



Parish Messenger

JANUARY
2025

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick



SERVICES IN JANUARY

MONTHLY THEME: THE PRACTICE OF STORY

OUR MISSION
To be a spiritual community,
To welcome all,
To nurture one another,
To work for justice,
And to care for the earth.

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Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos
Minister
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January 5th – Once Upon a Time ...

Led by Rev Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol

As we begin a new calendar year, we begin a new theme of reflection--the Practice of Story. Let's start from the very beginning - Why do we tell stories? What do we tell stories about? How do they function? Whose perspective do our stories prioritize? And how might we think about story as an intentional practice we can use to shape the world we want to imagine?

January 12th - Fill in the Blank

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol and the UUCB Choir

About many things, we are ignorant (i.e., we simply don't know). Consequently, we spend a lot of time making up stories or projecting assumptions. How we do this can either be helpful or harmful to us and our relationships, and it definitely impacts our quality of life. Let's talk about the stories we are constantly telling ourselves ... and perhaps imagine a way to tell better stories.

January 19th - Storytelling is a Gift for Humanity

Led by Samaa Abdurraqib, Maine Humanities Council, Music by Will Bristol



Stories play such a significant role in our understanding of the world, our understanding of others, and even our understanding of ourselves. When we were young, many of us learned about values and interpersonal connections from stories that were read to us and that we read on our own. Eventually, we learned to create our own stories, internally – these are the stories that play in repeat in our heads, shaping our worldview and our feelings about ourselves. Focusing on our own internal stories can be a bit isolating and narrowing, and it is always a gift when we are able to use stories as a way to connect with others and grow our empathy and compassion. The question today's talk will answer is: How can storytelling revive our humanity? (see page 3 for bio)

January 26th - The Rest of the Story

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol and the UUCB Choir

Every story we hear and every story we tell comes from a particular perspective. Stories are also usually told for a reason (i.e. they are not agenda-less). Let's consider what we might gain if we engage stories (our own as well as others) seeking and being open to "the rest of the story" - the equally valid parts that may not be told? This is one strategy of storytelling for collective liberation."

Minister's Message

Here's a Story ...

Dear Ones,

If, upon reading this title (i.e. "Here's a Story ..."), you automatically began singing, "... of a lovely lady, who was bringing up three very lovely girls," then we are probably relative contemporaries in age. This theme song to the *Brady Bunch* (in case you were wondering) is among many tunes occupying brain space I would rather reclaim for more important things. However, it takes me back to a time when I looked forward to watching TV to find out what was up with the Bradys. As the child of divorced parents, I related to some of the blended family drama it showcased. Their stories raised my awareness of my own, the similarities and the differences.

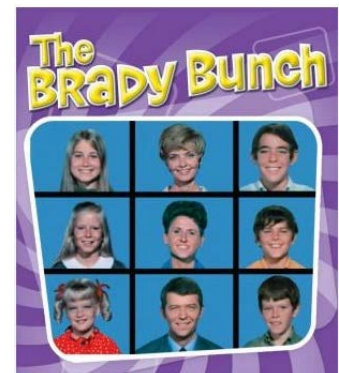


Why am I rattling on about this? Because our theme for January is the Practice of Story, and specifically how stories can help us center love in our lives. You can see from our worship schedule that we'll be approaching the practice of story from several angles. Right now, though, I offer a few questions to get you thinking into the new year:

- What's the first story you heard about yourself? Did it match your self-understanding or not?
- What's your family story? Are there thru-lines in your ancestral narratives?
- How do stories inform your ideas, feelings, convictions, and actions?
- What's the story you find yourself telling most often?
- What story do you long to tell, but haven't known how or when?
- Which stories are you drawn to? Which do you avoid? Who is being served by these choices about which stories to engage?
- What's our story, together, as a congregation? How do we tell it and for what purposes?
- What is the story we want to be telling and living into (individually and together)? What comes after, "Once upon a time in 2025, ..."?

Friends, I want to end this column and begin the year by telling you a true story, of a minister who moved to Maine a few years ago because she felt called to a special congregation in Brunswick. Not so very long ago, bad political news would make her dream of moving to Canada, which would have been easy. This year, though, she was surprised to discover that her reaction to bad political news is different. This year, she couldn't be more certain that she is in the right place with the right people to face whatever the new year brings. She is very grateful.

Blessings,
Kharma



A Note from the Music Director

Hi all,

As a self-diagnosed “Type 3” according to the book *Discover Your Spiritual Type* by Corrine Ware, I personally experience most easily spirituality in an unnamed, unworded form. No wonder I am primarily an instrumentalist. Spirituality for me usually involves experiencing music and colors simultaneously, at the expense of words. For this reason when I think about our theme of Story I am drawn to stories that I experience through music which might not have words associated with them and, paradoxically, that I experience more strongly in the narrative fashion.



Will Bristol

Music by early 20th century French composers speaks particularly to a use of synesthesia in music since their styles were often so linked to the Parnassian, Symbolist, and Impressionist movements in poetry and visual art at the time. I will therefore present several excerpts of this style of music at the piano that create particularly vivid non-verbal stories for me through their linkage to these other forms of artistic expression in January. The selections will include music of French classical composers who were particularly influenced by other artistic as well as spiritual narratives such as Debussy, Satie, Messiaen and Jehan Alain.

If you would like to contribute music that might express stories that draw you in personally, please let me know! Of course, the choir will present a variety of music that speaks to this theme, and anyone is always welcome to join the choir. And other music groups for that matter.

Now for something completely different! On the third Sunday service of the month: Sunday, January 19th it is my hope to present some drum music with several other people who would like to, as the day before will have included an African freestyle drumming workshop at the church on Saturday January 18th at 2pm. Sign up here to RSVP or alternatively send me an email at music-director@uubrunswick.org:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15YJyRniEbC4pHRnOt4hLwNDXHp76LpShwfmIAv38A6o/edit>

Other participatory music rehearsals and events happening in January include:

- **Choir practice**—every Thursday from 7-8:30pm (not starting until January 9th). Email me for a complete schedule!
- **Recorder Ensemble**—Sunday January 5th following service in the Youth Group Room
- **A Capella Group**—Sunday January 12th following service in the May Sarton Room
- **4th Sunday All-Stars Singing Group**—Sunday January 26th following service in the Youth Group Room

See you in January!

Will

From page 1

Bio

Samaa Abdurraqib currently serves as the Executive Director of the Maine Humanities Council.

Prior to working at Maine Humanities, Samaa held positions at the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, the ACLU of Maine, and was a Visiting Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies at Bowdoin College. She has served on the board of several Maine-based nonprofits, and has worked with many nonprofits and organizations as a contract consultant, a leadership coach, and a facilitator. Samaa was recently certified as a Maine Master Naturalist, which allows her to lead outdoor teaching experiences for people who want to learn about the beings (plants, insects, animals) we share this piece of land with. Samaa is also a published poet. Her most recent chapbook, *Towards a Retreat*, will be published by Diode Editions in 2025.

From the Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director (LSFD)



Toben Cooney-Callnan

Children's Spiritual Formation

Family Game Night & Potluck

Friday, January 24th
5:00-7:00 PM
Merrymeeting Bay Room

UUCB families with school age children and youth are invited to come together for a night of food and fun! Bring your favorite board game and a potluck dish to share with other UUCB families! We ask that families register for this event. Check your email for information on how to register. Feel free to email Toben if you would like more information or if you have any questions: re-director@uubrunswick.org



Adult Spiritual Formation

Meditation For Everybody

Start: Monday January 13, 2025, then every 2nd and 4th Mondays
4-5:15 PM at UUCB, 1 Middle St, Brunswick

My approach is to offer an open, silent practice that is not tied to any paradigm, leader, or religious heritage. My hope is this will allow practitioners the freedom to meditate in any way that is comfortable. I will continue to hold the space, process and structure as a teacher.

We will begin each session with a word to inform our practice and a few minutes of centering. Then we practice sitting meditation for 15/20 minutes, walking meditation for 5/10 minutes, then sitting meditation for 15/20 minutes. Brief instruction offered all throughout, so there is no need to worry about a thing.

After this silent practice we will break for tea for a few minutes, then gather again for the remainder of our 75 minutes for teaching, discussion or Q and A about practice. I will be returning to the word offered at the beginning of practice for a very brief teaching portion, leaving time for discussion.

Participants are free to leave after the silent portion, or stay for tea and learning, discussion and Q and A about

practice. We will begin at 4 and end at 5:15. We will learn and grow together as we practice as a group--all feedback welcome at any time.

Namaste, Helene McGlaufflin

Wednesday Wisdom Gatherings

Start: Wednesday January 15th then every Wednesday through March 5th
5:30-7:00 PM on Zoom

Wisdom Wednesdays are back! This time around the structure and leadership will be a little bit different. Toben will host and lead eight sessions on Zoom. Each session will center on reading poetry, short stories, or brief essays that participants select and share with the group. After the sharing of poetry, there will be space for reflection followed by an invitation to do some writing. Toben will provide writing prompts but participants will have the option to freewrite. Registration is required for participation. Email Toben no later than January 11th to register: re-director@uubrunswick.org

Chalice Circles

Start: soon – see Page 7 for more info!

From the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is so grateful and thankful to all those who worked, contributed, and shopped to make the Holiday Fair another event for the record books. Lisa Durrell and Ann Gardiner led a host of elves, volunteers, bakers, crafters, jewelers, and soup makers to make our annual event a hit with the community and beyond Brunswick. Our Holiday Fair is sought out as one of the best! This year we raised just over \$12,000 to support our budget. It wouldn't happen without so many folks participating, and we would like to say an extra thank you to Tony Sulkoski for getting things cleaned up and ready for Sunday.



We are scheduling a special meeting on February 1, 2025, with our regional UUA representative, Reverend Erica Baron. This meeting will facilitate a morning of large and small group sessions to share and get feedback on what matters to you about UUCB services and what the options for adding a second service may mean—or what not adding a second service may mean. We encourage as many people to attend as possible and plan to offer childcare for parents. Please watch for details.

Our Christmas services were spectacular this year, with two to choose from: 5:00 for families and 7:00 for the traditional service.

Our music programs and Lifelong Spiritual Formation (LSF) programs continue to grow. The choir has never had so many singers (at least not to my knowledge), and our own musicians add so much to services on a regular basis. The children fill the steps in front of the sanctuary and are so engaged it is a delight. Will and Toben bring their 'A' game every week and UUCB is so much richer for their efforts. Consider joining a Chalice Circle and enrolling your children in Our Whole Lives for more connection and growth opportunities. The LSF program can always use more volunteers.

The Board encourages folks to sign up for coffee hour set up for after service fellowship. It is not difficult, and coffee hour is a wonderful way to greet people new and old. Look for the QR Code in the announcements. Speaking of QR codes, the Communications Committee is working with staff to have a QR code to link to the weekly announcements from your mobile devices as a paper-free way to stay informed.

As we enter a new year, rest assured that whatever it may bring, UUCB will be here for community, support, and spiritual growth. We are your Welcoming Community and look forward to seeing you throughout 2025.

Curt Neufeld, Board Chair

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

You & UU EVENT COMING IN JANUARY!

On **Sunday, January 26th**, the Membership Committee will host a "You & UU" session from 11:30am- 1:30 PM in the Merrymeeting Room.

New visitors, new members of UUCB, and anyone who wants to learn more about UUCB and Unitarian Universalism at large are invited to join us for the first of a two-part series co-facilitated by Toben Cooney-Callnan and a member of the Worship Committee. This first session will give new folk a chance to get to know one another and to share where they are in their journey while also offering some information on the history of Unitarian Universalism and UUCB. Attendees will come away with a better sense of who we are and what exciting things are currently happening at UUCB. Coffee and light snacks will be served.

You & UU
Session 1



Sunday, January 26th
11:30-1:30pm
MerryMeeting Bay Room

Unitarian Universalist Church of America

Church Happenings and Announcements

HOLIDAY FAIR THANKS AND DEBRIEF



It's Time to Celebrate!

The Holiday Fair was a festive, successful event thanks to the many UUCB'ers who came together to make it happen! The Day brought in an all-time high of over \$12,100. A big thank you to everyone. Community and coffers! Hurrah!

And...It's Time to Reflect!

Via Zoom – Saturday, January 4, 10 AM – 12 PM

This meeting is mostly for co-chairs but anyone interested in reflecting on the 2024 Holiday Fair is welcome. The Fair Team has already received the Zoom link and will again just before January 4. Anyone else who is interested in attending, please contact Lisa: edurr13@aol.com to be added to the list to be notified of the Zoom link.

NEW TO UUCB OR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM? THESE ARE FOR YOU!

Newcomer's Potluck Luncheon – January 19

Newcomers are cordially invited to a potluck in honor of all recent church newcomers! Bring a dish and join us for an informal meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with others. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the very active UUCB community. Please join us after the service on January 19.



We look forward to becoming better acquainted with you. **RSVPs by January 15** to the church office at 729-8515 or administrator@uubrunswick.org. Even if you don't RSVP, you are welcome!

You and UU – January 26

On **Sunday, January 26th**, the Membership Committee will host a "You & UU" session from 11:30am- 1:30 PM in the Merrymeeting Room. See the announcement on Page 5 for more info!

WORSHIP SERVICE FOCAL POINT

Flowers? Plants? Do you have special birthdays, anniversaries, memorials or events to acknowledge with flowers or plants? Please share them with us during our service! Contact Mary Larson, larsonmbrun@gmail.com to schedule the date. Thank you!



Church Happenings and Announcements

WE NEED YOU FOR UUCB COFFEE HOUR

Many of us hope to have this social gathering weekly following our Sunday service. Two or three volunteers are needed to prepare the coffee, set up the service and then clean up afterward. An instruction manual is available in the kitchen, and we will be arranging orientation sessions to teach anyone who wants to help.

Scan the QR Code image (below) with your phone: open the camera and point it at the QR code as if you're taking a picture of it – a link will magically appear that you can click to access the online enrollment at the SignUpGenius website.

Clicking on [this link](#) will also bring you to the sign-up webpage.

Thanks from your Coffee Hour Coordinators,

Steve Martin
Mobile: 207-227-3270
Email: ssmartin10@gmail.com

Linda Mallard
Mobile: 207-729-2608
Email: lmallard1@comcast.net



SignUpGenius

Detailed instructions for enrolling are provided on the SignUpGenius website.

Volunteers do NOT need to login or create an account. Contact us if you have any questions or need assistance.

WOMEN'S POTLUCK LUNCHEON – TUESDAY JANUARY 14

On Tuesday, January 14, we will have a women's potluck luncheon at noon at the church. (Snow date is January 21.) All women are invited whether you are a member or not. Questions? Please see Gretchen Kamilewicz, Penny Elwell, or Leigh Peranteau. Please email (gkamilewicz@gmail.com) or call (833-5125) Gretchen if you plan to attend and let her know what you will be bringing. Hope to see you there.

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT UUCB

CHALICE CIRCLES: New! Groups meet twice each month, Jan through May. 1st and 3rd Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; possibly Tuesday mornings, Saturdays and Sundays. Look for registration forms in email, and Welcome Table at church. FMI: Lucy Ijams 207-406-2304 lijams@comcast.net. **Register by Sunday, January 12**

UUCB WOMEN'S GROUP: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month In the Merrymeeting Bay Room at the church 1:00-3:00pm for a discussion of a topic generated by the group. **Next meeting – Thursday, January 23**

UUCB MEN'S GROUP: Meets the second Wednesday of each month in the May Sarton Room at UUCB from 2:00-3:30pm for discussion of a topic generated by the group. **Next meeting - Wednesday, January 8.**

STORIES WITH SOUL: Is open to the Greater Brunswick community on the second & fourth Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-7:30pm in the Wendell Berry room. One short, fictional story is read followed by a lively discussion. FMI: Mike Michaud: 1michaudma4@gmail.com. **Next Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

Concerts for a Cause

The mission of **Concerts for a Cause** is to hold a series of concerts to raise money for the church and local charities while sharing a variety of quality music with the Brunswick area community. The 2024-25 season's charities will be [Brunswick Area Teen Center](#) and [Maine Family Planning](#). See the entire lineup of concerts and more details about each performer at <https://uubrunswick.org/concerts>.

Women in Harmony Concert

SATURDAY, March 15 at 7:30 PM

Women in Harmony is a Portland-based chorus of 60 women's voices, which has been singing for social justice for over 20 years. It is a diverse group of gay and straight, musically sophisticated and musically untrained women who unite in song and a spirit of fairness. Women in Harmony is dedicated both to musical excellence and social justice. This intersection of high-quality music and thoughtful social action gives them a unique niche among singing groups in Northern New England. The chorus serves the community by providing learning opportunities for women of diverse musical backgrounds, partnering regularly with other local organizations, and promoting the work of women composers and musicians. Women in Harmony sings for unity among women, advocating social, political, and economic equality for all. Their music is culturally and stylistically varied, daring, and full of life. The songs, while diverse in style, all convey the importance of connection and community.



Women in Harmony performing at UUCB in 2017

Under the direction of Dr. Catherine Beller-McKenna, Women in Harmony presents a concert of choral music that reflects its vision for the world, including songs about working to make the world a better place. Their songs convey the need for action, for honoring the earth and one another, for seeking unity among people, and helping those in need.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for students/children and will be available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com>

An Evening with Guy Davis

SATURDAY, April 12 at 7:30 PM

Guy Davis is a two-time, back-to-back Grammy nominee for Best Traditional Blues, a musician, actor, author, and songwriter. Guy uses a blend of Roots, Blues, Folk, Rock, Rap, Spoken Word, and World Music to comment on, and address, the frustrations of social injustice, touching on historical events, and common life struggles.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and \$10 for students/children and will be available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or at ticketstripe.com/guydavis.



Working for Justice

JANUARY'S CHARITY WITH SOUL: MAINE GUN SAFETY COALITION

Contact: Stephen Wood swood88@outlook.com

From Nacole Palmer, Executive Director



Reducing gun violence and saving lives

Every year, Maine families lose loved ones to gun violence. In 2022, there were 179 deaths by firearms in Maine, including suicide by firearm, which constitutes more than half of all completed suicides. And last year, communities across the state were shaken by the tragedy in Lewiston, in which 18 people were killed in a senseless act of gun violence.

The reality is that gun violence is preventable. Through our coalition's efforts, in the past year we passed three gun violence prevention bills through the Legislature, including:

- A mandatory 72-hour waiting period on gun purchases (signed by governor)
- Closing the "gun show loophole" by requiring background checks on all private sales (signed by governor)
- A ban on bump stocks that attach to semi-automatic weapons and allow them to fire similarly to an automatic weapon (vetoed by governor)

We also lobbied lawmakers to pass Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which would empower family members to go directly to a court when a loved one is in crisis and may pose a threat to themselves or others. Through due process, a judge may temporarily limit someone's access to deadly weapons. Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) have been used successfully in 21 other states to disarm people who have threatened mass shootings, including school shootings, and have been proved to reduce suicide. Multiple

people close to the Lewiston shooter filed concerns with local law enforcement – had ERPOs been in place, we could have potentially prevented the tragedy.

Lawmakers failed to act. **So this fall, we filed a petition to put an Extreme Risk Protection Order initiative on the ballot.** For the last two months, hundreds of volunteers have been collecting signatures across the state to ensure Mainers have the chance to vote on this life-saving initiative. **To learn more and get involved in the campaign, go to www.safecommunitiesmaine.org.**

Other advocacy and education

The majority of Mainers believe that gun rights come with common-sense responsibilities. At MGSC, we engage in year-long community education and advocacy to help families and communities keep themselves and their loved ones safe. Our ongoing work includes:

- Biennial Gun Give Back Day for citizens to turn in unwanted guns.
- Training pediatric healthcare providers on discussing safe storage with parents and guardians.
- Providing information on safe storage and supplying free gun locks.
- Training and advocating for candidates to support gun violence prevention.
- Recognizing individuals and organizations in this effort at our annual Fitzgerald Awards Dinner.



1 Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine DHHS, <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/11090>

2 Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Giffords Law Center, <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/extreme-risk-protection-orders/>

Working for Justice

GUN VIOLENCE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Contact: lynnsellis62@gmail.com

Update from the focus group of Gun Violence Education and Awareness:

- We are anticipating gun safety legislation in the coming months of the 132nd Maine Legislature.
- Our group participated in the Eleventh Annual Vigil for Victims of gun violence held on Dec. 14, 2024.
- Several members of the group have been collecting signatures for a ballot initiative for an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) in 2025. Lousie Gephart writes below about her experience:

“While the escalation of gun violence and mass shootings has been a long-standing concern for me, I had never taken any real action beyond writing letters to lawmakers and the occasional letter to the editor. Last year I attended a meeting of the focus group at UUCB, and realized it was time to take action. The UUCB focus group combined for this purpose with interested members of MUUSAN. It’s easier to take action with others than alone, so I headed off to Augusta with friends and made signs, lobbied, and testified with hope to increase the safety of fellow Mainers. There was some success with several bills passing. This fall, I got involved again with gathering signatures for the ERPO ballot initiative. It’s such a good feeling to know that my small effort is supporting a larger one. The community effort of UUCB and MUUSAN makes it easier and more gratifying to be active in making change.”

For more information about this group under the umbrella of Working for Justice, contact Lynn Ellis at lynnsellis62@gmail.com. There will be many ways to become involved in 2025.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Contact: Faith Barnes faithb.56@gmail.com

Mid Coast New Mainers Group

Immigrant Rights

MCNMG is working to make sure people know their rights, by translating and distributing easy to read information in several languages and offering a workshop with an immigration lawyer at the Welcome Center on Brunswick Landing in January. Date and time to be determined. The Immigrant Legal Assistance Project webinar provided some background information on their services and advised that New Mainers should continue to keep all their appointments, meet any deadlines, and that those who work with New Mainers in various ways should help them contact an appropriate immigration attorney but cautioned attendees to never give legal advice.

Drivers Needed

We continue to need drivers to assist with transporting asylum seekers to English classes, driving lessons, and medical appointments. Asylum seekers who have completed their ten hours of driving lessons need more practice to hone their driving skills. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with MCNMG, or know someone who is, please go to their [website](https://mcnmg.org) <https://mcnmg.org> and complete the volunteer application at the bottom of the first page.

MCNMG distributed some of the mittens, hats, and scarves from our **Mitten Tree** service to new Mainer families in the Brunswick/ Bath area. Thank you for your generosity in donating these items to area organizations!

Midcoast Literacy

Midcoast Literacy helps struggling readers and multilingual learners to improve their literacy skills.

Volunteer Tutors Needed

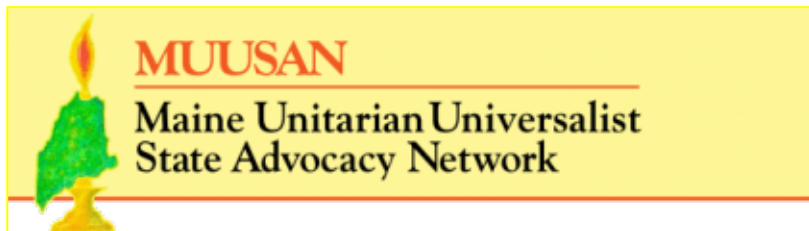
Midcoast Literacy’s *Read Together* program seeks volunteer tutors who want to work with **school-age children**. Tutoring is twice a week, year-round. 3-day tutor training January 27, 29, and 31. 9:00-1:00 each day. FMI email Katie at k.clark@midcoastliteracy.org There will be a training for volunteers who prefer to work with **adults** on February 4,5,6. 9-2 each day. FMI email Diana: als@midcoastlit.org.



Working for Justice

MUUSAN

Contact Steve Eagles: seagles4@gmail.com



Now is the time to sign up for **action alerts** from MUUSAN since the Maine legislative session has started. A handful of selected bills will be supported by MUUSAN, and you can be notified how and when you can add your voice to influence our legislators. Contact Steve Eagles: seagles4@gmail.com or Betsy Williams: bwilliams120@gmail.com to get in on the action.

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS

Contact: Cathey Cyrus: wdclark@gwi.net

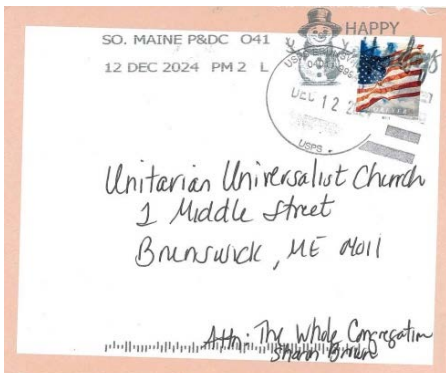
The Working for Justice focus group for Indigenous Awareness agreed on the following primary goals for this 2024-2025 church calendar year. We will:

- Continue the past year’s efforts to inform and engage the congregation to better understand and support Indigenous led efforts to have recognized and affirmed throughout the state of Maine, the Wabanaki Nations’ inherent sovereignty and right to self determination – particularly by the Maine legislature and the governor.
- Support ongoing efforts by Pejepscot Portage Mapping Project (PPMP) and Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) to raise local awareness of the untold Wabanaki stories, past and present, of this mid coast region – particularly this place we now call Brunswick.
- Reach out in partnership to Toben Cooney-Callnan, UUCB Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director to offer and engage with the congregation in Lifelong Spiritual Formation programming about Wabanaki stories and concerns, both past and present by exploring informed Native and non-Native educational resources, including Wabanaki REACH; Wabanaki Alliance; Brunswick Topsham Land Trust, First Light, and others.

If you are interested in working with us on any of these goals, please speak with Cathey Cyrus or a member of the Working for Justice Steering Group.

A THANK YOU TO UUCB FROM THE GATHERING PLACE

Here is a heartfelt thank you from the Gathering Place - Sharon Brown (Chief Elf and coordinator of the Santa Project)



To the UUC Congregation ♥

The Gathering Place would like to express their deepest gratitude for your continued support. Your generous donation of the gift cards allows TGP to make a valued impact in the lives of our guests by making their burden a little lighter. We are always humbled by your commitment and kind-heartedness each year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

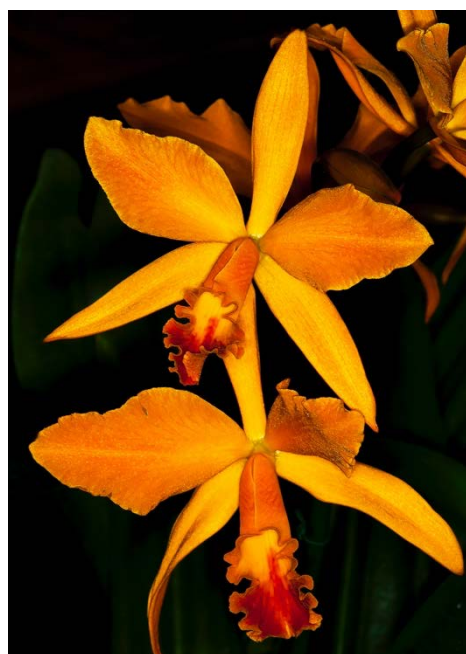
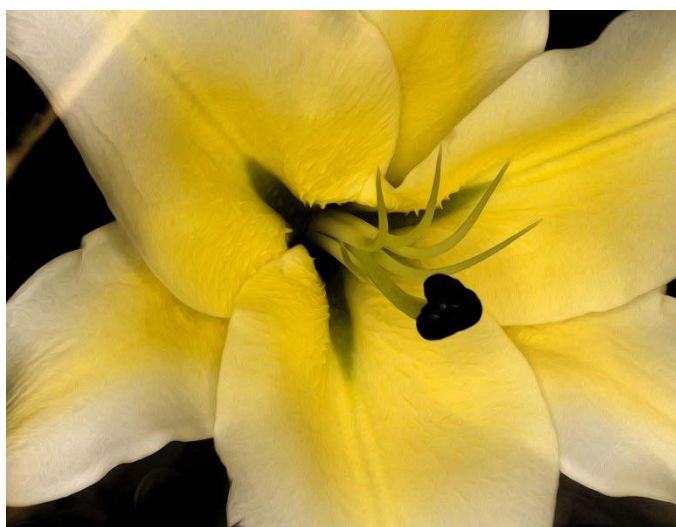
Peace, Mary, Jenny & Matt

UUCB ART GALLERY

JANUARY ART SHOW: PAUL PERANTEAU

From the often overwhelming colors of the other three seasons, we move now into January, a colorless month, if ever there was one. My selection of inkjet-printed images celebrates color both as it was delivered directly to us in the natural world as well as abstractions and subtractions from that delivery. I've included no labels or descriptions to accompany the pieces because I realized, as I hope you do too, that they would be unnecessary. I've also sought to create no barrier between the color and your eye. I hope you find time to just stare at the color and join me in the hope for its return to our daily experience as we move slowly but eventually from this light-starved month. Think of this exhibit as cheap therapy.

Images below: Artwork by Paul Peranteau



Please take some time to enjoy the artwork in Fellowship Hall. Each month the Gallery Committee installs a new exhibit. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Joanne Allen, jlaen543@gmail.com

The Parish Messenger Deadline for the February issue is Saturday, January 18th.
Please send your content to: parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org.