



The Common September 2018

END OF SUMMER

By Stanley Kunitz

An agitation of the air,
A perturbation of the light
Admonished me the unloved year
Would turn on its hinge that night.

I stood in the disenchanted field
Amid the stubble and the stones,
Amazed, while a small worm lisped to me
The song of my marrow-bones.

Blue poured into summer blue,
A hawk broke from his cloudless tower,
The roof of the silo blazed, and I knew
That part of my life was over.

Already the iron door of the north
Clangs open: birds, leaves, snows
Order their populations forth,
And a cruel wind blows.

Stanley Kunitz, "End of Summer" from *The Collected Poems of Stanley Kunitz*. Copyright © 1953 by Stanley Kunitz. Reprinted by permission of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.



Sunday Service Calendar

September 2nd Rev. Margaret Beckman, "For All Who Labor"

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

September 9th Rev Margaret Beckman, "The Practice of Forgiveness"

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

September 16th Opportunity Fund
Guest in the pulpit is Dawn Coffin of
Families First Community Center.

Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

September 23rd Rev. Margaret Beckman, "The Beauty of Change"

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

September 30th Rev Margaret Beckman, "You Are the Man"

TBA, Musician

October 7th Rabbi Darah Lerner will be our guest in the pulpit.

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

President's Desk

Leslie Fairbank

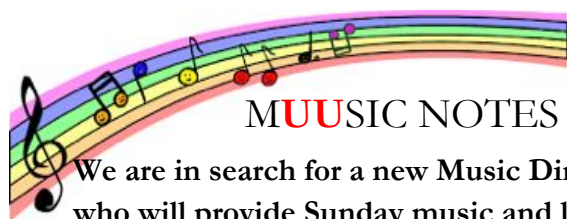
August 19th was a very special day in the life of our congregation. During morning worship, we welcomed Mr. Bruce Knotts of the UU United Nations office. He described some of the work of the office and described ways in which Kent Price's participation as a Board member had been significant. He later spoke of Kent's work and support during the afternoon memorial service. The offering designated for the UNO raised approximately \$1200 which will be matched so that \$2400 will be sent in Kent's honor and memory Kent would have been surprised and delighted. Thank you to all who contributed to this effort.

In the Memorial service, Kent and Anne's son Jamieson spoke eloquently about his dad and shared aspects of his life that were new to many of us. Bruce Knott spoke of his UNO work, and Margaret read a letter from daughter, Wendy. Then several people shared memories and appreciation of so many good works such as the fundraising for the Great Pond Wildlands, the founding of MUUSAN, his political activities, and so many efforts for our congregation. A favorite poem, Rumi's "A Garden Beyond Paradise" was beautifully read by Jamieson and "Blue Boat Home" was sung. It was a joyous celebration for a wonderful human being.

The board would like to extend warm thanks to everyone who contributed to the reception that followed the service. Everyone who said they would, did, and others simply showed up with goodies. People stayed to share stories and memories with Kent's family, some of whom had come a very long way, from Hawaii and California. Thank you to all those who helped set up, serve, and clean up.

We gave our dear brother a fine send off. Again, thanks to everyone who participated in any way.

Warm regards, Leslie



MUUSIC NOTES

We are in search for a new Music Director who will provide Sunday music and lead the choir. Contact Leslie Fairbank or Margaret Beckman if you know anyone who might be perfect for UUCC!

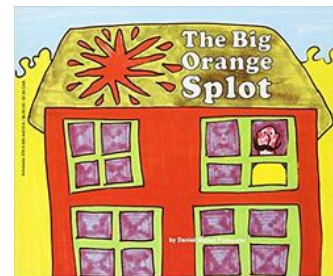
Religious Education

Kay Hansen

We had fun this summer playing games, making food and learning more about the Philippines, the home of our partner church. We also took a brief visit to Japan to hear a favorite children's story and make a Japanese (Zen) garden.

As usual, the summer has passed quickly and here we are beginning September—a time to think of starting school and beginning a new year of religious education. This year, I am excited to tell you that Lane Fisher, our intern from 2 years ago, will be helping me through what I am calling a "transition year." During this year, she and I will be sharing the duties of RE teacher, as well as looking at the future of the religious education program at the Castine Church. We will look at issues such as: a program for older children, adult programming, space issues, an RE Committee and a "Safe Congregation Policy." We plan to attend a "Future of Faith Formation" workshop November 17th in Bangor to glean some ideas of how other UU churches are approaching religious education in our contemporary and changing times.

Children's Programming for September, 2018-June, 2019



On September 9th, we will begin a year-long curriculum called "Picture Book Unitarian Universalism." The author of this curriculum, Katie Tweedie Covey, has chosen 36 best books that illustrate our UU identity. The intention is to use these books to teach.. "young children about the love, reason, tolerance and good works that make up our faith."

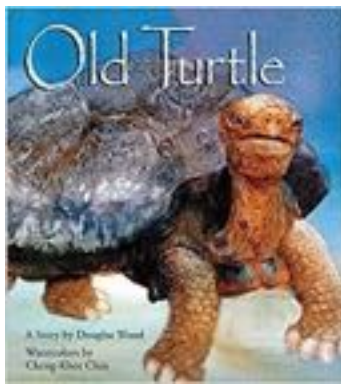
.....Continued on next page



RE continued from previous page ...

Each lesson uses a book to illustrate the principles and beliefs of our faith. A wide range of activities are suggested so that it can appeal to a wide range of ages. Children will be introduced to people like Maria Mitchell, Henry David Thoreau and Fannie Farmer, whose novel ideas and discoveries helped to transform our faith. In addition, each lesson has a “Take Home Page” which gives a summary of the book, the goal of the lesson and a possible activity that could be done at home. Some of

the books being used this fall include: *The Big Orange Splot*, *Old Turtle*, and *Henry Builds a Cabin*.



Looking forward to working with our children this fall.

**NEEDED:
GOOD PEOPLE TO
SERVE AS
GREETERS & USHERS**

**NEEDED:
GOOD PEOPLE TO
HOST COFFEE HOUR**

Sign Up for your
Sundays to serve
on the board in
the Parish House

Sound System in the Meeting House



Some of you have noticed that it seems harder to hear clearly in the Meeting House. We’re working to meet that concern and improve our sound quality. Jamie Price (Son of Kent and Anne Price) is a sound technician with lots of experience. He readjusted the microphone and sound levels coming through the amplifier and Bose speaker when he was here for his father’s Memorial Celebration of Life. The sound now IS better. The “buzz” that some of you heard is gone. We continue to pursue the suggestion that a better quality wireless microphone might also make a positive difference. Working with our musicians, Chris Poulin and Juliane Gardner on that part of the project. Lastly, the professionals who installed our current system will return this fall to assess the current operation of the system and make suggestions they think are important. Meanwhile, **Keep Listening** and let us know how the sound is now. Anne Parsons and Margaret Beckman are point people on gathering your ideas and observations. Thanks!



UUCO Opportunity Funds at Work in our Communities

FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER

Serving Homeless Families with Children in Hancock County

Mission

Our mission is to break the cycle of homelessness by equipping families with minor children with the skills they need to gain self-sufficiency.

What We Do

FCC assists homeless families with minor children to gain self-esteem and learn the skills necessary to become self-sufficient. Our staff consists of an Executive Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Office Manager, Case Managers, and Community Volunteers.

How It Works

An individualized Life Plan is developed, with maximum input from each participant based on personal and family needs, with help from staff. Families will live at FFCC for up to eighteen months while they pursue their goals and implement their Life Plan.

Where We Are Now

With help from a variety of funders, including the UUCO Opportunity Fund, and hundreds of volunteers, the FFCC home on North Street in Ellsworth is nearing the completion of necessary renovations and new construction. Staff are coming on board. Supplies for the home and for our families are being gathered and either distributed now to those in need or carefully stored for furnishing the family apartments. We have a two-page wish list on our website for anyone wishing to make a specific donation. www.familiesfirstellsworth.org

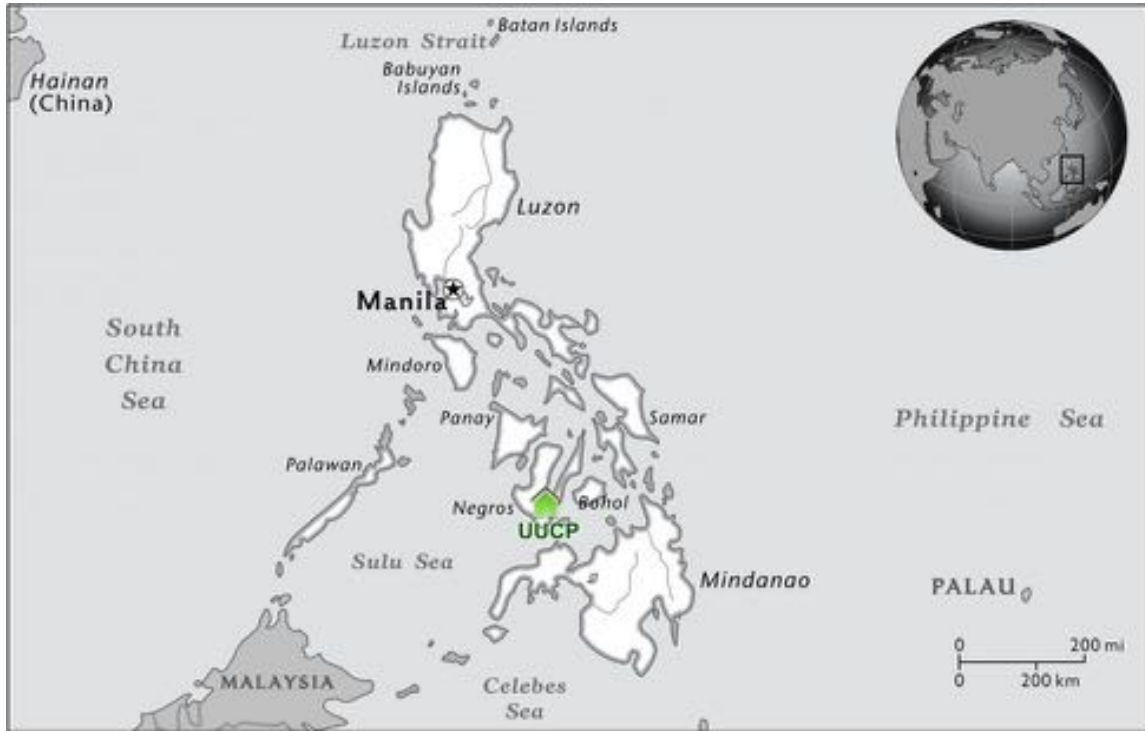
"The true reflection of society can be seen in the way that it cares for the elderly, the poor and needy, and the homeless." - Hubert Humphrey

Families First Community Center is our Opportunity Fund Partner for September

Dawn Coffin, President, will join us on Sunday September 16th to share the story of the dreams and vision of FFCC. We will hear more about what they are doing now and how the support of our congregation through the Opportunity Fund is helping them move closer to their vision.

DON'T MISS this important Sunday morning service at 10:30.
Potluck at 11:30 when Dawn will be available for questions and conversation.

Partner Church Update



PHILIPPINES

Copyright © 2009 National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,107 islands that stretch over 1,000 miles from the north to the south. It is divided into 3 geographical areas: Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. Manila is located on the northernmost island of Luzon. Negros Island, where the majority of the UU churches are located, is the fourth largest island in the archipelago; it is part of the Visayas. Mindanao is the southernmost island in the Philippines.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines (UUCP) is headquartered in Dumaguete City on the island of Negros. There are 29 UU churches in the Philippines that are part of the UUCP. The UU churches are widely distributed in Negros Island but also include a new UU church in Bicutan, Western Taguig, Metro Manila.

Our congregation partners with the Aquino UU Church of the Philippines. Here is a brief review of what we do together.

- ◆ A Filipino Supper with Ray Nualla as chef was held in April and brought in \$1000 plus
- ◆ A Turkey Supper will be held on October 20th
- ◆ We support 37 students as of June 2018: 1 college student, 15 in grades 6-12 and 21 in grade 1-6 with money for tuition, uniforms, school supplies and transportation
- ◆ Tom and Marcia Mason now collect and return the bottles and cans left in the containers outside the Parish House. Annual fund collected help about three students go to school
- ◆ The Aquino congregation pays for part-time ministry support and other pastoral needs. Each year, they send us a detailed budget with a request for funds to help meet their needs. Three or four thousand dollars American goes a very long way toward funding their ministry and religious education programs
- ◆ Of particular interest to UUCP has been the opportunity to provide for healthy and nutritious food to local families who struggle to make ends meet.
- ◆ Material and emotional support of families



Please see Elaine Gerard-Climo if you'd like to become a sponsor of one or more Aquino children going to school this year.



Tired of all the angry political rhetoric? Worried that the rudeness and contempt is spilling over into conversations and communications between colleagues, friends, and family? Then join us in September for a program we are calling **Castine Chooses Civility**.

Sponsored by the Witherle Memorial Library and the Main Street Church, **Castine Chooses Civility** takes a look at how our culture became so contentious that rudeness, shouting down, and denigrating speech have become common in our civil discourse and social media. Then, we'll learn and practice some skills to help us de-escalate and redirect conversations and postings to more peaceful, polite, and productive forms.

Castine Chooses Civility will meet at 6:00 pm on two Wednesdays, September 12 and 19, at the Witherle Memorial Library. Mark Hews, the State Coordinator for Maine Revives Civility, will join us in our discussion on this important topic. Together, we can work to calm the rhetoric as we increase our respect for one another.

“Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.”
Margaret Wheatley



Castine Compassion Coalition

A group of Castine citizens and residents have engaged in regular bi-weekly meetings to discuss ways to meet the challenges associated with the need to reunite refugee families affected by the “zero tolerance” policy of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, or ICE and the associated challenges with navigating our complex and complicated legal process for requesting and gaining asylum.

All who are interested in helping are invited to attend. The next meeting will be at Emerson Hall on Wednesday, September 5th, at 11am. For information contact Wallace or Alice Alston at 326-8432.

We have concluded that the most helpful thing Castine people can contribute to these families is help to obtain legal support through the agencies “on the ground” in our border states. Of course, that means that our primary response will need to be financial.

What began as a four-congregation vigil in June has grown into a community-wide effort to go beyond candles and prayers in admitting that prayers are necessary but not sufficient in the face of the humanitarian crisis we are witnessing in our country.



Grateful for the hands and hearts of many compassionate people, we are planning a community-wide fundraising effort to culminate with a town potluck supper at Emerson Hall on November 18th—the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Money raised will go toward legal support for families still separated and for those detained who seek asylum.

Our next coalition meeting is Wednesday, September 5th at 11:00 a.m.—Emerson Hall. We sure could use a few more people to help plan our November event! Need more Info? See Brooke Tenney, Lynn Parsons or Margaret Beckman

You're Invited to Join

Kristen Miale

President of Good Shepherd Food Bank

for an educational discussion

Hunger in Maine: A Solvable Problem



Thursday, September 27th, 2018

7-8 PM

Hosted by: **Blue Hill Library**

5 Parker Point Rd, Blue Hill, ME 04614

Hunger is a significant problem in Maine. More than 16 percent of the population here is food insecure, including one in five children. Maine ranks seventh in the nation for food insecurity and first in New England. Food insecurity affects the health and well-being of our neighbors in every community, and impacts issues like education, healthcare, workforce development, and economic prosperity. Good Shepherd Food Bank, Maine's largest hunger-relief organization, is poised to help solve this problem. Join President Kristen Miale to learn more about the Food Bank's multi-year plan to end hunger in Maine by 2025, including the creation of a new food distribution center in Hampden to better serve areas like the Blue Hill Peninsula and its surrounding communities.

Free and open to the public.

Register to attend by contacting Julie Guerette at 207-344-1264

or jguerette@gsfb.org



Lakeside Reflections, September 2018



Our children are going back to school. I've been thinking about how that is for our kids in these days of uncertainty and violence. When I was a kid, it never occurred to me that school was not a safe place for me or that the other kids in my class were any kind of serious threat. The most dangerous thing about school was recess when we whirled around on the merry-go-round and hung from the monkey bars. Now, parents and children talk about what to do if there is an active shooter at school. Kids carry cell phones so they can notify their parents that they are safe and not among the dead or wounded – or maybe they are and someone else must call the parents. Our kids are being robbed of childhood. It's not right and we know it's not right.

I remain stunned and angered by our elected representatives unwillingness to address the problem of mass killings and the easy availability of military style guns designed to kill. It's not that we lack the ability to regulate and control weapons of mass destruction, it's that we lack the will. Rather than reduce the number and lethality of weapons, we are choosing to increase the number of weapons in schools and make our schools fortresses. Then we wonder why kids have a hard time learning and why they seem traumatized.

Refugee kids, kids without legal status, foster kids, LGBT kids, kids of color, kids with disabilities, kids who are hungry, kids whose parent is incarcerated, and kids with violent homes all go back to school together. I worry about the kids from marginalized signets of our population. Will they become targets of kids who are learning from some of the adults around them that bullying and making fun of people and shouting at people and hurting people of different races, nationalities, sexual orientations or gender identities is now somehow ok? As a people, as a nation, we are better than this recent stint of horrible behavior. We owe our children the best we can possibly give them. Safety. Respect. Freedom to be who they are. Encouragement to learn and thrive. Love.

One education expert says good teachers are making schools safer by making the culture of school more respectful. "...there's something else that takes thoughtfulness, wisdom, and courage, too, and it's something that good teachers at every level already do: we create a classroom ethos that might be called 'learning to live together.' It's not a rule book nor a set of potential crimes and punishments, but rather an overarching ethic: respect yourself and respect other people; respect the world and respect the work. ...A vital democracy requires participation, some tolerance and acceptance of difference, independent thought, a spirit of mutuality—in other words, learning to live together. Good teachers already embody that essential value." —William Ayers, *"You Can't Fire the Bad Ones!" And 18 Other Myths About Teachers, Teachers' Unions, and Public Education*

Our Unitarian Universalist faith affirms and promotes the dignity and worth of all people, even school kids. We are not alone in believing this. There are very good people trying hard to work miracles in a very broken system. They give me hope and even a measure of confidence. I also understand that it is my duty and my faith imperative to advocate for changes that will reduce gun violence and create cultures of respect and love. May we all continue to resist evil and promote good – for the sake of our children ... to the seventh generation and beyond.

Namaste,
Margaret

