

Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Celebrating 60 Years

Love, the Quest for Truth, and Service



The HEED March, 2022

*Please note that throughout the month of March 2022
Sunday Services will be held 10 – 11:15 AM, via ZOOM only*

Sunday, March 6th: "Creating Housing for Adults with Developmental Disabilities"
with Laurie McIntosh, Board Chairperson for *Our Place*

Sunday, March 13th: "Will They Let Me? Expanding the Circle of Love and
Inclusion." with Daniel Frye, J.D.

Sunday, March 20th: "Our Month with Poetry: Insights and Lessons Learned"
with DUUF members participating in the Poetry Challenge

Sunday, March 27th: "DUUF at 60: Our Fellowship's Heritage of Religious
Exploration" with Deb Johnson and Bob Pavlik

Sunday, April 3rd: "For Compassion and Resilience, Follow the Trees"
with Mary Doane and Sylvia Foster

March 2022 Program Schedule Details

Sunday, March 6th: "Creating Housing for Adults with Developmental Disabilities" with Laurie McIntosh, Board Chairperson for *Our Place*.

Laurie will discuss the joys and challenges of raising two children with disabilities and helping them to become as independent as possible. She will describe the rationale behind the creation of *Our Place*, a non-profit whose mission is to create housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

Sunday, March 13th: "Will They Let Me? Expanding the Circle of Love and Inclusion." with Daniel Frye, J.D., Administrator of Services for the Blind and Vision-Impaired, NH Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Department of Education, Concord. He is also a student at the Meadville-Lombard Theological School where he is pursuing his MDiv. with the goal of becoming a Unitarian-Universalist Minister.

Sunday, March 20th: "Our Month with Poetry: Insights and Lessons Learned" with DUUF members participating in the Poetry Challenge

Participants in our February Poetry Challenge will share insights and lessons learned from the daily reading of their chosen poem throughout the month of February.

Sunday, March 27th: "DUUF at 60: Our Fellowship's Heritage of Religious Exploration" with Deb Johnson and Bob Pavlik.

Since its founding, members of the Durham Fellowship have provided children with opportunities for exploration of the natural world, and Social Justice issues as well as Spiritual and Ethical exploration. We will revisit the varied ways in which DUUF has served and met the needs of our children and youth.

Sunday, April 3rd: "For Compassion and Resilience, Follow the Trees" with Mary Doane and Sylvia Foster

In this multi-media presentation, Mary and Sylvia will explore with us the following questions:

How can we build resilience into our lives? What can nature teach us about compassion and kindness toward one another? We'll seek nature's guidance and consider the role that community-building plays in helping us adapt and thrive in the midst of a changing planet.

President's Message: Better Days

I write hopeful that falling Covid rates and better weather will soon allow us to resume face-to-face Sunday services in our beautiful sanctuary. I've heard from many who look forward to gatherings with familiar faces, young and old, and with new friends interested to learn more about and connect with our Fellowship. The Fellowship Board has been discussing when and how to make this happen. Send me any ideas you have on how we might, in the coming months, make up for lost gathering time and better spread the word about DUUF in our community.

Thanks,

John Macri

john.macri@unh.edu

From the Social Committee

Social committee will try to organize a walk for those interested on a Sunday afternoon in March when the weather is cooperative. I will announce the walk during Sunday morning services. We will meet at the church at 1:30 and go from there. There has been some lovely midweek winter weather; here's hoping for some great weekend weather.

—Carol for the committee

Membership

It has come to my attention that there is information on our Website Membership List that is no longer correct, such as phone numbers, and email addresses.

I'm asking members to please check your info on our Website to ascertain that it is correct. If not, please send any changes and updates to: sheehanr216@gmail.com.

Bob Sheehan

A Lovely Way to Escape From Winter (if only for a few moments)

Thirteen intrepid DUUFers brightened their month of February with recitations of a chosen poem. Carol Bullivant, Bob Bullivant Betty Crepeau, Deb Johnson, John Macri, Dawn Meredith, Betty Nordgren, Eric Nordgren, Michael O'Sullivan, Thomas Pistole, Joyce Sheehan, Bob Sheehan and Larry Vogelmann, each read their selected poem daily (that's 28 times!) throughout the month.

Poems were drawn from a range of periods, reaching as far back as 1818 [Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Ozymandius," read by Eric Nordgren] to 2021 [Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" read by John Macri]. The full list of poems will be distributed prior to our Sunday, March 20th program, where the Poetry Challenge participants will share further insights and lessons learned from the daily reading of their chosen poems.

Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Thomas Pistole, Denominational Affairs

At a recent meeting of DARLA (Dover Area Religious Leaders Association) one of our members shared that she will be leaving her Dover congregation later this year to become the pastor of another NH congregation. She noted that this decision was made by the superintendent, which, she explained, is an intermediary position serving under the bishop. A lively discussion then followed in which various clergy members shared similar experiences. Even though we are a lay-led congregation and have been since our inception over 60 years ago, it seems fitting for us to have a basic understanding of how ministers and congregations in our faith tradition are connected. The practice can, at times, be quite complex but the following should provide a basic understanding of the process.

There are two main groups involved in the process: the congregation and the Ministries and Faith Development group at UUA headquarters or the New England Region UUA staff.

Because of congregational polity, "Ordination into the UU ministry...is solely at the discretion of congregations... An individual becomes a member of the clergy and a UU minister based on ordination by a UU congregation and in no other way." ⁱ

However, in most cases, individual seeking to enter the ministry work through the UUA to complete the process and, if successful, receive fellowship within the UUA. Major milestones in ministerial formation for UU ministers typically include seminary, internship, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), acceptance into Preliminary Fellowship with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (UUA), ordination by a congregation, Final Fellowship by the MFC, in that order.

Candidates who are granted Preliminary Fellowship are eligible to work with the UUA's Transitions Office, which works to provide connections between congregations seeking a minister and candidates. Although this sounds relatively simple, it is anything but. I served for a while as a regional transitions consultant for congregations and learned quite a bit about the preparation and implementation involved. At present, the Transitions Office works only with congregations seeking ministers for 3/4 or fulltime positions. For smaller congregations (which includes most in the northeast), a simpler process is coordinated through our regional staff group.

Without diminishing the importance of ordained clergy, it is also important to remember the following, found in a report from the UUA's Commission on Appraisal: "Ministry is the vocation of every person of faith, [and] Unitarian Universalism, as a democratic faith, affirms the 'priesthood of all believers'; we are all lay ministers, whether or not we choose to be professional religious leaders." ⁱⁱ

Sometimes a congregation may specify ministerial services. This may be particularly true for those seeking a minister for the first time. This is called consulting ministry. Working with regional staff, the congregation can create a specific job description that details what these activities are, e.g., Sunday service once a month, support for RE program, conducting memorial services. These are one-year appointments and can be renewed. ⁱⁱⁱ

Finally, there is a program currently available in several of our UUA regions called the Commissioned Lay Ministry Program. It provides an opportunity for committed UU leaders to deepen their faith while serving their congregations in more significant ways. It was designed for individuals who do not feel the call to ordained ministry but seek an alternative path to service.^{iv}

In summary, each UU congregation determines if it wishes to call a minister and, if so, who that person is. The UUA through central and regional offices provide various support functions to help congregations decide what model would best suit their needs and wishes and, if desired, in connecting with potential candidates.

ⁱ Ordination and Community Ministers: Leadership Lab, UUA

ⁱⁱ Commission on Appraisal, *Our Professional Ministry: Structure, Support and Renewal* (UUA), 1992

ⁱⁱⁱ Commissioned Lay Ministry Program, Central East Region, UUA

^{iv} UU Church of Boulder-Ministerial Committee, 2014-15

Reminder: UUA General Assembly, Portland, OR, June 22-26, in-person or virtual

**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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