



HEED

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship

Issue #2

Durham, New Hampshire

October 2009

Home Improvement: Renovations begin at Fellowship.

A year has almost past since the building committee held its first meeting. We are now at the point where we have gone through all the preliminary hurdles, for variances and site approvals. Our architects, Walter Rous and Nick Isaak, have completed plans and are awaiting approval from the town for a building permit. After soliciting bids from three contractors, the committee selected Beloin Construction to handle both the demolition of the breezeway, offices and the construction of the new entrance and meeting room (work to potentially start in October).

The new octagon shaped meeting room should give us enough room for one hundred people. The down stairs area (cont., p. 2)



Building committee chair Betty Nordgren and Treasurer Jim Zemruski sign the contract for Fellowship house expansion and renovation with Beloin Construction, Inc. at the 28 Sep 2009 meeting of the DUUF's building committee. Photo: John Macri

Services

October 4: Reverend Dick Dutton, *How the Moon Got in the Sky*.
There will be a potluck after the program.

October 11: (Columbus Day Weekend): Ryan Thomson, Brennish Thomson,
Making Music as a Family

October 18: Thomas Pistole, *Owning Your Religious Past*

October 25: Representative Jim Splaine, *Marriage Equality Law in New Hampshire*

November 1: Matthew Myers, *Lessons of Music*

Other important dates

October 10: Margery Milne dedication, 11 AM at Mill Pond (see p.5)

October 12: Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Fellowship.

October 17: Tree pruning party, 10 AM at Fellowship (see p.4)

October 24: Earth Call to Action (see p.3)





The Unitarian Universalist
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area will hold three large classrooms. For those of you who are new to us or need to refresh your memory the DUUF web site has pictures and there is also a rough model of the addition on the piano in the meeting room.



DURHAM UU FELLOWSHIP

3D views

07/13/2009

The cost of the construction falls within the amount of money left to the fellowship by Margery Milne. We will have additional expenses for furnishings and audio visual equipment. A problem we are still working on is the possibility of the addition of an elevator in the entrance area. Although matching funds might be available, it will cost anywhere from \$22,000 to \$45,000. Some members of the fellowship feel that having an elevator for handicap access to the lower level is very important and now is the appropriate time to install it. The elevator part of the project will be on a separate contract from the rest of the building. We are still within the \$600,000 limit approved at the special business meeting on July 14th, but over the amount in the Milne bequest. How we will raise the additional money is a subject we will be discussing.

We have all put in a lot of time and energy and I must say the building committee has turned out to be a very loyal group. Unlike most committees, our numbers have been growing and not shrinking. We have also gotten a great deal of unpaid as well as paid help from our architects. We have been very fortunate all around.

What's to happen from here on? This will be an adventure for all of us. When we have a building permit demolition can begin. At some point we will have a ground breaking ceremony, Carmen Buford-Paige in charge. Demolition is going to mean inconvenience for all of us. The kitchen back wall will come down, we'll need to use the front door and perhaps the up-stairs bathrooms. Whatever happens we're a very flexible group and I'm sure we will be able to improvise and have fun in the process.

- Betty Nordgren

Committee Updates

Denominational Affairs

CLIMATE ACTION, OCTOBER 24. Please join the UU Ministry for Earth Call to Action on October 24, when thousands around the world will call for strong climate action. You can: Hike, Climb, March, Dive Underwater, Kayak, or Stand with banners stating our common call to action: 350, meaning parts per million (ppm) that is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. 350 is the number humanity needs to avoid runaway climate change. We must build global grassworks support for reducing carbon emissions fast!

Things you can do:

- Add your name to the “Interfaith Call for 350,” www.350.org/people/faith
- Pledge to act on October 24! Find or start an action in your community at www.350.org, and register your action at www.uuministryforearth.org
- Ring bells, chant, drum, or sing 350 times
- Hold a service in a place particularly threatened by climate change
- Host a community dialogue
- Organize a public political demonstration
- Increase energy efficiency with a service

Whatever you choose to do, remember to include the number 350 in some form and to document and share your event with UUMFE and 350.org via words, photos and/or video. This is key to sharing your story with the entire world.

ASSOCIATION SUNDAY RESCHEDULED. Our Association Sunday, “GROWING OUR FAITH,” has been rescheduled from October 4th of this year to sometime in 2010, when we will more-or-less coordinate with our connecting congregation, the Second Congregational Society UU, which will not be holding theirs until early 2010. While it is not mandatory that the programs be concurrent, it will be nice to be doing similar things on more-or-less the same dates. The purpose is to respond to and discuss other responses to churches and fellowships that agreed to be part of the inaugural Connecting Congregations program. We will determine the terms of our connection, and how to demonstrate our bond as members of our UU family of congregations. Any and all suggestions are most welcome. We want this to be a communal effort, and will share our story of connections across the miles with our larger faith community.

BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT: A WELCOMING CONGREGATION CURRICULUM ON RACE AND ETHNICITY. Building the World We Dream About is a brand new Tapestry of Faith curriculum to enable UU congregations to become more welcoming of racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity, and to dismantle racism in their congregations and their larger community. For many years UU congregations, districts, and affiliate groups have requested a “Welcoming Congregation type program” focused on race and ethnicity. In 2004, representatives of stakeholder groups met at UUA in Boston to articulate a vision, identify challenges, and strategize about tools to help congregations become more welcoming, inclusive, and affirming of persons of diverse races, cultures, and ethnicities. JUUST Change Anti-Oppression Consultant, Professor of transformational education Mark Hicks of George Mason University, a member of All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, DC is the curriculum author. Through a series of interactive workshops, participants explore topics that increase their understanding of race and ethnicity, as well as systemic racism, through spiritual reflection, journaling, visual arts, poetry, music, theater tools, simulations, guest speakers, and field trips. The curriculum culminates with worship and creation of action plans for anti-racist, multicultural congregational transformation. In 2007-2008 45 congregations were selected to field test Building the World We Dream About. The goal for general distribution to interested congregations begins this assembly year. - Carmen Buford-Paige

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Holiday cards. Holiday cards and note cards are available after Sunday services. Please see Carmen Buford-Paige. Cards are \$10 per packet.

The House Committee

The taming of the shrubs. (with apologies to Shakespeare). On Saturday, October 17th there will be a pruning party. The shrubs and weeds are out of control and blocking the meeting room windows. Please show up with pruning tools, strong trowels or spades, and of course any ideas. If you have any concerns or history about a particular shrub or plant, please let us know ahead of time so we don't cut too much. The work will primarily be on the Madbury Road side of the building. With the upcoming construction, we will be attracting considerable attention, and we'd like the place to look as good as possible. Please come at 10:00am. Rain date will be Sunday afternoon.

Religious Exploration

Preschool Group. This year we have begun regular programming for young people ages 3 through 5. Stefanie Griffin coordinates and teaches this group; Ellyn Legard also serves as a teacher. For our opening class we had five children. We are currently offering this curriculum biweekly; on alternate Sundays the children are invited to join the childcare group.



Child Dedication. On Sunday, October 18, we will have a child dedication for Emily Nute, daughter of Jim and Kim Nute. Unitarian Universalism recognizes and honors major life events. In this dedication service we recognize both the child and our responsibilities to her/him. The dedication will occur during the service and all are invited.

Owning Your Religious Past. Most folks come to Unitarian Universalism as adults from other faith communities. We strive—and rightly so—to create a welcoming environment for newcomers. Seldom, though, do we focus on the journey that brought us to this religious home. On Sunday, October 18, we will focus

on the path that led you to the Durham Fellowship, whether for a day or the rest your life. Please come ready to share and to listen. - Thomas Pistole, Director of Religious Exploration

Announcements

New Families in Our Fellowship. If it seems you have seen some new faces in the Fellowship, you are right. This fall two families have been attending our programs. They are Robert and Lynne Vachon of Somersworth and their children Grace and Leo, and Jason and Megan Lenk of Durham and their children Annika and Olivia. Please take a moment to welcome them if you have not yet done so.

Despite the remodeling, there will be a Holiday Fair!

Come what may, we'll have Fair Day
With items made and well displayed:
Bread, cakes and pies to appease,
Soup to scoop and sell, as well.

While pickles and preserves are no less than one deserves.

We'll need more than a few things "nearly new",
Books, games and toys for girls and boys,
Plus Holiday décor and lots, lots more.
So, don't despair; we'll hold the Fair!
The date to remember is the FIFTH of DECEMBER.

Please keep your items by until just before the Fair, when a date will be given for bringing them in. And please make some extras for the Fair if you're fruit-picking and bottling, baking, etc. this Fall – thanks! - your Fair Chair, Chris R.

Margery Milne memorial reception. Margery was a member of our Fellowship and the benefactor for our building addition and renovations. On property abutting the Mill Pond that she and her husband Lorus donated to the town, she requested that a marker be placed in their memory. On Saturday, October 10, at 11 a.m. there will be a formal dedication of this memorial stone. A reception will follow at the Three Chimneys Inn. All are invited. – Thomas Pistole



District Office changes. The Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association has two new folks on its staff. Connie Goodbread, a credentialed religious educator who currently serves the Florida District $\frac{3}{4}$ time, will provide a similar service to our district as our quarter-time interim Program Consultant. She will remain in Florida so we will be using some innovative methods to keep in touch, beginning with a conference call this month. The District hopes to fill the position permanently in 2010. Also, for the first time the District has hired a Youth Coordinator. Linnea Schroeder is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. She will hold this position until the District hires its new Program Consultant. - Thomas Pistole

NH Community Loan Fund. Did you know that the DUUF is an investor in the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund? Several years ago the Fellowship tapped into its Nest Egg Fund to make its first loan to NHCLF. Individuals pitched in – some in big ways – and we now have \$10,000 invested via four, 4-year, \$2500 loans, with maturity dates staggered annually. We customarily renew each loan when it matures. The loans pay 4% annual interest which the Fellowship uses to boost its social action initiatives. The NHCLF uses loans and education to create opportunity and transform lives across New Hampshire. You can learn more about them at www.nhclf.org.

This form of investing is a win, win for DUUF. We do good and we do well. I received a notice from NHCLF this week announcing their Annual Celebration, November 12th at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord. There is no charge to attend, but you will need to let NHCLF know if you plan to attend. See me for details. This is a good opportunity for DUUFers to learn more about NHCLF and our socially responsible investing initiative. - John Macri

Take this kiss upon the brow!
And, in parting from you now,
Thus much let me avow
You are not wrong, who deem
That my days have been a dream:
Yet if hope has flown away
In a night, or in a day,
In a vision or in none,
Is it therefore the less gone?
All that we see or seem
Is but a dream within a dream.

I stand amid the roar
Of a surf-tormented shore,
And I hold within my hand
Grains of the golden sand
How few! yet how they creep
Through my fingers to the deep
While I weep--while I weep!
O God! can I not grasp
Them with a tighter clasp?
O God! can I not save
One from the pitiless wave?
Is all that we see or seem
But a dream within a dream?
-Edgar Allen Poe

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.