

MUUFLETTER for September 2016

Newsletter from Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Always at 10:30 a.m.

*Porter Meeting Hall, Skidompha Library
Entrance on Elm St., Damariscotta*

September 4: "Moving from Faith to Self-Realization." In his second visit to our Fellowship as a guest speaker, **Alex Jackimovicz** said "This sermon will be a personal story of being raised in a western religious tradition and faith, yet having been graced with a strong desire to live out and experience directly many religious truths".

Alex is an activist, spiritualist, and small businessman living in Boothbay Harbor. Although he is a licensed master electrician, operating as an independent electrical contractor and marine electrician, Alex has been active for the last five years as a volunteer organizer with a variety of social and economic justice campaigns in Maine and nationally.

Our service will be followed by the **Annual MUUF Labor Day Weekend Picnic** at Judy and Bob Linker's home in Nobleboro. The Picnic is a tradition that has been occurring almost every year since the Fellowship's founding over 30 years ago. Please see page 2 for details and directions.

September 11: "Thin Places and Liminal* People" by **Rev. Glen Rainsley** (*from the Latin "limen," meaning "threshold"). Glen is a retired UCC minister currently living in Union (at least during the warmer months). He has given several thought-provoking sermons/reflections to the Fellowship in the past few years.

September 18: The Day Has Come by **Penthea Burns**, co-director of Maine-Wabanaki Reach. A decolonized mind or community is able to acknowledge the full truth of the past, embraces the full truth of the present and commits to creating a just future, undaunted by obstacles. The process of decolonizing ourselves and our communities means turning guilt into grief and anger, turning privilege into accountability, turning apologies into action and turning complacency into resistance of further oppressive harm. And we do all of these things from a heart of love and

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

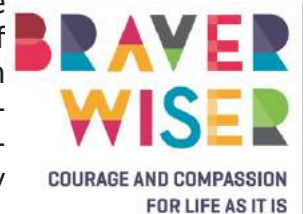


During the month of September I'll be away and out of touch, marshaling my energy to put back together the pieces of my heart & spirit that got damaged during my 10 months of cancer treatment. As I enter that fallow period, I also get to watch a project come to life in a different area of my ministry.

As some of you know, I serve 1/3rd time as the Unitarian Universalist Association's WorshipWeb Curator. In that role, I oversee a large online collection of worship resources, used thousands of times each day by UUs and other people of faith.

About a year ago, I proposed a new project: I wanted to offer our people a weekly dose of inspiration and comfort — a little spiritual "juice" to get them through the week. I approached seven UU leaders whose voices I value, and asked them to write reflections and prayers that would rotate from week to week. (On sheer prerogative, I made myself the eighth writer on the team.) I led focus groups all spring, and by June we'd settled on a name for this project: Braver/Wiser.

My colleagues and I have inched towards the goal of launching Braver/Wiser in September — and it's happening! Our behind-the-scenes labor is complete, and I'm very proud of what we've created.



Already, we have over 800 subscribers ready to receive Braver/Wiser, which will begin to arrive in inboxes every Wednesday morning, beginning on September 14th.

If you — or someone you know — would welcome a weekly message of courage and compassion, I hope you'll sign up at www.uua.org/braverwiser. I hope that you enjoy "meeting" the voices there, one each week, and that it feeds your spirit.

(See you on October 2!)

Warmly,

Rev. Erika

Rev. Erika Hewitt is taking the month of September as personal leave, and will be away from email and phone contact during that time. If you have an emergency, Board President Carol Robins can respond to you and will decide whether to contact Rev. Erika. Carol can be reached at 845/214.5284 or 207/512.2287.

SUNDAY SERVICES, continued

compassion. While decolonization may sound like a secular and perhaps a political venture, we assert that it challenges our core understanding and beliefs and calls on our faith and goodness. (*see opposite column*)

September 25: Jeanne Dooley will speak about her experience leading **OUT!**, a midcoast organization now in its 20th year and its mission to empower rural LGBTQ youth. OUT! has trained 500 providers in our area and partnered with midcoast schools to establish Gay-Straight-Trans Alliances in all mainland high schools in Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo counties, as well as in the island of North Haven Community School and the Wiscasset Middle School. OUT! is widely recognized, in the midcoast and across as the State, as the go-to place for support in working with LGBTQ youth.

October 2:— “Lessons Learned from the Donald Trump Rally” by Rev. Erika Hewitt

Our minister believes that when we demand civility and respect from our political candidates, we must also extend it to them, regardless of how abhorrent we find their language and behavior. To that end, Erika put on her “anthropologist” hat — and her clerical collar — to attend Donald Trump’s rally in August. She reports today on what what she learned.

Hospitality Schedule

Greeters

Sept. 11 - David & Sylvia Bailey

Sept. 18 - Jean Howe

Sept. 25 - Bud & Janet Elwin

Oct. 2 - John Adams

Refreshments

Sept. 4 - Nancy Holmes (Red Pod)

Sept. 11 - Tiffany Vencile/Rosie Davis (Blue Pod)

Sept. 18 - Dick & Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)

Sept. 25 - Sandra Barth (Indigo Pod)

Aug. 28 - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)

Labor Day Picnic on Sunday Sept. 4

The Linkers will provide cold cuts, cheeses and bread as well as drinks, plates and cutlery. It is suggested, as in past years, you bring a dish to share. It would be helpful if you could e-mail or call by Saturday to let them know if you will be participating. There is adequate parking but you may want to carpool after services so as not to have so far to walk. Directions to the Bob & Judy Linker’s House at

94 Westview Lane, Nobleboro

Phone 563-5364 or email Jlinker@tidewater.net

From Damariscotta: Take Business Route #1 out of

Penthea Burns, Sept. 18 pulpit guest

Penthea Burns, grew up downstream from the Penobscot community of Indian Island. Since 1999, she has worked at the Muskie School of Public Service. She co-directs Maine-Wabanaki REACH, which envisions a future where Maine and Wabanaki people join together to acknowledge truth and work collectively toward healing and positive change.

REACH aspires to restore truthfulness, compassion, love, acceptance, reciprocity, abundance, joy, equality, graciousness, and generosity.

Penthea is mother to a grown son who lives a bit too far from home. She is a poet and lives with Chinook dogs on a farm in Lewiston.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers Needed! New Hope for Women, offering support to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo Counties, will be holding a 40-hour training session for volunteers interested in helping on their 24-hour crisis hotline. Classes will start in mid-September.

Be the compassionate and non-judgmental voice on the other end of the phone, right from your home, with staff support always provided. Donate your time and talents to help members of your community change their lives, one phone call at a time. For more information please contact Stevie Colburn, Training Coordinator, at scolburn@newhopeforwomen.org, 207-594-2128, or go to www.newhopeforwomen.org

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

*Our next opportunity to serve is Wednesday, Nov. 30
Cooks and helpers always welcome.*

Picnic, continued

town to US 1, then take the left turn ¼ mile past N.C. Hunt onto Center Street – Reunion Station Restaurant will be on your right after you turn off US 1 (*Note: follow signs for Camp Kieve from here on*). Go 0.6 miles and turn left onto Morgan Hill Road; proceed for 0.6 miles and turn left onto Lower Cross Road. Go 1.3 miles to the dead end and turn right on West Neck Road. Continue on West Neck Road for 1.4 miles and turn left on Westview Lane (*just past Cedar Lane*). We are at the end of this ½ mile road. *Note: the entrance to Westview Lane looks like a construction parking lot, just continue through!*. Bob will greet you and assist with parking.

President's Message



Hello, friends. I'm sitting on the edge of beautiful Lake Champlain in Vermont, looking across a wide expanse of water to the High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. What a glorious day and a reminder of the gorgeous part of the world that we live in.

As we enter the month of September, there are many changes to consider. Children and teachers return to school, nights become cooler, days become shorter, leaves start to change from green to orange, red and yellow... and the MUUF gets busier.

How, you may ask? Well, as we continue with fundraising and community events, the Board will be preparing a budget for 2017 and the Annual Meeting which we will be scheduling in November. The Nominating Committee will be busy identifying and reaching out to members of our incredibly talented fellowship who are eager and/or hesitant to join the Board (you know you want to!).

There is such a positive energy and vibe happening right now in our Fellowship that I hope you will all jump in and do all that you can to see this wonderful Fellowship grow in ways that haven't evened yet been imagined!

That said, The Board will be hosting an after-service discussion on Sunday, September 18 on Shared Ministry. This is an opportunity for you to review and discuss Rev. Erika's ministry -- what is working, what you want more of, what you'd like less of, etc. -- and ask questions of/offer suggestions to the Board. I encourage everyone to attend this meeting and provide your valuable feedback, so that the Board and Rev. Erika can move forward meeting the needs of the Fellowship as we enter into a new contractual year (September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2017).

In faith, Carol

Dine Around Dinner

Carol and Chris Robins invite you to their home in Whitefield on **Friday, Sept. 16** at 5 PM. They will be serving a traditional Japanese home-cooked meal of miso soup; rice; edamame; seaweed salad and 2 types of gyoza (aka pot stickers), one with ground turkey, one with lobster.

They invite six guests to join them at \$10 per person, minimum; if you'd like to relax in their home-made sauna prior to dinner, they ask for an additional \$5 donation. All proceeds benefit the fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Sunday services, until all seats are filled.

MUUSAN Network Meeting September 10th

MUUSAN is our legislative ministry that puts our faith into action. Please join UUs across the state on Saturday, September 10th to learn how to mobilize local efforts to pass the MUUSAN endorsed ballot initiatives for the November election. We will meet at the UU Community Church of Augusta, 69 Winthrop Street in Augusta from 10 am until noon. Contact Julia Fitz-Randolph at jfitzra@aol.com for more information or to carpool.

Weekly Anti-Racism Vigils

UUs and folks in the community are showing up and speaking out against racism every Monday, 4:30-5:30 pm at Memorial Park adjacent to the Damariscotta/Newcastle bridge. Bring your own sign or just join us in solidarity. For more information about the vigil, contact Mark Hamilton at salmark@verizon.net.

Help CHIP with Work!

MUUF members Adam and Hannah's message: Please join us on Saturday, September 10 for CHIP's Community Cares Day! This annual event is about "neighbors helping neighbors." Whether its working together to build a wheel chair ramp, paint a house, put skirting around a mobile home, reshingle a roof or making sandwiches for volunteers, we would love to have your participation for this special event.

Please go to the CHIP website, www.chipinc.org to sign up or call Hannah Harter-Ives at 380-5242 for more information. No matter your skill level, we look forward to having you!

Share the Plate

Please note that the the September Share the Plate will be held on the second Sunday this month - September 11th.

The Mission of **F.A.R.M.S.** is to provide education about good nutrition and the role of local farms in promoting healthy, sustainable communities. To promote and facilitate farm to institution purchasing and provide guidance and support to families that will increase the household consumption of locally-grown produce. To offer hands-on experiences for people of all ages to develop expertise in cooking and gardening and a passion for healthier living, as well as a place where local farmers, chefs, medical practitioners and other community members can share their own knowledge and expertise. For more info: www.mefarms.org

Transgender 101 Workshop Follow-up



by Kate Pennington

Back in April, MUUF brought the Reverend Paul Langston-Daley to Damariscotta to lead "Transgender 101," a daylong workshop exploring issues of gender identity. Thirty-six people attended, including Rev. Erika, two other local ministers, 18 members of MUUF, members of several Lincoln and Knox County churches, and the director of a community-based organization from Rockland.

The workshop was organized and sponsored by MUUF's Welcoming Congregation Committee, with strong financial support from the MUUF Board of Trustees. Those of us who were able to attend felt the workshop was a tremendous success and that it was well worth the investment of time and money. As a result of the day, I gained a much greater understanding of gender identity and cisgender privilege, and my eyes were opened wider to some of the challenges faced by gender non-conforming people. The role-playing exercise we did in small groups made me think about the impact of the words we use when greeting newcomers to our fellowship and helped me see ways we can truly be more welcoming to all.

The Welcoming Congregation Committee sent an online survey to workshop attendees a few weeks after the workshop. Almost half of those who were sent the survey responded. Of those who responded, 76% said their understanding of transgender issues improved "a great deal" because of the workshop. Almost all (92%) said the information presented at the workshop was "extremely useful." Two-thirds replied that they felt "extremely comfortable" asking questions at the workshop.

The online survey also invited respondents to make comments, and here are a few:

- "Paul's sharing of his own story and ability to help us feel it was OK to ask questions was such a gift."
- "Excellent workshop - huge thanks to the Midcoast UU Fellowship for bringing the workshop to our community."
- "I will become more involved in transgender rights and be able to speak to others with a better understanding of the vocabulary needed to respectfully describe transitioning individuals."

One final comment beautifully sums up the day: "This workshop opened my eyes to being more sensitive to other people's feelings. Everyone wants to be loved. Very powerful. Thank you."

Caring for Kids Benefit Concert Sept. 7

Jud Caswell, a multi-talented musician and singer-songwriter who has played at MUUF services, will be among the artists raising money for "Caring for Kids," a New Harbor all-volunteer organization. In addition to playing for us, Jud led a service. A member of the Brunswick UU Church, he wrote and performs a song about the night his church burned down

Heather Hardy, who has also played at our services, will also be playing and singing with a third performer, Tirk Wilder from Texas, writer of the theme song for "Walker Texas Ranger."

The concert is at the Education Center, Lighthouse Park at Pemaquid Point, beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 7. Suggested donation is \$10 and seats can be reserved by calling Pat Porter at 677-2924.

The Charity Plate Collection in August raised \$221 for Healthy Kids



The first collection of the hundreds of swans folded by MUUF volunteers were hung by Rev. Erika and engineer Kaity Bogdan on August 28. More to come!

Please make an effort to say hello and make welcome folks you don't know during our social time following Sunday worship services.