



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

November 2022

A Month of Sundays for November

The Soul Matters Theme - The Path of Change

November 6th

Is a Change of Attitude Possible?
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

November 13th

How Can I Keep from Singing?
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

November 20th

New Goals, Same Mission
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Chris Poulin & Juliane Gardner, Musicians

ANNUAL MEETING – In the Meeting House and On-Line at 11:30 a.m.
POTLUCK after the meeting

November 27th

Guest Worship Leader is Rev. Maya Massar
Karen Froehly, Musician

UU the VOTE 
★ ★ ★

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.



*Dear friends, our hearts are broken.
Two of our long-time and faithful members died this fall.*



Margaret Helen Tillman Booth
October 11, 1924 - September 5, 2022



Margaret Booth died peacefully on September 5, 2022, in Hanover, NH. Margaret was a wonderful part of our congregation and an active participant in Castine life, local government, conservation

issues, and the civil rights movement for many years.

She spent her last years living in New Hampshire and was able to make an occasional visit to Castine.

The Memorial Service for Margaret Booth will be June 17, 2023 at the UU Meeting House, 86 Court Street, Castine.

Link to Obituary:
<https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/margaret-tillman-booth-1086368858>

Lynn Hudson Parsons
April 9, 1937 - October 17, 2022



Another much-loved member of our congregation, Dr. Lynn Parsons, died on Monday, October 17th at his home in Orono, Maine. Since their retirement to Castine, Maine, Lynn and his wife, Anne

(February 7, 1937 – June 16, 2020) were very active and vital members of our congregation and the town of Castine. We will miss Lynn.

A Memorial Service to honor and celebrate Lynn’s life will be held on Saturday, October 29th at 11:00 a.m. in the UU Meeting House. This is a public service and can be viewed on Zoom as well. An extended time for visiting, sharing stories and being together with Lynn’s family will be held at 1 p.m. at Danny Murphy's Pub on the Castine town dock.

Link to Obituary.
<https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/lynn-parsons-1086519422>





Lakeside Reflections November 2022

November is a gray month. The brightly colored leaves of October have turned

brown and fallen to earth. The trees are bare. Branches once laden with green then red, yellow and orange leaves are now naked sticks devoid of color. The hills are mostly gray with green patches of conifers. I think of November as a sullen month. The leaves of the trees have fallen. November 1st is All Saints Day and November 2nd is All Souls Day. A time to remember those whose lives touched ours who are now among the ancestors.

Michael Callen wrote a song, *They Are Falling All Around Me*, (<https://lyricstranslate.com>) about the deaths of so many precious souls during the AIDS crisis. When death comes to my world in a personal way, the words of that song sound in my mind and soul.

*They are falling all around me
The strongest leaves of my tree
The teachers of my life
Are moving on
Death comes and rests so heavy
Your face I'll never see
I'll never see you anymore*

This fall, our congregation lost two great souls. Margaret Booth died in September and Lynn Parsons died just last week. I will miss them both. Elders to me. The ones who have gone before me. The leaves of my tree – they are falling. These teachers of my life are moving on. Grief only comes to those who have loved. We have loved and now we share our grief. What we take with us in our own lives is the legacy they leave.

Michael Callen's song:

*You're not really gonna leave me
It is your path I walk
It is your song I sing*

*It is your load I take on
It is your air I breathe
I have tried to sing my song right
Be sure to let me hear
From you*

As November skies and hillsides surround us with monochromatic nature, may we let the losses of our hearts rest a while and be still. We will remember them. "In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them. So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them." (from Roland B. Gittelsohn, adapted #702 in *Singing the Living Tradition*)

Namaste, *Margaret*

What Loss Means

by David Breeden

Just as the last leaves on branches
in autumn fail to cast shade, so
the words we cast to fill the silence
left by one we loved never are enough.
No words are. Though a few hang in
the silence to fill a slice of absence.
Like any sound, words will
break the spell silence casts,
for a little time. And even
sometimes over again.
Words may stir the afternoon,
words forming in wan light, and
the dust motes might fall
into meaning. Words may
soothe the night's stark quiet.
And so we carry words,
in our minds, in our hearts,
to fill the vast silence of
what it means to be alive,
which is what loss means.

UUC Announces 2022 Pulliam Grant Recipients

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine recently announced that nine 501c3 Non-profit Organizations were awarded a Pulliam Grant for 2022. The Pulliam Social Justice Grants were created to honor the memory of the late Deborah Pulliam, a longtime member of the Congregation and benefactor for social justice causes. The recipients this year include the following organizations:

- **Downeast Community Partners for Friendship Cottage**, to provide a Meal Delivery Program for low income and disabled people. \$6,000
- **Finding Our Voices** to provide audio engineering for “Let’s Talk about It” radio show on WERU-FM. \$6,000
- **Food AND Medicine**, to provide a navigator program for unemployed workers, partnering with AFL-CIO. \$5,000
- **Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry**, to increase the food budget and provide food through a mobile pantry. \$6,000
- **OceansWide**, to partially fund training for middle & high school students from Brooklin, Sedgwick, Deer Isle & Stonington to clean up ghost traps, (abandoned or lost lobster traps) from the seafloor. \$6,000
- **Opiate-Free Island Partnership**, to train EMTs to carry and distribute Narcan and distribute fentanyl test strips. \$6,000
- **Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine**, to hire a coordinator and rent a space to bring together groups and issues and solutions regarding lack of affordable housing. \$4,000
- **Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth**, to increase accessibility, to provide benches and improve bridge in a new outdoor gathering space. \$6,000
- **UU Ministry for Earth**, to fund a year-long forum/caucus for black, indigenous, and people of color workshops. \$5,000

The grants this year totaled \$50,000 and were open to 501c3 organizations. We congratulate the awardees and take great pleasure in being able to assist them in their missions.

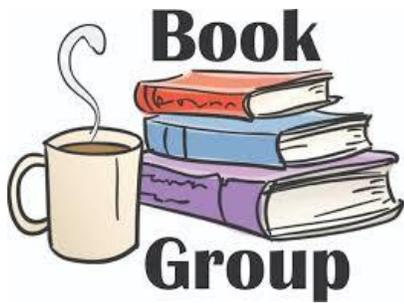
Dear Volunteers and Supporters of HVHC —

We are so excited to share that **Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County** has been selected to benefit from Hannaford’s Community Bag Program, which makes it easy for customers to contribute to their local communities.

For the month of November 2022 (also National Hospice & Palliative Care Month), whenever a \$2.50 Hannaford Community Bag is purchased at the Hannaford located in Ellsworth, Maine, \$1 will be donated to HVHC. This is a great way to broaden awareness and help our cause.

Let’s get started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails and post on social media. The more people who purchase the Hannaford Community Bag in November, the more we can raise! To learn more about this program, please visit hannaford.2givelocal.com.

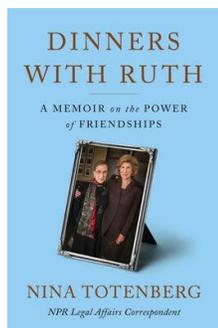
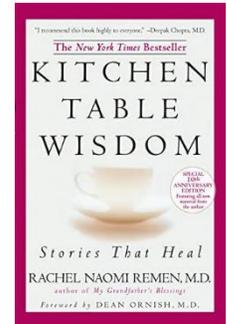




UUC READS
Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

We are taking a couple of weeks to talk about essays in the book - [Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal](#) by Rachel Naomi Remen.

"Despite the awesome powers of technology, many of us still do not live very well," says Dr. Rachel Remen. "We may need to listen to one another's stories again." Dr. Remen, whose unique perspective on healing comes from her background as a physician, a professor of medicine, a therapist, and a long-term survivor of chronic illness, invites us to listen from the soul. This remarkable collection of true stories draws on the concept of "kitchen table wisdom"-- the human tradition of shared experience that shows us life in all its power and mystery and reminds us that the things we cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich our lives.



The next book, waiting for library copies to be available, is [Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir of Friendship](#) by Nina Totenberg. Celebrated NPR correspondent Nina Totenberg delivers an extraordinary memoir of her personal successes, struggles, and life-affirming relationships, including her beautiful friendship of nearly 50 years with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



Annual Meeting

Important Announcement!

The Annual Meeting is on Sunday, November 20 at 11:30 a.m., directly following service. If you are joining Sunday service by Zoom, just stay on and be a part of the Annual Meeting. For those in the Meeting House, Potluck will follow the Annual Meeting – the icing on the cake!





Anti-Racist Book Groups - Belfast UU Church

The Anti racist book groups started in October. All discussion groups are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings via Zoom and led by the minister and members of the Belfast UU church. Please be sure to have read the entire book before the book group meets. There will be only one meeting to discuss each book. The first one focused on the book, White Rage by Carol Anderson and the group was led by Ridgely Fuller on **Oct. 29th**. The second will be on **Nov. 5th** led by Kathy Muzzy and the book for discussion is Waking Up White by Debbie Irving. The third and last discussion group will meet on **Nov. 12th** led by Rev. Amy Fiorilli and the book being discussed will be Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Please contact Kathy Muzzy asap isabmuzzy@gmail.com to sign up. For future scheduling, please let us know if you have a preference for evenings, afternoons, or weekends to attend events.

