

## Youth Work at Mano en Mano

By Deane Perkins

Bubbles, anyone?

That's how we greeted the children who came to Mano en Mano (Hand In Hand) three mornings during school vacation in April—with bubbles. Although it was a bit brisk and cold outside, we welcomed children from two years of age to around twelve, and for three days we played games, read, painted, had puppet shows, put puzzles together, dressed up in princess clothes, blew more bubbles, and enjoyed snack time.

The "we" is ten youth and three adult advisors (all of whom will also be going to Guatemala next year) from the UU churches of

Ellsworth, Bangor and Belfast. Rev. Sara Huisjen of Ellsworth and one of the directors of Mano en Mano put together this three-day program where our youth would be together with children of migrant families working in and around Millbridge. The purpose? To make connections and to teach the children English.

One evening, we provided dinner for the children and their families. Here was another

way to make *Playing "dress up."*



connections. We sat at different tables with families, with people who might speak English or might speak Spanish, to hear peoples' stories. We found out, for example, that one teen who came to dinner with her family was a fellow student of one of our own youth. She plans to go to medical school and eventually go to Mexico to help people in villages where good doctors are needed. Another man played soccer against the brother of one of our youth when he was in high school.

Small world, indeed! But all the parents—not necessarily the children—had come from some country in Central America.

And the purpose of Mano en Mano? "Building a stronger and more inclusive Downeast Maine by working with diverse populations to provide affordable housing and educational opportunities, remove barriers to healthcare and other social services, and advocate for social justice."

Our youth are putting their UU faith and passion for social justice into action. Perhaps we will make our pilgrimage to Mano en Mano an annual event. What's remarkable is that in three years some of our young people from all three



*Big smiles while keeping the ball on the parachute.*

### June Sunday Services

Services start at 10:00 AM at the UU Church of Belfast, 37 Miller St., behind the Belfast Free Library. Please call 338-4482 for more information.

Children, infants and new faces are always welcome. Please join us!

**JUNE 2**

**Deane Perkins**

**JUNE 9 Flower Communion and Child Dedication Ceremony**

*Deane Perkins*

Reginald Zottoli wrote “The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community: it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community.”

The Flower communion service was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. The service was later brought to the United States by his wife, Maya.

Ruby Piper will also be “named” in our congregation during the child dedication ceremony.

**JUNE 16**

**COA (Coming of Age) Ceremony**

The COA's moving forward to the YRUU group will be honored as they share their journey and Creed statements with the congregation.

**JUNE 23**

**Giving Up Hope: A Journey Toward Love**

*Jeffrey Mabee*

What is the connection between hope and love? What does acceptance really mean? Join me in pursuit of life's persistent questions.

**JUNE 30**

**tba**

congregations will have gone on service projects to New Orleans, Mano en Mano, and Guatemala. To work in service to our neighbors and humanity, locally, nationally, and internationally; to make con-

#### **Kitchen non-confidential**

There is a collection of kitchen items that have been left at church, and are piling up on the corner counter. Please check for your dishes by the end of June, as there will be cleaning and clearing out over the summer.

nections with people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds—this is good work.

Maybe that's what radical hospitality is about—welcoming everyone into our hearts, starting with bubbles.

#### **Life of the Church**

*Jane Dopheide*

Celebrating Connections

“I thought the Mano En Mano experience was going to be all about teaching English but it turned out to be all about connecting!”

says Jessie Knight when I talked with her about her personal experience in Milbridge this past April.

I remember our daughter saying something similar after spending several weeks on a Navajo reservation during college. She came away with a deeper understanding of another culture on the other end of our country. She felt connected to the families she met and lived with in a very human way – yet came away appreciating their unique identity.

It is clear to me from reading Emma Moesewilde's blog that she is having amazing experiences in connecting this year in Germany.

It is very exciting that we, as a church, have grown to the point of being able to support our youth in having such enriching experiences in the world. I do believe, however, that it is the connections that we honor and nurture in our families and within our church that make this possible.

Our seven principles are about connecting and living those connections in a respectful, compassionate and just manner. As Eva Thompson shared in her recent sermon highlighting the writing of Parker Palmer, living “faithfully” involves carrying our faith out into the world and connecting with others to make a difference.

As I was compiling this year's Annual Report, I was struck, once again, by all that happens throughout the church year. Although we have just one “cluster” of committees named Personal Connections, my hope is that ALL we do together involves opening and strengthening relationships.

I am also hopeful that our new mission and our commitment to Peace Advocacy will encourage us

**Greeting in June**

- June 2 Marion Brown & Cheryl Richardson
- June 9 Dagmar Moravec, Macy Barnhart & Gina Cressey
- June 16 Cheryl Richardson & Joan Bennett
- June 23 Ezra Kreamer & Francine Brown
- June 30 Su Wood & Ivy Lobato

end all four congregations had agreed to send representatives to a steering committee that will plan the making of some 500 window inserts this fall. Homes will be measured in August and a communi-

to invest more fully in taking our message of love, compassion and equity out into our community and beyond connecting with others who share similar passions. May it be so.

**Window Dressers expanding in Belfast!**

A group of Green Sanctuary members and others has been meeting since February to work towards expanding Window Dressers beyond our congregation. On May 22, we took an exciting leap forward. Fourteen people, including members of UUCB as well as of St. Margaret's, St. Francis, and the Belfast United Methodist Church gathered to listen to Window Dressers founder Frank Mundo explain his operation. By the meeting's

ty build will take place during the week of November 11-15 at the Belfast Boathouse. Details to follow as our work progresses!

**Dawn Fortune wins 2013**

Skinner Sermon Award from UUA. Andover Newton Theological School Dean of the Faculty & Vice President for Academic Affairs Sarah B. Drummond wishes to congratulate student Dawn Fortune for receiving the Skinner Sermon Award. This award, named for Clarence Skinner, the late dean of the Tufts College School of Religion in Medford, Mass., honors the preacher of sermons that express Unitarian Universalism's social principles in a manner that demonstrates "grasp of the subject, religious depth, originality, conviction, and understanding of other perspectives."

Dawn won the contest with her sermon "Security: Reality, Fantasy, or Intention?" that she preached December 30, 2012 at the joint worship service held at Hopedale Unitarian Parish. The sermon is about gun culture in America and was preached just two weeks after the tragic school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.



Frank Mundo shows two volunteers how inserts are made.

**WHO'S WHO & WHO TO CALL**

- Minister  
**Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482**  
minister@uubelfast.org
  - Administrative Assistant  
**Maret Knight 338-4482**  
Email: office@uubelfast.org  
office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30
  - Church Council  
**Jane Dopheide 338-1730**  
**Rick Davis 930-3562**
  - LifeSpan Education  
**Sue Coe 691-5153**
  - Children's Religious Exploration  
**Danielle Bannister 342-2096**
  - Music  
**Lila Nation 338-5002**
  - Finances  
**Roger Lee (treas) 338-6837**
  - Sunday Services  
**Jessie Gower 525-4427**
  - Membership Chair  
**Corliss Davis 930-3562**
  - Social Action  
**Cathy Mink 338-4920**
  - Congregational Life  
**Chip Curry 930-3590**
  - Green Sanctuary  
**Jasmine Fowler 342-3260**  
**Corliss Davis 930-3562**
  - Buddhist Sangha  
**Judith Simpson 338-0579**
  - Caring Circle  
**Ezra Kreamer 338-0129**
  - Safe Congregation  
**Marilynn Petit 907-9082**
  - Welcoming Congregation  
**Patty Smith 338-5802**
  - Sound Coordinator  
**Cary Bradford 338-8448**
  - Hospitality  
**Chris LeGore 589-4421**
  - Nominating Committee chair  
**Ezra Kraemer 338-0129**
  - Endowment Committee  
**D Andrews**
  - Greeters  
**Marty Daniels 338-0129**
  - Newsletter  
**Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707**
- To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUCB, email office@uubelfast.org

**After Service Social June 16**

Are you new to our congregation? Have you been around a while, but find there are many people you still don't know? Is it hard to keep up with all the new folks walking in the door each Sunday? Let's get to know each other!

On Sunday, June 16th, right after the service, the Sunday Small Group Ministry is hosting a potluck lunch to encourage newcomers and old-timers to stay and get to know each other.

If the weather is good, we'll set up a picnic outside. Drop your potluck offering in the kitchen when you come for the service, and lend a hand moving chairs and tables after the service, if you can.

Let's be social!

1st Sunday Small Group Ministry:  
Jessie Gower  
Jacqui Lee

Chris LeGore  
Deidre Sousa  
Marge Strickler  
Mayme Trumble  
Kelly Kelsey-Davis

**The Space Needs task force**

would like to invite you to an ice cream/pizza social and informational meeting to bring all comers up to date on recent progress with church space improvement plans.

There are actually three achievements this spring we will tell you about at the social/meeting. Those include: The completion of a church assessment of us by UUA consultant Tricia Hart, a building report on our Miller Street building by structural engineer Al Hodson of Resurgence Engineering, and the selection of an architectural firm to guide us through a building design

**Open Birthday Invitation**

All UUs are invited to a celebration of Rudy Nashan's 90th birthday!!

**Thurs., July 25,  
1:00-4:00 PM  
at the UU Church**

Absolutely no gifts. Just listen to music and enjoy fingerlicking desserts and lemonade.

process. We are excited by these steps towards a solution for improving our space issues, and very much want to share this information with you. Stay tuned to the UUBB for an announcement of the date, probably on the weekend of June 14th.