

the

HEED

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Upcoming Services (at 10 am)

May 11th - "Is There a Noah Among Us?" Speaker: Jill Sunde

Jill is a second year Seminarian at the Meadville Lombard Unitarian Universalist Seminary in Chicago, IL, and a New Hampshire resident since 2000, will deliver the sermon. This will be a special service honoring Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, and Children, and blessing the animals and pet insects with which we live. If you plan to bring your animal to be blessed, please be sure that you can (a) hold the animal for the length of the service, (b) cage the animal (or insect), (c) put the animal on a leash tied to the outdoor area, or (d) bring a picture of the animal or insect to be blessed. For those who desire to do so, please honor your family by wearing a white carnation for a deceased parent or grandparent, a red carnation for a living parent or grandparent, and a purple or other-colored carnation for a deceased child.

May 18th - "It's What Holds Us Together" Tom Schram

** final fellowship service before our summer break*

May 26 - End of Year Picnic at Dotty and Larry's: Come with your families to enjoy a time of sharing with other Fellowship members and friends.

Come one, come all. Our yearly Memorial Day picnic and barbeque will be at Dottie and Larry's house, Sunday, May 26, beginning at 11 a.m. The address is 22 Cedar Pt. Rd, Durham. Call if you need directions. 749-0366. Weather and the tides permitting the kids may get a boat ride as well. Bring something to drink and something for the grill.



Membership Annual Report for 2014

- Let me start by wholeheartedly thanking the Membership Committee, Mike Fleming, John Macri and Chris Rodgers, for all their hard work throughout the year; without their fine efforts things just wouldn't have gotten done. Membership has had a very busy year!
- At the beginning of the Fellowship year (see opening HEED) I set a challenging list of 10 tasks for the Membership Committee to tackle. Most of these were either completed or got well underway.

1. Update membership list

- This has been completed and the membership list complete with up-to-date contact details for everyone was circulated to all our members in January. We have 51 members (we had 52 but one member has left to accept a job in Boston).
- I was able to update our records at the UUA (removing 20 names of people who were deceased or who had left the Fellowship, added 21 people who were members but were not on their list and updated 7 erroneous addresses). Everyone should now be getting their copy of THE WORLD.

2. Re-establish contact with delinquent members

- This has been completed and the information incorporated into our membership list.
- Karen Smith is currently contacting our Friends to update the Friends list.

3. Update name badges and name badge storage holder in lobby

- Thanks to the efforts of Mike Fleming this has been completed and our new "spiffy" name badges are in use in the lobby holder.

4. Revamp Fellowship literature to hand out

- I checked out the few leaflets that we have (really only 2) and, although they were prepared quite some time ago, they are still pretty current. We will consider a new format for these for next year.(continued on next page . . .)

It's not Trivial

Just for a little bit of fun, I placed a **Membership Trivia Question** in every month's HEED. Hopefully, many of you have been aware of, and enjoyed, these quirky questions that I put in HEED each month. If you don't remember them, do go back to each month's HEED sent to you by email and test yourself on our membership and on our history (the answers were supplied and in some cases these were both interesting and quite surprising).

Of course, we must have a Membership Trivia Question to end the year (another Multiple Choice Question).

How many people in total do you think have signed the membership books (including the young people's book) over the years since the inception of the Fellowship over 50 years ago?

- A. 311
- B. 411
- C. 511
- D. 611
- E. 711
- F. 811

If you would like to know the answer, ask me - Frank Rodgers

5. Continue with pastoral care activities (Chris)

- Under the capable guidance of Chris Rodgers and her sub-committee (Michael O'Sullivan) this is in full swing, operating, as it must, mostly 'behind-the-scenes'.
- The Fellowship supported Chris to attend a MA district meeting on Pastoral Care, and as a result she returned to set up a Committee and to rename it to more accurately reflect the nature of what she was attempting to do. She will continue to work on other ideas spawned by that meeting as well as organizing care for members as needed.

6. Establish a Rainbow Flag outside the Fellowship (asking permission from Board as to nature and location)

- This has been done and our Rainbow Flag flies proudly each Sunday morning before and during our Fellowship service. A more permanent arrangement out of the reach of potential vandalism would be preferable to the "put-it-out, take-it-in" approach each Sunday. But we're working on that.

7. Develop criteria and support for an active membership drive

- I contacted the UUA seeking help for this initiative; however, they were not particularly helpful offering no real advice, support or contacts for this. I shall attempt to make contact with them again next Fellowship year.

8. Strengthen the Sunday greeters program

- This was re-established on a regular basis and greeters are on hand each and every Sunday to warmly welcome our members and visitors to the Fellowship.
- To everyone who has taken part as a greeter over this past year, very many thanks for all your efforts. To anyone who hasn't tried it yet, give it a go next year, for as Peter Morales, the UUA President, commented in a recent copy of THE WORLD, it really is a most rewarding activity and one that is, perhaps, more important than might at first be imagined.

9. Continue the new members ceremony towards the close of the Fellowship year (around Mother's Day)

- We had 4 new members this year (however, one has had to leave due to work commitments in Boston) and we shall be welcoming these new members with a ceremony during our service on Sunday May 4th.

10. Prepare a "new" version of Betty Nordgren's excellent 1995/6 *Who We Are* book as a long term catalog of the Fellowship membership

- Thanks to the sterling efforts of John Macri this is well underway and will hopefully be available for everyone to view during the Fellowship picnic. Of course, this will also serve as a crucial part of our Fellowship's historical records.

Frank G. Rodgers

Chair, Membership Committee

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT THE DUUF FACILITY

Our original Meeting Hall continues to be used for a variety of activities on week-day evenings and week-end afternoons.

We are a meeting place for:

- *Community AA Meetings
- *A music group jam session
- *Irish Set Dance classes / dances
- *A Tai Chi group
- *An NAACP Youth Group
- *A local orchestra practice hall

The Sanctuary is used for piano lessons weekly. The RE rooms are being used by two on-going book groups.

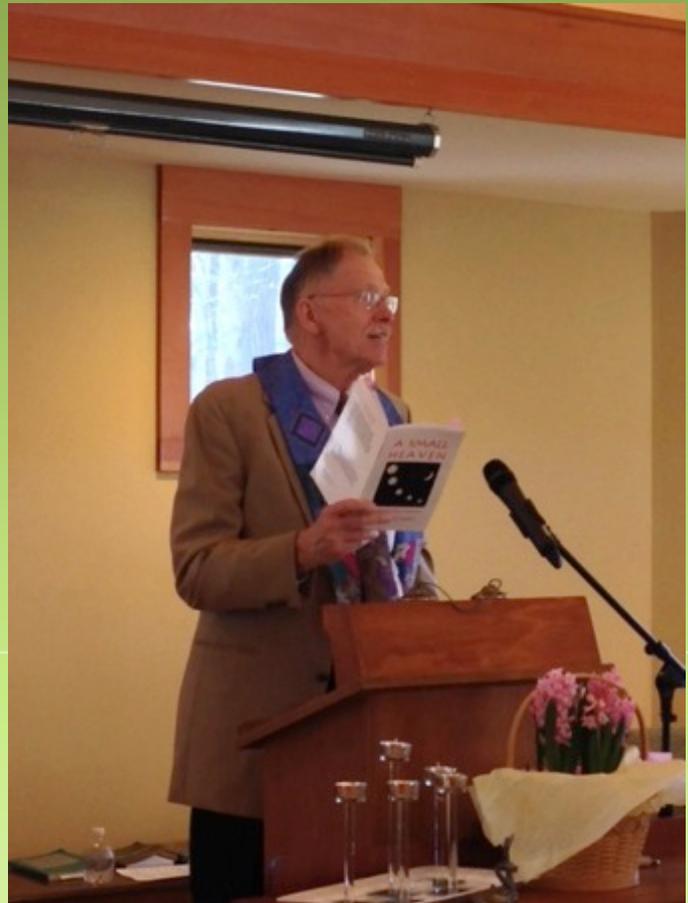
We are still working with Three Chimneys Inn, offering a rain venue for their scheduled weddings.

The Sanctuary has been home to several music recitals recently and several more are scheduled for the upcoming summer and fall.

A special thanks to Dottie Oliver and Larry Vogelmann for hosting the Winter Solstice Gathering AND the End of the Meeting Year Picnic at their home on the bay.

Last - NOT Least - The Oyster River Folk Concerts continue to make our Sanctuary walls ring with wonderful music.

Edna O'Sullivan
House Committee
Hall and Sanctuary Rentals



4/14/2014

Mr. Worst Winter stirred around midnight last night
Packed his tools in a large dark duffle bag
And headed off to different territory

Abandoning the many patches of bare earth
To the care of his alter ego - actually his better self

Unlike him, she likes flowers and birds
Wild berries and fresh garden veggies
Warm beach sand and out-door restaurants

On my late morning stroll in gloriously healing air
A friend stopped me to say he had just spotted that Mr. Harsh
Slumped on a bench at the bus station
Tools protruding akimbo from his satchel
Complaining that he'd missed his ride

This particular friend has been known to fib
Just for the fun of it
I chose to dismiss his foreboding
And walked more determinedly into the Ms. Soft Spring breeze

By the time I see tomorrow's early morning lunar eclipse
I'll know if the afternoon bus arrived on schedule

By: Edna O'Sullivan

House Committee 2013-14 Year

In addition to the ongoing beer can pick up and watering of the piano, there were two main focus areas for the House Committee this year. One was the Grounds work, which Michael O'Sullivan addressed well (both through the year and recapped in his article for HEED), the other focus was tenant rental and improvements.

This past year Tom Elliot with a business partner and interns- moved into Suite 3. The office required some work with painting and new lighting. Meanwhile the downstairs small office continues to be advertised and shown. It is freshly painted and thanks to Edna O'Sullivan-sports a brand new set of hand made curtains! Currently, we rent to ElliottRand Marketing and Communications, Dassie Ramsey, Counselor and Maritza Bagnol, Nationwide Insurance.

Significant time and effort went into acquiring a new larger tenant sign for the front of the building. The old sign was reused as a directory in the lobby. A new cabinet for the tenant bathroom was recently ordered and will be installed. New parking signs and posts are coming soon.

Plans for next year include some electrical work, installing new circuits for the tenant offices and removing old wiring and thermostats. Research is being done for how to best repair and refinish the floor in Fellowship Hall.

-Sarge Legard, House Chair

From the Caring Committee

This month, as far as we know, two of our Members are having surgery, Joanie and Betty C. We are keeping in touch with them to see what their immediate needs might be and to offer them support as well as to check in on how they are progressing. We are also helping out in various ways during this difficult time from them both. Of course we all wish them both a good, speedy and full recovery. According to the latest reports received, Steve H. continues to progress well and we shall continue to monitor his progress.

Michael and I have decided to expand the Caring Committee for the upcoming year. This does not in any way mean that these are the only people involved in Caring at Fellowship, but it gives a broader base for people to contact and for organizing any care that may be needed or requested. Much of the caring at Fellowship continues to be done quietly, and by people not on the Committee, and to all of you we say 'thank you'. This is part of what being a Fellowship is all about.

Please remember that although Fellowship does not meet over the summer, your Caring Committee can – and should - be contacted if you have any needs, or if you know of another Member who might be in need of some assistance. We cannot help if we don't know about a problem!

Not wanting to end on a "down" note, we wish everyone a happy and safe time this summer.

Chris Rodgers

MUSIC AT THE FELLOWSHIP

I want to thank everyone for all of the help and kind remarks that I received upon my completion of the UU Tenured Music Certification this Spring. I will be formally recognized, along with others, at the UU General Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island, in June. It was a year of very hard work (condensed from 3 years) thinking, studying, writing papers, and sending in videos. And I'm really glad it's all over!

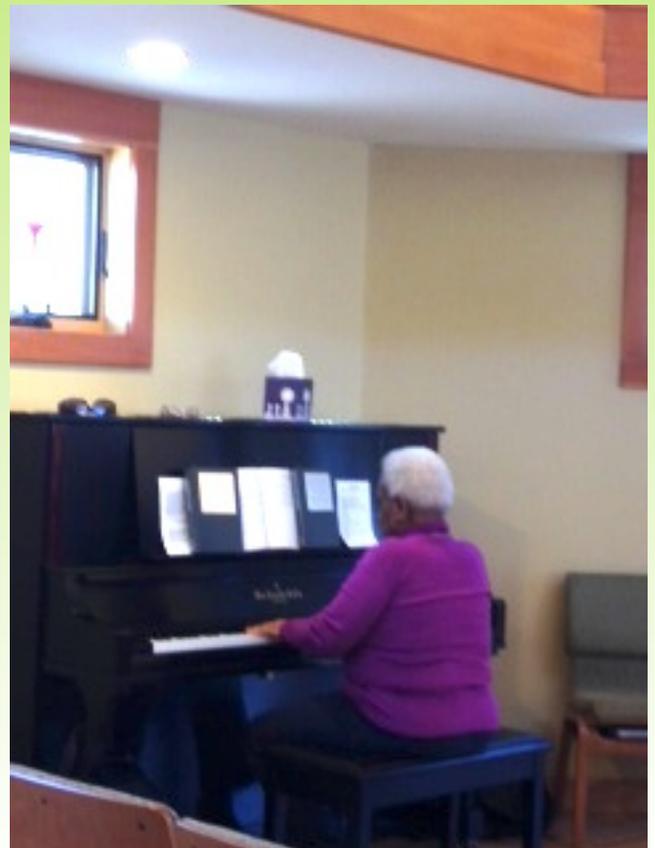
I hope that you enjoyed and received spiritual enrichment from the Music Services that we had this year, as well as all other music provided by our talented members, friends, and visitors. Now that we have a fully functioning Music Task Force, I hope that such services will be offered at least once each quarter. The Children's Choir, under the wonderful direction of Maria Isaak, hopes to increase its offerings during the 2014-2015 year. Next year we will also finish our discussion of the UU Musicians Network Music Survey that you took in 2012-2013, specifically covering the items that we did not cover in our discussion this year.

We would also like to start a children's bell choir. If anyone would like to take this on, I can assure that you will have the full support of the Fellowship. I will also see if we can get an intern from the UNH Music Department who will do it as an internship for academic credit.

I will be going to the UU Musicians' Network Conference in July, for the first time, and am looking forward to bringing back all kinds of new ideas that we can use to enrich the musical offerings of the Fellowship. I will also bring back ideas from the UUA General Assembly to add to our musical worship. In addition, the Music Task Force and I welcome your suggestions for improving our offerings for the 2014-2015 year.

Blessings,

Carmen Buford-Paige



Interim Financial Report of the Operating Fund as of May 2nd for Fiscal Year 2013-2014:

- There is an operating **deficit** of **(\$12,498.63)** for the ten-month period through May 2nd.
- The primary reason for the deficit during this fiscal year was the unplanned pay-off of the White Memorial Fund Loan balance of \$15,574.86.
- Without this one-off payment, the operating fund would have had a surplus balance of \$3,076.23 for the ten-month period.
- Donations are 84% of the annual Budget and are running in-line with last year for the same time period. The Fellowship still needs \$3,365 in donations to meet its annual Budget expectation.
- The cumulative Operating Fund Balance is **(\$3,576.62)** due to the pay-off of the White Memorial Fund Loan balance this fiscal year.
- Without the pay-off, the cumulative Fund Balance would have been \$11,998.24.
- Operating Fund Cash Balance is \$18,968.75 as \$22,545.38 from other DUUF Funds are deposited in the same bank account.

Fund Balances as May 2nd:

- Operating Fund has a negative balance of **(\$3,576.62)**.
- The remaining four (4) other active Fund Balances total \$32,545.38, bringing the total of all Fund Balances including the Operating Fund to \$28,968.76.
- \$10,000 from the Nest Egg Fund is on loan to the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund.
- The remaining cash for all five (5) Fellowship Funds totaling \$18,968.76 is being held in the Operating Fund's Advantage Checking Account, earning interest at the rate of ~.10% per annum.

Facility Improvements of May 2nd:

- Three facility Improvements were completed through May 2nd totally \$3,219.00 as follows:
 - ü Rebuild the Rock Wall in the Rear of the New Sanctuary at an actual cost of \$1,750 as compared to a budget of \$500 for this project.
 - ü Remove Large Spruce Tree in the front lawn at an actual cost of \$800. This project was not budgeted. PSNH removed the tree at no cost to the Fellowship. The \$800 expenditure for this line item was to repair the front lawn from the fallen tree and for stump grinding.
 - ü New Tenant Signage was also unbudgeted and installed at a cost to the Fellowship of \$669.00.

White Memorial Fund Loan Status as of May 2nd:

- The DUUF negotiated a loan in the amount of \$25,000 with the UUA on February 1st 2010 to help fund the building cost of the new sanctuary. The term of the loan is 10 years with an interest rate of 4%.
- To date, the DUUF has made 18 quarterly payments (representing 4½ years). The balance of this loan as of the end of April was \$15,574.86 and final pay-off of this amount was made.

James H. Zembruski

jimzem@myfairpoint.net

End-of-Year Message from the 2013-2014 Program Committee

First and foremost, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to the Program Committee members who have worked so hard this year: Betty Crepeau, Dottie Oliver, Larry Vogelmann, Susan Bullivant, Carmen Buford Paige and Raelene Shippee-Rice. Their energy, creativity, initiative, leadership, patience, and good humor have contributed to a series of programs that have engaged and energized our fellowship each week throughout the year.

What a wonderful and enriching year it's been! Topics ranged from our annual water ceremony; music, spirituality, and soul; cultivating civic virtues; white privilege; the Arab uprisings; the zero-waste movement; and questions about God...to Gary Hochgraf's phenomenal cycling journey through central and South America; hospitality beyond the comfort zone; Martin Luther King; LGBTQ issues; making music as a family; poverty and schooling; and sustainable agriculture—among numerous others.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for the support and affirmation you have provided to me this past year in my role as Program Chair. I look forward to continuing my participation on the committee and supporting the efforts and leadership of our new Program Chair for the coming year, Susan Bullivant.

Tom Schram

SOCIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks to the members of the Socials Committee and to the many folks who provided weekly snacks, we had many delicious Sunday morning coffee hour offerings. The potluck luncheons were equally as delicious, interesting and generous.

Many thanks to the Nordgrens for continuing the tradition of providing Easter morning breakfast - and thanks also to Michael Fleming for organizing the annual games evening, once again.

We experimented this year with having fewer guests at each host home for the Circle Dinners. The feedback has been very positive, so we will continue the practice in the coming year.

Finally, thanks to the entire membership for your participation in these social events, which provide us all with opportunities to become better acquainted.

Edna O'Sullivan

Co-Chair

Socials Committee (2013-2014)

2014-2015 DUUF Final Nomination Slate for Officers & Committees, 5-1-14:**Officers:**

Malcolm Smith, President
Zembruski, Treasurer

Raelene Shippee-Rice, Vice President (1yr), Jim
Karen Smith, Secretary

Committees:**Program:**

Susan Bullivant, chair
Tom Schram

Carmen Buford-Paige
Malcolm Smith

Betty Crepeau
Larry Vogelman

Dottie Oliver

Religious Education:

Stefanie Griffin – Co-Chair

Jen Pavlik -- Co-Chair

Brad Kinsey

Bob Pavlik

Shirley Zembruski

House and Grounds:

Sarge Legard – Chair

Michael O'Sullivan – Grounds

Edna O'Sullivan – Rentals and Cleaning

Rachel Legard

Social Action:

Dawn Meredith – Co-Chair

Kim Nute – Co-Chair

Betty Crepeau

Bob Pavlik

Michelle Martin

Socials:

Edna O'Sullivan -- Co-Chair

Deb Johnson -- Co-Chair

Joyce Sheffield

Cindy Schram

Dottie Oliver

Denominational Affairs:

Raelene Shippee-Rice - Chair

Carmen Buford-Paige

Membership:

Frank Rodgers – Chair

Mike Fleming

Caring Committee:

Chris Rodgers – Chair

Michelle Martin

Michael O'Sullivan

Marjorie Wolfson

Nominations:

Jim Nute– Chair

Bob Pavlik

Music Task Force:

Carmen Buford-Paige – Chair

Malcolm Smith

Thomas Pistole

Green Sanctuary:

Mike Fleming – Chair

Bob Pavlik

Caring Committee:

Chris Rodgers – Chair

Michelle Martin

Michael O'Sullivan

Marjorie Wolfson

Webmaster:

Brett Gibson

HEED Editor:

Bob Pavlik



RE kids and adult helpers cleaning recyclables that they found outside as part of their Earth Day clean-up



Abby Seixas speaking about the Deep River



Committees Members 2013-2014

Officers:

Malcolm Smith, President
Jim Zembruski, Treasurer

Bob Pavlik, Vice President - 1yr. term
Karen Smith, Secretary

Committees:

Program:

Tom Schram - Chair
Carmen Buford-Paige
Betty Crepeau
Malcolm Smith
Larry Vogelmann

Susan Bullivant
Raelene Shippee-Rice - liaison to Socials
Dale Rice - liaison to Socials
Dottie Oliver

Religious Education:

Stefanie Griffin – Co-Chair
Brad Kinsey

Jen Pavlik -- Co-Chair

House and Grounds:

Sarge Legard – Chair
Edna O'Sullivan – Rentals and Cleaning

Michael O'Sullivan – Grounds
Rachel Legard

Social Action:

Betty Crepeau -- Co-Chair
Bob Pavlik

Dawn Meredith -- Co-Chair

Socials:

Edna O'Sullivan -- Co-Chair
Joyce Sheffield
Dottie Oliver

Deb Johnson -- Co-Chair
Cindy Schram
Raelene Shippee-Rice

Dale Rice

Denominational Affairs:

Bob Pavlik – Chair

Membership & Caring Subcommittee:

Frank Rodgers – Chair
Mike Fleming
John Macri

Chris Rodgers
Michael O'Sullivan

Nominations:

Jim Nute– Chair

Music Task Force:

Carmen Buford-Paige - Chair
Malcolm Smith, Thomas Pistole

HEED/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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