

# The COMMON

## Weeda Rocks the Palace!

*From symphonies to shortbread, David Weeda hits a high note*



Copyright Don G. Powell

David Weeda, here tricked out in Scottish garb, after a brief summer rain. . . piping on the beach at The Colony in Hulls Cove, on Mount Desert Island. Thanks to Don G. Powell for this magical photograph!

If you've not thought of the bag pipe as an orchestral instrument, you missed David's guest turn last year with the Bangor Symphony, which led to his invitation to play with the Albany Symphony. *See page 2*

### CALENDAR

#### Pulpit

Feb. 1  
Rev. Charles J. Stephens

Feb. 8  
Dr. Lynn Parsons

Feb. 15  
Rev. Albert Boyce

Feb. 22  
Rev. Charles J. Stephens

#### Events

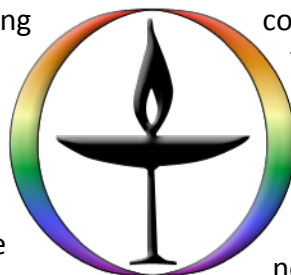
Feb. 15  
Pot luck Luncheon

Feb. 19  
Board meeting

### SEARCH ON SCHEDULE

ANNE PARSONS

Your Ministerial Search Committee during January received and reviewed several on-line applications and information packets. In this initial review, we narrowed the field to those applicants who appeared most likely to match our needs and attributes, as set forth by the



congregation. Those applicants then participated in a Skype interview (voice and video via the Internet) with the full committee to help further focus on those who best matched our needs. *see page 4*

## PIPING THE SYMPHONY

David Weeda

Last month I was thrilled to play the 2.5 minute Highland Pipe part in Peter Maxwell Davies' "An Orkney Wedding, With Sunrise!," with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, no less. The composer's directive is for the piper--representing the rising sun--to march, playing, into the concert hall and down the aisle to join the orchestra on-stage--a triumphant and dramatic finish to his joy-filled tone poem depicting the celebration and revelry of the (apparently thirsty) crowd attending a wedding in Scotland's Orkney Islands.



The concert was presented on Saturday, January 17, at Albany's historic and beautiful Palace Theatre. I was proud to be on the program with Colin Currie, an amazing percussionist from Scotland who joined the orchestra to play Julia Wolfe's RISE and FLY concerto, written especially for Currie and influenced by the rhythm of live street musicians in New York City. Hearing and seeing his rehearsal was AMAZING, and overflowing with exuberant fun for the entire orchestra! Julia Wolfe attended rehearsal and was an honored guest at the concert itself. The Albany Symphony Orchestra rounded out the program with a performance of Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony. When I read a bit of the history of the Palace Theatre, I was happy to learn that Melissa Etheridge has performed there, as she and I were high school friends back in Leavenworth, Kansas! . . . now we've both "played the Palace!"

*See page 7 for more David Weeda news!*



IMAGINE .....

..... there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one.

Brought to you by your organist & choir director,  
GENA

## CHARLES' COGITATIONS

Learning more about African American history is important for Americans in general, but especially for people here in Maine. Our state has a very low population of African Americans; in fact, we are the whitest state in the Union. Combine that with the reality that African Americans now comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population. Furthermore, studies show that today nearly 50 percent of Americans under 18 are minorities and by 2042 nonwhites will be in the overall majority.

It is quite disturbing that in a 2012 poll, 51 percent of Americans expressed anti-black sentiments. It is even more startling that the rate of such sentiments had increased by 3 percent since 2008. We know that living in denial of the reality of race relations will continue to cause things to fester and worsen. The people of our country need to learn to appreciate the value of persons of other races and to learn how to cooperate to ensure that our children and grandchildren learn to treat one another as equals

Our White History and our Black History challenge us with the images of racism that dominated our country in the 1700's, the 1800's, the 1900's. Knowing and understanding the many facets of our American history can help us create a more whole and unified America. Being ignorant of our fellow American threatens our future.

I challenge us all to learn more about the history of Black Americans during February--Black History Month. Pick up a book about African American history. Read biographies about African Americans. Read novels and books of poetry by African Americans.

We can lament that we don't live in a more multicultural or multiracial community but there is absolutely nothing preventing us from delving into the multicultural and multiracial history and culture that literally lies at our fingertips. Let us be among those who openly and honestly face our country's history and, learning from that history, work together to create greater appreciation of all people.

Rev. Charles J. Stephens



### Pulpit Preview

Feb. 1 "Compassion for Yourself"  
Sixth in Compassion Sermon Series.  
When you hear the Golden Rule, how often do you focus on the second half?  
And how would a friend or neighbor feel if you talked to him or her like you talk to yourself when you forget something or make a mistake?

Feb. 8 Minister's Sunday off.  
UUCS President Lynn Parsons will speak.

Feb. 15 Minister off for a week of vacation (10-16). The Rev. Al Boyce will speak.

Feb. 22 "How Abraham Lincoln's Melancholy/Depression Helped Make Him a Great President." Lincoln was one of our greatest presidents and yet his mood swings and emotional breakdowns would have made it impossible for him to be elected president today.

## FRANK GLAZER



Renowned pianist and artist in residence at Bates College, Frank Glazer died on January 13, one month short of his 100th birthday. Glazer was among the great pianists of our time. Had he been Japanese, he would have been a National Treasure.

Trained by Artur Schnabel and Arnold Schoenberg in Berlin, Glazer as a young pianist connected with some of the biggest names in music. In addition to Schoenberg, Kurt Weill attended Glazer's Town Hall debut recital in New York. He played Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Boston Symphony under conductor Serge Koussevitzky. From 1965 - 1980 he taught at the Eastman School of Music and ever since he had been at Bates.

In concert venues around the world, Glazer earned superlatives from critics and audiences alike--"formidable, phenomenal, distinguished, elegant, a master musician and virtuoso."

For his Meeting House appearance here in Castine in August 2011, Glazer played a wonderful assortment of works by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt. For all who were there, it truly was a memorable evening.

### Membership at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine

If you have been attending UUC and might be thinking about signing our membership book, I invite you to talk with me at church or give me a call or email me [minister@uucastine.org](mailto:minister@uucastine.org). The normal process of formally joining our congregation is for a person to contact me indicating interest. Then we make an appointment so that we can talk about membership and I can address any questions you might have. Know that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine welcomes all those who identify with our principles and purposes to join us in our quest to create a caring welcoming liberal religious congregation.

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#### *Ministerial Search, from page 1*

During late February and early March, the pre-candidates will meet in person with the committee at neutral sites so the committee can get to know them and their qualifications even better, and so the candidates can learn more about us.

The agreed-upon candidate will be invited to visit Castine in late April or early May, to preach from our pulpit on two Sundays. There will be ample opportunities provided for members and friends to get to know the candidate and for the candidate to get to know us.

Following the visit, members will vote on whether to call the candidate to be our settled minister. If approved, our new minister would begin serving in August or September.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



In December, Samantha Revell, daughter of Colin Powell and Emma Sweet, began as our Religious Education Aide. A student at George Stevens Academy, “Sam” will be working with our youngest children. When she is able, she will read a story and provide an activity. During February, stories and activities will focus on our world of animals and taking care of our earth.

For our older group, we will explore the lives of people from all over the world who are models of our Seven Principles. Through this exploration, we will brainstorm ways we might help our church, our community, even our world become a better place. In addition, we will continue to help with the monthly church potlucks.

Religious Education needs:

- Names of several high school students I could contact about subbing for Sam when she is unable to be at church.
- Adults who would join the RE Committee to explore new ideas for Castine’s Religious Education Program.
- Adults to attend a workshop on religious education. (See below.)

**21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Faith Formation Workshop  
Saturday, March 21  
10 AM--3 PM  
First Universalist Church, Rockland**

Given the small size of our district, it is rare to have religious education workshops within the state of Maine, let alone north of Portland. The Midcoast Cluster DRE Group has worked hard to bring a religious education workshop to Rockland. This workshop is structured for teams of people from each church who want to see their religious education programs grow in response to 21<sup>st</sup> century realities. The team should include the Director of Religious Education or religious educator and minister and at least one or two (or more) other people from the church.

“Faith Formation.” What does that mean?

- This is just the 21<sup>st</sup> century term for religious education.

What will you gain from this workshop?

- “Participants will gain clarity around roles and responsibilities, recognize the gifts and priorities of your particular congregation, and learn how to plan and assess innovative approaches to religious education and faith formation for all ages. Participants will also learn how they can remain connected to colleagues in sibling congregations throughout the year to manifest our interdependence by sharing support, ideas, and resources.”

Since one of the goals of our church is to attract families and keep our children participating in church, I hope we will have a team of folks who will join me on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Rockland. Without a team from Castine, I will be asked to work with a team from another church. Let me know if you are interested or have any further questions. The registration deadline is March 11.

Kay Hansen, Religious Educator

## JUBILEE

*The following article by Michael Lerner is adapted from Tikkun Magazine, winter 2015. Ed.*

### Sabbatical Year and Jubilee in 21st Century America

This is a thought experiment, meant to open space for thinking afresh about our world. By envisioning what it would be like to implement the periodic Sabbatical Year and Jubilee called for in the Torah's laws on debt, we can experience the true tension between the way the world is and how it should be.

Imagine that every seventh year, most workplaces are closed so that nearly everyone in your society has a year of freedom and the earth itself is given a year to regenerate. This is the Sabbatical Year of the Torah. During this year your basic needs for food and shelter will be adequately met. How will you spend your time and energy? What are you currently not able to participate in because you don't have the time?



Now imagine that all debts are forgiven every seven years. Will you avoid paying an outstanding debt before the end of seven years? Or do you feel a commitment to pay back your loans and live with integrity? Do you feel differently about different kinds of debt?

As it happens, we are in the middle of a Sabbatical Year, according to Orthodox Jews who have kept track for the past 2,000+ years. Currently, Sabbatical practices apply only to

agriculture in Israel, but what if they were part of Western societies and applied to all work?

Now imagine that every fifty years the wealth of individuals and nations is redistributed to ensure that everyone has a roughly equal share. This is what it means to have a Jubilee.

Given this knowledge, would you feel less motivated to create, produce, and innovate, even if your work encourages your creativity and serves the common good? Answer for yourself, not according to what you think others would do.

Our current society plays to our smallest, most fearful, and pettiest selves. It appeals to our fear that there is not enough and urges us to hoard resources--money, food, land, and more. In our current system, some of these fears are well founded: a few have way more than they need, while many have not enough. To protect themselves, the few on top create systems and structures that perpetuate inequalities.

What if we created a world based not on our fears but instead on the desires of our highest, idealized selves? What if we forgave all debts every seven years and redistributed wealth every fifty years? Would not these practices play to our most generous, loving, and compassionate selves, rather than to our most fearful selves?

This vision no doubt is wholly unrealistic and fraught with problems. But even if we never see a Sabbatical Year or a fiftieth-year Jubilee, is it not worthwhile to imagine such a break from toil and acquisition, hoarding and inequality? When we allow ourselves to think through what we would be willing to give up to have every seventh year off, we are one step closer to living in the joyous simplicity that is necessary to save the earth from being further ravaged by excessive consumption.

**SHORTBREAD!**

Did you sample David Weeda's shortbread during coffee hour in January? Typical response: "Wow, David, you ought to be selling these!" Actually, he already had thought of that, and plans are taking shape. Let David tell it:

"My shortbread baking venture is coming together, but won't be officially "up and running," until Spring, but then I expect to be on shelves in Maine retail stores and available for order and delivery through the website and US Postal Service. Plus, I am VERY willing to bake shortbread for my "friends" who call and order and schedule delivery of 4-dozen bulk-packaged "David's Shortbread" -- Baked With Love By The Hands Of A Highland Piper In Downeast Maine!

"I'm putting together all the business requirements for licensing, etc, and working on packaging, label design, and marketing. Any sales to friends right now will help get me through this start-up phase (helping to pay the winter mortgage, propane bill, snow-plowing bill, etc.) And of course, I give a 10 percent discount to UU's who want to have a visit to Williams Pond Lodge Bed & Breakfast -- where they will find a tin of David's Shortbread waiting in their guest room when they check-in!"

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**Pledge yet?**

What with snow and other duties calling for attention, responding to our call for committing to pledge financial support to the congregation may not have topped your to-do list in January. Yet many people indeed have pledged for 2015, and it's vital to our church community that we at least come close to full participation. We can't keep the heat and lights on without your contributions, let alone pay our staff and play our part in the larger community. If you have not pledged yet, please do so soon and put it in the collection plate (in an envelope marked "pledge") or mail to Becky St. John, UU Congregation of Castine, Box 520, Castine ME 04421

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Lynn Parsons, President  
 Gil Tenney, Vice President  
 Diana Bernard, Treasurer  
 Anne Romans, Clerk  
 Tom Mason  
 Leslie Fairbank  
 Colin Powell, Alternate

The Governing Board meets in the Parish House at 8:30 am on the third Thursday of each month. Observers always are welcome.

**THE COMMON**

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