

Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Celebrating 60 Years

Love, the Quest for Truth, and Service



The HEED October, 2021

Services at 10AM Sundays

Please note: For all services only those individuals, 12 years and older, who are fully vaccinated may attend in person. Children under 12, who cannot be vaccinated may attend, but, like all in-person attendees, must wear face masks at all times within the Fellowship building. [During the service, an exception to this rule is made for the front-of-the room speaker.]

Social distancing with attendees who are not members of their family or pod will be maintained. Thank you.

Zoom attendance is available and is encouraged for unvaccinated individuals.

- Oct. 3rd** **Moving towards Liberation: A look on Intersectionality and Gender**
Matthew Diaz, Education and Outreach Coordinator at UNH's Bearegard Center
- Oct. 10th** **Fair Seas and Following Winds**
Gary Hochgraf and Kristin Bedigian
- Oct. 17th** **Exploring Our Identities**
Betty Crepeau and Durham UU members and friends
- Oct. 24th** **Exploring the Transgender Lived Experience**
Kristen Bedigian
- Oct. 31st** **Panel Discussion: "Being a Parent/Grandparent of a Transgender Child."**
Sara Funk, Dennis & Nancy Wagner, Andrea Williams. Moderator: Betty Crepeau

October Program Details

Living together with others in a pluralistic society requires that we not just “tolerate” cultural, socioeconomic, value, ability, and identity differences, but that we reflect upon how our differences provide the foundation for a richer and stronger society. In adopting our programming theme *Encountering Difference: Moving Beyond Silence and Confusion to Conversation and Community*, we pledged to actively delve into difference as a positive, essential feature of a democratic society. Our October programming will include a focus on learning more about respectful and supportive interactions with individuals with diverse gender identities. We look forward to these presentations and to your conversations.

Oct. 3rd Moving towards Liberation: A look on Intersectionality and Gender

Matthew Diaz, Education and Outreach Coordinator at UNH's Beaugard Center

Matthew Díaz, (they/he) will be discussing the importance of intersectionality in connection to the Beaugard Center's mission of Equity, Justice, and Freedom. He will also explore allyship with the LGBTQ+ community, particularly diving into a conversation around gender identity and pronouns.

Oct. 10th Fair Seas and Following Winds: Gary Hochgraf and Kristin Bedigian

Mark Twain wrote, “Broad, wholesome charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.” No ordinary adventurers, Gary and Kristen have travelled from Baja California to the Caribbean Islands; they've explored Canada and sailed the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Insights they have gleaned from their observation of diverse practices in response to issues shared by all in our global community—e.g., racist treatment of one another, environmental pollution, unequal distribution of technological resources--will be explored in this multi-media presentation.

Oct. 17th Exploring Our Identities: Betty Crepeau and Durham UU members and friends

Our various identities support our sense of self, how we relate to other people and the world around us. While there are aspects of ourselves that are relatively fixed, other components of our identities are fluid and evolve over our lifespan and our experience. Betty Crepeau will facilitate small group discussions based on the following questions: 1) Is your concept of identity fluid or fixed?; 2) How do you think your “identities” (e.g., gender, ethnic, religious, socio-economic status) have influenced the ways you think about yourself, both in the past and currently?; 3) How have the communities you were born into and/or moved into, shaped your sense of identity and the life you have made?

Oct. 24th Exploring the Transgender Lived Experience: Kristen Bedigian

“Being transgender is about an individual's gender identity [their internal sense of who they are]; whether they feel male/masculine, female/feminine, a little of both or neither [regardless of their biological sex at birth].” (Human Rights Campaign). Transgender individuals face several unique challenges in society. This presentation will focus on the experience of being transgender, sharing a personal life story and discussing the joys and struggles faced by many.

Oct. 31st Panel Discussion: “Being a Parent/Grandparent of a Transgender Child.”

Sara Funk, Dennis & Nancy Wagner, Andrea Williams. Moderator: Betty Crepeau

Learning how to be an ally to the transgender friends and family members in your life, or to transgender individuals overall, is an ongoing process. Our panelists will describe how a transgender family member has made, or is making, the transition, and discuss what they have learned about how to support and to serve as an ally for their transgender child/grandchild.

President's Message: Fondly Familiar

We are together again in our Fellowship house. Our newly built, beautiful and yet-to-be-occupied gathering space, shown here in this 2010 photo, had once again remained empty, ready and waiting for us. It's been more than a year.



Note that the large space, the high ceiling with its circulating fan and the circle of windows that open to the fresh air around it help to make it a safer sanctuary in which to gather in this difficult time.

And gather we have. With adherence to established safety protocols we met here three Sundays in September and will continue to do so if conditions permit. Our Program Committee and other volunteers have implemented tools that allow those at home to also “gather” for the Sunday services. The masked faces, the voices, the thoughtful and well-prepared programs with ample time for discussion are all familiar – fondly so.

Thank you all,

John Macri

Who and What Is the Unitarian Universalist Association

Many of us have a reasonable understanding of our fellowship, how it operates, and the folks responsible for its leadership and oversight. But what about the organization to which we belong—the Unitarian Universalist Association. Below is a brief overview of this body. I hope it helps you see how we are connected to the broader community of Unitarian Universalists. Material for this piece was gathered from the UUA website (uua.org).

The UUA is the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist religious movement in the United States. The UUA's 1000+ member congregations are committed to our Seven Principles that include the worth of each person, the need for justice and compassion, and the right to choose one's own beliefs. Its stated mission is to equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders, both lay and professional, and to advance Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

Our faith tradition is diverse and inclusive. We grew from the union of two radical Christian groups: the Universalists, who organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, who organized in 1825. They joined to become the UUA in 1961. Across the globe, our legacy reaches back centuries to liberal religious pioneers in England, Poland, and Transylvania.

Each UU congregation is autonomous—congregational leaders set their own priorities and choose their own ministers and staff. Congregations vote for the leaders of the UUA, who oversee the central staff and resources. The UUA supports congregations in many ways.

The UUA is led by a President, Moderator and Board of Trustees. These leaders are elected every few years by congregational delegates at the annual General Assembly gathering. The President is the chief executive of the UUA and its public spokesperson. The Moderator chairs the business meetings of the General Assembly and meetings of the Board of Trustees. Specialized boards, committees, and advisors also help lead the UUA.

The President is responsible for administering staff and programs that serve its member congregations. She also acts as principal spokesperson and minister-at-large for the UUA. The Moderator serves as Chief Governance Officer of the Association, presiding at General Assemblies and at meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The UUA Board of Trustees conducts the affairs of the Association and carries out policies and directives, acting for the Association between General Assemblies. The Board is composed of the Co-Moderators, who chair the Board, the Financial Advisor, ten trustees elected at large, and two youth trustees. The Board meets monthly throughout the course of the year.

The word "association" is an important one. It indicates that each of the member churches, societies, and fellowships establishes its own operating practices; that is, they have congregational polity. At the same time we are part of a larger organization, i.e., an association, that both provides support for its member congregation as well serves as face of Unitarian Universalism to the public. In future columns I hope to share a bit about the people who serve in these association leadership roles.

Thomas Pistole

A note from the treasurer

As we settle into fall, it's wonderful to be gathering (in person and virtually) at the fellowship again. While our expenses have mostly returned to pre-pandemic levels, unfortunately the same cannot be said of our donations! If you are able, please consider a financial contribution to help continue to fund our programs, committees, social action, and sanctuary.

Jen Pavlik

Membership

For the start of our Program year on 9/12 there were 24 present in our sanctuary, with 4 on Zoom; on 9/19 there were 22 present with 8 on Zoom; on 9/26 there were 21 present and 4 on Zoom.

These have been our total attendees for our first three weeks back in our Fellowship sanctuary. It has been so good to see everyone again in person.

Hope to see more of you during our upcoming October Services.

-Bob Sheehan

Spirituality Study Group

Last Spring's study on *The Untethered Soul* by Michael Singer was very meaningful for those involved. So, I'm offering another study on

The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle, a German-Canadian spiritual teacher. A starting date can be December or January and it will be via Zoom or FaceTime which worked very well with last year's study group, and it's convenient.

Please let me know if you would be interested in participating in this study. Also, I'm always looking for recommendations for group study.

-Joyce Sheehan

joycesh61@gmail.com (new email)

606-801-3624

**DUUF Officers, Chairpersons and Council Coordinators and
Members of Committees and Councils for 2021-2022
Under 2018 By Laws**

OFFICERS

President: John Macri
Vice President: Chip Noon
Treasurer: Jen Pavlik
Secretary: Betty Nordgren

COMMITTEES

Program: Deb Johnson (Chair), Betty Crepeau, Michael O'Sullivan, Larry Vogelmann
Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik (Chair), Brad Kinsey
House and Grounds: House: Sarge Legard (Chair), Rachel Legard; Grounds: Sarah Tambling;
Rentals: Maria Isaak
Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Deb Johnson, Bob Sheehan
Membership: Bob Sheehan (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers (Coordinator),
Betty Crepeau, Michael O'Sullivan, Joyce Sheehan

COUNCILS

Nominations: Michael O'Sullivan (Coordinator), Bob Sheehan
Music Council: Maria Isaak (Coordinator)
Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator), Nick Isaak, Jake Kritzer
Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator), Betty Crepeau
**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.

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