

VIEWPOINTS

MAY 2007

JOINT FALL CONFERENCE OF THE NED/NH/VT DISTRICTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RESOURCES FOR SMALL CONGREGA- TIONS	2
THANKS FROM REV. HELEN- ZIDOWECKI	3
CONSOLIDATION UPDATE	4-5
NAME OUR DIS- TRICT	5
NED NEWS	7- 12
GREEN SANCTU- ARY	11- 12

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

The votes were positive at both district annual meetings, but it's not final until voted on at General Assembly.

Save the date!

October 5 & 6, 2007

University of New England, Stevens Avenue,
Portland, Maine

Plan to attend the 3rd Annual Joint Fall Conference of the
NED/NH/VT Districts

'Growth and Social Consciousness'

Pooling resources for progress

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Gail Geisenhainer

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL
Sunday Worship Leader, General Assembly 2006

Guest Speakers:

Rev. Jim Vanderweele, Community Church, New Orleans, LA
Neil Rolde, Maine Historian

Workshops to include:

- ◆ Congregational Growth and Faithful Outreach
- ◆ Revitalization, New Orleans Perspective
- ◆ Universalist Heritage at the Westbrook College Campus
- ◆ Transitions across the District
- ◆ Small and Vital Congregations
- ◆ Small Group Ministry Sessions

REV. KAREN BRAMMER SMALL CHURCH SPECIALIST

In April a group of eleven UUs representing nine small congregations gathered at the Annual Meeting in Maine to share concerns and resources. Asked what the major concern was for each, I was surprised to hear that creating ways to invite and involve young families and young adults was the highest on the list. For those whose congregations already include younger people, the balance between tradition and new styles is tricky.

We talked about a conference that would address these issues for small congregations. I will work on that and you should let me know if you would like to be part of it. In addition, the group felt strongly that it could be helpful to have a list serve or site just for the small congregations of the northeast. Stay tuned.

As a group we also shared resources to help generate inspiration and energy in our congregations. The first step was to find within each of ourselves what our personal 'mission' is. Why we 'do' church. It is that kind of conversation, exploration and support that we want to invite others into.

Below is the list of resources that we shared. There are more, but this is a good start.

May our connection serve to deepen our experiences of what is true and whole and sacred. May we invite and welcome others who are just waiting for such a community of seekers as ours.

In faith,

Karen



www.UUA.org (case sensitive! the old site was uua.org) Go into this with patience - it is new, has some glitches, and has a lot to offer

Check out 'congregational services' and publications for;

1. Worship Web
2. Congregational handbook also, "<http://www.UUA.org/layleader>" is for Interconnections (excellent indexed resources and commentary for congregational leaders)
3. <http://www.clfuu.org>, Church of the Larger Fellowship and Church of the Younger Fellowship (lots of resources! including Quest newsletter)
4. UUMA Ministers' Association has helpful publications that are also helpful
5. List Serve for Small Congregations

Great resource online or hard copy: 'Small Talk' by Rev. Jane Dwinell sign up, sign up <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/smalltalknewsletter>.

REV. HELEN ZIDOWECKI, PROGRAM CONSULTANT

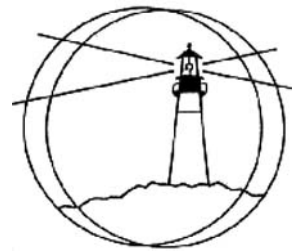
Truly Blessed!

My twenty years volunteering and employment within the Northeast District, largely within the framework of Religious Education and youth, have been rewarding. And your appreciation has been overwhelming. The shawl knit by the religious educators is soft and beautiful and filled with their love and caring. My reaction on seeing the gift certificate for the UUA Bookstore at the Annual Meeting was, "I'll use it for something other than books I 'ought' to read!" And the "Senior Book" (named after the ones that we create at conferences for Bridging seniors) that I received at the Youth Conference is simply awesome, including contributions from a wide range of people over the years. I have been truly blessed to have had this ministry in this place with all of you. Thank you for your part in shaping my ministry.



Helen Zidowecki, Program Consultant

NED NEWS



CONSOLIDATION UPDATE

We have just completed another successful Annual Meeting, our 46th as the Northeast District of the UUA. Because of your positive vote for consolidation with the New Hampshire/Vermont District, our next annual meeting will be a joint meeting to put in place the consolidated district structure.

One of the delegates asked for a secret ballot on the issue of consolidation. In retrospect, I want to thank that delegate for the request. It removed any peer pressure from the vote. It gave those with reservations an opportunity to express their concerns.

Mark Smith, treasurer, presented a precise budget for the coming year. This was the first time we have had to coordinate our budget with that of NH/VT. Thank you, Mark, for a job well done.

Rev. Kitsy Winthrop and Rhonda Millett will be leaving the board of the NED as of July 1, 2007. We wish them the best in the future.

Our Program Consultant for Religious Education and Youth, Rev. Helen Zidowecki, will be leaving that position as of July first. She has been doing a marvelous job in the position for many years. I attended one of the bridging cere-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

monies at Ferry Beach a few years back. It was a great experience. We are recycling her as the new chair of Adult Programs Committee. I have really enjoyed being president of this organization and seeing the enthusiasm build for our Unitarian Univer-

salist Association of Congregations over the years.

Sincerely,

Charlie Boothby

President



ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION VOTE

The New Hampshire Vermont District of Unitarian Universalist Societies and the Northeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association have both voted overwhelmingly to consolidate into one new district, whose name will be chosen by Oct 1st, 2007. On April 14th, 2007, the NH-VT District voted unanimously to consolidate. And the Northeast District vote on April 28th was also a landslide, 58-to-6, in favor of consolidation. This commits both districts to consolidate effective July 1st, 2008 and authorizes the districts' officers to take whatever steps are necessary to make that happen.

During the intervening year, a Transition Team, composed of leaders from both districts, will coordinate the activities needed to set up the

new district. These include the creation of by-laws, the preparation of a budget, the recruitment of a slate of nominees for elected positions, selection of a district name, logo and banner, a newsletter name, and anything else needed for the first meeting of the consolidated district in April 2008. The plan to accomplish this includes the following.

- ◆ A Joint Finance Committee (Nancy Chaddock, Dick Danziger, Mark Smith) will prepare the '08-'09 budget for the new district's first Annual Meeting in April 2008.
- ◆ Roger Comstock will recruit and lead a committee to prepare by-laws for adoption at the new district's first Annual Meeting in April 2008.
- ◆ Rev. Bruce Johnson will coordinate a Joint Nominating Com-

mittee to prepare slates of candidates for election at the new district's Annual Meeting in April 2008.

- ◆ Rev. Sue Kingman will recruit and lead a Symbolism Committee, who will choose names for the new district and its newsletter, and who will design the new district's logo and banner. See the accompanying announcement for details of a contest they are running to choose the new district's name.
- ◆ Kathy Kellison will recruit and lead an Awards Committee to gather nominees and choose the winners for awards to be presented at the new district's first Annual Meeting in April 2008.
- ◆ John Sanders will work with both districts' Communications

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Committees and with Joy Blanchette to ensure that progress and news updates are broadly disseminated during the transition year.

◆ Rev. Mary Higgins will work with both districts' chapters of the UU Ministers Association and the joint Program Committees to create an appropriate ritual to celebrate the transition from our two districts into

one new consolidated district at its first Annual Meeting in April 2008.

These votes culminate several years of careful work towards consolidation of the two districts. In 2004 the NH/VT and Northeast District Boards formed a Joint Task Force, composed of experienced leaders from both districts, to guide both districts through a four year process leading to consolidation. This process progressively led to the two districts sharing a District Execu-

tive, a Small Church Specialist, a Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development, an Office Administrator, and a new district office. These votes allow this process to complete as the two districts join together to form one new district on July 1st, 2008.

John Sanders,

Chair of the Joint Task Force on District Consolidation

NAME OUR NEW DISTRICT CONTEST!! CONTEST!!

It's official! We are creating a new district!!

If you would like to submit a new district name, and maybe a brief catch slogan, please submit your suggestion to the Sanford UU Church, PO Box 32, Sanford, Maine 04073 or email your suggestion to "mailto:info@sanforduuchurch.org"

In addition, please let us know if you are interested in serving on the Symbolism Committee, which will help decide on a new name, logo and banner. Don't forget to include your name, address, email and phone number, as well as your congregational affiliation. The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2007. For more information contact Rev. Sue Kingman at 324.3191 or e-mail me at revsue@sanforduuchurch.org

Rev. Sue Kingman



A special thanks to the Allen Avenue UU Church for hosting the NED annual meeting. The evaluations told the story. People reported that the meeting was organized, the workshops informative, and the atmosphere welcoming. Most of all, people said the food was outstanding. "It was the most delicious food I've ever had at an annual meeting," reported a long-time attendee. The chef of the day, Sue Butler, again lived up to her reputation! Kudos to the planners of the 46th NED annual meeting.

NED AWARDS

The Awards Committee for the District was pleased to oversee the recognition and thanks offered to several members and a congregation for outstanding volunteerism.

Charlie Boothby presented David Kolb of the Yarmouth church with the District Leadership Award. David has given many years of service, working on both the District long range plan and the consolidation process with New Hampshire/ Vermont. Thanks, David!

Helen Zidowecki presented the Unsung UU Youth Award to Ariel Grosvenor from the Brunswick congregation in recognition of too many accomplishments to name. Congratulations, Ariel!

The Awards Committee itself named two Unsung UUs and recognized them for many years of service in their respective churches. From Brunswick, Larry Lemel was recognized for his contributions at every level of church work. And from Kennebunk, Sally Keene was thanked for her many years of leadership and her caring presence in the congregation. Congratulations to both Larry and Sally!



(l-r: Jackie Belanger, Jo Dill, Rev. Sue Kingman, Tracy Bennett, Margaret Munro and Barbara Fraser)

In addition, several other churches nominated one of their members as an outstanding leader. The names of all of the recipients of Congregational Leadership Awards were read aloud with the hope that local churches were singing their praises at home.

The Sanford Church received this year's Kemper's Award for social justice in recognition of their non food item pantry which offers support to low income people in and around Sanford. Congratulations, Sanford!

The people we honored in this celebration stand as a beacon for all of us, showing the way to thriving churches and personal satisfaction in jobs well done. One final thanks to each and every one.

Kathy Kellison

FORMER NED MINISTERS

Rev. Gordon Glenn Newell, 89 died March 14, 2007 in Caribou.

He was a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary and Tufts University. He was a long-time member of the Caribou UU Church. He is remembered by many as the "pie parson" for his famous apple pies.

Rev. Dr. William J. Robbins, 93, former minister of the UU Church of Yarmouth and the First Universalist Church of Rockland, died April 6, 2007. He attended Harvard for his undergraduate degree, Brown University for his graduate degree, and earned his doctorate from Brown in 1947. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. He returned to Maine to teach while serving as minister of the Yarmouth UU Church.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

The **Welcoming Congregation** Lunch Chat at the Annual Meeting at Allen Avenue on April 28 was attended by about 20 people. This gave an opportunity to share what is happening in congregations and to discuss the Second Annual Welcoming Congregation Conference, November 2-4 at Ferry Beach, Saco, Maine.

Information and input will be ongoing on the NED Welcoming Congregation list serv. We agreed at the lunch that we would invite congregations from NH/VT to the conference and to participate on the list serv. If you are not on the listserv and would like to be, and/or if you would like to assist with the conference, contact Helen Zidowecki



YOUTH NOTES

The Bridging ceremony at the end of the Youth Conference on May 6 marked a transition between youth and young adulthood. We honored youth at the conference and recognized youth whose names had been given to us by congregations, even if they were not at the conference. One youth participated in bridging even though she had never attended a conference! I have been hoping that Bridging can become a District recognition of graduating youth, as youth programming is more than district cons. Following, then are the Bridgers for 2007:

Auburn: *Rachelle Tupper and Elise Giasson*

Portland, Allen Ave: *Sam Cory*

Augusta: *Joanna Bridges (Katie Armstrong, Ben Sawyer were recognized)*

Rockland: *(Michael Roco recognized)*

Kennebunk: *(Matt Powers recognized)*

Yarmouth: *Ella Field*

Norway: *Josh Farr, Abby Howes*

Congratulations to these youth, their families and their congregations.



READ ABOUT THE NEW AND OLD YOUTH ADULT COMMITTEE —NEXT PAGE

The OLD and NEW Youth Adult Committee (YAC) meeting will be held in at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church on June 2, 9 AM-Noon. This will include review of the Spring conference, planning for the September 28-30 conference at the Friends Camp, China, and review of youth programming in the district for the last 20 years, in preparation for moving forward. The members of the Youth Adult Committee for 2007-2008 are listed, with * indicating new members of YAC:

Cluster Representatives:

York County:

Becca Kidder, Sanford, Junior Youth
Ashley Bailey, Sanford, Senior Youth
Patty Kidder, Sanford, Adult

Western:

Sabine Bartlett, Auburn, Junior Youth*
Chris Brooks, Auburn, Senior Youth*
Jeremiah Bartlett, Auburn, Adult*

Eastern/Northern: Vacant Junior Youth

Cindy Thielen, Ellsworth, Senior Youth
John Fink, Ellsworth, Adult

Portland Area:

Colin Bridge-Koenigsberg, Allen Ave., Junior Youth*
Emily MacDuffie, Allen Ave., Senior Youth
Jane Gabrielson, Yarmouth, Adult*

Central:

Margo Arruda, Rockland, Junior Youth*
Ariel Grosvenor, Brunswick, Senior Youth
Tim Arruda, Rockland, Adult*

AT LARGE

Alicia (Ellis) Matthews, Auburn, Senior Youth*
Kimberly Rowe, Auburn, Adult*
McKenzie Larson, Auburn, Junior Youth*
David Bridges, Augusta, Senior Youth
John Card, Brunswick, Senior Youth
Sally Bell, Ellsworth, Adult
Julie Thielen-Montgomery, Ellsworth, Adult*

Grace Batsford, Portland Allen Ave., Senior Youth
Jesse Roy, Portland First Parish, Senior Youth
Diedre Arruda, Rockland, Senior Youth
Kacey Montana, Rockland, Junior Youth*
Orion Pearce, Rockland, Senior Youth*
Lindsay Kidder, Sanford, Senior Youth

A bouquet of good wishes to our intrepid District Executive, The Rev. Mary Higgins, as she recovers from surgery.



CONSULTATION ON MINISTRY TO AND WITH YOUTH

They saved the best 'til last! The last "District Gathering" related to the two-year process of Consultation on Ministry To/With Youth was held for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont on May 19 in the Pavilion at Ferry Beach. Eleven youth and adults from both districts participated. The facilitators commented on the intensity and commitment to the discussion, which focused on what happens at the congregational, district and continental levels and the interaction among these levels. The notes from the Gathering will become part of the ongoing discussion at the Summit in July, and with the task force that is being developed in the three states to move youth programming forward.

Thanks to all who participated, I personally found the discussions to be energizing, creative, and inspirational. There is so much richness and opportunity as we move forward.

Helen Zidowecki, NED Program Consultant

ANNOUNCING NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE NEW DISTRICT

We will all miss the Rev. Helen Zidowecki as she leaves her position as Program Director of the Northeast District. She has brought energy to the youth of the District and is evident in the excitement of the youth in our programs. This energy and excitement will now be carried on with Benette Sherman, as she joins the UUAs district staff team as Program Consultant for Religious Education in the New Hampshire-Vermont and Northeast Districts beginning about July 1, 2007. Benette has served the UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa for eight years. She is excited to join the district staff and looks forward to contributing to the vision and purpose of the new district.

NED OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

BOARD OFFICERS:

Charles Boothby, President

Kent Price, Vice President

Jonathan Rogers, Secretary

Mark C. Smith, Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beverly Olsen, Denominational Affairs

Alyson Durham, Extension

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Programs

Religious Education — Open

Clara Yim Bolduc, Faith in Action

Ted Trainer, Director At Large

Director At Large — Open

“The Northeast District of the UUA envisions a community of vibrant congregations living out the principles and purposes of Unitarian Universalism.”

KENT PRICE ELECTED TO UNITED NATIONS BOARD

Kent Price of Orland is one of six new directors of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UUUNO). At his first meeting in April 2007, he was elected as recording secretary.

The UUUNO traces its origins to Adlai Stevenson, a Unitarian, US Ambassador to the United

Nations during the Kennedy Administration.

Price and his wife, Anne, are members of the UU Congregation of Castine, and live in Orland, Maine



RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: An Experience with Lectio Divina

Tuesday, June 26, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

North Andover, MA (978) 682-8815

thestaff@rollingridge.org

Leader: Rev. Karen Lewis Foley

\$40 until June 19; \$45 after June 19; \$35 student rate until June 19

Karen Foley has been a Unitarian Universalist parish minister since 1988. She now lives in Maine, writes, and offers spiritual direction, retreats and workshops. She studied spiritual direction with the Shalem Institute.

Ways to the Spirit: A Weekend of Spiritual Practice for Unitarian Universalists

Join us in a variety of spiritual practices including prayer, meditation, music, movement, and silent time, designed to help you get in touch with the spirit within. \$300 including meals, double occupancy (single rooms may be available at \$325). This retreat is offered twice, Friday evening – Sunday lunch each time:

July 13-15, 2007 @ Murray Grove Conference Center, Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Leaders: Rev. Karen Lewis Foley and Rev. Craig Hirshberg

July 13-15, 2007 @ Murray Grove Conference Center, Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Leaders: Rev. Karen Lewis Foley and Rev. Craig Hirshberg

September 28-30 @ Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center, Saco, ME

Leaders: Rev. Foley, Rev. Hirshberg, and Rev. Charles Stephens

For information or to register, contact:

Craig Hirshberg, (908) 832-0219,

FAITH IN ACTION

United for Equality: Pride Parade and Festival

Saturday, June 16, 2007

Even before becoming a certified Welcoming Congregation, First Parish members and friends have participated in the Pride Parade. This year we're looking forward to joining in the revelry again on Saturday, June 16th. It's easy, it's fun, and it affords us an opportunity as a congregation to make a statement to the community that we support equality. We will assemble on the steps of First Parish at 11:30 that Saturday morning and march under our banner (and other colorful pennants) from Monument Square to Congress Square and down High Street to Deering Oaks. If you would like First Parish to be a part of this year's parade and Festival, we need to make plans right away. There is a registration process, so we need to know approximately how large our contingent will be. Contact Carol Heilsberg (home number 232-7553, work number 780-6500), or e-mail her at cheilsberg@kellychapman.com <<mailto:cheilsberg@kellychapman.com>>.

GREEN SANCTUARY NEWS— SALLY GREEN

“Are you ready, are you ready for a miracle?” are the words of a song I sing with the Rock My Soul gospel group.

We know that right now, in 2007, the Earth is in urgent need of a miracle. But WE are the ones who must make this miracle happen.

At a conference last month, sponsored by Peace Action Maine, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sierra Club of Maine, and others, with speakers from across the world, and attended by over 200 people from across the state of Maine, we learned some of what it will take for this miracle.

First, it means that every sector of civil society must participate. That means you and me. That means

(Continued on page 12)

local town governments. That means state governments. That means the government of every country.

We heard that Maine is far ahead with the proposal for a regional approach in addressing energy requirements. We heard from the Union of Concerned Scientists about the changes in regional average summer temperatures, and that the Northeast is experiencing rising temperatures with dramatic warming expected later this century if our heat-trapping emissions continue to increase unabated.



We learned from the Institute of Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) the insurmountable risks if we choose to build nuclear power plants rather than choosing other more environmentally-friendly choices such as solar and wind power.

We learned from Mary-Wynne Ashford, M.D., president of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) something our government should long ago have learned—that the world can no longer afford war, monetarily or environmentally, as a means to resolve conflicts.

We learned from Peace Action Maine that the cost of the war in Iraq is taking away from the priorities at home which include our ability to address our needs for renewable energy.

If we are truly “ready for a miracle,” we can begin at our own personal level of understanding. If we are in the beginning stages of our understanding, we can replace the light bulbs in our home with compact florescent bulbs. If we have been aware for a while of the need to protect our Earth from further harm, we can join the Sierra Club of Maine in their “Cool Communities” initiative, and make a personal commitment to not idle the engines in our cars. If we have been at a higher level of consciousness, we can become involved with bringing this awareness to our churches or other social organizations for the need to replace the use of paper products with cloth napkins and china which are already in our kitchens.

What we all can and must do is **contact our state legislators and ask/demand that they vote in favor of Bill 1851, which is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first U.S. multi-state cap on carbon emissions, which will require the electric power sector to decrease its emissions 10 percent below current levels by 2019.**

Our Earth is ready for this miracle. Let’s make a commitment to make this miracle a reality, and not a moment too soon.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these initiatives, please feel free to e-mail me at sally-breen@msn.com.

POSITION OPEN AT FIRST PARISH PORTLAND

First Parish is looking to fill a temporary Office Administrator position at the church during the summer. This is not a volunteer position! It is approximately 10 hours per week. This temporary position will go from June 1st through July 31st (if vacation plans deter you, we're sure to make it work!) and may be filled by one or two persons. We expect to hire a permanent person by August 1st. Please contact Sue Veligor at 772-8133 or Jeff Logan at 770-8880 if you or someone you know may be interested and/or would like more information.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY — PORTLAND, OREGON 2007**General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations**

**JUNE 20-24, 2007
PORTLAND, OREGON
CHOICES THAT MATTER**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees. GA 2007 will be held in Portland, OR. Meetings will be held in the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Portland, OR 97232.

Registration is now open. Rates increase on May 1.

Housing reservations are available now; GA contracted rates are guaranteed through May 15.

Register at: www.uua.org

AND DON'T FORGET — UU UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY 11:30 AM TO WEDNESDAY 12:30 PM

JUNE 19—20, 2007

Register at: www.uua.org/uuuniversity

**NORTHEAST
DISTRICT
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST**

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Editor: Sally A. Breen

REVISED VIEWPOINTS SCHEDULE

DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
Sept. 5, 2007	Sept. 12, 2007
Dec. 5, 2007	Dec. 12, 2007
Feb. 5, 2008	Feb. 12, 2008
April 2, 2008	April 9, 2008

We are on the web:

www.ned-uua.org

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