

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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www.kuufnh.org

May 2015

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton
Presidents: Amy Dressler & Henry Howell
Director of Religious Education: Donna Peirce
RE Teacher: Libby Curran
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 3 | Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson |
| Sunday, May 10 | Speaker: Betsy Woodman |
| Thursday, May 14 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at Lois Magenau’s |
| Sunday, May 17 | Book Discussion – “The Invention of Wings: A Novel” – 9:30 AM |
| Sunday, May 17 | Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson |
| Wednesday, May 20 | Budget Preview Meeting – 7:00 PM at the Maloof’s |
| Sunday, May 24 | Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton |
| Sunday, May 31 | Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson |



Two very beautiful table clothes were given to our congregation for coffee/refreshment time and other special church events by June Sherwood & Kent Goering. We **THANK YOU! June & Kent** and wish you a safe return back to our north country.



Minister's Missive – May 2015

Awareness: If there were a “Word-of-the-Month” for May, that word may well be “awareness.” I would challenge any other month to equal May as the month that calls us to be aware of so much that’s going on around us. All the signs of spring, of life bursting forth, of colors and textures that have been buried beneath the ground during the frigid winter through which we’ve recently struggled, are suddenly forgotten.

A number of Mays ago Stephanie and I took a weekend “mini-vacation” at a bed and breakfast inn located in the rolling hills of central Ohio. We chose this particular weekend at the inn because there would be a naturalist in residence who would lead us guests on spring activities that included birdwatching walks, wildflower identification walks, morel mushroom hunting, and a late-night outing during which we played a recording of the barred owl’s call, which after a fair amount of time, aroused and gathered countless owls who came from miles away, to join in the celebration. The woods were alive. What every one of us felt was that, in our outings together, we’d looked, learned, and discovered things which had we not come to this adventure-filled weekend, our awareness of the spring around us would have been much more pedestrian.

So many people spend so much of their time intent on going about our daily business that we fail to see the beauty and complexity of so much that lies around us. Not only do we stop to smell the proverbial roses, we sometimes don’t even see them. But when we’re reminded to stop and take a little sniff of the blossoms, it opens a whole new world. Suddenly we realize that while we were so busy attending to the small worries of life, we were missing out on the most basic pleasures, involving a sense of connection and inclusion in this world of which we’re a part, but from which we so often feel so separated.

I’m hopeful that as we in our KUUF celebrate spring, we celebrate one another’s company, aware of ourselves, aware of each other, aware of a sense of renewal not only in the outside world, but in our very congregation. Who knows what will come of it all, as we rejoice in the bright light of a world that even with all its problems and concerns, is a place we call home, a place to blossom and grow.

Happy spring,
Bill

ROOTS

By Henry Howell



*This little light of ours,
We're going to make it shine...*

LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR THE STONE CHAPEL: EDUCATION

Proctor Academy and Unitarianism in the region were one-and-the-same in the late 1800's. "The Bible was taught as literature...All were expected to attend [Unitarian] Sunday services and daily chapel...Young People's Religious Union with delegates to the Unitarian Conference took on tremendous importance as a school social unit."¹

Additionally, Unitarianism throughout the country and education were nearly synonymous at this time, with Harvard University and the beginnings of public education strongly influenced by the Unitarian philosophy of secular humanism.

For example: After much debate and controversy at their town meetings in 1891, Andover, with strong Unitarian 'encouragement'² became the first town in the state to use public funds to enable *all* town youth to attend Proctor Academy. This set a precedent, and in 1894 the State of New Hampshire directed that every youth be provided a 'free' (paid by tax dollars) high school education. The Andover Unitarians were on a "role". An excellent library was assembled with 600 volumes donated by certain wealthy Unitarians: Oliver Wendell Holmes and Charles Eliot. (Holmes then serving on the Massachusetts Supreme Court and Eliot then President of Harvard University.)

Proctor Academy had a knack for raising money and, besides its well-connected Unitarians, Proctor's first (Unitarian) chaplain, Rev. Lyman Clark, was given the dual calling of both guardian of the faith *and* a cut on any monies he was able to raise. Such fund-raising would soon become essential...

January 13, 1901 catastrophe struck. "Proctor Academy [i.e. the old Union Church] and most of the Town Library at Centre" burned to the ground!³ Not a good situation... All was not lost, however, as the Carr & Proctor families of Andover used special connections in Boston that would prove very useful in coming to the rescue.

[Next month: Building a Stone Chapel & the Boston Connection]

¹ From "History of Proctor Academy", Assembled by Phelps, Howard, Sherman & Burbank, 1987

² This "encouragement" was backed by wealth. It turns out that most of the youth's "free" education in Andover at that time was paid for by Unitarians with deep pockets...

³ From "History of the Town of Andover 1751-1906" by John Eastman, Rumford Printing Co., Concord, NH, 1910



KUUF Book Discussions

May 17, 2015 9:30 AM

The Invention of Wings: A Novel Sue Monk Kidd, 2014

In the early 1830's, Sarah Grimke and her younger sister, Angelina, were the most infamous women in America. They had rebelled so vocally against their family, society, and their religion that they were reviled, pursued, and exiled from their home city of Charleston, SC under threat of death.

Their crime was speaking out in favor of liberty and equality for African American slaves and women, arguments too radically humanist even for abolitionists of their time. Their most popular pamphlet inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's **Uncle Tom's Cabin**.

June 21, 2015 9:30 AM

The Glass Cage: Automation and Us Nicholas Carr, 2014

What is happening to our brains as we use the Internet?

Nicholas Carr explores precisely what we lose when we turn over more and more of our human skills to devices. For many people, especially younger ones born into the digital age and not knowing anything else, there is no reason to learn a vast array of knowledge and incorporate it into life, since you can simply Google it. The Glass Cage is a follow up to his previous book "The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains", 2011.

If you cannot find a copy of "The Glass Cage" try reading "The Shallows".

Please join us for a discussion of either book or even if you haven't found the time to read at all.

Questions: Marion Allen 526-6776

Host/Hostess "Duty" Assignments

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Host/Hostess</u> | <u>Host/Hostess</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| May 3 | | |
| May 10 | Bob Bergquist | Sally Bergquist |
| May 17 | Roger Wells | Sandy Wells |
| May 24 | Henry Howell | Libby Howell |
| May 31 | | |
| June 7 | Tom Maloof | Liz Maloof |
| June 14 | Marcus Johnson | Lois Magenau |
| June 21 | Amy Dressler | |
| June 28 | Susan Crickman | Nancy Stone |

If you can take a Sunday morning as host/hostess, please contact Kerry Laufer at 763-3140 or kllauf@hotmail.com. Thanks!



Meditation

The Women's Meditation Group will meet on Wednesday, May 13 and 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Fran Preston's. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Bergquist at 763-4098.

KUUF Web Site

Please check out the KUUF web site at www.kuufnh.org for up-to-date information, recent sermons, calendar, etc.



2015 FOOD PANTRY CAMPAIGN

Note: Paper products (paper towels and toilet paper) coffee (regular, decaf, and instant), and peanut butter and jelly are always welcome. Also do not forget pet products.



Social Activities

Spring is in the air. Time to get out and about so let's have a few ...

CIRCLE DINNERS

Friday, May 15

Signups for hosts and for guests will be found at church. Please sign up soon if you can HOST a dinner for about 6 guests.

If you would like to be a GUEST this time, please sign up on the Guest's sheet.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Vashro, Lois Magenau, or Meredith Smith



When is Your Birthday or Anniversary?

We want to acknowledge your birthday and anniversary, so write down your name and dates for these events on the papers that are left on the front table at KUUF. Each month the newsletter will post the current month's celebration dates...

Sally Bergquist - 763-4098 – salbob2@comcast.net

Kathy Vashro – 938-5476 – jvashro@gmail.com

May Birthdays

Donn Klingler – the24th (Happy Birthday, Donn!!!)



Striving to protect every abused
child's right to grow up in the
embrace of a loving family.
Help us reach every child.



CASA volunteers speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system to help ensure they grow up in safe, permanent homes. Contact them at www.casanh.org. Trainings are held throughout the year, throughout the state. Visit their website or email them at speakup@casanh.org or call 1-800-626-0622 for more information.

CASA volunteers are people who are:

- Willing to participate in an in-depth training program
- Strong communicators
- Willing to commit to the life of at least one case
- Able to pass a criminal and Child Protective Services background check
- Over age 21

KUUF Budget Preview Meeting

Prior to the KUUF Annual Meeting of June 7, a preview budget meeting is scheduled on May 20 for discussion of our 2015-16 budget proposed by the Board of Trustees. The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at the Maloof's house, 130 King Hill Road, New London. Interested KUU members are encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP to Liz Maloof (lizzijo48@gmail.com)



THE MOUSE AND THE LIGHT

The KUUF Performing *TrUUpe* put on a unique skit showing how our little fellowship is a beacon of liberal religious “light” glowing like a ‘Tree of Wisdom’ throughout the Kearsarge-Sunapee region. It was adapted from Lisa Suhay’s fable, “The Mouse and the Light”, that she wrote to encourage children of the Middle East to reject bigotry, racism, and extremism. Our KUUF version showed how important we as Unitarian Universalists are in carrying on a tradition of open-minded, non-doctrinaire, self-searching religion in an area where there are few other similar churches. (*Ah-hem*: The skit also showed how important it is to keep the special KUUF ‘Tree of Wisdom’ well “watered” with our PLEDGE DOLLARS of support...Your contribution can really make a difference!)



A Common Meditation For

ALL SOULS

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

Let me tell you why I come to church. I come to church—and would whether I was a preacher or not—because I fall below my own standards and need to be constantly brought back to them. I am afraid of becoming selfish and indulgent, and my church—my church of the free spirit—brings me back to what I want to be. I could easily despair; doubt and dismay could overwhelm me. My church renews my courage and my hope. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or magazine discussion. It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened—sharpened until it goads me to the most thorough and responsible thinking of which I am capable. I must feel again the love I owe to others. I must not only hear about it but feel it. In church, I do. I am brought toward my best, in every way toward my best.

(A. Powell Davies, 1902 – 1957)

Fund Drive Update

As of April 28, 2015, KUUF has received pledges in the amount of \$24,810.00. 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 get to the finish line! At this time, we project that we are about 65% toward our total amount needed of \$38,129.00 that will allow KUUF to have a balanced budget, if no changes are made by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The KUUF Board will be meeting May 14. The main purpose of this meeting will be to prepare a final Budget that will be presented to the congregation at the June 7 Annual Meeting.

We are also planning to have a meeting open to the congregation on May 20, 2015, at the Maloof's where anyone can attend to give input before the June 7 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.

Liz Maloof

KUUF Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 7, in the Stone Chapel, after a coffee hour that will include finger sandwiches. (In May look for a sign- up sheet at the guest table to help the Board with sandwiches and goodies)

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this very important gathering to do "the business" of KUUF.

Getting to Know Our KUUF Community Members Marilyn Gould

Marion Allen and Kathy Vashro went to the Peabody House in Franklin, to 'interview' Marilyn Gould. They found her doing what she does well, visiting a friend on the 3rd floor... she was pleased to see us and we all enjoyed 2 hours visiting and learning Marilyn's life story, of which she wants to share with you.....

Marilyn was born in Concord, NH, and surprisingly, Don, her husband of 60+ years, was born not too far away in another hospital about a year earlier. Marilyn came from a long line of Unitarians. She was raised Unitarian, thinks her parents were raised Unitarians, and not sure if her grandparents were Unitarians. She likes the idea of having her own belief system vs following a doctrine that a church makes up.

Through a 4H youth program, Marilyn was involved in a lifelong passion of square dancing. Her HS square dancing group designed and made their own outfits. Right after HS, Marilyn was a 'Pelican', which meant she was a waitress and chambermaid for guests of Star Island. Her parents and her daughter, Barbara, were married on Star Island.

Marilyn was not interested in politics, nor were her parents, but she loves what they taught her - right from wrong, learn from watching, thriftiness and entertaining self with games, and 'you never

said you were bored or you might find yourself working'. She loves that she was a Domestic Engineer (stay at home mom) and a 'stable influence on her kids, being available to listen to them when they came home from school'...

Marilyn has done all she wants to do in her life, 'no regrets and a wonderfully loving and stable life'. She has gone on bus tours with Don, once having an exciting ride in a hot air balloon while visiting in the SW.

Her life now, at the Peabody Home is working out. She is glad that she got into the home when she did, about a month after Don was accepted. She feels that this past winter would have been very difficult for her to travel to visit Don, if she had not been able to live at the Peabody Home. Living at the Peabody Home allowed her to stay with Don, motivate him to get around, socialize and eat dinner in the dining room with her, instead of his room alone. Marilyn is happy at the Peabody Home because she doesn't have to cook or do laundry. She enjoys her constant social life and her trivia/brain teaser games that the staff provides nightly.

Marilyn appreciates all the visitors, cards and rides to the various KUUF events.

The insert explains Marilyn's life after HS. She has started Career #4 in 2014 – continuing her adventure of life at the Peabody Home

Marilyn Bachelder Gould
P.O. Box 231
East Andover, NH 03231



1951 - 1953 Business School

1953 - 1975 Married Donald, class of '50, lived at UNH for a year and then moved to New Jersey. Our children arrived in '55, '57, '59 and I started Career # 1 - Domestic Engineer.

1975 - 1996 Career #2 - children grown, I took a job in the local high school as Secretary to the Vice Principal. These 21 years were busy, diverse, interesting and challenging. I graduated (retired) in June of 1996. Also, grandchildren arrived in '90, '93, '94 & '97.

1999----- We moved back to New Hampshire settling in Andover.
Career #3 - Volunteerism. I'm involved in several local organizations and interests. We're busier now than ever, but still have time for square and contra dancing. We also take and enjoy 2 or 3 trips a year, visiting various areas.

