

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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February 2016

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton
President: Henry Howell
Director of Religious Education:
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, February 7	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 7	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Thursday, February 11	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at Bettie Howard’s
Friday, February 12	Movie Night
Sunday, February 14	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 14	CREDO Service
Sunday, February 21	Speaker: Rev. Emily Burr - Joint Meeting at the Franklin U.U. Church
Sunday, February 28	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 28	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – ‘tis...Art in Worship”



If there were a “Word-of-the-Month” for February, a lot of people would probably be pretty stumped as to articulate just what it was: Cold, dreary, wet, all those things that tend to cause most of us to want to “get out of town.” Stephanie and I have done just that in numerous Februarys, not just to shrug off the unpleasantness, but to challenge our awareness of all that surrounds us, wherever we are. Typically we end up going to cities, where we spend a lot of time in art museums and galleries. It’s an indoor mini-vacation, after all, where most of our time is cozy and warm. There’s beauty everywhere, and sometimes winter in an urban environment is just what we need to give ourselves some new perspective.

“Awareness” is one of the words I like to use in sermons and columns such as this, and what we find on our little trips is a chance to become aware of things we don’t typically see in our everyday lives. We don’t have to travel, though, to develop a practice of awareness. It can be found in our own “back yards,” if we look hard enough. And it’s surely something that we find in our KUUF congregation. Cold as it may be outside, we have the warmth of the Chapel, and the hours we spend there, acknowledging and celebrating our fellowship together, practicing mindfulness in a world that seems often filled with chaos.

Many of us spend so much of their time intent on going about our daily business that we fail to see the beauty and complexity of so much that lies around us. Not only do we not stop to smell the proverbial roses, we sometimes don’t even see them. But when we’re reminded to stop and take a little sniff of the blossoms, it opens a whole new world. Suddenly we realize that while we’re so busy attending to the small worries of life it’s awfully easy to miss out on the most basic pleasures, including a sense of connection and inclusion in this world of which we’re a part, but from which we so often feel so separated. Happy February, and remember, the spring is only a couple of months away. Best wishes, *Bill*

ROOTS

By Henry Howell



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

PROCTOR HUNTS FOR A RARE "BIRD": A GROUP OF U.U.'S

Finally, in May, 1965 the few remaining church members and Lyle Farrell, Headmaster of Proctor, met to transfer control of the chapel to Proctor with the proviso that "a majority of the chapel services held therein be conducted by a minister in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship".¹ (The formal transfer took place in 1967.)

After dominating Kearsarge region's social, political and religious life for the previous 300 years, Unitarian and Universalists were a very rare "bird" and nowhere available to hire such a U.U. minister. What was Proctor to do? (As you may recall, Proctor Academy only had two years to find a U.U. fellowship before their property deed to the chapel required the building revert back to the U.U.A. *But* also that it was up to the U.U.A. to *first* notify Proctor in writing that the time had elapsed and the chapel would be returned back to the U.U.A.) The clock began ticking... *tick tock*. How dutifully the Academy sought out a U.U. congregation over the years is questionable and, apparently, the U.U.A. overlooked this issue. *1970 tick tock. 1980 tick tock...*

Then in 1983 a chalice candle was kindled by Don Bent, Marion Allen, Tom Graves and several others when they met to form a U.U. society in the New London area. They held their initial services at Colby-Sawyer College's Alumnae Lounge. After a few years and calling themselves the Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship they moved to the Masonic Lodge in Potter Place. *1985 tick tock. 1990 tick tock...*

At last, in 1992 someone must have tipped off U.U.A. headquarters that U.U.'s had not attended the Stone Chapel for the past 25 years! No surprise then in 1992, "One morning (I don't recall the date) Chris Norris, Asst. Headmaster at Proctor, came to a service and announced that Proctor would like to have KUUF conduct its Sunday services in the Stone Chapel. He said they would charge no fee[!]"² KUUF leapt at the opportunity. Proctor, however, may have been a little less than enthusiastic-- "One thing I recall very clearly was that no one from Proctor came to our first service there, or even...made an announcement of welcome...--It was as though we weren't there."³ It seems Proctor was now a very different academy from its Unitarian roots of 1879 established as a school "free from...theological dogmatizing and unnatural religious methods."⁴ . . . **NEXT: WHO CARES FOR THE STONE CHAPEL**

¹ Harriet Otis Cruft deed to the Cruft (Stone Chapel), 1910

² Tom Graves recollection of KUUF move to the Stone Chapel, Jan. 14, 2016

³ Tom Graves recollection of KUUF move to the Stone Chapel, Jan. 14, 2016

⁴ Chuck Will, "Chuck's Corner, History of Proctor: Origins", Proctor Academy 6/22/2006

Host/Hostess “Duty” Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
February 7	Cathy Kiernan	Amy Friedenberg
February 14	Kathy Vashro	Jim Vashro
February 21	Franklin U.U. Church	Franklin U.U. Church
February 28	Sara Smith	Edythe Anderson
March 6		
March 13	Marie Graves	Tom Graves
March 20	Libby Howell	Henry Howell
March 27		



Meditation (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)

The Women’s Meditation Group will meet on Tuesday’s February 2 and 16th at Fran Preston’s, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Bergquist at 763-4098 or Fran Preston at 526-9623..



WINTER 2016 FOOD PANTRY CAMPAIGN Suggested Donations for Area Churches

February – Large Juice (esp. low sugar & 100% juice)

March – Cereal, peanut butter, & jelly

April – Hearty soups & stews

Note: coffee (regular, decaf, & instant) and monetary donations are always welcome. Monetary donations can be made to: KLS Community Food Pantry, PO Box 536, New London, NH 03257.



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

February Birthdays

6th – Cathy Todd

12th – Kathryn Vashro

13th – Donna Peirce

22nd – Lizzie Klingler

February Anniversary

18th – Chuck & Susan Crickman (60 years)

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.

Ken Preston, Treasurer



Book Discussion - February 28, 2016 – 9:30 AM

The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Strout , 2013

Haunted by the freak accident that killed their father when they were children, Jim and Bob Burgess escaped from their Maine hometown to New York City. A call from their sister, Susan, who stayed behind in Shirley Falls, begs them to come home when her lonely teenage son, Zach, gets himself into a world of trouble.

Strout has the rare combination of brilliant storytelling, exquisite prose, and remarkable insight into characters. Tender and tough minded, she deeply illuminates the ties that bind us to family and home.

All are welcome to our book discussions even if you did not read the book.
Please join us.

Books for consideration for March and beyond.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, 2014. Pulitzer Prize Winner

ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Version of the Islamic State by William McCants, 2015

A Cup of Water Under My Bed: A Memoir Daisy Hernandez, 2014

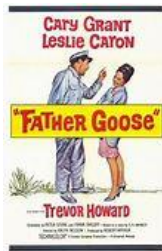
Questions: Marion Allen - marion.lindsey.allen@gmail.com



Another Elfin Success!

Last month KUUF participated in the Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice “2015 Kearsarge Community Christmas Project.” The VNA collected Christmas Wish Lists from local families who were experiencing significant financial difficulties during the holiday season. This year KUUF provided for two families, successfully filling the Christmas Wish Lists of NINE children!

Thank you again to everyone who purchased a gift or donated money toward this project. You were all so generous; the donated gifts included everything from socks and pajamas, to Barbie Dolls and Matchbox Cars. We also provided a Market Basket Gift Card to each family. Your contributions meant a great deal to these local families who may not have had a very Merry Christmas without our help.



Movie Night

Please join us on Friday, February 12, for a fun movie night! We'll be seeing the old classic – “Father Goose” with Cary Grant and Leslie Caron.

It's also our Kathy Vashro's birthday on that day - so expect a special dessert! Details will be upcoming!

A Circle Dinner is planned for March. These dinners are a highlight for all. If you'd like to host, please talk to Kathy Vashro or Lois Magenau.



Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministry

We live in a beautiful area of New Hampshire and riding around the Kearsarge towns it can be hard to believe that there is poverty and hardship in the neighborhood. But the truth is that there are many around us in need. Some are the chronically poor who are jobless and lack the skills to climb out of their situation. But others are what we have labeled “the working poor”. All it takes is one serious illness or car breakdown or leaky roof, and they are scrambling to make the repairs or keep up the payments.

If you were such an unfortunate neighbor what would you do? Who could you turn to for help? Every town has a welfare officer who may or may not help. There are limits on funds and rules for assistance. Then there is KREM, an organization dedicated to helping those families who have no other source of assistance.

Where does KREM get the money to help those in need? From people in the community like you who can give a little to make a difference. With no overhead and operating costs of less than 1, donated money is used efficiently and effectively.

There will always be a need and hopefully there will always be those with generosity who will be willing to help. Perhaps you can help this year. KUUF will be collecting for KREM this month of February. There will be an envelope on the guest/membership table for donations to KREM. Checks should be payable to KUUF with KREM noted in the memo line of the check.

Sara Smith

OUR NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Here is a summary of how we have revised our KUUF committee structure in order to make it more streamline, more flexible, and emphasize smaller but achievable goals for KUUF individuals/groups who may wish to work on a church project for a limited time only.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Each “Standing Committee” to have an official chairperson and a Board member serving on it as either ‘Liaison’ or committee ‘Chair’. They should meet formally at least twice a year and such meetings made available to the general membership. A three-year term is a guideline for serving on a standing committee (with option to ‘re-enlist’).

ACTION GROUPS

An “Action Group” is one or more individuals who want to take on a specific project with a specific goal to be achieved typically with in the church year. Once the goal is achieved, the group may disband. The “Action Group” does have a Board liaison/consultant; it can be informally led; but it should initially present to the Board its goals and methods to achieving the goal.

SUPPORT POSITION

A “Support Position” is usually a specific on-going administrative job for the congregation done by typically one individual. The job has no term limit and the individual can ask to be replaced when they wish.

OUR NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE Cont'd

“LET’S MAKE IT HAPPEN!” DAY

“Let’s Make It Happen!” is a festive presentation during Coffee Hour early in the church year in which committees and ‘Action Groups’ who want help with their mission can advocate for their group, encouraging people to join them to accomplish their goals.

- > Decorated tables set up for committee members & ‘Action Groups’ to display & explain their issues at the back of the Sanctuary. The congregation turns their chairs around to face the rear of the tables.
- > Each group will have one-two minutes to tell the congregation what they are about and why someone should join their group. (This is a time for Committee & Action Group members to “sell” their cause.)
- > Then the congregation breaks for coffee & snacks to talk individually with the advocating group members.



*Please see the KUUF 2016 Committee Chart showing
“Who’s doing What”*

Please Join Us!

For the CREDO SERVICE on FEBRUARY 14

This is a once-a-year only Sunday in which two or three members of our own congregation describe their guiding principles that have helped them through their lives and how they have arrived at these fundamental values. (*It is a very special service for us.*)

For the FRANKLIN U.U. SERVICE on FEBRUARY 21

On this Sunday we will be guests at the Franklin U.U. Church in the center of Franklin, N.H. The service begins at 10:00AM and Rev. Emily Burr will be giving the sermon. If you would like to carpool, please contact Kathy Vashro (1-208-440-1855)

KUUF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE CHART 2016+

STANDING COMMITTEES	Board Rep.	Possible ACTION GROUPS	Possible Board Liaison	SUPPORT POSITIONS
1 Finance	Henry	Membership	Kathy	Web Master
Tom Maloof, (Chair), Bob Stanley, Sandy Wells		Kathy Vashro (<i>General membership & new member packets</i>) Lizzie Klingler(<i>Directory & e-mail</i>)		Jim Vashro
2 Religious Education	Donna	Publicity	Sally	Host/Greeters
(<i>To be filled</i>), (Chair) Sunday School Tom Maloof, Adult Lecture Series		Don Bent, Bob Bergquist Sally Bergquist (newsletter), Amy Friedenburg (publicity)		Kathy Vashro
3 Sunday Services/Music	Henry	Social Concerns	TBC	Coffee Hour
Marion Allen, (Chair) Don Bent, Bob Bergquist, Kathy Kiernan, Ken Preston Martha Woodward, Nancy Stone		Amy Dressler (VNA Xmas Elves) Donna Peirce (Crop Walk) Liz Maloof (Backpacks)		Kathy Vashro
4 Caring	TBC	Social Activities	Lois	Newsletter
Marion Allen (Chair) , Betsy Abbe, Lizzie Klingler, Eddi Mordecai, Ken Preston		Fran Preston Lois Magenau, Kathy Vashro		Sally Bergquist
5 Nomination	Henry	Book Discussion	TBC	Proctor Liaison
Tom Maloof (Chair) Tom Graves		Marion Allen		Lois & Marcus
		Meditation Group	Sally	
		Sally Bergquist		
		Ministry	Henry	
		(Not active)		
		Fund Raising	Ken	
		Pledge Drive	Ken	
		Welcoming Congregation	Kathy	
		Kathy Vashro, Bill Hickey, Lou Botta, Marion Allen		
		Proctor/Colby Sawyer Outreach	Jane	
		Jane Guise		
		New Group ?	TBC	

TBC = To Be Chosen