

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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www.kuufnh.org

November 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

Sunday, November 2	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 2	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, November 9	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 9	Speaker: Roger Wells
Thursday, November 13	KUUF Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – at the Bergquist's
Sunday, November 16	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 16	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, November 23	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 23	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “When Grateful We Come Remembering”
Sunday, November 30	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 30	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson



Dear friends,

Yes, it's November again. Or should I say, it's November, *already*. Those of you who've been reading these *Minister's Missives* over the past six years know that November is very close to my heart. Some of you have, through those years, confided in me that you actually agree on my take of November, while others look at me with a degree of quizzical wonder when I let the subject of my late autumn wonder come up in conversation. Among the joys of life is that not all of us think the same, but we tend to be considerate of one another's idiosyncrasies, odd as they may seem.

As has been the case, though, I've tried every November in the *Newsletter*, to justify this mysterious propensity to share with you my thoughts on the season into which we've just recently entered. Here we go, then.

To my eye November has its own peculiar aesthetic. Not just the black, but the myriad shades of grey and yellow and brown, the dance of shadow and light, the quiet of a misty dawn with frost sparkling in the fields – all of this comes together in a solemn yet exquisite invitation to step into the depth and mystery of what the ontologically inclined philosophers and theologians call Being Itself. It's a good time to indulge in a walk in the woods or through a field of rustling leaves, while pondering the changes of the seasons. But then again, when such walks have done their job of chilling our very bones, it's good to get back indoors, collect ourselves, take deep breaths, and relax in the cozy warmth of a familiar room with a cup of tea (or beverage of choice), grateful for Mother Nature's reliable, persistent wake-up call to remind us that everything changes, while somehow everything stays the same: The "music of the spheres," the harmony of the cosmos.

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One more thing: Even though for most of us finding a cozy room in which to contemplate the mystery of the universe is no big deal, there are those for whom the late autumn weather portends a genuine threat. With Thanksgiving just a little under a month away, it's never too early to think about ways we can, turning our gratitude into a pathway of giving.

Best wishes to all, *Bill*

ROOTS

By Henry Howzell



*This little light of ours,
We're going to make it shine...*

The following excerpt from the "History of Andover 1751-1906", compiled by John R. Eastman and published in 1910, was how a Universalist spark was ignited among the old farmsteads, stone walls and pasture-covered hills in Andover, New Hampshire. John Eastman writes—

The Universalist Society was organized in 1819, as set forth in the following records:

At a meeting of a number of Brethren in Andover believing in the restoration of all men through Jesus Christ, attended on Brother Peter Fifield while he read a statement of the faith once delivered to the saints, and after a few preliminary remarks on the same, voted unanimously that Brother Peter Fifield be Chairman of this Meeting and Jere C. Tirrill Clerk.

Voted, unanimously that the Brethren present form themselves into a society for the support of the Gospel, by the name of the First Universalist Society of Andover.

Voted, that the annual meeting of this society be holden on the first Tuesday in March.

Voted, that it be the duty of the Clerk to notify the annual meeting.

Voted, that John Tirrill, Benj. Thompson and Samuel Elkins be a committee to transact all secular concerns of this society.

Voted, that this meeting be adjourned to the first Tuesday in March.

March 2, 1819

Met according to adjournment.

Voted, that the Brethren petition the legislature to be incorporated by the name of the First Universal Society of Andover N. H.

Voted, to choose a committee to form a petition and present the same to the legislature for the above purpose.

Meeting dismissed

Jere C. Tirrill, Clerk
Peter Fifield, Chairman

In 1820 \$16 was raised to defray the ordinary expenses for the year. The meetings of this society were generally held at private houses...[and]...occasionally held in the schoolhouse in District No. 10, in the Franklin House at the Centre and in the tavern of Dudley Dearborn

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And so we were officially born here in Andover, with a long history of people like ourselves working hard to make a Universalist (and eventually Unitarian) light shine throughout the Kearsarge-Ragged hills and valleys.



## Book Discussions

December 7, 2014 – 9:30 AM

**The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger** by  
Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson, 2009

In rich societies the poor have shorter lives and suffer more from almost every social problem. *The Spirit Level*, based on 30 years of research, takes the truth a step further. One common factor links the healthiest and happiest societies: the degree of equality among their members.

Pickett and Wilkinson lay bare the contradictions between material success and social failure in the developed world. They do not merely tell us what's wrong. They offer a way toward a new political outlook, shifting self-interest consumerism to a friendlier, more sustainable society. *The Spirit Level* will change the way you think about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Many libraries in NH have purchased this book but you may have to request an InterLibrary Loan copy.

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January 18, 2015 - 9:30 AM

**The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History** by Elizabeth Kolbert, 2014

Kolbert observes that by burning fossil fuels we are changing the atmosphere, the oceans, and the climate, forcing potentially millions into extinction. Five watershed events in the deep past decimated life on earth, hence the "Sixth Extinction" for today's human propelled crisis.

Kolbert makes a page turner out of the sober and scientifically demanding aspects of extinction. Your view of the world will be forever changed.

Please allow time for this to be borrowed from another NH library. Join us for discussion even if you have not read the books.

Questions: Marion Allen... 526-6776

## Host/Hostess “Duty” Assignments

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Host/Hostess</u> | <u>Host/Hostess</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| November 2    | Kathy Vashro        | Jim Vashro          |
| November 9    | Lois Magenau        | Marcus Johnson      |
| November 16   | Kerry Laufer        | David Landers       |
| November 23   | Sandy Wells         | Roger Well s        |
| November 30   |                     |                     |

If you can take a Sunday morning as host/hostess, please contact Kerry Laufer at 763-3140 or [kllauf@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Parking at Proctor**

Proctor has asked KUUF to park in the maintenance parking lot in the back of the church or to the left of the Maxwell Savage Hall. We can continue to use the small parking area over to the left of the Chapel, just off the circle – about 5 or 6 spaces. However, we should make them available for those who may have a problem walking from the other parking lots. There are maps of Proctor available. They will be on the table as you enter the Chapel on Sundays.



## **It's that Elfin' Time of Year Again!**

This year KUUF will once again be participating in the Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice "2014 Kearsarge Community Christmas Project." The VNA is collecting Christmas Wish Lists from local families who are experiencing significant financial difficulties this holiday season. The children of each family are encouraged to list items of clothing they need as well as toys or gift items they would enjoy.

KUUF will be working to fill the Christmas Wish Lists of some of these local children in need. The Social Concerns Committee will be collecting donations toward this project during Coffee Hour every Sunday in November. Your contributions will mean a great deal to these families right here in our neighborhood, which may not have a very Merry Christmas without your help. Thank you.



## **Thank You Walkers & Thank You Donators**

This year's CROP Walk to End Hunger was a big success. It went off without a hitch on October 5th. Our KUUF Team raised \$680. This money will help to provide some much needed assistance in our own community, as 25% of the funds raised will stay in our local food banks, while 75% will be used to support Church World Service programs helping disadvantaged people all around the world.

Thank you again to all of the KUUF Team members who each helped to raise money for this event, and thank you to everyone who made donations to sponsor our team. You each played an important role in helping to eradicate hunger and poverty, and promote peace and justice among the world's most vulnerable people.





## Social Activities

Thanksgiving already? Well, hang onto your hats because Christmas is around the corner and it's almost time for our Celebration of the Season. Meredith & Doug Smith at Livingstone Lodge in Enfield will again open their home to welcome everyone to celebrate together... Save the date of Saturday, December 13. (Time and directions will follow)

Kathy Vashro has offered to help Meredith in the planning, Kathy will make her list and check it twice and let us know details.

For now, Happy Thanksgiving to All,



Fran Preston