

The HEED MAY, 2017

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



SERVICES
10AM SUNDAYS

5/7
Oyster Restoration Efforts in
the Great Bay
Amanda Moeser
Nature Conservancy

5/14
Religious Education
presents!

5/21
TBD

5/28
Memorial Day picnic

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

Just a reminder that our May Board Meeting is being held in the sanctuary at 6:30 on Monday, May 1 and that the all-important Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. I hope to see many of you at both of these exciting events, but really need to see many, many of you at the ABM!!!

Thank you,
Marjorie Wolfson,
President

Program Committee Annual Report 2016-2017

Many thought-provoking and uplifting programs were presented again this year. Green Sanctuary brought us a focus on water issues with presenter Dawn Genes on conservation in the fall and Michelle Daley Shattuck and Amanda Moeser on Great Bay topics in the spring.

Another important thread this year was navigating the current political climate. We had presentations from Larry Vogelmann on political correctness, and Robert Azzi on racial and religious tensions. Arnie Alpert from the AFSC presented on both national and state level politics. On 11/13 many members shared their thoughts and feelings about the election. We also had programs about learning from political issues of the past including, Michael Ferber on Felonies in the Sanctuary and Michael O'Sullivan on the Pilgrims and Puritans.

We also had a theme about our work for social justice. We had many thoughtful presentations including: Michael O'Sullivan on Obamacare, Jim Griffin on the Crop Walk, Pati Frew-Waters on Seacoast Family Promise, and Aron DiBacco on white privilege. Many DUUF members spoke about aspects of their personal spiritual path of Unitarian- Universalism. This included presentations by Betty Crepeau on pleasure, Thomas Pistole and Carmen Buford-Paige on singing, Joyce Sheehan on our spiritual upbringing, Raelene Shippee-Rice on optimism, and Donna Pistole on "walking the wheel" of daily life.

We also enjoyed programs by religious leaders including Rev. Edwin Lynn, Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood, Rev. Mary Edes, Vihanisari, Rabbi Alvin Mars, and Rev. Lee Clasper-Torch. Traditional favorite programs provided by members included the Water Ceremony, Christmas, Easter and Passover. Religious Education will present again this year in May.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on all the programs this year. A lay-led congregation takes a lot of cooperation and effort, but the results are impressive! Looking ahead to next year, we have scheduled a number of services from Rev. Mary Edes and hope to have Matt Meyers with his drum program.

Susan Bullivant, Program Committee chair

Denominational Affairs

This has been a year of both challenges and accomplishments for our faith community. We have just over 1000 congregations in our Association and about 200,000 members. The New England Region, one of five regions within the U.S., has about 230 congregations. Regions are staffed with professional and support personnel. Overall leadership and administration is the responsibility of our UUA Board of Trustees, President and staff, with headquarters in Boston.

Presidential election. This June we will elect a new president of our Association. There are three candidates, all women, all ministers. They have been campaigning for over a year and have appeared at forums throughout the country. I was fortunate to hear them at the Regional Assembly in Woburn recently. They are each very impressive so, no matter who is elected, we will be in good hands. Our congregation is eligible to cast two votes in this election. Please see this website for information about each candidate and the election in general <https://www.uuworld.org/topics/uua-elections>.

Challenges. As Unitarian Universalists, we uphold the importance of each individual. We also have a history of anti-racist/anti-oppressive/multicultural policies and practices. However, events earlier this year involving the hiring of a new senior staff member for one of our regions sparked a widespread outcry, originally from a core group of people of color but quickly spreading to others, including religious educators, ministers, and past administrators. The crux of this response was the alleged continuing bias in hiring practices against people of color and against non-clergy. Several letters were circulated for signatures and sent to the chair of the UUA Board of Trustees. Hundreds of signatures were obtained, including mine.

Immediate outcomes. Subsequently, in an unprecedented move within our faith community, President Peter Morales resigned, three months before his term was due to expire. Shortly afterwards, several other senior administrators also resigned and there was a rapid shifting of responsibilities among remaining staff to fill vacancies. The UUA Board, acting thoughtfully but quickly, developed a contingency plan and appointed a three-person team to fill the UUA presidency until the June elections. Each of the three co-presidents have specific portfolios for maintaining overall leadership in our Association and in developing mechanisms for both the specific issues of the last few months but also for the more long-term aspects of discrimination—in leadership and elsewhere—that have been felt by members of the UU community.

Long-term outcomes. While establishing an overall set of outcomes needs to await the election of the next UU president, it is clear that a systematic review of practices in hiring and other areas of administration will be a part of these efforts as will exploration into implicit biases that may lead to a disconnect between what we profess as a faith community and what we actually do.

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Black Lives–Unitarian Universalist (BLUU). Distinct from the recent events in the UU leadership group but with a shared concern is BLUU. This group, established independently of the UUA but with its endorsement, has arisen to provide a comprehensive program dealing with issues of people with color in our Association. The UUA Board of Trustees has committed significant funds to help this group develop and engage in the work of anti-racism and other forms of discrimination. The UUA Board, in turn, asked regional groups to contribute to this effort. Although we now a part of the New England Region, the Northern New England District—one of the constituents of the newly formed region—still functions, primarily because of financial constraints on funds controlled by that district. The district board requested approval from member congregations to use funds currently in uncommitted and unrestricted accounts to support BLUU. District Board members will also be requesting additional funds from congregations within Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. At a recent Fellowship Board meeting, members voted to approve this request and authorized me as a delegate to the Northern New England business meeting. I am happy to report that the motion passed with no dissenting votes. Note that this motion dealt only with funds already available to the district. Although additional funding will be requested from congregations, there is no commitment to do so.

Congregational actions. A grassroots action to help congregations understand some of the recent issues affecting our Association has gained a significant following in recent weeks. Termed “White Supremacy Teach-in,” it has been adopted by more than half of our congregations and involves devoting a Sunday morning service to a focused discussion of these issues. It may be useful for us to schedule one of these in the fall.

It can be easy to keep our UU focus on our own congregation. Because we have no paid staff, it is important for us be mindful of our needs and aspirations. At the same time, we are part of a larger faith community and our responsibilities extend there as well. I hope this article gives you a sense of some of major issues the UUA, of which we are a part, has been dealing with this year. We have a strong UUA Board of Trustees, an excellent set of interim co-presidents, and three very talented and committed candidates for our next president. I am confident we as an association will survive and thrive. As former UUA President and interim Co-President Bill Sinkford said recently, “Sometimes it takes a shock to a system to get it unstuck, and if nothing else, we’ve gotten that shock...”

In faith,

Thomas Pistole

Treasurer's Report

A summary of this year's financial activity is listed below for member consideration as our Annual Business Meeting approaches (May 15th).

Ins and outs: This year's income and expenses (donations, tenant rent, fund raisers, ... program, house, RE, ...) are close to those planned.

Surplus: The DUUF is on track to complete FY 16-17 on June 30th with an Operating Fund surplus.

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

Special funds: Recall that a new fund, Fellowship Hall Floor Replacement, was established at last year's ABM. I will propose it be increased at the upcoming ABM so that the floor can be replaced over the summer.

Planning for next year: Committee chairs are submitting their budget requests for next year. The board will discuss these and the proposed budget at its May 1st meeting.

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 and next year's budget.

Yours,

John Macri, Treasurer

john.macri@unh.edu

DUUF House Report: 2016-2017

The house committee is a great group of dedicated people with Karen Smith, Edna O'Sullivan and Eric Nordgren taking care of everything from building rentals to cleaning and maintenance- inside and out.

In addition to the ongoing routine, the following projects were completed:

Over last summer we continued with the electrical updates in the office rental area. Two new electrical circuits were installed. Also, we are continuing to change over to LED style lighting.

We now have a high quality lavalier mic system with thanks to Dottie Oliver and Dawn Meredith. The program committee championed the efforts and the Fair committee financed the lavalier. What a inter-committee success! The iPad that is often seen out during Sunday services is not due to checking social media, but is a crucial component to operation of the sound system. The system not only supports both microphones at the same time, but also can play music from virtually any source.

The Socials Committee, noticing that the old tables used for potlucks were heavy and worn, inquired about replacements. The old tables weighed 58 pounds a piece and were difficult to set up. Furthermore, the edges were rough and splintery. We bought five new tables that came in at half the weight!

Sarge Legard, House Committee Chair

**Don't miss the Annual Business Meeting
on May 15th
at 6 PM**

DUUF Officers for 2017-2018

Officers

<u>President:</u>	Joyce Sheehan
<u>Vice President &</u>	
<u>Denominational Affairs:</u>	TBA
<u>Treasurer:</u>	John Macri
<u>Secretary:</u>	Rachel Legard

Committees

<u>Program:</u>	Thomas Pistole (Chair)
<u>Religious Exploration:</u>	Brad Kinsey (Chair)
<u>House and Grounds:</u>	House: Sarge Legard; Grounds: Eric Nordgren; Rentals and Cleaning: Karen Smith (Rentals); Edna O'Sullivan (Cleaning)
<u>Social Action:</u>	Dawn Meredith (Chair),
<u>Socials:</u>	Deb Johnson (Chair) Edna O'Sullivan, Bob Sheehan
<u>Membership:</u>	Bob Pavlik (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Ann Windsor
<u>Nominations:</u>	Bob Sheehan (Chair)
<u>Music Committee:</u>	Carmen Buford-Paige (Chair), Thomas Pistole
<u>Green Sanctuary:</u>	Mike Fleming (Chair)
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Brett Gibson
<u>HEED Editor:</u>	Stefanie Griffin

***Please note, since we are still confirming members for all committees, we are only listing committee chairs. All committee members will be ready for the ABM.**

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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