

The HEED MAY, 2018

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10AM Sundays

- May 6.** Earth Day.
Mike Fleming and members of our Senior High group
- May 13.** World War I: Racism in the Military.
Michael O'Sullivan
- May 20.** [Closing our Fellowship year]
Rev. Mary Edes
- May 27.** Our traditional potluck social at the home of Dottie Oliver
and Larry Vogelmann. (See details on HEED Page 6)

UPCOMING DUUF MEETINGS

May 2 at 6:30 PM
May Board Meeting

May 21 at 6 PM
Annual Business Meeting

Annual Report of the Program Committee

As we move into the final Sundays of this Fellowship year, I would like to share a bit about the programs presented during the 2017-18 period.

First some facts. We had 19 in-house speakers, seven minister-led programs—including five by Mary Edes, and two programs by led or involving our senior youth. Outside presenters brought expertise from a variety of professional and experiential perspectives.

This year included some traditional programs, included our opening water service, Kwanzaa, Christmas Eve service, Easter, Passover Seder, and Endings and Beginnings. We offered programs covering Green Sanctuary issues, including climate change and Earth Day; Welcoming Congregation issues, such as how to be an ally for the LGBTQ community; hospice and palliative care; history, including World War I (as we reflect on the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice) and black heritage in Portsmouth. We heard talks on provocative topics such as peace in the Middle East, truth, spirituality, poverty—both locally and abroad, and extending human life. We learned about local issues, including agriculture and education, and Unitarian Universalism, both in our own congregation and in the broader community.

I would like to thank members of this year's Program Committee: Susan Bullivant, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Dale Rice, and Larry Vogelmann. I would also like to invite interested folks to talk with me about becoming a member of this committee. As a lay-led congregation, we have the responsibility of providing presenters for each of our Sunday morning programs. I would be happy to tell you more about the responsibilities as well as the rewards for serving on this committee. This is a commitment-free conversation!

Sometimes it is not possible to fit a specific person into our program, due to scheduling or other conflicts. In a number of instances we have provisional agreements to have them do a program in the coming year. In other cases Fellowship members have asked to have particular speakers return, either to continue with their original topic or present on another one. Among the folks in this group is Mary Edes. I would like to thank last year's Board for initiating a five-Sunday commitment from Mary for the current year. Based on feedback from our members, Mary has graciously agreed to a similar commitment in the coming year.

I feel good about what we on the Program Committee provided to the Fellowship this year. That said, your thoughts and comments are crucial as we plan for next year's programs. Your feedback—whether complimentary or critical—is always welcome as are your ideas for potential speaker and topics. You can send me an e-mail (tgp22@comcast.net), mail your comments (31 Pinecrest Lane, Durham 03824) or put them in the Program Committee mail slot in the front foyer.

Faithfully, Thomas Pistole

Annual Treasurer's Report

Here is a quick summary of this year's Fellowship financial activity for member consideration as our Annual Business Meeting approaches (May 21st).

Ins and outs: No big surprises so far. This year's income and expenses (tenant rent, donations, fund raisers, ... program, house, social action, RE, ...) are close to those planned.

Surplus?: Assuming donations received (\$15,500 as of April 30th) continue to come in so that we hit the \$20,000 target agreed and budgeted at last year's ABM, the DUUF will complete the FY 17-18 on June 30th with a small Operating Fund surplus. Please do what you can in May to help us hit our target.

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

Planning for next year: Committee chairs have submitted their budget requests for next year. The board will discuss these and a draft of the FY19 operating budget at its May 2nd meeting. With board approval the treasurer will present a budget proposal to the full membership for discussion and vote at the ABM (21 May).

We'll discuss and vote on the 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 post and distribute the status information at least one week before the ABM. At that time I will present my recommendations for surplus allocation (if any) and next year's budget.

Yours,

John Macri, Treasurer

John.macri@unh.edu

Annual Report of the Socials Committee

Our first annual Easter Breakfast Potluck was a huge success with more than 40 attendees enjoying an abundance of delicious offerings. Betty and Eric Nordgren were honored with flowers, applause and gratitude, for their many years generously preparing delicious Easter morning breakfasts. Though it definitely won't be the same--folks mentioned they missed the Nordgren's tasty scrambled eggs--we will continue our new Easter Breakfast Potluck tradition next year.

Our third and final seasonal-birthday celebration of the year took place last Sunday. Members and friends with SPRING and SUMMER birthdays were served delicious Almond Passionfruit cake. Those celebrating their birthdays generously shared their cake with the fall and winter birthday folks, so we were all happy.

Thanks to all of you for making this year's coffee hours, circle dinners and potlucks such a success. DUUFers clearly take to heart Bill Penzey's advice, "Love people, cook them tasty food". We are fortunate to have so many good cooks among us.

On the other hand, DUUFers appear to be a bit less good at remembering to take their pans, and serving plates, etc. home—we have a large supply of left-behind dishes and pans in our kitchen. In the interest of clearing out the kitchen (and returning belongings to their rightful place) all left-behind items will be placed on the lobby table on the next two Sundays [May 6th and May 13th]. Please claim your left-behinds by May 13th— any remaining after that date will be donated to Durham's Swap Shop.

Our final Fellowship service will be held on Sunday, May 20th. Rev. Mary Edes will be with us again, so we'll have some special scrumptious snacks during Coffee Hour.

On May 27th our generous hosts, Dottie Oliver and Larry Vogelmann, will again hold our end-of-the-year picnic at their lovely home on the Little Bay (22 Cedar Point Road). The fun will begin at 11 am; please bring stories to tell and a dish or beverage (or both) to share. Larry and Dottie will provide details closer to the date.

Deb Johnson

Annual Report of the House Committee

The biggest project of the house committee this year has been upgrading the electrical system in the upstairs of the old house for the office rentals. Also, we have a brand new hardwood floor in Fellowship Hall and light new tables to use on it during our social events like potluck meals.

One continual area of concern, is all of us sharing in personal responsibility. There are lights constantly left on after the building is closed, doors left unlocked many times when no one is there, the automatic thermostats repeatedly left in incorrect settings and recently the lavalier mic was tampered with requiring an expensive repair bill. These issues cost us money, waste time and resources, and potentially could lead to theft or vandalism.

The other work of the committee: keeping up the office rentals, coordinating rentals of the fellowship hall and sanctuary, and organizing of grounds work continues to keep our building beautiful as well as helping offset our yearly expenses.

On Saturday, April 28th, the UNH Center on Aging and Community Living named our own Joyce Sheffield (below, at the ceremony) a 2018 "AGE OF CHAMPIONS INSPIRATIONAL AWARDEE"



Northern New England District Moves Toward Dissolution

Deb Johnson and Thomas Pistole

In the course of revising our bylaws we've discovered that our Northern New England District may be abolished. Though our District is currently very much alive and an active participant in the UUA's New England Region, the NNE District board recently recommended that the District move toward dissolution.

The grounds for such a recommendation can be found in the UUA's development of a more centralized organization. Historically, the UUA's Districts were decentralized, each having their own governing bodies and staff who were responsible for providing services to the district's member congregations. Around 2010, the UUA began to encourage greater collaboration among their 19 districts. Districts were clustered into five regional groups, with our NNE District, along with three other districts, becoming part of the New England Region. Subsequently many district staff members have been moved to the five regional offices, without replacements provided to district offices. Thus fewer congregation services are available on the district level, with regional staff assuming many of these responsibilities.

These changes have led district boards and congregations to question each district's viability as a governing body. In fact, three of the five UUA Regions—the Southern, the Central East and Mid-America regions—have independently decided to dissolve all their districts, empowering their regional organization as their governing body. While the NNE District has not yet reached such a decision, two of the districts within our New England Region have already chosen to dissolve.

Thus, the NNE District Board's recommendation to move toward dissolution of the district is part of a larger movement; one that will result in a more streamlined organizational structure for the UUA. The NNE District board has stated there will be no vote on this at the 2018 Annual meeting, so any such change lies somewhere down the road. If you have access to Google Drive you may view a recent letter from the District Board regarding their recommendations at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LaJw5AIZPcLsIBqH051MdFkYpQf_NGYF/view. We'll also post copies of this letter on the DUUF bulletin board.

If you are interested or concerned, please attend one of the following gatherings, which will offer opportunities to learn more about the proposal and to provide feedback to the Board on its recommendation for dissolution. A face-to-face meeting with the Board will be held in Manchester on Saturday, May 19 from 10am to noon. Teleconferences (via Zoom) will be held on Wednesday, May 9 from 10am to noon and on Thursday, May 17th from 7 to 9pm. For further information on these meetings please consult the Northern New England District's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NNEDUUA/>.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND PICNIC

Larry and I are looking forward to having the Fellowship Annual Memorial Day Weekend picnic at our home on Sunday May 27th at 11 am. Please bring some food to share. There is a barbecue grill and, hopefully there will be some sun. The high tide is around 1 pm so there will be deep water for kayakers and motor boats. The address is 22 Cedar Point Road in Durham. Enter on the right side of the house. Please ask Larry or myself if you need directions, or give us a call at 749-0366.

Dottie Oliver



Flowers from this year's Easter Service

**Spiritual Growth Group will
meet on May 17th at the
DUUF.**

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!!

OYSTER RIVER FOLK SERIES PRESENTS:



THE GNOMES- GLOBAL FOLK FUSION

The Oyster River Folk Series presents *The Gnomes* for the final concert of the year! *The Gnomes* fuse their dynamic folk-rock edge with original tunes and a wide-ranging repertoire that spans the globe — Celtic, Scandinavian, Eastern European, Asian, African, Caribbean and Native American — bringing you a sound that will touch both your heart and your feet! *Phil Edmonds, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Peter Breen, Mike Fischman and Matt Demick* combine percussion, guitar, bass, mandolin, fiddle, erhu, Irish whistle and button accordion to bring you a music that is "exotic, fresh, unique." Come Get Gnomed!!

Please visit The Gnomes at: www.thegnomesband.com

DURHAM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

20 MADBURY RD., DURHAM, NH

TICKETS \$15 / \$5 STUDENTS

May 12, 2018, 7 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

2017-2018 DUUF Officers & Committees

Officers

President: Joyce Sheehan

Vice President &

Denominational Affairs: Dottie Oliver

Treasurer: John Macri

Secretary: Rachel Legard

Committees

Program: Thomas Pistole (Chair); Larry Vogelmann, Susan Bullivant, Raelene Shippie-Rice, Carmen Buford-Paige

Religious Exploration: Brad Kinsey (Coordinator)

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

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

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Chair); Betty Crepeau

Socials: Deb Johnson (Chair); Edna O'Sullivan, Amy Randlov, Brooke Baldwin, Bob Sheehan

Membership: Bob Pavlik (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Ann Windsor, Chris Rodgers, Betty Crepeau, Michael O' Sullivan

Nominations: Bob Sheehan (Chair); Michael O' Sullivan

Music Committee: Carmen Buford-Paige (Chair); Thomas Pistole; Maria Isaak

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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