January 6th  “It is Up to Us”  Rev. Carie Johnsen

Exploring humanist virtue, ethics. This Sunday we will engage the work of Rev. William R. Murray, past president of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and author of a new book titled “Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life” and Greg M. Epstein, Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University, author of “Good without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe.”

Please note: All members and families are asked to return UUSC - Guest at Your table Boxes during both services

January 13th  Makahiki: A Season for Peace  Rev. Dr. Catherine Ishida  Rev. Carie Johnsen

During four months of winter, ancient Hawaiians would suspend warfare, offer the best of their harvest to the gods, and play games. Survival on an isolated island chain required an extended time of peace. Although Makahiki now takes a back seat to Christmas and Chinese New Year, winter is still a special time for giving thanks. This Sunday we will celebrate Makahiki, drawing on Hawaii’s past and present to find ways to be at peace with the past so we may invite peace into the present.

This service will be a time of grand experimentation as we skype with Rev. Dr. Catherine Ishida from her home on the island of Hawaii. The Reverend Doctor Cat, as she is called, is a fourth generation Unitarian, first generation UU, and first generation immigrant to Hawaii with Japanese and mixed European ancestry.

January 20th  Love is the Doctrine  Rev. Carie Johnsen

Harnessing the transformative power of love, creating stories of optimism; the anticipation of a brighter day, the story of new life, of someone who rises to lead us forward to a place of peace and goodwill. We will join Unitarian Universalists across the globe in bringing to life the Standing on the Side of Love campaign in congregations and homes worldwide via the Thirty Days of Love. Visit www.standingonthesideoflove.org/tag/30-days-of-love/ to begin the journey.

January 25th  Leadership  Annie Nessen Voorhees
A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

At the June 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, the gathered community voted to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and call for the full implementation of United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. The precursor to this vote was directly related to the work with program partners in Arizona in preparation for a Justice General Assembly focused on Immigration. Our (UUA) program partners requested we enter into a period of study on the Doctrine of Discovery, to learn how 15th century Papel Bull was used to justify the genocide of Native non-Christian people in the quest of land, how it is being used today to justify the continued oppression of Native people and how it supports the immigration policies of present day America. Attendees at this Justice General Assembly in Arizona were encouraged to bring the work back to the communities we serve and the people of our state.

Inspired by our work in Arizona and hearing the call to engaged action back home, my ministry in the middle of our shared ministry has included a time of reflection, studying, networking and considering what this call looks like. We have already begun work in the area of immigration and will continue to do so. But what of our indigenous community here in Maine? How will we be in right relationship with the Wabanaki Nation?

In August I participated in a voluntourism pilot project with the Penobscot Nation and Four Winds Development Corporation. I spent several days on Indian Island helping to screen dirt for native artifacts, hearing the stories of the ‘people of the river’ and sharing in the cultural heritage of the Wabanaki people. This experience changed me, I left committed to being a better ally. Later, a colleague recommended I read the book, “In the Shadow of the Eagle” by Donna Loring. I walked away more informed. In November, I attended a panel discussion at University of Southern Maine and listened to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission speak about their vision of speaking truth to the stories of their children being removed from homes. Their goal - healing and reconciliation. With eyes wide open and heart full of tragedy, I was awakened by two courageous Passamaquoddy women.

Last June, I didn’t know what my next steps would be. Today, I do. Time on the reservation, reading the candid reflections of one women’s struggle to bring the voice of her people to the state house, witnessing the healing in a room of 200 as women tell their stories of forced assimilation in white foster homes where abuse was a matter of fact, changed me. This time of study, reflection and preaching called me to begin networking with the voices of the native people. This time called me to do more than preach and read. This time called me to Bring it Home by bringing the stories to my people. To the beloved community I serve. To call us to action.

To this end the following events and actions are being planned. You will find more details in the body of this newsletter. The first event will take place on MLK Day and will be hosted by the Winthrop Area Ministerial Association, Representative Craig Hickman and Senator Flood. The Wabanaki-Maine Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation will speak at MLK Breakfast. This is a time to bear witness to the story of the People of Maine. The second event is a book discussion. Representative Loring will join us to discuss her book, “In the Shadow of the Eagle.” The third, a study-action class, will be facilitated by Jenn McAdoo, a UU Religious Educator. Jenn has worked with the tribes building service opportunities for non-native people on the reservations. She will lead a process by which members of UUCC are invited to study and call for the public repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. The fourth event is for our senior high youth. In “Back to Basics” our youth will join tribal youth in a cultural camp in Houlton Maine. I am looking forward to bringing this unique opportunity of service to and participation with native traditions to the youth at UUCC.

How will we be better allies? In doing justice work, we often talk about a three legged stool - education, advocacy and action. I say there is a fourth leg, relationship. By building relationships rooted in trust and understanding, rooted in the knowledge that we all have a part to play in correcting the injustice of generations past and generations present, rooted in the knowledge that we will not save and rescue but rather we will do what we can to counter injustice and walk alongside the oppressed, asking what do you need from us?

In faith, Rev. Carie
Did you know that 15 of our Jr. Youth are on a year-long odyssey, exploring their values and beliefs in the context of understanding more about what it means to be Unitarian Universalist?

During our first session they were assigned the task of introducing a famous Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist to the group (the Unitarian and Universalist movements were two distinct traditions until they merged in 1961). I was so impressed by how thoughtful these young people were in choosing who to present and what they had learned about their person that I wanted to share some of these famous people with all of you. The best thing about this assignment was that in introducing their famous Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist we all learned something about the presenter as well.

Karen Nielsen introduced us to Henry Bergh (1811-1888); the founder of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and was later instrumental in the founding of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Barry Nitzel introduced us to Sir Issac Newton (1643 -1727); an English philosopher who invented the study of math. He is most famous for discovering the universal law of gravity.

Ben Danielson introduced us to Charles Darwin (1809-1882); a natural scientist who developed the theory of evolution. Darwin spent a lot of time observing nature. He took a voyage around the world on a ship called “the Beagle” studying plants and animals.

Nate Janell introduced us to Tim Berners-Lee (1955 - ); invented the World Wide Web by creating hyperlinks connecting data from one information source to another. (Come to find out Nate enjoys creating cross-word puzzles. He created one about Berners-Lee as part of his presentation. If you’d like to give it a try I have a few copies. And yes, I also have the key.)

Eli Spahn introduced us to Arthur B. Code (1923 - ); an astrophysicist and space astronaut. He helped put the first telescope in space. Eli was inspired by Code because of his desire to explore space.

Charlie Caldwell introduced us to Whitney Young (1921 - 1971); a social worker, college administrator and civil rights leader who became the head of the National Urban League. (Charlie created an amazing timeline that gave us a visual representation of Young’s life)

There were others, Frank Lloyd Wright (I think Alec Kane and Dan Sorensen mentioned him), Clara Barton and others. It reminded me of what a rich heritage we have and how much I have yet to learn and be inspired by both those who paved the way and those young people walking on this path today. Our youth are amazing! It is a privilege to be walking with them and learning from them on this journey.
Small Group Ministry...

I know of several reasons to consider starting your new year by joining Small Group Ministry. I hope you will take time to consider whether this ministry can fit in your journey. You will get to know others on a personal level. Sharing is encouraged to allow you to be known as you choose. Let others know your deeper yearnings and hopes as you go through life. Discussions of religious histories and faith journeys offer you an opportunity to learn about other members in a way that rarely happens in our world today.

You will get to know yourself better. As you listen to others share their perspectives, you will clarify your own vision of a life well lived. You will come to understand points of view that you have never before considered. Your inner world will be enlarged and deepened. You will have opportunities to share your gifts of service and generosity with a wider world. Your group will provide service to the congregation and the community as an expression of gratitude for the abundance in your life and you will be invited to participate.

You may even have fun!

Small Group Ministry may sound like it's all about You. However, you will discover that the gifts you receive are far greater than you hoped. You will be enriched in ways you cannot imagine.

If this appeals to you, please let me know so I can sign you up for the new group beginning in the new year, or find an opening in a group which already exists. Find me on Sunday morning, email me at kell6787@gmail.com or call my office at 622-4774. I look forward to starting you on your adventure.

Kathy Kellison
Small Group Ministry Coordinator

A Note from Pianist Karen Allen...

I have been playing the piano for UUCC or one of its predecessor congregations for over twenty-five years and I have always loved being able to participate in worship by sharing music. This year, however, I find that my responsibilities at school (as a choral accompanist) and at home are taking up more time and energy than in the past. My first response is always to try to juggle everything as best I can, but I have realized that what I really need is to simplify my schedule for a time. So I have decided to take a six-month sabbatical from my involvement in music at UUCC, beginning in January.

I plan to resume my place in the fellowship of pianists, and my seat at the piano, in the summer or fall. In the meantime, Hannah Faulkner will schedule the pianists, so questions about that can be directed to her. I will miss playing for you, but I hope to return to the piano rested and renewed after my sabbatical. I will still attend church when I can, and enjoy with you the wonderful music that UUCC's many other musicians bring to us.

Stewardship News...

Save the Date -

Saturday February 9, 2013

Dust off your tap shoes and tutus. On Saturday February 9th, we are going to kick off this year's pledge campaign with a cabaret showcasing the many talents of our church community. Look for more information in upcoming Orders of Service and newsletters. Questions? Call Noah Gottlieb at 409-1642 or email gorbogor-boze@roadrunner.com.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Noah, Annie, Mildred, and June
A Leap of Faith
Doug Rooks, President

UUCC has been invited to participate in a new program from the UUA, called Leap of Faith, designed for growing congregations. We’re one of only two congregations in Maine to be selected.

There isn’t much question that this congregation has planted seeds for growth. At a recent new member ceremony, we welcomed 15 new congregants. We hired our first full-time Religious Exploration, Carol Strecker, and a new Music Director, Joelle Morris, over the summer and both of these programs are poised for growth.

Over the past five years, we’ve expanded, renovated and improved our three buildings. The Long Range Planning Committee has completed analysis of a congregation-wide survey about UUCC’s building needs, and, with the board, invites members to participate in an after-church congregational meeting on Jan. 27. We’re also expanding our social justice ministries to include participation in the new Maine UU Social Action Network.

Leap of Faith was piloted at the national level at the behest of Peter Morales, our UUA president. He believes that Unitarian-Universalism must grow beyond its current 162,000 members or risk becoming irrelevant. Leap of Faith is oriented to growth at all levels — spiritual, community outreach, and financial — but definitely includes growing in numbers. The national pilot is now being implemented regionally, and our Northern New England District is partnering with the three other New England districts for a program that runs from August 2013 to June 2014.

Ten years ago, UUCC put forth a plan to grow to 250-300 members from the 175 who then belonged. Much happened in the intervening years, and membership has stabilized at just over 200. Do we still want to grow? Should we? Growth creates opportunities, but it can also create stress and anxiety.

These are some of the questions that Leap of Faith aims to answer. The board discussed the invitation at its December meeting, and it’s on our agenda for January as well. In the meantime, we’re consulting with congregations in New London, Conn. and Milton, Mass. that have already completed Leap of Faith, to learn from their experience and find out where the pitfalls may lie.

Leap of Faith would require a modest financial commitment and a major commitment of time and effort by church leaders. Before we respond, we’d like to hear more from the congregation. You can find out more at the N.E. Leap of Faith website (www.uunewenglandleapoffaith.org). It includes basic information, testimonials, and a link to the national program.

Leap of Faith has the potential to coordinate our growth planning, and broaden and deepen our understanding of what this could mean for our spiritual community. But before undertaking such a major commitment, we need to understand more and hear more. Please be in touch.

UUCC Web www.augustauu.org

Changes to meet the Changing Times!

We have added a new section on Weddings and Rentals. The completely new Weddings section is a celebration of the opportunity for same sex couples to marry in Maine. There is an overall description of wedding planning and an application to have a wedding. Please become familiar with what we have to offer, and share the information.

We want people to know about our facilities for such joyous occasions, as well as ongoing usage within the congregation and beyond. The primary presentation of our building lists spaces available. There will be links to descriptions and pictures of spaces as we develop these, over time. “Around the Church” gives more informal details about spaces, including furnishings and special features. “Policy” relates to overall rental policy notations.

Comments are welcome. Contact Helen Zidowecki at website@augustauu.org

Goddess Continuing….

Join us and our activities in the New Year and feel the energy that comes from Goddess Continuing -- brochures for various earth-based celebrations, original works for the services, and suggestions of materials that blend diverse experiences. Our Small Group Ministry sessions draw on the relevance of celebrations to our lives.

With all of the activities in the fall, Goddess Continuing will be resting during January. However, we will be developing our schedule in a revised brochure. The next meeting will be February 3 for Small Group Ministry Session on Imbolc: Awakening.

Contact Mary Shifman, shifman-mary@aol.com, 549-7719.
Moving is a critical topic for all ages, and especially as we move through our stages of life. The SGM Topics Committee is in the process of creating a series of probably three session plans around making changes in our living situation, such as:

To Move or Not to Move
Making the Move – or Staying Put
Afterwards

I talked informally with participants at the December Elder Lunch, and will be meeting with a group in January for input into developing the sessions. Others have offered to talk with me by phone. I would appreciate your thoughts on what needs to be included in these sessions. My thoughts include:

- Reflections on the moves that we have made – or not made -- in our lifetime.
- Why we need to consider a change
- Factors included in decisions
- Expectations from a move or from staying put

Please let me know if you would like to talk with me as these session plans are being developed. While the intent is for use by ongoing groups, a separate series specifically on this topic might also be an option.

Helen Zidowecki

Welcome to our New Members!

The following members have joined within the last few months: Gary Chapin, Emma Chapin, Vernon Chandler, Carolyn Ladd, Lucy Hunter Poland, Martha Naber, Don Naber, Kathy Ann Shaw, Marilyn Gordon, Libby Weeks, Brooke Austin, Miranda Lettre, Carol Aft, Rita Moran, Sunshine Perlis

Greeters & Hospitality: We continue to need volunteers for greeting and with coffee hour. If you are willing to be on the email & phone contact list, please let us know.

If you have questions about membership feel free to contact any of us on the membership committee: Jim Caldwell jscaldwell@roadrunner.com or 582-8658
Ellis McKeen ellismckeen@aol.com or 582-2988,
Joe Pare helenjoepare@aol.com or 623-1924,
Rita Cherubini cherub1@rocketmail.com or 781 856-2335, Carol Aft carolaft@live.com or 210-3409

Weekly Mindfulness Meditation:
6:30 – 8 every Monday evening except Dec 24 & 31. Meditation for those dates will be on Sunday Dec 23 & 30. Come join us any time. We will begin reading aloud in January with the book - Work, How to Find Joy and Meaning in Each Hour of the Day by Thich Nhat Hanh.

January Intensive:
Deepest winter is a lovely time to choose a focus of reading or other activity to help us deepen our practice and bring us closer to our deepest aspirations. Those who wish to may join us as we share our commitments and a potluck lunch to begin and end our winter “retreat”, Jan 5 and Feb 2. Contact martysoule@gmail.com or 685-9270 for more details.

Kennebec County Correctional Facility:
A group of practitioners began sharing our meditation practice with a very motivated group of prisoners at the jail here in Augusta this fall. It was a very valuable connection for the inmates and for the meditation participants. A new session will begin in mid-January.

February Trip to Blue Cliff Monastery:
Our annual weekend trip…
Religious Education Committee...

It's a time of celebration and giving and the UUCC RE program provides the young people in our community with a chance to share in the season of giving. All had an opportunity to shop for the family that the church "adopted" at Christmas.

The Junior Youth planned and organized the cookie walk and decided to send donations to people in need in Haiti. Thank you to all of you who generously shared cookies and donations which allowed us to send over $210 to those recovering from Hurricane Sandy! The Peace Jam youth cooked delicious "Peace Meals", which they served to residents of Spring Rock Park in Leeds and shared songs and conversation.

Now as the year turns to 2013 we look forward with anticipation to all that this church has to offer our young people including engaging classes, Coming of Age, Peace Jam, and OWL in the spring to name just a few. The children are learning about UU principles and contributing to this community as they put those principles into practice.

Check it out -- and let us know if you have questions or suggestions by contacting Susan Caldwell at scaldwell@roadrunner.com.

“I Am a Unitarian Universalist”
... but what does that mean?

The following two adult religious exploration options are being offered to help explore Unitarian Universalist Identity. After finding a UU church, we hear so many people say, it feels like coming home or more simply, it fits! Yet, what that means may be hard to articulate. Here is your chance to engage with other newcomers and long standing UU’s toward the goal of developing a better understanding of why this non-creedal, diverse faith tradition resonates with their personal spiritual journey.

Articulating Your Unitarian Universalist Faith
Co-facilitated by Rev. Carie Johnsen and Rita Cherubini
Monday, January 21st, February 4th, and 18th
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

This Religious exploration course is designed to help all UU's speak more effectively about our liberal religion and their particular beliefs and faith perspectives. Come create your elevator speech! Please plan to attend at least two of the three session.

Exploring the Unitarian Universalist Principles
Every first and third Monday beginning March 4, 2013 ending May 20, 2013
Facilitated by Linda Findlay
5:30 - 7:30 p.m
Fellowship Hall

This small group ministry circle is designed to help new and long standing UU's to integrate the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalism into their daily lives. Please plan to attend at least five of the seven session. Participation is limited so sign up early.

Sign up on Religious Exploration Bulletin Board or by emailing our Office Administrator, Julie Pelletier at admin@augustauu.org or calling 622-3232.
Mark Your Calendar….

Bringing it Home: Beyond Justice General Assembly, 2012

Martin Luther King Speaker Breakfast

Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Speakers: Esther Attean and Denise Altavater
Monday, January 21, 2013  Time: 9:00 a.m.
Host Committee: Winthrop Area Ministers Association, Senator Patrick Flood, Representative Hickman.

Join our panel discussion on the story of this groundbreaking, historic work from two of the founders of the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) movement and gain and understanding of its unique perspectives. The TRC is focused on creating a common understanding between Maine’s indigenous nations and the state government regarding Wabanki people’s experiences with Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and make recommendations for best practices, system of change, and facilitating healing for Wabanaki people. A continental breakfast will be served. This event is open and free to the public.

UUCC Common Read

“In the Shadow of the Eagle: A Tribal Representative In Maine,” by Donna Loring
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Two options: afternoon discussion at 2:00 p.m. or evening discussion at 6:30 p.m.
This event will be open to the public and will take place in the Sanctuary.

“This journal of hers is a frank and outspoken document and a highly valuable lesson to us non-Indians of how Indian people feel.” —Neil Rolde, from the book’s Forward.

Donna is a tribal member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. She has held the position of the Nation’s Representative to the Maine State Legislature through the last half of the 118th, full terms in 119th, 120th, 121st, the first three months of the 122nd, and 123rd.

In this book, Loring shares her personal journal entries from her first session as the Representative of the Penobscot Nation.

Maggie Ricker will be selling books during fellowship on Sundays beginning, January 6th. Books may also be purchased during UUCC office hours or by emailing Julie at admin@augustauu.org.

Calling for the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

Wednesday, March 6 and 20, 2013. Time: 5:30-7:30  Fellowship Hall
Facilitated by Jenn McAdoo, a UU Religious Educator

In this two session study, members and friends of UUCC will be invited to enter into a process of articulating why it is important for our Board of Trustees and congregation to repudiate the Doctrine. The goal will be to present a proposal to the UUCC Board to publicly repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

“Back to Basics”

June 24 to 28, 2013
A service trip in which our senior youth group will travel to Houlton, ME in June 2012 to be guests at this Native American Cultural camp and provide food service. This camp is attended by Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscott youth hosted by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. This service trip has been developed by the Four Directions Development Corporation.

History Committee…

The next History Committee has generally been meeting on the second Thursday mornings of a month, 10am-noon in the Drew House. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10. Join us! We are working on two projects: 1) cataloging and storing our collection of Wayside Pulpit sayings, and 2) reviewing our scrapbooks, newsletters and files related to the role of women in our congregations.

Contact Krista Zidowecki (582-5308)
Fundraising…
Bruce Bierce & Judy McCown, Co-Chairs

As Coordinator of the growing UUCC Hannaford Cash Card Fundraising Program, I appreciate the ongoing support and encouragement of church officers and members. These include my financial partner Mary Simpson, president Doug Rooks, Wick Johnson and his Finance Committee, fundraising chairs Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce, and my Small Group—Terry Cookson, Betty Armstrong, Jill Watson and Sunshine Perlis—who started our program in August by making a $1,000 group purchase and have regularly backed it up ever since, along with our approximately 50 church members who purchase cards and reloads. We now have cards available in the amounts of $25, $50, $100, $200, and can order specially requested amounts between $15 and $500. We are doing reloads twice a month. Since July 2012, the church has gained $900 in bonus cards from Hannaford. Of the bonus cards, $625 have been sold through December 16, and the rest will be sold by early January. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of UUCC’s activities through this program.

Best regards,

Hannah

Hannaford Gift Cards for Sale in Assorted Denominations—Church Gets 5% Bonus

Two fascinating travelogues are scheduled for the new year. On Tuesday, January 15th, Marty and David Thornton will share their photos and experiences exploring the historic churches of Sacred Georgia. The cost for the evening, which begins at 7:00 pm is $8.00. We will share dessert and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Reservations are required. There is a sign up sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board..

Nepalese Dinner and Slide Show

Come eat Dal Bhat, the traditional Nepalese meal (rice, lentil soup, curried vegetables) and enjoy an evening of adventure in Nepal with Marty Soule, Harry Grimmnitz, and David and Marty Thornton. We'll take you on an amazing bus ride or two, trekking in the Himalayas, bathing with elephants in the jungle, into schools and ancient cities. We'll share our photos and our stories with you. Come join us on Friday, 1 February at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Reservations required as space is limited. $15.00 per person.

AUCTION & ETHNIC DINNER

On April 5th we will be holding the Silent/Live Auction and Ethnic Dinner. We hope that everyone will donate something! Think in terms of experiences, services or handmade, homemade or homegrown items. It could be anything from a loaf of your fresh bread to raking leaves to a week’s stay at your camp. Donations from local stores and restaurants are also very popular and welcome. We have set a goal of 200 items to auction. Please think about what you can contribute and let us know soon. There are donation forms and a sign up sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board. This is our major Fundraiser of the year and we hope everyone will participate!!!
Newsletter articles are due the **third Monday** of each month. The next newsletter deadline is **January 21, 2013** Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Sheila Comerford at: newsletter@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen  
President: Doug Rooks  
**Director of Religious Exploration:** Rev. Carol Strecker  
**Administrator:** Julie Pelletier  
**Choir Director:** Joelle Morris  
**Small Group Ministry Coordinator:** Kathy Kellison  

**Office Hours:**  
Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm  
Thursday, 4:30 pm- 8:30 pm  
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**Monday**  
1:00-5:00 pm  
**Tuesday**  
12:00-4:00 pm  
**Wednesday**  
Writing Day  
**Thursday**  
4:00-7:00 pm or by appointment  
To schedule an appointment please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com  
**Friday**  
Friday is my Sabbath. I do not schedule meetings, attend to emails or respond to messages. If there is a pastoral emergency, leave a message on my home or cell phone and I will return your call promptly.