

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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May 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, May 4	Adult Lecture Series – 9:45 AM
Sunday, May 4	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Thursday, May 8	Board Meeting at Lois Magenau's – 7:00 PM
Sunday, May 11	Adult Lecture Series – 9:45 AM
Sunday, May 11	Speaker: Sandra LeBeau – “Letting Go Is Hard to Do”
Sunday, May 18	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “Buddha’s Brain” by Rick Hanson
Sunday, May 18	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, May 25	Adult Lecture Series – 9:45 AM
Sunday, May 25	Speaker: Dick Dutton



The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter
Minister's Missive – May 2014



There are Twelve Months in all the year,
As I hear many [persons] say.
But the merriest month in all the year,
Is the merry month of May.
– Robin Hood and the
Widow's Three Sons

Methinks my own soul must be
a bright invisible green. -
– Henry David Thoreau

May is a month of green. So many different shades of green – bright, dark, and everything in-between. Is there anything anymore joyous than seeing the infant leaves peeking out from their little blankets that have sheltered them from the winter's cold? Green is nature's color of hope, a sign that the seasons have once more fulfilled their promise, as the mystery of life's abundance is welcomed to our northern New England.

As it is in the case of the natural world, I like to think of faith communities as conforming to seasonal cycles. There's the enthusiasm of autumn, with its promise of a new program year as summer slips into memory; the sense of sharing our lives with others in worship as we slip, slide, and slog our way to church on Sundays; and, as snow birds return from points south and west to return to their empty chairs, a hearty homecoming greeting from those who've missed them. This is one of the wonders of a worshipping community.

There are a lot of people out there in the world who have little, if any, concept of what happens in the church buildings past which they drive every day. Some just don't care very much about what religious folks believe or do, while others think of religion as something vaguely delusional, at best. I, however, along with just about every other person reading this missive, see religion from a quite different perspective – as a liberating, life-giving, focusing, and fulfilling practice – particularly (but not exclusively) – in our Liberal Religious tradition.

Just as the seasons come around in their orderly, cyclical progression, we as people of faith, hope, open hearts, and open minds find support and comfort in dealing with the big questions of life, and living those questions in community.

Happy spring, everyone!

Bill

INCH BY INCH, ROW BY ROW ESCALATING INEQUALITY WE SHALL GROW –

By Henry Howell, Co-President

What moral action statement shall our congregation make to society? This is the question you answered when we voted several months ago that “Escalating Inequality” would be the focus for our UU Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI).

There is reason for concern: Peter Morales, President of the UU Association of Congregations challenges us with his statement, “Inequality in America has reached such extreme proportions –such toxic levels—that it corrupts our everyday relationships and threatens our democracy.”¹ Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor for Bill Clinton, in his calls for action, declares that, “Because so much income and wealth have gone to the top, America’s vast middle class no longer has the purchasing power to keep the economy going – not at least without going deeper and deeper into debt.”² And (history repeats itself!) 104 years ago Teddy Roosevelt declared, “The absence of effective state, and, especially, national, restraint upon unfair money-getting has tended to create a small class of enormously wealthy and economically powerful men, whose chief objective is to hold and increase their power.”³

So where do we go from here? --Dick Dutton asked us that question in his service of March 23rd. Beside our personal responses to Dick’s sermon, we can consider holding group discussions and use the UUA – CSAI website to obtain literature, videos, and other UU’ers focused on this topic (e.g. Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL; First UU Church of San Diego, CA; and the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, NY.) We can encourage an outside speaker to give a service on the topic next fall.

We can make a ‘Social Witness Statement’ of specific actions we would like our government to take, such as UU social witness statements made recently to “Amend the Constitution: Corporations are not Persons and Money is not Speech” (20013), and “Raise the Federal Minimum Wage to \$10” (2008), and establish a “Single Payer Health Care” (2008).⁴

Or, ho hum, we can let the fact of escalating economic inequality be “*someone else’s problem*” as quipped in the “Hitchhiker’s guide to the Galaxy”⁵, while inch by inch, row by row the gap ever wider grows...

¹ “Our House, Unequally Divided”, Peter Morales, UU World magazine, Spring 2014 p.5

² “Beyond Outrage”, Robert B. Reich, Random House, Sept. 4, 2012, p.xiii

³ Theodore Roosevelt in a speech given in 1910

⁴ “Escalating Inequality”, UUA Congregational Study/Action Issues, Prior Social Witness Statements.

⁵ “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy”, Douglas Adams, Pan Books, October 12, 1979

Host/Hostess "Duty" Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
May 4	Kerry Laufer & Martha Woodward	David Landers
May 11	Sandy Wells	Roger Wells
May 18		
May 25	Sara Smith	Edythe Anderson
June 1	KUUF Board	KUUF Board
June 8	Liz Maloof	Tom Maloof
June 15	Lizzie Klingler	Donn Klingler
June 22		
June 29		

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

Fund Drive Update

To date we have received 18 pledges for a total of \$18,320. Thank you, to those who have returned your pledge cards so promptly. Your quick response and your generosity are very much appreciated.

Now we need everyone's help to finish! At this time, we project that we are about 49% to a pledge total that will allow for a balance budget, if no changes are made by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The KUUF Board will be meeting May 8. The main purpose of this meeting will be to prepare a final Budget that will be presented to the congregation at the June 1 Annual Meeting.

To all those who have not sent in your pledge card, we need you! Your pledge of whatever amount you can afford will help keep KUUF moving forward and meeting our congregation's needs.



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.

June 15, 2014 - 9:30 AM

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown, 2013.

Out of the Depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times – the improbable, intimate account of nine working-class boys from the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew who showed the world what true grit really meant.

This is a wonderful story of the ultimate in trust and teamwork. Please join us for the discussion. Most libraries in NH purchased this book so it should be easy to get an Interlibrary Loan copy from your local library.

Questions: Marion Allen 526-6776 or mlallen@tds.net

John W. Williams Memorial Gathering

As many of you know, John Williams, a member of KUUF died on March 12, 2014.

Mary Williams, John's wife, and their families are having two gatherings to celebrate and remember John's life.

There will be a Memorial Service in Wayland, MA on May 17, 2014 at 1:00pm.

First Parish in Wayland
50 Cochituate Rd.
(Intersection of Rtes. 20, 27 & 126)
Wayland, MA 01778

On May 18, 2014, there will be an informal gathering at Hilltop House, in New London, NH.

Hilltop House - 2:00PM
50 Newport Road
New London, NH 03257

We hope you will take one of these opportunities to celebrate John's life with Mary, family, and friends.

KUUF will be helping supply coffee and sweets at the Sunday reception at Hilltop House.

If you have any questions please contact Marion Allen or Liz Maloof.



Meditation

May's meditation will be at Jane Guise's on Wednesdays, the 14th and 28th.

Saturday, June 7, 2014 – Recital

**with Martha Woodward, Sonoko Nagahara, and
Miki Nagahara**

7:30 PM, Stone Chapel

For each of the past three years Martha Woodward has presented recitals for our and the community's listening pleasure.

These recitals have been a great success, and this year's will feature Martha Woodward, Sonoko Nagahara, and Mari Nagahara. There will be light refreshments after the program.

This year's concert will include works by Vinci, Haydn, Rutter, etc.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends for an inspiring and fun evening.

Net proceeds from ticket sales will go to support KUUF. Look for ticket sales to begin in May.

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.