



**Rodin
The Thinker**

November, 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.



NOVEMBER, 2010

The Rev Richard Beal
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SCRYINGS

Bernice Martin *Chair*
Dorothy Raymond *Co-clerk*
Jan Cardoza *Co-clerk*
Marden Seavey *Treasurer*
Claire Gelinas *Trustee*
Peter Lenz *Trustee*

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

The Board of Trustees Meeting Summary. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on November 10th at 6:00PM at church. All are welcome! The Board met on Oct. 13th and discussed the following:

Minister's Report: Richard conducted a memorial service for Sallie Nealand's brother, Bob this month. He met with the Literacy Project at the West Paris Library, attended the West Paris Historical Society meeting, and is now the chairperson of the Oxford Hills Area Clergy Association. He will be filling the pulpit on the 3rd Sunday in May at the Auburn UU Church as part of a district effort to provide coverage. He led all four Norway services to start off the year. Representing himself and not the church, he has been active in the "No On One" campaign opposing the proposed casino.

Mardy reviewed the monthly financial reports with us. Mardy reports that he paid the UUA Program Fund from the endowment, but we did not have to withdraw operating funds, which is good news. He also reports that the market is doing better, which is also good news, but we still need to focus on fundraising and growing our congregation. The Board appreciates the hard work that Mardy does in managing our funds!

We have postponed installing our "Peace Pole" until spring 2011 so that Herb and Mary Adams, who donated it, can be with us for the ceremony.

Belfry Project Update- Ellen Gibson reports that we are in the first stage of the Steeples Grant with Maine Preservation. Al Hodson sent a report and states that there is extensive repair work to be done, particularly due to water damage causing rot. The bell will have to be removed along with the bell tower. Second step- Before we put the job out for bids we need a stabilization plan. We can apply for a construction grant in a year and spend that time planning and fundraising. Mr. Hodson estimates repair= \$100,000; he would be the logical person to do the stabilization plan. Currently we owe 10% of the cost of Hodson's report (\$350 of the \$3500; the rest is paid by the grant). Richard suggested that we could use Mr. Hodson's report as the basis of an article for the Ad Dem, to keep the public informed of our process and that we will be fundraising. Dan Allen has offered to be an advisor to the project to support his community and his childhood church. The board expressed its great appreciation for the hard work Ellen is doing.

Pew Proposal Group (Ann Johnson, Ellen Gibson, David Farr, and Dorothy Raymond) has met twice and is preparing a report for the Congregational Meeting on Oct. 25th.

Fund-Raising: Social Justice will be sponsoring the 10,000 Villages sale. 10,000 Villages Preview on Nov 26th 7-10; Open Mic Preview Sale Friday; then 9-5 Saturday and 1-6 Sunday. Joan is doing sandwiches, soup and cookies- she is looking for volunteers. We also need help with set up, sales, etc. Claire reports that Fare Share is excited about selling what is left. \$6000 ordered- we hope not to have to send any back and so could make \$600.

We approved a motion in which the Board would have no objection to the Social Justice Group taking a stance in regards to the Casino referendum.

We discussed the need to maintain Cynthia's beautiful Welcoming Garden in front of the church, possibly using a "Pod"-like process of interested gardeners. We will be talking to folks about helping out. Many thanks to Cynthia for designing, creating, and organizing our Welcoming Garden!

We received some feedback from a visitor last year who did not feel welcomed and we want to remind members that reaching out and welcoming newcomers is very important.

We are working on being sure everyone who wants the Freethinker mailed to them, receives the newsletter. Please let Lori know if you want your Freethinker mailed to you.

We have been focusing on Job Descriptions and Group/Committee Roles and Responsibilities and the Personnel Group will be meeting on Oct. 26th.

In light of our efforts to formalize job descriptions and responsibilities, we are asking that folks go to Richard when they need help from Lori (Office Manager) or Kevin (Sexton). Richard will work with Lori or Kevin to get us the assistance we need. This will help to keep things organized and efficient. So, if you need your project typed or copied or hammered or removed, please talk to Richard first! Thank you.



Pastoral Associates

Our condolences go to Barbara H. and her family upon the death of her neice's husband. We wish them peace and healing.

Becky H. recently had a good trip to Oregon for her father's 95th birthday. This is certainly an occasion to celebrate. And, she and her husband have recently welcomed a new cat into their home.

Kathi P. is headed to California to celebrate her mother's 90th birthday. We love to see such longevity.

Sally B. recently enjoyed a getaway to Jonesport with some friends from high school. It is good to see old friends and a good time was had by all.

We hear that Cynthia McG is doing well in her new home in Massachusetts. She has been attending the UU church in Arlington and has been enjoying the practice of yoga.

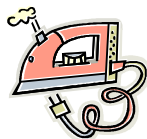
We must congratulate Sallie N. on her recent engagement. We wish her and Don every happiness.

It was nice to see Emily W. and Richard P. at church recently. Everyone, please know you are missed when you are not here.

This month we will be saying goodbye to Dorothy and Bunk as they head south for their winter adventures. We wish them well and look forward to hearing an update now and then.

We hope you are all enjoying this beautiful fall and wish a speedy recovery to all of you who are having health issues.

The Pastoral Associates are Kathi P., Becky H., Nancy W., or Sally B. Please contact them with your needs or concerns. Our minister, Richard Beal, is available for private counseling or assistance at 744-9031.



Save the Planet



Share your Stuff!

By sharing our tools, appliances, equipment and skills, we can reduce our costs and consumerism. Let's share our stuff, reduce our impact on the planet, and build our community!

We've got a list of items/skills to share, trade or barter within our church community. The list is posted on bulletin boards and new stuff will be added as it comes in. Check out the list. Deals are made between individuals. Items are borrowed for a specific time and returned in the same condition.

If you have appliances, tools, a vehicle, electronics, books, a skill you'd barter, or something to trade, contact:

Dorothy at 207-577-8665 or dfraymond@yahoo.com.



Ideas for the Sanctuary Space- What Do You Think?

Would you like to see the front two pew sections removed and why/why not?

How do you envision the sanctuary space will be used?

Have you seen examples of alternative use of space in a church sanctuary and please describe?

Other ideas/questions to address our sanctuary/building space issues:

Welcoming Congregation: the Good News and Bad News

Dorothy R.



The Bad News: We were horrified to hear of the recent series of young people who killed themselves after being bullied by their peers and, sadly, a good proportion of the adult world around them- just take a look at TV, movies, books and your neighbors with an eye or ear for how we present “other than hetero” sexuality.

We are shocked and dismayed by these deaths, but bullying, teasing, humiliating, beating and killing has been going on forever, long before this current wave of losses. And GBLTQ kids have been killing themselves forever- the majority of suicides in young people are kids who are gay, transgender, questioning or who appear to be gay, whatever that means in the minds of their tormentors. It’s all so arbitrary, subjective, and mean. Bullying is the youngsters’ version of the politics of difference and we watch it grow up to be adult intolerance, abuse, and war.

Okay, here’s the Good News: there is an unending, heartfelt, overwhelming outpouring of love and kindness and support in response to these suicides. My emails are full of positive news. Facebook is literally littered with personal support stories and groups committed to social justice. There is a series called “It Gets Better” sponsored by YouTube in which adult GBLT folks tell about their peaceful, positive grown-up lives. Religious leaders are calling for tolerance and understanding (one minister actually stepped back from his anti-gay message and called for Christian kindness, if not acceptance). Celebrities are posting and speaking out with encouragement.

Our own UUA “Standing on the Side of Love” webcasts report on all the UU folks taking action across the country in support of justice, equal rights and inclusion. Check out the current UUA magazine article about a young woman in Brunswick, Maine, Danielle Smith, who has been a tireless advocate and ally for GBLTQ folks through the Gay Straight Alliance in her school. The younger generation is bringing a new light, love and tolerance to their formative years. It does get better.

There are several initiatives in Congress supporting equal rights and same-sex marriage (call your congress people and let them know you stand on the side of love). There have been marches and gatherings and people pressuring Congress, the military, and the President to end “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and a judge who ruled that it was unconstitutional. Today the AP News reported: “At least three service members discharged for being gay have begun the process to re-enlist after the Pentagon directed the military to accept openly gay recruits for the first time in the nation's history.”

Of course, I don’t want to see anyone, straight or gay, go to war, but GBLT soldiers have always fought and died beside their straight comrades and deserve equal honor. This ruling may not hold. But it is progress. Ending discrimination in the military is no small thing and will have the effect of putting equal rights for GBLT folks at the federal level and throwing gay and straight soldiers together openly, creating relationships, camaraderie, and maybe even equal benefit packages. This, along with all the other random and not so random acts of support and civil rights on behalf of our GBLTQ friends and family, is moving all of us towards love and justice. Good News indeed.

NOVEMBER NORWAY UU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints Day— Christian Samhain/Beltane Wicca/Pagan	2 All Souls- Catholic	3	4	5 AA 8-9 am Diwali—Hindu	6 AA 10-
7 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	8 AA 8-9 a	9 AA 8-9 am	10 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Com- munity Lunch 6:30p Board	11 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr	12 AA 8-9 am Birth of Baha'u'l- lah— Baha'i	13 AA 10-1
14 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	15 AA 8-9 am Waqf al Araha-Haj -Islam Nativity Fast Or- tho Christian	16 AA 8-9 am Eid al Adha ISLAM	17 AA 8-9 a 11:30 Community Lunch	18 AA 8-9 am	19 AA 8-9 am 7-9 Drumming	20 AA 10-1
21 Christ the King— Christian 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	22 AA 8-9 am	23 AA 8-9 am	24 AA 8-9 am 11:30 Community Lunch	25 AA 8-9 am Thanksgiving USA 7p Cakes group	26 AA 8-9 am Open Mic 7 pm	27 AA10-1
28 First Sunday of Advent Christian 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	29 AA 8-9am	30 AA 8-9 am St. Andrew's Day Christian				

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Please send your
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First Universalist Church of Norway
Unitarian Universalist

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Everybody Welcome! Please Join us!

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Sexton Kevin Farr 539-4232 farrou@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"

