

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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April 2014

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton
 Presidents: Amy Dressler & Henry Howell
 Director of Religious Education: Donna Peirce
 RE Teacher: Erin Peirce
 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, April 6	Adult Lecture Series – 9:45 AM
Sunday, April 6	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Thursday, April 10	Board Meeting at Jane Guise’s – 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 13	Adult Lecture Series – 9:45 AM
Sunday, April 13	North Country Chordsmen concert
Sunday, April 20	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “Crossing to Safety”
Sunday, April 20	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, April 27	Adult Lecture Series – 9:45 AM
Sunday, April 27	Speaker: Margaret Campbell



Minister's Missive – April 2014

The first step towards the nonreligion of the Western world was made by religion itself. When it defended its great symbols, not as symbols but as literal stories, it had already lost the battle.
– Paul Tillich

For those of us who live in this part of the world, April is the month of relief and renewed expectation – the month when we bid a joyous farewell to winter's dark cold, and await the first signs of the crocuses' burrowing their way through the snow that's not yet caught on to the fact that the vernal equinox was a good ten days or so ago. Even the most dedicated skiers are breathing sighs of relief, as new life springs forth and the world revels in its transition from grey to green. For those of us who call northern New England home, this is the month of promise, of celebrating life's seasonal cycle that makes all things new.

In regard to our religious life, of course, springtime is also the time of Passover and Easter, two of the most widely observed celebrations, respectively, of the Jewish and Christian faiths. The stories behind these celebrations are found, of course, in the Bible. But as is the case with most biblical stories, neither of them was meant to be a historical report of something that happened in a certain year, at a certain time, on a certain day. Indeed, biblical stories tended to emerge from folklore, tradition, and liturgical practice; stories that represent great truths, gathered by people through hundreds and thousands of generations. They're important stories. And interpreted correctly, they tell us who we are. But for UUs, this can sometimes be a struggle.

How is it, then, that we Unitarian Universalists go about paying *our* religious homage to the vernal awakening of a dormant world? For surely we shall. No matter how rational and matter-of-fact any of us may be in his or her approach to the "natural" world, it's hard not to respond – with wonder, even – to the warmth, the color, the almost intoxicating charm of a bright spring day – and of the *indomitable human spirit*, even in the presence of fear and tragedy and hopelessness. It can give many of us a truly "religious" feeling, can't it? And that's a pretty nice thing to happen. But how do we articulate such a thing?

Some thirty-seven years ago in a bookshop in Cleveland, I came across a greeting card that depicted a man opening the door to his apartment, and finding a menacing looking, giant rabbit standing in the hallway. Inside the card, the caption read, "*FEAR OF EASTER.*" The Message? Don't be afraid – it'll be all right. Enjoy! Happy springtime to all, *Bill*

A BIT OF HISTORY: THEY JOINED TOGETHER

Henry Howell Co-President

“It is expedient to build a meeting house.” This was the declaration in 1821 by the Universalist Society of Andover, New Hampshire, which desired to build a center for their “Brethren in Andover, believing in the restoration of all men through Jesus Christ”.

Deciding that going from house to house and the Dudley Dearborn Tavern to gather on Sundays was inadequate for their growing membership of 25+/-, the Andover Universalist Society led a group of three other denominations --- the Congregationalists, Methodists and Free Will Baptists — to construct a meeting house on the northeastern section of the Andover “parade grounds” (town common) facing south toward the “turnpike” (Rt. 11).

These committed faith-based groups joined together to alternately share the new building’s pulpit, each having one Sunday a month for their service. There were expenses, of course, and so through mutual fund-raising efforts of hard earned money among the farmers, millers and local shop keepers –as well as selling pew seats within the church—they erected a wooden, two story building with a 25 foot spire.

You may find interesting a comparison of what we must raise today as we support the KUUF to the costs of our Universalist ancestors 190+ years ago. In 1820 \$16 was raised to cover their ordinary expenses for the year. A partial sampling of their meeting house construction costs in 1821 was, for labor:

One day’s chopping.....	\$1.50
One day’s work ‘self, oxen and mare.....	\$1.25
One day’s hewing.....	\$.75
Ten days work framing.....	\$5.00 etc.

And a sampling of materials purchased, in order of date acquired:

Sept. 1	2 lbs Nails.....	\$.09
Sept. 5	1 qt. Rum.....	\$.13
“	13 lbs Nails.....	\$1.17
“	9 1 pt. Rum.....	\$.08
“	14 25 lbs Nails.....	\$2.25
“	18 1 qt. Rum.....	\$.13 etc.

The total construction cost was \$2,200 and somehow built plumb and true, with a notable comment regarding dedication of the “splendid edifice” in 1824 that “No alcoholic liquors were provided ... and all the exercises were conducted in perfect harmony by several representatives of the different denominations”.

Indeed, the spirit of cooperation, monetary contribution, a bit of ‘whistle-wetting’, and a lot of hard work have been the legacy of our industrious predecessors here on the Andover “parade ground fronting south towards the turnpike”.

ⁱ From the “History of the Town of Andover New Hampshire 1751 – 1906” by John R. Eastman. Rumford Printing Co., Concord, NH, 1910. Pgs. 108-118
ⁱⁱ p. 108 ⁱⁱⁱ p. 108 ^{iv} p. 115 ^v p. 117 ^{vi} p. 112 ^{vii} p. 113 ^{viii} p. 112



Women's Meditation/Discussion Group

The locations will change each month and are as follows;

April 9 – Liz Meller's

April 23 – Liz Meller's

We welcome any church women, who are interested, to try us out. It's a wonderful way to get to know others from KUUF.



Restock the Food Pantry April

Please remember to bring items to church on Sunday mornings to help restock the New London and Andover Food Pantries. Thanks!

Fund Drive

The Fund Drive Team is hard at work, and packets will be mailed on April 7! Look for yours in your mail box and please respond generously! KUUF needs each and every one of us if we are to make this a true success.

Large Print Hymnals

Thanks to several members of KUUF, three copies of new large print hymnals have arrived and will be available on the welcome table each Sunday. They came to us in two-volume sets, and should be returned to the welcome table after the church service. We hope they will be useful to those who have a need for larger print.



Save the Dates

June 1, 2014 - Annual Meeting
Stone Chapel after church 12:30 PM
(Light lunch & child care will be provided)

June 7, 2014 - Piano/Flute Recital
With Martha Woodward and Friends
7:30 PM, Stone Chapel

Watch for more information



Host/Hostess "Duty" Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
April 6	Marion Allen	Susan Crickman
April 13	Bob Bergquist	Sally Bergquist
April 20		
April 27		

If anyone can be a Sunday morning host/hostess, please contact Kerry Laufer at 763-3140 or kllauf@hotmail.com.



Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner, 1987. April 20, 2014 - 9:30 AM

Crossing to Safety is a story about the lifelong friendship of two couples: Sid and Charity, and Larry and Sally by one of America's best loved authors. Many readers consider it their favorite book.

It is a novel about gifts: the gift of our talents; the gift of our short comings, which allow us to grow; the gift of a marriage; the gift of our friendships; the gift of what endures and what falls away; the gift of a good life and the gift of a good death.

Please join us for the discussions even if you have not read the book.

Questions: Marion Allen - 526-6776

May 18, 2014 – 9:30 AM

Buddha's Brain by Rick Hanson, 2009

At the intersection between psychology, neuroscience, and Buddhism, this book

offers to show us how to alter our thoughts, deeds and words, to create a happier, more fulfilled life.

What is interesting is how Hanson and Mendius link Buddhist teachings to the causes of suffering in the deep programming of our brains caused by ancestral survival strategies.

This book is available at your library or via Interlibrary Loan or you may purchase it in paperback.

Social Activities

Meredith & Doug Smith's Sugar Shack



Alas, the sap has not risen in the maple trees, at least not enough for Meredith & Doug Smith to show us the ins and outs of making Maple Syrup. We'll just have to wait for next year and hope the weather will be more accommodating.

Meanwhile, we'd like to arrange Circle Dinners before the end of our church year. If you would like to host a dinner, or if you would like more information, please contact Fran Preston, Lois Magenau, Liz Mellor

John Williams died in mid-March with his wife Mary at his side. Mary is choosing to stay where they had been living in Waltham, MA. A spring memorial service is planned for when their son from Montana can be here. It will likely be at the UU Church in Weylen, MA, where John and Mary raised their family.

Cards and letters may be sent to:

Mary Williams
Waltham Crossing - Room 113
126 Smith Street
Waltham, MA 02451

Phone #: 1-781-790-0910

Shared Ministry Days: Adaptive Leadership Conference

Technical problems vs Adaptive challenges, Beach Ball Realities, move to the balcony, holding environment and Happiness Trap are just some of the terms that Co-Board Presidents Henry Howell, Amy Dressler and Board Member Kathy Vashro heard when they attended a [Shared Ministry Days: Adaptive Leadership Conference](#) at the Woodstock, VT, UU church. Approximately 10 parishes and New England UU district leaders met from 9a-4p on Saturday March 15, to learn from and discuss with, new ways to lead and participate as board members and congregational members.

We were told that usually church leaders work as though the happiness of the congregation is their goal or mission, thus getting stuck in the 'Happiness Trap' vs working on the mission of the church. We are all a part of the UU organization because we have a common belief in OUR KUUF MISSION - *We unite to grow in understanding of ourselves and of our world, to promote and serve the universal human family.*

Are we addressing this mission as leaders? This was the key question that challenged the attendees of the conference. Working on our money or sermon or membership topics is functioning at a 'technical problem' discussion level. We learned that to know a technical problem is approaching a problem that keeps coming back again and again, thus no solution has been found. With 'Adaptive Challenges' we don't know the right answer, both the problem and the solution requires learning and experimentation. Leaders move groups through disequalization* at a pace the group can stand and leadership must be shared vs be authoritative figures. Also, we all may find that the timeframes for resolution of problems are unclear.

A fun comment during the conference was 'move to the balcony'. We move to the balcony, so we can see the whole floor and perspective of the congregation. When we are on the main floor we only see a few activities going on in front of us. When we are on the balcony, we can see the large group and the subgroups functioning below us. We, as a congregation and the board as newly formed 'adaptive leaders' want to move from knowing to learning, doing to discerning and focus on our mission through openness with conversation.

Please feel free to contact Henry Howell, Amy Dressler, or Kathy Vashro to discuss our experiences at the Northern New England District Leadership conference. We want to move forward with you all and create strength with our mission through Adaptive Leadership and learning.

"Leadership is mobilizing people to contend and wrestle with adaptive challenges, where there is a gap between their values and the way they live and operate" - Ron Heifetz

Ron Heifetz, Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership and author of several books on leadership, and he is the Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership, co-founder of the [Center for Public Leadership](#)^[1] at the [John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University](#), and co-founder of [Cambridge Leadership Associates](#). A graduate from Columbia, Harvard Medical School and the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

*disequalization is a new term used with Adaptive Challenge discussions

To add to, please fill out and send back the KUUF survey that you should have received recently. This survey is helpful for us all to see how we are working on our mission.