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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 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

The Wayside Community Pulpit

From President Rita Brown

"Injustice anywhere is a threat of justice everywhere." —Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King

"What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" —Mary Oliver

The roadside bulletin board or "sermon" was first introduced to North American churches in 1919 by Henry Saunderson, minister of the First Parish Church (Unitarian) of Brighton, MA. It was outside of the church and designed to have liberal, thought-provoking messages that reflected universal truths and would make people stop, read, and search their consciences. The sermons became popular, and 100 churches in that area decided to subscribe and to erect "Wayside Community Pulpits."

At the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard on April 4, 1921, the congregation voted that Mrs. Gary deWolfe Hough be appointed to investigate purchasing a small Wayside Pulpit. (Instructions for building one can be found on the UUA web site today!) On April 6, 1931, Miss Mabel Parrish was voted the thanks of the Soci-

ety for her generous gift in the form of an electric light with a clock for our Wayside Pulpit. The story from the 1940's lingers that Mrs. Leland



Renear, "Mary," complained about a quote. It seems she was driving toward West Chop, the quote was lengthy, and she drove into a tree by the time she had read it all. She advocated shorter ones. Sarah Shepard's mother, Elizabeth Goodale, became highly active in our Society in the 1940's and at some point she took the role of changing them each Sunday—but in those days the Society only met in the summer. We became a year-round church in the 1960's. Once the quote was "When you're up to your waist in alligators, remember your intention was to drain the swamp." Janet Sharp, then the President of the Society

phoned Sarah's mother to protest about the quote. Mrs. Goodale knew the quote was not accurate—the original quote used "ass" instead of "waist"—but she was saved embarrassment when Mrs. Sharp's protest was that it was then ecologically wrong to drain a swamp!

In the mid-2000's the price of purchasing the quotes from the UUA became quite high, and Sarah asked Chris Seidel to make them on the MV Commission's large printer. In exchange Chris got to choose the quotes. Chris is now Wayside Pulpit "minister emeritus." Many thanks to Chris for her 15+ years of Wayside Pulpit ministry sharing her thoughts, as well as making the signs. In addition to our Wayside Pulpit, we also fly the Rainbow Flag, which is the symbol of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride, together with our newest banner, *Black Lives Matter*, communicating our embrace of the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

—Rita Brown, President, together with Sarah Shepard, Past President and UUSMV Historian



Worship Services

11:00

All Worship Services take place on Zoom. Please see page 9 for details about how to join.

September 6: Farewell to Reverend Bill Clark

We invite you to a farewell for Rev. Bill on the front lawn of Stevens Chapel. You may choose to park and gather, socially distanced with masks (required) or park and remain in your car.



- Ring the church bell 7 times for the 7 years Rev. Bill was our Minister.
- Chalice lighting by Celeste Stickney, Vice President of the Society.
- A few words from Rita Brown, President of the Society, to honor Rev. Bill's ministry with us.
- Presentation of the gift from the congregation by Kristy Brooks, Secretary of the Society
- A few words from Rev. Bill Clark, our retiring minister.

From **11:10 to 11:45 am** socially distanced (with masks) visits with Rev. Bill on the lawn. For those who wish to remain in their cars, cones will be set up for a "drive-through" lane where you can remain in your car, windows down, masks on, for a short visit with Rev. Bill. From **12 to 12:30 pm**, for those who are unable to drive by or visit socially distanced, join Rev. Bill on Zoom. In case of rain, we will meet on **Monday, September 7, same times.**

September 13: Caring in the Time of COVID - Reverend Vicky Hanjian

We are weathering an unusual time, facing uncertainty, and trying to live together as a caring faith community. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the worrisome questions about the economy, the groundswell of the challeng-



ing movement toward racial equity, and the long term possibilities are daunting. Rev. Vicky will offer some thoughts on nourishing community, maintaining vitality, and avoiding burn-out, so that we can sustain an ongoing offering of lovingkindness and compassion to the world wherever we engage. Reverend Vicky Hanjian, an Island resident for 26 years, received her Master of Divinity degree from Drew University in 1990 and is ordained in the United Methodist Church. She has served as interim pastor for two of the Methodist churches on the Island and as chaplain and bereavement counselor for Hospice of Martha's Vineyard. She and her husband, Armen, enjoy a "double belonging" as active participants in the life of the First Congregational Church of West Tisbury and the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center.

September 20: Virtual Visit to UU Fellowship of Falmouth - Reverend David Kolheimer (<https://>

uuffm.org)

Join us as we join the UU Fellowship of Falmouth for their Sunday Zoom Worship Service. Note the time change: **10:00 am!**

Service will focus on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a theologian who was executed by the Nazis for being part of a plot to assassinate Hitler. We'll use Bonhoeffer's life and writings to ask the question: "When a society descends into fascism and white nationalism, when propaganda rules over fact, what does a person of conscience do?"

For bio. of Rev. David:

<https://uuffm.org/about-us/our-minister-and-staff/our-minister/>



September 27: Mental Health during Covid-19 - David Araujo



David Araujo, Director of the Island Intervention Center and of the Emergency Services Program at Martha's Vineyard Community Services will share about how Covid-19 has affected our mental health and shaped how services are provided.

Worship Committee | In Our CommUnity

Seeks Your Ideas

As the Worship Committee plans for the rest of 2020, we welcome your suggestions for future services and your feedback on past services. We hope you are enjoying the variety of presentations. Congregation members will have opportunities to participate in the weeks to come. Email or call Jennifer Knight, Esther Hopkins, Sue Streeter, or Barb Caseau. Thank you.
—The Worship Committee

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

Isabelle Noel
Blair Shick
Steve and Joan Clark
Tad Crawford
Betty Burton
Myra Stark
Herb and Carol Golub

Happy Anniversary to the following couples:

Karen and Bill Sankey: 28th

Anniversary

Lori Shaller and Matthew

Pelikan: 30th anniversary

Laura and Ken Beebe: 53rd

Anniversary

Johanna and Mike Kobran:

57th Anniversary

—Celeste Stickney

Parish Committee Notes

Your Parish Committee met via Zoom on August 11th. Here are some highlights.

- In our ongoing efforts to keep the health and safety of our members and friends a top priority, we will continue with virtual services for the foreseeable future. We will revisit this decision at our October meeting.
- We now have an official Personnel Policy for the first time in our history!
- The Worship Committee continues to do an amazing job with Sunday services! They are “thinking outside the box” and looking at new ways to deliver music and other content. They’ve also put together a list of skills, characteristics, expectations, and requirements as they seek to expand the Committee. Reach out if you’re interested!
- The RE Committee is looking

at alternative ways for children to “gather” with the hope that once a month in the Fall they will offer a kid-friendly activity for younger children. Our older children are currently planning two upcoming services.

- There are 23 congregation members signed up for the “Sacred Ground” 10-week course being offered by St. Andrew’s Church, focusing on Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific Americans and how they intersect with European American histories. Participants will learn how we can help bring about the healing, reconciliation and justice that is necessary for uniting us, so that we are grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love.
- Our financial position continues to remain stable as pledges and offerings continue to be made. Our expenses remain low as we are not

able to be together in Stevens Chapel.

- The Pledge Committee will be meeting soon for a brainstorming session to kick off the 2021 Pledge Drive at the end of September.
- Communications have been going out weekly for Reverend Bill’s “Farewell and Thank You” event, which will be held on **Sunday, September 6th**. Please check the Friday emails for more information.

The next **regular PC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, 4:00-6:00 pm**. If you plan to attend and/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



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



Black Lives Matter



Do you feel hesitant to vote in person due to COVID-19 but fear the USPS will be unable to deliver a “mail-in” ballot in a timely fashion?
SOLUTION:

1. Request a mail-in ballot.
2. Do not mail it.
3. Drop off your mail-in ballot at the place designated by your town.

Edgartown – 2 drop boxes: one in front of and one in the lobby of Town Hall.

Oak Bluffs – drop box in Town Hall or take to Town Clerk’s office hours **8:30 am-4:00 pm weekdays.**

Vineyard Haven – drop off at Town Hall at the service window of Clerk’s office during office hours.

Chilmark – 2 drop boxes to left of Town Hall main door.

West Tisbury – drop boxes – two in Town Hall – one in lobby and one outside at base of the steps.

Aquinnah – drop box to the left of the main entrance of Town Hall.

Here is what you’re accomplishing by doing this:

1. Your ballot gets in on time no matter what happens to the USPS.
2. You don’t have to worry

about standing in long lines and risking infection. You’re just stopping by to drop it off.
3. You still voted! Hooray!
Also, when you drop it off, find out how to track it online to make sure it is verified. Here’s the Massachusetts website with instructions on how to track your ballot:
www.TrackMyBallotMA.com



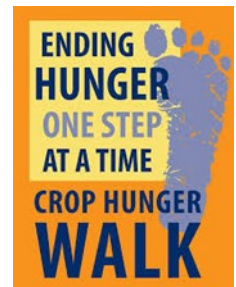
6000 postcards to Georgia, Texas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania!

Thank you to all the volunteers who are helping to restore democracy by writing postcards to Get Out the Vote! We are using organizations (Women’s March Foundation, Reclaim Our Vote, Moms Rising, Indivisible) that target unregistered voters, voters who may have been removed from voter polls, and infrequent voters.

We have just received our final set of 3000 postcards. This will end our get out the vote postcard drive. So, if you would like to help us with the final push, contact Kristy Brooks. We provide the

postcards, postage, names and addresses, and instructions on how to complete the postcards!

—Dorie Godfrey for the Restoring Democracy Team



This is the 30th anniversary of Crop Walk, and this year’s Martha’s Vineyard Crop Walk will be done virtually. This does not mean you just imagine walking; rather, you walk sometime between **October 1 and October 18**. You can walk any route you like, or the traditional route from St. Augustine’s church to the campgrounds in Oak Bluffs and back. During the weeks leading up to walking, please solicit donations to this cause. Money raised is especially important this year to offset increased food insecurity and hunger world-wide and on the Vineyard due to COVID 19 and its effects on the economy. The UUSMV Crop Walk 2020 team is being led by Norman Stickney. He will have pledge/signup sheets and more info on how you can participate.
—Celeste Stickney

What Are You Doing during the Pandemic?

A Call Set Up by Our Children! These are times that call on us to stretch our imaginations! I find myself happily engaging with old friends as well as new acquaintances.

Yard/porch/patio visits have been creatively set up for weekly and biweekly gatherings. Lots more phone calls and texts have been exchanged, but one recent reconnection and its origins touched me very much! My youngest son Todd and Princeton neighbors' daughter Nancy have been connecting and exchanging information for years on Facebook. Mind you, we lived in Princeton, New Jersey in the mid to late 1960's when these "kids" were grade schoolers!

A month ago, Dr. Jim, father of Nancy, asked her to ask Todd for my phone number. Dr. Jim

is now 93 years old, his wife Peg is 92. We have exchanged Christmas cards for the intervening 50 years with pictures and news of their four children and my three.

However, to receive a phone call from them from Princeton after all these years was a lovely surprise and a trip back in the history of our families.

We talked nonstop for 2.5 hours! I caught up on information about their three sons and daughter, their grandchildren, their living arrangements, different but still in Princeton, and my life of 40+ years since on Martha's Vineyard, and about my grown children and nine "greats"!

But most of all we talked about our times as neighbors 50 years ago. The time I took their youngest, Nick, when Jim and

Peg took a vacation, and Nick came down with chicken pox the next day; how Peggy and Katie, our beloved setter dogs, followed our kids everywhere, waited patiently, and then walked them back home. No leash laws back then. Times the adults got together; how Peg took a sewing course and I admired a corduroy suit she made, and she immediately made one for me, jacket lining and all.

They had speakerphones so all three of us could be on together. And together we were! It was a step back in our connected histories and it seemed like yesterday! We agreed to more chats. And maybe this reconnection would have occurred anyway, but it was a particular treasure in these times.

—Ann Hollister



Ann with the most recent "great."

Let's Have Some Fun with a Pandemic Quiz!



You are invited to enter the

UUSMV quiz contest! Answer the questions and submit your answers no later than **September 15** to Jack Street, who has volunteered to coordinate the contest. Winning entries will be printed in the October Newsletter and will be awarded a grand prize, also to be announced in the October Newsletter.

The Quiz – The goal is to try to answer as many of these questions as you can without Googling or otherwise researching the answers! Let Jack know in your responses whether you had to research the answers or not! Here we go....

1. Name 3 of the members of the Stevens Chapel Legacy Society. (You may have seen the list on the plaque on the Chapel wall.)
2. Name 5 prior UUSMV Presidents. (not Rita!)
3. How many Members does UUSMV have right now?
4. How many rings of the church bell announcing the commencement of service are bell ringers advised to ring?
5. What are 3 of the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism?
6. What are 3 of the 6 sources of Unitarian Universalism?
7. Name 3 Social Action initiatives the Church undertakes throughout the year.
8. How many Trustees does UUSMV have?
9. Who are they right now?
10. How old is Stevens Chapel?
11. Who is the Moderator for UUSMV congregational meetings?
12. When was UUSMV designated a "Welcoming Congregation" and encouraged by the UUA to display the Rainbow Flag?
13. Which of our members is founder, president and Director of the U.S. Slave Songs Project Spirituals Choir?

So, let's have some fun with this. And remember, a Grand Prize will be awarded to winning entries to be announced in the October Newsletter. Good Luck!

—Jack Street

September Groups and Meetings



Women's Group meets **Thursdays, September 10 and 24, 2:00-4:00 pm** on Zoom. All UUSMV women are invited, and a topic is discussed at each meeting. For more information, contact me.

—Celeste Stickney



Men's Group meets **Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am,**

probably sitting on chairs in UUSMV's backyard.

—Peter Meleney

“Ageing to Sageing” Group plans to begin the fall/winter season on **Wednesday, September 23, 1:00 pm** on Zoom.

—Ann Hollister



Sewcial Action Knitwork

continues to create comforts and items for the December Hospice of Martha's Vineyard silent auction.

—Laura Beebe

Orion Grace Newton Thibodeau Wins Red Ribbon!

Orion Grace's Virtual Fair submission. Is it Janet or Maria?



Class: 2 – Collage
 Orion Grace Newton Thibodeau
 Age: 4
 Portrait of my mother in quarantine

**September Caring Coordinator:
 Doris Troy**



This Old Church

A Freestyle Poem of Updates!

Ramp handrail - I ordered second phase material.
 Ramp door - Whatever happened to replacement?
 Ramp boards - gee several are wobbly.
 Ramp low voltage light system removal - going solar.
 Driveway deed - all about relationships.
 Thumb-turn lock for front door - new code! new process!
 No mowing in drought! - like me, grass could be trimmed.

Bulkhead drip edge replacement project - still on hold.
 Stair tape project- of course there's more opportunity.
 Inspiring participation – priceless.
 —Norman Stickney, Trustee



Thank you Sue!!!

Thank you to **Sue Streeter** for providing a safe haven on Zoom on Monday afternoons since April, where folks could meet, discuss a provocative quotation, and share how their spirits were holding all that is going on in the world right now. We are so grateful, **Sue**, for your gift of *Spirit Talk!*

—Rita Brown

MOVIE & MORE REVIEW

So, what do I do to entertain myself? I assume I do what everyone does: search for shiny things that glow with promise or intrigue or primordial attraction. Oh, and things that do not require any effort on my part. Celeste found a *NY Times* arti-

cle on 10 best movies you never heard of. We have been working on that.

20th Century Women - Has some reflections of reality that resonate.

Mississippi Grind - I found it addictive.

Mudbound - Ugly but I couldn't look away.

Captive - Captivating.

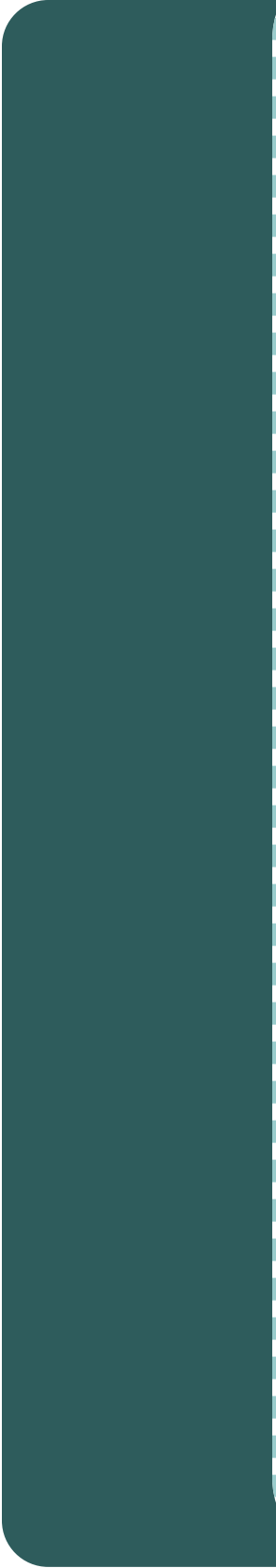
Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood - the Mr. Rogers movie, with Tom Hanks. Too close to home. How did they know all those things about me? Very good nonetheless. I need that now and then, mostly then. What are you watching or doing for entertainment? Share your recommendations in the next newsletter!

—Norman Stickney



Sharing virtual hugs and birthday greeting to:
 Rabbi Lori Shaller and Maddie Maccaferri on September 7
 Chris Seidel on September 14
 Ewell Hopkins on September 16
 Esther Hopkins on September 18
 May your next trip around the sun bring you everything you need.

If you would like to share your birthday so we can celebrate it in our newsletter, contact Dorie Godfrey. Make a birthday special by making a gift to UUSMV in honor of one's birthday.



Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

For Pastoral Care 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=STN5bVZXd21neEpmalxTYW5ib0pWdz09>

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.

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	2 3:00 pm: Wor- ship Commit- tee Meeting	3	4	5
6 11:00 am: <i>Farewell for Reverend Bill Clark</i>	7	8 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 4:00 pm: Parish Committee	9	10 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	11	12 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting
13 11:00 am: <i>Caring in the Time of Covid - Reverend Vicky Hanjian</i>	14	15 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	16	17	18	19 10:00 am: Insight Medita- tion Group with Chas DiCapua
20 10:00 am: UUSMV joins UU of Fal- mouth Service - Reverend David Kohlmeier	21	22 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 3:00 pm: Caring Committee Meeting	23 1:00 pm: "Ageing to Sageing" Group Meeting	24 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	25	26
27 11:00 am: <i>Mental Health during Covid-19 - David Araujo</i>	28	29 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	30			

**Unitarian Universalist Society
of Martha's Vineyard**

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