



The Flaming Chalice

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

Theme:

April 2016

What does it mean to be a people of *Creation*?

Creativity is simply our ability to dream things up and make them happen.

~ Peggy Taylor

SUNDAY SERVICES

April 3rd

The Wisdom of Kali

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Engaging the Hindu Goddess Kali: Gentle Mother, Fierce Warrior. Exploring the role of destruction in a month of creation.

This Sunday will include a time to honor and celebrate the wisdom of our Elders.

April 10th

Circles of Sexuality

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Sexuality encompasses nearly every aspect of our being, from attitudes and values to feelings and experiences. This service will explore how Unitarian Universalist values have informed our sexuality throughout the ages.

April 17th

Reverence

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Melanie Lanctot

Celebrating Earth Day (22nd) with *The Practice of Paying Attention* to the nature's sanctuary. This service will highlight the exquisite beauty and abundance of grace in our own backyards. This Sunday will include our spring *New Member Ceremony*. Join us as we welcome the newest members of our community.

April 24th

The Day Has Come

Penthea Burns

This service will consider our relationship and shared history with Wabanaki people. We will focus on how we live in balance with all of creation, acknowledging the past, embracing the present and committing to creating a just future.

Penthea Burns grew up downstream from the Penobscot community of Indian Island. She co-directs Maine-Wabanaki REACH, which envision a future where Maine and Wabanaki people join together to acknowledge truth, and work collectively toward healing and positive change. REACH aspires to restore truthfulness, compassion, love, acceptance, reciprocity, abundance, joy, equality, graciousness and generosity. Penthea is mother to a grown son who lives a bit too far from home. She is a poet and lives with Chinook dogs on a farm in Lewiston.

April Altar: The worship committee is pleased to present the work of Melanie Lanctot. Her photographs are a perfect contribution to an altar calling us to the sanctification of creation.

A Faith Journey...



Throughout the month of April this banner created for the Capital Area Multifaith Association (CAMA) will hang on the front of our building. The banner will move every month to a new religious community in the wider Augusta area. UUCU has the honor of being the first religious organization to display the banner on our building.

Together in peace, hope, diversity and love has certainly been the theme of CAMA this past year. We began our year speaking truth to the colonization of indigenous people with an interfaith Thanksgiving service. In December we called the people of Augusta to peace, hope and love by lighting up Memorial Bridge. We gathered to celebrate the growing diversity in Augusta by ringing in the New Year with our Jewish, Muslim, Quaker and United Church of Christ brothers and sisters. We continue to support the organization and expansion of communities engaged in the Free Public Suppers. Collaborative efforts are underway to support the immigrant and refugee communities as they navigate and network in an unfamiliar country and build new homes for their families.

Every day I find myself grateful for the wisdom, friendship, community and dialogue created by this diverse group of engaged and dynamic religious leaders. The strength and presence of this wise circle of lay leaders, religious leaders and community members has grown exponentially over the past two years. With the recent reaching out to the Muslim and Buddhist communities, I am experiencing a deeper gratitude for CAMA's call for love and kindness to rise to meet the rhetoric of fear, hate, bigotry, and discrimination.

As you walk past this sign each week, I invite you consider the ways in which your life is an expression of our Unitarian Universalist values. How are you living the message of acceptance and toleration? How is your life embracing and celebrating diversity? How do you wrestle with and live out to the best of your ability this odd and wonderful faith? What part will you play in keeping Love at the center, even when that call to Love is hard and painful and complex and burdensome? Even when that call to Love takes on shapes and forms you had not anticipated or expected, how shall you rise with hope and create a community that cares for each other?

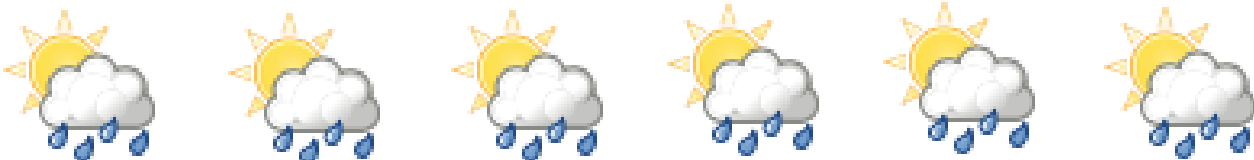
May we be reminded Loving-kindness begins with ourselves and ripples out from there.

Rev. Carie

President's Column....

- One of the very interesting things that happen as you are on the Board is the shift in your perspective on the church. What the church *is* becomes a bigger, more complicated thing than it used to be. It isn't just the spirituality, companionship, and comfort that it was – it's all so all the pillars and scaffolding that hold that stuff up.
- Sometimes, being on the Board, you forget that there used to be another way of looking at the church. You forget, for example, that there was a time when you *didn't* obsess over the budget. And you assume that because *you* are obsessing over the budget – because it's your job to do that – everyone else must be, too. So, if I seem lost in thought during coffee hour, don't worry. It's that time of year. Feel free to pull on my coat and shake me out of my reverie.
- Don't let this unnerve you, but serving on the Board of this church is not just virtuous and necessary, it's fun. I kid you not. Board meetings are actually the best part of the job of being president. I know it wasn't always this way. But this group – Liza, Abby, Janine, Diane, Martha, Dylan, Karen, and Rev. Carie – really knows how to laugh while doing business.
- Budget, again. The Board will be meeting twice in April to work on budget stuff. Diane, Janine, and the finance committee will be putting the first draft of next year's budget for the meeting on April 11. If you have priorities you would like us to consider, then now is the time to bring them forward. Also, hey, if you have not pledged yet, please do! Aside from the fact that we need this support in order to carry out our mission and vision, it's important for us to have a clear idea of the money we'll have to work with for next year.
- It was amazing, two weeks ago, to attend the first UUCC Bingo Bacchanalia. Pizza was eaten, and UU Bingo was played. The Fellowship Hall was packed – no exaggeration! – and four (count'em, four) new families showed up to play. I, myself, scored a bingo, and I promise it had nothing to do with the fact that Sarah C. was calling the numbers!
- Maybe it's Spring, the new slant to the sunlight, the smell of loam, but I'm feeling extraordinarily grateful for the church this month. I could make a list. The choir has been amazing. Services and sermons have really drawn me in. I see more people volunteering, and there is a frisson about the place that is bracing. Every week we get a fresh invitation to join in worship. Every day and every night *something* worthwhile is happening. All I can say is, "Join us."

Gary Chapin
President



SILENT/LIVE AUCTION & MAGIC SHOW
Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street, Augusta

Friday evening
April 8, 2016

PUBLIC WELCOME
Bring your family & friends!

Silent Auction /Live Auction
Free Family Magic Show
Child (Nursery) Care
Café

Auction items include:

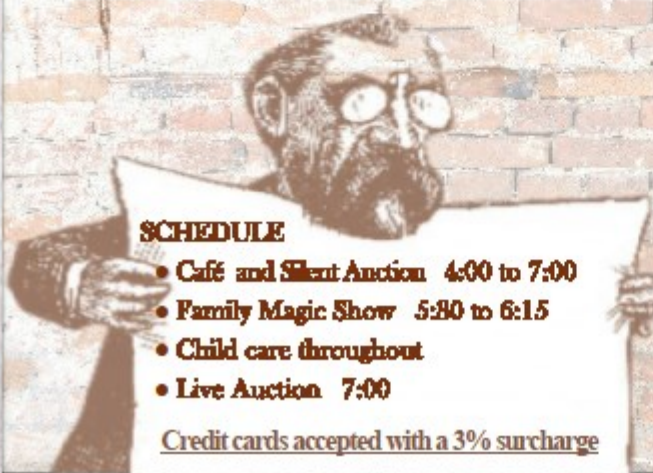
Handmade Items Gift Certificates
Helpful Services, Artwork
Work Crews Foods
Memorable Events

Auctioneer: Terry Goodson Gamm

**"CONJURING
CARROLL CHAPMAN"**



Presents his
Family Magic Show



SCHEDULE

- Café and Silent Auction 4:00 to 7:00
- Family Magic Show 5:30 to 6:15
- Child care throughout
- Live Auction 7:00

Credit cards accepted with a 3% surcharge

Small Group Ministry...

Whence cometh the session plans? They cometh when groups develop an idea and share. They cometh in response to the theme of the month. They cometh from the over 750 session plans on the UU Small Group Ministry Network website! Each group selects its session topics.

Sessions developed at UUCG are reviewed by the Topics Group to give a wider perspective of interpretation and clarity. Sessions developed related to a time factor, such as the Theme of the Month, may be distributed as a DRAFT. They will then be reviewed by the Topics Group before the © UUCG is added.

We have 200 session plans in the SGM Books. Updated books are being prepared for each SGM group and one for each Building. Some session plans have been revised in the last 5 or so years, and new ones have been disseminated but may not have made it to the books.

Resource: www.smallgroupministry.net Menu on Left: click on Small Group Sessions. Also see the note at the top middle of the Home Page, Implementing SGM section on Session Plans.

Join a Small Group Ministry! Contact Luke Curtis (sgmcoordinator@augustauu.org or 622-3232) or see him at church.

Auction and Magic Show....

4 - 7 p.m. Silent Auction - Fellowship Hall
5 - 7 p.m. Supper Café - Fellowship Hall
5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Family Magic Show in the Sanctuary

“Conjuring Carroll Chapman” will present his Family Magic Show from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is FREE to all families attending our Silent and Live Auctions.

6:15 – 7 p.m. Exciting last chances to bid on Silent Auction items

7 – 8:30 p.m. Live Auction with Surprises in Sanctuary

Credit Cards Accepted with 3% Bank Fee

ALSO PLANNING: a Children’s Supervised Movie in Drew House AND Child Care in Nursery for Little Ones

<More information to come>

See you there!—Hannah (293-9377), Terry (557-2557) and the Auction Committee.

Display Case...

How many Creation Stories are there?
One? Two? Many?

Thanks to Ellie Duhamel for the display of stories for the April theme of Creation. What is your favorite story? If you were to write a Creation Story, what would it be?

Do you have a display to share for the themes for **May** – “Blessing”, or **June** – “Simplicity”, or for a topic of your choice?

Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) to arrange time.

Social Activities...

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

APRIL 10th
After Elder lunch
Fellowship Hall



"Weathering Shame"

by Kevin Mannix (Channel 6 weatherman) and his wife, Linda Rota.

Mannix and Rota will discuss their personal journeys of the shame and stigma throughout their childhood and adult lives. They will share their experiences, struggles, and feelings of shame that resulted from growing up exposed to alcoholism, severe depression and suicide. They hope to offer awareness and inspiration through their personal stories.

Their book will be available for purchase.

Greetings from the Board!

The Board has agreed on behalf of our church to sponsor Erica Long as a Candidate for Ministry. All ministerial candidates are required to be sponsored by a church (UUCC is also sponsoring our own Claire Curole). The Board met with Erica this winter and wholeheartedly accepted her request for sponsorship. Erica is enthusiastic about our congregation and community, having grown up in Augusta and has warm memories of our church and RE programs.

Working with a congregation helps the candidates get a feel for what it's like to be a minister, so Erica will be assisting Rev. Carie in the Annual Meeting and the Christmas Eve Service, keeping us up to date with newsletter articles, and will preach once this coming summer and once in the next year.

Liza Gottlieb

Dear UUCC Community,

I am so grateful to the UUCC board for voting in favor of sponsoring me for Unitarian Universalist fellowshipped ministry! Although I have not been able to attend services regularly for sometime, I credit UUCC as the congregation that showed me what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. When my family moved to Augusta in 1990, UUCC quickly became our spiritual home. My sister, Miriam, and I attended Children's Religious Education classes and our parents, Robert Long and Betsy Pohl, were involved in many aspects of church life. For a few years my father worked as the church office manager. I have fond memories of spending afternoons in the church office folding the bimonthly Paper newsletters with Ruth King, Elva Ingraham, Callie Stevens, and Barbara Thurlow. As I got older, my family and I were not able to attend church with the same regularity, but we always stayed in touch.

I graduated from Cony High School in 2008 and went on to study English Literature at Bates College There, I began working with the Multifaith Chaplaincy. Before my final year, I realized that the work I began with the Multifaith Chaplaincy did not have to end when I graduated: I could be a professional chaplain! I spent a year discerning my interest in chaplaincy and ministry in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where I lived in an intentional community and worked as a health and vocation counselor in a halfway house for women recovering from substance abuse and addiction. While there, I applied to Harvard Divinity School (HDS) and was accepted!

I am now in my final semester at HDS. During my time at divinity school I have been able to deepen my knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and clarify my call to ministry. I have had the opportunity to work as a chaplaincy student at the University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. I am also in my third year working as the children's religious education assistant at Arlington Street Church in Boston.

Throughout all these years, I still hold great reverence for my spiritual formation at UUCC. I used the Bible UUCC gave me as a bridging gift in all of my scripture classes at Harvard. Preaching for you last summer was a great blessing, and motivated me to ask UUCC to be my sponsoring congregation. I know I would not be the minister I am becoming if I had not been raised in faith by so many of you! As your sponsored candidate for ministry I will lead a couple of worship services over the next year and write a few pieces for the newsletter. I am deeply grateful for all that I have received from this congregation and look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting in June.

In gratitude,

Erica Rose Long



Goddess/Earth Circles... Earth Circles...

Join Goddess/Earth Circles on *Sunday, April 17, 2016* in the Fellowship Hall, for Mother Earth Day. What does the concept of the Earth as a Mother mean to us? How do our personal experiences with mothers influence this relationship to the earth? What are the stories of the Earth Goddesses? (Cailleach, Demeter/ Persophne, Pachamama, Pani, Willendorf -- Goddess to name a few)

All genders, youth and adults are welcome. For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Essentials Pantry...

Please give generously to the
Essentials Pantry.

Donations can be left in the red wagon
in the coat closet.

Needs

Bars of soap - 100
Toilet paper - 200 rolls
Feminine hygiene supplies -
regular & plus sanitary pads
Diapers in sizes 6, 5, 4, 2, & 1
Powdered laundry detergent
Diaper wipes

Any and all donations are appreciated.

Thank you.
Jenny McKendry

Seasoned Souls...

Seasoned Souls is a group intended specifically for church members and friends aged 65 and older. We are now meeting on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of the month in Fellowship Hall between 10:30 a.m. and noon. In **April**, we will meet on **13th and 27th** to address the various issues associated with aging.

The meetings are open to all Seniors who wish to join this spirited group.

Hospitality Planning...

When the leadership Council met on Feb. 7 we had a lively discussion about the ministry UCC provides through greeters and hospitality each Sunday. Both practices serve to help welcome all to the church, especially new people, to build community among all, and to help retain people as they feel a part of the church.

At their recent meeting the Worship Committee decided to coordinate the greeters for the Sunday services. They will train people to be greeters and make sure each service has greeters. We hope you will become part of this church ministry!

To help make sure hospitality continues the Leadership Council is taking a poll beginning Sunday April 3 to gauge interest in participation. You will be asked to consider two options for hospitality to continue:

Option #1: Hospitality would be on the first and third Sundays of the month only. A small group ministry or committee will be assigned to be the hosts once a year.

Option #2: Hospitality will continue as it is currently with small group ministry groups and committees each assigned one per month, and the other Sundays hosted by families and/or individuals. You would receive an assigned week to be the hosts starting the

Sunday after the annual meeting in June.
Thank you for helping this ministry move forward.

Martha Naber, Vice President

SAVE THE DATE

Animal Blessing and
Congregational Potluck Picnic
Sunday, May 15, 2016
11:00 a.m. -- One Service Only
Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta

Would You Like to Lead a Summer Service?

Though it may still be snowing on occasion these days, it is not too early to be thinking about the schedule of lay led summer services. There is a reliable cohort of people in the church who look forward to undertaking a summer service each year, and it can be fun and rewarding to arrange and present a service. There ought to be some room for newcomers. If you've ever considered doing one, we of the worship associates committee would be interested in hearing from you, and glad to help you realize your dream of being a worship leader. You could contact our committee chair: Kathy Ann Shaw at 620-4082 or kathyanshaw@roadrunner.com If you are interested, let us know as soon as possible.

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 the following events:

IN THEIR SHOES: An interactive experience and multicultural training

April 22, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
St. Monica Hall, St. Augustine Church

In Their Shoes is a dynamic workshop that will help you understand the path of a refugee and invites you to walk a moment in their shoes. Why are refugees in Maine? What sort of help do they get? What would you do if you were faced with the same decisions? How can you welcome refugees to their new Maine communities? ***In Their Shoes*** will engage you with staff from Catholic Charities Maine Refugee Program to learn about the refugee process, the population currently settled in Maine and the challenges faced by the state's newest arrivals.

No registration necessary.

Reflections....

*An invitation from Brigid Chapin,
Religious Exploration Coordinator*

Multigenerational Classrooms

Our RE classes this month will center on the 7th Principle and teach our children about their place in the interdependent web of all life. All of our 9:15 a.m. classes from April 3rd to May 1st are one-room and multigenerational — you are welcome to join us!

April 3rd – Rail trail clean-up

Our kids have been asking to do a clean-up project for ages. Now that it's getting nice out, we'll be taking RE down to the rail trail to do this meaningful work and greet the spring by servicing the Earth.

April 10 - Bath Bombs with Autumn

Our first of (we hope!) many collaborations with one of our new members, Autumn runs a lovely stand at the Augusta farmer's market selling her homemade bath and body products. This Sunday she will lead a workshop on bath bombs! We are remembering that we — as individuals and also as a church — are part of a local community web, and that we affect this ecosystem by deciding to buy local and form relationships with local artisans and growers.

April 17 - PeaceJam kids coffee can compost

PeaceJam has requested the opportunity to lead an RE class, and we are pleased to open it up to everyone who would like to learn about the beauty of small-scale and creative compost. Come, learn, and be inspired by our UUCU youth! Word on the corner is there will be ice cream too!

April 24 - Mushroom buckets with Harmony

A community collaboration, this Sunday we invite Harmony from 47 Daisies farm in Vassalboro to teach us all about mushroom buckets! I met Harmony at the Augusta farmer's market (it really is a magical place), and when one day she brought in bags of oyster mushrooms I virtually assailed her with questions. I finally asked her to share her knowledge with everyone at UUCU. (This RE experience will be followed up on Saturday, April 30, when we will take an extracurricular afternoon field trip to visit Harmony's farm and see her mushrooms, veggies, and livestock in action!)

May 1 – Worms with Don

This Sunday we have asked Don Naber to teach us about the wonder of worms. Small and wiggly, these often-understood creatures play an important role in our ecosystem, aiding with the breaking down of natural matter to nourish the soil that becomes our gardens.

KATHY KELLISON NAMED AS THE 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE NNED LEADERSHIP AWARD

It is my distinct *honor* to be bearing good news about Kathy Kellison, UUCC Member. The Northern New England District Board (NNED) voted today to give Kathy the *NNED Leadership Award* at the NNED Annual Meeting on April 9th in Concord, NH.

Over the years Kathy has been a significant participant in and contributor to district activities, programming, outreach and growth.

At one time Kathy served as President of the Northeast District (NED) of Maine and Maritime congregations. She played a role in facilitating the merger of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont into one district, today's NNED. She has lent her skills as a District Consultant to congregations for retreats and targeted concerns, including leading a retreat for the District Board this past fall. Kathy has also served on the NED and NNED Awards Committees and Chalice Lighters Committee and she faithfully attends NNED Annual gatherings and related programs.

The award is well deserved and it will be an honor to present it to her. I hope a few members of UUCC will be able to attend the Annual Meeting April 9th. It is being held at the Concord, NH UU Church. There is a block of discounted rooms reserved at the nearby Hampton Inn for the night before and the NNED Board will host a reception for those arriving that evening.

Registration is done via the New England Region UUA website. The link is: <http://www.newenglanduua.org/content/northern-new-england-district-uua-annual-meeting>

So happy to share this with you!
Anne Kinney, at-large member NNED Board

SAVE THE DATE

Mid-Maine YoUuth
Guatemalan Dinner
Friday May 13, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
UUCC, Augusta

This fundraiser will support the service learning trip for eighteen Unitarian Universalist youth from five congregations (Augusta, Belfast, Rockland, Bangor, and Ellsworth) to 'Safe Passage' in Guatemala. "Safe Passage empowers the poorest, at-risk children, whose families live in the Guatemala City garbage dump community, by creating opportunities and fostering dignity through the power of education."

Celebrating Our New Members....

Rev. Carie and the Membership Committee have just completed the latest 3-session **New UU** classe for newcomers to UUCC. As always, this was a curious, attentive and interesting group of individuals, and most of them wound up signing the membership book.

We will be celebrating this growth to our church with a **New Members Dinner on Tuesday, April 12th at 5:30** in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending to welcome our latest members, please sign up with Lynn in the office (622-3232).

We will also be honoring these newest members at a special ceremony during the worship services on Sunday, April 17th. Please come and greet our most recent members with our well-known UUCC hospitality!

SAVE THE DATE

MUUSAN - Annual Meeting
Maine Unitarian Universalist
State Advocacy Network
Saturday, May 14, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
UUCC, Augusta

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

Attention May Newsletter!!

All submissions **MUST** be made by

April 18th

or they won't be in the May Newsletter.

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 with the article as an attachment.

Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: April 18

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin

Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith

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

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.