



# The Flaming Chalice

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

September 2011

## Worship Services

### ONE SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:00 a.m.

September 4th

*Native American Spirituality*

Phyllis Cudmore

### Return to TWO SUNDAY SERVICES at 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.

September 11<sup>th</sup>

*The Earth, The Air, The Water, The Fire*

Rev. Carie Johnsen  
Pat Gardiner, Interim Director of  
of Religious Exploration

This year's In-Gathering Sunday will be a celebration of congregational life at UUCC. In this place made sacred by your presence, we will pause to recall the renovation of three buildings as we burn the mortgage and open the doors to a newly renovated Annex. Be sure to be here for this memorable service.

**Please bring a vial of water from your summer sojourn to add to our communal bowl.** Your water is intended to signify a moment which was spiritually significant for you over the summer. Our collective water signifies the mingling of the individual amid the communal. The waters blessed by this community will be used to bless the grounds we walk on and the moments along the way.

September 18<sup>th</sup>

*The Religious Impulse*

Rev. Carie Johnsen  
Pat Gardiner, Interim Director  
of Religious Exploration

Religious Exploration is not just for kids. Exploring our religious impulse – the quest for self is the contemporary quest for God. Today we will kick-off our Religious Exploration program

September 28<sup>th</sup>

*Deepen Faith, Nurture Hope*

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In the words of former U.S. president Woodrow Wilson, "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

**A note on September services:** We are religious beings. The three services I will lead this month have a distinct and intentional flow; we begin with gathering together, then we turn inward to reflect on our own religious impulse; finally, we examine how we might deepen our faith through outreach. All of life is a journey, from one temple-- church, body, community—to another.

In faith, Rev. Carie

**Minister:** Rev. Carie Johnsen  
**President:** Sheila Comerford  
**Interim Director of Religious Exploration:** Pat Gardiner  
**Administrator:** Julie Pelletier  
**Choir Director:** Douglas Barley  
**Small Group Ministry Coordinator:** Kathy Kellison

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Saturday 8 am-12 pm  
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Next newsletter deadline is **September 19th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

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

Where oh where did the summer fly off to?

After a restful and socially engaging summer vacation, August has been a buzz of activity with the Immigration Work Group welcoming the migrant farmworkers, the DRE search committee interviewing, selecting and now planning the arrival of an Interim DRE, the website team redesigning and planning a new site for launch in September and the Building and Grounds Committee recruiting volunteers and leading the final renovations at the annex. Not to mention a variety of thought provoking and stimulating Sunday services with spirit play and nursery care for the children.

In just one week of receiving this newsletter, we will begin welcoming the new Interim Director of Religious Exploration, Pat Hunter Gardiner. She will be a wonderful anchor for us during this year of transition as the congregation has an opportunity to refine its vision and goals for a permanent DRE. You can look forward to many dialogues over the coming year as we evaluate the Religious Exploration program and imagine an engaging lifespan component.

With September just around the corner, it is time to beginning thinking about In-Gathering Sunday along with the 42 Sundays that follow. In-Gathering Sunday will be a full morning. UUCC members and friends once again partake in the gathering of Water—the gift of life, and we will tour the elements—earth, air, water, fire—as we bless all that is UUCC.

The Building and Grounds committee tells us the newly renovated annex will be ready to welcome the children and adults of UUCC on In-gathering Sunday. An open house is scheduled for Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> between the 9:15 and 11:00 services. In celebration of the third and final renovation, a special fellowship will be served at 10:15 between the two buildings.

What an amazing accomplishment; three buildings renovated in a span of just over 3 years. Equally astounding is accomplishing these financially daunting tasks without incurring new debt. But wait, there is more...

The Board of Trustees via Melanie Lanctot, UUCC Treasurer, (actually via your pledges) has paid off the church mortgage. Unitarian Universalist Community Church began the fiscal year 2012/13 debt free. A mortgage burning ritual will be a joyful and inspiring way to celebrate UUCC's commitment to creating and maintaining beautiful spaces for the community to gather and grow.

It has certainly been a busy few years and a summer of behind the scenes activity. I look forward to greeting you all once again at In-Gathering Sunday. Remember to bring water from your summer sojourn to what will surely be a morning of celebrating congregational life.

As you move about in September, be sure to say thank you to those you meet along the way for their contributions to the renovations, the summer services, the migrant farmworker welcome, the website redesign and the DRE search. It is a blessing to have so many members and friends committed to this liberal religious tradition and this community.

In faith, Rev. Carie

## From the desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen ...

**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!**

While some of us have been busy with a summer routine that pulls us away from the pews and halls of UUCC, others have enjoyed a large variety of worship services. Once again the summer was rich with powerful lay lead services. This community has indeed grown to be a year round center for vital and engaging liberal religious worship.

We are grateful for all the pianists, worship leaders and associates who ensured Sunday services were diverse, stimulating, and prayerful. We are grateful to the nursery care workers who provided a safe and loving environment for our families and our youngest guests. We so appreciate the adult volunteer and teen worker who provided spirit play for the young people ages 5 to 12.

And let us not forget Liza Gottlieb for making or coordinating the coffee for hospitality; Noah Gottlieb for recruiting weekly greeters to hand out bulletins and process the offering. And finally, new this year, a Sunday morning coordinator who moved around the grounds every Sunday to ensure all was well.

If you didn't count, let me tell you, this makes 11 people each Sunday who volunteered to keep quality Sunday programming moving smoothly from late June to early September. They are an amazing group of leaders.

Please join me in a bow, as we say, Thank you! Rev. Carie



### **Office hours effective beginning September 6, 2012**

Mondays	1:00 – 5:00
Tuesdays	11:00 – 4:00 (not available on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)
Wednesday	4:00 – 6:00

Please call ahead to confirm availability. Rev. Carie will also make appointments outside these hours upon request.

Friday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. Please note she does not return phone calls, read or send emails. She will respond to pastoral care emergencies.

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Carie on her cell phone at [508-221-5295](tel:508-221-5295). Don't forget to leave a message.

## DRE Search Committee ...

WELCOME PAT! On behalf of the Religious Exploration Committee (REC) and the Search Committee, I would like to welcome our newly hired interim Director of Religious Exploration (DRE), Pat Gardiner Hunter. Pat has spent many years working as a DRE in both the Kennebunk and the Brunswick UU churches, and we are thrilled with the depth of experience that Pat will bring to our congregation in the coming year. Pat will start working with the UUC on August 29th, will join us for the Ingathering Service on Sept 11th and will help us start our RE classes on Sept 18th. Please join the Search Committee as we welcome Pat by hosting a dessert social on Tuesday Sept 6 at 6:30. All are welcome.

I would like to thank fellow search committee members and helpers, Peter Mendall, Susan Caldwell, Jane Gilbert, Cathie Nielsen, Tonia Reiter and Carie Johnsen, Hilary Neckles, Helen Zidoweiki and David Rand. Each person helped moved the process forward in a significant way. And I am grateful. THANKYOU Marilyn Dunn and Tom Wadell for your leadership and enormous time commitment towards renovating the Annex! Thanks also to the many additional volunteers that are renovating the annex building. Each time I come in, I am astounded about how much work has been done— how clean, bright and open each room feels. It will be a joy to teach in these beautiful spaces. The RE family will help prepare the annex for classes by cleaning the kitchen cabinets. Please contact me if you are willing to help with this project.

You can also show support for the Religious Exploration program by committing volunteer time to assist with classes on Sunday mornings. Each volunteer is asked to attend one of two teacher trainings being offered on Sept 10 and Sept 13. Please contact me if you are interested in teaching or helping. Welcome back to those of you who have taught in the past and an extra hearty welcome to new volunteers. Teaching classes is a fun way to engage with the young people in our church community.

Pam Lombard, Religious Exploration Committee Chair ([pamlombard@gmail.com](mailto:pamlombard@gmail.com)/458-4409)

Dates to Remember:

Tues. Sept 6 @ 6:30: Dessert Social to Welcome Pat

Sat Sept 10th: 10-11:30 OR Tues Sept 13th: 6:30-8pm: Teacher Training

## Interim Director of Religious Exploration ...



I came to Maine from Pennsylvania on vacation in 1967. In 1969 I moved to Kennebunkport. In 1980, when my daughter was not quite five, I became a UU and was hired as DRE at First Parish UU in Kennebunk. I had no idea what I was getting into! Before beginning that job I went to my first RE Week conference at Star Island. Amazing and life-transforming! "Star" is still one of my all-time favorite places ever! In 1992 I moved to Brunswick to be DRE at the UU Church there, remaining until 2008,. From 2008 I attended the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine in Portland ([www.chimeofmaine.org](http://www.chimeofmaine.org)), graduating in June of 2010 as an interfaith chaplain. Along the way I have visited the Grand Canyon and have also traveled for four weeks by Grayhound bus around the entire eastern half of the U.S., stopping with a different UU host family or church every few days. I'm a writer and a storyteller as well as a volunteer companion two days a week at the Center for Wisdom's Women ([www.wisdomswomen.org](http://www.wisdomswomen.org)), a drop-in center for disadvantaged women in downtown Lewiston. I have participated in many district Women's Retreats over the years as a song leader and workshop leader and was on staff at Star RE Week for a number of years. I currently live in Lewiston with my two cats and lots and lots of books! My daughter, now grown, is currently staying with me. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone here and to an exciting and inspiring year with you as your interim DRE. My license plate is an African word that means "a woman who works hard in the sunshine". Do you have a favorite children's or young adult book or favorite poem or song? I'd love to hear about it!

## From The Board ...

Greetings!

I can't quite believe the summer is nearly over-hope you got out and enjoyed our perfect Maine weather. It's a short season here in our lovely state, but oh so worth the wait!

This summer saw several wonderful well-attended services at UUCC. Once again we also offered "Spirit Play" for the congregation's children and summer visitors. These lay-lead services display the multi-faceted talent of our religious community.

We are delighted to welcome our newest staff member in to the UUCC fold-Pat Hunter Gardiner will be our Interim Director of Religious Education for the coming year. Pat has served as the DRE at the Brunswick UU Church among other things and will bring a strong background in religious education. If you see her, be sure to introduce yourself. Many thanks to the Search Committee for their long hours of work over the summer-Pam Lombard, Chair of the Committee, Sue Caldwell, Pete Mendall, Rev. Carie Johnsen, Cathie Nielsen, Tonia Reiter. Thanks also go out to those who helped the Committee with their work-Hilary Neckles, Jane Gilbert, Helen Zidowecki and David Rand.

This year we hope to find even more ways to make a difference in our larger community. We've just begun working with the immigrant workers in the central Maine area and have plans to reinvolve ourselves with the drive to allow same-sex marriage. And, of course we continue to work with St. Mark's food bank and organizing the public dinners.

The Board would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to, to attend our monthly Board meetings. They are held the second Monday of every month from 6:15-8:15PM in Fellowship Hall.

We hope the coming year will be one of spiritual growth and wonderful community for those who attend UUCC of Augusta. See you on September 11 for Ingathering Sunday!

Sheila Comerford, President

## UU News ...

### **Congregation-Based Community Organizing Saturday, September 24, 2011, 11am-3pm, UU Church of Nashua NH**

Registration is now open for a workshop and gathering on congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) and how this model empowers us to put our UU faith into action for social justice. This four hour workshop **includes lunch** and will provide training from InterValley Project organizers on:

- ◆ How to engage in one to one interviews-the core element of organizing-and how to develop a process for conducting '1 to1s' in your congregation and community.
- ◆ The role of story telling in organizing, in our culture and faith tradition, and as a tool for leadership development.
- ◆ Why, what, and how to organize? We will learn about the cycle of organizing from conducting 1 to 1 listening campaigns, to choosing issues, to researching the issues and developing an action plan. Resources and networking opportunities will be provided.

Congregations are encouraged (but not required) to send teams. **Please let Rev. Carie know if you would like to attend. We will register as a team.**

## Elder Lunch ....

In October the autumn air has that wonderful crispness to it and you slip into your favorite comfy sweater. Participating in Elder Luncheons is much like putting on your favorite sweater, it is something you look forward to because it is comfortable and you feel good when you put it on (and you look good too). Those of us who have been involved in Elder Luncheons feel much the same way. We have been looking forward to sliding into this sharing event with the same anticipation as putting on our most comfortable and favorite sweater. We welcome new participants for dining, cooking, serving, setting-up and cleaning-up. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Marty Thornton ([marty.thornton@gmail.com](mailto:marty.thornton@gmail.com) or 512-2587)

Won't you join us on Sunday, October 9 for our first Elder Lunch? We don't check your birth certificate, "elder" is self-defined.

Future dates for Elder Lunches are:  
November 13, December 11, January 8,  
February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13.

## Church Display Case ...

The Display Case in the hallway next to the Sanctuary offers opportunity for Committees and groups within the church to share their programs and activities with the Congregation and Larger Community. An increasing number of people are in the church building throughout the week. Let them know about your passion for Unitarian Universalism at UCC!

Last year, the Thursday morning Small Group Ministry coordinated the displays in the glass case by the sanctuary. We were delighted by the response, and offer to continue this service to the congregation. Sign up for exhibits of 2 weeks to a month. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)) to schedule your display.

Displays:  
Current display ~ Summer Worship Committee  
Sept. 11 ~ New Website, Website Committee

## Peaceful Heart Sangha ...

**Mindfulness meditation** at UCC every Monday  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Our Children's/Family meditation** for September will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> (due to Labor Day) from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.. Childcare may be available during the regular meditation that night – details on providers are being finalized. Contact Christine Little with questions on childcare. 445-7042

**Peaceful Heart Sangha Summer Picnic and Walking Meditation** ~ (This event is open to Sangha members, family and friends )

Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 p.m.  
Vaughn Woods, Hallowell, ME  
Parking available on Middle Street, Hallowell

Bring your own picnic and let's meet in the field at the entrance to the Woods! We will have a silent meal together, then walk the loop trail, ending back where we started. We will gather for sharing and conversation at the end of our walk.

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For questions or more information contact:  
[peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com)

For more information about our practice see  
<http://www.plumvillage.org/> or  
<http://peacefulheartsangha.blogspot.com/>



## Small Group Ministry ...

**Steering Committee** ~ Save this date: Saturday, September 17. From 8 to 2:30, your SGM Steering Committee will be hosting a landmark event celebrating and reflecting upon 12 years of UUCC small group ministry. Current and past members of small groups are invited to attend this workshop, as is anyone else interested in exploring this fascinating church activity.

Entitled "Revisioning Our Small Group Ministry", coordinator Peg Herbert and husband Tom from the NNED will lead this unique workshop, which will kick off a series of events to reposition and reinvigorate SGM for the future. Among the purposes for this gathering will be to revisit our original model to see where we are currently, and then to use those new insights to chart an ongoing course.

This will be an exhilarating event that will remind everyone in attendance that SGM is very much alive, vigorous, and essential to the spiritual life of our UUCC community.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided for the attendees, and all workshop costs will be covered by the church. In order to better prepare for the workshop, the Steering Committee is urgently requesting that all participants RSVP to Julie at 622-3232 or [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) by September 12th.

## Buildings and Grounds ...

Upcoming Project ~ Saturday, Sept. 24 (rain date Sat Oct 1)

Here is a great opportunity to help out with a Buildings and Grounds project. The garage roof needs to be shingled and we have work for all levels of experience from roofing, handing up shingles, filling the trailer with debris and clean up. Did I hear someone offer to do lunch? Roofers will be needed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All other work can be done in 4 hour shifts. Morning shift will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and afternoon shift will be from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., including lunch. Please contact Tom at [us1863@roadrunner.com](mailto:us1863@roadrunner.com) or call at 521-5382.

## History Committee ...

The **History Committee** is meeting on Thursday, September 15, 10am-noon, in the Olsen Room of the Annex. One of the major considerations this year is adding information about the Unitarian and Universalist congregations onto the website. For example, there are timelines for the three congregations (Universalist, Unitarian, and UUCC), background of our buildings, present and past, as well as notations about the instruments that we have had. There will be history of our part in social action and Small Group Ministry. We have a listing of Unitarian and Universalist ministers since the early 1800's.

To that end, we are making history now. Please continue to clip newspaper articles of events and church members for our current documentation. These can be put in the History Committee shelf in the Committee Room (next to coatroom).

## Website Committee ...

**New Website is to be launched at Ingathering Sunday, September 11th** ~ The Website Committee has been in contact with Committee Chairs and Program leaders. Drafting and editing of text is happening NOW. If you have not heard from us regarding a congregational activity that you feel needs to be included on the website, do so immediately!

We have heard from some of you regarding what you would like to have on the website, and how you would use a site. You can still send us your thoughts.

Contact Website Committee at:  
[website@augustauu.org](mailto:website@augustauu.org) or Committee Members: Liz Libby, Lauren Miers,  
Helen Zidowecki (582-5308)



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

# From the Administrator

**Administration Hours** ~ The administration office will no longer be on summer schedule. Regular Business hours are as follows:

**Monday-Tuesday 8:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday 8:00-12:00 p.m.**

Please continue to have all Order of Service information and announcements emailed to the office by 8:00 a.m. on Friday morning. Thank you!

**Reserving a meeting room** ~ When in need of a meeting space please be sure to contact the administration office in advance to ensure that space is available. We have many outside groups as well as church groups that meet on a weekly basis. You may request meeting space by contacting the office administrator during regular business hours at 622-3232 or [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

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