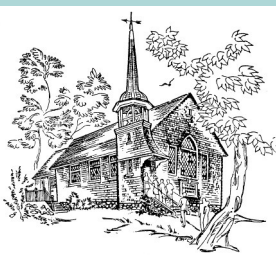


Vineyard UU Voice

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2020



Special points of interest:

- Healthy Aging
MV Can Help with
Your Home, page 5
- UUA Common
Read, page 5
- Hanukiah
Making Materials
List and Latke
Recipe, page 5

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Interactive December Worship Services

The Worship Committee is planning interactive elements for all our virtual services in December. We will be distributing “goody bags” for you to pick up at the church if you are on-Island and able, or we will deliver or mail them to you if needed. **If you are planning on attending any/all of our

December worship services (including the virtual **Candlelight Service** on **Sunday, December 13th, 4:30 pm**), please contact Jennifer Knight and let us know your needs so that we can plan accordingly.
—Jennifer Knight, Worship Committee Chairperson



Holiday Connection Options:

The holidays can be difficult for many of us—especially these days. Please join us for some virtual festivities to lift your spirits.

December Dance Parties with “DJ Alex in the House.” Join us every **Friday in December at 12:30 pm** for a 20-minute dance party. Email your dance music requests to Jennifer. (UUSMV Zoom Login, see page 7.)

Solstice Luminary Project: We need 15 ounce tin/aluminum cans—86 of them! Please call Jennifer Knight, and she can come pick them up at your house or at the church. Stay tuned for a Zoom arts and crafts workshop on November 29th at 4:30 pm if you’d like to make your own or help to make some for others. (UUSMV Zoom Login)

Virtual Caroling Party: What’s your favorite Christmas Carol? Be on the lookout for a Zoom caroling party in mid-late December. And call Jennifer if you’d like to help choose and lead songs!
—Jennifer Knight



Worship Services 11:00 am; December 13 Candlelight Service at 4:30 pm

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

December 6: All Ages Worship Service: Everyone Loves Chanukah! - Rabbi Lori Shaller



Join us to learn about the miracle behind the celebration, play dreidel, make a *hanukiah* (special candelabra for lighting Chanukah candles, list of materials needed p.5) and listen to some fun music. Bring some *sufganiot* (jelly donuts) or *latkes* (potato pancakes, see p.5 for recipe) to munch. Rabbi Lori has loved Chanukah since she was a little girl, and she and her partner Matt light at least three or four *hanukiot* every night of the holiday!

December 13: Celebration of Light - Reverend Vicky Hanjian and Members of the UUSMV Worship Committee



Join us for our Candlelight Service at 4:30 pm

as we honor and celebrate various traditions that lead us from the darkness toward our universal light within. 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.

Note: this is our Candlelight Service and will be held at 4:30 pm

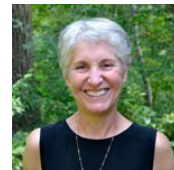
December 20: Winter Solstice - Rebecca Gilbert and Sam Greene



Celebrate the returning light with Solstice songs and Rituals.



December 27: Prepping for Winter - A UU Survivalist's Guide - Reverend Victoria Safford, Lead Minister, with Assistant Ministers Reverends Sara Good and Jack Gaede



A virtual field trip to Mahtomedi, MN. What do we really need as we

face a long cold winter? How do we prep for the months ahead? What will sus-



tain us? What can we learn from Survivalists?

From the President

How are you holding it together when you feel anxious for yourself, your family, and your community, about the spread of the COVID-19 Virus? I am feeling it is a scary time, perhaps more so than any time since this virus reached our shores. It is tiring to constantly be thinking about how to keep ourselves and our families safe. However, it is our current reality, and it is so important to stay safe despite the fatigue of the continued risk we face. Please mask up, socially distance, use sanitizer generously, and wash your hands. We do this now so that all of us will be there to gather when we open our Chapel once again. Some of us are also feeling anxious being in the midst of a political scene fraught with a great deal of tension. And yet the world marches on and so must we.

We are entering a Holiday season in which many families will not be gathering. By thinking of others and mailing a note, sending an email, picking up the phone to chat or Facetime or Zoom, you will cheer yourself as well as the other person. Practice self-compassion; giving yourself kind and loving thoughts will boost your sense of well-being. Breathe. Get up early and watch the sun rise. Pick up a pack of thank you notes and send joy to others. Pick up the phone and call someone you have been thinking about recently. Think about what you are grateful for. Write it down. Add to it each day. For the people you are grateful for, tell them; do not put it off. Remember that tomorrow is promised to no one. To refresh your spirit, put on your coat and take a walk. There are so many beautiful



places to walk on our Island, so download and explore the “Trails MV” app for your phone and get out there! Call a friend, mask up, and walk together, at a safe distance apart. If a long walk is not an option, get out and walk around the block if you can, or take a ride in the car and experience the wonders of this beautiful Island. Join your UUSMV community on Sunday mornings for our virtual Zoom service. The Worship Committee has been putting together terrific services that I know will lift your spirit! I find joy in your faces on Zoom on Sunday mornings. Be gentle with yourself as you walk through the days to come. With abiding friendship,
Rita Brown

Practice self-compassion; giving yourself kind and loving thoughts will boost your sense of well-being.

In Our CommUnity

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

Steve and Emily Solarazza, Roger Moffat, Herb and Carol Golub, Mike Shepard, and Linda Wilson.

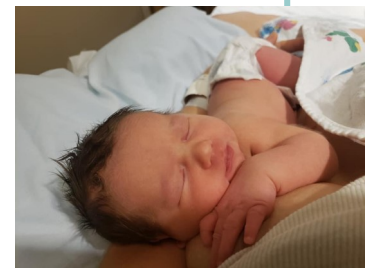
It is with sadness that we learned of the death of our former Minister, **Reverend Bruce Kennedy**, in Santa Rosa, CA, following a long illness. He was our Extension Minister sent by the UUA from 1994-1999. He is survived by his wife Susan and son Byron.

Best Wishes to **Grace Burton Sundman** on her upcoming

nuptials. She is the daughter of **Betty Burton and John Sundman**. The wedding will take place in the Netherlands. Congratulations to **Dianne Holt** on the birth of her granddaughter in Hartford, CT. Join me in wishing a warm welcome into the world to **Larkin Joy**, daughter of **Maria Thibodeau and Janet Newton**. She is also the little sister of **Orion Grace**.

Norman and I are happy to note we have purchased a second home in Portland, Maine. Our son Chad will be residing there as he works remotely for

Gensler Boston. Happy and Healthy COVID-free Holidays to all.
—Celeste Stickney

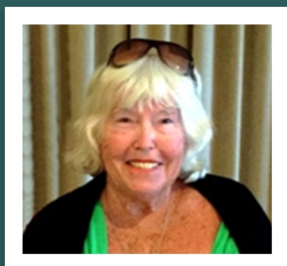


Larkin Joy



Dianne Holt's Granddaughter

December Caring Coordinator: Doreen Kinsman



Parish Committee Notes

Your Parish Committee met via Zoom last month on November 11th. Here are some highlights.

- Due to the rise in COVID cases on Island, the Fall yard clean up at the Chapel has been cancelled.
- We discussed ways for our members and friends to maintain connections this winter. If you have suggestions, please contact Celeste.
- Did you know that only 50% of members and friends are opening their Friday emails and other church communications? We encourage everyone to be sure to read all announcements for important community information.
- To make Sunday services more widely available, the Worship Committee will discuss possibly recording them. The PC will also evaluate whether there is technology we should be investing in for once we're all back together in the Chapel - livestreaming, etc.
- Thank you to all who have sent in your 2021 Pledge cards. We are sooooo close to our goal of "All In." It's not too late!
- Our financial picture remains strong.
 - We've received 92% of 2020 pledges.
 - We expect a surplus of funds at year end, which will be swept into a reserve fund/future fund.
- The Finance Committee is developing a 2021 budget. Jan Casey will present this at the November 22nd Town Hall Meeting following Sunday service.
- We approved the Nominating/Leadership Development Committee's slate for 2021. The congregational vote will take place at the Annual Meeting on **January 24, 2021**.
- We discussed how best to structure the visioning

work that needs to be done by the congregation in early 2021. Including:

- Evaluating our Vision 2020 – how did we do?
- Creating a Vision 2025.
- How do our desires for a Minister and Parish Hall/back property development support our vision?
- Several PC members will be creating a roadmap/timeline. If you have interest in volunteering with this work, please let Rita know.

The next regular PC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 9th, 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

Thank YOU!!!

Thank you to everyone who pledged to support UUSMV in the coming year! We have reached 95% of our pledge goal for a total of \$90,436. 89 individuals of 71 households have pledged – helping us reach 68% of our All-In goal.

Thank you from the entire Pledge Team: 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,



Thank You!



Sarah Shepard, Celeste Stickney, and Sue Streeter



Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard offers a Home Safety Modification Program. This is a pilot program to provide housing modifications to Island homeowners 65 years and older. In partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Builders Association, program leaders are hoping to complete up to 20 home modifications.

To qualify you must live on Martha's Vineyard, including

Chappaquiddick, own your own home, or live in a home owned by a family member, be 65 years or older, and complete an application.

The program can do modifications that span simple to complex, such as: traction or non-skid strips installed in bathrooms, kitchens, or staircases; provide shower benches or transfer chairs; provide easy-use fixtures; install grab bars,

push-button door openers, pull out shelves, stair lifts, and more!

To make a referral, contact Cindy Trish at ctrish@hamv.org or 508-693-7900 – ext. 455.

—Information provided by Sarah Shepard

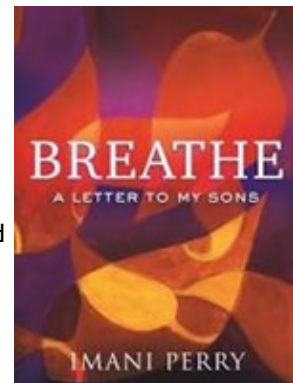
Attention All You Readers

The UUA has announced the 2021 Common Read book, encouraging all UUs country-wide to read and discuss the book, *Breathe, A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. We hope that some of you will read this and perhaps we can have a Zoom discussion in the spring. *Breathe, A Letter to My Sons* explores the terror, grace, and

beauty of coming of age as a Black person in contemporary America and what it means to parent our children in a persistently unjust world.

The book is available from Beacon Press for \$18 and it is only 158 pages! The book seems especially appropriate at this time when UUSMV Black Lives Matter group is promoting ra-

cial awareness and justice and many of us are involved in the Sacred Ground discussions here on Island. —Barbara Caseau



Materials List to Make a Hanukia

Option 1: Nine tealights and a bowl of water in which to float them.

Option 2: a piece of wood, flat on at least one side, no less than 9 inches long and two inches wide, Play Dough, a box of Chanukah candles (Shirley's has them).

Latke Recipe

2 lbs. Russet potatoes, peeled

1 medium yellow onion

One large egg

1-2 tbs. flour

Salt and pepper

Vegetable or Canola oil

Sour Cream or applesauce for serving

1. Alternate grating potatoes and onion on the large holes of a box grater into a colander. Drain 30 minutes.
2. Squeeze out as much liquid and starch as you can.
3. Mix together all the ingredients except the oil in a large bowl.
4. Heat a skillet over medium heat. When it's hot, add two tbs. of oil. When the oil is hot, drop tablespoons of mixture into pan to make three inch pancakes. Flip when browned underneath.
5. Remove to paper towel lined plate and continue to add oil and make latkes until all the potato mixture is used up, or just slap the latkes right onto the plate you're eating off of right out of the pan. Serve with sour cream or applesauce or both!

—Rabbi Lori



'Tis the Season of Giving

Quilts!

These are just some of the ten quilts donated to the Red Stocking by Laura Beebe's Monday afternoon quilt group. Laura Beebe



Family to Family

Thanksgiving - Thank You!

It's been a difficult year for fundraising - virtual fundraising - and our annual Family to Family Thanksgiving Supper Campaign was no exception. Under the circumstances, however, UUSMV was able to make a significant contribution to the program. The total of our donations was \$1245, with 20 members and friends donating. It is worth noting that had all 56 of us who donated last year do-

nated again this year, we would have easily exceeded last year's record total. But such is the problem with a pandemic and virtual appeal. In any case, the Vineyard Committee on Hunger and your church are grateful for the generosity of all those who gave....
Katharine Colon
Leigh Smith
Dorie Godfrey
Nancy Wood
Laura and Ken Beebe

Barb Cushman
Celeste and Norm Stickney
Sue Streeter
Roger and Linda Moffat
Ann Dietrich
Mimi Davisson
Jack and Pamela Street
Sarah Shepard
Barb Caseau
Myra Stark
Mary Miller
Doreen Kinsman
Jenifer and Stefan Knight
Kristy and Eric Brooks
—Jack Street

Red Stocking

UUSMV will be sponsoring several children this year. Right now, we could use some help with monetary donations for purchasing gifts for the 18-month-old and other children. In addition, any knitters or crocheters that would like to make hats, mittens, or scarfs for one or more of the children please contact Celeste Stickney, Joan

Clark, Kristy Brooks or Jennifer Knight. To send monetary contributions, please mail a check to UUSMV with "Red Stocking" in the memo line, PO Box 1236, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, or go onto the church's website www.UUSMV.org click on the Donate button on the home page, and use your credit card. Choose "other" for reason for

donation and let one of the Red Stocking team members listed above know you've done so. Thank you all for your support for this annual program to help needy Island families have a warm and Happy Holiday.
—Celeste Stickney



Criminal Justice



Reform

At the request of the USMV Criminal Justice Team, the Parish Committee donated \$214 to the Equal Justice Initiative.

EJI is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the U.S., challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. They earned a perfect score from Charity Navigator.
—Mimi Davisson and Leigh Smith

This Old Chapel



The old meeting house seems to be doing well. The ramp access door replacement project is in phase 7, part C now. That scraggly but huge oak tree that was near the bulkhead is gone. In a recent reconnoiter I was surprised to find there is still opportunity to replace old duct tape stair edge markings with new, state-of-the-art, non-slip tape with reflecting stripe edge markings. It doesn't get any better than this.
—Norman Stickney, Trustee

Meetings in December



Sewcial Action Knitworkers

continue to work individually at home.
—Laura Beebe



The UUSMV Women's Group

is meeting only once this month, on **Thurs-**

day, December 10, 2:00 pm on Zoom. We will not be meeting on Christmas Eve.
—Celeste Stickney



The UUSMV Men's Group

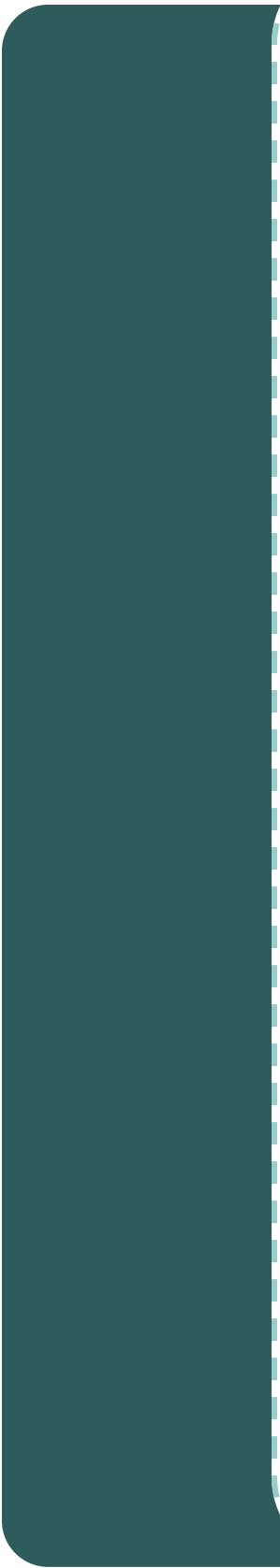
will meet via Zoom on **Saturday, December 5, 9:30**

am. It will be likely be too cold to hold it outside, but that is a possibility! Contact Peter for details.

—Peter Meleney



Wishing an incredibly happy birthday to **Sunny Wilson** on December 1. **Ken Beebe**, who turns 75 on December 14 and **Laura Beebe**, who celebrates on December 16. May your next trip around the sun bring you love, joy, and all that you need!
—Editor



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=STN5bVZXd2lneEpmaUxTYW5ib0pWdz09>

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.

December 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	2	3	4	5 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting on Zoom
6 11:00 am: <i>All Ages Service: Everyone Loves Chanukah!</i> -Rabbi Lori Shaller	7	8 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	9 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	10 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting on Zoom	11	12 10:00 am: Island Insight Meditation with Chas Di-Capua
13 4:30 pm: <i>Celebration of Light</i> - Reverend Vicky Hanjian and Members of the Worship Committee	14	15 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	16	17	18	19
20 11:00 am: <i>Winter Solstice</i> - Rebecca Gilbert and Sam Greene	21	22 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	23	24	25	26
27 11:00 am: <i>Prepping for Winter - A UU Survivalist's Guide</i> - Reverend Victoria Safford, Lead Minister, with Assistant Ministers Reverends Sara Good and Jack	28	29 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 3:00 pm: Car-ing Committee Meeting	30	31		

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

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