

The HEED OCTOBER, 2018

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10 AM Sundays

- Oct 7** **Chris Chance**
**The Struggles to Embrace Diversity with Compassion:
Some Lessons from Mom (part 1)**
- Oct 14** **Arnie Alpert**
**Political Environment in New Hampshire
American Friends Service Committee**
- Oct 21** **Rev. Emily Burr**
- Oct 28** **Music and Reflection**
**Maria Isaak and her quintet will provide music and
our youth group will share some of their activities
this past year.**

Message from the President

We're off to a great start at the Fellowship for this new year. Many thanks to Bob Pavlik for once again doing our Fall Yard Sale and raising almost \$500. We had a fun-filled night before the sale making apple cider.

Thanks to Susan Bullivant for once again doing the Water Ceremony on our first Sunday back.

We also had a very special day on Sunday the 23rd. The celebration of Joyce Sheffield's 90th birthday and the dedication of a Korean Dogwood tree in honor of Joyce and in memory of her husband, Merle. Our thanks to Rev. Mary Edes for leading us that day. We are also looking forward to an exciting October with many exciting programs, another pot luck and Circle Dinner.

Bob Sheehan

Edna O'Sullivan shared the following letter from a UU minister from Maryland who used our facility for a reunion of her family members from many locations across the country.

Dear Edna,

Many thanks, again, for your hospitality and graciousness - and flexibility! - in allowing us to use your beautiful space for our reunion in August. It was a wonderful gathering that will have long effects for all of us.

A piece of story that we collected while we were there.

Our grandmother, Dr Anna Corlies Rudd, lived in Durham starting in the mid to late 20's. She served as the local physician for several years. One of my cousins, Bill Rudd said that she served as the doctor until the new male doctor came to town. That was the doctor who lived in the house that is your meeting house.

Cousin Bill remembers going to see the doctor when he was little, and living in Durham with his family.

Small world, cross connections, meeting across space and time.

Take care,

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister

Chautauqua Institution

This past August Joyce Sheffield and I once again headed to the southwestern corner of New York State for a week at Chautauqua. Until my first visit there with Joyce last year, I knew very little about this place. That initial visit was an eye-opener, full of learning activities, music, walks, and quiet time. Founded by a businessman and a Methodist minister, it was originally a teaching camp for Sunday-school teachers. Although it still retains a religious presence, today many faith communities—including a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship—are represented. Additionally Chautauqua is a center for excellent music, theater, and other non-secular activities.

Each week in its nine-week season has a different theme. For our week the theme was *The Forgotten: History and Memory in the 21st Century*. There was also an interfaith lecture theme—*Not to Be Forgotten: A Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Even before we had completely moved in to our on-site lodging, I attended a presentation by Barbara Mikulski. The former senator from Maryland was the longest-serving woman in congressional history.

Sen. Mikulski's talk focused on building civility in our political discourse, an often-heard theme in our current climate. She spoke of her efforts to build coalitions among the relatively few women in the Senate, apart from their party affiliation. In her last speech on the Senate floor, prior to her retirement, she called for a return to civility. During her 30 years in the U.S. Senate she mentored a number of newly elected women, earning her the unofficial title of "Dean of the Women." Following her political career, she became a professor and adviser to the president at Johns Hopkins. She continues to speak in various forums about leadership, innovation, advocacy, and women's empowerment.

In subsequent reports I will share other highlights throughout the week. I can't, though, close without noting a musical highlight of that week. The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra with the world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell performed the music for the simulcast showing of the movie *The Red Violin*. To see and hear Joshua Bell was breathtaking; to see and hear him and the orchestra blend seamlessly with the visual scenes was unbelievable. Indeed, Chautauqua has come a long way from its roots. It is amazing how much can be packed into a single week.

Thomas Pistole

DUUF Social Action Report 2017/18

(Due to an error by the HEED Editor, this submission was omitted from the September 2018 HEED)

This has been a very busy year for our Social Action efforts, as we have joined in two new local groups (Oyster River Community Reads and Durham United) in addition to continuing our work with Sea-coast Family Promise.

Our support of SFP included donations (a total of \$800 for gas cards; \$400 in cash and \$400 from Social Action Fund) and staffing 59 of the 245 hosting slots over 6 weeks throughout the year, including three meals made by our culinary youth. Two of our speakers (Jane and Julien Oliver who spoke on hospice) donated their speaker's fee of \$150 to SFP.

We also supported Guests at your Table - thanks to Dottie for collecting \$532.27 this past fall. Dottie has been a long-time staunch supporter of UUSC (UU Service Committee), and in the past I haven't given their work enough air time. From their website: "Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues... [The theme for 2018/19 is Justice Across Borders] From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek asylum." We look forward to supporting these efforts with donations in the fall.

Focusing on local concerns, we donated \$100 from the Social Action Fund to Cornucopia Food Pantry.

One of our new efforts this year was supporting Oyster River Community Reads, a local group whose goal is to facilitate respectful conversations about race (<https://www.orcread.org/>). One of the main activities of the group was reading the book "Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving which tells the story of one White woman's awakening to systemic racial injustice and her role in that oppression. We supported this group through a donation of \$250. In addition, we hosted a successful open mic night on March 15th where people from the community shared diverse experiences about race, ranging from uplifting to disheartening. Many of the fellowship also joined in the twenty or so activities hosted throughout the community. ORCR is taking a break this year but planning on another reading event in January 2020.

This summer we also joined in support of Durham United's Indigenous People's Day. We are hosting two events with them:

[12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State](#)

Presented by Robert Goodby, Professor of Anthropology, Franklin Pierce University
Sept 27 at 6:30 pm at the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

[Colonial Stories: The Tangled Lives of Native Americans and English Settlers](#)

Presented by Jo Radner, Professor Emerita of Literature, American University
Sunday, Oct 14 at 1:00 pm at the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Who is Durham United, you may wonder. From Nancy Lambert, one of the founders of the group: “Durham United is an informal group of residents from the greater Durham area that originally came together to demonstrate support for Durham's diverse community in response to the Muslim travel ban. Since that demonstration, we have also discussed policing practices with respect to immigrants and racial profiling with the Durham Police Dept, which issued a report in response to our inquiries. We also lobbied the Durham Town Council on several initiatives including adopting a resolution to declare Durham a welcoming community, expanding and diversifying the composition of the Durham Human Rights Commission, and adopting Indigenous Peoples' Day on Columbus Day. We served as a partner organization for the Oyster River Community Read, held signs during the 2017 Freshmen Move In day welcoming students to campus, and facilitated the distribution of the “Durham is a Welcoming Community” lawn signs.”

Thanks to all who contributed time or money to support our social action agenda! We are appreciative of the many ways that folks have helped. And we want to invite you to consider taking a new role in social action. Here are some possibilities:

- Being the DUUF liaison to ORCR. This would involve attending occasional meetings (once every two months, I would guess, for this year and more frequent as the January 2020 read gets closer).
- Making a meal for SFP or helping our youth cook meals once a year during service.
- Being evening hosts with SFP (from 5-8pm); there are about seven opportunities a year.
- Being an overnight host with SFP (from 8pm to 7:30 am). This is one time when you are encouraged to sleep on the job!
- Take the lead on one action related to racial injustice. The NH Listen's report for ORCR has several suggestions. (This report was emailed to all DUUFers.)

Deb and Dawn will be available to discuss these possibilities during the first three DUUF services of the fall.

Learn more about Indigenous People's Day activities being hosted at the DUUF and elsewhere throughout the fall at the following website: DurhamIPD.org

2017-2018 DUUF Officers & Committees

Officers

President: Bob Sheehan

Vice President: Dottie Oliver

Treasurer: John Macri

Secretary: Rachel Legard

Committees

Program: Thomas Pistole (Chair); Susan Bullivant, Carmen Buford-Paige, Julia Kinsey

Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik (Chair) Brad Kinsey

House and Grounds: House: Sarge Legard (Chair); Grounds: Eric Nordgren;

Rentals and Cleaning: Maria Isaak (Rentals); Edna O'Sullivan (Cleaning)

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

Membership: Brooke Baldwin (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers, Betty Crepeau,

Michael O' Sullivan, Bob Sheehan

Councils

Nominations: Michael O'Sullivan (Coordinator), Joyce Sheehan

Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator), Jake Kritzer

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator); Betty Crepeau

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

Communication & Outreach: Brett Gibson (Webmaster); Stefanie Griffin (HEED Editor)

Denominational Affairs: Joyce Sheehan (Coordinator)



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