



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

October 2023

A Month of Sundays in October

1	Special Guests - W.G. & Nancy Sayre, Community Childhood Learning Place Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician
8	Special Guest - Julia Gray, Wilson Museum Karen Froehly, Musician
15	Collaborative Service at Ellsworth Unitarian Universalist Church & via Zoom
22	Rev. Maya Massar, Worship Leader Karen Froehly, Musician
29	Special Guest – Shaina Fraser, Families First Community Center 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 and friends while serving our broader communities.

Contact Us

P.O. Box 520, 86 Court Street, Castine, ME 04421
207-326-9083 • Email: office@uucastine.org
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 – Yes, Fall Is Here!

It seems like only yesterday that we were enjoying the events of Summer, but not anymore! Fall is my favorite time of year. The colors, smells and changing menus, make it all exciting.

We will celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, Halloween and Dia de los Muertos. We will hang Fall wreaths and gather pumpkins galore. Apple pies will fill our houses with wonderful memories and calm our taste buds. All to celebrate Fall.

It is also a time to think about what we have accomplished this year so far. Here, at the church, we have redesigned the Parish Hall and are now working on the new Parsonage. Our zoom family has hung in there with us and our projects with the Hilton Scholarship, the Pulliam Grant, the school we support in the Philippines and the Opportunity Fund have all been a success. We are truly blessed.



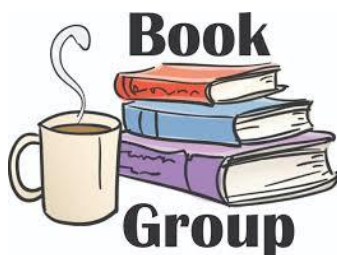
I mentioned the Parsonage because it is the second most important project that we have. Of course, finding a minister to serve us is our highest priority. Some questions that we all may have to help find the answers to are: Do

we rent out the house or part of it? Do we maintain it through the winter instead? Who will the property management business be if necessary? Will we furnish some of the parsonage? We do plan to put storm windows in and contract for the basement repairs to be done before winter

arrives. So many items to take care of in the near future, but we will get it done!

So, I hope you will eat a slice (or two) of apple pie, be a “leaf peeper” yourself, take a moment to breathe in the Fall air and know “All is well with your soul.”

Love to All, Cindi



UUC Reads

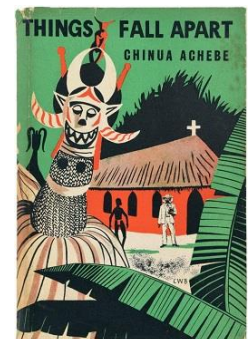
We begin October with *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

Things Fall Apart is the debut novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, first published in 1958. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first to receive global critical acclaim. It is a staple book in schools throughout Africa and is widely read and studied

in English-speaking countries around the world.

The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, an influential leader of the fictional Ibo clan of Umuofia, who is, among other things, a feared warrior and a local wrestling champion. The work is split into three parts, with the first describing his family, personal history, his violent exterior and tortured soul, and the customs and society of the Ibo. The second and third sections introducing the influence of European colonialism and Christian missionaries on Okonkwo, his family, and the wider Ibo community.

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.



Deborah Pulliam Grant Awards Announced

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine is pleased to announce that ten 501(c)3 Non-profit Organizations have been awarded a Pulliam Grant for 2023. 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. This year we are honored to announce grant funding for the following organizations:

- **But Still I Am One** – \$5,000 - to establish host homes for Waldo County young adults (16-21) who are home insecure.
- **Downeast Community Partners** – \$5,000 - to support an Elder Navigation program in Hancock County.
- **Hancock County Habitat for Humanity** – \$5,000 - to build an addition for a local family who fosters youth in the corrections or welfare system.
- **Hatch Community Youth Fund** – \$5,000 - to offer scholarships for year-round youth for participation in sports and recreational activities.
- **Healthy Island Project** – \$5,000 - to address food insecurity on Deer Isle.
- **Maine Family Planning** – \$5,000 - to purchase medical supplies for Ellsworth Family Planning.
- **OHI (Brewer Area Food Pantry)** – \$5,000 - to fund food and transportation of donations
- **Opiate-Free Island Partnership** – \$5,000 - to purchase harm reduction tools, increasing awareness of their availability in the Deer Isle/Stonington Community
- **St. Francis Community** – \$5,000 - to purchase a heat-pump water heater
- **Volunteers for Hancock County Jail Residents** – \$5,000 - to purchase books, stamps, supplies, technology and assist in prisoner advocacy.

The Deborah Pulliam Grants are an important philanthropic initiative of UUCC. It is a concrete way that we can use our gifts to make our world a better place.



Before It's Time to Go to Bed

by Annette Wynne

Before it's time to go to bed,
 Let's have a feast," October said,
 "Let's call our family all together,
 And celebrate this pleasant weather";
 Then every leaf put on her best,
 And each small shrub most richly dressed,
 In red and gold and orange, too,
 And many another party hue.
 The party lasted day and night,
 Until the leaves were tired quite,
 "O Mother Dear," at last each said,
 "It's time for us to go to bed;
 Dear Mother Tree, good-night to you!"
 Then loosed her hand and off it flew,
 And every little sleepy head
 Soon settled in the garden bed,
 And dreamed the dreams that flowers do
 And slept and slept the winter through.

Parish House Renovation

Best laid plans.....

After talking with Keith Anderson from EL Shea about his projected finish date for the Parish House renovations, Debbie Morehouse, Marcia Mason and I mapped out a plan that would have had everything in place for our third Sunday of October potluck luncheon.

Unfortunately, since then I have learned that there is a problem with some of the built-in furniture. It is a problem that is fixable, but it will take a bit of time, so we have changed the move-in date to later in October. With fingers crossed, we will be able to have a potluck luncheon on October 29.

That being said, a very tangible sign of progress happened on Thursday. The Porta-potty was taken away. That means that even though the project is not yet complete, the bathroom is, and is now available for our use on Sundays!

From my perspective, the good news is that, even with unfinished projects, the rooms are looking very fresh, updated and in fact wonderful. I think it will give us positive energy for our conversations, projects, meetings and gatherings, as well as our spiritual and philanthropy work.



Potluck Sunday October 29th

We are keeping our fingers crossed that the Parish House renovations will be completed and our tables and dishes in place so that we can celebrate with a potluck luncheon on October 29th. So, tentatively mark your calendars, dust off your favorite recipe to cook up, bring a friend to enjoy the conversation, camaraderie, and celebrate our newly renovated Parish House!



Update on the Opportunity Fund (OF)

First, our committee has lost a dedicated committee member in the passing of Diana Bernard. She remained active in our committee and passionate about social justice issues such as early childhood education and affordable housing till the very end. Her counsel and spirit will be missed, but long remembered.

The OF Committee has been active despite summer doldrums. I would like to report on a number of initiatives:

- 1) The Restorative Ecology program led by Native American Kathy Pollard at the Castine School is continuing into the second year thanks to OF support of \$10,000 last year. This program involves hands-on curriculum for all students. They have made original pollinator gardens and are currently developing a “sensory garden” in addition to education on native ecology and Wabanaki culture.
- 2) We are supporting the development of another nature-based education program for area youth: Inspiring Local Waterways Awareness and Stewardship with young teens from both Adams and Penobscot Schools. Karen Francoeur, owner of Castine Kayak and Master Maine Guide is working with our OF Committee to develop this for next summer with special recruitment by the 2 principals for underprivileged students. Karen gave a presentation at the 9/24 UUCS Sunday Service. The Budget for this 5-day program is \$10,000 with full camperships. Activities will involve kayak exploration of the Bagaduce watershed with expert education on local geology, marine ecology, Wabanaki culture and water routes by a Wabanaki elder, and an overnight camping trip along a traditional waterway and portage route. With early experience and awareness comes lifelong passion for Nature stewardship.
- 3) We are contributing \$2330 to help fund an area wide Youth Climate Conference in Blue Hill this October. The objective is enlisting more area youth in forming youth action groups in schools to collaboratively address our climate crisis.
- 4) We are contributing \$5000 in support of the production and distribution of a new film “Building Hope” by local film maker Dick Kane focusing on building hope for those caught in the daily crisis of poverty and resultant homelessness in our region. UUCS will be mentioned as a major partner. The distribution is not only to all area human service groups, churches etc. but also statewide via Public Television.
- 5) We have contributed \$2000 to the Maine Honor Vets program to send, for free, several area aging vets to a special tour and celebration in Washington DC along with a support person.
- 6) Future Opportunity Committee research involves developing ongoing regional educational programs with Wabanaki Reach (awareness and reconciliation) and Out Maine in school /community-based awareness and support of LGBTQ youth.
- 7) FLASH NEWS: we are looking for another member or 2 for our Opportunity Fund Committee as we pursue this exciting agenda of community social justice opportunities. We meet the first Friday of the month 9-10:30. Please contact bobholmberg@me.com.



Bob Holmberg, Chair Opportunity Fund



October 13 No Neighbor Left Behind - Call to Action!



In two weeks, on October 13 from noon until 2:00 p.m. we will prepare, pack, and deliver approximately 128 meals consisting of baked beans, coleslaw, ham slices, and apple crisp. Again, with limited resources until our kitchen and fellowship hall renovation is completed, this meal requires many volunteers.

We need 11 coleslaw makers each of whom will create 12 portions served into containers that I will provide.

I am happy to pick enough apples for the dessert, but will need bakers to provide the rest of the ingredients for 12 portions, and, as above, I will provide containers.

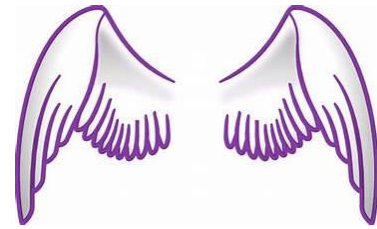
Ham slices will need to be rolled up and placed in the meal packages on October 13— so manual labor required (no experience necessary!!!).

Note: Pedrick and I will heat up the beans and pack them in small containers, ready to pack into the larger meal containers.

Please give me a call (1-207-326-4924) if you are available to sign up for any of these jobs, and I will get ingredients and/or containers to you, or I will await your presence on October 13 to help with the packing.

As always, I look forward to the fellowship we share on these NNLB days.

Johanna Sweet

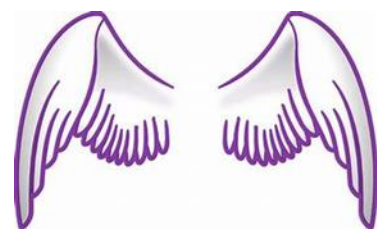


Join
Women with Wings
 as we celebrate

painting by Juni Cass

30 years of making music,
 raising the Spirit of women,
 giving voice to joy and healing
 in beloved community.

Hand in Hand, Heart to Heart
 A concert of songs by
 members of
 Women with Wings
 October 7, 2023 at 3:00 PM
 Unitarian Universalist Society
 of Bangor,
 120 Park St, Bangor
 Suggested Contribution \$10



A Short Update from the 88 Court Street Subcommittee

We note with great sadness the passing of Diana Bernard, an extremely valuable member of the Board and of the 88 Court Street Subcommittee.

She was overly generous with her time, energy and willingness to guide us with her professional knowledge of real estate and the law. She will truly be missed.



The purchase of our new property was settled on September 1, 2023 with the newly formed UUCC 88 Court Steet LLC as the new owner. With our agreement, Brian and Marjorie Olivari will continue to occupy the house through the month of October.

On October 7, Brian Olivari gave Tom Mason and Barbara Fleck a very detailed, two-hour-long guided tour of the house and property. An important objective for us was to evaluate ways the house could be made more energy efficient. Heating is by an oil-fired boiler with seven regulated zones of hot water radiators. There is also a wood stove on the first floor. Parts of the house have been remodeled and are reasonably well insulated – not so in the older section of the main house facing Court Street. Barbara, who is an energy-efficiency guru, recommends the installation of “window dressers” for most windows, improving

insulation in the attic of the older section of the house and sealing and insulating the basement. Barbara also recommends that we retain a professional firm to conduct an energy audit of the house. These recommendations will be presented to the full

Governing Board for approval.

We are very fortunate that EL Shea has been able to begin work in the basement to replace damaged floor beams and install new structural supports in the floor. EL Shea will also coordinate work by Hampden Electric to update wiring and by RH Foster to modify the oil tanks and fix the leak in the oil supply line. This work, which will be completed in early October, is a prerequisite for future work by Eastern Basements of Ellsworth to waterproof and insulate the basement. Estimates indicate that all of this work will still leave a healthy balance in the contingency fund that UUCC has budgeted for the new property.

Among items the Olivaris will leave behind are a ping-pong table, a pool table and an elliptical exercise machine. Perhaps we can start a recreation program.

Submitted by Tom Mason
for the 88 Court Street Subcommittee



October's Call

by Ed Blair

Do you ever in the fall,
 Hear the sighing woodland's call,
 When the frosts of autumn turn the leaves to brown?
 Do you ever feel a thrill,
 Of delight in autumn's chill,
 When the deep, dark shades of evening settle down?

Do you ever like to be,
 Like the aborigine,
 In a tent down in the woodland dark and wild,
 Where the Hoot Owls with delight,
 Chill with terror and affright,
 Those who in their lonely haunts may be beguiled?

Do you love the camp fire's light,
 Sputtering, sparkling, burning bright,
 Then receding as the dying of the day?
 Do you love the lullabies,
 Of the zephyrs as they rise,
 And among the forest branches softly play?

Come, then, 'tis October calling,
 And the ripened nuts are falling,
 And we'll build a booming camp fire near the tent,
 For the year is not complete,
 If we miss October's treat.
 'Tis the sweetest hour the year has sent.

