

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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September 2015

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton
 President: Henry Howell
 Director of Religious Education: Donna Peirce
 RE Teacher:
 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, September 6	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, September 6	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Thursday, September 10	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at the Howell’s
Sunday, September 13	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, September 13	Speaker: Jane Guise – “Celebrating Current Non-Violence Peace-building”
Sunday, September 20	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “The Love Song of Queenie Hennessey”
Sunday, September 20	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, September 27	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, September 27	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “J’Accuse”, woman caught in adultery, law and grace, forgiveness



Minister's Missive – September 2015

For many of us, the first week of September brings back memories of going BACK TO SCHOOL – the yearly adjustment to our daily lives that demanded that we leave behind the relatively care-free days we'd been enjoying for the past two months. Instead, we'd soon be spending five out of each week's seven days riding buses, sitting in classrooms, running around in gymnasiums, navigating playground politics, and getting through fire drills. Gone was riding our bikes around our neighborhoods, swimming in the local pool, perhaps driving long distances with our families, visiting aunts, uncles, grandparents, and hopefully a neat vacation place where we could spend a week just having fun.

Some of us were sad to see summer go, some were happy. The happy ones were the high achievers (those who did their assigned homework and then some), who'd no doubt spend another year receiving praise for their exemplary performances. The rest of us did all right for the most part, each one trying as best as each could, to find out what it was that he or she could do, where their talent lay, what the future might have in store for them. September was the time that we got DOWN TO BUSINESS.

Frankly, my most cherished remembrance of childhood Septembers was getting back to Sunday school. I'd attended church with my parents most Sundays of the summer, of course, but there was something quite wonderful about reuniting with my Church school friends. The children and youth of our church were drawn from several different public school districts, and some attended private schools, which gave us a kind of "cosmopolitan" identity, almost "worldly," something beyond the boundaries that had defined us since early childhood.

But more than that, there was (at least for me) the transcendent nature of the whole church thing, the mystery of the quiet, the beauty of the stained glass, drama and comfort of the music, the meticulously crafted liturgy that we could count on week after week. All this gave us a sense of being gently bound together into a community of faith, purpose, and hope – which is what religion is all about.

So here we are, at the beginning of the 2015-2016 program. We come from many backgrounds, from different parts of the country, from different religious traditions, each with his or her religious convictions, but together in our search. We are very fortunate to be who we are and where we are, and I'm looking forward to seeing each of you soon, as we enter this NEW YEAR together. Best Wishes, *Bill*

ROOTS

By Henry Howzell



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

A DEED FOR THE "CRUFT" CHAPEL

You may remember from the last episode of "ROOTS" that one of the wealthy dowagers of Boston, Harriet Otis Cruft, who had recently funded the "Cruft High Tension Laboratory" at Harvard University, was invited by Proctor's Unitarian Principal, Rev. Ives, to help fund the construction of a beautiful little chapel made of stone in Andover, New Hampshire.

The background for all this was as follows--

It was 1910 and Unitarianism was running strong, both in Andover, New Hampshire and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Proctor Academy, the Ladies' Industrial Society of Andover, and numerous residents of the town all adhered to Unitarian beliefs. Charles Eliot, just retired president of Harvard University, heralded Unitarianism's secular humanism and promotion of education. It was also a time in which Proctor Academy was recovering from the terrible fire at the old Union Meeting House in 1901.

Unitarians in Boston & Cambridge rallied to rebuild Proctor Academy through the many links that influential Unitarians in Andover had with their friends in Massachusetts. Harriet Otis Cruft, joined with the Carr family of Andover, NH to provide land, design and construction money for the new chapel on the town green that would replace the old Union Meeting House. Although a "stone" chapel, it was then named the "Cruft Chapel" in honor of Harriet Otis Cruft.

In 1910, upon completion of the church, a deed of sale between Mrs. Cruft and the Congregational-Unitarian Society of Andover was drawn up. One of Mrs. Cruft's key features of the deed was:

"Subject to the express and fundamental condition that should the Congregational Unitarian Society fail for a period of two years to use said premises for Unitarian worship and purposes properly incidental thereto substantially in accordance with the usual custom of Unitarians of which the Directors of the American Unitarian Association shall be the judges, then and in that case the premises hereby conveyed shall absolutely vest in the American Unitarian Association, its successors and assigns."

The two year vacancy requirement would someday be acted upon...

Next newsletter: A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH PROCTOR ACADEMY



ADULT LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF ON SEPTEMBER 6!

The new church year starts with a bang, at 9:30 AM, when the Lecture Series begins with a three-week summary of the lives, teachings, and enduring significance of Confucius, The Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad. These remarkable lectures conclude a 36 lecture course first seen at KUUF two years ago. The summary proved to be a fitting capstone. If you were there for these lectures two years ago this will be a wonderful refresher. If you missed it the first time around, here is your chance to treat your mind and your spirit. All you need to do is wake up and get yourself to church on time (9:30)!

The class will meet downstairs in the Sunday School room, as we have done in the past.

Tom Maloof

Host/Hostess “Duty” Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
September 6	Kathy Vashro	Jim Vashro
September 13	Sally Bergquist	Bob Bergquist
September 20	Betsy Abbe	Earl Abbe
September 27	Susan Crickman	Nancy Stone
October 4		
October 11		
October 18		
October 25		

If you can take a Sunday morning as host/hostess, please contact Sally Bergquist at 763-4098 or salbob2@comcast.net . Thanks!



Meditation

The Women's Meditation Group will meet on Wednesday, September 9 (at Sally Bergquist's) and on the 23rd (at Fran Preston's), from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. 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.



2015 FOOD PANTRY CAMPAIGN

Note: Paper products (paper towels and toilet paper) coffee (regular, decaf, and instant), and peanut butter and jelly are always welcome. Also do not forget pet products.



GARDEN EXCESS

Oh, dear, what to do with all the beans, zucchini, apples, potatoes, etc.???

Bring them to KUUF and exchange or take what you want. Starting Sunday, September 6, through our growing season.

LET'S ENJOY EACH OTHER'S BOUNTY!



When is Your Birthday or Anniversary?

We want to acknowledge your birthday and anniversary, so write down your name and dates for these events on the papers that are left on the front table at KUUF on Sunday mornings. Each month the newsletter will post the current month's celebration dates...

Sally Bergquist - 763-4098 – salbob2@comcast.net

Kathy Vashro – 938-5476 – jvashro@gmail.com

September Birthday

3rd – Henry Howell

13th – Fran Preston

19th – Helen Kennedy

September Anniversary

8th – Betty & John Williamson

30th – Liz & Tom Maloof



Book Discussion - September 20, 2015 - 9:30 AM

The Love Song of Queenie Hennessey by Rachel Joyce, 2015. The story of Harold Fry's (The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, 2013) remarkable friend who inspired Harold's cross-country journey.

This is the poignant parallel story to Harold's saga. Rachel Joyce brings Queenie Hennessey's voice into sharp focus. Queenie makes a journey of her own – a journey that is even bigger than Harold's. She confesses long buried truths- a modest childhood, studies at Oxford, the heartbreak that brought her to Kingsbridge, and finally, the devastating secret she has kept from Harold all these years. Queenie's tale is funny, sad, and hopeful. It was published in March 2015 but should be available on InterLibrary Loan if your library does not own it.

Please join us for discussion even if you don't have a chance to read the book. Questions: Marion Allen – 526-6776



Don Gould Memorial School Supply Success!!!

Each year in the month of June, the Social Concerns Committee collects donations to provide backpacks loaded with essential school supplies for children in need. This fund drive was originally the idea of Don Gould because the education of all children was so important to him. Don always acted as our liaison with the Andover Middle School and guided us through the process of supplying children in need with the tools to access their education. Since Don's passing, the Social Concerns Committee has decided that the fund drive will carry on without his leadership, but in his memory. Toward that end, we have renamed the annual drive.

Thanks to the generosity of our KUUF membership, we collected enough money to meet our gift-goal! We provided 15 complete packs to the Andover Middle School for the start of school and \$390 worth of healthy snacks for the students who are on the free and reduced lunch program. Thank you all for your generosity. Your donations have made it possible for KUUF to help children in need, right here in Andover, and I believe Don would be proud of us all.

Amy Dressler

**CROP
HUNGER WALK** 
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME **CROP 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. Unfortunately, for many people, food security is a dream and food insecurity is their reality. On Sunday, October 4, KUUF will be participating in the 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 right here in our own community and around the world. The 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. Of the money our KUUF team raises, 25% 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:

- feeding children in sub-Saharan Africa, who are displaced & orphaned by HIV & AIDS
- providing safe, clean, water for farming & domestic use in Indonesia
- supporting farming cooperatives in Haiti that help families grow their own food

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. You may also contact Donna Peirce at (603)763-2516 or donnapeirce@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!

Getting to Know our KUUF Community Members

Marion Allen and Kathy Vashro went to visit Helen Kennedy and left with a wealth of information for living, which Helen is well qualified to give out, as she will be celebrating her 90th birthday, September 19... Here is her life's story and journey:

Helen Claire (Gegenheimer) Kennedy. The name Gegenheimer in German translates to "Going Home", was born the youngest following 3 boys, on September 19, 1925, in the "front bedroom" of a small, brown-shingled cottage in Mansfield, MA and weighed all of three pounds. Folks always assumed she must have been terribly spoiled with having three older brothers. SHE WASN'T! She was teased.... mercilessly!!

Helen graduated from High School in 1943 and from Nasson College in Springvale, Maine(non-existent at this time) in 1947 with a BS degree in secretarial sciences (don't laugh)...

Immediately upon graduation she took a job as a secretary in a rather large legal firm in Boston but it had not been what she wanted. After a short while with the legal firm, she held positions with the local Council of Churches, the NYC Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. In a sense she did take that advice from her minister so many years earlier. She was in high school and spent some time with him (a Congregationalist) exploring the idea of being a minister and she was given one of her greatest disappointments by being told, by that kindly old minister, that women didn't usually become ministers and that she should plan on becoming perhaps a secretary to a minister. She was devastated, thinking that she had trod into an area where she was not allowed, but as mentioned, she did work within churches as an administrative assistant (secretary) for many years.

In 1953, while working in New York City for the National Council of Churches, Helen met and married later that year, Theodore Kennedy, a Hungarian born young man who had gone through a German concentration camp. A Hungarian with the name of Kennedy and later was Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts (ask her about this story, quite funny)

Helen had many 'encounters' with Unitarianism even though being raised Congregationalist. A college friend's parents took her to a Unitarian church in the late 1940's... she did wonder back to her Congregational roots after college, but they were too conservative...her husband had wanted to be a priest, but couldn't as a married man and went into Tuft's seminary and later together they served Unitarian Universalist churches in Brookfield, MA; Seattle, Washington and North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Helen was very excited to join KUUF and volunteer in many aspects of the church, but was unable due to a fall 10

months after she came to Wilmot, NH... and has not been steady on her feet for several years...

Ted and Helen parted in 1970 with Helen moving to Connecticut with her youngest daughter, Margaret, and Elizabeth remaining with her Dad to finish high school. Helen had several proposals and opportunities to date, but she was raising her daughter and working. Though she likes the idea of companionship, she didn't have time in her life to fit in a companion.

After many years of her daughter, Margret, 'pushing' Helen to move in with her, Helen finally conceded and moved to her daughter's home, a large old home in Wilmot with beautiful barn wood floors and her cats and a rescue dog... Helen enjoys visits from Bill Nelson and other KUUF members. She 'goes' to the Nashua UU church via TV broadcasts on Sundays or manipulates her computer to watch a service at 3 pm during the week. She also has several UU hymns on her computer that she enjoys listening to while typing away on her obituary, life story for her daughter or just enjoying information.

Helen has been a vegetarian for over 40 years and follows Albert Schweitzer's Reverence for Life philosophy. She feels that no being's life (human or non-human) is any more valuable than her own and she tries hard to be a good steward of the earth within the bounds of her knowledge and ability.

Helen's greatest pride is her two daughters whom have latched onto her philosophy of reverence for life.

Helen keeps going in life because of her commandments for life:

Respect all living things

Always believe the best about people

Continue to search for a meaning to life

Work hard

While aging keep busy and active

Give my children a sense of where they came from – knowledge of their ancestors

Support my children in whatever they do

Fight animal injustice and cruelty

Strive to not be afraid of life

Learn more to speak for others as well as for myself

Be more successful in most of these commandments

Go visit Helen, her two cats and her dog, Daisy and you will have wonderful conversation and a cold drink offered to you.