

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
PO Box 1578
New London, NH 03257
603 526-8213
www.kuufnh.org

February 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, February 1	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 1	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, February 8	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 8	Speaker: Barbara Meyers – “Building Common Ground – Not for the Faint of Heart”
Thursday, February 12	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at the Maloof’s
Sunday, February 15	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry” by Rachel Joyce
Sunday, February 15	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, February 22	Adult Education Class – 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 22	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “Kids4Peace”

Tea Too!

Two generous members of our congregation have donated tea kettles for tea as an additional hot beverage offering on Sunday mornings. There is one large one and one smaller one. Also a variety of tea bags have been donated as well. A big thank you to June Sherwood and Marion Allen on behalf of all the tea drinkers among us.



Some humor and wisdom from E.B. White's *Every Day Is Saturday*:

We sometimes wonder why the City Government tilts so vigorously at the snow. The first flake has hardly fluttered down when every infernal machine in town is rushing to do battle . . . Is snow such poisonous stuff? Our own feeling is that it is something to be honored and preserved – and we would like to see all citizens provided with little tinkling bells so that they would make merry sounds as they plodded about their business, in high rubber boots.

I'm confident that even while writing the above piece, E.B. White was fully cognizant of the necessity for snow removal in a city such as New York, where he lived for many years. What Mr. White was addressing was not our need to deal with fallen snow, but rather the inability of so many people to see and rejoice in the beauty of what *is* – of what we can find in the reality and beauty of the moment and our place in that moment.

We humans have a tendency to long for what is not. And of all the months, it may be that February takes the prize for our leaning towards such longing, at least here in Northern New England. After all, with the exception of Valentine's Day, what does February have to offer? Cold, road salt, slush, the flu? Is this a time of rejoicing? Well, as those of you who've been reading these Missives for the past six-and-a-half years, I've decided that I rather enjoy February! Maybe that's because February doesn't make many demands on us: We're over post-Christmas let-down, it's a little early for spring fever, and what we have is a month that *just is*, that provides an opportunity for each of us to appreciate every day for things such as the comfort of hats, scarves, boots, warm rooms, hot meals, the company of friends, and the windows through we look to envision the constant assurance of the mystery and wonder of life itself.

In this February of 2015 my sermon themes are going to revolve around on the role that our KUUF plays in exploring, addressing, and maybe having a little fun with such weighty issues in the deep of winter's grasp. I'm looking forward to seeing you.

With very best wishes, *WEN*

ROOTS

By Henry Howell



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

PART I of TWO ARTICLES ON A CHURCH & TOWN DIVIDED

In the previous newsletter I related how the dedication of the Universalist meeting house with help from other denominations was “conducted in perfect harmony by the several representatives of the different denominations...[and] so far as known, no church quarrels ever arose from the joint occupation of the building by different denominations.”¹

As it turns out, however, our church-going predecessors in Andover were not always so collaborative. Around 1780 there were the beginnings of discussions to build an ‘updated’ meeting house. Even though Universalists were frequently the most numerous religious group at the time in this region, the Congregationalists initially spear-headed a plan for a building of house of worship. Since meeting houses were both financed by a town tithe and used jointly for religion and politics during the 1800’s, their placement and construction involved all town citizens.

First there were endless debates among the Andover citizens about when to take down the old meeting house, apparently going on for over a decade. Patience ran out in 1795 and “under the protection of dim moonlight, Paul Marston [his sons and others] sawed off the corner braces and post tenons ...so that it [the old meeting house] was easily thrown down and destroyed.”

But they still had to decide where the new meeting house was to be! For the next 14 or so years this issue became so inflamed and rancorous that it not only divided the Congregationalists in two but the entire community became east “along the river road and about Chaney Pond...[plus] East Andover” against “those at the west end...now known as the ‘Center’”, each wanting the building in their neighborhood.

Settlers who had once worshipped together in the old meeting house took their frustrations out on one another. “Unwillingness to pay the minister’s tax, impatience with the monotony of didactic and doctrinal sermons, an ill-defined preference for the emotional, fervid preaching of ‘exhorters’, ‘evangelists’, and the self-trained ministers of the Free-Will Baptist denomination, all tended toward the disorganization of the first [Congregational, Universalist, *et al*] church, which practically disappeared...in 1809.” **To be continued next month...**

¹ Excerpts taken from “History of the Town of Andover 1751-1906” by John Eastman, Rumford Printing Co., Concord, NH, 1910



Book Discussions

February 15, 2015 - 9:30 AM

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce, 2012

Harold Fry, a retired brewery salesman, sets off one morning to post a letter to a dying colleague and just keeps on walking... Like most of Harold's life, this trip just happened, in tennis shoes no less.

A deceptively simple novel about the anguish of regret, unfinished business, the importance of faith, and the redemptive power of love. Can we believe in hope when hope seems to have abandoned us?

This book is available in paperback or can be borrowed from your library.

March 15, 2015 - 9:30 AM

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande, 2014

Dr. Gawande is a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and teaches at Harvard Medical School. He is also the author of three previously best-selling books on medicine.

This book is about living with autonomy, dignity, and joy to the last of our days. It is an essential and insightful book for our times. Riveting, honest, and humane, *Being Mortal*, shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life.

This is a new book, probably not available in paperback, which your library can borrow on Interlibrary loan.

Please 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>
February 1	Fran Preston	Ken Preston
February 8	Liz Maloof	Tom Maloof
February 15		
February 22		
March 1		
March 8		
March 15	Lois Magenau	Marcus Johnson
March 22		
March 29		

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



Meditation

The Women’s Meditation Group will meet on Wednesday, February 11 and 25, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Fran Preston’s. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Bergquist at 763-4098.

KUUF Web Site

Please check out the KUUF web site at www.kuufnh.org for up-to-date information, recent sermons, calendar, etc.

Pledges

As we pass the half-way point of our church year, I want to thank those who are keeping their **pledges** up to date and in some cases well in advance. KUUF relies on these contributions to pay on-going expenses. Thanks again.

Liz Maloof, Treasurer



WINTER 2015 FOOD PANTRY CAMPAIGN

The KLS Community Food Pantry continues to be very, very busy. Not only do we continue to see new families every month, we also have been serving larger families. In 2014 we have seen nearly a 20% increase in use of the food pantry. The support of the area churches and community residents has been phenomenal and has made it possible for the food pantry to be an extremely valuable asset to struggling families in the Kearsarge Lake Sunapee region. Despite many trips to the Food Bank in Manchester (our main supplier), as well as some very successful food drives and donations, we are still often running out of several **staple items** with the steady and increasing flow of families using the pantry. To help ensure that the pantry remains well stocked, the KLS Community Food Pantry is continuing its campaign to “Restock the Food Pantry” by asking each church group to concentrate on donating certain items each **month** to the food pantry. Below is a listing of what KUUF has been asked to donate.

February - Large juice (especially low sugar and 100% juice)

March – Cereal

April – Hearty soups and stews

Note: Paper products (paper towels and toilet paper) coffee (regular, decaf, and instant), and peanut butter and jelly are always welcome.

Vacancy for UU Representative on the Food Pantry Board of Directors

Our congregation is invited to have a representative on the Board of Directors for the Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Food Pantry. The position is currently filled by David Landers, he will be leaving that position in June. If interested please let David or a UU board member know.

The KLS Food Pantry is possibly the most effective local charity we have. Last year they supplied just under 40,000 meals to our neighbors right here in our Kearsarge area. Financial and food donations are locally raised and locally distributed. It is an amazing operation. Board members are requested to attend quarterly board meetings to help oversee the running of the Food Pantry. That is just 4 one hour meetings a year. Please consider representing our Fellowship. Please feel free to contact David Landers with any questions - 763-3140.



Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship welcomes Libby Curran as their new Sunday School teacher. Libby has more than 20 years' experience as a First Grade and Special Education teacher. She has won state and national recognition for her work in early literacy including a 2012 People Magazine Teacher of the Year Award. Sunday School sessions will include stories from Unitarian Universalism and other traditions. Through these stories, craft activities, games, songs, projects, and discussion, children will learn and celebrate the Unitarian Universalist Principles.

Our Religious Education Program

Since I took over as Sunday School teacher in September, we have seen some changes in our Sunday School program. Families who have been attending regularly have other commitments and are no longer coming each week, and we are getting to know a new family who lives at Proctor academy.

Our curriculum is The World of Wonder program which explores our Unitarian Universalist seventh Principle. We will celebrate the interdependent web of that connects us all, through stories, experiments, games, songs, art work and making things. When the weather is nice, we will explore outside. If we have time to rehearse, I would love to have the children share their beliefs and discoveries with the congregation sometimes during the Story For All Ages part of the service with a play, poems, or a song.

We are also hoping to do some longer term projects, including raising baby praying mantises. I have ordered praying mantis egg sacs, and when they hatch we will have hundreds of praying mantis babies to take care of. We will feed them fruit flies and watch them shed their skins about 6-7 times before they are fully grown. The last shedding reveals the wings. If all goes well, we should have grown-up mantises to take home and set free in our gardens at the beginning of the summer.

One way to meet the needs of our families would be to try and coordinate attendance on one or two Sundays a month. It is much more fun for the children when there are more kids to interact with. In February, the first date is February 8th. For now, we will also continue to offer childcare and Religious Education every week, just in case we have families who drop in. If anyone in the congregation knows that they will be bringing a visiting family with young children, it would be great if you could email me at libbymjc@comcast.net, or give me a call at 603-496-3058.

Publicity Chair Wanted

If you think you would like to take on the fun, interesting job of Publicity Chair for KUUF, please let the Board know. Sally Bergquist would like to retire from this position after many years of service. The role can be as much or as little as you would like to make it. It involves keeping KUUF's presence in the community active. For more details, please talk to Sally.



Another Elfin Success!

Last month K.U.U.F. participated in the Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice "2014 Kearsarge Community Christmas Project." The VNA collected Christmas Wish Lists from local families who were experiencing significant financial difficulties during the holiday season. Each parent was encouraged to list items of clothing their children needed as well as toys or gift items they would enjoy. This year K.U.U.F. successfully filled the Christmas Wish Lists of three families.

Thank you again to everyone who purchased a gift or donated money toward this project. It was an amazing accomplishment, finding each of the 30 gifts requested for these children. You were all so generous that in addition to providing all of the gifts for these children, we also gave each family gift cards to purchase groceries for their holiday celebrations.

Your contributions meant a great deal to these local families who may not have had a very Merry Christmas without our help. *Amy Dressler*

GETTING TO KNOW OUR KUUF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The idea of interviewing our KUUF members has been taken from the Bradford Bridge 'Ten Question' articles, a town publication edited by KUUF member Marcia Keller. I hope you find this and future interviews both informative and entertaining.

I chose Don Bent as the first interviewee because he is one of our two active charter members and he has also been in my life for over fifty years, as I lived near Don, on Pleasant Lake, off and on since 1967. Kathryn Vashro

QUESTION: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS AREA?

ANSWER: *I received my doctorate in microbiology in 1957, and went to work in the Boston area. This gave my family the opportunity to visit longtime friends from UNH at their Pleasant Lake cottage. These visits led to the purchase of a lot on Lamson Lane where we enjoyed family camping and the building of our lakeside home and a move to New London in 1960, where I taught at then Colby Jr. College.*

QUESTION: TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER AND LIFETIME ACTIVITIES

ANSWER: *I'm going to give you a rather cryptic answer so this doesn't become a small book!*

EARLY YEARS: *From 1930-1942, I lived in Lynn, MA where I was a good student (except penmanship and French); active in YMCA programs and as a Jr. Leader, became an Eagle Scout at 16. At age ten, I passed my American Red Cross Jr Lifesaving and became a competitive swimmer at age 12. I graduated from HS in 1943 and reported for active duty in the Navy College Training Program at age 17 where I completed 2 yrs. at Williams College and won the 1944 New England Intercollegiate swim championship. I completed Naval training and went on active duty at sea in Japanese waters working on the Bikini Atoll atomic*

bomb tests. I was released to inactive duty in 1946, earned a BS from UNH in 1948 and was recalled to active Naval duty in 1950 as a cryptographer. I was married to Nancy Bent in 1951 and our first child was born during my active duty assignment on Hawaii. I completed my Master's in Microbiology in 1953 and went on to complete my Doctoral degree in 1956. Nancy and I raised 3 children and four grandchildren of whom I am very proud. I was Nancy's caregiver for 15 yrs. until her passing in 2010.

QUESTION: WHAT IS IN ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

ANSWER: My project list includes the following: finishing my family genealogy, building a neat little cruising sailboat for the fun of building and doing a bit of sailing. I would like to visit places in the UK where my forbears came from in England emigrating to MA in 1630 and 1638 and those from Scotland and Ulster in the 1870's and 1880's.

QUESTION: WHAT INTERESTS, HOBBIES AND ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU FOUND SATISFYING OVER THE YEARS.

ANSWER: Over the years, I have enjoyed auto mechanics, building, coin collecting, cooking, singing, sailing, reading, tennis, skiing, hiking, camping, genealogy, religion, and people. A major life event includes my family's adventures with an academic year in Malaysia where I taught under a Fulbright Lectureship at the Medical Faculty of the University of Malaysia. We visited California, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Bangkok and at the end of my year in Malaysia, my family and I visited Calcutta, Kathmandu, Delhi, Cairo and most of Europe. Some of my satisfying community activities have included; thirty-four years as a New London Health Officer, PTA president, New London Rotary President, Boy Scout, District Director of Health and Safety and pollution control work for local lakes and active engagement in my children's lives, which gave me much joy

and satisfaction. They have become happy, contributing adults with contributing adult children of their own.

QUESTION: WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD OR THINK WELL OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS EACH DAY.

ANSWER: The finding and use of puns, limericks, jokes and humor has been a constant joy. I also am a people and service oriented person who is an optimist liking to serve and interact with others.

QUESTION: WHAT DOES UU MEAN TO YOU?

ANSWER: Unitarian Universalism didn't reach me until my late fifties when the formation of KUUF drew me in. The dedication to personal and societal improvements with essential humanist beliefs and purpose earned my continuing allegiance.

QUESTION: WHERE TO YOU FIND JOY AND LOVE IN YOUR LIFE AND HOW MAY KUUF MEMBERS NOURISH THAT?

ANSWER: My family, friends, late in life partner - Jane Guise (current KUUF member), and KUUF members bring nourishing joy to my life through their commitment to a positive philosophical liberal religion, work action, and caring commitment.

*If you are interested in being part of the **GETTING TO KNOW YOU** portion of the newsletter contact Kathy Vashro at 938-5476. You may share whatever information you want to share with your KUUF friends. You may read and edit whatever is written as this is a mutual project that is evolving.*



KUUF MOVIE NIGHT! The Fun and Funny

BIRDCAGE!!!

*At Bettie Howard's home at Slope 'n Shore!
(directions to follow)*

Friday Feb 6th at 7 pm
Wine, Beer, Snacks & Desserts!

Please either email Kathy Vashro or Lois Magenau
or give them a call if you'd like to join us and we
hope you will!!

Kathy Vashro

208 440 1855 Cell
603 938 5476 Landline
jvashro@gmail.com

Lois Magenau

603 387 0360 Cell
603 735 5637 Landline
lois.magenau@tds.net

Save the Date

Martha Woodward once again will entertain us with a delightful concert on Saturday, April 25. Please mark your calendars. Details will follow.