

NEWS FROM THE HILL

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

UUMH Online Auction	1
Month of Sundays	2
Minister's Message	3
Pledge Update	4
Membership Minute	4
President's Message	5
More Auction News	5
Cookbook	6
Portrait Presentation	6
Worship Services Committee	7
Social Justice Committee	8
From the Treasurer	8
Auction Donors	9
Community Event	10
Bits and Pieces	10

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is THURSDAY

May 20. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



RIISING ON THE HILL UUMH ONLINE AUCTION MAY 9-23, 2021

CHECK IT OUT! GO TO UUMH.NET
CLICK ON THE AUCTION LINK

REGISTER STARTING NOW! ENCOURAGE YOUR
FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO REGISTER TOO.

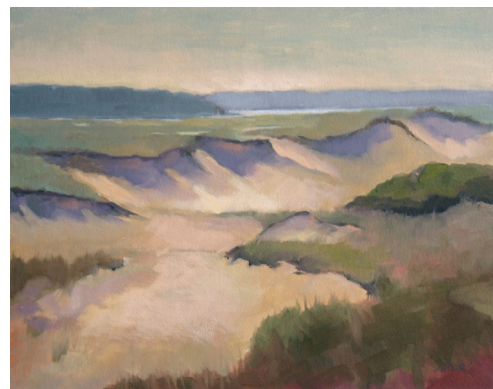


MORE INFO ON P. 5 & 9

MORE PICTURES, MORE
HINTS, MORE OPTIONS



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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.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

May 2 UUMH reflections on Peace Corps Africa experience
Steve Keenan, Jackie Venner, and Beth Avery

May 9 A Flourishing Peace Rev. Tracy Johnson

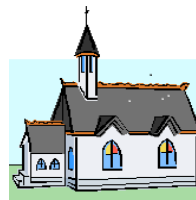
Today we celebrate Mother's Day and look to its origins for guidance in our days.

May 16 TBA Rev. Bill Clark

May 23 Storylines Rev. Tracy Johnson

What are the stories that we tell ourselves? What purpose do they serve?

May 30 Music Sunday Music committee

**Who's Speaking****Steve Keenan and Jackie Venner**

Serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia from 1963-1965, Steve taught in an elementary school and Jackie in a middle school. They met and were married there.

After the Peace Corps, Steve worked for CARE in Cairo, Egypt where their son Courtney was born. In 1967 they were evacuated due to the impending war with Israel and returned to Syracuse NY where they lived before retiring to Cape Cod.

Beth Avery

A Peace Corp Volunteer in 1968 and 1969, Beth served in a small village called Bafodia, in the northern province of Sierra Leone, West Africa. She taught grades 3-6 in a two-room elementary school, and planted a vegetable garden to introduce new varieties. On returning to the States, she became involved in women's advocacy and housing programs at the YWCA in Boston, the start of a 40-year career.

Dear ones,

My assignment for the first Tuesday of this month in my Unitarian Universalist Wellsprings class is to make a list every day for the two weeks since our last meeting of things that bring me joy. We are working our way through the UU Sources from which our living tradition draws, and we have come to the part of the sixth one about “spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions.” Such teachings are said to “celebrate the sacred circle of life.” And so, the question posed to us is this: “What would life be like if we took this Source’s mandate seriously?” Dutiful student that I am, I have begun to cobble together a list – warm sun on my face, our rescue pup, Emma’s, absolute silliness, the radish sprouts popped up in a neat little row in the garden, that I have come through these nearly 64 years relatively unscathed, that accountability won the day at least this once. Some of it moves me to tears and some of it just creates a gentle smile on my lips. But all of it is joyful.

In these days of “doom scrolling” on our devices and no shortage of negativity swirling around us, it is easy to get caught in a downward spiral, to find oneself turning inward, perseverating. Being the consummate rebel, I am inclined toward “joy scrolling” instead. While those around me may have their eyes glued to the news and commentary on the state of the world as it unfolds on those tiny screens, I am contentedly searching for things that make me smile or laugh or simply warm my heart. I refuse to be trapped by a national psyche of gloom. It doesn’t mean that paying attention to what is going on around me isn’t important, because it very much is. But it does mean that I am bound by an inner force, a willing of my nature, to not let only those things control me and my days.

This month I invite you into a practice of naming joy in your days. Our Soul Matters theme for May is “story” and later I will spend some time looking into the stories we tell ourselves and how they affect our living. Perhaps there will be an opportunity to bring those everyday joys into the center of our Sunday morning and to truly celebrate them – not just the absolutely fantastic things we typically share during worship – but the simpler more everyday occurrences.

We here at the Meeting House have much to be grateful for, much to lift up and to count as joy in our midst. May we turn our hearts and minds in the direction of joy as we move through this middle ground of the season. May it well up in all its fullness within you and move through you into our world.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who have sent in your pledge cards. A very promising start to the Pledge Campaign . For those who have not yet returned a pledge card, please do so as soon as possible; we would like to end the campaign—successfully, of course! - by mid-May. You can mail the card to UUMH at PO Box 18 in Chatham. If the card has wandered off—and they often do—call or email me and I will send another one.

Many thanks for your strong support.

Ralph Bauer, Chair

ralphb1234@cs.com or 508-945-3264



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership minute: Memories of members from 25 years ago.

The Membership Committee is encouraging longtime members of UUMH to share their memories of the early days of the Meeting House. This year marks 25 years since a small group of three dozen members of the Chatham UU Fellowship purchased the Greek Revival building on the hill in Chatham and moved into the most welcoming intersection in town. This month: Thelma Dykens

Thelma Dykens still remembers standing on the veranda of the Meeting House with her husband Jim on October 6, 1996 as the members of the Chatham UU Fellowship marched from the Creative Arts Center to the congregation's new home at Main Street and Queen Ann Rd. "It was a beautiful day and we saw them approach. It was a very exciting morning!"

The couple had been members of First Parish Brewster and Jim, a psychiatrist, was often a guest speaker at the Chatham UU Fellowship in the early days. "I started attending with him and ended up liking it," she recalled recently.

Although Thelma and Jim were members of UUMH that day in 1996, "we never made the plaque!" she said with a laugh, referred to the bronze listing of charter members posted inside the UUMH Sanctuary.

Thelma remembers becoming a Unitarian Universalist in 1962 after a neighbor in Sherborn said to her, "you're a Unitarian...you just don't know it!" The comment prompted her to visit the UU church nearby where John Skeirik was the minister. "I knew I was in the right place the minute he started talking," she recalled. Jim agreed. "It's the place for us," he said.

And it still is, Thelma said, adding that she has enjoyed being able to attend service via Zoom since she is now living with daughter Amy in Orleans. She was delighted to learn that UUMH hopes to continue Zoom even after in person services resume. "That would be wonderful!"

Dave and Liz Van Wye, Membership co-chairs

No strangers enter here—only friends who haven't met. (Anon.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the days lengthen and the sun rises higher in the sky, our spirits rise with the thought of summer and the hope of more freedom to be with family and friends, especially as the majority of us have now been vaccinated! Our re-opening committee headed by John Raye is working to figure out how we can safely open both the Thrift Shop and the sanctuary. We are learning from the CDC and Mass Government as well as the UUA and our local businesses and churches. We are hoping to open the Thrift Shop by mid-June with appropriate precautions (It won't be exactly the way it was a couple of years ago!) as long as the number of cases in the community have fallen sufficiently.

We have all adapted remarkably well to using Zoom for remote services...and some even prefer it! It has become clear that as we open the sanctuary we need a hybrid system so that members of our congregation have choices. Joe Zahka is researching alternatives and costs so that we can find the best system for us at the most affordable price. If any of you have ideas please share them with Joe, or if you know of a church which is doing this particularly well do let me know. No date has yet been set because we must have a good hybrid system in place and cases in the community have to decrease before this can happen.

Our nominating committee under the leadership of Beth Avery will soon be soliciting nominations for various committees and other volunteer tasks in our community. We have heard grumblings about decisions being made at the top which is absolutely not the way we wish to do things. Now is your opportunity to step up to the plate and let Beth Avery know that you would like to volunteer for a task that will use your skills!

Margaret Tompsett, President, Board of Trustees

MORE AUCTION NOTES

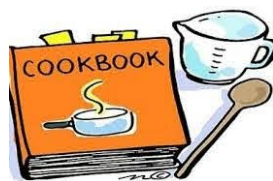
We will be offering a variety of items in a wide range of prices thanks to our generous donors. Proceeds will support the many projects and programs we provide, as well as our magnificent Meeting House on the Hill.

The bidding will all be online and will last for two weeks. Because it's online, we can draw supporters from near and far. Lots of items can easily be mailed off Cape—though perhaps not the boat trips! Items can be shipped at the winner's expense.

You can pay by credit card right after you win or you can arrange payment once the auction is over. Check out the auction site ahead of time—lots of items to explore and options to help you win the item of your dreams. You will see that it is easy to bid and fun to follow the bidding over the two weeks. Proxy bidding will also be available if you don't want to hover every day!



Calling All Cooks!!



Meeting House Meals cookbook

Sill looking for recipes especially Appetizers, Veggies and Sides, Bread, Cookies, Candies, This 'n That
Please follow these very important guidelines when you share your recipe.

*Recipe Title

*Submitted By

*INGREDIENTS: Use abbreviations

pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

*DIRECTIONS

*NOTE: (No more than 2 sentences.) Why do you like this recipe or suggestion for the best use of the recipe.

**Email or mail recipes to Barbara Waters or Mary Parsons
See UUMH Directory for addresses Questions?
Call Mary (508) 432-7194**



Jan Perry recently presented Walter Diggs and Jenni Makihara with this oil painting taken from a favorite photo of Ann.

Ann was a devoted member of the Meditation Group which meets on Saturday mornings. Jan is one of the group's facilitators. She created the portrait in honor of Ann's devotion and kindness.

WORSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE**A Committee Designed by Service by Jan Young**

Full disclosure at the outset: this is a shameless personal appeal for you to join the Worship Service Committee. We NEED you! And you may not realize this, but maybe you need us. I know I didn't. Here's my story.

Having worked in the office of UUMH from 2014-16, I had helped with the Order of Service each week, and loved watching a Sunday service come together bit by bit. So when the Rev. Edmund Robinson asked me to join the Worship Services Committee (WSC) in the fall of 2019, I was happy to accept.

There are many components that go into a UU service--the sermon; the hymns and special music like the anthem, prelude, and postlude; the readings; even the chalice lighting--and for a service to be done well, many thoughtful and creative players coordinating and cooperating may be required. It really is almost like producing a show, and I do not say that frivolously or disrespectfully. We even have a script!

The first time I assisted with a service in the Meeting House early last year, for the Rev. Paul Sprecher, I felt like I was about 8 years old at my first piano recital--so nervous! And then, just a couple of months later, the Meeting House, our family and friends, our workplaces, and basically the entire country, were plunged head-first into this strange new world ruled by the God of Zoom.

All of sudden the members of the WSC, not exactly high tech impresarios, had to learn how to mute and unmute, host and co-host, log in and share screens, ad hoc hostess our "coffee hour" breakout rooms, and most of all, adjust to running our weekly services remotely and making all our members feel as welcome and included as if we were in the actual Meeting House. In those early days, we were very lucky to have Dorria Marsh and Joe Zahka's technical know-how, or we would have really been sunk. It has been a wild ride!

But I want to use this space to strongly encourage anyone who loves our Meeting House and feels even a modest urge to contribute, to please consider volunteering for this committee.

Over the past year, because of the duties thrust upon our committee thanks to Covid, I have learned how to speak to a gathering with greater ease and confidence than I ever thought possible; to learn how to adapt to the styles and personalities of different guest ministers and speakers; to respect other faiths, even if I do not agree with them; and most of all, have enjoyed working with our wonderful minister and music director and with my fellow committee members.

Here are the nuts and bolts: the committee meets on the first Friday of the month at 2:00 pm. We review the past month's services and sermons, and provide Tracy with feedback on hers, and then discuss upcoming services and possible guest speakers or programs we come up with ourselves. This is where your own creativity can come into play. Just one example is the recent service that Mary Parsons led featuring Jane Eccles and Priscilla Smith talking about their artistic creative process. Fantastic! During each meeting, we also divvy up assignments for leading upcoming services. We also share a lot of laughs.

If you step up to join this committee, you will enjoy the benefits of working hand in hand with Tracy, who is always challenging us to think harder and go deeper; and Frank, who never ceases to amaze and delight with the selections he comes up with. You will get to know fellow members Laurie Noble, Mary Parsons, John Raye, Liz Van Wye, and our fearless leader Dolly Howell, who can calm any nerve and is there for you whenever you call on her. We also hope to see members Priscilla Dalrymple, Barbara Hanrahan and Ruth Treen soon, once we can meet again in person. Still not convinced this is a great gig? Afraid of Zoom? You also have Bennett Hartley, our kind young IT man-behind-the-curtain, to tutor you in the ways of Oz. And Karen Murdoch in the office, who cheerfully ensures you are happy with your Order of Service before releasing it into cyberspace.

The Meeting House truly needs all of us, and in my 11 years as a member, the WSC has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had with this beloved community.

Interested? Questions? Call or email Dolly Howell at 430-0604 or dhdolly51@gmail.com

The only way to have a friend is to be one. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The May meeting of the Social Justice Committee is on Wednesday, May 12, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. We look forward to hearing from a special guest speaker, Donna Wald, from the Grandmother's Against Gun Violence about their work with local police departments.

Our Community Outreach collection this month goes to Building a Bigger Table, a local faith-based group supporting asylum seekers. They are currently working with an asylum-seeking family from Guatemala who arrived in the past month and were able to come east through the generosity of the group who arranged for flights and housing and other essentials. Connections have been made with local churches and social service agencies where they are staying, and family members have already found employment. Still, the road ahead will be long and Building a Bigger Table is committed to assisting them in whatever ways they can. Our partnering with them this month with monetary donations will ensure that the work continues. Future donations of tangible goods may be sought as they set up house and begin their lives in the US. Please give generously to this cause during the month of May.



A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

This has certainly been a strange year, but our financial situation is looking up.

While we lost income from the Thrift Shop, Summer Concerts, Magic Show, and rental, both Pledge and Plate have been strong. In addition, the fundraising effort has been amazing. The fall yard sale was successful, and the auction in May will likely bring in several thousand dollars.

Our expenses are coming in under budget as well. In particular, we have saved money on cleaning and heating an empty building. As a result, we forecast a small deficit of \$2,000 for the current fiscal year ending on June 30. That is better than the budget or forecast done in January. It is possible for the P&L to be balanced depending on the spending of some committees at the end of the year.

Thanks for your help by maintaining prudent spending and making generous donations of money and time.

Joe Zahka, Treasurer

CELEBRATING OUR DONORS



Beth Avery

Ralph and Sue Bauer

Barbara Blanchard

Deb Bruce

Joan Caputo

Anastasia Conley

Jeff Dykens

Julie Dykens

Jane Eccles

Marion Harcourt

Linda Hay

Greg Heyl and Eric Riley

Dolly Howell

Robin Hubbard

Rev. Tracy Johnson

Steve Keenan and Jackie Venner

Mary Parsons

Jan Perry

John and Evelyn Raye

Priscilla Smith

Gerry Stahl

Gail Tilton

Margaret and Mike Tompsett

Dave and Liz Van Wye

Deb Zahka

Joe Zahka

Acupuncture on Cape Cod

Adam in Chatham

Beads by Vangie

Brewster by the Sea

Chatham Guest Rooms

Chatham Seaside Cottages

Chatham Stoneware

East Wind Silver Co.

Latimer Chiropractic

Maps of Antiquity

Sonoma Wool Co.

Wequassett Resort

William's Fine Landscaping



MEDITATION GROUP

Our Meditation group is meeting every Saturday at 9:30 am via Zoom
 Email Gail Tilton at gmtilton@capecod.net or call Joan Konopka at 945-2141 for more info.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

***** Consider mailing a check to the Meeting House each month to cover the amount you would normally place in the Offering bags each Sunday. Thanks.

***** When you send anything to the Meeting House through the mail, please remember that the address must be the Post Office Box, not the street address.
The PO Box is Box 18.

**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday May 17 at 10:30AM to discuss *Traveling with Pomegranates* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Location to be announced. Please contact Mary Parsons if you would like to participate at marypmac@comcast.net or 432-7194

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE****May Birthdays**

11 Bob Raymond
 16 Merylle-Lee Thompson
 20 Julie Dykens
 24 James McClennen
 27 Tracy Johnson
 28 Joan Konopka

**June Birthday**

2 Joyce Sterling

May Anniversary

26' Stephanina and James McClennen

COMMUNITY EVENTS**Open Mic Classical Online**

3rd Sunday of each month

Next: Sunday, May 16, 2021 / 3pm

Guest: cellist Natasha Brofsky, a member of the cello and chamber music faculty at the Juilliard School.

Sign up is open to classical musicians of all levels and ages

Call : 774-353-0244 or email:

openmicclassical@gmail.com

To connect to our Online Zoom Open Mc Classical use our direct link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82666321336?pwd=Z1Q1VGJyZ0ZTZ3FFQ0pEMW92NnRJZz09>

or Meeting ID: 826 6632 1336 Password: OMC

