

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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www.kuufnh.org

December 2015 & January 2016

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton
 President: Henry Howell
 Director of Religious Education: Donna Peirce
 RE Teacher:
 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, December 6	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, December 6	“The Mystery of the Wise Men and the Star” – Martha Woodward & the KUUF Choir
Thursday, December 10	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at Sally Bergquist’s
Saturday, December 12	Holiday Party at Doug & Meredith Smith’s – 5:30 PM
Sunday, December 13	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, December 13	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, December 20	Book Discussion – 9:30 AM – “This Changes Everything” – Part 3
Sunday, December 20	Tom Graves leads the Traditional Holiday Service
Sunday, December 27	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “The Land of Beginning Again”
Sunday, January 3	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 3	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, January 10	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 10	Speaker: Barbara Meyers
Thursday, January 14	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM
Sunday, January 17	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 17	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson
Sunday, January 24	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 24	Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton – “El Presidente”
Sunday, January 31	Adult Lecture Series – 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 31	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson



Minister's Missive – December 2015 & January 2016

“And it came to pass in those days . . .”

People are bound together by the stories they tell. Every culture throughout history has had its stories. They're what make a culture a culture. They give meaning to life; they offer continuity and cohesiveness in what might otherwise be just a random and confusing series of events. Our stories, in a sense, are who we are.

As we enter December we get caught up in the most wondrous and beloved stories our culture has to tell – the stories of Christmas, for Christians, and the stories surrounding Hanukkah for Jews, even the story of the Buddha's enlightenment, on December 8th. Each set of stories has its own characters, its own scenes, its own mysteries. And each has in its own way, a story of hope in a world where so many have little to hope for.

“And it came to pass in those days . . .” We all know that our days are not terribly different from “those days.” There's still a lot of loneliness, a lot of brokenness, a lot of hatred and fear. But even in the midst of it all, our stories seek out the hope that drives us, and that lead the way.

Every time we celebrate our cultural histories, we take them into our hearts and souls. And every time we tell them, hope is somehow reborn. As we tell our generational tales, around the dinner table, before a fireplace, as we travel “over the river and through the woods,” we affirm that there is indeed more to life than we can ever imagine, if only we let our lives be re-discovered in a history that grows more meaningful every day and every year.

Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday season,

Bill

ROOTS

By Henry Howell



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

PROCTOR ACADEMY AND THE UUA "ARRANGEMENT"

Now that the "Cruft Chapel" now called the "Stone Chapel" was left void of a Unitarian congregation during the early 1960's, the newly formed national Unitarian Universalist Association automatically became its owner/caretaker according to Mrs. Cruft's property deed. But for the UUA it became a small unused building in a small remote New England town. What was the UUA to do?... Thus began negotiations with Proctor Academy.

Underlying these issues there were caveats: *First*, three small monetary trusts existed with the UUA Common Endowment Fund that were providing payments to the Academy. *Second*, "In 1958 the [Academy's] 123-year-long formal association with the American Unitarian Association[A.U.M.] was amicably dissolved..."¹ and the school had no formal need for a chapel within its midst. *Third*, this same disassociation with the A.U.M. had a stipulation that "...should Proctor ever close, all [academy] property would revert to the church."²!! There were still major Unitarian strings attached.

One assumes the above three issues were part of the negotiations when a new property deed was drawn up in 1967 stating the (now) Unitarian-Universalist Association would convey to Proctor Academy the building and surrounding land within 30 feet of the chapel. BUT, "Should...the Unitarian Universalist Association determine that Proctor Academy has failed...for a period of two years to meet...the [following] conditions...[then] title to the said premises shall revert to said Association."³

These conditions were:

1. "That Proctor Academy maintain the Church building in satisfactory repair... [and insured for fire and casualty];
2. That a majority of Proctor Academy chapel services held in the Church be conducted by ministers in Fellowship with Unitarian Universalist Association;
3. That said Church be made reasonably available to the Community for weddings, funerals, and special occasions."

One "small" issue remained— Where was a U.U. fellowship to conduct a "majority of Proctor Academy chapel services held in the Church"?

NEXT MONTH: PROCTOR HUNTS FOR A NOW RARE 'BIRD': U.U.'s

¹ From "History of Proctor" by Helen Phelps et al., 1987

² Continued from "History of Proctor" by Helen Phelps et al., 1987

³ Quitclaim Deed—Unitarian Universalist Association to Proctor Academy, Aug. 28, 1967

Host/Hostess “Duty” Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
December 6	Fran Preston	Ken Preston
December 13	Libby Howell	Henry Howell
December 20	Loren Howard	Yvonne Howard
December 27		
January 3	Liz Maloof	Tom Maloof
January 10	Cathy Kiernan	
January 17		
January 24		
January 31		



Meditation

The Women's Meditation Group will meet on Wednesdays, December 9 and January 13 and 27 at Fran Preston's, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. 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. Jane Guise's September 13 sermon and Lou Botta's October 11 sermon are currently posted on the web site.



2015/16 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.



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 on Sunday mornings. 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

December Birthdays

5th - Betty Williamson (90th)

7th – Earl Abbe

15th – Lois Magenau

January Birthdays

7th – Sandy Wells

13th – Bob Bergquist

17th – Tom Maloof

January Anniversary

26th – Lizzie & Donn Klingler



KUUF Wishes a very Happy
90th Birthday to Betty Williamson



Book Discussion – December 20, 2015 - 9:30

AM

This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate by Naomi Klein, 2014.

Forget everything you know about global warming. The really inconvenient truth is that it's not about carbon—it's about capitalism. In her most provocative book yet, Naomi Klein, author of the global bestsellers **The Shock Doctrine** and **No Logo**, tackles the most profound threat humanity has ever faced: the war our economic model is waging against the earth.

“This is the best book about climate change in a very long time – in large part because it is about much more.”
—Bill McKibben

This is our major Fall Book – 466 pages of essential reading – which we will divide into three discussions:

October 25 -- pages 1 – 187

November 15 -- pages 191 – 290

December 20 -- pages 291 – 466

This book is available in paperback or from your public library. Please join us for these discussions about this important topic.

Questions: Marion Allen - 526-6776 or
marion.lindsey.allen@gmail.com



Introduction to Guest at Your Table, from the UUSC:

"Guest at Your Table" is an annual fundraising and education program that supports UUSC's human rights work. Over the decades, Guest at Your Table has raised millions of dollars for human rights projects that have made a real difference in people's lives.

"This year Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people. One of UUSC's major focuses is serving the people who are most overlooked or discriminated against in the midst of humanitarian crises.

"As UUSC celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, we'll look back to our origin: Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp, helping European refugees escape persecution during World War II. We are excited to share several inspiring stories this year!

In recognition of our 75th anniversary, **the top 75 congregations** (either with top fundraising totals **or having more than 75% member participation**) **will be included in our 75th anniversary time capsule**. The capsule will be marked for opening in 2040 for our 100th anniversary.

"Guest at Your Table is designed to help participants learn about human rights issues and UUSC's unique approach to solving them. All Guest at Your Table gifts earn UUSC membership, so you'll continue to be part of our shared vision of a world free from oppression and injustice."

As we begin the program in November, you will hear about the programs Guest at Your Table will sponsor this year and how you can take part. I hope you will consider a contribution and do so in the name of the Congregation. You will become a member of the UUA, and KUUF will be credited as a sponsor of the UUSC. To learn more, check out: <http://www.uusc.org/welcome-to-guest-at-your-table>

Martha Woodward



It's that Elfin' Time Year Again!

This year KUUF will once again be participating in the Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice "2015 Kearsarge Community Christmas Project." The VNA is collecting Christmas Wish Lists from local families who are experiencing significant financial difficulties this holiday season. The children of each family are encouraged to list items of clothing they need as well as toys or gift items they would enjoy.

KUUF will be working to fill the Christmas Wish Lists of some of these local children in need. The Social Concerns Committee will be collecting donations toward this project during Coffee Hour each Sunday from November 6 through December 8. Your contributions will mean a great deal to these families right here in our neighborhood, which may not have a very Merry Christmas without your help.

Thank you! *Amy Dressler*



Parking at Proctor

Proctor has asked KUUF to park in the maintenance parking lot in the back of the church or to the left of the Maxwell Savage Hall. We can continue to use the small parking area over to the left of the Chapel, just off the circle – about 5 or 6 spaces. However, we should make them available for those who may have a problem walking from the other parking lots. There are maps of Proctor available. They will be on the table as you enter the Chapel on Sundays.



KUUF'S NEW LEGACY FUND

The KUUF Board of Trustees and Finance Committee are pleased to announce the establishment of an endowment fund for our fellowship's legacy that will be:

- 1) Invested according to Unitarian Universalist principles, social mindfulness and environmental preservation;
- 2) A long term resource for our church available to support new programs, education, retreats, outreach, community involvement, and so many other endeavors which are beyond the scope of our yearly budget;
- 3) Administered by the professional investment management team of the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF).

Contributing to this distinctive fund can be particularly appropriate for those who would like to make KUUF part of an estate planning bequest, and who wish to ensure their special gift to KUUF both follows fundamental beliefs of the Unitarian Universalist faith and is in the custody of highly trained, professional financial managers employed directly by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

In placing our primary endowment with the UUA Common Endowment Fund we will be joining hundreds of other UU fellowships who have combined their investments to make the UUCEF a significant and well respected caretaker of Unitarian Universalist legacy funds.

YOU WILL BE HEARING MORE ABOUT THIS UNIQUE FUND SOON.

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## KUUF HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 12

Social hour 5:30 to 6:30

Pot Luck Dinner @ 6:30

Home of Doug & Meredith Smith

80 Livingstone Lodge Road,

Enfield, NH

(Do not rely on GPS. It isn't accurate for this address!)

Sign up with Kathy Vashro @

[jvashro@gmail.com](mailto:jvashro@gmail.com) or 938-5476

Appetizer, Main Dish, Salad, Dessert

to serve 8 to 10 people

Non-alcoholic punch provided

Anything stronger-BYOB

Ride sharing available with advanced sign-up.

Kids and grown-ups all welcome!



## Getting to Know Our KUUF Congregation

Marion Allen and Kathy Vashro had the honor to meet with Susan Crickman at the Newbury Library for this 'Getting To Know our Congregation' series. Susan allowed us to interrupt her busy packing schedule as she and husband, Chuck, will be moving from her lovely mountain view Newbury home to a retirement community near Peterborough in December. Marion and Kathy decided to do an interview with Susan at this time because of her move and we wanted her to have an opportunity to share her story with you and you with her. Thank you so much Susan for your time and your story.

Susan is a first generation American with liberal thinking parents from Finland. In Susan's travels she has been able to meet some of her relatives who continue to live in Finland. Susan was raised in a home across the street from where nuns lived and she learned to address nuns and priests by 'sister' or 'father'... though she went to a radically segregated public school they did read from the Bible and said the Lord's Prayer. Susan with her interest in religion, ethics, philosophy, politics and joy of liberal religious youth group chose not to participate in the ritual of the Lord's Prayer and stuck to her beliefs all her life, without being baptized, dedicated, or christened. After HS, Susan went off to Oberlin College for one year and missing her future husband, decided to move back to DC where she married her teen sweetheart, Chuck, February 18, 1956.

Susan had a full life with 3 children, enjoying cooking, traveling and entertaining them with books and games during their

travels across the country four times, while blending Chuck's work with family vacations.

Though Susan wasn't planning on teaching in a church, her kids wanted her close, so she chose to co-teach at a UU church in Maryland figuring the kids would not be harmed by a liberal religious education. As they aged, one married a Christian, one married a Quaker and one married a Catholic. Even with all the religious differences within the family they continue to get along and spend time together here close to Newbury.

Susan finished her Bachelors and went on to completing her Masters in Library and Information Science giving her an opportunity to work and volunteer at libraries in Maryland and Newbury, NH. She taught children about the wonders of reading and owning a library card, creating children's programs and supervising children's library staff. She also volunteered at the Food Pantry when it opened in New London. Susan retired after 15 years and then made time to take piano, water exercises, volunteering at a UU church office and then decided she wanted to go back to substituting at various public libraries.

Susan enjoys being home focusing on her family, doing jigsaw puzzles, watching movies, reading, participating in book clubs and being active with the local League of Woman Voters. She has facilitated fair voting and other League projects that relate to her life's values and are reinforced by her participation in UU churches.

Susan has many blessings in her life and thoroughly cherishes and enjoys them from her liberal upbringing, wonderful long marriage (celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary soon), 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Susan hopes to continue her 'ties' to KUUF and you may find her at the Peterborough UU church or at the outstanding Peterborough library.

Thank you for giving us your time and your story in the middle of your packing. Congratulations on 60 years of marriage. We do hope to see you after December... Now, you may go back to your 'work' of packing and downsizing and moving into another stage of your life...