

Vineyard UU Voice

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

Volume 8, Issue 2

February 2021

Special points of interest:

- Special Recognitions, pages 4, 5, and 7
- How Much Racism Do You Experience?, pages 5 and 7
- February is African American History month, page 6

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“The new dawn blooms as we free it
 For there is always light,
 if only we’re brave enough to see it
 If only we’re brave enough to be it”
Amanda Gorman, “The Hill We Climb”



Amanda Gorman was the Inaugural Poet Laureate.

Are you interested in attending Virtual GA?

June 23-27

Contact Rita Brown
by March 1

For more information about
General Assembly, go to

uua.org/ga

Circle 'Round for
 — VIRTUAL —
 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 JUNE 23–27, 2021 | uua.org/ga
 Justice • Healing • Courage

In this newsletter you will see special recognition of 3 volunteers who have given more than 71 years in total of service to UUSMV! Certificates will be made and framed honoring these wonderful women.



Please note: you will be put into a waiting room when you enter our Zoom Worship Services. Please be patient until the host admits you into the service.

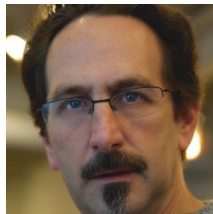
Worship Services

11:00 am

All Worship Services take place on Zoom.

Please see page 9 for details about how to join.

February 7: Making It up as We Go Along: The Seven Principles and the Art of Improv - Ken Langer



Unitarian Universalism and the Seven Principles bring us together into a beloved community

that helps one another deal with life's difficulties. But those principles lack one important ingredient... a punch line! Sometimes facing the craziness in life requires that we learn to step back and laugh. Improvisational comedy and the Seven Principles have much in common and both can be helpful in overcoming life's challenges.

February 14: Side with Love - Unitarian Universalist Association Service

What if to "side with love"



meant making bold, faith-full choices? What if it were even a little bit scary? This worship service brings together sterling worship leaders and musicians from across the country to offer hopeful, moving, challenging reminders about

what we, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to do and BE in the world.

Unitarian Universalists affirm unconditional, universal love as a foundation and grounding for our actions in the world. Each year the UUA affirms our commitment to love with a campaign from MLK Day to Valentine's Day.

February 21: Thriving Elders, Empowered Helpmates, A Home for Life - Paddy Moore and Renee Lohman



Residents in Green House homes in 31 states are enjoying fulfilling lifestyles that challenge the

traditional model of life in skilled

nursing centers. Paddy and Renee will share the resident-centric ideas that make the Green



House movement so appealing that MV Hospital is partnering with Navigator Homes of MV to develop a replacement for Windemere. The new Green House homes in Edgartown will respect the dignity of residents by enabling them to be as

self-sufficient as possible in an intimate family-style setting.

February 28: Using Meditation to Confront and Recognize White Supremacy, Colonialist, and Racist Tendencies in Ourselves - Lora Powell-Haney



Please see page 3 for speakers' biographies.

President's Message



".....Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the road less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." Robert Frost

We will gather on **Saturday, February 20, 9:30 am-12:30 pm** to set our sights toward 2025. Please put this on your calendar and bring your voice to our musings.

What do we want our congregation to be known for? What do we hope for? What dreams do we dare to imagine? What makes UUSMV important in your life?

Sit back and close your eyes. It is Sunday morning. With the pandemic, it has been over a year since we worshiped in our Chapel. What do you notice as you walk up the sidewalk to enter the Chapel? Walk into the Sanctuary. Who is gath-

ered? What surprises you? What comforts you? What makes you proud?

What one thing about Unitarian Universalism draws you to be a member of our Congregation? We may be interviewing a potential new minister later this year. What would you share about our Congregation and our Island community that would compel a new minister to believe we are the right place for this person to be, right now, in the life cycle of our Church?

As we leave the dark winter and open ourselves to the spring within us, consider this: prayer "To Be Something New and Different" by Nora Rasman: It may be time to recognize that what once made sense may now seem senseless.

That with new growth also comes shedding.

That winter can invite me.

Into myself

Into our commitments

Into that which is most sacred

The opportunity of regeneration

To make something new and different

To be something new and different

To leave behind that which no longer serves

To center that which brings joy, clarity, purpose, and connection.

And nourish the seedlings.

As we prepare for spring times ahead

With abiding friendship,
Rita Brown

Rita Brown is the February Caring Coordinator.

February Worship Service Speakers' Bios

Ken Langer is a second-year seminary student at the Starr King School of the Ministry in Oakland, CA. For many years he was a college music professor and was also the Director of Music and Arts at the Eno River Fellowship in Durham, NC. He has long championed the arts in UU churches and recently authored the work: *Let Us Wander Where We Wander: Music and Arts Ministry in Unitarian Universalism*.

Paddy Moore is well-known to Islanders as the founder/leader of the Island's Healthy Aging Task Force. UUs also know her as the leader, with her husband, of the New England Nailers, a group of Vineyarders who traveled annually to Mississippi to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Her ca-

reer in public administration and mediation focused on health care services and protection of children, and she has taught mediation and dispute resolution throughout the country. She was recently honored with a Vineyard Vision Fellowship, which will give her time to identify a wide range of service providers who are available to support Vineyard seniors who want to age in their own homes. Paddy has lived in West Tisbury since 1974, where her husband, Ben, was an architect. They raised six sons and she now delights in thirteen grandchildren, who help to keep her mediating skills sharp.

Renee Lohman has a 30-year career in startup, development, financing, management and operations of health care services compa-

nies, and she is now President and CEO of Navigator Elder Homes of New England, LLC. In this role she is challenging the traditional institutional model for skilled nursing homes with a new Green House model. She also leads the 501 c3, Navigator Homes of MV, Inc., which is partnering with Martha's Vineyard hospital to build five new Green House model homes in Edgartown as a replacement for Windemere, a traditional, institutional model skilled nursing center.

Lora Powell-Haney is a UU seminarian and religious educator; she lives in Frederick, Maryland.

PC Notes

Humor from Unitarian Minister Edward Everett Hale!

He was serving as Chaplain of the US Senate when he was asked "Do you pray for the senators, Dr. Hale?" "No" the great man replied. "I look at the senators and pray for the country."
—Barbara Caseau

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

- Congratulations to Ann Hollister who was nominated and unanimously voted in to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Ministries. Ann replaces Sarah Shepard for whom we are deeply grateful for her volunteer work on this committee.
- On the financial front, a shortfall of \$12,000 in annual pledges was offset by savings in expenses due to us not being in the Chapel. As a result, we ended 2020 with a surplus of \$9,000 of income. An impressive feat given the curveballs COVID-19 threw us!
- \$5,000 of the surplus was moved to the Maintenance Reserve Fund and the remaining \$4K was moved to the Future Fund.
- The Trustees are hard at work getting quotes for some maintenance at the Chapel. They will prioritize the work needed and report back to the Parish Committee.
- We have a new Zoom Tech for Sunday Services! By the time you read this, you'll no doubt be familiar with the amazing Andy Herr, who in addition to running seamless meetings, will also be helping us improve the music on Sundays. Welcome, Andy!
- Have you thanked a volunteer lately? Make someone's day by thanking them for the work

they do for UUSMV!

- The Caring Network shuffled members around and recruited several new Coordinators to reach out to the congregation while we're still unable to be together in person.
- On Saturday **February 21st, 9:30 am**, we will be holding a Visioning 2025 session on Zoom. Keep your eyes open for more information and for a survey we'll be asking you to complete ahead of this meeting.

The next PC meeting: **Wednesday, February 10th, 4:00-6:00 pm**. If you plan to attend and/or have an agenda item to suggest, please contact Rita Brown.
—Kristy Brooks, Secretary

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION: NANCY COX

Nancy Cox became a member in 2001. Beginning in 2002, Nancy served as a member of the Worship Committee. Nancy took notes at every service that were the basis for evaluation of worship services by the committee. Nancy served on the Search Committee that recommended hiring Rev. Jill Cowie in 2011. She served on the Ministerial Intern Committee for Janet Newton and subsequently on the Ordination committee when UUSMV ordained Reverend Janet Newton in 2019. Nancy

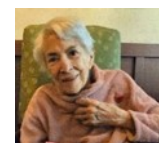
has given worship services as a lay speaker over the years; she is always very thorough in rehearsing everyone who is taking a speaking role. Nancy has served as worship host and service coordinator. She was always one of the first members to arrive on Sunday mornings, checking the sound system and the microphones for the Minister or speaker. Nancy served as the fortune teller at our Mission and Vision carnival in 2015! Nancy always has a twinkle in her eye and a kind word for everyone. Nancy loves poetry and

shared that love with the congregation many times. Her uplifting guidance has had a behind-the-scenes, sure hand in creating and bringing wonderful Sunday worship services to our congregation for almost decades. Nancy is retiring from active participation on the Worship Committee this year. We are hereby appointing Nancy Cox as "Worship Committee Member Emeritus," in recognition of her 18 years of extraordinary service to UUSMV.

—Rita Brown



UUSMV received a card from Jeanne Hewett – "Merry Christmas to my dear friend. I miss you so very much and send my love to all of you. Jeanne" We miss you, too, Jeanne.



In Our CommUnity

Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers: **Esther Hopkins, Herb and Carol Golub, and Steve Solarazza.** Congratulations to **Bill Bridwell** on his recent retirement from the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation after 27 years. Also, happy retirement and thank you to **John Sundman** for his

10 years of service with the Tisbury Volunteer Fire Department. Condolences to **Maddie Maccaferri** and family on the death of their beloved boxer, Lexi. It is with sadness that we note



the death of **Ann Gallagher**, a member of UUSMV for many years. Welcome home to **Isabel Noel** from Children's Hospital. Thank you to **Barb Caseau** and Donaroma's Nursery for their donation of a "Tree of Hope" evergreen tree on our back property line. —Celeste Stickney

Part A: How Much Racism Do You Experience in a Two-Week Period

Excerpted from Amy Harmon, January 20, 2020, *New York Times*

Racism takes many forms, both overt and covert. How often do you experience racism? How would you answer these questions?

In a two-week time period,

How many times were you watched closely or followed around by security guards or store clerks at a store or mall,

because of your race/ethnicity?

How many times did you encounter people who were surprised that you, given your race or ethnic background,

did something really well?

How many times were you uncomfortable in your community, because of your race/ethnicity?



See page 7 to learn how black teenagers in DC answered these questions. —Mimi Davisson

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION: MARY MILLER



Mary B. Miller became a member in 1994. Mary served on the Parish

Committee and was our Treasurer from 1994-2005 and Secretary from 2010-2011. She was a Trustee from 2007-2009 and 2018-2020 and advised the Trustees during intervening

years. Mary served on the Ministerial Search Transitions Teams 2007-2008 and 2011-2012. She served on the Committee on Ministries from 2015-2017 and has served on the Finance Committee from 2009-present. Mary researched the deed for the 248 property in 2016. Mary has served on the Pledge Team for several years, has been a proofreader for the *Vineyard UU Voice* newsletter for several years, and often counts the plate collection after Sunday church services. Mary

always pitches in on projects to maintain the grounds of the Chapel, such as cleaning up flower beds and raking leaves, and decorates the Chapel for the holidays. She has served as worship coordinator for Sunday services. If you need a volunteer to give 100% to a project and attend to every detail necessary, ask Mary! We are here by appointing Mary B. Miller as "Trustee Emeritus," in recognition of her 26 years of extraordinary service to UUSMV. —Rita Brown



AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

Resources for personal study and discernment about race, racism, and white supremacy

13th: a documentary and in depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. **Harriet**, a film about Harriet Tubman, who was an American abolitionist and political activist. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, using the Underground Railroad. Books: *The Warmth of Other Suns* and *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. *The Warmth of Other Suns* is an epic story of America's Great Migration, which recounts how more than 5.5 million black Americans abandoned the South in the half-century between World War I and 1970, radically transforming the black American population from primarily rural to primarily urban.

The central thesis of *Caste* is that caste achieves its most violent manifestation in the treatment of American Blacks, set at the lowest level in society through historical and contemporary oppression, marginalization and violence—all legally maintained through systems of law and order.

—Rita Brown and Jim Thomas

February Is African American Heritage Month

The Proposed 8th Principle

“We, the members of congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Paula Cole Jones, Director of Racial & Social Justice in the Central East Regional Group of the UUA, after working with congregations for 15 years, realized a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and follow the 7 Principles without thinking about or

dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level. In 2017, the UUA voted to study the 8th Principle, knowing the best way for us to truly support racial justice in a significant way is to purge ourselves and our institutions of the culture and exclusive practices of whiteness and white supremacy. Dismantling racism, white supremacy, and other oppressions requires *intentional work at personal and institutional levels*.

The proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism asks us to renew our commitment to this work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing 7 Principles. White UU's need to hold each other accountable and

hold themselves accountable to BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) peoples' expressed needs and concerns to dismantle systemic racism.

What is **Beloved Community**? **Beloved community**, as envisioned by Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identities, come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.

What can we do? Stay tuned as we unfold this process.

—Rita Brown

Part B: How Much Racism Do You Experience in a Two-Week Period?

Excerpted from Amy Harmon, January 20, 2020, *New York Times*
See page 5 of this newsletter for Part A.



Collectively, 101 black teens participating in a study of racial bias reported more than 5,600 experiences of racial discrimination over two weeks. That boils down to an average of more than **five times per day** for each teenager.

The black teenagers had the following experiences during that two-week period:

How many times were you watched closely or followed around by security guards or store clerks at a store or mall, because of your race/ethnicity?

Black teenagers averaged 7 times in two weeks.

How many times did you encounter people who were surprised that you, given your race or ethnic background, did something really well? **Black teenagers averaged 8 times in two weeks.**

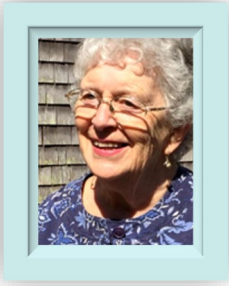
How many times were you uncomfortable in your community, because of your race/ethnicity?

Black teenagers averaged 6 times in two weeks.

“The teens who participated in the study were students at a middle school, a high school and

a summer program in Washington. Those who experienced more instances of discrimination over the two weeks also showed more symptoms of short-term depression, the study found, such as difficulty sleeping, loneliness and anxiety . . . This is showing us the magnitude of the discrimination faced by black adolescents. It's happening all the time. And it's affecting how they feel.”
—Mimi Davisson

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: SARAH GOODALE SHEPARD



Sarah Goodale Shepard became a member in 1953, re-newing in 1996. Sarah has served two terms

on the Parish Committee as our President. In 2004, Sarah launched the Welcoming Congregation process. Fully 1/3 of the congregation studied and learned about people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender. When the curriculum was finished, we applied to the UUA to be a designated Welcoming Congregation, completing Sarah's vision. We have flown a Rainbow flag for many years that signifies welcome to LGBTQ people. Sarah co-chaired the Mission and Vision "Dream Team" in 2015. At

the culmination of opportunities for all members and friends to give their input on developing a new Mission and creating a shared congregation wide 5-year Vision, the congregation voted to accept our current Mission and Vision. Sarah has served on the Committee on Ministries, Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, Ministerial Search Transitions Teams, and other task groups and odd jobs throughout the years. Sarah helped start and organize the Caring Network. While Sarah was President of the Society, if she asked you to join her for lunch or coffee, you were about to say "yes" to some new volunteer committee job!

Sarah loved getting small groups of women of the church together for get-to-know-you-better lunches. In 2007, Sarah assembled a small team and cleaned out the attic. One of the boxes had old minutes of the Society. This was her eureka moment of being hooked on writing the history of

UUSMV! She became fascinated by The Rev. Daniel Waldo Steven's mission to minister to sailors in Holmes Hole authorized by the American Unitarian Association in 1867. Rev. Stevens was required to submit quarterly reports to the Channing District; they are in the UUA archives, and Sarah went to the Harvard Theological Library to read them. Sarah published our history through the *Dukes County Intelligencer* in 2017, published by the Martha's Vineyard Museum. We are hereby appointing Sarah Goodale Shepard as the official Historian of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard. We are deeply indebted to Sarah for this precious gift of the written history of our Society. We also recognize her more than 24 years of dedicated service to UUSMV.
—Rita Brown

UUSMV Groups



Men's Group meets via Zoom on **Saturday, February 6, 9:30 am.**

—Peter Meloney



Women's Group meets on Zoom **Thursdays, February 11 and 25, 2:00-4:00 pm.**

—Celeste Stickney



Sewcial Action Knitworkers are at home knitting mittens and scarves, sewing quilt blocks, and crocheting

socks for our members and friends. A big thank you to **Ilona Metell** for the donation of yarn from a Chilmark woman who recently passed away.



Book Group meets via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 9, 2:00 pm** to discuss *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben.

—Peter Meloney

"Age-ing to Sage-ing" Group - The Sagers - are meeting **Wednesday, January 27, 2:00 pm** via Zoom.

—Ann Hollister

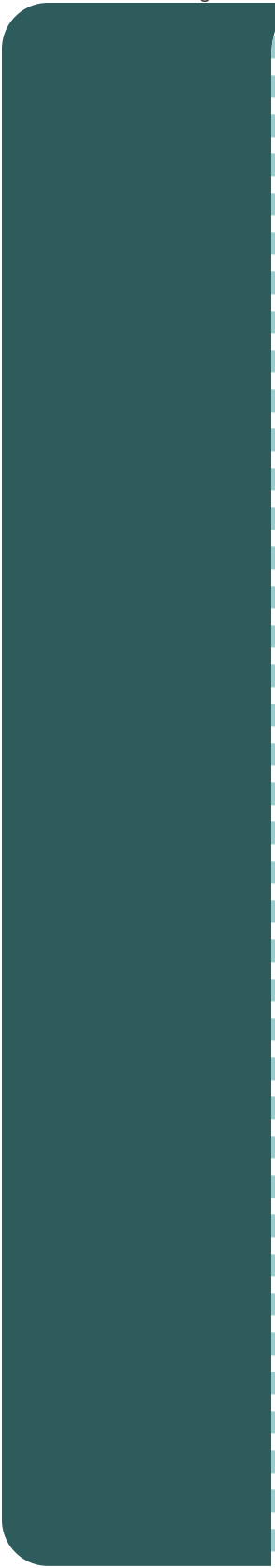
This Old Church

The tree of eternal hope is planted right where the stake and orange cone were placed, near the back lot corner. It's a beauty. The new neighbor put in several pines along their back border; and our different pine ends the row. Plau-

dots and kudos upon us specifically, Barb Caseau and Donaromas. After 20 years or so we have a bid for trim painting. Bonjour Enterprises or something like that. Thanks to Mike Savoy and his peeps. Awkwardly the by-laws re-

quire 3 bids, and a special congregational meeting to approve expenses over \$5000. So, we'll see how it goes.
—Norman Stickney, Trustee





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.

February 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting
7 11:00 am: <i>Making It up as We Go Along - Our Seven Principles and the Art of Improv</i> - Ken Langer	8	9 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 2:00 pm: Book Group Meeting	10 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	11 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	12	13
14 11:00 am: <i>Side with Love</i> - Unitarian Universalist Association Service	15	16 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	17	18	19	20 9:30 am: Visioning Session
21 11:00 am: <i>Thriving Elders, Empowered Help-mates, A Home for Life</i> - Paddy Moore and Renee Lohman	22	23 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	24 2:00 pm: "Ageing to Sageing" Group Meeting	25 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	26	27 10:00 am: Island Insight Meditation and Learning with Chas DiCapua
28 11:00 am: <i>Meditation to Confront Racism</i> - Lora Powell-Haney						



Wishing a joyous birthday to
Ann Hollister on February 2
Ann Charnley on February 16
Jim Thomas on February 17
Peter Palches who will be 88 on February 19.

Unitarian Universalist Society

of Martha's Vineyard

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