gathering of people who enjoy writing and being in the company of others who feel the same way. Each session meets **every other Wednesday afternoon from 3:00-5:00PM** in the May Sarton Room. There are no outside assignments. Writers select prompts, write for short periods, then share what they have created. Feedback is positive and supportive. This group *does not* focus on learning how to write or edit manuscripts in progress created outside the group. There is no charge to participate. All are welcome - come give it a try! **Upcoming meetings: January 27, February 10, February 24, March 9, March 23 All sessions from 3:00 – 5:00PM.**



Side Door
COFFEEHOUSE

THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of BRUNSWICK
1 MIDDLE STREET
OPEN MIKE SIGNUP - 6:45 PM
OPEN MIKE START - 7:00 PM
FEATURED PERFORMER - 8:30 PM
SUGGESTED DONATION: \$8

Marie Dufresne



Marie Dufresne has performed the traditional and contemporary songs of Great Britain and North America for nearly 40 years.

With strong vocals, guitar and Appalachian Dulcimer, Marie takes her audience on a journey filled with stories of human experience from farm to city and places in between. Stories from the pages of history to the present, from both sides of the Atlantic, the songs serve as a reminder that people share the same hopes dreams and struggles no matter where they live.

Over the years many friendships were formed with musicians throughout the US and Britain which led to a 15 year affiliation with The Bath Brunswick Folk Club at The Chocolate Church presenting monthly concerts and introducing many new faces of folk music to the midcoast area.

Friday Evening, February 19

Feature set preceded by the Open Mike

The Side Door Coffeehouse has been a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick since 1993. It is entirely volunteer run.

The use of the UU Church of Brunswick does not imply endorsement of the charter or opinions of contracted groups or individuals by the Church or its members.

END INEQUALITY LEADERSHIP TEAM



The End Inequality study groups are well underway, and will begin planning for our congregational forum to share their findings on Saturday, May 21st at 9:30. Save the date, and please plan to attend. The study group phase of the initiative will end at that point, and we will be looking for congregational input regarding next steps. It is still not too late to get involved in a study group. Feel free to contact one of the group facilitators listed below for more information.

Income Inequality:

Betsy Williams bwilliams120@gmail.com;
Charlie Evans chazevask9pt@gmail.com;
Steve Eagles seagles4@gmail.com

Shelter, Food Clothing:

Valerie Heath vheath@gwi.net;
Cindy Parker cindyparker48@gwi.net

Justice:

Jim Spicer spicej@yahoo.com;
Kate Gray katehunt@gwi.net

Medical Care:

Bill Clark wdclark@gwi.net;
Susan Thorner scthorner@gwi.net

Education:

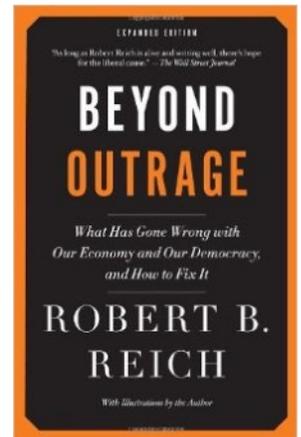
Glenn Williams gwilliams024@gmail.com;
Ted Berrett tbwalking@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY READ

Feb 14 and Mar 6

The End Inequality Leadership Team and the Adult Education group are partnering to present a “community read” on the topic of income inequality. The chosen book is *Beyond Outrage* by Robert Reich, available in paperback for approximately \$6.00. An initial moderated discussion is scheduled for February 14th after the church service at 11:30, with a follow-up meeting planned for March 6th.

Glenn Williams



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Tuesday, February 9 and March 8

All women of UUCB and their friends are invited to attend the February (2/9) and March (3/8) meetings, to discuss the book *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving. The book is available in libraries, and local bookstores. We meet at 12 noon in the May Sarton Room.

We plan to devote both meetings to discussing the book, but please come even if you have not read it. Our goal is to explore our own feelings and experiences regarding the complex issues, historically and in the present, of race in America.

VEGAN SUNDAY-FEBRUARY 21

All are welcome to join the Vegan Sunday potluck for a delicious plant-based meal on Sunday, February 21, at noon in Fellowship Hall. We enjoy eating tasty, nutritious meals and the camaraderie of other vegans and those who want to explore a plant-based diet as a pathway to better health for our bodies and our planet. Sorry, no drop-ins, but if you are planning to come, please RSVP to coordinator Andrea Sinclair at asinclair@gwi.net or 373-8706, and let her know by Thursday, February 18, what vegan dish you wish to bring.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Wed, February 24

These monthly fellowship luncheons, which are held on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of holidays. All men of the church are welcome. For details, contact Brad Mitchell, bmitch10@gmail.com, or Jim Michaud at michaudjim33@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

SOUP FOR SYLVIA!

FEBRUARY 7



If your last name begins **A to M**, please bring a loaf of **bread or rolls** to share.



If your last name begins **N to Z**, please bring a **light dessert**—finger foods only—such as cookies, bars, or fruit.



Sunday, February 7 will be Sylvia's first Sunday back in the pulpit after this part of her sabbatical. The Membership Committee decided to transform our annual *SoUUps On* event to an all-congregation welcome back potluck lunch for Sylvia. After the service, coffee and hospitality will be held in the RE wing while we quickly set tables in the sanctuary. Lunch will be served immediately following.

The Membership Committee will provide soups and sundries such as butter, but we need your help to fill out the menu!

Thanks for helping us make this a special event for Sylvia. See you there!

Betsy Williams
for the Membership Committee

SAVE THE DATE FOR ROUND TWO OF CIRCLE SUPPERS

Friday, March 4th or Saturday, March 19th

If you are interested in hosting
or attending one of the suppers
contact Leigh Peranteau at leigh763@yahoo.com or 725-4874.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Even as winter is chilling us, the Board continues to work on several projects. January is time for our Finance Committee to jump into gear, and they have requested budgets from each of the church standing committees, End Inequality Team, task forces and would like to become aware of any other particular needs. Our Building and Grounds Committee is conducting monthly “walk arounds” to address any needs in our building, and Mike Heath and his Rental Subcommittee have developed an impressive plan for working with potential renters. In addition, we are in the process of writing and adopting a policy on dealing with disruptive behavior issues for services and church activities.

Some of you have also said you would be interested in volunteering but don't want a long term commitment and don't want to attend committee meetings. There are some perfect opportunities for you. The first is to help us sell about 20 pieces of appraised artwork on EBay in a fundraising activity. This artwork was donated to the church; however, as it was decided early in the building process not to have any permanent art work in our church, it will be sold. This work can be done on your own time, on your schedule.

A second activity is to help maintain our well-established library. It would involve having a short training from our library developer, Alene Staley, stopping into the church periodically on your own schedule to maintain the order.

Please help us! If either of these activities appeal to you, please contact me at 406-4266 or marniel@windstream.com.

We are also excited and happy to have Sylvia back for two and a half months before the second leg of her sabbatical. We want to thank all the people who have made this past four months a smooth-running, fulfilling time in our church. We maintained meaningful services due to Sylvia's careful planning, the work of the Worship Committee headed by Sharon Brown, Stephanie Bernier's work to schedule all of the musicians, and Heidi Neufeld with the choir. RE is just as busy and active as ever. Thanks Nicole! Unseen publically but just as important, is the work of the Pastoral Care Associates headed by Irene Austin, and the Caring Network organized by Penny Elwell. Many others also helped, too numerous to name. You are all appreciated.

Mary Larson, Chair



1) EBAY SALES! **HELP WANTED!!!**

Art work has been donated to UUCB that will be sold and the money donated to the church. It's a great opportunity to help the church for a short term project without needing to attend meetings. If you are familiar with how to work the sales networks and want a winter project, PLEASE HELP!

2) LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

We have a beautifully developed library of UU materials in our rear hallway. We are looking for someone to maintain the completed system. It is a job that requires a minimal amount of time on your own schedule, but is essential to keep our library in order.

If either of these important jobs appeal to you, please contact Mary Larson, 406-4266 or at marniel@windstream.net.

FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Closed	1 4 Working for Justice: MSR Office Closed	2  4:30 Membership: MSR 5:00 Staff Mtg: WBR 6:30 Worship : MSR	3 10 Health Care Study Group: MSR 6 RE Committee: MER	4 10 Rental Committee: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 12:30 Chalice Circle: WBR 7 Choir: SAN	Tedford Shelter Meal	6 10 AA Rental: MBR Office Closed
7 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 New Comers Chat: WBR 11:30 SoUP for Sylvia 12 Chalice Circle	8 Office Closed	9 12 Women's Alliance: MSR 4:30 Finance:: MSR 6:30 Stories : WBR 7:30 Pastoral Care: MSR	10 3 Writers Group: MSR	11 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN	12 10 Friday Chalice Circle: WBR 10:30 Buildings & Grounds: MSR 3:30 End Inequality Team: MSR	13 10 AA Rental: MBR Office Closed
14 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 Community Read Discussion: SAN 12 Green Sanctuary: MSR	15  Office Closed	16 3 Tuesday Chalice Circle: WBR 6:30 Board: MSR	17	18 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 12/27 Service And "This Week" Education Study Group: MSR 7 Choir: SAN	19 7 Side Door (Marie Dufresne) 5 Parish Messenger Deadline	20 10 AA Rental: MBR Office Closed
21 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 12 Vegan Sunday: FEL Office Closed	22 Office Closed	23 6:30 Stories : WBR	24 12 Men's Luncheon: TBA 3 Writers Group: MSR	25 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 12:30 Chalice Circle Facilitators: WBR 7 Choir: SAN	26 9:30 Angel Cleaners	27 10 AA Rental: MBR Office Closed
28 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 Public Forum Office Closed	29  Office Closed	Mar 1 4:30 Membership: MSR 5:00 Staff Mtg: WBR 6:30 Worship : MSR	Mar 2 10 Health Care Study Group: MSR 6 RE Committee: MER	Mar 3 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN	Mar 4 Tedford Shelter Meal Circle Supper	Mar 5 10 AA Rental: MBR Office Closed

ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS/DEADLINES

If you have items to be placed in the "This Week" email, Announcement Insert (The green sheet) or the Order of Worship, please submit it to Shirley, the office administrator, by **Thursday at 12:00 pm**

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger, send it to the newsletter editor, Sue Michaud, on or before the **3rd Friday of each month** (usually). The deadline for the March Parish Messenger is **Friday, February 19th**. (michaud_susan@comcast.net)