

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 3

March 2021

Special points of interest:

- March Social Gathering, page 3
- Universal Justice, pages 5 and 6
- Women's Heritage Month, page 7

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UUSMV Vision 2025 Questionnaire Response

Summary

We were thrilled that 60 of the 125 members and friends who received the questionnaire responded! Here are highlights! You will receive a more complete summary via email/mail, and it is posted on our website.

Mission: When asked, "How satisfied are you with our mission?", people are satisfied! The average response was 4.2 out of 5! For the question, "How have we done meeting our Mission?", Respondents also felt we did well in meeting our mission and do not want to write a new mission.

Vision 2020: *We envision a flourishing and caring congregation that... Lives our Unitarian Universalist principles, Supports a shared ministry and vibrant music program, Promotes lifelong learning, Expands our efforts to achieve a fully functional and inspirational chapel, Extends our quest for universal justice to the Vineyard and beyond ...as we seek to widen our spiritual horizons.*

Generally, respondents indicated that we have done well in meeting our vision,

but there is more to be done.

We want a Minister. 77% are not in favor of becoming a lay-led congregation and 85% want a minister. The top 5 roles wanted for our Minister in ascending order were:

1. Presenting inspiring and challenging Sunday services.
2. Fostering a sense of community.
3. Encouraging universal justice programs.
4. Providing leadership in the provision of pastoral care.
5. Providing leadership to grow the congregation.

Shall we build? Yes. 72% want to build and expressed a wide variety of ideas for use. A majority of respondents thought it appropriate to spend up to \$500,000 and borrow up to \$250,000.

The Lifelong Learning Section for Parents and Children had an insufficient number of responses to consider the data meaningful. Only one person of 19 parents responded to the section on Children's Lifelong Learning.

When reflecting on the isolation of the pandemic, respondents shared what they value most about UUSMV: community and caring was cited most frequently (37 times). The services and having this spiritual home were cited 11 times. Also cited was our resilience in meeting the challenges of the pandemic. People are longing to return to: being together, getting together in person and hugging. People also miss music and singing, being in our chapel, potlucks, and a minister. There were few things mentioned that people realized are not that important – food at social hour, a minister.

But when asked what we would like to continue, almost everyone who responded mentioned Zoom. They liked being able to participate from afar, having speakers from afar, not driving. And several people mentioned the deeper relationships cultivated.

—Dorie Godfrey for the Vision Team

Zoom St. Patrick's Day Dinner March 13, 6:00 pm

See page 3 for more information.





Worship Services

All Worship Services take place on Zoom. Please see page 11 for details about how to join.

11:00 am

March 7: *Gratitude* - Reverend Erin J. Walter



The Reverend Erin J. Walter returns to preach at the UUSMV from Austin, Texas, grateful for having

made it alive through the recent storm. I was without power, heat and water for four days. Look for more information about her service in our upcoming Friday emails.

Rev. Erin J. Walter is a minister, activist, and musician based in Austin, Texas. Her work is rooted in the powerful connection between the arts, justice movements, and multicultural community. A former YMCA director, Erin serves as a board member for the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry and the Affiliated Community Minister of Wildflower (Unitarian Universalist) Church in South Austin. In this service, you will hear music from her band Parker Woodland, which you can find at ParkerWoodland.com.

March 14: *Living in Compassionate Community* - Reverend Vicky Hanjian



How do we effectively care for ourselves and others in tumultuous times? To answer this

question, the Reverend Vicky Hanjian will tap into some of our UU Sources, sharing their wisdom and gleaning practical guidance for use in everyday life.

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.

March 21: *Celebrating Ostara* - Rebecca Gilbert



"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to bloom."—

Anais Nin
To mark the vernal equinox, Rebecca Gilbert will join and inspire us with her message on *The Courage of Seeds*. We will be recreating our lives and our culture after this long pandemic. Let us not be timid but take our inspiration from the seeds we plant.

Rebecca Gilbert, eco farmer and educator, is co-operator of Native Earth Teaching Farm in Chilmark. She is a member of

the UUSMV Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. Rebecca is a frequent service speaker, sharing thoughts and inspirations of the celebrations of the earth-centered spirituality of the Wheel of the Year.

March 28: *Committing to the Weak Links* - cristy cardinal

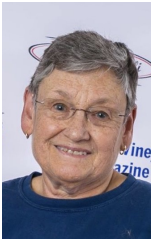


The weak links of our lives--acquaintances, co-workers, the mail carrier, our favorite cashier at the

grocery store--are the connections that have suffered the most in the last year. And their loss has caused our own suffering. How can re-commit to these links? What do these connections look like in the new future?

cristy cardinal (she OR they) is a third year Master of Divinity Student at Starr King School for the Ministry and is interning this year at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver. Her home congregation is First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan where she was forthrightly evangelized into Unitarian Universalism by the Reverend Gail Geisnehainer (now retired). Her theological interests include liberation theology, queer theologies, and helping folks heal from religious trauma. She lives in Ypsilanti, MI.

From Your President



On behalf of the congregation, I extend the hand of friendship and a very warm welcome to our three newest members:

Sheila Hanley, Kevin Longval, and Char Owens!

Membership in Unitarian Universalism is about bringing your whole self into the fabric of our Society. Our membership embraces all races, colors, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities/disabilities, ages, religions, nationalities-everyone! Bring your ideas, your dreams, your sorrows and feel at ease in our midst. Membership in UUSMV is about joining your

single voice with 100 other voices so that our one collective voice speaks loudly on universal justice issues. Our oldest members have worked diligently to keep the flame of our Chalice lit for the next generation. Each generation passes the torch to the next, as we take our turns serving one another, with open minds and open hearts. Membership lets us build close relationships with people who share similar values and have similar spiritual journeys. Lifelong friendships are created. The sense of community is a priceless gift we give each other and ourselves. Members pledge to pay their share for our staff, our Chapel, and our programs and services.

Members volunteer their time and talents to assist with the work of the church by serving on a committee or working group or on a team for short-term projects. Right now, here are some volunteer opportunities: be a proofreader for the *Vineyard UU Voice* Newsletter, serve on the Worship or Membership Committee; serve on working groups: racial equity, climate justice, criminal justice, restoring democracy; help write our Vision 2025; serve on the team developing the plan for the parcel of land behind the Chapel; be a Sunday worship host; sing in the choir (well, not yet, but I am looking forward to it!).

With abiding friendship,
Rita Brown



Sheila Hanley and Kevin Longval



Char Owens

St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Zoom

Join us **Saturday, March 13 at 6:00 pm** in the UUSMV Zoom meeting for our monthly social event. Please prepare your dinner ahead and sign in at 6:00 for drinks and gathering for the first 15 minutes. We will then go into breakout rooms in lieu of "tables" for 6-8 people for dinner and conversation. We will wrap up all together in the main room and end by **7:00 pm**. Corned beef and cabbage

is traditional, but any dinner you would like is fine. Please wear green!
Did you know?

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was not held in Ireland, but in Boston in 1737!
St. Patrick was not Irish! He was born in Scotland or Wales and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16.
The wearing of green only became a tradition in the 19th

century. Up until then, the color most associated with St Patrick was actually blue. Today, it's all about jade and emerald, moss and olive!
Source <https://www.ireland.com/en-us/articles/st-patricks-day/>
—Celeste Stickney



March Caring Coordinator:

Barbara Caseau

Kids Say the Darndest Things!



Three kids were playing and they asked each other what religion they were. The first child said "I am a Christian and our symbol is the Cross." The second child said "I am Jewish and our symbol is the Star of David." The third child said "I am Unitarian Universalist and our symbol is a candle in a cocktail glass."
 —This Humor Moment brought to you by Barbara Caseau

Parish Committee Notes

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

- Parish Committee members updated their Covenant with one another thanks to Dorie Godfrey who facilitated the session.
- Please join me in congratulating our own UUSMV President Rita Brown along with Leigh Smith, who were both recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Martha's Vineyard chapter of the NAACP.
- The Vision 2025 Questionnaire went out to members and friends on February 1st. We received 60 responses, which is fantastic, and we're hoping that many

of you were able to join us for the February 20th Vision 2025 working session via Zoom. We will review results with session attendees and make the results available to all members.

- 2021 is off to a great financial start! Thanks to pre-paid 2021 pledges and an uptick in offerings and gifts, we had an excess of \$18K in the month of January. Our expenses continue to remain low due to not being in the Chapel.
- The Parish Committee voted unanimously in favor of the Nominating Leadership and Development Committee's recommendation that Linda Moffat join

the Worship Committee.

- Don't forget to let Rita Brown know if you have any interest in attending General Assembly, which is being held virtually **June 23-27, 2021**.
- Lucinda Sheldon will be working with the Trustees to prioritize the work needing to be done on Stevens Chapel and to procure detailed pricing to bring to the congregation for a future vote. The next PC meeting: **Wednesday, March 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

Honorably Recognized

Recognized for their long, tireless, and compassionate work for the UUSMV!



Nancy Cox, Worship Committee Member Emeritus



Mary Miller, Trustee Emeritus



Sarah Shepard, Official UUSMV Historian

Congratulations and thank you!



Fostering Universal Justice

UUniversal Justice in 2021

UUSMV's UUniversal Justice priorities for 2021 will be:

Protect / Restore Democracy

– Organizing Team: Kristy Brooks, Jan Casey, Mimi Davisson, Dianne Holt, Peter Meleney, Muriel Morton, Karen Sankey, Jack Street.

Combat Climate Change and Protect the Environment –

Organizing Team: Barb Caseau, Katharine Colon,

Mimi Davisson, Dianne Holt, Peter Meleney.

Promote Racial Equity and Justice for Oppressed / Marginalized Groups –

Organizing Team: Rita Brown, Jim Thomas, Kristy Brooks, Barb Caseau, Dorie Godfrey, Peter Meleney, Muriel Morton, Char Owens, Peter Palches, Karen Sankey, Jack Street.

Support On-going Activities

[Crop Walk](#), [Family Holiday Dinners](#), [Guest at Your Table](#), [Red Stocking](#), [Share the Plate](#), [SAM – Social Action Mob](#)

These priorities were confirmed at an open Zoom session in January by 17 members of our UU community. As always, if a passionate champion emerges for a new area of universal justice, we encourage them to propose and lead an activity that speaks to their passion.

Organizing Teams are now brainstorming about what activities are feasible to accomplish this year. If you have ideas to share or want to get involved, please contact any organizer to get started.

—Mimi Davisson for the UUniversal Justice Network

Native Lives Matter



Amid increased national attention to racial disparities in police shootings and imprisonment,

statistics reveal that Native Americans are disproportionately incarcerated and are most likely to be killed by law enforcement. In South Dakota, Native Americans comprise 9 percent of the total population but 29 percent of those in prison. **Native children make up more than 70 percent of juveniles held by the Federal Bureau of Prisons** and are confined more frequently than white children.

Native American communities face high rates of substance abuse, depression, suicide, and violence. For many,

these indicators of suffering are directly linked to historical traumas inflicted by past injustice in this country, including genocide, land theft and forced relocation, involuntary cultural assimilation, and resultant isolation and poverty.

“Historical trauma is something that goes from generation to generation . . . [and] is very much steeped in a history of people,” explained Portland State University Professor Judy Bluehorse Skelton as part of the *Transcending Historical Trauma* oral history project by the Oregon-based nonprofit Wisdom of the Elders. “We look back . . . to genocide, the violence committed against men and women and children. This history lives on in us.” Equal Justice Initiative, “A History of Racial Injustice”, 2017 Calendar

Native Americans are 3.1 times more likely than white Americans to

be killed by police. Police brutality, especially killings, are underreported, however, because officers frequently visually assess one's race, and Native Americans are often mistaken for Black, White, or



Hispanic. Wikipedia: Police Brutality Against Native Americans **Thank You for Being Aware of Injustice and Fighting It When You Can!**

—Mimi Davisson for the UUSMV's UUniversal Justice Network



Fostering Universal Justice

Restoring Democracy – Legislation to Watch & Support



Advancing Human Rights & Justice

The Biden-Harris Immigration Plan has been introduced in Congress as the US Citizens Act of 2021. This bill is supported by Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. You can learn more about what the act provides and read the full text of the act at

<https://www.latinorebels.com/2021/02/18/fulltextuscitizenshipact/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=472c97ff-ce42-44db-8c14-981849960f33>



We have a once in a generation opportunity to build an accessible, accountable, and multiracial democracy that serves us all. The For the People Act (H.R.1) is a comprehensive democracy and racial justice reform bill coming up for a vote in Congress very soon. Now is our moment to get this legislation enacted. When

the For the People Act was first introduced in 2019, it passed in the House but stalled in the Senate. Now it has been reintroduced and is up for a vote. Our coalition partners tell us to expect a vote in the first week of March. We can do this! You were part of acting on your UU faith values for democracy and racial equity and mobilizing the unprecedented voter turnout that we saw in 2020. We witnessed and fought the voter suppression efforts around the country and countered the claims of election fraud that sought to disenfranchise millions of voters, most especially Black and brown voters. They failed and we prevailed. But there is more work to do to build a democracy that works for all the people. The For the People Act includes:

- a national guarantee of free and fair elections without voter suppression;
- a commitment to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act;
- automatic voter registration;
- small donor public financing to empower ordinary people instead of big donors and other critical campaign finance reforms;
- an end to partisan and racialized gerrymander-

ing, and more.

The passage of this Act will be game-changing and have a significant impact on the 2022 elections.



The Votes Act HD1356 SD1002

AN ACT FOSTERING VOTING OPPORTUNITIES, TRUST, EQUITY, AND SECURITY SUMMARY

A Massachusetts Bill to codify and make permanent the many provisions for voting during the pandemic, such as no-excuse mail voting in all elections, early in-person voting, applications for mail in ballots mailed to all registered voters, drop boxes as a local option, pre-paid postage for all applications and ballots, local option for advanced processing of mail ballots, voters of mail ballots not received by election day may vote in person, language and disability provisions, same day registration for all elections, accessible voting for eligible incarcerated voters. For more information go to <https://www.commoncause.org/massachusetts/resource/the-votes-act-summary/> —Dorie Godfrey



Each March, America honors the contributions American women have made to our history, culture, and society. The celebrations this year mark two triumphs for American women—both occurred in 2020—but the pandemic postponed public celebrations marking these events.

2020, was the centennial of passage of the 19th amendment that secured the right to vote for women.

In 2020, for the first time a woman, California Senator Kamala Harris, was elected Vice President of the United States of America, the second highest elected office in the land.

Why did it take 100 years between the time women could cast a ballot and the election of a woman to the second highest office in America?

We won't find the answer in our American history textbooks. Until the 1970s, when social history began to take hold, the history of women, minorities and ordinary life did not interest historians, who wrote almost exclusively about politics, wars, economic and military affairs, known as public history.

Certainly, it is true that until the middle of the 20th century, the majority of women spent their most active adult years at home in family circle raising their children. For most of 244 years of history, some women always worked outside the home and some women had voting rights

at the state level from time to time.

That is not to say that all women were absent from history books all the time. Legends such as Abigail Adams, Sojourner Truth, Sacajawea in the 19th century, then Margaret Sanger, Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks in the 20th century merited a photo and a paragraph patched into school texts.

Yet, since colonial days women had left home and hearth behind when their nation needed them. From the time the American Revolution began in 1776 to the end of the war in 1783, the men were away in the Continental army, so women took over the home front. They ran the family farm and business, organized boycotts of British goods, slipped through Redcoat lines to spy on the British troop movements and melted down their candlesticks to make bullets. Some women went to war to cook and nurse, and some went to fight, dressing as men to do so. After the war most women resumed their traditional roles, but by the late 1820's women in the Northern states had become the foot soldiers of the Abolitionist movement, where they learned the basics

of political organization. So, it wasn't surprising when in 1848, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott

called a meeting at Seneca Falls, New York to launch the first crusade for equality and full citizenship, the right to vote at the national level. It would take 70 more years to win the vote. In the years following the Civil War to the early 20th century, America grew and expanded, urbanized, improved education, and prospered. Some moved into jobs in the outside world as teachers, reformers, secretaries and even running their own businesses on occasion. This new dynamic re-energized the suffragists—pro-vote women—to organize rallies and marches to get Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution granting women the vote. Many Americans were strongly opposed to the vote for women claiming that once women could vote they would neglect their homes and children.

Finally, on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment became the law of the land, and America had eleven million new voters.

Realizing women would need support and guidance to navigate electoral politics, a group of suffragists formed the League of Women in February 1920. A hundred years later the League of Women Voters is still doing its job guarding the integrity of our elections.

—Ann Charnley

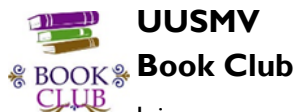
In Our CommUUnity

Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers: **Esther Hopkins, Herb and Carol Golub, Steve Solarazza, Mike Shepard, Sunny Wilson, Steve Myrick.** Speedy recovery to **Lily McEvoy**, daughter of Eri-

ka Berg and Mary McEvoy, who recently broke her arm. Congratulations to **Michael Noel**, son of **Jacqui Noel**, on becoming an Eagle Scout. He is also getting several acceptance letters from colleges.

This is the time of year when we are facing long dark days and nights. Please check in on your neighbors and friends. We will Spring ahead on **March 14**. Please remember to change your clocks. —Celeste Stickney

Meetings in March



UUSMV Book Club
Join us on **March 9, 2:00 pm** in the UUSMV Zoom meeting. Read one or both — *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer or *Neither Wolf nor Dog* by Kent Nerburn. Both by indigenous writers, and both excellent reads. —Barb Caseau

Group is meeting on **Thursdays, March 11 and March 25 at 2:00 pm** on Zoom. —Celeste Stickney

Wednesday, March 24, 2:00 pm in the UUSMV Zoom meeting. —Ann Hollister



Men's Group
The Men's Group will meet **Saturday, March 13, 9:30 am** in the UUSMV Zoom meeting. —Peter Meloney

Sewcial Action Knitwork



Sewcial Action Knitworkers are at home continuing to knit mittens, hats, scarves; crocheting socks; and sewing, tying, and binding quilts. Thanks to all for your contributions. —Laura Beebe



Women's Group
The UUSMV Women's

"Ageing to Sageing"
The "Ageing to Sageing" Group is meeting

This Old Church

Prioritizing facility enhancements - that's where we're at. If you can remember the Stevens Memorial Chapel at 238 Main Street, Vineyard Haven,

and you can remember any ideas for repair or upgrade, please let me know. We have some bids for painting trim. The soon-to-be-replaced Universal Access Ramp

Door needs some splashing control. Let's keep these ideas coming because awkward silences are awkward. —Norman Stickney, Trustee





March Birthdays

Wishing a great and wonderful birthday to Lily McEvoy who celebrates her 12th birthday on March 3.
 Mike Kobran who will be 83 and Karen Sankey who will be 76 on March 4.
 Marianne Goldsmith who will be 83 on March 22!
 May you all have a fabulous day and an even greater year!

**Unitarian Universalist
 Society**

of Martha's Vineyard

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TV Movie Review

We interrupt this broadcast to announce that I have overcome my fears and doubts about watching a TV movie I watched 50 years ago. Don't worry, the fears and doubts that hold me back still hold me back where it really counts. (Of course those issues are too significant to mention.) However, A STEP OUT OF LINE is a made for a

TV movie; and, after receiving it 6 months ago, I watched it: Peter Falk aka Colombo, with Vic Morrow, and Peter Lawford presented in 1971. I liked it. It was not exactly how I remembered it. There was cigarette smoking. I believe the cable streetcar was the Hyde Street line that I used once. Wait until you see how few commercial



breaks there were! Next in line for me is the virtually unknown feature film *Shy People*.
 —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=STN5bVZXd2lneEpmalUxTYW5ib0pWdz09>

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.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Happy Women's Heritage Month!</i>	1	2 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	3	4	5	6
7 11:00 am: <i>Gratitude</i> - Reverend Erin J. Walter	8	9 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	10 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	11 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	12	13 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting 6:00 pm: St. Patrick's Day Dinner
14 11:00 am: <i>Living in Compassionate Community</i> - Reverend Vicky Hanjian	15	16 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</i> 	18	19	20
21 11:00 am: <i>Celebrating Ostara</i> - Rebecca Gilbert	22	23 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 3:00 pm: Covid Caring Committee Meeting	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>Committing to the Weak Links</i> - cristy cardinal	29	30 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	31			

UUSMV

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