

The COMMON

In a reprise of last year’s Women’s March on Washington, Maine women and men again took their concerns to the Statehouse. Article on page 2.



AUGUSTA— Police estimate that between 3,000 and 4,500 men, women and children went to the Maine State House on Saturday, January 20, as part of a nationwide ‘Women’s March’ rally held in 35 states in support of women’s rights, civil liberties, and to encourage more women to vote and to run for political office.

Lucie Bauer, a member of the First Universalist Church in Rockland, who also attended last year’s inaugural rally in Augusta,

held up a sign with her group titled “Standing On The Side of Love.” “This is all about keeping the momentum going,” she said. “Keep calling and writing to your legislators, and don’t get complacent,” she said. “Keep voting.”

NOTE

The above two paragraphs and both photos are by Kay Stephens, reporter for penbaypilot.com. Rev. Margaret wrote the balance: see page 2.

CALENDAR

Pulpit

February 4

Rev. Charles Stephens

Feb 11

Amy Fiorilli

Feb 18

Rev. Margaret Beckman

Feb. 25

Rev. Margaret Beckman

Potluck Lunch

Feb. 18

Lakeside Reflections

Why did I march on January 20th? . . .Of course, it's complicated. And it's simple. I marched with thousands of others because I felt the need to return to the site of the historic 2017 Women's March. And, I marched, for freedom, dignity, equality, respect, democracy, and the United States of America that I love and want to preserve and improve. I marched in support of our beautiful earth and all Creation--not just humans and human desires. I marched for Black Lives, and Dreamers, and people of all gender identities, expressions and transitions, and children, and women, and both rich and poor and everyone in between, and Indigenous Lives, and Immigrants, and Peace and Hope and Optimism in our ability to be the ones we need right here, right now. I marched for religious freedom. I marched for reproductive freedom. I marched for LGBTQ freedom. I marched for a chance for our descendants to the seventh generation to live on this beautiful planet. I marched for you--along with thousands of others just like me and just like you.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am always aware of what holds us together and what guides me in my life and in my ministry. We share seven principles and six sources (www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe). Our principles and sources of faith were well represented by the people who gathered in parks and at state capitals across our country. Last January, we gathered the day after the

45th President of the United States was inaugurated into office with a crippling sense of fear, dread, shock, anger and determination to persevere and persist in the march toward Love and Wholeness. This January we are much less angry and fearful. We've had a year to adjust to our role in the ongoing resistance of anything that seeks to dismantle our democracy, equality, the environment and our country as a home of people from every part of the globe. I feel a strong sense of common purpose and resolve in the thousands who gathered at the Maine State House.

We are looking forward, not backward. This was more demonstration than protest. We are encouraging members of groups being disenfranchised or threatened by the actions of the Administrations in Washington and Augusta to run for office--and win. As one marcher's sign said, "See Jane. See Jane run. Run Jane, run." Why did I march?--To be filled with hope for the journey ahead. May it be so for you, as well.

Namaste
Margaret



PRESIDENT 'S DESK

Leslie Fairbank

There certainly have been some delightful aspects to being your Governing Board President this year! Signing the Pulliam Grants checks and letters was a real kick. Participating in the Opportunity Fund distribution was even more exciting and joyful. Last Sunday's New Member Ceremony hit another high mark.

"Signing the Book" has sometimes been a low key affair, but Rev. Margaret provided a ceremonial way to celebrate and welcome the members from 2017 and receive three new members. Six people signed the book in 2017: Juliane Gardner, Dick Hale, Debra and Jesse Morehouse, and Johanna and Pedric Sweet. On Sunday, January 21, Robert Holmburg, Joan MacCracken, and Chris Poulin added their names to our roster. It was a privilege to take part and provide welcoming hugs on the congregation's behalf.

We are pleased to have folks commit themselves to the principles of Unitarian Universalism and to the mission of our congregation. We invite all our members to consider some

particular role or work they might like to take on. The Opportunity Fund group seeks more individuals to connect with the five projects. We also need people who might be willing to serve on a Religious Education/Faith Formation committee. There's a learning opportunity in March for this area. And, of course, there's the perennial need for someone to take on "hospitality", which mainly involves recruiting coffee hour hosts.

Many thanks to everyone serving on the Governing Board and other committees, especially new members of the Committee on Ministry: Deb Morehouse, Anne Romans, and Albert Stwertka. We are also pleased to have Elaine Gerard-Climo back at the helm of the Partner Church Committee.

A very positive momentum carries UUCC into 2018.

Warmest regards, Leslie



Hello All, from your Ministerial Intern

January has been brutal. It started with a trip to Chicago, while you all dealt with snow and wind. My classes were great and it was hard to be away. I am in year three of my seminary education; most of the students I entered with are graduating this May. I have one more year to go. I wish I didn't. It is getting more and more difficult to leave. Travel is fun, and the adventure is exciting...until it isn't.

I have four more trips to make before I receive my degree. And I am walking a very fine line between not wishing the moments of my life away, and living in eager anticipation of the day I walk across that stage. In January, I also learned that I will go before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA in Boston at the end of November. I have nine months to put together my packet of writings, readings, recommendations etc. so that the committee can review them, then interview me and decide if I am ready to enter into preliminary fellowship with the UUA, meaning I am given permission to be ordained as a minister in this faith I love.

The prospect is daunting and thrilling. Having that date makes it all real in a way that is new. This truly might happen. I really may become an actual minister. I have now learned, deep in my bones: Life is strange and wonderful, and it is never too late to do the thing that calls your heart forward. There is no idea too far-fetched, too

difficult to explore and move toward. If you feel it, think it, know it. If it is in you, find a way to let it be born. This life is precious and short.
Make room for joy.

Recently, my daughter Lilliana, has started using a phrase to describe big joyful feelings. When she's dancing really fast, or when she finally did a cartwheel correctly, or when she jumped off of the cliff jump at Playland adventures she said, "I just feel so alive Mom, I can't describe it, I'm just so alive!!!" I don't know where she heard that or how it became her phrase but I love it. I want it for everyone. Let yourself feel alive, in whatever way that works for you. I know I feel it sometimes, even when I'm alone and reading a book that just blows my mind, or resonates with everything I ever thought was true. Sometimes it happens when I'm leading a service and the energy coming back to me from all of you is palpable and sacred. Sometimes it happens in a small group when someone is vulnerable and real, and the whole group takes a breath together to hold and witness. I say, it is important to actively search for that feeling...to say yes to what kindles it and to honor the path of your heart.

You all inspire me. I am honored to be your intern. Thank you for helping me find my aliveness.

Yours,

Amy Fiorilli
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Helping to Break the Cycle of Poverty Free Workshop

UUCC Opportunity Fund partners are actively working to break the cycle of poverty in Hancock County. Consider the invitation from one of our partners-Community Compass.

Community Compass is informed and guided by the life and work of Dr. Donna Beegle. For a personal testimony of the value and impact of Donna Beegle's work, just ask our own Gil Tenney, who will tell you that learning about poverty from Donna Beegle changed not only his understanding of poverty, but also his life's trajectory. About this upcoming workshop that features Donna Beegle's work, Gil says:

"Donna could not come at a better time as we advance the mission of UUCC and the Opportunity Fund. In 2013 she made a big impact on me."

"For those folks who are away, I found this short story of Donna's life a compelling read:

http://www.combarriers.com/sites/default/files/the_crossing.pdf."

Donna is also on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MM7DIu-76xI>."

Lynn Witham will present Donna Beegle's *"Be the Difference! An Action Approach to Educating Students in Poverty"* on February 10, 249 N Deer Isle Road, Deer Isle, from 9:00 am to

12:00 pm. This free presentation focuses on informing and reflecting on what poverty teaches children, definitions of poverty, oral culture and print culture, how mentoring makes a difference, and best approaches for educating students living in poverty. Lynn is a trained National Certified Poverty Coach.

Gil Tenney

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathies go to Rev. Mark and Mickey Worth on the death on January 30 of Mickey's daughter, Kim. At age 50, Kim had had MS for many years and recently had been diagnosed with fungal meningitis. Kim lived in Savannah, Georgia.

Mickey was with her daughter when she died.

DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY AND BUILDING LIBERATION AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

[Northern New England District - UUA](#) Spring Assembly & Annual Meeting

Friday, April 13, 2018, 7:30 PM –
Sat, April 14, 2018, 4:30 PM
UU Church of Nashua,
New Hampshire

THE GUEST HOUSE

RUMI

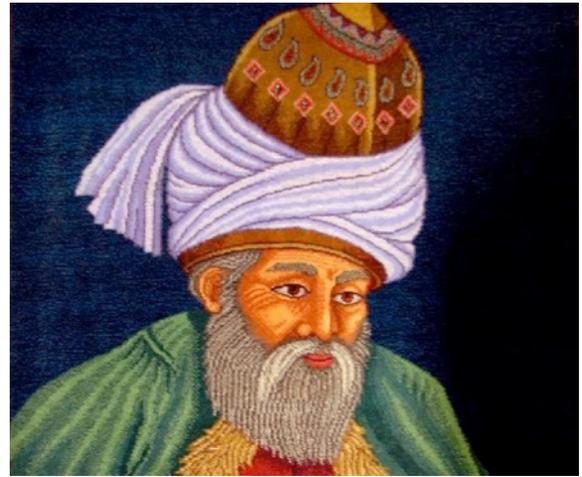
This being human is a guest house
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness
some momentary awareness
comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture, still, treat
each
guest honorably. He may be
clearing
you out for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the
malice, meet them at the door
laughing, and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.



Rumi, Persian Sufi poet, born 1207.
Drawing below. Sufi "Whirling Dervish."



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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