

The H E E D

December 2023

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays

December 3. What do we want to learn?

Bob Pavlik

We will continue our somewhat indirect dialog with the Fellowship's youth. Bob is a long-time member of our Fellowship and a key component of our religious exploration program.

December 10. Seeking the Spirit of the Child

Sylvia Foster

In these days when we are struggling with the turmoil in the world, we see that practicing resilience and being generous are all good ways to carry on and be engaged in building the world we want to live in. In this service you'll meet people who changed the world around them through their simple gifts. Sylvia has presented several programs at our Fellowship. She is a member of our program committee.

December 17. Winter Solstice

A program of sharing

Long-time Fellowship members and friends will remember the evening solstice celebrations at the home of Dottie Oliver and Larry Vogelmann. Although we cannot replicate those special moments, we can acknowledge and celebrate this special time of the year. The winter solstice occurs when either of the Earth's poles reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun. It is the shortest day (and longest night) of the year. Everyone is invited to share a poem,

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DUUF Soup to Go Sale

Nineteen DUUF households will enjoy delicious home-made soup this December. We devised "soup to go" as a response to COVID. It replaced our formerly popular soup café. It was so popular that we have continued our new tradition.

This year we offered a variety of 11 soups including vegetarian, vegan, and meat-based.

I know there are other great soup makers out there. Someone said at a service that Unitarians are great talkers. Well, my experience is that they are also great cooks. We are grateful for all the offerings this year. and we welcome your offerings next year. Enjoy your soup!

Thank you,

*Carol Bullivant and
Deb Johnson*

December Programs *(cont. from Page 1)*

reading, anecdote, song, even an object. Because we are celebrating the solstice within the parameters of a Sunday service, please keep your sharing short so all who have something to share may do so.

December 24. Christmas Eve Service

Members, friends, and visitors

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Please join us for an evening program, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be lots of music and a special activity involving members of the congregation.

December 31. New Year's Eve

There will be no service. Our next program will be on January 7.

Looking ahead.

On January 14, the Rev. Kendra Ford, recently retired minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter, will be our guest minister.

Thomas Pistole

Many Thanks !!!



I asked, and you answered. Thank you to Sue Noon, Chris and Frank Rodgers, Julie Lipari, and Emily Friedrichs. They all answered the call to help with coffee-making. “Many hands make light work” is an old saying. In this case, I truly believe it will be the case.

Fellowship members need to thank them too. What do we enjoy most after the service? Our hot drinks and snacks or our conversation? It’s probably a toss-up. Both are a hallmark of Sundays at DUUF and without many helping hands our services wouldn’t happen. Thank you. everyone!

Carol Bullivant



Deb, Chris, and Carol prepping for the Sale of Soup (and smiling)



Conversations about Death



Sometimes you just need to take a chance. I had been wanting for some time to offer a program based on the Death Café model, one that has been offered around 20,000 times over the last 12 years. I also wanted to see if we could re-introduce a program on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, something we have not done for several years due to low attendance. I decided to combine these two. We met in the Fellowship Hall, since this program is typically offered with coffee or tea,

and cake. I hoped for seven people and set up 14 chairs, so people could choose alternate seating. When we began, we had 23 participants and had to keep adding chairs!

Death Cafés and their variations are open and frank discussions about death. As always, sharing is optional. They are group-directed; there is no fixed agenda. They are discussion groups rather than grief support or counseling sessions. People shared many things, including some

truly heart-felt stories. We abided by several working covenants:

- speak from your own perspective
- listen to the voices of others
- be respectful of people as they share, at times, difficult issues
- feel free to share ideas or information you may learn in this session, but not the names of people associated with them
- seek clarification, if needed, but without judgment

As we closed, several people asked when the next session would be and offered variations on the traditional format. Clearly this is something we will be including in future program planning.

Thomas Pistole



President's Message

Adam Grant, a professor of Organizational Psychology at the Wharton School of Business at The University of Pennsylvania once said, "If an organization values innovation, you can assume it's safe to speak up with new ideas, leaders will listen, and your voice matters." John Maynard Keynes, writing about the same subject, noted that "The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones."

And this is precisely where I find myself when I think about the proposed Article II revisions prepared by the UUA Study Commission. But first, let me say that I was, like most people, reluctant to dive into this new proposal. I thought it was complicated, wordy, and convoluted. But I gave myself a talking to in the manner of, "Don't reject new ideas as many older people often do." Having been a younger person who fought hard against the Old Guard of all stripes, I never wanted to become "one of them."

So, I walked to the deep end and jumped in. And that's how I came up with the two quotes above. Because I had to find water wings to keep me afloat in all the rhetoric that represents the deep end of the Article II pool. By now, if you've followed our Sunday program devoted to Article II, you have some idea what the changes represent. And you may be as perplexed as I. Essentially, and challenge me if you disagree, adopting the proposed Article II means eliminating the UU Seven Principles (see page 7 of this HEED) and demoting the importance of the Sources of Our Living Tradition as Unitarian Universalists.

But there seems to be more . . . I am perplexed, for example, by the hardening of hearts that I feel are exhibited in the discussions following the resignation of former UUA president Peter Morales (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/04/03/turmoil-over-diversity-strikes-unitarian-universalist-association/>) and (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Morales), and the controversy over censure of the Rev. Dr. Todd Ecklof by the UU Ministers Association following Ecklof's 2019 distribution of his Gadfly Papers which analyzed strands of "political correctness" in the UUA (<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/jul/19/unitarian-universalist-congregation-in-spokane-spl/>)

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

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Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Deb Johnson, Tom Reichheld
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Denominational Affairs: Thomas Pistole (Coordinator)

President's Message *(cont. from Page 4)*

(there are many other sources..., too many to list). If one reads posts by the UUA (<https://www.uua.org/>) compared to posts by the 5th Principle Project (<https://fifthprincipleproject.org/>) one will get wildly varying perspectives on the proposed Article II, including inflammatory statements by some of the writers.

In my mind, all this comes down to a need for members and friends of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to expand our own discussions about the proposed Article II since there will be a final vote on acceptance next June at the UUA General Assembly...a vote which, if held today, would split congregations, perhaps irrevocably.

Now I know none of us wishes to be seen as someone whose age militates against new ideas, nor who refuses to consider the potential negative impact of new ideas on long-held traditions. And, if I consider the last sentence seriously, that makes me a card-carrying UU if there ever was one. So, I'm opening this up to all of you. And I'm asking some of you to help me set up a method for in-depth study and debate over the Article II proposal so we can make an informed decision before the next General Assembly.

And Happy Holidays to you all!

CHRISTMAS
concert



SUSIE BURKE | KENT ALLYN | STEVE ROY

Saturday, December 2 | Doors 6:30PM | Show 7PM

DURHAM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
20 MADBURY RD, DURHAM, NH

TICKETS \$20 / \$10 FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN
--- Cash only at the Door ---

Longtime musical compatriots Susie Burke and Kent Allyn join with sideman extraordinaire Steve Roy to bring their popular Christmas concert to several venues throughout the Seacoast. From centuries-old carols to new takes on holiday classics, this trio presents songs of the season with energy, flair, humor, and heart.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BURKESURETTE

Three of New England's finest present an evening of holiday music and folk favorites, as longtime musical compatriots Susie Burke and Kent Allyn join with sideman extraordinaire Steve Roy to bring their popular Christmas concert to several venues throughout the Seacoast.

Over twenty years ago, singer and guitarist Susie Burke and her husband, guitarist, mandolinist and composer David Surette, began a series of annual holiday concerts with pianist, guitarist, and bassist Kent Allyn, and the shows soon became a beloved part of many people's holiday tradition. David passed away in December 2021, leaving very large shoes to fill, and is deeply missed by so many. This year, Susie and Kent called on multi-instrumentalist Steve Roy, one of David's great pals and very favorite musical collaborators, to join them for four holiday shows. The concerts will feature selections from Susie, David, and Kent's holiday CD release "Wonderland," alongside a repertoire ranging from centuries-old traditional carols to

unique takes on modern holiday classics. With influences and styles ranging from folk to jazz, Celtic to rock, blues to Broadway and beyond, this trio presents seasonal repertoire with heart, humor, flair, and energy.

Susie Burke is a singer, guitarist, educator and songwriter from southern Maine. Well-versed in a variety of contemporary and traditional folk styles, Susie is best known for her work in a duo with her husband, multi-instrumentalist and composer David Surette, with whom she recorded seven albums and performed for thirty-five years. Reviews in the Boston Globe have said of Burke's singing, "her dark crystal voice is transporting", and "her phrasing is unerringly devoted to the lyric". Susie continues to perform and teach throughout New England and beyond, bringing a collaborative and joyful style to sharing music.

Kent Allyn is an in-demand accompanist and studio musician, as well as a key member of several groups, including Ben Baldwin & the Big Note,

and the Renovators. His stellar bass, piano, and electric guitar work have been heard on numerous recordings, Susie and David's among them.

Steve Roy is a multi-instrumentalist from Eliot, Maine who plays and teaches upright bass, mandolin, fiddle, guitar, and ukulele. Fluent in a vast array of musical styles from bluegrass to jazz to heavy metal, he has toured with many of the acoustic world's top acts, and is well known locally for his work with numerous groups such as Old Hat Stringband, Jazzputin and the Jug Skunks, High Range, and Steve and Dave Play Dead, his Grateful Dead tribute duo with David Surette.

In addition to performing many concerts, David Surette taught countless students over the years with his warm and winsome style. This year's concerts will feature a guest number performed by some of David's students, several of whom are now teacher/performers themselves.

Dec 2 at 7 PM Durham NH United Universalist Fellowship 20 Madbury Road; all tickets AT THE DOOR, cash only, please.

Dec 9 at 7 PM at Concord NH Community Music School, 23 Wall Street, tickets: <https://www.ccmusicschool.org/event/holiday-folk-concert/>

Dec 15 and Dec 16 at 7 PM. Concerts in conjunction with Kittery Art Association at Kittery Point, ME United Church, 23 Pepperrell Road tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-concert-series-with-susie-burke-kent-allyn-steve-roy-tickets-759702198727?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR1U7UgyPpxds-NERSdF4X1-35AC1WHrPOw9-BPU92NyAcii8wVNdl0dVpI>

'Tis the Season

At the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we hardly ever talk about finances...you know, that concept that keeps the lights on, the heat radiating, and the water flowing. Well, hardly ever. This will be one of those “hardly” times: as the end of the year draws near, remember that there is a provision in the IRS code that allows citizens to write off contributions to not-for-profit organizations when filling out their income tax forms. Our Fellowship is such an organization. And so, those of you who may take advantage of itemizing your deductions should remember the Fellowship in your end-of-year contributions. (And those of you who do not itemize are more than welcome to send along an end-of-year contribution as well.) I remember John Macri gave a speech about contributing to the Fellowship...I'm going to have to get his notes and make one myself. Of course, if we get plenty of contributions before the end of the year, I won't have to make a speech. Many of you may appreciate that...

But please, contributions are in no way required for membership or attendance, so do not in any way feel pressured to give anything. There is no list of contributors published. Everyone is welcome to attend the services!

And thank you for being a part of this community.



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.