



# Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church

UU NOTES Volume XXXX

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Sanford UU Church  
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Choir Director: Charles Grindle  
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## UUA PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- \* The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- \* Justice equity, and compassion in human relations.
- \* Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- \* A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- \* The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- \* The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- \* Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

(Adopted by the 1984 and 1985 General Assemblies)



## Worship Service and Church School Every Sunday - 10:30am Child Care is Available - Everyone is welcome!

**December 6th Service** - *Dedicating Ourselves to the Light* - This service will be led by Rev. Lori Whittemore. Special music will be provided by "UU Notes" Acappella Group. You are warmly invited to remain following the service to help us decorate our Christmas tree.

**December 13th Service** - The service will be led by Rev. Beverly Brent. Special music will be provided by Violet Quinn.

**December 20th Service** - *The Morning Star* - Today is RE Sunday. Our Sunday School class will present their annual holiday pageant. The service will be led by our Directors of Religious Education, Ryan and Mesha Quinn.

**December 24th Christmas Eve Service** - This service will be held on Thursday, Christmas Eve at 6:30pm. The service will be a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with the SUUC Bell and Vocal Choir – Childcare will be provided and refreshments will be served following the service. The service will be led by Rev. Beverly Brent and Rev. Larry Greer.

# Worship Whisperings

Gate A-4

By Naomi Shihab Nye

Wandering around the Albuquerque Airport Terminal, after learning my flight had been delayed four hours, I heard an announcement: “If anyone in the vicinity of Gate A-4 understands any Arabic, please come to the gate immediately.” Well— one pauses these days. Gate A-4 was my own gate. I went there.

An older woman in full traditional Palestinian embroidered dress, just like my grandma wore, was crumpled to the floor, wailing. “Help,” said the flight agent. “Talk to her . What is her problem? We told her the flight was going to be late and she did this.”

I stooped to put my arm around the woman and spoke haltingly. “Shu-dow-a, shu-bid-uck, habibti? Stani schway, min fadlick, shu-bit-se-wee?” The minute she heard any words she knew, however poorly used, she stopped crying. She thought the flight had been cancelled entirely. She needed to be in El Paso for major medical treatment the next day. I said, “No, we’re fine, you’ll get there, just late, who is picking you up? Let’s call him.” We called her son, I spoke with him in English. I told him I would stay with his mother till we got on the plane. She talked to him. Then we called her other sons just for the fun of it. Then we called my dad and he and she spoke for a while in Arabic and found out of course they had ten shared friends. Then I thought just for the heck of it why not call some Palestinian poets I know and let them chat with her? This all took up two hours.

She was laughing a lot by then. Telling about her life, patting my knee, answering questions. She had pulled a sack of homemade mamool cookies— little powdered sugar crumbly mounds stuffed with dates and nuts— from her bag and was offering them to all the women at the gate. To my amazement, not a single traveler declined one. It was like a sacrament. The traveler from Argentina, the mom from California, the lovely woman from Laredo— we were all covered with the same powdered sugar. And smiling. There is no better cookie.

Then the airline broke out free apple juice and two little girls from our flight ran around serving it and they were covered with powdered sugar too. And I noticed my new best friend— by now we were holding hands— had a potted plant poking out of her bag, some medicinal thing, with green furry leaves. Such an old country traveling tradition. Always carry a plant. Always stay rooted to somewhere.

And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and thought, This is the world I want to live in. The shared world. Not a single person in that gate— once the crying of confusion stopped— seemed apprehensive about any other person. They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women too. This can still happen anywhere. Not everything is lost.

Submitted by Janie Waterhouse, Worship Associate

**Ringers and Singers!!** - It's that time - time to prepare music for our wonderful Christmas Eve Service. We will begin rehearsing the bells, and the choir has begun working on the vocal selections. Feel free to jump in and make a joyful noise with us. Even if you were involved last year, I'd like to hear from you concerning your availability this year. Let's make the windows rattle! In addition, do you wish you could be part of the wonderful music on Christmas Eve but you've been told you can't carry a tune in a bucket? Here's an opportunity to shine! We need someone with rhythm to join us for an anthem. We could use two people if such were available. Claves and maracas are the instruments that need people to make them sing (rhythmically). Please contact Rev. Charlie, our Choir Director. Thanks for helping us keep the beat! **Christmas Eve Ringers-** We'll rehearse on December 7, 13 and 21 from 6:00pm to 6:45pm. Please note, there will be a rehearsal on December 15 as well, but that rehearsal will begin at 6:30pm following the Church Night Potluck supper. Two pieces this year, see you then! Rev. Charlie

***Candles Lit in Memory or Honor of a Loved One***  
*Light a candle on Christmas Eve in memory or honor of a loved one.*  
*Donations are welcome.*

*In Honor/Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

*Your name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please leave your donation and information in the office or in the offertory plate.*



**Decorating our Christmas Tree**

Please join us following worship service on Sunday, December 6th, as we join together to decorate our church Christmas tree. Judi Reis and Bev Brent graciously donated the tree to the church and we are so grateful. The beautiful tree was located on Judi and Bev's property and was cut down earlier this week.

Thank you Judi and Bev!

**Refreshments for Christmas Eve Service**

Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, December 24th. Our SUUC bell and vocal choirs will perform and child care will be provided. Following the service, join us for refreshments provided by the congregation. If you are able, we ask you to kindly bring finger foods, healthy snacks, or cookie treats. Coffee and other beverages will be available. Thank you.



## **The Corner Cupboard is in Need of Volunteers to Help Out in Several Positions**

### **1-Buyers**

This team would be responsible for keeping the cupboards stocked:

- ◆ ordering online from Dollar Tree
- ◆ ordering and picking up items from Family Dollar in Waterboro
- ◆ checking AWS in Kennebunk for donations, and purchasing pet food
- ◆ checking Good Shepherd non-food items online, ordering, and arranging for pick up
- ◆ purchasing Sanford Pay as You Throw bags
- ◆ purchasing trash bags- cheapest locally
- ◆ buying diapers from Target

All purchases either use a debit card or are reimbursed .

### **2- Treasurer**

This position keeps the accounts for the Corner Cupboard, pays bills, makes deposits, and sends statements to the CC Team. Online banking is available. 3-4 hours per month

### **3- Sorting Boxes of Donations.**

This is a fun job and done when we receive donations from the Food Rescue, Hannaford, etc. Sorting out items that we distribute from those offered on the household table. As needed.

Training and support will be offered for all positions. Please call, email or see Judi if you have any interest in any of these positions. 636-1754, jcreis8@gmail.com Thanks so much.

We'd also like to thank so many from our congregation for their generous financial donations, making it possible to plan for the next several months. Thank you, Judi

### **Administrative Office**

Please note, the Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, December 14th, along with the usual Tuesday (December 15th) closing. The office will be open the remainder of the week as usual.

## Giving Greenly

At church on Sunday, we rang bells and walked together in solidarity with the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Paris now. Our thoughts and prayers are for agreement on saving our planet home from climate collapse.

This month, Sanford UU Church will get greener with a solar energy project and another project to strengthen the roof and insulate the Sanctuary.

We hope to complete this year's **Green '15 Campaign** by the end of the year to fund these projects as well as the painting of the external trim in the Spring.

Please consider a **green gift** this year. Avoid using gas on shopping or truck deliveries and contribute to a greener SUUC with a check to honor your giftees to Sanford UU Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Fund, 5 Lebanon Rd. Sanford, ME 04073. It's the perfect gift for a person who "has everything" except a healthy climate. It's the perfect gift from a giver who could use a tax deduction this year.

Thanks to so many SUUC members and friends for your green generosity.



## Music Sunday - November 29, 2015

Beautiful music was enjoyed by all on Music Sunday at the church on November 29th. Our amazing choir, under the direction of Rev. Charlie Grindle, sang beautiful songs. Charlie and Ruth Leipold provided lovely music on the piano. This special service was enjoyed by all. Rev. Charlie would like to thank all those who took part in our 'bell march' on Sunday. He hopes our sound joined with enough others to be heard in Paris. Keep the decision makers in your thoughts this week as they try to find a way to stop or reverse the damage to the climate.



## ***Rev. Sue's Incidental Inspiration***

### Laughter

What is laughter? What is laughter?  
It is God waking up! O it is God waking up!  
It is the sun poking its sweet head out  
From behind a cloud  
You have been carrying too long,  
Veiling your eyes and heart.

It is Light breaking ground for a great Structure  
That is your Real body - called Truth.

It is happiness applauding itself and then taking flight  
To embrace everyone and everything in this world.

Laughter is the polestar  
Held in the sky by our Beloved,  
Who eternally says,

"Yes, dear ones, come this way,  
Come this way towards Me and Love!

Come with your tender mouths moving  
And your beautiful tongues conducting songs  
And with your movements - your magic movements  
Of hands and feet and glands and cells - Dancing!

Know that to God's Eye,  
All movement is a Wondrous Language,  
And Music - such exquisite, wild Music!"

O what is laughter, Hafiz?  
What is this precious love and laughter  
Budding in our hearts?

It is the glorious sound  
Of a soul waking up!

~ Hafiz ~



## **Guest at Your Table**

Guest at Your Table is an annual UU tradition in which congregation members take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your 'guests' and you are asked to share your blessings with them each meal by putting your spare change in the box. Envelopes are also available if you prefer. Boxes, envelopes and information are located on a table in the parlor. All donations will be mailed to the UUSC after the holidays.

## **Church Night Potluck Dinner**

Our next Church Night Potluck will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 5:30pm, followed by a Board Meeting at 6:30pm. Join us for a delicious meal and an evening of good fellowship. Board games for your enjoyment are on the steps by Rev. Sue's office and you are welcome to bring your own if you like.

## **Room for Rent in Springvale**

Diane Whiteside-Peck's friend Monique, has a large, furnished, upstairs room for rent in her rural Springvale home. Shared bathroom, kitchen, and basement laundry. Internet and Netflix included. Monthly rent is \$550, and a background check is required. There is a dog on the premises. Monique is looking for someone who is quiet, non-drinking and non-smoking, doesn't do drugs, has no pets, and is employed. "Handyman" skills are a plus, and rent will be negotiated in exchange for such skills. Please call (207) 490-4520 to schedule an interview.



## Holiday Cheer UUCSB Fair

**Saturday, December 5th**  
**8:00am to 2:00pm**

Fine Crafts by Local Artisans

Old Country Store

Granny's Attic

Soups, Casseroles and Lots More to Eat-In or Take-Out

Sweets and Baked Goods

Plants and Books

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford is located at  
60 School Street, Saco. Please call 207-282-0062 for more information.

**Sanford UU Church will have two tables at this fair; join us for a fun filled  
morning of holiday shopping!**

### **Parking for the Church**

**MIDTOWN MALL (one block  
southeast) has plenty of free parking.**

If you need to park closer to the church:

**Lebanon Street: YES** - in front of the  
church and Goodall Hall only.

**Twombly Road: YES.**

**Sweetser Lot: NO**

**Salvation Army: NO**

(Their services are held at 10:45am)

### **Morning Coffee With Bhante Sujatha**

One day we all have to go on a journey.

Our journey is free of charge.

No need to worry about reserving your seat,

The booking has already been made.

The vehicle will not be late

It will be right on time.

All the good deeds you did are your luggage.

Humanity is your passport.

Your responsibility is to make your destination  
beautiful and peaceful.

## Board 2015-2016

President: Aileen Fortune June 30, 2017  
Vice President: Diane Whiteside-Peck June 30, 2017  
Clerk: Bruce Harrison June 30, 2016  
Financial Secretary: Janet Wood June 30, 2016  
Treasurer: Deb Folsom June 30, 2017  
Co-DREs: Mesha and Ryan Quinn  
Choir Director: Charles Grindle

### Liaisons:

Stella DiAnn June 30, 2017  
Gary Wood June 30, 2018  
Patty Kidder June 30, 2016

## Church Leadership 2015-2016

Budget and Finance Chair:  
Building and Grounds Chair: Bob McCormick  
Caring Circle: Gail Lemley Burnett  
Choir: Charles Grindle  
Church Historian: Helen Kane  
Committee on Ministry: Ryan Quinn, Gail Lemley, Rev. Sue  
Corner Cupboard Treasurer: Judi Reis  
Denominational Affairs:  
Earth Stewards Green Team: Judi Reis  
Finance Committee: Peg Sawyer, Pat Herrick, Ginny Howe, Deb Folsom, Lisa Huestis  
Grant Manager: Pat Herrick  
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco and Melody Wood  
Investment Management Committee: John Steffens, Peg Sawyer, Art Dumas, Howard Dupee, Pat Herrick, Ginny Howe  
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase  
Music Committee: Melody Wood  
Nominating Committee: Tonia Chase, Patty Kidder, Lucinda French  
Partners For Sacred Places: Lee Burnett  
Pianist: Ruth Leipold  
Religious Education Committee:  
Second Century Fund Committee: Lee Burnett  
Social Action Committee:  
Stewardship: Diane Whiteside-Peck and Patty Kidder  
UUSC:  
Webmaster: Emma Burnett  
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham  
Worship: Rev. Sue Gabrielson  
Worship Associates: Bev Brent, Judi Reis, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse, Stella DiAnn, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Evelyn LaBree, Tom Huber

### Caring Circle

Gail Lemley Burnett is in charge of our Caring Circle for providing help in case of illness, hospitalization, need for a ride to church, doctors' appointments, etc. Please call Gail at 324-1596 if you need assistance.

### Minister's Hours

Rev. Sue is currently on sabbatical, she will return January 2016.

### Administrative Office Hours

Office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 7:00-12:00  
info@sanforduuchurch.org

### Co-Directors of Religious Education

Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

## Church and Community Groups

AA Meetings: AA meetings are held every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:15pm and Fridays 6:00pm-7:00pm in vestry

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30pm following the potluck

Book Group: Next Book Group will be held on Friday, December 4th at 6:00pm in Goodall Hall

Choirs: Bell rehearsal dates December 7, 13 and 21 from 6:00pm to 6:45pm. Also meeting December 15 at 6:30 following the Church Potluck Supper. Choir rehearsal dates are December 7, 14, 21 - February 8, 15, 22 - March 7, 14, 21, 28 - April 4 at 6:45pm

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, December 12th from 8:00-noon

Committee on Ministry: TBA

Corner Cupboard Meetings: Next date the CC is open is December 19th from 10:00-2:00

Council Meeting: Next meeting will be held January 19th at 6:30pm following the potluck

Earth Stewards Green Team: Meets as needed

Finance Committee: Meetings are held the Sunday before a Board meeting

Homesteader's Group: Generally meets 6:30pm at the church or a member's home on the third Thursday of the month

Music Lessons: Private lessons are given on Mondays from 12:30-3:00 and Wednesday from 1:40-3:00 and 6:50-7:35 in the Sanctuary or Goodall Hall

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets every Wednesday in the vestry from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Second Century Building Committee: Meets as needed

UUYC (UUs of York County) Meeting: TBA

Violence No More: Every Thursday at 5:00pm in the vestry

Women's Alliance: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

Worship Associates: Sunday, December 13th at 9:00am