

# The HEED APRIL, 2021

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



## Services at 10AM Sundays

**April 4**                      **Easter: A Time for Families**                      **Thomas Pistole**

Easter is a major Christian holiday. Why do UUs celebrate this holiday? Actually the origins of this day precede the Christian era and, like many religious holidays, it has morphed over time. It remains a major Christian holiday but has also become a popular secular event (think Easter parade and chocolate bunnies!). In this service we will look at Easter as a family celebration, with a special emphasis on our Fellowship family. Wear your favorite Easter hat, if you are so inclined, and join in our modified Easter parade; enjoy a visual reminiscence of past Easters at our Fellowship; and consider sharing a memory of Easter with your family, however you define that.

**April 11**                      **More Mustard, Please ...**                      **Rev. Mary Edes**

We will revisit the parable of the mustard seed and ponder the spice of life.

**April 18**                      **Challenges and opportunities lying ahead over the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science**  
**Jake Kritzer**

The global ocean covers the majority of Earth's surface and plays critical roles in regulating our climate and providing food, transportation, energy, recreation, and inspiration. The ocean has also suffered a number of adverse impacts due to human activity, especially, overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss, all of which are now being exacerbated by ongoing effects of global climate change. This year marks the start of the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build international partnerships, increase funding and other resources, and take needed action to ensure that the ocean remains a productive and resilient ecosystem for all of humankind.

**April 25**                      **Got enough?**                      **Sylvia Foster & Rev. Mary Doane**

We are witnessing a transformation away from the myth of scarcity, which currently forms the basis of our U.S. economic system, toward the bounty that we see with our own eyes. What is humanity's new role on planet earth since the virus – what do we deem sacred – and how do we care for one another? The teachings of constant competition and unlimited consumerism are being examined in the light of justice, and we ask ourselves, "How might our human gifts go toward healing and building better lives for all?"

**May 2**                      **Votes for Women**                      **Liz Tentarelli**

It has been more than one hundred years since women gained the right to vote in the United States. Using historic photos and documents, Liz Tentarelli will tell the story of the campaign for women's voting rights, culminating in the 1920 ratification of the 19th amendment. **Please note:** This will be an extended program and will begin at 9:45 a.m. We will plan to conclude at 11 a.m. as usual.

### ABOUT THE APRIL SPEAKERS

April 4 Thomas Pistole is a long-time member of the Fellowship. A retired UNH faculty member, he served for many years as the Fellowship's Director of Religious Education/Exploration and, in an interesting twist, was the first man to complete the UUA's credentialing program for religious educators. He has offered many Sunday programs at our Fellowship, including at least 10 Easter services.

April 11 The Reverend Mary Edes makes her home in Silver Lake, NH where for some years she has served as an itinerant preacher, conducting weddings, child dedications, celebrations of life, and religious services in various congregations throughout New England. She is the founder and leader of the Silver Lake Singers for Hospice and Healing ([www.silverlakesingers.org](http://www.silverlakesingers.org)) and has, since November, served as minister to the First Christian Church of Freedom, NH. Prior to entering the Unitarian Universalist ministry she spent many years in the NH Seacoast, where she was active in the theater and music community, and served as Director of Music at South Church UU, in Portsmouth. She has been a guest minister at our Fellowship for many years.

April 18 Jake Kritzer is part of our Fellowship family and has presented a number of programs for our Sunday service. After completing his graduate studies in marine biology, he held a number of positions at the Environmental Defense Fund before becoming the Executive Director of NERACOOS. The mission of the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems is "to *produce, integrate, and communicate* high quality information that helps ensure safety, economic and environmental resilience, and sustainable use of the coastal ocean."

April 25 Rev. Mary Doane has served churches of many different faiths. She was ordained as the minister of music at the UU church in Exeter, New Hampshire. She has also been involved in starting an environmental arts organization called "Project Nature" twenty years ago and so part of her work in the world has been developing and implementing programs for children in which she teaches new ways of experiencing the natural world. She is retired from the Exeter church and, from her studio in Dover, New Hampshire, she teaches piano - incorporating puppetry arts into her programs of study.

Sylvia Foster grew up in a Universalist Church in Bangor, Maine, and has been a member of the UU church of Exeter, New Hampshire, for thirty years. She's been a choir member and leader/member of social justice and green sanctuary committees. She is retired as an administrator of educational programs for the University of New Hampshire President's Commission and Office of Community, Equity and Diversity. She is teaching staff on the UNH Women's and Gender Studies Department and serves on the Boards of 350NH Action for renewable energy, and The Racial Unity Team of New Hampshire. She is a member of Seacoast Interfaith Stewards of the Earth.

May 2 Liz Tentarelli is president of the League of Women Voters NH, a non-partisan organization that is the direct descendant of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. This program is sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council and hosted by the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

## President's Message: Consider Volunteering

Each year in May the members of our Fellowship convene for DUUF's Annual Business Meeting. Among the items on the ABM agenda is election of the officers and committee chairs for the upcoming year beginning in July. I write today to encourage you to consider volunteering for a position on the board or on a committee. There are opportunities for members and for friends to better understand what makes DUUF tick and to use their talents and imaginations to influence our programs our social action our youth and our operations.

Want to know more? Members can find our bylaws and the volunteer job descriptions on our website [uudurham.com](http://uudurham.com). Check it out.

Yours,  
John Macri



### SOCIALS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Socials committee is proposing that we celebrate spring by having a pop-up gathering on our DUUF deck on a Sunday in April. 2:00 worked for us before. I will watch the weather forecast and try to choose a Sunday that is pleasant and non-rainy. I will announce it via email the Friday before and on the Sunday morning during Fellowship announcements.

Bring your masks and let's enjoy each other safely in person!

—Carol Bullivant for the Committee

## Denominational News

### UUA Commission on Social Witness

The mission of the [Commission on Social Witness](#) is "to discern and craft a vision for the Association on pressing social issues as a reflection of the values of our faith and the voices from our congregations." I have shared in earlier columns some basic information about the process of developing, discussing, amending, and, eventually voting on proposals submitted to this commission. Typically congregations are invited to submit what are called Congregational Study Action Issues (CSAI) every other year. From the various proposals received one is selected by delegates at our General Assembly for further discernment and discussion. This CSAI is reviewed at the following year GA and in the third year a vote is taken. If the final version of the proposal is accepted, it becomes our Statement of Conscience for the following several years.

Because of challenges due to the COVID pandemic, the process has been altered. No new CSAIs will be considered for the period 2000-2024. Instead Commission members advise congregations to focus on the current Statement of Conscience: "Our Democracy Uncorrupted" and the current (2018-2021) CSAI: "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy." Both of these are certainly timely issues. I encourage you to go to the UUA website (<https://www.uua.org/action/process/csais>) for further information. I can also provide you with electronic copies of these two documents if you prefer. The expectation is that the current CSAI will be voted on at this year's General Assembly and, if the resolution passes, it will become our Statement of Conscience for the next few years.

### General Assembly 2021

Once again, this year's General Assembly will be entirely virtual. As noted on the UUA website, "General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process." Because we are an association of congregations, the congregation is the deliberative unit in our governance. Each congregation is entitled to a minimum of two delegates to serve as representatives at the business meetings held during GA, although there is no limit to the number of individuals from a given congregation who can attend and participate in all of the many activities, except voting at business meetings. This year's virtual GA will be held on June 23-27. Because this event is virtual, the associated costs are significantly lower than usual. There are currently two Fellowship members registered to attend and one is planning to be a delegate. The Board would like to encourage others in our Fellowship to take advantage of this special opportunity; namely, to attend GA from the comfort and convenience of your home. The only cost for your participation is the registration fee, which will be covered by the Fellowship. If you are interested in "attending: this year's GA, please let our Board president know ([john.macri@unh.edu](mailto:john.macri@unh.edu)); if have questions about GA itself, please contact me ([tgp22@comcast.net](mailto:tgp22@comcast.net)).

Thomas Pistole



### UPDATE FROM THE DOWNSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP

For the third year in a row, the Downstairs Duufers tapped maple trees behind the fellowship parking lot. It was a good year for sap, and perhaps we'll figure out a way to share the sweetness with the membership, even though Sunday morning snack times are still on hold. For now, we have memories of a nice, crisp early spring afternoon when the sap was running as soon as we tapped in the spiles.



## 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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