

MUUFLETTER for June 2016

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*

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

June 5 - "Babble", an intergenerational service led by Worship Associates. What happens when our ambition and greed overshadow our common purpose? What's the cost of seeking results over relationship? This story illustrates that while we might get distracted by our ambition and greed, no success is very enjoyable without love, and the warm spirit of community.

June 12 - Rev. Erika Hewitt leads worship.

June 19 - A celebration of the Summer Solstice, Fathers' Day and our traditional Flower Communion led by Sandra Barth, David Bailey and Iska Cole.

June 26 - The welcoming committee presents their dictionary of terms. Speech is one way we can begin to catch ourselves alienating people we don't understand or who make us uncomfortable. Instead of pretending these differences don't exist, or allowing segregation to continue, our UU faith asks that we open to the experiences of people whose gender or sexual orientation, race, religion and economic class have brought them pain.

July 3 - "In the Shadow of the Steeple", Rev. Erika Hewitt, preaching. Our service will include a child dedication ceremony for Soren Harter-Ives.

Minister Away, 6/15-6/26

Rev. Erika Hewitt will be with family and then at our UU General Assembly between Wed. June 15th and Sunday, June 26th. She will not be able to respond to email or voicemails during that time.

If you have a pastoral emergency between June 15-26, please call Rev. Mark Glovin, the minister of our Rockland congregation, at 207-701-7485.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*"I want our worship space to be more beautiful."
"I wish Skidompha felt more like our own space."
"I love worship, but the auditorium isn't much to look at."*

Have you ever said (or thought) something like this? Let's do something about it!

Your Worship Associates, in consultation with Pam Gormley, have developed a vision for our worship space: preceding worship on August 7th, we plan to hang mobiles filled with dozens, or hundreds, of hand-folded origami peace cranes in Porter Auditorium. The cranes will hang from the lighting grid for the rest of the summer and into fall — or as long as we're pleased with them — as a colorful symbol and adornment to our Fellowship's home.

That means we have to fold the cranes! Over the course of the next two months, we plan to hold origami parties in the community so that neighbors and passers-by can join us, and try their hand at making cranes. If you have a knack or a desire to do so, you can also take some square paper home (or make some squares) to fold while you sit on your porch or around a campfire. You might even write an intention/wish/prayer inside of your paper before folding it.

The longer I serve you, the more I see this Fellowship coming into its identity and its power. You're learning to claim space, be bold, reach out, and trust that our growth and vitality are just beginning. These cranes are a way to do all of that: to say, We belong here. We seek to create beauty, and use it to bless others. This is who we are.

I'm looking forward to working together on this creative, beauty-creating project to take one more step into our Becoming.

In faith,
Rev. Erika Hewitt

One Last Thank You:

In addition to the \$600 that was part of our community cash giveaway, our twenty volunteers from the Fellowship added at least \$330 of their own money. That means that our congregation's members and friends put nearly one thousand dollars into "doing good" somewhere in the world. Thanks to all of you.

Hospitality Schedule

Refreshments

May 29 - Tiffany Vencile/Rosie Davis (Blue Pod)

June 5 - Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)

June 12 - Sandra Barth (Indigo Pod)

June 19 - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)

June 26 - Nancy Holmes (Red Pod)

Greeters

May 29 - Jean Howe

June 5 - Bruce Hall

June 12 - Carole Cochran

June 19 - Carole Cochran

June 26 - Jennifer & Dick Ober

Lunch Bunch - A group from the Fellowship has met irregularly for lunch for several years. We'd love to have some new faces join us. The next lunch will be Monday, June 6th at noon at Salt Bay Café, Main St., Damariscotta. Let Iska Cole know if you plan to come so she can call ahead for a reservation.

COMMUNITY SUPPER June 29

Our Fellowship sponsors a community supper every month that has a 5th Wednesday - so our next community supper is June 29th! Please join us at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle on June 29th from 4:30-6:30. We 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. We had a great time in March, providing a fantastic spread of food for many folks in need. I would love all your support in making the June community super just as fantastic. Please contact me, *Tiffany Vencile*, at willeywonka@hotmail.com to let me know if you are interested in bringing a food item, and if you can stay to serve. Looking forward to seeing you there.

MUUSAN supports Ranked Choice Voting as top priority for the November ballot.

Want to learn more about Ranked Choice Voting? Come to an educational forum at the Skidompha Library on June 23rd at 6 pm to get a better understanding about Maine's current voting system and the pros and cons of adopting a ranked choice voting system. Free and open to the public.

Please see the flyer on our bulletin board.

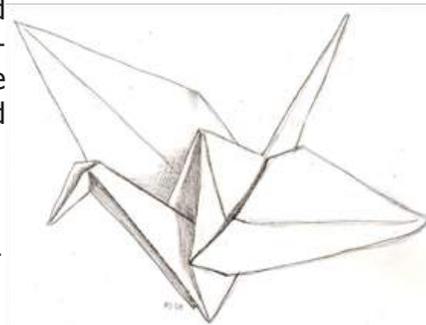
Fold Peace Cranes for Our Worship Space!

What if we could fold one hundred cranes before August 7th? What if we could fold two hundred cranes... or three hundred? We could, you know: with patience and the right paper, folding an origami crane is simpler than you'd think.

During June, we'll hold at least three crane-folding gatherings; there will be more folding parties in July. You don't need to know anything about origami — just come learn to fold! (You could even come to watch and to chat with us.)

Thanks to Caity Bogdan for donating the paper. Folding on:

- Friday, June 3 — outside of Rising Tide with Rev. Erika, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 8 — Skidompha (main floor) with Rev. Erika, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 15 — Skidompha (main floor) with Lindy, 3:00-4:30 p.m.



DRE SEARCH

The RE committee is excited to announce the official opening of our search for a new Director of Religious Education. We see this as vitally important to our growing congregation, and hope to find a passionate educator to help us shape our future. The DRE is a part time position, and will begin in August.

The RE committee has established a smaller search committee to manage the hiring process. Between now and then they will be reviewing applications and conducting interviews. Most of our advertising for this position is through UU contacts and some online resources such as Facebook and Craigslist. Of course, word of mouth is a great way to find a the perfect person as well. If you know of someone who might be interested, please direct them to our website. The DRE job description and contact information is posted there. We look forward to being able to welcome a new Director of Religious Education.

HYMNAL BOOKPLATES

There are still new hymnals awaiting your words of memory, wisdom or honor. Your \$28 donation will cover the cost. Please contact our treasurer.

President's Corner



A few weeks ago I had the pleasure to meet one of the nicest people I'd ever met. He was the kind of man who wears his heart on his sleeve. He is never shy about showing his emotion by shedding a tear or two. He is a big hugger, which is the best kind of person in my book. I met Paul at a lecture entitled "Transgender Workshop 101", which he was conducting for our Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship this past April. It was an amazing workshop information wise, but I was so moved by the fact that Paul bared his Soul to those attending. He, with a tear in his eye, shared his life story with those who were there, and welcomed any and all questions we had including those about the most private parts of the life he has lived. This opened a whole new understanding and compassion, for me, for those whose gender identities do not match their sex assigned at birth.

For me, it is hard to understand something I know nothing about. Thanks to Paul, I now have a much clearer picture and understanding of what it means to be transgender. We are all alike, but we are all different. My heartfelt appreciation for what Paul has given me. It so doesn't matter what gender identity a person has, what they wear, or the life they live. What matters is who is the person inside. It has been said that our eyes are the window to our souls. Look into a person's eyes and really see them, feel them for who they are. We are all alike, but we are all different.

*Fondly,
Jennifer*

MUUF Yard Sale/Bake Sale

at David & Sylvia Bailey's, Academy Hill, Newcastle
Saturday, June 25 from 8 am – 1 pm

Do you have usable items in in your basement, garage or spare room that you are just ready to get rid of? Well how about donating them to our Yard Sale/Bake Sale on June 25th! We are looking for donations of items to sell, and we need volunteers to help carry out this previously successful event.

Please contact Tiffany Vencile at 563-1758 (willey-wonka@hotmail.com) or Rosie Davis at 380-3011 (rosiesdavis@gmail.com) if interested in participating, or need help transporting heavier or bulky items.

We already have items stored in the Bailey's 'Pond House' and there is plenty of room for yours now!

JOIN US AT THE PRIDE PARADE



All MUUF members and friends are invited to join the celebration on Saturday, June 18, when the Portland Pride Festival starts with a parade down Congress Street. MUUF will be marching with other UU congregations as part of the group from MUUSAN (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network). The parade kicks off at noon in Monument Square and ends in Deering Oaks Park, where the Pride Festival goes until 5 p.m. Pride is a celebration of the LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, ally/asexual) community. The goal of Pride is "to bring people together to celebrate the achievements of the LGBTQIA movement, remember our history, and raise awareness of the work that still needs to be done. Fostering and honoring inclusivity, diversity and unity, Pride builds stronger connections amongst individuals, organizations, and businesses."

Please come help represent MUUF at this well-attended and fun event! If you have a "Standing on the Side of Love" T-shirt, please wear it. (MUUSAN will also have SSL T-shirts for sale on the day of the parade.) If you would rather watch the parade instead of walking with us, please come and cheer us on from the sidelines. We are organizing carpools. Our departure time will be confirmed closer to the date. Please contact Kate Pennington or Julia Fitz-Randolph for more information or to request a ride.

For more information on the ten-day Pride Portland celebration, see www.prideportland.org.

Turn to page 4 for photos from previous parade participation by MUUF.

Backpacks for Local At-Risk LGBTQ Youth

We are still collecting supplies to fill backpacks that will be donated by the Mid Coast Queer Collective (MCQC) to local LGBTQ youth who are homeless or otherwise at risk. Some items are small (a bottle of sunscreen, a flashlight or headlamp and batteries, or two pairs of large cotton socks, for example), and others are larger (such as a sleeping bag). The complete list of needed items is on a clipboard that will be available on Sundays for you to sign up if you can contribute. We are also collecting money from anyone who would find that an easier way to help. Please contact Kate Pennington (563-8933 or katep@maineantiquedigest.com) with any questions.

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Kate Pennington holds the MUUF banner at the 2015 Portland Pride parade, with help from friends Paul Garelli and Thomas Fontaine.



MUUF at the 2013 Portland Pride parade, with John Adams, Tom Fontaine, Nancy Bouchard, Kate Perry, and Donna Dolham.