

The HEED APRIL, 2017

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



SERVICES

10AM SUNDAYS

**April 2: WHALES, BREATHING
and LOGGING**

Rev Ed Lynn

April 9: Passover

Larry Vogelmann

April 16: Easter

Thomas Pistole

**April 23: Demystifying Mysticism: A
Universal Grammar of Religion**

Lee Clasper-Torch

April 30: Great Bay Ecosystem

Michelle Daley Shattuck

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

Happy April everyone! Our next board meeting will be held on Monday, 4/10 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. As always, all members are invited to attend; the always-faithful board members would love to see some new faces! Last month's board meeting featured an impromptu field trip outside, to the front of the building to discuss placement of our new rainbow and earth flags. Just imagine what we might come up with on Monday, April 10...you don't want to miss out!

Please be aware that our annual business meeting will be held in May. We will be setting the date soon and all members will be notified of the date and time.

Hope to see you at our April meeting!
Marjorie Wolfson, President, DUUF

The UUA—Fitting our Principles with Our Practice

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) was given birth in 1961 with the consolidation of Unitarians and Universalists. In these past 56 years (and for much earlier through each of these roots) we have espoused a set of principles that honor, in their current phrasing: “The inherent worth and dignity of every person” and “Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.” These are noble values and not always easy to uphold. Throughout this half-century there have been times when some have questioned our commitment to these principles. This year is no exception.

For instance, to date all UUA presidents have been male and ministers. We have broken the mold somewhat with the two most recent presidents in having an African-American, Bill Sinkford, and a Hispanic, Peter Morales. Barring an unusual set of events, we will have our first female president later this year, since all three of the candidates for this position are female. All three are also ministers so that criterion is still implicitly in place. Each congregation is entitled to vote for their candidate of choice. I encourage everyone to take time to look at the biographical information for each of these individuals. It is available through the UUA website and here: <https://www.uuworld.org/topics/uua-elections>. The candidates will be speaking at the UUA Regional Assembly in Woburn, MA later this month. I will be attending this session. Another of our UU principles is this: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” Let’s be sure we exercise that right.

Leadership in other positions continues to be a challenge. For instance, 9 of the 11 senior-level positions at the UUA are currently held by white men. The two persons of color are Taquiena Boston, who is the Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness, and President Morales,

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who term expires this June. The presidential candidates are all white. In our five regional offices all leads (senior staff members) are white and ministers. The recent hiring of a white, male minister to replace the outgoing lead for our Southern Region has sparked a strong response from members of the UU community. A strongly worded letter, signed by 121 ministers and religious educators, exemplifies the passion felt by many as we grapple with the challenge of living our principles.

The UUA has a history of support for anti-racism/anti-oppression/multiculturalism. The most recent action is a pledge by the UUA Board of Trustees to contribute \$5.3 million to the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) organizing collective. Funding will come from a variety of sources. The Northern New England District, which includes NH, VT, and ME, will be asking its members to support a pledge of \$300,000 to this initiative at its annual meeting following the Regional Assembly.

Building a diverse and inclusive community has been an ongoing goal of Unitarian Universalism. These examples indicate current activities in our Association. The question remains: Are we meeting this goal?

In faith,

Thomas Pistole

From the Socials Committee:

**There will be a pot-luck
following the service on
April 23rd.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

Just a note to see if anyone (past members and new members) would be interested in starting up again trusting that better weather is ahead of us. I thought it might be good to plan to meet and discuss our needs and the direction we might want to take. We could do some short-term studies: readings, discussions or maybe some writing. (I've included a few suggestions below.)

Let's plan to meet on Wednesday, 5 April or Thursday, 6 April @ 6:30. So, please let me know which day might work for you and suggestions for a resource to use. I will find something for the first meeting and get it to everyone. Please email me at: Joycesh@msn.com if you are interested in meeting this Spring. Joyce Sheehan

Possible Resources:

The Pen and the Bell: Mindful Writing in a Busy World

Available as an eBook on Google Play and in the Amazon Kindle Store. It can be difficult to create space for our spiritual lives in a world crowded with distractions. *The Pen and the Bell* is about how to achieve mindfulness and creative fulfillment in spite of long to-do lists.

Authors: Brenda Miller, Holly Hughes

Writing to Wake the Soul: Opening the Sacred Conversation Within

Author: Karen Hering

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Writing the Sacred Journey: The Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir

Available as an eBook in the [Amazon Kindle Store](#) and on [Google Play](#).

Author: [Elizabeth J. Andrew](#)

Living Beautifully with Uncertainty and Change

The best-selling author and spiritual teacher shares practices for living with wisdom and integrity even in confusing and uncertain situations.

Author: [Pema Chodron](#)

How to Survive Change You Didn't Ask For: Bounce Back, Find Calm in Chaos, and Reinvent Yourself

Author: [M.J. Ryan](#)

Fellowship Budgeting

The treasurer prepares a budget for the coming fiscal year and presents it for discussion and vote each May at the DUUF's Annual Business Meeting. This plan for income and spending must address the realities of our resources and the costs of operating our Fellowship. But it can and should also be aspirational. It should reflect our mission and our short and long-term goals. For these reasons I will be requesting budget inputs from each of our committee chairs at this year's two remaining board meetings. Fellowship members with ideas they would like to see reflected in our financial planning, please pass them along to me or any other member of the board. I will do my best to include them in the budget proposal to be presented discussed and voted at the ABM.

Yours,

John Macri, Treasurer

john.macri@unh.edu

Dover Area Religious Leaders Association (D.A.R.L.A.)

is looking for new members

D.A.R.L.A. is a group of representatives (clergy and lay people) from area faith traditions who meet together monthly in order to offer support to one another and to offer the greater Dover Community a united voice of religious leaders. Our meeting venues rotate among the meeting places of our members.

Mission Statement:

We recognize there is one divine reality and one human family. We commit ourselves to fostering the spirit of love, unity, understanding and respect in our community and beyond.

Our mission is:

- To explore and promote interfaith understanding and cooperation among the faith communities in the area.
- To support each other in personal and pastoral ways.
- To promote and help provide spiritual resources for hospital, jail, nursing home, and other area facilities.
- To offer interfaith worship services for the community, such as Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.
- To promote works of service to the community, such as programs of the Dover Cooperative Ministries Council. (Dover Friendly Kitchen, Dover food Pantry, Dover SHARE), CROP Walk, etc.
- To speak out on issues of ethical and moral urgency in the community and beyond.

Membership is open to any faith community who would like to be a part of the above endeavors. (continued on next page)

Current Members:

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church; Dover Cooperative Ministries; Dover Friends Meeting; First Church of Christ, Scientist; First Parish Congregational Church; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; Islamic Society of the Seacoast Area; Union Congregational Church of Madbury; Seacoast Baha'i Community; St. George Maronite Catholic Church; St. John's United Methodist Church; St. Joseph & St. Mary Roman Catholic Churches; St. Thomas Episcopal Church; Temple Israel, Dover; Wentworth-Douglass Hospital-Chaplain

For more information, contact Stefanie Griffin at stefbrett@gmail.com



Youth working on a multilingual "Welcome" sign for the Fellowship

2016-2017 DUUF Officers & Committees

Officers:

President Marjorie Wolfson Vice President Joyce Sheehan
Treasurer John Macri Secretary Rachel Legard

Committee Chairs:

Program: Susan Bullivant (Chair)

Religious Education: Brad Kinsey (Co-Chair) and Jen Pavlik (Co-Chair)

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

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

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Chair)

Socials: Cindy Schram (Chair), Deb Johnson (Co-Chair)

Denominational Affairs: Joyce Sheehan (Chair)

Membership: Membership: Bob Pavlik (Chair) Caring Subcommittee: Ann Windsor (Chair)

Nominations: Bob Sheehan (Chair)

Music Committee: Carmen Buford-Paige (Chair) 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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