



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

FEBRUARY
2025



OUR MISSION

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

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos
Minister

Rev. Sylvia Stocker
Minister Emerita

Toben Cooney-Callnan
Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director

Will Bristol
Director of Music

Shirley Bernier
Office Administrator

Tony & Mary Sulkoski
Sextons

CONTACT US

www.uubrunswick.org

(mail) PO Box 129
Brunswick, ME 04011

1 Middle Street, Brunswick

(207) 729-8515

administrator@uubrunswick.org

Rev. Kharma Amos, Minister

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 10-4

Services in February

MONTHLY THEME: THE PRACTICE OF INCLUSION

February 2nd - Widening the Circle--The Practice of Inclusion Beyond Tokenism

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

Much of the discussion around Inclusion in recent years has been framed in terms of how majority groups can open themselves to "others" who don't share their demographic. This kind of "inclusion" can often look, feel, and function like tokenism, which actually gets in the way of our becoming the Beloved Community we long to be. Let's explore the practice of inclusion beyond tokenism. We will also welcome New Members to UUCB in worship today.

February 9th - Embracing the Awkward: Inclusion is Messy Business

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

Let's be honest. When it comes to inclusion, most of us are a hot mess! What's also true? There is no un-messy way to unlearn some of the biases we have inherited. Even as we are learning and developing better practices on a particular justice issue (e.g. racism), we are likely entangled in and perpetuating other -isms (e.g. classism, misogyny, agism, ableism, etc.). How might we engage rather than run away from such mess, whether we find it within our community or within ourselves?

February 16th - "Somebody Loves You"

Led by Rev. Lara Campbell, Chaplain, Maine Medical Center, Music by Will Bristol

Join us for a multigenerational service built around the story "*Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*" by Ellen Spinelli. We come together to honor and remember the power of love to change us and change the world. No one is too young, too old, too small, too big, too *anything* to be excluded from the wonderful work of love. *The Reverend Lara K-J Campbell (she/her/hers) currently serves as a chaplain at Maine Medical Center Portland. Previously, Lara was the called Minister at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Kennebunk, Maine for 9 years. She serves our larger association by being a responder for the UU Trauma Response Ministry and by leading Secondary and Elementary level Our Whole Lives trainings. Lara lives in Kennebunk, Maine with her spouse, Jay and rescue dog, Maddy J. Beagle*

February 23rd - The Inclusive Power of Poetry

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

Longfellow Days' interfaith service will explore poetry's power to open hearts and minds to our inner selves, as well as to those unlike us in some way. Poetry has historically been an art that, among other things, expands empathy, connects us with the heart of human experiences, and has the potential to build a more inclusive and just community and world.

Minister's Message

KEEP ON MARCHING, DRUMMING, SINGING, GIVING, LOVING, AND ...

Dear Ones,

I'm writing this to you on Monday, January 20th, 2025---the day we celebrate the life, wisdom, and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I just returned from the Community Sing hosted by the Brunswick Area Interfaith Council at UUCB, and I am surprised how full my heart is. Honestly, I arrived at the church feeling some kind of way about the day (i.e. it was also inauguration day). Though I didn't want to, I probably brought with me some anxiety, fear, disappointment, and snark. However, it did not take long for my heart to soften and soar in the company of two hundred or so of our friends and neighbors singing about love, peace, and justice together.

I had a similar feeling of being uplifted at the People's March (formerly Women's March) this weekend in Portland. Not having planned sufficiently ahead of time, I grabbed the "Love, Peace, Justice – Together" sign from my front yard and took it with me. (You'll see from the photo that they liked it!) For me, being at these two events to generate hope, build community, and renew our commitment to justice ... was exactly what I needed. At the same time, UUCB was all a flutter with activities many of you engaged. There was a Family Game Night, a Drumming Circle (see photo), and a Newcomer's Potluck—all opportunities for us to come together and remember we aren't alone. In our corner of the world, we are rich in the resource of supportive community, if we avail ourselves of it.

This weekend, I needed to be reminded that when things get really bananas out there, we would do well to take a deep breath, reach out for one another, and remember our simple and shared values. Dr. King was most known for the work he did with others to advance racial justice and inaugurate an era of equity for all people (still the dream). He knew that cause was not disconnected from other situations of injustice, so he made explicit connections to poverty, public services, war, etc. His insistence that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" still reminds us about the interdependent nature of the world. All of us who long for a better, more loving and just world, need one another for survival and progress. (Read that last sentence again.)

I was impressed with the intersectional nature of the speakers at the People's March. They addressed the environment, racial justice, reproductive justice, justice for Palestine, and how important it is to protect those being increasingly targeted by the incoming administration (e.g. women, BIPOC people, queer folk, people with disabilities, immigrants, the poor, etc.).

(Continued on page 3)



Above from top: Rev. Kharma at the People's March; Crowds at the People's March; At right: Drum Circle at UUCB

Minister's Message

(Continued from page 2)

It was refreshing to see efforts to center and amplify the voices of those most affected by various situations of injustice, and to hear their wisdom about what we all need to do together.

Guess what? It's not as complicated as we may think (or as we often make it). Here are some suggestions I've recently heard (and taken to heart). Put these in the category of FWIW, for when you need suggestions:

- Breathe – deeply, on purpose, and with purpose.
- Honor your body and listen to its wisdom.
- Dance, stretch, sing, move ... in whatever ways you are able.
Do it with others when you can.
- Seek balance. Forgive yourself when you're out of balance.
- Rest and receive care for yourself. Say, "No" sometimes to unlock your deeper, "Yes."
- Reach out for allies, especially those who may not be obvious.
Our struggles for justice are all connected.
- Ask for help when you need it. Srsly.
- Play hard, belly-laugh daily, make some new "laugh lines" (aka wrinkles).
- Honor what is (even if it's not what you hoped for) and feel what you feel—whatever that is. Find people who will honor it with you. Support them in their feelings.
- Practice compassion for everyone (including yourself).
- Tell people you love them, a lot (as some have encouraged, "Make it awkward.")
- Stay in touch with your passion. Let it motivate and guide you.
- Be generous. Donate to the people and organizations doing things that inspire you, especially if you aren't sure what to do.
- Volunteer your time in community. Show up to support others who are taking risks.
- If you are someone who talks a lot, try listening more, especially to those you don't often hear from; if you are reticent to speak up, risk sharing your heart and wisdom with others.
- Figure out what your role is (you can't do everything!) and do it with purpose and joy.
- Find ways to make friends with people you do not know, and who are unlike you.
Do this, even if you are an introvert.
- Add to this list – what's working for you that you'd like to share with others?

Take a deep breath now. We're in this together, friends, and isn't that good news?

Blessings,
Kharma



A Note from the Music Director

Hi all,

When was a time in your life that you didn't feel included and why? This was a question, phrased more or less in these words, that was posed—with the intention of discussing the February Soul Matters' worship theme of *inclusion*—in a worship committee meeting I was a part of recently. In the spirit of inclusion, let's all take a moment now to reflect on this, regardless of what committee you may or may not be a part of...

During this month that includes for this church a New Member Ceremony and that honors Black History, it might be pertinent to reflect on such a question throughout. At our UUCB choir practices, I endeavor, not only through the music we sing but also through the way I teach, to include multiple points of view as well as types of experiences. We are lucky enough, in this group, to have people that learn in quite a variety of ways and who like different kinds of music. This variety also ensures that, even though *you* may not gravitate towards a certain style of music, certainly *someone else* in the group will—and *you* can learn from *them*.

During worship services this month, we will hear from the choir as well as listen to piano music. We will also hear from musicians who have begun attending this church more recently. On the final Sunday of this month of February we will hear from our own Maryli Tiemann and a choir which includes our UUCB singers along with people from the greater community—including Bowdoin College. This service will honor the poetry of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and include musical arrangements by our own Stuart Gillespie. Additionally, there is a concert I will be helping to put on as a part of Brunswick Longfellow Days at Bowdoin College the night before—with similar music and some of the same singers (more info here <https://www.uubrunswick.org/longfellow-days-2025/>)

Music rehearsals this month:

Choir—every Thursday evening from 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary.

Recorder—Sunday February 2nd 11:20am-12pm in the Youth Group Room

A Cappella—Sunday February 9th 11:20am-12pm in the May Sarton Room

Fourth Sunday All-Stars (open to primarily children but also those who are children at heart)—Sunday February 23rd 11:20am-12pm in the Youth Group Room

Best, Will



From the Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director (LSFD)



Toben Cooney-Callnan

Children's Spiritual Formation

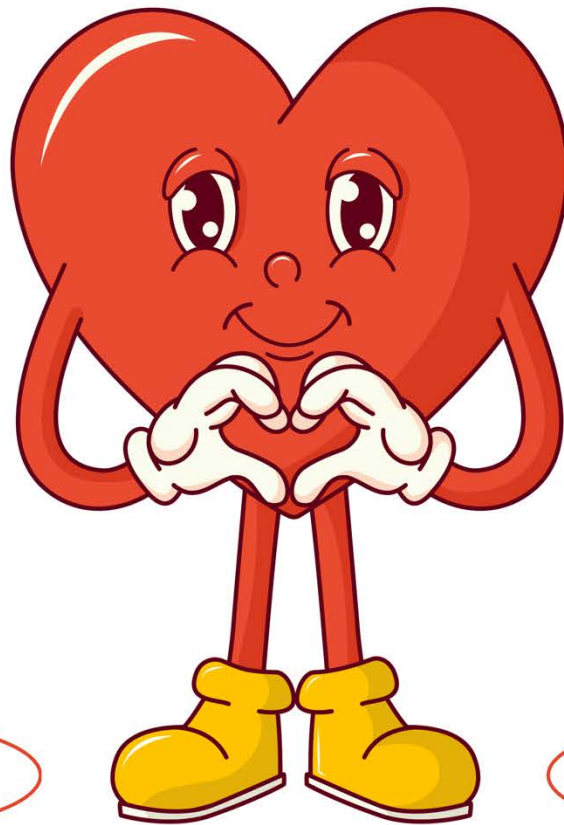
VALENTINE'S FUN NIGHT

On Valentine's Day evening, February 14th from 5-8:30 PM, the Children's Spiritual Formation program will be offering a free child care event. UUCB families with children are invited to drop their kids off for dinner, candle making, and a Valentine's Day themed movie. There is no registration required for this event but we ask that parents/caregivers sign a permission slip for this event when they drop their kids off.

VALENTINE'S

Fun Night!

A FREE SITTER SERVICE FOR UUCB FAMILIES



FEB 14TH

5-8:30PM

UUCB| MERRYMEETING BAY ROOM

CRAFTS! PIZZA!
& A VALENTINE'S DAY THEMED MOVIE

From the Board of Trustees

I hope everyone had a fun and joyful holiday season.

This January the treasurer gave us a very positive report on our financial health. The Holiday Fair was a huge success, plate collections are going very well, Charities with Soul are meeting expectations, and our balance sheet is well in the black.

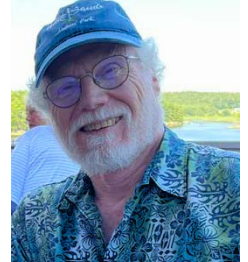
Soon we will be getting ready for our annual pledge drive and hope that contributing members and friends are generous so that we can continue all the good work this church does.

Since Covid incidents are up, the board had a discussion centered around individuals taking responsibility for themselves. We have masks available if needed.

The board is in the ongoing process of updating and adding various policies and getting policy recommendations from committees.

We now have a challenge ahead of us. The sanctuary has been filling up on Sundays, which affirms that our welcoming church appeals to a lot of people. We have nearly exceeded our space to comfortably accommodate those attending the services. As a result, the board has been learning about the options to deal with this situation. Erica Brown, who has advised other churches with growth situations, will facilitate a workshop on February 1st from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at UUCB to get the congregation's feedback. We hope you can attend. We need everyone's views and ideas. Childcare will be available. Please email administrator@uubrunswick.org to save your spot.

Mike Michaud, Board Member



Church Happenings and Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – FEB 1

What's Next for UUCB? That question is best answered together! As we discern how to best steward our congregational growth, we really want to know what you think. Make sure your perspective is included in the conversation – come to the community meeting with UUA Regional Consultant, Rev. Erica Baron. February 1, 9:00AM-12:30 PM, UUCB. Childcare available. Please email administrator@uubrunswick.org to save your spot!

WE NEED YOU FOR UUCB COFFEE HOUR



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 (at right) 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 ssmartin10@gmail.com Mobile: 207-227-3270 and Linda Mallard, lmallard1@comcast.net Mobile: 207-729-2608.

Church Happenings and Announcements

SOUP'S ON – FEBRUARY 9, 2025

The Membership Committee is planning a cozy luncheon directly following the service on February 9. We will quickly set up tables in the sanctuary and delicious soups, bread, fruit and desserts will be served in Fellowship Hall. While the sanctuary is being transformed into a dining area, coffee will be available in the Merrymeeting Room.

We look forward to having a variety of delicious soups to serve. Sign-up sheets will be at the Visitor's Table so that you can tell us what kind of special soup you will bring to share.

If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a dessert, cookies or bars.
If your last name begins with M-P, please bring sliced bread.
If your last name begins with Q-Z, please bring cut up fruits or veggies.

We are looking forward to SoUUp's On! Please join us!



Last year, lots of soup and fellowship was enjoyed at SoUUp's On

Remember to sign up at the visitor's table.

Concerts for a Cause

Women in Harmony Concert

SATURDAY, March 15 at 7:30 PM

Now, more than ever, we need groups like Women in Harmony to provide us with hope for our future. Women in Harmony, a 60-voice chorus under the direction of Dr. Catherine "Kitty" Beller-McKenna, is dedicated to musical excellence and has been singing for social justice for over 20 years. Their songs, while diverse in style, all convey the importance of connection, community and working together to make the world a better place.

Starting in February, tickets can be purchased at the ticket table in the Fellowship Hall after church services (cash or check only), or in the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/womenharmony>. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for students/children.



We also need volunteers to bring baked goods for the refreshment table. Please sign up at the ticket table or contact Sue Michaud at Michaud_susan@comcast.net

Thanks,
Concerts for a Cause Task Force

COMING THIS SPRING

All details at: <https://www.uubrunswick.org/programs/concerts-for-a-cause/upcoming/>
Saturday, April 12 – 7:30 PM An Evening with Guy Davis
Saturday, May 17 – 7:30 PM. An Evening with House of Hamill
Saturday, June 14 – 7:30-9:30 PM. An Evening with Susan Werner

Working for Justice

FEBRUARY'S CHARITY WITH SOUL: BRUNSWICK-TOPSHAM LAND TRUST

Contact: Stephen Wood swood88@outlook.com

3 Ways to Give:

From uubrunswick.org , click " Donate Online " Choose the "Plate" option	or	Text the amount of your donation to (855) 962-0440	or	Mail a check to: PO Box 129 Brunswick ME 04011 Memo Line: "plate"
--	----	--	----	--

Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) is a 1,300+ member nonprofit organization based in Brunswick, dedicated to conserving and stewarding the natural landscapes that define our region. BTLT is a nationally accredited land trust with over 3,300 acres of conserved land to date. We protect vital natural areas, support a thriving local food system, and connect people to the outdoors through inclusive education and recreation programs. By fostering resilient and connected communities, we work to ensure that the natural resources of our region are preserved for future generations of people and animals.

Our work reflects our belief that strengthening the bond between people and the natural world is essential to addressing environmental and social challenges, including climate change. We maintain public access to more than a dozen trails and open spaces, provide habitat for wildlife, and safeguard regional water quality. Agricultural programs like the Tom Settlemire Community Garden and Saturday Farmers Market at Crystal Spring Farm not only nourish our community with fresh, local food, but also serve as gathering spaces where people come together to learn and grow. Our summer nature camp and partnerships with schools, local organizations, and community groups amplify our mission, allowing us to engage people of all backgrounds and ages with the natural world.



**BRUNSWICK-TOPSHAM
LANDTRUST**



Supporting BTLT means investing in a healthier, more connected, and sustainable future. Contributions help acquire and care for critical lands, expand educational opportunities, support a thriving local food system, and address the urgent need for climate resilience. By choosing to support BTLT, you join a growing movement of individuals and families who are passionate about preserving the character and vibrancy of our region. Together, we can protect what makes our area of Maine special and ensure a thriving community for generations to come.

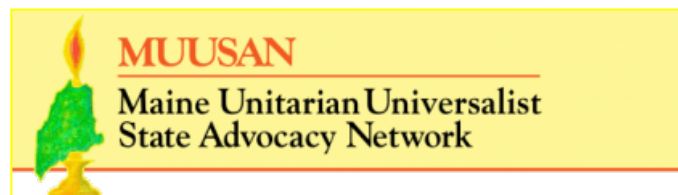
You can learn more about BTLT at www.btl.com and we encourage you to sign up for our monthly E-Newsletter at www.btl.org/e-newsletters to stay abreast of our work.

Working for Justice

MUUSAN

Contact Steve Eagles:
seagles4@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED THROUGH MUUSAN!



TAKE ACTION

You can take Action for a better Maine through your Maine Unitarian Universalist Support Action Network (MUUSAN) by signing up for Action Alerts. This statewide network of Maine UU churches keeps track of and informs YOU of the legislation which comes before the state Legislature. We can show our love for our neighbors and our world through our political choices.

BE INFORMED

By signing up to receive notice when bills of interest are printed and being considered, you can email, phone, write, or text legislators. **SIGN UP for notices through Steve Eagles (seagles4@gmail.com) or Betsy Williams (bwilliams120@gmail.com). We will often have a table after church focusing on a particular piece of legislation. Look for us.**

Save the date - Sunday, Feb 9

Do you want to put your UU faith into action? Stop by our table at the front of the sanctuary after the service on February 9th and learn how you can engage with our UU public policy advocacy network.
– Steve Eagles and Betsy Williams

BRUNSWICK AREA TEEN CENTER

Contact: Cuffy Chase cmc1322@gmail.com



After a few weeks of break, a sense of normalcy has returned to the Teen Center. A few of the kids came by during the break and planned a revision of the space available and created a new floor plan and actually moved the furniture around themselves!

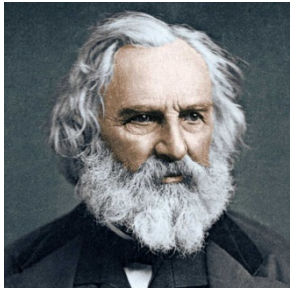
Resolutions were the theme of the day when the kids came back. Lots of ideas...it remains to be seen how well the teens pursue them.

The UUCB Teen Center support group has been in contact with Taylor to learn how best we can help him, the teens and the center itself. Seems they are in need of some hand control devices for computer/TV games so we plan to help out with that purchase.

No doubt planning for the Scoop-a-Thon is in its early stages and we hope we can convince members of the congregation to help out when that event comes to fruition in the early spring.

TEEN CENTER SNACK COLLECTION – First Sunday of the month (February collection: Sunday, 2/2)

Some snacks the teens have asked for are: fruit snacks, small bags of chips, juice boxes or pouches, cookies. Monetary donations accepted. Thank you for your support!



Longfellow Days 2025

200th Anniversary of Bowdoin's Class of 1825

Longfellow Days joins Bowdoin College in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the notable Graduating Class of 1825, a group of accomplished writers including: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Jonathan Cilley, and other statesmen, lawyers, and professionals who collectively brought the College a considerable amount of fame

Sunday, February 2, 1:00 PM ~ SUNDAY READINGS, Part One: 1825 Poets & Writers ~

Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

An homage to 19th-century poets, with three contemporary Maine writers – [Gary Lawless](#), [Kara Douglas](#) & [Linda Aldrich](#) – reading from Longfellow, Hawthorne, & Emily Dickinson, respectively, as well as sharing their own work.

Thursday, February 6, 4:30 pm ~ TALK BY NICHOLAS BASBANES

Kresge Hall at Bowdoin College

“Meeting of the Minds: Longfellow, Hawthorne, and the Productive Influence of their Artistic Wives”

The Longfellow biographer, Nicholas Basbanes (*Cross of Snow*) offers a unique historical appreciation for the importance of Longfellow’s and Hawthorne’s respective family backgrounds, education, and marriages.

Sunday, February 9, 1:00 PM ~ SUNDAY READINGS, Part Two: 1925 Poets and Writers ~

Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

Three poets of today help us look back a century, as well as sharing their own poetry. [Gibson Fay LeBlanc](#) reads Robert Frost, [Dawn Potter](#) reads Edna St. Vincent Millay, & [Mike Bove](#) reads Langston Hughes.

Tuesday, February 11, 11 am ~ EKPHRASTIC POETRY WORKSHOP by David Sloan ~

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Zuckert Seminar Room

Ekphrastic poetry is writing inspired by visual art. In this workshop, we will spend the first segment looking at examples of ekphrastic works. Then participants will have the opportunity of touring the extensive collection housed in Bowdoin’s Museum of Art and selecting one painting, sculpture, artifact or photo to begin crafting a poem. After reconvening, participants will be invited to share any fragments of writing they will have generated.

To register for this workshop, email longfellowdays@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Feb 12, 2-3 pm ~ Thornton Oaks

Thursday, Feb 13, 2:30-3:30 pm ~ Highlands

COMMUNITY POETRY/OPEN MIC

Local poets [Helene McGlauffin](#) and [David Sloan](#) share their own writing and host this informal verse-sharing session for the community. Bring your own poems or your favorites written by others. Refreshments.



Helene McGlauffin

David Sloan

Saturday, Feb 15, 11 am & 1 pm

TWO TOURS OF THE CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE

Gemma Cannon, author of *Voices of the Night*, will lead two 70-minute tours of the house, focusing on Henry’s early writing and his first wife, Mary. Each tour is limited to 15 people and Registration is Required. Email: outreach@pejepscot.org Subject: “LD Tour” Please give preferred time, registrant name(s), and a phone number.



Sunday, February 16, 1:00 PM ~ SUNDAY READINGS, Part Three:

2025 Tribute to Poets and Writers

Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

Today we remember three poets who departed in 2024: Sally Cowperthwaite reads poetry by her father [Steve Cowperthwaite](#). Georgia Nigro reads work by her late husband [Rob Farnsworth](#), and Maryli Tiemann reads poetry by [Ruth Boockey](#). Then Maryli Tiemann introduces [Nicole Chvatal](#), reading her own work.

Longfellow Days 2025

Wednesday, February 19, 1 pm ~ WINTER WISDOM WITH JAMES MCKENNA

Morrell Room, Curtis Memorial Library

My Two Grandmothers Different Poetic Tastes

James McKenna will share his personal introductions to Longfellow and Edna Saint Vincent Millay.

Friday, February 21, 7:30 pm ~ POETRY WITH TAYLOR MALI

Studzinski Hall at Bowdoin College

Taylor Mali, 1987 Bowdoin graduate and nationally recognized spoken word poet, will perform an evening of poetry with three current Bowdoin student poets – King Weatherspoon, Chayma Charifi and Kaitlin Weiss – as the opening act.

Saturday, February 22, 7:30 pm ~ TRIBUTE TO CLASS OF 1825: EVENING OF MUSIC & POETRY

Studzinski Hall at Bowdoin College

Longfellow's poetry set to music and voice, featuring compositions by Paul Sullivan, Stuart Gillespie, Ann MacDonald Diers, Jud Caswell, and Scott Woodruff. Performed by the combined Bowdoin Chamber Choir with chorus members from area community choirs. Directed by Stuart Gillespie and Will Bristol. In addition, spoken word poet, Taylor Mali will perform in tribute to the Class of 1825!



Sunday, February 23, 10:00 AM - INTERFAITH SERVICE

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle Street

The Inclusive Power of Poetry

A service led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Minister with Maryli Tiemann and music by the UUCB Choir under the direction of Will Bristol

Sunday, February 23, 1:00 PM ~SUNDAY READINGS,Part Four: Future Poets & Writers

Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

Poet [John Reinhart](#) emcees readings by three poets who were part of the Portland Poetry Slam Team: Elle MacGilvray, Yashu Derisala, & Alex Wu from Portland's [Port Veritas Slam Team](#) which is coached by former Portland Poet Laureate Maya Williams.

Tuesday, February 25, 2 pm ~ Interpreting Three Poems

Pejepscot History Center. 159 Park Row

Karin Dillman discusses three 19th- and 20th- century poems by Dickinson, Whitman, and William Carlos Williams. Refreshments will be available.

Advance Registration is Required: Email with subject "Interpreting 3 Poems" to info@pejepscotshistorical.org. Please include name(s) of registrants, and phone number for primary contact. (limit 20 participants)



Wednesday, February 26, 12 pm ~ Gallery Tours: Bowdoin College Museum of Art & Library

Tours will meet at noon in the lobby at the Art Museum

Tour Bowdoin's two special exhibitions: "Poetic Truths" at the Art Museum and "Before They Were Famous" at the Library.

Friday, February 28, 5:30 PM ~

OPEN MIC & LONGFELLOW'S 218th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle Street

Open Mic and birthday party, with host Ren Bernier, a cappella music by Bowdoin's "Longfellows", and CAKE. We encourage you to add your voice. Come share your poem or another's that you appreciate.

UUCB ART GALLERY

FEBRUARY ART SHOW: KARL SAILA

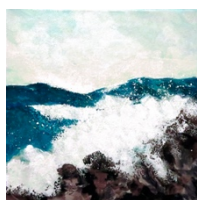
SOLITUDE

A cove of birch trees, village scenes, windswept seas and snow.

This showing is a selection of my art that provides a glimpse of my world; my home as I see it...New England. It is where I was born, raised, married, worked and retired. These works portray a town, a seacoast region and lots of trees. But if you look more closely you may discern what I feel and love about my home. Birch trees define my Finnish heritage and there is a quiet beauty in the landscapes, buildings and village activity; there is solitude but not loneliness. This is what I see and how I live.

Whether it is abstract or real, contemporary or the classics, art is in the eye of the viewer - what is pleasing to one is often different to another. It has been nearly fifty years since I started with pen & ink drawings and 30 years developing color through watercolors and acrylics. Yet I am still only beginning to achieve the flow and freeness in expression that artists must have; my technical training and background continues to anchor me. I see art as based on contrast with deep tonal values and what I see around me; I like realism. My aunt, a trained career artist, once told me that taking art lessons or artist workshops can expand my knowledge and understanding of techniques but if I have my own technique I should stick with it. She, however, didn't particularly like realism and worked more in the abstract. I was encouraged to strive for more freeness of expression, to be more like my technically trained father. But alas, I am only an engineer, he was an architect! I hope you are pleased with my work.

Images below: Artwork by Karl Saila



Please take some time to enjoy the artwork in Fellowship Hall.
Contact: Joanne Allen, jlaen543@gmail.com

The Parish Messenger Deadline for the March issue is Saturday, February 15th.
Please send your content to: parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org.