

VOL. 23, No. 2
FEBRUARY • 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.

Belfast U.U.'s in The Women's March in D.C.

Michael Bowe from D.C.

A small pile of items stood next to the door; a sign, small pillow and a backpack. A quick mental review of what was allowed at the march and the limited space on the bus convinced me not to add to it. Granola bars, water, phone, a toothbrush, toothpaste and a few more creature comforts. I guess I'm ready.

After picking up a few friends on the way, we headed for Rockport. Within 40 minutes, we saw the lights of the bus and figures in the headlights of cars around the bus; figures with whom I would share an incredible and meaningful experience.

As I climbed the stairs of the bus, I saw many of my traveling companions preparing for the night that lay before us: 12 or 13 hours on the bus. What to keep in the seat and what to put overhead? As we settled into our seats, the bus captain gave us information about schedule of the trip to come. The bus rolled down the driveway with the first of many cheers and we headed for Washington D.C. with 54 women and supporters about to join thousands and thousands of other people with the same destination.

The sound of quiet conversations could be heard. Name tags, lists of contact information and bus captain's phone numbers were given out and collected to ensure we all got back

on the right bus. Soon there seemed to be a communal yawn and the contents of bus became quiet, subdued. Pit stops in the middle of the night and a search for a gas station, and then we traveled on.

As the sky lightened, more buses became visible on the highways into D.C., and more buses and more buses; despite the traffic, there were few places where it was backed up on our route. We arrived at the bus parking lot and again decisions were made as what to carry. Signs were taken out of the compartment underneath, and we headed towards Independence Ave., the perfect name of the place we would gather to stand for women's rights.

We stood and listened to many speakers, among them Angela Davis, Gloria Steinem and Madonna. A sea of people all different, but standing for a common cause. A visible statement that we did not agree with our leadership. Frequently, we were

pressed together, but no one became angry. Kindnesses were repeatedly witnessed, making space when it was needed, hands offered when someone stumbled.

All of us would be changed by the energy, the commitment, the experience. The UU principles seemed to surround me, but this was not a sea of UUs. UU principles seemed like human principles as I stood within this massive crowd. Quickly, a long day of standing, listening and sharing became night and time to make the journey back to the bus.

Our awareness of this event being only the beginning was embedded in us. We would have future experiences connected to the work yet to be done. We would do this together. For now, we climbed back on the bus for the 13-hour ride back to our communities where each of us would live our principles and do the work that lay ahead.

Submitted by Kathy Muzzy

UUCB members join Women's March on Maine

Linda Buckmaster from Augusta
TEN THOUSAND joyous women, men, young adults, and children gathered behind the Augusta Statehouse on January 21 to be part of the global demonstrations for women's lives. Although most rally-goers were angry and dismayed at the new policies and attitudes coming from

Washington, the mood of the day was upbeat and empowering. The colorful event was a sea of pink hats and blaze orange.

Six carloads of Belfast UUs and friends make the trek to Augusta. Traffic on Route 3 at 8:00 AM was like a holiday weekend, but all going in the same direction. We had plans to meet up with MUSSAN and other UU Churches, but as the crowd con-

tinued to grow, it became impossible. In fact, we even lost the others from our church almost immediately. I wandered the crowd and found pockets of UUs, easily identifiable with signs containing UU Principles and “Love Reaches Out” banners.

The guest speakers were excellent (and brief) and included representatives from Maine Conservation Voters, Immigrant Resource Center, Grandmothers for Reproductive Justice, the Penobscot Nation, and the state Legislature. They emphasized unity over the next four years as we tackle some of the social, economic, and environmental justice issues we face. “We cannot wait for one perfect leader to save our future,” said State Senator Shenna Bellows of Manchester. “Saving our future starts with us.” Various activist nonprofits had information tables on getting involved. I was very encouraged by the large groups of young adults who were there.

Cheered and fortified, we left the rally as others did all over the country – asking what do we do next?

Familiar faces at the March.

February 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!

FEB. 5

Reverend Jodi Hayashida

from the First Universalist Church of Auburn

FEB. 12

Mandi Thomas and Jessica Falconer

Recollections from the Women’s March on Washington

FEB. 19

Robin Lovrien

from the UU Church of Ellsworth

FEB. 26

Reverend Dick Snyder



The UU Women’s Group

has plans for 2017! Your ideas and input are welcome, join us at an event, come to our planning meetings.

CURRENT 2017 SCHEDULE:

February 14th (Tuesday), Valentine’s Day – Women’s Tea with Shelly Patton of The Treasured Leaf Tea Company, <http://treasuredleaftea.com/>; location: Karen Wigglesworth’s house, can accommodate up to twelve people, time: TBD.

April – Shakespeare Live DVD

(The Royal Shakespeare Company and the BBC celebrated Shakespeare’s 400th birthday, April 2015), with scones and tea; location: Marge Stickler’s house, can accommodate up to eight people

June – meet and read poetry at the new labyrinth, on or around the Solstice

June, July or August: possibly tour Frances Perkins’ homestead in Damariscotta (\$22/ea in 2016), she was the first woman cabinet member and Secretary of Labor, she helped

develop the New Deal/Social Security, <http://francesperkinscenter.org/life-new/>

Additional ideas: drumming, making felt balls, read and discuss certain books, make a life collage, picnic at Moose Point, develop skills for conflict management, a small potluck for four people at Neva Allen’s home, TED talks, getting comfortable with your electronic device, walk/roll the Rail Trail, develop your critical thinking skills/learn about science and its history, guest authors, writing

in nature, monthly potlucks.

FMI: Kathy Kreamer, kreamers@twc.com; Karen Wigglesworth, kwi88les@gmail.com
 Committee: Marge Stickler, Karen Wigglesworth, Jacqui Lee, Debbie Smith, Kathy Kreamer, Joanne Boynton, Maret Knight

Introducing the Green Tip of the Month!

Each month in this newsletter and on the UUBB our Green Sanctuary committee will be including a “tip” for living life more sustainably. Please feel free to contact chair Joe Watts at jwatts226@gmail.com if you have any questions!

Green Tip for February 2017:

Now that we are deep into winter it’s time to think about saving fuel, money, and carbon emissions by

installing some window inserts around your home. Window Dressers (www.windowdressers.org) has been making such inserts for over five years and has hundreds of happy customers around the state of Maine enjoying thousands of inserts. Pine frames are wrapped in polyolefin and rimmed with weather-stripping foam. Labor is all by volunteers to keep costs down. For those who find the modest charges difficult, a small donation is requested for up to 10 inserts. Now while you’re shivering, take a moment to go to www.windowdressers.org and click the “sign up here” button to get yourself on the waiting list for 2017!

Corliss C. Davis

Did you know that the average American throws away around \$30 each month in the form of uneaten

food? It’s time to reduce the kitchen waste you produce, and save money.

As part of its focus on food waste this year, the Green Sanctuary Committee is sponsoring a book discussion of “The Waste Free Kitchen Handbook: a guide to eating well and saving money by wasting less food.”

Please join us at the common house at the Eco-Village (25 Village Drive) at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 23 (snow date March 2). We will delve into this practical and information-packed book by Dana Gunders, staff scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Gunders includes lots of suggestions, checklists, recipes and even your own kitchen waste audit. “By showing how to shop smarter, portion more accurately, and simply use a refrigerator properly, Gunders

WHO’S WHO AND WHO TO CALL

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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

gives the simple tools to produce less waste and eat more consciously.”

Copies of the book are available at the Old Professor’s Bookshop or they may be ordered from other local bookstores or borrowed through inter-library loan from public libraries. Questions? Please contact Joe Watts at jwatts226@gmail.com.

First-Ever New England Regional Assembly

If you have been a Unitarian Universalist for longer than a few months, you have probably heard about our annual General Assembly (GA). Perhaps

you heard Chris Goosman’s wonderful testimonial to her GA experience a few weeks ago. Why is the experience so transforming?

Start with simply being together with thousands of people who share your value system. Add joyful

singing with those thousands of people, backed by a world-class choir with more than 100 voices. (Chris was chosen to be part of that choir!) How about hundreds of informative workshops on so many topics, you regret that you can’t be in multiple places at once? Add daily inspirational worship services and lectures led by nationally and internationally known leaders like Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. More singing. Even the business sessions are exciting as we elect our leaders and vote on directions for our UU future. And did I mention the singing?

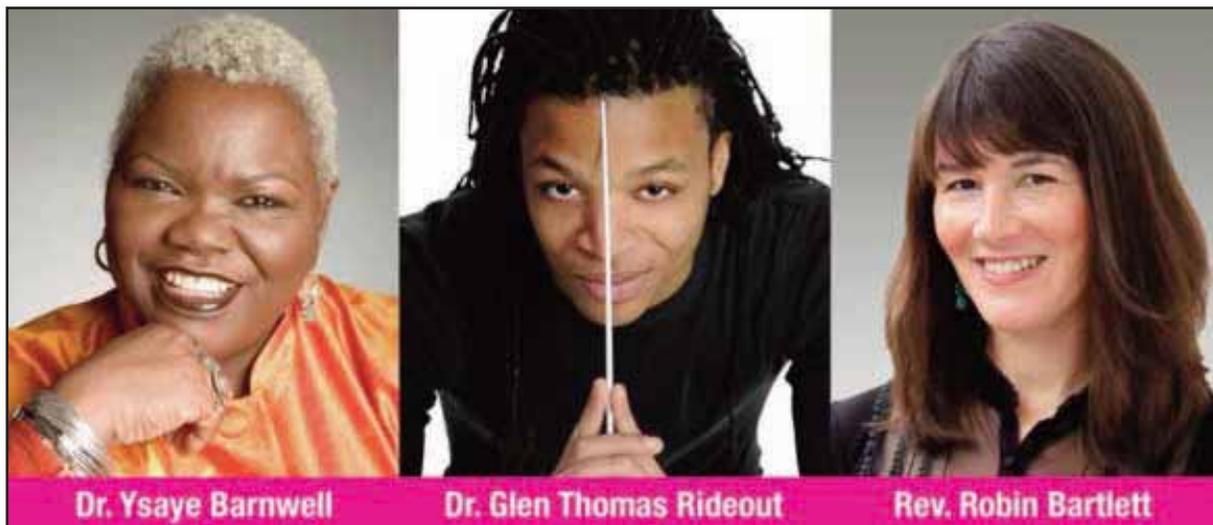
Sounds exhilarating doesn’t it?

But perhaps you have never gone to GA because it is too expensive, too far to travel, too long, too overwhelming. Do we have a deal for you! On April 21-22, the New England Region of our UUA will hold its first ever Regional Assembly in Woburn, Massachusetts. This is your opportunity to experience GA on a smaller, more manageable scale.

At the 2017 GA in New Orleans, we UUs will be electing our first female President. Yes, all three candidates are female, and we can meet all of them in person on Friday night in Woburn. Saturday morning will

who could use a little financial help to attend the Regional Assembly.

And since the UU Church of Belfast belongs to NNED, we have an ever better deal. The Earl W. Goss Memorial Fund was created to encourage attendance at UU meetings by folks from our District. Your NNED Board has voted to make money available from that fund to help with the housing costs of District members with limited finances who wish to attend the Regional Assembly this year. More information about that will also be coming soon.



Dr. Ysaye Barnwell

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout

Rev. Robin Bartlett

begin with a worship service co-led by Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, who was music director at the 2016 GA, so there’s bound to be lots of singing in addition to an inspirational sermon by Rev. Robin Bartlett of Sterling, Massachusetts. Three concurrent workshops will be offered. After lunch (included in the registration), Dr. Ysaye Barnwell will lead a community sing. The day will conclude with the Annual Meeting of our Northern New England District (NNED).

We have a better deal. Our church budget includes a line item for leadership development and some of that money might be available for those

So please consider attending our Regional Assembly on April 21-22, which promises to be much like a GA but on a smaller scale, and please plan to stay for the NNED Annual Meeting at the end. Every congregation is eligible for one or more voting delegates.

If you think you might like to go, please check with Marty Daniels about being a delegate. We promise you will be (almost?) as transformed as those who attend the GA itself. Who knows? You might even decide to go to the New Orleans GA in June.

Rick Davis

CongoLife activities for February and March.

February 5 Sledding party at the Anderson's, 93 Kaler Road, and Valentine cookie swap. Please bring your favorite Valentine cookies to share and your favorite snow toys with you. There will be hot chocolate, marshmallows for roasting and a bonfire. If cookies aren't your thing, bring a goodie to share. (No-snow date February 12).

March 11 Seed starting and plant propagation. This will be at Cheryl's house. CongoLife will supply soil, peat pots and a few seeds. If you have your favorite seeds that you like to start, bring them along.

Your CongoLife Committee
Cheryl Richardson
207.342.4649 Home
207.213.7334 Cell

A Growing Year: The Collaborative Ministry Internship

Recently someone in our congregation expressed a sense of mystery about how I, as the first intern for the collaborative ministry, am serving the Belfast congregation. That sense of mystery is understandable; I fly under the radar in Belfast for a couple of reasons that I'll review later.

The short answer to the question about my work in Belfast is meetings, meetings, meetings. Boring? Not at all! They are most of what a minister does beside preaching, and I love what they teach me about the work of helping a church to flourish.

An inventory: I've been meeting with several other members who are taking a UU Leadership Institute course called Love Reaches Out, an exploration of how most people and

especially young adults seek out introductory information about a church and the implications for ours. I met with members of the Committee on Ministry and Revs. Deane, Sara Hayman, and Duncan Newcomer to plan for pastoral care while Deane's on sabbatical and agreed to be the point person in either providing such care or arranging for someone to meet with Sara or Duncan, if that feels more appropriate.

I've also met twice with the staff and agreed to do so monthly while Deane's gone, and I meet with our LifeSpan Committee, broadening my view of what goes into managing an RE program as full as ours. I'll meet with the executive team while Deane's gone, and I also join monthly meetings of the Greater Bay Area Ministerium. I've met individually with a few other UUBC members for various purposes that add up to TMI.

Not exclusively related to Belfast, I coordinate with Karen Wigglesworth and Judith Grace as they and the rest of the Collaborative Ministry Team determine what collaboration means and try to rise to the communication it demands. (Those who know how challenging communication within one church can be can well imagine the complexities of communication among three churches!)

Foci in February and March will be a social justice survey I've been creating for all three churches and a World Religions course—ideally also for all three churches. Last Thursday's discussion of The Third Reconstruction was a first trial of whether attending a class electronically might work, and we came away feeling optimistic.

Meanwhile, I am much more present and active in Ellsworth, my pri-

The 2017 UU Church directory is complete! If you haven't received your copy yet, the directory will be available after the service on Sundays in February.

mary church this year, and more visibly present in Castine. In February I'll meet with our Church Council to talk about the kinds of things I do in Ellsworth and what it might be like for Belfast next year, when ours will be the primary church for the next intern. An exciting new realm of possibility will open!

Why am I less visible in Belfast? There are two solid reasons that play against Belfast in my internship and will be strongly to Belfast's favor if next year's internship goes to Amy Fiorelli, a ministerial candidate in Ellsworth's congregation who will be vetted as intern before anyone else. Both reasons originate with the all-important UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), which doesn't normally let interns serve their home congregations at all. That's because you and I tend to relate to one another as peers, which is very different from my stepping into religious leadership and you perceiving me as a leader. The MFC gave me permission to do this internship but advised me to avoid certain roles in Belfast.

A separate dynamic is that the point of this year is for me to try new things and round out any weak spots in my ministerial training. The MFC's staff person told me point-blank that I shouldn't do things in Belfast that I've done here before, because I'm supposed to spend all my time learning how to fill new

roles. For that reason, I haven't led worship in Belfast and won't until March 19, when I'll try to meet the challenge of giving a multigenerational service that stirs hearts and minds of all ages. Now that will be a learning experience!

Thank you for all of the ways you support me in this essential piece of ministerial formation. I miss being with you regularly and look forward to experiencing how Spirit will move among us on March 19.

With love, *Lane*

Meet Our Newest UUCB Members:

Sarah & Brett Johnson

SARAH AND BRETT joined the congregation in December and jumped right into involvement, volunteering with childcare during Sunday morning services. Newcomers to the Belfast area, Sarah and Brett write "We were born and raised in Stillwater, Oklahoma. It's a fairly large city of

about 49,000 people. Brett earned his degree of bachelors of science and horticulture at Oklahoma State University. Sarah managed a local legend pizzeria called The Hideaway. When Brett graduated in December, he received a job opportunity which brought us to Maine by mid May.

We have a nine year old dog, or should I say puppy. His name is Bowie. He's a crazy dalmatian who has been forcing us to face the cold."

Welcome, Sara and Brett!