

# The H E E D

## January 2024

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



### Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays

#### **January 7 Embracing Authenticity: A Journey to Find Your Center. Rev. Mary Doane**

Join us for a service that invites reflection on the essence of authentic living. In contrast to traditional resolutions, we explore the idea of spending a year embracing our true selves and discovering our core. Rather than striving for perfection, the focus shifts to intentional living—allowing the authentic voice within to guide our beliefs, experiences, and pursuits. This service challenges conventional notions of New Year resolutions, inviting you to contemplate what it truly means to find your center and embark on a journey of self-discovery in the coming year.

#### **January 14 Rev. Kendra Ford**

Rev. Ford, retired minister of the Exeter UU Church, shares a compelling narrative of parenting during protests within the wild rice habitats of northern Minnesota. Her message delves into the delicate balance of desperation, discipline, and the spiritual journey of nonviolent disobedience. Currently engaged in the world of nonviolent civil disobedience, Rev. Ford's unique perspective promises to ignite thoughtful reflection and meaningful dialogue. Join us for an enriching experience, navigating the realms of social consciousness and spiritual exploration.

#### **January 21 Unitarian Universalist values in the public square. Mo Baxley**

Mo Baxley serves as the Executive Director of UU Action of New Hampshire. She will provide an update on programs and activities of this organization. As their website notes: "Social change doesn't happen alone!"

*(cont. on Page 2)*

### Cookie Swap!



**Sunday afternoon, January 21, at 3 PM** is the date and time of a new DUUF activity: a cookie swap. Three weeks into January, and we will be ready to fight the gloom of winter with some delicious, home-made cookies.

Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies to share, and a container to bring your prizes home with you.

Looking forward to seeing our bakers there!

*Carol Bullivant*



## January Programs *(cont. from Page 1)*

and “Amplifying Unitarian Universalist voices and values in the public square throughout New Hampshire and beyond.”

### January 28 Under a New Sun. Sylvia Foster

Sylvia and two local Arts in Action students join us to tell the story of a community-to-school project funded by the Racial Unity Team. The work promotes the values of fair, equitable treatment for all by inviting students to connect with artists, poets, writers, podcasters, and more who inspire them to express their dreams of changes they want to see in the world. The Racial Unity Team artist-mentors of color tell their stories of how the arts have saved them and their communities from despair. As Octavia Butler wrote: “There’s nothing new under the sun, but there are new suns.”

### Preview for February

This month our own Betty Crepeau will offer a service. Also Rev. Craig Werth, until recently the minister at the Nottingham Community Church (UU) and a well-known musician, will be returning to our Fellowship.

*Thomas Pistole*



## Holiday Fair Update

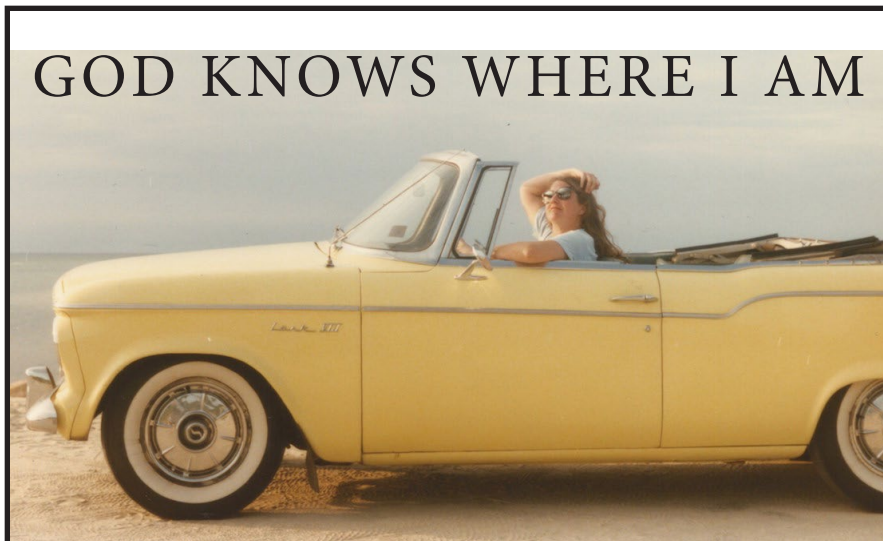
The Holiday Fair was again a success, bringing in \$1100 (\$750 from soup and \$350 from White Elephants). Thanks to all who helped in any way (cooking, cleaning, buying, donating). Special thanks to Deb and Carol for organizing the soups, Rod and John for energetic cleaning up, and Chris and Frank for set-up and staffing tables. This year, we donated our profits equally to End 68 Hours of Hunger and Seacoast Family Promise - Joshua House fund.

Keep our next fair in mind as you consider what to do with no longer needed items, that are still in good and sellable condition. You can bring them to the Fellowship any time and put them in the unfinished portion of the basement on the wall parallel to Madbury Road (there is a sign for White Elephants and a pile of current donations).

*Holiday Fair Committee  
Dawn, Deb, Chris, Carol,  
and Joyce*



## Oyster River Community Read Movie Night - March 4th



Once again, we are partnering with Oyster River Community Reads to view a movie of significance. Nancy Lambert, our ORCR connection, writes “Next year, the Oyster River Community Read is offering a series of programs around the topic of poverty. [We are asking DUUF to host] the documentary ‘God Knows Where I Am,’ which addresses the topic of mental illness and homelessness. It tells the story of a woman who was released from the NH State Hospital without supervision, and she refused to allow them to notify her family of her release. She squatted in an unoccupied house and eventually starved to death.”

**The viewing at DUUF will be Monday, March 4th at 6:30PM, and will be followed by a discussion.**

You can read a review of the movie here <https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/god-knows-where-i-am-2017>

Details of their full program on poverty will be available here <https://www.orcread.org/>.

*Social Action Committee  
Dawn Meredith and Betty Crepeau*

## 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.



## President's Message

Last summer, Betty Crepeau with Deb Johnson's assistance, led us through a Nominal Group Process that got us to 4 major goals for this year. They are:

1. To be a presence at community events
2. To hire an RE director and select UU RE curricula such as Tapestry and OWL
3. To improve our signage so it is up to date and accurately reflects the values and activities of the Fellowship.
4. To create a welcome packet for new people, have a person to greet them, and follow-up with new faces and keep them in the loop.
  - Reach out to newcomers, grad students, new faculty, and marginalized groups.
  - Let people know UUism is a different kind of religion.

Numbers 1, 3, and 4 are being worked on, while Number 2 is still in the planning stages. We'll be reporting on all of these as the year progresses.

Meanwhile, it looks like we need a few new committee members to help with other tasks: 2 or 3 Sunday Greeters to stand at the front door, open it, and welcome everyone to the service; 2 or 3 more Marketing Subcommittee members who would like to help Julie and me with our newest committee efforts; and someone, or some few, who would be interested in reviving the Circle Dinners. I didn't participate in our Fellowship's dinner program, but at South Church we used to have 4 couples gather every other month, with a rotating guest list. Maybe for our group it should be 3 couples? What do you think? Who can step up for these efforts?

And as usual, please feel free to send me your comments about what you observe and would like to see more or less of. [chipnoon@gmail.com](mailto:chipnoon@gmail.com)

Happy New Year!

## 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 well-spring 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**

### **BOARD OFFICERS**

President: Chip Noon  
Vice President: Larry Vogelmann  
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, Chip Noon  
Denominational Affairs: Thomas Pistole (Coordinator)

### **A Holiday Visit**



In December Donna and I visited with our long-time Director of Music, Carmen Buford-Paige. Carmen lives with her daughter Virginia (Ginny) in Dover. We also reconnected with two of her other daughters—Laurine and Carolyn, who were visiting for the holidays. What an enjoyable time. Carmen has limited mobility and is a person of few words, but she is totally “with it.” Ginny, who has also faced some serious medical issues seems to be doing very well. We had planned for a short visit but ended up staying much longer. At 91, Carmen is still going strong.

*Thomas Pistole*

# Christmas Eve 2023



The candle-lit faces of Christmas Eve attendees who listened to Mary Doane playing Silent Night



Joseph and Mary were played by James and Julia Kinsey



Many attendees participated in the pageant

The 2023 Christmas Eve service rekindled a much-loved Fellowship tradition. The program on Sunday, December 24, facilitated by Thomas Pistole, was filled with the singing of many carols, the impromptu Christmas pageant for which Donna Pistole created the costumes and props, and the spontaneous return of attendees to the sanctuary to pass the flaming candle while Mary Doane was playing Silent Night. It was a joyous celebration.