

The Messenger

March 2022 Volume 30 Issue 3

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

<http://www.kuuc.org> office@kuuc.org (603) 352-1719



Contents

- 1 Worship Calendar
- 2 KUUC Mission & UU Beliefs
- 3 President's Message
- 3-5 Sharing Ministry & Minister's Schedule
- 5-6 Stewardship Campaign
- 6-7 RE News
- 7-8 Music Notes
- 8 Testimonials
- 8-9 Historic Highlight
- 9-12 Other News, Events & Updates
- 12-14 General Info

Sunday Services are presented in a dual-platform both in-person (for those providing proof of full vaccination) and via live-stream on our YouTube channel.

WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2022

[The Soul Matters monthly theme is "Renewing Faith." Ask yourself: What can I do to invest in my faith? Over the time I have been a Unitarian Universalist, has my faith restored me? Has it helped me in times of heartbreak, confusion or loneliness? Has living the principles, doing community service or mission-based work made you grow and change for the better?]

March 6th: "Just Going to Let It All Go" (Rev. Michael F. Hall)

In a very real sense, the Lenten season that many of our Christian neighbors have recently entered into, is about letting go, stripping down and getting to what is essential and important about the journey toward truth, meaning and fulfillment. Join us as we explore this truth about the spiritual journey---you are better off unpacking than packing for it.

March 13th: "If Every Woman in the World" (Rev. Michael)

There is a song in the teal hymnal about how peace can become our reality, beginning with the conscious effort of women and then other groups (men, leaders, nations, etc.). Though it is hard to conceive of world peace when it seems we are never free from war, it isn't hard to imagine women leading the way there.

March 20th: "TBA" (MOOP Sunday)

The Worship Committee is keeping plans for this MOOP (Michael Out Of the Pulpit) service under wraps---at least for now. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

March 27th: "Spring's Awakening" (Rev. Michael)

It's spring, it's spring we are one week in! The green is coming, the days getting longer, the weary world is coming to life! What will come next? Where will we go? What can we do to bring climate justice to the Earth and her people? Come with your ideas. Come to celebrate and to dream.



KUUC Mission Statement

The people of KUUC are committed to actively creating compassionate community and working for a fair and peaceful world.

THE SEVEN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES

Our Seven UU Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a covenant made between our Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. Many of our members use “The Principles” as a guide for how they choose to live their faith at home and in their communities.

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part

THE SIX SOURCES OF OUR LIVING TRADITION

As religious pluralists we draw upon multiple sources of inspiration in worship and daily life including:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;

Words and deeds of prophetic people, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

P.2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MARCH 2022

Upon learning of Jill Hall's decision to move on from the Director of Religious Exploration position in June, the Trustees are unanimous in our appreciation for all Jill has done over the last eight years. Jill has shared her stories and her organizational talents. She was a key person in changing to exploration, emphasizing a more interconnected and accepting concept of learning.

Jill will be missed in the Director of RE role, but she plans to use her last few months to help us transition the RE program to new leadership. Hopefully, we can build on Jill's work to grow the RE program going forward. We expect Jill will still be part of our congregation.

We understand that our congregational demographic is evolving. The Trustees and Staff are working to offer worship and programs that are relevant as we change.



SHARING MINISTRY MARCH 2022

"We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

So here is what I am thinking about, watching the tanks roll into Ukraine, and the Russian missiles firing into residential neighborhoods and public buildings. When I look at the resistance put up by ordinary people: I see youths and grandparents, waitstaff and city planners, students and teachers, carpenters, cops and sanitary workers --no doubt with support and some training by Ukraine soldiers or ex-military. Ultimately, what I see is sobering and hopeful. On the one hand, I don't think that violence in service of hatred, injustice and empire are going away anytime soon; yet, on the other, I am quite certain that love, faith courage and common cause are alive and not willingly giving any up ground.

It is a very easy thing, to lose faith; you simply ignore it, or label it foolish and unprofitable, and chase after other things: power, comfort, money, etc. It is also no great transition to make, to do as so many people and nations alike do, and take all of this incredible technology at our disposal---born over centuries of dreaming, trying, testing and creative collaboration---and use it to sow hatred and reap injustice.

Like faith, all of this knowledge, these advancements and wonders of technology give us a choice: we can save lives or take them; we can bring shoots and grasses to barren places, or defoliate the remaining wilderness; we can find a way to “back to Eden,” **P. 3**

through renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions or we can heat the ice caps and slowly but surely kill the reefs and rivers, oceans and seas. We can make whole the world as one creative community, devoted to loving kindness and universal generosity. We can invest in the future: support family farms and their sunflower patches, neighborhoods and their schoolchildren, the remnants of ancient civilizations and their sacred sites or we can choose to be intimidated by (or collaborate with) bullies, avert our eyes and change the station...

May the people of Ukraine and the soldiers of Russia find a safe and faithful way out of this situation, that has put each in harm's way. May they find a creative context in which to allow peace in, to promote their common welfare, celebrate their shared humanity and find a way home. Amen.

In other news, I want to thank our DRE, Jill M. Hall for eight years of exceptional service in a variety of roles. While it is difficult to accept Jill's resignation, it would be wrongheaded to do anything other than thank her for her talent, service, and many quality programs that she has run or planned for learners of all ages here at KUUC. Her stories at worship, which have always been top notch, have, in recent years, become transcendent. In fact, she has excelled in all tasks that she has taken on. And, given her talent for learning as well as teaching, some of those tasks, such as helping to make a smooth transition to Zoom worship in the summer of 2020, or her recent work learning and performing several of the tasks that have belonged to the Office Manager, were not in her job description.

Perhaps you don't know that Jill, who had admirably served as the DRE at our congregation in Cohasset, MA prior to moving here, didn't apply for the position of DRE---ever. She was on the RE Committee, chaired it for a time, and when Murray had to give the position up, Jill was chosen to chair the DRE Search Committee. Her goal was to get the best DRE. Given our circumstances: few hours, low pay scale and the likelihood that the new DRE would need to either relocate or travel to and from Keene it looked to be a difficult position to fill. However, when the only two candidates to apply pulled out of the running, we turned to Jill, and yes, we got the best possible DRE for our children and community!

Please, as we are getting closer to a more active church life again, let me or Carl or any member of the Board of Trustees know what programs or activities you want to bring back to calendar or to launch for the first time, (see the last page of this *Messenger* for

contact information). **You are needed** so much in planning this relaunch and in the coming church year which we all hope will be full of joy, learning and service!

P. 4

Yours in Faithful Service,

P. 5

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for March 2022:

VISITATION DAYS: Wednesday mornings & Thursday afternoons

AT NNE MINISTER'S RETREAT & ANNUAL MEETING: Friday, March 18th – Sunday, March 20th

REGULAR STUDY & PLANNING DAYS: Tuesdays

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 10 AM-1 PM, or by appt. Call (508) 821-6092

OFF DAYS: Saturdays

WRITING DAY: Fridays

2022-2023 Stewardship Campaign

Once again, KUUC's annual Stewardship Campaign, in which members and friends pledge contributions for the upcoming church year, is in March. Sadly, due to COVID - 19 numbers being high (although improving!) worship services are still masked and distanced, and we are still unable to safely enjoy coffee hour. However, there is good reason to believe that these restrictions will not last much longer.

Stewardship means taking care of something that one does not own. Yet, in a sense, we are all "owners," a position that we share with past generations of KUUC members and friends and a position we aspire to share with future generations of members and friends.

KUUC needs your financial support to fund our staff, property, and programs. What we can accomplish together will depend largely on our budget, which in turn largely depends on Stewardship pledges. Although not everyone is in a position to make a sizable pledge, smaller pledges add up, and, more importantly, give us all an opportunity to show how much KUUC and Unitarian Universalism matter. Let's all do our part (time, talent, *and* treasure) to both celebrate and build from the full reunion that is likely to be possible later this year!

You should receive a mailed packet including a brochure and pledge form in early March. Please make as generous as possible a pledge as you can, by the end of March, when our campaign ends. If you do not receive a packet, please contact John Walter at jnwalterjr@gmail.com.

With gratitude,

P.6

The Stewardship Committee

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

RE News

After eight years as KUUC's Director of Religious Exploration, the time has come for me to explore other interests and opportunities. I will continue to serve as DRE, to tell stories during worship, to devise and lead RE Outdoors activities, and to help prepare for post-pandemic programs, through the end of this church year (June 30). After the summer, I will continue to participate in the life of the congregation through attending worship and potlucks and fundraisers and other activities and events (I hope! we all hope!) when covid has become less of an overwhelming presence in our lives.

These eight years have been extremely rewarding for me. I have learned and grown and developed skills and talents I didn't know I had. Coming to this decision has not been quick or easy. I will miss many things about serving you in this role, not least of which is working with Rev. Michael, Donna, Dave, Carl, and the rest of the team in creating the quality worship KUUC is accustomed to.

There will be plenty of time to reflect on our shared work in the coming months, and plenty of opportunity for willing hands to step forward to help plan what is next for Religious Exploration at KUUC. Please consider whether you feel a call to participate in this effort, and if so, in what way.

RE Outdoors

Let's visit a sugar house! At our last outdoors excursion, an extremely slippery hike around the Robinhood reservoir, participants talked about maple sugaring, and wanting to learn more about it. This is the right time of year, and the right part of the world, so let's do some learning together!

Saturday, March 5: Time and location TBD. I've noticed that both NH and VT have "Maple Sugaring Weekends" planned for late March, but I've also noticed that maple

sugaring in this area has been going on for at least a week as of this writing. Stuart & John's in Walpole, NH invite the public to tour their sugar house: "if you see steam, come by for a tour" says their website. Fingers crossed they're still boiling March 5. If you're interested in joining, let me know what time of day is best for you and I'll try to make it work for the greatest number.

These outdoor events have been a valuable opportunity for community, and my plan is to continue to hold one per month through June, even if we are able to add an indoor activity as well.

I look forward to seeing you!

If you'd like more information or have suggestions or ideas, please contact me at kuucdre@gmail.com

Our Whole Lives

This dauntless group is reaching the home stretch.

The O.W.L. group will meet in the Alliance Room from

2:30 – 4:30pm on

Sunday, March 6

Sunday, March 13

Sunday, March 20 and

Sunday, March 27

And then they're done! Fingers crossed for calm weather and no contagion through this month!

Send me an email at kuucdre@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Jill

MARCH MUSIC MESSAGE 2022

Today the snow was melting and it was a balmy 50 degrees outside. Now I'm listening to a weather forecast predicting 8"-12" arriving in a day...I love living in New Hampshire!

I continue to be grateful for all the musicians who make beautiful music with me for our services every week. Your dedication is so appreciated.

I will be taking off two weeks in March, 3/13 and 3/20. I'll be heading south for some warmer weather with my 2 daughters, Amy and Megan, their partners, and Emily my granddaughter.

Betty Forrest has generously donated her time to sub for me for the two weeks I'll be gone.

Thank you so much Betty!

Peace,

Donna

P.7

P. 8

OTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT JILL:

From longtime RE Teacher and Committee Member Deborah Dunnell: It has been my great pleasure and privilege to work alongside Jill Hall for the last eight years. During that time, she and I both served on the Religious Exploration Committee, and spent many hours together in the RE classrooms, preparing lessons and developing new curriculum. She has been an invaluable advisor to me in our Block Program, always supportive and ready to provide inspiration and advice, not to mention frequently taking on the role of Block Room assistant.

Jill has seen the RE program itself through many changes, including moving into and out of various spaces, and adapting our offerings to suit changing groups of children and youth. She has worked tirelessly to make sure that OWL is available not only to our children, but to those in the wider community as well. The entire KUUC family has been incredibly lucky to have Jill as a leader, a storyteller, a teacher, and a friend. Although she will still be around KUUC, we will all greatly miss having her as our DRE.

KUUC Trustee Tina Stevens, a former RE Committee Member, shared her gratitude for Jill's, "tireless work during the pandemic in getting out lessons, activities and the like to parents to share religious exploration topics at home. She has added so much to our weekly services with her "Time for all ages" stories...She deserves much recognition!"

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 2022

When the church began worship services in January of 1895, the east end of the sanctuary behind the altar had a window that matched the current west end of the sanctuary. As parishioners adjusted to their new space, the consensus was too much light poured into the sanctuary. According to Jim Smart's *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people*, shades were installed on the dormer windows and the large east and west windows, supervised by Emily Coolidge.

By May of 1895 the board of Trustees voted to confer with the architect, Edwin James Lewis. Jim notes, it was likely Mr. Lewis suggested a “founders’ window” of stained glass in remembrance of the seventy-one souls who had founded the church in 1824. William H. Elliot was appointed “to confer with the descendants of the founders.” However, “tracing all the descendants of the founders was no easy job and likely Elliot got bogged down in it. Nothing was done.” (p. 99)

By June of 1900, Mary B. Dinsmoor, our heroine of last month’s column, wrote a letter of formal application to the Board of Trustees for permission to install “the memorial window.” She noted, “If the plan is carried out, the proposed window will be of P. 9 appropriate design, already approved by Mrs. Faulkner and my sister and will be made by the distinguished firm of Tiffany & Co., New York.” (p. 100) The Board quickly assented “with the thanks of the Trustees to Miss Dinsmoor.” Mary was to have the help of her sister Helen and friend Caroline Handerson Faulkner to see this project through to completion over the next five years.

By Eloise Clark



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Fasting

March 1, 2022

Our fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30. We are now meeting in-person in the Alliance Room with the option to participate via ZOOM. For March we will explore the ancient spiritual practice of fasting and talk about what it meant to Christians and Jews in ancient times and how people today can find meaning in it. This group is for anyone inspired by the teachings of Jesus or who identifies with aspects of Christianity and would like to share their experiences, feelings

and insights in a supportive environment, and support one another's spiritual growth and understanding. This group is open and inclusive, guided by our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle (a free and responsible search for truth and meaning") and free of the doctrine or dogma that has often characterized traditional institutional Christianity.

For information and Zoom meeting details, contact Carol at 603-863-4920/ 603-398-5389 or cstamatakis@outlook.com.

KUUC Ferry Beach Get-A-Way Weekend:

Friday, 5/6/22, Sat., 5/7/22, Sunday, 5/8/22

The KUUC Ferry Beach Group is excited that we will once again be having our annual Ferry Beach Get-A-Way May weekend! Ferry Beach is a Conference Center on Saco Bay in Maine. Unfortunately, the Bedford, MA UU Church has decided not to come this year. We are looking at rooms in Rowland Hall, Cross Cabin and Metz Village Cabins.

Jim and Carol have spent many days at Ferry Beach over the last two years and found that they "did Covid" well. Masks are required and the Beach paid attention to keeping us safe with social distancing, flow of lines and continual cleaning. We are asking for proof of vaccinations or a negative Covid test prior to arrival.

Our weekend is a wonderful intergenerational gathering. Imagine long walks on the beach, conversations in rocking chairs on the porch, playing board games, singing, joining various activities or just solitary time. The accommodations are rustic, but the setting is majestic.

We still have space in Rowland Hall and one Metz Cabin. The Cross Cabin is full.

Costs:

Lodging: (pricing includes 2 nights)

Rowland = \$160/room (sleeps 1-4 people, two sets of bunk beds), (New, two rooms each have a queen bed.)

Metz Cabin = \$280/ cabin (living space with full pull out couch, second room with full bed, private bathroom)

Group Membership Fee = \$8/person

Meals: provided by FBPA cook in the DeWolfe Dining Hall, no outside food allowed in Dining Hall 4 meals: Sat. breakfast, lunch, dinner & Sun. breakfast.

Adult = \$60 (13 yr. +)

Child = \$40 (8 - 12 years)

Registration and \$100.00 deposit are due March 1, 2022

Full payment is due April 1, 2022.

P. 10

For further information contact Jim Peale or Carol McIntyre-Peale 357-7875, at pealefamily@gmail.com, or 67 Old Homestead Hwy. North Swanzey, NH 03431.

Church Postcards: A Spring Greens Sale Fund Raiser

P. 11

Background: Dan Dagenais, a former student of Jim Smart's, has a hobby of taking photos of historic buildings and places and turning them into postcards. He took some of our church and sent them to Jim. Jim thought instead of having a table of Palestinian items for the December Greens Sale he would he would sell two of Danny's postcards as a fundraiser instead. Complications arose. (Don't they always?) Final details not ironed out till the big Greens sale was over. Poor Jim. Poor Greens Sale. Poor Church.

Eleanore to the Rescue: Eleanore, Jim's quick-thinking wife, said, well, why not have a mini greens sale in the Spring when nature is getting green again? And you can sell your postcards of the church then as your contribution to the normal fundraiser. Jim thought this was a great idea. Now he had time to work out all the kinks and he could offer potential buyers (esp. church members, hint, hint) a completely kink-free product. Jim knew everyone would be happy with that.

"Golden" Opportunities: The very first golden opportunity for church members to buy these artistic postcards will occur after church on March, 6 which is coming up **real** soon. The postcards, pictured above, can be bought for only **50 cents apiece** or **three for one dollar**.

Et cetera: The frontal view of the church on the church's web site is the best frontal view. Danny took a frontal photo of the church but it is marred by the inclusion of a large electric cable. The photos captured here present an informal and a bit cozier view of our church, and that's why I chose them. Danny also contributed to the printing cost. All proceeds go directly to the church.

–Jim Smart.

LOOKING FOR CONTENT FOR THE NEW "MAY FLOWER"

Deadline for New Fundraiser Booklet is April 10th

Booklets will be available on May 1st to coincide with May Day Celebration

Reading Eloise's "Historic Highlights" last month gave me an idea: let's create our own version of the "May Flower," a publication from our past that was often used to raise funds for worthy projects. Wouldn't it be fun to gather together a little book of poems, short reflections and pictures drawn by the talented adults and children of KUUC? We could then sell it as a fundraiser for a local service organization that could use our support, or a part of our own shared ministry that needs some love.

P. 12

Here are the parameters:

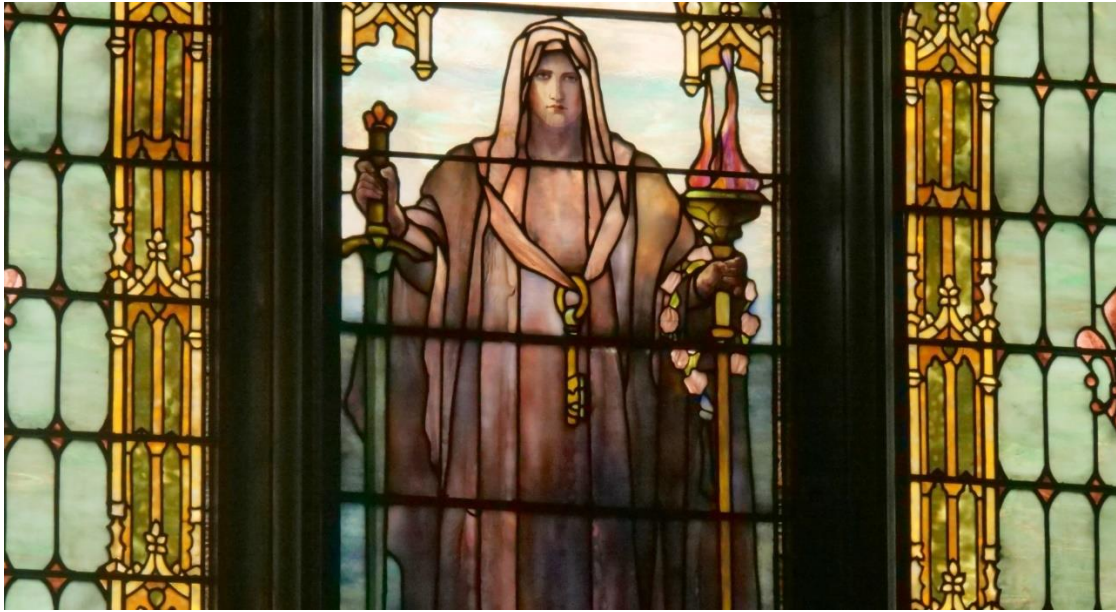
Submit, or have your child submit, no more than two entries from one or more of the abovementioned categories to Rev. Michael rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com and if we get enough entries sent in by April 10th we will produce the long delayed "May Flower" by May Day! We can do this! You know we can.



GENERAL INFORMATION

APRIL MESSENGER DEADLINE

The **deadline** for the APRIL *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Wednesday, March 23rd. The due date for *Messenger* submissions will be on the 23rd of the month prior to their issue (the only exceptions will be for the January issue---deadline December 15th---and the fact that there is no July *Messenger*). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com



COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
Covenant Duos:	Deb McLay
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Middle East Study Group:	Jim Smart
Membership:	Deb McLay
Music:	Open
Personnel:	Open
Religious Exploration:	Barbara Bryce
Senior Lunch Bunch:	Betty Forrest
Shawls of Love:	Darcy Doyle
Slice of Fellowship:	Betty Forrest
Social Action/Green Sanctuary:	Open
Stewardship:	John Walter
Ushers:	Tom Haynes
Wayside Pulpit:	Lindsay Bartlett
Worship:	Gwyn Powers
Property:	Carl Jacobs
Fundraising:	Open

Greens Sale:

Open

Welcoming Congregation:

Open

P. 13



KUUC CONTACT LIST 2021-22

WORSHIP SERVICES

STAFF

Sunday Services: 10:00 A.M. **Minister:** Rev. Michael Hall
Religious Exploration: 10:00 A.M. rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com
September-June (508) 821-6092
Summer Services 10:00 A.M. **Director, Religious Exploration:** Jill M. Hall
Address: 69 Washington Street kuucdre@gmail.com
Keene, NH 03431
Music Director: Donna Dearth
Phone: (603) 352-1719 rdearth@hotmail.com
E-mail: office@kuuc.org
Office Manager: Vacant
Website: www.kuuc.org <mailto:office@kuuc.org> 352-1719
Facebook: Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

Carl Jacobs, President	831-1409	Eloise Clark	352-9182
carljac21@gmail.com		clarktreat@myfairpoint.net	
Susie Ericson-West, President-Elect	313-9013	Tom Haynes	357-7645
swest.keene@gmail.com		piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com	
Jim Peale, President-Past	357-7875	David Robinson	355-7812
pealefamily@gmail.com		davide.1945@hotmail.com	
John Walter, Treasurer	358-3101	Tina Stevens	209-6268
jnwalterjr@gmail.com		tinaleone127@gmail.com	
		Carol Hill, Clerk	903-4974
		hcbhill@ne.rr.com	