



## Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

### Worship Invitation January 22, 2023



**Jan. 22:** *Finding Balance in Changing Times* - Rev. Donna Dolham

We are called in many directions; how do we embody our faith and live out our values while also nurturing our spirits? Please join us this Sunday as we explore how the roots of Transcendentalism invite us to find our balance in changing times.

*\*\* Today's after service meeting has been postponed \*\**

### **LIVE AT SKIDOMPHA LIBRARY AT 10:30 am**

**While we continue to recommend vaccination and the wearing of masks during Sunday services, we are no longer requiring them.**

We will continue to operate our high capacity Blueair air purifiers in Porter Hall during services. You may also join us via Zoom.

10:30 am using the zoom link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93286813206>

Meeting ID: 932 8681 3206

One tap mobile

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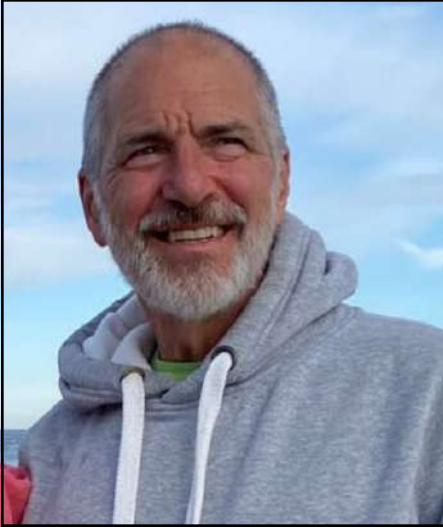
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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 932 8681 3206

# Tragedy in York: Dan Bancroft, lawyer turned writer, remembered as 'huge positive spirit'

Max Sullivan  
Portsmouth Herald



*Dan Bancroft*

YORK, Maine — Dan Bancroft had only lived in York for nearly six years, but he seemingly touched every part of the community.

Bancroft, a retired lawyer turned playwright, journalist and substitute teacher, died Friday at the age of 72 while on a swim in the ocean at Harbor Beach in York, according to his family and police. He had moved with his family from Newton, Massachusetts, to a community he loved, writing news stories for the York Weekly while becoming president of the York Public Library's Board of Trustees.

Bancroft's wife, Anne, said it was his curiosity that drove him to meet people from every corner of the community, a place they had visited with their children since the 1980's.

Her husband, she said, would often swim in the cold water near his home even in the winter. The couple had plans to go out for dinner that night, but he never came home. "They don't know exactly what happened. He got in trouble somehow," said Anne, holding back tears Tuesday in their home on Sentry Hill Road. "Purely an accident. Just a tragedy."

A celebration of life service is planned at the York Public Library Jan. 28 at 3 p.m. that will be open to the public. Those who knew him in town said he was a joyful person who loved people and was passionate about community. Rozanna Patane, a member of the York Energy Steering Committee, had been working on a project at the library with Bancroft when she learned of his death.

"Dan was an extraordinary man, in that to meet him is to be his friend," Patane said. "He felt so lucky to be in this community, and he thought he was living in paradise in York."

## **A retired lawyer finds a new life in York**

Bancroft, a native New Yorker, came to York with his wife after a 45-year career as a trial lawyer. He and Anne raised their children in Newton while occasionally visiting York Harbor as a family.

Bancroft was already an established playwright when he began his move to Maine. He had plays published in Boston, New York and Provincetown. One of his short plays, "Choices," told the story of his Jewish mother's escape from Nazi Germany and was performed in Nuremberg in 2010 as part of a Holocaust memorial series.

Bancroft took up newspaper writing shortly after his family purchased their York Harbor home. He met longtime York Weekly reporter and editor Deborah McDermott, who hired him despite the fact he did not have journalism experience.

"I took a chance on him," McDermott said. "I was so glad I did."

Bancroft wrote stories for the Weekly from 2019 to 2021. McDermott said he had a natural curiosity and a manner about him that put all sorts of people at ease. She said he had natural writing ability and found his work to be an engaging read.

McDermott said Bancroft still had so many years to give of his time and talent to the coastal Maine town.

"He was a wonderful, generous man with a huge capacity for seeing the humanity in everyone," McDermott said. "His death is York's loss."

Bancroft found other ways to help, as well. In addition to his work with the library, he was a substitute teacher for the York Middle School for about a year. YMS Principal Barbara Maling described him as a "bright light" who was willing to help with any subject.

"A huge positive spirit. A really wonderful person," Maling said.

## **A tragic accident at York Harbor Beach**

Bancroft, an avid athlete, was never a swimmer but recently took up cold water swimming, something his wife said captured his imagination. He was strong enough to play sports like tennis at a highly competitive level, and soon he began gearing up with gloves, booties and goggles for cold water swims at Harbor Beach.

“He would just go like, 30 strokes this way, 30 strokes that way, stand up and get out of the water,” said Anne, looking at photos on her phone of her husband on the beach. “He didn’t stay in a long time, but he really enjoyed it.”

Friday, Bancroft went out for his regular swim. At 3:55 p.m., however, police received a report of a potential drowning offshore in high surf. York’s harbor master found Bancroft and pulled him to shore off Western Point Road. Attempts were made to resuscitate him, but he was pronounced deceased on the scene, police said.

### **‘Amazing’ outpouring of support**

Since Friday, the Bancroft home has been busy with family and community members who make sure Anne is not alone too often, which she said has helped her and her children get through this time. Dan leaves behind three adult children — Elizabeth, Ben and Lily — and four young grandchildren — Maisie, Max, Elliott and Zoë.

“People have just shown up and brought food and sent messages,” Anne said. “It’s been a really amazing outpouring of support.”

At home, Bancroft is remembered by his family as a loving husband, father and grandfather. Anne said he had a love of children that was a perfect fit for his job as a substitute teacher for middle-schoolers.

In marriage, Anne said she and her husband always made a point to prioritize their love for each other. Their daughter Lily said she always felt like she had parents whose relationship that “people, they’re jealous of.”

“Not jealous, that’s the wrong word,” Lily said. “But I always felt like I had parents who really loved each other and danced together in the kitchen.”

Anne wore a necklace Tuesday she said her husband once gave her with a card



that included a poem by E.E. Cummings that read, “I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart).”

Anne, herself a reverend of the Unitarian Universalist church, said her husband did not practice religion but was “culturally Jewish.” He never wanted to go to temple, she said, but always liked knowing one was nearby. In times of mourning, she said members of the Jewish faith traditionally leave stones at the graves of loved ones to show they were there to pay their respects.

*Rev. Anne & Dan Bancroft*

"I know that will be a thing, every time I go to Harbor Beach, just pick up a stone and throw it in the water and let him know that I was there," Anne said. "I don't imagine not carrying Dan with me all of the time."

## **Denominational Affairs**



Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA. Article 2 has gone through a process of revision over a 2 year period, and will be voted on at the UUA Board Meeting and also at General Assembly in 2023 and 2024.

The UUA's Article II Study Commission has completed its report and will present it to the UUA Board of Trustees at their meeting this weekend.

You can find the report here.

[https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc\\_rpt\\_01172023.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf)

You can cut and paste this into your browser.

You can also REGISTER to attend the January 20th and 21st Board Meeting.

Please note PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



## **“Getting Onboard”**

**Saturday, February 4, 4-6 pm**

***Join us at the Waldo  
Theatre in Waldoboro  
for this very special event!***

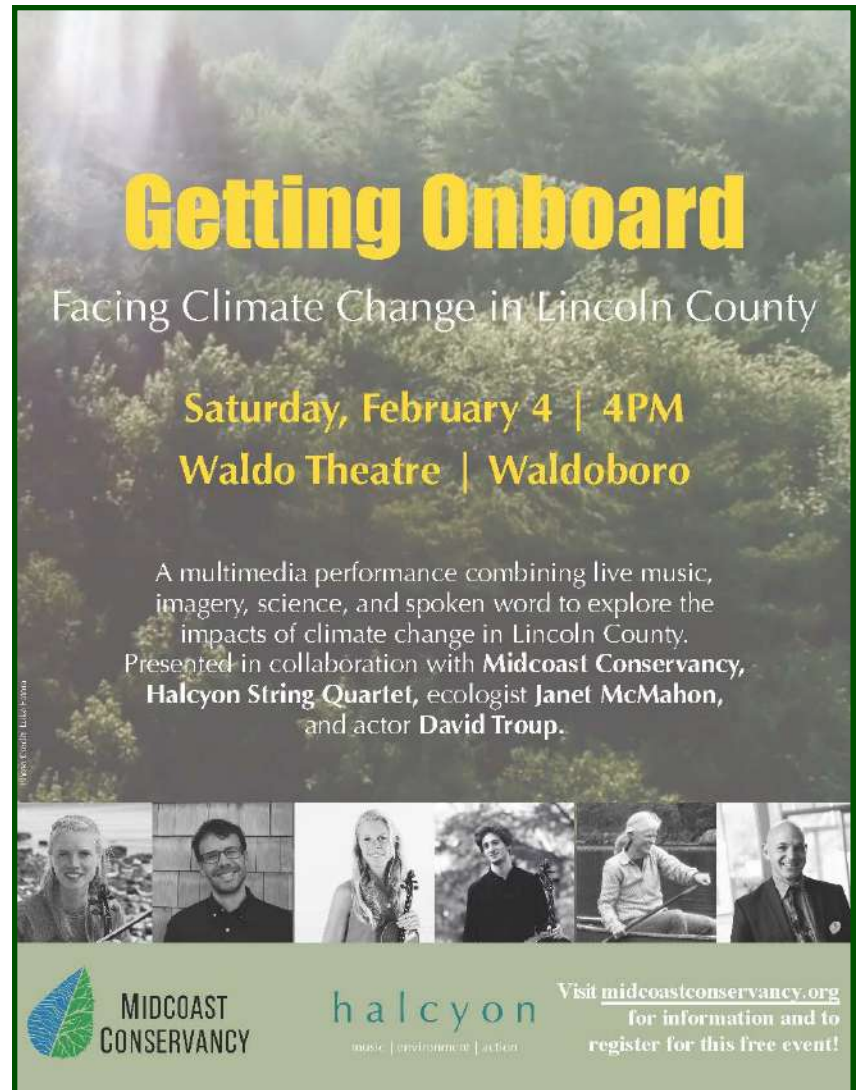
In collaboration with Midcoast Conservancy and ecologist Janet McMahon, "Getting Onboard" is a multimedia performance combining live music, imagery, science, and spoken word to explore the impacts of climate change in Lincoln county.

The hour-long show examines landscape diversity, present and future climate projections, and ideas around increasing ecological and community resilience. Halcyon's performance will feature a variety of music including excerpts from a newly commissioned work for string quartet and narrator by composer Nathan Davis and featuring narrator David Troup.

The work incorporates the perspectives and reflections from members of our community as we collectively respond to the challenges and opportunities that climate change inspires.

General Admission seating, doors open at 3:00 pm, and refreshments will be available.

The event is free but registration is required, as seating is limited.



**[Register here!](#)**

## Social Justice

### **ONE MORE WAY TO REFLECT AND LEARN FROM DR. KING THIS MONTH**

**Join us for an interactive conversation on Dr. King's speeches and writings.** Wed. 1/25 at 5:30 over Zoom, drawing from just a few speeches and writings. [Materials for our discussion and more information here.](#) Sign up, or request more info, by emailing Leigh Anne at [paperandshells@gmail.com](mailto:paperandshells@gmail.com) and putting "MLK discussions" in the subject line. Discussions are free and all materials are widely available on the internet.

The Social Justice Committee would like our Sunday services to begin with a Land Acknowledgement. The Committee shares some common understandings of why this is important. Several of us are active in MUUSAN and are continuing to work with the Wabanaki Alliance to get a Tribal Sovereignty Bill passed. Others have attended Wabanaki Reach programs, and have been learning and supporting the Maine Tribes. Just so we can get on the same page with this topic, please read this shortened version of a letter of invitation from 2 years ago asking us to find ways to be in solidarity with the Indigenous People in our area. This abridged letter has been copied from the UUA website. We will share more in the coming weeks. Any questions, please contact Mary Finn 781-866-3317

### **An Invitation to Move Toward Land Acknowledgments & Beyond**

Dear Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities,

- Do you know the history of the land your congregation calls "home?"
- Do you know what Indigenous people historically or currently inhabit that land?
- Do you know who the Indigenous people or communities are who live in your area or region and what their visions and struggles are?

Are you acting in relationship or solidarity with any of them?



Art by Molly [Costello](#)

If your answer to any of these questions is “No,” it is not because these questions are irrelevant or unimportant. It is because the continuation of our colonial and white supremacy power structures depends on your not knowing, your not caring, and your not connecting.

Many of our congregations have moved to establish relationships with Indigenous people since the Water Protector uprising and convergence at Standing Rock in 2016.

The enormous wealth of the United States is based on the theft of Indigenous land and the enslavement of people of African descent. In order to maximize wealth, the colonizers sought to eliminate or minimize the number of people who could claim their Indigenous rights to land, natural resources and sovereignty. These attempts are ongoing and have included genocide, forced removal, forced assimilation and the more contemporary systemic erasure of Native people through invisibility in education, media and pop culture.

Millions of Indigenous people and hundreds of Indigenous nations have resiliently survived 400 + years of systemic and violent attempts to eliminate them, only to be rendered invisible by white supremacy culture and institutions which pretend they no longer exist. They continue to assert their sovereignty, and their rights and relationship to their homelands, natural resources, culture and spiritual practices. They continue to lead efforts across this country to protect life itself, which depends upon the protection of the land, the water and the air. Indigenous people are still here and their lands are still occupied.

Leading up to General Assembly (GA) 2020, scheduled to meet in the 400th year since the arrival of the Mayflower and the English invasion of Wampanoag territory, UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray convened a task force that worked to center Indigenous voices, counter white supremacist erasure, and [lift up Indigenous resilience and resistance at GA](#). This task force proposed an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) to [“Address 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism”](#), which was overwhelmingly passed by congregational delegates.

The Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) calls for congregations to “Research, identify, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples historically and/or currently connected with the land occupied by congregations, and find ways to act in solidarity with or even partner with those Indigenous peoples.”



To read the entire letter please cut and paste this link in your browser <https://www.uua.org/justice/blog/beyond-land-acknowledgment>

## Resources for Land Acknowledgement Research

- [Honor Native Land: A Guide & Call to Acknowledgement](#) and 4-minute video ["#HonorNativeLand"](#) by the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture
- [Territory Acknowledgement resources from native-land.ca](#), compiled by Allison Jones
- ["Understanding the Land Acknowledgement"](#) 8-minute video by York University
- ["Are you planning to do a Land Acknowledgement?"](#) American Indians in Children's Literature blog post by Debbie Reese
- ["Beyond Territorial Acknowledgements"](#) âpihtawikosisân blog post by Chelsea Vowel

For more information contact [socialjustice@uua.org](mailto:socialjustice@uua.org)



**Anti-racism Vigil:** The weekly Monday vigil's are from **12-12:30pm** at the Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park. Check [PUAR's](#) Facebook page for updates.

\*\*\*\* Please email all newsletter articles and website information to:  
[news@uumidcoast.org](mailto:news@uumidcoast.org)

Worship Invitation Plus Weekly Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Ober