

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 1578

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(603) 526-8213

www.kuufnh.org

September 2017

Assisting Ministers: Rev. Dick Dutton & Guests

President: Kathy Vashro

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 a.m.
in the Stone Chapel of Proctor Academy in Andover.*

KUUF Calendar

Sunday, September 3	“In-Gathering”
Sunday, September 10	Betsy Woodman
Thursday, September 14, 7 pm	Board Meeting at Nancy Stone’s
Sunday, September 17	Rev. David Robins
Sunday, September 24	Joint Service at Laconia UU

President's Message

Kathryn Mordecai Vashro

“Who are Unitarian Universalists?”
“What do Unitarian Universalists believe?”

Many of you may have asked these questions prior to becoming a UU or have been asked these question at various times during your UU religious journey.

Though I was raised UU and have attended many UU churches across the country, I still don't have a good or pat answer to these questions. Once I was asked, “How can you be moral when your parents are from different religions and you were raised in a non-religion?” I was shocked by this question and said, “My parents know right from wrong and my church and parents taught me right from wrong.” When I attended Camp Wabasso in Sutton, I was asked what religion I was. I didn't know how to answer that question. My last name is a Jewish name (Mordecai), and thus I was told I was Jewish and was sent to a Jewish religious service. I had NO IDEA what the counselors were saying (who were speaking in Hebrew) during the service. I felt really confused!

I hope for this newsletter and for future newsletters to provide you new, old, general and specific UU information that you may use to answer your questions and anyone else's questions concerning your Unitarian Universalist belief and not feel confused in your answers.

Please send me your beliefs and I will incorporate them in the President's Message.

Below is general information about Unitarian Universalism, from Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarian_Universalism):

Roots and Congregationalist Background

Unitarian Universalism was formed from the consolidation in 1961 of two historically Christian denominations, the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association, both based in

the United States; the new organization formed in this merger was the Unitarian Universalist Association. At the time of the North American consolidation, Unitarians and Universalists had expanded beyond their roots in liberal Christian theology. Today they draw from a variety of religious traditions. Individuals may or may not self-identify as Christians or subscribe to Christian beliefs. Unitarian Universalist congregations and fellowships tend to retain some Christian traditions, such as Sunday services with a sermon and the singing of hymns. The extent to which the elements of any particular faith tradition are incorporated into personal spiritual practice a matter of individual choice for congregants, in keeping with a creedless, non-dogmatic approach to spirituality and faith development.

New England Unitarians evolved from the Pilgrim Fathers' Congregational Christianity, which was originally based on a literal reading of the Bible. Liberalizing Unitarians rejected the belief in the Trinitarian tri-personal godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost/Spirit. Instead, they asserted a unitary notion of God. In addition, they rejected the doctrine of original sin, moving away from the Calvinism of the Congregationalists.

New England Universalists rejected the Puritan forefathers' emphasis on the select few, the Elect, who were reportedly saved from eternal damnation by a just God. Instead, Universalists asserted that all people will eventually be reconciled with God. Universalists rejected the hellfire and damnation of the evangelical preachers, who tried to revive the fundamentalist Christianity of the early Pilgrim fathers.

Universalism and Christian Universalism

Universalists claim a long history, beginning with Origen and Gregory of Nyssa, though some modern scholars question whether either of these church fathers taught the defining doctrine of Universalism (universal salvation).

This core doctrine asserts that through Christ every single human soul shall be saved, leading to the "restitution of all things" (apocatastasis). In 1793, Universalism emerged as a particular denomination of Christianity in the United States, eventually called

the Universalist Church of America. Early American advocates of Universal Salvation such as Elhanan Winchester, Hosea Ballou and John Murray taught that all souls would achieve salvation, sometimes after a period resembling purgatory. Christian Universalism denies the doctrine of everlasting damnation, and proclaims belief in an entirely loving God who will ultimately redeem all human beings.

Unitarianism

Historically, various forms of Nontrinitarianism have appeared within Christianity. The term may refer to any belief about the nature of Jesus Christ that affirms God as a singular entity and rejects the doctrine of the Trinity, as affirmed by the mainstream Christianity: a consensus of Christian bishops at the First Council of Nicaea in 325. Nontrinitarianism was especially prevalent during the theological turmoils of the Protestant Reformation. A Spanish physician, Michael Servetus, studied the Bible and concluded that the concept of the Trinity, as traditionally conceived, was not biblical. His books *On the Errors of the Trinity* and *Christianismi Restitutio* caused much uproar. Servetus was eventually arrested, convicted of heresy, and burned at the stake in Geneva in 1553 under the order of John Calvin.

The term Unitarian entered the English language via Henry Hedworth, who applied it to the teachings of Laelio Sozzini and the Polish Socinians. Unitarian churches were formally established in Transylvania and Poland (by the Socinians) in the second half of the 16th Century. There, the first doctrines of religious freedom in Europe were established (in the course of several diets between 1557 and 1568, see Edict of Torda) under the jurisdiction of John Sigismund, king of Hungary and Prince of Transylvania, the only Unitarian monarch. The early Unitarian church not only rejected the Trinity, but also the pre-existence of Christ as well as, in many cases, predestination and original sin as put forward by Augustine of Hippo, and the substitutionary atonement of Christ developed by Anselm of Canterbury and John Calvin. There were several different forms of Christology in the beginnings of the Unitarian movement; ultimately, the dominant Christology became psilanthropism: that Jesus was a man, but one with a unique relationship to God.



Stone Chapel

Our KUUF fall season will begin on
September 3rd at 11:00 a.m. for our
“Gathering In” service.

We invite you to join us for this and all
2017-18 Sunday KUUF services.

The Laconia Service

The Laconia service is on September 24 at the UU Society of Laconia church at 10:00 a.m. The address is 172 Pleasant Street, Laconia, NH 03246. (The telephone number is (603) 524-6488; the website is at www.uusl.net.) Driving time is a little more than one hour from New London.

Our congregation has been invited to attend this service together with the Franklin UU congregation, because it's another small, regional UU group that is very interested in working with us and the Franklin church on issues we all have in common.

Although their regular part-time minister is Judith Wright, this service will be led by Matt Meyer, a UU minister from the Boston area. The service will be intergenerational and include a potluck lunch. Right after the lunch, Matt Meyer will lead a 90 minute drumming workshop for those who wish to participate and who enjoy the spirituality of group music-making with drums from around the world.

More about this service will be provided during our regular Sunday services in September.

How to Make an Announcement During the Service

Your hard-working Board of Trustees is trying to reduce the length and complexity of our Sunday service announcements so that they don't interfere with the rest of the Sunday service.

Our new experimental method of giving announcements will be as follows:

1. Only the "Announcer" will give the announcements.
2. To have an announcement made by the Announcer, fill out an "Announcement Card," which will be placed on the entry table.
3. Give the card to the Announcer who will then read your event to the congregation.
4. If people need further information for your event, they will be told to see you after the service.
5. This new announcement system will officially begin the first Sunday in October, but feel free to start using it now.

We'll remind you of this new system each Sunday in September. If you have announcements for September, please contact Kathy Vashro at 938 5476 or fill out a form from the entry table.



Book Discussion

September 28, 2017

9:30 AM

The Underground Railroad, Colson Whitehead, 2016

A chronicle of a young slave's journey as she attempts a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum south.

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora, an outcast even among her fellow Africans. She is coming into womanhood – where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the underground railroad, they decide to risk an escape.

Matters do not go as planned...and Ridgeway, a relentless slave catcher is close on their heels.

A tale of an escape from the horrors of bondage and a powerful meditation on the history we all share.

This book is available in hardcover, paperback, and audio.

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

Questions: Marion Allen, 526-6776

Other good reads ...

Never Caught: The Washingtons' (George and Martha) Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge, Erica Armstrong Dunbar, 2017

Composing a Life, Mary Catherine Bateson, 1989, pb 2001

Composing a Further Life: The Age of Active Wisdom, Mary Catherine Bateson, 2011

Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital, David Oshinsky, 2016



2017 Food Pantry Campaign

The Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry has requested that KUUF contribute **canned fruit** for the month of September.

Note: coffee (regular, decaf, & instant), paper towels, toilet paper, peanut butter & jelly, cake and brownie mixes, and monetary donations are always welcome.

Monetary Donations can be made to: KLS Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 536, New London, NH 03257



Meditation

The Women's Meditation Group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 3:00 to 5:00 at Fran Preston's house. If you have any questions, please contact Fran at 526-9623.

Welcoming Committee



September is our PRIDE month. September 3, first service of the year, we will have a rainbow cake to kick start our PRIDE month at KUUF. Do notice and look for articles and watch news concerning LGBTQ topic, in movies, and shows. If any of you participated in a PRIDE parade or events in June, please share your experiences.

“Utopia and Terror”

KUUF Lecture Series Reconvenes September 10

The story of the 20th century is filled with leaders who promised utopia and instead delivered war, genocide, and dictatorship. In that 100 year span more than 200 million people were killed in world wars, government-sponsored persecutions and genocides. If we can understand the origins of this monumental violence, we might find ways to prevent even greater horrors in the future.

Our 24 lecture series on this unsettling subject will help us understand the global and seemingly senseless acts of inhumanity which continue to this day.

The lecturer for this series is Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, an award winning Professor of History at the University of Tennessee. As in the past, the source materials are DVD's produced by The Teaching Company's "THE GREAT COURSES" program.

To allow time for discussion, lectures will begin promptly at 9:45 each Sunday morning in the Sunday School room below the Chapel, except when book discussion group meetings are held. All members, friends and guests are invited, starting September 10th!

Tom Maloof

Publicity

KUUF was in the public eye last month with the outstanding 4th of July float designed by Loren Howard and built by him with his KUUF helpers! We were very proud of it!

A photo appeared in the Andover Beacon and also, the attached photo was sent out to all of us by Lizzie Klinger. Thank you to all.



Our annual concert so beautifully put together by our Martha Woodward in June, was featured in both the Andover Beacon and the Intertown Record with a photo taken by our Lou Bottal!

We are really getting around!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

September Birthdays	September Anniversaries
3 rd – Henry Howell	8 th – Betty & John Williamson
13 th – Fran Preston	30 th – Liz & Tom Maloof
19 th – Helen Kennedy	



Sunday Coffee-Time Host/Hostess Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
September 3	Earl Abbe	Betsy Abbe
September 10	Denise Stanley	Bob Stanley
September 17	Donna Pierce	
September 24	Service at Laconia	

Can you do October 15? Only empty space in October!
 Do you want to share a new recipe, share something that you have never made before, or simply bring cheese, crackers, fruit, cookies (Eddi Mordecai's simple solution to coffee time)? Share away at Coffee Time.

Another 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 provide 14 complete packs to the Andover Middle School for the start of school and \$100 worth of healthy snacks for the students who are on a “free or 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.



Updated Directory

In August an updated KUUF Directory was emailed to all members and friends.

We encourage you, if possible, to print and replace the previous version with this update. There will be limited copies available on the greeters table for those who do not have an available printer or an email address.

Please contact Lizzie Klingler at dklingle2@comcast.net or tele: 526-6871 if there are any updates to your directory listing. (Such as email address, mailing address or telephone contact information)

Sunday Service Supply Closet

This summer the upstairs closet, which stores all our “Church in a Closet” treasures, has been cleaned and organized. Please help keep this in good order by putting items back neatly for future Sunday Services.

There are enough coffee hour supplies for several months. If you begin to see that items are getting low and will soon be needed, please let Liz Maloof know. (lizzijo48@gmail.com or tele: 526-9889)

Care and Concerns

KUUF is going into a second year without a permanent Consulting minister on staff. Rev. Emily Burr has been approached and once again agreed to supply pastoral hospital visits to our congregation this year. If anyone would like a visit please contact Marion Allen or Liz Maloof who will make arrangements for Emily to contact you.

Transition Committee

At the annual meeting our congregation approved the creation of a committee to investigate future ministry possibilities and report back to the Board by Dec 31. This committee consists of Henry Howell, Nancy Stone, Roger Wells and Liz Maloof.

We have been working hard this summer defining this committee's mission and determining roles and responsibilities for each committee member. We have been in contact with the Northeast District of the UUA for suggestions and possibilities, and we are developing a 5 question survey for all members and friends to complete in September to help us move forward with your input in hand.

There will be a table set up and we will hand out the Survey with a return mailing envelop on the first two Sundays in September – the 3rd and 10th.

We ask that you complete this survey ASAP and return it Roger Wells no later than 9/20/2017 so these results can be compiled and the committee can continue its work.

As we move forward please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee with your comments or questions. This is a work in progress and we want your input!

Social Committee

Look forward to Circle Dinners and Movie nights starting in October. If you have any suggestion for movies or social events, please contact Lois 735 5637 or Yvonne 927 4735.

A big THANK YOU to Henry and Libby Howell for opening, cleaning, and setting up their home to create a space for our Summer picnic gathering. Fun was had by all with great food, conversation, the meeting of new people and being with people we haven't seen for a long time. Now that Henry and Libby know how to set up and that people will help take down, let's all hope they will offer their home again for next summer!

Contacts

If you want a phone call vs an email for any KUUF correspondence, please contact Kathy Vashro at (603) 938-5476 or jvashro@gmail.com.

Contact Lizzie Klingler to make sure she has your name, address, phone number, and email address correctly written in the directory. Don't forget winter addresses if you leave the area during the winter.

We want to make sure you keep connected to your congregation and not MISS ANYTHING or ANYBODY!