



## A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

Congratulations Unitarian Universalist Community Church! On April 3, 2011 this congregation will receive the first annual Northern New England District Congregational Courage and Vision Award. In lieu of my article I share with you this beautifully crafted letter celebrating your faith community.

In faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen



LOVE &  
LIGHT  
FROM THE  
MOUNTAINS  
TO THE SEA

### Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Rev. Mary Higgins, District Executive  
Rev. Karen Brammer, Small Church Specialist &  
Sustainability Task Force Chair  
Kim Paquette, Multigenerational Ministry Director  
Joy Blanchette, Administrator  
Jennifer Army, Administrative Assistant

March 9, 2011

Rev. Carie Johnsen  
Sheila Comerford  
UU Community Church  
PO Box 8  
Augusta, Maine 04332

Dear Sheila and Carie,

It is with great excitement that the staff at the Northern New England District honors your congregation with one of our two first annual Courage and Vision Awards. Rev. Karen Brammer and I set out the criteria for this award last fall because we are the people who work with you when your congregations are struggling with issues of growth, healing, conflict, spiritual maturing. We know when a congregation has made transformational leaps of faith from events and circumstances that could have stalled your growth and watched you become even more deeply grounded as a spiritual and religious community.

I have watched you and your congregation, with deep determination, grab hold of your future and not allow the human frailties of your past and the potential for conflict and pain, to be an excuse for maintaining the status quo. Your congregation has found the courage to transcend your pain; disillusionment and hurt thrive in a climate that is fearless.

I often think of your congregational vision when I am discouraged and need a boost to remember the possibilities of our faith. Your courage, your heart, has grown to meet a world that sees to little of that courage and needs all you can supply. You are a beacon in our state capital and in our Northern New England District.

I would like to ask that representatives from your congregation to make a five minute presentation to the Assembly at our Annual Meeting in North Conway on April 1 at 2:00. I know that people would like to know why you found the courage to take the deep stands you did; what has happened that is wonderful and gratifying because you chose to manage your congregational health in positive and proactive ways. What lessons were learned? Any way you choose to make this presentation will be a delight.

I am in awe of your vision and the ways you have chosen to be Unitarian Universalists. I am grateful to you for your courage. Your Vision and Courage enliven us all.

In Faith,

Rev. Mary Higgins

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## From the Director of Religious Exploration ...

Responding to changing needs one of the many and exciting ways this church grows in maturity, safety, and integrity. This winter/spring, three decisions exemplify growth: (1) offering health insurance to part-time employees, (2) renovating our RE space, and (3) improving our safe congregation policies.

When it was evident I required health care for my family, Rev. Carie asked the Board. By unanimous decision, the Board stated its desire to be responsible employers and to offer health insurance to all part-time employees. I am so grateful for that decision for the life of the full church, and certainly for my family. Thank you.

This year building chairs Tom Waddell and Marilyn Dunn have responded to safety concerns within our buildings by putting into place sound systems and action plans. We now have a new fire alarm system, a new electrical system in the annex, windows in the annex classroom doors, and plans to install a crash door in the annex for emergency exits. The RE Program is again benefiting from Tom and Marilyn's efforts as plans get underway for a second-floor renovation in the annex. This renovation will increase the size of two classrooms, allowing for bigger activities and comfort in gathering not only for our children and youth, but for all ages as the rooms will be wonderful meeting rooms. Thank you!

As we continue to enhance and deepen our youth program, we have added experiences that take us away from our home church and set us into new and different places — often overnight. Please see the policy notes below from Daisy and Pam. Thank you once again!

I am grateful to be a part of this generous community. I am grateful for the integrity of the people who help create sound policies and safe systems. Growth at the UCC flourishes thanks to each and all of this community.

Yours in faith,

Karen

**April 17th** *Peace Among Us* Peace Jam Youth Group  
Peace Jam is an international youth movement that encourages young people to have their say through service-learning, social justice work. We will share with our congregation some of what we learned together this year.

**April 24th** *Ordinary Miracles* Multigenerational Team  
Spring is a time when ordinary miracles remind us of the amazing beauty we are all a part of in this wonder-filled world. We will share joyful reflection through song, story and movement in this highly interactive multigenerational Easter service. A children's egg hunt and an Easter brunch for all will follow the service.

## Safe Congregation Task Force Youth Overnight Policy ...

The RE committee, safe congregation task force, DRE and minister recognized that as a part of becoming a safe congregation, we needed to update our overnight policy for youth sleepovers. Although we have had successful sleepovers in the past, without incident, our goal was to ensure that we continue to trust wisely, not blindly. We researched policies from other UU churches noting that policies vary from having 2 adults awake at all times during youth sleepovers to no formal policy at all.

Our process started with a facilitated listening circle giving youth, parents, teachers and members of the congregation a chance to state priorities regarding an overnight policy. We resoundingly heard that youth, parents, and teachers felt that our previous model of covenanting, and establishing high expectations of the group was working. We heard that sleep for all participants, including adults was a priority. We recognize that individual overnight situations differ widely and that chaperones must work closely with the DRE both before and during each overnight to assess risk, assess our youth and each other, and adapt to each situation—always reserving the option of having 2 adults being awake at all times.

We have drafted an overnight policy for the UCC with key points including:

- ◆ Youth, chaperones and the DRE will covenant before each trip, ensuring that a core list of elements is included in every covenant.
- ◆ The DRE, in close coordination with adult chaperones, will do a risk assessment and safety plan for **every** overnight – using the overnight policy and safety checklist as a guide.
- ◆ Recognizing the responsibility that the DRE and chaperones are taking on, all parents of youth participating in the overnight will attend a mandatory meeting before each overnight.
- ◆ Only adults that have been active in the congregation for at least one year and that have met all requirements of our safe congregation policies will assist on overnights.

A copy of the proposed policy is on the RE bulletin board for your perusal. This proposed policy will be reviewed at the next RE Committee and Safe Congregation meetings then submitted to the Board of Trustees in April. If you have any questions or concerns please contact any one of us; Daisy Dore, Pam Lombard, Karen Fisk or Carie Johnson.

Daisy Dore, Safe Congregation Task Force  
Pam Lombard, RE Committee chair

## A Note from the Board President ...

Hello Friends,

I have wonderful news! The UCC has been chosen to be the recipient of the first annual Courage and Vision Award because of our courage and willingness to transcend and grow through the conflict of recent years. The awards ceremony will be held at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway NH on April 2, and we will be sending a group of members to accept the award on behalf of the church.

In the award notification letter from District Executive Mary Higgins she explained why the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta had been singled out for the honor. "I have watched you and your congregation, with deep determination, grab hold of your future and not allow the human frailties of your past and the potential for conflict and pain to be an excuse for maintaining the status quo. Your congregation has found the courage to transcend your pain: disillusionment and hurt to thrive in a climate that is fearless. I often think of your congregational vision when I am discouraged and need a boost to remember the possibilities of our faith. Your courage and your heart have grown to meet a world that sees little of that courage and needs all you can supply. You are a beacon in our state capital and in our Northern New England District. I am in awe of your vision and the ways you have chosen to be Unitarian Universalists. I am grateful to you for your courage. Your vision and courage enliven us all."

We should be proud.

Sheila Comerford  
President



## Newcomer Events ...

### **Visitor and Newcomer Dinner and Orientation**

Thursday, April 7, 2011 ~ 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

A light evening meal will be served. Childcare is available

### **New Member Welcoming Ceremony**

Sunday April 10, 2011

9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. services

Our new member welcoming ceremony is a way of celebrating those who have become members during the past few months, and also inviting those who have begun to be part of our community, to consider whether you might like to join at this time. Membership is a way of participating more fully in the life of the congregation. Membership enables you to vote during congregational meetings, and to help shape the direction of our spiritual journey together. Members are invited to share responsibility for the congregation, through our gifts of time and resources, as we are able to participate.

To become a member, we ask that you express that intention in a visit with the minister and through signing the membership book. The welcoming ceremony itself will be simple, including reciting your names, and inviting all of you to come forward to receive a small gift from the congregation.

## Adult Religious Exploration ...

**THE NEW UU** ~ Alternate Thursdays  
6:00-8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Those who have become part of the UUCC community within the last 3 years are urged to participate, and the course is open to the entire congregation. It provides opportunities for members of the congregation to share with newcomers what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist. It gives newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. It provides a chance for newcomers to the congregation and long-timers to connect. It provides an explicit invitation to become a member. The planned topics by date are as follows (there have been two date changes since the last newsletter: Topics for April 14 and 28 have been switched.)

- ◆ **March 31** Where Do We Come From? Our UU Roots
- ◆ **April 14** Social Justice Philosophy and Practice
- ◆ **April 28** How We Grow In Faith—Philosophy of Religious Education/Exploration
- ◆ **May 12** How Are Decisions Made? Governance and Polity
- ◆ **May 26** Functions and Relations

If you missed the first session, you are still welcome to join the group. It is preferable that participants attend all sessions, but please sign up even if that is not possible. You may also contact the church office or Helen Zidowecki at: 582-5308 or [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)

**Goddess Continuing: Becoming Women of Wisdom** ~ 12:15-2:15 p.m.

Center of the Labyrinth – Encountering Ereshkigal, Meeting Yemaya ~ April 3, 2011 (Annex)

Developing a Personal Vision, and Sage Women-- Hecate ~ April 17, 2011 (Fellowship Hall)

Trust your mind to think with time;  
patience is the key ~ Nathan Watson

## Adult Religious Exploration -- New Offering!

Religious Expansion, Colonialism and World Religious Responses. ~ 4 Monday evenings  
6:00-8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

This course looks at religious contact in different periods throughout human history.

- ◆ We will begin by looking at religious empire in the Middle Ages, comparing Christian and Muslim approaches to religious expansion.
- ◆ Next, we will look at the dramatic impact of European colonialism upon religious relationships, examining the religious aspects of colonialism itself, and its repercussions in contemporary society.
- ◆ Weeks three and four will focus on religious responses to colonialism and globalization among colonized peoples, using examples from India and indigenous societies.

### Planned Schedule

- ◆ April 11 - Religion and Empire in Islam and Christianity (Location TBD)
- ◆ April 25 - Religious Impact of European Colonial Expansion
- ◆ May 9 - Cargo and Colonialism in the Pacific and Beyond (Location TBD)
- ◆ May 23 - South Asian Responses to Globalization

We are honored to have Dr. Kristin McLaren offering this course for UUCC. Dr. McLaren received her PhD in History of Religion from University of Ottawa, Canada in 2005. She taught at the University of Maine Farmington for seven years before taking a break to raise her family. Courses taught include: World Religions, Islam and the West, History of Islamic Civilizations, Sacred Space, Contemporary Moral Problems, Religion and Culture, Myth and Racial Discourse. Dr. McLaren has also led several sessions on interfaith dialogue at various local churches. While in her early twenties she was introduced to Islam and other world religions while a participant on a youth exchange with Indonesia. She is also a member of the United Methodist Church in Winthrop.

Register by contacting the church office or sign up on the Adult RE Bulletin Board. Space is limited.

## Membership Committee....

### How to be Welcoming ~

When someone new walks through our doors – how do we help them to feel at home? The Membership Committee will explore this question with a series of “tips” in the next several newsletters.

### Introduce yourself

One act that can help a new person feel more comfortable is to introduce yourself. If you see someone you don't recognize, don't worry about whether they are new or not. Just walk up and say “Hi. I don't believe we've met before. My name is \_\_\_\_.” It's a great way to make a new friend.

### Wear a Nametag

Wearing a nametag helps people learn our names. It also helps those of us who sometimes forget a name. Nametags are kept in the coatroom. The greeters have supplies for helping newcomers make a temporary nametag. Requests for permanent nametags are posted in the coatroom. If you have a nametag – please try to remember to wear it. It really does help us all connect.

## Worship Committee....

The church provides electronic devices for persons who need to hear better at Sunday services. We seem to have lost several of these devices, and we ask that you who use them, check at home to be sure that you have not, inadvertently, taken one home with you. Thanks.

Dan Sorensen  
Worship Associate Committee

## History Committee....

The History Committee meeting scheduled for April 8, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. has been canceled. Our next meeting will be May 13th. See you then!

## Faith in Action ...

In recent months a number of people from our church have generously volunteered at the public suppers. They cooked, prepped, cleaned, refilled, served, baked cakes and talked with neighbors. Many folks also helped deliver food donated by our church to the food bank. They even made sure there was a pallet to cover a large puddle so no one would get their feet wet while delivering! Thank you to Karen Fisk, Ruslan Reiter, Tonia Reiter, Katelyn McAuliffe, Lucy Gottlieb, Cricket Gottlieb, Noah Gottlieb, Ida Gammon-Wilson, Cheryl Clukey, Annie Reiter, Michael Conley, Christeena Billings and Rev. Carie Johnsen.

This summer our church will once again cook and serve suppers on the third Saturdays of the month. Thank you to Rebecca Dorr, Michelle Perkins and Michaela Loisel, last summer's leaders. Michaela has agreed to lead a meal again this coming summer. Two more leaders are needed. Are you ready to plan, organize and cook with a group? You will have the opportunity to sign up the last two weeks in March as a meal leader or a crew member. For more information contact Jenny McKendry at 622-4501.

**Faith in Action Fun:** Come join us for some UCC fun! Sunday, May 1st - Rail Trail Clean-up! We will meet at Fellowship Hall at Noon. More information to come. For more information contact Rebecca Dorr at [dorrholman@gmail.com](mailto:dorrholman@gmail.com)

## Church Display Case ...

**April 3, 10 ~ Building and Grounds:**  
Tom Waddell and Marilyn Dunn

**April 17, 24 ~ Welcoming Congregation:**  
Phyllis Cudmore, Helen Zidowecki

There are openings for May 1st and 8th. Individuals, Committees, Programs, Groups within UCC are invited to contribute displays for 2-4 weeks in length. This is coordinated by the Thursday morning SGM group. Please contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)) to schedule your display.

## Upcoming Events ...

**Lasagna Dinner and Auction! Friday, April 29th**

**Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction(5:30-7:00 p .m.)**

**Live Auction! Annie Nessen Voorhees, Auctioneer (7:00 p.m.)**

**Dinner: \$5.00 (Young children are FREE)  
A FREE dinner to those donating Lasagna.**

We are still in need of 35 more donations to reach our goal of 50. These can be: a service, experience, or an item. There are turquoise forms on the Fundraising Bulletin Board for submitting your donation. Gift cards from local businesses are welcome! There are white forms/receipts on the Bulletin Board to use when asking a business for a donation. A list of donations received as of March 20<sup>th</sup> is below.

**Dinner Items** ~ The following dinner items are needed:  
6 pans of Lasagna  
Desserts

**Volunteers** ~ We are in need of 8 volunteers for the dinner and auction. Please contact Judy or Bruce if you would like to volunteer your time.

**Donations received to date include the following:**

Quilt – Teal & Purple (Nancy Fritz)  
Two tickets Railroad Square Cinema  
Cancun Mexican Restaurant - \$25 certificate  
Baby Sitting & Photo Buttons (David Rand)  
Two massage sessions (Keith Davie)  
Three homemade apple pies (Priscilla Jenkins)  
3' x 3' perennial garden (Abby Lourie)  
Original oil painting by Sandra Leinonen Dunn  
Kayak/Brunch on Lovejoy Pond (Judy McCown)  
Acupuncture intake/treatment (Terry Cookson)  
One half cord of hardwood (Bruce Bierce)  
Naturopathic consultation (Terry Cookson)  
Work Crew (Brenda Sawyer and Kit Perry)  
Stack cord of wood (Reiter Conley Family)  
Yellow & Blue Patchwork Quilt (Claire Curole)

For more information please contact Judy McCown or Bruce Bierce, Fundraising Co-Chairs at: 897-3683 or [jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net) or [bbierce@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bbierce@myfairpoint.net)

## Nonviolent Communications ...

**Video of Marshall Rosenberg**

April 17 Following Second Service, Fellowship Hall  
This is being offered for Youth and Adults. See sign-up sheet on the Adult RE Bulletin Board.

**Save the Date:** Nonviolent Communication Level I Training ~ May 21-22, 2011 ~ At UCC

Note: On Friday evening, May 20 from 6:30 to 7:30 is a FREE 1 hour Introductory session that is open to all whether they register for the training or not. (Those who are undecided about attending the workshop could attend this and then make a decision as to registering for the 2 days.) Brochures will be out soon and will be available at the church.

For more information, contact Helen Wing at 685-3804 or [hcranewing@localnet.com](mailto:hcranewing@localnet.com)

## Buildings and Grounds ...

**Can you mow once a month?** ~ Building and Grounds is still looking for two more mowing volunteers. Richard Bridges and Marilyn Dunn have mowed the church properties for the last two years and are still willing to mow. however, it would be greatly appreciated if two more people would step forward so it would be a once a month job for each of the four mowers. The lawn mower is provided and stored in the garage. It takes about an hour to mow. Please call Marilyn at 512-5382 or email at [maine2007@hotmail.com](mailto:maine2007@hotmail.com).

**Annex Renovations** ~ Renovations to the Annex Building will begin Monday, April 11th. Renovation work will be complete by May 1st. Administrator, Julie Pelletier will be contacting those that use the Annex for meetings to discuss alternate space. If you have any questions regarding meeting space, please contact Julie at 622-3232 or by email at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org). Thank you!



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

## **From the Administration Office**

**Pledge Payments** ~ When making a pledge payment by check, please write “pledge” on the memo section of the check. This will insure that your pledge payment is applied correctly to your yearly contributions.

**Monthly Calendar of Events** ~ is available for viewing at [augustauu.org](http://augustauu.org) or by request at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org). Thank you!

