



UUFB Notes

A monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bennington, VT

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President's Letter

What a month it's been! As summer draws to a close, I'm finding myself particularly grateful for many of life's blessings.

First, thank you to everyone who helped the Montovans recover from Katie's surgery. Your delicious meals, beautiful flowers, kind thoughts, and sweet cards brightened our days and made our life easier. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a caring, awesome community. From our hearts, thank you all.

Onto some board business. We are grateful to Jim Stevenson, who has kindly served as treasurer. Per Jim's request to step aside, and following a unanimous vote by the board, Ed Connelly is stepping into the role of treasurer again. Jim, thank you for all you did while treasurer! And Ed, thank you for stepping up!

I'm looking to fill this Newsletter with some more items, including social action opportunities. Are there additional items you like to see each month in this publication? What can we add that would reflect our

September Calendar

3: Final Summer service

10: Rev. Kathy Duhon - "Welcome Home" and Water Communion Ingathering

17: Charlie Rossiter - Poetry service

24: Rev. Kathy Duhon - "Forgiveness and Peace"

October 1: Maggie Montovan - "Why are you UU?" Member Panel

***Items in bold are Services**

Due to a scheduling change needed by a group using our space, the office hours for Rev. Kathy Duhon will change to a different day. No longer on Monday afternoons, Kathy will now be available on Wednesday afternoons, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship.

vibrant community? If you have an idea you'd like to share, please reach out to me.

As the seasons change, I hope you all are enjoying our beautiful weather. I'll see you on Sunday!

Maggie Montovan
Board President

Kathy's Corner

"Live One Day"

I saw an enormous groundhog in the backyard, acting like he owned the place, (which he does); he's in some kind of a loose timeshare agreement with the deer and her fawn, although when the bear and the goats have been in that very same spot, they are only visiting. I live surrounded by both farm and wild animals, which gives me pause quite often. When is the next fox, snake or enormous turtle going to cross my path? Are the chickens and goats safe, from the wildness, and from their own rascally behavior? I'm less fearful than curious; often I just reflect.

When I surprise a hen and she scoots, I say, "Sorry, I didn't mean to ruffle your feathers" and know that phrase from the inside. So many farm aphorisms are so real to me - "don't count your chickens before they're hatched" and "clever as a fox" represent what really happens on our farm set next to the woods. So many great truths are found in religious and other stories that involve animals, and they are based in reality, but also come from a world that most folks today have little experienced. Walt Disney pioneered using animated animals to

tell us about ourselves, and he made it authentic by having animals around - literally deer in the workplace!

Imagine my shock when, leafing through a magazine at a doctor's appointment, I saw this quote, "It's better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep." Both naturalists and farmers will tell you that this aphorism isn't based in reality. Sheep have great lives, as well as challenges; lions struggle to stay alive and also have a good life. The lion isn't only a predator and the sheep isn't only prey. Both would like to live, enjoying life as themselves, just like us.

That quote was a Donald Trump tweet from Feb. 2016, and was in the magazine's section labelled "gaffes". Trump was inadvertently quoting fascist Benito Mussolini. I don't think either of them understood animals. But the worst part, of course, is that the quote trumpets behavior that is only part of the web of life: attack and dominance.

Instead, I find it great to use animal sayings that inspire and give hope. Here is what I'm thinking of today at Wild Heron Farm: "Two shakes of a lamb's tale" (the goat kids really do shake it), "Sure footed as a goat" (I wish I was), "Lionheart" (my pacemaker), "It's a dog's life" (just ask my Olivia), "When the cows come home" (they're on the next farm) and "Hen party". (The chickens have not invited me yet, but you should see what fun they have when I bring the compost.) I say 'it's better to live one day' with animals in our lives than to not be with them.

R.E. Updates

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for a wonderful evening of Spirit Play on August 7 with Sparrow Allen from the Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Upper Valley. She demonstrated some Spirit Play stories and answered lots of questions. It was a wonderful session with lots of moving stories related to our seven UU principles and the six sources. We are sending three teachers to a full Spirit Play training on September 16 in Massachusetts. We are also getting ready to start using Spirit Play in RE on September 17. We will be focusing on stories from world religions with a focus on Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Earth Centered, African, and Native American religions with some additional excursions into Confucianism, Sufi, and Tao. This winter or spring, we will try to have an adult spirit play session for anyone who missed Sparrow's presentation but would like to know more about what Spirit Play is.

We also are in the process of starting a storytellers group to experiment with different approaches to the story for all ages during the service that might do a better job of truly reaching all ages. We will be meeting in September to do a training session. If you would like to become a storyteller for the services as part of this group experiment please get in contact with Katie (kmontovan@bennington.edu). For everyone else, I hope that you enjoy the stories as we experiment with different methods to try to find an approach that will work well for our congregation. (And as with all new endeavors your patience is appreciated if things do not go as planned sometimes.) Keep an eye out in the announcements for a specific date and time when it has been set.

Our next RE meeting has been moved to the second Monday of September from 6:30-8 pm. All are welcome to join us at our meetings. If you would like to get onto the RE committee email list to receive reminders and

Water Communion is Sunday, Sep. 10th

Please remember to bring your water from your special places of significance.

notes, please contact Katie and she can add you to the list.

Dates to add to your calendar (All are welcome at any of these events):

September 11: 6:30-8 pm --- RE meeting (Note the change in date!)

September ?: time TBD --- Story Teller Meeting/Training for Story for all ages

Bennington Joins 100K

Bennington All-Genre Open Mic joins 100K Poets, Musicians and Artists for Change, an annual event that's happening all over the globe on Saturday, Sept. 30. Sign-up begins at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bennington, 108 School St. Poets, musicians, storytellers,

actors, dancers, magicians, and artists of any persuasion are invited to perform in the spirit of peace, justice and a more sustainable world. There is a 5 minute time limit, all acoustic, no plug-ins. Microphone, sound system and piano will be available. Free--donations encouraged to support future events. For more info: 708-606-4673.

Intrigue, Mystery, Poetry & the Prophets

If you always thought that the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament was filled with war and a vengeful god and restrictive laws about everything under the sun ... well you were right, but ... there is also a rich

heritage of gorgeous language describing an interesting history, as well as the birth of a world religion that continues to affect our culture and well-being to this day.

Understanding the Hebrew Bible - An Adult Religious Education class at UUFB

We will be studying some key passages from the Hebrew Bible this Fall with the Rev. Kathy Duhon, using Biblical critical methods. Classes begin on Sunday, September 24th and meet every other week until November 19th. We will gather from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Fellowship for 5 Sundays, Sep. 24th, Oct. 8th and 22nd, Nov. 5th and 19th. Please join us. Watch for coming announcements about assignments.

September 2017

- US Holidays
- Non-fellowship events
- Fellowship events

August 2017	September 2017	October 2017
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee	28 3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours	29 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up	30	31	1	2
3 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee	4 Labor Day	5 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up	6 3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours	7 3:30 PM Spirit of Bennington 6:00 PM Greater Bennington Peace and Justice Committee Meeting	8 6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity	9 9:00 AM CyclingSavvy - Truth & Techniques Bicyclist Course
10 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee	11	12 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up	13 1:00 PM QiGong (VCL workshop) 3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours 7:00 PM UUFB Board Meeting	14	15 6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity	16
17 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee	18	19 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up	20 3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours	21 3:30 PM Spirit of Bennington	22 6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity	23
24 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee 1:00 PM Understanding the Hebrew Bible	25	26 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up	27 3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours	28	29 6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity	30 5:00 PM 100K Poets, Musicians and Artists for Change