



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

April 18, 2021



(Photo by Dick Ober)

Melanie Davis

A UU Take on Faith & Miracles Language can trigger emotional responses related to a listener's spiritual journey. Faith and miracles are two hot-button words relevant to the lives and beliefs of religious liberals. Anecdotes and scientific facts build appreciation of these constructs from a non-theist perspective.

A lifelong UU, Melanie brings to your pulpit a deep understanding of and commitment to our religious movement, plus 15 years of lay speaker experience. She is the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Our Whole Lives Program Manager, and author of Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for Older Adults and the UU Views on Sex pamphlet. She is in the UU Trauma Response Ministry.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96686220659>

Meeting ID: 966 8622 0659

Telephone: Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Upcoming Worship

April 25: "Choose Your Own Journey" *(details forthcoming)*



Note From the President

Dear fellow members and friends of the Fellowship,

This is just a quick note to say that I am honored to be able to serve you, and would like to ask you a favor.

The other members of the Board and I are getting our feet on the ground and considering how best to proceed with opportunities and challenges ahead of us. If you have ideas regarding what would make the biggest positive difference to your experience with the Fellowship in the coming year, or if you have particular concerns, I would be happy to listen. Please don't hesitate to share them with me via email (ziarnik58@gmail.com). If you would rather discuss them, please let me know via email and I would be happy to schedule a phone call or Zoom with you.

In the meantime, enjoy this Maine spring. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mark (Zig) Ziarnik

Stewardship

[Pledge 2021 Link](#)

[Anytime Donation Link](#)

Pastoral Care

A reminder that during this time without a minister, members of the fellowship in need of pastoral care can contact the co-chairs of the Care Committee, Sandy Barth (207-563-5565) or Joan Whitmire (207-350-6954). Either of them can establish contact with Rev. Charles Stephens.

Social Justice

STAND UP FOR WABANAKI TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Our Fellowship, Mary Finn and [Maine UU State Advocacy Network](#) (MUUSAN) need your help to put our faith into action. We're contacting our state legislators to support 2021 legislation that negotiates amendments to the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. This Act has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other 570 federally-recognized tribes in the U.S.; it stifled the Tribes right to self-determination and caused both cultural and economic hardship. These bills will amend the 1980 Act to bring it more into compliance with current Federal Indian law.

The first bill in this series is [LD 554, "An Act to Create Gaming Equity and Fairness for the Native American Tribes in Maine"](#). It would provide the Maine Wabanaki Tribes with the same rights as all other of the over 500 federally recognized tribes in the U.S.

The second is the [Wabanaki Sovereignty Omnibus Bill](#) that will greatly improve the self-governance and quality of life of Tribal People in Maine.

Why are Unitarian Universalists across the state mobilizing to pass a gaming bill and the Wabanaki Sovereignty Omnibus Bill? We believe our goal of world community will be achieved only by acknowledging the truth of the shameful history between the state of Maine and the Tribes. Based on our principles and beliefs, we affirm Wabanaki sovereignty and that the Wabanaki peoples have a right to self-determination. Passage of LD 554 and the Wabanaki Omnibus Bill are steps in that direction.

What you can do:

1. Contact your state legislators by phone or email (see template below)
2. Save the date for a Statewide Rally in Augusta on April 28
3. Contact Mary Finn if you have questions at 781-866-3317

Dear Senator/Representative _____

My name is _____, I live in _____ and I am a member of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Damariscotta. I am calling/emailing you today to ask you to support passage of Representative Rachel Talbot Ross' bill, "An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act". This bill amends the 1980 "Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act" to allow the tribes in the land we call Maine (Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Aroostook Band of Micmacs) rights similar to all other 570 federally recognized tribes in the U.S.

In the last half century, tribal nations across the country have made significant gains in reclaiming their sovereignty and exercising their right to self-government on their own lands. Since the 1960s, the federal government has increasingly recognized and promoted tribal sovereignty and engaged in a government-to-government relationship with tribes. However, the Maine settlement act explicitly exempted Maine tribes from any laws passed by Congress for the benefit of Indian tribes after 1980. This means that while the more than 500 other federally recognized tribes can take advantage of the policies and services conferred through more than 100 federal laws passed since 1980, Maine tribes have been left out or forced to access them through the state. The 1980 Settlement Implementing Act put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally-recognized tribes in the U.S. and has stifled the Tribes' right to self determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship.

I am writing/calling you today as a Unitarian Universalist motivated by the dedication of my faith tradition to justice, equity, and compassion in all human relations and to the inherent worth and dignity of all people. The Wabanaki tribes deserve the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities ascribed to all other federally recognized Indian tribes. I believe passage of Representative Talbot Ross' bill is a moral imperative to begin to restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty and right to self determination, as well as for the State of Maine to provide equity amongst the tribes. I urge you to vote to pass the bill into law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anti-racism Vigil: Every Monday noon to 12:30 pm at the Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park until further notice. Check [PUAR's Facebook page](#) for updates.

Sharing the Beauty of Nature

Spring is finally here! If photography is one of your passions, send your Beauty of Nature shot to news@uumidcoast.org and it will be featured in one of our mini-newsletters.



THE END