

MUUFLETTER for October 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

October's theme: UU ROOTS

Oct. 1: "A Brief History of Hell (and Heresy)"

by **Rev. Erika Hewitt**. Sixty percent of Americans believe in Hell; only 4% believe they'll go there after death. This, perhaps, is why an evangelical preacher made waves when he preached the Universalist gospel that there is no hell, because "love wins." Join Erika as she reviews the history of Hell, and reflects on about the hells we create.

Post-Worship, October 1: UU History in 15 Minutes

Our monthly theme for October is "UU Roots." Do you wish you knew more about our UU roots? Following worship, Erika will provide a whirlwind summary of our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist histories. She'll then lead a brief discussion and answer questions. (Total time: 45 minutes) All are welcome!

Oct. 8: Celebrating Our UU Ancestors, led by John Adams and the Fellowship's Worship Associates. In this worship service, we'll reflect on some of our Unitarian and Universalist forebears from centuries past.

Oct. 15: Celebrating Our Fellowship led by Bob Whitmire and the Midcoast UU Board members. This year, our congregation is celebrating its 35th Anniversary! Today your Board members will offer reflections about their own spiritual lives, prompting reflection about our congregation's past, present, and future.

Oct. 22: Skeletons in Our Closet by **Rev. Erika Hewitt**. Although our religious tradition is strong, proud, and glorious, our Unitarian Universalist history includes shadows of shame and sin. This morning Rev. Erika will pull back the curtain to expose some of those skeletons. How will we choose to move forward as a faith? Our **SHARE THE PLATE** offering will be given to support Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism.

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Minister's Column



When I was a little girl, my family lived in Cuernavaca, México. It probably wasn't much fun for my parents to navigate a new culture and a foreign language with a 7-year old (me) and a 3-year old (my brother) in tow. but it was a year of adventure — and a planting of vivid memories. (I believe this childhood experience is why I later studied Spanish, lived in several Latin American countries, and earned a Master's in Latin American studies... but that's another story.)

One of my most powerful experiences during our time in México was taking part in Day of the Dead — or *Día de los muertos* — a festive celebration of those who have died held on November 2, which correlates to All Souls Day.



Even as a second grader, my existential streak ran deep: I responded on a visceral level to the altars laden with candles and photos, skulls and marigolds. Those experiences helped me understand that **the living and the dead might be separated by less than we think; that our mourning can contain laughter; that making a spectacle of death and remembrance is more honorable than silent grief.**

Although I returned to México many times, in adolescence and as an adult, I never got to experience another *Día de los muertos*... until this year.

Many of you know that just over a year ago, I completed treatment for breast cancer. It took me a while

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Minister's column ... *continued*

to grieve, to take stock, and to confront the reality that I won't be Earthside forever. I had to ask myself: *How can I live more fully? What — if left undone — will haunt me for having neglected?* One of the many answers that came back was: experience Día de los muertos in México.

All of this is to say that **between Oct. 29th and Nov. 5th, I'll be in México City** (yes, despite recent earthquakes) on what you might call a pilgrimage. I'm returning to a place and a celebration that my 7-year old self found holy, combing it for new meaning, and relishing a chance to immerse myself in a new culture.

While I'm away, I won't be available by phone or email — but I hope to return to you renewed and reinspired by having turned this "someday" item into reality.

In faith,

Rev. Erika

SUNDAY SERVICES, continued

Oct. 29: Cherish Your Doubts. Doubt, grief, and the embrace of change: spiritual disciplines at the core of Unitarian Universalism that equip us well for living in tumultuous times. Our guest minister is renowned UU preacher **Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer**, Minister Emerita with the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor (MI). She is now retired and living in Springvale, Maine.

Nov. 5: Singer-Songwriter **Jud Caswell** will fill our worship with music!

(Daylight Savings ends — clocks back one hour.)

Hospitality Schedule

- Oct. 1** - Bob Lightfoot (Red Pod)
- Oct. 8** - Rosie Davis /Tiffany Vencile (Blue Pod)
- Oct. 15** - Dick & Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)
- Oct. 22** - Sandra Barth (Indigo Pod)
- Oct. 29** - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)
- Nov. 5** - Bob Lightfoot (Red Pod)

Greeters

- Oct. 1** - Sally Sapienza
- Oct. 8** - Robin Hall
- Oct. 15** - Rosie Davis
- Oct. 22** - Janet and Bud Elwin
- Oct. 29** - David Bailey
- Nov. 5** - Greeting each week is one of the most important volunteer roles in making our guests feel welcomed by our congregation. If you would like to become part of this already awesome team please email me at: Rosiesdavis@gmail.com



Message from

Hello Everyone,

The board had another productive meeting last week where we discussed a number of large items for the fall.

- Inviting Rev. Erika to be our part-time Contract-to-Call minister. We spoke with a UU minister in California who went through a very similar situation recently and gave us a lot of good advice on how to move forward.
- Eliminating our 2017 budget deficit this fall. The board members have committed to increasing their pledges for this year and we are asking our members to do so as well. We are suggesting a \$200 increase, or as much as you are able and willing. Contact Bob Lightfoot with the amount.
- Preparing to enter into Stewardship for 2018. We will be preparing the Stewardship packets soon so we can design our 2018 Budget for the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 12th after the service.

The board, Rev. Erika and all the wonderful volunteers participating in one~multiple committees, are working hard, with loving hearts, to continue to build our fellowship through outreach, membership, growth of our R.E. program and planning for our fruitful future. We couldn't do it without YOU! Thank you.

In faith, Carol

Some of our children went boating on the Robins' pond at our annual picnic last month.



Hospitality/Membership Corner

As we continue to work on enhancing the Fellowship's hospitality and membership efforts, we need to see this as an integral part of our mission and covenant.

On October 24th we will be hosting "The Freedom to Marry" screening at the Lincoln Theater (see details

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Religious Exploration



Carney Doucette, DRE

October RE Sundays (focusing on the theme of UU Roots)

- October 1 – The Flaming Chalice
- October 8 – Ways to Pray
- October 15 – Our UU Sources
- October 22 – Science Discoveries Special
with Caity Bogdan
- October 29 – The Troll-Tear – Samhain

Children's Offering

A reminder that each Sunday, there will be a special vase on the altar where children (and anyone else) can make an offering. This month in RE, we will set aside time to explore places where this offering can be given.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for K-2 Information Meeting

On Sunday, October 15, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in the library's auditorium, we will have an informal meeting about OWL K-2. Carney will show the DVD, Raising Healthy Kids: Families Talk About Sexual Health. This will be followed by a discussion about the OWL program. We will set a tentative time to offer this program. Anyone interested in sexuality education is invited to attend. Childcare will be available.

Save the Date – Pre-teen Conference

Any child ages 9-13, is invited to attend the annual Mid-Maine Pre-Teen Conference. This year, the conference will be held at the newly renovated UU Church in Belfast on November 18-19.



Role playing our Religious Exploration covenant

Hospitality/Membership.... *continued from page 2*

elsewhere in the Newsletter). This would be a great event to invite a friend to who might not be currently involved in the Fellowship.

In November we plan to re-institute the Circle Suppers. These have been popular in the past. They are a great way for newcomers, non-members, and members to share a meal, converse and get to know each other better. We will have sign-up sheets after hosts are designated. Contact Sandy Barth (563-5565 or sbarth1942@gmail.com) if interested in hosting. It's pot-luck so the host is only responsible for the main dish (and maybe a quick vacuum of the house).

It's been suggested that a Sunday afternoon hike to a local preserve after lunch at a local eatery could be a fun event. October can be a lovely month for this. Depending on the weather forecast, we will schedule this for October 15th or 22nd. Stay tuned.

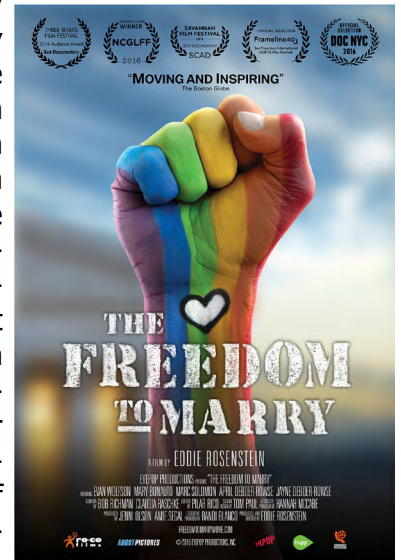
Continue to be mindful of the ways you can practice an outward orientation.

Sandy Barth

THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

Our Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) will be hosting a free screening of the award winning documentary *The Freedom to Marry* at the Lincoln Theatre in Damariscotta on Tuesday, October 24th at 7 pm. A post film discussion will feature a conversation between our MUUF Minister Rev. Erika Hewitt and Dale McCormick, a pioneering Maine LG-BTQ activist, former State Legislator, Treasurer, and Director of Maine's Housing Authority and a member of the UU Community Church of Augusta.

The Freedom to Marry is an intimate and epic documentary that goes behind the scenes of this historic civil rights struggle. This is a riveting ride alongside Evan Wolfson, the man known as architect of the same-sex marriage movement, Maine's own civil rights attorney Mary Bonauto, and their key colleagues as they wage their climactic battle before the United States Supreme Court, providing fresh perspective on



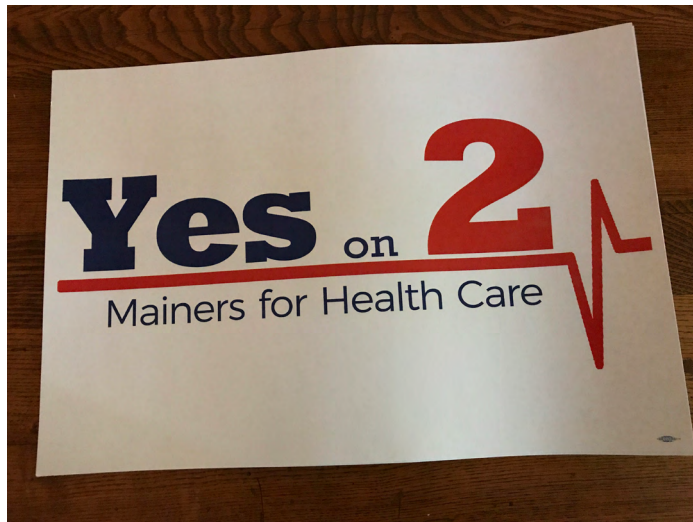
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FREEDOM TO MARRY... *continued from page 3*

the movement's history along the way. It is a primer for social change, and an inspirational tale of how people can actually make a difference.

As part of our Fellowship's commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation, this event is free and open to the public. Please make every effort to attend and bring your friends, family, and neighbors. Encourage folks to stay for the post-film conversation to discuss ways to build solidarity with our LGBTQ community which continues to face hatred and discrimination in these divisive times.

For more information, contact Kate Pennington at katep@maineantiquedigest.com.



MAINERS FOR HEALTH CARE RALLY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, at NOON

Support the **Yes on 2** ballot initiative to expand access to Medicaid by gathering at the Damariscotta/Newcastle Bridge following our worship service on October 8th.

The Social Justice Committee of our Midcoast UU Fellowship is organizing a community wide effort to increase awareness about the upcoming ballot initiative to provide health insurance for 70,000 low-income Mainers who do not presently have coverage.

Join in solidarity with other concerned voters to carry our Fellowship banner, hold campaign signs, or make your own, to advocate for the protection of our state's most vulnerable citizens in the middle of the busy Pumpkinfest weekend.

Contact Julia Fitz-Randolph at jfitzra@aol.com for more information

2018 Share the Plate Nominations Welcome Now

Our Fellowship takes pride in dedicating the financial donations collected during one worship service each month to a designated local non-profit organization. 2018 Nominations are now being accepted during the month of October. Clip boards will be available after each October service and all members of the Fellowship are eligible to nominate organizations that meet the following criteria: **Non-profit organizations with a Social Justice mission serving the Lincoln County community.**

The commonly held definition of social justice is the fair and just relation between the individual and society. In the current global grassroots movements for social justice, the emphasis has been on the breaking of barriers for social mobility, the creation of safety nets, and economic justice, including a requirement to serve Lincoln County enables the Fellowship to strengthen ties to local organizations. In addition, there will be two open slots the Board can choose for organizations that may have a broader reach.

Once nominations close on October 29th, the Fellowship's Social Justice Committee will review the nominations for eligibility criteria and diversity and recommend 10 organizations for the Board to approve and announce at the November 13th Annual Meeting. Please remember to sign the nomination form for each organization you nominate so a member of the Social Justice Committee can contact you in case more information is needed.

Please contact Julia Fitz-Randolph, Chair of the Social Justice Committee at jfitz-ra@aol.com with your questions or concerns.

This Month's Share the Plate - Formed in the wake of several conversations among Black UUs at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, OH - the **BLUU Organizing Collective** works to provide support, information and resources for Black Unitarian Universalists. We also work to expand the role & visibility of Black UUs within our faith.

Pot Luck and Service Auction

Sunday, November 5 at 5:30 pm

Mobius Inc., 319 Main Street, Damariscotta

We had so much fun last year, we're doing it again! Sign-up sheets will be made available for the pot luck and service auction items. Consider re-offering services you donated last year. Only services and craft items will be auctioned off. Save all your gently used items for next summer's yard sale.

All MUUF members and friends are cordially invited to come join the fun.