

Hot Topics for Congregations
FEBRUARY 2, 2008 No snow date!
MANAGING DIFFERENCES

Take home ideas and techniques. Learn how to see the range of positives. Share your stories with others who have similar roles in their congregations, such as ministers, religious educators, musicians, ministerial associates, congregational leaders, or interest in social action, finances, congregational growth. Nourish body and spirit by spending a day in the company of other UUs.

Registration and refreshments at 8:30 am
Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, 15 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, Maine
Directions at <http://www.uubrunswick.org>

Facilitators: *Rev. Mary Higgins, Rev. Karen Brammer, Helen Crane Wing* (see next page)

PROGRAM

9:00 am Worship *Rev. Sylvia Stocker*, Brunswick (Congregations are invited to light candles of celebration or concern.)
10:15 Polarity Management (see next page)
12:15 pm Lunch
1:15 Nonviolent Communication (see next page)
3:30 Closing Ritual

There will be a concurrent program for children age 12 years and under.

Questions? Contact: Helen Zidowecki, NED Program Committee, 207-582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com or Joy Blanchette, District Office, 603-228-8704, uua-me.nh.vt@comcast.net

=====Detach and Mail to District Office.=====

REGISTRATION through January 20 is \$18; after January 20, \$20. Children under 12 free.
Register early! Space is limited to 80 participants. No "walk-ins"!
Make checks payable to NED UUA
Register on line with a credit card (small fee) at www.nhvt.uua.org OR
MAIL to **UU District Office, 10 Ferry Street, Concord, NH 03301**

Name _____ Congregation _____

Please give contact information that can be added to the Participant List for the conference:

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

If children are accompanying you, please give names and ages.

Special considerations, such as mobility and other needs:

Dietary: vegetarian___ vegan___ other _____

Do you need HOME HOSPITALITY? _____

Considerations, such as smoking or pets.

Suggested donation for Home Hospitality (range \$15-35) to be arranged with hosts.

Polarity Management is a process to help congregations manage the differences that exist between their members in a way where the participants can hear each other; see the value in the other's position; and not set their congregation on a path where winning and losing are the goals. We will learn the theory and practice using it in groups of people working on similar issues in their congregations. Join us and grow together in the ways of deep listening; reframing; managing the differences that we as UUs invite and having significant conversation with others in our district who share our roles or concerns."

Rev. Mary Higgins is the District Executive for serving Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. She is an ordained parish minister, a former Director of Religious Education, and was the District Executive in Florida for ten years before relocating to the Northeast in the summer of 2006.

Rev. Karen Brammer is district staff serving as the Small Church Specialist for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Prior to this she was the settled minister at the UU Church of Saco Biddeford, Maine.

Nonviolent Communication, a model developed by Marshall Rosenberg, is an approach to communication based on the human needs and feelings that underlie our behavior. Rosenberg's work began during the 1960s civil rights era, and seeks to teach a means of developing empathy as a basis for communication rather than the models of blame and judgment we have all learned so well. There will be a brief overview of Nonviolent Communication, with an opportunity for some beginning experimentation with the model. This model is sometimes referred to as "compassionate communication" as it seeks to enable people to connect with the needs in themselves and others in order to inspire a compassionate response.

Helen Crane Wing worked for 20 years as a Psychiatric Occupational Therapist and has been involved in the behavioral health field in a variety of capacities, including training of residential care personnel. She has been Adjunct Faculty at the University of Maine at Augusta since 1987, teaching courses in Therapeutic Activities and Women's Studies. For the last couple of years she has been a student of Nonviolent Communication. She currently is active in a Nonviolent Communication Study Group in Augusta and is willing to organize trainings in the Augusta area.