

The HEED February, 2020

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10 AM Sundays

February 2	Deb Johnson DUUF Origin Myths
February 9	Will Hopkins Warriors for Peace
February 16	Jeanne Hruska Ending Mass Incarceration: A Moral Imperative
February 23	Chip Noon TBA
March 1	Paige Farmer Home for All: Your Role in Making it Happen

February **Board Meeting** will be held on
Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 PM.

President's Message

Thank you to all who did Programs in January....Mary Edes, Betty Crepeau, Mike Fleming, and Deb Howard. Looking forward to February's Programs beginning with Deb Johnson this coming Sunday.

Oyster River Folk Concerts continue on the 1st with the Jordan TW Trio. Hoping for a good turn out!

Thank you to Chris Rodgers and the Caring Committee for their continued acts of caring for our members.

-Bob Sheehan



DUUF Youth Preparing a Meal for Seacoast Family Promise.

DUUF Socials for February 2020

We've made it to the final full month of winter! Of course, this year, being a leap year, has a longer February than usual so we have planned several events this month designed to warm the souls of DUUF members (who might or might not believe in souls).

Our Winter Circle Dinners will take place on Saturday, February 15th. For all those who are able to join us, you can look forward to an evening filled with lively conversation, laughter and tasty food to chase away the winter chill. Please let Deb Johnson know if you would be able to host some fellow DUUFers that evening or wish to join one of these dinners.

In mid-February we will share our warmest regards (and cake) with DUUF members and friends who have WINTER birthdays. Join us on Sunday, February 16th to share birthday cake and give hugs to those born in the chilly winter months.

Hope you'll join us at some or all of these special events! And don't miss the upcoming Oyster River Folk Concert with The Jordan TW Trio on Saturday, February 1st. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Deb Johnson, for the Socials Committee (Carol Bullivant, Edna O'Sullivan, and Bob Sheehan)

The Caring Committee Cares A Lot

Our Caring Committee Members plus a few others who help regularly with Caring issues via the Committee at Fellowship is unfortunately having a very busy year. However, if you have or become aware of a Caring need, please let us know, and we shall do our utmost to see that it is met. Also, if you have not been involved with the Committee and would be willing to help out - or even join the Committee - please let us know that too. Caring for and helping out our own members can be a first step to helping out in the wider community, but in any case it is, we believe, a vital part of our mission as a Fellowship.

Our activities include, but are not limited to: driving people to Fellowship meetings and medical appointments; shopping; visiting; expressing our Fellowship's love and concern by sending cards, and often by sending or taking flowers, chocolates etc., and also bringing meals to those who are ill or recovering from hospitalization.

Such caring activities can be weekly or on an occasional basis, depending on people's needs and schedules.

**Chris Rodgers,
On behalf of the DUUF Caring Committee**

Members: Betty Crepeau, Michael O'Sullivan, Joyce Sheehan, Bob Sheehan, Cindy Schram



Oyster River Community Reads

This wonderful local organization kicks off another series of events, this time focusing on The Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. They have been planning this event for two years, and the timing could not be more appropriate.

There are films, trips, lectures, and discussions from end of January through May. DUUF will host a lecture on Thursday April 16th by Prof. Baumgartner of UNH on the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments.

For the full list of events, please go to

<https://www.orcread.org>

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PLANET

Keep your eyes out on the DUUF Facebook page for examples of the many good ideas people shared at the service on New Year's Resolutions for the Planet. Here are a few that Bob Pavlik has shared on Facebook so far:

How can we help the planet? One possible solution:

Don't always drive into the big city for a show; keep your entertainment local --

Oyster River Folk Concert Series -- http://uudurham.com/wp/?page_id=293

UNH Music Department Concerts -- <https://cola.unh.edu/music/calendar>

UNH Athletic Schedule -- <https://unhwildcats.com/calendar.aspx>

MUB Movies -- <https://www.unh.edu/mub/mub-movie-theaters>



Passing of a Tradition

In the process of establishing our Fellowship in the late 1950s folks worked with the Unitarian district office in Concord. When the Unitarian and Universalist denominations consolidated in 1961, that office became the supporting unit for congregations in New Hampshire and Vermont. Key personnel included a district consultant and a religious education (later program) consultant. Individuals holding these positions periodically visited our Fellowship to offer Sunday services, to lead workshops, and to provide support in general. At the time of consolidation, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) was established, providing support for Unitarian Universalist congregations in that country in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). In 2002 the CUC and UUA essentially separated, with the former providing most of the direct support to Canadian congregations. As a result, the Northeast District of the UUA, which included Maine plus a number of congregations in eastern Canada lost its Canadian constituents, leaving a district too small to stand on its own. Over the next six years extensive discussions occurred leading ultimately to the establishment of a new consolidated district—the Northern New England District—covering New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

Within a year after this reorganization, a nationwide plan began to emerge that, over the next 6-8 years, resulted in the establishment of five regions spanning the entire country in place of the approximately 20 districts in place when the process began. The rationale given for this major restructuring was (1) to provide better support for our congregations and (2) to meet financial constraints facing the UUA. Perhaps it was because we had already been through a significant reorganization more locally or because of New England resistance to change, we have been the last district still in existence from those original 20.

We in New Hampshire are now part of the New England Region, an area that encompasses the essentially the six New England states, and it is through this unit that support services are available to member congregations like ours. In most cases establishment of regional structure has been accompanied by dissolution of the corresponding districts; the Northern New England District is the lone holdout. That seems destined to change this year. After much discussion, preliminary voting, and legal advice, the district will be holding an official vote on its dissolution at its April meeting in Nashua.

One of the major stumbling blocks in this process has been the disposition of funds remaining in district coffers. Our bylaws stipulate that, upon dissolution, remaining funds revert to the UUA, where they are held for the express use of congregations within the domain of the former district. There has been a movement to have these funds dispensed in some fashion directly to these congregations, but legal opinions indicate that this would entail extensive proceedings that could result in significant expenditures from these remaining funds.

The Northern New England District and its predecessors have played an important role in the development and maintenance of congregations such as ours. Times, though, have changed. We now have a robust and diverse set of staff in our regional office that are available to support congregations in a variety of ways. If the vote at the district goes as it seems likely, we will say "goodbye" to the New England District. In a future article I will share some of the services currently available to us through our regional office.

In faith,

Thomas Pistole

Seacoast, we're coming to you!



*Jordan TW Trio
at the Oyster River Folk Series*

Feb 1st at 7pm \$15, tickets at door

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Durham, NH

2019-2020 DUUF Officers & Committees

Officers

President: Bob Sheehan

Vice President: Dottie Oliver

Treasurer: Jen Pavlik

Secretary: Rachel Legard

Committees

Program: Joyce Sheehan (Chair); Betty Crepeau (Deb Johnson—60th Anniversary Celebration Coordinator)

Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik (Chair); Brad Kinsey

House and Grounds: House: Sarge Legard (Chair), Rachel Legard; Grounds: Sarah Tambling

Rentals: Maria Isaak

Socials: Deb Johnson (Chair); Edna O’Sullivan, Bob Sheehan, Carol Bullivant, Betsy Tyrol

Membership: Brooke Baldwin (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers, Betty Crepeau,
Michael O’ Sullivan, Cindy Schram, Joyce Sheehan Bob Sheehan

Councils

Nominations: Michael O’Sullivan (Coordinator); Joyce Sheehan

Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator); Jake Kritzer, Nick Isaak

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator); Betty Crepeau

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

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

Denominational Affairs: Thomas Pistole (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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