

# The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of  
The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta  
69 Winthrop St.  
Augusta, Maine 04330



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**Interim Minister: Rev. Lee Devoe**

President: *George Lapointe*

Director of Religious Exploration : *Karen Fisk*

Administrative Assistant: *Margaret Goodale*

Ministerial Associates: *Susan Burnett, Janet House, Marty Soule, and Helen Wing*

November 4-18, 2007

Unless otherwise stated, Sunday Services and Religious Exploration are at **9:15 & 11:00 AM**.  
Nursery care is available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

## *On Sunday:*

**November 4**

***The Van Gogh Café***

**Rev. Keith Kron**

How do we heal a world filled with oppression and evil? What can one person do to improve her or his life and the lives of those nearby? Whether the oppression is sexism, racism, heterosexism and homophobia, ableism, ageism, each of us can do something. But what? Maybe you need a little magic. This service will explore how to work to end oppression and how to create the magic that will do it.

**Rev. Keith Kron** works for our association of congregations as Director, Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns.

**Our First Sunday Offering** will go to our association of congregations, the UUA, to support their outreach and growth initiatives. All funds raised in our congregation will be doubled by a generous matching grant.

**November 11**

***An American Revolution***

**Rev. Lee Devoe**

At the beginning of November, my heart turns towards my country, her veterans and elections, her remarkable history and paradoxes. I may not have the answers but I do have some questions to ask. In my reflections, I will share how boys in Bosnia framed my thinking about the story of this country.

**November 18**

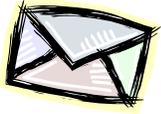
***Gracias a la Vida: Thanks to Life!***

**Rev. Lee Devoe**

Our Thanksgiving service will be created around the folk song *Gracias a la Vida* - made famous originally by Joan Baez and now by Annie Voorhees. Please join us with the whole family for this multi-generational service.

*Our thanks to Barbara Thurlow, Elva Ingraham, Hannah Faulkner, Cally Stevens and Mary Perkins for helping to get this newsletter out on time.*

*Next newsletter deadline is 11/12/07. Please submit all newsletter articles as **WORD** documents if possible.*



## *A Letter from Lee*

By Rev. Lee Devoe

Ouch! What did I bump into? A wall? A hurdle? Or . . . just a surprise? No matter what kind of boundary it is, if it takes us by surprise it must be a problem! Or so our first impression may be. In reality, boundaries bring safety, definition, and freedom! Just as boundaries limit movement in one direction, they allow greater expression in another direction.

Our congregation receives requests from all directions: congregations all over the country – wanting help advertising their UU bed and breakfast, their whale watch, sometimes wanting money for their building project!, the UUA and the District; local arts, music, schools, churches; social justice organizations crying out the needs of the world; and individual requests from members of this congregation. We know that just the announcements of our own congregation are enough to make our eyes glaze over or take up the time allowed for the whole service!

Margaret (your administrator) and I, with help from the trustees and the Committee on Ministry, have quite a time sifting through all the requests and making – sometimes hard – decisions about our ability to honor them. We try to hold up the core identity of who we are: A Unitarian Universalist congregation, not everybody's advertising agency!

There are key questions:

How do we get information out quickly when it's really needed quickly?

How do we encourage people to pay attention to the most essential information?

We make some key assumptions:

If we send e-mails regularly, people will stop reading them.

If we have more than a few spoken announcements on Sunday morning, they won't be effective.

Therefore, we have guidelines.

We rarely send all congregation e-mails, only when time is of the essence and it affects the core life of the congregation. If you receive an e-mail from the congregation, read it!

The worship leader will make decisions about Sunday morning announcements.

We know that using our newsletter for individual advertisements uses communal resources, we do so sparingly.

Please consider your working habits.

If your working group has started to lean on e-mail and announcement requests, please take full use of all the outlets we have: newsletter, Sunday bulletin, posters, bulletin boards.

If you've taken on too much, think about what you'd truly like to focus on and who you'd like to mentor into a new role.

Know that leaders will make (what look like) exceptions! Trust them.

Holding the perspective of the whole is different than getting the work of a committee done.

Recently, I asked the Committee on Ministry to make announcements about our systems workshop. This request was only partly about the systems workshop and equally about making the Committee on Ministry more visible. Recent conversations have emphasized that the Committee on Ministry is available for members who have concerns. It helps to know who the Committee on Ministry is!

Just as, on occasion, we want to say to someone: Act your age! **To our congregation, we might say: Act your size! These guidelines are just one facet of the congregation moving into structures and practices that will support its current size and its vision for the future.**

To act effectively for the good of the whole, we will have more boundaries, not less! I hope you will see them as safeguarding our community, rather than just arbitrary rules. I hope you will thank your leaders for their willingness to actually lead and to hold the center of who we are in community.

In faith,     Lee

## **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

Listening. It is the heart of Small Group Ministry. It is the heart of a healthy congregation. It is the heart of all successful relationships. I am a true believer in the power of listening when it is done well.

For this reason I was pleased to be asked to do a workshop for our congregation on Holy Listening. As Lee has explained, this was originally considered to be a step in the process to become a Ministerial Associate although it is open to anyone, regardless of whether you wish to continue with the other sessions or not. This workshop will also make a wonderful training for facilitators in Small Group Ministry. Therefore I am extending an invitation to anyone who is a facilitator and more particularly to those of you who have considered becoming a facilitator in the future. Please come on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and join us as we explore the difference between listening and hearing. We will practice recognizing what the speaker wants us to know and how to respond in ways that open communication and understanding rather than closing them off.

I will be following this training with others related more specifically to Small Group Ministry including sessions on the history and promise of Small Group Ministry and group process as it occurs on Ministry Groups. These will be two hour sessions and open to all current and potential facilitators. I will announce the dates with plenty of notice.

Additionally I want to call your attention to a workshop occurring at our church on November 17. The Small Group Ministry Task Force of the Northeast District is sponsoring a day long event that will feature a key note presentation by our own Glenn Turner, joined by Peter Bowden from Rhode Island who is a member of the national Small Group Ministry network. We are expecting representatives from most of the churches on Maine, so it will be a wonderful opportunity to experience a broader connection to Unitarian Universalists. It will be a day of celebration and a day of learning.

For more information, speak with me or contact Helen Zidowecki at [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com). It is a wonderful time to be UU!

Kathy Kellison



## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

The historic possessions of our current church have come from several buildings which preceded our consolidation. When All Souls left the old State Street Unitarian Church in the late 1970's, some of that church's items were auctioned off and purchased by members of the congregation. Again, after Consolidation, we found ourselves with antiques for which we have neither the

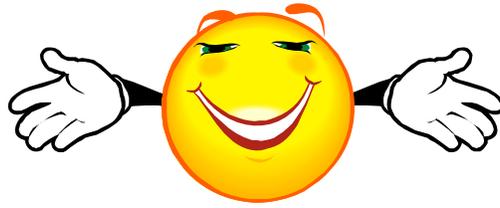
proper environment nor the facilities to assure their preservation. Therefore, in 1996, we had appraisals done by James Julia Auction House, and sold selected items at that time. Now the History Committee Sleuths are busily searching our buildings in an effort to locate and inventory all of the antiques which we now own. We also hope to learn the origin of these items, and we might be calling upon you to help us with your stories.

Meanwhile, the continuous project of perusing, weeding and organizing our mounds of papers and materials is ongoing. At the moment, we have two angels at work. Helen McKendry and Barbara Thurlow are elbow-deep in a project of preserving items in plastic sleeves and spraying old newspaper clippings with preservatives.

Our meetings are usually the last Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Olsen Room in the Annex. Our next meeting will be on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Our meetings are always open to all.

## **FREE MESSAGES**

Yes, it is time again for my daughter, Catherine, at Downeast School of Massage to perform her log hours and case studies, which means she needs tired, broken bodies to volunteer for free massages as part of her curriculum. They will be performed at our home, 17 Pike Street, Augusta. Evenings and weekends are available. Please call her at 621-2384 to set up a time.



## **Welcoming Congregation Task Force Update and Schedule of Events By Maggie Ricker**

Were you able to attend church October 7th? If so, then you had the opportunity to observe what we thought was a very innovative service. Our goal was to help people to not only hear but perhaps have a further understanding of the many (*small?*) ways in which oppression based on sexual orientation can hurt people. Maybe you even recognized a thought or feeling you yourself have held. Nearly everyone knows someone who is part of a sexual minority. But how many of us have had the courage or taken the time to ask what oppression this person has lived with or what pain they have endured over the course of their life? Just listening with a compassionate ear can help relieve some of the painful burden.

Another service, not-to-be-missed: Rev. Keith Kron, the director of the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns will present the sermon on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Have you been present when a hurtful joke or story has been told? Did you simply walk away? Or did you state your belief that jokes and stories of that type are not only unkind but can actually be harmful? If you think it's scary to stand up to your work colleagues, neighbors, family and friends, imagine what it is like for a young teen who is questioning their sexual orientation to hear a story of this sort.

This entire topic can be confusing and disconcerting. But fear not, help is on the way! The Welcoming Congregation Task Force will present an educational series this coming year; one weekend retreat and then a series of four (4) evening workshops. These workshops will be a safe place to discuss your feelings and to address any questions or confusion you may be experiencing.

The weekend retreat will be January 25 and 26. The evening series will be held on Wednesdays: March 10; 24; April 7 and 21. The beginning of each workshop will devote a few minutes to reviewing the discussion of the previous workshop, so newcomers can be brought up to date. There is no need to attend the entire series (although we would love it if you did).

The Task Force meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a hard working, highly irreverent, raucous committee and is one of the most dedicated groups with which I've ever had the privilege to be involved. Between the hoots and howls of laughter, we come together to figure out the most effective path for leading UCC toward a congregational vote on becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Stop by some evening, sit a spell and let us know your thoughts and opinions. With us, you're always welcome!

## ANSWER (American-Nepali-Student & Women's Education Relief)

Earle Canfield participated in our recent Change the World event on October 20<sup>th</sup>. His program is called ANSWER and is an amazing program Earle co-founded with his wife, Mary Jane Schmidt, eight years ago. In a nutshell, this program assists poor children and women in Nepal. There are over 400 children currently being sponsored by individuals and organizations in the US, many of whom are UU people! Children are carefully selected with an eye on their potential for success in school. Most of these children live in villages throughout Nepal or in Kathmandu and giving them education is an offering of release from the limitations placed on them by caste!

As sponsors of children in this program, Marty and David Thornton and Bruce and Judy Bierce suggest that if you have the desire to help a child in need, ANSWER's children are worth taking a close hard look at. Sponsorship means paying tuition (usually about \$250/year) and writing your child several times a year. The true reward for us/me came last year when we visited Nepal and met our "daughter" and saw how our assistance had made a difference in her life and her future. She's now in college and we've elected to continue our support. We believe that our support will impact not just our little Rubina, but her entire family! Bottom line, it's less than three lattes a week for a year. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like additional information, Marty Thornton has some brochures available. You can also visit the program's web site at [www.answer-nepal.org](http://www.answer-nepal.org) to gain some additional insight into ANSWER's programs. Or, contact Earle directly at:

[jecan314@aol.com](mailto:jecan314@aol.com) or call 616-516-095

### SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS

We staged a wonderful first time event with more than 17 organizations participating. Those listed here do not make a complete list and there are other details we will include in future newsletter notes. Speaking for myself and John, we are delighted to be helping a child in Nepal get a good education through ANSWER – a project I might never have known except for Marty Thornton's experience and sharing. And we met two Thai students here with AFS. These are the young people who shape our world in the future... and we gotta keep Earth healthy!

American Field Service (AFS)	Kennebec County Extension Service Board
ANSWER (American-Nepali Students & Women's Educational Relief)	<i>Kennebec Valley Organization (KVO) of the Intervalley Project</i>
Augusta Food Bank	Maine Council of Churches
<i>Amnesty International</i>	<i>Maine Initiatives</i>
Bread of Life Ministries	National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
Equality Maine	Nepal Education: ANSWER
Institute of General Semantics	NVC: Non-Violent Communication
Habitat for Humanity	Peace Corps
	STAND Coalition (Students' Anti-Genocide Coalition)

NOTE: Italics indicates the Organization sent materials.





## Hospitality for Shy People, or How I Ended Up in the Kitchen



We are having fun in the kitchen! And in the Fellowship Hall too. Thank you everyone who has brought food or set up or cleaned up for “Coffee Hour.” Thank you too to everyone who comes to the Fellowship Hall between services to meet and mingle. One of my favorite things to do is look out through the kitchen window during the latter half of the Fellowship Hour and see all the *fellowship* going on. People lingering over cups of coffee or tea, hanging out, talking, unwilling to leave just yet. I love that. One of the challenges I have given myself is how to create that warmth right off the bat. I’m thinking of visitors primarily, but also those shy people who struggle to make conversation – people like me.

I have a hard time standing around in a room of people with only a cup of coffee for a prop... I flash back to junior high school and wonder if anyone is going to talk to me and if they do will I muster something more scintillating than “Yes” or “No.” Here in the present I have solved my problem by partially obscuring myself behind the kitchen counter.

So I invite you to join me in my quest for fire... to warm the Fellowship Hall with the cozy glow of camaraderie. If you feel at ease making conversation, approach someone new or old and do your thing! And for the rest of you, I invite you to join me in the kitchen – though not all at once! There’s a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Warmly, Liza Gottlieb



## Georgian Polyphonic Music Workshops

It’s with great pleasure that we announce the Bie Engelen (former member of the Georgian based choir Okros Stumrebi) and current member and director of several choirs who sing only Georgian music in Toronto, Canada will be coming to conduct several workshops with our choir (and anyone else who might be interested). She will be present at the choir rehearsal on November 1 as well as conducting a second rehearsal on November 3 in the afternoon. Georgian polyphonic music is also sometimes considered “chanting” and many songs are well over 2000 years old! Music is learned in an oral tradition, no printed music except for words. Specifics can be obtained from Marty Thornton – 512-2587.

## Musical Talent in Our Congregation



The Music Committee would like to create a “resource list” of musicians in our congregation, so that we will be able to coordinate broadening our Sunday morning musical experience to include many other instruments in addition to the piano. Do you play the violin, trumpet, recorder, clarinet, flute, drums or any other instrument (like the flugelhorn, kazoo, chimes or marimba)? If so, please share with us what instrument you play, and whether you’d enjoy playing it at our church on occasion for the benefit of others.

Please respond to Hannah Faulkner at [hannahu3@fairpoint.net](mailto:hannahu3@fairpoint.net) or 293-9377; Annie Voorhees at [Annabelle.voo@gmail.com](mailto:Annabelle.voo@gmail.com), or Doug Barley at [dbarley@rentmatchonline.com](mailto:dbarley@rentmatchonline.com) or 623-2580. We look forward to hearing from you soon, so that the congregation may hear you soon too!!!

## **You are invited to Fun Lunch with Lee**

**Friday, November 16: Turkey Talk!** 12 noon—1:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall

If you'd like to hear more about my recent pilgrimage in Turkey, please join me for lunch. I'll have photos, books, objects and stories. I'll bring a spicy chickpea dish, as a mouthful of meditation on the poet Rumi's metaphor of cooking the chickpea. If you'd like, bring bread or salad.

If there are people who would like to hear about my adventure but cannot come during the day, please let me know and I will arrange another talk on an evening or weekend.

**Friday, Nov. 30 & Tuesday, Dec. 18: Knitters Anonymous!**

10 am—12 noon, in Fellowship Hall

I love to knit! (though I don't always admit it) I invite you to join me! Perhaps you're working on holiday projects—knitting, sewing, embroidery. Joining together with busy hands will give us a chance to talk about holiday plans and memories and take part in each other's gift-giving traditions and surprises. I'll bring a pot of soup and whoever wants can stay and eat together.

**Holiday Schedule** Holiday traditions will have both continuity and change this year. The annual pageant will be held on Sunday morning in our own sanctuary. There will also be a Solstice Celebration on a Sunday morning.

**Sunday, December 16: Solstice Celebration 9:15 and 11 am**  
Designed by Annie Voorhees and Lee Devoe

**Sunday, December 23:**  
9:15 am Children's Christmas Pageant  
11 am Worship Service with Rev. Lee Devoe

**Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve Service**

### **Reminders of Upcoming Opportunities**

**Listening Skills Workshop**—Everyone is welcome. Please call to register 622-3232

**Saturday, November 3, 10 am—12 noon** in Fellowship Hall

This workshop is part of the training to be a member of the congregation's care team (Ministerial Associates). Are you considering this ministry? Call me! - Lee

**Newcomer Dinner—Sunday, November 4, 5-8 pm**

If you are new to the congregation, please join us for conversation and community! Call Cheryl Ring to let us know you're coming, 623-2824.

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