

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
PO Box 1578
New London, NH 03257
603 526-8213
www.kuufnh.org

June/July/August 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, June 7	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, June 7	Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 14	Speaker:
Thursday, June 18	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at the Howell's
Sunday, June 21	Book Discussion – “The Glass Cage: Automation and Us’ by Nicholas Carr– 9:30 AM
Sunday, June 21	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, June 28	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson & Rev. Dick Dutton – “Flower Sunday”



The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter



Minister's Missive – June 2015

*Methinks my own soul
must be a bright invisible green.*

– Henry David Thoreau

May and June are the months of Green – so many different shades and hues of green. Is there anything more vibrant than the new, fresh yellow-green of the infant leaves' springing forth from winter's bare branches? The green of botanical life's perennial emergence stands as a symbol of hope – a sign that what may have seemed to be lost, is found again.

As it is in the cycle of what we humans call “nature,” so it is in the seasons of our lives. We need to be refreshed, we need to be reminded that we are part of this universe that envelopes us, that we belong here along with every other form of life. Religions the world over have evolved from our human need to respond to the mystery and wonder of life, while at the same time responding to the reality of our own mortality.

There are those, of course, who see religion as a negative influence in the lives of human beings, and there's plenty of documentation that supports such a view. We can't blame them, can we? Especially when we've seen throughout history – including our own era's present history – that going to war under a religious flag gives religion a pretty bad name.

I prefer to envision religion from a different perspective, though; as a liberating, life-giving resource, freeing men and women from the constraints of fear and depression, helping people to a positive and productive life in the fullness of all that can be, even in those times of struggle, pain, and sorrow that all of us experience. This is who we are, isn't it? And it all comes together when we who are KUUF meet together on Sunday mornings, when we enjoy our “circle dinners,” or simply when we see one another out and about in the community.

* * *

All of this leads me to something that came up at the May Board of Trustees meeting, where it was mentioned that for the past couple of years we've not been celebrating what we've called the “Flower Sunday” service as part of the last worship service of the program year, and that many of us have missed it. This is the service based on the “Flower Communion” established in 1923 by the Rev. Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, as a symbolic ritual that could bind people together more closely. The service is simple: Congregants are encouraged to bring a flower of their choosing to be mixed in with others in a common vase. At the end of the service, as people are leaving the chapel, those same congregants take with them a flower that someone else had brought, to enjoy in their homes. I'm hopeful that on June 28th, a revival of this meaningful service will be enthusiastically supported. Best wishes to all; see you in church! *Bill*

ROOTS

By Henry Howzell



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

STONE CHAPEL & THE BOSTON CONNECTION

"First First First" Bells clanged, people shouted, buckets of water splashed, but nothing could be done to save the largest wooden building in town from going up in conflagration. It was January 13th, 1901 when the old Union/Unitarian Church & school of Andover burned to the ground along with 600 books donated by Oliver Wendell Holmes and Charles Eliot (president) of Harvard University.

Not only was this the sole church & meeting hall in town at the time, it was also the regional public high school, and so there was urgent need to replace the venerable old building. Rev. Henry G. Ives, then (Unitarian) minister of the church and Principal of (Unitarian) Proctor Academy was "a powerhouse in raising money for the school"¹. He started a building spree that resulted in construction or purchase of Slocumb Hall, Cary House, Gannett House, the Farmhouse, Mary Lowell Stone House, Gulick House, the heating/electric plant, a water & sewage system, *and* in 1910-11, building of the Stone Chapel.

Well-to-do Unitarians in town such as the Carrs and Proctors were asked to contribute to this major development effort. A particular transaction was nurtured when the Carr family with their connections to Boston and Harvard University invited and paid for one of the foremost architects of the time to visit Andover and design some of the school's new buildings. H. Langford Warren, father of the Arts & Crafts School of American Architecture and founder of the Architecture School at Harvard University, created designs at Proctor converting the old village livery stable into Slocumb Hall (today's art studio), Gannett House (the brick dormitory), Cary House –and a special new chapel that would face directly on the town green.²

It was named "Cruft Chapel" in honor of Harriet Otis Cruft of Boston, whose wealthy family was in the process of funding Harvard University's "Cruft High Tension Laboratory" (designed by Duquesne *and* H. Langford Warren) and who the Carrs, Rev. Ives, and Langford Warren must have asked to also finance a pretty little church in the center of Andover, New Hampshire which, unlike any other nearby building, would be built out of field stones.

[Next: Mrs. Cruft and the Proctor-U

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

² In all likelihood H.L. Warren was the designer for the Stone Chapel, but I don't have proof yet.



KUUF Book Discussions

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>
June 7	KUUF Board	KUUF Board
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, June 10 and 24, 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.

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.



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

June Birthday

16 – Susan Crickman

June Anniversary

1- Earl & Betsy Abbe

July Birthday

July Anniversary

21 – Jim & Kathy Vashro

August Birthday

14 – Marcus Johnson

16 – Libby Howell

16 – Ken Preston

August Anniversary

24 – Bob & Sally Bergquist





Star Island Corporation Celebrates Centennial

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the non-profit which was founded by UU's and UCC's to own Star Island and administer educational and religious conferences on this scenic and historic spot off the NH coast. It's the only Conference Center like it in the country. Looking to our next 100 years, we will commence with a ribbon-cutting to christen our new solar array on June 27, which will provide 60% of our "Star power". The oldest running conference, International Affairs, will be about Climate Change. Some of the 60 conferences offered include natural history, arts, religion in an age of science, New England heritage, RE week, chamber music and yoga/meditation. To celebrate, Star is offering 30% discounts for selected conferences to folks who have not yet attended a conference on the Island. Conferences run anywhere from 2-7 nights. All meals, programs and boat transportation are included in the price. And personal retreaters are always welcome if there is space available. Several from KUUF have sailed out to the Shoals - ask them about their experience! And for more info, contact www.starisland.org or Brenda Watts, Star Ambassador at joewatts533@comcast.net (863-6034)



Don Gould Memorial School Supply Drive

Each year in the month of June, the Social Concerns Committee collects donations to provide backpacks loaded with essential school supplies to children in need. This fund drive was originally the idea of Don Gould because the education of all children was so important to him. Don always acted as our liaison with the Andover Middle School and guided us through the process of supplying children in need with the tools to access their education. Since Don's passing, the Social Concerns Committee has decided that the fund drive will carry on without his leadership, but in his memory. Toward that end, we have renamed the annual drive.

Last year thanks to the generosity of our KUUF membership, we were able to provide 15 complete packs to the Andover Middle School for the current school year and we would like to repeat this for the coming school year. Church members can purchase backpacks or school supplies to donate, or make a financial contribution to the project and we will do the shopping for you. The Social Concerns Committee will be available to accept your contributions at church services each Sunday in June. Our goal is to once again provide 15 backpacks to the Andover Middle School for the coming school year, and each one needs to be filled with the following:

- ✓ 1 3-Ring Binder
- ✓ Tab Dividers
- ✓ Filler Paper
- ✓ 4 1-Subject Notebooks
- ✓ 1 Dozen Pencils with Erasers
- ✓ 1 Dozen Colored Pencils

Any contribution you can make will be greatly appreciated!