

The HEED NOVEMBER 2016

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



SERVICES

10AM SUNDAYS

November 6

Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood

November 13

“Where are you coming from?”

Joyce Sheehan

November 20

Water Conservation

Dawn Genes

November 27

No Service

PRESIDENT’S NOTE:

Our November board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. All members are invited to attend. The meetings are usually over between 7:30 and 8:00 and we strive to be efficient in our updates and new business. The more the merrier! So please consider joining us for one or more of our remaining

2016-2017 meetings.

Marjorie Wolfson

There will be a
potluck after the
service on
November 6.



Beyond Our Doors

Preface. In last month's piece I provided a general overview of some aspects of the infrastructure of the Unitarian Universalist Association, with a focus on the Northeast portion of this country. In this second article I describe some of the rationale for the various reconfigurations that have occurred in our faith community as well as an introduction to some of the key players and their roles in the New England Region

Why These Changes?

The short answer, although much oversimplified, is finances. A corollary might even be survival. According to the Pew Research Center about 45% of the U.S. population identify as evangelical, mainline, or historically black Protestant, 20%, as Catholic and 6% as non-Christian, including Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu. UUs comprise 0.3% of this population. In the mid-20th Century membership in the then-separate Unitarian and Universalist groups was low and shrinking. Interestingly the religious education segments of these two groups joined forces nearly a decade before their formal consolidation in 1961. A hope from this significant event was that together Unitarians and Universalists might achieve what neither could do on its own. Indeed Unitarian Universalism has made some major accomplishments that transcend our own faith community, but that's another conversation. Growth, however, has not been one of them. The official membership numbers for our faith community are about 150,000 members and 45,000 children and youth.

Historically the Northeast District of the UUA comprised Maine and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. When the Canadian Unitarian Council elected to establish its own organization, separate from the UUA, in 2002, the remaining Maine congregations in the Northeast District were too few and too small to function as distinct district. Over about five years those congregations and members of the New Hampshire/Vermont District reached an agreement to consolidate and the Northern New England District was born. Once again finances were a major—though certainly not the only—issue in these discussions. The concern of some was that resources of the NH/VT District would be used to sustain the Maine congregations. I served as NH/VT District president through much of this transition. The folks directly involved in this process were thoughtful and indeed visionary. By the time the consolidation was complete the opposition had been largely appeased.

Not long after this major enterprise, the UUA leadership proposed a dramatic reorganization plan. Instead of about 20 districts, the proposal recommended five regions, covering the entire United States. As we experienced here in northern New England, there was extensive discussion over this plan. A major concern was a loss of services for our congregations. Unlike some other religious organizations, ours has a strong level of congregational polity. This means that such decisions are not mandated from "above," but rather determined locally. New England was one of the last areas to regionalize, but this has been accomplished. When I first became a religious educator, I could meet our district RE (later program) consultant in Concord, peruse the library for resources to borrow, meet with other RE or District folks in the District office. Times, though, have changed. With e-mail, messaging, videoconferencing, and other technological tools, face-to-face meetings are not always needed. Many of the RE and other resources in the District's lending library are now available on the Web and the hard copies have been distributed to those who wanted them. Perhaps the greatest change is how *(cont. next page)*

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UUA district staff members operate. Most now work from home, coming together infrequently for face-to-face meetings. Indeed, district/regional offices are becoming obsolete. Today our New England Region has ten professional staff members, along with a number of associate folks (including me!) who provide support for the 231 congregations located within its borders. In future articles I will introduce you to some of these important resources.

In faith,
Thomas Pistole

HOLIDAY FAJR

It's time to start thinking about the Holiday Fair! For me, the fair is one of the important ways we build and nurture our community: working together on a happy task and then relaxing together over a delicious meal.

The fair will be Saturday 3rd. As is our tradition, we will be looking for help with making soups and breads, waiting tables, gathering greenery and making swags, setting up and tearing down, and staffing tables; there will be sign-ups during service. We are also collecting white elephant donation - gently used home goods, books, and children's toys. There is a growing stack of things in the basement, directly beneath the original front door on Madbury Road; feel free to add to that collection at any time. If you have a minimum price you want us to set on any of your items, please clearly mark that item with your price and name (so we can return it if it is not sold).

Another good thing about the fair are the funds raised. The first purpose of the fund is to support local, national and global charities. A second is to support one-time initiatives designed to improve the functioning of the fellowship, such as the purchase of a large item (e.g., stove, microphone) or funds for special projects (e.g. funding the process to make DUUF a green sanctuary). The Christmas Fair committee will consider suggestions for such one-time initiatives from any DUUF member or friend. Such suggestions should be submitted to Dawn via email (dawn.meredith@comcast.net) by December 15th, providing a description of the initiative, a statement of the ways the initiative will improve the functioning of DUUF, and an estimate of its cost.

We look forward to offering another fun fair with the help of the fellowship.

Dawn Meredith

Social Action Report for 2015/2016

We had another busy year working with Seacoast Family Promise. In December and May, Betty C collected money for gas cards; in total we donated \$1500 to SFP; this includes \$1000 in direct donations and \$500 matching funds from the Fellowship budget. We also filled 41 out of the 210 volunteers slots (dinner hosts, providing meals, and overnight hosts) during the six weeks of hosting at Stratham Community Church. Two meals cooked by the Fellowship youth, and one meal cooked by Emma Kinsey and her girl scout troop. Thank you Emma for taking that initiative!

On a related note, SFP learned this past October 11th that they will be able to move into their new day center. From Pati Frew-Waters: "The day we have been waiting for has arrived!! The Supreme Court has affirmed the decision of the Superior Court to let SFP move to 27 Hampton Road [in Exeter]." They have been working for over two years, at least, to get the okay to move in. Neighbors have been concerned about SFP in their area. One of the neighbors came to visit the center and is now an enthusiastic volunteer. Unfortunately none of the other neighbors have visited. May we all remember to investigate before we pass judgment!

Lastly, Bob Pavlik and others gathered food from departing UNH to share with local food pantries. He hopes to continue this, so he may ask for some support come May 2017.

From the Treasurer

Fellowship Income in Round Numbers

This year's DUUF operating budget calls for income of approximately \$47,000. Roughly \$26,000 is expected from our tenants and other users of our facility. \$1,000 is expected from fundraisers and interest. The balance, \$20,000, is expected from member donations. I encourage all members to contribute. We have 47 adult members in 31 families. We will meet this year's goal if donations to the Operating Fund average \$426 per member or \$645 per family. As in the past, some can and will give more, others will do their best, and I, your treasurer, will let you know from time to time where we stand. This is one such time. So far, so good.

Yours,

John Macri, Treasurer

john.macri@unh.edu

Lloyd Herman Heidgerd Obituary

CONCORD - Lloyd Herman Heidgerd, died Wednesday, August 31, 2016. He was born June 6, 1918, in Monsey, New York, the eldest son of Herman and Sybil (King) Heidgerd. His early years were spent at the family home in Monsey.

Lloyd was educated at Oberlin College, Columbia University Teachers College and the University of Michigan. He was a student of biology as well as education, and over the years held many varied positions ranging from Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River, New York to General Electric. For many years he was head librarian of the Biological and Agriculture Library at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. In 1965 Lloyd married Edna Becker of Schenectady, New York. They lived in Durham for many years while they worked at the university there.

Lloyd and Edna later moved to Concord, New Hampshire, where they became residents of Heritage Heights. Together they established the Lloyd H. and Edna B. Heidgerd Scholarship Fund at the University of New Hampshire. Together they were staunch proponents of the preservation of the natural landscape and access for the common man. They were both lifetime members of the Sierra Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Lloyd contributed greatly throughout his lifetime to the promotion of education and the environment. His generosity touched many and extended to friends, family and the many concerns which were lucky to receive the attention of his sharp mind and analytical vision. He will be greatly missed.

Lloyd was predeceased by his wife Edna in 2005. His sister, Audrey P. Connor, died in Portland, Maine, in 2005, and his brother Everett Heidgerd, in Kennebunk, in 2008. Lloyd is survived by his loving nieces and nephew, Christine Pucillo and her husband Tony of Hull, Massachusetts, Jane Garrick and her husband Larry of Rhinebeck, New York, and Thomas Heidgerd and his wife Barbara of Rowley, Massachusetts.

SERVICES: There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m., on Saturday, October 1, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Concord at 274 Pleasant Street.

Donations to the Lloyd H. and Edna B. Heidgerd Scholarship Fund at the University of New Hampshire in Lloyd's name are welcome.

Funeral Home
Cremation Society of New Hampshire – Boscawen
172 King Street
Boscawen, NH 03303
(603) 796-2528

Lloyd and Edna were early long-time members of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. In October, five DUUF members traveled to the Concord U.U. Church for

A Celebration of the Life of Lloyd Heidgerd

The service was touching - simultaneously modest and profound - much like Lloyd himself. A niece read the following Remembrance of Lloyd:

In remembrance

Lloyd Heidgerd was my uncle, my father's older brother. He was a man of great integrity, strong principals, and amazing fortitude.

I am 6. Barefoot. Playing down the street from our cottage at the beach, G10. Stub my toe. Down on the ground, blood and sand with a little tar mixed in. Crying. A large shadow looms over me. I look up, way up, for it is Uncle Lloyd, hands on hips. Out walking. He scoops me up onto his shoulders, and here I stop crying, for here is a whole new world, the plane of an entirely different place. New heights. The sort of elevation where revelation can begin. Because Lloyd was that tall. T-A-double-L tall.

Lloyd's name has double Ls. Why? I looked it up. It's Welsh. It means gray, and analytical. The 2 Ls date back to when it was pronounced *Lloy-yed*, or *El-lwed*. It also means long-lived.

Do not discount the later years. A lot can happen.
Two Ls! It means double-check. *Look. Learn. Listen.*

Live your lives! he said as our paths crossed on the way to the lake.
In the later years, a lot happened. All our love for Uncle Lloyd blossomed in the last ten years of his life. At 95, he became a dutch uncle to us too, dispensing great advice.

In the later years, we got to say *Thank you, Uncle Lloyd*
got to show him photos of what we call "the Barn-that-Lloyd-built"
got to see his eyes, which were very bright still late in life
get wide and fill up with light
got to say *We love you, Uncle Lloyd*

He looked long and hard at us then, and said: *Whaaat?*
So we said it again and again.

Lloyd also means: live to resurrect
his lifelong principals of learning and charity
double-checked, his legacy
his gift.

DUUFers participate in Dover Area CROP Hunger Walk

Youth and adults representing DUUF, along with 132 walkers from other local religious communities, participated in the Dover Area CROP Hunger Walk on October 16. The preliminary numbers indicate that over \$13,405 was raised by walkers and that DUUF walkers raised \$645. Nice work!



AUTUMN MORNING

**Rising sun hovers
still below the tree line**

**A whispering wind
stirs branches
compels eye tag with flickering rays -
shadows**

**Yellowed leaves unclasp
traverse the woven branch maze
settle perfectly onto preordained canvas space**

**Small migratory birds
hopeful visitors to empty feeders
check the status of recently vacated houses
then travel on - headed south**

**Bumblebee dives from sight
disappearing into the cupped head of a late blooming snapdragon**

All in Place

All on Time

In these fleeting early moments of migratory flux

Edna O'Sullivan

2016-2017 DUUF Officers & Committees

Officers:

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

Committee Chairs:

Program: Susan Bullivant (Chair)

Religious Education: Brad Kinsey (Co-Chair) and Jen Pavlik (Co-Chair)

House and Grounds: House: Sarge Legard Grounds: Eric Nordgren

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

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Chair)

Socials: Cindy Schram (Chair), Deb Johnson (Co-Chair)

Denominational Affairs: Joyce Sheehan (Chair)

Membership: Membership: Bob Pavlik (Chair) Caring Subcommittee: Ann Windsor (Chair)

Nominations: Bob Sheehan (Chair)

Music Committee: Carmen Buford-Paige (Chair) Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Chair)

Webmaster: Brett Gibson HEED Editor: Stefanie Griffin



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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