



The H E E D

May 2024

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Nominations to the Board & Committees

When the Durham Unitarian Universalist calendar moves to April then May, the nominations committee gets busy to be sure key positions are filled for the coming year. Most of the key positions are filled, with the exception of Denominational Affairs. In fact, many people have graciously agreed to continue in the positions they have previously held, and the nominations committee is currently putting forward only three new names (Tom Reichheld for Membership Chair, Rachel Legard for Vice President, and Sarge Legard for Nominations Chair.). If you are interested in Denominational affairs, Thomas Pistole has held this position for several years and is a good source of information about this job.

Speaking of Tom Pistole, thankfully he is willing to do another year as the

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Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays

May 5 – Reflections in Seaglass – Rev. Mary Doane

“You can stumble across the small pieces of beauty, wisdom and truth that surround us all the time, but to find them in earnest takes training and intentionality.”

Mary Doane, our dedicated music director, plays a crucial role in shaping the atmosphere of our Sunday services. We believe in the power of music to inspire, uplift, and connect individuals on their spiritual journeys. Collaborating with local speakers, artists, and leaders, Mary contributes to the program each week using a diverse selection of music. Her selections align with our principles of justice, equity, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

May 12 – Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion: History & Celebration. Sylvia Foster

The creator of the Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion wanted the ritual to reflect ideals of community and to invite the acceptance of the beauty of diversity found in the natural world and the beauty of all of us as related, yet each unique in myriad ways. This ritual celebrates Unitarian minister Norbert Capek's belief in the inherent dignity and worth of every person as well as his purpose of reminding us of the interconnectedness of us all. We will gain insight into his remarkable life and work.

Each of us brings one flower to create our congregation's bouquet, and each of us takes one flower home.

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Nominations to the Board & Committees

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Program Chair. This is a big job and is best with a full committee. So if you have any thoughts about good programs, have a little extra time and energy and are willing to help out in a very valued position next year, please consider talking to Thomas about being a member of the program committee. (Call him at 603 767-9750 or email at tpg22@comcast.net). Our Sunday programs stay interesting and varied with input and connections from a diverse group of people.

For DUUF members, don't forget these are nominations that don't get formalized until we vote on them at our Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 21st. See you then.

Rachel Legard



May Programs *(cont. from Page 1)*

Sylvia grew up in the Universalist Church in Bangor, Maine, and has been a member of the UU church of Exeter, New Hampshire, for thirty years where she's been a member of social justice and green sanctuary committees and the choir. Sylvia is retired as an administrator of educational programs for the UNH President's Commissions on equity and inclusion and is vice president of the Governing Board of Racial Unity Team of New Hampshire. She also serves on the Board of 350NH Action for renewable energy.

May 19 – Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – Looking back, Looking forward – Thomas Pistole

This is the last service for this Fellowship year. We begin the new Fellowship year on the first Sunday after Labor Day, which this year will be September 8.

Thomas Pistole

Short Takes

Our New DARLA Representative

I am happy to share that Chris Chance has agreed to serve as our representative to DARLA (Dover Area Religious Leaders Association), beginning in September. DARLA is an interfaith organization that works with other regional service groups as well as organizes community events such as Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Jr. programs. It has been my privilege to serve in this role for the past 7 years. I am glad to see our continued involvement with this organization.

Thomas Pistole

Bylaws

Last November 5th, a business meeting of the Fellowship adopted new bylaws unanimously. Thanks to the extremely hardworking and thoughtful committee of Bob Bullivant, Deb Johnson, and Thomas Pistole. Larry Vogelmann was kind enough to read our efforts to make sure they conformed to New Hampshire state law. As a friend and I were saying the other day, you don't need bylaws until something comes up, and then you do.

Carol Bullivant

Socials Committee Report

I often characterize the Socials Committee as being in charge of food and fun for the DUUF Fellowship community. The 2023-2024 church year was full of both.

We started with potluck lunches after the services in September and October. January brought a cookie swap that turned out to be too soon after people's New Year's resolutions. Oh well... another time! In February and March, we had circle dinners at each other's homes, enjoying delicious food and great conversation.

Easter brought our "world famous" egg roll after the holiday service. Great fun was had by all.

This year will culminate in an all-Fellowship picnic at the Fort McClary picnic area in Kittery, Maine on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

Every Sunday, Fellowship members provide treats for us to enjoy at coffee hour. And every Sunday, someone from the Socials Committee prepares coffee and tea. I would be remiss if I did not thank Tom Reichheld, Deb Johnson, Julie Lipari, Sue Noon, and Chris and Frank Rodgers. I am very grateful for their help.

Thank you to everyone who says yes to me when I ask for snacks, paper bags for composting, homes to host circle dinners, and people to attend them. I look forward to more food and fun with all of you next year.

Carol Bullivant

ANNUAL PICNIC, Sunday, May 26

The Fellowship will hold its annual, end of the year picnic on Sunday, May 26, at Fort McClary state park picnic area in Kittery, ME. There are some picnic tables, a pavilion, bathrooms and a creek for wading/swimming. We expect to have a grill where you can cook your own burgers or hot dogs. Please bring a salad, dessert or something else to share. Please use whatever influence you have with the weather gods, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

The picnic area has a small sign on the left hand side of Route 103 just past the bigger sign for the remains of the Fort itself on the right hand side of the road (coming from Durham).

An email with more information will be sent closer to the date.

Carol Bullivant

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.

Program Committee Annual Report

As a lay-led Fellowship, we work with people each week to provide the key presentation for our Sunday programs. That constitutes a major commitment for committee members. Beyond the presentation, there are also recurring activities in our Sunday services that are typically performed by committee members. These include welcoming outside speakers, setting up the audio system, providing welcoming words, sharing announcements, facilitating the time for Joys and Concerns, introducing the speaker, and helping with follow-up questions and comments, and, if needed, helping outside speakers after the service. Behind-the-scenes activities are also many, including contacting potential speakers, working to find a date for their presentation, gathering information about them and their planned program, working with our director of music on her role in the service, contacting our treasurer for the honorarium and presenting it to the speaker, and sending a thank you message to them afterwards and, of course, creating orders of service for every Sunday. I share this so all Fellowship folks can understand what is involved in providing our service each Sunday.

This year has seen some significant changes within the sanctuary. In addition to our symbolic chalice, which is the symbol of Unitarian Universalism, we have added a set of candles to honor the memory of those members who are no longer with us. After experimenting with several options, we have adopted a model for lighting our candles for Joys and Concerns. We have created a more consistent set of words for the opening portion of our service and invited program assistants on occasion to help with this portion of the program.

In planning the programs for the year, we drew from a variety of resources. These included Fellowship members (Betty Crepeau, Jonathan Babon, Deborah Johnson, Bob Pavlik, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Thomas Pistole), ministers (Maren Tirabassi, Craig Werth, Kendra Ford, and our music director Mary Doane), community leaders (Mo Baxley, Pati Frew-Waters, Denise and Paul Pouliot), UU friends (Sylvia Foster, Chris Chance), and other professionals (Brent Bell). The topics were wide ranging including gratitude, love, hope; death and dying; traditional holidays such as Christmas, winter solstice, and Easter; UUism (including our seven principles and the proposed UU bylaws changes); the power of music; how we educate; humor. Quite a range indeed!

Many people helped in the process of offering these programs each week. Special acknowledgment goes to:

Sylvia Foster. Sylvia is a longtime member of the First Unitarian-Universalist Society of Exeter, where her late husband served as minister. She has an extensive record of community service, both at the University of New Hampshire and elsewhere. This year she served on our program committee as well as offered several Sunday programs for us. Of particular note was the program she presented that included young women active in the Arts in Action program.

Chris Chance. Chris has been a part of the Exeter UU church and more recently with DUUF. She is a clinical psychologist and has been offering her Peace Circle at our Fellowship this past year. She has contributed her singing voice as well as meditations in several of our services.

Mary Doane. As our director of music, Mary provides the opening and closing music for our services as well as support for our congregational singing, and she has organized a

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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, Chris Bogard, 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)

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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pop-up choir that sings once a month at our services. She serves as a member of our program committee and plays a major role in suggesting speakers, contacting almost every speaker regarding their music needs or suggestions, and has presented several Sunday programs this year. She and her husband John, who often accompanies her on Sunday mornings, have been creating the orders of services for much of this Fellowship year. Of special note, when we were unclear shortly before a scheduled speaker would be coming, Mary offered to provide a substitute program. Thank you, Mary!

As the 2023-24 Fellowship draws to a close, it is time to think about next year's programs. We will be looking for folks to join our committee and help in providing Sunday services. As I have shared here, there is a wide range of activities associated with our responsibilities. However, not everyone needs to do everything! If you think you might be interested or simply would like to know more about the program committee, please contact me by phone (603-767-9750) or email (tgp22@comcast.net). Finally, for everyone, we welcome your suggestions for potential speakers; if you have a suggestion or would like to discuss possibilities, please let me know. Besides a name, other information, such as how you know or know of this person, contact information for that person, and why you think this person would be a good speaker for our Fellowship, would be helpful. A strong program committee and good suggestions for speakers will help us provide quality programs for our Sunday services in 2024-25!

Thomas Pistole



DURHAM DAY 2023

Face painting was very popular! Thanks to Rachel Legard who has volunteered for this year's event too!

President's Message

Several short messages: **1. The Annual Business Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6pm in the sanctuary of the Fellowship, 20 Madbury Road, Durham, NH 03824. **2. During this meeting we will be voting** on the budget for next year, officers, committee chairs, and council chairs, and any other business that may be brought before the membership. **3. We will also be voting on advice to our General Assembly delegates**, Deb Johnson and John Macri, as to the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws. This means that the members assembled will vote Yea or Nay on the changes and the amendments. Our delegates will have our approval or disapproval in mind as they cast their ballots in June at GA. (See Deb Johnson's article in this HEED about Article II.) **4. GA this year will be Zoomed**, so anyone who wishes to may attend. Voting, however, will be conducted by our delegates. **5. Please volunteer to take a stint at the Durham Day booth** this year. It's on June 22, 2024 from 12:30 to 3pm. An hour will do! **6. Picnic, Sunday, May 26th at Fort McClary!** **7. MEMORIAL DAY**, Saturday, May 27, 2024, 10:00am, downtown on Maine Street. As we did last year, you're invited to show up for this event sponsored by the Town of Durham.

WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE



A Plea to extend our Honoring of Black History through the entire year, one White Woman's Journey into increased Awareness, and what's a community meditation circle got to do with it?

An offering by Chris Chance, PhD

Clinical Psychologist, experiential workshop facilitator, mom, singer, and concerned citizen (completed April 2024, with the help of a diverse team of contributing readers, to share with UU friends who are travelers on the journey of social justice, love, and unity)

Sunday morning MLK weekend (January, 2024), I experienced a different world just miles from my home. I was singing with a group called Rock My Soul ([ProjectMusicWorks.org](https://projectmusicworks.org)) at the New Hope Baptist Church in Portsmouth, NH. My mostly White choir was invited to participate by the Black woman minister at this majority Black congregation. I have attended many MLK weekend services over the years, but this was my first time experiencing one in a Black Baptist church. The service was not merely an intellectual exercise in understanding the contribution of one great spiritual leader in the righteous fight for justice. There was a visceral sense in the room that we were honoring the memory of a murdered brother. (continued on website)

The rest of Chris' article can be found at our website: uudurhamnh.org

The UUA's perspective on the proposed Article II revision: A presentation by Hilary Allen

(as reported by Deb Johnson)

On Tuesday evening (April 30th) thirteen of us (including several from the DUUF Board along with other DUUF members) met in our Sanctuary to hear a presentation from Hilary Allen, our New England District Congregational Life contact. Hilary has actively assisted the Board several times during the past year and this time offered to provide us with the UUA's perspective on the proposed Article II revisions.

If you have been following discussions of changes afoot at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), you know that a proposed revision of the UUA's Principles and Purposes was submitted to the UUA's Board of Directors in January 2023 and to GA delegates at last year's General Assembly (GA). In June GA Delegates voted to give preliminary approval* to the proposal in order to "continue the discussion". Several proposed amendments revising or rewording the proposal's language were also accepted by delegates. **This new proposal deletes the Seven Principles which have been part of the UU tradition for many years, replacing them with core UU values [Justice , Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, Generosity and Love], described alongside the covenantal actions each value entails. It also commits the UUA (and its member congregations) to an activist social justice agenda including "heal[ing] historic injustices," "transformation of the world through liberating Love," and the covenant to "dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression."**

Hilary's presentation, accompanied by a slideshow, reviewed prior statements of our U&U purposes and tenets; provided some background on the process followed during the 2020-2024 Article II revision; and presented a description of modifications of our current "Principles and Purposes" as they appear in the proposed "Purposes and Covenants." She also graciously answered questions and listened to comments from those in the audience. I'll briefly describe points raised in Hilary's presentation.

Historical "purpose" statements from our 19th century Unitarian (1853 document) and Universalist (1889 document) predecessors were presented. Somewhat startlingly, they incorporated claims such as "We receive the teachings of Christ . . . as infallible truth from God" and "[we as] the trustworthiness of the Bible as containing a revelation from God." Here, Hilary's point was that at any given time, tenets that our UU tradition claims as essential could be well-attuned to their particular milieu, but when viewed from a different milieu are rather jarring. Our UU principles and purposes have continually evolved in response to social, cultural, and intellectual changes, and even the 1961 Principles--formulated when the Unitarian and Universalist traditions merged--appear somewhat odd to our eyes. Building upon this point, Hilary quoted the Article II Study Commission's argument that their work *"represents the chance for the current generations of UUs to take an active hand in shaping our faith. It's an opportunity for all of us to draw on the transformative energy of articulating anew what our Association is*

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about.” In other words, Unitarian-Universalism is a living tradition.

Hilary noted that our current Principles and Purposes (1986) have not been revised in almost 40 years (although she did not note that a proposed revision had been developed and submitted in 2009--this proposed revision was narrowly defeated by GA delegates at its first reading). UUA Bylaws state that Article II should receive in-depth study at least every fifteen years with a ‘Study Commission’--appointed for a two-year period--charged to recommend *“appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.”* (UUA Bylaws, Article XV, Section C-15.1.(c)(6)) Appointed in 2020, the current Study Commission in 2023 recommended extensive revisions, including replacing the current Seven Principles with explicitly named core Values [Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, Generosity, and Love] paired with guidance on how to “live out these values in our congregations and the world.” The Commissioner’s central critique of our current Seven Principles is that the current Principles provide no such guidance. In the words of the Study Commission, *“It [the Principles] declares itself to be a covenant, but the only actions it asks of congregations are to ‘affirm and promote’ certain concepts. We believe we should expect more from a covenant. As one member put it, ‘we need more verbs.’”*

Hilary’s slides provided helpful comparisons of several sections of the current Article II, alongside related text in the proposed Article II. Throughout her presentation, Hilary welcomed questions from the audience and this side-by-side comparison of the two versions elicited many questions, comments, and lively discussion among those attending (see below).

Hilary closed her engaging presentation with two points: first, the Commission’s acknowledgement that current UUA Principles will continue to hold significance for many UUs, and their anticipation that these Principles will continue to be utilized by congregations (within their historical context); and second, the Commission’s continued support of work of the 8th Principle Project--work which inspired much of the proposed Article II’s underlying concepts and language--alongside active encouragement for congregations to adopt the 8th Principle as part of their ongoing commitments.

We sincerely hope that prior to June’s 2024 General Assembly (when the final vote on approval of new Article II will occur) more DUUF members and friends will participate in discussions of the proposed Article II. Questions raised at Tuesday evening’s presentation (paraphrased here) included the following:

- What groups of individuals were consulted during the drafting of the proposed Article II? (e.g., were non-attending and former UUs consulted?)
- If the new Article II is adopted, what will actually change?
- Will adoption of Article II solve Unitarian Universalism’s membership problems?

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- Can the proposed Article II still be amended? (Note: The DUUF Board has voted to support one pending amendment--to include 'Reason' among the UU core values).
- Does the shift from “We strive . . . to truly welcome all persons” (in current Article II) to “We strive . . . to truly welcome all persons who share our values” (in proposed Article II) signify that Unitarian Universalism will become less open and welcoming?
- Will centering a UUA commitment to “dismantling racism” result in the sidelining of other UU social justice initiatives currently underway? (e.g., environmental activism, immigration & homelessness issues, food insecurity, LGBTQA rights)
- What will committing the UUA to “actively engaging its members in the transformation of the world . . . , “healing “historic injustices,” “dismantle[ing] racism and all forms of systemic oppression” cost? Will we, as members of a UU congregation, be expected to provide the funds for this?
- What does the shift from “we affirm and promote . . . the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in the society at large,” (in current Article II) to “We support the use of inclusive democratic processes (underlining mine) to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.” (in proposed Article II). Is the UUA Study Commission and the UUA currently employing “inclusive democratic processes”?
- If the revised Article II is approved, will our congregation still be able to affirm and promote the Seven Principles?
- If the revised Article II is approved, and DUUF does not conform to its terms, will our congregation be asked to leave the UUA?

** Final adoption of any proposed UUA bylaw amendments is a 2-year process. The proposed Article II developed by the Article II Study Commission (including amendments) was presented at the 2023 General Assembly and received the necessary GA majority vote to move forward for a final vote at the 2024 General Assembly (in June). Additional amendments (supported by multiple congregations and submitted by Feb. 1, 2024) will be discussed, though 75% GA support is required for approval of any of these amendments. For final adoption as the new Article II, the proposal (with any approved amendments) must receive a 2/3 support from voting GA delegates.*

The slides that Hilary used can be found online at: uudurhamnh.org.

Also, the Article II Study Commission Report can be found at: <https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>

DURHAM DAY, Saturday, June 22, 2024, 12:30 to 3:00pm

Durham Day is a chance for the Fellowship to show the flag and let the community know who we are. Can you volunteer for an hour? Just show up and look nice. You may smile if you'd care to. Again this year, we'll be featuring face-painting, table games, and coloring/drawing for the youngsters. We were a big hit last year. Email or call Chip: chipnoon@gmail.com; 603-866-1121 if you can help out.



**Sat. June 22 2024**
Rain Date: Sun. June 23rd

**Downtown Durham**
Main St., 66 Main & Jenkins Crt.

**12:30–3:00pm**

Join us Downtown for a community wide celebration of Durham!

For more weekend fun, check out the Durham Day Dash 5k taking place on Sunday, June 23rd at 9am



FAMILY FUN

- Games, Activities & Entertainment 
- Info Tables & Booths
- Live Music
- Ice Cream Eating Contest 
- NEW!!** Chili Challenge! 

AND MORE TO ENJOY!

durhamrec.recdesk.com 603-817-4074 recreation@ci.durham.nh.us