



# The Flaming Chalice

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

August 2012

## Summer Worship Services One Sunday Service at 10:00 am ONLY

**August 5th**

*Morality and Freakonomics*

Kathy Kellison  
and Annie Reiter

When searching for answers to social problems do you look for solutions that are morally right, fiscally responsible, and/or preserving human dignity? Come spend some time with us looking at the story of Murray Barr as told by Malcolm Gladwell.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>**

*The Legend of Hosea Ballou*

Melvin Morrison and  
Rev. Nancee Campbell

The spirit of this circuit riding Universalist minister still enlightens us with the accuracy of his 18<sup>th</sup> C. message for the world: **Universal salvation for all people**. As two birthright Universalists, we'll visit the early stages of this branch of our faith tree.

**August 19th**

*The Church of the Different Drummer*

Dr. Joseph E. Laferriere

Unitarian Universalism has been described as "The church where you can believe anything you want." Is this accurate? Dr. Joseph Laferriere shares his thoughts on this, based on 30 years experience as a member of 7 UU congregations.

**August 26th**

*Can Literature Lead Us to Justice?*

Jim McKenna

*Never look down on anybody unless you're helping them up.*

~ Reverend Jesse Jackson

## Director of Religious Exploration ...



The Rev. Carol Strecker, Director of Religious Exploration

Rev. Carol comes to us from First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Kennebunk where she served as Parish Minister for nine years. She came to Maine from Massachusetts. She served as Associate Minister at the Arlington Street Church in Boston. The part of her ministry she enjoyed there the most was organizing the religious education program for children, youth and adults. She's delighted to have the opportunity to shift the focus of her ministry back to religious exploration for all ages.

Carol attended the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She chose EDS because of their program in Feminist Liberation Theologies. She also has a Masters in Social Work from Boston University, working in a variety of settings serving children, youth and families before attending seminary.

Carol's roots are in the mid-west. Born in Greencastle, Indiana, her dad moved the family to St. Louis, Missouri to take a job at Washington University when she was three. She graduated from University City High School and Albion College in Albion, Michigan. Carol spent many summers at a camp on the shores of Lake Michigan where she developed a deep and abiding relationship with the natural world which continues to ground her spirituality. She also continues to embrace the ideals of love and service she learned in the Methodist Church growing up.

More recently Carol's spiritual journey has led her to explore Buddhist teachings. She belongs to a Sangha that practices in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. She finds mindfulness training a grounding practice that enables her to make more conscious choices about who she wants to be in the world.

Carol lives with her partner Kate, two dogs and a cat in Cumberland, Maine. Kate is a nurse in the Emergency Department at Maine Medical Center. Kate and Carol will be busy getting Kate's daughter, Hillary, settled into her first year of law school at Northeastern University in Boston this fall.

In her spare time Carol enjoys all kinds of music. She's been playing guitar and singing since grade school. She got hooked on music from Maine and the Maritimes at the Folk Festival in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia and Maine Fiddle Camp which inspired her to take up playing fiddle and mandolin. She also enjoys just about any outdoor activity including bicycling, kayaking and hiking.

Carol will be joining us on August 20th. Feel free to stop in to welcome her and say "hello"!

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## Board President ...

### Summer Surprises

When I first became a UU, someone told me – I forget who – that “UUs take the summer off.” This surprised me at the time, because it was the summer services that were my first experience of the Augusta congregation.

While it's true that fewer people attend during July and August, it's certainly not because of a lack of quality in the weekly presentations. With Rev. Carie Johnsen taking some well-earned vacation and study time, this is when some of the extraordinary talents of our congregation are on full display.

I have to admit that I haven't been able to attend every service – it is summertime in Maine, and vacation time, after all – but every one I've been to has been stimulating, entertaining, and thought-provoking.

During some of the July services, for instance, we've been able to learn about the Immigration Work Group, and the results of a church mission to Haiti following the devastating earthquake there. We've heard Rev. Nancy Campbell's inspiring recollections of the 1960s – and how spirituality has been part of what we remember from that era of change and hope.

And we've been wowed by the musical talents of some familiar faces – Annie Voorhees and Dan Sorensen – plus newcomer Mel Morrison, whose rendition of “The Impossible Dream” was a show-stopper, if you'll pardon the expression.

I can't wait to see what's in store for us in August.

If the point hasn't been made already, it is this: There's a lot going on at UUCC, all summer long. If you haven't already tried it (one service, 10 a.m., with fellowship hour following) you really ought to. The new ceiling fans help keep things comfortable, and dress – as always – is casual. Join us.

-- Doug Rooks

## Peaceful Heart Sangha ...

Newcomers are always welcome to our Monday meditation group at UUCC, 6:30 - 8 PM. Please write to [peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com) or call 685-9270 if you have questions.

We also have meditation on the first and third Thursdays from 8 -9:30 AM at River Studio, 332 River St. in Hallowell.

And our newest meditation group meets in Farmington on Monday nights. Here is their announcement: The new sister sangha in Farmington is up and, and uh, meditating.

Nine people attended the first service Monday night from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We meditated, chanted the Heart Sutra, did walking meditation, read a passage from Thich Nhat Hanh's "The Miracle of Mindfulness," and shared our experience in the practice during Dharma Sharing.

Participants came from the Farmington and Anson areas. They said they were grateful for the opportunity to have a group practice close to home. Those attending said they want to meet weekly on Mondays. We meet at Work First, Inc.'s offices at 309 Wilton Road (Route 2), just west of Hannaford. We meet in the conference room at the far left of the building. We wish to thank Work First for letting us use their superb facilities.

We agreed to call ourselves Full Moon Sangha after the meditation hall at Plum Village, and because the full moon is a Zen image of clarity and many of the events in the Buddha's life, including his enlightenment and entering into Nirvana, are said to have occurred on full moon days.



## Faith in Action ...

UUCG Augusta Angel Food Network Suppers/ aka St. Mark's Suppers ~ **Your help is needed!** On the 3rd Saturday of each summer month our church prepares and serves a free meal held at St. Mark's Episcopal for members of the community. This is the third summer that our church has taken part and without the very generous help of St. Mark's lead volunteers we would not be able to do it.

More than \$200.00 was spent for June's meal and that's not including the expense of meat. Both this year and last, St. Mark's volunteers have given us meat for at least one meal each summer. In June, they donated (no repayment required) forty- two pounds of pork. In June our congregation served a meal of pork, veggies, pasta, water melon and baked goods. The Augusta Food Bank gave us blueberries to serve and bread for people to take home.

Current funds to purchase food for the July and August meals are unlikely to cover all expenses. Any amount of help would be very much appreciated. If you are able to help please place a check in the collection basket on Sunday or mail to UUCG, P O Box 8, Augusta, ME 04332-0008. Please place **Angel Food Suppers** in the memo of your check.

Our church has a membership to Good Shepard Food Bank ( which is over in Lewiston), but we have not yet used it as we are in need of volunteers who would be willing to travel there and buy during business hours. As our funds are low, this may be the month that our church goes over to buy directly from them. Please contact Jenny McKendry if you are able to volunteer.

We also need volunteers and bakers to bake and deliver or send in goodies! Many UU's are on vacation and un-available. For more information please contact Jenny McKendry at: 622-4501 or [jdrawmck@gwi.net](mailto:jdrawmck@gwi.net)

Thank you to June's volunteers: Sophia and Lucien Oliveri, Priscilla (aka PJ) Jenkins, Phil Brzozowski, Ida Gammon-Wilson and Cheryl Clukey. Thanks to bakers from Judy Gallant's small group ministry and Helen McKendry. I'm sorry if I've forgotten anyone.

A huge thanks to Dan Stevens of St. Mark's and St. Barnabus for shopping, prepping and helping to cook such a fine meal.

For the July meal some members of Peace Jam and Senior youth group will volunteer. Thank you to Sophia and Lucien, Ida Gammon-Wilson, Nancee Campbell and all those who helped with the July 21<sup>st</sup> meal.

In August, members of Judy Gallant's small group ministry and Nancee Campbell will do the honors. Thank you to others who may volunteer.

### Special Note:

This month's meal: August 18<sup>th</sup>.

St. Mark's Essentials Pantry needs size 5 diapers

Jenny McKendry,  
Faith in Action Chair

## Goddess Continuing ...

**GODDESS CONTINUING SUMMER SCHEDULE ~** Goddess Continuing will be offering the **Summer Service on July 29**, related to the celebration of Teltane or Lammas. Lammas is midway between summer solstice and fall equinox. Although the days are still long, the sun rises later and sets earlier. This is a time of reflection on:

- ◆ Harmony: Balancing the sun and moon (gender) energies
- ◆ Harvest: Gathering the first fruits as we move from growing to gathering
- ◆ Honing: Keeping what we need and letting go as we move forward.

Goddess Continuing will have a work session following the Sunday service (11:15am -1pm) on August 19<sup>th</sup>, making our resources more accessible for our own programs and for the larger congregation and to plan for the year.

For more information, please contact Mary Shifman at 549-7719 or [shifmanmary@aol.com](mailto:shifmanmary@aol.com)

## Display Case ...

This evolving Summer Display invites your contributions.

### Summer Spirituality

- ◆ How do we engage our Spirituality in the Summer?
- ◆ What are your spiritual connections?
- ◆ Hope to see you in church!
- ◆ Are you visiting other UU churches? Are you inviting others to join you here?
- ◆ Are you going to Ferry Beach or Star Island?

Check this, an evolving summer display, every week! Carie Johnsen and Helen Zidowecki have added some items from General Assembly.

You are welcome to add things from your Summer Spirituality.

## Fundraising ...

**Help yourself while helping our church** ~ We would like all of you to know that on **September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Life Line Screening**, a leading mobile health service, together with the Helping Hands program, will offer potentially life-saving ultrasound screenings at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta. Life Line Screening has partnered with over 370 hospitals across the country and has screened over six million participants.

As you may know, stroke is a leading cause of death in America today, affecting over 750,000 people each year. Every 45 seconds, someone suffers a stroke and every three minutes, someone dies from one. The tests offered by Life Line Screening are simple and painless and may help you or your loved ones avoid a stroke. Many people do not realize that these tests are seldom offered during a regular physical, as they are not typically covered by insurance, so for most of us, stroke prevention lies in our own hands.

Five screenings will be offered: Stroke/Carotid Artery, Heart Rhythm (Atrial Fibrillation), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease, and Osteoporosis. The regular package cost for the first four tests is \$139 and for all five is \$149. However, in appreciation for using our church premises, Life Line Screening will give our members a \$10 discount off the package cost and will also make a \$10 donation to our church for each package.

In order to take advantage of the \$10 package discount and for our church to receive the \$10 donation, registration must be made by calling [1-800-324-9458](tel:1-800-324-9458) or by filling out a registration form. The forms are available on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall and will also be included in the information packets - which will soon be mailed to each church member. If you have questions, please contact Judy McCown or Bruce Bierce.

The following is a link to a short 90 second video about the screenings: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5IUSsGg6Y> We hope you will register now to participate on September 5th.

Bruce Bierce and Judy McCown,  
Fundraising Co-Chairs  
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## History Committee ...

The next History Committee meeting will be Thursday, July 26, 9:30am, in Drew (old Annex, 6 Summer St.). This is a change of date. We will continue working on wording for notations about church spaces that have designated names.

We also have reviewed the timelines for the three congregations (Winthrop St., All Souls, and UUCC) and our ministers, including changing the format for the website (Church Life, History).

We will be meeting August 8 and 22. Check the weekly calendar for more details, or contact Krista Zidowecki, 582-5308, [kaz@hzmre.com](mailto:kaz@hzmre.com)

We look forward to receiving items in the History Tray in the Committee Room. Please date and give the source of items.

## Buildings and Grounds ...

Most Tuesdays Tom and/or Marilyn work on general maintenance and grounds. If you are available to help please call 512-5382 to check that they are planning to work that day. Any help is greatly appreciated!

## From the Administrator ...

To ensure that our directory remains current, please contact the office at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 622-3232 with any changes to your contact information (Address, phone or email) Thank you!

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***Newsletter articles are due the third Monday of each month. The next newsletter deadline is August 20th. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org). Thank you!***

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**President:** Doug Rooks  
**Director of Religious Exploration:** Carol Strecker  
**Administrator:** Julie Pelletier  
**Choir Director:** **Search in Progress**  
**Small Group Ministry Coordinator:** Kathy Kellison

**Office Hours:** **Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm**  
**(Summer) Thursday, 4:30 pm- 8:30 pm**

**Friday 8:00 am.– Noon**

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**Minister's Summer Office Hours:**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>-August 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Rev. Carie will be away on vacation. All pastoral calls will be directed to Rev. Helen Zidowecki. She can be contacted at 582-5308 or [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com).

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** – August 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Rev. Carie will keep office hours Monday-Thursday 11-5pm.

