

# Vineyard UU Voice

We are an intentionally welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action and universal justice.

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

JULY 2020

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Congratulations Graduates!** Page 3
- **Member Corner,** page 5

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## Congratulations Esther Hopkins!

On June 18, Esther Hopkins received the Creative Sageing [Award from the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association](#). The Creative Sageing award is given for creativity in pursuing new ventures in retirement. Esther is a woman of many accomplishments. She is recognized for her career as a biophysicist and research chemist at American Cyanamid along with research in the Polaroid Corp. Emulsion Coating and Analysis Laboratory. She also pursued a career working as an attorney with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) following her time as a chemist. She graduated from Boston



University with a B.A. in chemistry. She attended Howard University, where she received her master's

degree in organic chemistry. She later earned a second master's degree and Ph.D. in chemistry at Yale University. And, she attended Suffolk University Law School, where she received her J.D. degree with a concentration in patent law.

Esther has been an active Unitarian Universalist locally and at the national level. She contributed to the UU Association in many ways, including serving on the President's Council with her husband, the late Reverend T. Ewell Hopkins. She created the T. Ewell Hopkins Ministerial Aid Fund in memory of Reverend Hopkins. The purpose of the award is to ease the financial burden of

becoming or remaining a minister, so that our clergy's minds may be freed to attend to their higher calling. Congratulations, Esther, and thank you for sharing your skills and knowledge here at the UUSMV. —Editor

## Ewell Hopkins — Close Up with C.K. Wolfson on MVTV

*Close Up* presents fascinating people at their most candid and spontaneous. The half-hour romp, hosted by CK Wolfson, is an intimate and animated exchange that includes interruptions, confes-

sions, and a lot of laughter. Use the link below to see the interview with our Ewell Hopkins!

<https://mvtv.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=e23d497e-c23b-480c-89fd-0050c7ae164d>





**July  
Caring  
Coordin-  
ator:  
Mimi  
Davisson**



## Worship Services

**11:00 am**

All Worship Services take place on Zoom. Go to page 9 for the link and other ways of joining the services.

### July 5: *Cultivating Renewal and Joy* – C.L. Fornari



C.L. Fornari is a writer, professional speaker, and the host of "Garden Line" on WXTK

radio. She is the author of several books, including *A Garden Lover's Martha's Vineyard*, and numerous articles. She speaks to green industry professionals, gardeners, church groups, and non-profits. She runs educational programs and a consulting service at a garden center on Cape Cod, and is a volunteer master gardener with the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension.

### July 12: *Knowing What We Know* - Reverend Jake Morrill



Some call these times the "post-truth" era. We know about

"truthiness," but what about truth? What about climate change and other public issues? What about our beliefs and

values--what we believe to be true--which can't rest on science? This Sunday morning, using stories and pictures, we'll think about how we think and get to the truth about truth. Since 2003, Jake Morrill has been the Lead Minister of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. He's long been involved in denominational activities, including presently serving on the Board of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. He has preached several times at UUSMV and visits the Island most summers with his family, which includes his wife Molly and their two school-aged kids.

### July 19: *Some Steps to Erasing Racism* - Jim Thomas

Racism and steps to end racism will be discussed. Jim Thomas is founder



and president of the Spirituals Choir and member of the UUSMV. The U.S. Slave Song Project (USSSP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about authentic U.S. slave songs. U.S. slave songs, also known as Negro spirituals, are true American folk music. They were sung by slaves between 1619 and 1865, when the last slaves were freed.

### July 26: *Greening the New Dawn* - Reverend Edmund Robinson



One thing that is overwhelmingly clear in the fog of the present is that we are in the

grip of forces much larger than ourselves. We may have spent down our resources to the point where we can have little influence on the course society will take after the pandemic is brought under control. But we can use the power of our imaginations to envision a post-Covid world, a world that is more just, more accountable, and more compassionate than the pre-Covid world. Reverend Robinson recently retired from the position of minister of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, Chatham, after eleven and half years there. He has also served congregations in Staten Island, NY and Wakefield and Belmont, MA. Before entering the ministry, he was a trial lawyer in South Carolina. He lives in Brewster with his wife Jacqueline Schwab, awaiting the next turn of events in his life.

# Congratulations 2020 Graduates!



Lee Hayman, daughter of Lucia Hayman, graduated from Denison

University, in Granville, Ohio, a wonderful small college town. Lee and her friends who are sheltering-in-place here at Lucia's home decided to "jump the bridge" to celebrate this happy event in their lives. They made the front page of the *MV Times*!

Tripp Hopkins, son of Ewell and

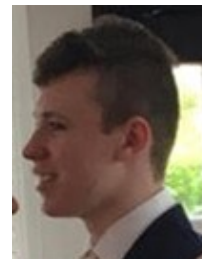


Freedom Cartwright and grandson of Esther Hopkins, graduates from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, ceremony still planned for July 26 at the Ag Hall grounds. His future plans are presently under review.

Ethan West-Fink graduates from high school in Montana where the West-Fink family now resides. He will be attending University of Montana in Missoula, majoring in Poli-Sci and pre-law. Prior to graduating high school, he has earned 40 college credits and will enter college as a sophomore. Also, he is joining the ROTC.



Jesse Caseau, grandson of Barb Caseau, graduates from MVRHS, ceremony to be held



in late July at the Ag Hall grounds. He plans to continue flight training, as he already has his small plane solo license, on the way to being a commercial pilot.

We heartily congratulate these wonderful young people on their graduations in this pandemic time and send best wishes to them and their families as they look towards their futures.  
—Barb Caseau for the Lifelong Learning Committee

## In Our CommUnity

Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers:

**Tom Osborn, Isabel Noel, Linda Wilson, Carol and Herb Golub, Steve and Joan Clark**

It is with sadness that we note the death of **Chris Fried** at his assisted living facility in Mashpee after a long period of declining health.

Congratulations to Jesse Caseau, grandson of **Barbara Caseau**, and Tripp Hopkins, son of Ewell Hopkins and Freedom Cartwright and grandson of Esther Hopkins, on their graduations from MVRHS. Congratulations to Ethan West-Fink, son of **Vanessa West-Fink**, on his high school gradu-

ation, and to Lee Hayman, daughter of **Lucia Hayman** on her graduation from Denison College in Ohio.

Thank you to **Lucia Hayman** for hosting and leading Thursday morning Zoom Meditation and Movement sessions all spring. Lucia is taking a well-deserved hiatus this summer. Congratulations to **Esther Hopkins**, who was awarded the Creative Sageing Award by the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association for her many years of dedication to the causes of Unitarian Universalism.

—Celeste Stickney

## Where's Jennifer?

Can you find Jennifer Knight who sang with the GA Choir at Sunday's morning worship, June 28? (1<sup>st</sup> column on the left!)



# Notes from the Parish Committee

Your Parish Committee met via Zoom last month on June 10th. Here are some highlights.

- We discussed the congregation's first right of refusal to purchase the property at 248 Main Street and quickly shifted into a conversation about developing our back parcel.
- \* A committee of Lucinda Sheldon, Glenn Palmer and Kristy Brooks will kick off a Needs Assessment with the congregation to gather input around what purpose a structure might serve for our congregation and the larger Island community. Included in this will be incorporating the thoughts of musicians and other Islanders, who may be interested in the type of facility we're imagining.
- \* Once the Needs Assessment is complete, additional research will be done on design, building

options (stick built, modular etc.), zoning, landscaping and more. And of course, all the associated cost estimates will be gathered before circling back with the congregation to discuss our available options.

- \* *If you would like to help organize the capital campaign for this project when the time comes, please let Kristy know. Alternatively, if you or someone you know might want to be an Angel for this project, please contact Rita.*
- Our financial position continues to remain solid and the Finance Committee encourages people to make their pledge payments, if possible, and to consider going online to the Church's website to make an offering/donation.
- The Worship Committee has done a terrific job with consistently improving our Zoom Sunday Worship services, and we appreciate

them! The PC also discussed the "Time's Up! Dismantle Institutional Racism NOW" sermon to make sure all of the pieces were in place, since it was to be our first pre-recorded sermon via YouTube.

- Rita attended an online meeting of UU Presidents and took away some great ideas about the technical pieces of worship services during COVID as well as fundraising during COVID. She also noted that Zoom fatigue is real for all congregations!

The next regular PC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 15th, 4:00-6:00 pm**. Everyone is invited to attend. If you plan to do so, or have an agenda item to suggest, *please contact Rita Brown as she will have details as to how and where the meeting will be taking place.*

—Kristy Brooks, Secretary

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## Groups and Meetings - July



**The UUSMV Women's Group** will meet on Zoom on **Thursday, July 9, 2:00-4:00 pm** and on **Thursday, July 23, 2:00-4:00 pm**.  
—Celeste Stickney



**The Men's Group** will meet to continue their discussion of BLM via Zoom on **Saturday, July 11, 9:30 am**.  
—Peter Meloney



**Sewcial Action Knitworkers** continue crocheting, knitting, and sewing projects working at home. They keep us busy. Several projects are being made for the Hospice Handmade from the Heart Christmas fundraiser. If you are interested in working of a project, contact Laura.  
—Laura Beebe



**The UUSMV Book Club** will be meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday, July 21, at 2:00 pm**. They will be discussing *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. *Between the World and Me* is a National Book Award winner, Pulitzer Prize finalist, and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist. Contact Peter Meloney if you'd like to join the discussion.  
—Peter Meloney

# Member Corner - A Wedding Trip to Remember

I answered the phone to hear the excited voice of my daughter, Becky. "Mom, I have met the man I want to marry. He's moving to Florida and so am I." Little did I

know, this would lead to my biggest adventure.

Six years

later in 2003 after Koti's (the groom) parents approved the marriage, I left for India with Koti and Becky.

We landed in Dubai where we had a chance to tour the city's historical area and the amazing and uniquely beautiful buildings of the city. Next stop was Hyderabad where Koti's parents greeted us with flowers. Then after a train ride we arrived at Vijawada the home of the groom's parents and wedding location.

We stayed at the Mayorama Hotel – similar to a Hilton. On the way we saw streets crowded with cows, buffalo, stray dogs, bicycles, buses, rickshaws, motor scooters, 3-wheeled cars and many, many



people. Unfortunately, we also saw many beggars on the street. Touring the city with Koti's brother-in-law, we visited Golconda Fort (also called

"Shepherds Hill") a fortified citadel built in 1143 that flourished as a trade center for diamonds. The fort is surrounded by a 4-mile wall, semi-circular bastions, 8 gateways, 4 drawbridges, a deep moat and huge cannons, beautiful gardens, and temple. Three kings rebuilt the fort over 63 years. Because of great acoustics, clapping of hands can be heard everywhere in the fort! February is the month when

many weddings occur. The tradition of henna painted hands was done for

Becky by Koti's sister, Sushuma. Beautiful design. Aromatic Jasmine was worn in the long hair of the women.

Then off to Annavaram,



E.G. District for wedding. Dinner was served on leaves that night, then we were shown to our rooms. We were told to rest until later when Koti's sister and Mother would help us dress for the wedding scheduled for 11:45 pm. There are two services performed by a Swamy/Priest. Koti wore a Nehru suit, then a custom-made suit. Becky wore a silver sari and then a red sari – both decorated with pure gold! Spectacular! The family anointed the bride and groom by sprinkling saffron rice



on their heads. The wedding celebration lasted over three days.

Then it was time to travel back to the USA. I literally wanted to kiss the ground upon arrival. We take so

many things for granted. How lucky are we to have clean water, paper products, etc.

—Doris Troy



## News from the

## Neighborhood Convention

Because we have been unable to hold any meetings since March, the Martha's Vineyard Neighborhood Convention officers began looking for meaningful ways to contribute to the Island's immediate needs during this time of Coronavirus Pandemic. The Officers and Members at Large agreed that supporting agencies that provide

food to families and individuals would be a good choice. We want you to know that a \$400.00 donation was made to the Island Food Pantry, and a \$600.00 donation was made to the Good Shepherd Parish food distribution program. We gave according to what we know about each agency's need; the IFP has received a number of

substantial gifts this spring; a little extra help for Good Shepherd was in order, we felt. Our admiration for each agency's dedication and effort exceeds our contribution. We are honored to participate, and we are mindful that without your faithfulness, we could do nothing.  
—Sofia Anthony,  
Neighborhood Convention



...fostering universal justice  
and community action...

**The Restoring Democracy team distributed over 2000 postcards in June to 38 volunteers who will write the cards and mail them to potential voters across the country to Get Out the Vote!**

—Dorie Godfrey for the Restoring Democracy Team

## New UUSMV Working Group

Twenty-nine members of the congregation signed up for an initial Zoom discussion about Black Lives Matter on June 16. Our discussion centered on how each of us can learn how to undo intersectional white supremacy; how we can each learn to be an effective anti-racist; how we can put these issues in our worship services on a monthly or regular basis; what coalitions or groups are on the Island working on these important issues we might work with; how we might learn about the policies of our Island police forces and their protocols. We discussed the possibility of having a congregation-wide training workshop once we can gather again in the Chapel. Two members expressed using the model like the Welcoming Congregation in 2004. Rita has a connection and will follow up.

Several members have joined the Island NAACP (you have an automatic membership in the national NAACP as well). A Black Lives Matter poster was made and put in the Wayside Pulpit. We are ordering a large banner to go on

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

the outside of the Chapel above the windows that will say “Black Lives Matter” and have the artistic heart from the Standing on the Side of Love campaign. When community events are held, such as the protests that have been happening on the Island and all over the United States, we will notify UUSMV members and friends, so that they may participate if they wish. We are ever-mindful of the COVID-19 pandemic; members will have no pressure to join any group effort.

We will be sharing resources that we hope members will use to enhance each person’s own education on antiracism and white supremacy. Resources recommended for individual learning:

- Documentary: *13th* on Netflix
- *A Class Divided* (full film) *Frontline PBS* (Jane Elliot)

- Documentary: *The African American: Many Rivers to Cross*. PBS 6-part series (2013)
- Documentary: *Black America Since Martin Luther King: And Still I Rise*. PBS November 2016 (4-part series) Henry Louis Gates, Jr. narrates the last 2 documentaries.
- *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo and Michael Baldwin.

Do you have a film or book you would recommend? Jim Thomas and Rita Brown, for the BLM/ UUSMV Working Group. Members: Judy Hickey, Peter Meleney, Ann Charnley. (We have 2 more openings for this leadership group.) Dorie Godfrey is the liaison for the UUSMV Restoring Democracy.  
--Rita Brown



*...fostering universal justice and community action...*

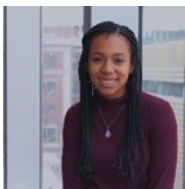
*Tripp Hopkins Panelist in Community Dialogue*



On Friday, June 5, MVRHS in collaboration with MVPCS hosted a Virtual Panel and MVRHS/MVPCS Community Dialogues to provide students, parents, faculty and staff a safe and supportive space to discuss the tragedy that has

befallen George Floyd and far too many men and women of color. Tripp Hopkins was a member of the panel that addressed topics such as the role of law enforcement in changing the culture of racism in policing and the impact on black

men and communities of color; what is anti-racism and white allyship; and the steps we can take to combat the systemic racism and implicit bias present in our own backyard. Thank you from all of us at UUSMV, Tripp. —Editor



*Danielle Hopkins Calls for Discussion on Reallocating Police Funds to Human Services*

At the recent Oak Bluffs town meeting, Danielle Hopkins called for a discussion on reallocating police funds to human services next year. She asked for the police department and town officials to work with Martha’s Vineyard Community Services to look at what roles the police perform that are also performed by MVCS to determine if funds can be

reallocated from police to community services next year. “That would lead to more efficient ways to address human service needs and that other officials can work with the police department,” said Danielle. Hopkins’ request to begin a dialogue was met with applause before voters approved

the police budget. She also asked for future discussion of the school resource officer at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School. (From the *MV Times*). Danielle was a speaker at the Juneteenth celebration in Oak Bluffs. You make us proud, Danielle. —Editor

*Urge Our Senators to Pass H.R. 6800*



The U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act (H.R.6800) on May 15, which includes \$3.6 billion

towards the much-needed funding and provisions to secure our vote and health. The HEROES Act also includes necessary funding for the USPS, now under severe threat. With the pandemic driving down mail volume by as much as 50 percent this year, the USPS is on track

to run out of money by September 2020. The Senate majority leader has not scheduled a vote on the HEROES Act. There is no stimulus package currently moving in the Senate that would include funding for states in support of the elections and similarly for the USPS.

Why it’s important: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the coronavirus will remain a threat during our November elections. Millions of Americans with a wide range of political views will avoid going to the polls because it is not safe. We need to make it as easy as we can for them to vote from the safety of

their own homes. This is especially true for at-risk populations and those who have transportation difficulties. The \$400 million for elections in the CARES Act was a welcome start but is woefully insufficient to cover the cost of preparing all of our states to put in place the needed solutions to keep us safe: voting by mail, early voting, and having easily accessible and safe polling places. We need to demand that Congress secure our November elections. —Dorie for Restoring Democracy Team

## *This Old Church*

Mike Savoy mowed! Oh, happy day! Oh, happy day! And Celeste. And me. Yard fairies have been adjusting things also: flower beds are fixed up and things seem more different from what can be accounted for by seasonal growth.

Oh, but the gas leak sensor situation is losing its humor. After literally a year of no device found, we now have false alarms. Oh well keep on keepin' on.  
—Norman Stickney,  
Trustee





# Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

**For Pastoral Care while Rev. Bill is on leave, please call Reverend Vicky Hanjian at 508-696-8225.**

Worship services and meetings listed are by Zoom. The UUSMV Zoom ID# is 940 766 8736, password is 735531

You can join using this url: <https://zoom.us/j/9407668736?pwd=STN5bVZXd21neEpmaUxTYW5ib0pWdz09>

Or call: 1-646-558-8656, and when prompted give this ID# including the pound sign at the end: 9407668736#, password 735531

Please contact Ed Merck for the Zoom information for Tuesday morning meditation and Island Insight Meditation for the Saturday morning meditation.

## July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day!
5 11:00 am: <i>Cultivating Renewal and Joy</i> -C.L. Fornari	6 3:30 pm: Spirit Talk	7 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	8	9 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	10	11 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting  9:30 am: Insight Meditation Group with Chas DiCapua
12 11:00 am: <i>Knowing What We Know</i> -Reverend Jake Morrill	13 3:30 pm: Spirit Talk	14 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	15 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	16	17	18
19 11:00 am: <i>Some Steps to Erasing Racism</i> -Jim Thomas	20 3:30 pm: Spirit Talk	21 9:30 am: Meditation Circle  3:00 pm: Caring Committee Meeting	22	23 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	24	25
26 11:00 am: <i>Greeting the New Dawn</i> -Reverend Edmund Robinson	27 3:30 pm: Spirit Talk	28 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	29	30	31	

# Unitarian Universalist Society

## of Martha's Vineyard

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**Lori Shaller** - Administrative Assistant,  
Newsletter Copy Editor and Publisher

**Dorie Godfrey** - Managing Editor

**Mary Miller and Linda Wilson** – Proofreaders



Wishing a fantastic birthday celebration to:

Jan Casey who will be 70 on July 8

Kristy Brooks on July 9

Jeffrey Fisher who will be 71 on July 10

Betty Burton who will be 71 on July 12

Alan Wilson on July 13

Jack Street on July 16

Tripp Hopkins on July 19

Pamela Street on July 20

Celeste Stickney on July 23

Steve Engh on July 26

UUSMV

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