



# The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
69 Winthrop Street ~ PO Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

December 2015



*Theme:*  
**Expectations**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**                      Music Sunday

This traditional holiday service has become a favorite among members and friends. Bring your family and your neighbors for this holiday treat. This service brings us together to sing and enjoy a morning of music highlighting the Unitarian Universalist Community Church Choir and Occasional Orchestra.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**                      Prayerfully Expectant

Let us join together during this month of holidays to explore the relationship between prayer and expectation. If you are so inclined, you may want to join the UUCC prayer circle led by Annie Voorhees and Gary Chapin the first Sunday each month following church in the Drew House.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**    9:15    Holiday Pageant

This traditional holiday pageant gathers members, friends and family in celebration and love. Please note: Children and youth who would like to participate should plan to arrive at the church at 9:10 on the 15th. There will not be a rehearsal, just a little preparation time before the service.

11:00    Symbols, Songs and Spirituality of Solstice

Symbols and songs enhance the richness of the longest day of darkness as we long for the returning light. What riches are available to us in the darkness? How are we strengthened as we move into the light?

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**                      TBD

**Annual World  
Aids Day  
Service**

Tuesday,  
December 1<sup>st</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist  
Community Church

Sponsored by:  
Horizon Program

**Lighting the Way:  
Grief, Loss and the Holidays**

Thursday  
December 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

This evening vespers service is a time to remember the holiday season that includes heartache, loneliness and loss. This service creates a compassionate caring community to be present to the hurt and the grief. It is a time to hold our unfilled dreams of how we live to be in tender care of beloved community.

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

Thursday  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

This Christmas Eve tradition will include two services. The early service at 4:00 will be specifically designed for families with young children. The second service at 5:30 will include the traditional of carols, readings and candle lighting. All ages are welcome at both services.

## A Faith Journey...

We live in strange times: so many people across the globe live with fearful expectation of the next act of injustice, hate, violence, terrorism and so many live with devoted expectation of the power of love to help and heal and hold us. We live in complicated times where the paradox of love and hate, cooperation and division, wealth and poverty, greed and humility, peace and violence, good and evil are becoming more pronounced and entrenched in the social-political-religious landscape.

To live in complicated realities, we call forward the profound truths of world leaders who inspire; we cling to the sagacity of Martin Luther King, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." To keep hope alive, we turn to the simple wisdom of Mr. Roger's mother, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people helping."

And we tell stories to inspire the spread of goodness, the warmth of love, the strength of community and the light of hope. This story "Gate A-4 from Naomi Shihab Nye, is one of my favorites.

*Wandering around the Albuquerque Airport Terminal, after learning my flight had been delayed four hours, I heard an announcement: "If anyone in the vicinity of Gate A-4 understands any Arabic, please come to the gate immediately." Well — one pauses these days. Gate A-4 was my own gate. I went there.*

*An older woman in full traditional Palestinian embroidered dress, just like my grandma wore, was crumpled to the floor, wailing. "Help," said the flight agent. "Talk to her. What is her problem? We told her the flight was going to be late and she did this."*

*I stooped to put my arm around the woman and spoke haltingly. "Shu-dow-a, shu-bid-uck, habibti? Stani schway, min fadlick, shu-bit-se-wee?" The minute she heard any words she knew, however poorly used, and she stopped crying. She thought the flight had been cancelled entirely. She needed to be in El Paso for a major medical treatment the next day. I said, "No, we're fine, you'll get there, just late, who is picking you up? Let's call him."*

*We called her son, I spoke with him in English. I told him I would stay with his mother till we got on the plane. She talked to him. Then we called her other sons just for the fun of it. Then we called my dad and he and she spoke for a while in Arabic and found out of course they had ten shared friends. Then I thought just for the heck of it, why not call some Palestinian poets I know and let them chat with her? This all took up two hours.*

*She was laughing a lot by then. Telling about her life, patting my knee, answering questions. She had pulled a sack of homemade mamool cookies — little powdered sugar crumbly mounds stuffed with dates and nuts — from her bag and was offering them to all the women at the gate. To my amazement, not a single traveler declined one. It was like a sacrament. The traveler from Argentina, the mom from California, the lovely woman from Laredo — we were all covered with the same powdered sugar. And smiling. There is no better cookie.*

*Then the airline broke out free apple juice and two little girls from our flight ran around serving it and they were covered with powdered sugar too. And I noticed my new best friend — by now we were holding hands — had a potted plant poking out of her bag, some medicinal thing, with green furry leaves. Such an old country traveling tradition... Always carry a plant. Always stay rooted to somewhere.*

*And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and thought, "This is the world I want to live in. The shared world." Not a single person in that gate — once the crying of confusion stopped — seemed apprehensive about any other person. They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women too.*

*This can still happen anywhere. Not everything is lost.*

In this month of expectation, how might you turn the world around or upside down by engaging the unexpected? In the words of Micheal Leunig, *Give us music when we expect trouble. Give us tears when we expect breakfast. Give us dreams when we expect a storm.* Shake things up a bit during this month of expectation. Let go and let yourself be led astray by the unknown. Look into the multitude of opportunities to do the unexpected and DO IT!

In faith, Rev. Carie

## Uniting For Racial Justice

*As Unitarian Universalists, we are called by our principles and history to close the gap between our values and our actions. This call to stay engaged in racial justice requires of us a willingness to stay tuned in and informed; ready to take risks and make mistakes; and to be called out on our white privilege that we might do better. Rev. Carie invites you to join her for one or all of the following events:*

### ***Between the World and Me***

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Drew House

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 -- 7:00 p.m. Drew House

We will listen to Ta-Nehisi Coates read sections of his book and engage in provocative conversation about what it means to be black in America. The church has purchased a couple of his books. Please see Carie or Lynn to acquire a loaner. We ask you to read it and return it promptly for the next person. Please sign up for discussion with Lynn Smith at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 622-3232.

“I’ve been wondering who might fill the intellectual void that plagued me after James Baldwin died. Clearly it is Ta-Nehisi Coates. The language of *Between the World and Me*, like Coates’s journey, is visceral, eloquent, and beautifully redemptive. And its examination of the hazards and hopes of black the male life is as profound as it is revelatory. This is required reading.”

~Toni Morrison

A bold and personal literary exploration of America’s racial history by “the single best writer on the subject of race in the United States”

~The New York Observer



## Spacious Enough - Faith Conversations with Rev. Carie

The October service title “Liberating God” was an invitation to engage in faith conversations spacious enough to hold divergent and contradictory theologies, even if, *especially if*, it caused one to be uncomfortable. The service stirred in many people a desire to dig deeper and know more intimately the people they walk with in faith. While I am aware of groups who have already engaged this idea, I would like to encourage further conversations. To that end I will be holding space to encourage sharing of our dearly held beliefs and listening that invites us to explore deeper and hear what matters most to those in our community.

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Drew House

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Drew House

All conversations will be held in the newly furnished parlor at the Drew House. Each conversation will follow the small group ministry format: chalice lighting, check-in, reading, and questions to prompt faith telling and deep listening. Please contact Rev. Carie if you would like to invite her to facilitate this session in your small group ministry during January, February or March of 2016.

Please sign up with Lynn Smith at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 622-3232

## President's Column....

### How Things Work Here

You may not know this, but at our church, we have a manual called *How Things Work Here*. It is filled with interesting stuff like procedures and requirements for volunteering at RE, what to do with money after the offering, and what you should do if you want to donate something to the church! It's definitely worth having a gander at. It's like a policy manual, but one that tells you how things play out on the ground. You learn a lot. You also learn a lot about how things work here just by watching them happen. Even with a manual, a lot of the doings hereabout have an improvisatory quality to them, and simultaneously, an air of fate. How do candles in the candelabra get changed, for example?

This morning at church, Our Worship Associate talked about a minor conflagration that broke out when he was lighting the candelabra before services. Candle craft was in the air! Then, between services, this same Worship Associate dutifully trimmed the wicks of the same candelabra candles – best practice in action! But then, sinisterly, wax began dripping from the candles onto our carpet, including some flaming bits! Two congregants, bystanders, stepped in to stem the tide of catastrophe, putting out the candles and catching the fallen wax! Together with our Worship Associate they ended up replacing all of the candles in the candelabra, and safely affixing those safety ring things around the bases. Phew! Disaster narrowly averted!

Another way things work at our church – the preferred way – is thus: when someone has a problem with a thing at church, they go talk to the person who is responsible for that thing. I know! Right?

Conversation is the activator of action, but often we avoid it because ... well, for any number of reasons. A few weeks ago, a bunch of us were standing around after RE, and we collectively realized that the kids were being dismissed from services *before* the offertory. Last year, we had very consciously made the decision to have the kids in services for the offertory. How did this change? A day later I mentioned this to Reverend Carie. It turns out I was the first to bring it up with her! The one person who would most likely know hadn't been asked. If you were in church today (and not distracted by the flaming antics of our Worship Associate), you will have noticed that the offertory was returned to its rightful place, along with some ritualistic accoutrements conducted by our new RE Coordinator.

What happened? Why had it changed? No one really knows, but it seems that sometime in the summer, we accidentally reverted to old practice. Maybe we were using an old Order of Service template? I don't really know. But inertia carried us through to November! And that's when we noticed.

That's how things work here. Kind of a science. Kind of an art. Kind of a procedure. Kind of a last ditch attempt at order. With apologies to both Dr. King and Ta-Nehisi Coates, sometimes the arch of the universe bends towards comedy. I'm embracing it.

Gary Chapin



### Peaceful Heart Sangha

Mindfulness Meditation every Monday 6:30 – 8 pm at UUCC and  
Every Thursday 8 – 9:30 am at River Studio in Hallowell (332 Water St)  
Beginners/newcomers always welcome.

**On Nov. 7 we had a Day of Mindfulness at UUCC focused on “Climate Change as a Door of Awakening”. As a perfect follow up our wider Mindfulness Community in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh has sent out suggestions to help us support Mother Earth and the upcoming Paris Climate Summit.**

***We are encouraged to gather and send our spiritual energy to Mother Earth and to international political leaders, so that they may have the courage, clarity, and compassion to come to a wise and responsible agreement.***

**Peaceful Heart Sangha will do so on Monday, November 30** as part of our gathering from 6:30-8. We will come together to breathe, sit, and walk mindfully for the Earth, and generate a powerful collective energy of mindfulness and compassion. This powerful collective energy is our spiritual offering to the Paris Climate Summit and the highest form of prayer for our precious planet.  
**Join us if you can.**

**Here are some ideas for possible actions we might like to take during the 2 weeks of the Paris Climate Summit:**

***Join a March:*** On Sunday November 29th we invite you to gather as a community and **join a Global Climate March** in a town or city near you. We can contribute to the Climate March our collective energy of peace and stillness, enjoying every step with freedom and deep connection to the Earth. You can find a march near you or create an event of your own.

***Fast from meat and dairy for two weeks:*** For the duration of the Paris Climate Summit, from November 30th to December 11th, we invite you to **fast from meat and dairy products**. You can come together as a community to eat a vegan meal “potluck-style” or as a family in your home. Eating in this way nourishes our energy of compassion, and we can send this energy to support the Paris negotiations.

***Wear a Green Ribbon:*** For these two weeks, from November 30th to December 11th, we invite you to **wear a green ribbon** in order to raise awareness, amongst those around you, of our collective practice of mindfulness and compassion in solidarity with the Earth during this time.

**Get Together:** We encourage you to attend a sangha gathering near you, and to read from Thich Nhat Hanh's books **Love Letter to the Earth** and [The World We Have](#). Raising awareness in our communities promotes collective awakening in society. You may also like to join gatherings and vigils organized by our brothers and sisters in other faith traditions and climate action groups, and offer your presence, peace, compassion and support.

**Make a Commitment:** We encourage you to reflect on your lifestyle and consider making a personal commitment with concrete actions to reduce your environmental impact. Tell those you live with or your local community what you plan to do (or refrain from doing), and ask for their support.

Our community suggests: When we meditate together and walk mindfully together, we amplify the power of our mindfulness, concentration and compassion. This strong energy of collective awareness will be felt in the world. It has the power to re-establish the Earth's equilibrium and restore balance, since we are nothing less than Mother Earth herself. Our actions will lead to collective insight, collective awakening, and collective change.

We do not know what the outcome of the Summit will be. But we determine our future by the way we live the present moment and the way we live our daily life. Our awareness and compassion and our love for the Earth will extend far beyond December's Summit.



Another helpful action could be to send a post card message to John Kerry (such as this message suggested by the Earth Holder Sangha):

WE SUPPORT YOUR GREATEST LEADERSHIP AT COP21

Dear Secretary Kerry,

Thank you for facing the tough decisions ahead. We do not envy your challenge in balancing tomorrow's needs for energy and economy against the catastrophic climate chaos that will surely result if we do not change our energy sources and efficiencies. We must make aggressive policy commitments at COP21. The future of all life depends on the courageous leadership by the US right now.

As a member of a Spiritual Community in the Tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hahn, whom Martin Luther King Jr nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, I offer you my prayers and aspirations. May your work yield much fruit for a prosperous and safe future for our species and all beings.

With a deep bow of gratitude,

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Address your card to:  
John Kerry, Secretary of State, US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW, Washington DC 20520

## Forgiveness A UCC Adult Enrichment Course

*“I wondered if that was how forgiveness budded; not with the fanfare of epiphany, but with pain gathering its things, packing up, and slipping away unannounced in the middle of the night.”*

—Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Have you ever been hurt? Have you been told it's best to forgive? Have you ever wondered how forgiveness might happen? What does real forgiveness feel like? How do you get to forgiveness?

These are some of the questions you will be asked to explore at the UCC Adult Religious Exploration class on *Forgiveness*.

We will be following the model of psychologist Dr. Everett Worthington Jr., a pioneer researcher in the field of forgiveness, who constructed a 5-step model of practical exercises to facilitate the process of forgiveness. Dr. Worthington has dedicated his life to the study and teaching of forgiveness. He is a professor of psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University and has taught at the University's American Psychological Association-accredited psychology (counseling) program for thirty-three years.

This 10 week, day-time class will begin January 14<sup>th</sup> and will continue on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, until May 26<sup>th</sup>. Best results are achieved when participants attend all classes (if possible).

The long dark hours of winter are a great time to hunker down and do some serious reflection.

Won't you please join us as we sit around over a steaming cup of tea, and carefully minister to some of the painful places in your heart?

To register, please call UCC Office Administrator, Lynn Smith at 622-3232 or email her at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org). Questions can be directed to Maggie Ricker, group leader, at [Maggiesway@aol.com](mailto:Maggiesway@aol.com) or text or call 207-689-7711.

## Elder Lunch...

### Elder Lunch

#### December 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon in Fellowship Hall

Plan to relax and socialize with your friends after the second service. Menu always includes breads, salad, entree and dessert. Church elder lunch is not exclusive to Senior Citizens – we have regular attendees in their 40s and 50s too, so please self-select and join us.

### Elder Lunch – Help Wanted

Help with setup, serving, and cleanup is needed as several regular crew members are away this winter. Additionally, each event requires two large salads, 4 entrees choices, and plates of finger desserts. Could you cook a casserole, quiche or soup for the Elder Lunch just once this year? Or are you willing to cook a finger food desert like cookies, brownies or bars? Or would you be willing to bring a large green salad or cole slaw? If you aren't a cook, would you be willing to help set up, serve or clear?

Please call Marilyn Dunn to schedule your contribution 512-5382 or email [maine2007@hotmail.com](mailto:maine2007@hotmail.com)

## UU's Praying Class...

The *UU's Praying* class, led by Gary Chapin and Annie Voorhees, meets on the **first Sunday of the month**. We gather in the first floor living room of Drew House immediately after the second service.

## Seasoned Souls...

*Seasoned Souls* is a group intended specifically for church members and friends aged 65 and older. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday of the month in Fellowship Hall between 10:30 a.m. and noon. In **December**, we will meet on **2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>** to address the various issues associated with aging. The meetings are open to all Seniors who wish to join this spirited group.

## Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

The November 29<sup>th</sup> (noon -- 1:30 pm) meeting of *Goddess/Earth Circles* will be an opportunity to view books and information about Goddess traditions and pagan traditions. People are welcome to bring in items for display, and some items are looking for new homes. Join us on this exploration.

November 29, from 1:30 -- 2:00 pm we will be planning the Winter Solstice Service for the congregation on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Come with your ideas on how to recognize and celebrate the richness of this time of year. The theme is "Symbols, Songs and Spirituality of Solstice"

For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com))

## Ethical Wills Postponed...

The *Ethical Wills* workshop that was originally scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> has been postponed until January 16, 2016 in Fellowship Hall (snow date Feb.6).

## Partnering with the Augusta Food Bank...

Please continue to help UUCC support the **Augusta Food Bank** (AFB) by donating non-perishable food items to the wagon in the coat room. The AFB especially needs boxes of mac and cheese, canned fruit and vegetables, granola bars, peanut butter and canned tuna. They can always use volunteers to help check in clients, stock shelves, and assist with retail store pickups. For more information on how you can donate or get involved, please contact AFB board member Pam Lombard at 458-4409 or the new Executive Director of the Augusta Food Bank, Sarah Miller at 622-5225.

## Music Sunday...

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta will hold its Fifth Annual Music Sunday on December 6 with two one-hour services, the first at 9:15 a.m. following by coffee and fellowship time and the second at 11:00 a.m. that day. The theme of the morning will be "Music for the Soul, Food for the Hungry." Music Director Bridget Convey will lead the Choir and Dan c. Gilbert will conduct the UUCC Occasional Orchestra. Choir Accompanist will be Karen Foust.

Opening the Worship Service will be the Advent Hymn #226, "People Look East. Then the Choir will sing "In the Winter's Early Darkness," lyrics by Michael Hudson and music by Thurlow Weed, followed by the Orchestra playing the traditional Scottish melody "Loch Lomond." The Choir will then sing "Winter Solstice Song" by Elat Ophidia Alekner. Next, the UUCCOO will present "See, Amid the Winter's Snow," an English Christmas carol written by Edward Caswall (1814-1878), with music composed by Sir John Goss (1800-1880).

Soon the Choir will sing "Yule" by Leanne Daharja Veitch and the UUCCOO will play Antonio Corelli's "Pastorale" with orchestra parts arranged by Dan c Gilbert, followed by the Choir's rendition of the 14th century German song of praise, "In Dulci Jubilo." The Choir and UUCCOO together will bring the worship service to a glorious conclusion with the combined piece "O Magnum Mysterium" by Tomas Luis de Victoria, UUCCOO parts arranged by Dan Gilbert. The closing Hymn is #36, "When in Our Music God is Glorified."

All are welcome to participate in this joyous morning. Each family who attends is invited to bring an item of non-perishable food or a contribution for the Augusta Food Bank to help feed hungry families in the Augusta area.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Martin Luther King Day Speaker  
Breakfast**

**The Many Faces of Immigration  
in Maine**

Monday, January 18, 2015  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Sponsored by: Winthrop Area Ministerial Association



## Religious Explorations News...

### Developing Spirit Play

Before stepping into this new role, I used to volunteer over the summers as an adult in Spirit Play. As I have known it, Spirit Play has always been a space of — as we say in our opening words — love and friendship. Talking happens, art happens, laughter happens, and it has been a beautiful thing. But since the beginning of the new church year, I've been feeling like Spirit Play could be more than this. This is why I recently asked for and received encouragement from the RE committee to make some changes and add some structure to Spirit Play.

Spirit Play gives us an opportunity to do something that we cannot do in the RE classrooms: talk about the service. Because of the nature of RE — where there is a curriculum with lesson plans that do not always relate to the topic of the service or the theme of the month — we are rarely able to talk about our wisdom story or the important ideas that may surface during the first part of the service. In November in Spirit Play, we have been able to talk about ancestry, social justice, the history of our church, and ideas relating to these important themes.

The developments are in process, but they aim to increase the depth of these conversations. We regularly have older children coming to Spirit Play who do not have RE classrooms, who are incredibly intelligent and thoughtful, and who can and will engage meaningfully in a discussion if given the space and encouragement. My goal is to turn Spirit Play into this space for discussion, centering around various topics (current events, interpersonal relationships, spirituality, etc.) and trying to face these issues, and the world, as growing Unitarian Universalists.

The changes that we are enacting will mostly affect the youth — because of the reach and content of these discussions, they are not inherently suited for a mixed age group. Therefore, the current plan involves Spirit

Play being divided into two groups, and continuing unchanged for the younger children. I openly invite and encourage you to share with me your thoughts on the new Spirit Play. As always, the goal is to give our children a space and encourage them to grow.

In peace,  
Brigid Chapin, RE Coordinator

## Display Case...

The December display will focus on the symbols of the season. The train has a box for each day of the month. Each box will contain information about a symbol. If possible, an example of the symbol will be included in the display case. If you have items that you would like to include in the Symbols of the Season display, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308 or [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com))

## History Committee...

The History Committee meets on the Third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the History Committee and Olsen Room at Drew House. The next meeting will be **December 17, 2015**.

The History Committee contributed to the November theme of Ancestry. An insert in the Order of Service on November 8 identified historic items in the sanctuary. Copies of that insert are available, and the information is included in other places on the website and in history files. We also included items in the display case related to hymnals, writings, and Religious Education materials. We want the stories from our history to be accessible, so added a touch of color with English China connected with the memorial parlor in the old Winthrop Street Building to brothers who drown in Cobbesee Lake. This display will be up through November 29.

We are still inviting people to assist with the Wayside Pulpit on the corner of Summer and Winthrop Streets. Please contact Heide Munro at 622-7395, [heide.munro@gmail.com](mailto:heide.munro@gmail.com) if you would like to help with the Wayside Pulpit.

*The History Committee relies on all of you to contribute items by placing them in the History Committee tray in the Committee Room. We add items to our Members Book each time that we meet to capture our history as we make it!*

## Super Public Supper Special...

Thanks to some wonderful volunteers, another successful public supper hit the tables November 7<sup>th</sup>! Phyllis Clark, Sophia Oliveri, Lucien Oliveri, Ben Hodgkins, Eli Spahn, Charlie Caldwell, Liz Johnson, Cheryl Clukey, Reverend Carie Johnsen, Cheryl Abruzzese, Becky and Catherine ( new members), Dennis Thoet and shopping partner/ sometime cook Nancee Campbell. Sue Carey of St. Matthew's Episcopal and Carlene Kaler of Prince of Peace Lutheran helped us as well. Judy and Valerie made our coffee and kept the dishwasher humming. **Thanks times 10 go to co-leaders Dan Stevens of Prince of Peace + St. Mark's and our very own UU Liz Johnson - cooks extraordinaire and to Valerie and Carlene who stayed till the soapy end!**

Sarah Miller and Abbie Perry of **Augusta Food Bank** donated pizza dough, shredded cheese and other food to us which lowered our shopping bill tremendously. We made pizza for the first (and probably the last) time. The crowd loved it, but it was a bit hard to keep up the pizza pace... there were sheets of pizza everywhere.

Thank you also to those who baked desserts or contributed ingredients for the supper: Jani Clark, Janet Sawyer, Jim and Helen McKendry , Dennis Thoet, Dan Stevens and Becky H.

Next month we'll use the squash which the young adult volunteers prepped and froze today. Perhaps they'll return to invent a new baked dish with potato, squash, and broccoli cheddar soup and yet undecided ingredients and seasonings....

Thank you to Rev. Carie for coming over during her busy Saturday.

A representative from **Good Shepard Food Bank** recently reviewed our cooking

credentials and the kitchen and we passed inspection with flying colors! Thanks to the UU's who took the Cooking for Crowds training last March, which helped us pass; Tracey McNaughton, Nancee Campbell, Ida Gammon Wilson, Cheryl Abruzzese and Liz Johnson and me. I apologize for any omissions.

Give as thanks.

**Jenny McKendry, Co-Leader,  
Non-Cook and Bottle Washer**

## The Connection between Quantum Physics and Zen!

The occasional book group will be exploring this very topic as we discuss A Tale For the Time Being, a novel by Ruth Ozecki, and you are

invited! We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 until 2:30 to explore the complexities of this wonderful book. Reviewers say this book is 'funny, tragic, hard-edged, and ethereal at once.' (Los Angeles Times) 'Her novel is saturated with love, ideas, and compassion. It is, in short, an absolute treat.' (The Sunday Times- London) The meeting is hosted by June Zellers and Kathy Kellison. We invite anyone who loves discussing good writing to join us for a stimulating time together. No need to preregister. Just come with your questions, comments and reactions! For more information, contact Kathy at 445-4415 or June at 582-5862.

Future discussions: March 17<sup>th</sup>, Being Mortal, by Atul Gawande, April 21<sup>st</sup>, The Dinner, by Herman Koch, and May 19<sup>th</sup>, Buddha's Brain, by Dr. Rick Hanson. Books are available at Barnes and Noble and through interlibrary loan.



## Looking Back Fondly at 11 King Street...

In the Fall of 1996, Jacqui Clark and I purchased 11 King Street (the former building of the All Souls Unitarian Church in Augusta). The electricity had been disconnected and our first look at our prospective building was with flashlights; our excitement was not dimmed! We were looking for a building that would house our mediation practice and the therapy practice of our long-time friends and colleagues, Barbara Warren and Priyadarshi George. Within a month we purchased 11 King Street; nineteen years later we've sold it.

Our first function in the building was hosted by the UUC. The silver tea set was polished and while tea was served in the Great Room (the former sanctuary) members of UUC walked through their former church building and identified the various spaces—Barbara Thurlow's office, Alice Olson room, RE classrooms, the much disputed addition, minister's study. All of these rooms were given new purposes by us and, at the same time, maintained their former identities.

When we purchased 11 King Street, we made promises to the UUC, the neighbors, and the community. Our promise to UUC was to make the building available for funerals and weddings and worship. Our promise to the neighbors was to provide space in our yard for a vegetable garden. Our promise to the community was to continue to welcome grassroots organizations as they worked to make a more just world. The graciousness of 11 King Street allowed us to fulfill these promises year after year.

In many ways the Great Room had a life of its own and we were the stewards. Families gathered in it to celebrate holidays and milestones and to grieve losses. Some parents refer to it as the room their child was conceived in (they had attended their adoption classes in the Great Room). Individuals learned Tai Chi, yoga, drum, and dance. Professionals gained certificates as mediators and mental health technicians. Coalitions and grassroots organizations mobilized and planned. The Northern Lights Community Church converted the Great Room into a sanctuary every Sunday for many years.

UUC continued its relationship with King Street. Members and friends worshipped there during the summer of church renovations. Work crews painted and cleaned. Youth groups raked the yard.

The merger of the Unitarians and Universalists led to the "letting go" of King Street by the congregation. The church building on Winthrop Street was bigger and therefore had more capacity to create one congregation from two. Jacqui and I "let go" of King Street to simplify our lives and make space for re-creation. Our mediation practice will continue but we have ended our relationship with 11 King Street. We are sad to let go of this generous and life-giving community building and also looking towards the transformation of our lives.

The sale of King Street is a big transition for Jacqui and me. We never lost sight of our gratitude to UUC for the creation of 11 King Street as a location for spirit and healing. We are grateful. It has been a bountiful harvest.

Debbie Mattson

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church**  
**P. O. Box 8**  
**Augusta, Maine 04332-0008**

## Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email [newsletter@augustauu.org](mailto:newsletter@augustauu.org) with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

**Deadline: January 18.**

**Minister:** Rev. Carie Johnsen

**President:** Gary Chapin

**Sunday Morning RE Coordinator:** Nicole Danielson  
**Youth Advisor:** Monique McAuliffe

**Administrator:** Lynn Smith  
[admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

**UU Office hours:**  
**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am-3pm**  
**Wednesday noon-6pm**

**Choir Director:** Bridget Convey  
Choir Practice Wednesday 6-8pm  
**Small Group Ministry Coordinator:** Luke Curtis  
**Office:** (207) 622-3232

### **Rev. Carie's office hours:**

Tuesday 1:00 - 5:00pm  
Wednesday 2:00-6:00pm and by appointment  
Friday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For Pastoral Emergencies please call her cell phone **(508) 221-5295** and she will return your call at soon as possible.

**Social Media links:** Professional Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/revcarie.johnsen>

Please note: Rev. Carie also keeps a personal/private Facebook page. If you have requested to be her friend, please do not feel slighted by her decline or unresponsiveness. Instead, take a minute to friend her at RevCarie Johnsen.

Website: [www.everydayordinarytheologies.com](http://www.everydayordinarytheologies.com)

Rev. Carie's new website was launched in July as part of a sabbatical project. When you get a minute visit the site and subscribe to future posts.