



**Rodin  
The Thinker**

June, 2010

# The Free Thinker



First Universalist Church of Norway, Unitarian Universalist  
Since 1799, the Oldest Continuously Existing Universalist Church in Maine  
Our Mission, as we live our historic liberal faith, is to nurture spiritual growth, honor diversity, and offer service with love.

## JUNE, 2010

### The Rev Richard Beal

Norway : 743-2828

West Paris : 674-2365

Home: 744-9031

[www.norwayuu.org](http://www.norwayuu.org)

[richardbeal68@yahoo.com](mailto:richardbeal68@yahoo.com)

### SCRYINGS

**June 6 Exegeting the Beatles** If we determine there are four or five songs by the Beatles that don't require the kind of instrumentation we can't provide, we'll look at some of the theology implicit in their wording, with some special emphasis on "karma." This will also be a service in which we welcome those who are joining the church.

**June 13 Celebrating Summer** Hymns and readings lifting up summer's special qualities and their impact on our lives and views.

**June 20 A Worship Committee Service**

**June 30 Books As Guides to the Spirit** Some examination of how literature informs and helps maintain our spirituality, with a recommendation of some summer reading to consider.

**July 4** service led by Bernice M.

**July 11 "Songs of the Spirit"** service, organized by Claire G.

**July 18** A service focused on Native Peoples indigenous to the Oxford Hills, presented by Peter L.

**July 25** A caravan with folks from West Paris to the service at Ferry Beach in

### Board of Trustees

Chris Davis Chair

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### Pastoral Associates

Becky Hardy

Nancy Wood

Kathy Pewitt

Sally Bradley

Please call the church if you'd like a home number.

We are located at 479 Main  
St in the heart of historic  
downtown

Norway, ME.

[www.norwayuu.org](http://www.norwayuu.org)

E-mail: [norwayuu@gwi.net](mailto:norwayuu@gwi.net)

207-743-2828

Please note that the editor is removing identifying information as a safety precaution, since the newsletter is available to the public and on the website.

**Richard Beal's new e-mail address**

[richardbeal68@yahoo.com](mailto:richardbeal68@yahoo.com)

## The Wayward Pulpit

**"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,  
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."**

from Tennyson's Morte D'Arthur

### COMMENTARY

Two things:

1) I'm told there's little support for my suggestion that the church remove the first two center pews at the front of the sanctuary. While I can't say this really surprises me, I do wonder a bit at the thinking which leads to being in opposition to it. It can't be that people simply don't want to change what has always been. Because, obviously, the building, including the sanctuary, has been changed over and over again since it was first built. We have indoor plumbing, for example. Which the original building certainly did not. In fact the two very fine bathrooms downstairs are in a section that required an addition to the exterior of the building not so long ago. Some members may remember when that was done. The addition of the section of the church where the office is located also required a change to the exterior configuration of the building. The kitchens, both the small one upstairs and the larger one downstairs are not original to the building. In fact the entire downstairs is not original. The building was jacked up and a lower story added to make the downstairs possible. Nor does the ramp that leads to the [new] door on the back of the building to make handicapped access easier go back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

But I'm rather glad all of this change took place. Because if you think about it there probably would no longer be a Universalist church in Norway unless congregations back along hadn't adjusted their building to meet the needs of changing times and changing worship styles. We would have no Concert Hall, no furnace room (probably they had wood stoves to keep the building warm when it was first built – as well as a shed to store the firewood and perhaps some additional sheds to shelter the horses people drove to church). There would be no piano on the platform that was built in the sanctuary to raise it where it could be seen, even though it definitely destroyed the symmetry of the original front of the sanctuary [which may have already been destroyed when one of those new-fangled organs was put in].

Would the church still be here if no one had been willing to see the building altered to put in a lower story to have a place for minstrel shows and Open Mikes? To have a hall to serve old fashioned pot luck suppers? To provide lunches for the Kiwanis Club? And a kitchen to prepare today's Community Lunches? How much time do you think you would spend in a church with a three holer out back by the horse shed? Something to think about perhaps.

And how long will the church be here if nothing else changes? If the sanctuary, which has been changed so many times before, remains frozen in time. Our time. The way we're used to it. And totally unlike the growing churches which appeal to younger people who are used to less formality in services. Who appreciate big screen projection systems and room for drum sets and electronic basses and amplifiers. Who don't really like to just sit there and watch an older guy do what he's pretty much always done. Who like dance. Who get off on movement?

We can't afford much of that. If any of that. But we could take out a couple of pews. We could have more room for larger wedding parties. We could do a simple bit of drama, like we did during our "The Princess and the Pebble" service – without putting the princess in danger of rolling off the narrow platform in the front. No, we can't do much with the space we have. But does that really mean we shouldn't do anything? Does that mean we keep the church the way it is now? For ourselves? And let younger folks go to churches willing to adjust to their needs and preferences?

Joan doesn't like this commentary. She thinks it's argumentative and self-righteous. I agree it's argumentative. Certainly I know I can only make suggestions. Not decisions. But I hope I have only the long-term best interests of the church at heart in making this suggestion. And, obviously, I'll accept whatever the congregation votes to do or not to do.

(cont'd on page 4)

**The Pastoral Associates**

by Kathi Pewitt. Please contact Kathy, Becky Hardy, Nancy Wood or with your needs or concerns. Our minister, Richard Beal, is available for private counseling or assistance at 744-9031.

Aside from all the blooming flowers and trees, a sure sign of spring is the return of our winter travelers, **Lou B and Dorothy and Bunk R**. We welcome them back to church and look forward to hearing some about their adventures. It was also good to see **John M** back in church recently.

**Sally B** has left us for her summer digs up the coast of Maine, or is that downeast? We miss her when she is gone and wish her a wonderful summer.

Several folks have recently traveled south for vacations. **Becky H and her husband** explored a bit of Georgia, a nice way to celebrate a birthday. **Elinor G** had a nice visit with her son Phil in New York. And **Heather P** kicked up her heels in New Orleans (or is it Nawlins?). She enjoyed some great music and played some of her own.

The injured members of our flock are healing nicely. **Lori R.** has been up and around with a cast on her leg, every day doing a little better we hope. **Nancy W** continues to heal from her broken bones. Being able to drive is a sure sign of progress.

**Pat S** will soon welcome her mother for a visit from Ohio. We hope to meet her in church.

**Alma D** is doing well and would welcome a visit from those of you who know her.

The church received a nice card from **Cynthia McG**. It's nice to know she thinks of us. We always think of her as part of our church family and wish her well.

I have to mention that the gardens in the front and back of the church are looking fabulous. We are grateful to **Kevin and Gordon** for all their hard work. For everyone who has been ill or experienced a loss, we send you healing thoughts and wish you a speedy recovery and peace.



The drumming circle continues on the 3rd Friday of the month at the church. This is a good time for meditation, chants, songs and other forms of worship. Some circles may be held outdoors.



West Paris Old Home Days 6/4-6/6/10

West Paris will be hopping with activities the first weekend of June! The event features craft fairs, fireworks, musical programs, a midway, chicken BBQ, pie-eating contest, soapbox derby and more!



Board Meeting Notes – 5/10/10 From the Clerk:



age need signs

Our Blake House tenant, Dale, came to the meeting to discuss what kind of sign- he is looking for to solve problem of our signs blocking each other and the mutual for visibility. Dale suggested his sign go on the other side of the property so both can be seen. Further discussion is needed, but we're close to resolution.

Mardy reports that many pledges have yet to come in. Thank you to all who have already made their annual pledge!

Lori is recovering and is returning to work this week. Welcome back!

The Board will be asking Pastoral Associates, Social Justice, Small Group Ministry, Worship Commit-tee for job descriptions to describe their work as chair and their committee missions.

We discussed the possibility of receiving a donation from Open Mic, if the proceeds are sufficient.

Peter brought in an application from Ellen Gibson which needed some further information for the Grant for Belfry/Steeple Engineering Study she is working on.

Annual Meeting scheduling, warrant, nominations, and articles were discussed.

Our next meeting is on June 13<sup>th</sup> after the Annual Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*



**SUPPLIES NEEDED**—Folks who are receiving food stamps are often for basics like toothpaste, toilet paper, cleaning products, paper towels, soap, deodorant and pet food, which are not covered, and the cost really each month. If you're able to contribute items, please leave them in the office. we'll quickly accumulate enough to "open" the supply closet to those in need.



pinched shampoo, adds up Hopefully,



Lori R.

**COMMENTARY (cont'd)**

2) There has been a request we continue to have Sunday morning services during the summer. It's also been noted that we have picked up a number of visitors and a few new members who first came when we were having Vesper services during the month of August. Some of us are used to going to the summer services at the Universalist Church in West Sumner. A suggestion has been made we join with the West Paris church to attend a service in the Forbes Chapel down at Ferry Beach.

The worship Committee discussed these proposals and has decided that we will try the following schedule, beginning this July:

**July 4** An 11:00 a.m. service led by Bernice

**July 11** An 11:00 a.m. "Songs of the Spirit" service, by Claire

**July 18** An 11:00 a.m. service focused on Native Peoples indige- nous to the Oxford Hills, presented by Peter

**July 25** A caravan with folks from West Paris to the service at Ferry Beach in Saco, leaving from the Norway Church time TBA.

**August 1 - August 29** at 6:00 p.m. Vesper Services at the Nor- way Church, led by Richard

**Sept. 5** Ingathering/ Water Ceremony services. 9:00 a.m. West Paris, 11:00 a.m. Norway

Please check the calendar on our website: [www.norwayuuu.org](http://www.norwayuuu.org) for any changes that may/probably will occur.

See you in church, Richard

## The Free Thinker

### CAMP SUSAN CURTIS



lead-

Camp Susan Curtis, located in Stoneham, ME, strives to enhance the lives of Maine children by providing camping and ership experiences. It serves children age 7-13.



In addition to the Fourth Sunday Collection, we will be collecting personal items needed by the campers (toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo, flip flops...). A pack basket at the front of the church will be available to collect items you bring in. **Please donate!**

### PEW REMOVAL

Removing pews from the church is coming to a vote at the 2010 annual meeting.

Remove the pews?? Just say NO!

The church is on the National Historic Register, in fact, it is one of 64 buildings in the Norway downtown Historic District. The church is on the register because of its age, design, and cultural significance. The pews are part of that design, they help impart the character that defines the church, they are an element of the floor plan.

We have a responsibility to keep the church structure intact. This is the oldest church in Norway, the oldest continuously existing Universalist Church in Maine, and one of the oldest Universalist Churches in the country.

Certainly, structural changes have been made over time. But changes were not made without good reason and then with careful attention to design and historicity. As the Church history continues, will we say to future congregations, "In 2010, we voted to take out the first two rows of pews *because they were inconvenient*"?

I love Universalist beliefs is because they recognize the worth of all people, all ideas are considered. People change and ideas change and that makes our church dynamic. The church *structure* needs to be left alone. The pews are not the problem. Removing them will not solve the current decline in membership or other issues we face.

–Ellen Gibson

### LEAVE YOUR MARK! MAKE A TRAIL! JUNE 4

The Progress Center is nearing completion of the Matthew Record Memorial Park and Trail for the enjoyment of the whole community. It will be open to the public M-F from 4-dusk and weekends dawn to dusk. It is handicapped accessible and there is plenty of parking.

Won't you join help work on the trail on **JUNE 4**? You'll be spending quality time outdoors working on a worthwhile community project. A wonderful meal is served at noon to all volunteers. Get in on the action to provide a safe place to be enjoyed by everyone for years to come. Call Priscilla at 743-8049 x266

2010-11 FINANCIALS

As of May 28, 2010, we have received 18 pledges and pre-paid gifts for the next fiscal year, FY 2010-11, which begins July 1, 2010.

The grand total as of May 28, 2010, is \$28,202, still below our pledging goal of \$35,000. But it is encouraging that we have four new pledging units. Thank you David and Helena Farr, Claire Gelinias with Deborah Crump, Jim Mitchell, and Richard Pollack!

A fair number of our regular pledging units have not yet been heard from, so, maybe there's still a chance that we'll make the \$35,000 goal. In terms of statistics, the average pledge at this point is \$1,567 with a median of \$1,006.

Thank you all for your support of the church and its mission: *Our Mission, as we live our historic liberal faith, is to nurture spiritual growth, honor diversity, and offer service with love.*  
—Marden Seavey, Treasurer

INDOOR YARD SALE & BOOK TABLE

An indoor yard sale will be held on June 12, with a table of books for sale. Please donate in advance by leaving books in the boxes under the table on the stage. If you need someone to pick them up and bring them in, please call Chet or Marilyn G. at 583-4370.

WEST SUMNER UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

Summer Services 11:00 am

**July 11 - Lay Speaker Marilyn Hammond**

**July 18- Rev. Herbert Adams**

**July 25 - Rev. Nancy Kennedy**

**Aug 1 - Lay Speaker Bernice Martin**

**Aug 8 - Rev. Richard Beal**

**Aug 15 - Rev Vaikko Allen**

**Aug 22 - Rodney Abbott**

**Aug 29 Rev. Scott Jones - Christening - Chinese Auction**

**The Annual UU Plant Sale** will be held Saturday, June 12. Preparation days are Friday, 6/4 or Saturday, 6/5. Getting everything ready is as much fun as taking in the cash, all for the benefit of the church. See Cynthia S. or Becky H. for details.

**Hospitality Calendar for 2010**

BECKY H. IS HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

**June**

6—Orcas

13--Minkes—

20– Manatees

27– Belugas

**NOTICE:****ANNUAL MTG BRING TREATS!!!****July**

4– Finbacks

11-Pilots

18-Bottlenoses

25-Orcas

**NOTE: Please contribute to the labeled milk bottle so we may continue purchasing coffee from an exchange that pays farmers a fair price for their products. Deborah C. will be taking orders from individuals who wish to buy coffee, tea or cocoa for their home use.**

BACKUPS: Rowena P., Dee F., Marde and Cynthia S., Dorothy R., Lou B.

**Minkes:** Ellen G., Peter L., Lori R.  
**Manatees:** Jan C., Pat S., Deborah C..  
**Belugas:** Ann J., Bernice M., Chris D., Heather N.  
**Finbacks:** Barbara H., Richard P. Marilyn and Chet G.  
**Pilots:** Gay D., Nancy W., Kathi P.  
**Bottlenoses:** Joan B., Storm C. Becky H.  
**Orcas:** Sally B., Kathy C., Darcy L., Cookie M.

Please come early enough to set up—plug coffee in as you go up to service—and clean up. Remember: **socializing and sharing are goals of coffee hour**—it needn't be elaborate or competitive, just consistent. **Basics needed:** Milk for coffee; a cold drink; something to munch on. (Fruits, vegetables, soup, little sandwiches, cheese /crackers and something sweet are all possibilities.)

**UUA Bulletin**

The Eliot & Pickett Houses, the UUA's bed and breakfast in Boston, is offering a discount for all new reservations made for a minimum three-day stay between May 17, 2010 and September 30, 2010. Discounts apply to new reservations made between April 25, 2010 and September 15, 2010.

The UUA Finance office invites investors in the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund to join in the quarterly conference call May 11, 2010 from 2pm to 3pm. Congregations considering investment are also invited to take part.

The UUA Youth and Young Adult (YaYA) Ministries office is offering a leadership development conference for youths and young adults of color. The conference will be held at the UUA headquarters in Boston, with travel and housing paid by the YaYA Ministries office. The deadline to apply is May 15, 2010.

The UUA Administration invites you to send us high-quality, high-resolution pictures of your congregation's activities. This could include pictures of your congregation at worship, engaging in social action, on group trips, making building renovations, and much more! Please send your images via email to [uupix@uua.org](mailto:uupix@uua.org).

Warmest Regards,

Rachel Walden  
 Public Information Assistant/Receptionist  
[info@uua.org](mailto:info@uua.org)

**A Warrant for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the  
First Universalist Church,  
Unitarian Universalist Norway, Maine:  
June 13, 2009 12:00pm**

**To: The Members of the Congregation of the First Universalist Church of Norway, Maine, Unitarian  
Universalist**

**You are hereby requested to assemble in meeting in the Concert Hall of the First Universalist Church  
of Norway, Maine Unitarian Universalist on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at 12:00pm to act on the following  
articles:**

- Article I**                    **To receive and act upon the annual reports of the officers, committee chair-  
persons and task forces of the church**
  
- Article II**                    **To hear the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect board mem-  
bers and officers for the coming year, and to appoint any other committees  
or task forces as presented by members of the Board of Trustees.**
  
- Article III**                    **To act on the budget proposed by the members of the Board of Trustees for  
the ensuing year.**
  
- Article IV**                    **To establish a date and time for the next meeting.**
  
- Article V**                    **To act on any other business that may legally come before the Meeting:  
To consider a motion in regards to the removal of the first two rows of  
pews in the front of the sanctuary**

**I hereby certify that this warrant was posted on the church building and submitted for publication in  
*The Free Thinker*, and that, pursuant to the bylaws and constitution of the church, the members of the  
First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist, of Norway, Maine were notified of this meeting in  
writing.**

**/s/\_\_\_\_\_**  
**Dorothy Raymond, Clerk, May 25, 2010**

**It's Annual Meeting Time!**

This is the time of year when we gather our reports, our articles, and ourselves to examine the previous year, review our many and various activities, and vote on changes we want make for the coming year.

This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon** in the downstairs Concert Hall of the church, right after an abbreviated church service. All are welcome to attend, but only church members can vote.

**Committee Chairpersons-** please submit your **Annual Reports**, via email to the church email ([norwayuu@gwi.net](mailto:norwayuu@gwi.net)); via "snail mail" addressed to the church (479 Main St, 04268) attention: Dorothy Raymond; or drop off into my box outside the church office. **Reports are due no later than Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

The **Warrant for the 2010 Annual Meeting** is elsewhere in this issue of the Free Thinker and posted at the entrances to the church. We will be acting on our budget, reviewing committee reports, appointing new Board members, and voting on two items on the warrant.

✂

<p>This is an EASY, very moist, and delicious home made chocolate cake... -prep time 15 minutes</p>	<p>1/2 tsp vanilla</p>
<p><b><u>Moist Chocolate Cake</u></b></p>	<p>1. Combine flour, sugar, baking power &amp; soda, cocoa, and coffee</p>
<p>1 c. flour</p>	<p>2. Add egg and butter, mix well</p>
<p>1 c. sugar</p>	<p>3. Pour into greased 8" square baking pan</p>
<p>1 tsp baking powder</p>	<p>4. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.</p>
<p>1 tsp baking soda</p>	<p>5. Cool, dust w/ confectionary sugar or frost.</p>
<p>1/2 c. cocoa powder</p>	<p>Chris Davis</p>
<p>1 cup coffee (can use water)</p>	
<p>1 egg</p>	
<p>1/4 c. (1 stick) butter, melted</p>	

**A campaign is afoot to tear out the two front pews . . . supposedly to meet with modern times' considerations like massive ultra bourgeois weddings. How many weddings have we had over the past 20 years? For this we would debauch the lovely historical schematic like a beautiful smile with two front teeth knocked out!**  
--Peter Lenz

# JUNE NORWAY UU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	weanesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD 7/13	Covenant Groups have changed	1 AA 8-9 am	2 AA 8-9 am	3 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr	4 AA 8-9 am WP Old Home Days Progress Ctr Trail Work Day	5 AA 10-11 WP Old Home Days NORWAY PLANT SALE
6 Choir 9:30 11:00 Worship WP Old Home Days NORWAY PLANT SALE	7 AA 8-9 am	8 AA 8-9 am	9 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Community Lunch	10 AA 8-9 am	11 AA 8-9 am	12 AA 10-11 am
13 Choir 9:30 11:00 Worship ANNUAL MEETING BRING FOOD	14 AA 8-9 am	15 AA 8-9 am	16 AA 8-9 11:30 Community Lunch 6:30 Board Mtg	17 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr Cakes group	18 AA 8-9 am 7-9 Drumming 1:00 Covenant Group 1	19 AA 10-11 am
20 Choir 9:30 11:00 Worship	21 AA 8-9 am	22 AA 8-9 am 6:00 #2 Covenant Group	23 AA 8-9 am 11:30 Community Lunch	24 AA 8-9 am	25 AA 8-9 am 7p Open Mic	26 AA10-11am
27 Choir 9:30 Service 11:00	28 AA 8-9	29 AA 8-9 am	30 AA 8-9 am 11:30 Community Lunch			

**First Universalist Church, Norway**  
**Unitarian Universalist**  
**479 Main Street**  
**Norway, ME 04268**

*Address Service Requested*

**x**

Please send your  
email address to  
norwayuu@gwi.net if  
you'd like to continue  
receiving The Free  
Thinker

«First» «Last»

«Secondary»

«Street»

«Town» «St» «Zip»

***First Universalist Church of Norway***  
***Unitarian Universalist***

Church phone: 743-2828

Email: [norwayuu@gwi.net](mailto:norwayuu@gwi.net)

Website: [www.norwayuu.org](http://www.norwayuu.org)

**Everybody Welcome! Please Join us!**

Minister            Richard Beal    744-9031  
                          richrdbeal@yahoo.com

Office Manager    Lori A. Reed    743-2828  
                          norwayuu@gwi.net

Sexton             Kevin Farr    539-4232 [farrou@roadrunner.com](mailto:farrou@roadrunner.com)  
Music Director    Heather Pierson 935-4505(h) [vesselrecordings@yahoo.com](mailto:vesselrecordings@yahoo.com)

**A Welcoming Congregation that Puts Its Faith in You**

**The food pantry needs volunteers. Call Barbara H. 743-7806**  
**Donate peanut butter, tuna, pasta, mac 'n cheese, "common things"**

