

The HEED MAY 2016

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



SERVICES

10AM SUNDAYS

May 1

Larry Vogelmann: Cuba

May 8

Rev. Mary Edes: Other Mothers

May 15

Religious Education presents!

May 22

Raymond Towler: "How My Faith in God Sustained Me Through 29 years of Wrongful Imprisonment."

May 29

Memorial Day Picnic at Larry and Dottie's

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

- The May Board Meeting will be on May 16, at 6:30 PM, in the sanctuary.
- The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) will be on May 23 at 6 PM, also in the sanctuary.
- All are welcome at both meetings and members are strongly encouraged to attend the ABM.

FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

There will be a potluck on Mother's Day following the May 8th service when Rev. Mary Edes will be with us.

Oyster River Folk Concerts will continue....SOON!

On Saturday, June 4th at 7:00 PM at the DUUF, Joyce Anderson and Harvey Reid, two of the Seacoast Area's finest musicians (singer, guitar, fiddler, autoharp), will perform. The Oyster River Folk Concerts, historically associated with the DUUF, is collaborating with the Durham Community Church to capture more of an audience and truly become a community event. The first concert in this newly-formed alliance will be at the Unitarian Fellowship. Doors will open at 6:30 and tickets will sell for \$15 per adult, \$5 per student. A limited number of tickets will be on sale in advance at the Community Church office.



Solar panel dedication ceremony (L). Our fearless nominations committee chair (R).

Program Committee Annual Report 2015-2016

We had another wonderful year in program this year! We pursued a focus on the 7th principle, learning more about our impacts on "the interdependent web of which we are all apart." This theme kicked off with a presentation by Jennifer Messeder on Personal Actions to Combat Climate Change, which sparked a small group who used the workbook, and presented back to the congregation in February. Betty Crepeau led two more services on climate change in the fall, including a presentation by Hillary Clark. Tom Schram brought in Julie Farrell to speak on GMO's. The culmination was the dedication of the solar panels by Rev. Fred Small and a beautiful Earth Day service and potluck.

Another important thread this year was social justice and non-violence. This included presentations by Dr. Rick Alleva, Carmen Buford-Paige on the First Americans, Larry Vogelmann on Veterans' justice issues, Rev. Lee Clasper-Torch, Napoleon Lherisson, Ken Kunhardt, Robert Azzi, Hope on Haven Hill, Cuba, and Raymond Towler.

We also explored personal ethics and spirituality, including presentations of "thisibelieve", Buddhist chanting, Living an Authentic Life, DUUF reflection questions, Transcendental Meditation, Death with Dignity, and Judaism with Rabbi Alvin Mars.

Traditional favorite programs provided by members included the Water Ceremony, Christmas, Easter and Passover. Religious Education provided a music presentation in December and will tell us about their curriculum this year in May. We also enjoyed visits from special guest ministers: Rev Ed Lynn, Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood, and Rev. Mary Edes and a music service with TJ Wheeler.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on all the programs this year. A lay-led congregation takes a lot of cooperation and effort, but the results are amazing!

-Susan Bullivant, Program Committee Chair

Green Sanctuary Annual Report 2015 2016

This year was an active and successful one for the Green Sanctuary Committee. The easiest way to summarize milestones of the year is to simply list them below.

--Mike Fleming, Green Sanctuary Chair

DUUF New Solar Array

After almost unanimous member survey, DUUF Board gave go-ahead to work with Barrington Power 8/11/16

DUUF signed Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Barrington Power 10/30/15

DUUF solar panels completed installation and began operation 1/9/16

Dedication of solar panels 4/24/16

Environmentally-related Sunday Services

How to Lose 5000 pounds: a low carbon diet for Earth restoration—Jennifer Messeder 10/4/15

Bearing Witness: First Nation's Healing Walk in Alberta, Canada (Tar Sands)—Hilary Clark 10/19/15

Greening Our Homes and Lives—Elizabeth Crepeau 10/25/15

Losing 5000 pounds...and liking it!--Stefanie Griffin, Dawn Meredith, Raelene Shipee-Rice 2/14/16

Radical Hope—Rev. Fred Small 4/24/16

Interfaith Environmental Efforts

First meeting of Durham area interfaith environmental group held at DUUF 6/23/15

Meetings continue monthly, under name Seacoast Interfaith Stewards of the Earth (SISE)--8/2015 through present

DUUF participation in NH interfaith conference on environmental issues "A New Awakening" 10/3/15

Earth flag raised at DUUF for first time, with other Durham churches, in concert with Feast of St. Francis 10/4/15

SISE initiates NH Climate Pledge Petition, with DUUF major role 1/4/16

DUUF participation in NH UCC conference "Prepared to Serve", presenting NH Climate Pledge Petition 2/20/16

DUUF represented at Lee Church interfaith Earth Day preach-in 4/22/16

DUUF hosts workshop "Give Light: Spiritual Nurture in the Climate Crisis" by Rev. Fred Small, inviting SISE churches' members as well as DUUF

Treasurer's Annual Report 2015-2016

A summary of this year's financial activity is listed below for member consideration as our Annual Business Meeting approaches. Note that more details are posted on the MEMBERS PAGE / BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORTS of our Web site: uudurham.com. Ask me or our Webmaster, Brett Gibson, for the password.

Transition: The transition of the Fellowship's financial records from Jim Zembruski was very smooth. Jim's care and attention to detail through the building expansion and renovation period set the DUUF on track in its renewed facility and put it in ever better shape with each year of his six-year tenure.

Ins and outs: This year's income and expenses (donations, tenant rent, fund raisers, ... program, house, RE, ...) are close to those planned and include successful accommodation of several significant projects: a new roof, installation of a rooftop solar energy system, upgrade of much of the electrical wiring in the older portion of our building and the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator.

Investing: The DUUF increased its Nest Egg Fund investment in the NH Community Loan Fund. The UUA matches this socially responsible investment.

Special funds: The Fellowship Board reviewed and approved an updated list of its funds along with descriptions of their purposes and statements of their goals and management guidelines.

Surplus: The DUUF is on track to complete FY 15-16 on June 30th with an Operating Fund surplus.

We'll discuss and vote on remaining details at the ABM. The financial part of the agenda will include: 1) operating budget and balance sheet status, 2) allocation of current fiscal year surplus, if any, among our funds and 3) review and vote on next year's budget. I plan to update and post the status information at least one week before the ABM. At that time I will also post my recommendations for surplus allocation and next year's budget.

Yours, John Macri, Treasurer (john.macri@unh.edu)

House Annual Report 2015-2016

Some highlights of the past year include:

The main roof on the house was replaced. Although sometimes a layer of old shingles is found under the top shingles, in this case there were actually two old layers, so a total of three were removed!

A section of old wiring in the attic shorted out due to the roof work. There was a considerable amount of time spent tracking down where the short occurred. By the time we were done, the attic had all new wiring, lights and switches. We have started installing new LED lights, as replacements are needed.

There were some efforts to increase the number of spaces in the bigger parking lot. Zoning laws were explored. We have currently resolved to keep two spaces open on the grass at the far end to the left of the shed.

There has been progress made on understanding the sound system in the sanctuary. As it turns out an iPad with a downloadable app is required to play music through the system from any type of device.

DUUF continues to have the same three tenants renting four offices.

The ongoing rentals of The Sanctuary, RE space and Fellowship Hall are continuing with the exception of losing our long time Wednesday night musician Peter Yarensky.

Christian Hull who started plowing for us last winter will continue with both plowing and summer grounds work.

-Sarge Legard, House Chair

Book Club

Despite the announcement that the final DUUF book group meeting would be on April 25, we've decided to extend both the meeting and our reading of Jane Mayer's timely book, Dark Money. So our final meeting will be on Monday, May 23, at 7:00 downstairs at the Fellowship. We hope to that works for all those who'd like to attend.

Jan Roberts

Transitions

As I prepare to leave my position at the university, people often ask me what I plan to do now. My answer is usually that I will continue to do many of the things I already do. Faculty members work hard but we have the ability to carry out some of our responsibilities on our own time. That has allowed me to be an engaged parent, a community volunteer, even a religious educator. In recent years I have been an active member of Journey Song—a hospice singing group—both as a singer and a board member. Still I have kept my eyes and ears open for other possibilities. A recent e-mail from a staff member in the New England Region Office of the UUA seems to have answered that question. I have been asked to be a member of the region's newly formed Ministerial Transition Team. The timing on this is uncanny. My last official day at UNH is May 20, I will serve as a faculty marshal at Commencement on May 21, and on May 23 I head to Baltimore for a two-day training with colleagues from across the country. An added bonus is that the other representative from New Hampshire is Cindy Spring, my RE mentor, colleague, and dear friend. I have learned a bit about the anticipated role of the transition team is but will wait until I return from this training before sharing, to be sure I fully understand this new concept from our Association. My hope in this next stage of my life is to be involved in activities that include singing and helping others. I am not sure how much singing this position involves but it seems likely to include a good amount of the latter. I am excited about this next stage of my life.

Warmly, Thomas

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends:

There is a new page on the DUUF Website entitled "History." John Macri forwarded a number of historical documents to me and I have uploaded them onto this page. Members should be able to access the page and click on a document to view it (some documents are quite large, so it might take a second or two). Thanks to John and others for recommending the page.

Best, Brett Gibson – DUUF webmaster

2015-2016 DUUF Officers & Committees

OFFICERS

President	Marjorie Wolfson	Vice President	Joyce Sheehan
Treasurer	John Macri	Secretary	Rachel Legard

COMMITTEES

Program: Susan Bullivant (Chair), Larry Vogelmann, Joyce Sheehan, Betty Crepeau, Dorothy Oliver, Tom Schram, Carmen Buford-Paige

Religious Exploration: Jen Pavlik (Co-Chair), Brad Kinsey (Co-Chair)

House and Grounds:

House: Sarge Legard

Grounds: Nick Isaak & Eric Nordgren

Rentals and Cleaning: Karen Smith (Rentals), Edna O'Sullivan (Cleaning)

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Chair), Betty Crepeau

Socials: Cindy Schram (Chair), Deb Johnson (Co-Chair), Joyce Sheffield, Edna O'Sullivan, Bob Sheehan, Hilary Babon

Denominational Affairs: Michael O'Sullivan (Chair)

Membership:

Membership: Bob Pavlik (Chair)

Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers, Michael O'Sullivan, Joyce Sheehan

Nominations: Jim Nute (Chair), Thomas Pistole

Music Committee: Carmen Buford-Paige (Chair), Thomas Pistole

Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Chair), Brett Gibson, Michael O'Sullivan

Webmaster: Brett Gibson



Our Mission Statement

The real test of our religion is the way we live our lives. The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism:

We seek to be a place in which each person's unique worth and beliefs are acknowledged and respected and where each person's voice may be heard – a place in which each may freely explore his or her own spiritual path.

We join with others in reaching out to make the world more just, and commit ourselves to caring for the earth and all that makes up the web of life.

We strive to be a source of inspiration, a forum for intellectual exchange, a wellspring of comfort to those in need and a nurturing, supportive community for each other and our children.

Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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