

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pledge Campaign Begins	1
Month of Sundays	2
Minister's Message	3
Thrift Shop	4
Membership Minute	4
Groundskeepers Wanted	4
Priscilla Smith's Quilts	5
Social Justice Committee	6
Worship Committee	6
Book Discussion	7
In Memoriam	7
Solar Evaluation	7
Treasurer's Message	8
UUMH News Items	8
Bits and Pieces	9

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is published monthly year round
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SUNDAY SERVICES are
held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is THURSDAY

April 21. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



2022—2023

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN OPENS

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR
MEETING HOUSE AND ITS MISSION**

**PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR PLEDGE CARD AND
SEND IT BACK TO UUMH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**AND PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS YOU CAN TO
HELP CONTINUE OUR GOOD WORK**

**THEN, WHEN WE CAN, WE WILL CELEBRATE
WITH OUR COMMUNITY IN PERSON.**

RALPH BAUER, PLEDGE CHAIR



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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.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

April 3 Salvation by Character Rev. Paul Sprecher

William Ellery Channing gave the sermon that named one of our traditions "Unitarian," and he also spoke on one key idea that still informs our tradition to this day: "Salvation by Character," which remains a guide for each of us seeking wholeness in our lives.

April 10 Hidden Heartache Brooke Eaton-Skea

The truth about homelessness and housing instability among youth and young adults on the Lower and Outer Cape and how we can address it together.

April 17 Fulfilling Our Desire Rev. Tracy Johnson

The Easter story is full of the desires of long-ago peoples. To what lengths will we go to ensure that our desires are met?

April 24 Touched By the Earth Rev. Tracy Johnson

This week we celebrate Earth Day. As we consider the effects of climate change in our midst, we will take some time to connect more deeply with our Earth home.

Who's Preaching

Paul Sprecher: Many of us will be familiar with Rev. Paul Sprecher who substituted for Edmund during Edmund's sabbatical in 2014. He is currently minister at First Parish Bridgewater where he has some Sundays where he is not needed. He lives in Scituate.

Brooke Eaton-Skea is part of the Nauset Interfaith Association.

MISSION STATEMENT

**Nurturing inclusive community
Seeking justice and equity
Encouraging free minds and spirits.**

Dear Ones, All –

Spring has sprung! The forsythia and witch hazel are blooming, the daffodils are up and about ready to pop, if they haven't already by the time you read this, and I have planted my peas and lettuces! There is so much life all around us. It is there all the time, but we become keenly aware of it this time of the year because it is new life, hopeful life, assuring us of the ongoing cycles of our living. The Meeting House is bustling with life also – hybrid Sunday Services, singing and listening to our choir (masked, of course!), thinking ahead to the opening of the Thrift Shop, and taking some time to remember those who have gone from our midst, more recently and in the past year. It is a sacred time.

This place holds special meaning for each of us. We had a rousing response last fall to the Membership Committee survey about why you joined UUMH which highlights some of the reasons. You can see those on our website at www.uumh.net. The Board and I have invited several of you to share with us about what the Meeting House means to you, why it is valuable, and why you contribute in all the ways that you do. I encourage each of you to think about this also as you prepare to make your annual financial commitment to UUMH and to consider what other ways you are a part of mix. Is there something new you'd like to be a part of? It takes all of us to keep things going.

This month I will be talking about desire and to what lengths we will go to fulfill those longings. The Board will be spending some time thinking with us about what we desire for this faith community in the coming years and how we think we might get to those places. As we enter into this exercise, I encourage you to go beyond imagining to full-on fantasy when it comes to UUMH. In order to remain relevant and sustainable, we will need to be creative and think outside the box. This doesn't just apply to us, but to our faith tradition as a whole. If we value the principles of Unitarian Universalism, if we think they are important to our lives and our world, we need to find ways to bring them to life that speak to people who have yet to hear our good news. What is at the core of who we are, and how can we express it? People want to make meaning of their lives, and Unitarian Universalism offers so many opportunities to grow in heart and mind and spirit. How can we facilitate that? We each have a role to play.

We stand on the precipice of new life, hopeful life, in this season and in this place of love and deep caring for each other and our world. May we continue to nurture, to seek and to encourage using whatever gifts we bring to the whole. May we offer freely of our time and talents and treasures, that this beloved community may continue to flourish here on the hill.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy





THRIFT SHOP

GET READY!!!! May will see the opening of the Thrift Shop for yet another banner year!! Last year was incredible, and it would be great to repeat that!! Mary Parsons will again be heading up the Thrift Shop. It will open Monday May 16.

She is looking for volunteers. We will be open Monday through Friday with two 3- hour shifts each day, 2-3 volunteers each shift. Different jobs – something for everyone. Please call her to volunteer or with any questions at 432-7194. Subs will also be needed. And could you help with set up ? The physical part of setting up is covered, but pricing, hanging clothes, arranging – it all takes time and workers.

And, of course, bring us your donations. Beginning May 2. Someone will be at the Meeting House each weekday beginning May 2 from 10-1 to accept your donations. Dig deep into the back corners of your drawers and closets. Remember, something you no longer need or want could be someone else's treasure. We can use clothes (clean, pressed), housewares, linens,

toys and games and puzzles, gadgets, books, CDs and DVDs, Jewelry.

REMEMBER that the Thrift Shop provides a lot of needed funds to the Meeting House. Help keep our dream and our mission going. Your participation is GREATLY appreciated – donate, volunteer, BUY!!!

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

The location of our UUMH, on a hill overlooking Main Street in Chatham, gives us great visibility in the community. With our mission statement now on the Wayside Pulpit sign, as well as the inviting topic of our upcoming service visible to all who pass by, the Membership committee recently reached out to Joe Zahka and Building and Grounds to light up our messages at night. Using solar energy options, Joe figured out a way to get it done. Now if you are in Chatham at night and drive by UUMH, instead of a dark sign, it is fully illuminated. Thanks Joe for your creativity in lighting us up! Liz Van Wye, Membership Co-chair



coloringpage.eu

GROUNDSKEEPERS WANTED

Our talented crew of groundskeepers (Barbara Hanrahan, Lisa Evans, and Steve Keenan) have all moved away. We are looking for new recruits to care for our grounds. Our plantings are generally low maintenance, but they do require some pruning and trimming during the year. This is a great job for summer residents. If you are interested, email Joe Zahka at joseph.zahka@verizon.net.

Everything you can imagine is real. (Pablo Picasso)

**A NEW ART JOURNEY: Priscilla Smith
SEE PRISCILLA'S QUILTS IN THE FLECK ROOM**

After my retirement from practicing law in 2002, I spent about 10 years learning to make quilts. I started off by using pre-made patterns. After a few years, I started making art quilts... quilts without a pattern where the quilter might use other inspiration such as a photograph or image from nature.

The quilts in this current UU Exhibition are all from the period 2002 - 2009. Some are made with a pattern. Others like "The Heron," "All that Jazz," and "The Harp" were inspired by music or nature.

In 2009, I took a workshop about dying fabric. Until that point, I had been using commercially printed fabric. Dying my own fabric and making my own designs was much more challenging but also much more rewarding... when I got it right.

I decided to focus on making art cloth which focused on social justice and anti-war themes.

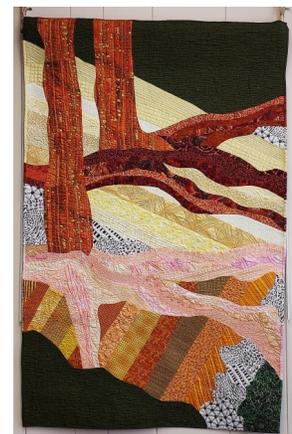
From 2009 through the end of 2019, my art focused solely on these two categories. Many of these pieces have been exhibited at the UU during the past several years.

In 2011, I was lucky to jury into a national art group called the Art Cloth Network. We exhibit all over the country... so my art has been shown in many different venues during the past 10 years. My piece about Trayvon Martin won Best of Show at a major exhibition in Boston.

The last piece I made during this timeframe was entitled "NOT MORE THAN 3000". it was about the babies stolen from their mothers at the southern border AND the words from the government "don't worry....there probably aren't more than 3000". As I researched and made this piece, I knew I had to take a break and I did not know where my art would go from there.

The pandemic was just beginning and many Art Teaching Venues began putting Workshops on-line. In June of 2000, I saw one on basic print making with Zea Mays Printmaking and signed on. So, I now call myself a beginning print maker. My artist studio is no longer filled with fabric and dyes and fabric paints. It is now filled with print making inks; brayers; print making paper; and a small print making press I found in Great Britain. It's been very challenging learning a new media and very rewarding "when I get a print I really like." My prints have been primarily abstract.

I do not know where this will lead...I still find myself during daily walks with my dog thinking of another social justice theme I might like to explore. But I know it is not time yet. We shall see.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Outreach for April Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative

Social Justice News

**Eastham is celebrating Earth Day on April 22 with a beach clean-up program. If we are interested in forming a group to join in we can contact the Eastham town office. They have 13 beaches and the town will supply equipment. Please email Joan Caputo if interested.

**Social Justice project for Safe Harbors asylum seeking family.
 Asylum-seeking family sponsored by Safe Harbors at St. Peter’s Church on Route 137 is in need of diapers. which are, as we know, increasingly expensive and eating up their food allocation. The child just turned 2 years old.
 Joan will bring a large box which will be in the library or Fleck Room.
 We will collect during the month of April. Contact me for at home pick-up if needed. \$\$contributions are also welcome.
 Joan Caputo. 508-776-0319

**Outreach Donations 2021 Thanks to everyone!!

Young Center Immigrant Children Rights	\$583
Family Pantry of Cape Cod	\$443
NAACP Cape Cod Branch	\$356
Independence House	\$274
Building a Bigger Table	\$365
UUSC	\$442
Chatham Children’s Fund	\$280
Ascentria Care Alliance	\$224
Emerald Hollow Therapeutic Riding Center	\$1333
Lower Cape Outreach	\$428

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

It is great to be back in the church with masks and singing and even the **CHOIR**. Our Zoom broadcasts will continue with the chat discussions. We are hoping to see more of you in the future. With the uncertainties of the virus, we are continuing collecting donations with a plate and a basket on the table as you leave the church. You can always send a donation via the donate button on our Facebook page or directly to the church at UUMH, PO Box 18, Chatham, MA. 02633.



BOOK DISCUSSION WITH REVEREND TRACY

“**The Darkness Divine: A Loving Challenge to My Faith**” by the Rev. Dr. Kristin L. Harper uses poetry, prose and lived experience to explore the challenges of racism for people of color in our faith.

Discussion group began in February, but you can still join us. Read Chapter 5 and use the link in the Eblast to join us on On March 30 at 10:30AM



In Memoriam

**Walter Diggs
1932-2022**

**Memorial Service at UUMH and Zoom
Saturday April 30 at 1PM**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SOLAR EVALUATION

Building and Grounds has renewed its review of the benefits of installing rooftop solar panels at the Meeting House and has received new proposals from potential vendors. We have also learned that in addition to the direct financial benefits of owning a solar system and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, electricity we generate in excess of our needs could be given to other non-profit organizations of our choosing. A solar system would therefore not only allow UUMH to “go green” and save money, it could also support one or more social justice initiatives by helping other community organizations meet their own energy needs.

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of an evaluation committee that will review the differing proposals and develop ideas how excess electricity could be shared. If anyone is interested in helping with this effort, whether by evaluating vendors, technical proposals, or financing options, or by thinking creatively about the social justice benefits of installing a system large enough to generate electricity in excess of our direct needs, please contact Jon Nye at jpnye23@gmail.com.

Creativity comes from trust. Trust your instincts. (Rita Mae Brown)

A Note from the Treasurer – Joe Zahka

Some might think that it is a miracle that the Meeting House has survived during the COVID pandemic. That thought is wrong on two counts. The Meeting House has prospered during the pandemic, not just survived. We have had budget surpluses for the two years of the pandemic, the Thrift Shop had a record year, our membership has remained stable, and we have instituted multi-platform worship to meet the needs of our members. And “a miracle” has nothing to do with it. It has to do with efforts of our membership, not some divine being. It was the hard decision to go to a part-time minister. It was a member donating \$25,000, giving us time to transition to part-time ministry. It was a group of people coming together to pull off an on-line auction when the Thrift Shop could not open. It was an amazing group of members and friends who led the Thrift Shop through a \$40,000 year. It was members of the Worship Services Committee figuring out how to implement quality worship in the complicated hybrid format.

While faith, optimism, and hope are often used interchangeably, they require very different actions. Faith assumes an outside force, often divine, will intercede. Optimism is a positive mind frame that is credited for happiness, but not outcomes. Hope is also a positive state of mind, but it arises from the belief that one has the power and means to achieve a goal. We are hopeful that the Meeting House will survive, but it will take effort on our part.

Why hopeful now? Rev. Tracy Johnson has helped lead us over the past two years as a half-time minister while making us transition to a less minister-centered identity. For the next two years, we plan for Tracy to increase her effort to a 3/4-time minister, preaching three of four sermons/month. This gives us more consistency, while reducing the load on the members of Worship Services Committee. For this 50% increase in time, we are increasing Tracy’s compensation by about \$11,000 (28%). This increase in effort on Tracy’s part is a gift to us and well below market rates for UU ministers.

We have challenges, most notably, the moving and passing of several members this year. This will make the achievement of our \$112,000 pledge drive goal difficult. The Membership and Outreach Committees are taking fresh looks at who we are and how we present ourselves, but it will take time and effort on our part to grow our membership to a sustainable level. If we do not meet our pledge goal, our Reserve Fund is large enough to allow us to continue.

A more difficult challenge is redeveloping the Religious Education (RE) program. Our program did not run this year, and our number of children is small. However, children in the service is a part of the Meeting House identity. We need ideas and action.

We need your money; this is a pledge-drive after all. But we also need your effort to build our membership, grow RE, staff and run the Thrift Shop, and do whatever else you think will make UUMH a more vibrant community.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING UUMH NEWS ITEMS:

Newsletter:

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

Eblast: Weekly Bulletin:

The deadline for submissions Eblast (published on Monday) is **6 pm on Sunday**.

Email items to KD Ryan: 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.

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*A recent Chronicle had a wonderful article on page 1 about Helping Ukraine. Prominent in the accompanying picture was a photo of the Meeting House flying a Peace banner.

*Laurie Noble had a very informative article in a recent Chronicle on 19th-20th century women's fashions showcased at the Atwood Museum

*Gail Tilton has been in the news lately as she circulated a petition around Chatham to have the town consider buying the Health and Swim Club for use by the town.

*Emma Eldredge earned High Honors for the 2nd Quarter at the Monomoy Middle School.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 1 | Ann Wallace |
| 7 | Sally Davol |
| 8 | Connie Pina |
| 14 | Barbara Waters |
| 29 | Pavia |



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Tracy and Chuck Johnson |
| 5 | Sue and Ralph Bauer |

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Liz Van Wye is now using the email
lizvanwye@gmail.com

Jenny and Richard Cohen are now living year round at
1620 Mayflower Ct. A615 / Winter Park, FL 32792

Valerie Mowbray's winter address is HC2 / Box 14608 /
Vieques, PR 00765



HELP WANTED

Joanne Arnold is looking for someone to occasionally walk her small dog. She lives in Chatham near Agway. If you would like to discuss this with her, please call her at 774-893-3081.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday April 18 to discuss *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

Contact Mary Parsons for location or with questions.
marypmac@comcast.net / 432-7194



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 . Contact Gail Tilton @ gmitilton@capecod.net

FAREWELL AND THANKS

We say goodbye and thanks to our Communications Coordinator Andrew Staiti. Thank you for your good work; we shall miss you.