



The Flaming Chalice

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

January 2014

January Theme

New Beginnings

Obstructions and Aspirations

Sunday Morning Services at 9:15 and 11:00

Religious Exploration at 9:15

Spirit Play at 11:00

Nursery Care provided at 9:15 and 11:00



MLK Speaker Breakfast

Monday, January 20, 2014
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall, Winthrop, ME

Living the Dream: A Multi-faith Community Dialogue

PANEL PRESENTATION BY PARTICIPANTS IN A
MULTI-FAITH TOUR OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Rabbi Hillel Katzir, Temple Shalom, Lewiston

Rev. Dr. Scott Dow, Transformation Travel, Augusta

Rev. Carie Johnsen, Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta

Reza Jalali, Multicultural Student Affairs, USM, Portland

Join the Winthrop Area Ministerial Association for this conversation celebrating religious diversity.
Imaging a world where we are judged by how our lives speak.
Imaging a world where people connect across their differences.

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

In October the Leap of Faith travel and home teams along with congregational leadership identified an adaptive challenge to focus our work in the Leap of Faith program.

***UUCC's adaptive challenge is to articulate
who we are and our purpose
in a way that inspires a people of faith
toward a sustainable future.***

As you may recall from the previous articles and literature, Leap of Faith is a one year program sponsored by the UUA wherein healthy congregations are invited to tap into the collective wisdom of the congregation toward the goal of growth (spiritual, health, connection & belonging, numerical, fiscal). The framework of adaptive challenge helps the leadership and congregation to focus in on the big stuff, the murky stuff. It is systems work. Rather than focusing on the technical challenges that are easily identified and quickly addressed with creative solutions by committees and staff, adaptive challenges are difficult to identify and easy to deny. They require changes in values, beliefs, roles, relationships and approaches to work. This may seem a bit frightening and overwhelming but let me reassure you, UUCC has been here before. That is in part why we were selected. The district and region know UUCC is capable of looking deeply and responding accordingly. UUCC successfully addressed other adaptive challenges within the framework of family systems during the interim years with Rev. Lee Devoe. And look where you are now!! Just take a look around this dynamic and engaged community. Take note of the health and vitality that has become UUCC.

This time of exploring our adaptive challenge is meant to be a time of curiosity, questioning and examination. While the program is limited to one year, the adaptive challenge of articulating our identity, strengthening congregational unity, expanding our engagement with the wider world, and building a sustainable future will lead us into and inform our future. Three key words - identity, engagement and sustainability capture our adaptive challenge.

Identity - who are we and what is our purpose.

Engagement - inspiring a people of faith.

Sustainability - toward a sustainable future.

Do we know who we are and where we are going? What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? What does it mean to be a member of Unitarian Universalist Community Church? What is our call in the world? What is UUCC uniquely positioned to do or be in the wider Augusta community? In the Unitarian Universalist tradition?

What does it mean to be a people of faith? What brings us together as a congregation? Are we a cohesive community or do church structures create a feeling of separateness across programs and church services? Does UUCC promote a culture of inclusion or exclusion?

How does our identity and calling inform our shared ministry? What does a sustainable ministry look like? What resources - time, talent, treasures - are required of us?

Leap of Faith is a time to bring forward thinking and intentional conversations to the surface of our shared ministry. This is your faith home, your congregation, your church community. Lean into the creative collaboration that is underfoot. Ask questions. Ponder UUCC's gifts, graces and future. Wonder aloud with others. Explore your excitement or resistance. Share it with leadership and the Leap of Faith teams. In the process, have fun and make a new friend or two.

In Faith, Rev. Carie

Religious Exploration Report....
By Rev. Carol Strecker, Director of Religious Exploration

Happy New Year!

New Years often seems to be a time to take stock of our shortcomings and resolve to do better in the coming year. But sometimes it's important to take stock of what we do well and celebrate them with the resolve to continue to nourish those things in ourselves, in our work and in our church.

One of the things Unitarian Universalists do really well is sexuality education. Healthy sexuality begins with healthy relationships; knowing who we are and how to relate to others. I can think of nothing more central to our core values. We are relational beings. The quality of our relationships impacts our families, our community and our world.

The Our Whole Lives Program (affectionately known as OWL) grew out of an understanding that relational and sexual health is a life-long learning process. The OWL program provides curricula for children beginning in kindergarten right on up through a course for adults. As we grow, our needs and our questions change. When we're very young we have a lot of questions about our bodies, where we come from and what it means to belong to a family. We need new skills in order to successfully negotiate dating and peer relationships when we're teens and a whole new set of skills to negotiate in the aging process.

The goals of the program are to provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information, to increase self-esteem and understand relationships with and responsibilities towards others, to develop interpersonal skills including communication, decision-making, and problem solving and to teach responsibility for personal health and safety.

This church has a tradition of offering OWL for children in grades K-1, 4-5 and 8-9. This year, beginning with a parent orientation on January 26th, we'll be offering OWL for K-1 and 8-9. The course will run for 8 weeks on Sunday mornings, skipping MLK and February vacation weekends.

We have teams of trained and dedicated teachers ready and eager to begin. John Barnes and Diane Smith will be teaching K-1. Abby Laurie, Noah Gottlieb and Annie Voorhees will be teaching 8-9. So if you know a child in grades K-1 or 8-9, I urge you to strongly consider enrolling them in OWL. You can read more about OWL at www.uua.org/re/owl/index.shtml or contact me for more information.

OWL is an important tradition to which this church has been dedicated for a number of years. I want to thank everyone who has played a part of making it possible. It's something we can and should celebrate and nurture in the new year!

Peace, Carol

Our Spiritual Experience...

By Doug Rooks, President

One of the earliest church memories I have is of singing in the children's choir during Advent at the old Methodist Church in Metuchen, N.J. The carols that I learned back then became so much part of my musical life that just hearing a bar or two of them almost instantly provides a warm, comfortable feeling.

In college, I sang as a volunteer in an Episcopal Church choir for a year or two, but for more than 30 years afterward, I saw the inside of a church or synagogue only for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

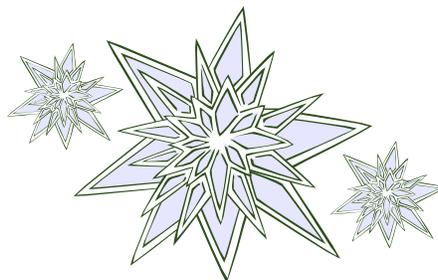
Then we discovered UCC a little over six years ago. We were immediately welcomed in and, not long after, asked to serve. Participating in the life of this congregation has often given me the same warm feelings about religion that I thought I had left behind so long ago. Sure, there are rough patches in church leadership, but we seem to handle them in our stride. The incidents that might cause dissension and lingering hard feelings elsewhere are somehow more manageable at this church. That, to me, is one of our ultimate strengths.

Another strength is our diversity. In just the past year, I had had conversations of surprising depths with members who are also, or have been, Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, Bahai, and Wiccan, as well as the Protestant denominations that provided the origins for Unitarianism and Universalism.

These spiritual traditions provide experiences that are fascinating to learn about, both because they are so different and because they also have much in common at their deeper levels. Religion has figured prominently in many wars and conflicts over the centuries, and continues to spark violent confrontations even today. So it is good to be able to embrace another aspect of the world's faiths – their ability to bring people together across boundaries and divides of all kinds, national, ethnic and denominational, and their importance in allowing us to see our common humanity.

Unlike religious traditions where to leave is to become an apostate or an exile, Unitarian-Universalism allows its members to come and go freely, and many at UCC do just that. Because we do not insist on a core doctrine, many seeking spiritual experience try us out, but even after joining do not feel compelled to stay.

Some would see that as a weakness, but to me it is a strength. In many other churches, my wife and I would have been welcomed in cautiously, if at all. Here, the welcome was open and heartfelt. And that has made all the difference.



Musings... from your Intern Minister

The national headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is located in a historical building in the heart of Boston at the top of Beacon Hill just steps from the Boston Common. On Saturday, December 7th this is where I met with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) of the UUA. The MFC does the sort of professional assessment that is appropriately labeled "credentialing," but it also does more, as the name "ministerial fellowship" itself indicates. The MFC also determines whether a person presents as a minister, and a UU minister in particular.

The nine member committee I met with consisted of several ministers, a seminarian, and a UU youth leader. The hour long interview entailed the offering of a ten minute sermon and fielding questions in areas of competency such as theology, church history, Hebrew and Christian scriptures, world religions, social theory and ethics, pastoral care, human development, UU history and polity, religious education, worship and preaching, social witness and advocacy, institutional leadership, sexual health and clergy ethics.

I am delighted to let you, my teaching congregation, know that I have been granted a Category 1, and upon completing my internship I will be placed in preliminary fellowship. This also means I am able to be ordained. In fact, my ordination date is Sunday, May 4th---and I invite you to mark your calendars!

I began to consider that what it actually takes to become a minister is a mystery to most people. First and foremost, there has to be a calling. This is something that is hard to define. Some say it is attributed to God, others to your soul. For me it is the alignment of my soul to my life-purpose, and the firm conviction that this is my right path. Becoming a minister is certainly not for the faint-hearted because it is a rigorous process requiring dedication. And one

needs to have a good support system throughout the journey because there are moments of ups and downs.

With this in mind I thought I would let you know the steps. The initial step is obtaining a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from an approved seminary. This is a three-year full-time degree program that prepares for ordained or lay ministry and leadership in congregations and other religious communities, ministries in social service, hospital and prison chaplaincy, interfaith ministry on college campuses, and teaching and scholarship. An M.Div. program consists of an academic study of religion convictions and practices of religious communities of the past and present, classroom and field study, and study of one's own religion.

The other steps: A career assessment from a center approved by the MFC which is an depth psychological testing; candidacy status granted through the Regional Sub-Committees on Candidacy (RSCC), sponsorship by a UU congregation which is usually your home congregation, an approved internship usually full time for one year, a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), completion of a reading list of fifty-seven books, and a criminal record/background check.

These steps led to the pinnacle known as the MFC interview where I was recognized as a minister. I want you to know that as my teaching congregation you have been and continue to hold a very important place in my ministerial formation.

With gratitude and many blessings,

Sharon Piantedosi

Leap of Faith Who Are We? Who Can We Be?

What? [We were invited, as one of four congregations in Northern New England District, to be part of the UUA's Leap of Faith.](#) The church will enter into a faith journey, leading to spiritual growth and deeper connections. The Leap of Faith process involves the congregation taking a look at its future and determining how we wish to “be in the world.” What is our calling, as a congregation? Why are we here? What do we want to be?

Who? Congregations are paired up with mentor churches who have been through the process before. Our congregation will work with the Milton, MA. UU church. Two teams have been formed at our church, the Travel Team and the Home Team. The Travel Team has gone to a launch weekend in Boston, and will be visiting the Milton church. The Home Team will work here in Augusta. Two weeks ago the two teams and the thirty members of UUCA leadership spent a day working on Leap of Faith. As the Leap of Faith continues we'll have regular events (like our congregational meeting) that help more and more members of the congregation to construct meaning and participate in the process.

When? The formal work of the Leap of Faith is to take place in this one church year, but the vision is a beginning process that will move into subsequent years. On November 15, the travel team visited our mentor church for a weekend that allowed us to learn from them and have conversations about our own practice. In early April, the members of the Milton church will visit us to continue those conversations. In December and January, the Home Team and Travel Team will develop the next steps to bring to the church and congregation.

Why? Leap of Faith? Why would we do such a thing? There are at least two answers! First, we're approaching a time when it seems appropriate to pause, reflect, and look to the future with some intentionality; to ask

the question, “What do we want to be?” Second, it's always an appropriate time to ask that question, and the Leap of Faith initiative gives us a unique opportunity to do so.

How? The travel and home teams, and the church leadership, have identified an adaptive challenge: UUCA's adaptive challenge is to articulate who we are and our purpose in a way that inspires a people of faith toward a sustainable future. Together over the next year we shall work to address that challenge.

How? One conversation at a time.

Display Case...

Thanks, Abby Lorie, for your lending to the Displays in November the beautiful teapot collection representing Radical Hospitality, and in December with items related to the UU Sources. I appreciate your creativity and sharing.

The theme for January is “Beginning Anew: Aspirations and Obstructions”. This is a delightful opportunity to consider the traditions and celebrations of the New Year around the world and through history. Beginnings also include birthdays, each new day and even each new minute.

Share photographs and/or personal artwork, including three dimensional pieces of art. Submit a piece yourself, as a family or as a small group. Drop items off at the Judd House during office hours, or leave with the Display Basket in the Committee Room, clearly identified with your name so that items can be returned. The Display will be assembled on December 28 . You may add to the display throughout the month. Contact Helen Zidoweki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) for more information.

Stewardship Committee...

The New Year is here, and it's time to de-clutter. One way to de-clutter is to put aside what we think we know in order to make room for new ideas. In fact, recent brain research tell us that once we "think we know something", our brain will filter out most information that contradicts our opinion!

So to de-clutter, the Stewardship Committee would like the opportunity to get to know your thoughts about our stewardship program. Please reach out to us and invite a stewardship committee member to your next meeting. Or contact a committee member - send an email, make a phone call, Facebook message, or talk to one or more of us at coffee hour.

We look forward to hearing from you. The 2013-2014 UUCS Stewardship Committee includes:

Annie Reiter co-chair 3rd year

Hilary Neckles co chair 2nd year

Mildred Stengel 3rd year

June Zellers 2nd year

and Sunshine Perlis who is a new member.

UUCS Web... www.augustauu.org

NEW ON THE WEBSITE

Leap of Faith Section. Please see the general description in the middle of the Home Page. There is a link to articles and background information.

Service cancellations. Cancellations, such as the one on Dec. 15, are posted on the Home Page, left side as it is being sent via church e-mail. (Also check on WCSH TV Channel 6.)

UUCS Policy on Church Fundraising. The new policy and application form has been added to Church Life, under Financing.

Small Group Ministry Session Plans: A number of plans related to the Theme-based Ministry of Radical Hospitality and UU Sources have been added for ongoing use.

Comments on the website are welcome. To participate on the Website Committee regularly or on special projects, contact Helen Zidowecki, Website Committee Chair (582-5308, or website@augustauu.org) We look forward to your joining us.

New UU Classes...

Tuesdays, February 11th, 25th & March 11th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. In Fellowship Hall

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Are you new to Unitarian Universalist Community Church? Are you curious about this odd and wondrous faith, this uncommon denomination? Do you have questions about what it means to be part of a liberally religious and diverse faith community? Do you want to meet other members, friends and newcomers? Are you hungry for connection with other people with the larger UUCS community? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this class is your next step in your journey of connection and belonging.

Please join Rev. Carie Johnsen and Nancee Campbell for this three class series to meet other UU's, explore your spiritual odyssey, and find community.

Sign up for this class by calling Mary T. Simpson at 622-3232 or send an email to admin@augustauu.org.

We look forward to getting to know you and helping you to find a religious home that is both meaningful and connected.

Donations Needed...

The Augusta Warming Center has opened for its 5th season in downtown Augusta. Our church has supported the Center that provides a cozy, safe place for people to gather who are in need of shelter, companionship and/or referral to social services. The Center, at 44 Front Street, on the back side of the Masonic Building, is open 7 days/week from 9am to 4pm.

Our church is being asked to help support the Center with commodities and financial assistance. They need coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk substitute, sweeteners, etc.).

There is a container marked "Warming Center" located in the church coat room for your donations. We will be delivering them each week, to ensure the freshness of items brought in on Sunday. If you wish to volunteer at the Center, have a special talent or service you'd like to offer, or have any questions, please contact Nancee Campbell at 621-7727 or nancee1944@gmail.com.

Please join us for a **FREE** showing of
"The Anonymous People"



THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE

RECOVERY IS OUT - TO CHANGE THE ADDICTION CONVERSATION FROM - PROBLEMS TO SOLUTIONS

4TH DIMENSION PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE" A GREG WILLIAMS FILM
FEATURING KRISTEN JOHNSTON CHRIS HERREN PATRICK KENNEDY TARA CONNER WILLIAM COPE MOYERS
WILLIAM WHITE LAURIE DHUE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PAUL MCCULLEY OF THE MORGAN LE FAY DREAMS FOUNDATION
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JOHN SILVERMAN EDITOR JEFF REILLY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CRAIG MIKHITARIAN
ORIGINAL SCORE BRENDAN BERRY SOUND BUD MIKHITARIAN

FACEBOOK.COM/THEANONYMOUSPEOPLEMOVIE
FOLLOW@THEANONYMOUSPPL

WHERE

The Unitarian Universalist Community
Church 69 Winthrop St. Augusta, Maine

WHEN

January 26th from 12:30-2:30

There will be a Q&A after the movie

For more information please contact:

Nancee Campbell- nancee1944@gmail.com or call 621-7727

or dripley@masap.org or call: 621-8118

THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE is a feature documentary film about the over 23 million Americans living in long-term recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction. Deeply entrenched social stigma have kept recovery voices silent and faces hidden for decades. The vacuum has been filled with sensational mass media depictions of people with addiction that perpetuate a lurid fascination with the dysfunctional side of what is a preventable and treatable health condition. Just like women with breast cancer, or people with HIV/AIDS, a grass roots social justice movement is emerging. Courageous addiction recovery advocates have come out of the shadows and are organizing to end discrimination and move toward recovery-based

Head First, Tail Flying in the Wind...

The bitter cold wind came early this year - the kind of cold wind that goes straight through everything you have on - and I've been joking that this must be a gift: the opportunity to practice dressing for winter in Chicago. While my fellow students in traditional programs are wrapping up for winter break, I'm scrambling around preparing for my first Meadville Lombard winter intensive: Three and a half weeks of 'contact time' for the classes I've been taking this term. It's a scramble because I still have books to read and notes to write up, projects and papers to finish, logistical loose ends to gather up before I travel and, oh yes, a major family holiday to shop and prepare for. But ready or not, I fly to Chicago the week after New Year's and won't be home until early February.

I expected that starting seminary would mean change but I did not expect things to change so much, so soon. Many of you know that I am no longer working for the State; I stepped down from my job at the end of September in order to study full time, a major change for our household. My role in our congregation has changed: I no longer chair the Music committee; instead I've been working with the Leap of Faith team, and recently started as a Worship Associate. And I find myself changing, too, in ways I find difficult to explain. As I recently told Rev. Carie, I am beginning to understand why they call this process 'formation' - I feel as though I am made of soft clay and everything I bump into leaves its mark. This church is no exception.

The coming year will bring more new adventures, planned and unanticipated, and I am excited and, yes, a little nervous about the challenges and surprises that lie ahead. My year starts with a month of study in Chicago, and I'll be back there again in March; this summer I hope to enroll in CPE, the chaplaincy internship that is required of everyone aspiring to UU ministry; and in the fall, if everything goes well, I will start a two year site placement with the Unitarian Universal-

ist Church of Brunswick as part of my degree program. And while I'm eager to move forward, I also know it means I can't stay here forever. That's how this works.

In all of these things I am very grateful for the love and support I have received from this church community. Thank you.

– Claire Curole

French Dance Bal Folk*



Join us and dance to music provided by the band Le Bon Truc, including our very own accordionist Gary Chapin and singer Joelle Morris with the fabulous caller Marie Wendt!

Where:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta Maine

When:

Saturday January 18, 2014 7-9 pm

This event is PAY WHAT YOU CAN, but suggested donations are Adults \$15 Children 10-18 \$8 Children under 10 free

Bring finger food for the buffet table if you wish!

*Folk Dance

Small Group Ministry...

Our Small Group Ministry at UCC welcomes those of you who are seeking a deeper connection with others in the congregation and an opportunity for discussion of spiritual matters in a more intimate setting than coffee hour! Eight to ten group members meet twice a month at a scheduled time for a two hour discussion. In order to create a sense of intimacy, dropping into these groups is not an option. We have a process for placing new members in these groups.

We offer many ways to find out more about Small Group Ministry. A pamphlet titled Participants Handbook can be found displayed in the entry outside the sanctuary in the church building. It describes the purpose and practice of Small Groups. Help yourself! On the third Sunday of each month, there is an open discussion group after the second service. The group is led by Kathy

Kellison and uses the format which all of our groups use. It is offered in part as an opportunity to see if the kind of discussion which is basic to Small Group Ministry appeals to you. It is also meant to invite a deeper exploration of our theme each month, because the discussion explores ideas presented in the month's packet. On January 19 we will be discussing New Beginnings.

As the Small Group Ministry Coordinator, I am available to answer any questions you might have and connect you with an ongoing group if that interests you. Because the intention of this ministry is to broaden and deepen connections in the church, I make every effort to place people in groups where you will meet new people rather than the ones with whom you already share church life. The biggest factor determining which group you will enter is schedule. There are both day time and evening groups on various days of the week. You will join a group which has space and meets at a time that fits your life. It does happen that our group schedule is not compatible with yours. In that situation, I invite you to consider the Third Sunday Open Group as a transition until an ongoing group works out for you.

Over many years, participants in Small Group Ministry have found their groups to be important sources of friendship, support and spiritual growth. If you are interested in knowing more, please make use of the resources available and get in touch with me.

Kathy Kellison, Small Group Ministry Coordinator

Volunteers Needed...

SEARCH is a new Senior companion program that recently opened in the Kennebec Valley. It is operated by Catholic Charities of Maine, but has successfully been operating in other regions of the state for over 38 years. They are looking for volunteers that are willing to be matched with their elderly clients. They would help isolated or home-bound clients by making weekly reassurance calls, providing friendly visits and companionship, or by assisting them with transportation for their errands, grocery shopping or doctor's appointments. SEARCH likes to link volunteers and clients who have similar interests (such as the Red Sox, garage sales, playing bridge, etc) and backgrounds for the enrichment of the companion relationship. Training of all volunteers will be offered, and the time commitment will be determined by the volunteer.

SEARCH provides services to Seniors of all faiths, ages 60 and above, and is free for all clients enrolled in the program. For more information about becoming a volunteer, or if you have a friend, neighbor or relative who would benefit from the SEARCH experience, please contact Theresa at 551-6997.



Goddess Continuing...

The ongoing Goddess Continuing activities are outlined in the lilac brochure on the table in the vestry. Please join us for **Imbolc on January 26** after Second Service in the Fellowship Hall. This is when we feel the earth awakening as a precursor to Spring. It is also known as St. Brigit's Day or Candlemas.

We are offering the *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* course in two parts. These are revisions of the earlier year-long curriculum.

N ANCIENT TIMES is five sessions to be offered February 2 through Memorial Day. The titles are:

- *The Sacred Female,
- *In the Name of the Mother and the Daughter,
- *Womanpower,
- *The First Turning-From Goddess to God, and
- *Reclaiming Women's Heritage of Peace.

The dates and sign up information will be on the Adult RE Bulletin Board. Adults and senior youth, and all genders are welcome. NOTE: We need to have sign-up by January 26 for planning. A minimum of 5 participants is needed.

ON THE THRESHOLD is six sessions to be offered in the Fall of 2014.

- *Continue our journey into the past to reclaim the stories of powerful women to be found in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity.
- *Look at the global silencing and brutalization of women that accompanied the rise of patriarchal religion and society.
- *Celebrate the exciting new world-view and theology that has emerged in our time, and explore the personal and social changes that may be suggested by that new world-view and theology.
- *Continue the complex process of telling a new story.

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

Membership Matters...Making Room for Nametags

As you know, the current configuration for name-tag storage is no longer working. This area is "**under construction**" and we have set a target date of January for the new look. **BUT** with change comes more change. The cubbies will be removed completely. Adjustments may need to be made by those who have preferred the pin-on variety. Ansley Sawyer, our gifted woodworker, has offered his services in executing the new design. Thank you for your understanding during this transition.

Your Membership Committee – Jim, Rita, Nancee and Cheryl

Nonviolent Communications...

The **Nonviolent Communications (also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** is meeting on the first and third Fridays of the month, 10:15 am -12:15 pm, in the Robbins Room. The December meetings will be: **January 3 and January 17.**

The group is open to people who have taken Non-violent Communication Training programs, or who are/have been in a practice group. Others may attend, but there is an expectation that they will attend a training when one becomes available.

Upcoming trainings:

***February 21-23, 2014**, Nobleboro, ME, "Bringing Mindful Speech to Life". Third annual weekend of mindfulness with Peggy Smith and Theodate Lawlor, Members of Thich Nhat Hanh's Tiep Hien Order

***March 22-23, 2014**, Belfast, ME, "From Conflict to Connection: The Basics of Nonviolent Communication", taught by Peggy Smith

For more information, contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, hcranewing@roadrunner.com

**NAACP PORTLAND BRANCH
2014 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 ANNUAL MUSIC & GOSPEL CONCERT

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND 7:00 P.M.

\$10 Advance/\$15 Day of Show Tickets Available at www.porttix.com or Merrill Box Office

AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN US AROUND

An inspirational evening featuring The Kenya Hall Band

Martin Luther King Jr. accepted the Nobel Peace Prize fifty years ago on behalf of the nonviolent movement he led for racial and social equality in the United States. In his Nobel Lecture, he refers to the freedom song, "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Us Around," a song used by activists to give them the strength and solidarity to stand up for justice.

"The deep rumbling of discontent that we hear today is the thunder of disinherited masses, rising from dungeons of oppression to the bright hills of freedom, in one majestic chorus the rising masses singing, in the words of our freedom song, "Ain't gonna let nobody turn us around." All over the world, like a fever, the freedom movement is spreading in the widest liberation in history. The great masses of people are determined to end the exploitation of their races and land. They are awake and moving toward their goal like a tidal wave." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Please add your voice in singing for peace and justice as we come together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this distinguished honor. Lead singer Kenya Hall, considered the most soulful singer in the area, will awe the audience with her passionate and versatile voice. The band will perform a selection of gospel and traditional freedom songs before the talented choirs of our local schools pay tribute to Dr. King.

The City of Portland and Portland Public Schools join the NAACP in sponsoring this joyful fun-filled family event. You will leave with renewed energy and spirit!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

ANNUAL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND,
LUDCKE AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND 1:00 P.M.**

Free and Open to the Public

***THE SILENCE OF INEQUITY: HUNGER,
HEALTH AND EDUCATION***

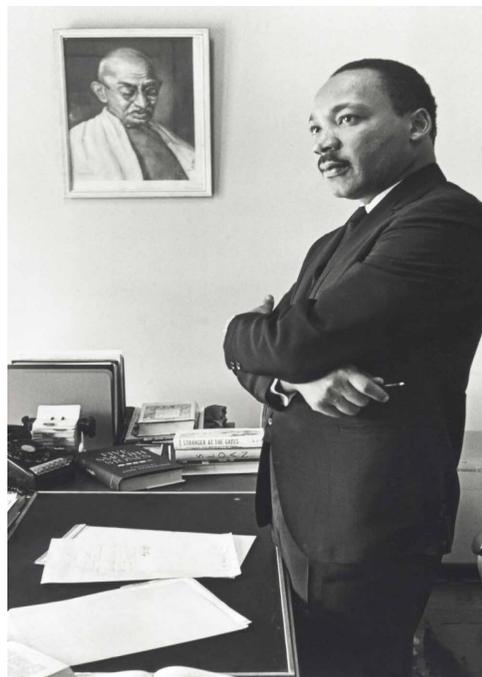
***Learn about the disparities in our state
and action being taken to address them***

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin Luther King Jr.

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.



NAACP Martin Luther King Jr. Fellows will join other local high school and college student leaders in facilitating this unique community dialogue that brings together people of all ages while providing youth the opportunity to develop and strengthen their leadership skills. Two critical issues - hunger and its impact on health outcomes along with the academic

achievement gaps in education - will be explored through speakers, interactive breakout sessions and a call to action. The primary goal of the program is to provide attendees with current information on the disparities along with the opportunity to participate in locally-based action aimed at eliminating them. This program provides a rare opportunity for intergenerational community engagement.

Cosponsored by the Center for African Heritage, City of Portland, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, Homeless Voices for Justice, Maine Interfaith Youth Alliance, The Opportunity Alliance and University of New England.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BREAKFAST CELEBRATION
HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY, PORTLAND 8:00 A.M.
Tickets Available at www.naacp.me**

A CALL TO CONSCIENCE: CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Dr. King devoted his life to reconciling the contradiction between our nation's stated principles of equality and justice with the structural racism and poverty that have plagued our society since its founding. He described this conflict in numerous speeches and sermons but most notably after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in a lecture entitled, "The Quest for Peace and Justice."

Our keynote speaker, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and U.S. Senator William S. Cohen, who represented Maine in the United States Congress for 24 years, will examine the current realities of this contradiction while we recognize the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the landmark legislation that ended legal racial segregation.

It has been fifty years, as well, since Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize award and the country committed itself to a War on Poverty. Locally, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NAACP Portland branch, and Dr. King's visit to Maine when he spoke in Biddeford at St. Francis College now known as the University of New England. How should we interpret the last fifty years? How do we understand our accomplishments given the acute racial and economic disparities and challenges that remain in achieving equal rights for all?

Additionally, with the passing of former South African President Nelson Mandela, the iconic anti-apartheid leader, revered statesman and world symbol for the cause of human rights and freedom, how do we honestly recognize his extraordinary life and legacy of reconciliation?

Please join us as diverse people from across the political, economic, social and racial lines come together in a morning of reflection, inquiry, and community building. A separate program for children ages 1 - 12 is being offered at the Children's Museum and Theater of Maine in Portland.

Congratulate the Portland branch on its 50th anniversary! There is still time to place a commemorative ad in the printed breakfast program booklet.

PLEASE CONTACT THE NAACP PORTLAND BRANCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles 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 to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

This edition submissions due February 17.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Doug Rooks

Director of Religious Exploration: Rev. Carol Strecker
Office hours-Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am-4:00p.m. or by appointment

Administrator: Mary T. Simpson

admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m.

Thursday-noon-8pm

Choir Director: Joelle Morris

Intern Minister: Sharon Piantedosi

Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday-10:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
or by appointment

Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office: (207) 622-3232

Minister's Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 - 5:00

Thursday 11:00 - 5:00

or by appointment

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call my cell phone (508-221-5295) and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Minister's Study:(207) 623-3663 (Office)

(207) 395-8051(Home)

(508) 221-5295 (Cell)

revcariejohansen@gmail.com