

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

**April 2017**

Assisting Ministers: Rev. Dick Dutton & Guests

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**

Friday, March 31	Circle Dinner
Sunday, April 2	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “Freedom of Speech”
Sunday, April 9	Concert by North Country Chordsmen
Thursday, April 13	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – at Donna Peirce’s
Sunday, April 16	“Why (Some) Unitarian Universalists Celebrate Easter”
Sunday, April 23	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “Great Small Things”
Sunday, April 23	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “Freedom of Worship”
Sunday, April 30	Speaker: Rev. Emily Burr



### **Meditation**

The Women’s Meditation Group will meet on Tuesdays, April 4 and 18th 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.

# Thoughts from the Congregation

## ARE THERE MIRACLES?

Consider the following: Our galaxy is estimated to have 300 billion stars. These stars are estimated to have 17 billion earth-sized planets. Assuming only 0.001% of these planets have life that has evolved to sentient beings, as happened on earth, there could be 17 million such “earths” in our galaxy alone.

The total number of humans that have lived on earth is estimated to be 108 billion. Assuming 17 million possible other earths, nearly 1,840,000,000,000,000,000 someones may have existed in just our galaxy. Multiply that number by 200 billion for all the galaxies we can see and the fact that you or I exist seems rather unlikely.

If the Big Bang Theory is correct, all this started at a point in time and space at which there was no time or space and to which the laws of nature therefore cannot be applied. This seems to meet the definition of a miracle...i.e., *“an event not ascribable to human power or the laws of nature.”*

In any event, the fact that your and my parents were born and met and then had you and me and we are here and alive and that the chance of that happening in this universe is so remote as to be unfathomable, means that you and I are indeed miracles. Don't you think?

***Roger Wells for KUUF***



**Sunday Coffee-Time  
Host/Hostess Assignments**

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Host/Hostess</u></b>	<b><u>Host/Hostess</u></b>
April 2	Kathy Vashro	Jim Vashro
April 9	Sally Bergquist	Bob Bergquist
April 16	Yvonne Howard	Loren Howard
April 23	Franklin UU Church	Visits KUUF
April 30	Libby Howell	Henry Howell

**COFFEE TIME HOSTS NEEDED**

**ALL YOU SNOWBIRDS COMING BACK, WE NEED YOU...  
FIND A TIME THAT WORKS FOR YOU TO BE A HOST FOR  
COFFEE TIME.**

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

April 16 - Yvonne Howard will make a Bunny cake

May 7 – could use one person more. There is a person signed up. Dates still open are:

May 21

May 28

June 4

June 11

June 18

June 25

**KISS** - KEEP IT SIMPLE SIMPLE Though this is not the Navy's actual description of the acronym, I don't like their words; here is their explanation of the acronym:  
Navy – 1960-The **KISS** principle states that most systems work best if they are kept simple rather than made complicated; therefore simplicity can be a key goal for coffee time hosts



## Book Discussion

April 23, 2017 - 9:30 AM

### **Great Small Things** by Jodi Picoult, 2016

Jodi Picoult has written a thought-provoking examination of racism in America today, both overt and subtle.

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse in a Connecticut hospital with more than 20 years of experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine check on a newborn, only to be told that she has been reassigned to another baby. The parents are white supremacists and do not want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene? Ruth hesitates before performing CPR, and as a result, is charged with a serious crime.

Picoult tackles race, privilege, and prejudice with justice and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers.

This book is available in hard cover and paperback.

Please join us for the discussion even if you haven't read the book.

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#### ***Other good reads ...***

**The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine**, Miko Peled and Alice Walker, 2016.

#### **National Geographic, January 2017, The Gender Issue**

A special issue on the Gender Revolution around the world.

**Among the Living** by Jonathan Rabb, 2016.

**The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe** – Lynne McTaggart, Pb Special Edition, 2008.



## **GLBTQ**

### **FIRST OF ALL, GREAT NEWS...**

We are officially a WELCOMING church and we have a rainbow colored flag hanging inside the chapel. We are able to advertise that we welcome GLBTQ people to our KUUF community!!!! Look in The Shopper for our new ads. We will have information available for you to continue to learn about the struggles, prejudices, and celebrations that GLBTQ people go through. June is PRIDE month, so look for a parade in Boston

Come and check out our flag.

Glad we all moved forward with UUA on our non-descript (MEN'S/WOMEN'S) bathrooms. A suggestion was made that we label our bathrooms UNISEX...

UUA magazine UU WORLD has an article A DOCTOR MAKES TRANSGENDER CARE HER PRIORITY p. 10

A copy of the article is on the KUUF entry table inside the LGBT album

### **NEWS AROUND THE WORLD- ALASKA**

“Official identification documents are not always easy for a transgender person to come by” UU World Spring, 2017 page 12

Project GENDER PIONEERS, for 5 years, have supported transgender people in the Alaskan interior by providing flights to Fairbank's doctors who may write letters stating a "gender change is appropriate", taking the first step to altering legal documents. (passports, driver licenses, etc.)

The first person helped by UU of Fairbanks Fellowship (raised funds of \$2600) with travel arrangements, came from Point Barrow, above the Arctic Circle!

If you are interested in supporting GLBTQ rights, please contact me and I will research where you may want your funds to be distributed. Kathy Vashro 938 5476



## 2017 FOOD PANTRY CAMPAIGN

The Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry has requested that KUUF contribute **hearty soups and stews** for the month of April.



## 2017 PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS

In the next few days you will receive your Pledge Drive Packet in the mail, unless you picked it up at church on Sunday April 2. The last two paragraphs of the Packet's cover letter bear repeating here!

“We have been very fortunate this year to fill our pulpit with consistently interesting and often inspiring guest speakers on those Sunday's when Dick Dutton is not with us. It has been a good year, filled with pleasant surprises. Our Sunday Services Committee has worked hard to bring a steady flow of thoughtful people to KUUF, who have shared their knowledge and wisdom with us. But is this our long term goal? Guest speakers can inspire, but can they lead? Can guest speakers help us build our sense of solidarity, and continuity? These are questions we all need to think about. And the practical answers we come up with are going to be determined by – you guessed it – MONEY. What kind of ministry can we afford?

“So, for ALL the reasons above, your pledge of money to support KUUF in the year beginning July 1, 2017, is especially critical. Your pledge this year is, in part, your vote on the future ministry of KUUF!”

**PLEASE “VOTE” BY PLEDGING EARLY, AND GENEROUSLY!**



## ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***

### **April Birthdays**

4<sup>th</sup> – Betsy Abbe

4<sup>th</sup> – Tom Graves

11<sup>th</sup> – Bill Hickey

26<sup>th</sup> – Martha Woodward

26<sup>th</sup> – Sally Bergquist

## ***SOCIAL EVENTS***



### ***CIRCLE DINNER***

***Friday, March 31***

There will be a Circle Dinner on Friday, March 31. Kathy Vashro will be calling everyone who signed up with all the particulars – time, location, and menu. If you haven't signed up yet and would like to attend, please contact Kathy at 938-5476 or [jvashro@gmail.com](mailto:jvashro@gmail.com).



## **MOVIE NIGHT NEXT MOVIE – SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS (book discussion was on March 26)**

### ***Date to be announced at next newsletter***

*A Canadian Catholic school temporarily removed the book from its shelves due to the book's sexual content. [3] The book has been challenged, banned, or restricted in several school systems in the United States. On a list of most banned books in USA between 2000–2009*

Set on the fictional San Piedro Island in the northern [Puget Sound](#) region of the [Washington state](#) coast in 1950, the plot revolves around the murder case of Kabuo Miyamoto ([Rick Yune](#)), a [Japanese American](#) accused of killing Carl Heine, a [White](#) fisherman. The trial occurs in the midst of deep [anti-Japanese sentiments](#) following [World War II](#). Covering the case is the editor of the town's one-man newspaper, Ishmael Chambers ([Ethan Hawke](#)), a World War II veteran who lost an arm fighting the Japanese in the [Pacific War](#). Ishmael struggles with his childhood, and continuing love for Kabuo's wife, Hatsue ([Youki Kudo](#)), and his conscience, wondering if Kabuo is truly innocent.



UUA Presidential Candidates  
Miller - Pupke - Frederick-Gray

Dr. Ysaya  
Barnwell

Rev. Robin  
Bartlett

Dr. Glen Thomas  
Rideout

Rev. Sue  
Phillips

Hilary  
Allen

Mock  
Groot

**Awaken  
Your  
Spirit!**

**New England  
Regional Assembly**  
**April 21-22, 2017 WOBURN, MA**

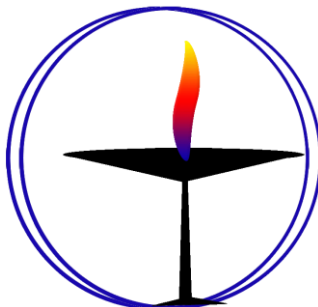
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

**Celebrate our Unitarian learning, fun, and fellowship.** Meet the 2017 UUA **Universalist faith through inspired worship, music, engaged Presidential Candidates.** Sing. Reflect. Feel. Make connections. Awaken your spirit!

Location:

Woburn/Boston Hilton Hotel  
2 Forbes Road  
Woburn, MA 01801

QUESTIONS? Contact us at [newengland@uua.org](mailto:newengland@uua.org)  
or 617-948-6415



# A Common Meditation For ALL SOULS

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

## Food for Thought

Most human beings take it totally for granted that I am “me,” and that “me” is this body, this mind, this knowledge and sense about myself which so obviously feels separate from other people.

The language in which we talk to ourselves and to each other inevitably implies separate “me’s,” and “you’s” all the time. All of us talk “I” and “you” talk, we think it, write it, read it, and dream it with rarely any pause.

There is incessant reinforcement of the sense of “I,” “me,” separate from others.

Isolated. Insulated. Not understood. How is one to come upon the truth if separation is taken so much for granted, feels so common sense?

The difficulty is not insurmountable. Wholeness, true being, is here all the time, like the sun behind the clouds. Daylight is here in spite of cloud cover.

*(Toni Packer, 1927 - 2013)*