

The HEED DECEMBER, 2020

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10AM Sundays

- Dec 6** **Things That Bring Hope** **Rev. Craig Werth**
- Craig Werth is pastor at the Nottingham Community Church (UU). He works with hospice patients and with people living with brain injury. He facilitates classes in improv theater and song writing and is an active songwriter/composer.
- Dec 13** **An Introduction to Islam Art** **Ethel Wolper**
- Ethel Wolper is an associate professor in the history department at the University of New Hampshire.
- Dec 20** **Solstice Service** **Deb Johnson and Betty Crepeau**
- Information on this program is provided elsewhere in this issue.
- Dec 27** **No program**
- Jan 3** **Transitions** **Thomas Pistole**
- Birth and death are major life transitions, but there are others as well. In this service people will be invited to share both the major transitions and others that have occurred in their lives this past year.



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.

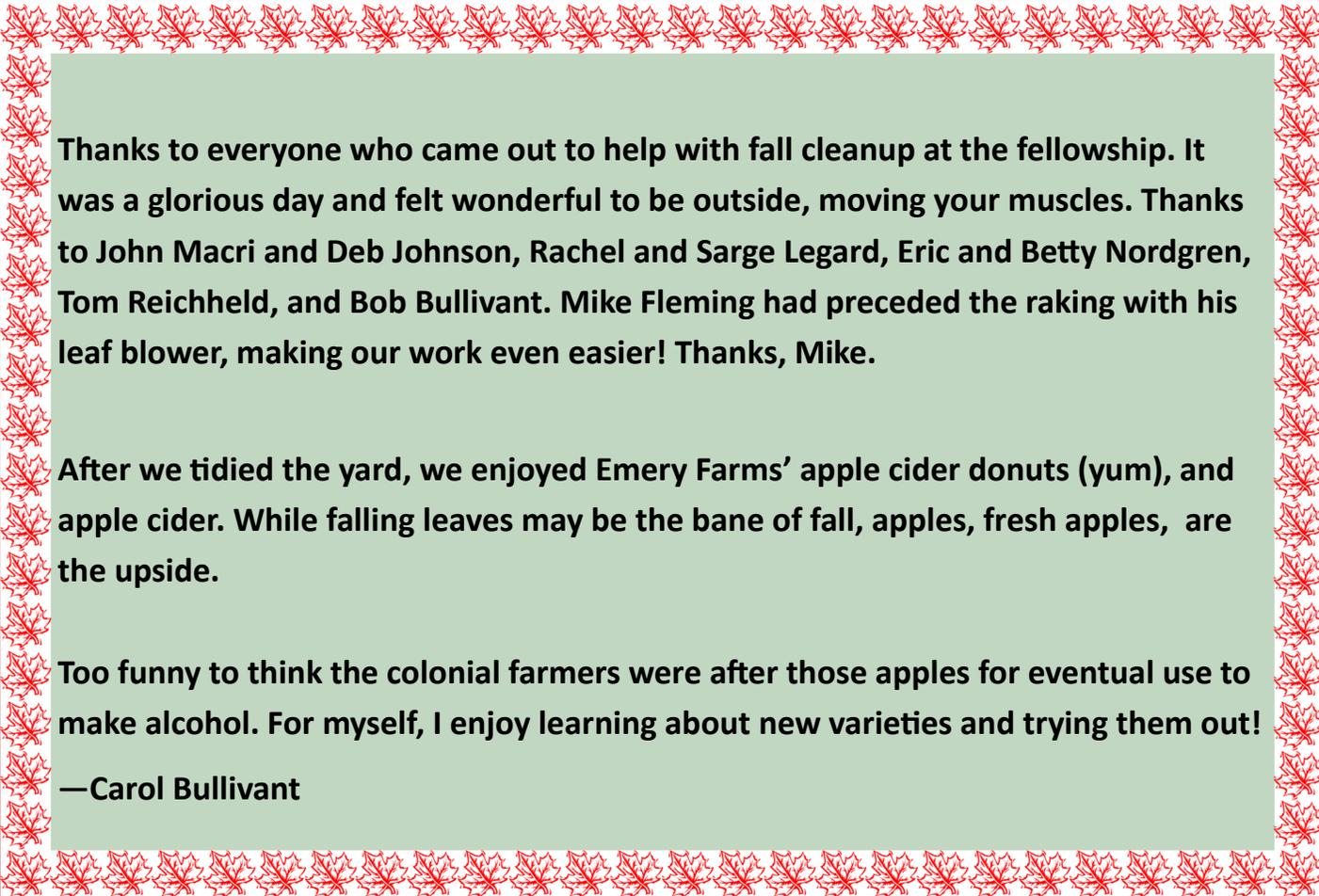


President's Message: December Traditions

This has traditionally been a busy month for DUUF. Somehow each December we managed to pack in the church fair, a holiday concert, the winter solstice gathering, Kwanzaa, the president's party, and a Christmas Eve service. Given concerns about the safety of gatherings, this holiday season will be quieter at the DUUF. That said, you will see some of the traditions shine through. Soups for sale in support of Seacoast Family Promise is a fine example of how Fellowship folks find new ways to maintain the spirit of our traditions. Please participate and stay tuned for further December tradition announcements.

Wishing you and yours fine healthy holidays,

John Macri



Thanks to everyone who came out to help with fall cleanup at the fellowship. It was a glorious day and felt wonderful to be outside, moving your muscles. Thanks to John Macri and Deb Johnson, Rachel and Sarge Legard, Eric and Betty Nordgren, Tom Reichheld, and Bob Bullivant. Mike Fleming had preceded the raking with his leaf blower, making our work even easier! Thanks, Mike.

After we tidied the yard, we enjoyed Emery Farms' apple cider donuts (yum), and apple cider. While falling leaves may be the bane of fall, apples, fresh apples, are the upside.

Too funny to think the colonial farmers were after those apples for eventual use to make alcohol. For myself, I enjoy learning about new varieties and trying them out!

—Carol Bullivant

2020 Winter Solstice Service: Sunday, December 20th

2020 has been a year of transitions for us all, so it is fitting that our final 2020 service commemorates the continuity of nature amidst transitions. This year the winter solstice--the annually occurring longest night--will take place at 5:20 am on Monday, December 21st. From ancient times, people around the world have gathered on the winter solstice to bid goodbye to the darkness and to welcome the return of the sun.

For many years, DUUFers have joyfully celebrated this Solstice transition, sharing good food, poetry, and stories at *Homeport*, graciously hosted by Dottie Oliver and Larry Vogelman.

This year we will gather together at 10 am on Sunday, December 20th to continue this tradition, sharing art, poetry and stories and lighting candles (or flashlights) to beckon the sun's return. We welcome contributions to the program; please contact Deb Johnson or Betty Crepeau by December 17th, if you have art or a reading you would like to share. Thanks!

No Holiday Fair Does *Not* Mean No Soup For You!

DUUF will have a holiday soup, bread and cookie event on Saturday, December 12. (weather day, the 13th.) We plan to offer delicious soups, homemade bread, and wonderful cookies. The proceeds are going to Seacoast Family Promise. To enjoy this December activity be on the lookout for the order form. We hope to have it in your inbox soon. Please return it by Saturday, December 5 so our cooks and bakers can get to work! Finally, thanks to everyone for participating.

—Carol Bullivant for the Socials
Committee



Blue Christmas Worship Service

Each year First Parish Church in Dover offers a Blue Christmas service, a service of hope and comfort for those who are grieving, lonely, hurting, or struggling, and those who love them. All are welcome. The program is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 13 at 7 p.m. and will be available via Zoom. Here are the links for joining this service:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ued4q5n0ba9n87k/Movie%20on%2011-28-20%20at%205.34%20PM.mov?dl=0>

Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 884 2196 3042

Seacoast Family Promise

As you already know, the pandemic has hit working class families especially hard. The guests at Seacoast Family Promise and those families who are now in their own homes continue to need our support. Typically we donate gas cards, but this year we are asking to give one or more of the following:

- cash
- adopt a family
- food for Christmas dinner
- food and personal care items for the day center

Please send checks to Seacoast Family Promise, 27 Hampton Road, Exeter, NH 03833
Call 658-8448 for information about other forms of giving.

Thanks so much for your generosity. We hope you and your family enjoy a joyous and safe holiday season, Betty Crepeau and Dawn Meredith

DOWNSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Your friends from the Downstairs Fellowship are happy to provide desserts to go along with this year's soup sale. Look forward to finding a good variety of sweets on the menu.

We have also put in some time on "Blueberry Hill," clearing brush and mulching the bushes we transplanted a year ago (*see photo on left*). One of the four bushes may not have survived the transition -- we'll have to wait until spring to get a closer look -- and the other three are doing fine. They should appreciate some nice sunshine and less competition in the spring from brambles and vines. We also cleared extra space along the hill in the front yard to plant a winter-berry bush in honor of Dorothy Oliver.

A note from the treasurer

As this strange year winds to a close, we are thankful that the Fellowship was able to so successfully transition to an online format and is still going strong with engaging programs and enduring traditions. Though we are not meeting in person, our expenses have not changed drastically -- we must still maintain our building, and pay our speakers, and support our various committees in their important work. At the moment, our donations are well below what we've budgeted for this point in the year -- so please remember the Fellowship when planning your year-end giving! Jen Pavlik

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 & 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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