

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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JULY 2011 VOLUME XV NUMBER 7



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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"

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

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Layout Editor: Ralph Bauer

Publisher: Melissa Clayton

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY July 21, 2011**. Send items to Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES JULY OFFERINGS

The concerts will be held at 7:30 each Tuesday in July and August in the sanctuary. Volunteers are needed to staff the concerts; please call Barbara Blanchard at 945-7721. No admission is charged, but a free-will offering will be taken with a suggested donation of \$10.

July 5 Longing For Ireland

Irish traditional music from fiddler Dinah Mellin and vocalist Denya LeVine, Celtic DJ's on WOMR. Denya also plays with O'Challah and The Skoots. Dinah performs with Tim Joyce & His Bag O' Cats, and leads the Orleans Inn Irish Session. Guitarist Greg R. Johnson of Mashpee has been in folk ensembles on Cape Cod since the mid-70's. He leads Irish music sessions at pubs.

July 12 All Worn Out Jug Band

The only resident jug band at a UU church, featuring Kevin Howard on vocals, guitar and mandolin, Dr. Bud Brown, first chair of kazoo and washboard, Phill Thompson on banjo-uke, slide and train whistles, Fred Jensen on washtub bass and groaners, John Kilroy on vocals, guitar and dobro, John Randall on drums, Jon Goward on bass and jugs, and Rev. Edmund Robinson on fiddle, banjo and concertina. Let the good times roll!

July 19 Jacqueline Schwab, pianist

Lyrical pianist without equal, she has played on the soundtrack of Ken Burns' documentaries from "The Civil War" to his recent film on the national parks. She has played at the White House and has been heard on David Letterman and A Prairie Home Companion. She will offer a mix of Americana from the 19th and 20th centuries, Celtic melodies and contemporary pieces written in a traditional folk idiom.

July 26 Toast & Jam Original Bluegrass

Tim Dickey and Julie Wanamaker have been singing together since the 1980's, but in 2008 added bassist/vocalist Laird Boles. They have developed an original repertoire and released a recording called "Ten Slices" in July '09.



STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

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edmund@gmail.com

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Board of Trustees

Walter Diggs, President
Elsa Bastone, Vice President
Dwight Wilson, Treasurer
Jean Mangiafico, Secretary

At large members:

Jon Goward
Ruth Treen
Dave Hubbard

Program Council

Sally Davol, 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

July 3 Faith and Freedom: Like Oil and Water? Rev. David Monroe

I am looking at whether or not Faith is as important to our freedom as some on the right believe.

July 10 Democracy or efficiency? Rev. Edmund Robinson

A report from General Assembly, where a major issue is going to be the size and composition of the UUA Board of Trustees; some people feel that it has gotten unwieldy in its current configuration, which is designed to have maximum representation of diverse interests.

July 17 OMG! ROFL! (Oh my God, roll on the floor laughing!)
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Laughter is one of the great human experiences, and is used as social cement. There is even a theory that laughter is older than speech. How does this translate into on-line communications? And do UUs take ourselves too seriously?

July 24 The Spirit and the Flesh Rev. Edmund Robinson

Dualism in Western thought, the idea that there are two orders of reality, goes back to Plato in philosophy and St. Paul in religion. Modern neuroscience denies this duality; body and mind, spirit and flesh are intimately intertwined with one another. But what about transcendentalism? Is the thought of Emerson infected with dualism?

July 31 The Science of Evil Rev. Edmund Robinson

Evil has traditionally been defined by religion, but a new book tries to pull it over into science, proposing that evil is scientifically defined as an absence of empathy, exacerbated by negative environmental factors and a genetic component. What does this analysis do to the traditional concept of universal salvation or its modern expression, the inherent worth and dignity of every person?

Who's Preaching this Month

Dave Monroe is the Minister Emeritus of the Middletown, NY UU Church where he was minister (part time) for 20 years. He spent 30 years as a chaplain in a New York State Psychiatric Center.

Sightings**the Rev. Edmund Robinson**

The name “denominational affairs” sounds very bureaucratic. Maybe that’s why many churches have trouble filling the position. In our church, Vivienne Chapman is stepping down from this post and it is up for grabs. Do I hear any takers?

How about if we renamed it? How about the “connections czar?” How about the person who keeps us plugged in? The person whose job it is to remind us that we are not alone struggling as a small coterie of liberally religious folks in one town out on the edge of the continent, but are part of a larger movement which embraces the rest of the country and the world. Does that sound more appealing?

As I write these words, I am about to go to General Assembly in Charlotte, and as you read them, I will have been there. I always have this sense of dread as I pack up to go to GA, saying “what am I doing this for, going to a large city to sit in committee meetings, workshops and worship services in a convention center with too much air conditioning and too little sunlight?” And yet, I know that by the time it is over I will have seen or done at least one and probably many things which touched my spirit, renewed a connection or made a new one, gave me inspiration or an idea, or encouraged me to go on. I was sorely tempted to skip GA this year because it conflicted with the Religion and Science conference that I usually attend and which was on the topic of evil, a topic dear to my heart, as many of you know.

But you have called me as minister of this church and part of that calling is to try to keep this congregation connected to the larger movement. And if past years are any predictor, I know that when I enter that large hall and see 4000 UUs in worship, something in that call gets reaffirmed on a gut level. I am where I need to be. Charlotte will be where I need to be, so that Chatham will continue to be where I need to be.

I will be reporting on GA when I come back on July 10. It is good to stay connected.

I am also going to try to be forging stronger connections at the district level by serving on the Ballou Channing District Board. It is a transitional time for the districts, because the UUA is regrouping due to economic stringency. What this will do to district staff and the boards is a bit uncertain at this point.

But how about you? Who among you would like to try to help me keep this congregation connected to the larger movement? It’s an exciting way to get a perspective on the whole movement, and how much physical travel the czar does would be up to him/her. A lot of the work of connections can be done online and on the phone. We have among us people who have given service to the larger movement all the way from President to the District Board, but experience is not necessary for this post.

Blessings

Edmund



**NOTE THAT SERVICES THIS JULY AND AUGUST WILL NOT CHANGE
BUT CONTINUE TO BE AT 10:30 AM**

HARDINGS BEACH POT LUCK

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY JULY 20
5:00 PM (No rain date)**

**WHERE: SECOND PARKING LOT
AT HARDINGS BEACH**

**BRING: A DISH TO SHARE
(No grilling this year)**

YOUR OWN:

**PLATE AND CUP,
SILVERWARE,
DRINK,
BEACH CHAIR**

SIGN-UP ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

BRING A FRIEND TO GET TO KNOW US!!

**Questions: call Mary Parsons
432-7194 or Sue Bauer 945-3264**



SUMMER MAGIC

"The Amazing Richard" will be working his magic every Monday night and Tuesday morning throughout July and August. Full of energy and ready to astound, amaze and entrance the audience, young and old alike. Plan on bringing your visitors....children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Shows are at 7 PM on Mondays and 10 AM on Tuesdays. Tickets are \$10 each; children under 3 are free if held on your lap.

And, if you happen to have a Monday evening or Tuesday morning free and would be willing to sell tickets/ refreshments, please call Melissa at 945-2075 or Jack Parsons at 508-364-8484



Community Building and Outreach —- See Magic Show above

One objective of UUMH is to provide opportunities to build our community and to serve others. One opportunity which we are offering this summer is very important and only takes a few hours of your time.

The task: Help greet and staff the building while the magician performs at our church.

Time: Mondays 6:15pm –9:00 pm or Tuesdays 8:45am – 11:30 am.

The Magic Show will be running the months of July and August. You do not need to volunteer for the whole month just one date or two. Our magician invites us (2 individuals) to sell tickets at each of his performances. You would also sell refreshments during intermission.

We invite you to participate and need your help in this endeavor.

If you need more details or want to volunteer please contact: Jack Parsons (508-364-8484) or Melissa (945-2075).

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is going well, and we are looking forward to a great summer. Our volunteers have been working hard to keep up with all the merchandise that comes in daily. Many thanks to you all. We appreciate if you would not bring in any winter clothes as we really have no market for them during the summer months. It looks like we are right on target for the year.

We still could use some jewelry.

M & M



Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING

HUGE Thanks to **Deborah and Hoyt Ecker** for organizing and spearheading the new landscaping near the Fleck Room door. Absolutely gorgeous!! Many thanks also to...

Barbara Blanchard for contributing more than a dozen perennials
 Dave Hubbard, Bob Raymond and Ralph Bauer, for planting bushes
 Stephania McClennen for contributing to the landscape materials

Helleri Holly bushes have been planted along the low west wall. They are expected to grow horizontally and be self-maintaining. Wine Rose Wiegela bushes have been planted in the corner by the Thrift Shop door. These are expected to bush out, grow relatively tall and to conceal flaws in the old wall. A mix of perennials and annuals (predominantly lavender, pink, and white) are in the adjoining garden, planted with the hope they will provide cheery color.

The driveway embankment is an experiment, an orphanage for repositioned lilies and gifted hardy perennials. The site has full sun, good drainage and full public exposure. The downsides are terrible soil and remote water access. It's a "survival of the fittest" situation about which fingers are crossed.

Art on the Walls of the UUMH

The Botanical works of Barb Holden, Joyce McConnell and Lucy Sur will continue to the end of July.

For the August and September exhibit, artists in the congregation are invited to enter a piece on August 2 at 10.a.m. Subject is Anything Goes. Several artists have already reserved spaces.



The Treasure of Silence (Alexis Maurya has returned from India for another 2 day session this year)

Vedanta, the essence of the ancient vedic texts of India teaches us that all Truths are one. Alexis Maurya will talk about her teacher, the saint, Bhagavan who is a Vedantin and a householder, married with a daughter, and what she learned from the time she spent with he and his family. These discussions and meditations will be on practical spirituality through the process of self inquiry, and how we maintain stillness within, while we are in the midst of family life. From this stillness, our own deep change radiates through our families and our communities.

July 31st and August 1st in the Annex from 6:30pm—8pm. Class is free of charge.

Thank you from the UUA

We are deeply grateful for your generous contribution of \$249.00 to the UUA in support of the Massachusetts Tornado Relief Fund. Your gift will provide relief to the congregations of the Clara Barton District, their participants, and the communities in Massachusetts that suffered damage from the June 1 tornados.

From the President's remarks at the Annual Meeting

WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSELY OBSERVE A MODEL NEW ENGLAND UU CHURCH ORGANIZATION THIS PAST YEAR AND A REAL UU MINISTER!

WE ARE NOT THE 1 HOUR SUNDAY CHURCH ORGANIZATION WHICH MANY CHURCHES USED TO BE. MORE THAN 20 COMMITTEES SUGGEST EACH COMMITTEE HAS EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS AT THE COMMITTEE LEVEL. YES, WE HAVE SOME BUREACRACY WITH REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS.

The seven person Board of Trustees with four new members and new chairperson held two retreats ably facilitated by Jon Goward. The retreats focused on the need to attract newcomers to the Meeting House. The initial Board of Trustees goals included membership growth, meeting the needs of the congregation and community, involving the congregation in Sunday services, social activities, and shared use of the facilities. We have retained members this past year in a changing demographic environment with an older congregation and fewer children.

Thanks to the Program Council ably chaired by Sue Bauer for the past 5 years. This committee supervises many of our executive functions.

Finance Ed Mangiafico RETIRING AND IRREPLACEABLE WITH HIS INSISTENCE ON GOOD DATA AND TREND ANALYSIS

Stewardship Ralph Bauer
Nominating Committee Ralph Bauer A Key committee
Buildings and Grounds Ralph Bauer

MUUGS ESPECIALLY WANTED ME TO THANK DEBORAH AND HOYT ECKER FOR THEIR GARDENING EFFORTS

Membership Marion Harcourt and Barbara Blanchard good to have co-chair persons
Worship Service 52 week Worship program chaired by Dick Eccles and Barbara Rothenburger
Music Committee Dick Eccles
Thrift Shop Mary Parsons and Mary Chesnut
Pastoral Care Karen Nickerson and Linda Redding
Learning for Life Rev. Dick Fewkes
Development Joyce Devoe
Social Activities Mary Parsons
Publicity Sybille Colby
Committee on the Ministry Robin Hubbard

Support Services remain a high priority including four Small Ministry Groups to meet biopsychosocial and transportation needs of the congregation. Small Ministry Groups may be the secret to retaining membership.

An annual evaluation of the minister and congregation was processed with the minister advisory committee. Highest marks were given for Sunday Services, Pastoral Care, Adult Education, and Minister Initiative.

Walter Diggs

Take time every day to do something silly. (Philipa Walker)

UUMH CLASSIFIEDS (Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)***** FOR SALE! FOR SALE! FOR SALE!
ITEMS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AT REASONABLE PRICES.**

Please contact Sybille Colby, e-mail or phone. Landline 430-1467 or cell: 508-237-3059. Thanks!

- Subaru Forester, 2004. 39,000+ miles. Driven by the legendary " little old lady in tennis shoes."
- Double Bed, handsome dark wood. Traditional style. Good mattress and box spring, if wanted.
- Capacious 4 drawer chest , with or without matching mirror. Spill-proof top surface.
- Twin bed, maple (?) head and foot boards. Good mattress and box spring, if wanted.
- Knee-hole traditional wooden desk. Gleaming mid-brown. Lots of drawers.
- Computer stand.
- Small arm chair, somewhat faded upholstery but very comfortable.

*** 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

*** 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.

PROGRAM COUNCIL

The Program Council recently held its last meeting until fall. Good discussions were held on hosting and ushering, social activities for the summer, particularly a Hardings Beach Pot Luck, and a possible remembrance service on September 11.

Sally Davol will be taking over my chair in the fall. I know she will do a superb job and that the congregation will support her and the Council as you have in the past.

Thanks to the Council and all of you for a wonderful and exciting 5 years!
Sue Bauer, Outgoing Council Chair.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thanks go to Alice Wilson and Barbara Blanchard who helped serve a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner to 14 residents of the Captain Bears House on June 12. Barbara even brought in some fudge for an extra treat along with their usual ice cream.

Our next dinner to serve will be on July 31 and volunteers have been secured for that date. Our last one for 2011 is scheduled for Sept 4 which does fall on Labor Day weekend. I would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to help out.

Connie Pina 432-3414



**The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jan Young
on the loss of her mother,
Jean Young.**

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard Columbus Day Weekend B&B October 8, 9 & 10, 2011 B&B Weekend Information

See our Website at www@uusmv.info, link to Bed & Breakfast.

- Two nights, three days at \$400 per couple. \$225 single.
- Guests may choose an extended stay on Friday and/or Monday nights at \$75 per person, per night.
- Half of the fee required as deposit at time of reservation; balance due by 9/24/11.
- Cancellation policy: Full refund if cancelled 2 weeks in advance (by 9/24/11); a \$50 cancellation fee applies after that

Itinerary

Saturday

You will be picked up at the Ferry—Afternoon at leisure—6:00 Seafood Dinner and Entertainment at the Chapel.

Sunday

Breakfast with your host—11:00 Sunday Service, light lunch—Island tours after Service at your option.

(Please let us know if you want this option so we can line up the cars.)

The rest of the day and evening at your leisure.

Monday

Breakfast with your host—The rest of the day at your leisure—Ride to the Ferry - Schedule is optional.

There is public transportation all day until 7:30 pm. There are also taxis.

Mail your deposit, check made out to UUSMV) to:

Johanna Kobran

188 Sandpiper Ln. No. 11

Vineyard Haven MA 02568

508-693-7083

jhkobran@yahoo.com

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**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.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

July Birthdays

**DIRECTORY CHANGES****DID YOU KNOW????**

Ladies' Lunch meets the second Wednesday of every month, year round, at the Hearth & Kettle in Orleans. The group gathers at noon to enjoy each others' company, and a good meal. We receive separate checks which allows everyone to get just what suits them, be it soup or a full turkey dinner, or anything in

between. All women in the Meeting House are welcome on a regular or occasional basis.

Please call Sue Bauer at 945-3264 to add your name to our list.

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE, CONT.**

You have undoubtedly noticed that each month the Newsletter contains a list of members and friends who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries that month. This is a great way for us to connect with others in our community and share their special times. I know that many new members – and some long time members, too – have not yet shared their birthdays/anniversaries with me. Please do!! Email your dates (years not needed !) to ralphb1234@cs.com or call Sue Bauer at 945-3264. And thanks!