

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.  
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM  
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JANUARY 2023 VOLUME XXI NUMBER 1



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**"NEWS FROM THE HILL"**  
is published monthly year round  
by the UU Meeting House of  
Chatham.

Editor: Susan Bauer

Layout Editor: Susan Bauer

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

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

next month is THURSDAY

January 26. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



## CUSP RECOMMENDATIONS

Cusp recommendations by the Board to be presented January 8 after the service.

Following months of congregational discussions, including eight summer Zoom sessions, two fall congregational meetings, written input and additional discussions, the UUMH Board will share their recommendations for the future direction of the church at a briefing after the service on January 8.

"On the Cusp of the Future" has as its goal helping the congregation navigate the membership and financial challenges currently facing UUMH. The Board recommendations were developed over multiple sessions after reviewing the congregational feedback. Begun in May 2022, the effort was led by a group that included Dave Van Wye, Naomi Turner, Danielle Jeanloz, Joan Caputo, and Beth Avery, as well as session moderators Priscilla Smith, Jon Nye, John Raye, Sally Davol, and Jan Young. All worked to ensure the voices of church members, friends, and staff were heard.

The briefing is expected to include a series of suggested actions to achieve a roadmap for the future of UUMH.



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Danielle Jeanloz, Secretary  
Joe Zahka, Treasurer

**At large members:**

Greg Heyl  
Naomi Turner  
Liz Van Wye

**Program Council**

Sue Bauer, 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.

**MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

January 1                      New Year's Day                      No services

January 8                      Harnessing Light                      Rev. Tracy Johnson

How are you empowered and how can we use that power in our changing world? What lives at our centers as individuals and as a faith community that can empower our future together?

January 15                      Gandhi's Way                      Rev. Tracy Johnson

As we approach the remembrance of the life and contributions of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and after a year's long study on Gandhi and nonviolence, we will explore together the meaning of this practice.

January 22                      Spirits are All Around Us  
Rev. Duncan Sings-Alone

Rev. Sings-Alone and his wife Cilla Cogan on Native American Spirituality with a personal look into traditions and values of Native American spirituality.

January 29                      TBA

**Who's Preaching**

Rev. Sings-Alone is a Zen Buddhist Priest, UU Minister, Sensei, and Cherokee Spiritual Teacher. He is the author of *Sprinting Backward To God* and *Stalking Nirvana*. He and his wife are retired psychologists and are affiliated with the First Universalist Society in Franklin, MA.



Dear Ones, All –

Here we are, literally on the cusp of the future, the start of a new year! I can't think of anywhere I'd rather be than with all of you as we embark on this journey together. Our Soul Matters Theme for this month is "Finding Our Center." If you don't know what all this talk about a theme means, see my December 11<sup>th</sup> sermon, "Awestruck" on our website! What better way to begin the year here than to center ourselves as we prepare to consider a sustainable ministry for the Meeting House. It all comes down to our values as a community of faith. What is important enough to us about UUMH to be carried forward into the next iteration of our life as a people, as an organization, as Unitarian Universalists in an ever-evolving world? What still serves us and what might we let go of. Grounded in who we are and what we see our mission as being, we can make a plan to navigate the territory ahead.

We will have an opportunity on January 8<sup>th</sup> to hear from the Board of Trustees about their impressions and recommendations arising from the Cusp of the Future Working Group Report. I encourage all of you to take part in this process. This is a shared ministry here at UUMH and that means we all have a role in shaping our future. Your ponderings and ideas, your creativity and openness are important and necessary. There is so much wisdom in our midst and a deep level of caring for one another and this place.

January is often seen as a time for fresh starts, but to be honest, I find myself stopping and starting all year long, always on the cusp of something. Life doesn't know the difference between this month and May or November. Staying open and noticing what tugs on my Spirit equip me for what lies ahead. The seasons here in New England call us to a fallow time during the winter, but I know my garlic and daffodils are beneath the Earth's surface gathering energy for springtime. That same energy is alive in each of us, too, as we nourish ourselves for what is to come, ready to burst forth into the next season. We can't predict the future, but we can think about what makes sense for us. We may be comfortable with things just as they are, but that's not a realistic approach in these times. What we look like as a faith community here on the hill may be different in a couple of years from what we know today. And that is no less valuable. In fact, it might be more so! Ours is to plan and prepare, to remain agile in the face of a changing world. I am excited about the prospects, and I hope you are too!

As we welcome this new year I wish you good health, the love of family and friends, and many opportunities to revel in the sacredness of our beautiful Cape Cod home.

Blessed be.  
Reverend Tracy



# UUMH *Family Art Show*

## Fleck Room, February 5 to March 5

Most of us have art in our homes, whether it be in full display on the living room walls, or tucked away in a closet. We might be the painter, photographer or textile artist, or we might just like to collect beautiful work that we discover at a UUMH art show or local gallery. We keep some pieces because Mom painted it, or it's a friend's textile work, or because Dad felt so proud of taking that photo in Yellowstone. A secret favorite might be the "masterpiece" that we (or a grandchild) created at the age of six.

Each piece has a story to tell, but we don't often have an opportunity to share these stories with our friends. Now we have the chance! We can loan a couple of our household favorites for the UUMH Family Art Show.

### Here's how:

Contact Beth Avery to reserve 1-2 hanging hooks. Each art piece must be framed (minimum size 11" x 14") or at least have a wire across the back. (Small nail holes will not work.) Assistance is available. [bavertown@verizon.net](mailto:bavertown@verizon.net), 508-255-2777.

Attach the following information to the back of each item: your name, artist's name, title of the work, and a brief story about its special meaning for you. This information will be typed on a card posted next to the art.

Bring your pieces to UUMH during the last two weeks of January and place them in the Library. If you do not have the combination for access to the building, bring them Sunday morning 1/22 or 1/29 OR between 10:00-11:00 AM (only) on February 3rd, which is the day the show will be hung.



**If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done. (Anon.)**

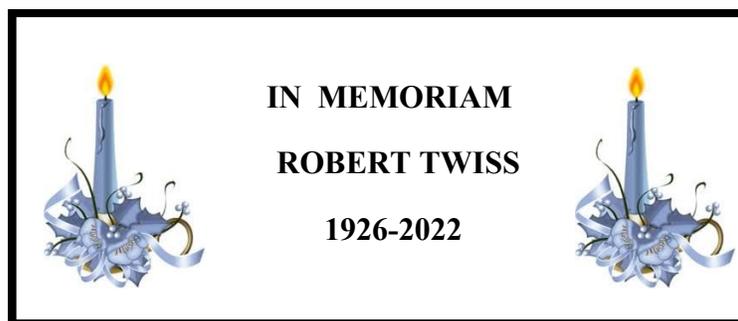
**VERY SPECIAL GIFT PRESENTED TO UUMH BY THE FAMILY OF GENE AND HELEN PICKETT**

The plate pictured below is from a dinnerware set owned by the family of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. It has been part of the collection at the Clara Barton Birthplace Museum in North Oxford, MA.

The name of the pattern is “Asiatic Scenery.” It was made by Careys in Staffordshire, England.

Presented to Dr. O. Eugene Pickett and Helen Pickett by the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation on the occasion of Gene’s retirement as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

It will hang in the Fleck Room at UUMH



### CAN YOU HELP??

#### RIDES NEEDED

We have 2 members in North Chatham and one in Eastham who would love to join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday but need a ride. If you would be willing to provide that ride, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264). It could be every Sunday, but once or twice a month or even occasionally would be great. It would be wonderful to have a group of people to share the driving. Plus you would make a congregant extremely happy and make yourself feel good too!

#### FOOD AND COMFORT

Many of you have been very generous providing food for recent Memorial Service collations. The Pastoral Care Team really appreciates your willingness to help. Another caring service, which fell into that deep Covid hole, is meals for those who need short term help - perhaps a few meals while recovering from a hospital stay or some other overwhelming event. Pastoral Care would ask you to prepare just one meal and deliver it to one of our congregants: main dish, salad, dessert. Please let Sue Bauer know (943-3264) if you would be willing to be on a list of possible providers - only occasionally and only on your schedule.



#### COFFEE HOUR

Welcome back to the Fleck Room after the service on Sundays! Coffee, tea, water are all available, but even better....conversation and a chance to connect with friends, old and new. We have all missed this chance to be together. How joyous to be able to gather again. If you would be willing to help set up or clean up after - easy and not very time-consuming - please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264).



## FLOWERS

Flowers are such a special part of our services. It is a joy to see something beautiful at the front of the church each Sunday. If you would like to contribute to the "Flower Fund" or bring your own, please let Sue Bauer know ( 945-3264). Sue is also happy to order flowers for you through New England Gardens. The cost is about \$40, and as you have seen, their bouquets are lovely. Remember, it doesn't have to be just flowers. A plant, a piece of sculpture, anything that can be seen from the back of the church!



## MEMBERSHIP

### BRANCH OUT FOR 2023

Our next Branch Out social gathering, the first for the new year, is Thursday January 26 at 5 pm at 400 East, 1421 Orleans-Harwich Rd, East Harwich, across from the Stop and Shop.

Branch Out is a chance for UUs and friends to gather socially (for an hour, more or less) in a casual way. The first two sessions of Branch Out held at Branches Restaurant in Chatham were very successful.

We are varying the location to make the event more accessible to members from Harwich and Orleans as well as Chatham. Stop in to discuss whatever is on your mind, to share refreshments or grab a bite. Bring a friend or two along. No RSVP needed...see you then!

## ANGEL FUND FINAL REPORT

What an incredible group of people we are! Your generous donations of about \$800 enabled Gail Eldredge and Sue Bauer to purchase some wonderful gifts for a local family, hopefully ensuring a Happy Holiday for them. Thank you so very much from Gail and me. And my special thanks for Gail for being an awesome fellow shopping angel.



**No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted. (Aesop)**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The Asylum Seeking Family here in Chatham will have a very Merry Christmas thanks to UUMH generosity and The Chatham Children's Fund. Everything was wrapped and delivered on December 21. Our collection of clothing-socks, hats, underwear gloves, etc. will be brought to homeless Cape Codders soon. We will talk to the Hyannis Shelter about the donations in money we collected. We may purchase more gifts or donate the money.

January's Outreach Collection will support the South Eastern Women's Health Organization which is brings women here who are not able to have the abortion services they need in their home states.

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FILM**

*Who's Next* is feature-length documentary film that examines how the lives of Muslim-Americans have been affected in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The film shines a light on the bigotry endured by Muslim Americans, particularly during Donald Trump's presidency, while encouraging viewers to choose knowledge over ignorance, take action to prevent hate speech, and get to know those who are different from them so that the challenges of marginalized communities can be effectively addressed.

Sponsored by Sustainable Practices on January 7 at the Orpheum in Chatham at 9:30 AM.



**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Nurturing inclusive community**

**Seeking justice and equity**

**Encouraging free minds and spirits**

**FAREWELL AND THANKS TO  
OUR AV TECH, JAIDEN VAN BORK**



### SEARCH FOR AN AV TECHIE!!

We have not yet been able to replace Jaiden as our AV Tech. We have had a few nibbles but \$75-\$100/week is not enough compensation for a commitment of most Sunday mornings. Joe Zahka will be doing the AV duties until a replacement is found.

If you have a lead for an AV Tech or are willing to person the controls periodically, let Joe Zahka know at [joseph.zahka@verizon.net](mailto:joseph.zahka@verizon.net). In particular, we are looking for coverage for the first two Sundays in February.

### MITTEN/HAT BASKET FOR THE HOMELESS

A volunteer or maybe a duo is needed to deliver the items we collected in December for our designated outreach to St. Joseph Shelter in Hyannis. Their address is 77 Winter St. You should call in advance—their phone number is The basket is now in the Fleck Room thanks to Mary Parsons. You will need to bring a large box or garbage bags to transport them. This project was very successful. I will also send a check to the shelter for funds collected. Call Joan for more info and to volunteer, 508-776-0319.

Thanks, Joan Caputo



**JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Zoe Simmons is a member of the National Junior Honor Society at Nauset Middle School. She is also a member of the Model UN Club.

Dana McCoy conceived of, organized and produced a wonderful Christmas present to us all with her YOUTube collection of chapters of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* read by members of UUMH and others. Brava!!

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 6 Zoe Simmons
- 7 Naomi Turner
- 8 Charlotte Edgcombe
- 13 Read Moffett
- 15 Courtney Keenan
- 23 Jennie Makihara
- 26 Beth Avery
- 28 Ron Nickerson



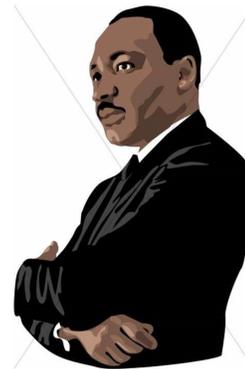
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING UUMH NEWS ITEMS:**

The deadline for submissions to the *Weekly Bulletin* (published on Monday) is **6 pm on Sunday**.  
Email items to KD Ryan: [socialtechie1@gmail.com](mailto:socialtechie1@gmail.com)

Submissions suggested include upcoming events, programs, opportunities, enhanced activities, etc.

On your email's subject line, please write "For Weekly Bulletin on Monday (Insert Date)"  
Include your name and contact information in case KD has a question.

**Newsletter:**  
Email directly to Sue Bauer ([ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com)).  
Follow schedule written on cover of previous month's Newsletter.  
On subject line, write "For Newsletter"



**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

Third Monday Book Club will meet at 10AM on January 16 to discuss *Search* by Michelle Huneven.

Contact Mary Parsons with questions.  
[marypmac@comcast.net](mailto:marypmac@comcast.net) / 432-7194

All are welcome for one book or many!



**MEDITATION GROUP**

**"Our body talks to us in Feelings and Sensations. Meditation Practice is taking time out to listen."**

The UU Meditation group meets on Zoom at 9:30 every Saturday morning with Joan Konopka as the facilitator. If anyone is interested in joining the group you can tune in from any location .

Email Nancy Fields with questions:  
[nefields42@gmail.com](mailto:nefields42@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258  
Passcode: 040260