



# The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
69 Winthrop Street ~ P O Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

January 2010

## Worship Services Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**                      *Lingering Questions Awaiting Answers*                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

Now that we've entered more deeply into ministry together, what are the lingering questions awaiting answers. I have a few for you. I imagine you may have a few for me, too.

**Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**                      *Theologians R Us*                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

"Religious exploration is a life-span process of building our own theology and harnessing those deepest explosions." During this service I will share with you a bit of my theology and I will invite the congregation to begin to examine what ultimate meanings, values and convictions shape the direction of daily life.

**Jan 17<sup>th</sup>**                      *In Praise of Social Visionaries*                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

As we approach Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will lift up and examine the mission of social visionaries past and present. How might we be inspired by their work?

**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**                      Small Group Ministry                      Kathy Kellison  
Small Group Ministry Coordinator

Kathy Kellison will explore the impact of Small Group Ministry on the UUC and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**                      *Witnessing Grace*                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

Here, at Unitarian Universalist Community Church, I see members reaching out within and beyond the walls to care for someone less fortunate. I am inspired. My heart is touched. And, I know, I have come to the right place, to a sacred place.

**Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen**

President: Debbie Mattson

Director of Religious Exploration: Karen Fisk

Administrator: Julie Pelletier

Choir Director: Douglas Barley

Small Group Ministry coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8 am-4 pm  
Saturday 8 am-12 pm

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Minister's Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 am-4pm

Next newsletter deadline is January 18th. Please submit newsletter articles by email  
to Julie Pelletier, UUC Church Administrator at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)



## A Faith Journey...

Already one third of our first year together is but a memory. A delightful one. A busy one. A holy one.

And now the calendar year is about to flip, once again, forward, to 2010. Amazing! I remember just yesterday worrying about the predicted millennium catastrophes.

As we enter into January 2010, we also enter deeper into this first year of building relationships and getting to know one another. In this newsletter you will see two very specific ways for us to enter more fully into the act of seeing each other and being seen. Not just in superficial ways but in meaningful ways that matter to our everyday ordinary lives. What makes this a faith journey? To this end, I bring an invitation to each of you to attend two events.

As you can see from the worship calendar, on the first Sunday of 2010 I have planned to carry forward a tradition I was taught by my mentor. Many Ministers have a practice of lifting up questions of faith that have been lingering about during the year. The ways of engaging this practice are many and varied. Typically members of the congregation bring questions to the minister. I would like to bring some faith questions to all of you as well. I currently have a list of two; more may emerge between now and then. But certainly, two will suffice.

The second event is the adult religious exploration course being offered this winter – Building Your Own Theology. I want to know what matters most to all of you. What are your ultimate concerns and convictions? I invite you to enter into dialogue about ultimate meanings and values. This is a dialogue that is both personal and interpersonal. Alone we experience the world around us. Together we theologize—bringing the intellectual process of analyzing, clarifying, articulating, and symbolizing those values, meanings, and convictions that grow of our experience.

Together we share the journey of understanding our experiences, naming and claiming our evolving ideas and beliefs to the end that we learn and grow religiously. In a community of meaning makers and co-creators, we engage in the task of being, belonging and becoming.

Both of these events encourage deeper knowing of ourselves and each other—this task of creating intimacy and ultimacy. With deeper knowing, may we, together, harness our deepest explosions and bring them boldly into our future.

Please join me. I look forward to getting to know you.

In faith,  
Carie



## **Building Your Own Theology with Rev. Carie Johnsen**

**Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. ~**

**January 27th, February 10th & 24th, March 10th & 24th , April 7th**

*We are meaning makers.*

*We are co-creators.*

*We live in a community of meaning makers and co-creators.*

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic Unitarian Universalist adult religious exploration program invites participants to develop their own personal credos. Together we will explore ultimate meanings – our deepest values and convictions. We will build theologies based on the materials from your individual life experiences.

Participants are encouraged to make a commitment to attend all six sessions. Short readings and reflections will be given for the off weeks. At the end, participants will be invited to share their credos with the congregation at a service in May. This is optional.

To plan accordingly, we are asking participants to please sign up for this course by calling Julie at 622-3233, sending email to [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or sign up in fellowship hall on the bulletin board.

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If you are considering **MEMBERSHIP** at Unitarian Universalist Community Church, please set up a time to visit with Rev. Carie Johnsen. A **New Member Ceremony** has been scheduled for Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at both the 9:15 and 11:00 services. During this ceremony the new members will be invited to sign the membership book. This special ceremony celebrates the religious commitment of new members and offers the congregation an opportunity to bring a warm welcome to all new members. You can reach Rev. Carie at [revcariejohansen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohansen@gmail.com) or 508-221-5295 or 623-3663.

# From the Director of Religious Exploration

I just finished a course from Starr King School of Theology on Organizational Systems Thinking for Religious Leaders. What a valuable and enlightening experience I had, one I hope will be reflected as I serve this congregation and try to put what I learned to good use. I've attached my final project.

## The Welcome Table



I made the sketch for this painting within the first few weeks of class. Although my understanding of organizational systems thinking has expanded and improved, and my perception of “-isms” has deepened and become more discerning, I embrace my original image with the naive and ever-hopeful notion that beloved community may be as simple as reaching out a supportive and needful hand—especially if the reach is reciprocal—equal, mutual, and balanced.

I tried to depict this support in the people of all races who both embody our chalice and create the structure of our faith community, the vessel of our faith.

The flame is always both the spirit of the group and the mystery, which is both collective and individualistic. The flame holds power and beauty and is available to all who seek it.

The seven promises of our faith surround the vessel, dancing with the people, dancing with their ideas, ideals, visions, and dreams. The six sources provide a steady foundation, a floor for stomping, for gliding, for leaping, and for landing. Surrounding the symbols are words of welcome, words of faith, words of hope.

And further surrounding and churning, even as the dancers support and are supported by each other, are system cycles. This outer edge is rife with pitfalls, false impressions, mental models, isms, doubt. It is also replete with successes, good instincts, reality checks, equitable relations, and hope.

As 2009 ends and 2010 unfurls, I give thanks yet again for this faith community, the UCC, with all its system--and with all its willingness to teach and to learn, to adapt and to evolve, and, most important, to reach out with support and with an invitation to a fair, equitable, beloved community.

Yours in faith, Karen



## President's Column.....

Last Spring the Board of Trustees scheduled two town meetings specifically to discuss the church budget; at the time, our projected income was lower than our projected expenses. At these meetings the same question came up several times: “What has happened to our rental income? Why aren’t we making more money renting especially since the renovations?”

As a result, the Board studied both the use of our three buildings and the imperative to maintain the safety and integrity of our buildings. It has been a three-part process.

1. We have added a web-based rental process. The rental calendar is linked to our website and rental requests can be made via email to Julie, our administrator. The calendar can be consulted prior to planning the event. This process makes information more accessible and streamlines the rental process. In addition, Julie is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays to help reserve space.
2. We have changed the locks on all of our buildings and implemented a process for requesting a key. We did not know who had keys and how many keys were out in the community. To remedy this, we have changed the locks and have a limited number of keys. Church members and regular rental customers received keys after filling out an application reviewed by 2 Board members and Julie.
3. The Board has updated a rental policy and rental fees for the Church and the Annex. The new policy is posted on the Board bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Use of 71 Winthrop Street is restricted to church activities.

We are hoping these changes will provide greater safety and an increase in rental income. We also hope that our church is busy with activity—both church and community events. The busier it becomes the more mindful we need to be of those using the space after us. We need to leave the rooms as we found them. We need to communicate all of our scheduling needs; if our needs change we need to negotiate the change through Julie as there may be someone expecting to use the same space either for an event, repair, or cleaning.

All of this is good. It is a sign of the times. We are becoming a more and more vibrant community meeting a diversity of needs. And for this, I am grateful to all of you.

Debbie Mattson



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ~ Elder Lunch ~

Our next Elders Lunch is scheduled for January 10th, following the second service. We hope to see you

### **Peaceful Heart Sangha Mindfulness Meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh**

With the coming of the New Year, meditation will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8 PM. Come and join us any time. No prior experience necessary.

On Monday, January 18, we will have an introduction to practice from 5:30 - 6:20 for anyone who would like to learn some background for this practice or who has questions.

We continue to have childcare available 6:15 - 8:15 on the first Monday of the month.

We will additionally have a January Intensive Practice in which we are invited to choose a path to deepen our practice for 1 month. We will gather to begin our practice on Saturday, January 9 and will gather to close our practice on Saturday, February 6.

In February we will have a Sangha Trip to Blue Cliff Monastery in NY from February 12 - 15 open to anyone who is interested in learning more about this practice. The cost will be \$55/night plus chipping in on transportation costs. The Open Heart Sangha based at the UU church in Yarmouth and in Bath will be joining us for this Maine Sangha Trip.

Questions? Call Marty Soule at 685-9270 or send an email to [martysoule@gmail.com](mailto:martysoule@gmail.com)

**It is with deep gratitude and heartfelt appreciation that I thank Judy McCown, Bruce Bierce, Hannah Falukner & Richard Bridges for all the work they did to help make Julia's reception a rousing success. It was some party! What a day! Thank you!**



**Cheryl Clukey**

Julia Clukey

## **VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS GATHERING**

Friday January 15, 2010  
Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm

Social gathering, dinner, and orientation.  
All are welcome.

Child care will be provided.

Please contact Susan Burnett for more information  
or to RSVP.

377-3969 or [burnett@farirpoint.net](mailto:burnett@farirpoint.net)

## **Thank You!**

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated items to HANNAH's BOUTIQUE and to HANNAH FAULKNER for her extraordinary care and personal touches that made the Boutique so special! Profits came in at \$614 this holiday season.

CHARLENE CLEVEN continues to sell her lovely handmade cards and gift bags in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. She has donated over \$120 from the sale of her cards since October. We are very appreciative of her time and talents.

## **Once Again the UUC Fulfills Wishes in Abundance**

Thank you one and all for making our Adopt A Family program very successful. We packed two cars full of beautifully wrapped gifts and delivered them to the Family violence Project where the families would pick them up to put under their Christmas trees.

For all people, but particularly for families in hard times, the gift of caring is so HUGE. You have shown care and generosity and the spirit of the season by fulfilling so many of the simple holiday wishes of our adopted families. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Karen

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We have a number of ongoing activities, and some with additional offerings – See the Adult Bulletin Board by the Sanctuary for details.

See the separate notice of **Building Your Own Theology** being offered by Rev. Carie Johnsen

And join us for planning for the items **Coming in 2010!**

### *Goddess, Continued*

#### **January 3 Planning “Goddess Continued”**

After First Service 10:15am - 11am Robbins Room (Room on Right before Summer Street)

And After Second Service, Fellowship Hall

Discussion of how we continue the focus on the Goddess, including

Plan for the Native American sessions on Mask-making, the last sessions of Rise Up

Options for continuing study and celebration of the Goddess: specific study sessions related to goddesses from around the world, small group ministry sessions for deeper connections, and celebrations of life (such as croning), and other suggestions.

The Rise Up and Call Her Name curriculum has been offered on Sunday mornings. Is this still a good time, or are there other arrangements?

**January 10 Other Planning for Coming in 2010!** With the New Year upon us, come, be part of developing/designating leadership for these offerings, as and scheduling potential times.

\*Goddess Continued – responses from the January 3 meetings

\*Welcoming Congregation and Marriage Equality sessions and Activities

\*Continuing the Welcome with Weaving the Diversity (Ageism, Racism, Ageism, Classism)

\*Biblical Dialogue – Making Sense of Our Roots – various ways to continue the discussion started last year with Misquoting Jesus.

\*Looking at Later Life – Consideration of the gifts, challenges, and celebrations of growing older, as we age and as we walk with each other in the life journey.

\*Green Sanctuary – This is a way to include the educational component as this program is considered by the congregation.

\*Movie series – these may be focused, such as social action, or opportunities for social contact within the congregation.

\* Other suggestions that you might have.

Programs may involve more than the educational focus. We would encourage collaboration among all parts of the congregation in our planning. If you have questions or comments, please contact Helen Zidowecki at 207-582-5308 or [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)

### **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

The History Committee is moving from upstairs in the Annex to the first floor room that was the old office on December 27 between the services and after second service. Assistance is needed in carrying things downstairs. We will be having an Opening of the History Room in January!

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

In the beginning, Small Group Ministry was understood to be a source for connection and inclusion in our community as our numbers expanded. We worried that newcomers would not find a way to fit in and get acquainted amid the increasing bustle of a larger congregation. Our Small Group Ministry continues to answer that need. A number of opportunities to discover Small Group Ministry are coming along.

The morning service on January 24 will provide an introduction to our Small Group Ministry. Come find out about our history and how SGM works!

Thanks to Terry Cookson who has agreed to be a leader, one new Group will be forming in January. I will be reaching out to those of you who have expressed an interest in an ongoing Group to see if this opportunity fits your schedule. Stay tuned!

Interest has been expressed in beginning a MEN'S Group. This seems fitting as we already have women's Groups. If this idea appeals to you, if you think it might, or to find out more, I encourage you to speak with me or with Carie.

The OPEN GROUP is back in a new format. On the third Sunday of the month, Carie will be writing an outline to guide discussion of that morning's worship service. All who are interested will be welcome to join a onetime Group for an hour. We will meet after each service to provide opportunity regardless of which service you attend. Not only is this a chance to get acquainted with others at church, it also provides an opportunity to engage more deeply with the morning's worship. Anyone who is interested is welcome, newcomer or long timer. We can all learn from each other's perspective.

Small Group Ministry is a pillar of our congregational life. Now is the time to learn more about it!

Kathy Kellison  
SGM Coordinator



### Membership Committee....

New members and friends:  
Do you need a UU name tag?

Long time members:  
Would you like a new name tag?

Email Barb DeSerres @ [barbdes@roadrunner.com](mailto:barbdes@roadrunner.com)  
for prompt and cheerful service.

### New Years Greetings from the Aesthetics Committee

We would like to offer a gentle reminder to check the 'Lost and Found' basket in the coatroom. All items remaining at the end of every month will be donated to Goodwill. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping to keep all areas tidy.



*Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
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Augusta, Maine 04332-0008*

Our Administrative Office is open:  
Mondays and Tuesdays 8 am-4 pm and Saturdays 8 am-12 pm  
71 Winthrop Street, Augusta, ME 04330



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Thank you** to everyone that has graciously given of their time on Saturday afternoons to help with the order of service and to Stephanie Ralph and Stefanie Barley for helping with the newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.