



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

The HEED November 2015

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

SERVICES

10 AM SUNDAYS

November 1

Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood: "Moving to the Beat of a Different Drummer"

November 8

Veteran's Day: Hosted by Larry Vogelman

Nov 15

Dh Amala: Chanting

Nov 22

Rev. Mary Edes: "Giving Thanks in the Meantime"

Nov 29 TBD

DUUF To Get Solar Panels

On Friday afternoon October 30, Marjorie Wolfson of the DUUF and Jack Bingham of Barrington Power signed the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the solar panels to be put on the Fellowship's roof. John Macri and Mike Fleming were also present. It's expected that, weather permitting, the solar panels will be installed by the end of November. Congratulations to all of us on this important milestone in reducing the carbon foot-

print of the Fellowship! Once the panels are installed, we hope to have a dedications ceremony...let Mike Fleming know of any ideas on what that might look like.

Mike Fleming



DUUF Earth Flag Raising October 4th

DUUF BOARD MEETINGS

The next DUUF Board Meeting is Monday, November 9, at 6:30 PM. Attendance has been strong and a lot of DUUF business is being accomplished during the meetings. Any member can bring up an issue of importance during the "new business" portion of the board meetings. Marjorie Wolfson, DUUF President

CHRISTMAS FAIR



Christmas Fair 2014

The Christmas Fair is fast approaching - Saturday December 5th from 9-2. For those who have not participated previously - this is a lovely way to work together, enjoy each others company, and make a bit of money for charity. There will be wonderful soups and breads to take the chill off, and music provided by Carmen.

As always, we will be looking for volunteers

for many tasks. We will accept donations of white elephants, books, and children's toys and games, beginning Sunday November 29th. These can be put in the office. Start setting them aside now! Other volunteer jobs include helping with setup on Friday, cleanup on Saturday, making soups and savory breads and cookies, staffing tables, waitstaff in the cafe, loaning coolers,

bringing greenery for swags, and making swags on Thursday. Sign up sheets will be going around at services, but you can also email Dawn (dawn.meredith@comcast.net) if you miss that opportunity.

Dawn Meridith, for the Fair Committee (Edna, Kim, Chris, Deb, Joyce, Ann, Dottie, Betty)



Signing of the solar power PPA on October 30

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

We will be using our meetings on 19 November and 10 December to finish PART III, THE PRACTICE, Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12 of **The Spiritual Alchemist** by Natalie Reid. These chapters are a culmination of all the exercises we have already done together for ongoing use in our personal lives. I am also suggesting that we continue to bring our personal "work and explorations" to the group whenever we need to.

Beginning on 14 January, we will start a new resource book, **Bridging the God Gap** by Roger Christian Shriner (pending group approval) as a "next direction" to go in. It has exercises and structured practices on page 197 that tie in with each chapter as well as additional Internet resources.

We are also opening our group to the rest of the Fellowship as a few people have already shared an interest in committing to join. So, if you are interested in participating in our group, please email me at Joycesh@msn.com and I will give you more info on your first "assignment". We also agreed last night that it would be good to have new members start by writing their own **thisibelieve** essay to share at the first meeting on 14 January. We currently meet on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM @ DUUF.

Please, take a look at the online synopsis of **Bridging the God Gap** by Shriner so we can make a definite decision on the book at our 19 November meeting. (Deb has volunteered to do a group order on Amazon.com.) If you have any suggestions or questions about the resource book or anything I have shared please email me. Joyce Sheehan

From the Treasurer: Socially Responsible Investing

Longer-term members will recall that in 2006, using assets in our Nest Egg Fund, the DUUF made a \$10,000 investment in the form of loans to the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund (NHCLF). Our national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association, recognizing this as a socially responsible investment, matched it. These investment loans have been renewed as they matured; they remain active today.

The NHCLF turns investments

into loans and education to create opportunity and transform lives across New Hampshire. You can read more about its work at www.communityloanfund.org.

You can also join me on Tuesday, November 3rd (5-7pm) when I attend the NHCLF Annual Meeting at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. Send me note or call if you are interested. The event will include stories from borrowers, the "State of the Community

Loan Fund," and an exciting update about its work. We will all hear more on Sunday, January 31st when a NHCLF team member will be the DUUF's speaker.

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

SOCIALS AT DUUF

November 1st --Pot-luck lunch after the service with Reverend Larry Brickner-Wood. Please bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship.

November 7th will be our first Circle Dinner. If you are new to DUUF, Circle Dinners are a chance to gather informally at the home of one of the members with a small group of maybe 6-8 people. Sign-ups will happen at the DUUF on Sundays.

November 22--Following Rev. Mary Edes service, we will gather for another pot-luck lunch. Bring a dish to share and a healthy appetite!

December 13 —The president's Christmas party will follow the service. Activities will include holiday snacks, fellowship, and the ever-popular gift-swap (or steal!).



The Tide is Rising

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE SOLAR PROJECT

- The plan for the DUUF solar project is to install solar panels on the East and West sides of the DUUF facility roof. Hopefully, if the Power Purchase Agreement is signed this week, the installation can be complete by the third week of November.
- Barrington Power will contract with local electricians to install the panels, and will own them.
- There are two main reasons why Barrington Power will own the panels: 1) DUUF does not have the capital to purchase the panels (about \$40,000); and 2) as a non-profit, DUUF cannot capture the 30% federal rebate.
- The solar panels will benefit the DUUF by reducing our carbon footprint, and by serving as a community example.
- Financially, the solar panels should not change DUUF total electricity costs much, if at all. Barrington Power will charge us 16 cents per KWH. Eversource is now charging us about 18.1 cents total per KWH, which includes about 1.8 cents in fixed charges (which we will continue to pay Eversource) and about 16.3 cents in variable charges (comparable to what we will pay Barrington Power).
- The solar panels will produce more power than we need in summer, and less power than we need in winter. By selling power to Eversource in the summer, we will get credits to go towards paying for our winter power. This is called net metering.
- Barrington Power's rate of 16 cents per KWH will stay in place for five years. After that, the rate will change annually at 80% of the increases or decreases in power charges by Eversource in the prior year.
- The Power Purchase Agreement is for 25 years. After 15 years DUUF will have the option to purchase solar panels at Fair market Value. The Fair Market Value shall be determined based on the assessment of an appraiser acceptable to both parties and paid for equally by both parties.
- Solar panels are estimated to have a life that will extend the 25 years of the contract. Note that we have just had the DUUF roof that will be under the panels replaced, and the new shingles should have a similar lifetime.
- Because Barrington Power will recoup its investment through our payments for electricity, it will be in their interest to keep the solar panels functioning well.
- We will likely be assessed about \$60 annually in increased facility insurance costs based on installation of the solar panels.
- Any additional property tax increases due to the solar panels will be paid by Barrington Power.
- Charles Willing, of the legal firm Rath, Young, and Pignatelli, has reviewed the DUUF/Barrington Power PPA. He has special expertise in Power Purchase Agreements, and his recommendations have resulted in helpful revisions of the document.

Submitted by Mike Fleming

LREDA Fall Conference—One Last Time

I have attended the annual conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association for most of the last 20 years. Although I am no longer involved in religious education and I completed my last LREDA committee appointment last June, it seemed worthwhile to consider one last time. I rationalized that this year it was within driving distance and thus the cost would be significantly lower. As registration time drew closer, I hesitated. Is this really a good idea? I added a qualifier: I would go if there were a male religious educator looking for a roommate. At least 90% of the attendees are women so the odds were low. Nonetheless there soon appeared such a posting and I submitted my registration.

Morristown, NJ, the site of this year's conference, is a beautiful city. I had opportunities to walk around the neighborhood during conference breaks and get a glimpse of the architecture—the number of churches within a few blocks of the hotel is staggering!—as well as a lovely park—Fort Nonsense—just minutes away. It's great to be able to balance the hours of sitting with some physical activity.

The theme for this year's conference was "RE Without Walls: Technology, Theme-Based Ministry, and Full Week Faith." I have attended workshops in the past on technology and social media in religious education but this time the focus was less on the technology itself and more on how we can incorporate it into our church/fellowship experiences. Some youth programs are setting aside times during their gatherings for participants to engage in social media. We learned about ways that this can expand the RE experience as young people share with others in real time what they are doing. A few congregations have extended this idea into the adult service. Are there challenges here? Of course, but there are some intriguing possibilities as well.

Theme-based ministry is a whole church program in which all groups—children, youth, adults—are focusing on the same topic at any given time. The idea here is to enhance the connections between and among the various participants in our programs. Individuals who shared their experiences with this approach were enthusiastic. One hoped-for outcome is greater retention of our young people once they have completed their RE programs.

Full week faith was a subtheme at Fall Conference several years ago. Basically it incorporates the concept that faith development for our young people (and adults as well!) need not be restricted to an hour on Sunday morning. What would happen if families included a reading, a short discussion, a reflection, a reinforcement of the Sunday lesson at times throughout the week? How might we keep youth and families connected when they are not able to attend Sunday services regularly? The UUA set of curricula known as Tapestry of Faith has some resources for this.

The presenters were clear that these are ideas for consideration. There is no one-size-fits-all way to provide programs for our congregations. Still it seems worthwhile to know what others are doing and to explore these and other options as we move forward.

Fall Conference was a wonderful place to see colleagues I have known, some for over 20 years. I am grateful for the friendship, the support, and the resources that these folks have provided. I am glad to have attended one last time.

Thomas Pistole

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

HEED is published by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durham, New Hampshire

20 Madbury Road Road • Durham, New Hampshire 03824 • www.uudurham.com