

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is THURSDAY
February 22. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

As many of you will recall, the Board of Trustees previously retained Rev. Scott Tayler, a UU Minister and Consultant with over 25 years of experience leading and advising both large and small congregations, to assist us in implementing the goals established by the CUSP initiative. As part of that effort, the Board has worked cooperatively with members of the Program Council to establish a small working team to focus on UUMH's governance and organizational structure. This "Restructuring Committee" has started to meet as of January with Rev. Tayler to explore ways to improve UUMH's governance and organizational structure by eliminating overlapping and dual governance roles, creating a flexible plan for the future minister who might want to provide input, and developing clearer roles for leaders.

Members of the Restructuring Committee include Beth Avery, Sue Bauer, Danielle Jeanloz, and Mary Parsons. Jon Nye serves Ex Officio.



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Danielle Jeanloz, Vice President
Joan Caputo, Secretary
Joe Zahka, Treasurer

At large members:

Beth Avery
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

February 4 Flipping the Script Rev. Tracy Johnson

A look at the teachings of Maimonides and the process of making amends that doesn't begin with apology, unlike our culture where a quick "sorry" is supposed to cover it. Based on our UUA Common Read *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg.

February 11 Our Place on the Journey Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our theme this month is equity and justice. I believe we are on a journey toward these ends. Together we will explore some of the signposts along the way.

February 18 A to Z Literacy Movement: from America to Zambia Betty Trummel

A to Z's mission is to get books into the hands of vulnerable children and to promote literacy. This small non-profit is mentoring Zambian teachers and creating libraries in schools there.

February 25 Scout Sunday

Celebrating Cub, Boy, and Girl Scouts. The Scouts will be sharing what they have been doing the last few months.

**WHO'S PREACHING**

Betty Trummel had a 35-year career teaching elementary school and has also taught "Science methods for elementary teachers." She and her husband Chris live in Harwich, but she spends a lot of time doing presentations, traveling, learning, and teaching whenever and wherever she can

Dear Ones, All –

I (insert heart shaped emoji here) you! I “heart” you! It’s February, and St. Valentine has cornered the market on all things hearts and love. At least the Gods and Goddesses of Hallmark would have us think so. Hearts, I find, can mean a lot of different things to different people. There are our physical hearts which, if any of us have had procedures related to them, we might go there first – grateful for medical science and healing or concerned about their functioning and so a little activated by all this heart talk. There is a spiritual heart, too, I believe anyway – a heart center from which our ways of living-being-doing pour forth – a place that can be soft and soothing or troubled and anxious when we face hard times and decisions. And this spiritual heart is closely connected with the place where our values arise from – our heart’s desires for life and the world we inhabit.

Today I am thinking about the aligning of our hearts; our heart center and our values, so that we live without the dissonance that comes from misalignment. To be truthful, this takes work – intention – practice. Making time for spiritual practices that attune our minds and bodies and hearts to one another. I read and reflect in journal form every morning. Most days I follow that with a short meditation sit. Sometimes I go to the gym, and I almost always go for a walk or a bike ride when the weather permits. Physical exertion helps to connect the body and spirit. These practices get my heart center cleansed and ready to give and receive from what I encounter in the world. Prepared in this way I am ready to apply my values to my living with clarity and purpose. Daily alignment is a necessary tool in these times! If we are going to “heart” anyone or anything we need to keep our own hearts in shape.

This month our theme is equity and justice, and we will explore the very heart centered work of repentance and repair along with some time spent on justice in the form of right relationship. Some of us will be looking at the values proposed in the new Article II language, attempting to wrap our hearts around the meaning beneath the words. And there will be an opportunity for heartfelt sharing among newer members or those curious and considering membership with UUMH. Our Board and Program Council are going right to the heart of things here at UUMH as they work with a consultant on our heart as an institution and a community of faith.

St. Valentine aside, February has a lot of heart for us as persons and as a people here on the hill! May your month be filled with love – in your homes and families – in the blessed work of creating community together – and for our hurting world. May we be prepared to “heart” one another.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy





So..... this is who we are....

Many, many thanks to all those who bring and take home those who no longer drive, so that they can attend not only Sunday services, but also Small Groups, Book Club, Discussion Groups, Choir rehearsals, Committee Meetings, Thrift Shop shifts, etc., etc. You share your time and allow so many folks to enjoy what we have to offer and to participate in activities so that they can feel that they truly “belong.” So pat yourselves on the back and know that you are appreciated by all of us. **YOU** make this UUMH community a very special place.



REPORT FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

What's going on with the Search committee? We are currently in the process of meeting with several candidates hoping to become our part time minister when Rev. Tracy moves on in June. We are reviewing their online responses to a series of questions, conducting interviews, contacting references and consulting with UUA staff. We expect to have a recommendation for the Board of Directors of UUMH and a proposed contract by early spring. The Board makes the final decision and will approve a contract with the minister.

We are grateful for Rev. Tracy's caring and exceptional service for nearly four years as our Minister. As she moves on in June to the opportunities that lie ahead, we wish her all the best. Meanwhile, we hope to have a new minister in place this summer. While names and details about the candidates are kept confidential, the process is an open one. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members if you have any questions about this process.

Liz Van Wye, Sally Davol, John Raye, Debbie Zahka and Dave Van Wye
UUMH Search committee

Love is what makes the ride worthwhile. (Franklin Jones)

CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP?

On February 21st at 10:00 a.m. anyone considering membership in the UU Meeting House is invited to gather in the Fleck Room for a time of sharing and learning together. We will explore one another's spiritual/religious journeys, and learn a little about the roots of Unitarian Universalism and those of the Meeting House. If you have thought about joining or just have questions about our faith tradition, you are welcome to come. Reverend Tracy and folks from the Membership Committee will be there to lead our time. Please let Rev. Tracy or Kathy Nye (kathnye26@yahoo.com) know if you would like to attend.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Thinking about exploring our Small Groups? Small groups of members and friends who meet to discuss topics of interest to them and to share their life experiences with each other. Plus have a wonderful hour or two together once or twice a month. Let us tell you about them! Reach out to Beth Avery (bavertown@verizon.net, 255-2777), Priscilla Smith (psmith6947, 945-1292), or Sue Bauer (ralphb1234@cs.com, 945-3264). We would love to encourage you to try us out!

IN MEMORIAM**Priscilla Dalrymple****1928-2023**

There were no services. Cards to her daughters can be sent to the Dalrymple Family c/o Nickerson Funeral Home / PO Box 397 / Orleans, MA 02653

**UPDATED MEMBER AND FRIENDS DIRECTORY**

Our Member and Friends Directory is updated almost every month. To get your latest copy, visit <https://www.uumh.net/directory>. You will need the guest password. If you have forgotten it, please send an email to daniellejeanloz@gmail.com, and she will provide it for you. Access to this directory is available to the Members and Friends of the Congregation who are listed in the directory.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

At our January Social Justice meeting, we discussed the suggestion from the Program Council that Social Justice (SJ) should absorb Learning for Life (Lfl). No one felt this was a good idea. Social Justice will continue to arrange for SJ presentations, but Lfl should include more than just SJ.

The Share the Plate Outreach for January is the Elder Services Meals-on-Wheels program. For February the committee agreed that the Nauset Interfaith Association would be the recipient for either the MLK Action Team or Refugee Support. Then in March it may be UU Mass Action, which has worked to address inmate rights, environmental justice, and has developed a UU Youth Corps involving young people in Social Justice.

The committee reviewed the suggested policy for making decisions that come up between meetings. And we are working on arranging a presentation on Middle East issues.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Now that we have had some time to consider the placement of the offertory near the beginning of the service, we would like some feedback. We have had another suggestion as to where it should be placed. I like it where it is now. It gives us a chance to concentrate on the Sermon without worrying whether we brought our donation. It is a little thing, but it is part of the service. Let us know what you think. The Committee is myself, Joan Caputo, Margaret Tompsett, and Deb Zahka.

February looks to be an interesting month in the pulpit. The first weeks are with Tracy, and then we have a friend of Sue Bauer who will speak about her work in Zambia. Gail Eldredge and the Scouts will be with us on the last Sunday of the month.

Dolly Howell, Chair



THRIFT SHOP REMINDER



It's already time to start thinking about the Thrift Shop coming in May. Mary Parsons is more than happy to receive your treasures to ensure we have a great opening day! Check your closets, your jewelry boxes, your basements, your cupboards for those things that you are ready - or eager! - to part with. Mary is willing to accept or pick up your donations. Email her at marypmac@comcast.net

BRANCHING OUT

The next Branching Out will be Thursday, February 22 at 2:30 at Branches, on Crowell Road, just down the street from the Meeting House. Come join with friends, new and old, for a drink, a snack, a meal—whatever suits you. No need to RSVP—just COME!

COFFEE HOUR HELP



Looking for occasional help with Sunday’s coffee hour. Tables are already set, coffee is made. All you need to do is bring a goodie of your choice and then stay afterwards to clean up. Happy to work with you the first time or maybe two of you could volunteer together. Please let Sue know if you could help with this “crucial” job :) (ralphb1234@cs.com 945-3264)



INDEPENDENCE HOUSE ART SHOW

The current art show in the Fleck Room featuring Independence House artists will continue through February



The love we give away is the only love we keep. (Elbert Hubbard)

WINTER STORM PROTOCOL

We are coming into winter and the possibility of snow or ice which might make physically getting to the Meeting House difficult. There is a procedure for such times with a decision made by the Minister, the President of the Board and the chair of Building and Grounds. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

Sunday Services: If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:

An all-wide church Eblast will go out to the congregation

Notice will be sent to Cape Radio 107 and to Channel 7.

But, remember, a Zoom service WILL happen if at all possible! Watch your email!

PLEASE!!! Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday in-person services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow.

The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!



OPEN MIC CLASSICAL

When:

February 18th, 2024 / 3pm

Where:

Cultural Center of Cape Cod
307 Old Main St.
South Yarmouth, MA

Who:

Join Open Mic Classical sign-up musicians and featured guest ensemble **Linking Legacies** from Oberlin, Ohio for our **Open Mic Classical - Black History Month**, with music by Black composers.

!!! Sign up to play is open to classical musicians of all levels and ages.!!! (email: openmicclassical@gmail.com or call 774.353.0244 /website: www.openmicclassical@gmail.com)

Cost: \$25

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A great picture and article in the January 11 Chronicle’s Senior Times featuring Priscilla Smith and her wonderful and moving exhibit of “Images of War,” anti-war and social justice quilts, at the Meeting House.

Congratulations to Luka Eldredge who received Grade 5 Honors at Monomoy Middle School. Congratulations to Vavi Conley and Emma Eldredge who both received High Honors at Monomoy High School. Congratulations also to Zoe Simmons for receiving High Honors at Nauset High.

Zoe is also very involved playing rhythm guitar with the Nauset Jazz band and was chosen for the Southeastern Mass Music Educators Junior Festival on March 9. Congratulations!!



AND A VERY SPECIAL JOY AND LOTS OF LOVE

JOIN US IN WISHING JOANNE ARNOLD A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 16

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

Third Monday Book Club will meet on February 19 to discuss *The personal librarian* by Marie Benedict. Contact Mary Parsons with questions. marypmac@comcast.net / 508-367-0714.

All are welcome for one book or many!



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

February Birthdays

- 3 Joyce DeVoe
- 5 Mary Chesnut
- 16 Joanne Arnold
- 19 Phil Peters
- 20 Debbie Zahka
- 23 Laura Peterson
- 25 Luka Eldredge
- 26 Kathy Nye
- 27 Joan Caputo



February Anniversaries

- 1 Liz and Dave Van Wye
- 2 Marija and Thadd Eldredge
- 17 Anastasia and Bill Conley

MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits

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. 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?](https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09)

[pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09](https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09)

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258

Passcode: 040260