

MUUFLETTER for April 2017

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

April 2: Rev. Danielle DiBona "RUAUU?" Were you a Unitarian Universalist long before you found Unitarian Universalism? What makes a UU? Let's talk about it. Danielle DiBona served MUUF as a part-time minister for a brief period when we were gathering in Edgecomb. She has served Unitarian Universalism for 25+ years and is currently Developmental Minister for Pastoral Care and Covenant Groups at First Parish in Cambridge, MA. Before retiring, Danielle was a Hospice Chaplain for 15 years. She is currently serving on the UU Nominating Committee and previously served on the Unitarian Universalist Womens Federation board. She is the former President and Vice President of the Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries board. Reverend Di Bona also served as Chaplain and Elders' Circle facilitator for DRUUMM.

April 9: "Dayenu"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Why is this Sunday morning different from all other mornings? It's a multigenerational Passover seder: the ritual telling of the Jewish people's most important story. Passover marks the escape and freedom of the enslaved Israelites from Egypt, reminding us that today there are still injustices and oppression in the world that require our attention — and our action.



April 16: "The Myth of Self-Made Salvation"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

What does "salvation" mean to Unitarian Universalists — especially on Easter? Rev. Erika will explore the near-religious sentiment of self-reliance underlying the "American Dream," and lift up our UU theology for its counter-message that together is the only way we survive this world. This service will include a reverse offering: at least 12 members will receive cash, and be invited to use that money to spread love and compassion in our community — or in the wider world.

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Minister's Message



Watching New Englanders rouse themselves from winter hibernation, gladly moving out into the greening world, is fun to watch. Most of us are restless (a mild way of saying "sick and tired of winter") and craving some color on the landscape. It's easy to feel impatient this time of year, rather than stopping to notice and offer appreciation for each small step into spring: a balmy day, a shrinking snowpile, the first bulbs shooting green above earth, the quiet stowing away of parkas.

The Jewish remembrance of Passover happens to fall around this time of spring breaking winter's back. Passover centers on reciting, singing, and celebrating the story of how the ancient Israelites escaped from slavery and into freedom. It's told in a particular order (or seder, pronounced "SAY-der"), anchored by ritual foods and four cups of wine (for us, juice). My favorite song in the seder is Dayenu, which means "it would have been enough." It's a naming of gratitude: God led God's people out of slavery, step by step, and each gesture would have been enough — dayenu! — but then God performed miracles: the sea parted (that would have been enough), manna fell from the sky (that would have been enough)... and so on. The message of this story-in-song is: We're grateful for each thing, without grasping for more... and more goodness always comes.

As we celebrate Passover with our own seder on April 9th, and as you watch spring stumble its way toward us, try saying dayenu a few times: "Thank you for this small thing, which all by itself is enough to merit my gratitude."

*In faith,
Rev. Erika*

Newcomers' Gathering - please see page 2!

Minister Away

Rev. Erika Hewitt will be away, leading a UU event in another region, from April 29th through May 3rd. Thank you for understanding that she'll be slow to respond to email and voicemails during that brief period.

SUNDAY SERVICES, continued

April 23: Unitarian Universalism's seventh principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" makes this a day to celebrate religiously. Come celebrate with us!

Share the Plate: FARMS

April 30: "Sailing on Dry Land" by Rev. Andrea Greenwood Sometimes we are swept up or carried aloft in our lives right here on earth. How does that happen? Mystical powers inherent in the universe, or kismet bringing people together? I am reflecting on college mentors, chance meetings, and wild places. Andrea Greenwood is a Unitarian Universalist minister who has been serving, in one capacity or another, at the First Parish of Watertown (MA) for 25 years. She and her husband, Mark Harris, have three almost-adult sons and have also co-written a book, *An Introduction to the Unitarian and Universalist Traditions*. Although she grew up in Massachusetts, Andrea's family hails from Belfast and Rockland, and she continues to spend summers in Owls Head.

Hospitality Schedule

Greeters

Apr. 2 - Jean Howe. Other Sundays a POD member will serve as the Greeter.

Refreshments

- Apr. 2** - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)
Apr. 9 - Bob Lightfoot (Red Pod)
Apr. 16 - Rosie Davis /Tiffany Vencile (Blue Pod)
Apr. 23 - Dick & Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)
Apr. 30 - Sandra Barth (Indigo Pod)

Newcomers' Gathering



Are you a new face in our Fellowship? Rev. Erika Hewitt invites you to join her for casual conversation and nibbles on **Thursday, April 13th** from **4 to 6 p.m.** at the Newcastle Pub. Erika will buy appetizers for the table; you're welcome to drop in and chat with her and other newcomers, whether you can stay for 30 minutes or over an hour! Please RSVP to Erika by April 10th: Erika@UUminister.com.

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

President's Message



Hello Everyone,

It's hard to talk about summer when it appears that spring hasn't quite reached us yet, but it will be here before we know it and I want to be sure and give you ample time to consider representing MUUF at the

General Assembly in June.

The UUA General Assembly is scheduled to take place in New Orleans from Wednesday, June 21st - Sunday, June 25th and it's already time to register for the event and even more importantly, choose delegates to represent us and vote at the Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in attending and being a delegate, please let me know by April 19th so I can bring your names to the Board to vote on at our April 20th Board meeting. Also, please contact me if you have any questions about being a delegate. This is a great opportunity to participate in the decisions that will guide the UUA for the upcoming future; including voting for the new president who will replace Peter Morales. Three women are running and the woman elected will be the first female president of the UUA. Feel the power of being surrounded by thousands of UU members and friends and help us expand MUUF's visibility at the national level.

If you would like more information about General Assembly, go to this link: <http://www.uua.org/uua-governance/generalassembly>.

In faith, Carol Robins

MUUF DINNER & MUSIC APR. 30



All members and friends - and their friends - and the public, are invited to a family style dinner with musical entertainment by the talented Jud Caswell.

On the last Sunday of April we will gather in the Community Room at Mobius (Main St, Damariscotta).

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. featuring garden salad, Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce, side of Italian Meatballs (to accommodate vegetarians) and assorted homemade desserts.

Entertainment will begin at 6:30 with singer-songwriter Jud Caswell's music for all ages. Tickets for this MUUF fun and fundraising event are just \$15 for adults and only \$5 for children under 18.

Advance tickets will be available from Jennifer Ober after our April Sunday services.

Religious Exploration by *Carney Doucette, DRE*



Mystery Friends Revealed

On Sunday, April 9, we will have a "Mystery Friends Reveal" potluck lunch after worship. Everyone is invited to participate. Mystery Friends will have a chance to eat with each other and share their experience. Plan to bring

a potluck lunch item and enjoy time together. Mystery Friends will reveal themselves by carrying a similar canned item for the food pantry and finding their match. Carney will let you know what to bring in.

We also encourage others to add to this collection by bringing in some items. Mike Wescott, who directs the Ecumenical Food Pantry of Newcastle sent along the following list of common items distributed: Fruits: pears, peaches, applesauce, and mixed fruit; Vegetables: carrots, corn, green beans, tomatoes, tomato sauce and mixed vegetables; and soups: cream of chicken, cream of tomato and vegetable soup. Surely the patrons also would welcome some variety in life! In addition, personal care items such as soap, dish washing soap, and shampoos are appreciated. Let's fill up a basket!

RE Sundays in April

We continue to share Spirit Play stories and activities about world religions:

April 2 – The Story of Passover

April 9 – Multigenerational Seder Service, followed by "Mystery Friends Reveal" potluck lunch

April 16 – Children's Easter worship and jellybean communion (and an Easter Egg hunt)

April 23 – Pledge to the Earth

April 30 – Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table - supporting the UU Service Committee

On Sunday, April 30, we will introduce our children in RE to Guest at Your Table – a project to help support the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). Children take home a box to put on their table, and when they sit down at a meal, they put some money in the box, and reflect on one of the stories of people the UUSC supports. Donation envelopes also will be available for direct gifts. This year's theme is "Defying Hate." Your donations support the UUSC's work to protect human rights and defy hate from the ground up, while also applying pressure on those in power at the top—as UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp did during their missions to rescue Jews and dissidents from Nazi Germany.

UUSC partners with grassroots organizations in over 25 countries around the world, including the Arab American Civic Council, which provides refugees resettling to Southern California with the resources they need to build a new life in an unfamiliar country.



Mystery Friend – who are you?



After hearing the story of Noah's Ark, children paired up, and with their inner arms tied, they had to cooperatively peel a clementine. And some tried to do it while blindfolded!

Book Discussion Group - "Bad Feminist"

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a series of four book discussion groups this year, and the first selection is *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay.

This collection of essays provides a poignant view of intersectional feminism and racial justice issues, interspersed with humor and Scrabble.

The discussion group date is May 21st after service, so everyone is encouraged to get a copy and start reading.

- Caitlin Bogdan

MUUF Board Retreat March 11, 2017

The Board met for an all-day retreat with facilitator, Karen Bellavance-Grace from the New England Region of the UUA. Carol said "We took on a number of important tasks including writing our Board Covenant, which we completed, and began brainstorming about creating a new Fellowship Mission. Please plan to attend after-service discussions about our Mission on Sunday, April 23rd and Sunday, May 7th."

"It was a great opportunity to get to know each other better and share dreams and ideas for our MUUF future."



In attendance (from L - R) Carol Robins, Board President; Rev. Erika Hewitt; Diane Jensen; Sandra Barth, Vice President; Caity Bogdan, Secretary; Rosie Davis; Kay Miller; and Dick Ober, Treasurer.

Welcoming Congregation Update



The MUUF Board has approved our keeping the Welcoming Congregation Committee as a standing committee. This highlights the importance of our work to become and stay a congregation that is actively welcoming

to the LGBTQ community. Our intention is to meet monthly to talk about efforts and activities we are doing to support the LGBTQ community. Our next meeting is after the service on Sunday, April 30, and we welcome new members. Please contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Kate Pennington, committee chair

Our Share the Plate recipient this month is F.A.R.M.S.

(Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools) whose Mission is:

Educate: To provide education about good nutrition and the role of local farms in promoting healthy, sustainable communities.

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.

Our own Karen Kleinkopf co-founded this organization in 2004.

Building Our Covenant

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is leading the effort to craft a congregational covenant for our Fellowship. A covenant articulates the values that guide the relationships within our Fellowship, and the ways we aspire to live those values.

The COM began the process in January by asking for input from MUUF members and friend about what they identify as important values in the life of the Fellowship and how we might live them. Next, the COM asked people what they would hope fellow members would promise to them, and what they are willing to promise in return. In a series of congregational conversations, the Committee will continue to incorporate input and feedback into a draft covenant.

We are also encouraging members and friends to look at sample covenants adopted by other UU congregations around the country. You can find sample covenants from other UU congregations around the country on the Committee On Ministry page of the MUUF website at <http://www.uumidcoast.org/committee-on-ministry>. To offer your own input or feedback about a covenant, please talk with a member of the COM.

Dine-Around, a Fun Fundraiser

Have you signed up to attend, or host - or do both? The Halls began this program as a way for members and friends to "break bread" with others, enjoy a home cooked dinner and conversation, and add to the Fellowship's coffers. A great way to enjoy a Spring evening - and only have to provide one part of a dinner! Speak to Robin Hall if you need more information about organizing a fun evening.

PASSAGES

Our MUUF community mourned the passing of a member, a former member and a friend in March.

BOB (Robert T.) LONEY, 84, of Round Pond, a longtime member with his wife Phyllis, passed away on Mar. 5, surrounded by his family. An informal memorial service, followed by a gathering, will be held at 3 p.m. on Apr. 9 at the 1812 Farm on Bristol Rd.

He graduated from Penn State in 1954 with a degree in civil engineering and a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve. He worked as a structural engineer and retired as president and CEO of a Boston firm in 1995.

In the reserve he served as a navigator for the Military Air Transport Service, flying from Dover DE to Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Arctic. He had a private pilot's license and owned a Cessna 150. For many years he also held a Coast Guard 50 Ton Masters License. Bob and Phyllis spent 40 years enjoying their cruising sailboat.

After 9/11 he joined the Coast Guard Auxilliary, serving as an instructor, crewman and then as Flotilla Commander. He was a docent at the Pemaquid Lighthouse, and a member of the Cabadetic Boat Club in Round Pond, serving as Commodore in 2009-2010.

JOHN D. WALTON, 95, of Boothbay Harbor, joined MUUF in Edgecomb and attended until he lost his vision after the move to Damariscotta. He and his wife "Betty" were founders of Suburban Chapel in 1956 that incorporated as the Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church of Louisville, KY in 1961..

A graduate of Dartmouth College, John served in the Navy on submarine chasers in Puget Sound and guarding the Panama Canal. At war's end he was married and began working for General Electric in Louisville, retiring after 38 years.

Widowed in 1957, he married Elizabeth Wood in 1960. She died in 2006. They spent summers at Sprucewold, built by his grandparents in 1924. In 2000 they moved to St. Andrews Village. In 2011 he moved to Whitefield to live with his daughter, Catherine Sell, then returned to St. Andrews. A private memorial service was scheduled.

*We are waiting for certification
by the UUA as a
Welcoming Congregation*

PASSAGES continued...

CHRISTOPHER "KIT" HAYDEN, 78, of Newcastle, died at his home on Mar. 14 following a prolonged fight with cancer. He had attended MUUF services for a number of years, including just before his death.

He earned a degree in Engineering Physics from Harvard in 1960, attended the Army Language School to learn Hungarian and then served as a cryptographer in Bavaria. He earned Masters and Doctorate degrees ('68) in Meteorology from the University of Michigan.

Prior to moving to Glidden St. in 1996 he worked as a research scientist with NOAA designing satellite instrumentation and software for weather forecast modeling. He spent his childhood summers in South Bristol.

In retirement he travelled, often on a bicycle, including a trip in Italy before being diagnosed with cancer. He was a co-host on an LCTV show, wrote columns for the now defunct Lincoln County Weekly, and acted in numerous plays with local theater groups. He sang with the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir and was a Board member of the Great Salt Bay Sanitary District. At his request there will be no formal memorial service.

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Cooks and Helpers are always needed - our next opportunity to serve the community on a fifth Wednesday is May 31

Please plan to join us at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle from 4:30-6:30. We will need donations of food items, as well as volunteers to serve the dinner. Set up begins at 4:30 pm, we serve promptly at 5, and finish around 6:30.

Please speak to Tiffany Vencile to let her know you can help with food, serving, or both. She can also be reached at willeywonka@hotmail.com.

Photo below is of some of the MUUF volunteers at the Community Supper on Mar. 29.

