

NOVEMBER, 2011



the

HEED

News Letter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

DUUF Invited to Participate in Cornucopia-Waysmeet Holiday Food Drive

Waysmeet, the UNH student organization led by Larry Bricker-Wood traditionally organizes food baskets for the holidays. Stacy Hoang, the student intern at Waysmeet has invited us to participate this year along with the other churches and the University. The following is from the letter sent to us.

“ In 2010-11, we [Waysmeet was] able to provide 475 baskets, which served approximately 1900 people. These baskets had a dollar value of \$47,500, and over 350 volunteers were involved in producing and distributing them. This would not have been possible without the generous support and donations of food, money, and time from UNH and Durham community members.

We are now looking at the challenging prospect of having to purchase and distribute food baskets for the 2011 Thanksgiving and Winter seasons. We are committed to providing food baskets to all those who need and request them, and we need your help to do this. Please help if you can. You can also visit the website at www.cornucopia.unh.edu for additional information.

Thanksgiving food baskets will be organized on *Monday, November 21st*, and *Winter food baskets* will be organized on *Thursday, December 15th*. We gratefully accept financial donations and non-perishable food items at any time to supplement the baskets. Checks can be made payable to the *Cornucopia Food Pantry*, and all donations are tax deductible.

The Cornucopia Food Pantry serves (cont. p. 2)

MooreMart's Christmas Stocking packing Event is scheduled for November 10th through the 12th at the Nashua National Guard Armory. The drop off date for supplies is November 10th from 3 to 7pm. We are hoping to surpass our 2010 record of 3,911 Christmas Stockings shipped to the Middle East this year by shipping at least 4,000 Christmas Stockings! At this time I can use volunteers for all 3 days with the biggest need on Thursday and Friday. If you and/or your group would like to volunteer please send me (prior to the 30th of October) the volunteer(s) names and the dates and time that they are available so I can reserve the appropriate number of volunteer slots for each packing day. Also, we are hoping to include at least 3 supportive cards, letters and drawings into each of our care packages which means we will need around 12,000 cards/letters/drawings for this packing event. That being the case we are hoping that you and/or your group will be able to contribute by dropping off supportive cards, letters or drawings at the Nashua Armory on the 10th of November.

Once again, thank you for your support of our troops!

Take care - Paul

Upcoming Services in November (at 10 am)

11/6/11 Dr. Phyllis Killiam-Abell: <i>"Creating a Peaceful World By Sustaining Our Future"</i>	11/13/11 Amy Antonucci: <i>"Peacework and Sacred Dance"</i>	11/20/11 Thomas Pistole: <i>"Thanksgiving Service"</i>	11/27/11 Michael O'Sullivan: <i>"Protecting Right Whales in the Gulf of Maine."</i>
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Committees Members

President: Bob Pavlik

Vice President: Malcolm Smith

Treasurer: Jim Zembruski

Secretary: Karen Smith

Program Committee: Carmen

Buford-Paige (chair); Dottie

Oliver; Betty Crepeau; Malcolm

Smith; Michael O'Sullivan; Susan

Bullivant; Larry Vogelman

Religious Education: Michael

O'Sullivan (chair); Thomas Pistole

(DRE)

House and Grounds: Sarge

Legard (chair); Rachel Legard;

Nick Isaak; Mitch Pivor

Rentals and Cleaning: Edna

O'Sullivan

Social Action: Mike Fleming;

Betty Crepeau

Socials: Edna O'Sullivan (co-

chair); Joyce Sheffield (co-chair);

Deb Johnson; Mike Fleming

Denominational Affairs: Eric

Nordgren

Membership: Ken Mitchell

HEED/Webmaster: Brett Gibson

Nominations: Jim Nute

(cont. p. 1) the UNH community, students, staff, faculty, and their families, and is located at the Waysmeet Center at 15 Mill Road in downtown Durham. It is open twice a week throughout the academic year (Wed, 4-5:30 p.m. & Fri. 12-2 p.m.), and once a week during the summer. Donations and volunteers are welcome throughout the year.

Thank you for all of your help, now and in the past. Peace and happy thoughts to you. "

I will be coordinating the donations from DUUF members. I will set up food collections boxes in the new foyer. A list of desired donations is posted on the bulletin board or from me.

- Michael OSullivan

From the DRE

I am writing this piece from Portland, OR, where I am attending the Fall Conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association. I attended my first such conference in 1996, when it was held in Plymouth, MA, and have attended most of them since. It is always rejuvenating to gather with other religious educators (attendance is about 170 this year) as well as invited speakers and workshop leaders. Beyond the new information are the many informal conversations that can unexpectedly become an "ah ha" moment. The theme of the conference is sustainability and it is hard to imagine a more appropriate venue than this city, which continues to rank at or near the top of U.S. cities in its commitment to and achievement of sustainability. As a member of the LREDA Mentoring Committee for religious educators participating in the credentialing program, I helped facilitate our annual new mentor training as well as our first refresher session for current mentors. I am also serving as one of the chaplains for the conference.

In Durham our young people's program is off to a good start this year.

We are fortunate to have many of our teachers back with us for another year. We are particularly pleased to welcome back Ellen Legard, who is currently a first-year student at UNH, and welcome Willow Bergeron to our teaching staff. Hannah Legard continues to be our child care provider for most Sundays. Stefanie Griffin is serving as the coordinator for the Primary group and Brad Kinsey is serving in a comparable role for the Elementary/Middle School group. We are pleased to welcome Daniel Middleton to our preschool group. Daniel and his dad Mike seem to know many folks in the Fellowship already.

This summer I have taken some time to reflect on the 21 years I have been involved in our young people's program. When Donna and I joined the Fellowship there were 3-4 children in the program, including our son James. Although the program continued for a few more years by the late 1980s it seemed doomed to disappear. Wise people in the Fellowship (I believe, in particular, Dale and Raelene) invited our then District Program Consultant, Cindy Spring, to meet with the congregation. She gave us a good pep talk and encouraged us to identify someone within our congregation who could take a leadership role for this important work. As the parent of one of the few young people at the time, I stood to add my encouragement to this request. I soon realized that if we were going to continue offering religious education for our children it would be through my leadership. I contacted Cindy Spring and asked her about the next steps. She introduced me to the monthly cluster meetings for DREs in southern NH and to RE Week on Star Island. Over the next two decades I have participated in many RE-focused programs, initially as a learner, then increasingly in leadership roles. In the Fellowship, with the support and efforts of many in the congregations, I have coordinated a program that has had as many as 35 children and youth and which currently has just over 20. We have intermittently had a senior high youth program and have offered Coming-of-Age programs several times. We have taken both senior high and middle-school young people to District conferences. We have taken youth trips to Boston and attended services in other faith communities through our Neighboring Faiths program. It has been quite an experience. (cont. p. 5.)

Interim Financial Report of the Operating Fund as of October 24th for Fiscal Year 2010-11:

- There is an operating deficit of **(\$2,483.51)** for the approximate three-and-half-month period through October 24th in Fiscal Year 2011-12.
- Operating Fund Balance is \$4,942.17.
- Operating Fund Cash Balance is \$26,112.55 as \$21,170.38 from other DUUF Funds are deposited in the same bank account.
- The only Facility Improvement made thus far in Fiscal Year 2011-12 was the paving of the parking area in front of the new entrance at the cost of \$3,175.00.

Fund Balances as of October 24th:

- Operating Fund Balance is \$4,942.17.
- The remaining four (4) other active Fund Balances total \$31,170.38, bringing the total of all Fund Balances including Operating to \$36,112.55.
- \$10,000 from the Nest Egg Fund is on loan to the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund.
- The remaining cash for all five (5) Fellowship Funds totaling \$26,112.55 is being held in the Operating Fund's Advantage Checking Account, earning interest at the rate of .20% per annum.

Open Action Items:

- Need Board decision to pay UUA dues for 59 members even though the DUUF currently has 57 members.

For information, 4 out of the 59 listed members have been inactive for the last 3 years and have not made any donations to the DUUF. I suggest the Board consider amending the member info it sent to the UUA and paying for only 53 members, excluding the 2 who have recently resigned and the 4 inactive members.

- Need status on settlement of this dispute with Beloin.
- The Board should consider purchase of additional hymnals.
- With one of the DUUF's three units still not rented, there will not be enough funding for all the planned facility improvements as listed in the third spreadsheet. Until the DUUF finances improve, I recommend that facility improvement expenditures be limited to the repaving the new parking area, final coat of paving on the old parking area and new hymnals.

James H. Zembruski
jimzem@myfairpoint.net

UUA Christmas Cards

UUA Christmas cards can be ordered until November 20. All cards are \$10 for a package of 10. If you are interested, please see Carmen to select your style.

From the President:

It is a very risky proposition to talk about volunteers at the DUUF. The whole operation is kept afloat by the support of members and friends, of course. This involves financial support as well as the time and effort needed to keep the building standing, the books balanced, and the multiple needs of our community met.

Several members go so far beyond the norm in terms of their contributions that the temptation is to sing their praises loudly and often. The risk comes in need to cover them all and to give everyone adequate recognition. We don't wish to make anyone angry and cause them to volunteer somewhere else or to go find a paying job to fill their spare time.

But who can stand the thought of an issue of HEED that doesn't have a little danger and adventure in it? So let's look at one member-volunteer in a little detail and see what happens.

Thomas Pistole is a professional educator by day and spends a good portion of his spare time concerned with the education of the DUUF's young people. As director of the religious exploration program he has plotted the course for our children, selecting curricula, sorting out age groups and lining up teachers.

He has carried out this position in such a deceptively effortless fashion that many of us do not notice that Thomas does not sit in for our Sunday morning services. Instead he floats among the classes, making sure everything is running smoothly. He has such a long, quiet stride that we don't notice him in the hallways and stairwells.

Parents with children in the program may receive his updates, forms and meeting requests and not even think about where they came from. They all seem to be spontaneously generated.

Take a close look at the corner office, down the hall past the kitchen and the bathrooms. Some people refer to this room as "Tom's Office." You will find a meticulously organized space of neat shelves and labeled drawers. It's tempting to think the office formed that way when the swirling dust settled after the big construction.

Thomas himself can shoulder some of the blame for making it all look easy. He does a lot of his work when others aren't around. For years he has made announcements about his involvement in liberal religious educator organizations, and he has made these announcements so joyously that we can see he has made his job at the fellowship a major part of his life.

His job is a major part of the fellowship, too. As we talk about how to increase membership, the discussion has highlighted the importance of appealing to young families. What is important to young families? A strong religious education program is a jewel in our crown.

That is why it is sad news – though not altogether surprising – that Thomas is stepping down as RE director. He has given the fellowship plenty of time to prepare. He'll be sitting in through the rest of this year and the next year, too, and he's promised to advise to board on preparing for the future of religious exploration at the fellowship. Even his exit will be graceful.

Thomas will be a tough act to follow, but his work to organize the office – and the RE program – will be a great asset to his successor. For this, and for his service to our youth and young families, he deserves our deep appreciation.

Parking update:

The Durham City Council, receptive to the needs of the DUUF, has agreed to revise its new parking plan for Woodman Drive. When we re-convened at the end of the summer, we found a bike path and "No Parking" signs along Woodman. The Fellowship contacted the police department and city council about the issue, and participated in a public forum on Oct. 17. After this forum, the council decided to change the parking signs to read: "No Parking, except 8 am – 2 pm Sundays and 7 to 10 pm daily." The Fellowship will also be able to request parking privileges for events that take place outside these designated times.

Come to the Fair(s)!

Our annual Fair Day is approaching – December 3 – and we have combined with the other three Durham churches holding their Fairs on the same day (Catholic, Episcopal and Community) as well as with UNH's Evergreen Fair (being extended into a Saturday for the first time this year) to advertise and promote each other's fairs jointly. So, we need more than ever to put on a good show this year!

You will be able to bring in your new and nearly new items for sale at the Fair during the days preceding it, and we're asking everyone to check their yards and any wild areas they know for interesting greenery and sprigs with berries for our wreaths. We'll also be accepting books, CDs, items for the children's table and holiday decorations. Soup-making plans should already be underway, likewise those for bread and other goodies for our bake table.

A sign-up sheet for working at the Fair will be available at Fellowship throughout November, but even when you work for a couple of hours, there'll still be time to enjoy visiting our Fair and some of the others in the neighborhood. Remember that a wonderful, waiter-served lunch featuring homemade soups and breads will be available in our increasingly popular DUUF Café for a modest sum, so come and make a day of it.

Chris Rodgers
2011 Fair Chair



(cont. from p. 2) It is time for me to step down from this role. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as the director of our RE program during this time. I cannot imagine a more rewarding experience. The relationships that I have made both within the Fellowship and in the broader RE and UU community will always be special to me. I will continue to serve this broader community, most immediately as a continuing member of the LREDA Committee on Mentoring and as Renaissance Program workshop leader. I have informed that Board that I plan to complete my time as your DRE in May 2013. In the meantime I look forward to helping to provide a quality RE program for our children and youth.
In faith,

Thomas
Director of Religious Exploration

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.



Joys & Concerns

- Karen and Malcom's daughter Haley is getting married November 4th in California!

Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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