

UU BELFAST NEWSLETTER

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BELFAST
37 MILLER ST. • PO BOX 452 • BELFAST, MAINE 04915 • (207) 338-4482 • UUBELFAST.ORG

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WE ARE A VIBRANT, inter-generational faith community, inspired by thought and spirit and grounded in love. Our mission is to honor differences and to foster peace, justice, and sustainability in ourselves and in our world.

It's March -- Let the Sun Shine In! *March 15th is Stewardship Sunday*

With Spring finally within our reach, it's an exciting and active month. Over the years, March has become synonymous with stewardship for our Universalist Unitarian Church of Belfast (UUCB). First in the lineup this year is the March 15th kick-off of the Stewardship Annual Budget Drive.

It takes considerable resources to support the spiritual life of our congregation, our minister's and staff salaries, and the physical well-being of our home -- as well as helping to meet the needs of the larger community. These real, necessary functions are reflected in our hopes and dreams. We have made a commitment to them through our mission and covenant. When it comes to stewardship, nothing rings truer than "If not now, when? If not us, who?" This mirrors our

2015/16 Annual Budget Drive theme: The time is now: We are the ones we've been waiting for!

Pause for a moment and contemplate your life and spiritual being before you joined the family of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast. Imagine the gifts you bring to the UUCB family.

What Spirit compels you to do the work of justice and compassion in our community and the world? Which fellowship welcomes you home each Sunday for comfort, inspiration and challenges? What spiritual community holds you in its hands as you and your family seek to achieve your highest potential? What spiritual community values deeper connections and kinship, and the joy of belonging?

In that same quiet space, consider asking yourself: what are these things worth that you value so deeply? What is your heart willing to offer to maintain and foster these precious gifts in our life and in our community?

Imagine our church family dedicated to preparing our children and youth to serve the cause of justice and compassion in the world. Envision how you will choose to steward this soul sanctuary. Then, visualize yourself completing the circle and giving back to this

Members and friends! **A first-ever event!**

You are invited to a church-wide cleaning detail, March 14, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to clean out the cobwebs and debris that accumulated over the winter; wash the salt out of the rug; clean and organize kitchen cupboards; clean and organize hospitality room and cupboards and contribute to the sacred beauty of our sanctuary.

church that gives so much to you and all of us. Each one of us, via our annual pledge, plays a vital role in our collective stewardship responsibility.

When you are contacted by a Visiting Steward and considering your pledge, please be mindful that it takes hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of dollars to keep our family together and flourishing -- just as it does your family and your household budget.

As UUCB members and friends, we have freely accepted the many benefits and, simultaneously, the responsibility to support our church and its mission. In celebrating and expressing your gratitude for this

The 5th Annual UU Multi-Choir Festival!
HERE
at UU BELFAST!!!
SUN. MARCH 22
5:30-7:00 PM

A separate Belfast Earth Day

group has been working to plan several events in the week leading up to Earth Day. These will include a children’s Parade, musical and/or speaking performances, and a potluck dinner. The GS committee is co-sponsoring the dinner, to be held Wed., April 22nd at the UU Church. Watch for details regarding speakers and other events.

We are honored be hosting Rev. Rob McCall (formerly of Blue Hill Congregational Church, now residing in Eastport) and host and author of “Awendadjo Almanack” on WERU, for the Earth Day service April 19th. We hope you can make it.

Finally, we are very pleased to welcome two new members to our committee, Joe Wats and Betsy Reed. So nice to have fresh faces and new enthusiasm in our group.

–Your GS Committee

Cris Hughs, Chuck Piper, Joe Watts, Betsy Reed, and Corliss Davis and Jasmine Fowler (co-chairs)

Multi-Choir Festival Here This Year!!!

We are thrilled to announce that the 5th annual UU Multi-Choir Festival will be hosted by UU Belfast this year!

Please mark your calendars for this exciting and inspirational event to be held Sunday, March 22, at 5:30 PM, in our church sanctuary. The choirs from the UU churches of Rockland, Ellsworth, Waterville, and Bangor will each be presenting two or three works by their own choirs, and then all five choirs will combine for the last four

songs. This year’s theme is life and community, and what could be more fitting than our neighboring church choirs all lifting their voices together? Every year the festival just gets better and better, and this year promises to be no exception. Please join together in attending this momentous event. You don’t want to miss it!

Lila Nation, Music Director



WHO’S WHO AND 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

Chris LeGore 589-4421
Marty Daniels 338-0129

LifeSpan Education

Susan Coe 691-5153

Children’s Religious Exploration

Danielle Bannister 505-5383

Music

Lila Nation 338-5002

Finances

Roger Lee (treas) 338-6837

Sunday Services

Mandi Thomas 322-8123

Membership Chair

Marje Stickler 338-5059

Congregational Life

Chip Curry 930-3590

Green Sanctuary

Jasmine Fowler 342-3260
Corliss Davis 930-3562

Buddhist Sangha

Judith Simpson 338-0579

Caring Circle

Patty Smith 338-5802

Safe Congregation

Tera Kennedy 342-5470

Stewardship Committee Chair

Scott Denman 342-4246

LGBT Welcoming Congregation

Patty Smith 338-5802

Sound Coordinator

Cary Bradford 338-8448

Hospitality

Cheryl & Arthur Richardson 342-4649

Nominating Committee chair

-

Endowment Committee

Margie Shannon 218-4033

Greeters

Jennifer Kirchoff 975-1913

Newsletter

Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707

To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUCC, email office@uubelfast.org

Mark Your Calendars!!!

- March 22 is the Multi-Choir Festival. This is our opportunity to celebrate our choir and display our commitment to radical hospitality.

- But FIRST, to prepare for this first ever event, members and friends are invited to a church-wide cleaning detail, March 14, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to clean out the cobwebs and debris that accumulated over the winter; wash the salt out of the rug; clean and organize kitchen cupboards; clean and organize hospitality room and cupboards and contribute to the sacred beauty of our sanctuary.

- March 20, from 4:30-7:00 PM there will be an OPEN HOUSE / CELEBRATION. All members and friends of our church family are invited to attend this event to celebrate the building that is our home and to express gratitude for the congregations presence in our lives.

- March 29, after the worship service, the Space Needs Team invites the congregation to a response and

reflection about the space process. This is an opportunity to share feelings and ask questions about our building expansion.

SO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

March 14: cleaning opportunity, 10:00-2:00 PM
 March 20: Open house and celebration, 4:30-7:00 PM
 March 22: All Choir Festival, 5:30-7:00 PM
 March 29: Response and Reflection 11:30-12:30

Minister's Report

DEAR FRIENDS:

Sue and I would like to start having you, the members and friends of UUCB, meet with us for dinner at our home. I have realized that, though this is my fourth year here, I am still not well acquainted with everyone at church. And sharing a meal is always a wonderful way to do so. So we thought we would try this as a way of making more connections! This will not interfere with the program that Theresa Piper is coordinating. We are asking for six people to come at a time, so this will go well into next year. Here are our available dates for this spring: March 6, 13; April 3; May 1, 8, 22; June 5.

Until we get something up online, please let us know when you can make it by calling our home (338-6776), or emailing Sue at aloughingdog@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon for dinner!

Fondly, Deane

Thinking of spring? Making plans for March and April?

The UU Church of Belfast has planned the NEW to UU BELFAST series for the upcoming season. Led by our interesting teacher, Ian Howard, this is the opportunity to learn more about this faith, its roots, what we do as a community church and what we can offer you. Beginning MARCH 29 at the church in the Hospitality Room, this group will meet from 1:30-3:30 PM. Ensuing dates are APRIL 12, 19 and 26.

Rev. Dean Perkins and some of our church leaders will be available for discussion and questions. A way to engage on a deeper level if you have attended services a few times or to discover more about this faith, this course is offered as a possible path to becoming a member or learning learn Unitarian Universalism. If you were a UU elsewhere, the class can be an introduction to this Belfast congregation. Please sign up beforehand with Marje Stickler. 338-5059, email mbstick40@gmail.com or speak with Rev. Perkins

The Green Sanctuary Committee has a few events planned in the coming weeks:

Beginning April 1st our committee will be sponsoring an Eco-Challenge in honor of Earth day. This will be a three-week challenge where participants choose an action(s) to increase their awareness, or help in small ways to counteract climate change. Everyone will be encouraged to hang a "leaf" on a tree in the church to highlight their commitment. We also hope to incorporate games stories for the children along with many other ideas. Throughout the month of April we hope the tree will grow enough leaves to be fully leafed out in time for Earth Day. More details will be announced later in March.

Adult RE - Ethical Decision-Making

Have you ever been confronted with an ethical dilemma in which two cherished values appear to be in conflict, putting you in a position of having to choose between one right and another? How did you decide which path to follow? What core values guide your ethical decision-making? Have you ever struggled to find the courage to act on your conscience, especially when you fear repercussions by doing so? You're invited to participate in a dynamic four-week discussion group to explore these questions and develop ways to resolve the dilemmas that we'll inevitably face.

Using Rushworth Kidder's book *How Good People Make Tough Decisions* for background, we'll delve into ethical dilemmas that arise in everyday life. It is highly recommended to read the entire fascinating book before the first

meeting; otherwise, chapters 1-6 should be read before the first meeting, and the remainder before the second.

The discussion group, which Debbie Bailly will facilitate, will be held Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:00, April 21 through May 12 at our church. Please contact Debbie if you'll be attending (she'll be away until 3/19). You can order the paperback from a bookstore (about \$15) or go to fetchbook.info to find used books (about \$7.50 including shipping).

Ethical dilemma: If you're going to attend, how will you decide to obtain the book? By price? Or, will the value of justice guide you to purchase the book locally, thereby supporting a local book shop and contributing to the author's right to compensation? Or, will the value of mercy and compassion for the environment persuade you to purchase a used book and thus reuse materials?

WINTER FROLIC DAY

We're going to try this again...and there's no longer any concern whether there will be enough snow this time! Let's usher in the time change and spring ahead to a fun-filled day of outdoor winter festivities!

On Sunday afternoon, March 8, 2015, Congregational Life is sponsoring a Winter Frolic Day. There will be sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, a bonfire, hot cocoa, snacks, and of course, marshmallows!

The event will be held at Dean and Jan Anderson's home. They have a great sledding hill and live next to the river where hearty souls can have an exciting snowshoe adventure. In addition, they are very close to the rail trail that is great for a fun cross-country ski jaunt. When you've had enough fun or need to warm up, there will be a blazing bonfire, snacks and hot cocoa (with or without marshmallows).

Come spend an afternoon in our beautiful Maine winter (almost spring) wonderland and have some family fun in the great outdoors.

DATE: Sunday, March 8

TIME: 1:00-4:00 PM

PLACE: 93 Kaler Rd. Belfast

What to bring: sleds, snowshoes, cross-country skis, warm clothes and smiles

Snowshoes can be borrowed through the Journey to Health Program out of Waldo County General Hospital

FEATURED

New member biographies

Rebecca Jessup grew up in New England, spending summers near Boothbay Harbor, and lived in Colorado for many years. She got her BA in classics at University of Colorado Boulder, and began tutoring and teaching as an undergrad. (She was late getting to the BA; she had already been married and divorced, and when she graduated her two teen-age kids were her main audience.)

She's taught Latin to home schoolers as young as seven, and also taught high school, college, and senior college. Her web site is

www.teachinglatin.com. She was able to bring her kids to Maine every summer while they were growing up, which continued to be a precious part of their family life.

Duncan and she first met in the late 60s, when she was still living in her parents' home, and he was her first love. It was the late 60s, and it didn't work out then. They went their separate ways for decades until they found each other again through the magic of the internet. That was in January of 2011, and in June she left Colorado and moved to New Harmony, Indiana, where he then lived. In June 2013 they left Indiana and

moved to Belfast. (Of course there's a story there, too.)

Rebecca has always loved poetry, grew up reading and learning and writing it. It's always been her deepest and most immediate art form. She regularly attends and participates in poetry events in and around Belfast, and reads at open mic events. She was most recently published in *Classical Outlook*, a print magazine aimed primarily at Classicists. Duncan and Rebecca together have been awarded a one-month writer's residency back in New Harmony for the month of April, for Duncan to finish a book he's writing on Lincoln and for Rebecca to compile a collection of poems.

New member biographies

Many of you have known Martha Burke for quite some time and wouldn't think of her as "new." She joined UUCB last spring, but we are just catching up to this busy woman to "highlight" her in the newsletter.

Martha grew up in New Jersey and raised her own three children in Duxbury, MA. In 1985, she decided to return to grad school, receiving her degree in historic preservation. She moved to Portland in 1987 and stayed there until 2011 as Executive Director of Greater Portland Landmarks. Martha now works as a consultant, independently and with the DOT, to ensure no historic landmarks are

disturbed when roads are built, upgraded, etc.

Martha met Roger Lee 3 ½ years ago and he actually introduced her to UUCB. What Martha loves about UUCB is that it is fun, the people are friendly and generous, and beliefs are varied.

Martha likes to ski, both downhill and cross-country, garden, and visit her nine grandchildren (three in the Portland area and six in NYC).

Something you might not know about Martha: as members of the Belfast Garden Club, she and Marje Stickler maintain the pretty little garden at the Belfast Post Office. Take a look this spring when the snow melts!

If the snow ever melts.



