

The H E E D

October 2023

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



African-themed Dinner and Documentary



Jonathan Babon and Ben Isaak traveled to Tanzania in July/August 2023 to improve the building and grounds of the Engutoto Daycare Center and filmed a documentary about the experience. Ben has filmed and edited the documentary and is excited to share it with our community. Join us for an evening of African food and music, as we raise money to further the mission of the Engutoto school. For tickets to the October 21st Documentary Premiere event at DUUF, visit: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/tanzaniafilmpremiere>.

Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays

October 1, Stories ... truth beyond factcheck

Presenter: Rev. Maren Tirabassi

Inspired by her personal shift in book publishing from theological resources to mystery novels, Maren reflects on the power of stories to carry the conversation of justice and inclusion, healing and hope, into a broader conversation in different ways than non-fiction and research. From parables, legends, fables, and childhood book favorites to thriller movies and even rom coms emerge new ways of understanding life and acting in compassion for the world.

Maren C. Tirabassi is a poet who moonlights as a cozy mystery author and a United Church of Christ pastor. She is author of twenty-three books – this year the just-released *Death in the Woods*, second in “The Rev and Rye Cozy Mystery series,” and a soon-to-be-published translation into Swahili and Luganda of the earlier *Transgendering Faith*. After 42 happy years of ordained ministry, she loves being a supply preacher and visiting an amazing assortment of communities of faith.

October 8, Pedaling Positivity

Presenter: Brent Bell

This summer Dr. Bell drove a pedicab in Portsmouth, NH where he attempted to inspire ‘pay it forward’ campaigns’ while studying reciprocity. How does one inspire kindness? Can you change the world one pedicab ride at a time?

Brent Bell, PhD. Is a faculty member in UNH’s Outdoor Leadership and Management program.

October 15, Building Dreams in Africa: An Engutoto Update

Presenter: Jonathan Babon

In December 2022, Jonathan traveled to Africa for the first time. He fell in love with the people, food, culture and scenery. While volunteering at the Engutoto Day-care Center, he became passionate about improving the lives of the students and staff. This led him to return to Tanzania in July 2023 to build a school playground and update the classrooms. These projects were funded in part through generous donations from the DUUF community.

Jonathan Babon is a photographer, traveler, jack-of-all-trades, and outdoor enthusiast. He has been attending DUUF for 10 years and is currently enjoying his role as the House and Grounds Chair. He lives in Durham with his wife Hilary, children Krysta and Thomas, and rescue pup, Molly.

October 22. Whither Unitarian Universalism?: Covenants, Accountability & Shared Values

Presenter: Deborah Johnson

In June 2024, UUA General Assembly delegates will hold a final vote on a modification of the UUA Bylaws--one that significantly alters our current Principles and Purposes. We will discuss these pending changes and their significance for the future of Unitarian Universalism. You could also learn whether you tend to be an Ostrich, a Chicken Little, a Cassandra, or a Skilled Sailor! *(see background links in President's Report)*

Deborah Johnson is a psychologist-historian trained in the philosophy of science (M.Sc.), experimental psychology (M.A.) and history of psychology (Ph.D.). She was a faculty member at the University of Southern Maine for 23 years. Since retiring she has remained active in the American Psychological Association (APA), and now serves as Historian of two APA divisions. Deb and her husband John have been Durham Fellowship members for 32 years.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place again this year on Saturday, December 2nd. We plan to have soups and a modest White Elephant Sale, so be thinking about what you might want to donate or cook. We'll be asking for signups for cooking in November.

The Fair Committee
(Dawn, Deb, Carol, Chris)

Seacoast Family Promise

Just a reminder that there are lots of ways to support Seacoast Family Promise, a group that "brings families home" that we have been supporting for many years. Cooking meals, donating items for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets (signups will go out later), gas cards (Betty C. will be collecting closer to the holidays), and cash donations to support the expansion of the Joshua House so that they can double the number of families in residence. See Dawn or Betty C. for more details.

One smaller ask is for home baked cookies for a Dec 16th event (pictures with Santa for the SFP children, past and present).

Lastly, SFP Director Pati Frew Walters has worked with HUD and two local developers John and Maggie Randolph, to get SFP families rental priority on 6 of the 45 units in a new tiny home development in Dover. This is a wonderful new project that begins to address the lack of affordable housing in the community.

October 29, Honoring Our Ancestors

Presenters: *Mary Doane and Chris Chance*

On this special Sunday, we'll honor our ancestors, and we invite everyone to bring a symbolic memento of an ancestor, who comes to your mind and heart to be remembered. It may be a photograph, a piece of cloth (for someone who loved to quilt), some blades of grass (for someone who loved to stroll through a meadow)... whatever serves as a reminder for you! The mementos will be shared with our community by temporarily placing them on memory tables around the room. In sharing our ancestral gifts with one another, perhaps we'll recognize our abundance and inter-connectedness over time and space - a beautiful harvest even as we anticipate the coming winter!

Mary Doane is a professional musician and a Unitarian Universalist minister. She serves as the Director of Music for our Fellowship.

Chris Chance is a mother, singer, dancer, lover of the expressive arts, compassion warrior, and curious spirit. She is drawn toward activities that allow and support opening of the heart, spontaneity, and deep play within community. Over the years she has enjoyed participating in various UU settings in roles ranging from Adult RE coordinating to Children's Choir directing to multi-generational Yoga Dance initiating. She is also a practicing local Clinical Psychologist, with long-term interest in how we explore authentic identity and transform despair into wisdom.

Fall Cleanup Day

Jon Babon is planning to have a fall cleanup event for the garden and grounds at the Fellowship on

Saturday, October 28th at 9:30 A.M.

Bring your good spirit, garden gloves, rakes, lopping shears, tarps, etc. as we prepare for a fall cleanup of the grounds and gardens at the Fellowship. There will be leaves to rake, brush to move, vines to pull and pruning to be done. What could be more fun? Donuts and cider will be served by the Socials Committee as a thank you; and get a chance to converse after the work is finished.



Pot-Luck Lunch

Socials Committee is pleased to invite everyone to enjoy a potluck lunch on Sunday, October 29. There will be a brief coffee hour after the service to allow us time to set up. And then we will enjoy the tasty food that our excellent DUUF cooks provide.

Composting Clean-up After Coffee Hour and an Invitation!

Thank you everyone for participating in our composting efforts. Both the cups and plates that we use are compostable and are brought every week to the commercial composting available at the Durham town transfer station. We are lucky to have this opportunity available to us.

Thank you also to everyone who helps set up, clean up, and wash up after Sunday coffee hour, and after our potlucks. As the old saying goes, many hands make light work.

Finally, Deb Johnson, Tom Reichheld and I invite you to join the Socials Committee. We are the ones in charge of food and fun!

—Carol Bullivant

Unitarian Universalism?



Last January the UUA's Article II Study Commission, proposed that the UU denomination shift away from its current framework of UU Principles and Sources, endorsing instead a revised framework of "Purposes and Covenant". In June 2023 this proposal, with a few amendments (see below) was awarded preliminary approval by delegates at the UUA General Assembly. A vote of final approval for these changes will be held at the June 2024 GA.*

Last Sunday, in a service led by Betty Crepeau, we discussed our current seven UU principles, and what they have meant in our lives. These principles have been eliminated in the new framework; replaced by seven single-word values (Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity and Justice, building on the foundation of Love). Alongside brief descriptions of each of these "shared values" associated covenants indicate the actions we should take in order to accountably live these values.

There are many other changes in the "Purposes and Covenant" document (e.g., in the purposes section, the purpose of the UUA is characterized as "to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love"; our current six sources have been replaced by a paragraph on "Inspirations"; in the Inclusion section our "welcoming of all persons" has been modified to "all persons who share our values"). This proposed new framework for Unitarian Universalism is viewed by some as a refreshing, revitalization of our tradition and by others as presenting a distorted and/or disturbing revision of that tradition.

In our October 22nd Sunday program, we will be discussing these changes and their potential implications for the Durham Fellowship. I hope you will join us in this important discussion.

Sincerely, Deb Johnson

**According to UUA bylaws, the Study Commission will prepare by January 31 a final proposal, taking the decisions of the 2023 General Assembly into account. This is what will be presented for a 2/3 vote to approve at GA 2024. Note however, that the bylaws also allow for the UUA Board, or the 15 congregations to propose additional amendments. These amendments would have to pass by a 3/4 majority at GA 2024 to be incorporated.*

(see proposed revisions following this page)

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

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Proposed Bylaws Revision of Article II as Amended at the UUA General Assembly, June 21–25, 2023

Please send any corrections to: savethe7principles@gmail.com

NOTE: Crossed out text indicates text to be deleted; underlined text is to be inserted.

~~Section C-2.2.~~ C-2.1. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association ~~shall~~ will devote its resources to and ~~exercise its corporate~~ use its organizational powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. ~~The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.~~

Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation and spiritual development, to heal historic injustices, to support and encourage the creation of new Unitarian Universalist communities, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

DELETE THE 7 PRINCIPLES:

~~Section C-2.1. Principles.~~

~~We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote~~

- ~~• The inherent worth and dignity of every person;~~
- ~~• Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;~~
- ~~• Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;~~
- ~~• A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;~~
- ~~• The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;~~
- ~~• The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;~~
- ~~• Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.~~

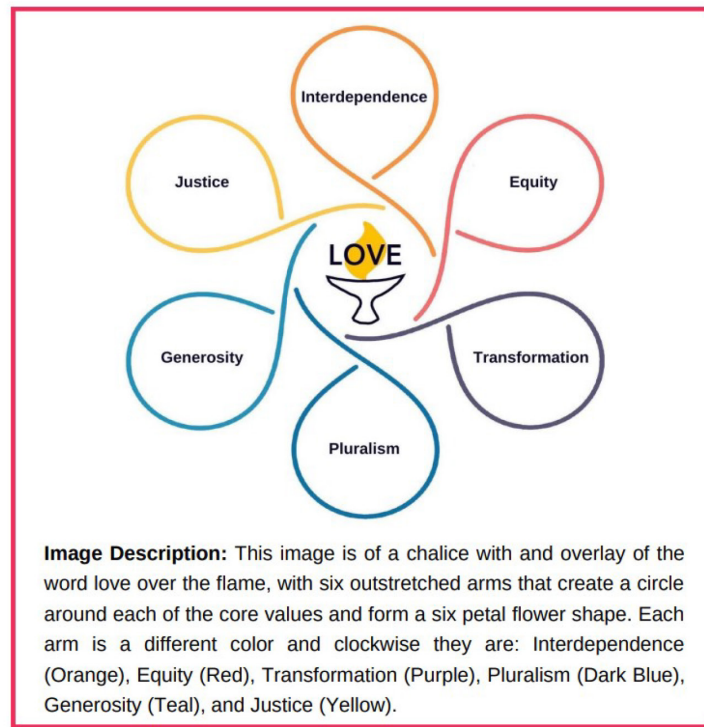
REPLACE PRINCIPLES WITH:

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:



Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

With humility and reverence, we covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation, creating and nurturing sustainable relationships of repair, mutuality and justice.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregation [sic] and the society at large.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

DELETE SOURCES:

Section C-2.1. Principles. (continued)

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

- ~~• Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;~~
- ~~• Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.~~

~~Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.~~

REPLACE SOURCES WITH INSPIRATIONS:

Section C-2.3. Inspirations.

As Unitarian Universalists, we proclaim that direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are a primary source of inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform our lives. We draw upon, and are inspired by, sacred, secular, and scientific understandings that help us make meaning and live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which these understandings were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the experiences that move us, aware of the religious ancestries we inherit, and enlivened by the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Section C-2.3 2.4 Inclusion.

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. ~~and~~ We commit to being an association of congregations structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

Section C ~~2.4~~ 2.5 Freedom of Belief ~~belief~~.

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to
~~Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief~~
~~which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian heritages~~ our Unitarian
Universalist heritage. Congregations may establish ~~or to conflict with any~~
statements of purpose, covenants, ~~and~~ ~~or~~ bonds of union so long as they do not
require that members adhere to a particular creed ~~used by any congregation~~
~~unless such is used as a creedal test.~~

THE TWO FREEDOM OF BELIEF CLAUSE STATEMENTS WITHOUT MARKUP:

Current bylaws:

Section C-2.4. Freedom of Belief.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test.

Proposed replacement:

C-2.5 Freedom of belief.

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

Resources:

www.savethe7principles.org

UUA Bylaws – https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/uua_bylaws_10312022.pdf

Back up link, since bylaws change: UUA Bylaws and Rules webpage –

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/bylaws>

“Article II Study Report, 2021-2023” – www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf

GA document: “Article II Proposal (amendments listed separately below)” –

<https://www.uua.org/files/2023-06/Article%20%20Package.pdf>

DUUF Officers, Chairpersons and Council Coordinators, and Members of Committees and Councils for 2023-2024 - Under 2018 By-Laws

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Chip Noon
Vice President: Larry Vogelman
Treasurer: Jen Pavlik
Secretary: Julie Lipari

COMMITTEES

Program: Thomas Pistole (Chair), Hilary Babon, Bob Bullivant, Mary Doane and Sylvia Foster
Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik
House and Grounds: House: Jonathan Babon (Chair), John Macri; Grounds: (TBD); Dottie's Garden: Sarah Tambling; Rentals: Maria Isaak
Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Deb Johnson, Tom Reichheld
Membership: Michael O'Sullivan (Chair), Rachel Legard; Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers (Coordinator), Chip Noon, Rachel Legard and Michael O'Sullivan

COUNCILS

Nominations: Michael O'Sullivan (Coordinator)
Music Council: Maria Isaak (Coordinator)
Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator), Nick Isaak
Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator), Betty Crepeau
Communication & Outreach: Brett Gibson (Webmaster), Bob Bullivant (HEED Editor) Marketing Subcommittee: Julie Lipari, Hilary Babon, Chip Noon, Susan Noon
Denominational Affairs: Thomas Pistole (Coordinator)



Durham Day... Jon & Chip...in the rain



**Durham Day
Rachel Legard and friend**

President's Report

We have entered the new Fellowship Year in high gear. I'm trying to keep up!

After our last board meeting, a couple of people suggested that we have a special board meeting to address communication, governance, and board/Fellowship culture. Thomas Pistole reminded us that the UUA is particularly set up to help with these issues, so Julie Lipari and I spoke with Hilary



The Fellowship Sanctuary

Allen, our Congregational Consultant. She indicated that she has done this kind of work before with other UU congregations and gave us a few dates that she was available to come up from Massachusetts. So, I've picked October 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 as our meeting time. I'm inviting not only all board members, committee members, and council members, but also anyone else in the congregation who would like to participate. You'll get more information soon.

November will bring us another special meeting of the Fellowship members to vote on the proposed by-laws. The board recommended that they be presented to the full membership

for a decision. More information on that will be coming soon as well.

Speaking of the Fellowship in high gear, we had a flat tire regarding the new website. Luckily our spare was not the donut kind, but a real tire: we have chosen SC Digital of Portsmouth to help us out with this project and they are already at work getting us design proposals and



Mary Doane & Thomas Pistole *(continued on next page)*

September Pot Luck

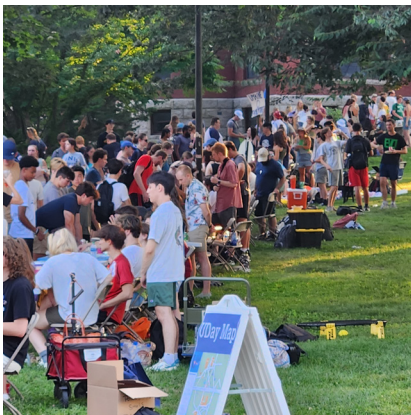


President's Report *(cont.)*

content suggestions. Anyone who wants to be involved with this should let me know and we'll get you on board. The two community events that we have participated in so far were Durham Day and University Day. Lots and lots of people came by our table and learned about our Fellowship. Bob Pavlik was at Uday and showed us how it's really done! He is an amazing presenter at these events. We should video him so we can all learn how! Which brings me to my next topic: we need more people to help at these community events. Julie suggested 1 hour shifts so that we don't get burned out. Or maybe it should be 2 hours. We'll work that out. It really would take the burden off a few people if we could spread the work out! Questions, comments, ideas?



**University Day
Hilary, Julie, Chip**



**University Day
(partial view)**



**Betty Crepeau
September 24th**



Marty Quinn, guest speaker, musician

The Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, "The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities."

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The seven Principles and six Sources of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.