

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.  
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM  
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**"NEWS FROM THE HILL"**  
is published monthly year round  
by the UU Meeting House of  
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Editor: Susan Bauer  
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**SUNDAY SERVICES** are  
held at 10:30 AM each week.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



next month is THURSDAY  
May 23. Send items to  
Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)

## BEARLY USED THRIFT SHOP

### OPENS MAY 15



**Monday-Friday 10-3**

**Both donations and help welcomed and appreciated! Set-up starts May 1.**

**Call Mary Parsons 508-367-0714 to volunteer for a weekly shift or to join the sub list.**

**THEN...COME AND BUY**

STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

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**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****May 5****Making Space****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

Our theme this month is 'Pluralism.' What do we mean by that as Unitarian Universalists, and how might we incorporate it into the life of our community? Join us for this important conversation.

**May 12****Mothering****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

Today is Mother's Day and while we want to honor our mothers, I also want to think about what we mean by mothering, who we allow to mother us and what role mothering can play in our world.

**May 19****The Story of My Country****Rev. Paul Sprecher**

Many of us are wrestling with how to understand the history of the United States in light of what we are coming to learn about the history of Black Lives and Indigenous lives and the lives of those who have been marginalized — not to mention women's lives. After so much oppression, what's left to love?

**May 26****Winning Without Fighting****Dave Van Wye**

The Vietnam war is a very good example of how we could have done better in dealing with conflict. What could we have done then, and how is that relevant today? How do these lessons apply to challenges beyond warfare? This topic is particularly important on Memorial Day as we appreciate the sacrifices of those who have secured our freedom.

**Who's Preaching**

**Rev. Paul Sprecher** is a familiar figure here at the Meeting House, having served as sabbatical minister for the first six months of 2014 and speaking several times a year since. Since his retirement from his seven-year ministry at First Parish in Bridgewater in 2021, he has become a climate activist at his Senior Living Community in Hingham as well as in the town.

**Dave Van Wye** is a long-time UU and a member of the Meeting House. He has been a soldier, a sailor, and an organization development maker, as well as author of two novels, *Saving Ben Tre* and *Vietnam Blues*.



Dear Ones, All –

Did I mention that my peas are up?!? We can't have a spring go by where we don't talk about my peas! They symbolize for me the interconnectedness of our existence. I compost and plant and water to make a space for them. They sprout and flower. The bees get in on the act, too. And pretty soon there are tiny pods forming, growing, fattening. I pick and eat – sometimes right there in the garden – put some by for winter when I need reminders of the hope of spring to come. And then the cycle begins again – perusing seed catalogues, ordering, making ready.

Last month we talked about interdependence and this month our theme is pluralism. I can't help but think that this, too, is about interconnection. We need all of us, I have said, and when I say that I truly mean ALL of us. All of our ideas and viewpoints, which serve to spark more ideas and ways of understanding our world. Not just all of us here in this community, though. ALL OF US means the incredible variety of personalities and beliefs and creative solutions; all of the experiences; all of the living ~ being ~ doing, I like to call it. If there was only one way through this life it would be out of balance.

This month the Thrift Shop opens, and all the hustle and bustle of the summer months begins again. Another part of the cycle of our life here. I have been watching the sea of donations grow downstairs and it is shaping up to be another prosperous year. All those shelves filled with so much unique and useful stuff! Another reminder of the value of diversity right here under our noses! The people we meet, too, that we might not have otherwise – the conversations that bubble up, that fill us with wonder and food for thought. The tangible balancing that occurs when we clean house and donate, making space for what is next; the influx of goods and their disbursement beyond our walls, connecting us to the wider community through generosity and joy.

I will be spending some time tending to balance in my journey this month. My final weeks of vacation and study leave offer me the opportunity to go on retreat from May 19<sup>th</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>. As I prepare to move into new avenues of living ~ being ~ doing, this time away will give me quiet space to reconnect with what calls to me as a Unitarian Universalist minister and as a person in touch with this world and all the Mystery it holds. We will be together again in June to celebrate the journey we have shared.

Who knew that my peas would evolve into such a reflection! In this month of growth and flowering, I hope you can spend some time reflecting on the interdependent web that is our lives. One simple thing, like my peas, can spur us on to deeper meaning-making if we are open to it. 'May' it be so!

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



**MEMBERSHIP****We Welcome our Newest UUMH Member****Linda Jean Kirkpatrick**

My journey to UUMH was a long one. I was very active in my Presbyterian Church back in Maryland, serving on the Session, running a small food pantry and ringing in the Handbell Choir. When I moved here, I tried many churches looking for one to meet like minded people and a structure and doctrine that I was used to. But I discovered, what I wanted from a church for the first 60 years of my life, was not what I wanted now. I like UUMH because the members are not satisfied with reading the bible and talking about Christianity, they go out into the world and make a difference. Speaking of love and peace, and going out and spreading it. I am listening and learning of the many ways I can become active in one of the groups here on the Cape that makes a difference for the people here, and all over the world.

I grew up in New Jersey, and I am not ashamed of that. I am definitely a washashore, moving here 10 years ago from Maryland, where I lived for 25 years. Did you know Maryland is below the Mason Dixon Line? My ex-husband and I raised our two children there. My oldest, Melanie, is married to Ben, a naval officer, and they live way too far away in California. Melanie is working on her Masters at the U of California at Santa Cruz. My son lives too far away too, but is in western Pennsylvania. He is a computer whiz, and lives there with his wife, Jordan, and their two standard poodles.

I now work as a gardener for Chelsea Gardens and Property Management Company that my two friends started last year. I love my job and can't believe I can earn a living doing it. Unfortunately, the position is a seasonal one and like the majority of the workforce on the Cape, I am laid off in the winter. I live in Harwich Port with my cat, Luna.



**A weed is no more than a flower in disguise. (James Lowell)**

### PLEDGE DRIVE

UUMH, as of this writing, has completed its fourth week of the FY2024-2025 Stewardship/Pledge Campaign, and in so doing has succeeded in obtaining pledges of almost 75% of our goal of \$100,000! On average, our pledges have slightly exceeded those of past years for which we are ever thankful to the pledgers! As we move into May, we encourage your continued submissions of pledges, either monetary or in-kind contributions of volunteerism, assistance, organizational participation, etc. You may make your pledges via the UUMH website, [www.uumh.net](http://www.uumh.net), by conventional mail or by dropping off your pledge card in the miniature UUMH church within the Sanctuary. If possible, please submit your pledges as soon as possible. However, pledges will always be warmly accepted.!

Thank you all for your participation in this very crucial UUMH Chatham Stewardship/Pledge Drive Campaign!



### !!SAVE THE DATE!!

A heads-up to circle June 23 on your calendars. Instead of our usual service we will gather to say farewell to Rev. Tracy Johnson, our Minister of the last four years.

We will say thank you and goodbye, and maybe even talk just a little bit about how much she has enriched our lives and enhanced the Meeting House. How much she has taught us, made us think, celebrated and grieved with us when required. Rather than an actual service, we will spend the hour beginning at the usual 10:30 with refreshments, visiting, chatting, and celebrating a successful sojourn as we wish her well in her next adventures.

*Easter*

*Bonnets*



**EMERGENCY CONTACT CARDS**

Several years ago, the Pastoral Care Team created a file of emergency contacts for members and friends of the Meeting House. These cards gave us, and the minister, names and contacts for friends or family for emergency purposes...a fall in church and a need to contact someone, contacting someone we haven't seen in a long time and are worried about. They were very seldom used, but have come in very handy and necessary a few times. Twice in the last few months we have used them to try to contact members and found that the information was out-of-date, thus our current effort. Family members did not contact the church, so we were left quite adrift.

The Pastoral Care Team is creating a new file and would like your help. The card asks for the names of family member or friend to notify if needed, and that's about it—nothing nosy or intrusive, we promise. They will not be used for any other purpose. The cards will be available on Sunday mornings from any Team member—Sue Bauer, Mary Parsons, or Debbie Zahka. We are also happy to deliver a card to you or even fill it out for you over the phone. Even if you are a seasonal resident, this information could help us.

Please help with this important way for us to keep in touch with our community. Any questions—ask any member of the Team. And thanks!

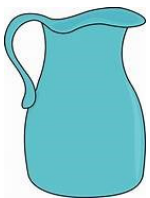
The sympathy of the Meeting House is extended to Naomi Turner and David Veach on the death of Naomi's sister-in-law, Bonnie White.



Debbie Rogers' Memorial Service will be held in the Cohasset UU Church on May 25 at 11AM. Memorial donations for the Rogers Maintenance Fund may be sent to her daughter, Laura Tosi, at 3729 Harrison St. NW / Washington, DC 20015



**REFRESHMENTS ON THE PORCH**



Beginning in May, refreshments after the Sunday Service will be held on the church porch and will include cold drinks and goodies. Please let Sue Bauer (945-3264) know if you would be willing to "host" on a Sunday or two. Easier setup and cleanup than winter coffee hour!

**MUUGS  
THURSDAY MAY 16**

MUUGS (Men's Unitarian Universalist Group Social) has been resurrected! Having met twice on the past two third Thursdays of the month, we've enjoyed participation in a casual, informal, non-structured and engaging discourse with budding comradery! Something very needed and worthwhile within the UUMH! For those men interested, MUUGS will continue to convene on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM at The 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich .

**NEW FLECK ROOM DOOR CODE**

As you may already know, the code on the locked door entrance to the Fleck Room has been changed. The old code was no longer functional, and the cost to replace it was very high, so Joe Zahka reprogrammed the lock. Directions are attached to the old lock, but these work only if you remember the old combination! So, if you need help, call Joe at 978-995-8964 for the new code. Thanks Joe!



**SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT**

**BOY SCOUTS**

During the month of April, Troop 71 participated in a wall climbing afternoon, completed some requirements for swimming, and some boys advanced to the next rank on their path.

Plans are being made for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Skyler Baker and Paul Carlson on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Gail and Terry Eldredge, Jon Nye, and Dave Van Wye will be in attendance to represent the UUMH. A gift will be given to both young men. Due to their hard work sorting bottles and cans, five boys and five adults will be going to North Dakota in July to visit Mount Rushmore amongst other sight-seeing destinations. The Troop is able to finance 80% of each participant's expenses. Some of the boys will be attending Camp Greenough Summer Boy Scout Camp to earn additional merit badges.

Congratulations to our own Frank Toppa for becoming a merit badge counselor for musical activities.

**CUB SCOUTS**

The Pack is on their third turn sorting bottles and cans at the land fill. They will be well prepared for the more strenuous months of July and August. Cub Scout Pack 71 held their own beach clean-up at Oyster Pond. They joined Harwich Pack 76 for a fishing day.

Both of our Scouting Units participated in the Earth Day Clean Up sponsored by the Chatham Conservation Foundation on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 bring your own from your garden, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264). Sue is also happy to order flowers for you through New England Gardens. The cost is about \$45, 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.



## UUMH CLASSIFIEDS

*(please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at [ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com))*

This is an occasional feature of the UUMH Newsletter. Do you have a service to offer our members and friends? Something to sell or donate? Here's the first one of the season:

The foreman of Pine Tree is available for after-hours work – lawn work, mowing, pruning, etc. Call or text Marvin Bryan at 508-332-0113. PS He does superb work! (see Sue Bauer for testimonial) (Pine Tree, which also mows UUMH's lawn, is owned by UUMH's own, Bill Conley)



The deadline for submissions to the *Weekly Bulletin* (published on Monday) is **6 pm on Sunday**. Email items to KD Ryan: [socialtechie1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com).)  
Follow schedule written on cover of previous month's Newsletter.  
On subject line, write "For Newsletter"

**The gardens of kindness never fade. (Greek proverb)**



**JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Cape Cod Chronicle recently featured the All Cape and Islands Jazz Festival held on April 11. Participating – with a picture, too – was Zoe Simmons playing her guitar. Congratulations!

Wonderful article in the Cape Cod Chronicle’s Senior Times about Bonnie Brydges from her career with United Airlines to her current involvement with Sustainable Practices and their work in adopting the plastic bottle ban across the Cape.



**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

The **UUMH Book Club** will hold its next meeting on Monday, May 20 at 10AM at Park Place, 912 Main Street, Chatham.

We will be discussing *The Ride of her Life* by Elizabeth Letts.

This book is readily available through the Eldredge and Brooks Public Libraries.

All are welcome to attend for one book or many. For more information, please contact Gail Eldredge at 508-776-3760 or [gail.eldredge@gmail.com](mailto:gail.eldredge@gmail.com)



**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE**

**May Birthdays**

- 16 Merylle-Lee Thompson
- 20 Julie Dykens
- 21 Steve Shorey
- 24 Jamie McCledden
- 27 Tracy Johnson



**May Anniversary**

- 26 Stephania and Jamie McCledden

**June Birthday**

- 2 Joyce Sterling

**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:

[nfields42@gmail.com](mailto:nfields42@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