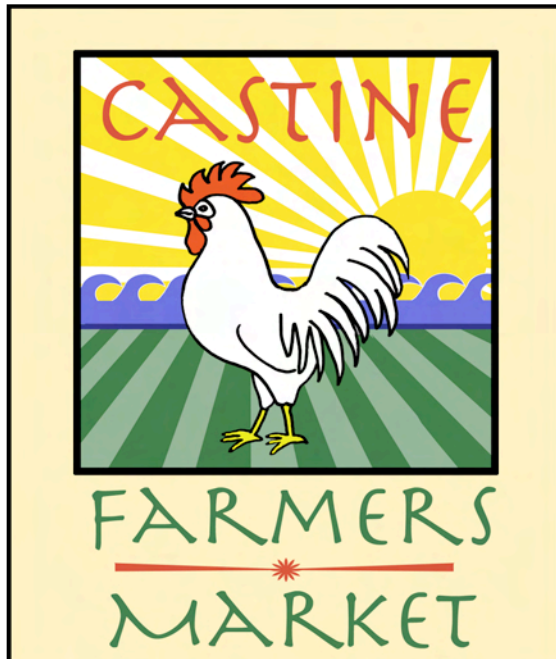


# The COMMON

## Summertime!

*and the livin' is easy.*



How quickly we move from novelty to tradition! It was only yesterday, it seems, that Castine folks--including UU's--launched a Farmers Market. The fledgling enterprise endured all the problems of a start-up venture

and the occasional rainstorm, but it not only survived, it prospered. Folks came to depend on fresh fish, greens, and ethnic foods, and also on the friendly encounters of the marketplace. *continues on page 2*

## JUNE CALENDAR

1. Rev. Charles Stephens

8. Rev. Kate Braestrup

15. Dr. Lynn Parsons

22. Rev. Charles Stephens

29. Rev. Robert Wolf

### Events

1. Hungry Sunday

19. Board meeting;  
Farmers Market opens

22. Annual Picnic

25-29.  
UUA General  
Assembly



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## FROM THE BOARD      DELACROIX DAVIS III, PRESIDENT

As scheduled, the congregational meeting on May 4 dealt with three items. I am pleased to report that the slate of seven members for the Ministerial Search Committee was approved unanimously. The members are Peter Fairbank, Elaine Gerard-Climo, Deborah Neve, Anne Parsons, Anne Price, Emma Sweet,

and Brooke Tenney.

The Committee is working with our Ministerial Settlement Representative, the Rev. Olav Nieuwejaar, and has settled on the weekend of June 13-14 for their retreat, which will take place at the Lucerne Inn. *continues on page 2*

### *FARMERS MARKET, FROM PAGE 1*

So we begin anew. The Castine Farmers Market opens its figurative doors on the Common on Thursday, June 19, from 9 am to 11:30 am. It will keep those hours through closing, August 27.



Market veterans will be glad that old favorites will be returning, including produce, pork, and fish. But we'll also see some new vendors this year, including Local Variety from Bucksport, with coffee and breakfast pastries; Christine Covert Pottery; and Joseph Deschaine, with Maine White Cedar Deck and Garden Furniture.

On behalf of the market organizers, Brooke Tenney says, "We hope everyone joins us in enjoying the bounty of the season and in greeting old and new friends."

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### *From the Board, from page 1*

Unanimously, members changed the bylaws to require 90 % rather than 80 % of members present and voting to call a settled minister.

The question of hanging the ribband "Have We Not All One Father" in the Parish House with appropriate explanation of its history generated considerable discussion. While the opinions offered were deeply felt and sincerely expressed, the debate was very civil and courteous. As a result of the 10-10 vote the ribband will NOT be on display in the Parish House.

Following UUA guidelines and the strong suggestion of Olav Nieuwejaar, no Board member will serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. Accordingly, Deborah

Neve has stepped down as alternate Board member during the time the Committee is active, approximately a year. Kent Price has been selected to serve as Board Alternate during Debby's service on the Search Committee. As most, if not all, members of the Search Committee are also active in other church programs, everyone should realize the Search Committee members cannot be expected to maintain their current activity levels AND serve on the Committee. It is incumbent upon the rest of rest to step up and assume many of the functions the Search Committee members have been performing.

Last month's column indicated that we have received a preliminary cost estimate of \$1 Million to move the Parish House and construct a lower level. There was extensive discussion at the May Board meeting about space limitations at the church. The general thrust of the comments is that we need to examine all possibilities well before making any decisions. Possibilities mentioned included different designs and elevations for the Parish House and renting or buying other properties in Castine for extra useable space. A task force is being assembled to study all potential courses of action. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the task force. Seasonal residents and friends of the congregation are certainly eligible for service.

Finally, the annual church picnic will be held on the FOURTH Sunday in June this year instead of the customary third Sunday. The venue again will be the lovely house and grounds at Mossacre. Perhaps having the picnic one week later will mean more seasonal members and friends of the church will be able to attend.

Del Davis, President

## CHARLES' COGITATION

Rev. Charles J. Stephens

I like the poetry of Wendell Berry. In one of my favorite poems, he writes:

*Within the circles of our lives  
we dance the circles of the years,  
the circles of the seasons  
within the circles of the years  
the cycles of the moon  
within the circles of the seasons,  
the circles of our reasons  
within the cycles of the moon.*

As we know, change is a big constant in life. We look forward to some of the familiar changes, like the changing of the seasons and the change from night into day. Some other changes we fear, like growing old and people leaving our circle of friends. UUCC continues to be in the midst of change and transition. It has been more than a year now, since the Rev. Mark Worth retired from UUCC. And June marks the beginning of my second year as your Interim Minister.

At May's congregational meeting you elected a Ministerial Search Committee to help select your next minister. It has been decades since you have gone through a search process for a full-time settled minister, and your search committee has a big job. It will help clarify the kind of minister you want, what sorts of skills you want in a minister. Because the entire membership was asked who they thought would be best to serve on this committee, I feel confident that your selection will work hard and diligently to do a thorough job in the months ahead.

When I retired from the Unitarian Universalist congregation I served in New Jersey, I felt anxious and nervous about doing so, as did the congregation. Around 70 percent had known only me as their minister. Neither they nor I knew what to expect in the year ahead. I of course moved to Maine and unexpectedly had the opportunity of serving as your Interim Minister. The congregation

I left also started the transition process with an interim minister. Then they selected a search committee, using the same process as UUCC. And last month they called their new minister, who will start serving their congregation this summer. I happen to know her and am confident she will do a great job as their minister, taking them into a new and exciting chapter.

Someone quipped that the only person who likes change is a baby in diapers. Change is hard, we don't know what to expect. I don't like it when using my computer and something changes in the software or with my internet server. I have been known to get cranky until someone (usually Alison) talks me down and reassures me that all will be well.



One of my tasks as your Transitional Minister is to help explain the process you are going through and reassure you, when appropriate, that all will be well. Having been in the UUA search process a few times, I trust it. As I said on a recent Sunday, there were times I did not feel comfortable with how it was going, but from hindsight I learned that I indeed could trust the process. Looking back after forty years of ministry, I feel that the UUA process has evolved into an ever better and more effective procedure, for ministers and for those they are called to serve.

With Love and Warmth,  
Charles

## JUNE PULPIT CALENDAR/ 3-MINUTE "SERMONETTES"

June 1: Rev. Stephens in the pulpit, "Does Unitarian Universalism Have a Prayer?" Really, do we have a UU prayer or form of prayer? Given that we are more comfortable with "meditation" than with "prayer," what might praying mean for Unitarian Universalists?

June 8: Our guest in the pulpit will be the Rev. Kate Braestrup, best-selling author and an inspirational speaker.

June 15: Our own Dr. Lynn Parsons will be in the pulpit.

June 22: Rev. Stephens will speak on "Seeking Spirit in the Moment."

June 29: Rev. Robert Wolf returns as our guest. Rev. Stephens, Ruby Nash, and Kent Price will be attending General Assembly in Providence.

### Who Am I? In 3 minutes

Rev. Stephens writes,  
Sometimes I invite members of the congregation to participate in the Sunday Service in a form that will help us gain a better sense of the congregation. How much do you know about why others are members of this congregation? And how much do you know about each other's religious or spiritual journey? My experience is that such knowledge is limited.

So, starting in June I will be inviting members (who are willing) to create a three-minute talk that will speak to their spiritual journey, why they became a UU,

what attracted them to this congregation, and other interesting things about themselves. Of course not everyone will feel comfortable doing this. But some of you will and others will become more comfortable once you hear a few members give their talk. This will fit well into the task that the Search Committee has in discovering what our members and friends find meaningful about being part of this congregation.

This will also fit in well with the "Sharing Who We Are" RE program that Kay Hansen is planning for this summer. Read her article on page 6, think about how you could participate, and talk with Kay.



## DEMITARIANISM

Flexitarians and vegetarians are creating room at the table for the latest form of conscientious eating that's making international waves: demitarianism. A recent UN report calculated that if all Europeans adopted a demitarian diet--i.e., cutting meat and dairy consumption in half--it would reduce the continent's total greenhouse gas emissions by 25 to 40 percent.

Demitarians can also consider themselves conservationists, since reducing meat consumption not only fights climate change but also saves water, land, and wildlife. With meat consumption on the rise around the world, it's vital that places like Europe and the United States take the lead in curbing our appetite for environmentally damaging, meat-heavy diets. Professor Mark Sutton, one of the report authors who came up with the new term, said, "If we were to change our culture, that would have a [large] ripple effect--an incredible sea change."

--Center for Biological Diversity



## HILDEGARD

Gena Churchill /

American Guild of Organists

Hildegard of Bingen was a nun, a writer, a composer, a philosopher, a theologian, a visionary, and an abbess. She wrote texts on theology, botany, and medicine; she also composed 70-80 musical works and painted illuminations. Her encyclopedic knowledge made her a leader and an authority in several areas. Because of her visionary-intuitive abilities, she was consulted by popes, bishops, and important political figures. Given the Medieval stance on women and women's rights, what she accomplished was astonishing. That she was well in advance of her time would be an understatement.



*Hildegard receiving a vision and dictating to her scribe and secretary.*

Edward Thompson was engaged by the American Guild of Organists to compose a work by Hildegard for the 2014 AGO Convention. He writes,

"*Prayers of Hildegard*" is a three-part work based on the writings of Hildegard of Bingen

(1098-1179). It is scored for mixed choir and marimba....And, although the words of Hildegard were written about 900 years ago, they are completely relevant for us today."

"This thought mirrors the important position that Hildegard gave to music. As a Benedictine nun, she sang the Divine Office several times each day and knew experientially the power of music to balance, renew, inspire and uplift."

*Quoted with permission from AGO Magazine 2014*

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*Two excerpts follow from a new book by Rebecca Solnit, Men Explain Things To Me*

Feminism is an endeavor to change something very old, widespread, and deeply rooted in many, perhaps most, cultures around the world, innumerable institutions, and most households on Earth ---and in our minds, where it all begins and ends. That so much change has been made in four or five decades is amazing; that everything is not permanently, definitively, irrevocably changed is not a sign of failure.

...feminism is not a scheme to deprive men but a campaign to liberate us all. There's more that we need to be liberated from: maybe a system that prizes competition and ruthlessness and short-term thinking and rugged individualism, a system that serves environmental destruction and limitless consumption so well--that arrangement you can call capitalism. It embodies the worst of machismo while it destroys what's best on Earth. More men fit into it better, but it doesn't really serve any of us.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kay Hansen  
Religious Educator

June is a month of celebrations!

On June 8, Jennifer McKenney, our Religious Education Aide for two years, will be graduating from George Stevens Academy. We **congratulate** her for all her accomplishments in high school, and we thank her for sharing her skills and talents with us as she helped our children learn about religions of the world. I will miss Jennifer's thoughtful nurturing of the children, her reminders when I forgot particular tasks or rituals, and her ability to see ahead and step in without being told to do so. Jennifer will be with us until sometime in August, when she will begin working on a college degree in education at the University of Maine at Farmington. We wish her the very best and hope she will come back to visit us.

Continuing with June celebrations, we will celebrate Father's Day on June 15 and the Summer Solstice on the following Sunday (also the Sunday of our church picnic). As we transition from this year's program focus of World Religions to a more informal summer program, I have pondered a focus for our activities.



Kay Hansen

Since the adults of our congregation are building relationships with each other to make some major decisions for the church, it came to me that it might be good to build relationships and

connections among the children and youth and families and between adults and children. With this in mind, I am planning a program of "Sharing Who We Are"--what our interests, hobbies or special skills are. I invite families or individual family members, including adults, to spend one Sunday (with our Religious Education class) this summer sharing something about themselves. It could be a hobby, a game, music, something you do as a family, an organization you belong to or a special place you have lived or visited. Part of the time would be in telling your story, and part in engaging the children in an activity.

We would plan to start scheduling "Sharing Who We Are" for the first week in July and through the month of August, so you have plenty of time to think this over. If you come up with some ideas, contact me, and I would be glad to help you with planning your visit to the class. For example, Nancy Guy has been planning to share her involvement in the Birdsacre Sanctuary, though she may still be recovering from her car accident. If not July or August, then certainly later, as it's a great story. Hope to hear from you soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOU HOSPITABLE?

Pam Person

I am quite a new member and do not know many of you, but I have agreed to be the new Hospitality Chair, arranging for ushers and coffee hour hosts.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Parish House; some June & July slots are empty. I would greatly appreciate your filling one of the openings.

I want to thank Nancy Guy for asking me to take over for her--even before her terrible accident. Please recover quickly, Nancy!

My phone number is not in the directory--we're that new. Our telephone is 469-6770. We live in Orland, on the Back Ridge Road.

## BIRDSACRE SCARRED BY FIRE

*On March 2, the Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary in Ellsworth was attacked by an arsonist. Better known perhaps as Birdsacre, the sanctuary houses "permanent guests" of owls and hawks and is visited regularly by schoolchildren, naturalists, and animal lovers. Named for the late ornithologist Cordelia Stanwood, whose museum-home was badly damaged by the fire, Birdsacre arguably is the heart of Ellsworth.*

*Our own Nancy Guy has volunteered at Birdsacre for years and loves it dearly. She was so stunned by the tragedy that she composed the following prose poem, which we are honored to publish. Ed.*



### The Fire Nancy Guy

I had steeled myself to the task,  
I was to be a photographer.  
Nothing else, just focus on the job;  
Leave emotion for another time.

The smell hit me first,  
That slightly sour, oh-so-wrong smell  
that permeated the area around the house,  
The smell that dared us to climb the steps and  
enter, yet in a dark way, warning us not to.

The kitchen didn't seem so bad,  
mostly just piles of furniture and things,

Pictures still on the walls looking not so wrong.  
But things in the way on the floor --  
kick them away?

No, now we realize what we are up against,  
for the floor is covered with ice.

Ice, inside the house?  
Yes -- first fire, then water, then ice.  
Ice holding everything for us to witness.

And so, we push forward --  
dining room, living room, parlor, hallway.  
This is a movie set, a horror movie set and  
Hollywood could not have done it so well.

Blackened draperies still hanging against  
blackened walls,  
Pictures, barely recognizable as portraits, leaning  
in drunken repose against one another on the  
floor,  
leaving their marked spots alone on the walls.  
Walls, empty of paper and decoration, now stand  
in jagged open design, attacked by fire and  
firemen's tools.  
And always the crunch, crunch as we pick our way  
over  
floors covered in debris and glass and ice.

Seeking remembered objects, we delight in finding  
the smallest of treasures --  
a cane, a melted candle, a shard from a lamp base,  
a glove box, a broken stereoscope, tiny scissors.

It's a scavenger hunt, looking over and under  
and behind,  
thwarted by the chaos of clutter and the  
tenacious grasp of ice.

We are told it will be worse upstairs, and I

ponder the possibility of that.

How could anything be worse than the  
death scene we have just walked through?

But upstairs was so "worse," there are no words to  
describe it. *continues on page 8*

BIRDSACRE, FROM PAGE 7

Cordelia's room had been attacked by a strong,  
malevolent beast.

I closed my eyes, working desperately to recall  
the calm peace of before,

back when I was giving tours to happy visitors.

Yes, I could see her beautiful bird photos on the  
wall,

her tools of scale and typewriter,

her books,

her delicately mended bed linen,

her sewing machine behind the door,

her elegant picture in long dress,

her treasured jewelry box,

her .....

But opening my eyes, there is nothing.

It was but a dream.

Once again I am faced with black chaos

and that now very irritating horrible smell.

Dear God, I pray.

Dear Cordelia, I whisper.



*As readers will be aware, Nancy had a serious automobile accident in May. She is at home and out of danger, but will not be able to get to church for a few weeks. If you would like to "do something" for her, nothing would be more appreciated than a donation toward the restoration of Birdsacre. Ed.*

Birdsacre Phoenix Fund  
c/o Bangor Savings Bank  
59 Foster Street  
Ellsworth ME 04605

## A GARDEN BEYOND PARADISE

Jalaluddin Rumi



Everything you see has its roots in the  
Unseen world.

The forms may change, yet the essence  
remains the same.

Every wondrous sight will vanish, every  
sweet word will fade.

But do not be disheartened, the Source  
they come from is eternal—  
Growing, branching out, giving new life and  
new joy.

Why do you weep?—that Source is within  
you,

And this whole world is springing up from  
it.

The Source is full, its waters are  
ever-flowing;

Do not grieve, drink your fill!

Don't think it will ever run dry—

This is the endless ocean!

From the moment you came into this  
world, A ladder was placed in front of you  
that you might escape.

From earth you became plant,  
from plant you became animal.

Afterwards you became a human being,  
Endowed with knowledge, intellect, and  
faith. *continues on page 9*



RUMI, FROM PAGE 8



Behold the body, born of dust—how perfect it has become!  
Why should you fear its end? When were you ever made less by dying?

When you pass beyond this human form,  
no doubt you will become an angel  
And soar through the heavens. But don't stop there, even heavenly bodies grow old.

Pass again from the heavenly realm and plunge into the vast ocean of Consciousness.

Let the drop of water that is you become a hundred mighty seas.

But do not think that the drop alone becomes the Ocean—  
The Ocean, too, becomes the drop!



## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Del Davis, President  
Gil Tenney, Vice President  
Diana Bernard, Treasurer  
Anne Romans, Clerk  
Nancy Guy  
Tom Mason  
Leslie Fairbank  
Kent Price, Alternate

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

## THE COMMON

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