



The H E E D

February 2026

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Making the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Work!

As you all know, we don't "pass the hat" or pressure members and guests for donations. In the past, members have asked what level of donations are necessary/appropriate for keeping the Fellowship running. I wanted to provide some information that should shed some light on this question.

This year's DUUF's operating budget calls for income of approximately \$48,500 in order to balance the books for the current fiscal year. Income comes from several sources including \$30,000 from our tenants and other users of our facility, and interest from our investments. The balance, \$18,500, is expected from member donations. At this halfway point in the fiscal year, we are running about \$2000 short of this target.

We have around 34 active adult members in 25 families. Our projected donation total requires an average of \$550 per member or \$720 per family. As in the past, some can and will give more; others will do their best.

We appreciate all you do to help the Fellowship thrive!

Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays

(and stay afterward for coffee/tea, snacks, & conversation)

February 1 - "... and when I die" led by Thomas Pistole.

Many people avoid conversations about death, yet they often have strong feelings about their own death. In this interactive program participants will be invited to share their hopes and expectations about events and activities leading up to and following their passing. Volunteers will be encouraged to write these down and share them with those likely to be directly involved in their death.

February 8 - Poetry sharing - Participants from the Fellowship will read and reflect on a favorite piece of poetry.

February 18 - Maria Pinto – What Fungi Have Taught Me

"Love one another well and beware the coming flood, fire, or famine. Learn from me how to work with those who appear vastly different from you. Learn to relish the interspecies dens that some of you have worked so hard to abolish." That is how Maria Pinto answered the question "if you could speak [with] the voice of a mushroom...what would it most want to tell us right now?" asked by a journalist from the Harvard Divinity School Center for the Study of World Religions.

*Ms Pinto is a writer, naturalist, and educator based in the Boston area. She was born in Jamaica and raised in South Florida. She is the author of the recently released book *Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless: What Fungi Taught Me about Nourishment, Poison, Ecology, Hidden Histories, Zombies, and Black Survival* (UNC Press, 2025), about which Publishers Weekly had this to say: "Naturalist Pinto celebrates the interconnectedness of the natural world in this joyful mix of memoir, science, history, and adventure."*

After reading an excerpt from her book, Maria will engage in a discussion about her work both on and off the page.

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February 22 - Lee Webster – Sustainability After Death

How we care for our dead has a tangible impact on the earth. From industrial body care outsourcing to concrete vaults to flame cremation, we have distanced ourselves from processes that are having an impact on our culture and environment in significant ways. Join us as we explore the principles of sustainable funeral options that seek to promote climate resiliency, address funeral poverty, and create community. We'll also learn about what's happening here in New Hampshire to bring sustainable burial to our area.

Fellow UU Lee Webster is a nationally recognized public speaker and author of several books and articles on funeral reform, including home funerals and green burial. She has served in major leadership positions of the Green Burial Council, Conservation Burial Alliance, National Home Funeral Alliance, National End-of-Life Doula Alliance, and is the director of New Hampshire Funeral Resources & Education, President of Natural Burial New Hampshire, and is a co-creator of the Funeral Partnership.

THE OYSTER RIVER FOLK SERIES PRESENTS:

Liz & Dan Faiella

IN CONCERT February 7, 2026
7 PM



Liz and Dan Faiella bring to life the traditional music of their roots, with crisp vocals, mesmerizing fingerstyle guitar, lyrical fiddling, and exhilarating rhythmic drive.

Their music calls to mind the convivial grange hall contradances of their youth in New Hampshire, while conveying a wistfulness for their ancestral Ireland.

**DURHAM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
20 MADBURY RD., DURHAM, NH
TICKETS \$20 / \$5 STUDENTS – Cash Only
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**

Stepping Up

A lay-led Fellowship like ours needs many active members to carry out the work of providing weekly services, managing the building, handling finances, taking care of members, providing RE, offering coffee hour and being active in our community for social justice.

After Bob Bullivant resigned as Secretary, Sarge Legard, the Nominations coordinator, was concerned about finding a replacement. When looking at member lists, almost everyone is already holding an important job, and some are even doing two jobs!

But there was no need for worry. This community comes through over and over to support our work. Nick Isaak stepped up, without even being asked, and volunteered to take on this role. Thank you, Nick.

In addition, Samantha Yeaton, one of our newest members, saw a need for an administrator to post more on our Facebook page and offered to take that role. Thank you, Samantha.

To all of the many other friends and members who have been in Fellowship positions for many years and support with making coffee, changing the sign, clearing ice when needed or washing dishes....thank you for supporting this community.

*Rachel Legard
President*

Winter Concert

Avalyn Reed Trio

Holly Furlone Joey Clark

Cynthia Chatis Bob Moore



**Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Sanctuary, 20 Madbury Rd, Durham, NH
Sunday, February 8th
2 - 4 PM**

**Proceeds to benefit
Gaza Children's Village**

**for more information, contact
bmoore628@comcast.net**

Facebook!

Samantha Yeaton is collecting photos and videos of DUUF services and social activities from the last 6 months or so for use on our **social media (Facebook)**. Don't hesitate to share something even if you're not sure if it will be useful. You may be surprised what she can do with it.

Please send to: 603-988-7622 or yeaton.samantha@gmail.com

Thanks!

Four Rivers Church

We welcome the return of Fours River Church having the first of five services here on the evening of February 1.



From the House Committee

Free furniture, first come/first served, help yourself. Items are located in the basement at DUUF. 10 hardwood folding chairs in varying degrees of condition. 7 folding card tables in good condition. Offer expires on Valentines Day when remaining items will be donated to charity.



Oyster River Folk Concerts

Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Saturdays 7:00pm – 20 Madbury Rd.

Tickets sold at the door - Doors open at 6:30

Adults \$20 Students \$5 - Cash Only

Liz and Dan Faiella

February 7th

With each performance, this effervescent duo takes listeners on a journey through haunting ballads, danceable jig and reel medleys, and poignant slow airs.



Betsy Green & the bottom dollars

March 7th

Local fiddler Betsy Heron will be joined by seasoned professionals Tim Fitzpatrick and Dan Africk to cover a wide swath of old and new bluegrass and old-time classics -- there will be fiddle, mandolin, and three-part harmony galore. Come and tap along!

Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio April 11th

Putting a fresh spin on traditional Celtic music, the Jordan TW Trio delivers a dynamic show full of lively fiddle tunes, haunting airs and classic sing-alongs.



Cosy Sheridan

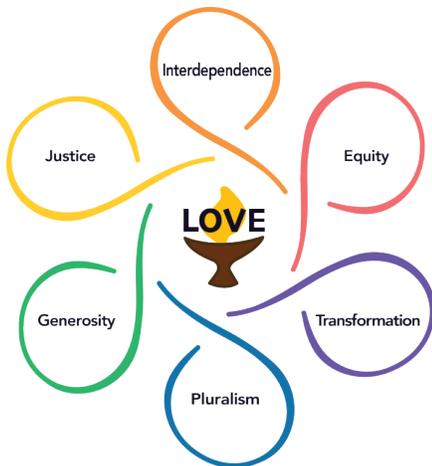
May 2nd

Cosy Sheridan has been called one of the era's finest and most thoughtful songwriters. Backed by the strong rhythms and harmonies of her bass player Charlie Koch, she plays a percussive bluesy style of guitar. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, The Cowgirl Hall of Fame and on the Jerry Lewis Telethon.



The Six Sources Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. 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;
6. 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.



Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition that has changed in many ways from the original Christian roots of its Universalist and Unitarian heritages, and it continues to evolve today. Most recently, this evolution has taken the form of adopting new language to describe who we are as UUs. At General Assembly in June 2024, UUs voted to replace the existing Seven Principles and Six Sources language in our

bylaws with language describing Unitarian Universalism through these shared values:

Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.

Pluralism: We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.

Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.

Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

Equity: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

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.



DUUF Officers, Chairpersons and Council Coordinators, and Members of Committees and Councils for 2025-2026 - Under 2023 amended by-laws

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Rachel Legard
Vice President: Mary Downes
Treasurer: Jen Pavlik
Secretary: Nick Isaak

COMMITTEES

Program: Dawn Meredith (Chair), Betty Crepeau, Mary Downes, Larry Vogelmann
Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik (Chair)
House and Grounds: Sarge Legard (Chair), Grounds: Jon Babon, Rentals: Maria Isaak
Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Susan Noon, Tom Reichheld
Membership: Tom Reichheld, Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers (Coordinator), Susan Bullivant, Dawn Meredith, Carol Bullivant,

COUNCILS

Nominations: Sarge Legard (Coordinator)
Music Council: Maria Isaak (Coordinator)
Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator), Nick Isaak
Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator), Betty Crepeau
Communication & Outreach: Christopher Dunning (Web Administrator), Bob Bullivant (HEED Editor), Chip Noon (HEED Design & Layout) Samantha Yeaton (Social Media Administrator)
Denominational Affairs: Deb Johnson (Coordinator)
DARLA Representative: Chris Chance
Durham Housing Association Representative: Susan Noon, Secretary
Marketing ad hoc committee: Susan Noon, Chip Noon

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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