

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

PO Box 1578

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www.kuufnh.org

October 2014

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton

Presidents: Amy Dressler & Henry Howell

Director of Religious Education: Donna Peirce

RE Teacher: Libby Curran

Music Director: Martha Woodward

Unitarian Universalists affirm the worth and dignity of all human beings and advocate freedom of belief and an open search for truth.

The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

meets weekly on Sundays at 11:00 AM

in the Stone Chapel of Proctor Academy in Andover

KUUF Calendar

Friday, October 3	Circle Dinners
Sunday, October 5	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 5	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson – “Religion & Ethics”
Sunday, October 12	Adult Education Class - 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 12	Speaker: Harriette Yazzie-Whitcomb – “Native American Prayer & Beliefs”
Thursday, October 16	KUUF Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – at the Howell’s
Sunday, October 19	Book Discussion Group – 9:30 AM – “The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine”
Sunday, October 19	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson –
Sunday, October 26	Talk-Back Session – 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 26	Speaker: Dick Dutton – “Goblins Will Get You, If You Don’t Watch Out”...Sermon on fear and antidotes for life. Fear as a political and economic tool



The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter



Minister's Missive – October 2014

**The whole world is festering with unhappy souls;
The French hate the Germans, the Germans hate the Poles.
Italians hate Yugoslavs, South Africans hate the Dutch.
And I don't like anybody very much!**

This little ditty is from a song called *The Merry Minuet*, recorded by The Kingston Trio over fifty years ago. (Let me repeat that for those of you who've been around long enough to own an original copy of the album in which the song is included [as I do]: "*Fifty years ago!*")

These lyrics, of course, no longer reflect the specifics of current world affairs, but the basics remain pretty much the same – similar script, new characters; history imitating history. It seems as if we humans are caught up in a constant, swirling storm of events that keep all of us on edge, waiting to see what comes next. Yet in the midst of it all we continue to seek peace – not just peace among nations, but peace within ourselves.

Each of us is on a journey in this life, looking for answers to life's most vexing questions: *Why is life the way it is? What can I do to make things better? How can I find peace with myself?* A gathered fellowship such as ours can't pretend to provide easy answers to such questions, but it's probably the place where most of us begin. Just as a compass can support us on a hike through unknown terrain, congregational life offers the support we seek on our individual spiritual journeys. And even though the answers we seek are ultimately found within ourselves, it's often in the community of the faith and hope that they're brought to light – especially in the kind of open, liberal religious setting our Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist fellowship provides.

In the respective worlds of churches, schools, and yes, even *politics*, autumn is a season of beginnings, of new hope. Here in New England, the crisp morning air and the brilliant colors of the turning leaves are reminders of the high expectations the season brings. In the words of Henry David Thoreau, written in his *Journal*, 1853:

Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each. . . . Some men [and women] think they are not well in spring or summer, or autumn, or winter; it is only because they are not well *in* them.

In this autumn of 2014, may each of us find him- or herself well *in* the season, that we may be the people of hope and promise that we'll called to be.

Best wishes, *Bill*

IT IS AMAZING!



This little light of mine, I'm going to make it shine...

Have you ever stopped to consider how many types of groups we have in our fairly small church with its 47 members? That is, groups of people doing special activities for and because of their involvement with KUUF—

There are the committees that really keep the place operating –all 14 plus the Board of Trustees! Then there are the thought-provoking discussion groups: The Book Group lately reviewing “The Righteous Mind: Why good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion”; Adult Education hearing a ‘Great Lecture’ series on the history of the universe from Big Bang to now –and chewing over how we all fit into such a gigantic time span; the ‘Vision 2014+’ survey and follow-up ‘Talk-Back’ sessions that enable all congregation members to participate in what our church is about and what its future might become. There is the Congregational Study Action Issue on ‘Escalating Inequality’ that was chosen to be a theme topic for the entire congregation to consider and maybe pass a resolution on. There is our choir and music that can lift one’s spirits and perhaps cause us to hum a tune during the rest of the week. There is the religious education that helps introduce spiritual values to our KUUF children and is also just plain a lot of fun. There is the Women’s Meditation Group that brings a sense of calmness and focus to (anyone) who practices this activity. There are the Circle Dinners, picnics, holiday parties and social outing events that connect us to one another outside our religious setting. There are the Backpack Project, Crop Walk, VNA Christmas Families, Food Pantry and KREM that support people who are less fortunate and facing some hard times.

And perhaps most special of all our activities is the gathering together once a week within a space that provides inspiration, ritual, compassion and community encompassed by the values of our faith --a sanctuary in which we assemble to place the rest of our lives in a deeper perspective.

So much done by a small group of people!

Peace --Henry Howell Co-President



Book Discussions

October 19, 2014 - 9:30 AM

The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine By Francis S. Collins, 2010.

A scientific and medical revolution has crept up on us , based on study after study, from hundreds of laboratories around the world. Every one of us will be touched by it and many of us already have been. Crucial decisions about what we all need to know and what choices we make about our health are at stake.

Francis Collins was the head of the international Human Genome Project for fifteen years and now serves as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Just in the past decade, most of what you think you know about DNA has been overturned. Much of the advice given by health care providers is ill informed, so you need to educate yourself about this rapidly changing area of medicine.

Questions: Marion Allen, 526-6776 or mlallen@tds.net

Host/Hostess “Duty” Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
October 5	Susan Crickman	Nancy Stone
October 12	Betsy Abbe	Earl Abbe
October 19	Liz Meller	Marion Allen
October 26	Libby Howell	Henry Howell
November 2		
November 9	Lois Magenau	Marcus Johnson
November 16	Sandy Wells	Roger Wells
November 23		
Novembr 30		

If you can take a Sunday morning as host/hostess, please contact Kerry Laufer at 763-3140 or kllauf@hotmail.com. Thanks!



Restock the Food Pantry

Please remember to bring items to church on Sunday mornings to help restock the New London and Andover Food Pantries. Thank you for your generosity.



POTTERY SALE

As many of you know Leslie Maloof, a local potter, donated five bins of her pottery to KUUF, for a fund raiser. KUUF had two wonderful Sundays where tables were set up after church with this pottery for people to purchase not only for themselves but for gifts.

\$ 442 was raised. Thanks to Leslie for her generous contribution, and to all the people who purchased these treasures.

At this time there are no other fund raisers scheduled. If anyone has any suggestions please contact Liz Maloof.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Food security occurs when people have consistent access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. For too many people, food security is a dream and food insecurity is their reality. On Sunday, **October 5**, KUUF will be participating in Church World Service Organization's annual Crop Walk to End Hunger. This event offers our team a unique opportunity to help raise funds to end hunger here in our own community and around the world. Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of different denominations working together to eradicate hunger and poverty, and promote peace and justice among the world's most vulnerable people. Church World Service accepts no administrative fee from our Crop Walk donations, which means that 100% of the money raised goes directly toward the cause. In addition, 25% of the money our KUUF team raises will stay right here in our local food banks and the remainder will be used to help feed hungry people around the world. Some of the international programs that will benefit from your donation include:

- supporting farming cooperatives in Haiti that help 4,500 families grow their own food
- providing dependable supplies of safe water to villages in Burma
- feeding children in sub-Saharan Africa, who are displaced & orphaned by HIV & AIDS

Our KUUF team needs walkers & donations. Please join us in "Ending Hunger One Step at a Time." Information will be available at church throughout the month of September, or you may contact Amy Dressler at (603)727-4143 or amyredhead@hotmail.com with any questions. Thank you!



Social Activities

Children and adults alike had a fine time at the KUUF 6th Annual Picnic in August. The day was perfect, our Sunday School children and friends had a great time by the beach, in and out of the water (see photo below), on and off the dock more times than I could count and then back to the house for a delicious picnic. Meredith & Doug were such welcoming hosts as always. It was a fine day for most of the congregation to get back together before the reopening of church. Many thanks to all who brought, as always, an abundance of delicious food.



October 3 will be the occasion of three Circle Dinners, hosted by Amy Dressler with Aaron, Liz & Mike Meller and Joanna Henderson. Twenty eight guests and hosts will be enjoying three Circle Dinners.

We're looking for suggestions for future activities . Please let us know if you have ideas and wishes for the coming months. We will appreciate your thoughts.

Fran Preston, Liz Meller, Lois Magenau

