

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick



January, 2017

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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus

Nicole Boutilier,
Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Bernier, Music Coordinator

Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

Derek Herzer, Choir Accompanist
Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

Claire Currol, Ministerial Intern

Dan Ellis, Webmaster



SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10AM

January 1 "Keeping the Wind in Our Sails"

Dave Damour

As we celebrate the New Year, we look to the coming journey. In an informal service of readings and singing, let us be thankful for what we have and look forward to the challenges ahead. UUCB's mission "to be a spiritual community, to welcome all, to nurture one another, to work for justice, and to care for the earth" gives us focus. And we have a wonderful, spirited group of people who have much to offer. Let us determine to move forward in these challenging times. Music by Larry Lemmel and "The Prayer" Singers (Irene Austin, Tammis Donovan, Sue Michaud, Louise Gephart, and Brad Mitchell)

January 8 "Palimpsest"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

We say we "ring out the old and ring out the new," but do we ever truly eliminate the old? Music by Derek Herzer.

January 15 "WWMLKJD"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

An earthquake seems to be altering the political landscape all across the world. What would Martin Luther King, Jr., do? Music by Derek Herzer and the Choir under the direction of Heidi Neufeld.

January 22 "Marching"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

Two days after the inauguration and one day after the Women's March on Washington, many are on the move. Where does the march lead?

January 29 "Do You Belong or Feel Abandoned?" **Rev. Lori Whittemore***

Rev. Whittemore's sermon focuses on the poem "Self Portrait" by David Whyte. She will explore how to welcome newcomers by looking at our own privilege and suffering! Music by Cul de Sax.

* See Rev. Whittemore's bio on page 4.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



During the month of January the RE program will be exploring the concept of forgiveness and letting go through the lens of Buddhism. The story of the month is the wisdom tale of the Two Monks from Jon Muth's book, *Zen Shorts*. In this story two traveling monks encounter a princess who is stuck at a large puddle with her attendants. She doesn't want to get wet but her attendants cannot help her because they are carrying so many packages for her. She is rude and angry. The younger monk passes her by, but the older monk picks her up and carries her across the water. When he sets her down she pushes him out of her way and carries on. The monks continue their journey, and the younger monk broods over the situation while they travel. After several hours the younger monk expresses his anger over the way the princess acted and asks the older monk why he carried her across the water. The older monk replies, "I set the woman down hours ago. Why are you still carrying her?"

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 Boutilier, 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: uubrunswickdre@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.uubrunswick.org>

Forgiveness and letting go can be hard concepts to grasp and even harder to practice. Think about how many things you spend time stewing about during any given day- the guy who turned left at the light right in front of you when you had the right of way, the statement the politician made on the radio this morning, the person who cut in front of you in line, the argument you had with your partner, the way your child totally ignored your instructions... There are a lot of things in life to get worked up about. And while we shouldn't suppress or ignore our emotions, carrying the weight of these emotional burdens over long periods of time takes a lot of our resources. And our resources are limited- we only have so much time and energy to invest every day.

When we forgive or decide to let go of something we aren't saying that it was ok. What we are saying is that we will no longer let it have power over us. We won't let it suck our energy and time that we could be putting to good use for other things. It means that when the politician makes a hateful statement, instead of spending time being angry about it and mentally replaying over and over again, try taking a positive action. Donate a piece of furniture to the organization that provides furniture to immigrant families, attend a community event that fosters relationships between different races/religions/orientations, or write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper.

It can be difficult to forgive and let go. Sometimes we need to do it multiple times. I often find myself deciding to let something go only to find that a few hours later I have somehow picked it up again. So, I make the conscious choice to let it go...again. Training our minds is a process and it takes practice. Buddhism addresses this in the Four Noble Truths: 1) There is suffering in life because of the impermanent nature of things, 2) Suffering occurs because of attachment to desires, 3) Suffering ends when attachment to desire ends, 4) Attachment to desire ends by following the Eightfold Path (right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right contemplation). Simple, right?! Not exactly, but it can serve as a guideline to help us transform thought patterns. By and large we cannot control external circumstances, but we can work toward controlling our internal circumstances and put our resources toward strengthening relationships and making a positive impact in our communities.

nicole

Important RE Announcements and Dates

Jan 01: No RE programs

Jan 08: RE classes, youth group

Jan 15: RE classes, youth group

Jan 22: RE classes, youth group

Jan 29: RE classes

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

One more holiday reflection: With Christmas a week away as I write, and with the recent death of stalwart church member, Daphne Holden, I cannot help but remember some Daphne stories.

Shortly after I came to UUCB, Rev. Mary Higgins (district executive at the time) held a meeting for the congregation and me. The purpose was to acclimate me the story the congregation had already lived so as to fold me into that story as the future unfurled. Those present created an historical time line and recounted past successes and challenges.

At the end Mary asked, "Is there anything Sylvia must know so that she doesn't inadvertently make a mistake?"

Daphne raised her hand and said, "Sylvia shouldn't mess with Christmas."

Over time, I learned how much Daphne had contributed to Christmas at UUCB – everything from sanctuary decorations, to baby candles on Christmas Eve, to forming the still-ongoing Intergenerational Orchestra, to helping launch the first Ecumenical choir concert. I also came to understand that for many, Daphne included, the Christmas Eve service was Christmas. That's why it had to be carried off in a certain way.

But it wasn't true that I couldn't mess with Christmas. I made some modifications over the years, but the church fire produced the biggest changes. Because we met in the Jewish temple's space, we had to haul in our decorations on Christmas Eve and then haul them all away again directly following the service. Gone were our big Christmas trees and the particular decorations Daphne had always treasured.

That first Christmas Eve, I came early to the Minnie Brown Center to help the Worship Committee decorate with poinsettias (red ones, just as Daphne always wanted) and to set up a little three-foot tall tree on a table up front. We used a small string of colored lights – not the white ones Daphne prized – and a variety of small ornaments – not the gold balls Daphne liked. Given time and space constraints, we did our best with the decorations on hand.

Daphne gasped when she entered that night (early, as always, so that she could get her customary seat). "It's beautiful," she exclaimed, nearly moved to tears. The decorations were pretty, it's true, but they were a far cry from the meticulously placed decorations in our Victorian sanctuary of yore. I think what Daphne loved most was our effort to make things look Christmas-y.

It was Daphne who introduced me to the words of A. Powell Davies (adapted) that I often use when we light our Christmas Eve candles. They seem particularly apt now.

Whenever we feel pessimistic concerning the future of humanity upon this troubled planet, we can always remember this: that with all their fears and failings, human beings have yet somehow managed to put the brightest of their festivals in the darkest part of the year. Not at midsummer but at mid-winter, we celebrate most universally our hope and joy.

The hardihood of this festival, continuing, as it has, through many thousands of years, and rising, stage by stage, from primitive frenzy to pagan jubilation

and finally to the symbolism of Christian observance, gives us true cause for confidence and reassurance.

When it is darkest, we celebrate the light. When the earth is most desolate, we carol our joy. When the harshest and bleakest of the seasons is upon us, we can turn to gentleness, kindness and forbearance. Our courage can rise superior to our circumstances. Perhaps this is the thought above all others that Christmas can cheer us with this year. It is the inner significance, the spiritual essence of Christmas that can mean most to us, for once.

For certainly we shall not find it easy to be spontaneously happy in a world so full of miseries. Nor should we. Anyone who could be truly carefree this Christmas would need to be either inhumanly callous or verging on the imbecilic.

If we are to celebrate the ancient festival of light overcoming darkness, it must be in the full knowledge of how dense is the darkness against which the light must shine.

As we inhabit the dark season, beautiful in its own way, may we remember gentleness, kindness, forbearance, and courage. Those are gifts we can always carry forward. I am so grateful for Daphne and for so many others who help me remember that in an ongoing way.

Love, Sylvia



ENDING INEQUALITY

WE CAN HELP END HEALTHCARE INEQUALITY!

The End Inequality Leadership Team will be focusing on health care for the month of January. Maine AllCare is fighting for healthcare equality for all of us. In a recent message, Dr. Phil Caper, founding member, said, *"Maine AllCare is the only organization in Maine to advocate for real reform, not simply fine-tuning a fundamentally flawed system. By replacing our current fragmented profit-driven health insurance system with a not-for-profit publicly funded system that includes everybody in Maine, and working to replace the profit-driven culture of health care delivery with an ethic of service to the public and the Hippocratic imperative of "putting the patient first", we could create a healthcare system that not only covers all Mainers, but does so for less than we are now spending."* They will be pursuing this effort through a public education including speaking engagements, op ed pieces, letters to the editor, newspaper columns and other means. 64%

of Maine physicians support this goal. (For the full message, see:

<http://www.maineallcare.org/time-to-support.html>

There is much work to be done and Maine AllCare has launched a major fund raising campaign to accomplish their goal. You may donate by sending a check to Maine AllCare at P.O. Box 5015, Portland, Maine 04101. You may also donate at the website or give a check directly to our own Dr. Bill Clark who is actively involved in the campaign. Maine AllCare is ... *dedicated to Universal, high quality and affordable health care for the people of Maine.*"



REV LORI WHITTEMORE

JANUARY 29 SERVICE LEADER



Rev Lori Whittemore is an ordained interfaith chaplain and community minister, working as a hospice chaplain at Hospice of Southern Maine and a spiritual care volunteer for the American Red Cross. She is passionate about interfaith work and creating community. Rev. Whittemore is the founder and director of Abbey of HOPE (Hands of Peace Extended) interfaith cooperation circle organized in the framework of a United Religions Initiative (URI) cooperation circle. The mission of the Abbey of HOPE is to gather people of diverse faiths, beliefs and spiritualities to promote dialogue, encourage cooperation and facilitate compassionate action.

The Abbey of HOPE is a virtual interfaith community that creates and facilitates programs such as Interfaith Dialogue Dinners, Compassionate Cafe and a newly evolving Compassionate Housing Initiative that seeks to form interfaith collaboratives to help welcome newcomers to our communities. Lori is a wife and mother of two daughters and is grateful to be with you this morning!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



As many of you know, January was named after the Roman god Janus, depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. In that spirit here is MemCom's January news.

LOOKING BACK

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, December 11, we welcomed ten new members to UUCB! Some are relative newcomers and some have been actively involved in UUCB for years. We are so glad they've joined us! They are:

- Pamela Gross
- Pat Moore
- Caroline Bean
- Paul Peranteau
- Hannah Cain
- Robin Stevens
- Irene Austin
- Cheryl Klein
- Karl Fattig
- Phyllis Hartzler

Please extend a warm welcome when you see any of these folks!

YOU AND UU CLASS

On Saturday, November 19, we had thirteen people attend our fall *You and UU* class. This 3-hour session provides an opportunity for people to learn more about the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism, and UUCB, as well as to explore their own connection to our faith. We recommend that people who are considering joining UUCB attend one of these classes. The next class will be offered in the spring.

VISITORS

Does it seem like there are a lot of new faces in church every Sunday? Well, there are! Since the beginning of November, twenty-one newcomers have stopped by our table and asked to receive our weekly UUCB goings-on email.



LOOKING AHEAD

SoUUPS ON JANUARY 22

Mark your calendar for our annual SoUUPS On Luncheon after church on January 22. Directly following the service, we will quickly set up tables in the sanctuary and delicious soups, bread, fruit and desserts will be served. While the sanctuary is being transformed to a dining area, coffee will be available in the RE wing. In early January you will receive a postcard inviting you to bring either bread or cookies/bars to share. Hope you can join us!

FELLOWSHIP ART GALLERY



LINDA MURRAY

Please be sure to take note of the art on display in our Fellowship Gallery and in the May Sarton Room. This month's exhibit, WANDERINGS, will feature the paintings of Bath artist Linda Murray.

Please take the time to look at and enjoy her work. When you do, please sign the guest book, as it always warms an artist's heart to read her fan mail.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NEEDED: SOME GOOD MEN TO WORK WITH KIDS—WATCH DOGS

Willo Wright, one of our community's great and indefatigable leaders, who advocates for and defends kids, recently approached me for assistance in recruiting male role models for a special program starting up at Brunswick's Harriet Beecher Stowe School.



(Sidebar: I have enormous respect for Willo. She led the Rebound program that used to meet in the basement of the old church. The program worked with kids who had gotten into trouble with the law in various ways. Willo also started a program for teen-aged single moms, which also met at our church. Over my tenure in the old building, I got to know Willo quite well. She's a true inspiration.)

Willo is helping HBS School start a Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program. The program itself was started in Springdale, Arkansas, in 1998, and since then has grown into a nationwide program, whose aim is to provide positive role models for students. She says it's easy to get women to volunteer in schools, but men are scarce. (So men, there's your challenge!)

Many of the students who attend Stowe live in families with no male role models. The Watch DOGS program tries to address that lack. Volunteers don't have to be dads, specifically. They can be grandfathers, uncles, or simply men who enjoy working with kids. With their presence, male volunteers model the importance of education. In addition, the men provide an extra set of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce school bullying.

Duties and responsibilities? Watch DOGS help schools in any number of school programs, such as one-on-one work with a student who needs extra help, playground duty, helping kids get off and on buses, and working on special school activities. Men will be trained. (One training is coming up on **January 12** – pizza night from 6 to 7 at HBS School.) The school will do a background check on all volunteers.

Willo is hoping men will sign up for just one day during the year. (More days are better, of course, and perhaps even more rewarding as one would have an opportunity to build real relationships with the kids. But, truly, just a one-time volunteer session is all the program asks, and it would be a big help.)

Harriet Beecher Stowe School educates around 700 kids in grades 2 to 5. Roughly 40% of those kids qualify for free or reduced breakfast/lunch and the take-home weekend backpack program (which provides food for kids to eat during the weekend).

Interested in helping? Sign up with Willo at 522-5155, wswsoi@comcast.net

Thank you, *Sylvia*

NEEDED: ONE NIGHT LODGING FOR LIBANA SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Libana, the musical group of 6 women, will be performing at one of our Concerts for a Cause on Saturday, March 11. They are willing to stay in people's homes rather than charge us for lodging if the conditions are right. Here are the conditions:

1. First of all, pullout couches do not work for us, and all rooms need to be private (with a door). Non-saggy mattresses are also requested.
2. 2 can sleep in a firm double bed or larger. No futons for these two.
3. 2 can sleep in the same room, but either in a king or two twins (not a double or queen). Or they can stay in two separate rooms. No futons for these two.
4. The other two need their own separate rooms. Futons are ok for these.
5. Pets are OK (no one is allergic to cats or dogs).
6. We prefer when possible to stay in as few different homes as possible (with three as a maximum), but we can also be flexible!



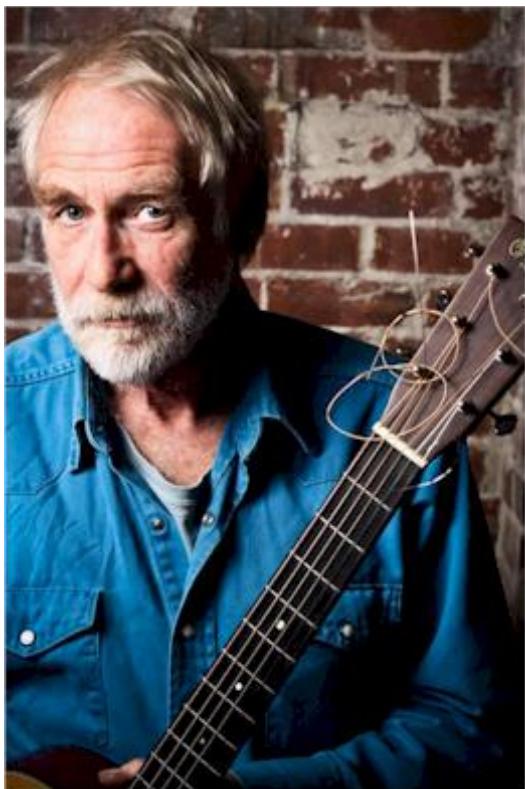
Please contact Sue Michaud (729-4857 or michaud_susan@comcast.net) if you can put up 2 or more women for one night and a light breakfast Sunday morning.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

HOLIDAY FAIR

Leigh and I would like to report that the Holiday Fair made **\$4531.14!** We would like to thank all of you who volunteered to make this fair such a success. We also want to thank our great Fair committee: Robin and Erik Hansen, Lynn Ellis, Barbara Jabaut, Penny Elwell, Clara Ross, Pat Harris, Sue Ellen and David Damour, Mike Heath, Maryli Tiemann, Adair Delamater, Cuffy Chase, and Sienna Dode. If you would like to be part of the committee for next year, please contact Leigh Peranteau. Happy New Year!

*Gretchen Kamilewicz and
Leigh Peranteau, co-chairs.*



Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door.

See Sue Michaud or David Roundy after church services.

Also available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <http://davidmallett.brownpapertickets.com>.

UUCB CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

David Mallett **One of America's True Troubadours**

Saturday, January 28 at 7:30 pm
UU Church of Brunswick

In a career spanning four decades, Mallett has recorded 14 albums, had several hundred covers of his songs, including the American folk classic *Garden Song (Inch by Inch, Row by Row)*. He has performed in town halls and folk clubs across the U.S., Canada and Europe in addition to major venues such as Barns of Wolf Trap, Newport Folk Festival, and "Prairie Home Companion". Known for his carefully written, poetic offerings, his body of work has provided material for more than 150 artists including Alison Krauss, Pete Seeger, Hal Ketchum, Emmylou Harris, John Denver and the Muppets.

"Few people could be called the living embodiment of the state where they live. But what Garrison Keillor is to Minnesota, Mallett is to Maine." – *Orlando Sentinel*



**HELP
WANTED!**

Part of the profits raised at our concerts are from refreshment donations. **PLEASE sign up** after church to bring some **finger foods** to the event. We will need lots this time.

Sue Michaud, 729-4857 or michaud_susan@comcast.net



UUCB's own
Rene Bernier!

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

Pejepscot Station

Pejepscot Station is a high-energy bluegrass band comprised of veteran musicians hailing from the mid-coast Maine area. It features Jim McLaughlin on mandolin and fiddle, Stephen "Satch" Hatch on guitar, Cherie "Peachblossom" Howard on bass, and Ren Bernier on banjo. Vocals are shared by all. Based in the village of Pejepscot (in Topsham, ME), the band has been performing throughout southern Maine since forming in 2011. Their repertoire is a mix of traditional and contemporary bluegrass with a few little surprises thrown in. Tight vocal harmonies and some good Maine style humor between songs make for an enjoyable and fast-paced show.

January 20

Feature set preceded by the Open Mike



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

JANUARY CHARITY WITH SOUL MIDCOAST HUNGER PREVENTION PROGRAM



MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program is well known to UUCB and was selected as the January charity. Serving residents of Brunswick, Topsham, Harpswell, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Lisbon, Lisbon Falls and Durham, MCHPP's mission is to reduce hunger by providing food assistance, sustainable living education, and referral services to households living at or below poverty. Currently seven programs are managed by staff at MCHPP: the soup kitchen, food pantry, food bank, elders program, summer feeding for school age children & summer day camps, weekly workshops-living education program and the food security coalition of MidCoast Maine. UUCB

members volunteer regularly at MCHPP and have for many, many years. Together we all make a difference. To learn more go to <http://www.mchpp.org/> and please donate generously through the month of January in the weekly offering.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

WORKING FOR JUSTICE SHEPHERDS TWO INITIATIVES

COLUMBUS DAY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY— BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

On Tuesday, November 29, Working for Justice invited area churches and members of the wider community to consider the meaning and impact of replacing the Columbus Day holiday with a celebration of Native People's heritage and culture - recognizing the past genocide and colonization and the continuing discrimination against indigenous people in the United States. How might we in Brunswick create celebration and ceremony that would recognize and honor the people whose land we live on today? Diane Oltarzewski, who organized a similar (successful!) initiative in Belfast, presented her experience and other speakers shared related life stories and concerns. It is widely held that changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day can begin to encourage reconciliation and wider truth telling within our communities. Working for Justice will host a second meeting in January for those interested to create a vision for meaningful change in Brunswick.

REACHING OUT TO NEW MAINERS

On Wednesday, 10/25, about 30 people from area churches and the wider community gathered to listen to and learn from members of the Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative (YCHI), a three church collaborative which provides asylum seekers in Portland temporary back-up housing as they wait for rooms in the Chestnut Street Shelter and ultimately permanent Portland housing. Those gathered were asking whether and how we in the Brunswick community might reach out to support asylum seekers and other new Mainers hoping to rebuild their lives here. A smaller group of self-designated "planners" met again on Wednesday, 11/30, to begin to educate themselves about options for effective outreach to the immigrant communities in mid coast Maine. This group has committed to gathering information from existing local immigrant programming and services to determine what we in Brunswick might offer that would be both doable and effective in providing meaningful support to local new Mainers.

OF NOTE AND IN ADDITION: Members of WFJ have been in touch with Patty McKinnon who brought her students from Lewiston High School's International Club to speak at UUCB about their experience as new Mainers. We are exploring the possibility of fundraising for the group by selling their very attractive t-shirts and, more generally, gathering new or lightly used winter clothing for the students and their families. **Look for upcoming postings about both of these opportunities.**



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

WORDS FROM THE SANDY HOOK VIGIL—DECEMBER 14

Tonight we gather to remember those who died at Sandy Hook Elementary School four years ago today. We join with the National Vigil at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Washington D.C. who are meeting at this time, as we are now. How does one speak about the deaths of 20 children and 6 adults on this 4th anniversary of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown and somehow capture the sorrow and broken heartedness? How does one reflect on the need for kindness and love for all victims of gun violence then and now? How does one stare at the faces of the children and the people in Aleppo as they await their im-

minent deaths and not lose it altogether? Where is our grace? Where is our humanity? Where is the unity of spirit?

Our program tonight is divided into two sections: Intention and Covenant. We set our intention as kindness in the midst of our sorrow. May we be guided, with grace and with our faith, to a place of wisdom and safety. Our covenant is Love. May it guide us ... in our search for peace, for justice and for a place where our precious children will find a future filled with love. May it bind up our broken hearts and light the way for a better day. A better way.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

MUUSAN

Dear Friends of MUUSAN,

You made history when the Ranked Choice Voting ballot initiative passed by a comfortable margin in November!



The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network was instrumental in coordinating efforts to provide our Maine UU congregations with tools and resources to magnify our voices for social justice in the public square. **Your support enabled MUUSAN to:**

- Develop a 2016 Election Guide with Issue Papers linking our UU Principles to the four initiatives we endorsed;
- Coordinate Letters to the Editor and press conferences throughout Maine about our UU values and the endorsed initiatives;
- Become a visible, reliable partner for the Social Justice Committees of our UU Congregations and the *Get Out the Vote* efforts on the ground as we helped to mobilize UU volunteers;
- Provide leadership and collaboration among progressive allies to leverage our shared values.

Those of us who may be still reeling from Presidential election results seek effective ways to keep advocating for justice and protecting our UU values in the public square. **MUUSAN's legislative ministry is needed now more than ever**, and is gearing up for the January convening of the Maine state legislature. Last session we came within just two votes of overriding the Governor's veto on the solar bill, and got Medicaid expansion approved by both houses before a sixth veto denied urgent health care assistance for nearly 70,000 low-income Mainers.

We are ready for renewed work on these and other critical bills, but we must have your financial support to do so. Please make a donation gift through our website at www.muusan.org or send your check to MUUSAN, PO Box 8, Augusta, ME 04330.

Your financial support is critical and a gift in any amount is gratefully appreciated. Together we are stronger.
Yours in Faith,

Trudy Ferland, Co-Chair
First Universalist Church, Pittsfield

Julia Fitz-Randolph, Co-Chair
Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Damariscotta



Rev. Carie Johnsen, UU Community Church of Augusta, speaks out for MUUSAN at the Oct. 26 Faith Leader Press Conference for Ranked Choice Voting (Question 5), in Portland.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

6th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Pasta Supper

Monday, January 16

5-7pm



The Brunswick community is invited to gather at the Unitarian Universalist Church for the 6th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Pasta Supper to raise funds for the **Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program**. The Brunswick Democratic Town Committee hosts this annual non-partisan event - all members of the community are invited to attend! Help raise funds to combat hunger. Gluten free options available! Come help build community, and find inspiration in the brief remarks offered by this year's speaker! Questions or to volunteer:

jacqueline.sartoris@gmail.com

Women's Rights Vigil in Brunswick

Saturday, January 21

10-11am

Do you find yourself wishing you could journey to Washington to participate in the March for Women's Rights, but stuck here in Maine nonetheless? You are not alone! And there is an alternative! From 10:00 to 11:00 on Saturday, January 21, all are invited to a Women's Rights Vigil on the Brunswick Mall. People of all genders, ages, and stages welcome. Bring signs advocating for social justice or simply bring yourself. We hope to have a fine, large group of people making our presence known right here in town. We hear other events just like this are popping up all across the nation. The more the merrier!

Sylvia

rights



UUCB WRITERS GROUP:

The UUCB Writers meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 pm at UUCB in the May Sarton Room. This is an ongoing, informal, open group that welcomes writers with and without experience to participate.

It is not a critique group. We write from prompts, and our procedure is based on the principles of Natalie Goldberg's writing process. There are no required books, no homework, and no fee to join. Just bring a notebook and a pen you love to write with.

If you are interested,
please plan to join us any time.

Next scheduled dates are:

January 11 and 25th.

If you have questions, please contact:
Pat Harris - 725-7772 - pjharris@aol.com.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Tuesday, January 10 @ 10:30

On Jan 10th, the Woman's Alliance will meet to discuss common interests and the goals of the group for future meetings. All women are welcome - bring a neighbor and/or a friend.



Are you **reading a book** you think others would enjoy? Please bring it with you.

Bring a sandwich or other "lunch." Coffee, tea, and treats will be provided.

See you on the 10th in the May Sarton room.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Wed, January 25

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.

SUNDAY PEANUT BUTTER AND JAM

Sunday, January 8

Peanut Butter and Jam resumes on **January 8** after church. This is a chance for musicians of any level to jam together. Bring your voices, instruments, and music to play. *Rise Up Singing* is a good source of well known songs, but you may know of others, too. All ages and stages welcome!



PLANT-POWERED POTLUCK

The UUCB Plant-Powered Potluck will be held after church on **Sunday, January 15**, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.



Come share delicious plant-based food and camaraderie with us and 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 Jessica Tracy at jtracy21@myfairpoint.net or 729-7294 by **Thursday, January 12**.

If you are new to plant-based eating and would like to know more about its benefits and suggestions for recipes, a good site to check out is www.forksoverknives.com.

Save the Date!



LARRY LEMMEL, PIANO
Sunday, February 5 at 11:30 am

All Robert Schumann Program
Admission Free

JANUARY 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|  1 10 Church Service (NO RE Classes) 11:30 Newcomers: WBR | 2 Office Closed - Winter Break | 3 4 Membership: MSR 6:30 Worship: MSR 7 RE Comm: MBR | 4 10 Office Reopens 10:30 RENTAL Choir Rehearsal: MBR 4 HAF Committee Debriefing: MSR | 5 10 Rental Committee: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN | 6 Teford Shelter Meal | 7 10 AA Rental: MSR Office Closed |
| 8 8 Re-deck Sanctuary 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30: PB & Jam : SAN Intern Committee :WBR Green Sanctuary: MSR | 9 4 Working for Justice: MSR 5:30 AllCare: WBR | 10 10 Chalice Circle: WBR 10:30 Women's Alliance: MSR 4 Membership: MBR 4:30 Finance: MSR 6:30 Pastoral Care: MSR 6:30 Stories: WBR | 11 12:30 Chalice Circle: WBR 3 Writers: MSR 6:45 Council: MSR | 12 11 Wabanaki REACH: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 6:45 Choir: SAN | 13 4 End Inequality: MSR | 14 10 AA Rental: MSR . |
| 15 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 12 Plant Powered Potluck: FEL 12 Chalice Circle: WBR | 16  5-7 MLK Pasta Supper: SAN & FEL | 17 2 Savvy Caretakers: WBR 6:30 Board: MSR | 18 3 Poetry with Barkley: WBR 6 Chalice Circle: WBR 6:30 Asylum Seekers Support Groups: MSR | 19 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 6:45 Choir: SAN | 20 7:00 Side Door Coffeehouse: Pejepscot Station 5 Parish Messenger Deadline | 21 10 AA Rental: MSR 10-11 Women's Rights Vigil: Brunswick Mall Office Closed |
| 22 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 SoUUp On! FEL & SAN | 23 Memorial Service | 24 6:30 Stories: WBR | 25 12 Men's Luncheon 2:30 Chalice Circle—Topic Writers: WBR 3 Writers: MSR | 26 9:30 Memoir Writing: WBR 10:30 Building & Grounds: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 6:45 Choir: SAN | 27 9:30 Angel Cleaners | 28 10 AA Rental: MSR 7:30 David Mallett Concert Office Closed |
| 29 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 10 Rental Committee: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN | SAN = Sanctuary FEL = Fellowship Hall WBR = Wendall Berry Rm MSR = May Sarton Room MBR = Merrymeeting Bay Room RE = All RE Space HIL = Hildebrandt Room CAR = Carson Room MAN= Mandela Room CL= Curtis Library Seminar Room | |

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 see page 5 to see when the deadlines are during the Holiday season.

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger, send it to the newsletter editor, Sue Michaud (michaud_susan@comcast.net) on or before the **3rd Friday of each month (usually)**. The deadline for the February Parish Messenger is **Friday, January 20th**.