

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Worship Invitation March 10, 2024



Mar. 10: I (Don't) Get It (Yet) Rev. Anne Bancroft

I've always loved language and the nuances of our vocabularies. I've long thought that communicating as clearly and thoughtfully as we can is an important habit of the heart. Did you know that nearly 700 new words were added to the Oxford English Dictionary just last year? It's hard to keep up! As this congregation continues its journey of Welcome, we'll consider the vocabulary of our gender identities and sexual preferences. It's not that the range of LGBTQIA+ identities is new. Nor - sadly - are the challenges to equality. It's that our understanding of the landscape and how we speak about it continues to evolve. Let's gather to imagine how we are called, again and again, to pay attention.

Mar. 31: "Renewal of Life in a Dark Time" sermon by the Rev. Charles J. Stephens

Like many in our country and in our world, I am ready for a renewal of spirit. I am looking for the hope that not only spring will bring new life and growth, but that we can rediscover hope and trust in life and in one another. Join me in celebrating the spirit of Easter.

LIVE AT SKIDOMPHA LIBRARY AT 10:30 AM

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

10:30am using the zoom link below:

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

Meeting ID: 932 8681 3206

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,93286813206# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,93286813206# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 932 8681 3206

The President's Corner



David Bilski

It is again with deep sadness that I report the passing of another member of our Midcoast Fellowship family. I was informed by Johanna Bailey that her mom, Sylvia, passed away at home late in the night of Thursday, March 7th. Sylvia and her husband David Bailey were early joiners of the Midcoast UU Fellowship back in the 1980's, and were major supporters for many, many years. They were somewhat belatedly presented with the Founders Award in 2013. Sylvia and David (who passed away last spring) will be very much missed.



David & Sylvia Bailey

Much of the work of the Fellowship's Board so far is centering around various committees. Last week, we mentioned that the Welcoming Congregation Committee is being reactivated and looking for people to assist Vice President Patti Anderson with its various tasks going forward. Consider joining her! I also mentioned that the Minister Search Committee has been formed. We had an initial orientation meeting this past Wednesday evening.

Additionally, we have also convened a Fellowship Finance team to take a hard look at how our funds are organized, and whether we can make some improvements in this regard, particularly with our investments and savings account. This new team consists of Ron Hiser, our new treasurer, Michael Mason, and Dick Ober.

Finally, a "Find a Home" team is building on the work that they began last year. Michael Mason, Diane Morrison, and Zig Ziarnik are engaged in efforts at identifying and assessing a potential new "home" for the Fellowship.

I'm very grateful for all of these folks stepping forward to help strengthen our Fellowship – **thank you!**

David Bilski

YoUth Explorers

Our Wednesday night YoUth Explorers had a group challenge to cross a river without stepping into it. This activity helped prepare them for a planning session for upcoming activities.



Group challenge Crossing the poisoned river



Adult Religious Education

ESTATE PLANNING

– wills, health directives, personal representatives – OH MY!

Friday, March 29, 6-7 PM

In person at UURockland

AND virtually on Zoom



Do you ever think about how you want your own life and responsibilities to be managed if you become incapacitated or once you die? Do you have an up-to-date Estate Plan that communicates these intentions? Are you wondering if you even need one?

Through her “Estate Planning Fundamentals” talk, Jennifer Atkinson, UUR Member and local attorney, will improve your understanding of the three basic pillars of Estate Planning so that you can build or update your own plan with confidence and clarity. Come learn the ins and outs of how a complete and up-to-date Estate Plan can more easily and effectively direct:

- Who raises your children or cares for your pets,
- Your medical care,
- Who manages your finances,
- The gifts you leave to an organization,
- Payment of your debts and taxes,
- The distribution of your belongings (big and small), and
- Who inherits anything else that you own and how?

** Childcare provided

** Friends are invited

** Come between 5:30 -5:45 PM for a bowl of soup before the presentation begins.

** Copies of Advanced Care Health Directives (ACHD) and Five Wishes will be available to in-person participants – links to fillable pdf’s will be provided to those attending virtually. If interest, we will have a follow up workshop to complete our ACHDs.

** Please [REGISTER](#) for planning purpose and to receive a link to zoom.

REGISTER electronically [HERE](#) or email dre@uurockland.org.

BANNED BOOK DISCUSSIONS

If you would like to join the monthly discussion of a banned book, please register so I can send reminders and links. Here is where you register <https://forms.gle/wKeD1jMTnnDniucY8>



We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This is a virtual event and you are welcome to invite anyone interested - from anywhere!

Save the dates:

March 20 *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

April 17 *Sold* by Patricia McCormick

May 15 *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson

June 19 *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins

Contact Morgan Dunton, First Universalist Church in Rockland, if you have any questions - padunton@gmail.com **Morgan Dunton**

MUUSAN



Are you concerned about housing insecurity in Lincoln County and Beyond?

RALLY FOR HOUSING

WE HOLD THE KEYS TO HOUSING JUSTICE!

MEET US IN AUGUSTA:
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13
10:30 AM

Join us as we make a chain of keys around the capitol to bring attention to the need for funding for rent relief and shelter.

Logos at the bottom: Maine Equal Justice, Maine Center for Economic Policy, PENQUIS, Dignity First.

Share the Plate

Our March recipient for our “Share the Plate” collection is FARMS at the Y. FARMS is an acronym for **F**ocus on **A**griculture in **R**ural **M**aine **S**chools and is a part of the Lincoln County YMCA.

Perhaps you have been in the Y and seen the bustle of activity happening at the kitchen, located at the end of the front lounge area. A class from a nearby school busy at work, chopping, cooking, or seated around the tables having their meal together that they all helped prepare. The atmosphere is lively and fun. Not only do the kids learn kitchen skills, they also learn about locally grown vegetables and about the local farms growing them. They may even get a lesson in fractions that day, or be introduced to an ethnic food they never experienced before and learn about another culture. They learn how to work together in a fun and challenging atmosphere. This is done under the organizational skills of Karen Kleinkopf and Leslie Wicks along with their dedicated volunteers who love to work with preschool to 8th grade children and teens. This is one way that FARMS at the Y fulfills its mission.

They are committed to:

EDUCATE, to provide educators about good nutrition and the role of local farms in promoting healthy, sustainable communities. To excite and educate people of all ages about the value and joy of growing, preparing and eating healthy local foods.

CONNECT, 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.

EXPERIENCE, 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 provide a place where local farmers, chefs, medical practitioners, and other community members can share their own knowledge and expertise.



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FARMS is over 20 years old; prior to 2017 it was an independent nonprofit that partnered with local schools, farmers and food banks to create excitement among community members of all ages for locally grown foods and healthy eating. It was a big step for building a stronger program, when FARMS became a part of the Central Lincoln County YMCA (CLCY) and hence the name FARMS at the Y. Fundraising by grants and donations helps to keep the program alive and growing.

As an additional note, if we can raise \$350 dollars for this Share the Plate, we could donate the monies specifically to the FARMS at the Y Adopt a Class program.. Not only will we be teaching kids healthy cooking, we can meet the children in our adopted class. Great way to experience the joy of giving to such a worthwhile community organization.

Membership Committee - Circle Suppers

There are two spaces left at the luncheon table at the Obers on Saturday March 16 at 1:00. There will be a sign up sheet at the coffee table in the lobby on Sunday March 10.



SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, April 16 at 5:30. The kids are inviting eight of us to join them for a Circle Supper at the Friends Meeting House. There will be some "ice-breaker" activities and then they will serve up your choice of Italian Lasagna with meat, or a vegetarian Mexican Lasagna. I will have a sign-up sheet in early April for eight lucky people

Pat Kay (<mailto:ppskay@earthlink.net>), 207 677-2141 (land line).

**** Please email all newsletter articles and website information to:
news@uumidcoast.org

Worship Invitation Plus Weekly Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Ober

Please join us during MAINE Advocacy Day to connect with like-minded advocates, make your voice heard by lawmakers, fight for wins in the legislature, and show how strong our movement is!



MAINE Advocacy Day at the STATE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 13th, 9am to Noon

We are convening in the Welcome Center - the room to the right just through Security!

RSVP

Whether you've been fighting for gun safety for years or are brand new to this movement, Advocacy Day at the State House is an extremely powerful way to show our legislators that we care about keeping our kids, families and communities safe and we expect them to act in our best interest! Seeing a sea of red shirts (yes, we will have them available in the welcome center!) sends a powerful message, about just how strong our movement is. We need you to join us.

This year our priorities are:

- Background Checks on All Gun Sales
- A BAN on Assault Weapons
- An Extreme Risk Protection Order
- 72 Hour Wait Between Purchase and Possession

When our lawmakers see lots of gun safety advocates like you demanding action, they feel the pressure. Join us on March 13th, follow us on the Demand Action App and help us win on gun safety!

Hope we can count on you to be there!

Kathleen McFadden
Volunteer Chapter Lead
Maine Moms Demand Action