

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

September 2016

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, September 4	Speaker: Rev. Lee Page – “The Winding Path of Life” and the “Water Ceremony”
Thursday, September 8	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at Bob Stanley’s
Sunday, September 11	Speaker: Cheryl J. Dean, Chaplain for New London Hospital – “Things You Can Do While You Can”
Friday, September 16	Circle Dinner
Sunday, September 18	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, September 18	Speaker: Yvonne Howard – “Love, Hope, Darkness, & Light – Not Romance”
Sunday, September 25	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, September 25	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “The Land of Beginning Again”: new structure at KUUF, new dreams and goals, fresh opportunities personally as well.

~~~ A MISSIVE FROM THE KUUF BOARD ~~~

Welcome to our 33rd year of KUUF! The Board of Trustees and the many people who have planned for this upcoming year of our fellowship are looking forward to a stimulating year of lots of new and varied speakers for our Sunday services. Yet we also view it with some trepidation and regret that the steady hand of our minister and spiritual counselor—Rev. Bill Nelson—has retired and is no longer with us.

To those of you in our congregation who spent considerable time during the (beautiful) summer helping make this transition possible and prepare for our 2016-17 UU year, we want to give a great big THANK YOU! Your efforts will keep KUUF the vital and lively society that we are!

Unitarians and Universalists have had a rich and dynamic history here in Andover, as has the building we now meet in, Stone Chapel, and its predecessor, the grand central meeting house located on nearly the same spot. Our congregation carries on these three century-long traditions and continues to provide a liberal religious “oasis” for miles around. The significance and importance of our fellowship cannot be underestimated for what we stand for and offer to the community at large.

Members, friends, and simply interested folks join us then, as we embark on this exciting, challenging, and dynamic new year for KUUF. Welcome to all of you!

The Board: Henry, Ken, Sally, Bob, Kathy, Marcus, Donna, and Loren



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 2, 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 benefit from your donation will help:

- Feed children who are displaced & orphaned by HIV & AIDS, and enable the eldest in a child-headed household of AIDS orphans to receive vocational training, so they can support their siblings and themselves
- Provide safe, clean, water for farming & domestic use
- Support farming cooperatives that help families grow their own food
- Enable women to attend literacy classes and change their lives forever
- Support community-based health, hygiene, and sanitation training for an entire community

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!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

September Birthday

3rd - Henry Howell

13th – Fran Preston

19th – Helen Kennedy

September Anniversary

8th – Betty & John Williamson

30th – Liz & Tom Maloof

Host/Hostess Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
September 4	Betsy Abbe	Earl Abbe
September 11	Sandy Wells	Roger Wells
September 18	Edythe Anderson	
September 25	Connie Ressler	Ralph Ressler

Are you thinking that you would like to do coffee time, but don't have a partner to do it with, sign up and a partner will be found for you.

If you are a snowbird, do think of signing up in the early Fall or late Spring. For more information, talk to Kathy Vashro.



Meditation

The Women's Meditation Group will meet on Tuesday's September 6 at Sally Bergquist's house and on the 20th at Liz Meller'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.



Book Discussion

October 9, 2016 - 9:30 AM

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson, 2014

“Every bit as moving as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and in some ways more so...” --- The NY Review of Books ---

Bryan Stevenson was a gifted young attorney when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he didn't commit. The case drew Stevenson into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Please join us for discussion even if you don't have a chance to read the book.

Questions: Marion Allen – 526-6776

Another great read—

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik. 2015

Justice Ginsburg is the second woman to serve on the US Supreme Court.



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 Andover children in need.

Thanks to the generosity of our KUUF membership and friends, 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 \$100 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!

Updated Directory

In August an updated KUUF Directory was emailed to all members and friends. We encourage you, if possible, to print and replace this update with the previous one issued in 2015. There will be limited copies available on the greeters' table for those who not have an available printer.

Please contact Lizzie Klingler if there are any updates or information changes.



Welcoming Congregation

During this coming year, you can look forward to learning more of KUUF's process for becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Though our UU 7 principles state that we are accepting and our KUUF's congregation is 'Welcoming', there is much to learn. Changing our by-laws will clarify our intent to expand on our UU principle of 'inherent worth of people'.

We will be voting on revised mission and by-law statements in the Fall, 2016. Below is a suggested mission statement:

Mission Statement

3rd paragraph currently reads:

"strengthen that voice by making ourselves known to all who are looking for a liberal religious sanctuary, and welcoming all who come into our midst'.

To emphasize 'welcoming all' the following would be added to the 3rd paragraph:

"This Congregation affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors, including membership, programming, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals, without regard to race, color, gender, physical or mental challenge, affectional or sexual orientation, age, class, national origin, or political affiliation."

By-Laws, Article III, 'Membership' (Differs from above in its inclusion of how we conduct official business and hiring practices.)

1st Paragraph currently reads:

'Membership is open to any person who wishes to be part of the fellowship.'

To emphasize our being open to any person, including how we conduct our official business and hiring practices, the following would be added:

Membership is open to any person who wishes to be part of the fellowship without regard to race, color, sex, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or national origin, and without requiring adherence to any religious belief or creed. The foregoing shall apply to Fellowship activities and inform all of its decision, including with respect to its employment decisions and its calling, installation and retention of its Minister.

GLBTQ Collected Articles

On the front table there will be a rainbow colored album, please insert articles that you find in newspapers and magazines that will inform us about the GLBTQ thoughts, concerns, activities in NH, other states and countries. There will be duplicates and that is great, the more to read and learn from.



Water Ceremony - September 4

Please bring a small amount of water from a location you visited this summer. Your water may be the actual water from a location or a symbol of where you visited. Your water will symbolize our coming together from our summer break and represent us as one in belief and life process.

Social Activities

Circle Dinner

September 16

Sign up paper for hosting and attending will be on the front table

Or contact Kathy Vashro 938-5476



Movie Night

Date will be announced – possibly October

Belle

This film is inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate mixed race daughter of Admiral Sir John Lindsay. Raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord Mansfield and his wife, Belle's lineage affords her certain privileges, yet her status prevents her from the traditions of noble social standing. While her cousin Elizabeth chases suitors for marriage, Belle is left on the sidelines wondering if she will ever find love. After meeting an idealistic young vicar's son bent on changing society, he and Belle help shape Lord Mansfield's role as Lord Chief Justice to end slavery in England.



2016 FOOD PANTRY CAMPAIGN

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.



NEW LECTURE SERIES BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

September 18 will mark the beginning of a new program. "Big History," the history of the whole universe starting with the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago, wrapped up in June, and will now be followed by "Comparative Religion."

Religion has been an extraordinary force in molding human history, and remains so to this day. It is a central feature of human life. Most people perceive themselves to be religious. Yet religion is not easy to define or comprehend, in all its breadth and variation.

Our new course will provide a systematic and comparative framework for understanding the complex and multidimensional nature of religion. It explores similarities that link all religions, as well as differences. Ultimately, it will challenge and guide us as we struggle to understand the religiously inspired violence we see in the world every day.

Classes will begin at 9:45 every Sunday morning, downstairs in the Sunday School Room (except when the Book Discussion Group meets).

I look forward to this new beginning, and to seeing many of you at our first class on September 18!

Tom Maloof

**Some memories from KUUF's Summer Picnic at Henry
& Libby Howell's**



Roger Wells, Henry Howell,
Jim Vashro, Marcus Johnson, & Loren Howard



Martha Woodward, Libby
Howell, & Amy Friedenber



Kathy Vashro & Sandra
LeBeau



Sandy Wells & Jane Guise

Thoughts from the Congregation

Since we will no longer have Bill Nelson's "Minister's Missive" to ponder and enjoy in the monthly KUUF Newsletter, we encourage members and friends of the congregation to submit their own inspirational articles. If you have any questions, please talk to any Board member about it.

KUUF SET TO JOIN UUA COMMON ENDOWMENT FUND

During the past few years two people have made significant donations to KUUF through bequests. One active member has also made a significant contribution toward KUUF's endowment. These funds, now exceeding \$10,000, form an important part of KUUF's reserves, and deserve special recognition as endowments to our church.

We are going to do this by investing all bequests and special endowment gifts into the UUA's Common Endowment Fund. The Common Endowment Fund is invested in a way that reflects UU values and principles. A portion of the Fund is committed to socially responsible investments. It is professionally managed for the benefit of participating congregations. The value of our account can be withdrawn in whole or in part at the direction of the KUUF Board of Trustees. Our initial contribution into the Common Endowment Fund will be in honor of Cay Morrison, Naia Conrad and an anonymous member, whose gifts make this possible.

If you would like to place your name among those who have contributed into our new Endowment Fund, just contact Bob Stanley, Ken Preston or Tom Maloof. They will be happy to guide you through the process.

ROOTS' *Final Episode*

By Henry Howell



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

A U.U. FEATHERED PHOENIX AWAKENS IN THE KEARSARGE VALLEY

In the previous episode of “Roots”, Proctor Academy severed its legal ties with Unitarian Universalist Church; interest in established religions was diminishing throughout the country; the population of the Town of Andover was shrinking; and in 1965 the UU congregation that had been meeting regularly in Andover, as had its predecessors for the past three centuries, was dissolved!

Throughout the region more “conservative” religious groups such as the Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, seemed to “hang in there” maintaining their church buildings and enough congregants to “pay the bills”. UU’s elsewhere in the country, however, were very active during the 1960’s, particularly in the civil rights movement, with their membership and RE enrollments reaching an all-time high in 1968 of 282,307 members.

But then in 1970 the UUA “discovered” that it had way overspent its budget, particularly on black empowerment projects, and had to make deep cuts to its overall spending.

Perhaps due to this retrenchment of the UUA or another ebb in the flow of public attitudes toward established religions, the 1970’s marked a gradual decline in UU membership until it reached an all-time post WW II low in 1982 of 171,609 members and its fewest RE enrollments.

Way up in New England, however, the opposite occurred. In a small part of New Hampshire below the lofty peak of Mt. Kearsarge several thoughtful and determined individuals recognized how important the cause of liberal religion was. They realized there was a large void in their philosophical

ROOTS Continued

beliefs and the need for a religion open to *all* religious beliefs respecting the individual dignity of every human being.

Marion Allen, Tom & Marie Graves, Don Bent and then Clare Bensley gathered in their homes to form what is now the Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. From there they received permission to meet at Colby Sawyer College Alumnae Lounge, and eventually to the Masonic Lodge in Potter Place. Ironically, the Masonic Lodge was originally a Unitarian Church now owned by the national UU Association and leased to the Masons, who then gave quite limited permission to this new, fledgling UU group to meet on Sunday mornings!

In the meanwhile, Proctor Academy, which thought it had divested itself of Unitarian oversight, apparently realized the Stone ("Cruft") Chapel's property deed of 1910 by Harriet Otis Cruft obliged Proctor to maintain a UU congregation's use of the chapel, otherwise the building would revert back to the UUA. In 1992 the KUUF was summarily invited by Proctor to begin using the chapel (on a limited basis) for Sunday worship.

The congregation's membership began a slow, constant growth. But the greater New London area community may have had some misgivings about this "upstart" (new??) religious group, when in the early 2000's the 'Kearsarge Shopper' magazine refused to place KUUF's Sunday services announcement on the same page with all the other religious service announcements, saying that "you [KUUF] are not Christians"! Don Bent then wrote a scathing article to the 'InterTown Record' relating the 'Shoppers' attitude to the religious fundamentalism of Pat Robertson and other religious "literalists". –You, dear reader, must now be the judge of how well our fellowship is accepted by the community at large...

ROOTS Continued

From its inception thirty-three years ago, KUUF has continued to offer to the Kearsarge Valley communities: *Respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; And respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

Our congregation has steadily grown from seventeen charter members to 50 members and, like the phoenix, we have resurrected our long standing tradition of Unitarian and Universalism in the Andover locale and in the manner of this glorious bird's brilliant scarlet and gold plumage and melodious cry, provide inspiration and a voice for open-minded, compassionate philosophical thought to all communities of the Kearsarge and Lake Sunapee region.



~~~~~



***Mike Meller Memorial Service***

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm  
Hanover Friends Meeting  
43 Lebanon Street  
Hanover, NH**

**All are invited to remember Mike and share  
Hungarian pastries.**