

The COMMON

Ministerial Quartet



*photo by Anne Ossana,
RE Coordinator at UUCE*

From left, Rev. Amy DeBeck, UU Elkhart, IN; Rev. Sara Huisjen, UU Ellsworth; Rev. Mark Worth, formerly UU Ellsworth & Castine; Rev. Charles Stephens, UU Castine. Sara and Mark officiated at the July 6 wedding at

UUCE of Kay Wilkins and Diana Cate in this historic union of two widely admired women, both of whom served as President of the Board of Trustees at the Ellsworth church. With Mark leading the way with nearly 22 years in our pulpit, all four ministers have graced our pulpit on numerous occasions.

CALENDAR

Pulpit

August 4
Rev. Charles Stephens

August 11
Rev. Charles Stephens

August 18
David Avery,
as "Father Taylor"

August 25
Mimi Bornstein

Events

August 29
September 3

Trio Cleonice,
7 pm both evenings,
different programs

FROM THE BOARD

DELACROIX DAVIS III, PRESIDENT

In last month's column, I indicated that the Committee on Ministry had been renamed the Transitional Committee on Ministry for the duration of Reverend Charles Stephens' tenure with our congregation. Upon further reflection, "Transition Team" is a more accurate representation of duties and functions.



The Transition Team has held two meetings to discuss aspects of interim ministry addressed by a book edited by Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UUA Transitions Office.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kay Hansen
Religious Educator



The "Sacred Places" building project in July introduced the children to a variety of world religions and their places for gathering: for worship, learning, praying and celebrating. In the fall we will begin an exploration of religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Native American religions, and others.

It's summer! So, in August, we will play games. We will take a look at games children may have played in Bible times and find out if they are like any of the games we still play. Then we will take a look at cooperative games---games where people work together to achieve a goal. We will look for games that all children can play, some outside and some board games to play inside. If you have a game you would like to share, let me know.

Stay cool and enjoy the rest of the summer.



OUR HARPSICHORD

Harpsichords may have been more popular during the 16th - 18th centuries, but you'd never know it by the reception it sparks whenever Gena hoofs it to the front of the church and takes her place at the double keyboarded instrument that looks like a museum piece. Indeed, it was a sketch of the harpsichord in an ad in the Bucksport Enterprise that first attracted Anne and me to the church. Ah, music hath charms...

While our harpsichord looks old, it's not, as Gena explains below.
Ed.



The Fontneau Harpsichord

Built from a kit by the late Dr. Nelson Fontneau in 1982, our harpsichord was donated by his widow, Barbara, during organist Mary Sochacki's tenure. This harpsichord has two manuals, upper and lower, two sets of 8-foot strings and one set of 4-foot strings, all wire.

To couple the manuals, the upper is pulled forward, so on playing the lower manual both 8-sets are sounding. To the left of the upper manual is a single lever that activates a muted or plucked sound for the lower manual. To the right of the upper manual are two levers. When these are reversed, the 4-foot strings sound on the lower manual.

Musically,

GENA

CHARLES' COGITATIONS

Summer is a wonderful time to relax and enjoy the out of doors, be it in our back yard, off on a sailboat or hiking in the forest. And at the same time, within the UU Congregation of Castine there is a great deal of activity.

- The Transitional Team is meeting every two weeks to read and discuss a book that will help us discern the best way to use this transitional time in the life of the congregation.
- We have a task force working on an updated UUC Web site.
- The Social Justice Committee and others are exploring ways to have a greater impact.
- And of course the Governing Board is monitoring all these items as well as the ongoing tasks it has.

I am impressed with the activity and participation by year-around UUC members as well as those who are here for only a portion of the year. Both members and friends contribute a great deal of commitment to the health and vibrancy of our faith community.

During August we will work together to fill out a timeline of the congregation's story on the wall of the Parish House. I will introduce this during the August 11 Sunday Service and we hope that during the remainder of the month many of you will add your insights and responses to this process. The hope is that this will be the best time for gathering information from both year around members and those who are here for a

shorter portion of the year. So please join in these efforts.

During this time, I am also looking forward to visiting individually with many members to help me discover the systems and patterns present in the life and history of the congregation. If you would be willing and available for such a meeting, please let me know.

Your Minister,

Charles J. Stephens



Minister's Hours:

I will normally be in Castine and at the Parish House on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 3 pm. I may be meeting with people in or out of the office during these times, so give me a call to make sure I am available. I am also available for appointments at other times so, if those hours don't work for you, we can set up an appointment. I will be taking Monday as a day off and using Friday as a writing day.

TRIO CLEONICE RETURNS



That fabulous young piano trio, Trio Cleonice, returns to our Meeting House this year on Thursday, August 29 and Tuesday, September 3. Both concerts begin at 7 pm; suggested donation: \$10.

As regulars are well aware, the Trio takes its name from the Mediterranean bistro in Ellsworth. Though based in Boston, where they are Graduate Piano Trio in Residence at the New England Conservatory of music, the Trio maintains close ties with the downeast Maine community, where they first met at Kneisel Hall, in Blue Hill. Indeed, they annually kick off their concert year right here in our Meeting House.

Have you a negative image of classical music? Then you most likely have not had the Trio Cleonice experience. When asked to characterize briefly their coming performances, they say,

Biting wit, glee, laughter, and delight: Trio Cleonice presents their annual pair of concerts at UU Castine in two programs focusing around musical humor across Germanic, American, and Russian traditions!

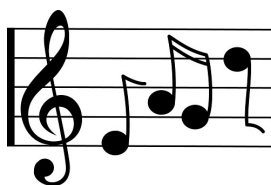
Formed in 2008 at Kneisel Hall, the Trio are violinist Ari Isaacman-Beck, cellist Gwen Krosnick, and pianist Emely Phelps. Together they comprise one of the most creative, communicative, and exciting young ensembles in the United States.

For their Thursday, August 29 performance, the Trio has prepared Mozart's B-Flat Trio, the Wernick Trio No. 2, and the Shostakovich Trio No. 2. On Tuesday, September 3, you will hear the Opus 70 Beethoven Trios:

Piano Trio in D Major, Op. 70, No. 1

Piano Trio in E-Flat Major, Op. 70, No. 2.

Don't miss The Trio. They will fill your soul.



Mimi Bornstein

August seems to be our month for special music. Not only are we blessed once again to welcome Trio Cleonice to Castine but also on Sunday, August 25, we'll play host to Mimi Bornstein, hugely popular whenever she appears at UUA General Assemblies and an inspiration to choral singers throughout this slice of Maine. She shared her voice, her piano, and her soulful songs with us six years ago, and it's a delight to welcome her back to lead our worship service at the end of the month.

In 2008, Mimi was the catalyst for a new venture in song and in community. After a 13-year stint at First Universalist in Rockland, starting with a very small choir, she left that post and founded the Midcoast Community Chorus—a 140-voice powerhouse of joyful sound. You will hear all about this success story on August 25. Indeed, you'll have an opportunity to emulate it for the morning by turning the congregation into a chorus.

Mimi says, "My work embraces the healing and transformational force of music, especially the powerful journeys we take when we sing together in community." The Midcoast Community Chorus's vision is Changing the World through Music. Ambitious? You bet, but believe it!

FROM THE BOARD,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rev. Kron's book is entitled *In The Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*. Two more meetings are planned for the next two months.

During August Charles Stephens will attend a four-day conference in Minneapolis organized by the UUA Transitions Office, a gathering that provides guidance for ministers who have not previously served as interim ministers.

And in September, a facilitator from the Northern New England District of the UUA will meet with members of the Board in a day-long Start-up Retreat. The UUA conducts these retreats at the beginning of interim ministries to acquaint church leaders with the pitfalls and opportunities present during a transitional period. While the date is not firmly set, September 14 is the tentative time for this session.



Following the congregation's affirmative vote to redesign the church's website, the task force has been meeting to consider just what our new web presence should contain. The task force and designer hope to have the new website up and running in about three months. One of the features considered is having a slide show containing photographs of church activities. For example, we could have a "Summer at the Church" theme with photos of the Filipino dinner, the annual picnic, the Fourth of July, the farmers' market, and the steeple project, to name a few. Anyone with photos they are willing to have on the website may forward them to chadbourne.davis@roadrunner.com. There will be no names or attribution for any of the material used.

Finally, another reminder that ushers are needed every Sunday and the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the copier in the Parish House has several open dates. All ushering entails is arriving a few minutes early on Sunday, greeting people as they arrive, handing out orders of service, and passing the collection plate. If you haven't already done so, please consider serving as an usher.

Kudos to the Membership and Hospitality Committee for the idea of Potluck Coffee Hour. The first one on July 21 went very well with a nice combination of savory and sweet, healthy fruit and a delicious coffee cake. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



Rev. Rebecca Quimada Sienes, President of the UU Church of the Philippines, and our Linda Trumbull and Elaine Gerard-Climo at Linda's home on July 3.

Rev. Rebecca spent a week with us, putting a warm face on our partnership with the small UU chapel in Aquino, in her homeland. In addition to delivering the sermon on July 7, she attended a luncheon at the home of Rev. Charles Stephens, along with Rev. Sara Huisjen of UU Ellsworth and Rev. Becky Gunn of UU Bangor; another lunch hosted by Mary Ellen Hunt; the fireworks and town band concert in Castine, and more. It was a joy for all.

PETER MORALES ON JUSTICE



The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), on the George Zimmerman trial verdict:

A Florida jury has acquitted George Zimmerman in the killing of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African American teenager. It is hard to imagine that if an unarmed white teenager had been shot and killed by an African American man that the verdict would have been the same. The legal system has had its say, but justice has not been served. As we search for meaning in the wake of these events, I remember the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

At this year's General Assembly, delegates approved an [Action of Immediate Witness](#) (AIW) condemning racist mistreatment of young people of color by police. The AIW stems from the work of author Michelle Alexander, whose book [The New Jim Crow](#) describes the institutional racism behind the mass incarceration of people of color. The resolution calls on congregations to condemn the pattern of mistreatment of people of color through practices such as "stop and frisk" by police. It asks congregations to work with other congregations and other groups to stop this practice.

As president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, an institution committed to anti-racism and anti-oppression, I am committed to partnering with our congregations to put this work into action. We must respond to our society's violence, hatred, and fear with compassion and justice. It has always been a matter of life and death. It always will be.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Del Davis, President
 Gil Tenney, Vice President
 Fred Kaiser, Treasurer
 Anne Romans, Clerk
 WG Sayre
 Nancy Guy
 Tom Mason
 Diana Bernard, Alternate

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

THE COMMON

The Common is published monthly and distributed in both electronic and photocopy forms. All members and friends are invited to submit items for consideration. Send submissions or comments to editor Kent Price at kapricorn75@gmail.com. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

CONTACT US

The Rev. Charles J. Stephens
minister@uucastine.org
 326-9083 (Meeting House)

Del Davis, President
chadbourne.davis@roadrunner.com
 326-0828

Kay Hansen, Rel. Education
hansen85@myfairpoint.net
 667-9421

Becky St. John, Office Administrator
office@uucastine.org

Habitat for Humanity

Several weeks ago we took up a special collection for Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a deserving family in Sedgwick.

After two Sundays of collections, a few late checks, a match by the Board and a partial match by the Maine Community Foundation, we were able to contribute nearly \$1,100. Well done, UCC!