

the **HEED**

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Big Weekend is Here!

Once a year the stars align to bring us a truly chaotic, calamitous, and celebratory weekend. Preparations have already begun for the Holiday Fair, the Oyster River Folk Holiday Concert. To top it off, we can look forward to a visit from the Rev.



Mary Edes on Sunday, followed by a pot luck in the Fellowship Hall.

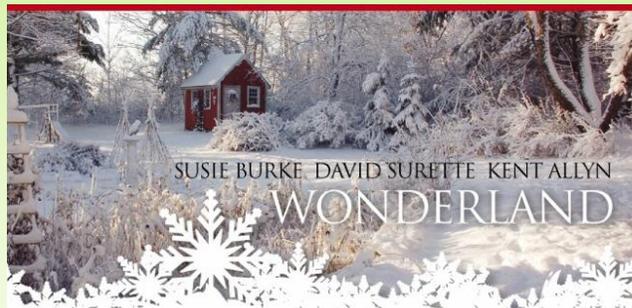
Traditionally, there are a few containers of soup still available for purchase on the Sunday morning following the Holiday Fair, but with the increased success of the DUUF Café over the past

few years, it's best not to pin one's hopes on any morning after chili or matzo ball soup. Get it on Saturday if you can. The holiday festivities just roll on from there.

December 14 will feature a "Workshop Sunday" service, including crafts and musical

performances. Following the service, please stick around for the annual President's Party. The focus of this party—besides having fun—is to re-use those things around our homes which we do not want anymore but, conceivably, someone else might. Wrap up your re-gift and bring it along for the DUUF Yankee Swap.

Later in the month we celebrate Kwanzaa during Sunday service and the Solstice at Larry and Dottie's house. The the calendar for more info.



The final OR Folk concert of the year will be the highly- anticipated holiday show at 7 p.m., Dec. 6.

Upcoming services:

Dec. 7 – Leftovers. *Speaker, the Rev. Mary Edes.*

Dec. 14 – Workshop Sunday. *An intergenerational celebration of the season.*

For more information on upcoming programs, see Notes on page 2 and the December Calendar

December service notes

Dec. 7 – Leftovers

The Rev. Mary Edes will be our minister. Her talk will be "Leftovers." She writes "As we enter holiday time we are often met with feelings of melancholy and ambivalence. Whether or not we gather with our families – face to face and heart to heart – our memories gather 'round us like a cloud of witnesses - witnesses to all that has come and gone."

* *A potluck lunch will immediately follow coffee hour.*

Dec. 14 – Intergenerational Workshop Sunday

There will be children's musical performances, seasonal crafts, and opportunities for holiday giving.

* *Our annual Holiday Yankee Swap will follow coffee hour.*

Dec 20 – Kwanzaa

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service

Dec 28 – No Service

About the economics of the DUUF

The DUUF recently paid its annual dues to the regional chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Association and to the national UUA. In both cases, the dues are based on the number of members the fellowship claims. Every member costs the fellowship each year. This is an added expense beyond those of maintaining the building and grounds, covering heat and electricity, and paying speakers who visit for Sunday service.

Donations from members and friends, along with rent brought in through our office space, and fees paid for the use of the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, all combine to balance the budget. All of these sources are necessary to keeping the DUUF alive. Please consider donating (the collections box is nearly invisible, but's easy enough to find on your way from the lobby into coffee hour). Donations made this month can be applied to 2014 taxes.

Listen to the music of the season, courtesy of our very own Carmen

Just in time for Christmas shopping, DUUF will be selling copies of a recorded performance by our own music director and general legend, Carmen Buford-Paige. More details on the content, cost and availability of the CDs will be announced soon.



Blooming season for this Christmas Cactus happens to be Thanksgiving, and so Edna and Michael O'Sullivan and any guests who happen to stop by their place receive a nice, flowery introduction to the Holidays. Edna brings the slightly smaller cousin of this 20-year-old specimen to the DUUF lobby each fall. It blooms slightly later but is still a pleasure to behold.

Dale double dips!

Two milestones, one big cake, and four flavors of ice cream



Dale celebrated his 82nd birthday and his 35th year of being married to Raelene during a coffee hour that will live for many years in the memories of all the children lucky enough to be in

attendance. Along with a huge cake, there were no less than four cartons of ice cream, each carton a different flavor. Thank you, Dale (and Raelene), for sharing your celebrations, and your sweet tooth with us.



Don't be afraid of the Discussion Group

The Discussion Group met at the Fellowship in the evening of Tuesday Nov. 18. An enthusiastic group of 11 of us (Michael, Betty and Eric, Joannie, Jan and Steve; Carmen, Joyce and Bob, Chris and Frank) discussed: "Fear! Are we overly fearful of 'whatever' or is the world so dangerous?"

As can be expected with our Fellowship, the discussion was wide-ranging and lively and went for the full time we had allotted.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday in January (the 20th), weather permitting. As usual, we will meet downstairs at the Fellowship. All are welcome.

Book Group releases extended syllabus

In addition to having a lively discussion of Paul Rasor's book last Monday, the five of us who were there agreed to meet monthly starting in January, and selected books for the next three months. Dates and book selections are as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 26, 2015 – Eckhart Tolle – [A New Earth](#)
- Monday, Feb. 23, 2015 – Katherine Boo – [Behind the Beautiful Forevers](#)
- Monday, Mar. 23, 2015 – Atol Guande – [Being Mortal](#)



Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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.