

MUUFLETTER for August 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

August 6: *The Small and the Big T* by Rev. Erika Hewitt. Is there such a thing as truth anymore in this "post-truth" world? Our service will include a Bridging Ceremony for Emma Goltz as we celebrate her entry into the world of young adults.

August 13: Our Worship Associates will lead the annual *Blueberry Communion* service.

August 20: *A Change of Heart: Early Universalists in America* with Rev. Tess Baumberger, guest minister. Rev. Tess will tell the stories of the Murrays, deBenneville and Winchester — early Universalists — and how each had a change of heart that led to them embracing Universalist theology. Rev. Tess Baumberger is a UU minister and poet in Massachusetts working as a hospice chaplain after serving UU churches for a decade.

August 27:

10:00 a.m. HYMN SING with Rev. Erika and Kevin Kiley. Join us to sing old favorites — and learn a few new songs!

10:30 — Rev. Erika Hewitt, preaching. Our service will include a Blessing of the Backpacks! People of all ages are invited to bring their bookbags, briefcases, etc. to be blessed for the year ahead. Our SHARE THE PLATE (special date!) will be given to HEALTHY KIDS, whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect in Lincoln County, and to encourage, support and promote healthy family environments.

September 2: *To Be Known* by Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long, guest minister. Rev. Jordinn, who serves our UU congregation in Fairhaven, Mass., preaches on the work of welcome as embodied by church and why it matters.

MUUF Directory of Friends and Members

The updated MUUF Directory is now available. You can pick up a copy on Sunday morning (look on the table near the hymnals). If you are away for the summer and can't get your copy, call or e-mail Kate Pennington katep@maineantiquedigest.com and she can mail you a paper copy or e-mail you a PDF.

Minister's Column



After worship on July 30th, about fifteen of our members lingered to discuss the proposed draft of our Fellowship's new covenant. (In UU tradition, a covenant expresses the values that guide our relationships, and names our promises to one another.) One of

our guests — who was attending worship for only the third time — asked about the discussion, so I encouraged her to attend.

As our conversation unfolded, our congregation's members began to talk, with both curiosity and confidence, about each line of the covenant: What does it mean to listen to one another? Should we explicitly promise to speak directly to one another, or just to speak honestly and respectfully? What about conflict? What if someone steps outside of the covenant? Could we add the word "joy" to the line about struggle? Every question was taken seriously; every concern honored.

After about half an hour, our guest raised her hand and we turned to listen to what she had to say.

"You're doing some heavy lifting," she commended us. "I'm beginning to realize that Unitarian Universalists don't have the Ten Commandments, or the Sermon on the Mount. You aren't directed by the Four Noble Truths or the five requirements of Islam. There's no voice from on high telling you what to do — you're figuring it out yourself."

That's exactly right: we're a religion of figuring it out for ourselves. We, the congregation, are at once the authority and the subjects for the agreements that guide us. (To acknowledge that, we paused our discussion for a round of self-congratulatory applause. I might have said, for the twenty-sixth time this year, how proud I am of you.)

This month you'll get to see our *revised*, revised covenant: all of the promises we're ready to make, and all of the goals we strive for. When you see that

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Minister's column ... *continued*

covenant draft (watch the weekly announcements), remember what a gift this freedom is: as UUs, we get to figure out for ourselves how to love one another, support one another, and bring out the best in each other.

*In faith,
Rev. Erika*

Minister's August Schedule

Rev. Erika Hewitt will take a restorative vacation between August 7th and 20th, during which she will be unavailable by phone and email (except for pastoral emergencies).

Erika's upcoming sermon dates:

August 6 & 27

September 10

(followed by all-congregation picnic!)

Hospitality Schedule

August 6 - Dick & Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)
August 13 - Sandra Barth (Indigo Pod)
August 20 - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)
August 27 - Bob Lightfoot (Red Pod)
Sept. 3 - Rosie Davis /Tiffany Vencile (Blue Pod)



Sandy Barth recently presented our Share the Plate check for the Pine Tree Society to Debbie Lampron (right) at the Society's headquarters in Bath.

Message from the President



Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is having a good summer and finding time in your busy schedules for vacations, gardening, family visits, boating, swimming - I could go on and on - we're in Vacationland after all!

That said, the board continues to have productive meetings every month and working to ensure that the Midcoast UU Fellowship stays healthy, vibrant and welcoming in our larger community.

That said, I want to share a few items from our recent meetings.

Save the Date After our service on **August 20**, we welcome everyone to stay after for a discussion with the board on the health of our fellowship. We will be available to answer questions, listen to your ideas as we plan for the future, and reflect on how we are doing as a congregation. All thoughts and opinions are welcome! Members and friends are all welcome to attend.

Save Another Date The Board has scheduled our Annual Meeting for Sunday, **November 12** starting at noon.

Finishing our year in the black.

And finally, with all that we have accomplished and all that we still hope to do, we need money. There I said it! Those three dreaded words that New Englanders hate to say. At last year's Annual Meeting, members of the fellowship passed a budget with an \$8000 deficit believing that pledge amounts would increase, new members would add to the pledge pool and with larger Sunday attendances, more gifts in the collection plates. You have done this: stepped up and "leaned in" and the Board thanks you for that. But I want us to be even more committed.

Reflect on the growth of children's attendance - does it bring a smile to your face as they scramble down to the "Magic Carpet"? Lay-lead services - have you been impressed with the talent and trust of our Worship Associates and Sermon Writing participants? Have you been comforted by a visit by Rev. Erika or a member of our Care Committee? While we jump at the chance to participate in these acts of love and kindness...remember that it takes time and money.

So, as you reflect on the health of our congregation for the August 20th meeting, please

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President's message ... *continued*

consider increasing your pledge amount for the remainder of this year. For example, if 20 pledge units increase their total pledge by just \$200 for the year, that's an added \$4,000 to our income line! Can you offer a different amount? Surprise us!

How to increase my 2017 pledge amount?

Write a note to Bob Lightfoot, letting him know by how much you'd like to increase your annual gift. You may drop the note in the collection plate, hand it to Bob or one of the Board members, or mail to: P.O. Box 1021, Damariscotta 04543.

I've given him my note, as have many of the board members, and I hope you'll join us in keeping our fellowship on track to staying healthy, vibrant and welcoming in our larger community!

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and all that you do for our UU community.

In faith, Carol

Religious Exploration

Carney Doucette, DRE



Bridging Emma on Aug. 6

Emma's bridging ceremony will be on August 6. Plan to attend worship and help celebrate her entry into young adulthood. Children will be invited to participate in the ceremony at the end of the worship service.

Introducing Our Whole Lives

Sexuality Education for K-2

I believe that one of the best gifts we can give our children is the OWL program. Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education spans ages 5-adult and is sex-positive and values-based. The K-2 curriculum is based on the philosophy that parents and educating institutions can form a meaningful partnership for positive and responsible sexuality education. The title, *Our Whole Lives*, was chosen to convey the belief that sexuality is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and values about identity and relationships, intimacy and health.

This year, there will be two opportunities for children at MUUF to participate in the K-2 program. If a group of parents is willing to meet on a Saturday morning or other agreed upon time, Carney and an assistant will offer OWL K-2. There are 8 hour-long sessions,



and a 2-hour parent/child orientation. During these 8 sessions, the children will learn the accurate names for their bodies; learn about safety with their bodies; celebrate the diversity of families; and hear a story about the birth of a baby. This curriculum has been written by sexuality scholars and all materials presented are age-appropriate. There is a take-home booklet of activities to do as a family. Support materials through the First Universalist Church in Rockland library will be available. If that doesn't work, children can participate in the K-2 OWL program at First Universalist Church in Rockland, which is offered at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings starting in October. There are one or two double sessions with a potluck lunch in-between. Questions? Interested? Do you have a large room in your house where we could offer this program? I will have a copy of the curriculum available for you to review. Just ask whoever is leading RE that Sunday to show you it.

Plan to come to an informational meeting on **Sunday, October 1** that will discuss options for offering this program, and we will view a DVD: *Raising Healthy Kids: Families Talk about Sexual Health*. Even if you have a child who has just entered 3rd grade, you may wish to participate in this program or do a home study. OWL is open to all children with parental permission, so see if your friends might wish to participate.

Our Fellowship Picnic is coming up in September

Come one and all to our annual Fellowship Picnic. Rain or shine! We will have the opportunity to deepen our relationships through good food and play!

When: Sunday, September 10th, 12:30 p.m. (come no earlier than 12 noon)

Your hosts: Carol & Chris Robins, 228 Heath Road in Whitefield

What to bring:

*continued on page 4
with more information,
photos and action needed*

Religious Exploration and Annual MUUF Picnic information for all members & friends



Our Picnic hosts home and pond

- Potluck item with a label. Something for the grill if you want. The Robins will be providing some grilled item yet to be determined, along with coffee and tea. Carney will bring pink lemonade and seltzer. (make sure your dishes are labeled with your name)
- Your place setting to save on using plastic ware & paper plates. Napkins & cups provided.
- Lawn chairs
- Bathing suit & towel – there is a swimming pond and sauna – get ready to relax!
- Yard games (or your favorite board game if it is rainy) – lots of open playing areas for kick ball, badminton, whiffle ball, Frisbee. Carney will bring a parachute for some special large group games.
- Plenty of parking

Action: Please RSVP to Carney, so we can plan more effectively. Simply email midcoastuure@gmail.com with yes, we are coming and the number of adults & children. If you have questions or special needs, like transportation, let Carney know as well.

YAHD SALE RESULTS

Our 3rd annual Yahd Sale ended with some last minute sales before a few leftovers were taken to the Miles Thrift Shop storage facility by two of our volunteers.

Thanks to the hard work put in by all those involved, our treasurer reports that the total income is \$1563.50. Considering the bad weather, this amount shows how much we can accomplish working together.

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Cooks and Helpers are always needed - our next opportunity to serve the community on a fifth Wednesday is August 30

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.

Many hands make for quick work and an enjoyable time.

PASSAGES

Tom Allen was a Harvard student during WWII when he left college to serve his country. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in June of 1942. Recognizing his academic strengths, the Marine Corps sent him to school to learn how to speak Japanese. In 1945 he went to Nagasaki where he was an interpreter with the Occupation forces and helped to demilitarize the Japanese war machine. He was discharged in 1956 and is proud to be a USMC veteran. He recently participated in a Maine Honor Flight to see the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Tom returned to Harvard, received a Bachelor's degree and continued his education at Cornell. He met his wife Mary Jane in Illinois and went on to the Ford Motor Company in Michigan and Lockheed in California. Eventually they returned to New England where he worked for a family business. In retirement, he started his own successful business, a security company named Protective Systems.

Tom has always enjoyed outdoor recreational activities which he was able to continue into his older years. Last summer he tried ocean kayaking. A former ski instructor, he learned new skills at age 92 on a mono-ski thanks to Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation. Last year, at 93, he took to the slopes again.. and was planning another ski adventure this year, but a bout of pneumonia prevented that. He moved to the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta in early Spring this year where he was able to do some gardening up until a few days before his death on June 25th. Tom was living proof that you are never too old to enjoy life to the fullest! We shall miss his frequent attendance at MUUF services.

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Remem

Thomas Allen

Hodgdon Green
Damariscotta

Tom Allen was a Harvard student during WWII when he left college to serve his country. He joined the United States Marine Corps in June of 1942 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Recognizing his academic strengths, the Marine Corps sent him to school to learn how to speak Japanese. He was then sent to the Pacific, first to Saipan and then to Nagasaki, where he was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, Intelligence G-2 between 1945 and 1946. His major function in Nagasaki was as an interpreter with the occupation forces. Among many duties, he



helped determine where the Japanese held their war materials in order to demilitarize the Japanese war machine. He was honorably discharged in August 1946. Tom is proud to be a USMC veteran and of his service in Japan.

He returned to Harvard where he finished his education and received a Bachelor's degree. He also spent time at Cornell University. He met his wife, Mary Jane, in Illinois and the couple moved to Michigan, where Tom worked for Ford Motor Company. They next moved to California where he worked for Lockheed and then New Hampshire where he worked for the McAllen company, a family business. After retirement, Tom started his own business, a successful security company named Protective Systems.

Throughout his life, Tom enjoyed many outside recreational activities. He sail boarded well into his early 80's, to the surprise of many younger beach goers. A former ski instructor, at 92, he learned new skills on a mono-ski thanks to Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation. Last summer, Tom decided to try ocean kayaking, surrounded by seals, and enjoying a snack on an off shore island. He says it was a perfect way to spend a summer afternoon. Tom recently participated in a Maine Honor Flight to see the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C. At Hodgdon Green, Tom initiated a mental health support group and most recently this year, he took to the slopes again at 94 years old, proving you are never too old to enjoy life to the fullest!

Photography by Dianne Chicoine, West Gardiner