



The Flaming Chalice

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

May 2015



May Theme Art and Spirituality

May 3rd 9:15 **Coming of Age** Monique McAuliffe
11:00 **Art and Fear** Rev. Carie Johnsen

In the book *Art and Fear* David Bayles and Ted Orland explore the dangerous and revealing journey of the artist albeit the writer, musician, painter, potter, sculptor, preacher, choreographer. In creating, the artist dances with the inef-fable always out of reach, always elusive and always spiritual.

May 10th 9:15 & 11:00 **PeaceJam** PeaceJam Youth

May 17th 9:15 **RE Recognition** Nicole Danielson
11:00 **The Creative Spirit** Claire Curole and Kathy Ann Shaw

Join UUCS Seminarian, Claire Curole and Worship Committee Chair, Kathy Ann Shaw for a conversation about creativity as a spiritual practice.

May 24th 10:00 **Memorial Day at UUCS** Rev. Sylvia Stocker
Minister, UU Church of Brunswick

Memorial Day brings parades and the sound of taps to the graves, and families plant flowers in memory of loved ones. Today we ask: What are the bigger messages of Memorial Day? Is it simply a day of remembrance, or can it point the way to something else?

May 31st 10:00 **How We Pray** Nancee Campbell, Faith Madore
Gary Chapin, Annie Voorhees

Prayer can be deeply intimate or ritualistic and public. Last fall, a group of us met to discuss and explore prayer for UU's. Come share with us our discoveries.

A Faith Journey...by Rev. Carie Johnsen

This month we enter into a four theme series of Spirituality. This wide open theme feels a bit like trying to point at the star; there are an infinite number of stars and it is impossible to point at just one. Still, we try to capture the elusive nature of the spiritual journey of being human in an ever-changing universe.

Over the next four months a series of worship leaders will craft Sunday services that offer a glimpse into what matters most in their one meaningful and unique life. They will reveal what brings them passion and hope, wisdom and humility. It takes a brave and courageous person to step up to the pulpit and reveal a bit of who they are through the elements of worship. It takes an equally humble person to show up with open heart and open mind, ready and willing to be changed by what is offered in words, music, and silence.

Every Sunday is a well-crafted gift with each and every person being both giver and receiver. The worship arts team here at UUC is extraordinary. They are as committed to the spiritual lives of the members, friends and guests as your minister and they are talented. I am so incredibly grateful for their dedication to quality worship.

As you attend service this summer take a look around to see just who made worship possible and then take the time to say thank you to the pianist, the worship leader, the worship associate, the religious exploration coordinator, the youth advisor, the youth, the greeters and fellowship hosts, the choir, the board, the list goes on and I'm sure I've missed someone.

Equally as vital to the spiritual development of the people of UUC is the programs and groups. There are countless leaders and volunteers who keep Small Group Ministry and Peaceful Heart Sangha and the occasional orchestra and the choir and the religious exploration programs engaged and meaningful.

It takes all of us to nurture the spiritual vitality of the community and keep liberal religion dynamic in the greater Augusta community. And it takes financial contributions and annual pledges. The spirituality of giving is one way to nurture the values we share, the vision we hold and the opportunities we have been given.

During the month of May the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees work hard to set a budget that reflects our values and principles in action. Setting the annual budget is hard work in a good year. It is doubly hard in a year when annual pledges do not meet the vision, values and opportunities we have set for ourselves over the course of the past couple decades

The Stewardship Committee has finished the pledge campaign and as most of you know by now, we have come up short. Rather than shrink to a lesser vision of who we are, a challenge has been extended to all members and friends to increase their pledges by 10% (more if you can, less if you can't). Think of it as an opportunity to consider what this community means to you and how you can ensure its future on the religious landscape in central Maine.

I believe in what Unitarian Universalism has to offer the world. I believe in what Unitarian Universalist Community Church has to offer Maine. I believe in us, the people, the passion we hold for a more just compassionate and spiritually enlivened world. Because of this and because I can, I have joined with the members of the board, finance, stewardship and committee on ministry to increase my pledge. I invite you to consider doing the same.

What we have to offer Augusta and the wider world is priceless. This is our faith community. This is our shared ministry. We hold the vision, the values and the opportunities together.

In faith, Rev. Carie

Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

The March meeting on "Healing Practices" introduced the concept of the Pentacles. The April 26 meeting focused on "Wisdom Through Our Lifespan" using the Pentacle of the Stages of Life for reflection. We are planning a celebration of Women of Wisdom on May 17, 12:15 - 2:00 pm. (Please note **the change date** from the usually scheduled fourth Sunday – Memorial Day – to a week earlier.) Fifteen women have been honored in the past at UUCC, and we invite others to recognize that distinction for themselves.

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

UUCC/St. Mark's Suppers...

May 2nd- First Saturday Public Supper

The next supper will be held in 2 weeks on May 2nd, at what was St. Mark's Episcopal Parish Hall, now known as the Outreach Center on Summer St. diagonally across from UUCC.

Our Church helps to make free public suppers available to our community once a month. We create a place for people to sit, talk, eat a good meal and perhaps make a friend.

The April supper went well and thanks to the people who come to eat as well as well as you- the volunteers from at least 3 different churches. There were plenty of volunteers to serve and clean-up. Thank you to volunteers and those who send donations to keep this work going!!

On the first Saturday in May, we'll gather once more to prepare, serve and clean-up. I'll be looking for volunteers. Thank you for your continued energy and enthusiasm. Our youth have learned to make it part of their everyday lives and we learn from them.

Jenny Mckendry
Chief non-cook and bottle washer
cell 480-0980

Membership Committee...

Your Membership Committee is busy!

Two upcoming events, for visitors, newcomers, and new members:

Special and Fun Welcome Dinner; Friday, May 1, 2015, 6:00pm–8:00 pm An evening meal and short program, Childcare is available upon prior request and

New Member Welcoming Ceremony, Sunday, May 3, 2015, at the 11am worship service.

This our way of thanking visitors, newcomers, and new members for participating with us in our collective faith journey, another opportunity to break bread together as a church community, and to meet people who are also on the path to become a UUCC member.

The Sunday morning New Member Welcoming Ceremony is a tradition at UUCC to celebrate those who have become members recently or choose to join the church that day. This ceremony is a simple affair, including reciting your names, and coming forward to receive a small gift from the congregation to honor you and your membership in our church.

Please R.S.V.P. if you would like to attend either or both of the above events ASAP. Call the office at 622-3232 or send an email to admin@augustauu.org. Be sure to tell us which events you plan to attend and if you will need childcare.

PEEPERS!

April 19th was Peeper Sunday. 'Peepers' are small tree frogs that are said to be a sure sign of Spring. In the 1970's Rev. Larry Hamby, All Souls UU Church, introduced recognition of Peepers and Spring in place of an Easter focus. The person who hears the peepers and contacts the office first, is presented with the brass frog statute the following Sunday morning to care for until the Spring. Sunday we named that person the "Peeper Keeper". The UUCC Peepers song is also sung that morning – probably about the loudest it has been sung, due to the long winter.

Rita Cherubini cared for the statue in 2014. The new Peeper Keeper until 2016 is Kristina Oliveri.

History Committee...

From Our UUC History: Religious Exploration Artifacts

In 1960, two members of the All Souls Church, Mrs. Margaret Vaughan and Mrs. Samuel McFall with the minister's wife, Mrs. Horace Colpitts, drove to Boston.

The minister of the Charles Street Universalist Church, offered a selection of religious artifacts for sale. All Souls Church had given the women \$250 and they raised another \$80, to purchase twelve items, including

A Siamese Buddha in bronze,
a Chinese Buddha of stone,
a bronze Hindu lamp bearer, Lakshmi,
a stone Burmese Hanuman, and other items.

These beautiful items were used first by the RE and were on display at 70 State Street until the All Souls congregation moved in 1977. The items barely escaped being sold at auction when the church moved.

Since then they have lived in boxes in the History Room, only to be taken out once in a while for study, the Committee has displayed them again in the glass case at Church for all to see and appreciate.

Heide Munro
History Committee



News from RE....

Building Bridges - May 2015!

In May we take time to honor the work the children, teens, and our RE teachers have done throughout the year. It is a time of reflection, appreciation, and gratitude. So much happens when the RE kids go off to their respective classes. We explore our faith and our principles through discussion, reflection, activity, art, music, and exploration. This year, our youngest children explored the foundations of our faith (such as kindness, compassion, and wonder of our natural world). Our middle group explored our faith through an active Faith in Action year. And finally, our eldest group explored their own beliefs in our unique Coming of Age Program. How wonderful it is to offer these classes to our future generation!

Without our RE Teacher Volunteers, these programs would not be possible. Thank you to all of you who volunteered your time this year to our children and youth. You all bring unique and wonderful gifts to our RE program. Thank you! It is also time for us to look back upon this year and evaluate the work we have done. Time to step back and ask ourselves such questions as, -What are the strengths and weaknesses of our current program?
-In what ways could we improve and strengthen our RE program?
-Did our programs reflect the principles we UU's hold dear to our hearts?

These are questions Rev. Carie, the RE Committee, and I will contemplate as we look forward to a new year. I welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions as we bring our year to a close, and think about our themes and programs for next year.

There is the quote, "It takes a village to raise a child". We may not all live together in one village, but on Sunday mornings, it is the village feeling that we all create and the values and principles that we teach them, that our youth will always remember and hold on to, through life's scenic (and sometimes bumpy) drive.

With much appreciation and gratitude to all of you,

Nicole Danielson
RE Sunday Morning Coordinator

Sabbatical Review: A View from the Pew

“Not to diminish how much we value Rev. Carie. But we weathered her absence with aplomb.” Gary Chapin, UUCC President

The Sabbatical Committee met last night to both review the first half of Rev. Carie’s Sabbatical and plan for the second half.

Rev. Carrie’s accounts of her past sabbatical time away from us, as well as her future sabbatical time are filled with wonder and new relationships. She found a familial connection in Wales and while there made many friends. With the blessing of the national denomination, she will return to Wales again this summer to begin to create partnerships between small, rural congregations in Wales and here in the United States.

While Rev. Carie was overseas we were at home in the pews, in the pulpit, behind the piano, in the RE classrooms, in Committee and Board meetings, in choir and orchestra rehearsals, shoveling snow, taking out garbage and generally engaged in maintaining the physical church. We more than managed. We were vibrant!

Worship services continued. UU ministers from other churches and our lay leaders inspired us each Sunday. The Worship Committee was spectacular! The view from the pews was that Sunday morning services were seamless, never a suggestion that there may have been tense moments between 9:12 and 9:14 that morning. The musicians responded to the needs of ministers they had not met and created, with their music, a special awe.

We were not alone as a congregation; we had the support and leadership of talented staff (most of whom had been hired in late 2014)! RE flourished with Monique and Nicole’s leadership. The choir performed magnificently with Bridget as director. Communications, Orders of Service, and all other functions of

office management were skillfully handled by Lynn. And, of course, the steadiness of Small Group Ministry was managed by Kathy.

The UUCC Board continued to be responsive to the needs of our church and make important decisions. The pastoral care team met regularly and tended to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of individual church members.

As Carie leaves for the second half of her sabbatical venture, please know that the church systems that held us together when she left before are still in place. The People and programs haven’t gone anywhere, and UUCC continues to be a beacon in the lives of its members.

Shine on, and thank you to all of us!!

Debbie Mattson, Sabbatical Committee

Annual Meeting

***Join us on June 7, 2015,
at 10:00 a.m. as we enact
our Fifth Principle***

“The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

As is our tradition, at that time we will elect leadership, amend bylaws (if it is so warranted), sing some hymns, engage in worship, and most importantly, pass a budget for the 2015-2016 church year.

Sabbatical News from the Desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen

This past year has had so very many unexpected twists and turns. Our ministry, my ministry and my relationships with my family have all shifted in ways that have invited growing and deepening.

Last summer as my parents, children and grandchildren all gathered for my son's wedding our hearts were filled with joy. Little did we know the next gathering would be a time of saying good-bye to one we loved.

Last spring as we explored the future of religious exploration at UUCC, we never anticipated a full turnover of staff in one year. Little did we know the staff that would show up a few months later would enliven our faith community with hope and light.

Last winter as I made plans to retreat to the village of my ancestors in Gwynfe, Llangadog, Wales, my expectations were high and my hiking gear was packed. Little did I know I would come home connected to the land, the culture, the stories and the people. Little did I know I would come home inspired by the Unitarian story of 22 Welsh congregations. And, I certainly never expected to return there so soon, but I am.

With a shared vision of developing partner churches between small congregations in Wales and small congregations in the United States, I have been awarded travel and sabbatical grants for a return visit this summer. This vision emerged several years ago when the Rev. Jim Robinson returned from his ministry in England with a goal to link congregations across the pond using the partner church model. While several partner church relationships have developed between US and England, there have been no connections developed in the Welsh churches. As I nurtured my relationship with the Welsh Unitarians over the winter, this possibility of partner churches grew in our hearts and minds.

During my travels to Wales, I had the opportunity to lead services, attend district meetings, tour churches and hear the stories of the 16th, 17th & 18th Welsh Protestant and Unitarian dissenters. Inspired by their history, I returned with a call to be a part of the future of Welsh Unitarianism. While I can't move to Wales, for my ministry and family are here in New England and the Midwest, I can share their history and be a tiny piece of their unfolding future.

Theirs is a remarkable story of resistance and persistence in the face of religious persecution and oppression. It is a story of conviction to Unitarian beliefs and values. The remote location of Capel Gellionnen tells the story of Unitarians hiding on the moorlands of Welsh mountaintops prior to the passage of the Doctrine of the Trinity Act (1813). The two Chapels in Llandysul stand as a reminder of 1876 "lock-out" when the minister William Thomas and his congregation were evicted from their church building for their 'radical' Unitarian ideologies.

I am grateful for the UU Partner Council Church, the Welsh Unitarians, the UUA International Office, the UUA Office of Ministry and the UU College of Social Justice for supporting this work of connecting our faith across the cultures. We have so much to share and so much to offer each other. We have stories to tell, lessons to learn and inspiration to engage with intention.

IDES OF MAY AUCTION

Friday, May 15th 5-7 p.m. Silent Auction and Café

7 p.m. Live Auction Don't Miss It!

Auctioneers: Terry Cookson Cairn and Dale McCormick

Here are just a few of the many items donated so far for the May 15th Ides of May Auction. What will enhance **your** life? We are still seeking 4 hours of carpentry work , 4 hours of house cleaning, and 4 hours of painting, as well as gift certificates from businesses and works of art. What would you like to contribute? Please contact Terry Cookson Cairn at 445-2942 or lnaturalhealth@yahoo.com, or Hannah Faulkner at 293-9377 or hannahuu3@fairpoint.net before May 10, 2015. Watch the church bulletin board for updates on donations.

Guided Canoe Trip
Guided Kayak Outing
One Hour Massage
Hannaford Gift Cards
Slate's Gift Card
Target Gift Cards
Handmade Quilts and Throws
Dog Bed and Dog Sweater
Ukelele
Hand-knitted Scarves
Soft-sided Carry Cages
Silver Bracelet
Photographs
4 Hours of Gardening
Handspun Wool
Naturopathic and Acupuncture Intakes and Treatments
Indigo Biofeedback
Homemade Peanut Butter Balls
Vermont Teddy Bear and Sweater
Rabbit Puppet
Traditional Welsh Tea
Chair Massage
Babe Didrikson Zaharias Book and 78rpm Recording
Comfort Birds

The Augusta Warming Center Thanks UUC!

The Augusta Warming Center has officially closed its doors for the 2014/15 season. They opened early on December 5th, as a result of a Sand Hill fire that displaced 27 people. They initially helped with collecting used items for the fire victims, then added the extra donations to their regular clothing room.

More homeless people showed up on the doorstep of the Warming Center this year than last, and the Augusta Police Department used them as a front line referral source in emergency situations several times. Although their primary purpose was to provide a safe, warm place, the professional staff always helped individuals as much as they could. They connected folks with resources, and assisted many people in obtaining jobs, housing, and clothing. Programs available at the Warming Center played a significant role in that, including Goodwill Workforce Solutions, Literacy Volunteers, Southern Kennebec CDC and Kennebec Behavioral Health Homeless Outreach. The Warming Center clientele seemed to be more disadvantaged than last year, but thanks to contributions from UUC and many others, they had an ample winter clothing closet of both adult and children's apparel.

The volunteer base at the Warming center grew considerably this year, and all the volunteers went through a screening and training process. By the middle of March, the Warming Center had logged over 1,167 volunteer hours. They recognized their volunteers at the End of Season Barbeque.

Although it fluctuated daily, the Warming Center **averaged** 36 guests per day, and every day there were families with children in attendance. **Roberta Record** faithfully attended all the Advisory Committee meetings at the United Way office, and took all the donations UUC members put in the collection box down to the Warming Center. We took up a

'Share the Plate' collection in January and were able to donate over \$400 to their operating budget.

Thank you Roberta, and thank you TO ALL THE UUC members who GENEROUSLY helped the Augusta Warming Center through another COLD but successful winter!

Fellowship Refreshments

The kitchen corner cupboard for contributions is bare! Non-perishable goodies (chips, pretzels, cookies) can be left there. The Dollar Tree store is a very reasonable source -- their fudge stripe cookies are always a big hit with the kids and the ginger snaps are great as well. Of course, home baked goods or fruit brought to the kitchen on any Sunday are always a welcome addition. Individually wrapped, labeled teas for the wooden tea caddy are needed as well.

Seasoned Souls to Meet...

Seasoned Souls is a group of church members who gather every 1st and 3rd Wednesday for the purpose of sharing literature, individual stories, and support with each other around the issue of aging. The only requirements for membership are an open mind and be over the age of 65. On May 6 we'll be meeting from 10:30 – noon in Fellowship Hall and on **May 20th we'll be meeting from 10:30 – noon at Drew House.**

With deep appreciation...

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, emails and Facebook posts of condolences. My step-mother's life had touched so many. It was a tragic loss that each of you helped to lighten. The support, love, light and prayers from the congregation over the past two weeks have offered me much comfort and healing. To know you were all there holding our ministry, while I stepped away to be with family, was reassuring. It was a gift I gratefully received.

From the Choir Director...

As the choir season slowly comes to an end, I thought it would be good time to reconnect. The last few months as Music Director at the UUCC have been fabulous! I have truly enjoyed the rich musical community and the wonderful comradery.

So far, the Easter service was one of the musical highlights since my time here. The collaboration between the choir and UCCCOO was so enjoyable, and this was just an appetizer of what is to come at the Community Concert scheduled for May 31st.

The choir's final Sunday service of this season will be at the Flower Communion on June 14th. After a summer break, rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 26th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Sanctuary.

I look forward to our next choir season with excitement and anticipation! We will be exploring wonderful choral music and planning new and rewarding musical collaborations.

The choir is always welcoming new members. We are a fun and dedicated group! If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me, Bridget Convey, at: musicdirector@augustuu.org

Bridget Convey,
UUCC Music Director



Buildings and Grounds...

The May workday is Saturday the 6th. Maintenance needs to be done inside and out. Outside: Weeding, mulching, bush trimming. Inside: Cleaning and uncluttering. Come help spruce up the buildings and grounds. **A Lawn volunteer** is needed once a month. We need one more to round out our crew of four rotating mowers. The church mower is easy to use. It's an electric start and self propelled. Project volunteers are needed. There is a growing list of repairs. Tom and I can't do it all. Contact Marilyn Dunn maine2007@hotmail.com or call 512-5382.

UUCC Web... www.augustuu.org

There have been inquiries about when we change from two to one service on Sundays. The change to one service is Memorial Day, May 24 this year, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter. The dates of changes are on the Worship section of the website.

Anyone who is involved with a group, committee, or a congregational activity is encouraged to review their sections of the website. Also look at the website to get a sense of UUCC overall. Please send comments and questions to assist to website@augustuu.org or talk with Helen Zidowecki, Website Chair.

Nonviolent Communications

Nonviolent/Compassionate Communication (NV/CC) is based on the human needs and feelings that underlie all behavior. Some basic premises are that:-

- All actions are attempts to meet needs,
 - Human needs are universal - we all have the same needs, and
 - Feelings result from needs being either met or unmet – when *needs* are met we feel *happy, pleased, etc.* – when needs are *unmet* we feel *sad, hurt, anxious, scared, angry, etc.*
- This process focuses on observation, identifying feelings and needs, and stating a request.

While NV/CC is a process of communication designed to improve compassionate - connection to others, it has also been interpreted as a spiritual practice, a set of values, a parenting technique, an educational method and a worldview. The basic reference is *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, by - Marshall Rosenberg.

Nonviolent Communication Level I Training: Clear & Compassionate Communication is - being held in Lewiston on May 16 & 17, 2015, with Leah Boyd, a professional mediator, facilitator and trainer who has trained extensively in Nonviolent Communication. Brochures, which include a registration form, are available outside the sanctuary.

A practice group for those who have had at least a Level I training, meets on the first and third Fridays, 1:15 - 3:15 pm, in the Robbins Room. The first Friday is a more informal meeting, with extended check-in and/or an Empathy Session. The third Friday is usually an NVC-related topic.

Meetings for May:

- May 1st: Informal meeting
- May 15th: Differing Approaches — Similar Needs?

Contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, hcranewing@roadrunner.com

Social Activities...

Katherine Stewart, author of *"The Good News Club - The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children"* will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta on Sunday, May 31. The talk will be from **noon** to 1 PM, followed by a reception and book signing from 1 to 2 PM. Katherine is an investigative journalist who has written for Newsweek, The New York Times, and The Atlantic Monthly. She has given talks across the country and has appeared on the Melissa Harris-Perry TV show, among others.

Katherine looked into the Good News Club after her child came home from school one day saying the family belonged to the 'wrong' religion. The Good News Club is an Old Testament fundamentalist evangelical group with a focus on sin and salvation that proselytizes to very young children in elementary schools in Maine and across America. Katherine's book is a chilling exposé of the well-funded, highly coordinated effort by Christian Nationalists to use public schools to advance a fundamentalist agenda.

Come hear this interesting author at our church on May 31st, and bring your insights and questions with you! For more information, contact Tom Waddell at us1863@gmail.com or (207) 512-5382. <http://thegoodnewsclub.com/>

TWO DO IT YOURSELF WORKSHOPS:

During late Summer or early Fall we will offer 2 DIY workshops that we UU's will love.

Kitchen Scraps, Worms and Dirt: Learn to make lovely dirt by feeding kitchen scraps to worms that will reside quietly in your kitchen. Don Naber has been doing this for years and has offered to teach us this easy method of making your own nourishing dirt.

Inside Storm Windows: We will order pre-cut, ready to assemble inside storm window kits, (based on YOUR measurements) from a company in Camden. We will learn to assemble them together. Tom Waddell has offered to guide us in this project, which is easier than you think.

I am sharing this info now, as I would like to know if there is interest in either of these DIY projects. Just trying to plan ahead, which is unusual for me.

Cheryl Clukey
cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

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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: May 18.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Nicole Danielson
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: Kathy Kellison
Office: (207) 622-3232

Rev. Carie's office hours:

Monday 11:00 - 5:00
Tuesday Writing Day
Wednesday 2:00 - 6:00
Friday Sabbatical - Day off & by appointment