

**VOL. 23, No. 1**  
**JANUARY • 2017**

*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.*

**Welcome Yule!**

These are the words we shouted out to drive away the darkness. With music, dance, songs and stories, our community came together on December 10th to celebrate our 20th annual Winter Solstice celebration. Our UU choir, led by Steve Weston, opened the festivities with a rousing Deck the Halls and Mistress of Ceremonies Becky Brimley created a brilliant depiction of age-old and modern Solstice traditions celebrated across the world. The Solstice Yule, as explained by Becky, is derived from the Vikings term, “Jul”, representing the wheel of the year, turning, turning through the seasons, from darkness and cold to lightness and warmth.

With help from many talents, such as the Highland Mary Morris Dancers performing the haunting Abbot’s Bromley Horn Dance, Patty Heath & friends singing a mystical Solstice Hymn, the awe-inspiring dancing of the Sword Sisters, and the whimsical Mummer’s Play, written and carried out by Sumner Roberts , Morten Moesswilde, and friends, the evening created its own warmth and comfort.

More than anything, the evening celebrated our community and brought us together during a time of uncertainty. We laughed, we grew wistful, and together we created a way to send the darkness away. Thank you to everyone who made

this celebration a meaningful one.

In gratitude,  
*Linda Bowe and  
Wendy Krueger*

**The Twilight**  
Solstice Hymn -  
*Patty Heath &  
friends\**

The Return -  
*Linda Buckmaster*  
Sword Dance -  
*Sword Sisters*

**The Dark**  
Dona Nobis  
Pacem: *All*  
Abbot’s Bromley  
Horn Dance -  
*Highland Mary*  
Wishes – *Becky  
Brimley*  
Random Beats  
Street Band

**Return of the**  
**Light**  
Circle of Light -  
*Chrissy Fowler*  
Carol of the Bells - *UU Choir*  
Santa was a Pagan Too - *Patty Heath*  
Mummer’s play-*Sumner Roberts &  
his Merry Band of Players*  
Closing Words - *Becky Brimley*  
Lord of the Dance: *Everyone*  
\*Becky Brimley, Mandi Thomas,  
Chris Goosman, Molly Lebel, Kerri  
Vacher



*Becky Brimley welcomes everyone to the Winter Solstice Celebration!*

**A workshop**  
“Beyond Resolutions: Visions, Dreams and Intentions”  
Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast  
Saturday, January 14; 1:00-3:00 PM  
Registration by January 7 encouraged

The New Year gives us the opportunity to review our visions and dreams and to make clear intentions for acting upon them. How can we move beyond making resolutions to living them? How do we live our intentions in a way that is consistent with our values? Through activities, discussion, & reflection, this workshop will help you move forward.

For more information, contact Linda Buckmaster at [lsbuck1@gmail.com](mailto:lsbuck1@gmail.com).

### Love Reaches Out

This fall a brave group of us signed up for an online course from the UUA called “Love Reaches Out.” Every 10 days or so, new materials were posted for us to ponder: blogs, videos, articles, web pages – you name it! We’ve learned about people’s changing relationships to organized religion, and how some UU congregations are re-examining how they reach out.

Karen Wigglesworth, Debbie Bailly, Lane Fisher, Paul Eagle, Wendy Watkins, Linda Buckmaster and Chris LeGore have met every-

### January Sunday Services

Services start at 10:00 AM at the East Belfast School. Please call 338-4482 for more information. Children, infants and new faces are always welcome. Please join us!

JAN 1	Rev. Deane Perkins
JAN 8	Rev. Deane Perkins
JAN 15	Rev. Al Boyce
JAN 22	Eva Thompson
JAN 29	Rev. Sara Hayman

other Friday since October, reflecting on the materials and thinking about how we can do a better job reaching out to new folks who visit us, who view our online presence and may want to visit us, and community members whom we want to get to know better.

Overall, we have become more aware of our potential audiences. We’ve learned that “millennials” have different priorities and ways of engaging in the world than us middle-aged and senior folks. We’ve talked about new “entry points” to our congregation other than Sunday services, the friendliness and consis-

tency of our online presence, and what we might do to keep new friends once they start attending.

UU’s in Arlington, Massachusetts are doing “Dinner Church” twice a month. Congregations in Iowa and elsewhere are bringing everyone together on Wednesday nights for a simple mid-week service for adults while teens attend COA and/or OWL classes.

Look for one or more congregational conversations about love reaching out. We hope to share some of our findings with you, and inspire you as we have been inspired!

*Chris LeGore*

### RE NEWS

Now that the holidays are over, RE classes will go back to normal. No more Christmas Tree assembly for the kids! The Primary Room will continue their Spirit Play baskets, the Intermediate Room will return to their work on Signs of our Faith and a few other sessions from prior curricula, and the COA will be going back into The Twilight Zone. Max Howard, one of your YRUU Youth, finished his filming for his project and will go into the editing room this

month. I can’t wait to see what he comes up with! The Youth Group will be meeting on Jan. 15 to watch Defying the Nazis and on January 22 I have scheduled a Game Day for RE! I like to schedule these days in once and a while so that the kids have an opportunity to play and talk with each other as friends. It helps to build group dynamics while also teaching our UU Values on being kind and listening to all voices but it’s also a lot of fun.

*Danielle Bannister, RE Director*

### Collaborative Ministry

The Belfast, Castine, and Ellsworth congregations combined for a stimulating night at the movies, viewing the documentary “Defying The Nazis,” December 2, at The Alamo Theater in Bucksport. The event, sponsored by the Collaborative Ministry Team, was well attended, and included a facilitated discussion led by Castine minister Margaret Beckman after the movie.

“Defying The Nazis,” a Ken Burns produced film, is a powerful story of Unitarian minister Waitstill Sharp,

and his wife Martha, who heroically assisted the evacuation of hundreds of political dissidents and Jewish families from Nazi held territory during World War II. Their refugee relief work came at great personal sacrifice, as they left their two young children behind while rescuing refugees from Europe.

“On January 5, 6:30-8:30 PM our Collaborative Ministry Team is orchestrating a first of its kind discussion of the book ‘The Third Reconstruction.’ Members of the three congregations will gather in their church offices, in our case Room 319 at The Belfast Center, connected online. After an introduction via Zoom, we will break into small groups at our own sites, reporting back to all three gatherings by Zoom in the third portion of the evening.

Even if you cannot attend the discussion, read the book. Now more than ever before, “fusion politics” and a “new justice movement” are relevant and necessary.”

*Michael Bowe*

**Welcome to our New Members!**

On Sunday, December 4, with much joy (and cupcakes!), the UU Church of Belfast gave a warm welcome into membership to new members Sarah Johnson, Brett Johnson, Shannan Boyorak and Dave Boyorak.

Reverend Deane Perkins and Ministerial Intern Lane Fisher, the instructors for this group’s “New to UU” class, led the group in their covenant with the congregation and the signing of the membership book.

With the enthusiastic assistance of the UU children, Membership Committee chair Teresa Piper presented the group with new member gifts of chalice pins, roses, guidebooks and their certificates of membership.

A hearty round of applause from the congregation welcomed the new



*New members (left to right) Dave and Shannan Boyorak and Sarah and Brett Johnson are welcomed into membership by Intern Lane Fisher and Rev. Deane Perkins.*

members into fellowship and, following the service, we celebrated in true UU style with coffee and cupcakes!

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest UUCB members and stay tuned for the February newsletter with bios to get to know them better!

**WHO'S WHO AND WHO TO CALL**

**Minister**

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

Website contributions:  
content@uubelfast.org

## Last call for the 2017 UU Church directory!

Please notify Maret ASAP if you are a church friend and want to be included in the directory. Friends and members, please make sure Maret has current contact info for you and perhaps a portrait style photo.

## The Collaborative Ministry Internship

In 2000 I joined the editorial staff of Hope magazine. This was the job of my dreams: journalism (my undergraduate major) with a positive focus (on people somehow making their communities healthier, more just, more caring...) practiced with a team of intelligent, great-hearted colleagues. What was not to like?

Our publisher, Jon Wilson, and editor-in-chief, Kim Ridley, were committed to a collaborative model of editing the magazine. Now that took some getting used to. I'd been one of those introverted kids who experienced every group project at school as a form of torture that generally produced results inferior to what I imagined I'd have mustered on my own. So sharing our editorial process from decisions on themes and content through the final layout felt time-consuming and unnatural to me at first.

It didn't take long to see that the time this process required was a wonderfully worthwhile investment. I learned so much more in that job than I would have if I'd stuck to my own projects in my cubicle, our editorial product was far stronger because of our collaboration, and I soon worked so harmoniously with my colleagues that I felt like I'd lost my family when the magazine

ceased to publish. I was a convert.

This experience comes back to mind now as I delve into the concept of collaboration, a topic I promised in my internship Learning and Service Agreement to explore. It struck me this month that my nine months as your intern will be over before I'll find a block of time for such inquiry, and so I'm probing the topic incrementally with—of course—the collaboration of our three churches in mind.

A Forbes article by Carol Kinsey Goman emphasized from several angles that relationship is an essential component of collaboration: Build trust. Make visioning a team sport. Tap all of the diverse abilities in a group to solve problems. Help people build personal relationships. This reinforces the power of such gatherings as our tri-church retreat at Ferry Beach and the showing of *Defying the Nazis* on December 1 at the Alamo, where the lobby was packed and buzzing well before the film. Goman's article assures me that this is more than convivial: it's essential and foundational.

Goman links to a presentation of research that found people in an organization will avoid those who command a huge amount of info and act like that have all the answers but will wring every last bit of information out of warm and gregarious leaders. If relationship and inclusivity are that important in corporations, how much more vital must they be in churches and collaborations among churches?

Linda Hill, a professor at Harvard Business School, was one of a team who spent years studying innovative groups around the world. Mind you, these were businesses, not churches, but are we not seeking innovative,

out-of-the-box ways to care for people spiritually in an increasingly secular world and to work for justice? What Hill describes in a Ted Talk sounds very much like what we're trying to do in our churches: Create a "world" or culture or community where people want to belong by welcoming a diversity of viewpoints and talents and then amplifying differences among them in an honoring way that fosters constructive argument and problem solving. Make decision-making processes patient and inclusive, with no one dominating them. The goal is to tap collective genius, not solo genius. (You can watch Hill's talk at [http://www.ted.com/talks/linda\\_hill\\_how\\_to\\_manage\\_for\\_collective\\_creativity](http://www.ted.com/talks/linda_hill_how_to_manage_for_collective_creativity).) This seems salient not only to 21st century churches and especially those who would collaborate, but also to any who would like to bridge the political divide that is so evident and to work for the common good.

Last of all, for anyone who feels as distressed as I have by the directions in which our culture seems to be headed, let me quote Christine Figueres, who is given credit for the Paris Climate Agreement: "Impossible is not a fact, only an attitude." Figueres believes hope for our future lies in focus on our shared interests and away from perceptions of winners and losers. If you need a dose of her "transformational optimism" on behalf of our world or our collaboration, see [http://www.ted.com/talks/christiana\\_figueres\\_the\\_inside\\_story\\_of\\_the\\_paris\\_climate\\_agreement](http://www.ted.com/talks/christiana_figueres_the_inside_story_of_the_paris_climate_agreement).

We have work to do, and collaboration is most definitely a part of it.

With blessings and love,

*Lane*

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