

The HEED NOVEMBER, 2019

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10AM Sundays*

November

3	Robert Azzi	We have been made diverse peoples in order to know each other
10	Maddy Belin	Arctic Wildlife Refuge
17	Michael Ward	A Debt We All Assume
24	Joyce Sheehan & Virginia Towler	Racism is Real

November Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 6th at 6:30PM

President's Message

It is good to be home again and back to the Fellowship after 3 weeks in the Caribbean. It sounds like October went very well including Programs and Circle Dinners. We are looking forward to an exciting November beginning with our Oyster River Folk Concert on November 2nd at 7:00 PM featuring our duo. HUNGRYTOWN, from our neighboring state of Vermont following their four-month tour of England. Programs for November will begin with Robert Azzi on the 3rd; "Arctic Wildlife Refuge" on the 10th; Michael Ward on the 17th with "A Debt We All Assume"; and Ginny Towler and Joyce Sheehan on the 24th, "Racism is Real." "Sapling Sunday" is on the 2nd. Looking forward to a Potluck on the 10th.

Bob Sheehan

The Program Committee

We are looking for input on Program topics as well as presenters for the New Year. If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer as a presenter, or recommend a presenter, lead a the Service, or have topic suggestions, please contact:

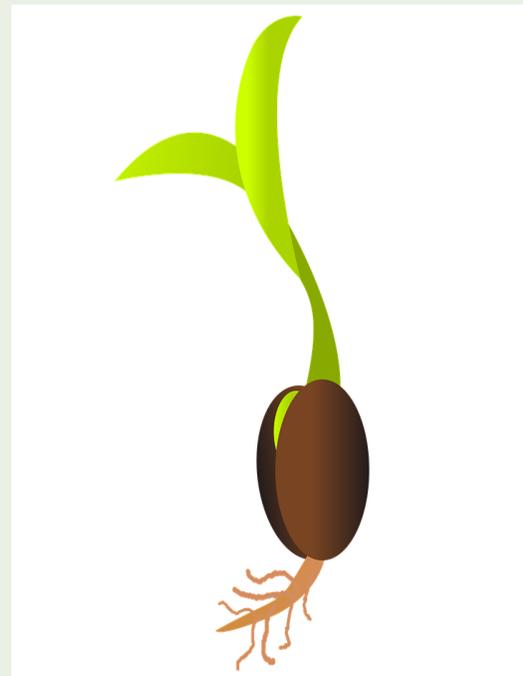
Betty Crepeau,
elizabeth.crepeau@unh.edu; or
 Joyce Sheehan,
Joycesh@msn.com

November 3rd is Sapling Sunday!

After our service (and Birthday cake!) we will troop out to the DUUF grounds to gleefully remove saplings from the planting beds. Kids may enjoy plucking out tiny ones by the roots. Saplings over 3 inches tall may be dug out and the 6 foot tall and taller types will be cropped with lopping shears or saw. Additional weeding and pruning may occur. Bring your work gloves, bow saws, loppers, etc. Rain date is Sunday Nov. 10.

See you at Sapling Sunday!

Sarah Tambling, Grounds Subcommittee



Holiday Fair

We will hold our holiday fair again this year on Saturday Dec 7th from 9 AM - 2 PM. Not only is this an opportunity to raise money for charity, it is also an opportunity to get to know other folks in the fellowship, in a different setting than our usual Sunday meetings.

We will have our soups to go, soup cafe, swags, white elephants, and woolens sales. Deb will be asking folks about soup contributions (or email her at djohnson@maine.edu). Dawn is organizing the other facets of the fair (email me at dawn.meredith@comcast.net to volunteer).

If you would like to donate white elephants (in good condition, please! furniture donations are discouraged as they do not sell) or books (please no text books or books older than 20 years), please bring them to the Fellowship before Friday December 6th. If you bring them in that week, you can leave them in the RE office upstairs; if you bring them in earlier, please leave them in the unfinished section of the basement (you will see lots of other white elephants there).

And lastly, we encourage you all to come and enjoy the festivities.

Dawn Meredith

Oyster River Folk Concert Series

We are looking for someone who might be able and willing to set up a new Website for Oyster River Folk. Our current site is not functioning well and we decided setting up a new site would be our best option. We would love to have someone set it up and be the Administrator or teach one of us to function as the Administrator. Thank you for considering volunteering! Hope to see a good turnout for our next concert on November 2nd at 7:00PM with HUNGRYTOWN!

FROM THE SOCIALS COMMITTEE

Our thanks to our generous host families—Betty and Eric Nordgren and Cindy and Tom Schram—as well as their guests, for successful Circle Dinner gatherings on Saturday, October 26th. It is with some regret that we note that the Nordgren's were generously hosting their final Circle Dinner; their lovely home has been sold and they will soon be moving to Riverwoods Durham (still close to DUUF).

Our next round of Circle Dinners will be held in February 2020.

We'll be celebrating the birthdays of all Fall-born DUUFers on Sunday, November 3rd. Delicious cake and best birthday wishes will be shared with all. Don't miss it!

Our November potluck lunch will be held on Sunday, November 10th, following our Sunday service. Please join us for the service and for the potluck. Bring a dish to share, and stories to tell while enjoying post-service camaraderie.

Snapshots from the Past: A Celebration of DUUF History

By Deb Johnson (with thanks again to Kitty Howe)

Part two 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 adult services held on the unheated third floor, with the only warmth provided by chicken brooder lamps (rumor has it that in subsequent years the original members of the fellowship were referred to as "the Eggheads.") The Grange Hall space was shared with several other organizations and DUF members began to think the Fellowship would be more likely to grow if it had its own space. The final straw came one Sunday when the Hall reeked with the lingering odors of cabbage from a Saturday night potluck. One member, a Mr. Berger, stalked out, but subsequently returned to announce "I'm willing to be a committee to find you a new place, because you've just got to have a place . . . [of your own] . . . where it won't smell of someone else's potluck supper and where we can have our own potluck suppers, not theirs!" (continued on page 5)



FORMER QUARTERS of the Durham Fellowship, 1961-1968. The group had previously occupied the old Grange Hall where it was organized in 1959.



Photo of the house today, by Deb Johnson

(continued from page 4) It didn't take long to locate an available house on Ballard Street, across from UNH's Huddleston Hall. Owned by Mr. Wentworth, B&M's Durham Stationmaster, B&M's decision to discontinue passenger service to Durham had left him with no need for the house. DUF members found the house attractive; it provided space for both the children's programs and a heated and well-ventilated meeting space for adults. Due to the generosity of the New Hampshire Unitarian Association the DUF membership were able to begin renting it in 1961, though its final purchase required the Fellowship to legally incorporate. In October 1962, the Durham Unitarian Fellowship was incorporated and the Ballard Street house became DUF's new home.

From 1961 until 1968 the Fellowship met in the Ballard Street house. Membership in the Fellowship increased, buoyed by monthly potlucks, children's programs, rummage sales and participation in Durham's Christmas Fair Day (because the Fellowship was "too far" from other churches, DUF's sale of jams and jellies took place at St. George's Church.)

In 1966 the Fellowship faced a crossroads. The dwindling congregation of the Dover Unitarian Church, who met in the Pierce Memorial Church, formally invited the Durham Unitarian Fellowship to merge with them. Doing so would have meant adopting a more formal service and supporting a resident minister. After much discussion, the Durham congregation voted unanimously against the merger, vowing to continue as a lay-led Unitarian Fellowship. To this day, we remain one of the UUA's longest surviving Fellowships.

To be continued next month . . .

2019-2020 DUUF Officers & Committees**Officers**

President: Bob Sheehan

Vice President: Dottie Oliver

Treasurer: Jen Pavlik

Secretary: Rachel Legard

Committees

Program: Raelene Shippee-Rice (Chair); Betty Crepeau, Joyce Sheehan, (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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