

# The HEED NOVEMBER, 2020

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



## Services at 10AM Sundays

- November 1**     *COVID-19*  
Frank Rodgers, Michael O'Sullivan, Thomas Pistole
- November 8**     *Arts: Spiritual, Essential, Resilient, and Endangered*  
Maren C. Tirabassi
- November 15**    *Our Stories in Pictures and Words: Creating and Sharing Family Immigration Stories*  
Beth Olshansky
- November 22**    *400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pilgrims' arrival*  
Michael O'Sullivan
- November 22**    **DARLA Thanksgiving Service (7 p.m.)**
- November 29**    **No service**

*As a reminder, we will continue to offer our Sunday programs electronically via Zoom. A link for accessing these programs will be sent out by the Board secretary.*

**PROGRAM NOTES**

**November 1 *COVID-19*: Frank Rodgers, Michael O'Sullivan, Thomas Pistole**

**A look at the virus responsible for this disease, vaccines being developed, and public health issues associated with this disease**

**November 8 *Arts: Spiritual, Essential, Resilient, and Endangered*: Maren C. Tirabassi** is the author of twenty-one books, including the most recent *Christmas Eve at the Epsom Circle McDonald's and Other Poems*. She's been a UCC pastor since 1980 and loves – in no particular order – beagles, quilting, swimming, chocolate, and attending Science Fiction and Fantasy conventions.

**November 15 *Our Stories in Pictures and Words: Creating and Sharing Family Immigration Stories*: Beth Olshansky.** The art-based literacy projects of local artist/educator Beth Olshansky engage students in constructing hand-painted paper collages to reveal meaningful stories. Using this technique, third-graders from Oyster River and immigrant and refugee students from Manchester were invited to construct and share their family immigration stories, enabling them to revisit and frame their family history and culture, explore their shared humanity, and create treasured family keepsakes.

**November 22 *400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pilgrims' arrival*: Michael O'Sullivan.** A shared and more inclusive account of native Americans and settlers will be offered on the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower's landing in Plymouth

**November 22. DARLA Thanksgiving Service (7 p.m.).** You are invited to join us for a DARLA Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, Nov 22, 2020 at 7 pm online. It is our custom to come together to give thanks together in the greater Dover Community. This year, that service will take place online with participation from many of our faith communities. Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84655395382>.

## **President's Message Zoomed Out?**

**After zooming to work all week I understand not wanting to join yet another on-line gathering on Sunday morning. I miss our Sunday services in DUUF's sanctuary. I miss snacks in the old meeting room. I even miss the dishwashing and cleanup. I miss these because they were well-evolved, comfortable yet meaningful routines and we did them together. All that said, I continue to find some of this familiarity, meaning and fondness in the Sunday Zoom services.**

**During these sessions we see each other's faces, hear each other's voices, joys and concerns and delight in moments with our young people. The speakers present thoughtful programs addressing topics of interest and leave time for comments, opinions, questions and discussion. Does this sound fondly familiar? It is. Please join us.**

**Thank you,  
John Macri**

## General Assembly

Since its inception in 1961 the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has held an annual meeting in various locations around North America. The 2020 GA was the first to be an entirely virtual event. The theme was *Rooted, Inspired, & Ready* and was held in late June. Over 4800 people attended this event, including 2256 delegates from 49 states. Some 614 congregations out of a total of around 1000 were represented.

GA is a comprehensive event that includes worship, workshops, and an extensive business meeting. Congregational and other delegates make important decisions at GA that affect the operation and activities of the UUA, which of course includes use. Some things, such as the exhibit hall and a traditional social action event in the host city, were not included in the virtual version this year. Below are some highlights, including actions voted on, at this year's GA.

### *Major Worship Services*

*Service of the Living Tradition:* honoring new ministers and credentialed educators, those who have died, and those who have completed active service

*Synergy Bridging Worship:* multigenerational worship honoring rites of passage (expanded from a bridging program focusing on transition from youth to young adults)

*Sunday Morning Worship:* This year's topic was keeping our faith in uncertain and volatile times. This is open to all.

### *Business sessions*

Here delegates discuss and vote on key issues for our faith community. At these sessions key UUA leaders share their thoughts, issues from the past year that need delegate approval are voted on, new items are discussed and, if appropriate voted on, and new officers are introduced. Below are some of the item passed.

*Amendments to bylaws.* Three amendments were approved: one related to the process of filling uncompleted terms for co-moderators and one on changes in the timeline for nominations. A third was to formally incorporate human rights issues in our investment decisions. This has been the UUA's practice; now it is part of our bylaws.

*Actions of Immediate Witness.* These are items brought to GA by delegates who consider them timely and in need of immediate action. This year two such action items were adopted.

**400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism.** This asks UUs to look at the historical events of 1620, with the arrival of Pilgrims from Europe, from the perspective of the native peoples who were living there, to honor the descendants of these people, and to support their efforts to maintain their living heritage.

**Amen to Uprising.** This asks UUs to honor Black Lives Matter and related groups, to advocate for people of color in the broader community, and to make our congregations and communities authentically multicultural, multiracial, anti-oppressive spaces that dismantle anti-Blackness

***Responsive Resolutions.*** These are resolutions that arise out of substantive issues from the current GA. This year three such resolutions were adopted.

**Widening the Circle: Establishing Ongoing Intersectional Accountability Commission and Sunsetting the JTWTC.** This resolution proposed the transition of the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee to a new model, based on the recommendations of the Commission on Institutional Change. *Note:* At this GA the Commission on Institutional Change released its final report, based on three years of work. That report will be the subject of a future HEED report.

**Supporting and Investing in Youth and Young Adults in Unitarian Universalism.** This resolution recognizes the challenges in establishing and maintaining programs for our youth and young adults and proposes approaches to create a sustained and adequately funded effort to achieve this goal.

**The Pandemic: A Religious Response.** Following a report at GA by President Susan Frederick-Gray on the COVID crisis, this resolution urges UUs to become advocates for health equity and safety for all.

For more information about GA, including the complete documents for these business actions, go to [www.UUA/GA](http://www.UUA/GA).

Thomas Pistole

## FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee would like to schedule a fall get together at DUUF on Saturday, November 7, from 1 to 2:30. I'm sure we'll have lots to talk about.

Please bring your own rakes and tarps to help tidy up our yard and then we will enjoy cider and donuts. As usual, wear your masks, socially distance, and, perhaps, bring a blanket to keep warm as we sit out on the deck with our snack.

Please check your email on the Saturday to be sure we are a go... with both weather and COVID to contend with!

Looking forward to seeing you! Stay safe! Carol for the Committee



*Socially-distanced gathering on the back porch of DUUF on a sunny Sunday.*

## MEMBERSHIP INFO

The Membership List has been updated with telephone numbers on the DUUF Web page: <https://uudurham.com>.

Please check all of your info to make sure it is accurate. If there are any errors or changes to be made, please let me know at [Bobsh@msn.com](mailto:Bobsh@msn.com). Thank you.

Bob Sheehan

## DUUF Slate of Officers for 2020/2021

### OFFICERS

<u>President:</u>	John Macri
<u>Vice President:</u>	Chip Noon
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Jen Pavlik
<u>Secretary:</u>	Rachel Legard

### COMMITTEES

<u>Program:</u>	Thomas Pistole (Chair); Betty Crepeau, Mary Doane, Deb Johnson, Michael O'Sullivan,
<u>Religious Exploration:</u>	Bob Pavlik (Chair); Brad Kinsey
<u>House and Grounds,</u>	House: Sarge Legard (Chair); Grounds: Sarah Tambling;
	Rentals and Cleaning: Rentals: Maria Isaak
<u>Socials:</u>	Carol Bullivant (Chair); Bob Sheehan, Deb Johnson
<u>Membership:</u>	Bob Sheehan (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Cindy Shram (Chair); Chris Rodgers, Betty Crepeau, Michael O'Sullivan, Joyce Sheehan

### COUNCILS

<u>Nominations:</u>	Michael O'Sullivan (Coordinator); Bob Sheehan
<u>Green Sanctuary:</u>	Mike Fleming (Coordinator); Jake Kritzer, Nick Isaak
<u>Social Action:</u>	Dawn Meredith (Coordinator); Betty Crepeau
<u>Music Committee:</u>	Carmen Buford-Paige (Coordinator); Maria Isaak, Thomas Pistole
<u>Communications &amp; Outreach:</u>	Webmaster: Brett Gibson; HEED Editor: Stefanie Griffin
<u>Denominational Affairs:</u>	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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