



# Spectacles

February 2012

## A Month of Sundays

Services Begin at 10 am

February 5 – Stan Robinson will present *“The Most Important Religious Holiday of the Year.”*

February 12 – Rev. Kent McKusick will present *“Hush, Hush, Somebody’s Callin’ My Name.”* In this service, we explore the religious influence of spirituals from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Hear special music performed by Peter Baldwin, retired UU minister and member of the Laconia congregation, and reflections on music and spirituality.

February 19 – Vince Ribas will present *“It’s all about Darwin.”*

February 26 – Joe Schmidl will lead the service. Topic to be announced.



**Don’t Miss Elisabeth von Trapp  
in Concert!**

Saturday, April 21 at 7 pm  
here at the UUCF Meetinghouse  
and in Laconia on  
Sunday, April 22 at 4 pm  
More details inside.

## The NNE District Matters!

The Unitarian Universalist Association is an association of congregations. Each June there is an annual gathering of approximately 3,000 members representing congregations from all 50 states as well as from other countries. This gathering is called General Assembly and frequently referred to as simply GA.

Regionally, there are nineteen geographic districts that comprise the UUA. Our district is the Northern New England District which includes 71 congregations in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. The district offices are located in Concord NH and serve the congregations in these three states by offering assistance on congregational issues such as long-range planning, organizational development, ministerial transitions, lay and professional leadership training, and conflict management. The services are available to congregations through ministers, church staff, and lay leadership.

Without the involvement of the NNE District and the UUA, I would not have been aware that ministerial positions were available in Laconia or Franklin or that the shared ministry between these congregations was an option to consider. Rev. Karen Brammer, the interim District Executive and Smaller Congregation and Justice Specialist was instrumental in navigating what part-time ministry for these churches can be and led both congregations in start-up workshops.

There are other direct benefits that I have experienced though our association with the district that may not be visible to members of the congregations. Most recently, I received the great honor and the pleasant surprise of a UUA grant recommended by district staff in Concord. It is a grant for ministers in their first three years of ministry serving smaller and economically challenged congregations. With these funds, I will be able to attend a weeklong conference about Universalism next summer. This benefit will impact a lifetime of ministry without using up professional expenses which, as a result, can be used for other purposes and resources. This is a significant gift for me and for both congregations.

**This district also offers two services that are not offered in any other district in the country.** Just to be absolutely clear, let me say: These services are only provided for New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine congregations.

First, there is a *“new ministers” monthly meeting* for those serving in their first five years of ministry. There is an unfortunate national trend that many ministers permanently leave this profession during the first five years. I have often described this work as “the hardest job I have ever loved.” This monthly meeting in Concord includes a wonderful group of ministers who gather in a collegial, district facilitated support group to discuss challenges in ministry; engage our personal fears, pain, and growth; laugh; occasionally cry together; provide each other pastoral care; celebrate our individual discoveries as ministers; explore personal and professional development; and deepen our own spiritual lives. It is an amazing group of ministers, and I feel blessed to spend time with this group.

*(Continued next page.)*



## NNED District continued. . . .

Second, while our religious education program is small, it is vibrant and a very important part of our ministry as we work to attract and invite the “missing” generations to join us. The NNE District is the only district in the country that employs a *director of multigenerational ministries*, and her name is Kim Paquette. I have initiated conversation with Kim on how we might engage and call more generations to our churches. She is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and eager to assist both of our congregations as multigenerational congregations. She is eager to hear from and collaborate with religious education leaders and ministers.

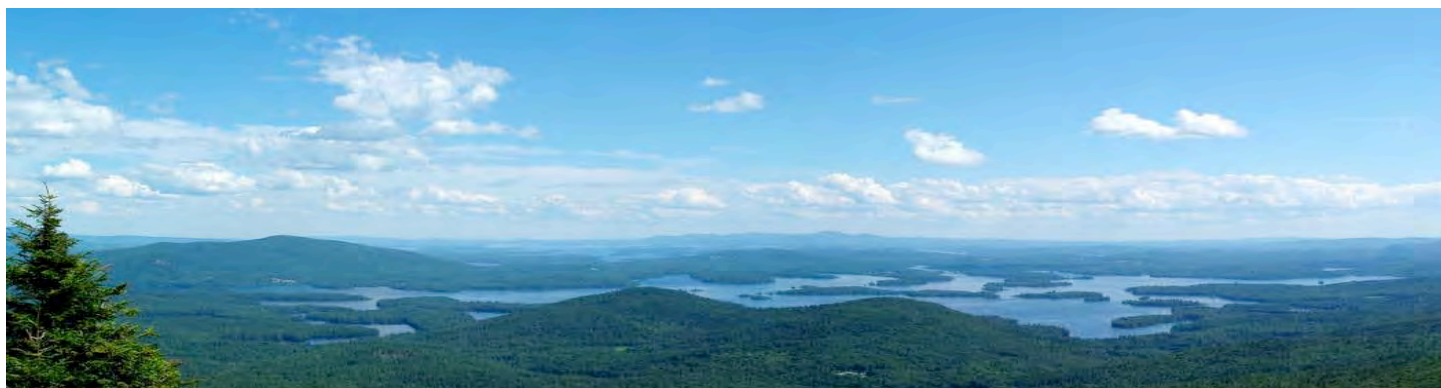


When I communicate with colleagues from other districts, they are amazed and impressed with our district’s commitment to new ministers, multigenerational ministry, and small congregations. We are truly fortunate to be part of a district that makes a difference for us.

If you are wondering how you might directly benefit from an association with the Northern New England District, please consider joining me at the annual District Assembly, our regional three-state version of the national General Assembly. It will take place from Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM through Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM in North Conway NH at the Red Jacket Inn. It is possible to attend for the day on Saturday if you prefer to not stay overnight at the inn, or with early registration, home hospitality is available. The theme this year is “Justice Making Together.” This is a fun and informative event that offers a UU exhibit hall, a congregational banner parade, mealtime fellowship with new and old friends from other congregations, a keynote address, multiple workshops, music, and worship services. Additional information on our district, the conference, costs involved, and conference registration is available at <http://nned.uua.org/>

We are part of a vibrant and supportive district! Attending this conference (or a part of the conference) is a great way to learn how the Northern New England District makes a difference in our UU ministries and congregational lives! Consider joining me at this fun and collegial event!

In faith and ministry,  
Kent





## Community Assistance Fund

Thanks to a combination of split the plate and an individual donation I was able to purchase \$50 in Hannaford cards just before the holidays and another \$200 worth this month. Since the beginning of January we have assisted 10 families by dispersing \$325 worth of Hannaford cards and one \$10 gas card.

We currently have \$27 in the account and two \$10 gas.

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation either directly to the fund or through the collection plate.



## Elisabeth von Trapp ~ SAVE THE DATE!

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia have joined forces to bring Elisabeth von Trapp to each of our meetinghouses to present concerts. Elisabeth, the granddaughter of Maria and Baron von Trapp, will perform in Franklin on Saturday April 21, 2012 at 7 PM and in Laconia on Sunday April 22, 2012 at 4 PM.

Elisabeth has performed across the United States, Austria, and Russia. The Boston Globe has reported, "before the concert is over, she will have the crowd gasping with the sheer beauty of her voice."

It sounds like a concert that you won't want to miss, but your assistance is requested. On the afternoon of the show, a couple of men are needed to help unload the sound system. For the evening, people will be needed to act as hosts and hostesses, and parking assistants will be a necessity. Lastly, we hope that everyone will attend and bring their friends, family, and neighbors.

So, mark your calendars and prepare yourselves for what should be an evening of beautiful music!

## Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds committee is starting up again. Beginning in March it will meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Joe Schmidl if you would like to help out.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am - Worship	30 4pm - Bread&Roses	31	1	2 Groundhog Day 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Bread&Roses	3 7pm - NA @ Parlor	4
5 10am - Worship	6 4pm - Bread&Roses	7 6:30pm - Parish	8	9 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Bread&Roses	10 7pm - NA @ Parlor	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday 10am - Worship	13 4pm - Bread&Roses	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Bread&Roses 6:30pm - Worship	17 7pm - NA @ Parlor	18 8am - Post Card
19 10am - Worship 11:30am - Soup and	20 Presidents Day 4pm - Bread&Roses	21	22	23 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Bread&Roses	24 7pm - NA @ Parlor	25
26 10am - Worship	27 4pm - Bread&Roses	28	29	1 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Bread&Roses	2 7pm - NA @ Parlor	3

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## Flowers for the Altar

A floral arrangement, bouquet or a flowering plant on the altar adds extra beauty to the Sunday service. The Music and Worship Committee would like to revive a meaningful tradition and so invites you to commemorate a special day in your life with flowers. Sign up on the sheet near the coffee table at least one month prior to the date. On the chosen day, bring in your flowers and place them on the altar for that morning's service. Your tribute will be printed under the announcements section of that Sunday's order of service.

