

**Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**PO Box 1578**  
**New London, NH 03257**  
**603 526-8213**  
[www.kuufnh.org](http://www.kuufnh.org)

**December 2014 and January 2015**

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, December 7	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “The Spirit Level: How Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger”
Sunday, December 7	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson – “The Human Element of the Christmas Story”
Thursday, December 11	KUUF Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – at Jane Guise’s
Saturday, December 13	Christmas Party at Meredith & Doug Smith’s
Sunday, December 14	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, December 14	Martha Woodward & the KUUF Choir – “Mary Had a Baby”
Sunday, December 21	Speaker: Tom Graves (Traditional)
Sunday, December 28	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “Runners, to Your Marks, Get Set, Bang”
Sunday, January 4	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 4	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, January 11	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 11	Speaker: Diane Root
Sunday, January 18	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History”
Sunday, January 18	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, January 25	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 25	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “Kids4Peace”



**Minister's Missive – December 2014 – January 2015**

Human beings are bound together by the stories they tell, by the experiences they share, by the landscapes that give them a sense of place, of belonging. Every culture throughout has had its stories – the mythological, the comedic, the sorrowful; the stories that make a culture a culture. They're the glue that binds us together, and it's in such stories that we find meaning and identity in life. They offer continuity and cohesiveness in what might otherwise be just a random and confusing series of events. In a sense, our stories are who we are, whether we're aware of it or not.

As we enter into December, we look forward to what are the most powerful stories for those who come from Judeo-Christian backgrounds, as we prepare for and celebrate the holidays of Chanukah and Christmas. The telling of these two tales, we might say, is the telling of our own stories, isn't it? Within each of them we find that which determines the human condition: hope, fear, struggle, love, joy and sorrow, wonder and awe. And of course, to go along with it all, we have the Winter Solstice, the darkest day of the year, reminding us of the hope of longer days and the light that will ultimately conquer the darkness.

The world in which we live has never been a "bowl of cherries," has it? One look at the morning newspapers we read will remind us that there's a lot of loneliness, a lot of brokenness, a lot of hatred and fear out there in the world. But for those of us who gather in communities such as ours, there's a sense of hope that tells us that even the smallest of things we can do to make the world a better place, are signs that we are never defeated, and that we're not going to give up. This is the power of our storytelling, of stories that live on, passing from generation to generation – ever to be able to thrill and hush us, with their timeless affirmation that there's more to life than we can ever imagine, if we can only allow ourselves to become immersed in the season, and invite the season to become immersed into us.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and Hanukkah this year! *Bill*

# ROOTS

By Henry Howzell



*This little light of ours,*

*We're going to make it shine...*

You may remember the article I wrote about the building of the first Universalist church in Andover in which rum served as the primary fuel to spur the local farmers and craftsmen on as they raised our ancestral place of worship. Although initially primarily managed by the Universalists, the church was shared with the Methodists and Christians. Following is an excerpt of the first and opening celebration of that church in 1824 as recalled by Rev. Frederick Batchelder of Andover eighty-two years later. (From the 'History of Andover 1751-1906', compiled by John R. Eastman and published in 1910.)

When the Andover Meeting house was dedicated they got up a select choir.... They scoured the country round for instruments and players and were quite successful. Of course they had no pipe organ, piano or melodeon nor had they a double bass viol.: --but they had a violineello, violins and clarinettes. Also they had an instrument called an ancient Jewish Cymbal:--It might have been that,--but whatever it was it appears to have been the last of its race... They marched to the Meeting house singing and all of the instruments, including the violineello, playing... It was born of that occasion and, true to its nature, had a little incipient quarrel. Mrs. Huldah was appointed to lead the treble singers; her place of course was at the head of the seat. Nabby the pretty young daughter of the "Squire" was chosen next. Nabby was much disgruntled at being superseded by a woman of 47 while she was of the seat and had to crowd pretty hard to hold even that...

There was a great crowd and ministers of all denominations were present at the exercises as it was a Union Meeting house. ...No alcoholic liquors were provided on the day of dedication in 1824 and all exercises were conducted in perfect harmony by the several representatives of the different denominations.

As indicating the liberal and Christian spirit of the people, it may be said that so far as known, no church quarrels ever arose from the joint occupation of the building by different denominations. *[Henry's note --As you can see, times have changed since then!...]*



## 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>
December 7	Molly Morgan	The Morgans
December 14	Sally Bergquist	Bob Bergquist
December 21	KUUF Board	KUUF Board
December 28	Lizzie Klingler	Donn Klingler
January 4	Sandy Wells	Roger Wells
January 11		
January 18		
January 25		

If you can take a January 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.

## **Children's RE and Child Care News**

We'd like to remind parents that we'll be having our traditional children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 21. There will be fun activities and a surprise for each child. Hope you can all make it.

Happy Holidays, Donna & Libby

## **Sunday Morning Adult Lecture Series**

The Adult Lecture series, now devoted to a study of the history of the universe (!) will wind-up for the year on December 14. We are only meeting once in December. After our usual Christmas break, we will reconvene on Sunday January 4, 2015.

Our "Big History" lectures have already provided a wonderful perspective for examining the creation myths of other world religions. Participants are looking forward to learning more as our course moves steadily toward the creation of the earth and the evolution of the world we live in today.

All are welcome on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and into next year. The lecture study begins at 9:30am Sundays mornings in the downstairs Sunday School room.

Tom Maloof



## **Meditation**

The Women's Meditation Group will meet on Wednesday, December 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Fran Preston's. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Bergquist at 763-4098.

# “TALKBACK” SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

Sunday 9:30-10:30AM in the Stone Chapel

In our “Talkbacks” we discuss the future direction of our KUUF fellowship, based on your opinions and comments from the ‘Vision 2014+’ survey you filled out last winter.

So far we have had two Talkbacks this fall: The first one addressed our church’s mission statement ‘**A**’ –*To deepen our understanding of the world we live in, the challenges we must face as citizens of the world, and the place of our personal theologies in meeting these challenges.* The second one addressed mission statements ‘**B**’ & ‘**C**’ –*To be a voice of peace, reason and social justice in our community. And –To strengthen that voice by making ourselves known to all who are looking for a religious sanctuary, and welcoming all who come into our midst.*

This upcoming third and final Talkback will address the many and very insightful ‘Comments’ you have made on the ‘Vision 2014+’ survey, including mission statement ‘**D**’ –*To support, strengthen and renew each other as we strive to lead our lives according to our highest principles, values and beliefs.*

ALL are welcome, whether you participated in the ‘Vision 2014+’ survey or not. This is *YOUR* chance to make your opinions known as to the future direction of our Kearsarge UU Fellowship.

Upon completion of the three Talkbacks, the KUUF Board of Trustees will review the information you have presented in these discussions and make recommendations for the future development of KUUF.

I hope you can join us.

--Henry Howell, Co-President

## **Fund Raising**

Last June the congregation passed a budget with a line item of \$1,150 as a goal for fundraising income. To date KUUF sponsored a pottery sale this fall with donated pottery which raised \$446. That leaves a balance of \$704 still needed to meet that budget item.

In the past the KUUF community has found that working together can be a community building opportunity. For example, past yard sales have not only made money for our congregation but many participated and enjoyed working side by side.

The Board can't do this alone! Ideas and energy from others in the congregation are needed. Please call or email Liz Maloof to brainstorm and help KUUF meet its goal.

Liz Maloof Tele: 526-9889 email: [lizzijo48@gmail.com](mailto:lizzijo48@gmail.com)

## **Financial Update**

As we come to December 2014, we are 6 months into our current fiscal year.

**Thank you** to all who have paid their pledges in advance or have been paying their pledges on a monthly basis. You have made a difference.

As of November 14, 2013, KUUF is in a positive cash flow position of \$8,524. We have received Income of \$22,284 and paid out expenses of \$13,760.

If your pledge is not up to date you may want to take this opportunity to send in a payment before the end of the calendar year to take a 2014 tax deduction for a Charitable Contribution.

Liz Maloof, Treasurer





Erin Peirce with the KUUF Sunday School Kids

Thank you so much, Erin, for all your ears of great service to the Sunday School of KUUF.

### Caring Committee Notes

Don & Marilyn Gould are now living at the Peabody Home, an assisted living facility, 24 Peabody Place, Franklin, NH, Phone: 934-3718.

Betty Williamson is now residing at Woodcrest Village, 356 Main Street, New London, Room #213 (shortly to move to Room #209). Phone: 748-5645

A visit or a phone call would be welcomed by all of them.

# KUUF HOLIDAY PARTY



Saturday, December 13

**Social hour 5:30 to 6:30**

**Pot Luck Dinner @ 6:30**

**Home of Doug & Meredith Smith**

**80 Livingstone Lodge Road,**

**Enfield, NH**

**(Do not rely on GPS. It isn't accurate for  
this address!)**

**Sign up with Kathy Vashro @**

**[jvashro@gmail.com](mailto:jvashro@gmail.com) or 938-5476**

**Appetizer, Main Dish, Salad, Dessert**

**to serve 8 to 10 people**

**Non-alcoholic punch provided**

**Anything stronger-BYOB**

**Ride sharing available with advanced sign-  
up.**

**Kids and grown-ups all welcome!**

**DIRECTIONS TO LIVINGSTONE LODGE (DO NOT RELY ON GPS!)**

**Doug and Meridith Smith, 80 Livingstone Lodge Road,  
Enfield, NH.**

**Tel (603) 632-4093**

**From EXIT 17 off Route 89**, turn **RIGHT** towards Enfield & Lake Mascoma (Routes 4 & 4A. Go **1.6** miles to junction of Rt. 4 & 4A. **BEAR LEFT** (which is more like going straight) on Route 4. Follow Route 4 for **2.5** miles. Just past the roller rink and where the road takes a sharp bend to the left (there will be big yellow arrow signs; Veterans Park on left at bend in road) **GO STRAIGHT**, leaving Route 4 and following **High Street** (a very short hill down to Main Street). At intersection of High & Main Street, go **STRAIGHT** onto **Shaker Hill Road** and follow to fork in road. (You will have gone **.2** miles from High Street.) Bear **RIGHT** onto **Livingstone Lodge Road** and go **.3 miles**. You are **HERE!** **#80** Livingstone Lodge Road, on right, past a section of woodland. Watch for a row of mailboxes all together on a post, just before driveway. At top of driveway, bear right to main lodge. Park anywhere and come on in! We are 5 miles from Exit 17.

**DIRECTIONS TO LIVINGSTONE LODGE VIA ROUTE 4A**

Travel north on Route 4A, either from the Route 11 intersection in Andover or from Georges Mills, following the road from Georges Mills to **Route 114**. Follow **114** until **Bowman Road** (a sharp **right turn** in Springfield). Follow Bowman Road until it intersects with Route 4A. Pass through the village of Enfield Center. Turn **right onto Shaker Hill Road**. (You will see a large organic garden/farm on your left; a small cape-style house practically on the road on your right at this turn onto Shaker Hill Road; **also a yellow T-junction sign & brown boat ramp sign**). Follow **Shaker Hill Road**, making the **turn to the left** after a few hundred feet. **Do NOT** continue straight as this becomes Crystal Lake Road. Continue on Shaker Hill Road for about 5 miles.

As you come down a steep hill (you will have passed Shaker Hill Bed & Breakfast on your right), watch for a **sharp LEFT** hairpin turn off Shaker Hill Road. This is Livingstone Lodge Road. Follow for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile till you come to **#80** and drive in. Follow the drive to the right, coming to the main lodge. You are here.

# A Common Meditation For ALL SOULS

All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City • Rev. Galen Guengerich, Senior Minister

*When we make music we don't do it in order to reach a certain point, such as the end of the composition. If that were the purpose of music then obviously the fastest players would be the best. Also, when we are dancing we are not aiming to arrive at a particular place on the floor as in a journey. When we dance, the journey itself is the point, as when we play music the playing itself is the point. And exactly the same thing is true in meditation. Meditation is the discovery that the point of life is always arrived at in the immediate moment. (Alan Watts, 1915 – 1973)*

## **Adventures in Learning Course**

**“Beyond Gandhi and King: Broadening Our Understanding of Nonviolence”**

Our own, Jane Guise, and John Raby will be Study Group Leaders for this 7-week course beginning January 23, 2015, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College. For more information call 603 526-3690 or go [www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures).

## **Florida Bed & Breakfast**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, Florida, offers a B&B program for fellow UU's who are visiting that area. The cost is \$75.00 per room per night with all proceeds going to the UUFVB Fellowship. If you are interested, contact Mrs. Helen Rosebery at 772 913-0778 or Mrs. Milly Michos at 772 918-4335. You may also go to [www.uufvb.org/bnb](http://www.uufvb.org/bnb).