



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

March 2023

A Month of Sundays in March

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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.

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Lakeside Reflections March 2023

When did you become a Unitarian Universalist? At birth? As a teenager? Midway through adulthood? As a sage finally convinced of the wisdom of a wider worldview? We all come to this faith one way or another – even those who are cradle UUs come to a point, or points, in their lives when they reaffirm their commitment to this faith. Many of us came to Unitarian Universalism after a disillusionment or falling out with the faith of our younger life. Some of us just look around this wide and precious life and realize that spirituality surrounds human experience as do science, reason, and compassion. Our faith seems the best way to acknowledge that truth and live within a beloved community of companions who support that truth.

I came into Unitarian Universalism when I moved to Maine at the end of the 1980s. I read and devoured the UUA's Principles and Sources. I have never looked back. I have never wavered in my commitment. Of course, I have had my share of disappointments, arguments, triumphs, frustrations and celebrations with this faith. Through it all, I affirm and promote the values we share, the sources we turn to for perspective and guidance, and the principles we embody as a way of answering the question, "How then, shall I live?"

The Sources and the Principles of the UUA. These, I love. When I first read these words, my heart, my

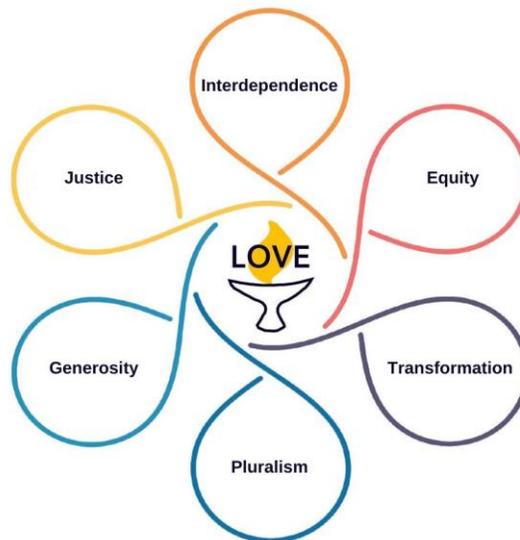


mind, my soul found a home. They are now, after twenty years of UU ministry, a part of me. And yet and yet, ours is not a static faith; ours is a Living Tradition. "We do not stand, we move" said Universalist Lewis B. Fisher over 100 years ago¹. We still move, and so, the time has come to, once again, review our purpose and direction; the things that guide us, inspire us, and unite us.

I commend to your attention and careful consideration the work of the UUA Article II Commission whose report is introduced elsewhere in this newsletter. We will come and reason together throughout the spring as we head toward the June meeting of our General Assembly where an initial vote will be taken on the recommendation

to proceed toward a full vote in 2024 for adoption of the changes to the UUA Bylaws Article II which lays out our values and covenants.

Below is the current Article II. We know and love these words. And, in the spirit of our living faith, we are now presented with the opportunity to move even more boldly into a future of greater inclusion, courage, spirit and, yes, poetry. Never abandoning our past but relying on the dawning



future more.

May it ever be so. In faith and service, with love and gratitude,

Margaret

¹ Written by Lewis B. Fisher, Universalist minister, Dean of Ryder Divinity School, author of *Which Way? A Study of Universalist and Universalism*, Boston, 1921, 9-11. Universalists, [writes LB Fisher in 1921,] Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move. Or we are asked to state our position. Again, we can only answer that we are on the march.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.



No Neighbor Left Behind April Challenge

The menu for April 14th is Shepherd's Pie. A wonderful recipe appeared in the Hannaford Fresh magazine (January-February 2023).



And in order to make this meal happen, I will need TEN volunteers to bake these casseroles. Each volunteer is tripling the original recipe.

What does this require?

Each volunteer will receive a 5 lb. bag of potatoes to be cooked and mashed, 3 pounds of ground beef, 3 cans of creamed corned, 3 cans of crisp kernel corn, 3 brown gravy packets, some parmesan cheese to sprinkle on top, and a dozen aluminum pans with lids.

It took me about 50 minutes to make a batch of four casseroles, but I would need extra time to prepare the potatoes when tripling the recipe, so plan on at least an hour.

Basically, you cook your potatoes, and while that is happening, make your gravy

according to the packet directions, brown the ground beef, and mix the two types of corn together in a separate bowl.

You add the gravy to the drained beef

and divide the meat mixture among the 12 aluminum pans.

Next, divide the corn mixture among the pans.

Finally, cover the casserole with the mashed potatoes and sprinkle with cheese.

Bake 30 minutes at 400 degrees—until the mixture bubbles and the top browns.

Casseroles should be dropped off at the church at 1 p.m.

Additional volunteers will be needed at the church to make and package salads. If bagged salads are on sale, we will use them.

Give me a call (326-4924) if you are able to participate in making this meal.

All best, Johanna Sweet

POTLUCK SUNDAY March 19th

Lots to discuss at this month's Potluck Luncheon, from UUA ByLaws changes to Parish House renovation. Don't miss the lively conversation and, of course, the good food! Bring a tasty dish and, WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine to Fund Local Restorative Ecology Educational Program

The Opportunity Fund Committee at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine (UUC) will award \$10,000 to Blue Hill Heritage Trust (BHHT) for a Restorative Ecology educational program at the Adams School.

The Adam School in Castine is participating in this program to help children learn to make their community more resilient to the effects of climate change, and their ecosystem more diverse. On their school campus, the students will be working with Wabanaki science teachers to study the landscape, identify native plants to improve the health of the land, then collect and cultivate native seeds and plants. The goal is to create an edible landscape that adds to biodiversity and feeds wildlife, pollinators, and people. They will also be engaged in learning Wabanaki cultural history.

This educational program will stimulate the intersection of environmental, nature-based education, Indigenous and Western Science, cultural knowledge sharing, and relationship building around stewarding the land. Bringing Indigenous voices into classrooms provides a unique educational opportunity. This program will be ongoing, accessible and visible to the public. It will be restorative for both the land and cross-cultural relationships. This year's

students will start the project and leave it for future classes to continue. This program has already been successfully introduced at GSA and the Sedgwick schools.

The team leading this project is made up of indigenous science teachers Kathy Pollard and Ann Pollard Ranco (from Know Your Land Consulting, a mother/daughter team), Josh Snow & Tracey Lameyer (science teachers at the Adams School), and Landere Naisbitt from BHHT.

By inviting members of the Penobscot Tribe onto their homeland to educate our community, we are also working to restore relationships and create trust and understanding among our whole community. Giving students the opportunity to work alongside these women is a unique experience that will have a lasting impact on not just their environmental knowledge, but also their Wabanaki cultural understanding and their sense of relationship with the land.

This Restorative Ecology educational program fits into the broad community outreach mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine and the specific goals of the Opportunity Fund in supporting new programs focused on children, Wabanaki reconciliation, and the inter-related environment.



Photo courtesy BHHT



UUC Supports UUSC

Our congregation supports many efforts. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is just one. We thought you might like to know a little more about them. Their thank you below is very informative. Feel free to take a deeper look on their website: www.uusc.org/.

In 50 countries across the globe, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is following the wisdom, strength, and guidance of our 70 grassroots partners to address immediate needs and advance lasting change. From advocating for democracy in Burma, to providing clean water in the Solomon Islands, to funding a shelter for migrants in Mexico City, your support has a global reach. Together, we are



reimagining a world that honors the worth, power, and dignity of all.

In a time of increasingly complex human rights challenges, you are helping UUSC to provide relief when the world's needs are extraordinary. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to strain many of our grassroots partners around the world, but they remain as resilient as ever.

Your congregation's generous gift goes far in repairing inequities with systemic solutions and restoring rights in time of crisis.

Please know how much we appreciate your congregation's vital ministry and your support for UUSC's work to uplift community-led human rights projects in over 20 countries around the world.



Music Matters - Karen Froehly

We welcomed Karen to UUC's music ministry in November 2022 as the music coordinator and organist after she had recently retired and moved from Maryland to Penobscot. She holds bachelor's degrees in Business Management and Visual and Performing Arts (Piano Performance) from the University of Maryland, a master's degree in Liturgical Music from the Catholic University of America and a graduate certificate in liturgy from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

She lists many reasons why she feels fortunate to be a part of UUC. "I enjoy the UU's openness to and appreciation of many music genres in their worship. I am delighted to be added to the group of diverse music ministers at the UU and look forward to collaborating with them in the future. I also hope to continue to team up with the musicians at the Congregational and Episcopal churches in Castine. Lastly, I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to play the beautiful instruments at the UUC."

Karen enjoys birdwatching with her husband, Mark, working on her many craft projects, cooking, reading, caring for her six cats, spending time with her two out-of-state sons and living in Maine!





Change is in the Air

UUA ARTICLE II STUDY REPORT 2021 - 2023

INTRODUCTION

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last substantially revised in 1985. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies that have come from the Board, the Commission on Appraisal and grassroots groups which encourage us to take a look at our principles, purposes, bylaws and rules. It is time for us to do a review and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future, a Unitarian Universalism that holds us in times of great need and ethical, moral and spiritual crises. We are in one of those times now.

In response to those discussions, the UUA Board committed to establishing this Article II Study Commission to consider possible amendments to this Article. The full report can be found at this link:

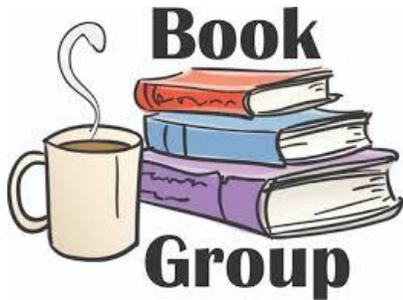
<https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>



I encourage you all to read and think about the proposed update to our UUA By-Laws.

Every organization that lives and moves and breathes with each generation of leaders, dreamers and sages needs to revisit and revise in order to remain alive. We, the UUA, are no exception.

On Sunday, March 19th, we'll take up the Article II proposal during worship. Please plan to attend, by Zoom or in our Castine Meeting House. This is our March POTLUCK Sunday so conversation may continue after the service. See you there!



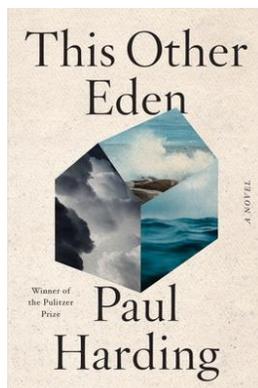
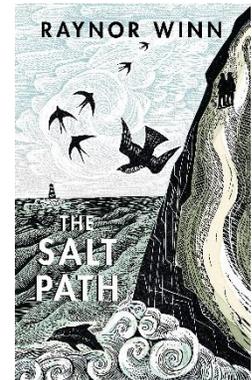
UUC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

In early March we will be finishing up *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn.

Just days after Raynor learns that Moth, her husband of 32 years, is terminally ill, their home and livelihood is taken away. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall.

The Salt Path is an honest and life-affirming true story of coming to terms with grief and the healing power of the natural world. Ultimately, it is a portrayal of home, and how it can be lost, rebuilt, and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways.



The book chosen to follow *The Salt Path*, for discussion beginning March 13th will be: ***This Other Eden*** by Paul Harding. From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Tinkers*, *The Other Eden* is a novel inspired by the true story of Malaga Island, an isolated island off the coast of Maine that became one of the first racially integrated towns in the Northeast.

NOTE: This is a new book - available in hardcover and Kindle only. Not out in paperback. Libraries are getting it - with queue lines forming every minute - so sign up now!

Consider becoming part of the UU Reads book discussion. Click on the link below on Tuesday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88248518973?pwd=dEhHWDJ3Mo9EVjYrb2IvWVB6dmFBZz09>

March

Never mind March, we know
You're not really mad
Or angry or bad.
You're only blowing the winter away
To get the world ready
For April and May.



http://joyfullearninginkc.blogspot.com/2013/03/march-poems.html#.Y_4uZXbMK3A

