



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

July 2019

Sunday Service Calendar

Services are at 10:30 am

July 7: The Reverend Amy Fiorilli preaching
Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician
Hungry Sunday

July 14: Rev. Margaret Beckman –
“Uninhabitable Earth – Now What?”
Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

July 21: Rev. Margaret Beckman –
“Our Chosen Faith:
Who Was William Ellery Channing?”
Julie Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

July 28: Rev. Margaret Beckman –
“Now, Let Us Sing!”
Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

August 4: Colin Powell preaching
Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician
Hungry Sunday

Upcoming Events:

July 18:

Concert, see page 6

July 20:

Climate Coverage Conference, see page 6

July 28:

High Tea, see page 4

The Castine Farmers’ Market is on the town common every Thursday until the end of August. You will find fresh veggies, fresh fish, baked goods, flowers, and burritos, what more could you ask for. The market opens at 9:00 and closes at 11:30.



Contact Us

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For questions or comments about *The Common* or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com.

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.



Lakeside Reflections, July 2019

Native American poet and musician, Joy Harjo, was appointed as the 23rd Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress on June 19, 2019. I was thrilled when I heard this news. Joy Harjo's poetry is beautiful, spiritual, moving and challenging – all at the same time. I almost missed the announcement – and maybe you did. Here is a bit of it:



“Joy Harjo has championed the art of poetry ‘soul talk’ as she calls it—for over four decades,” Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said. “To her, poems are ‘carriers of dreams, knowledge and wisdom,’ and through them she tells an American story of tradition and loss, reckoning and myth-making. Her work powerfully connects us to the earth and the spiritual world with direct, inventive lyricism that helps us reimagine who we are.”

“What a tremendous honor it is to be named the U.S. Poet Laureate,” Harjo said. “I share this honor with ancestors and teachers who inspired in me a love of poetry, who taught that words are powerful and can make change when understanding appears impossible, and how time and timelessness can live together within a poem. I count among these ancestors and teachers my Muscogee Creek people, the librarians who opened so many doors for all of us, and the original poets of the indigenous tribal nations of these lands, who were joined by diverse peoples from nations all over the world to make this country and this country’s poetry.”

One of my favorite Joy Harjo poems is “Eagle Poem” and I share it with you here.

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear
Can't know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.

Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circles in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.

We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon, within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.

We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

~ Joy Harjo ~

How We Become Human: New and Selected Poems 1975-2001

May the poetry of Joy Harjo bless each of us and our nation in the coming year.

Namaste,
Margaret

A WARM WELCOME

It's summer in Maine and that means lots of people coming to visit and vacation. Some of those folks find their way to our Unitarian Universalist Congregation. It seems as though I talk with people every week as they stroll up Main Street in Castine and see our sign out front at 21 Main Street. This week, two sets of visitors stopped by to say hello and share their stories about their UU congregation back home. I always invite visitors to come to our Meeting House on Sunday morning. Often, they are headed somewhere else before Sunday, but others do make their way to our Sunday morning service.

Extending a warm and sincere welcome at our Meeting House doors is the first and most lasting impression we offer our friends and neighbors and visitors. It's all about the people at a UU congregation. Remember that once we all were here for the first time and a visitor can feel awkward and lonely. A warm greeting and help with the order of service and nametags can go a long way toward helping people feel welcome.

Once I was visiting another church on Sunday morning and during announcements the greeter mentioned that everyone was welcome to stay for coffee hour and that there were special red mugs for visitors so folks would know to welcome them. At coffee hour, I wandered around with my red mug in my hand. No one spoke to me. After about 15 minutes, I left feeling unwelcome and frankly embarrassed to have been walking around with a red mug utterly alone. I thought – well, I won't make that mistake again.

We want to be the people who take time to welcome and talk to everyone who comes on Sunday morning. We do pretty well with our visitors. A small reminder of the importance of first impressions and a genuine welcome will help all of us be the best greeters we can be!

Oh, and don't forget that we need people to serve as Greeters/Ushers every Sunday. The signup sheet is in the Parish House on the board near the kitchen door. Thanks!



Photo by Jessica Lewis at pexels.com

UU Congregation of Castine and the Wilson Museum

are sponsoring a **High Tea* and Emily Dickinson Program:**

A scene from the Belle of Amherst by Johanna Sweet
and The Scandal of Amherst by EH Gerard

Proceeds will benefit the education of children in Aquino, Philippines.

Prizes for the prettiest hat, most original hat, oldest hat, fanciest hat etc.

Wear your favorite bonnet. Gloves optional!

July 28, 2019

Tea Time at 4:00 p.m.

Admission: \$15.00

Call or text (207) 206-5292 for reservation

**High Tea consists of tea sandwiches, biscuits, pastries and more with tea, of course.*



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Opportunities for children to thrive

Starfish Camp Scholarships— A Community Compass Program

For too many children, summer months bring idle time, unhealthy activities and impact a parent's ability to hold a job, feed the family, and encourage healthy activities for their children. In addition, for some children, school is a safe haven from a chaotic, stressful and sometimes abusive or neglectful home life. During the summer, children don't have the escape of a safe school environment as an option. A summer camp experience offers children a stress-free welcoming place where they can have fun, make new friends, learn new skills and gain self-confidence, all contributing to their physical and emotional growth.

The Starfish initiative began when a former director of Nichols Day Camp in Sedgwick expressed a need to reach more children of local, low-income families. Although scholarships were available, the parents appeared reluctant to ask for financial aid or were simply unaware of funding opportunities. Discussions with the Sedgwick Elementary School Principal helped shed light on realities of poverty and encouraged an initiative to reach those children and their families who could benefit from camping experiences.

Community action: The "Starfish Scholarship" concept was created. For every child being considered for a scholarship and who otherwise would not attend camp, a mentor was assigned. The mentors help identify applicants, work with the parent and child to overcome barriers, help fill out on-line registration forms, ensure transportation, lunch and other necessities. To the extent possible, a mentor has already gained a close and personal relationship with the child and

is in a position to follow the child's experience during and after camp. Anonymity of a child and family is respected.

Tracey Hair, director of H.O.M.E. and a mentor for six children remarked that the program would not work without the engagement of mentors.

Jessica Oakes, a school therapist for Open Door Recovery Center, was a mentor for one child. At first, the child was hesitant to be enrolled. When a friend was invited, both went happily off to camp. Later, Jessica's mentee remarked "I really enjoyed it and made a lot of friends. It was the highlight of my summer"

Shelly Schildroth, principal BHCS, sent 5, 7th and 8th graders. All were new to camp. Some were foster children. Everything appeared to go smoothly. Shelly remarked she could have sent more had there been more funding.

A Sedgwick mother of five enthusiastically jumped on the opportunity to be a mentor and arranged Starfish Scholarships for one of her children and two neighborhood children.

This past summer, 17 Starfish kids went to camp. This summer should be at least as successful. Additional mentors are lining up to help. Among the mentors are Sheila Irvine, Adams School Principal and Liz True, MMA faculty and Sedgwick School Board.

The Starfish Story: Helping one child at a time. If you want the full story feel free to contact Gil Tenney.



Upcoming Concert Event

Internationally known pianist Alan Feinberg and his violinist daughter, Maeve Feinberg, will play for us in concert on July 18. Alan Feinberg is a summer resident of Castine and Maeve is now a member of the Spektral Quartet.

The performance will take place at UUCC, on the Green, at 7:00 pm.

Climate Convergence Conference

George Stevens Academy

Blue Hill, Maine

July 20, 2019

For a list of workshops and to pre-register: reversingfalls.org/climate-conference-registration

Convergence is the key to this event: the convergence of the different generations, the convergence between the Physical and Social Sciences, and the convergence among organizations willing to champion science and acknowledge that life on earth is in jeopardy. Together we can explore the roots of science denial and change the nature of the public discourse regarding Climate Change. We may be surprised, as well as heartened, to find that our deepest private feelings about the state of our planet are widely shared by others, and by so doing empower each other to action. It is unfortunate that this convergence for the Common Good is necessitated by the convergence of climate catastrophes.

Through this lens we ask the question, "With all the floods, forest fires, hurricanes, typhoons, and droughts of unprecedented magnitude, isn't it time to try science-based climate policy?" To explore this question the conference will bring together dozens of organizations from a variety of sectors: environmental, conservation, business, education, food producers, health, social justice, marine, and spiritual. Together, we will:

- Learn the current state of earth's health with acclaimed Climatologists
- Gain insights into re-framing the public Climate Change narrative
- Explore the problem of climate-related stress with Social Scientists
- Learn about a number of successful climate actions in our area



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