

# The Common

## A Song for Parkland



"Tonight I light a candle  
And I think about your smile,  
So young, so bright,  
Like the sun, your light--  
Will be remembered by all who  
Who crossed your path  
In this world."

Juliane Gardner

On February 16, in response to the latest tragedy in our country, I wrote a song. Sadness still overwhelming, on the 18th I was given the opportunity to play my song during the worship service at my church.

If you haven't yet, do follow the incredible surge of courage and strength coming from our youth on social media. It's unbelievably moving and encouraging.

*Please continue on page 4.*

### CALENDAR

#### PULPIT

March 4

Robin Lovrien

UU Ellsworth

March 11

Amy Fiorilli

Collaborative Intern

March 18

Rev. Margaret  
Beckman

March 25

Rev. Margaret  
Beckman

#### Events

Potluck Lunch

March 18

## President's Report

### Leslie Fairbank

On a snowy February 25 afternoon, five members of the Governing Board and Rev. Margaret spent a few hours with Karen Bellevance-Grace of the UUA's Regional Staff exploring ideas and methods for improving our process and performance. Illness and schedules kept Tom Mason, Diana Bernard, and Colin Powell away, but Anne Parsons, Anne Price, Brooke Tenney, Rodney Flora, and Leslie Fairbank spent a productive time together. We spent the first part of our session exploring our separate personalities using a standard exercise involving selecting groups of adjectives. While not enabling complete self-discovery, such activities can remind us that as we try to work together on the Board (and the Congregation) we need to recognize that each of us operates out of our own particular perspective.

Using a variety of materials, including a short video called "The Committee", we examined our procedures. We plan to be more intentional about gathering reports, minutes, etc. in advance of our actual time together so we can devote more time to purposes of the Board we've perhaps somewhat neglected. One of these is working with our minister to develop goals and expectations for the near-ish future. We take pride in the results of last year's process which, with Margaret's guidance, produced the Opportunity Fund and the awards to the five projects. Perhaps with greater intentionality, we can do even better.

The second area needing more specific focus is what consultant Dan Hotchkiss suggests is the primary responsibility of a governing board: "developing a vision for the congregation's future." One of the goals of the Opportunity Fund process is promoting further involvement of our members in supporting the five projects (Community Compass, Open Door Recovery Center, Families First, Community Early

Childhood Learning Center and H.O.M.E.). We see this as part of our future, but we will also be considering various ways of encouraging our members to engage in "future-oriented" conversations to help create a vision for the medium and long-term future of UUCC. Shall we revisit "cottage" meetings?

At the same time as we focused on ways to improve, we also listed and celebrated the many things we actually do as a congregation. We appreciated the cooperative spirit of our Board members and, of course, the leadership of Rev. Margaret. We have much to be thankful for, especially the work that so many non-board members do to contribute to the mission of UUCC.

We would like to remind members and friends that Board meetings (held on the fourth Thursday at 9:00 am in the Main Street office) are open and that we welcome ideas and suggestions from everyone to help us further our mission. Thank you all. Spring is coming!

Warm regards, Leslie

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General Assembly this year will be in Kansas City during June 20 - 24. (*from UU World:*) Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.

## FROM OUR COLLABORATION INTERN

Dear All,

I really don't know what I want to say. There is so much moving through my mind and heart. It has been a full month of ministry, connection, and struggle. One of our beloved congregations has learned that their minister is retiring. Reverend Deane Perkins of Belfast has announced that he is moving on to a new phase of his life at the end of this church year. I am sure the whole collaboration is with me in wishing him the very best, and I know we all are ready and willing to support the Belfast members as they navigate this transition, which will include four more months of saying goodbye well, of hiring an interim minister, and of reflecting on who they are and who they are becoming. For my part, I am aware of what an honor it is to be supervised by Rev. Deane as his first intern as well as his last. I am proud and lucky to be walking with him and the Belfast congregation for the next few months.

Much is happening. The collaborative ministry team has been reevaluating their structure and work in our congregations. We want to do more, and we want to be substantive and real in the lives of our sister congregations. Planning for an incredible multi church worship service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June is underway. The theme is "How Will We Shine?" We have so much to offer each other, and the world. How will we share our gifts? How will we lift each other up out of darkness, fear, and despair? We are more together than we could ever be alone. How will we shine?

I am also looking to begin a Collaborative Adult RE class on creating theology together. This is a pilot program offered through the FAHS initiative. The Director of Religious Education from Ellsworth, Anne Ossana, and I will be facilitating these sessions. This curriculum is

meant to help groups identify a common theology upon which to ground the work we do in the world. We all have personal beliefs that guide us; what would it be like to create a true shared theology that informs our social justice work, our congregational work and our work with each other? There will be a six-hour retreat in March held in Bucksport and then three more 2-hour meetings held in each of our churches. More information to follow. I hope you will join us.

Finally, I am completely done with gun violence in our country. My heart is beyond capacity for horror and heartbreak. In truth, I've been done since December 14, 2012. I have been at vigils, I have written an editorial, I have been one of six citizen sponsors of a Mom's Demand Action Bill calling for commonsense gun laws. I have called my representatives and signed petitions. I have talked and talked. I'm done trying to understand. I'm done trying to teach or reason or explain. People I love deeply are on the other side of this issue and I am done being careful. This is beyond my capacity for patience. There is so much more I could write here. But for now, I just need to be clear. My work of social justice going forward will be primarily focused on the work of preventing the massacres of our children. I am ashamed that I have not done more before now. The elections this year are vital to our survival. Let's become warriors. Our country, our children need us.

Yours in love and faith,  
Amy Fiorilli



**LIGHT A CANDLE**

JULIANE GARDNER

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After presentng this song at UU Castine, I was asked if I could make a link to it for people to listen to so they could read the words and access a version of it.

So, here it is.  
Juliane Gardner

<https://youtu.be/DqRdQL3eT0s>

#amarchforourlives #

If you are able, please share it with your friends and family via facebook or email. If you haven't yet, do follow the incredible surge of courage and strength coming from our youth on social media. It's unbelievably moving and encouraging. I am confident that there will be a major shift in our laws because of this, and for that I have hope.

May we find the courage to take a stand wherever we live. Find the courage to speak out against outdated gun laws. Stand united with the teens who are taking this country by storm.

As a step mom of two beautiful teenagers, and having worked in many schools over the years, I can tell you that I'm just completely heartbroken that these shootings of our young people continue, month after month, year after year.

Feeling a bit powerless over the power of our country's gun laws, I write a song to process it all. it helps a little, but my voice feels small and

I'm just one person. But what if we all spoke out?

**What if we all walked out? What if we demanded that laws change. What if we all marched?**

Wherever the walkout or march or protest is happening, you can bet I will join in. I hope you consider marching, too, in solidarity with these kids.

Please feel free to share my song with friends and family and try to find the courage to speak out and support our children as they try to find their voices to force change. The laws desperately need to change. It's long overdue.

In Peace and Solidarity, Juliane

Juliane Gardner is a musician and a parishioner at UU Castine, in Maine.



<https://youtu.be/DqRdQL3eT0s>

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Kay Hansen

**March**

The March wind blows winter away  
 And sweeps the streets from day to day  
 March brings surprises, first the day's hot  
 Then it starts snowing, likely as not  
 Hurry, March wind, hurry along  
 We like to hear you sing your song.

~Author Unknown~

I hear it in the March wind....Spring is just around the corner; so in our classes this month we will celebrate by starting some flower bulbs and planting some seeds. Maybe by April, we will be able to brighten our potluck tables with flowers. In addition, we will return to the book, "This Is How We Do It," to learn about the games boys and girls from other countries play at school and at home. As we play some of the games from other countries, I think we'll discover there are a lot of similarities in the games we play here in Castine.

**THE FUTURE OF FAITH FORMATION**

A workshop for exploring the current trends in "Faith Formation" (Religious Education): taking a look at where we have been and where we are going.

**When:** Saturday, March 24, 2018, 10-3:pm

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St., Bangor

**Presenter:** Kim Sweeney, Independent Consultant, who previously worked on the New England Regional staff team as the lead for Faith Formation and Safe Congregations

**Sponsored by:** MidMaine DRE Cluster Group: Rockland, Bangor, Castine, Ellsworth and Belfast

**Event Fee:** \$100 per team (Consider your minister, DRE, board members, parents and worship committee when recruiting your team.) plus \$15 per person for lunch.

Again this year, the MidMaine DRE Cluster Group I belong to is sponsoring this workshop for churches in this area and beyond. This is a chance for a team of people at the Castine Church to hear about what is happening in other churches and gather ideas for the Religious Education Program at Castine. If we are to continue the work of our church, we want to make sure we are doing things that promote the involvement of our young people.

**Please contact me as soon as possible to join us on March 24<sup>th</sup>.** [hansen023@gmail.com](mailto:hansen023@gmail.com)

Kay Hansen  
 Religious Educator



Yes, it's soon time to line up for Chicken Adobo, called by Google the national dish of the Philippines. Save the airfare by stopping at the UU Parish House on April 21 at 5:30 pm for Chef Ray's great version of Chicken Adobo-plus, and help Filipino children send kids to school.

This early warning is to give you time to set aside the date and to invite friends and family. Stay tuned!



Lines Written in Early Spring ~  
By William Wordsworth

I heard a thousand blended notes,  
While in a grove I sate reclined,  
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link  
The human soul that through me ran;  
And much it grieved my heart to think  
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,  
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;  
And 'tis my faith that every flower  
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,  
Their thoughts I cannot measure:—  
But the least motion which they made  
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
To catch the breezy air;  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What man has made of man?

*In summary, Wordsworth sits in a small woodland grove and listens to the birdsong with his fellow man. Wordsworth admires the flowers – the primrose, the blue of the periwinkle, the greenness of the woodland area in which he sits – and the birds which 'hopped and played' around him. The birds, and the twigs on the trees, seem to exist in a world of pleasure – at least, Wordsworth decides he must tell himself that this is so. This is the way nature is, and nature, in being the work of God, is like this for a reason. Wordsworth ends by reasserting his lament about 'what man has made of man'.*



## LAKESIDE REFLECTIONS MARCH 2018


Rev. Margaret Beckman

It seems to me that we have been holding so much of the world's pain for so long that, like chronic physical pain, our bodies and spirits have adapted to a perpetual state of discomfort and anxiety. It also seems that when one more tragedy strikes, we can scarcely take it in. We are holding so much that we lose track of what was important yesterday when today's news hits. Attention fatigue. Is that real? I think it might be. So much pain. So much suffering.

Here are just a few of things we've been holding with the need to maintain vigilance,



support and public action:  Our

"Dreamers",  "Me Too" survivors &

Time's Up,  Immigrants, LGBTQ friends, neighbor and family members,

 an economy for all,  Black Lives Matter, Health Care for All, Congressional Districts that represent the actual

population of the state,  Syrian,

 Rohingya and other Refugees,  Earth and our fragile, beautiful environment,



Education for ALL, School children,




White supremacy and patriarchy,



Dishonesty and Disregard by our



politicians and leaders, and  Guns and more guns. This is a short list of some of the cares we have been holding and carrying. We do what we can. It is not enough. We do what we can – because we must.

Does it seem that we can only focus on one or two things and then really important concerns fall by the wayside when the next tragedy strikes? We were advocating for a fair economy. Then health care. Then storm relief for Puerto Rico. Then dishonesty and possibly criminal behavior in leaders and White House staffers. Then Dreamers. Then sexual harassment and assault. Then mass shootings at school and the scourge of our gun culture. Advocacy and action are so important. This is the lifeblood of our democracy. We know we must keep our attention on our leaders who will drop the Dreamers to focus on Guns. We can't allow that to happen, this we know. We are holding so much pain and suffering. We cannot stop holding and we cannot stop our advocacy for justice and our resistance of injustice.

*Continues on page 8*

## REFLECTIONS, FROM PG 7

There is also another truth. Hear these words from Dr. Rebecca Parker and allow them to penetrate your weary soul.

***There is a love holding me / us.***

***There is a love holding all that I / we love.***

***There is a love holding all.***

***I / We rest in this love.***

[www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=24&v=UIY7Yf-l8rU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=UIY7Yf-l8rU)

May we all know the Love that holds us and find rest.

Namaste, Margaret



## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Leslie Fairbank, President  
 Brooke Tenney, Vice President  
 Diana Bernard, Treasurer  
 Anne Price, Clerk  
 Anne Parsons  
 Tom Mason  
 Rodney Flora  
 Colin Powell, Alternate Member

The Governing Board meets in the Parish House at 9:00 am on the fourth Thursday of each month. Observers are always welcome.

## THE COMMON

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