



The Flaming Chalice

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

October 2011

Worship Services

Oct. 2nd *Nonbelievers are Believers Too* Rev. Carie Johnsen

A service on Humanism - the desire to live with integrity and dignity, to be good without God. All religious traditions measure what is good by the effect on humanity; the tenants of Humanism happen to be most explicit and make human's place and role most central.

Oct. 9th *The Libraries of our Lives* Sarah Schultz-Nielsen

Many of us have music which we consider to be the "soundtracks of our lives." Certain songs that speak to our hearts and minds about certain memories and feelings from throughout our lives.

This service will speak about the books we read that represent milestones and memories in our lives .

Oct 16th *Yearnings: a Defining Human Experience* Rev. Carie Johnsen

In this service Carie will explore the life generating nature of our longing to find answers to our deepest questions and our quest for a guiding center, enduring truths, love and transcendence.

Oct 23rd *Do We Need Heaven?* Rev. Mark Worth

Our Universalist forebears gave up hell long ago, but heaven is more attractive. What happens when we die? Mark will engage in a lighthearted and yet serious exploration of eternity.

This service is the first of three pulpit exchanges scheduled for this year. The Rev. Mark Worth, a native of Michigan, came to Maine 20 years ago to serve the Ellsworth UU Church 3/4 time and the Castine Unitarian Church 1/4 time. Five years ago mark became the full-time minister of the re-named Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine. He is a former natural food store owner, factory worker and union steward, and high school history teacher.

Rev. Carie Johnsen will be leading worship at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine.

Oct. 30th *UU Hymnody* Rev. Carie Johnsen
Douglas Barley, Choir Director

Doug returned from his second pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network Conference with a service exploring Unitarian Universalist theological evolution through page one of the four most recent hymnals. This service originally created by Mimi Gonigam Stevens will be adapted by Doug and Rev. Carie for UUCC.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
Interim Director of Religious Exploration: Pat Gardiner
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Douglas Barley
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

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Next newsletter deadline is **October 7th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

There are many things in life that we cannot count on but like clockwork change arrives on schedule every three months to signal to us the earth's rotation.

Are you among the group of people who appreciate the end of a busy unscheduled summer? This is of course assuming you are among those who live 9 months a year with a more scheduled lifestyle.

Are you among those who appreciate the sunny temperate days and cool nights and the turning of the leaves that signal the earth is beginning to prepare for the slumber of winter?

Are you a Mainer who couldn't imagine living in a geographical location without the distinction of seasons? Or like me, a person "from away," who keeps relocating to the northern states where the fall foliage, snowy winters, rainy springs and hot summers are celebrated (or not)?

Fall is by far my favorite season and as a long time student and/or mother of students, I celebrate the arrival of September and the return to a routine. My psyche and spirit are embraced by the rhythms of a predictable schedule. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are full work days at home and in the office. Thursday is my writing day. Friday is my sabbatical. Saturday is up for grabs. Sunday I am at church. AHH~HH!! Some predictability has arrived in my life once again.

What is the transition to fall like for you and your family?

- Are you experiencing the empty nest this year? With the children off to college how will your routines and activities adjust to the extra time and the quiet house?
- Maybe your children are returning to the routines of a school schedule thus creating multiple commitments for everyone to attend to? How will you attend to what is most important?
- Or are you among our families of home schoolers and no schoolers who see all of life, every day, and every season as an opportunity for learning and growing? What lessons arrive at this time?

And then there are those of us, who cultivate non-"traditional" families to share the stories and events of our lives. How does your body and mind and spirit shift with the earth's rotation?

- How do your daily patterns and habits shift with the arrival of fall?
- How does your retirement lifestyle ebb and flow?
- With the adult children long gone, what part of your shift to fall brings connection, purpose and meaning?
- Or maybe you are one among many who enter fall with the dread of decreased independence as you watch the daylight hours fade thus your driving hours limited.

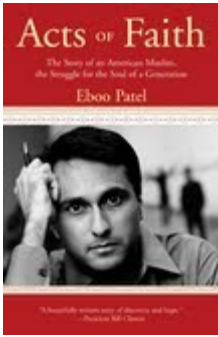
Wherever you are on life's journey, the grace of nature is once again standing on our doorstep. In the turning of the leaves we are reminded that without change there is no growth and with fall's arrival, we are offered the richness of nature's metaphors to reflect upon our ever evolving lives.

What is it you are embracing this fall? What element of change are you fighting? Is there something awaiting your full embrace? Is there something needing your attention and time? What color are your changing leaves?

May your transition to fall be filled with the grace of nature, Rev. Carie

From the desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen ...

UUA Common Reads



2010 -2011
The Death of Josseline
Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands
By Margaret Regan



2011- 2012
Act of Faith:
The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation
By Ebbo Patel

Sign up NOW at the Adult Religious Exploration Bulletin Board in the lobby. With an order of 10 or more books from the UUA Bookstore a discount of 20% is applied.

The Death of Josseline discussion date Sunday, October 30th 1:00 – 2:30 pm
and Monday, January 30th 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Acts of Faith discussion date – Sunday, November 6th 1:00-2:30 and February 6th 6:00-7:30

From The Board ...

Hello Friends!

It was great to see everyone again after our summer vacations at the Ingathering Service! It feels like we have a lot of positive energy this new year and will accomplish great things together.

After the service recently members had the opportunity to sign up for volunteer activities, learning workshops and ways to help fundraising. It was gratifying to see the buzz around the tables and the community spirit. If you missed this opportunity, check the insert in each week's Order of Service for the many ways you can get more involved in church life.

One of the many things we will do this year is the final naming of the church buildings. It seems the right thing to do now that we own the buildings free and clear, doesn't it? Anyway, as you recall, we began the process last year with an initial vote. Because only 35% of the members cast a ballot, (and we really would like this to be a truly participatory decision), the Board has decided to take the top two choices - Prominent UU's in Augusta and Maine, and "Chalice House, Covenant House and Community House and hold a run-off election at the annual meeting in June. In the coming months the History Committee will develop a list of prominent UU's for us to consider.

I hope you are looking forward to a wonderful and spiritual church year. Let me know if you have anything on your mind or suggestions on how to make UUCB be a more welcoming place. I can be reached at comeandgo@roadrunner.com or 395-2259.

See you soon!

Sheila Comerford
Board President

Interim Director of Religious Exploration ...

What a wonderful beginning to our faith development and RE (religious exploration) year! On the 18th we dedicated our RE leaders; the rooms in the Annex are bright and beautiful thanks to the many hands who worked on the space! There are excellent curriculum materials for each group. The Nursery is again staffed by our teen youth at both services. Excitement everywhere! The Chalice Children (K-1) and Explorers (grades 2-3) would each appreciate another teaching team member. Could it be you? Call me or drop me an email! 622-3232 or dre@augustauu.org. Nurturing our children and their exploration of faith is our goal—plus it is fun.

Young UU Worship begins on 9/25 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 followed by age-specific classes, and a Time for All Ages and Spirit Play at 11:00. Parents of Chalice Children (K-1) and Explorers (gr.2-3) please pick up your children from their rooms at 10:30 when first service classes end.

Plans are under way for this year's Peace Jam and for Senior Youth group on Sunday mornings. They rock!

I want to thank the RE Committee, Rev. Carie and all who have made me feel so welcome here, including previous DRE Karen Fisk who left a notebook filled with invaluable start-up information! I am so pleased to be a part of this energetic and dynamic church this year while you conduct a search for a permanent DRE.

There are copies of this year's RE prospectus available on the information table in the hallway outside the sanctuary. There is also a copy posted on the RE bulletin board in the hallway. Look, too, for the "How Cool is That!" section of the board.

And a request for everyone to wear a nametag! I can use all the help I can get putting the correct name with all of your beautiful faces!

Until next time,
Namaste!

DRE Pat



Senior Youth Group ~ We are holding a Senior Youth group Sundays at 9:15 in the Annex. Senior Youth should come directly to the Olsen Room in the Annex on Sundays at 9:15. Youth should contact Monique McCauliffe (mmbmc@roadrunner.com) if they can't make it but would like to be part of our weekly group and (or) an upcoming discussion of Peace Jam.

Small Group Ministry ...

On Saturday September 17, 28 people gathered to explore Small Group Ministry at our church. With the help of expert facilitation provided by Peg and Tom Herbert of the Concord, New Hampshire Unitarian Universalist Church, we began by looking at what having this ministry provides to us individually and to our congregation. We created a broad vision. From there we looked at the basic elements that define Small Group Ministry, what makes it different from other aspects of church life. (More on that next time!) Group participants, both current and past, had an opportunity to describe how their groups work and hear how each group is similar to other groups and yet unique. We all thought about how important Small Group Ministry has been over the last 12 years and what we need and want for its future. Members of the Small Group Ministry Committee listened closely and will explore the information more fully as we move ahead with our task of seeing to the vibrancy of Small Group Ministry. (More on that coming up later, too!) The food provided by two of our groups was the pinnacle of a very satisfying day.

Many of the contributions to our vision of Small Group Ministry focused on relationships and how they are 'broadened', 'strengthened' and 'deepened' by participation. We reflected that qualities of Small Group Ministry have permeated our church culture, most notably an increase in civility at committee and membership meetings since we began this practice. We noted that unlikely friendships have developed through group participation. We have become clearer about what being a Unitarian Universalist means to us and have learned to speak up about it in many settings. The opportunity to minister to one another through group participation is a gift for both giver and receiver. We are grateful for the ability and willingness of groups to welcome and integrate those who are new to our community. In a very brief time we identified a wealth of gifts available through Small Group Ministry.

After reviewing the basic elements of Small Group Ministry, we talked about how we might reinvigorate our practice. We looked at creating more connection between groups, encouraging groups to become involved in more service projects, offering group leaders opportunities to expand their vision and skill as they work with their groups and making Small Group Ministry even more available and accessible to those who are interested in participating. It is in these areas that the committee will be focusing in coming weeks.

We plan to recruit some new leaders for this ministry, and expect to begin some new groups. Helen Zidowecki and I will be offering training to group leaders in October. Our plan is to meet with all current leaders and those who want to join the leadership ranks. The scheduled dates are the evening of October 12 and the afternoon of October 23. Please take time to consider whether this is the time for you to join a group. We will be launching new groups in January and would love to have you among us.

Finally, many thanks to all of you who gave of your time and energy participating in the workshop. The committee and I are very grateful for your contribution. We look to the future with hope and enthusiasm.

Kathy Kellison



Community News

Elder Lunch ~ Won't you join us on Sunday, October 9th (after second service) for our first Elder Lunch? We don't check your birth certificate....."elder" is self-defined!

Mark your Calendar! Next elder lunch will be held on Sunday, November 13th. Hope to see you there!

Holiday Fair ~ The Winthrop Area Ministerial Association (WAMA), of which Rev. Carie Johnsen is an active member, is exploring the possibility of hosting a holiday fair with a focus on local artisans and fair trade items. If you have an interest in setting up a table for your craft, hosting a table for a fair trade group you are involved with, or join in organizing this event, please let Rev. Carie know no later October 1st by sending her an email at revcariejohansen@gmail.com.

Fundraising ...

Our 3rd Annual Public Chowder Luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 29th, 2011, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Menu: chowder, cornbread, cookies, bars and beverages.

Cost: Adults \$6.00 and Children \$3.00

There will be a 50/50 Raffle!

Volunteers are needed. If you can help with food or serving, please sign the sign-up sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall or contact Judy McCown or Bruce Bierce at: 897-3683, jmbierce@myfairpoint.net or bbierce@myfairpoint.net.

UUCB Cookbook - The Fellowship of Food

The UUCB cookbook is finished and will soon be ready to distribute. Copies are \$15 each. There are order forms on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. Please include your payment with your order. Checks are to be made out to UUCB. Thank you!

Peaceful Heart Sangha ...



Peaceful Heart Sangha meets every Monday from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the sanctuary for meditation and mindfulness practices. We have practice for children and families the first Monday of the month at 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Childcare is offered that day during adult meditation.

A deeper introduction to our practice will be available Oct. 29 when Dharma Teacher, Joanne Friday, will be offering a **Day of Mindfulness** in Brunswick. More details will be available soon.

For more information see our **new brochures** in the church foyer or visit our blog at:

<http://peacefulheartsangha.blogspot.com/>

For an introduction to meditation contact:

peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or

Marty Soule at 685-9270 or

martysoule@gmail.com

There will be a retreat on **Bringing Mindful Speech to Life** in Winslow mid-January. It will bring together the practices of Mindful Meditation and Mindful Speech. It is **limited to 20 participants**. After sharing the information at a retreat with Joanne Friday recently, I thought it would be good to share this event with our UUCB community in case anyone would like to participate and would like to sign up now before it fills. (There was a lot of interest at the retreat).

Church Display Case ...

The Display Case in the hallway next to the Sanctuary offers opportunity for Committees and groups within the church to share their programs and activities with the Congregation and Larger Community. An increasing number of people are in the church building throughout the week. *Let them know about your passion for Unitarian Universalism at UUCB!*

The Thursday morning Small Group Ministry has offered to continue coordinating the Displays. Sign up for exhibits of 2 weeks to a month. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) to schedule your display.

Faith in Action Committee ...

UUCC will be supporting the following organization to help local and International neighbors.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Both Near and Far is an interfaith collaborative effort to raise awareness and collect donations to fight hunger in our local and international communities.

Representatives will collaborate with youth at various Maine mosques, churches, synagogues and universities to collect food for local Maine food banks and money for famine relief in the Horn of Africa. Boxes for food and monetary donations will be placed at several locations throughout Maine. Organizations will decorate and fill food donation boxes.

The project will extend until the end of September, because the organization is planning a finale with representatives from Islamic Relief that will possibly include an interfaith march. Kristin McLaren of Winthrop's United Methodist Church is leading the way with this project. She will be providing us with some publicity materials about the crisis in East Africa. In the meantime, here's a link to their church website with links to information about Islamic Relief. Her link explains that they are a 4-star rated charity (Charity Navigator's highest rating) and they've been in the region for over a decade <http://www.winthropumc.org/missions.html#neighbors>

Maine has been hard hit by the recent economic crisis and as a result hunger is on the rise. According to the USDA, 200,000 Mainers are hungry, and Maine ranks 2nd in the nation for food insecurity. Mainers of all faiths believe that it is imperative that we work together to fight this problem in our communities. The Neighbors Helping Neighbor's project will be collecting food to go to local food pantries.

The situation of famine in the Horn of Africa also impacts Maine, especially considering that a significant proportion of Muslims from across the state have family in Somalia. More than 13 million people across East Africa are facing the worst drought in 60 years. People cannot afford the basic food supplies they need to survive, and malnutrition now affects over 20% of the population due to food and water shortages. Maine Christians, Muslims, Jews and Unitarian Universalists will be collecting donations for Islamic relief, which is distributing food, water and emergency shelter to over 450,000 people in the Horn of Africa.

Mainers of all faiths share a strong commitment to serving their neighbors and, with this project, are committed to working together in solidarity to help hungry neighbors, both locally and globally. We can help with food and monetary donations. Next week and through September there will be boxes in the fellowship hall to fill.

History Committee ...

The **History Committee** is meeting on Thursday, October 13, 10:30am-noon, in the Olsen Room of the Annex. On the agenda are working on files, consideration of names for the buildings, historical information on the website, and continuing discussion regarding placing historic items related to Sylvester Judd. Contact: Helen Zidowecki

Website Committee ...

WEBSITE COMING! *We are in the FINAL preparations for the NEW website.*

We had hoped to have it up by Ingathering Sunday, but have been receiving more and more material to add. So now our target is October 1. In the meantime, a hard copy of the planned website content is on display in the Weaving the Web notebook during Fellowship Hour. In fact, we plan on having a web notebook available in the Committee Room as a reference and for those who do not have ready access to the internet.

Contact Website Committee at:
website@augustauu.org

Augusta Food Bank ...

Augusta Food Bank ~ 30th Anniversary Celebration & Fund Raiser October 15, 2011 ~ Le Club Calumet

Please join us for an evening of festivities: delicious buffet dinner; cash bar; silent pie auction; 50/50 raffle and a live auction of many desirable items, including lunch with Governor Angus King, handmade items, artwork and local gift certificates. For a list of items please visit: www.augustafoodbank.org

Tickets: \$30.00 each, available at Aubuchon Hardware, Harvest Time, Manchester Town Office or by calling Marcella at 623-9232.

Rev. Carie has extra tickets available at a pay as you can rate.

*Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P O Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008*



From the Administrator



Reserving a meeting room ~ When in need of a meeting space please be sure to contact the administration office in advance to ensure that space is available. We have many outside groups as well as church groups that meet on a weekly basis. You may request meeting space by contacting the office administrator during regular business hours at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org

Pledge Payments ~ When making a pledge payment by check, please write “**pledge**” on the memo section of the check. This will insure that your pledge payment is applied correctly to your yearly contributions.

