



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

JUNE
2025



OUR MISSION

To be a spiritual community,
To welcome all,
To nurture one another,
To work for justice,
And to care for the earth.

STAFF

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Minister

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Rev. Kharma Amos, Minister

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 10-4

Services in June

MONTHLY THEME: THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM

June 1st - The Practice of Freedom

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos; Music by Will Bristol, Grace Lewis-McLaren, and the UUCB Choir

Our final theme for this church year is the Practice of Freedom, and this week we'll dive right into the complexities of it all. Spiritually speaking, UUs often pair freedom with responsibility, and we will reflect on what this approach may have to offer in other realms as well. What a time to be reflecting on the topic of "Freedom" in the so-called "Land of the Free" ~!

June 8th - Freedom to Bloom *Flower Communion Sunday*

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos; Music by Will Bristol and the Sunny Siders
In this service on the Freedom to Bloom, we will celebrate the quintessential UU ritual of Flower Communion. Let's think about what it means to create a spiritual community in which all people are free to bloom (rather than wither or hide).

June 15th - Free to Be: A Pride Celebration

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos; Music by Will Bristol and the Pride Choir
We celebrate Pride in Brunswick this weekend in a national/global context in which the rights of LGBTQ+ people are threatened. Pride is a celebration of everyone's right to be who they are -- without trying to conform to norms or labels that simply do not fit. Let's reflect on how important it remains for us to build a world in which all are free to be (no exceptions, no kidding).

June 22nd - Yes, And

Led by Rev. Kye Flannery; Music by Will Bristol
Failure often feels like the edge of a cliff — we may go to great lengths to avoid it. But we can learn from scientists, artists and humorists who know how to look at failure as a jumping off place, making us more nimble and beginning a whole new journey. We will practice claiming, breathing through and practicing generosity with failure. (Bio on page 2)

June 29th - From Greed to Gratitude and Generosity: A Spiritual Case for an Economic Democracy

Led by Frederick Lancaster; Music by Will Bristol
I have strong convictions and have created a unifying vision from my own moral and ethical basis. I find this moral basis in the last line of the Pledge of Allegiance, "Liberty and Justice for All." I will explore how our world's moral framework can be easily adapted to our community and world-at-large, starting with the prevailing value of our capitalist economy, which I see as greed. In discussing the UU values of Interdependence, Equity, and Generosity, I will introduce my personal spiritual practice which will incorporate liberal values with community involvement. (Bio on page 2)

Minister's Message

Summertime, let the loving be easy ...

Dear Friends,

This slightly queered version of a Gershwin lyric is my hope for all of us this summer. There is so much happening these days, and at such lightning speeds, that I've heard many of you voice the questions often on my mind: "What is even happening right now?" "Is this real?" "What's going to happen next?"

It's difficult, when things are shifting so quickly, to get one's bearings. If you find yourself confused or foggy, wondering "Where am I meant to be next?" or "What are we actually talking about right now?" ... then you may be feeling some residual effects of simply living in the US for the last several months. It's been a lot. It's still a lot.



This Summer, the Worship Committee is ready to guide us through some timely reflections to encourage us all to have roots (i.e., be grounded and centered) and wings (i.e., things that help lift us out of the muck of the world so we can see more clearly and find encouragement to soar). What an amazing opportunity to relax into spiritual community and be nurtured by one another (a big part of our mission)!

We'll be focusing in the first few weeks of June on the Practice of Freedom, and I genuinely long for all of us to have the freedom to breathe this summer, to loosen our muscles, to slow down, to rest, to renew ourselves with re-creation, and to continue doing what we can to center love in every breath and every interaction. In short, I sincerely hope the loving is easy for you in summertime. I hope you can carve out enough space (given the realities of your own life) to take deep breaths, to see and appreciate beauty, to hear nature's symphony, to feel pleasure, to re-connect with yourself, and to open your heart enough to receive love and renewal.

Blessings,
Kharma



Services in June: Guest Bios

June 22nd - "Yes, And" - Rev. Kye Flannery

Kye Flannery is a Buddhist humanist UU chaplain in the UMass hospital system. For fun and grounding they practice meditation and metalwork, which are not as different as they might seem.

June 29th - "From Greed to Gratitude and Generosity: A Spiritual Case for an Economic Democracy" - Frederick Lancaster

Frederick Lancaster draws his values from the suburbs during the Vietnam War era. He has had a 30 year spiritual practice of Zen meditation and study. His hobbies include beginning watercolor painting, gardening, classical music and jazz standards, and local Indian cuisine. Primary Influences: his mother; liberal linguist George Lakoff; poet Robert Bly; Zen masters Dogen Zengi and Thich Nhat Hanh; and well-known social justice activists, primarily Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr, and Thomas Merton.

A Note from the Music Director



Will Bristol

Whether or not you consider yourself a singer, I'd like to invite you to join in on a musical opportunity that has a lot to do with this month's worship theme of Freedom. The *Brunswick Pride Choir*—which was born into existence last year to sing at the Brunswick Pride Festival—will be doing it again this year (and hopefully the weather will cooperate a bit more in the process 😊). This year we will meet for one rehearsal at UUCB from **7pm-8:30pm on Thursday, June 12th**. The performance time will be announced at rehearsal for the Pride Festival on **Saturday, June 14th**—rain or shine! Last year we had about 60 participants and I would love it if we had even more this year.

This is a great time to give voice to the idea of freedom that pride festivals encourage **everyone** toward enjoying! It's also a great opportunity to encourage people from outside of our church walls to join us in this low-commitment event. The choir will also sing on **Sunday, June 15th** on the UUCB worship service with whomever can make it then.

If you would like to familiarize yourself with the two main songs we will be presenting at the festival this year, check these videos out:

- [Brave by Sara Bareilles](#) is a fun, pop song that nevertheless delivers a serious message.
- [True Colors by Cyndi Lauper](#) is a classic pride song. We sang this last year, so those returning can support others in singing it again. I can't resist these classics!

call for singers!

**BRUNSWICK
PRIDE
COMMUNITY
CHOIR**

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

Rehearsal is Thursday, June 12th, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM
at UU Church of Brunswick, ME (1 Middle St.)

Will perform together at Brunswick Pride, Saturday, June 14th!

**Brunswick
PRIDE**

Final meeting times for the following UUCB music groups before returning in September
(note: some of these may have already happened by the publishing of this article):

- **Last choir rehearsal**—Thursday, May 29th 7-8:30pm in the Sanctuary
- **Last A Cappella Group rehearsal**—Sunday, May 18th following worship service in the Youth Group Room
- **Last 4th Sunday All-Stars rehearsal**—Sunday, May 25th following worship service in the Youth Group Room
- **Last Recorder Ensemble rehearsal**—Sunday, June 1st following worship service in the Youth Group Room
- **Last drum circle**—Monday, June 2nd 7-8pm in the Sanctuary

Best, Will



From the Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director (LSFD)



Toben Cooney-Callnan

TIME FOR ALL AGES – THE STORIES

One of the comments that I hear most on Sunday mornings is, "I love the story you read for Time for All Ages!" With the church year coming to a close, I was able to create an up to date list of titles to share with you all. I broke them down by our monthly themes. Most of the time, you will see that the book matches the theme in some respect. Occasionally, the titles stray from the theme but are still aligned with UU ideas.

Thank you for another great church year!

Invitation

May You Love and Be Loved by Cleo Wade
Don't Touch My Hair by Sharee Miller
The Sloth Who Slowed Us Down by Margaret Wild

Deep Listening

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld
Who Am I? by Julie Buchholtz
The Very Crowded Sukkah by Leslie Kimmelman

Repair

The Rules of the Playground by Joseph Kuefler
Wally and Freya by Lindsey Pointer

Presence

A Day So Gray by Marie Lambda
Winter is the Warmest Season by Lauren Stringer

Story

I am a Story by Dan Yaccarino
In My Mosque by M.O. Yuksel

Inclusion

Intersection Allies by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi
We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T Higgins
Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli
Change Sings by Amanda Gorman

Trust

A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon
If You're a Kid Like Gavin by Kyle Lukoff
We are Allies by Taimani Emerald

Joy

All My Treasures by Jo Witek
The Green Piano: How Little Me Found Music by Roberta Flack
Have You Ever Seen a Flower? by Shawn Harris
Doubt by Pia Valentinis

Imagination

Willow by Denise Brennan-Nelson
How to Raise a Mom by Jean Reagan
This is Sadie by Sara O'Leary
Noah Chases the Wind by Michelle Worthington

Freedom

What if Everybody Did That? by Ellen Javernick
The Flower by John Light
The Meaning of Pride by Rosiee Thor



From the Board of Trustees



First things first – Mark your calendar for the **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2025.**

UUCB by-laws require a Congregational meeting to be held at the end of every church year. The purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the Board of Trustees, elect the church officers, adopt a budget for the new church year, and take up any other business before the congregation. It is our members' opportunity to participate in the democratic process of our community.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, June 8, at approximately 11:30 am, following the worship service. The meeting may be attended in person and online. While anyone who is interested may attend the meeting, only members (those who have signed the membership book) may vote.

Here are some of the highlights of our work that will be on the agenda:

- As this church year draws to a close, we look back and realize that this has been quite a year for our congregation. Who would have thought when we dedicated our beautiful new church in 2014, that in 2025 we would be dealing with overcrowding in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings?
 - People who are searching for a vibrant and welcoming community of faith based on love and justice are drawn to our beloved community, which is known for social action, our minister, music, intergenerational spiritual formation – everything that weaves together to make us who we are. This is to be celebrated and appreciated, but along with the growth comes challenge.
 - This challenge has been a focus of much of the Board's work over the past year. We have consulted with our UUA expert, held a congregational meeting, experimented with changes in seating, location of coffee hour, etc. The Board has committed itself to work intensively over the summer to explore every option available and make specific recommendations to address these issues.
- Thanks to the generosity of all of you, the work of the Pledge Drive team, and the Finance Committee, we will be able to propose a balanced budget and optimistic financial picture
- Our minister and a dedicated group of members will be introducing a Legacy Giving program to provide a way for our members to contribute to the future of UUCB.

And finally, please be sure to notice the new Peace Pole which has been set near the entrance of the church. This pole was donated by Penny Elwell, daughter of the Rev. Dana McLean Greeley. Here is what Penny told me about the Peace Pole:

The pole was owned by the Dana McLean Greeley Foundation for Peace and Justice, established in 1986 in honor of the Rev. Dana McLean Greeley, a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and a member of the World Conference on Religion and Peace as well as the International Association for Religious Freedom. When the Foundation was dissolved in 2006, its assets went to 5 non-profits working for world peace, and this new pole was left looking for a home. It has been stored with the family since 2006!

Penny also told me that her father was a man who "walked the walk" of UU principles and worked tirelessly for world peace and justice. She and her family are grateful that the Peace Pole has found a home at UUCB, and we are honored to have it.

-Louise Gephart

*May there be peace in our minds and our hearts.
May there be peace in our relations with one another.
May peace reach out from us,
Into our community and into our world.
May peace grow, as the oak tree grows,
And spread its branches in every direction.
May peace fly, as the dove flies, with spread wings,
From home to home and continent.
And may we have such a taste of peace,
Such an experience of it,
That we shall believe in it, and serve it,
All the days of our lives.*

-Excerpts from FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES
Writings of the Reverend Dana McLean Greeley

Church Happenings and Announcements

ALERT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Board of Trustees has asked the Committee on ministry to undertake a general infrastructure review of our overall church ministry. (e.g., How are our committees structured and working? Are their stated charges (purposes) still relevant? Is there any overlap? Is cooperation between committees working well? Are there gaps not covered by a committee/ministry area/staff? Are there any redundancies?).

Committee members will be in touch with committee chairs early in the new church year, this fall to discuss how to work together to ensure a useful and effective review.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of us: *Tom Rumpf, Chair, Irene Austin, Cathey Cyrus, Penny Elwell, Carol Evans*

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR BETTY WURTZ! FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 11 AM



Friends of Betty are invited to join the 100th birthday celebration hosted by her children on **Friday, June 13 at 11:00am** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, 1 Middle Street, Brunswick. Please come and extend your birthday wishes to Betty.

SAVE THE DATE! ALL-CHURCH PICNIC – SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 AFTER CHURCH

Pot-Luck All-Church Picnic

Sunday, August 17, after church

To be held at the property of Stephanie & Ren
Bernier

690 River Road
Topsham, ME 04086

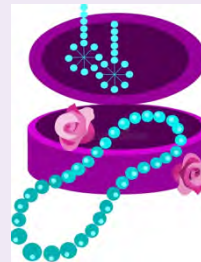
More details to follow...

UUCB HOLIDAY FAIR – SUMMER PREP



During the summer, there are many things that you can do to make the Holiday Fair a success!

“BRACELETS, AND EARRINGS, AND RINGS. OH, MY!” JEWELRY SORTING STARTS THIS SUMMER



The much-anticipated jewelry room at the Holiday Fair relies on donations of gently used costume jewelry as well as lots of sorting, polishing, and carding by the Jewelry Sorting Team. The group meets once a month in the summer and generally twice monthly in the fall, usually on Monday afternoons. We sort, clean, research, laugh, and chat simultaneously. What a group! **Want to join us?** Contact Lisa Durrell, edurr13@aol.com.

Much-welcomed jewelry donations may be left on the Membership Table on Sundays.

CRAFTS, CRAFTS, CRAFTS!

We need crafters! anyone who loves being crafty — from simple crafts to those that require more sewing skills.

In order to keep our craft table fresh and intriguing to shoppers, we need an influx of fresh stock. If you have seen unique craft ideas that we should know about, please share them.

We have a variety of small project ideas to share that fit any skill level, including ornaments & household decor and practical items made from small, simple-ish sewing projects like fabric passport wallets or pouches.

Please reach out to Rebecca Waddle, rebecca.waddleis@gmail.com, or Betsy Williams, bwilliams120@gmail.com, with ideas or to get involved!

Ideas? Questions?

Email uucbholidayfair@gmail.com

Our Community

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Each month we plan to share photos and bios of our new members to celebrate our growing community.

Wayne Ladner

I grew up west of Boston. I have lived full-time in Maine since 1976 and in Richmond since 1984. My first career was in engineering and management. For the past 21 years I have been an insurance agent. I own Ladner Insurance specializing in Medicare and health insurance.

I enjoy bicycle riding, hiking, kayaking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, gardening and woodlot management. I also like cooking and Friday date night!

I have been an "official UU" since joining the Augusta church in 1990. Sarah Zell and I both joined UUCB this year. I am the proud father of two wonderful young women and grandfather of baby Arlo!



Sarah Scott Zell

I live in Richmond, Maine and have a private counseling practice in Brunswick. Wayne Ladner and I have been together since 2019.

I love to garden, explore the outdoors and dabble in various art media. Color and movement bring me joy!



I'm coming to UUCB at this time to join a community that shares my values and challenges me to grow spiritually and as a global citizen.

Mary Atala "Mary-At" Lessard

I am from Lewiston, Maine. Over the years I have moved 20 times and owned 10 houses. I now live in Freeport. I taught at the elementary, adult education and community college levels. At age 41, I earned a licensed clinical social work degree from Boston College.

I like to sing, dance, go to the beach and attend plays and movies. I also enjoy acting in plays with Freeport Players and Community Little Theatre in Auburn. I was previously a member of First Parish in Portland and the UU church in Auburn, but was looking for a new church "home."

John Morang

I grew up in Portland, Maine. I taught math in Colonie, New York and at Mt. Ararat high school. I owned a construction company for 18 years. I like to collect coins, travel, work in my yard, read and meet new people. I also enjoy spending time with my family and Mary Atala.



My first UU church was Allen Avenue UU in Portland. After adopting four children, my attendance declined. During covid, Mary Atala and I watched Sunday services online from the UU church in Auburn. When we heard that UUCB was a great church, we started attending together.

I co-owned a Cessna 150 and flew for five years. I was in the army. In my travels I have been to Europe and Asia several times, as well as to all 50 states, often traveling alone.

Concerts for a Cause

The mission of **Concerts for a Cause** is to hold a series of concerts to raise money for the church and local charities while sharing a variety of quality music with the Brunswick area community. The 2024-25 season's charities will be Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. See the entire lineup of concerts and more details about each performer at <https://uubrunswick.org/concerts>.



Rave Reviews for our House of Hamill Concert – May 17

House of Hamill wowed a sold-out crowd with their high-energy, exceptional playing and beautiful three-part harmonies. Many of the audience members told us we should have them back again soon. We made another \$1,340 for the Brunswick Teen Center and Maine Family Planning.

We are happy to report we earned over \$1,340 for our charities

Final Concert of the Season:

Susan Werner

Saturday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Susan Werner is an award-winning singer/songwriter, guitarist, and pianist who has built a reputation as one of the country's most compelling live performers. She has been playing to sold-out audiences across the country for 27 years.

Renowned as a charismatic performer, she's known above all for challenging herself to conquer new styles every few years. She writes ambitious concept albums with subject matter and sounds to match. She has produced 18 albums of songs that effortlessly slide between folk/rock, jazz, Tin Pan Alley to gospel, country, and pop, all delivered with sassy wit and classic Midwestern charm.



Susan Werner. photo credit: Bob Yahn

With a graduate degree in voice performance, her shows are a one-woman master class in musicianship. Her songs are noted for their poetry and sharp wit, and also for their astonishing stylistic range. She has written songs in the style of Gershwin and Cole Porter, gospel music, traditional Cuban "son", and New Orleans junk piano. In 2014 she composed the music and lyrics to the musical theater score "Bull Durham, the Musical." Her latest recording of original songs, In the 2025 International Folk Festival Awards, Susan Werner walked away with the award for Album of the Year for "Halfway to Houston."

Werner was featured as part of the "next generation" in Peter Paul and Mary's PBS special. She has also performed on NPR's World Café, NPR's Mountain Stage, and displayed her considerable piano chops on Marian McPartland's NPR Piano Jazz.

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 Students/Children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/swerner>



Please stop by the Concert Table after church services to buy your tickets and/or to sign up to donate some homemade refreshments for intermission. Or contact Sue Michaud at michaud_susan@comcast.net. We usually earn over \$100 by having donation baskets at our refreshment table. This really helps our bottom line.

Working for Justice

JUNE'S CHARITY WITH SOUL: MIDCOAST HUNGER PREVENTION PROGRAM

Contact: Stephen Wood swood88@outlook.com

From Alyssa Schoppee, Development Director

This year in Maine, 1 in 8 people and 1 in 5 kids will experience food insecurity. As the largest hunger relief and prevention agency in our region, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) is a critical resource for many of our neighbors facing food insecurity. For over 40 years, MCHPP has been committed to offering dignity and empowerment by providing our neighbors in need with access to healthy food in pursuit of our vision of a community where quality, nutritious food is available for all. We aim to remove barriers to healthful meals for anyone in need and to foster an environment of inclusion.

MCHPP operates two facilities in Brunswick. A Food Access Center downtown which houses our food pantry and soup kitchen and a Warehouse & Administrative Facility on Brunswick Landing. We also operate mobile and satellite pantries and direct-to-door deliveries to bring our services closer to home for those experiencing transportation or mobility barriers. In 2024, MCHPP's food pantry had over 16,000 shopping visits, a staggering 40% increase from the year prior.

Our programs provided 1.2 million meals to over 8,000 our neighbors in need last year because of the community's generosity and commitment to this work. We hope you will consider partnering in this work by making a gift today on our website (mchpp.org/donate) or via cash or check.



3 Ways to Give

- 1) From uubrunswick.org, click "Donate Online". Choose the "Plate" option.
- 2) Text the amount of your donation and your name to (855)962-0440
- 3) Mail a check to: PO Box 129, Brunswick, ME 04011. Memo Line: "Plate"

BRUNSWICK AREA TEEN CENTER

Contact: Joanne Allen, jlaen543@gmail.com



Spring is here, and the teens are planning and planting raised bed gardens. They will grow vegetables in the beds and fruit trees in the planters. UUCB donated 6 planters and 2 and a half yards of soil. Thank you, to Skillins, for the free delivery! Thank you to those who donated personal care items for our June 1st collection.

The toothbrushes and travel sized shampoos, deodorants, and body washes are greatly appreciated. For our July donations we will return to collecting food items. The popular foods recently are fruit, cut up carrots, cookies, flavored water, and chips. The beverages and snacks aren't required to be in individual servings any longer.

The teens have been cooking and making plans for summer activities. They'd like to go to the beach, the Botanical Gardens and the Maine Aquarium. Weekly ice cream parties seem to be popular, too.

The Teen Center will hold an Open House to celebrate our 20th Anniversary! It will be held on Thursday, June 12, 4:30 - 6:00 pm at our new location at Coffin School. Come for food and fun and to tour the space.

Questions? Please contact:

Joanne Allen, Carol Briggs, Cuffy Chase, Pat Moore, Susan Snow, Donna Tomkins, or Betty Wurtz

Working for Justice

MAY PARTNER FAIR A SWEET SUCCESS

On Saturday, May 17, the sanctuary was quickly cleared of chairs and set up with a circle of a dozen tables. The Working for Justice Steering Group was about to host an event called “Imagine Your Social Change Role – Partner Fair. Partner organizations began to arrive and drape their banners and set up their displays. At 11:00, for two hours, people visited the tables, speaking with UUCB folks plus reps from many local social justice organizations. The enthusiasm of participants was contagious, and people said they were uplifted by the presence so many likeminded groups, all wanting the world to be a better place.

Partners represented at the fair included: Maine Gun Safety Coalition, BESmart, Black Lives Matter, The College Guild, MUUSAN, Housing Justice Maine, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Maine Voices, Mid Coast Literacy, Mid Coast New Mainers Group, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, Mid Coast Indigenous Awareness Group, LGBTQI++, Brunswick Area Teen Center, Brunswick Topsham Land Trust, and the League of Women Voters.

Some visitors said they were there for themselves and for a friend, partner or sibling wanting to “do something” to give back. Several said that they had signed up to get busy right away.

Someone asked Kathy at the LGBTQI++ table if they represented a particular group. When Kathy answered, “No, we are just the church group,” the person said, “Really? You have a church group for LGBTQI people? In your church? This makes me so happy, you have no idea.” Kathy thought she was going to cry.

Betsy Williams said, “All my partners thanked me profusely and said it was well worth their time. They signed people up for their organizations and said they had very thoughtful conversations.

All agreed that this was a pleasant and valuable event for visitors, partners, and all of us who worked together to make it happen. If its aim was to help people find a place to connect and serve, then I believe that aim was reached. We will be reviewing the fair as a pilot, seeing how it might fit into next year’s calendar.



Official Greeter, Rev. Kharma

Partners Represented at the Fair

Maine Gun Safety Coalition
BESmart
Black Lives Matter
The College Guild
MUUSAN
Housing Justice Maine
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Maine Voices
Mid Coast Literacy
Mid Coast New Mainers Group
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program
Mid Coast Indigenous Awareness Group
LGBTQI++
Brunswick Area Teen Center
Brunswick Topsham Land Trust
League of Women Voters

Working for Justice

PARTNER FAIR PHOTO COLLAGE

We hope you will enjoy this photo collage of the program representatives!

Also present, but not pictured here:

Steve Walker, Executive Director, Brunswick Topsham Land Trust

Hannah Rose and Michael Czerpfanski, Big Brothers Big Sisters

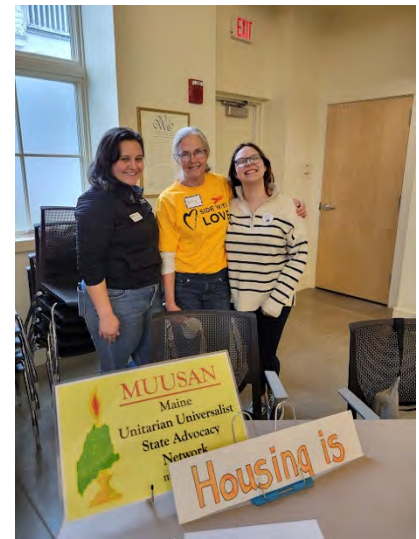
Jennifer Wells, College Guild



Eden from Mid Coast Hunger Prevention (MCHP)



Teen Center: Taylor Carter (Dir.) right, and Lian Joseph, volunteer



Betsy Williams, center, with Ella Tabasky, Natural Resources Council of Maine (left) and Emilia, League of Women Voters



Cathey Cyrus, Indigenous Awareness, chatting with a fairgoer



Emilia, League of Women Voters of Maine, left, sharing info and some laughs

Working for Justice

PARTNER FAIR PHOTO COLLAGE



Louise Gephart with an interested visitor at the Maine Gun Safety Coalition table



Joel Russ, Vice Chairman of the Board of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition



Joyce Oreskovich, the Gathering Place



Nyawal Lia, left, Housing Justice Maine, Betsy Williams, and Mary O'Brien



Carol and Joel Kalajainen at New Mainers table



Katie Clark, Director of "Read With Me" program, Mid Coast Literacy

Working for Justice

GUN SAFETY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Contact: Lynn Ellis, lynnsellis62@gmail.com



Gun Safety Education and Awareness:
Barbara Arsenault (Be Smart) left, and
Lynn Ellis

UUCB supports gun safety through a focus group under our Working for Justice Steering Group and has for many years and is chaired by Lynn Ellis. The group currently has 17 members. Over many years we have partnered with other gun safety advocacy groups to bring education and awareness to the public health crisis that is gun violence.

At the fair on May 17, we welcomed two of those advocacy partners: **Maine Gun Safety Coalition**, a 501.c.4 nonprofit organization, is a leading and trusted voice in Maine advocating for evidence-based, common sense gun safety legislation, at state and federal levels. Maine Gun Safety Coalition Foundation, a 501.c.3 nonprofit organization, protects our communities by collaborating with partners including law enforcement, healthcare providers, gun owners and fellow citizens by providing education and programs.

The **Be SMART** campaign was launched to raise awareness that secure gun storage—storing guns unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition—can save children’s lives. Be SMART emphasizes that it’s an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Contact: Faith Barnes, faithb.56@gmail.com

Partner Fair

The WFJ Partner Fair was attended by MidCoast New Mainers Group and Midcoast Literacy. Representatives from both organizations shared that they were able to reach a population they usually don’t see. Both organizations got several volunteers to sign up to volunteer.



Mid Coast New Mainers Group

Attorney Ben Tucker made a presentation to New Mainer teens and adults about driving and the importance of driving with all documentation, a valid driver’s license or learners permit, valid registration, valid insurance, and valid inspection. Portuguese and French interpreters provided simultaneous translation. There were about 20 New Mainers attending the program. In addition to the necessary documents, Ben reviewed regulations regarding new drivers in terms of who can drive with them and when they can drive. Ben emphasized the need to be courteous but only answer questions that pertain to why they were stopped. In addition, he suggested that if they get a ticket to not sign it but attend the court hearing as the ticket and charges would probably be dropped. At the end Know Your Rights accords were made distributed. The program was sponsored by MidCoast New Mainers Group, TEAN, and the Welcome Center.

Midcoast Literacy

They continue to need tutors, especially for children. Midcoast Literacy will hold a training in early September for both adult and youth tutors.

Little Sparrows Clothing Closet

The clothing closet is close to opening its doors. They continue to work through the town and fire code approval process. They have received many donations and are beginning to make signs for the clothing racks. Soon they will have volunteer applications available. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Katya Rogers at littlesparrowsclothingcloset@gmail.com

UUCB Art Gallery

JUNE ART SHOW: QUEERLY PORTRAIT COLLECTION EST. 2020

Artist's Statement

The Queerly Portrait Collection documents candid moments of joy, reflection, and resilience in the lives of over 300 LGBTQIA+ people in Maine. What originated as a passion project to address social isolation during the peak of COVID quarantine has flourished into a robust collection of portraits archiving the stories of LGBTQIA+ people statewide. This Collection is an ongoing project with new portraits added on a weekly basis as of 2025.

The photographer of the Queerly Portrait Collection is Kyle Warnock. Kyle Warnock (any pronouns) has dedicated his career to fostering community belonging and accessibility across Maine. He is an American Sign Language Interpreter, the Executive Director and Founder of Queerly ME, and a documentary photographer. Across his many fields of work, Kyle is guided by his passion of resource sharing, interpersonal connection, and storytelling. He holds a BA in Linguistics with a concentration on American Sign Language / English Interpretation from the University of Southern Maine.

To see the complete Queerly Portrait Collection, visit <https://queerlyme.org/documentary>.

The Queerly Portrait Collection will be up from May 31st to June 30th in the Brunswick UUCB Art Gallery.

Consider donating to Queerly ME support the continuation of the Queerly portrait series. Queerly ME is a nonprofit fostering strong support networks and strengthening community belonging for LGBTQIA+ adults in Maine. To learn more about Queerly ME, visit queerlyme.org/qme-mission-values or donate at queerlyme.org/donate-qme.

*Images below: Artwork by
Kyle Warnock*



Please take some time to enjoy the artwork in Fellowship Hall. Each month the Gallery Committee installs a new exhibit. FMI: contact Joanne Allen, jlaen543@gmail.com

**The Parish Messenger Deadline for the July issue is Saturday, June 21.
Please send your content to: parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org.**