

# The HEED MAY, 2019

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



## Services at 10AM Sundays

**May 5: Rev. Mary Edes**

**May 12: Dennis Meadows The Climate Change Playbook**

**May 19: Mike Fleming Food, Environment, Ethics**

### About Our May Speakers

Mary Edes has been speaking at our Fellowship since the 1990s. Since leaving parish ministry she has been focusing on her role as chaplain and leading a hospice singing group in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Dennis Meadows is an American scientist and Emeritus Professor of Systems Management, and former director of the Institute for Policy and Social Science Research at the University of New Hampshire. Prior to his tenure at UNH he served as director of research institutes at Dartmouth College and MIT. He is the Past President of the International [System Dynamics Society](#) and the International Simulation and Games Association. He has facilitated workshops and developed innovative and complex strategic games all over the world. In addition, Dr. Meadows has lectured in over 50 countries. He has received numerous international awards for his work, including the [Japan Prize](#) in April 2009. Locally he and his wife Suzanne MacDonald conceived and established the Wagon Hill Community Garden in Durham and remain dedicated members of that group.

Mike Fleming is a long-time member of our Fellowship. Now retired, he is dedicated to issues relating to the environment, climate change, and clean energy. He is a major figure in our Green Sanctuary program.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had some great programs in April beginning with Abigail Carroll on the 7th, a Potluck following the Service by Rev. Ed Lynn on the 14th, continuing our Easter Breakfast followed by Thomas' Easter Message followed by the Easter Egg Roll on the 21st, and our traditional Seder led by Larry Vogelman on the 28th.

Our final Oyster River Folk Concert of the season (until the Fall) on the 20th featuring Craig Werth was very well attended. Again, we thank Bob, Brad & the Youth for providing refreshments.

We are looking forward to a busy May starting with Mary Edes on May 5th followed by a Potluck and ending with our traditional Memorial Day Cookout at Larry & Dottie's.

## DUUF Socials for May 2019

This month we will be holding a potluck luncheon on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> following Rev. Mary Edes' program. Please join us for conversation and camaraderie this coming Sunday; bring a dish to share if you can. Thanks to all of you for making this year's coffee hours, circle dinners and potlucks such a success. We are fortunate to have so many good cooks among us.

We will be celebrating Spring and Summer birthdays with a delicious Beach Pea birthday cake on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please join us to celebrate your own Spring/Summer birthday with a slice of cake or to bestow best wishes on the celebrants (with cake for non-celebrants too!)

On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> our generous hosts, Dottie Oliver and Larry Vogelman, will host our end-of-the-year picnic at their lovely home on 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 further details closer to the date.

Thanks again, Deb, Edna, Amy and Bob

## DUUF BOARD MEETING

The May Board Meeting will be held on May 8th at 6:30PM.

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND PICNIC

Larry and I are looking forward to the Fellowship's Annual Memorial Day Picnic, our last get together until September.

We will celebrate the Day at our home on Sunday May 26th at 11am. Please bring some food and drinks to share. There is a barbecue grill and, we hope, some sun. Unfortunately it will be low tide. 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

### Annual Report of the Program Committee

As a lay-led fellowship, we have a different presenter nearly every week in our Sunday morning services. The role of identifying and securing these individuals as well as preparing orders of service and facilitating the programs for most weeks is the responsibility of the Program Committee. I want to thank Susan Bullivant for serving with me on this committee. For the 2018-19 Fellowship year we offered 34 programs, including an evening Christmas Eve service. Our presenters were split evenly between members and friends (14) and outside folks (14). Several people offered more than one program. We had nine programs that were minister-led, including five by our long-time colleague, Mary Edes. Seven of these programs were officiated by UU ministers, one by a retired UCC minister, and one by an interfaith chaplain currently serving a UU congregation. Among our non-ordained presenters were a number whose faith was integral to the programs they presented. These faiths included Catholicism, American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), Islam, Bahá'í, non-denominational Christian as well Unitarian Universalism. Outside speakers came from a variety of sources including UNH, the local community, friends and colleagues, and other faiths. Topics ranged from various social justice issues to environmental concerns; from personal stories to community outreach; from issues of spirituality and religion to historical reflections; from the blessing of music and poetry to UU-framed holiday/holy day celebrations. As we acknowledge our 60 years of existence, we can also reflect of the richness that we receive from folks both within and outside our Fellowship.

Thomas Pistole

### **Annual Report of the Socials Committee**

**During the past year the fellowship's lively coffee hours and interesting potluck luncheons were made possible by tasty contributions from generous DUUU members and friends. The members of the Social Committee organized and managed the coffee hours and potlucks, but the success of these events is due to the many volunteers willing to help with preparing snacks, serving and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks to all of you! We hope you have discovered that washing dishes together is a positive social experience at DUUU.**

**This years fall and winter Circle Dinner events were made possible by generous members who opened their homes to fellow DUUFers. These opportunities to share delicious food and lively conversation enable us to get to better know one another. With assistance from you, we have been able to continue the Nordgren's Easter Breakfast tradition as a breakfast potluck. Our new tradition of providing seasonal birthday cakes commemorates (and sweetens) all DUUF birthdays.**

**Though it goes beyond the purview of this committee, we also want to thank several other individuals who have nurtured the social, intellectual and spiritual life of our community. Dottie Oliver and Larry Vogelman's annual Solstice Party provides a beacon of warmth and light during the dark days of December. We are also grateful to Dottie and Larry for offering a lovely locale for our end-of-the-year Fellowship Picnic (upcoming on May 26th). Mike Fleming's game and pizza night continues to challenge and entertain us all. Dawn Meredith's coordination of volunteers for Seacoast Family Promise, our youth members' engagement with social action and the environmental events organized by Mike Fleming continue to foster our awareness of the needs of others and concern for our environment. These activities have provided members with opportunities to become better acquainted, explore shared interests, and to encourage one another's spiritual growth and engagement in social action.**

**Thanks to all!**

### **Annual Report of the House Committee**

**A large tree at the corner of the parking lot was taken down courtesy of Eversource. It was leaning over the power lines and in the way of our ongoing attempts to expand the parking lot. All of the firewood has been removed and a stump grinding contractor will be hired soon to eliminate the stump. Many small trees and invasive brush were removed along the east side of the front yard. The RE group is working on replanting this area. Next to this area, a Korean Dogwood tree was planted in memory of Merle, and in honor of Joyce Sheffield. The new bench and railing project on the deck is wrapping up this month with the addition of a lexan safety barrier. A roof leak damaged some sheetrock in the elevator shaft and the adjacent wall next to the kitchen. The roof has been repaired and inside repairs continue. The DUUF office is undergoing a complete makeover, some new furniture has been donated and will arrive soon. The high ceiling in the sanctuary had a complete ‘sheetrock joint tape failure’. The repairs were recently completed with exceptional results. We had no significant changes in the office rentals. Thanks to Maria, we now have a new on-line Google calendar showing all house reservations, locations and times. Thanks to Eric for keeping the snow storms to a minimum this winter and the grounds looking great. Many thanks to Edna for her strong support of the House committee.**

**Sarge Legard, House Chair**

### **Annual Report of the Social Action Committee**

Our support of Seacoast Family Promise included staffing 43 of the 175 hosting and meal prep slots over 5 weeks throughout the year, including one meal made by our culinary youth. The highlight for me this year was in January, when Emma, Zoe and their friend Sophia were dinner hosts with Deb and I. They played with the nine (!) children under the age of 6 who were guests that week, and were very good company for the one “older” guest, age 10. So far this year we have collected \$300 for gas cards, which was supplemented by \$250 in social action funds. Betty will collect once again for gas cards in May, and we will match that amount up to \$250.

We continued to partner with Durham United by helping to distribute rainbow lawn flags to our members. To further support this important effort, we donated \$250 to Seacoast Outright, a local group that supports young people in the LGBTQ+ community.

## Annual Report of the Downstairs Fellowship

The downstairs fellowship welcomed spring with a neighborhood cleanup and a nature walk. We even took some time to count the rings on the stump of the big cottonwood tree next to the parking lot. After several tallies, we decided there were 68 rings!

The older and younger groups worked together to raise money selling snacks during the OR Folk intermission. This month's earnings will go towards the purchase of plants for the new side garden. We're looking to put in several blueberry and winter berry bushes to take advantage of the sunshine, hold down the soil on the hill, and provide wildlife with food. Thanks to everyone who advised us on garden ideas. Look for the new plants to go in later this spring.

## Annual Report of the Green Sanctuary Committee

### Environmentally-related Sunday Services

- A Triptych for Rosa --Jake Kritzer, December 16, 2018
- The Climate Change Playbook—Dennis Meadows, May 12, 2019
- Food, Environment, Ethics—Mike Fleming, May 19, 2019

### Interfaith Environmental Efforts

- Monthly/quarterly participation in Seacoast Interfaith Stewards of the Earth (SISE) meetings
- Coordinated with SISE on sale of stainless steel reusable straws at Durham Christmas Fair (sold out)
- (Interfaith youth group, separate from SISE effort, sold reusable portable table settings at Christmas Fair)
- Planned with SISE and provided on-site support for climate forum featuring Presidential candidate Gov. Jay Inslee, held at DUUU

### Community Environmental Education

- DUUU has initiated a series of climate forums with Presidential candidates in addition to the SISE-associated event with Gov. Inslee. The forums will include a panel of NH experts and advocates on climate issues.
- The first DUUU-initiated forum is tentatively scheduled for June 15 with Andrew Yang
- Further forums are anticipated to be held in future months (3 campaigns have expressed significant interest, 8 additional email receptionists have forwarded the invitation to schedulers)

## **Annual Treasurer's Report**

Here is a quick summary of this fiscal year's (FY) Fellowship financial activity for member consideration as our Annual Business Meeting (ABM) approaches (May 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Ins and outs:** Some FY19 expenses such as electrician services were higher than budgeted; others such as snow plowing and shoveling were lower. On balance, the FY will end on June 30<sup>th</sup> with total expenses pretty close to those budgeted. On the income side, donations are not yet at the budget level agreed at last year's ABM.

**Donations:** As of April 30<sup>th</sup> donations to DUUU total \$16,500; \$20,000 is the budgeted total expected by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please check your records and do your part in the coming weeks. It is rare to find donation checks in the treasurer's mail slot during the summer.

**Allocations to Funds:** DUUU's operating budget includes payments to our Nest Egg and Rooftop Solar Purchase Funds, both of which remain below their agreed goals. Any available operating resources as of June 30<sup>th</sup> will be allocated to these funds.

**Investing:** The DUUU once again increased its Nest Egg Fund investment in the NH Community Loan Fund – current total: \$15,000. The UUA matches this socially responsible investment.

**Planning for next year:** Committee chairs are submitting their budget requests for next year. So far there are requests for more exterior painting and more teal hymnals. The board will discuss these and a draft of the FY20 operating budget at its May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. With board approval the treasurer will present a budget proposal to the full membership for discussion and vote at the ABM.

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 available current fiscal year operating resources, 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 allocation of any remaining FY19 operating resources and next year's budget.

Yours,

John Macri, Treasurer

[john.macri@unh.edu](mailto:john.macri@unh.edu)

### 2018-2019 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, Bob Sheehan

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

Michael O' Sullivan, Bob Sheehan, Joyce 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**

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