

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

OCTOBER 2022 VOLUME XX NUMBER 10



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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**  
October 20. Send items to  
Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



## CYCLES OF LIFE

### 3 Practical discussions on Planning, Legal, and Spiritual care through the dying process

The discussions will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays, from 2 PM to 3:30 PM on October 12th, 19th, and 26th at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 819 Main Street, Chatham.

The first discussion is on Wednesday, October 12, with a representative from a local funeral home along with Rev. Tracy Johnson. There will be a Power Point presentation, green alternatives, and what to expect if planning a church service or celebration. There will be time for Q&A's.

On Wednesday, October 19, the discussion is with a Registered Nurse specializing in Holistic Care. It will include physical and spiritual support for loved ones and caretakers. Bring your thoughts and questions.

The last discussion on October 26 will focus on legal matters, led by a local attorney. Q&A's will be welcomed.

To attend any of the discussions, please RSVP by calling 508-945-2075. Walk-ins are welcome too. This is open and free of cost to all who are interested. Masks are required.

The Pastoral Care Team at UUMH is presenting this series of workshops. For more information: [UUMH.NET](http://UUMH.NET).



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**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**

**October 2      The Principles of Worthiness      Rev. Francis Fornaro**

What does being worthy mean? How do we acknowledge our worthiness? Can we ever become unworthy?

**October 9      Sovereignty      Rev. Tracy Johnson**

On this Indigenous People's Day, we will consider what sovereignty means to Indigenous people in the US. What is our role in breathing life into this vision?

**October 16      Take Heart      Rev. Tracy Johnson**

Our Soul Matters theme this month is courage, a word rooted in the heart. How can we wrap our hearts around the many ways we are asked to be courageous these days?

**October 23      A Portable Sanctuary      Rev. DL Helfer**

Today we harken back to early Judaism to consider what sanctuary is, where we find it, and how, even, we carry it with us.

**October 30      Wampanoag Art for the Ages      Lee Roscoe**

Lee Roscoe of Brewster will speak about her new book *Wampanoag Art for the Ages*.

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**Who's Preaching**

The Rev. Francis Fornaro is interim president and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge. He has two decades of experience as an ordained leader in the Episcopal Church. His has been a teacher and administrator in the Boston Public Schools. He holds a B.S. degree in education, an M.Ed. in administration and organization, and an M.Div. from EDS with concentration in pastoral theology.

Rev. DL Helfer is non-binary and currently pursuing a Master's of Social Work and serving as a hospital chaplain. They hail from Southern California, but now call Providence, RI home. They share that home with their beloved partner and their 20 year old cat.

Lee Roscoe is an author, poet, playwright, and actress. She lives in Brewster.

Dear Ones, All –

Have I mentioned that fall is my favorite time of the year? On the odd chance that I haven't, I will say definitively that it is so! As a gardener who considers herself close to the earth and its seasons, I am making the shift to local apples and pears with my yogurt in the morning. The winter squashes are plentiful and a meal in themselves. My Swiss chard has given me one last round. Our chimenea, which has been covered up through the summer's heat has shed its protective coat and is waiting for an early evening fire to warm us, extending the pleasure of the outdoors as the sun sets behind the tree line. The air is crisp. As I write, the geese are providing regular flyovers, these changes a part of their DNA.

The Meeting House has its seasons, too. The Thrift Shop is closed but will have one more opportunity to serve us on Indigenous People's weekend. Our church year has begun with the bustle of all the committees gearing up and this year with the added feature of our Cusp of the Future work together. Frank and the choir have returned to grace our services with beautiful music. Our Pastoral Care Team has a workshop series in the works. It is good to be together and to settle into rhythms that are familiar and that feed our souls. It is my joy to be with you all in this time of seasonal shifting, to see the dedication of our members as they step up, taking on new responsibilities, sharing the work of the ministry that is UUMH.

I am reading a book entitled, "Trusting Change" by Karen Hering that explores both personal and collective change. I am reading it slowly because change is a process with many facets. I am leaning into the exercises and thinking about us here on the hill as we navigate changing times. There is no going back to what was pre-pandemic or even pre-Tracy. Together we are thinking about what is most valuable to our endeavor together, what is sustainable given our circumstances and our world, and how to ease into whatever that looks like for us. Our lives have been altered, but the truth is that they are always being altered in big systemic ways and in smaller ways that strike closer to home. Perhaps this realization is helpful in the ability to trust. We have come this far, each of us and all of us together, enduring the transitions of our lives, making adjustments, moving forward, and there is no reason to believe that this will not remain the case! Like the seasons, our Meeting House has its cycles. It is in our institutional DNA, inherent in our system, to know when a shift is in order so that life can go on in our midst. It is good to see you all diving into that work, planning as opposed to reacting.

As we settle into our season together, may you be blessed with good companions, and creative ventures to enliven your souls. May peace and wellbeing surround you in their warm embrace.

Blessed be.  
Reverend Tracy



### PUMPKINS IN THE PARK!!

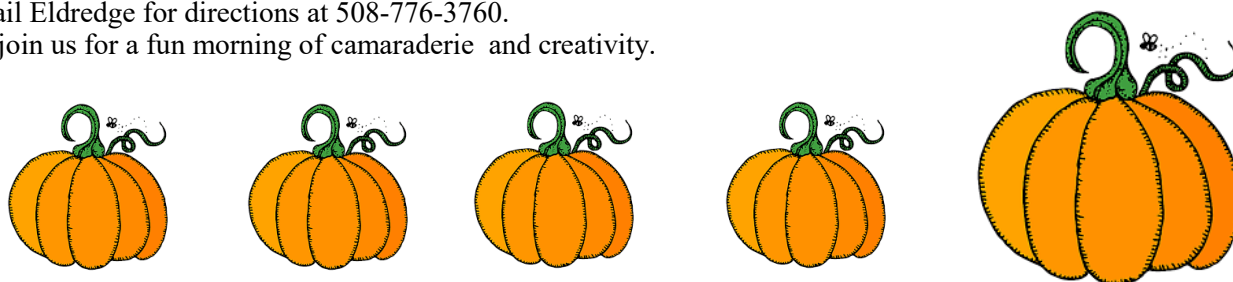
Like to paint or do crafts? The UUMH Pumpkin People exhibit needs you!

In October, UUMH will participate in a fun event in Chatham designed help get the word out about who we are to the wider community. Gail Eldredge and Gail Tilton, along with the Membership Committee, will craft a display of pumpkin people, around our welcoming theme of "Come as You Are!" for the annual town-wide event Pumpkin People in the Park which runs October 14 to 31 in Kate Gould Park.

If you are interested in helping to paint the pumpkins, join them on Saturday, October 1 at 10:30 am at Gail Eldredge's home, 9 Old Comers Rd., Chatham. No skill required!! Pumpkins, paints, brushes and some adornments will be provided; coffee and donuts will be available. Please bring whatever you think might make the pumpkins more personal and eye-catching. The display will be set up in Kate Gould Park on October 14; help with set up that day will be appreciated too.

Call Gail Eldredge for directions at 508-776-3760.

Please join us for a fun morning of camaraderie and creativity.



### DONATE BUTTON

The Donate Button is a Success!

UUMH has been using Vanco to handle online donations since December of 2020. A total of \$20,963 was donated online in FY2022 from 150 transactions. While about 50% of the number of donations were pledges, pledging accounted for 66% of the money that came in. Both Outreach and Plate were 20% of the number of donations and 12% of the money donated. 40 of the 150 transactions were checking withdrawals and 110 were credit card charges.

Our cost for online donations is 2.84% for Visa and Mastercard, 3.75% for AMEX and 1% for direct checking withdrawals plus \$0.45/transaction. There is also a \$10/month service charge. The total effective Vanco fee for FY2022 was \$745 or 3.55% on \$20,963 donated. Of the \$745 in Vanco fees, \$656 was covered by the 3% voluntary surcharge on credit cards and 1% on checks. The effective cost of the Donate Button to the Meeting House was only \$89 last year, making this convenient form of donating a win for the members and UUMH. Thank you for your support.



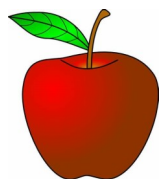
**Enthusiasm moves the world. (J. Balfour)**



### THRIFT SHOP

**By the time you are reading this, the Thrift Shop season will be over—well, almost! And WHAT a summer it has been!!**

**On Saturday, October 8, there will be a huge Yard Sale from 8-2 at the Meeting House to hopefully sell the rest of the Thrift Shop items. If you can help in any way, please call Mary at 432-7194.**



### UUMH on the CUSP of the FUTURE

We are on the cusp of the future. Over the past few years it has become apparent that we face significant issues about our ability to thrive in the future. We have a diminishing membership, fewer pledges, a thinner group of volunteers, among many other concerns. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of active members who may perform multiple roles and work on successful ventures like the Thrift Shop, we are able to meet our financial needs in the near term. We must, however, now plan how we will meet the challenges of the next five years and beyond.

We have completed an initial round of small group meetings for members and friends of the UUMH to discuss our future. A second round of meetings has been set up for those who could not attend earlier sessions. As before, these are moderated discussion groups focused on issues present on our immediate horizon.

Invitations were emailed on Friday 9/16 so you can RSVP. If your invitation is lost or misplaced, then you can still attend with an RSVP to [chathamuumh@gmail.com](mailto:chathamuumh@gmail.com). Just indicate which session you wish to attend or let us know how you would prefer to be contacted.

Session 1. A Zoom session on Thursday, September 29 at 4 p.m.

Session 2. A Zoom session on Saturday, October 8 at 11 a.m.

The CUSP of the Future Team is aided by dedicated moderators to obtain your views on issues challenging UUMH and the way forward. Our talented moderators are Sally Davol, Jon Nye, John Raye, Pricilla Smith and Jan Young. The aim is to complete the discussions in September and October and then report a sense of the Congregation in November and December. That way we can move into the new year with a path forward.

Inspirational words from a poem by Shari Woodberry related by Tracy:

Somewhere out there,  
all we dream is possible.  
Somewhere in here,  
we are sowing the seeds.

Thank you, The UUMH Cusp of the Future Team

Beth Avery, Joan Caputo, Danielle Jeanloz, Naomi Turner, Dave Van Wye

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ENDOWMENT BOARD

As we approach the final quarter of 2022 it is prudent to consider income tax planning with respect to contributions you may be considering. There is a provision in the tax laws that may provide an opportunity to receive a tax benefit from those contributions.

A tax saving measure known as a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD), may be available to anyone who takes a distribution from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) during the current year. Normally, any distribution from an IRA is taxable to the recipient as ordinary income. If some or all of that distribution is paid directly to a charity by the IRA custodian, however, that amount will not be deemed income and will not be subject to any tax. In that circumstance the charity (the UUMH, whether in the form of a pledge or contribution to the Endowment Fund), benefits fully from the gift, and the donor (you) will have a reduced tax bill next year.

The Endowment Board cannot properly give anyone tax advice, and individual circumstances may differ, but members of the Board wanted to share this information, and to urge anyone interested in knowing more about this or similar opportunities to consult their tax advisor.

You may make a contribution by writing a check to the UUMH Endowment Fund and sending it to the Meeting House. Any member of the Endowment Board will be happy to answer your questions.

Dave Van Wye for the Endowment Board. Other members are Sally Davol, Jeff Dykens, Steve Shorey, and Margaret Tompsett



#### IN MEMORIAM

**Barbara Waters**

**A Founder of UUMH  
Died August 31, 2022  
Memorial Service October 22 at 2PM**



#### A NOTE ABOUT THE ECCLES

A memorial service for Dick and Jane will be held at the Meeting House at 2PM on November 12. Details will be forthcoming. Their sons have said they would love to have reminiscences of their parents from UUMH. If you would like to share your memories or thoughts, please email them at [djeccles@myfastmail.com](mailto:djeccles@myfastmail.com)



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Actions of Immediate Witness

At the UUA General Assembly each year issues of common values and goals for all UUs are voted on. Here at UUMH we are currently working with UU the Vote doing postcards to get out the vote. We plan to designate a South Eastern MA organization that is helping women denied reproductive rights in their own states to travel to Massachusetts for needed health care. Social Justice will continue to focus on issues of justice at UUMH . By joining with other UUs we can feel connected to common efforts and feel a sense of contribution to the common good.

**Outreach Donations** for October will be Lower Cape Outreach.

In November, we will join with the Angel Fund collection to support the Chatham Children's Fund.

In December, Social Justice would like to collect hats and gloves to be brought and hung on the Christmas Tree. Also we are thinking of a socks collection (men and women) for a shelter. We could collect in a basket under the tree.

**Thanks** to Robin Hubbard for UU the Vote and to Bonnie Brydges for her work with Sustainable Practices.

### Sustainable Practices

After passing single use Municipal plastic bottle bans in all 15 Cape towns, we will be continuing with the Commercial plastic bottle ban in the remaining 6 towns.

In 2022-23, Sustainable Practices will be promoting and filing petitions targeting carry-out products (containers and utensils) to be available only in compostable ware. We hope to assist in providing new composting facilities at town DPWS.

Our mission is to raise awareness of the impact of all our consumption using plastic. Recycling is NOT the solution; elimination will be.

### Social Justice Films at the Orpheum

Showing at 9:30AM

October 1: Toxic Reigns of Resentment

November 5: A Silent Transformation

## UUMH SPECIAL FUNDS

### Lew Rogers (AKA Building and Grounds) Maintenance Fund

B&G is responsible for the workings and appearance of the Meeting House. Some things you can see like the painting of the sanctuary woodwork, sanctuary windows, Tracy's office and all the bathrooms. Other things you can't see and only notice when there is a problem.

We arrange to have the building cleaned, the lawn mowed, and the snow shoveled. We help with the transition of the Fleck Room to and from the Thrift Shop. We participate in the health, fire, alarm, and lift inspections and correct any defects.

We are responsible for the technology in the building. We installed LED lights throughout the building except for the cove lights in the sanctuary.

We manage the capital improvement projects like the AV system that supports our hybrid services. We will coordinate and oversee the impending replacement of our boilers. Sometimes we get good news like the McClennens financing solar panels on our roof which will be installed this winter which will aid our environment and save us \$3,000/year.

B&G is looking for a few more people who like "doing stuff." We particularly need someone who would like to tend the plantings. Send me an email at [joseph.zahka@verizon.net](mailto:joseph.zahka@verizon.net) or give me a call at 978-995-8964.

**A leader is a dealer in hope. (Napoleon)**

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

by Liz Van Wye, Membership Co-chair

We welcomed three new members in one week in September!

On September 11 we welcomed Chatham resident **Mary Byrne**. Mary moved to Chatham at age 13, graduated from Chatham High and spent most of her adult life in San Francisco, moving back four years ago. Professionally, Mary manages the finances of a variety of non-profits in the Boston area. In her spare time, she takes Improv Comedy classes at the Harwich Junior Theater, plays what she describes as "a very casual game of tennis," and works to keep her 96 year old mother going strong. This winter she says her goal is to write one short story and one upbeat dance song.

**Janice and Phil Peters** signed our book the following week. They have lived in Little Rock for 43 years but remain "transplanted Yankees." Phil grew up in northern WV and Janice grew up on Long Island, but they met when they were in college in Boston - Tufts for Janice and Harvard for Phil. They married in the Chapel at Tufts at the end of Janice's senior year. The Peters lived in WV while Phil attended medical school and afterwards he was stationed for two years in the Air Force at a base near Little Rock, resulting in their first exposure to Arkansas.

Phil is a retired physician (Endocrinology) and volunteers in a free clinic. Janice has had several professions including teaching, serving as Chief Executive for several non-profits and as a violinist and violin teacher. The couple have two children - a daughter in Little Rock with identical twin girls almost 17 and a son in Needham MA with an almost 15 year old boy and 13 year old girl.

As Phil says, "We look forward to spending most of our summer in Chatham and are delighted to have found UUMH. In Little Rock we have been very involved members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock (UUCLR) for over 43 years."

We are happy to welcome Mary, Phil and Janice to UUMH!



**Mary Byrne**



**Phil and Janice Peters (with Rev. Tracy)**



### JOYFUL THANKS

**Thanks** to Dolly Howell for opening her home at Minister's Point for our recent end of summer pot luck. It was a wonderful evening with good friends, great food, and superb views. Perfect!!

**Thanks** to Marija Eldredge for printing those terrific signs that show up every week in the Wayside Pulpit. And while we're at it, belated **thanks** to Gail Eldredge for the many years she created those signs for us.

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

Barbara Hanrahan and Lisa Evans have a new address:  
2 Cobblestone Circle / Mashpee, MA 02649

#### AND

Add our new members to your Directory!

Mary Byrne

99 Meadowbrook Rd. / No. Chatham, MA 02650  
415-307-0131 / email: [mary\\_byrne@comcast.net](mailto:mary_byrne@comcast.net)

Phillip and Janice Peters

#### June -September

PO Box 271 W. Chatham, MA 02669  
132 Harding's Beach Rd. / Chatham, MA 02633  
(NO MAIL)

Phil cell: 501-952-8838

Phil email: [pjpetersmd@comcast.net](mailto:pjpetersmd@comcast.net)

Janice cell: 501-952-8848

Janice email: [janicep@comcast.net](mailto:janicep@comcast.net)

#### Winter

3 Bayonne Ct.  
Little Rock, AR 72223

### PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

#### October Birthdays

2	Robin Hubbard
3	Priscilla Smith
4	Kim Howard
6	Kathy Cole
7	Terry Eldredge
8	Dana McCoy
8	Susan Nettleton
9	Vavara Conley
9	Barbara Hanrahan
10	Janet Young
11	Dolly Howell
23	Jon Nye
24	Sue Bauer
25	Stephanie McClennen
30	Ed Mangiafico
31	Tom Cole



#### October Anniversary

3	Allison and Steve Shorey
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### 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 @ [gmtilton@capecod.net](mailto:gmtilton@capecod.net)

### THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

Third Monday Book Club will meet at 10AM on September 19 to discuss *Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue. Contact Mary Parsons with questions. [marypmac@comcast.net](mailto:marypmac@comcast.net) / 432-7194



All are welcome for one book or many!

