



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

June 2023

A Month of Sundays in June

4	Collaborative Ministry Sunday Service in Belfast – 10 a.m. Join the pickup choir - 9 a.m.
11	Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship Leader Special Guests – Kathy Pollard & Ann Pollard-Ranco of Know Your Land Consulting, speaking on Restorative Ecology project with the Adams School Colleen Fitzgerald - Musician
18	Caleigh Grogan, Harvard Divinity School, UU ministry student – Worship Leader Karen Froehly - Musician
25	Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship Leader Special Guest Speaker – Patrisha McLean, Finding Our Voices Chris Poulin & Juliane Gardner - Musicians



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.

Contact Us

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Website: uucastine.org • “Like” us on Facebook

For questions or comments about The Common or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Debbie Morehouse office@uucastine.org.

From the President's Desk

I recently traveled to Egypt and gained a better insight to how lucky I am to have been born in the United States of America. Although many parts of the country were beautiful and the desert peacefully quiet, the filth and poverty shocked me.



I visited where Jesus and his family lived for three years, saw the well from which they drank, visited Coptic Churches and learned more of the trials and tribulations that man has endured, even before Christ.

I will never complain about drivers in the US after being on streets with donkeys, dogs, kids, buses, carts pulled by horses, pedestrians and tour buses all thinking they have the right of way. Most animals are not cared for which made it hard to accept. But acceptance was also learned, not easily, but a good try.

The Pyramids and the work done to provide for the After Life was amazing. And yet today, some still wonder is there more? Have I done enough good in my life?

I guess what I brought back for myself from this trip is, I am just beginning at 76 years old to see the world as it really is, to learn to accept more, to know my journey, even though sometimes difficult, is nothing compared to others. I found a peace I have never experienced in a Coptic Church in Egypt.

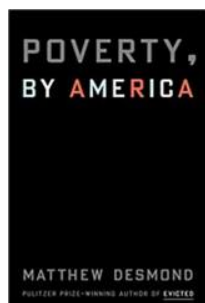
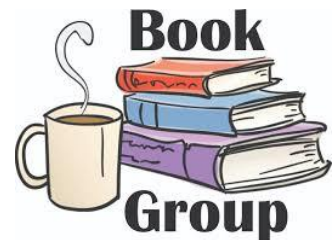


What a journey. Thank you for allowing me to share this with you. Love to All, Cindi

UU READS - Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom

In June, we begin a discussion of *Poverty, by America*.

The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages?



In this landmark book, acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor.

Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways to think about a morally urgent problem and helps us imagine solutions.

Consider becoming part of the UU Reads book discussion. Drop an email to office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.

Lakeside Reflections June 2023

Summer will officially arrive in just three weeks. Where I live, summer brings seasonal kin back to our lake. Kin includes the people who come to Green Lake for three months or three weeks or, sadly, only three days. Our kin also includes the loons who begin to return as soon as the ice goes out. By now they are focused on creating family – one, two, sometime three chicks. The bald eagles are here as well; perhaps there will be a successful nest this summer. “No mow May” is coming to a close. Our precious pollinators have had their run of yards and fields. With luck we will have wild blueberries, flowers and ferns all over the place. Birds are singing and sitting on their nests. Our kinfolk necessarily includes blackflies and mosquitoes – oh well, we’ll survive their time coexistence with us. Fox kits and deer fawns are coming into their own. It is a glorious time to observe and celebrate our interdependent web of existence.

There is a spirituality of place that is precious to me. I know this place where I live. I watch it



Loon at Green Lake, Maine. Photo: M. Beckman

move through the seasons, and me with it. I breathe with the land, the trees, the water. I rest in confidence that my spirit is home here. Robin Wall Kimmerer tells us about reciprocity. Reciprocity is both physical and spiritual. This is one of my favorite teachings about reciprocity and spirituality of place:

Cultures of gratitude must also be cultures of reciprocity. Each person, human or no, is bound to every other in a reciprocal relationship. Just as all beings have a duty to me, I have a duty to them. If an animal gives its life to feed me, I am in turn bound to support its life. If I receive a stream’s gift of pure water, then I am responsible for returning a gift in kind. An integral part of a human’s education is to know those duties and how to perform them.

- An excerpt (pp. 115) from *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants.*

As I contemplate my relationship with the place where I live, this responsibility to observe, to practice gratitude, and to share the breath of my spirit with the breathing spirit of all that surrounds me is always present. My constant prayer is that I will fulfill my part of the relationship with the place and the beings that are so life-giving and life-affirming.

As we slide from spring into summer and Maine slides from the quiet time of year to the busy time of year, I invite you to pause and breathe and give thanks for all that is your life. Remember the spirit of the place you call home breathes with you. We are held in a relationship of interdependence and reciprocity. May that relationship bring you joy. Namaste, Margaret

The UU Church of Belfast
invites the UU congregations
of Castine and Ellsworth
to a
Collaborative Ministry Service
10 am ♦ June 4, 2023
(Pick-up Choir Rehearsal at 9am)

37 Miller St.
Belfast
♦
Please
bring a dish to
share, as well
as a blanket
and/or chair.

with a
*Pot Luck
Picnic
following the
service*



Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that 10 recipients were chosen from the 24 applications received to receive \$1,000 scholarships each. This included 2 recipients from Bucksport High School, 2 from Deer Isle Stonington High School, 1 from George Stevens Academy, 4 from Ellsworth High School, and one graduate student from Husson University. The intended courses of study for these students are widely varied including pharmaceutical science, physical therapy, nursing, dental hygiene, truck & heavy equipment mechanics, family law, veterinary science, and environmental science. Checks will go out around the 1st of June.



We thank the Board and congregation for continuing to support this ongoing need in our local area and its impact on all of our futures.

Joan Bothwell, Chair, & Debbie Morehouse



Photo courtesy BHHT



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE INVITES EVERYONE TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION DURING OUR **Sunday Morning Service, June 11th, from 10:30-noon** AT THE **Historic Unitarian Universalist Meeting House ON THE COMMON.**

OUR SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTERS ARE THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEAM, KATHY POLLARD AND ANN POLLARD-RANCO OF KNOW YOUR LAND CONSULTING.

As a supporter of the Restorative Ecology educational program at the Adams School in Castine involving the entire K-8th grades and science teachers, UUCC has invited Kathy and Ann to tell us about their program for inspiring students to help make their community more resilient to the effects of climate change, and their ecosystem more diverse. Ann is a Penobscot citizen whose direct ancestors called the Blue Hill Peninsula and islands home.

You are invited to Sunday service which begins at 10:30 a.m. However, if you are not able to attend the full service, Kathy & Ann's presentation will begin about 11 a.m. with Q&A about 11:30 a.m. Please enter quietly through the church's front doors.



Renovation Update

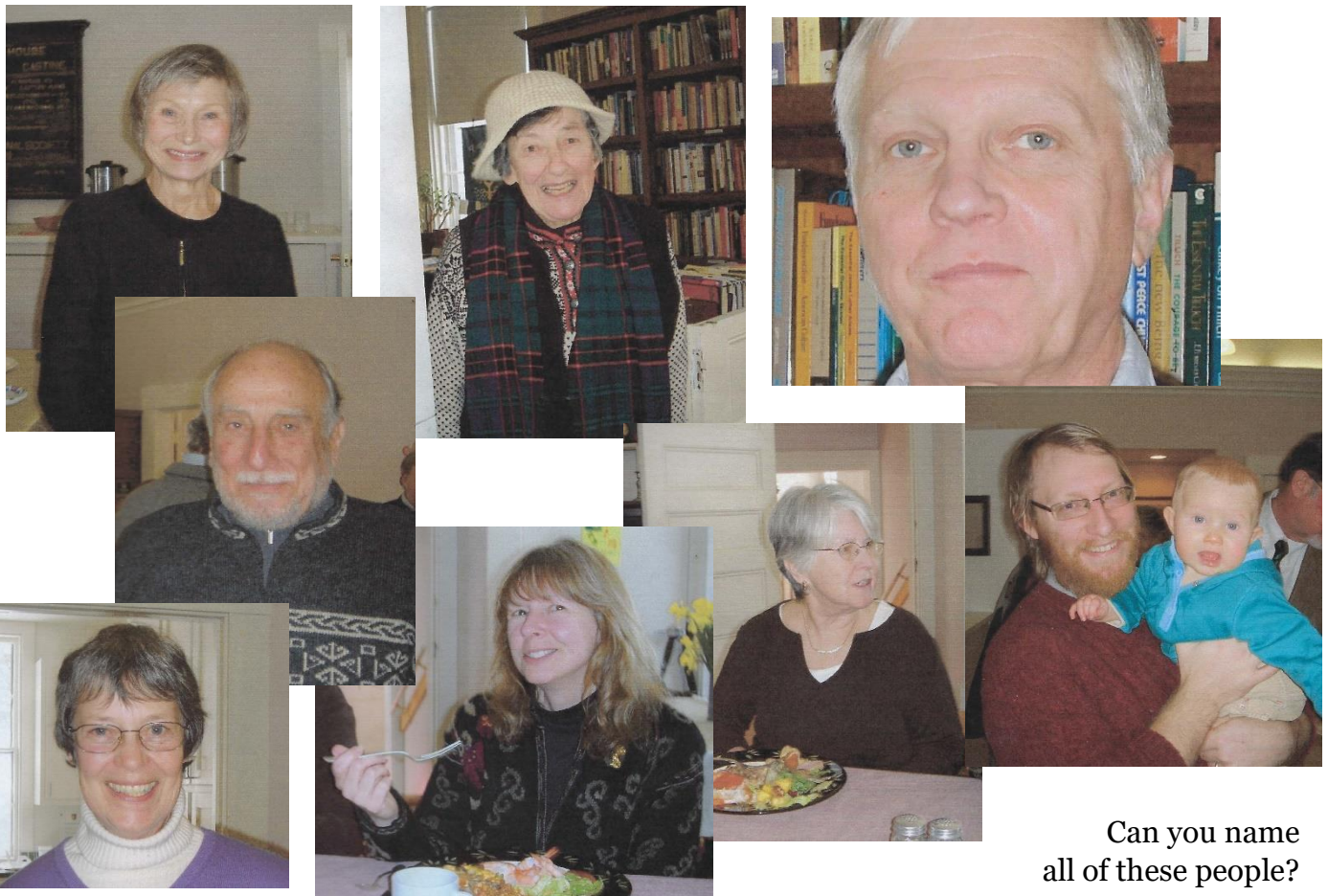
Thanks to Johanna Sweet, Pedrick Sweet, Marcia Mason, Gil Tenney, Chad Davis, Debbie Morehouse and our son Keith Tenney for bringing your organizing talents, your ability to part with so many items we have used and stored for many years. In Keith and Chad's case your ability to lift and transport things came just at the right time. Also, Johanna taught me to ask for a church discount when we were purchasing the new stove which is already installed.

The movers will come on June 20 to take and safely store the chairs, tables, kitchen equipment and miscellaneous items until we are ready to put them back in their place. On June 21 the massive carpet will be picked up to be cleaned and stored until October.

From June 25 until sometime in October we will be worshipping in the sanctuary and gathering after church on the front steps and lawn. The lack of a kitchen means that we will have water and goodies for our "coffee and conversation."

As always, when clearing, cleaning and disposing of many years of accumulation a few gems were found. The most endearing is a booklet made by each child in the Religious Education Program. Each page has a photo of an important person in the congregation and a paragraph stating how the person contributes to the church. Some of the photos brought back memories of those who have left us and some are younger versions of those we know well.

Brooke



Can you name all of these people?



No Neighbor Left Behind on July 14, 2023: So How Do We Create a Meal When We Don't Have a Kitchen or Meeting Room?

Now that is the challenge our indomitable volunteer team will face and conquer!!! Here's the menu:

- 2 baked chicken legs
- pasta salad with vegetables
- potato chips
- jello with fruit.



In order to make this happen, we need bakers to cook trays of chicken legs. We provide the chicken, barbecue sauce or a rub, and aluminum trays.

Next, we need donations of vegetable & pasta salads. If 10 individuals would be willing to make enough half cup salads for 12 servings—that would be ideal! We provide the containers for the salads. You provide the pasta and vegetable salads.

Emma Sweet has volunteered to make the fruited jello desserts, as she did last year. Thank you, Emma.

We will probably meet at the Trinitarian Church basement in order to package these meals and then send them out as usual with our fantastic drivers.

Sooooooooo, if you are able to participate, call me at 326-4924 to confirm the aspect of the meal that you are volunteering to manage. Again, we need people to:

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|-----------------|--|
| 10 bakers | 1. Bake chicken & deliver it to the meal set-up location by 1 p.m. on July 14. |
| 10 salad makers | 2. Make a pasta & vegetable salad that serves 12 people (6 cups of salad). makers and deliver it to the meal set-up location by 1 p.m. on July 14. |
| 6 packers | 3. Pack the meals from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Note: it probably won't take that long. |
| 3 - 4 drivers | 4. Deliver the meals. |

I'm looking forward to working with all of you. It is always a good time with plentiful laughter, a bit of manageable chaos, and the sense of fellowship that keeps a smile on your face long after the meals have made their way out the door.

All best, Johanna Sweet

