

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 10

NOVEMBER 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Native American Heritage Month, page 5**
- **Order Your New Print Directory, page 5**

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Thank you to everyone who has pledged to help support UUSMV in 2021! We are not quite "All In", and it is not too late to pledge! We understand that households have varying financial means – especially during this unsettling pandemic – so know that the act of making a pledge is more important than its amount for reaching our "All In" goal. Every pledge counts equally toward our "All In" goal. Thank you for helping



Thank You!



KEEP THE FLAME BURNING

A Special Thanks to the Pledge Team of Kristy Brooks, Rita Brown, Barb Caseau, Katharine Colon, Judy Crawford, Mimi Davisson, Dorie Godfrey, Ann Hollister, Doreen Kinsman, Donna McElroy, Mary Miller, Peter Palches, Glenn Palmer, Lucinda Sheldon, Sarah Shepard, Celeste Stickney, Sue Streeter.

UUSMV to welcome 2021 with strong support from its congregation
—The Pledge Team



KEEP THE FLAME BURNING
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

We support our mission and congregation in four ways.

- 1. We support it with our presence,**
- 2. We support it with our work,**
- 3. We support it with our spirits by bringing loving hearts and open minds to the community and**
- 4. We support it with our financial stewardship.**

Our current pledge total is \$84,826

As we go to print, we are short of our pledge goals. Pledges total \$84,826, and just a little over half of our members and friends have pledged. If you have not pledged, it's not too late! We understand that households have varying financial

means – especially during this unsettling pandemic – so know that the act of making a pledge is more important than its amount for reaching our "All In" goal. Every pledge counts equally toward our "All In" goal.

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to help support UUSMV in 2021! Thank you for helping UUSMV to welcome 2021 with strong support from its congregation.
—The Pledge Team



Worship Services 11:00 am

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

November 1: *Stronger for Your Flame* - Jennifer Knight



Inspired by Randall Williams's song "Stronger for your Flame,": this service will speak to how we become stronger as a community

when we share the inner flame that resides deep within each one of us.

Jennifer Knight of Mamas Ignite, life coach and mother, facilitates transformation with creativity, clarity and compassion. Using singing mantra meditations, guided visualization, intuitive painting, conscious breathing and creative movement she supports women in life transitions as they move through the crossroads and evolve into the next expression of themselves. Jennifer often awakes to the following mantra, "I recognize my fire within, it is safe to be me." In her spiritual journey toward full self-expression, she has discovered that while sometimes it may be terrifying, it is indeed, safe and wondrous to be her. Jennifer lives in West Tisbury with her husband Stefan and their two sons, Ethan and Alex.

November 8: *Living with Uncertainty* - Reverend Amy Freedman

November is the month of Thanksgiving...Voting is over. How do we live with divisiveness? How do we connect with



those who have different opinions and viewpoints? "Let it begin with me/us" by finding peace within ourselves, honoring our values and beliefs through deep breathing, meditation and prayer. Special sermon by Reverend Amy Freedman.

Reverend Amy Freedman currently serves as the Minister of Religious Education of First Parish in Concord, MA. She served as the Parish Minister of Channing Memorial Church for ten years and as a Consulting Minister at First Church in Boston and the UU Society of Martha's Vineyard. She lives in Cambridge with her husband, Peter Bowden, and their daughter. She and her husband are co-creators of Alice the Chalice, www.alicethechalice.org. In addition to this site, Amy curates the Alice the Chalice Facebook page, which has a regular stream of resources for UU kids, parents and religious educators, <https://www.facebook.com/AlicetheChalice>

November 15: *Hospice* - Tom Hallahan

Tom will speak about the services that Hospice provides for end of life care, both for patient and family, all at no cost. Those who have used Hospice have nothing but praise for these services.

Tom Hallahan, Sc.D., is Executive Director of Hospice of Martha's Vineyard. Tom began his career in education, working at the Tisbury School and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School through the



1980s. He also served as a Dukes County Commissioner. He has served as an education and healthcare consultant to various private and public organizations in Jordan, Lebanon, Cambodia, Qatar, and South Africa. In 2012, he was named a Fulbright Scholar and awarded a grant to teach at the University of Jordan, through a program of the U.S. Department of State.

November 22: *Tilling Our Common Ground* - A Special Music Service with Andrew McKnight



These are challenging times in these highly polarized United States. With all the anger hurled across the ideological divide and the lack of reasoned discourse in the mainstream media, is there any room in our humanist worldview for love of country and the patriotic ideals we learned in grade school? Listening to those with different or opposing viewpoints is becoming a lost art. And yet at the core, those who label themselves conservatives or liberals want many of the same things: to be safe in our homes and communities, to pursue our happiness, to have clean air and water, and good schools and jobs. This musical presentation will help till, fertilize, plant, and nurture our common ground. Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, award-
Continued next page

Sunday Worship Services Continued from Previous Page

winning folk and Americana artist Andrew McKnight's musical journey has traced nearly a million miles of blue highways, and earned him a wealth of critical acclaim and enthusiastic fans for his captivating performances and seven recordings.

The singer, writer, guitarist, and storyteller usually tours solo, but also has spent much of the last decade with founding Nitty Gritty Dirt Band member Les Thompson fronting their genre-bending quartet Beyond Borders. His music is heard on broadcast and internet radio around the world, and he's been a featured guest on the NPR/PRI syndicated Art of the Song

and River City Folk shows. He is an insightful essayist and poet, a gifted workshop leader, and a warm and thoughtful interview and a longtime Unitarian and a member of the UU Church of Loudoun, Leesburg VA.

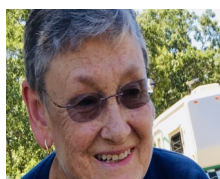
November 29: Worthy Now - Reverend Jennifer Johnson



Our Universalist heritage and our first UU principle teach us that all human beings have inherent worth and dignity. We

are all worthy now--unconditionally and without exception. How does this central tenet of our faith call us into relationship with our incarcerated siblings in faith? In this service, we will explore how to build community with the more than 1200 incarcerated UUs who have found spiritual salvation through the prison ministry program of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. This service is coordinated by Celeste Stickney.

Rev. Jennifer Johnson currently serves as the Learning Fellow for Prison Ministry at the Church of the Larger Fellowship.



Some History: The Doctrine of

Discovery is a principle of international law dating from the late 15th century. It has roots in a papal decree issued by Pope Nicholas V in 1452 that specifically sanctioned and promoted the conquest, colonization, and exploitation of non-Christian territories and peoples. Hundreds of years of decisions and laws continuing into our own time can ultimately be traced back to the Doctrine of Discovery—laws that invalidate or ignore the rights, sovereignty, and humanity of indigenous people in the United States and around the world. These theological underpinnings led to the genocide of the indigenous people in New England and beyond. In the years following the European invasion of the Americas, smallpox and other deadly germs killed an estimated 90% of the Native Americans, who had no immunity from any of these deadly viruses. All the land in what we call the United States was land occupied by Indigenous native peoples.

In 2012, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) passed a Resolution to repudiate and dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. The Resolution called upon the United States to fully implement the standards of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without qualifications, in U.S. law and policy. The

UUA was one of six Faith Communities and Denominations to do so.

Today the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head is the only federally recognized tribe in MA. There are an additional five tribes in the state. In the beginning of the 17th century, at the time of first contact with the European colonists, more than 3,000 Wampanoag lived on Martha's Vineyard. From 1615-1619, the smallpox virus and/or leptospirosis, a bacterial infection, caused high fatality rates and decimated the Wampanoag population. Today, the Wampanoag Tribe owns 485 acres at the southwestern part of Martha's Vineyard and number 901 members, 300 of whom live on Martha's Vineyard.

Early European settlers brought systems of government that bore little resemblance to tribal practices and values, missionaries intent on converting the tribal members to Christianity, and private models of land use and ownership that conflicted with the tribes' own communal practices and values. Communal practices and values are part of the covenantal relationships in UU congregations. Our Unitarian Universalist covenantal practice is rooted in mutual commitment, mutual trust, and concern for the welfare of one another.

Advocacy Today: The National Congress of American Indians and many tribes have issued a call for all Native American sport team mascots, logos, and nicknames in MA

public schools to be removed. The key bills of Prohibiting Native Mascots in MA and Changing the MA Flag and Seal were voted favorably out of committee last February. The MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda supports removing the white supremacist state flag and seal of MA, which features a white hand holding a Colonial broadsword over the head of a Native American; this has been voted out of committee. The bill to Protect Native American Heritage also successfully moved out of committee. For more information about how you can be involved, go to UUMassAction.com and click on First Nation's Rights.

National Day of Mourning: November 26th at 12 pm, Cole's Hill in Plymouth Since 1970, Native Americans and their supporters have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. This is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Native Americans continue to experience.

With abiding friendship,
Rita Brown, President

See Page 5 for Resources

President's Message: November Is Native American Heritage Month

Parish Committee Highlights

Your Parish Committee met via Zoom last month on October 13th. Here are some highlights.

- We will continue to gather via Zoom and will revisit the use of the Chapel near the end of Winter (~March).
- Jan Casey is looking into creating a Lay Pastoral Care team comprised of members of the congregation. This would be in addition to the Caring Committee, the Caring Network and Reverend Vicky Hanjian, who is currently providing Pastoral Care to our members.
- We are looking at ways to broadcast our Sunday Zoom services to a larger audience. Feel free to invite a friend to join us or reach out to Celeste if you have ideas about how to spread the word!
- Our financial picture remains

solid and we are currently ahead of budget on a year-to-date basis.

- A big THANK YOU to those who have returned their pledge cards!
- The pledge drive is the key driver of the annual budget process, which the Finance Committee will begin soon. The Town Hall Budget Meeting will be held near the end of November/early December via Zoom.
- A new Membership Directory will be available soon. Thank you, Mimi Davisson!
- PC Members are working on laying out a process for how our congregation will evaluate what we want in a minister and whether or not we want to hire a minister. They'll create a timeline for these conversations, as well as for "visioning/cottage

meetings" as we look at the past and to our future.

- We discussed ways we can keep members connected during the winter and will be doing some brainstorming in breakout sessions at an upcoming Sunday Zoom Service.
 - The Caring Network will be reaching out to all members and friends to offer voter assistance, rides to the polls, ballot drop off, etc. **YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!!!**
- The next regular PC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 10, 4:00-6:00 pm**. If you plan to attend and/or have an agenda item to suggest, please contact Rita Brown, who will have details about how and where the meeting will be taking place.
—Kristy Brooks, Secretary

November
Caring
Coordinator:
Katharine
Colon



In Our CommUUnity

Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. **Mike Shepard, Tad Crawford, Carol and Herb Golub, Steve Solarazza, Diane Jetmund.** Happy 13th Wedding Anniversary to **Jennifer and Stefan Knight.** Congratulations to **Ken Beebe**, who weighed in his **FIRST** Derby fish in **30** years of taking part in the Island's Striped Bass and Bluefish derby. It was a

bluefish. Congratulations to **Jack Cushman**, husband of **Barbara Cushman** who weighed in a "Triple Crown." He caught bluefish, albie and bonito from shore, all weigh-in sized.
—Celeste Stickney



Ken Beebe with his 1st weigh-in!



John Cushman Triple Crown winner!



November is Native American Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native and indigenous people. This month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native and

indigenous people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges. The Wampanoag Tribe gained federal recognition in 2007. In 2018,

the federal government took action to rescind recognition. U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman in Washington, DC, granted a summary judgment on behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe on Friday, concluding the Interior Department's actions were "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law." Many in our congregation wrote to sup-

port the Mashpee Tribe. For a greater understanding of the tribal nation that first inhabited Martha's Vineyard, go to Wampanoag History at <https://wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/wampanoag-history>. "Listening to Wampanoag Voice" is an on-line exhibit of the Harvard Peabody Museum. You can view and listen to the oral stories here <https://www.peabody.harvard.edu/listening-to-wampanoag-voices-beyond-1620>. We know that here we are on land that was and is home to the Wampanoag Tribe. If you want to know the native land of other places you have lived or visit, text 1+(907) 312-5085 with a town and state; you will find out the native land of that region.
—Dorie Godfrey

Resources

continued from page 3
Facebook: United American Indians of New England (UAIINE) group. UUMassAction.org; [First Nation Rights](http://FirstNationRights.org)
The Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States, by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz (available through In Spirit: UU books and gifts.)
Website: [The Indigenous Law Institute](http://TheIndigenousLawInstitute.org): "The Indigenous Peoples' Forum on the Impact of the Doctrine of Discovery," by Steven Newcomb.
PBS 5-part series "We Shall Remain."



The UUSMV Black Lives Matter Team is working to dismantle racism and oppression of all marginalized groups. As part of that effort, they encourage us all to celebrate Heritage Months. In the United States,

Heritage Months are periods in the year that are designated to celebrate and acknowledge various ethnic and marginalized groups. These are times not only to celebrate, but also to educate others about various

groups' histories and contributions to American History. These are important times that help us to understand some of our own cultures and identities, as well as those of others.
—Dorie Godfrey

Time to Order New Printed Directories

As you know, a new UUSMV Directory is in the works. Thanks in advance for quickly responding to requests to verify your contact info. and for sending new self-photos, if you'd like. The new directory will be online, always accessible to any member of our UU community, and it will be updated regularly.

If, in addition, you would like one or more printed copies of the directory, we ask that you order your copies by pre-paying for your directories. Directories are \$5 for black and white and \$15 for color. We will print the number of directories for which we receive payment. Please be sure that your pay-

ment arrives at the UUSMV office no later than **Friday, November 20**. You can mail a check to UUSMV or pay online via the UUSMV website Donate button. Please be sure that UUSMV knows the number and type of directories you want. Thanks.
—Mimi Davisson for the Membership Directory Team



Family to Family



Family to Family Thanksgiving – It’s On! The folks at Vineyard Committee on Hunger (VCOH) have confirmed that the annual Family to Family Thanksgiving supper distribution will take place as usual. Well, not quite as usual, as mask discipline and

extended social distancing protocol will be strictly enforced. Now all we must do is once again fund this program! As most of you know, UUSMV has been a major sponsor, raising just short of \$2000 last year. Fifty-six of us donated. At about \$30 per turkey dinner, this equated to roughly 70 dinners, or about a quarter of all the meals distributed by VCOH. VCOH and needy

families are counting on us. Jack Street will again be coordinating our contributions. You won’t have to face Jack trying to make eye contact after a service. You’re on your own! Just make out your check to VCOH, drop it in the mail to Jack, drop it at Jack’s home, or call Jack and he will pick it up if that’s what works best for you. Thanks everybody. —Jack Street

Please write a check to ‘UUSC Guest at Your Table’ with ‘Congregation 5121’ in the memo line for the amount you’ve collected and mail it to UUSMV, PO Box 1236, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

It’s Time to Collect Guest at Your Table Proceeds

We are facing disappointing changes in the ways we will celebrate the holidays, possibly far from close family and friends. But at least we have been safe from hurricanes, floods, forest fires, genocide, drought, and famine. These disasters keep happening despite the pandemic and the UU

Service Committee (UUSC) is dealing with the aftermath of these disasters on our behalf. We hope you’ve been collecting spare coins and paper money in a coffee mug, bowl, or other container to feed the symbolic Guest at Your Table for UUSC’s good works. Now it’s time to send our proceeds to the UUSC. If you really want to donate your coins instead, please contact Mimi Davisson, who will pick up your



cash donation. Even if you didn’t collect spare cash, you can still write a check. Every nickel and dime will help! Thank you for your generosity during this chaotic time. —Mimi Davisson, UUSC Liaison

This Old Church

I think Mike Savoy is mowing the acreage, because I am not. It looks great. Maybe it is a fringe benefit of the dry summer we had. There is talk of fall cleanup, but I do not want to choreograph it. Feel free if you want to do something.

I saw Tim Colon. He was measuring around the ramp door. I believe the replacement door is well on its way to being installed. Let me know if you have any hopes or dreams. —Norman Stickney, Trustee



Attention Singers of All Ages

Join Roberta and the Martha's Vineyard Family Chorus, virtually or in person, for the 19th annual Winter Concert. The plan, which is a work in progress, follows. We will have six virtual rehearsals on Zoom. Roberta will provide a recording of all the songs broken down into parts, so that singers can practice on their own. The performance will be about 40 minutes and will take place outside—think caroling!—at a location to be determined. For the live, safely distanced



Attention Singers of All Ages
 Join the Martha's Vineyard Family Chorus
 Participate in the 19th Annual Winter Concert
Songs of Peace, Hope and Light
Saturday, December 19

performance, the chorus will be broken into groups of about 12 singers. The concert will be

livestreamed, so that those who want to join virtually as singers or audience can also join in. There will be no in-person audience. Rehearsals be on **Monday evenings, 5:00 to 6:15 pm** beginning on **November 9th**. The concert will be on Saturday, **December 19th**. (Rain/snow date is **Sunday, December 20th**.) The cost of participation will be by donation, as always. For more information contact Roberta Kirn. (See contacts, page 8)

—Jennifer Knight

Groups and Meetings



UUSMV Women's Group meets only on **Thursday, November 12, 2:00-4:00 pm**. No group on November 26—Happy Thanksgiving!

—Celeste Stickney



UUSMV Men's Group hopes to meet outside around a fire pit on **Saturday, November 7, time TBD**. Plans are still in the works.

—Peter Meleney

The **Sewcial Action Knitworkers** continue to work on projects for UU members and friends, as well as for the Handmade from the Heart Hospice of Martha's Vineyard silent auction.

—Laura Beebe



Entertainment Opportunities



Still afraid to watch that made for TV movie, *A Step Out of Line*? I remember it as being thoughtful drama and good. My angst is discovering it is not good.

Well we all have demons to wrestle. Currently, am transfixed by a CBS medical procedural called *Transplant*. A Middle Eastern refugee works at a hospital and

has flashbacks and other issues, as well as normal TV doctor drama.

Pete Souza has been helping many of us make it through the current administration by “throwing shade” with his Instagram posts. A new documentary, *The Way I See It*, is about his years as the former Chief Official White House Photogra-

pher for Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama. The documentary made its TV debut on MSNBC Friday, October 16, 10 pm following *The Rachel Maddow Show*. It was also showing at MV Film Society in October. If you missed it, you could also watch it on FuboTV, Sling or Hulu + Live. It is fantastic!

—Norman Stickney

Contacts

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=STN5bVZXd21neEpmalUxTYW5ib0pWdz09>

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.

November 2020

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 am: <i>Stronger for Your Flame</i> - Jennifer Knight	2	3 9:00 am: Meditation Circle	4	5	6	7 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting, location TBD
8 11:00 am: <i>Living with Uncertainty</i> - Reverend Amy Freedman Worship Coordinators: Celeste Stickney and Sue Streeter	9	10 9:00 am: Meditation Circle	11 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	12 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	13	14
15 11:00 am: <i>Hospice</i> - Tom Hallahan Worship Coordinator: Barb Caseau	16	17 9:00 am: Meditation Circle	18	19	20 Deadline for New Directory Orders	21 10:00 am: Island Insight Meditation Learning and Practice with Chas DiCapua
22 11:00 am: <i>Tilling Our Common Ground</i> - Andrew McKnight Worship Coordinator: Jennifer Knight	23	24 9:00 am: Meditation Circle	25	26 Thanksgiving Day and National Day of Mourning for American Indigenous Peoples	27	28
29 11:00 am - <i>Worthy Now</i> - Reverend Jennifer Johnson	30					

November



Wishing a wonderful birthday to all our friends born in November! May you have all that you need on your day and in the coming year.

Polly Friedrichs who will be 92 on November 16!

Lucinda Sheldon who celebrates 77 years on November 22.

Erika Berg who will be 49 on November 27.

Tenley and Calvin Brooks who will celebrate on November 29!

Unitarian Universalist Society

of Martha's Vineyard

P.O. Box 1236, 238 Main Street

Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Phone: 508-693-8982; Email:

uu.society.mv@gmail.com

Website: www.uusmv.org

Lori Shaller - Administrative Assistant,
Newsletter Copy Editor and Publisher

Dorie Godfrey - Managing Editor

Mary Miller - Proofreader

UUSMV

PO Box 1236

Vineyard Haven, MA 02568