

The HEED DECEMBER, 2019

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10 AM Sundays

December 8	Mary Edes Before the Light Comes
December 15	Karen Spiller Topic on Food Solutions
December 22	No Program
December 24	Thomas Pistole Christmas Eve Service
December 29	No Program
January 5	Mary Edes TBA



President's Message

Thanks to all who made November a very good month at the Fellowship. Thanks to the Program Committee for programs by Robert Azzi, Maddy Belin, followed by Michael Ward's program ending with Joyce and Ginny's program on Racism.

We have an extremely busy week coming up starting with our Green Sanctuary Council's Climate Change Forum featuring Marianne Williamson on Tuesday, December 3rd. Saturday is probably our busiest day of the year. Christmas (Holiday) Fair and Soup Lunch in the morning til early afternoon followed by the Oyster River Folk Holiday Concert in the evening featuring Susie Burke, David Surette & Kent Allyn.

Don't forget our program on the 8th with Rev. Mary Edes and our Christmas Eve service with Thomas Pistole on the 24th.

Many thanks to those volunteering for Seacoast Family Promise this week at the Stratham Community Church.

-Bob Sheehan

A year-end note from the treasurer

WANT TO SAVE BIG MONEY ON YOUR TAXES?? Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the fellowship prior to the 12/31 deadline. This will mark the halfway point of our fiscal year, and donations are currently only about 60% of what was projected for this point. Please consider helping out if you can. Thank you to all who have already contributed!

December Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 PM

A Peek at the Past

Going through some files recently I came across the membership list for 1983-1984, the year Donna and I joined the Fellowship. It brought back a few memories, some of which I thought might be of interest to others.

Among the folks still on our roster today are, of course, Betty and Eric Nordgren, along with Ellen Muñoz (then Mathur) and Raelene Shippee-Rice. At that time we had three retired UU ministers in our congregation—John Kolbjornsen, Jack Hammon, and Elbridge Stoneham—and each was happy to provide an occasional Sunday service for us.

Founding members of our Fellowship who were active at that time included Ed and Kitty Howe. Our building was sometimes jokingly referred to as Ed's place, since he had provided many of the tools in our supplies room; he also had some rather strong opinions about how the premises should be maintained! Kitty periodically shared the stories behind many of our classic nursery rhymes; she was also our original Fellowship historian and much of what we know about the founding and early days of our existence is due to her records.

Two other founding members, George and Ethlyn Haslerud, were still active participants. As a side note, Donna and I were living in suburban Minneapolis before moving to New Hampshire. I was working as a post-doctoral research associate and Donna held a position in the Graduate Research Office. When I accepted a position at UNH, Donna shared with people in her office that she planned to begin graduate studies in psychology. One of the senior members there shared that he had a colleague in psychology at UNH and would be happy to write a letter on her behalf to him. That UNH contact turned out to be George. After her retirement from teaching, Karen, their daughter, returned to Durham and for many years resided in the family home. Thus, we continue to have a Haslerud presence in our Fellowship today.

There were approximately 55 folks listed on the 1983-84 document. Some I remember quite well—such Elna Perkins, who very much wanted us to meet later in the morning. Ten a.m. is too early for retired folks!; Ceci Wood, who created our newsletter (on a typewriter; no computers quite yet); Herc and Kay Phyllides. I became treasurer after Kay. She was happy to turn over the ledger books and files. Life is too short to be doing this; I would rather be golfing!

There were also Fellowship folks that I knew from other venues. Lloyd Heidgerd was the biological sciences librarian; he and Edna joined around the same time as we did. Ed Durnall was the director of continuing education at UNH; he and his wife June recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary! Paul Robinson and I were early members of the choral group Amare Cantare. Following in Ed Howe's footsteps, Paul became the unofficial "house manager" for the Fellowship. He and his wife Eveline were active members for many years.

Still others are names only. Their stories and connections to the Fellowship remain a mystery to me. If you were to write your reflections on people in the Fellowship, based on your own experiences, who would you include? what would you want to say about them? It might be both fun and enlightening. Try it sometime.

Thomas Pistole

Blue Christmas

December is often a joyous time, however you celebrate the season. For some, though, it can be a sad and lonely time. The Dover Area Religious Leaders Association (DARLA) invite any and all folks to their annual Blue Christmas Service.

This a "service of hope and comfort for those who are grieving, lonely, hurting or struggling and those who love them."

It will be held in the sanctuary of First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue, Dover, on Sunday, December 15, beginning as 7 p.m.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." – John 1

From the Socials Committee

Please be sure to participate in DUUF's Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 7th, including joining us at the DUUF Café for a selection of delicious soups, homemade bread and cookies.

We have two interesting speakers scheduled in December: on December 8th—Rev. Mary Edes and on December 15th Karen Spiller. Please join us to hear their presentations and to continue the conversation during our coffee hour (coffee, tea and tasty snacks). We will not hold services on Sunday, December 22nd and Sunday, December 29th, but will be having our traditional Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, December 24th.

After our holiday break, we'll kick off 2020 with a potluck luncheon on January 5th, following Rev. Mary Edes' program. Please bring a dish to share, along with stories about your holiday adventures to share with all.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season,

Deb J. and the Socials Committee (Bob S., Carol B., and Edna O.)

Snapshots from the Past: A Celebration of DUUF History

By Deb Johnson (with thanks again to Kitty Howe)

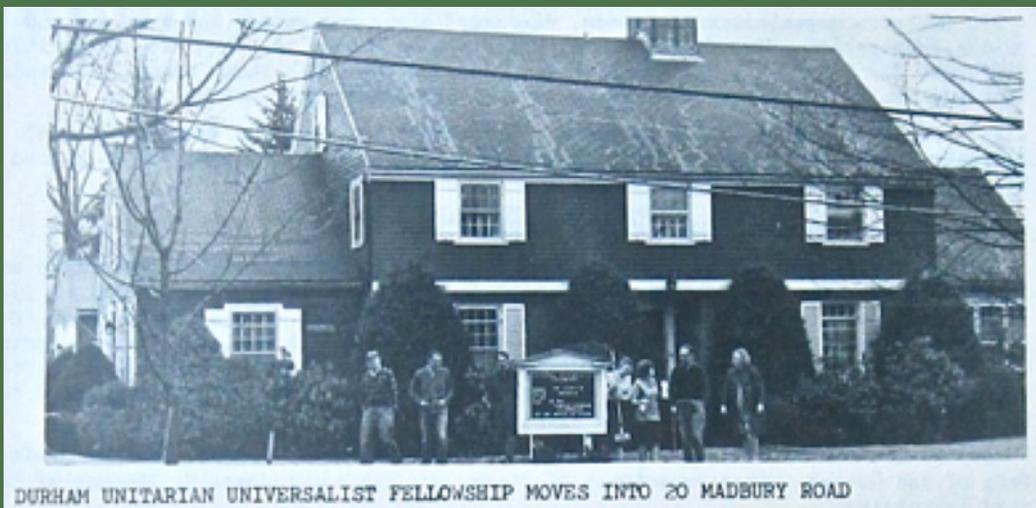
Part three of a series on aspects of the (approximately) sixty-year history of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

The Durham Unitarian Fellowship, chartered in 1959, held its first public gatherings in Durham's Scammell Grange Hall. With the assistance of the New Hampshire Unitarian Association the membership relocated to 4 Ballard Street in 1961, incorporated as the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in October 1962, and grew into an ever-more vibrant and active community.

Late in 1967, Mr. Jesse Gangwer of Town & Campus, Inc. approached the leadership of DUUF with an offer to trade a property he had acquired on Madbury Road, for the Ballard Street property. 20 Madbury Road, formerly the residence and office of Dr. George McGregor, had been acquired by Mr. Gangwer following Dr. McGregor's death. Though Gangwer had hoped to develop a professional office building at that location, zoning regulations prevented the expansion of rentable space in the building. In contrast, the Ballard Street property was zoned for business use and its location, adjacent to a local restaurant, also afforded opportunities for expansion of the restaurant (which became Durham's 'Tin Palace' in 1971).

The Madbury Road property was significantly larger and more valuable (at the time) than the Ballard Street house. Mr. Gangwer even offered to pay a portion of the cost of converting the multi-season porch into an expanded meeting room. Though initially stunned by the offer, the congregation quickly recognized its merits and enthusiastically recommended to the New Hampshire Unitarian Association (the mortgage holders) that they accept the offer. In mid-December 1967 the two properties were exchanged.

Renovations took place during the winter months, and the move to 20 Madbury Road (see photo) took place in March 1968. Photo credits identified the movers as (L. to R.) Emery Swan, Tony Federer, Ed Rutledge, Lois Swan, Bea Dewey, Mel Nielson and Becky Lorig and noted "that all the men had their hands in their pockets."



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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