



**Rodin
The Thinker**

April, 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.



The Rev Richard Beal

Norway : 743-2828

West Paris : 674-2365

Home: 744-9031

www.norwayuu.org

richardbeal68@yahoo.com

Board of Trustees

<i>Chris Davis</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Dorothy Raymond</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
<i>Marden Seavey</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>"Cookie" Murch</i>	<i>Trustee</i>
<i>Peter Lenz</i>	<i>Trustee</i>
<i>Gordon Twitchell</i>	<i>Trustee</i>

Pastoral Associates

Becky Hardy
Nancy Wood
Kathy Pewitt
Sally Bradley
 Please call the church if you'd like a home number.

MAY, 2010

SCRYINGS

May 2 May Day!

May 9 Report From the District Meeting

May 16 Worship Committee Service

May 23 A New Members Service

May 30 Gardening As Pleasure and Salvation

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

Norway, ME.

www.norwayuu.org

E-mail: 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

The Wayward Pulpit

In a sermon by UU minister Peter Fleck – quoted by Daniel Budd – he raises an important question. He asks: " ... do we have a right to be thankful as long as others are excluded from sharing in the blessings we enjoy?" The answer to this question, he writes, "lies in the realization that thankfulness, while it may relate to specifics, has an absolute character. To give thanks is a basic human need, an essential element in our relationship to the universe. Thankfulness is independent of specifics."

**from Quest , published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship, UU
COMMENTARY**

As many of you know, I went back to Louisville, Kentucky, to attend the memorial service for a young man who had lived with us when he was having troubles in his life. He had trouble throughout his life. Sometimes because of circumstances beyond his control and too often because of choices it would have been better for him not to make. He committed suicide when to all appearances he had begun to put his life together.

Joan and I were friendly with his parents. In fact spent almost every Christmas afternoon at their home when we were not away for the holiday. We knew most of the members of the family. We knew the history. So I thought I should go down to be there for the service and, during that same weekend, take part in the installation of the Louisville church's new minister. Joan would have gone also, but she agreed to do the Sunday morning service here so I could go.

The memorial service was beautifully done and very much captured who Kevin was and the complex amalgam of real strengths and unfortunate weaknesses that dominated his life. The minister had not known Kevin and, though she had been out of the country on a study break and had only a very brief time to talk with the family, spoke not only as if she had known him but had listened and understood him. I was moved by and thankful for the service, and appreciative of the fact I had been able to attend.

I spent Sunday afternoon at Kevin's parent's house. Then, following the installation service, spent a long time talking with people at the reception. I'm not at all good about keeping in touch with people once we no longer see each other often. I'm pretty good at being wherever I am, but that becomes my focus. My mind tends to live in the present situation rather than in memory. So it was good for me to have people seek me out to see how I'm doing, to grab me and give me a hug, to want us to bring each other up to date on the transpirings of our lives. I'm thankful I went, and Peter Fleck is right that being thankful has very little to do with specifics. It was the overall feeling of being back where life had been pretty good, of being remembered, and of seeing places and faces changed a bit by some passing years but still instantly and satisfyingly recognizable. It was a sense I had rather than a thing to which I could point. A comfortable sense.

In general I have that sense now that we're living back in Maine. Things come back to me or I realize I'm moving forward into something that will come back to me with a memory of special value. I know I'm experiencing formative feelings in our churches and acquiring similar moments of knowing I'm in the presence of grace in other places where I feel aliveness. Moments that even when I move on will be with me for appreciation.

I think I'm rambling. I think I'm just being thankful.

See you in church,

Richard

The Pastoral Associates Did not get in information in time.



Briefed Board Meeting Notes – 4/21/10



Releases / permission to publish names and photos of church members while at various church events was brought to our attention; releases will be typed up and handed out at church.

Reviewed the Canvass Packet Contents

It was motioned and passed to hire Ellen to write the application for an engineering study grant for the Belfry and see the engineering project through.

Signage for the parsonage was discussed; Dale to present at our next meeting.

A motion was made and passed to donate our boxes of old hymnals to the Auburn UU Church as recommended by the choir and requested by the Auburn Church; 3 will be kept here for reference.

Ailie has been hired as the temporary office manager in Lori's absence.

UU Staff performance evaluations are not yet finished but will be worked on by Richard.

Our next meeting date has been changed to **Tuesday, May 18th** to accommodate Dale's work schedule.

- ♦ May - 3rd week, close of stewardship campaign
- ♦ May - 4th week, 2010-2011 Church Budget prepared (based on Stewardship results)

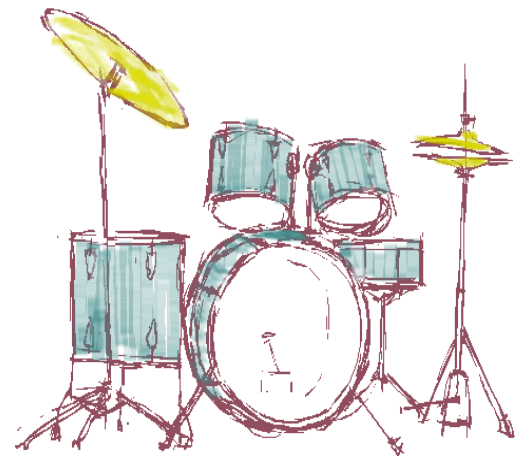
*******June 6th, ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING*******



"April showers bring May flowers"

The Free Thinker

Selah in concert at First Baptist Church in Portland on Saturday May 8, 2010 at 7:00pm.



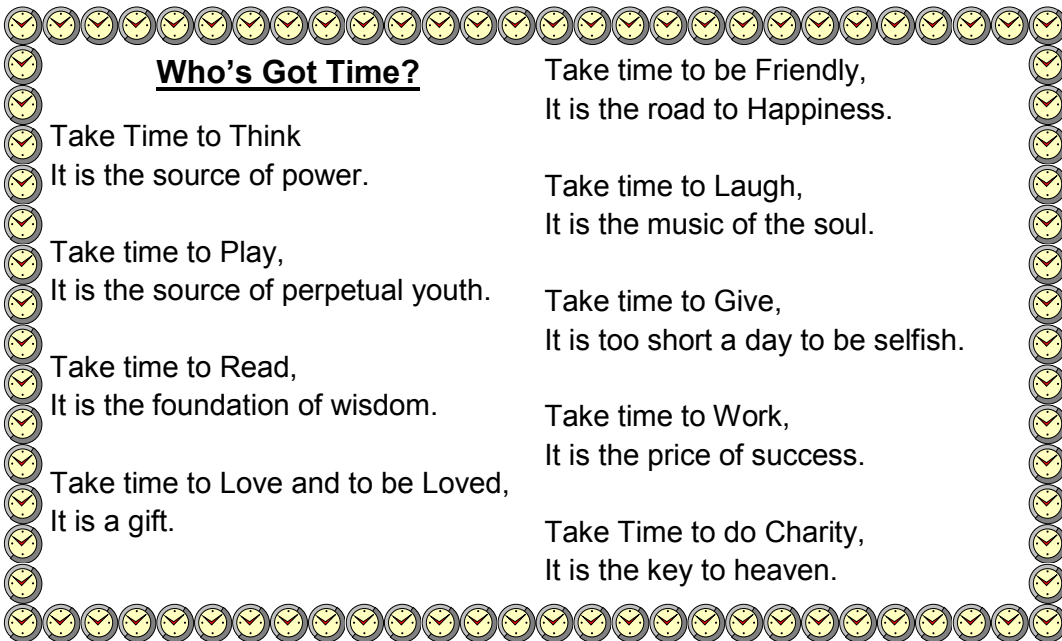
The drumming circle continues on the 3rd Friday of the month at the church. This is a good time for meditation, chants, songs and other forms of worship.

Join us! There are usually extra drums.

The Free Thinker

Social Justice Committee—Bernice M., Chair

Nothing was sent in.



Who's Got Time?

Take Time to Think
It is the source of power.
Take time to Play,
It is the source of perpetual youth.
Take time to Read,
It is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to Love and to be Loved,
It is a gift.

Take time to be Friendly,
It is the road to Happiness.
Take time to Laugh,
It is the music of the soul.
Take time to Give,
It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to Work,
It is the price of success.
Take Time to do Charity,
It is the key to heaven.

Worship Committee —

Bernice M., Chair

If you are interested in a trip to Ferry Beach (a UU retreat) for a summer Sunday morning worship, please talk to Joan B. or Bernice M.

The Ledger Sheet

By Marden Seavey, Treasurer

Nothing sent in



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.



NEWPORT GETAWAY WEEKEND

May 21-25, 2010 Newport, RI

A UU Bed and Breakfast weekend hosted by
members and friends of Channing Memorial Church

As advertised in the UU World Magazine.

Fellow Unitarian Universalists, we invite you to experience an amazing
"Newport Getaway" the weekend May 21 - 25, 2010, with accommodations
provided by members of our Church participating in our UU B&B
Fundraiser.

Rates: \$80 single / \$95 double per night of stay

To reserve accommodations email office@channingchurch.org

For more information visit <http://channingchurch.org/uubandb/>

Newport's many historic mansions, beaches, Newport Art Museum,
International Tennis Hall of Fame, the Redwood Library, Channing
Memorial Church (UU), other notable houses of worship, and many other
attractions. Special events at Channing Church are also being organized.



Hospitality Calendar for 2010

BECKY H. IS HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

May

2—Manatees

9—Belugas

16—Finbacks

23—Pilots

30—Bottlenoses

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.)

Decaf coffee goes into the smaller stainless coffee pot: 1 cup grounds for 24 cups coffee (see mark on the side of pot) 1
 ½ cups grounds for 30-35 cups coffee. Coffee is stored under the counter near the pots, with a measure. If you want to bring flavored or caffeinated coffee to serve also, use the glass pot in addition.

There are usually donated cups and napkins available. Bring what else you may need for paper goods, or “be green” and use church dishes and utensils. There is a kitchen drawer marked “tablecloths” to use. Generally, the first Sunday of the month will be Birthday Celebrations. First Sunday Pod should make arrangements for this or ask another Pod to do so later in the month.

The Maine Southern Cluster will meet Wednesday, May 5, 10:00-1:00, at the UU Church of Brunswick. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

Myke Johnson and Karen Foley have been in touch with Helen Zidowecki and Carie Johnsen to discuss a **possible joint meeting of the northern and southern Maine clusters in JUNE in Augusta .**

Augusta could host us all on the second or third Wednesday (June 9 or 16). Would Southerners please communicate with Karen Foley revKLFoley@suscom-maine.net as to whether you'd like such a joint meeting and which of those Wednesdays would work for you?

Northerners, please communicate with Becky Gunn ubeckygunn@aol.com

MAY NORWAY UU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 AA 10-11 am
2 Choir 9:30 Service 11:00 am	3 AA 8-9 am	4 AA 8-9 am	5 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Community Lunch	6 AA 8-9 am	7 AA 8-9 am	8 AA 10-11 am
9 Choir 9:30 Service 11:00 am	10 AA 8-9 am	11 AA 8-9 am	12 AA 8-9 11:30 Commu- nity Lunch	13 AA 8-9 am	14 AA 8-9 am 7-9 Drumming Covenant Group 1	15 AA 10-11 am Covenant Group 2
16 Choir 9:30 11:00 Wor- ship Cte Svc. "	17 AA 8-9 am	18 AA 8-9 am	19 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Community Lunch	20 AA 8-9 am	21 AA 8-9 am	22 AA10-11am
23 Choir 9:30 Service 11:00	24 AA 8-9	25 AA 8-9 am	26 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Community Lunch	27 AA 8-9 am	28 AA 8-9AM	29

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

Address Service Requested

x

Please send your
email address to
norwa-
yuu@gwi.net if
you'd like to con-
tinue receiving

«First» «Last»

«Secondary»

«Street»

«Town» «St» «Zip»

First Universalist Church of Norway
Unitarian Universalist

Church phone: 743-2828

Email: norwayuu@gwi.net

Website: www.norwayuu.org

Everybody Welcome! Please Join us!

Minister Richard Beal 744-9031
 richrdbear@yahoo.com

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

Sexton Kevin Farr 539-4232 farrout@roadrunner.com
Music Director Heather Pierson 935-4505(h) 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"

