



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

May 2022

A Month of Sundays in May 2022

- May 1st It's May Day!
Rev. Margaret Beckman, worship leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, musician
- May 8th Julia Ward Howe: Battle Hymn to Mothers for Peace
Rev. Margaret Beckman, worship leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, musician
- May 15th There's a Baby in the River
Rev. Margaret Beckman, worship leader
Rissa Moore, Musician
- May 22nd The Beautiful Not Yet
Rev. Margaret Beckman, worship leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, musician
- May 29th Vanessa's last service in Castine as our Intern
Vanessa Williams, worship leader
Musician - TBA

Our Mission

To establish and promote an open and welcoming congregation that supports and sustains the spiritual, ethical, intellectual and overall well being of our members while serving our broader communities.

Contact Us

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Lakeside Reflections, May 2022



We gather together as a community of seekers, to honor the interdependence of life, to respect the dignity of all, and to honor the land here in Castine.

We acknowledge the land and its indigenous people as an act of reconciliation that honors the authentic history of Turtle Island and the original people of this territory.

Friends, we gather upon the traditional land of the Wabanaki People, who continue to live here and nearby, still crying out for justice and self-determination. Let us move toward greater understanding and solidarity with them.

These are the words of our UUCC Land Acknowledgement we say each Sunday morning as we begin our service. I am committed to our practice of reminding ourselves of two things. We are not the first residents here and this land is not “Ours.” And second, the Wabanaki People are our neighbors and they continue to cry out for justice and self-determination. Here in Maine, the Wabanakis and the State of Maine have a difficult history. Throughout the time beginning with statehood in 1820 and to this very day, the powers of the State have regularly and routinely attempted to diminish and control the lives and resources of the Wabanaki people.

What do we mean when we repeat the words of our Land Acknowledgement? What do we

mean when we say, “Let us move toward greater understanding and solidarity with them.”? Maine had an opportunity to begin (in some cases, continue) the process of recognition and reconciliation with L.D. 1626 “An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.” Land Claims Act was imperfect and discriminatory from its conception and remains so now. The people of Maine have been largely supportive of L.D. 1626. The bill passed the legislature in April. Our Governor has indicated that she will veto 1626 because it is not perfect and she finds some technical difficulties with the specific language. I wrote to Governor Mills imploring her to sign the bill. I asked her to follow the ethical imperative (which she does not dispute) to move toward reconciliation and greater self-determination for Wabanaki people. I asked her not to allow the imperfections of the bill to override the need to demonstrate our collective commitment to the Wabanaki People. What our Land Acknowledgement means to me is that we take action to live out these words we have chosen to say.

The Portland Press Herald reported on April 27th the tribes disappointment and the decision not to pursue passage of LD 1626 any longer this year. “Leaders of Maine’s federally recognized tribes on late Tuesday night backed off their push to pass sweeping legislation to restore their sovereignty — at least for this session. Gov. Janet Mills was expected to veto the bill, which passed in the Legislature but without the support to override it. Leaders from the Wabanaki Nations said it’s clear L.D. 1626 will not become law...” I also heard an interview with tribal elder, Donna Loring. When

Continued on next page

Lakeside Reflections, continued

Continued from previous page

asked if she remains optimistic or if she had become pessimistic about tribal rights in Maine, she replied that for them, there is no viable choice to fall into pessimism because that would mean the end of their existence as a people. I was humbled by her response. I expected her to be bitter or angry. She was heart-broken and still remains hopeful that Maine will recognize the Wababanki people in the ways L.D. would have codified into law. In a calm voice, she said that she

will never stop being hopeful and working for the future of her people.

This is justice delayed at best and therefore, it is justice denied. And yet, the long arc of history may yet bend toward justice If each of us continues to put our shoulders and hearts into the effort to make that bend.

Namaste,
Margaret

President's Desk

“All good things must come to an end”, “Time marches on”, so true, and we also know that, “Every ending brings a new beginning”. So, when I heard that Jean Lamontanro would be ending her time as the volunteer editor of our newsletter, The Common, my first thought was, “Oh my, Jean has been such a quiet, helpful and dependable volunteer for UUCC. Every month she sent out the notice for submissions, giving us four or five days to put our thoughts together. She gathered those various and sundry submissions into a coherent, colorful newsletter and when asked

was able to accommodate last minute entries.

So now it is time to be very thankful that Jean gave us her expertise and wish her well on her journey forward.

The new beginning, Debbie Morehouse, our church administrator, will now be the editor of The Common. Thank you, Debbie. I look forward to your reminders for The Common submissions.

Brooke Tenney

A Note from the Editor

I have enjoyed my time as editor of The Common and the wonderful submissions and feedback I have received. Due to a very busy work schedule, I have decided it is time to end my volunteer work with The Common to have more non-work hours available to spend with my family and other

activities. I am grateful to Debbie for being willing to step in and take over, and I am sure she will do a wonderful job.

Jean Lamontanaro

From Your Collaborative Intern

Ministerial formation is a unique and significant process of understanding self, and through this growing wiser and closer to others. As a racial minority in this faith, this region, this country how this manifests for me is in many ways different that the experience of many of my peers. In formation both unnecessary and the needed protective layers of self are removed in the process, to grow anew. This poem is a reflection of the experience of vulnerability and growth in the formation process, particularly for members of minority and/or marginalized groups.

Porous

By Vanessa Williams

April 27, 2022

Vulnerable;
Stripped down to the root,
The wick of my personhood,
Bark removed,
The damp core of wood exposed,
Formation is just this
—Formation;
Here from a ready made structure
It requires this stripping,
For the careful identification of scars
And gnarled roots;
Grow anew

New bark, new buds,
And blooms will form,
This regrowth is slow,
Unperceivable without a microscope,
Without awareness,
But it occurs nonetheless,

New growth forms skin,
A new skin,
A different skin,
Not only providing protection,
But also allowing breath;
Porous,
Not just a barrier,
But filtering in
The good.

A Thank You

The outpouring of good wishes from so many of my friends in our congregation was a wonderful consolation and support. I cherish my collection of cards that are variously cheerful, charming, pretty and clever. Many thanks to every one of you!!!

I'm home now, and waiting for my second cast to come off - dreaming of the possibility of making it to Maine this summer.

Eve Stwertka

Ukrainian Relief Fair

On May 28, the Castine Arts Association is sponsoring a Ukrainian Relief Fair from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Emerson Hall.

Any group, individual, business, or organization may request a table free of charge from which to sell items that will in part or totally benefit Ukrainian Relief organizations.

For instance, a merchant may put items on display at their regular store retail prices, but advertise that 10% of sales during the fair will go directly to a relief fund of that merchant's choosing.

Merchants might also choose to earmark a percentage of sales made within their physical business locations during that four hour period.

For my part, I have created sunflower seed packets with support from FEDCO SEEDS and Staples in Bangor. Because the sunflower is the Ukraine's national flower, in the face of the devastation taking place in that country, I encourage people to consider planting these magnificent flowers in an act of solidarity with the Ukrainian people. A \$10 donation for each packet is recommended and 100% of sales will go to the UN's World Food Programme and to Razom, a Ukrainian-based humanitarian organization. In addition, the first \$1,000 in sales will be matched.

There will also be a baked goods table on site. No prices will be marked on these items. Anyone wishing to take any of the baked goods will be asked to make a donation.

The tables will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

So let me know ASAP if you would like to participate in this project so I will be able to include your name (organization, group, etc.) in advertising. Late-comers will miss this opportunity to be individually recognized. Please contact me by May 1 to be included in advertising.

My only requirement of participants is for them to help set up tables prior to the opening of the fair and to take them down at its close.

Feel free to call me at 326-4924 to reserve your table. Leave a message if I am not able to answer the phone and I will later confirm your call.

Sincerely yours,
Johanna Sweet



Photo by Engin Akyurt from Pexels

No Neighbor Left Behind

On Friday, April 8th, a group of UUCC members and friends gathered in the Parish House to assemble the meal boxes for No Neighbor Left Behind. Under the leadership of Johanna Sweet, we prepared and delivered over 130 meals to neighbors in the Blue Hill Peninsula and nearby towns. It's the first time we gathered together

in fellowship and service for No Neighbor Left Behind. It was really great to work together and Johanna says we finished our work in record time. Thanks to everyone who continues to make this program a vital part of our congregational ministry.

