

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"

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held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is THURSDAY

April 20. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



2023—2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

**THE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN OPENS ON
MARCH 26. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR PLEDGE
CARD LATER IN THE WEEK.**

**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.**

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

JOE ZAHKA – ACTING PLEDGE CHAIR



More info on page 5

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Joe Zahka, Treasurer

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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

April 2 Accolades of the Artichoke Rev. Bill Clark

What does the quality of this ancient vegetable have to do with love, hearts and survival?

April 9 Tempted? Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our theme this month is resistance and today we celebrate Easter, a holiday steeped in resistance. How is resistance alive for you in our times? Where do we struggle with temptation?

**April 16 The Humane Vision of Walt Whitman:
Standing on the side of Love Laurie Noble**

At no time has Whitman's compassion, his celebration of our differences or his profound humanity been more important than today.

April 23 The Sounds of Silence Rev. Tracy Johnson

I join you this week having just returned from seven days in silent meditation. So much bubbles up when we give it the opportunity to! This morning I will share some of the insights that seem particularly pertinent to our journey together at UUMH.

April 30 Work and Play Rev. Tracy Johnson

Tomorrow is May Day. Today we will look at two of its faces, look for our theme in their midst and, if all goes well, gather around the Maypole to celebrate together!

WHO'S PREACHING

Bill Clark, a world traveler, graduated from NYU as an interpreter for the deaf and worked in the deaf community for many years. He then graduated from Harvard Divinity and was called to the Henry David Thoreau Congregation in Texas and most recently to the UU Society in Martha's Vineyard.

Laurie Carter Noble, a lifelong UU and member of the Meeting House, has spoken here about Olympia Brown and is writing a book about her. She has lectured on the American suffrage movement, has been a member of various peace advocacy and anti-racism task forces, and has taught English at Villanova and Boston University.

Dear Ones, All –

If you think December is full of holidays and holy days; festivals, feasts and fasts; you haven't taken a close look at the month of April on your calendar! I am blessed to have the 2023 Peace Calendar, produced by the Syracuse Cultural Workers, hanging in my kitchen. I have a collection of these dating back to the 1980's! Along with important historical facts to take note of, it highlights religious and cultural remembrances across the spectrum. In no particular order I see Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and the Bahai'i faith all represented in this span of thirty days. Secular events are given prominence as well.

Celebrations honor the birth and death of venerated prophets and leaders – Jesus, and the Buddha. Muslims end their month-long time of reflection and spiritual discipline, Ramadhan, and break their fasting with a special feast. Two genocides are commended to our memories – the Jewish Holocaust, which will be recognized in late April at the Federated Church in Orleans (watch for details) and the Armenian Genocide. We remember also workers killed and injured on the job. We focus on our Earth home and sustainable means of securing its safety. Designations national and international abound and it is hard not to be caught up in at least some of the commemoration and festivity.

While there is certainly historical accuracy to the timing of some of this, I find it interesting that so much of what undergirds the world's systems of faith culminates in this season. We are awash in rebirth here in New England – forsythia, daffodils, crocuses, leaf buds, nesting birds, rabbits coming out of their isolation. New life surrounds us, and it feels like a time to sing and dance and to reflect on deeper meanings that will nourish new growth. And so, we will do a little of all of this in April! Our theme this month is resistance, which I will focus on in our Easter gathering. We are readying ourselves for the coming year as we think this month about what UUMH means to us and how we can support it. How will you commit to offering your time, talent and treasure to the good of the whole? You should prepare yourself to gather around the Maypole as the month comes to an end!

Three years ago, we entered into a time of isolation in order to protect ourselves and those we love. This year we are loosening our grip on some of this, while still maintaining safety and honoring individual needs. We are connecting in new ways, reminiscent of our old normal, while living into a new way of being in our world. As we journey onward, may we be blessed with a sense of rebirth in our personal lives and in our interconnected life as a community of faith. May our celebrations be joyful and our remembrances full of meaning making.

Blessed be.
Reverend Tracy

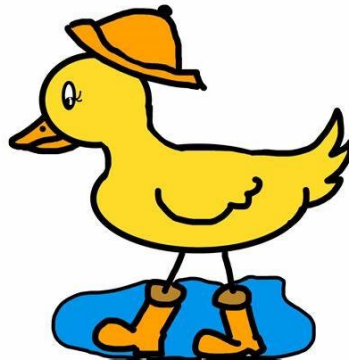




THRIFT SHOP ALMOST HERE!!

Thrift Shop season is almost upon us! Hope you are all checking your closets, jewelry boxes, and cupboards for items you are ready to part with. Remember, someone else will look at things you might be tired of and see a brand new treasure! Maybe clothes (men's and women's), maybe jewelry—real and costume—maybe shoes, maybe small furniture. Any or all may be just what they've been looking for!

Important dates: April 12 at 10AM in the Fleck Room. A meeting of past, present, and future volunteers to work in the shop. One day a week—morning or afternoon. Maybe more! Or be a sub!
 May 1—all day—and beyond.....Setting up the Thrift Shop, pricing and arranging all the items we have for sale.
 May 15—OPENING DAY. Tell your friends and your neighbors



NEW UUMH DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

For several reasons, we are not going to update/publish a new physical UUMH Directory. An up-to-date Directory will now be available online in the "Members Only" section of the uumh.net website, with a password to access the directory. We will include the password when we send you a copy of the directory by email. The online copy can be updated and available immediately. The Newsletter will still publish updates as well. You might want to print out a copy of the Directory for yourself or simply download it to your computer. If you need a bit of direction on accessing the Directory or if you would like actually print yourself a copy and need a bit of instruction, Danielle Jeanloz will be more than willing to help. Email her at daniellejeanloz@gmail.com

There are no ordinary moments (Hillman)

MORE PLEDGE DRIVE INFORMATION

After many years as the Pledge Drive Chair, Ralph Bauer has retired from that role. The Board of Trustees was unable to find a person willing to accept the responsibility of filling such big shoes, so I (Joe Zahka) am stepping in. I have been involved in the behind-the-scenes, functional aspects (budgeting, tracking, and forecasting) of the Pledge Drive for many years. I expect my shoes will be so small this year, that there will be plenty of volunteers next year who know they can do better. If you would be interested in interning this year to get some experience in the mechanics of the Pledge Drive, send me an email at joseph.zahka@verizon.net.

For those new to UUMH, a Pledge is a commitment to make a donation to the Meeting House during the next fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Our goal for the Pledge Drive this year is \$100,000, the same as was raised last year. Pledging is the single largest source of income for the Meeting House. Without it, we could not provide Sunday services, Ministerial support, outreach to the community, or maintenance of the building.

The timeline for the Pledge Drive is described below.

March 27 – A letter from our President, Ed Mangiafico, and Minister, Rev. Tracy Johnson, will be mailed along with a Pledge Card. You return the Pledge Card or send an email to uumh@uumh.net indicating how much you plan to donate next year.

April 2, 9, 16 – Members of the congregation will speak about why they are Unitarian Universalists and particularly why they support the Meeting House.

April 3 – An email describing the proposed budget for next year and some historical information about pledges at the Meeting House is sent.

April 17 – Phone calls will be made to new members and those who have not yet returned their pledge card.

April 30 – The Pledge Drive officially ends. Of course, we will accept pledges after this date from those who like to procrastinate.

Timelines are not inspirational. You will find inspiration in the letter from Tracy and Ed, as well as the testimonials from members during April. Mostly, you should look for inspiration from within. Reflect on what this community means to you and how you can support it.

If you have questions or suggestions, talk to me, or send me an email.
Joe Zahka – Acting Pledge Drive Chair



NIBBLES AT COFFEE HOUR

If you like a nibble with your coffee at Coffee Hour, please consider contributing something for the table on Sunday morning. Pavia is coordinating donations and making sure we have enough, but not too much! Please email Pavia of your desire to bring something at senorasangria@yahoo.com

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Each month—or even twice a month—several small groups meet, usually at the Meeting House, for a couple hours of thoughtful conversation on a wide variety of topics. A way to make connections with others, understand different viewpoints, share ideas, personal stories, questions. To get to know members of the group in a more personal and deeper way than simply chatting at coffee hour. To get a sense of really belonging to a group, to a community.

Each group of about 10 people meets at different times—morning, afternoon, evening. Each group currently has a small number of openings, and we are also more than willing to create new groups!

Each group is different. Each group chooses its own topics which might include spirituality, mindful living, communication, social justice issues, death, gratitude, finding balance, community issues like genetically modified food, and even fun topics like memories of Christmas or your bucket list.

Each group has a facilitator, and how the meeting is run is decided by the individual group. You are welcome to try out a group without committing to a long term relationship! Not every person fits into every group, no fault, no blame; you may try another group if you wish. All we ask is that you give it a good try of at least a few meetings.

Current Small Group members may approach you in the next few weeks to invite you to try it out and to answer any questions you might have. Please think about it—it is a terrific way to be a part of the Meeting House in a meaningful way and to meet people in a safe and open way.

Please address questions to Sue Bauer (ralphb1234@cs.com), Beth Avery (bavertown@verizon.net), or Priscilla Smith (psmith6947@aol.com) - the current Small Group facilitators, or to any Small Group member.



NEWSLETTER: TIME TO GO PAPERLESS

Beginning with the May Newsletter, the UUMH Newsletter will no longer be mailed via USPS. It will arrive in your email bright and early on a Monday morning. If you have a computer and can use email, you are our target audience, as they say!

If you are like me and like a copy of the Newsletter right at your fingertips, why not make a copy for yourself from this electronic version sent out in the Eblast? It is almost always a max of 10 pages, and if you print double-sided copies, it is really very few pages each month. You can print gray-scale and not use up your color ink, or you can print it in all its glory! There are a few people who require a printed copy, but if this option works for you, **please** do it. The savings in paper and copier expenses are quite large over the course of a year, and we can save postage as well! Thank you for doing your part to help the Meeting House as well as the environment!

This change will take place in May, so if you have questions or concerns, please call me so that you don't miss anything. Thanks. (Sue Bauer [945-3264](tel:945-3264)/ralphb1234@cs.com)

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—all contribute to a Sunday service.



The latest
Branching Out

LtoR:
Jenni Makihara
Sue & Ralph Bauer
Beth Avery
Danielle Jeanloz
Jon Nye



Join us next time!!

Thursday, April 27.

Location to be
Announced

An hour or so, a nibble
or a meal, a chance to
just chat and enjoy
each other!



Take time to marvel at the wonder of life. (G. Fenchuk)

A FUN PROJECT WITH MARY

The bowl in the picture is made with magazines and I thought it would be fun to make them. We could either sell them in the Thrift Shop, or you can keep yours. It's a very meditative activity and an easy project. I will supply all the materials so you can just come to the Fleck room and enjoy yourself. We plan to do this April 10 at 10:00.

Call Mary Parsons if you would like to attend, so she has sufficient supplies.

508-367-0714



MISSION STATEMENT

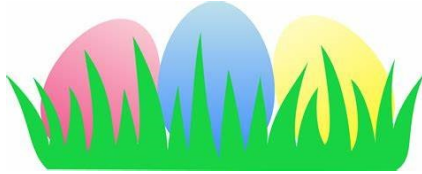
Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kudos to Gail Tilton for the superb Artful Living class which just concluded at the Chatham Center for Active Living. Each time she does this, it gets fuller of meaningful activities. Hopefully, another class will appear soon!



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

April Birthdays

- 1 Ann Wallace
- 7 Sally Davol
- 8 Connie Pina
- 24 Mary Byrne
- 29 Pavia



April Anniversaries

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

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

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.) 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 *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. Contact Mary Parsons with questions. 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

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

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258
 Passcode: 040260