



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

September 2019

## Sunday Service Calendar

*Services are at 10:30 am*

### September 1:

Lane Fisher

Ian Brenner-Simpson, musician

### September 8:

Margaret Beckman & Ariel Aaronson-Eves

Ian Brenner-Simpson, musician

### September 15:

Margaret Beckman

Colleen Fitzgerald, musician

### September 22:

Margaret Beckman

Colleen Fitzgerald, musician

### September 29:

TBA

Joan Kroehler, musician

### October 6:

Leslie Linder

(Domestic Violence Awareness month)

Ian Brenner-Simpson, musician



On Friday, August 9th a small and enthusiastic audience gathered at the Meeting House to enjoy a concert with Shawn and Maizey Mercer. This was the final concert in their summer series, Sun, Song & Sail Tour. They want to help save the Earth, or at least move people in a direction of caring about climate change. They're doing it the best way they know how, through music and sailing. The Mercer family are members of the Ellsworth UU Church.

## Contact Us

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For questions or comments about *The Common* or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Jean Lamontanaro at [jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com](mailto:jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com).

## 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.



## Lakeside Reflections, September 2019

September in Maine means, among other things, apples. The crab apple tree at the side of our road has been producing small red/green apples for several days already. The deer have found them. As I walk in the morning with Cedar to the bottom of the road to collect the *Bangor Daily News*, we see the half-eaten apples dropped in the road. Why is it that the deer take a single bite and drop the apple? Can they not get their mouth around the apple once plucked from the tree? A single bite, perhaps, is all they can manage? That would be quite sad. Our many varieties of Maine apples contribute to the comfort and familiarity of Autumn. The sweet smell of cider running out of the press or of apples in the pot reduced to applesauce ready for freezing or canning remind me that I love Maine in Autumn.

September.

The morning chill in the air requires a light jacket or sweater.

The leaves begin to give up their summer green and reveal their bright oranges and reds.

School buses rumble down dirt roads and speed along the paved ones.

Children gather together in school yards with their new backpacks and sneakers (that's what we always called them anyway).

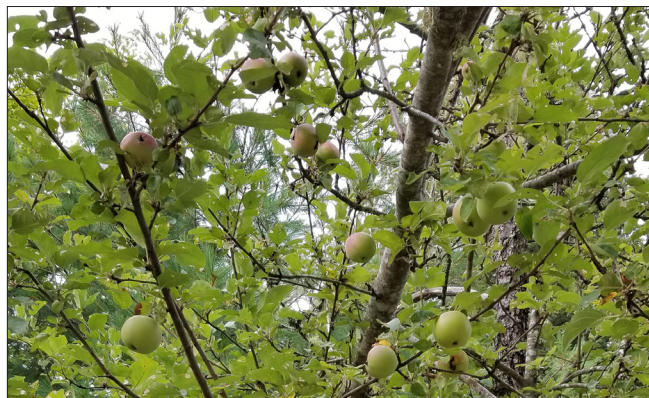
Monarch butterflies and songbirds disappear in flight to winter homes.

Loons are aloft and calling out in flight as they conduct aerial reconnaissance for their winter relocation sites.

Daylight fades so much more quickly than it did a month ago (this, I know is an illusion, but one that seems so real).

The Bangor Folk Festival is over. The Blue Hill Fair is now. The Common Ground Fair will be here soon.

Castine's Summer People begin to slip away



to their winter homes; or prepare to do so in another month's time.

One, or possibly two, more early morning canoe paddles?

September brings the Autumnal Equinox when for a moment we balance on the equality of day and night. Then, just as it has for millions of years, the wheel of the seasons makes another turn and summer is over.

As I reflect on how much I love about this world of ours and how precious it is, I am reminded that our human impact on the environment and the life of all creatures is not someone else's problem or responsibility. It is mine, and yours. Alone, we can achieve little to preserve what we love for the next thousands of years. Together, we may be able to achieve much. Our work is here, now, together. May we gather together and love this world enough to make the changes and decisions needed to preserve it for our children – to the seventh generation.

May we notice and enjoy September in Maine – or September wherever you live.

Namaste,  
*Margaret*

## Opportunity Fund Update

### **NEWS FROM COMMUNITY COMPASS: Starfish Camperships, Early Childhood Navigators, and Hope Fund**

Thanks in large part to the generous past support from the UUCC Opportunity and Pulliam Funds, Community Compass is continuing to grow new initiatives in support of our vision: “Working together, breaking the cycle of poverty in our region.” Our mission is to Connect: connecting individuals in need through our town Navigators; and connecting organizations through our Connected Community Forums to spread greater community awareness of poverty and collaborative action.

We have been able to provide a record 36 Starfish Camperships this summer, in partnership with the Hatch Fund, to Nichols Daycamp for children in need from all 10 regional towns, including 6 from HOME. The feedback from both campers and counselors has been glowing with children mixing from all walks of life in a supportive, fun, summer learning experience which can make such a difference in self confidence to a struggling child.

### **Connected Community Forum: Regional Food Security Programs**

**September 24  
4-6pm**

**Blue Hill Congregational Church**

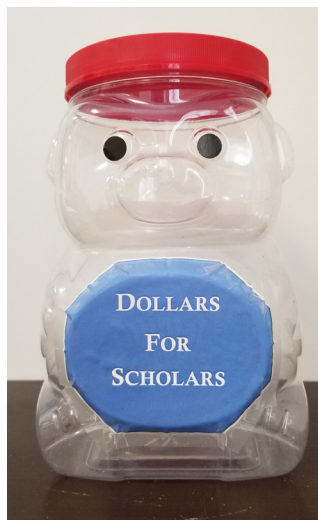
We have developed a strong Sedgwick PALS (Parents are Leaders) planning group of local past teachers to begin the process of finding another Sedgwick Navigator to spread DIS Navigator Linda Shepard’s highly successful early childhood program of universal newborn and infant home visitation and play groups to Sedgwick. This new PALS Navigator will be working in partnership with our longtime Sedgwick Navigator Tammie Cox who focuses on Basic Needs (food, housing, transportation, healthcare and mental health services).

Final news: we have started a small HOPE fund to support our Navigators work with small (less than \$500) “mini grants” to vetted requests for a need which is felt to be a critical immediate barrier to an individual’s journey to safety and self sufficiency (e.g., car repair to allow commuting to Ellsworth for a job skill training program). We will make an effort to coordinate with other available support programs with each request.

Our next Connected Community Forum is Sept 24, 4-6pm at the Blue Hill Congregational Church on the topic of Regional Food Security Programs. Navigator Tammie Cox will be sharing some of her remarkable Navigator stories of the alarming face of local poverty and food insecurity along with representatives from state and local programs. I encourage all interested to car pool and join us!

Bob Holmberg  
Community Compass Board Chair

## Dollars for Scholars



After three years of dropping change into the Bear, it finally was too full to accept any more quarters and pennies. The final count for our school children in Aquino stands at \$357.06!

The Dollars for Scholars Bear now will live with our children and they will supervise and encourage the collection of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies.

Please remember to drop your pocket change in the Bear whenever you come to our Parish House for Sunday service or other events.

## Global Climate Strike

*Note: This information was excerpted from an email from The UUA Organizing & Strategy Team.*

The UUA, Side With Love, and UU Ministry for Earth have joined as partners with the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20th and we're inviting you to #StrikeWithUs.

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US and the world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. We know governments won't deliver climate action and justice on their own, so we're going on #climatestrike to show them what people power is capable of creating. The strikes are just the beginning of an escalated movement where millions will take to the streets to demand action now, especially for those most impacted by climate change who have done the least to cause it. Climate breakdown isn't inevitable. We know the solutions we need including a just transition away from the exploitative fossil fuel economy. We're inviting you to join other UUs and faith groups and millions more – we have the power to make them happen.

–The UUA Organizing & Strategy Team

**You can find out more information at:**

[actionnetwork.org/event\\_campaigns/us-climate-strikes](https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/us-climate-strikes)



## Religious Education

This month in Religious Education we will be talking about helping others! We hope to take the lessons of the chalice we discussed last month and put them into action. Throughout the month you might notice new little bits of beauty and kindness at the hands of the children. We'll work on the tiny little flower garden by the side entrance and we will be starting a change collection jar to support our friends in the Philippines. It's been such fun in the RE room. Ask the kids about Jumping Monkeys! It's their FAVORITE game.

Jessica S. Rollerson

## Hilton Scholarship

It is the start of another school year and several area students will be continuing their education with the help provided by our Hilton Scholarship. We have received letters from the students expressing their appreciation. While many students mention paying down their tuition others will use their monies to purchase a computer or other equipment they need for their programs.

The scholarship has been providing grants for education since its beginning in 2010. Each year we receive an average of twenty applications for aid. The scholarships are available each spring for graduating high school seniors as well as those who are continuing or restarting their academic careers.

## Book of Poetry to Remember Dick Hale

*Many people of Castine and Orland knew and remember fondly Dick Hale. He was part of our UUCC family for many years. He died in October 2018.*

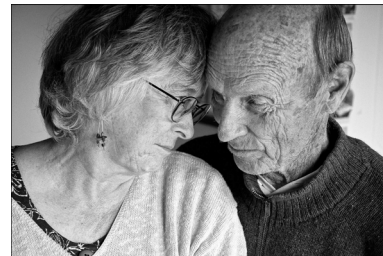
Dear Friends, any of these I am able to sell will begin to cover the cost of having it printed and for mailing it.

Peace & Love, Sharon Bray



### Fast Skier

poems for Dick Hale by Sharon Bray



\$10 at local bookstores  
or from [sharonbray@roadrunner.com](mailto:sharonbray@roadrunner.com)