

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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**MAY 2011 VOLUME XV NUMBER 5**



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## "NEWS FROM THE HILL"

is published monthly year round by the UU Meeting House of Chatham.

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**SUNDAY SERVICES** are held at 10:30 AM each week.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY** May 19, 2011. Send items to Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



## THRIFT SHOP OPENS



**OPENING DAY IS MAY 17  
MONDAYS-FRIDAYS 10 AM-3 PM**

**HELP NEEDED FOR SET UP BEGINNING MAY 4**

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
EVERY DAY OR SUBS**

**CALL MARY P OR MARY C**

**YOU MAY START BRINGING YOUR TREASURES  
ON MAY 9**

**START MAKING OUT YOUR SHOPPING LISTS FOR  
THE CAPE'S BEST THRIFT SHOP!!!**

**STAFF MEMBERS****MINISTER:**

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ftoppa440@hotmail.com

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**Board of Trustees**

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**At large members:**

Jon Goward  
Ruth Treen  
Dave Hubbard  
**Program Council**  
Sue Bauer, Chair  
Robin Hubbard, Vice Chair

**VISION STATEMENT**

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

May 1 Bright Fire Rev. Edmund Robinson

What we call May Day is an ancient Celtic holiday, Beltane, which means "Bright Fire." What does it mean to revive or continue pagan customs like the May Pole? Is it simply a charming antiquarian custom, or does it connect us with the cycles of earth?

May 8 God the Mother Rev. Edmund Robinson

Our mothers are our closest physical connection to our ancestors and the rest of the human race. This furnishes a rich metaphor for thinking about the divine.

May 15 The Bucket List Rev. Edmund Robinson

Our lives have a terminal point, and some of us are facing this in a foreseeable future. What does it do to your sense of time and accomplishment to face life's end? What do you want to accomplish before you die?

May 22 Face to Face, or Facebook Rev. Edmund Robinson

Social networking on the Internet is one of the big developments of the last five years. What does it do to our sense of community? Is it possible to build true community in cyberspace?

May 29 That These Shall Not Have Died in Vain Rev. Edmund Robinson

What is the meaning of the deaths of soldiers in wartime? Is it different in quality from the deaths of the rest of us?



**REMEMBER THAT MANY MEETING HOUSE ACTIVITIES WILL MOVE TO THE ANNEX FOR THE SUMMER BEGINNING MAY 1 AS THE THRIFT SHOP FILLS UP THE FLECK ROOM. CHECK THE CHURCH CALENDAR TO BE SURE YOU'RE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!**

**Sightings****the Rev. Edmund Robinson**

It is Spring in full flower, and democracy is blooming with the daffodils! Don't forget to go to your town meeting – it's your chance to have some say in what happens in your community. New England is unique in having this exercise in direct democracy, and it isn't even everywhere in New England. So we should cherish this feature of small-town life.

As I said in my recent sermon, the democratic spirit proceeds in a straight line from the Mayflower Compact of 1620, which recognized that people could set up a community by mutual consent, through the Cambridge Platform of Church Discipline in 1648, which was the charter for congregational polity in religion, through the American Revolution.

We will have our own church annual meeting on June 12, and all members will have a right to speak and to vote on the officers, budget and whatever else comes before the meeting. The ability to vote is what distinguishes members from friends. We are a church founded not on creed but on covenant, and the ability to speak and be heard and vote on matters of church concern is the essence of being part of the covenant. We honor and cherish our friends, and many have reasons not to sign the book, but the right to vote and be a full member of the body politic is inestimable.

The Meeting House had a good representation last week at the Water Justice Conference at the Barnstable UU church, and a lot of good ideas came forth about specific actions we could be taking. I was very proud of Chatham's leadership on the nitrogen wastewater problem. Did you know that Chatham has 62 miles of coastline? Between the Harwich border at Jackknife Beach and that at Red River Beach, it is probably 4 miles as the crow flies, but the actual measured coastline with all bays and saltwater ponds is 62 miles. We're practically all water!

Edmund

**May Day Celebration!**

We will celebrate the May on the front lawn of the church directly after service on May 1, with traditional English Dances and the May Pole (furnished by Frank Toppa, thanks). We will have some dances by the Beacon Youth Outreach kids and others by Ha'Penny Morris, a women's Morris Dance team from Boston. We will also have the May Pole winding and other dances open to participation from you. Suggested wear is white with flowers. In case of rain, we will not dance.



## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

As we are about to wrap up the Stewardship Drive we can report that we are at \$108,000+ at this time. There are still many pledges to be recorded, and we urge everyone to get their pledge cards back to the committee. We are still hoping to make our goal of \$161,500, but it will take a lot of effort. If anyone who did not increase their pledge can do so now, please consider doing that.

A reminder that there is a special tax break for those over 70 ½ for this year only, if you transfer the money directly from a traditional IRA to the UUMH. Another thing to consider is to prepay the July 2012 to June 2013 pledge by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 and you will get that tax advantage in this year 2011. Just food for thought. Please contact any Stewardship member and we will try to answer any question you have.

for the Stewardship Committee

Ralph B, Chair



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### Congregate House Meals

UUMH will be responsible for preparing and serving the Congregate House supper on Sunday May 15. Check your calendars: the next two dates are June 12 and July 31. I hope to hear from some of you who would like to help. Please give me a call.

Connie P



Many people at the Meeting House are very involved in Social Justice causes: Congregate House meals, Fair Trade Coffee sales, Angel Fund, Food Pantry, Turkey Trot, to name just a few. For several years, however, there has been no overarching Social Justice Committee. Perhaps there is no need or desire for such a committee. But the Program Council is looking to convene such a committee if the desire is out there. If you would be interested in being part of a Social Justice Committee and/or you have other ideas about extending our Social Justice outreach, please call Sue B. If there is interest, we will hold an exploratory meeting in early May.

**A kind word is like a spring day. (Russian proverb)**

## YOUR JOURNEY/OUR JOURNEY

The project to tell our stories and meld them into a common story culminates in a meeting from **10-4 on Saturday, May 21 at the United Methodist Church in Chatham.** Lunch will be provided.

Mary Hannah Henderson, Peter Fleck's granddaughter, has been working with us since October on this project, which the Board has enthusiastically endorsed. We have had individual journeys told in the worship services this spring. At the meeting, Mary will organize us to tell our stories to one another. We believe the process will allow us a deeper insight into how we collectively go to the place we are, and where we should be going next.

There is a certain leap of faith required here because I can't spell out the project any more than that. I hope you will be willing to risk a few hours of your time on the 21st. The more participation we get, the more valuable it will be as an indication of the church's sense of itself and its mission in the world.



## LEARNING FOR LIFE

**Thursday April 28, 3 PM**

**Organized Labor Today: Ruin or Resurgence?**



Recent political unrest over attempts to take away bargaining rights from public employees has raised urgent questions about labor unions as such. Speakers/ Discussion Leaders are Cape residents Ben Elliott and Don Stevens, both with decades of experience in labor relations. Elliott has been a union attorney, official and organizer, and our own Don Stevens has had a career representing management, both in the for-profit world and then representing a non-profit university.

**Wednesday May 4, 2 PM**

**Wireless Communication from Chatham to the World**

Sending Morse code, using Marconi wireless to communicate with ships at sea and intercepting coded messages from German U-boats during WWII – all of this happened in the Marconi operations center in Chatham from 1922-1993. Dick Kraycir will give a presentation describing the origins of the station, its history, and conversion into a museum. He will give a sneak preview of the Grand Opening of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center which will take place in June.

### NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

There will be a "New Member Service" on Sunday, May 8, 2011, during the service. All those who are interested in joining the church please contact Marion Harcourt at 432-9443, or Barbara Blanchard at 945-7721.



### CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE

That's the "theme" of the next Electric Kitchen!! Anything chocolate - cakes, candies, cookies, pies, whatever - is welcome. May's Electric Kitchen will be on May 22, which this month is the 4<sup>th</sup> (but not last) Sunday of the month.



### NEWS FROM THE HILL

The Board of Trustees is processing the annual review of the minister. This involves both the board and the minister advisory committee. The review includes both scoring and comments. There are a wide variety of comments. We have completed three fourths of the church calendar year. We budgeted a \$10,668 loss for the year: \$183,340 total income and \$194,008 expenses. Pledges are holding firm. Gifts and Donations are down. Expenses are more than \$15,000 per month.

Thanks to Ralph B and the Stewardship team for their efforts to contact all family pledging units this year.

Do we have volunteers for website improvements?

Our bylaws need review. We will be voting on the definition of membership at the Annual Membership meeting in June. Volunteers are invited to serve on a Bylaws Committee which will begin work after the Annual Meeting.

Walter Diggs



**Every spring is the only spring—a perpetual astonishment. (Ellis Peterson)**

**UUMH CLASSIFIEDS** (Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at [ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com))

\*\*\* Beacon Hill, Boston apartment for rent. Our studio on Revere St. is available for rent daily, weekly & monthly. Fully furnished. Kitchen, queen bed and sitting area. Call Dwight Wilson for more information and availability. (508) 240-3426 or (508) 776-3157.

\*\*\* Private **PCA** (Personal Care Attendant) (Daughter of Harmon & Ann Diers, UUMH)

- \* Friendly, mature, professional 53-year-old female
- \* Appointments, errands, grocery shopping
- \* Cooking, light housekeeping, laundry, companionship
- \* Business/organizational skills (domestic, office, computer)
- \* CORI approved
- \* Reasonable Rates (lower than company agencies)

Please contact Cindy Smith any time at: 774-722-2611

\*\*\* Wanted: two inexpensive bikes for two summer J-1 visa Bulgarian university students who will stay with us. Please contact Harmon Diers. 255-8369

\*\*\* Chatham Fixit. Need a handyman? For small odd jobs, call Ralph Bauer at 945-3264. Reasonable rates.

\*\*\* Handyman service for odd jobs, heavy lifting, removals, yard work, etc. Available after 4 PM weekdays, or anytime on the weekend. Reasonable rates. Call Andrew Davol at 774-454-1453.

**Humanists of First Parish Brewster & Cape Cod**

**WHAT?** Talk by Dr. John B. Hooper, "A 'Modern Synthesis' of Religious Humanism and Religious Naturalism"

**WHEN?** Sunday, May 22, at 2:00

**WHERE?** The Parish Hall of the First Parish Brewster church. The church is at 1969 Rte. 6A in Brewster, which is slightly east of the intersection of Rte. 6A with Rte. 124. Parking is in the lot behind the Parish Hall, or in the lot across Rte. 6A.

Both religious humanists and religious naturalists seek to continuously improve our understanding of the universe and our place in it, drawing on the revelations of science without resorting to supernatural hypotheses.

Dr. Hooper, an elected member of the UUA Commission on Social Witness, has been pursuing his interests in science, religion, and public policy since retirement as a scientist. He has been president of the UU Religious Naturalists (UURN) and is the current president of the Association of UU Humanists (HUUmanists).

Refreshments will be served.

## JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ann Diers has had her "We the People" published by the well known music publisher Shawnee Press. "We the People" will be performed by the Chatham Chorale in Centerville at Christ Chapel on June 30 at 5 PM and at the Eastham Windmill on July 4th .



Chatham's wastewater management plan has been chosen to receive this year's grand prize in the planning category in a national competition held by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. UUMH's Fred Jensen will represent the town at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on May 4, 2011. Jensen was chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Chatham's Wastewater Management Plan which helped lead the effort to develop the 20 year, \$266 million wastewater plan.

## QI GONG

Qi Gong will continue on Monday mornings at 8:30 A.M. but will move to the Sanctuary to make way for the Thrift Shop in the Fleck Room. Everyone who is interested is welcome.

Many people all over the world enjoy this gentle form of full body exercise that originated in China. In addition to keeping our bodies flexible and balanced, it can help to keep our minds alert and clear. Feel free to bring your summer guests. A donation of \$5 is suggested.

If you have questions please call Jennie Makihara at 508-776-8450.

## FOOD PANTRY

For our **2nd Sunday collection**, please bring paper products or cleaning products. Of, course, you can bring food or other items any Sunday! Please put your contribution in the basket in the upstairs foyer. Thanks.

## PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE



## DIRECTORY CHANGES

## THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

We will meet Monday, May 16, 2011 in the Annex to discuss *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake

All are welcome to join us. Call Sue Bauer with questions at 945-3264.

