



# The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
69 Winthrop Street ~ PO Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

February 2014

## February Theme-A People of Faith

Opening the door on our adaptive challenge.

*UUCC's adaptive challenge is to articulate who we are and our purpose in a way that inspires a people of faith toward a sustainable future.*

Join Sunday worship as we open the conversation by touching the surface of the four elements: identity, engagement, inspiration and sustainability.

Sunday Morning Services at 9:15 and 11:00

Religious Exploration at 9:15

Spirit Play at 11:00

Nursery Care provided at 9:15 and 11:00

## ***Black History Month***

### **Film Series at**

### **Unitarian Universalist Community Church**

The following films are featuring topics of interest for all who want to help us celebrate Black History month. Dessert social at 12:15 p.m. in the Drew House. The film at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Under African Skies** This is an enlightened documentary about the making of Paul Simon's 1986 album "Graceland". He violated the United Nations' cultural boycott of South Africa because of apartheid, but he was insistent on working with South African musicians.

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>: Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin**

This is a film about how Bayard Rustin, an openly gay Civil Rights activist, used his passionate belief in Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence, a viewpoint that helped propel the American Civil Rights movement, culminating in Martin Luther King's "March on Washington" in 1963.

**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>: February One: The Story of the Greensboro Four**

This is a film about how four 17 and 18 year old college freshmen sat down at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, S.C. Their radical action in 1960 helped change the course of American history and is considered one of the pivotal moments in the American Civil Rights movement.

# A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

## What does it mean to be *A People of Faith*?

Our February theme is not an easy one to wrap our heads around. A Leap of Faith story may help to shed some light on the matter.

When the Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUCC) began the Leap of Faith journey of being cared for by another congregation, in particular our mentor congregation, First Parish Milton (MA), the launch weekend included a generous and open space to explore more deeply the question: Who is UUCC? What are we called to be in the world? One theme (there were many) that emerged was the presence of silos. By silos we mean groups, committees, and programs that are proud of and committed to their charge, work or mission and that tend to function as closed systems. New members don't necessarily know how the group functions or how to get inside. The doorways or entry points are not clear. Silos tend to function on their own with minimal interaction with the larger community. They do great work but without connection to and investment from the wider community.

As one would hope, the Leap of Faith travel team brought this conversation back to the home team and the wider UUCC community. In a variety of meetings people began to ponder the notion of silos. They began to notice inner and outer circles. They began to examine practices at UUCC that keep people on the outside. Meeting after meeting the conversation came back to silos. Then, one day a member of the Leap of Faith home team noted that nowhere in the discussion did the concept of silos come up. What the group did notice was a radical shift in how they were engaging their work. With each idea that came forward the group naturally engaged the question as well as who else is a stakeholder in this work? With this simple question, the silo disappeared and vision of who else might be committed to this event, project or work became larger.

Here is an example. The Leap of Faith teams decided to host a February event: dinner, chocolate auction and a spiritually connecting activity. The goal was to open the theme *A People of Faith* to the wider community. The teams then asked who the other stakeholders for such an event are. Where are the natural connections to other groups in the community? What followed was an intention to invite to social activities, fundraising, stewardship and religious exploration to join in the planning. What has emerged thus far is a commitment from a RE committee member and her small group to support the event. Stewardship has also welcomed the opportunity to participate and the date has been set. The Chapin family - Gary, Emma and Brigid - have stepped forward to coordinate the chocolate auction. Deconstructing silos and nurturing interconnections!!

Leap of Faith is a growth initiative with many layers - spiritual, financial, systems, membership. Our growth this month comes in the form of systems exploring who we are together and how we work together. The vision of deconstructing silos and building interconnections is one way we are observing and experiencing growth in our shared ministries. **An Invitation for groups, programs and committees:** consider in what ways you are functioning as a silo. Consider where you are functioning as a closed system. Ask: how you might dismantle the silo? Consider what interconnections are natural next steps to strengthening and expanding UUCC's shared ministries.

To further explore what it means to be *A People of Faith* pick up a Soul Matters Packet in the lobby at the church, walk with the questions and engage the spiritual practice. Then drop me a note to let me know what you have discovered in your journey.

In Faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen

## Right Place, Right Time...

By Doug Rooks, President

One of the challenges for lay leadership in a community as vibrant and diverse as UUC is maintaining continuity. We expect a lot of our volunteer leaders, not only those serving on the board of trustees and our many committees, but the countless members and friends who contribute in often unseen ways.

Volunteers not only help ensure that Sunday services run smoothly and that the kitchen is well-stocked for fellowship hour. They create our outreach to the community outside our walls, from the Augusta warming shelter to the halls of the State House, and lead the host of events that keeps our church a welcoming place not only on Sundays, but throughout the week.

But we all have lives in which we must balance the demands of work, family and other organization we also believe in. When those lives change, our commitments have to, as well.

For the first time in several years, we had such an occurrence on the board of trustees, as Vice President Jill Watson needed to step down during her second year as an officer. Since this is our transition year to new board leadership, the vacancy did create some anxiety. Before long, though, one of the board members-at-large, Gary Chapin, stepped forward to fill the vacancy.

Gary is both a long-time church member and a relatively new one, having rejoined the congregation at the annual meeting two years ago. He has also been an active participant in the Leap of Faith travel team, going to Milton, Mass. in the fall with three other lay leaders and two staff members for an intensive weekend of learning and reflection. Gary has become the facilitator for many of our joint Leap of Faith meetings that join the travel team with the home team. He has done a superb job as we try to collectively understand how this process works, and then move forward to the return visit of the Milton team to Augusta on April 4-6.

Gary's appointment as vice president created a vacancy among the members-at-large. It will be capably filled by Stephanie Ralph, a former board clerk, who agreed to serve through the balance of the church year. We feel it's important to have the board at full-strength through the preparation of the annual budget, planning our programs for 2014-15, and the Leadership Development process that will propose a new slate of leaders for the congregation to consider in June.

You might say this all amounts to having the right person in the right place at the right time, but finding those people, and knowing who they are, is a real art form, in my experience. There's a lot more to this than filling out a list, or trying to convince a reluctant member that this is really what they ought to do.

Creating good leadership is a delicate balance between asking and stepping forward, to make sure that it really is the right time to serve, and that the time remains right. I'm grateful that this congregation has such a wealth of leadership talent, but I'm also impressed that we have found an effective process for sustaining our leaders, and our leadership, through all the ups and down of our individual lives, and the life of our church community.

## Musings... from your Intern Minister

The UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) every year chooses a common read for congregations. The intent of these common reads are a call to action around a social justice issue. The reads raise awareness and with further dialog through book discussions can lead to community activism. The common read for this year is, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The author Michelle Alexander is a lawyer, legal scholar, activist, and was the former director of the ACLU's Racial Justice Project in Northern California.

The author clearly points out that the American criminal justice system effectively recreates the racial cast system of Jim Crow, and "mass incarceration operates with stunning efficiency to sweep people of color off the streets, lock them in cages, and then release them into an inferior second-class status." I admit I did not "know" who Jim Crow was. I don't recall learning about Jim Crow, and when I have asked others I realized I was not alone in my ignorance. I needed to understand what Jim Crow was before I could understand the New Jim Crow.

In the early 1800's minstrel shows were a popular form of entertainment. At one of these shows a song called *Jump Jim Crow* was performed, ironically, in blackface by a white comedian. The song was inspired by the song and dance of a crippled black man in Cincinnati called Jim Crow. The "entertainment" was simply a mockery. Over time, Jim Crow became a de-meaning term used to refer to blacks.

From the 1870s to the end of the 19th century, Southern states reinforced a system of white supremacy by legally segregating blacks from whites using legislation. These laws became known as **Jim Crow laws**. They imposed mainly three things: The separation of races in public places, including public schools, parks, accommodations and transportation; the disenfranchisement—taking away the right to vote of adult black males through polling taxes and literacy tests; and the banning of interracial marriage. The laws kept blacks and whites "separate but equal" and were passed as constitutional because segregation does not necessarily mean discrimination, despite the fact that many of the public places the blacks had to use

were inferior to the white ones.

*The New Jim Crow* is a sobering, uncomfortable and heartbreaking read. I found it blasted through my conscious awareness, and made me really think of our UU principles and how to live into them with the challenge, as the author states, "We have not ended racial cast in America, we have merely redesigned it."

Blessings, Sharon



## Leap of Faith, Stewardship, and Fun AND CHOCOLATE!

Our Challenge: to articulate who we are and our purpose in a way that inspires a people of faith toward a sustainable future.

NOW	Save the date of Saturday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>
GATHER	At an all church event
TOGETHER	Kick off our <b>Leap of Faith</b> program and <b>Annual Pledge</b> campaign
TO REJOICE,	And celebrate our community
EXPLORE,	What stewardship and faith mean to you
DEEPEN	Your relationships with others

Help us to begin the conversation!

UUCB will be kicking off this year's Annual Pledge Campaign with an **all church dinner** and **chocolate auction**. The Leap of Faith Home Team and the Stewardship Committee will be co-hosting this family friendly event with additional support from the Social Activities, Fundraising, and RE Committees. Please mark your calendars now to save the date of March 1<sup>st</sup>. Details will follow in upcoming church communication. Questions? Want to volunteer? Contact Annie Reiter FMI at 622-2945.



# **SNOWSHOE CROSS COUNTRY SKI OUTING AND VEGAN CAMPFIRE LUNCH**

**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**12:30 - 3:00 PM**

**Beech Hill Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Center  
296 Tucker Road, Wayne, Maine**

**\$10 Adults (ages 13 & up)  
\$5 Children (ages 5 to 12)  
Children under 5 are free**



**Warming hut and comfort stations are available  
Snowshoes are available at no additional cost.  
Vegan chili and hot cocoa will be provided  
Bring a vegan treat to share around the campfire**

**Please contact Hannah Faulkner at [hannahu3@fairpoint.net](mailto:hannahu3@fairpoint.net)  
or 293-9377 for details, map and to make reservations.**

**Reservations & payment due by February 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**20% of proceeds will be donated to UUCC**

## Leap of Faith Update...

UUCC's adaptive challenge is to articulate who we are and our purpose in a way that inspires a people of faith toward a sustainable future.

So far, we've done a lot of learning, thinking, and conversing. The Leap of Faith Travel Team has gone to Milton, MA, and spent a weekend looking at how their Leap of Faith Journey unfolded. Since then the Travel and Home teams (collectively called "LoFers") have been working to widen the circles of conversation and to enact or embody these learnings in our church.

The Big Idea that we've settled on is that the current church year (2013-14) will best serve as a Leap of Faith planning year for UUCA. We have identified our adaptive challenge, and explored ways to address it. The rest of this year will be used to lay the seeds for addressing our adaptive challenge in the next church year. The 2014-15 church year will be organized according to four themes, each reflected in our challenge: Identity, Engagement, Inspiration, and Sustainability. More details will follow.

As for the rest of this year, a number of events are in the planning stages, thanks to the work of church folks from a number of different committees.

**March 1**, the Stewardship Committee, the LoFers, and others will be hosting the Kickoff Leap of Faith and Annual Pledge Drive event, **an all church dinner, chocolate auction, and celebration of our spiritual community.**

**April 4, 5, and 6**, members of the Milton (MA) UU Leap of Faith team will visit UUCC and engage us in conversations and listening circles that will help us move forward. A variety of church groups (RE, Finance, et many cetera) will be invited to talk with the folks from Milton.

**Spring**, following this, the LoFers, with the help of Small Group Ministry, will organize Listening Circle events to help us – individually and collectively – come to terms with the adaptive challenge we face and to answer the question: ***How do we want to be in the world?***

Gary Chapin

## Congregational Meeting...

**Church Finance 101**  
**Sunday, February 2nd, 12:30 p.m.**

Please join the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee for pizza and a discussion of the church's financial needs, and how the annual budget reflects our program priorities. Child care will be provided. This first-time effort will feature dialogue -- we'll attempt to answer each and every question -- and is intended to improve understanding of what the church does, and how it determines its financial commitments. UUCC has long had a stewardship campaign before congregational approval of a budget at the annual meeting. This congregational meeting comes at the beginning of the process, and is an opportunity to understand and improve this important part of church life.

## Display Case...

The theme for February and March: "People of Faith -- UU History and Heritage". We are seeking items from the larger congregation to display. Do you have things to share, such as:

- pictures of yourself or others involved in UU activities?
- chalices (This would provide your chalices a chance to get out of the house, get a break from you, and socialize with other chalices who share the same mission in life. )
- treasures or artifacts that represent the 7 principals of UU faith?
- sayings or readings, or things that are particularly meaningful to you as a UU?
- other old, historic, or forgotten UU items or ideas?

This is an opportunity to further expand our vision of the theme based ministry and to inspire us all. Labeled items can be left in the Display Basket in the Committee room or given directly to Helen Zidowecki or Abby Lourie, by January 30. (You are welcome to add items throughout February and March.)

**Thank you for your participation**

## New UU Classes...

Tuesdays, February 11th, 25th & March 11th  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. In Fellowship Hall

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Are you new to Unitarian Universalist Community Church? Are you curious about this odd and wondrous faith, this uncommon denomination? Do you have questions about what it means to be part of a liberally religious and diverse faith community? Do you want to meet other members, friends and newcomers? Are you hungry for connection with other people with the larger UUCC community? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this class is the next step in your journey of connection and belonging. Please join Rev. Carie Johnsen and Nancee Campbell for this three class series to meet other UU's, explore your spiritual odyssey, and find community. Sign up for this class by calling the office at 622-3232 or send an email to [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org). We look forward to getting to know you and helping you to find a religious home that is both meaningful and connected.

## Administrative News...

### New Office Hours at UUCC

#### Interim Office Administrator hired!

Julie Pelletier has accepted an offer to return part-time as an Interim Office Administrator. Maggie Ricker will provide volunteer support in the office to respond to congregational requests and to assist Julie.

The church office will be open as follows:

Monday 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Beginning Feb. 3rd (Maggie)  
Tuesday/Thursday evenings 5:00- 8:00 p.m.  
(Julie)  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Julie)

Rev. Carie will adjust her office hours and writing days to support the transition period.

Her new office hours will be as follows:

Monday 12:00 - 5:00 Beginning Feb. 3rd  
Tuesday 12:00 - 6:00  
Thursday 4:00 - 6:00

## Loving Kindness Meditation 5 Winter Sessions...



**Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30-11am, Jan 7 - Feb 4  
Drew House (white building next to UUCC on  
Summer St)**

I hope this message finds you with a warm place to rest in the midst of all the ice and snow. Before Christmas, a UUCC member expressed interest in exploring Loving Kindness (Metta) Meditation as shared in Sharon Salzberg's book, *Loving Kindness*. It is a simple meditation that I have found very helpful to open my heart more fully to myself and to others.

We have come up with a plan and would like to invite others to join us in exploring this practice. We will have some quiet time for sitting, time to get up and move, time to share. There are chairs available. Cushions or benches may be brought, if that is what you prefer.

You might want to explore this meditation through Sharon Salzberg's book (*Loving Kindness*) Thich Nhat Hanh's book (*Teachings on Love*), or Jack Kornfield's introduction to the practice (*The Path with Heart*). I'm sure there are many many other sources to explore, if you are so inclined. However, you do not need to do this. **No preparation is necessary. We'll just explore the practice together on Tuesdays.**

May you be free from fear and anxiety, May you be safe,  
May you be happy and healthy, May you be peaceful and at ease.

**Questions? Contact Marty Soule at [martysoule@gmail.com](mailto:martysoule@gmail.com) or 685-9270**



## Goddess Continuing...

Goddess Continuing/Earth Circles meet on selected Sundays, 12:30-2:30pm, usually in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted).

### ***What difference does identifying deity as female make to women and men?***

Older youth and adults, all genders are invited to participate in activities.

Join us on **February 23 for "On Goddesses and Gods"**.

We are surrounded by *mystery*. Because the mystery is beyond our 'control', we attribute *power* to the mystery, including the concept of "deity". We explain mysteries in terms of what we know, what we have experienced or what we need. What is the deity or mystery that is meaningful to you? This session will include Goddess/God and You match!

The ongoing Goddess Continuing/Earth Circle activities are outlined in the lilac brochure on the table in the vestry. The special offering this spring is **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven**, a feminist spirituality course. We are offering Volume I -- *In Ancient Times* (5 sessions) on dates noted below. Volume II -- *On the Threshold* (6 sessions) will be offered in Fall 2014.

Volume I -- IN ANCIENT TIMES: (Dates will be confirmed with the participants.)  
February 16<sup>th</sup> \*The Sacred Female  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> \*In the Name of the Mother and the Daughter  
April 6<sup>th</sup> \*Womanpower  
April 27<sup>th</sup> \*The First Turning-From Goddess to God  
May 25<sup>th</sup> or June 1<sup>st</sup> \*Reclaiming Women's Heritage of Peace

**Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall** or contact Helen Zidoweki (582-5308, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)) by **February 2**.

## Membership Matters...

We offer many thanks to Ansley Sawyer for the design, construction and installation of the nametag storage racks completed this month. Stef Barley and Cheryl Ring painted the wall and all was accomplished in a week!

Please sign up for Greeting and Hospitality for the coming weeks. Your ministry is an important part of Sunday morning. The Goodie Closet also needs your contributions. Please consider how you can offer your services in a new or continued way.

Beginning in February, a New Guest Questionnaire will be part of the clipboard materials in the pews. We are asking Visitors to tell us about their Sunday morning experience to help us learn a bit more about them and ourselves. Remember, your hospitality is part of why visitors return to UCC!

Your Membership Committee

Jim, Rita, Nancee and Cheryl

## Nonviolent Communications...

The **Nonviolent Communications (Also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** is meeting on the first and third Fridays of the month, 10:15-12:15, in the Robbins Room. The meeting dates for February are:

February 7  
February 21

The group is open to people who have taken Nonviolent Communication Training programs, or who are/have been in a practice group. Others may attend, but there is an expectation that they will attend a training when one becomes available.

Contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, [hcranewing@roadrunner.com](mailto:hcranewing@roadrunner.com)



## Social Activities...

On **Sunday, February 9th at 1:15 p.m.** in the sanctuary, reporter **Lance Tapley** will offer a presentation entitled "**Mass Torture in Maine and America**". Through his investigative reporting, Lance has discovered that America's prison system (including Maine's) continues to torture prisoners in large number. This lecture complements our common read **The New Jim Crow**. Mr. Tapley lives in our neighborhood, and his presentation will follow Elder Lunch that day.

### **Kid's Art Class**

On **Saturday, February 1st from 10:00 a.m. to noon**, there will be a Clay Art class offered at the Drew House. There is a \$ 5.00 fee for materials and the kiln. Snacks will be provided, and we encourage everyone to come play with us! For more information, contact Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337 or Liz Johnson at 626-0250.

## Thank You for Your Contributions...

A warm thank you to UU Community Church members and friends who steadily bring income to our church. In early January Apple Valley Books contributed \$100 they gained from their holiday fundraising appeal. Marilyn & Tom recently sold special boots on E-Bay, earning \$110 for the church.

Deep appreciation to Gary Chapin, Joelle Morris, Marie Wendt, the band Le Bon Truc, and Sunshine Perlis for bringing to us the **Bal Folk** (French Folk Dance).

Attendees enjoyed wonderful dances, with full instructions, food and fellowship on January 18th. This fundraising gathering brought in \$358.36 to the church.

## May Auction News...

### **FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014 AUCTION**

A WARM THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR.

EVERYONE ELSE, WHAT TALENT OR CREATION WILL YOU DONATE?

Work is starting on the booklet describing your donations. Please see or contact Hannah Faulkner (293-9377 or [hannahuu3@fairpoint.net](mailto:hannahuu3@fairpoint.net)) or Terry Cookson (445-2942 or [tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com](mailto:tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com)) as soon as you can to tell us what your talent contribution will be. We aim to sell \$10,000 worth of goods and services.

Are you an artist, baker, quilter, writer, jewelry maker, woodworker, musician, logger, babysitter, language or dance teacher, gardener or elder companion? Which of your talents would you like to share with the people from the general public who will attend our widely publicized **May 9th Auction**?

Forms are available at the Fundraising bulletin board or from Hannah and Terry.

### **BRING IN A RESTAURANT GIFT CERTIFICATE DURING FEBRUARY**

If you are a person who enjoys restaurants, Terry and I suggest that you bring us a gift certificate for the auction from your favorite restaurant before February 28. Treat your family to a dinner at that restaurant during February. Before you leave, ask the manager for a gift certificate for UUC in support of our work in the community. We have forms available for you to fill out and give to the business as an acknowledgement for the gift certificate. See Terry or Hannah for further information.



**Unitarian Universalist Community Church**  
**P. O. Box 8**  
**Augusta, Maine 04332-0008**

### **Newsletter Submissions**

**Please submit all articles in a Word document using Arial, font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email to [newsletter@augustauu.org](mailto:newsletter@augustauu.org) with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!**

**This edition submissions due February 17.**

**Minister:** Rev. Carie Johnsen

**President:** Doug Rooks

**Director of Religious Exploration:** Rev. Carol Strecker  
Office hours-Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am-4:00p.m. or by appointment

**Administrator:**

**[admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)**

**UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m.**

**Thursday-noon-8pm**

**Choir Director:** Joelle Morris

**Intern Minister:** Sharon Piantedosi

Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday-10:30a.m.-3:30p.m.  
or by appointment

**Small Group Ministry Coordinator:** Kathy Kellison

**Office:** (207) 622-3232

#### **Minister's Office Hours:**

Monday 12:00 - 5:00 Beginning Feb. 3rd

Tuesday 12:00 - 6:00

Thursday 4:00 - 6:00

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call my cell phone (508-221-5295) and I will return your call at soon as possible.

Minister's Study:(207) 623-3663 (Office)

(207) 395-8051(Home)

(508) 221-5295 (Cell)

[revcariejohnsen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohnsen@gmail.com)