

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 1578

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(603) 526-8213

www.kuufnh.org

January 2018

Assisting Ministers: Rev. Dick Dutton, Rev. David Robins & Guests

President: Kathy Vashro

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, January 7	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Lecture Series CREDO Service - Roger & Sandy Wells, Joanna Henderson
Thursday, January 11	7:00 p.m.	KUUF Board meeting
Sunday, January 14	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Lecture Series Yvonne Howard
Sunday, January 21	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Pres. Sue Stuebner
Sunday, January 28	9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Lecture Series Rev. Dick Dutton "The Cheese Touch"



President's Message

Kathryn Mordecai Vashro

STARTING THE NEW YEAR WITH KNOWING WHAT WE KNOW AND BELIEVE

As a lifelong UU, I have been asked, “What do you believe in? What do UUs believe in? How can you have morals if your parents didn’t bring you up with a belief system in a church?” This last month, again I am reminded that non-UUs don’t understand our faith. I was asked by several people, “What do you believe in? How will you celebrate Christmas if you don’t have something to believe in?”

When I explain our principles and the worth and goodness of people, I am told that UUs don’t believe in anything and Christmas means nothing. Christmas might not have a Christ-centered celebration for UUs, but we may believe in what Christ stood for and the teachings some of us have been told.

Staying in my head I am confused, in my heart I am solid. What is wrong with believing in worth and goodness of people? We are here, together, on this earth for some reason and if not caring for each other, then it is insanity to have all of us smooshed together and ignoring each other.

We have faith, hope, joy in each other, the world, the sun coming up in the morning, the beauty of the white stuff we have been getting and will be getting through the winter, the beautiful lakes, streams, loons and even the cute chipmunks. This last Fall, Jim and I saw a moose, almost on the front end of our car, but oh what a sight on the road come out of the woods!

Though we are inspired by our many wonderful speakers and ministers, the people with whom we journey this world also inspire us. We are a diverse and spirited group.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove from Bainbridge Island, Washington explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

1. **1st Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. **2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. **3rd Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. **4th Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. **5th Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. **6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. **7th Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Enjoy your New Year knowing what you know and believe!

[Some words taken from UUA website: www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-do/worship.]



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 (603) 526-9623 or Lizzy Klingler at (603) 526-6871.

cre·do

[ˈkrədō ˈkrädō]

NOUN: *A set of fundamental beliefs that guides one's actions:*

An article of faith – one's essential convictions – a code of conduct

ORIGIN: Middle English: Latin, 'I believe.'

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Please join us for this special Sunday service in which members of our church describe their individual CREDO.

This is an opportunity to hear what guides your fellow parishioners in their personal conduct;

Their belief systems that help make the fundamental decisions of their daily lives;

What in their soul helps them get up every morning;

What in difficult, trying times gives them consolation.

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# Guest Speaker

Susan Stuebner

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Susan D. Stuebner, Ed.D., is the ninth president of Colby-Sawyer College, a college that integrates the liberal arts and sciences with professional preparation. President Stuebner has more than two decades of experience in higher education and was previously the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Allegheny College.

President Stuebner earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Dartmouth College in 1993, where she was a member of the varsity women's basketball team for four years and captain for one. She also holds an Ed.M. and an Ed.D. from Harvard University in administration, planning and social policy with a concentration in higher education.

Prior to her position at Allegheny College, Stuebner rose through the ranks at Lycoming College in Williamsport to vice president for administration and planning. She has also held posts at Dartmouth College, Wheelock College, Harvard University, Albright College, and Carleton College.

An active member of the communities she calls home, Stuebner has served in a variety of board leadership roles, including the National Association of College and University Officers' Small Institutions Council, the NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee and the Dartmouth College Alumni Council. She is also a member of the National Association for College and University Business Officers and the Society for College and University Planners.





## Sunday Coffee Time

Thank you to all who have signed up for January's Sunday Coffee Time! Please take a good, long look at the hosting list at the beverage table to see where you can fit yourself in and help keep this satisfying tradition flowing. Don't worry about finding a partner; you will be paired with another, if you sign up as a single Host or Hostess. And if you've never done it before, just say so – and the keeper of the list will clue you in to all the (very few) secrets and tricks of KUUF Coffee Time. Thank you!

## KUUF Website

Progress is being made with the conversion to the new format for the KUUF website. UUA has provided a website template that has been partially adapted for use by KUUF. Work is progressing and the new website should be available shortly. The new format allows for a much warmer and inviting look and feel with lots of color with provisions for pictures of our people and happenings. The new format should also make the website more informative and allow for more easy uploading of information such as newsletters and the scheduling of events. I am currently going through the process of filling in the blanket template with KUUF specific information. Once the conversion is complete, the new format will replace the old website, the website URL will stay the same: [www.kuufnh.org](http://www.kuufnh.org) and you won't have to do anything different to get to the website. Stay tuned!

If any of you are interested in helping with the conversion, please contact me.

Jim Vashro, KUUF website manager

Phone: 938-5476 -- email: [jimvashro49@gmail.com](mailto:jimvashro49@gmail.com)

\*\*\* <http://kuufnh.org/index.htm> \*\*\*



## Book Discussion

January 21, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

**We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy** by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2017

“...Coate's probing essays...become necessary ballast for the nation's gravity-defying moment.” --- The Boston Globe

"We were eight years in power" was the lament of Reconstruction-Era black politicians as the American experiment in multiracial democracy ended with the return of white supremacist rule in the South.

Coates examines the events of the Obama era from his intimate and revealing perspective - the point of view of a young writer who begins the journey in an unemployment office in Harlem and ends it in the Oval Office, interviewing a president.

These essays were first published in **The Atlantic**. They are a vital account of modern America from one of the voices of this historic moment.

Available in hardcover and paper. You may have to request that your library buy it or borrow it on InterLibrary Loan. You may also read the original essays in their original form in **The Atlantic**.

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### Other Good Reads...

**Notes from a Foreign Country: An American Abroad in a Post-American World** by Suzy Hansen, 2017

**Why Buddhism is True: The Science and Philosophy of Meditation and Enlightenment** by Robert Wright, 2017

**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, 2013



## Welcoming Committee

I received my Social Security 2018 information this last week, as many of you have and I am excited to notice and read:

“Benefits for Same-Sex Couples”

“We recognize same-sex marriages. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples) to learn if you or your children may be entitled to new and different Social Security benefits.”

I hope that Social Security will recognize long-term relationships as common law marriages prior to our government allowing same-sex marriages.

~ Kathy Vashro



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

| January Birthdays                | January Anniversaries        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sandy Wells    | 26 <sup>th</sup> - Klinglers |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> – Jane Guise     |                              |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> – Bob Bergquist |                              |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> – Tom Maloof    |                              |



## Membership Committee

### MEMBERSHIP

If you are a new attendee or a long-time attendee and interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, the Stone Chapel, and UUs in Andover, please contact Kathryn Vashro at 938-5476. People from the congregation will meet with you at the Stone Chapel, a coffee shop, their home or your home for an information and question and answer gathering.

Meanwhile, take a look at the latest *Andover Beacon* for an article & photo on our congregation!



## Social Committee

### MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night Out! Are you interested in getting together for a movie & dinner out sometime soon? We've done this before & it's a great way to be together! Let me know your thoughts! Thanks! Lois at [rmagenau@aol.com](mailto:rmagenau@aol.com).

If you have any suggestion for movies or social events, please contact Lois Magenau at (603) 735-5637 or Yvonne Howard at (603) 927-4735. Bettie has offered her home during the winter and spring for future social events. Announcements will be made for these social gatherings.



## I CAST MY LOT WITH YOU: A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM THE REV. SUSAN FREDERICK-GRAY

**Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray issued the following pastoral message:**

Dear Colleagues, Religious Professionals and Lay Leaders,

I am thinking of all of you. It is now three months into my term as UUA President, and it has been a time of repeated tragedies and traumas. These have included political traumas including the Transgender Military Ban and the rescinding of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. They have also included the devastating natural disasters of fires out West and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria that devastated parts of Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. And there have been the violent human tragedies of Charlottesville and now Las Vegas.

I hold you all in my heart as you are called to speak to these events in your communities. You nurture communities where people can bring their heartbreak, their pain, their anger, their confusion, their despair. Through your leadership you are asked to create a container for all of our human reactions, a place where families might get support talking to their

children, a place where our children can come bringing their sadness, confusion and worry.

As your colleague, your President, your fellow leader in faith, I want you to know that I am grateful for your ministry. I am grateful that you keep showing up with words of comfort and hope, of courage and challenge. This past Sunday, I spoke to a congregation about how this is no time for a casual faith – how the very real challenges and heartbreak of this time in this country and the world require a deep practice of our faith. These realities require a practice that makes room for us to bring our pain and our anger and our vulnerabilities, but one that also continually calls us back to love and to our human capacity for compassion and hope.

You all are on the front lines – providing ministry and leadership to people of all ages, helping us all not to lose our humanity in this very inhumane time, helping us all not to lose hope. Today, as I awoke, the words of Adrienne Rich were on my heart:

*My heart is moved by all I cannot save:  
so much has been destroyed  
I have to cast my lot with those  
who age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power  
reconstitute the world.*

Yours in love and faith,

Susan Frederick-Gray  
President, UUA

[Thanks to Henry Howell for providing this UUA message.]





## Next KUUF Newsletter Deadline

The submission deadline for the February KUUF newsletter will be Friday, January 26, 2018. Please email your news, views, and photos to Barbara Heggie at [barbara.g.heggie@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.g.heggie@gmail.com). **For ease of compiling, please type any written submissions into the body of the email or send as a Word document, rather than a PDF.** Thank you!

