



The Common August 2018



Our webpage proudly states that we are a Welcoming Congregation. This, of course, indicates that we meet the requirements of the UUA certifying that we are an all-inclusive congregation. But I propose that we need to take another step to make sure that everyone

that comes in our door on Sunday morning feels personally welcomed. We need to reach out and GREET newcomers as well as regular members and occasional attendees. At the collaborative service at the Belfast UU Church, we were met at the door by someone with a distinctive GREETER tag. They performed other tasks during the service but their primary job was to put a hand out and offer a warm smile. First time visitors should receive special treatment especially at coffee hour. Introductions and obtaining contact information are logical first steps.

As for coffee hour, there is more importance to that job than filling the coffee urn and putting out cups although that is basically what needs to be done. One of the most important benefits that our members cited during our search process was the sense of community the UUCC provided. UUs are famous for coffee hours and justifiably so. This is one of the most effective ways to create community. Exchange of ideas and sharing of news creates a bond. Refreshments can be as simple as a plate of store bought cookies or as elaborate as your time and talent allows. You will be thanked not judged. Know that when you sign up for coffee hour, you are nourishing the foundation of the community that means so much to so many of us.

So when the call goes out at Sunday service for volunteers, keep in mind the significance of these tasks and fill the sign-up sheets by the copier in the Parish House.

Sunday Service Calendar

August 5th Rev. Margaret Beckman,
"When Love and Devotion Are Not
Enough"

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

August 12th Andrew McKnight
Special Service "Tilling Our Common
Ground"

August 19th Bruce Knotts,
Executive Director of the
Unitarian Universalist Unit-
ed Nations Office will
speak in honor of Kent
Price



Colleen Fitzgerald, Musi-
cian

August 19th at 2:00 p.m.

**There will be a very special service -
Celebrating the Life of Kent A. Price.**

**A reception for members and
friends with the Price family at the
Parish House following the service**

August 26th Rev. Margaret Beckman with
Bob Holmberg and Tammi Cox of Com-
munity Compass—an Opportunity Fund
partner

Julianne Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

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

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

President's Desk

Leslie Fairbank

On Sunday, August 19th at 200 PM, the meeting house will be filled with family and friends celebrating the life, mourning the loss, and remembering our dear brother, Kent Price. As a congregation, we are still coming to terms with his loss, and how to accomplish the many responsibilities he had taken on over the years. He was involved in many other groups and had had a distinguished professional career.

The guest preacher for the morning service on August 19th will be The Rev. Bruce Knotts of UUUNO with whom Kent worked as a board member for several years. He will also participate in the memorial service. As a way for our congregation to honor Kent and his long service to UU institutions, the governing board has authorized a special offering to be given to the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office in Kent's name. We will match individual gifts. Please mark your check, made out to UUCC, with UNO or Kent memorial.

We have also decided to provide light refreshments to follow the service. If you are willing to contribute, please contact Becky St. John by email of office@uucastine.org or telephone (in the office Mon. and Fri. at 326-9083), or Leslie Fairbank at 469-7531. We will need sweets, savories, fruit and veggies. Please indicate which category you intend to bring.

It is always amazing how quickly summer hurtles by. Do enjoy these lovely days. 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

Summer Activities:

With the help of Johanna Sweet, during the month of July, we have explored the traditions of the Philippines through stories, crafts, making foods and playing games. In August, we will continue to learn together and have fun by exploring the traditions of other world countries.

FERRY BEACH RETREAT, October 26-28, 2018

If you haven't already, consider joining the three churches of our collaborative for a retreat at Ferry Beach. The setting is awesome, and you will meet many wonderful people!

Registration will continue every Sunday until August 26th, at which time we will need to let Ferry Beach know how many people from Castine Church will be attending. A non-refundable \$25.00 registration fee is due at registration. The balance is due September 30th.

A schedule of activities is planned for adults and children during the retreat, but you may decide on your own activities: walking the beach, sitting on the porch, knitting, photographing, putting a puzzle together, resting, sleeping, reading... We would want you to enjoy yourself and meet people from our collaborative churches.

On Saturday of the retreat, the Castine Church will provide a workshop on Social Justice.

Margaret Beckman has engaged Rev. Dr. Jodi Hayashida, the UU minister from the Auburn congregation, to be the workshop leader this year. Her passion, at this time, is the People's Campaign, A Moral Agenda for America. For those of you who might want to come for Saturday only, that is possible also. Please see Kay Hansen for more information.



Ralph Chapman will speak about his experience on the 2016 Civil Rights Living Legacy Pilgrimage



On Tuesday, August 28, Representative Ralph Chapman

will discuss his experiences as a participant in the Civil Rights Living Legacy pilgrimage in 2016. This is a tour of the Mississippi Delta, sponsored in part by the UUA, which explores locations sacred to the memory of many who participated in the Freedom Summer of 1964.

Ralph visited the spot where three civil rights workers were abducted and later slain, the home of Medgar Evers, the grave of Fannie Lou Hamer, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, as well as other locations in the Delta.

He gave a version of his experiences and impressions in a powerful presentation at the Reversing Falls Sanctuary on Martin Luther King Sunday last January. For those of a certain age who remember those events, and for those for whom the names may be unfamiliar, his remarks will be both informative and inspiring.

He will be speaking in the UCC Parish House at 3:30 p.m.

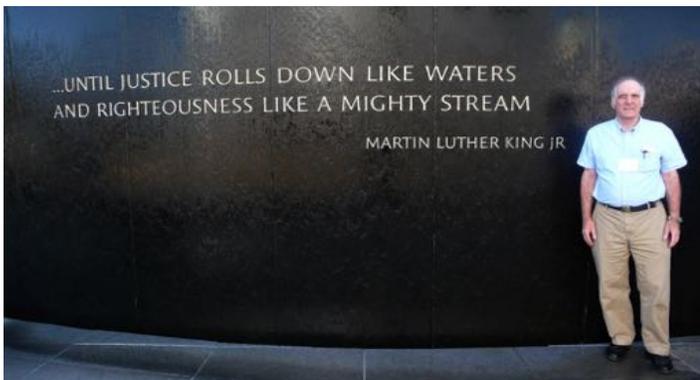
UCC Social Justice Funds Help Support Youth Rainbow Ball



IMAGE COURTESY OF OUTMAINE

More than 400 students and advisers attended the Rainbow Ball Weekend retreat for LGBTQ students at Mount Desert Island High School April 27-29. The event outgrew its previous location, the University of Maine at Machias, where it was held for 10 years. "The atmosphere of the weekend was excited and joyful," said Phoenix

Hebert of Searsport. "Everyone in my group said they had a great time." MDI science teacher Lin Gould organized the weekend, and Principal Matt Haney welcomed the group Friday night. Activities included a talent show and workshops.



UUCC Opportunity Funds at Work in our Communities



COMMUNITY COMPASS

Working together to break the cycle of poverty in our region.

Community Compass is a collaboration of community members, Neighborhood Navigators, and partner organizations working collectively to break the cycle of poverty by engaging the financially struggling, reducing barriers to prosperity, and building opportunity for all citizens of Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Deer Isle, Orland, Penobscot, Sedgwick, Stonington, and Surry.

Community Compass recognizes that community collaboration around services is more effective for those in need. We collaborate with organizations, volunteers and Neighborhood Navigators to support and empower those living in poverty. Our organization advocates for people by raising awareness of available resources and we work with local service organizations in removing barriers from attaining those services. Community Compass uses Neighborhood Navigators to better help those in need of services and link them with available resources. Our navigators, understand the life of their neighbors and are able to build trusting relationships with them and at the same time, through training, are aware of key local resources to refer them to.

August 26th during our Sunday morning service, Bob Holmberg and Tammi Cox of Community Compass will be our featured Opportunity Fund speakers. Come and hear what Community Compass is doing to help people in recovery.

In our ongoing efforts to remain engaged with our Opportunity Fund partners, 19 members of our church have attended one or more of our meetings with OF recipients. In rough numbers, that represents one third of our congregation. This level of interest and support is impressive and shows how vital this ministry is for our members and for the organizations our Opportunity Fund supports.

Also, please circle Friday, September 14th 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at UUCC Parish House for our second joint meeting and luncheon of Fund recipients.

Partner Church Update

I am pleased to announce that Sue Clements has joined our committee. She will help me with the fun task of sending birthday cards to the students in our Dollars for Scholars program. Besides a little note, she will add \$5.00 - a PCC custom started a few years ago. This amount would make little impression on American students but in the Philippines, and especially on the island of Negros where the Aquino UUC is located, five dollars becomes 266 Philippine pesos (not pesos as in Mexican money) – a lot of buying power. The average family makes about 350 - 500 pesos a month (last I knew.)

We currently support 37 students: 26 in grades one through six, 10 in grades seven through twelve, and one college student. When we started this program there were 34 students: 9 in high school and 25 in elementary. The seventh and eighth grades were considered elementary back in 2010 but now are in “high school.” At the elementary level, a child receives \$100 from his/her sponsor which helps with tuition (no free public school on Negros), uniforms, and school supplies. From seventh grade on, a student receives \$200 a year. The cost to send a child to school at any level is higher than our contributions, but families are grateful for our help.

The number of students supported by sponsors has increased from 23 to 26; however, the number of sponsors has decreased by three. Tricky, eh? Let me explain. When someone contributes \$200 but the high school student body has decreased, the money is distributed to two children.

This year we loss four students due to dropping out of school or to failing grades. In the past, I have asked our Aquino coordinator to try and obtain tutor help for students doing poorly in school. But I learned that the Aquino congregation has two standards for a child to receive our support.

First, the family must attend Sunday services and secondly, the child must maintain passing grades. As we wish to support and not dictate, the four students will no longer receive support; in school or not.

Our college student, Laica Fajado, is such a delight. She routinely sends emails with accounts of her studies. Currently, she is spending the summer in Cebu working at Joyo Marketing, a company which sells information technology products, for on the job training. She has found it expensive to live in a city. She misses her parents who would help her with unexpected expenses such as transportation costs. Soon, we will be sending more student support money and we hope to add something extra to help her with this summer program.



A few words from Laica: “I know that it would be a long run before the Graduation Day but I promise that I will also do my best because I know that I am a little bit closer in reaching my goals and dreams. Thank you so much to all of you ma'am for supporting me and not leaving my side until this very moment, my success is not

just my success alone because I will offer my success to all the people who helped me reach it. God Bless Us all.” With that, I think we are nicely filling our seventh covenant: *Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.*

August schedule of Witherle Memorial Library events at the Library, the UUCU Parish House or the Meeting House



Wed. Aug. 1 5 PM at the library: Foreign Affairs
Discussion group: Can a trade war be won?
Wed. Aug. 8 5 PM at the library: American Politics
in the 21st Century book discussion on Libertarianism:
moderated by Mark Worth
Mon. Aug. 13, 7 PM in the Parish House: Maine
Writers Series: Katherine Hall Page
Thurs. Aug. 16, 7PM in the Parish House: Maine
Writers Series: Jeffrey Lewis
Mon. Aug. 20, 7 PM in the Meeting House: Maine
Writers Series: Paul Doiron
Wed. Aug. 22, 5 PM at the library: American Politics
in the 21st Century book discussion on the
Trump presidency moderated by Bobby Vagt
Sun. Aug. 26, 7 PM in the Meeting House: Hungrytown
Musicians (cosponsored with the Castine Arts Association)
Mon. Aug. 27, 7 PM in the Parish House: Maine
Writers Series: Robyn Lloyd

Families Belong Together

A group of Castine citizens and residents have begun to hold regular bi-weekly meetings to discuss ways to meet the challenge of reuniting refugee families affected by the “zero tolerance” policy of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, or ICE. All who are interested in helping are invited to attend. The next meeting will be at Emerson Hall on Wednesday, August 8, at 11am. For further information contact Wallace or Alice Alston at 326-8432.

We do not yet know how to be useful in addressing this humanitarian crisis at our border. We are committed to maintaining an open dialogue until we discern the way forward in love and justice.

Our own UUA President, Susan Frederick Gray sent out a pastoral letter to all Unitarian Universalists encouraging us to get involved somehow. This is part of that open letter:

Dear Friends,

During World War II, Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat, wrote illegal visas for Jewish families fleeing Lithuania. He did not follow the rules about who should get a visa and who should not. He followed his moral compass. He wrote them for anyone who asked. He issued 10-day visas for transit through Japan in clear violation of his orders. He decided he had the power - even though he could have assumed he had none. I have the seal to stamp the visas; I have my signature. He wrote visa after visa.

I learned about Sugihara the same day I learned some children who have been separated from their parents at the border are being drugged to keep them listless and sleeping. The guardians who have been reunited with their children find their children are not the same—they are changed from the trauma they’ve experienced. Just like Sugihara, we must all ask what our conscience requires of us in this time when the most inhumane abuse is being carried out against the most vulnerable by the government.

When asked what the most important commandment is, Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and ...Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

As a religious person, my faith calls me - in no uncertain terms - to help those who are suffering, to help those who need sanctuary and safety, who are facing death and persecution.

Collaborative Ministry News

UUCC Helps with the Blueberry Rakers' Resource Fair in Blue Hill

Volunteers and members of Maine Mobile Health gathered at the Halcyon Grange Hall in Blue Hill on Tuesday, July 31st for the first of three Resource Fairs and Dinners for the migrant farm workers who come to harvest Maine's blueberry crop. Robin Lovrien of the UU Church of Ellsworth is the primary organizer of the dinner portion of the evening and she asked the Collaborative Ministry Team to provide help with the Blue Hill dinner. Maine Mobile Health provides a mobile clinic and each migrant worker receives a health screening and other health services.

Volunteers provide hot food, set-up, serving and clean-up for the dinner. Donations of clothing, toiletries, food and other personal items filled a dozen tables. Social Workers and Immigration Attorneys were also on hand to talk with anyone who wanted an immediate conversation and support. Over thirty farmworkers participated in the evening's activities and left with whatever food and supplies they will need during their stay in Maine. Jesse Morehouse and Margaret Beckman helped to organize the donations and serve the dinner.

The Governing Board of UUCC designated \$2000 to help meet the costs of providing the three dinners and Maine Mobile Health costs.



ALL ARE CALLED!



SanctUUary Summit
Saturday, August 18
10:00-2:00 pm (brown bag lunch)
UU Community Church of Augusta
69 Winthrop Street, Augusta
Sponsored by MUUSAN's Racial Justice Issue Group

WE RESPOND! At General Assembly 2018, our UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray issued a CALL TO ACTION, charging us to consider what is the most urgent issue facing our most marginalized communities right now, and how we UUs can step in to do the work that is most needed.

Revs. Carie Johnsen, Christina Sillari and Drew Moeller, along with MUUSAN Co-Chairs Julia Fitz-Randolph and Trudy Ferland, want to bring home the GA excitement and very importantly, learn and share how to include all our Maine UU congregations in this work, not just those in urban areas.

We challenge and invite ALL Maine UU congregations to consider how they can deepen their participation in efforts to support immigrants and refugees.

Information and Registration is at www.MUUSAN.org.

Andrew McKnight

singer • songwriter • storytender

*powerful and entertaining
finely-crafted songs
humor & poetic drama
down-home warmth*

... a sort of folk music mastery, digging into the genre for a sound that's authentic, earnest and deeply heartfelt.

—Worcester Telegram & Gazette

*shades of Appalachia
haunting slide & jazzy blues
feisty anthems
rustic folk*

SAVE THE DATES

The Belfast, Castine, Ellsworth Collaborative Ministry Team is bringing Andrew McKnight to Downeast Maine in August.



Saturday, August 11th — House concert at the Ellsworth UU Church, 121 Bucksport Road in Ellsworth. Concert is at 7:00 p.m.

Suggested donation at the door is \$10—20.



Sunday, August 12th—Andrew will lead the worship service with word and song at the UU Congregation of Castine, 86 Court Street in Castine. Service begins at 10:30 a.m.

www.andrewmcknight.net



Lakeside Reflections August, 2018



When we saw a Junco flying near the fuchsia plant that hangs on our front porch, we thought the poor thing was confused. It came back a few times and that made us curious. Christy took the plant off its hook and peeked in the planter. Behold! A nest lay at the edge of the pot with a single tiny egg. Astonishing. So, we left the plant alone, even though it needed a bit more water to thrive as a flowering plant. Weighing the alternatives – drown the nest to save the plant or save the nest and risk the plant. We took the risk and Christy gave the plant miniscule amounts of water for weeks as we watched in wonder the two Juncos attending the nest. One day, there were four

tiny eggs in the nest. The adults were attentive to their nest and took exception to our presence near by. We left them alone. A few days more and a quick peek revealed three tiny fluff balls. A few more days and a quick peek and three open mouths were reaching for whatever food might be delivered. Another wait. One morning a tiny bird was floundering on the driveway. Back into the nest with this one too small to fly! One more day and the nest was empty – except one tiny egg that did not hatch. The fledglings are gone and on their own.

There is something almost magical, certainly glorious, about witnessing the beginning of life so closely. There is wonder and joy and fascination. There is a certain amount of confidence or reassurance in knowing that despite what we fret about on any given day, life abounds and continues. We are one tiny aspect of the interdependent web of All and that gives me a sense of just how unique each of us is and a sense of how insignificant each of us is. And that is life. And I am filled with gratitude and awe.

We are truly blessed.

Namaste, *Margaret*

