

The HEED April, 2023

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Services at 10AM Sundays

- April 2:** ***“Spiritual Dimensions of Music & Dance”*** **Marty Quinn**
- Following the 3rd, 4th and 7th Principles of our UUA, Marty will plan to bring a few percussion instruments which he will use as his accompaniment. He will be presenting up to 7 or 8 pieces based on the beautiful 'Hidden Words' of Baha'u'llah, speaking about the idea of finding the music to match the sentiment of each short, poetic, and ethical teaching expressed in these 148 or so statements written in 1858 by the banks of the Tigris River.
- April 9:** ***“An Easter Story”*** **Joyce Sheehan**
- Following the 3rd, 4th and 7th Principles of our UUA, Joyce will share an Easter Story writer by Kirk Wareham.
- April 16:** ***“Green Sanctuary Sunday”*** **Mike Fleming**
- Details TBA.
- April 23:** ***UUA “Flower Ceremony”*** **Joyce Sheehan**
- The UUA Flower Ceremony is an excellent opportunity for our Fellowship to join with Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout our world to express our commitment to our Sixth Principle: We Covenant to Affirm and Promote the Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All. Waiting for more info from our UUA.
- April 30:** ***“What it Means to Be Muslim, Here and Now”*** **Mohammed Ebrahim, Ph.D.**
- Following the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th Principles of our UUA, our speaker will be Mohammed Ibrahim, Ph.D., Imam and Director of the Islamic Society of the Seacoast area, ISSA. Mohammed will be focusing on current Islamic Faith.

Easter Breakfast

You are invited to attend an Easter potluck breakfast at DUUF at 9 o'clock on Easter Sunday morning at the Fellowship. Please bring breakfast food to share.

Easter egg roll

Everyone is invited to an Easter egg roll in the fellowship hall after the Easter Sunday morning service. This is an all ages activity. Please bring a hard boiled egg to be your entry in the egg roll. It can be colored or just decorated with marker pen. You just want to be able to recognize your own egg. May the best aimed egg win!



V is the Valley: Folk Music Concert

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 22, for a wonderful folk concert by Jack DesBois at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at DUUF. Jack sings songs from the Helen Hartness Flanders collection at Middlebury College. Freewill donations accepted.

Ms. Flanders (1890-1972) was a "song -catcher" who devoted her life to collecting and preserving New England folk music culture. From 1930 to the late 1950s she collected over 4000 field recordings of folk songs, fiddle tunes, and stories from the musicians she interviewed. Her collection is a treasure trove of living history.

Jack is happy to take questions after the concert.

Caring News

At the time of writing about a dozen people have responded to our offer of keeping their Emergency Contact information on file in the Fellowship office and also a photographed copy in the cell phones of Caring Committee members. While this remains purely optional, I would strongly urge those of you who haven't yet responded to do so. We hope we shall never need to use this information, but feel it is a wise precaution just in case something unexpected should happen.

Chris Rodgers

Meet the Candidate for Our Unitarian Universalist Presidency

"Minister, educator, scholar, vocalist, poet, fiber artist, and change-maker: that's how the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt describes herself. For more than 20 years Rev. Betancourt has served as a religious educator, minister, scholar, member of the UUA national staff and many volunteer committees at regional and denominational levels, and in the spring of 2017 as interim co-president of the UUA. As I read through her personal and professional background, I am amazed at how much she has accomplished in both in a relatively short time. I first encountered her as a panelist at Unitarian Universalist workshop I attended remotely and was so impressed with both her comments and the way she presented them. That assessment was reinforced as I attended her first presidential forum (again remotely) last month. It is unusual for there to be only one candidate officially seeking the office of UUA president, but that in no way diminishes the excellent credentials that Rev. Betancourt would bring to this position.

Consider her academic achievements: a B.S. from Cornell University with a concentration in ethnobiology, an M.A. and M. Phil. from Yale University in religious ethics and African American Studies, a Master of Divinity from Starr King, one of our two UU seminaries (an M.Div. is the typical degree for UU ministers) and a Ph.D. from Yale, again in religious ethics and African American Studies.

Consider her involvement our faith: interim minister for UU congregations in Berkeley and Fresno, CA; consulting minister in Storrs, CT; senior minister in Stockton, CA. Also, director of the UUA's Office of Racial and Ethics Concerns as well as a number of other UUA committees, leadership roles within the UU Ministers Association, and board of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship. In 2017, with the sudden departure of the then UUA president and several other senior staff members, Rev Betancourt joined two other colleagues in assuming joint leadership of our Association until a new president was elected. She currently serves on the staff of the UU Service Committee.

Consider her thoughts on Unitarian Universalism. Following are three examples, taken from her website.

Communal care. In these times, we are called to care for each other like never before. We can—and must—deepen our commitment and our skills in communal care, leaving no one outside the circle of our love.

Collaborative leadership. More than great individual leaders, we need to honor every single person's gifts, make space for the full breadth of voices in our midst, and practice leadership that is relational, empowering, and collaborative.

Facing the unknown together. Unitarian Universalism has a vital, liberating message for our time. Building trust and living our values in new ways can help us navigate the uncertain times ahead.

This HEED article gives a glimpse of Rev. Betancourt, but there is of course much more. Barring the unexpected, she will become our UUA president this July and hold that office for six years. She will be the public persona of our faith, the person most non-UUs will associate with Unitarian Universalism. I encourage you become familiar with this remarkable person. Below are several links to consider.

About Sofia Betancourt. <https://sofiabetancourt.com/about/>

UUA website about the presidential election and Sofia Betancourt. <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/2023-presidential-election>

Video recording of the first presidential form with Sofia Betancourt <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/2023-presidential-election> (continued on next page)

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The first link is her personal webpage, focusing on her candidacy for the UUA presidency. The second link is the official UUA website that provides information about the activities associated with her candidacy, including additional personal and professional information and upcoming forums and other activities. The third link is a video recording of the first presidential forum, which I attended via Zoom. I recommend starting with this third link: find a section where she is speaking and get a dynamic sense of this person. Even five minutes should give you a good sense of Rev Betancourt. As always, if you have questions related to this article or denominational affairs in general, please do not hesitate to contact me (tgp22@comcast.net).

Thomas Pistole
Denominational Affairs

POETRY CORNER

HEED is debuting POETRY CORNER this month with a poem by our late dear friend Edna O'Sullivan.

Spring Arrived

Edna O'Sullivan

Spring arrived this morning with the voice of a bird
Crisp tones of nature sounding in the quiet dawn air
The sky blue awakening of mother Earth, herald by a tiny bird

Birds bear witness from the change from day to night
And then carry on, on open wings, the gift of morning light
Sweetened for the awakening ear, by the voice of God in flight

The gift of Spring is a recurring offer
A call, without fail, to begin anew
Presented, on wing, from God to you



**DUUF Officers, Chairpersons and Council Coordinators and
Members of Committees and Councils for 2022-2023
Under 2018 By Laws**

OFFICERS

President: Chip Noon
Vice President: Larry Vogelmann
Treasurer: Jen Pavlik
Secretary: Betty Nordgren

COMMITTEES

Program: Joyce Sheehan (Chair), Chip Noon, Sue Noon, Bob Sheehan
Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik
House and Grounds: House: Jonathan Babon (Chair), Sarge Legard, John Macri;
Dottie's Garden: Sarah Tambling; Rentals: Maria Isaak
Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Deb Johnson, Tom Reichheld
Membership: Bob Sheehan (Chair); Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers (Coordinator),
Betty Crepeau, Michael O'Sullivan, Joyce Sheehan, Chip Noon

COUNCILS

Nominations: Michael O'Sullivan (Coordinator); Bob Sheehan
Music Council: Maria Isaak (Coordinator)
Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator), Nick Isaak, Jake Kritzer
Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator), Betty Crepeau
**Communication &
Outreach:** Brett Gibson (Webmaster), Stefanie Griffin (HEED Editor)
**Denominational
Affairs:** Thomas Pistole (Coordinator)



Our Mission Statement

The real test of our religion is the way we live our lives. The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism:

We seek to be a place in which each person's unique worth and beliefs are acknowledged and respected and where each person's voice may be heard – a place in which each may freely explore his or her own spiritual path.

We join with others in reaching out to make the world more just, and commit ourselves to caring for the earth and all that makes up the web of life.

We strive to be a source of inspiration, a forum for intellectual exchange, a wellspring of comfort to those in need and a nurturing, supportive community for each other and our children.

Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

HEED is published by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durham, New Hampshire

20 Madbury Road Road • Durham, New Hampshire 03824 • www.uudurham.com