

# The COMMON

## March on Augusta

*Mainers join global millions in women's rights marches*



January 21: One million marchers in Washington DC, mostly women, 10,000 in Augusta, including our Rev. Margaret Beckman, perhaps another 2 million in cities and towns around the globe.

Something big was in the air, something that promised change while clamoring for a reversal somehow of the election just concluded. Miss the march? Check out Rob Shetterly's take on it on page 3.

### CALENDAR

Pulpit

March 5

Rev. Dr.

Duncan Newcomer

March 12, 19, 26

Rev.

Margaret Beckman

Events:

Hungry Sunday,

March 5, benefits  
Bucksport Community  
Concerns

Potluck Lunch.

March 19

*Dear Members and Friends of the  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of  
Castine,*

Six months ago, I began a new ministry with you. It hardly seems possible that half a year has come and gone. I want to express my joy and gratitude to each of you for the privilege of serving as your minister. Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in me. In faith & service, **Margaret**



*Sunrise at Green Lake as winter gives way to spring.*

## Lakeside Reflections, March 2017

**What a curious winter we've had. Mild January. February full of snow. Lots of ice and too much rain for a winter in Maine. Yet, each day brings a sunrise and a sunset. For this, may we be ever and always grateful.**

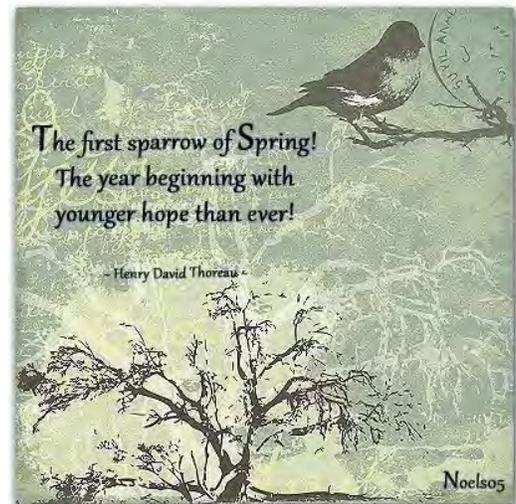
**Many of us continue to consume the news from Washington, D.C. as if we are addicted to a harmful drug. We know that we ought,**

**really, to rest from the constant newsfeed that brings details of the intentional**

**deconstruction of our government. It may be time to quiet our minds and reach into our soul; to turn toward hope and the possibilities that lie in front of us. This does not mean that we do not resist things that seem so out of balance and harmful. It does not mean that we abandon our commitment to hold our leaders accountable. Nevertheless, all is not lost, and there is reason to hope. Perhaps you saw the video clip of Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, as she spoke about the American determination to swing the pendulum of politics toward the center when we go too far in one direction or the other. Perhaps you follow Joanna Macy or Meg Wheatley or Jean Shinoda Bolen – all grandmother who are spiritual guides finding ways forward in hope for our future and that of our grandchildren – to the 7<sup>th</sup> generation and beyond.**

**Yes, things will be different. You may embrace some changes and you may reject others. We can, however, be certain that things will not stay as they are. Change can bring out the best in people. Spring may bring us out of our winter bunkers and into the growing warmth and increasing light of longer days. May we take a rest from news that disturbs us – it can wait a little while. May we take a break from activism when it exhausts us – the work will be there when we return. The gift of spring into summer is that of new life and rapid growth. Let us each in our ways embrace that gift with our whole selves.**

**May Spring bring you the full blessings of the light and dark in divine balance.  
Namaste, Margaret**



Noels05

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kay Hansen

For Valentine's Day, our RE class wrote personal notes to members and friends of the congregation who don't live nearby. The message was clear and heart felt: we miss and love you!

Mission accomplished: Eve and Albert Stwertka were so touched that they wanted to share the good vibrations,



"To our great delight we received a charming Valentine card from our congregation in Castine. Whoever children and adults worked on this sweet surprise, we thank you, and we want to tell UUCC in general that WE LOVE YOU, TOO!"

Hugs from,  
Eve and Albert

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Robert Shetterly reviews The March.  
Delivered at UU Castine February 5, 2017,  
and reprinted here by request

## The Million Women's March January 21, 2017

What happened?

This was not a protest. It was a clarification. A realignment. It was not an aggrieved victim struggling to have her lonely voice heard as she vainly tells truth to power..It was power speaking to power. Legitimate power speaking to illegitimate power. It was a global, universal tweet speaking to an arrogant twit.The phoenix shaking off the ashes. It was liberation speaking to domination. Diversity speaking to white patriarchy.

The heart of freedom speaking to the heel of oppression. Right to wrong.

When I watched footage of the hundreds of marches in cities and towns all across America and then discovered masses of people in the streets in other countries, it was clear something significant was happening. The deadly gloom of despair was lifted by the joy of millions of colorful, exuberant, powerful people. The point was tipping. This was not like the massive protests against the lies of the Bush administration in 2003 propelling us into the Iraq invasion. Consciousness wasn't raised then in enough people. People now realize an arrogant demagogue surrounded by a covey of ego-bloated generals, billionaire bankers and smug CEOs full of fear-mongering and racism, sexism and war-profiteering, science denial and nature destruction is not the way forward. This was a clarification. A re-set.

Howard Zinn said our problem is not civil disobedience, it's civil obedience. This was the exhilarating freedom of disobedience. Obedience is uniformity; disobedience is a declaration of new identity. This was the people of the world speaking not so much to power as to each other. We're in charge. We can shape the future we want, not be prey to what they want. Let's practice respect. Let's try love. Let's embrace peace. Let's insist on justice. Let's honor the reality of our place in nature. Let's build an economy of decency rather than disaster. Let's base diplomacy on the common good.

As Trump was pathetically obsessed with the size of his inauguration crowd, the world passed him by. On his first day in office, the world passed him by! He's already an anachronism. Dangerous, but an anachronism. The power has shifted. Trump is the rock in the river from which we can leap to the other side.

Thank you, women.

## THE COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY INTERNSHIP, LANE FISHER

One of my favorite New Testament stories is that of Jesus' encounter with a Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:24-30). In this passage, the woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter, and Jesus seems at first to rebuke her. Then he relents and tells her that the requested miracle awaits her at home, where her daughter is.

Jesus was, by many accounts, linguistically clever and playful, and so there are diverse readings of this story. On my part, I'm happy to take it at face value, because it suggests that even Jesus didn't always get it right on his first response. Right relations is hard work for most of us, and it feels exonerating to see that maybe Jesus also needed to reconsider some knee-jerk reactions.

One of my great honors this year has been witnessing the intentionality that members of our congregations bring to their relations here. I've witnessed hurt feelings, behavior that was experienced as bullying or abusive, and old scars that still pull painfully on their bearers. And yet I've also seen each of the individuals involved turn, with intention and humility, back toward right relations. Such moral and ethical integrity should make William Ellery Channing proud of our congregations!

Many years ago, a minister told me that every mishap of human relations out in the broader world also happens at one time or another in our churches. "The difference is that we have a commitment to work them through," she said. I feel blessed to work with so many people who carry such commitment through our doors and out again into their lives.

In faith,  
Lane

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Kay Hansen

Though I seem to complain a lot during our winter months, hunkering down for a blizzard isn't so bad. It allows some precious time with the family: to play board games, watch a movie, make cookies with Mom and do science experiments with Dad. And after the blizzard, outside in the snow, we can do things we only do for a very short time in the year: build tunnels in the snow, go owling, sledding and skating. So, in church this February, we read books and talked about things people and animals do together in the winter.

And so it is March, and we look forward to spring and the beginnings of new life and different activities to do together. To start the month, we will attempt (again) to tell the story of Horton, a kind and caring elephant who saves a whole village of "Whos." Horton's persistence serves as an example for our 2<sup>nd</sup> principle: "We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly." No matter what!



March 22-April 22 is "Climate Justice Month," and we will begin to talk about some ways we put our Earth at risk and how we might do our part in helping to keep our environment clean and healthy. We will read books about recycling and reusing and work on some projects that use objects from our daily lives that go in the trash. We will also do some planting of seeds.

## GETTING THINGS STRAIGHT

Lynn Parsons

Let's face it: the accession of an ill-informed mendacious narcissist, to the office once held by Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy and Reagan, is a legally established fact, Congressman John Lewis to the contrary notwithstanding. It's something we will have to explain to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the future. It won't be easy.

But although Donald Trump won the presidency, he lost the election, by nearly three million votes. We need to do a better job of reminding people of that fact.

It will do no good to complain that last November's result was "undemocratic." It wasn't supposed to be. The eighteenth-century lawyers, merchants, and slaveholders who wrote the rulebook had no intention of letting the masses choose the president. Democrats have won the popular vote four times since the Civil War (1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016), but after each time they are subjected to solemn lectures by Republicans that we are a "republic" and not a "democracy". So be it.

(Although it is legitimate to ask, if Secretary Clinton had lost the popular vote but won the presidency anyway, would Trump and his legions have quietly accepted the result? Given their penchant for violence - often encouraged by Trump himself - the result might not have been pretty.)

And Trump still insists that his loss was owing to "millions" of illegal immigrants voting for his opponent. Even most Republicans don't believe that whopper.

What needs to be challenged is not the result, but the mandates claimed from that result. For example, there was no mandate by the voters to poison the bloodstream of American culture with an unending flow of lies, distortions, and "alternative facts." They did not vote to overhaul this country's image as a world leader into a world pariah.

They did not vote for a president who publicly argues with some of our closest allies while making nice to our most formidable adversaries.

They did not vote to eviscerate universal health care, or to roll back the reproductive rights of women, or to make it easier for the mentally ill to acquire firearms.

They did not vote to allow fossil fuel producers to pump even more carbon and carcinogens into water we drink and the air we breathe.

They did not vote to roll back regulations protecting the public from the Wall Street predators who brought misery to millions a decade ago, or to rewrite our tax laws so as reward many of the very same predators.



The real question is, given his often clownish behavior, why most Republicans, limpet-like, still cling to him. The answer lies in their determination to turn back the clock as much as they can on the progress we have made in the last twenty years, before the voters realize what is happening. We, the majority, need to challenge them now. Next year may be too late.

## PARTNERSHIP: OUR COLLEGE GIRL

*Here are some glimpses of college life in the Philippines from our student, Laica*

Hi ma'am Jessica, ma'am Diana, and ma'am Elaine.

I'm so sorry if I didn't message you for this past few months because I'm so busy doing all my school works. I joined lots of activities here in our school. I was also elected as the class president in one of our major subjects because according to my professor I am one of his active student.

In terms of my scores in our midterm exam for this semester I also got the passing score in all of my subject. Just like before I'm still doing all the best that I can in order to achieve all my goals and desire in life, and that is to finish my study and to make you, my family, and all the partnership committee to be proud.

Anyway, ma'am, I also send a Christmas card last December I hope that you already got the card including my grades last first semester. And by the way, ma'am, we also conduct a district seminar at UUCP church in Barangay Aquino Canlaon City. In that seminar we tackled about how to manage the money of the congregation. I was also there because I was elected by all the DECON members to be their Auditor.

Here are the photos taken during the different activities in which I participated. I'm the girl that you can always see at the right side of the picture.



## HUZZAH!

Jessica Rollerson

We have a date~April 8~for Filipino Dinner 2017! As we get closer I will be asking for help with making desserts. I may already have a service and clean-up crew. Heather Gray's family has offered to help. In fact, I was overwhelmed by how readily and enthusiastically Heather, all of her kids, her partner, Jeff, and her mother all immediately agreed to help.

Also, Heather and Jeff spent a whole week in January making (Jeff is a talented tattoo artist) hand-penned birthday cards for all of the kids in Aquino. They are beautiful cards. I'm so grateful to these folks for their time, effort and especially the spirit in which they are helping. Thank you all very much!



## MAKE A STATEMENT



The U.S. sees its security largely in terms of military might. Peace through strength is the method and the goal. But is it true? Not so, say the facts. The last war that can be deemed a success was World War II. And as filmmaker Michael Moore puts it, the principal question is,

“Where To Invade Next.”

If war is not the answer, what is? It’s us, the collective citizens of the United States and all the other nation states. Real security is shared security, not domination by the world superpower and its reliance on the threat of war.

The slogan “War is Not The Answer” and many of the words above are freely borrowed from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (the Quakers). If you would like a lawn sign, let me know as I have many left over from an earlier campaign. This is no time to be quiet!

FCNL promotes global security through peacebuilding, diplomacy, arms control, nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, and the peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. *Editor*

More information? Go to [FCNL.org](http://FCNL.org)

## Notes from the President

The Governing Board invites everyone to check out our first artist’s display in the Parish House. Sue Clement returned to her drawing after an Al Boyce sermon lifting up the importance of art in our lives. We will enjoy Sue’s work for a few weeks and then would welcome another artist who’d have something to share. Please contact Marcia Schatz if you are interested.

The Board is also concerned to recruit a person willing to be Hospitality Coordinator, or general nag, who would be responsible for recruiting people to do Coffee Hour and head up Pot Luck Sundays. Although some folks do very elaborate spreads, always welcome, that is not required. Team efforts work well, too. The main requirement is to put the coffee together: ingredients and instructions are provided. A few items to nibble add to the enjoyment, but the purpose is building and sharing community. Pot Luck is even easier: putting the coffee on, setting the tables (already up, thanks to Steve), and putting out the boards for hot dishes. There’s usually lots of help, but someone to lead is ideal.

Is there anyone out there who would be willing to take on recruitment? The Governing Board President would be eternally grateful.

We would also like to remind folks that pledges can be returned any time. Might you have misplaced yours? Not sure, you can check with Becky. Spring is coming! Warm greetings to all, Leslie

**CRACKING THE LEADERSHIP CRISIS**

A Workshop for Lay Leaders and Professionals Who Want to Explore Congregational Leadership

When: Saturday, March 18, 2017, 10:00 AM-3:00PM

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Presenter: Karen Bellavance-Grace, New England Region UUA

Sponsored by: Mid Maine DRE Cluster Group: Rockland, Bangor, Castine, Ellsworth and Belfast

For further information email me (Kay) at [hansen85@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hansen85@myfairpoint.net) or call me at 667-9421.

**MARCH IS  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Let's welcome into our hearts and minds the wisdom of three grandmothers who are speaking to our time and encouraging us to be our best selves. Each of these women continues to offer to the world their gifts and service well into their senior years. They are living examples of those who integrate education, observation, learning and experience into a blend of mind and spirit that attracts followers and offers a hopeful way forward in difficult times.

March 12 - Wisdom from Jean Shinoda Bolen

March 19 - Wisdom from Joanna Macy

March 26 - Wisdom from Margaret Wheatley

**Music and Emotions**  
Gena Churchill

Music speaks what cannot be expressed  
Soothes the mind and gives it rest  
Heals the heart and makes it whole  
Flows from Heaven to the soul  
Unknown



Did you know our soul is composed of Harmony?

Leonardo da Vinci



E.O. Wilson, from *Sierra Magazine*, January/February 2017

We are playing a global endgame. Humanity's grasp on the planet is not strong; it is growing weaker. The climate is changing in ways unfavorable to life, except for microbes, jellyfish, and fungi. For many species, these changes are already fatal.

Because the problems created by humanity are global and progressive, because the prospect of a point of no return is fast approaching, the problems can't be solved piecemeal. There is just so much water left for fracking, so much rainforest cover available for soybeans and oil palms, so much room left in the atmosphere to store excess carbon.

Only by committing half of the planet's surface to nature can we hope to save the immensity of life forms that compose it. The Half-Earth proposal offers a first emergency solution commensurate with the immensity of the problem: by setting aside half the planet in reserve, we can save the living part of the environment and achieve the stabilization required for our own survival.

Human beings are not exempt from the iron law of species interdependency. We were not inserted as ready-made invasives into an Edenic world. Nor were we intended by Providence to rule that world.

The biosphere does not belong to us; we belong to it.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Leslie Fairbank, President  
 Colin Powell, Vice President  
 Diana Bernard, Treasurer  
 Anne Romans, Clerk  
 Tom Mason  
 Jessica Rollerson  
 Marcia Schatz  
 Rodney Flora, Alternate Member

The Governing Board meets in the Parish House at 8:30 am on the third Thursday of each month. Observers always are welcome.

## THE COMMON

*The Common* is published monthly and distributed in both electronic and photocopy forms. All members and friends are invited to submit items for consideration.

Send submissions or comments to editor Kent Price at [kapricorn75@gmail.com](mailto:kapricorn75@gmail.com). Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

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