

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 4

April 2021

Special points of interest:

- Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month, pages 5-6

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Ken Beebe 1944-2021

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of Ken Beebe. Ken passed in his sleep on March 19.

Ken had been a member of UUSMV since 1977. He was retired from the Tisbury School, where he had been the Assistant Principal. He was fondly called "Dr. Play," because he had earned a doctorate in education at the University of South Dakota. Ken was an optimist, a fighter and such an inspiration about meeting adversity with hope. He was also an avid fisherman. This past fall, he weighed in his first Derby fish in 30 years of fishing the MV Fishing Derby - a Bluefish.

Ken provided many inspira-

tional sermons at UUSMV. He could be counted on to bring humor to every situation. He was a regular attendee at Men's group and potluck dinners. He is survived by his wife Laura and their son Christopher, who lives in Colorado.

Cards can be sent to Laura Beebe, PO Box 110 Vineyard Haven, Ma 02568. Plans for a service are incomplete at this time.



—Celeste Stickney



Let's Eat!



Join us on **Saturday April 17** at **6:00 pm** in

UUSMV's Zoom meeting for our monthly social event: a virtual dinner. We will gather at **6:00 pm** and head into breakout rooms serving as

tables for 6-8 people for easier conversation. We will end in the main room before **7:00 pm** to say goodnight. Please have your dinner ready by 6:00. Our suggested menu theme is Italian food.

—Celeste Stickney

April Caring Coordinator:

Jenifer Parkinson





Ramadan Kareem!

Ramadan, observed from April 12 to May 12 this year, is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan is a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion, during which Muslims spend extra time reading the Qur'an and performing special prayers. (<https://ing.org/ramadan-information-sheet/>)

Worship Services

All Worship Services take place on Zoom.

Please see page 9 for details about how to join.

11:00 am

April 4: A Brighter Coming Day - Reverend Jennifer Johnson



On this Easter Sunday, we will reconsider the spiritual concept of Resurrection from a

Unitarian Universalist perspective. Our window will be the powerful life and legacy of our Unitarian ancestor, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper—a 19th century abolitionist, lecturer, and writer of popular fiction and poetry. Rev. Jennifer Johnson currently serves as the Learning Fellow for Prison Ministry at the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

April 11: Love and Loss - Reverend Vicky Hanjian



What have we lost? How do personal, spiritual, material, and communal loss change us? Sometimes we

don't recognize all that we have lost and our need to grieve, or the fact that we are already grieving, until we name it and reflect on it. Looking through a lens of love, we will acknowledge and explore the profound depths of loss that we have experienced in our lives and are experiencing on a day-to-day basis.

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.

April 18: Jane Leade: Mystic Mother of Universalism - Reverend Fayre Stephenson

As one author wrote, "Jane Leade was not a woman to be pushed around." A true 17th century religious visionary, Jane's insights changed how many of us view human destiny. Join us on this Sunday when we consider Jane Leade and her woefully overlooked contribution to Unitarian Universalism.

[We will join the service of the First Universalist Church of Norway, Maine.](#)

Reverend Fayre Stephenson is minister of the First Universalist Church of Norway, Maine. A graduate of the Harvard Divinity School, Fayre served for eight years as minister of the Foxborough Universalist Church in Massachusetts, where they named her

Minister Emerita. She also served eight years as program director at Ferry Beach, the UU camp and conference center in Saco, Maine. Prior to entering the ministry, Fayre worked for the Massachusetts Legislature and as a writer and lobbyist for the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists, a public employee labor union. Fayre is the mother of two sons, Alex and Nat, and the doting grandmother of six grandchildren.

April 25: Becoming - cristy cardinal

cristy returns to our pulpit with a message on Becoming.



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.

President's Message

Covenanting is at the heart of the practice of Unitarian Universalism. Our religious ancestors created our tradition as a faith community bound not by allegiance to a particular creed—specific beliefs—but rather by faithfulness to a covenant—a set of mutual promises to each other and to something greater than ourselves. Spiritual leadership calls us to remember that covenant is a practice, not a product. We invited Dorie Godfrey to facilitate our work to develop a covenant for our 2021 Parish Committee. We are deeply appreciative of Dorie's guidance and support!

Understanding different personality and communication styles and how they manifest in our meetings and group settings is important to our success. We will use one of these tools: "16 Personalities" or "Truity" (free and available

online). We will be respectful of not only what we discuss, but the process of the discussion. We will send information to members ahead of the meeting to give time to everyone to think about a proposal or discussion topic. If there is no clear consensus on a topic, and whenever possible, we will postpone action to the next meeting, so everyone has time to think about the discussion before taking action. We will strive to find the balance between a process, where everyone talks through pros and cons of a topic, and a product, when to close discussion/debate and take action.

We share our covenant with you, our members and friends, who entrust us to faithfully carry out the governance work of our Society.

As members of the Parish Committee, we covenant and

affirm that we will...

- Provide a safe environment where we each can speak our truth with kindness,
- Build trust where we understand and honor each other's strengths and vulnerabilities,
- Practice honesty, openness, transparency, and integrity,
- Listen attentively and respect and value our differences,
- Engage in a productive, constructive manner if conflict arises,
- Presume good faith and practice reconciliation and forgiveness,
- Be willing to learn about and understand cultural shifts and be open to changes in thinking.

Adopted at the Parish Committee, March 10, 2021.



Rita Brown

Spiritual leadership calls us to remember that covenant is a practice, not a product.

In Our CommUUnity

Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers **Esther Hopkins, Herb and Carol Golub, Steve Solaraza, Mike Shepard, Sunny Wilson, and Steve Myrick.** Join me in wishing **Stefan Knight** a speedy recovery for his broken arm, which happened while kiteboarding in Florida.

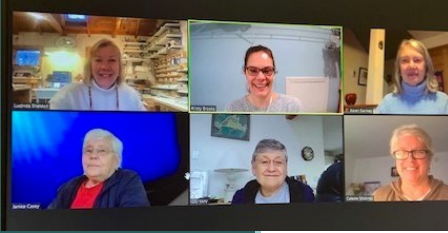
Congratulations to Falmouth Academy junior **Spencer Goldsmith** who scored first place in Massachusetts on the highest level of the 2021 National German Exam. Spencer is the grandson of **Marianne Goldsmith.** He ranked in the 99th percentile and earned a Gold in Level IV of the national exam.
—Celeste Stickney

Cats Travel Far to Join UUSMV Family

Gracie and Finn were rescued from the streets of the Dominican Republic and now happily reside with Rita Brown and Jan Casey. Sylvie made a 34-hour trip from Austin, Texas and is now settling into her wonderful new home with Mary Gillette.



Notes from the PC



Lucinda Sheldon, Kristy Brooks, Karen Sankey, Jan Casey, Rita Brown and Celeste Stickney
Missing: Glenn Palmer

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

- After a bit of editing, Parish Committee members unanimously approved their Covenant with one another.
- We acknowledged Dorie Godfrey and her suggestion and coordination of Island churches ringing their bells 50 times in recognition of the 500,000 deaths due to COVID-19.
- Thanks to 40% of 2021 pledges already being paid, on a year-to-date basis we have excess income of \$32,000. The Finance Committee will be meeting soon to discuss an investment strategy for some of our cash holdings in order

to make a recommendation to the Parish Committee.

- We approved a \$500 donation to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund for those affected by the recent storms in Texas.
- The Trustees continue to work to prioritize the maintenance needs of the Chapel.
- A big Thank You to the 34 members who participated in the Vision 2025 session! A committee has been formed and will be working on writing our Vision 2025 statement. Stay tuned for details.
- Coming out of the Visioning session, there was a lot of feedback regarding the use of the back parcel, and a Backyard Planning Team has assembled to assess our options.

- It is clear that people want Zoom to continue to be an option for services even when we can be back in the Chapel. To that end, the PC is beginning to explore ways to make that possible.
- Three members have volunteered to be on the Minister Search Team. Our By Laws state that the congregation must approve the committee members and that meeting/vote will be held sometime in May.

The next PC meeting:

Wednesday, April 14th, 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

Treasurer's Report

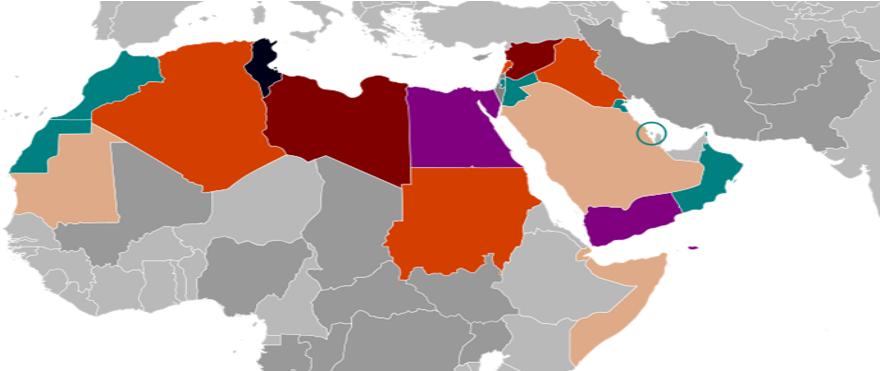
Many thanks for your ongoing financial support of UUSMV. It is truly appreciated. While some expenses are less right now because we are not meeting in our Chapel, we continue to provide honoraria to our outside speakers and accompanists. Thanks to Andy, our Sunday services using Zoom are much more professional and sermons are being recorded and posted on our webpage. We must also pay for utilities, insurance, and

other routine expenses. Any extra funds are set aside in preparation for our return to "normal" and for our sensational future. Reminders: Buy local when you can – but when you buy from Amazon, use the www.smile.amazon.com website to place your orders and designate UUSMV as the charity you are supporting. If you need assistance paying for utilities, mortgage/rent, medical bills, or food, please remember

the Minister's Discretionary Fund (Caring Fund) exists to provide such help. Please reach out to Rev. Vicky Hanjian, Celeste, Kristy, or me to let us know you could use a helping hand. Wishing you an abundance of blessings,
—Jan Casey, Treasurer

How Many of the 22 Arab Countries Can You Name?

A start to our celebration of Arab American Heritage Month



Answers on page 6.



“Arab” is a cultural and linguistic term. It refers to those who speak Arabic as their first language. Arabs are united by culture and by history. Arabs are not a race. Some have blue eyes and red hair; others are dark skinned; most are somewhere in between. Most Arabs are

Muslims but there are also millions of Christian Arabs and thousands of Jewish Arabs, just as there are Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Americans. Who are Arab Americans? Arab Americans are Americans of Arab descent. There are Americans with roots in each Arab country, but most originate from Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. There are also substantial com-

munities from Egypt, Yemen, and Iraq. The first immigrants arrived in the late 19th century. A second wave of immigration started after World War II, and still continues. The largest communities live in the Detroit area. Source: Marvin Windfield, Director of Education and Outreach at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). For more resources, go to www.adc.org.

Meet Some of Your MV Arab American Neighbors

Have you met Joseph Moujabber who owns Nancy’s Restaurant and Snack Bar? Doug Abdelnour, also pictured, is manager of Nancy’s. Both are Arab American and enjoyed welcoming the Obamas to the restaurant on past occasions. They also employed Sasha Obama one summer!



Source “A Restaurant Owned by Arab Americans: Sasha Obama’s New Workplace” *Arab America*, August 8, 2016 By: Mary Elbanna/ Contributing Writer

Maybe you know or have run into Tony Shalhoub! Tony is one of 10 children of Joseph Shalhoub, who owned a grocery chain and emigrated from Lebanon to the United States as an orphan at age ten, and Helen (Seroogy), who was born in Wisconsin to Lebanese parents. Many first “met” Tony as Antonio Scarpacci the cab

driver in *Wings* (a show about a Nantucket airline). He has had many starring roles and won many awards, but perhaps many know him best as Monk or as Abe Weisman. He was also featured in Henry Louis Gates’s *Finding Your Roots* series on PBS - *The Shirts on Their Backs*. Tony appeared in many shows and films with his wife, Brook Adams. Tony said of the time he spends on the Vineyard, “Everyone feels closer to nature and to the earth here, there’s a different kind of connection between people that springs from that.” (*Martha’s Vineyard Arts & Ideas*)



If you haven’t met Raffi Jabri, you have most likely savored his donuts, pastries, or wedding cakes! Raffi is originally from Jordan. He worked for years with Rita Brown and Jan Casey when they were owners of MV Gourmet Café &

Bakery/Back Door Donuts. He is a Pastry Chef, having studied and trained in England. Raffi became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2006. His wife Shirley is from Brazil. Shirley has passed her U.S. citizenship requirements and is waiting for the swearing in ceremony. What is most meaningful to being U.S. citizens? The right to vote! In their blended family, they have 6 children and 9 grandchildren. Perhaps, you met Raffi when he spoke with our youth several years ago about Islam, emphasizing that love is the heart of all religions.



—Bios by Dorie Godfrey

How Many Arab Countries Could You Name?

The Arab World consists of 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Comoros Islands, not pictured on this map, are off the coast of Mozambique.



Sharing the Food Culture of Syria

We are not exposed much to Arab Americans – and as with any other disconnect, misunderstandings and misconceptions, often based on stereotypes, can arise. This offers us a good opportunity to question the sort of assumptions that tend to form, usually unconsciously, in the absence of experience, and intentionally replace them with reality, facts, and personal connections. This is not always easy when the news is troubling and hard to hear.

One way that I have found to overcome my natural reluctance to think about depressing situa-

tions like, for example, the plight of refugees or farm women caught in war zones, is to make contact with the strength and culture of such people through appreciation of their music, poetry, crafts, and especially recipes. Cooking people's food, like cooking food for people, creates a positive bond that can lead to real attention, genuine concern, and opportunities to improve difficult situations. The book *Soup for Syria* is a compilation of soup recipes from famous chefs to benefit people in refugee camps in Lebanon. Buy it, get it from the library, or borrow it from me if you are interested. The recipes come from all over the world – here is one from Paula Wolfert, who summered on the Vineyard and wrote some of her

cookbooks here.
—Rebecca Gilbert

Lentil and Swiss Chard Soup

Serves 4-5

1 cup (200 g) brown lentils
1 onion, chopped
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 small garlic cloves, crushed
2 lb. (1 kg) Swiss chard leaves, finely shredded
½ cup (20 g) chopped cilantro
Salt, to taste
Freshly ground black pepper
Pinch cayenne pepper
Simmer lentils in 6 cups water till almost done, sweat the onions in oil, combine all ingredients except lemon juice and simmer 15 more minutes, stir in lemon juice. Serve hot, cold, or room temperature.



Recommended Books by Arab American Authors

One way to increase your understanding and knowledge of other cultures is to read works by authors of that culture. Here are a few recommendations of works by Arab American authors.



Never in a Hurry by Naomi Shihab Nye – Collection of Essays



The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf by Mohja Kahf - Novel
Sitti's Secrets by Naomi Shihab Nye – Children's Book



April Meetings



Members of the **Sew-
cial Action Knit-
work** continue to
work individually at
home and are looking
forward to resuming in-person
sessions, hopefully this summer!
—Mimi Davisson



The UUSMV **Men's
Group** will meet
on **Saturday, April
3, 9:30 am.** If

weather allows, we will meet
outdoors at the Chapel. If not,

we meet via the UUSMV Zoom
link. We will share stories of
the second decade of our life.
—Peter Meleney



The UUSMV **Wom-
en's Group** will
meet on Zoom

**Thursdays April 8 and 22 at
2:00 pm.**

—Celeste Stickney



The UUSMV **Book
Club** will meet via
the UUSMV Zoom

on **Tuesday, April 13 at 2:00
pm** to discuss *The Vanishing
Half* by Brit Bennett.
—Peter Meleney

The **“Aging to Sageing”
Group** meets **Wednesday,
April 28, 2:00 pm** in the
UUSMV Zoom meeting.
—Ann Hollister

This Old Church

The universal access ramp door
is installed and beautiful. Tim
Colon set it up perfectly. I am
working with Bob Geary to get
an estimate for the awning-like
roof. The power washing on
the Chapel from Quality Con-
tracting should reveal a natural
prioritization of further
“opportunities.”

—Norman Stickney, Trustee



Celebrate Earth Day

29th Annual VCS

BEACH CLEAN UP

April 17th Volunteers at favorite beaches (10-noon) with bags and gloves.
For all April, go to your favorite beach or trail. BYO bags, gloves or tongs.
Katharine Colon

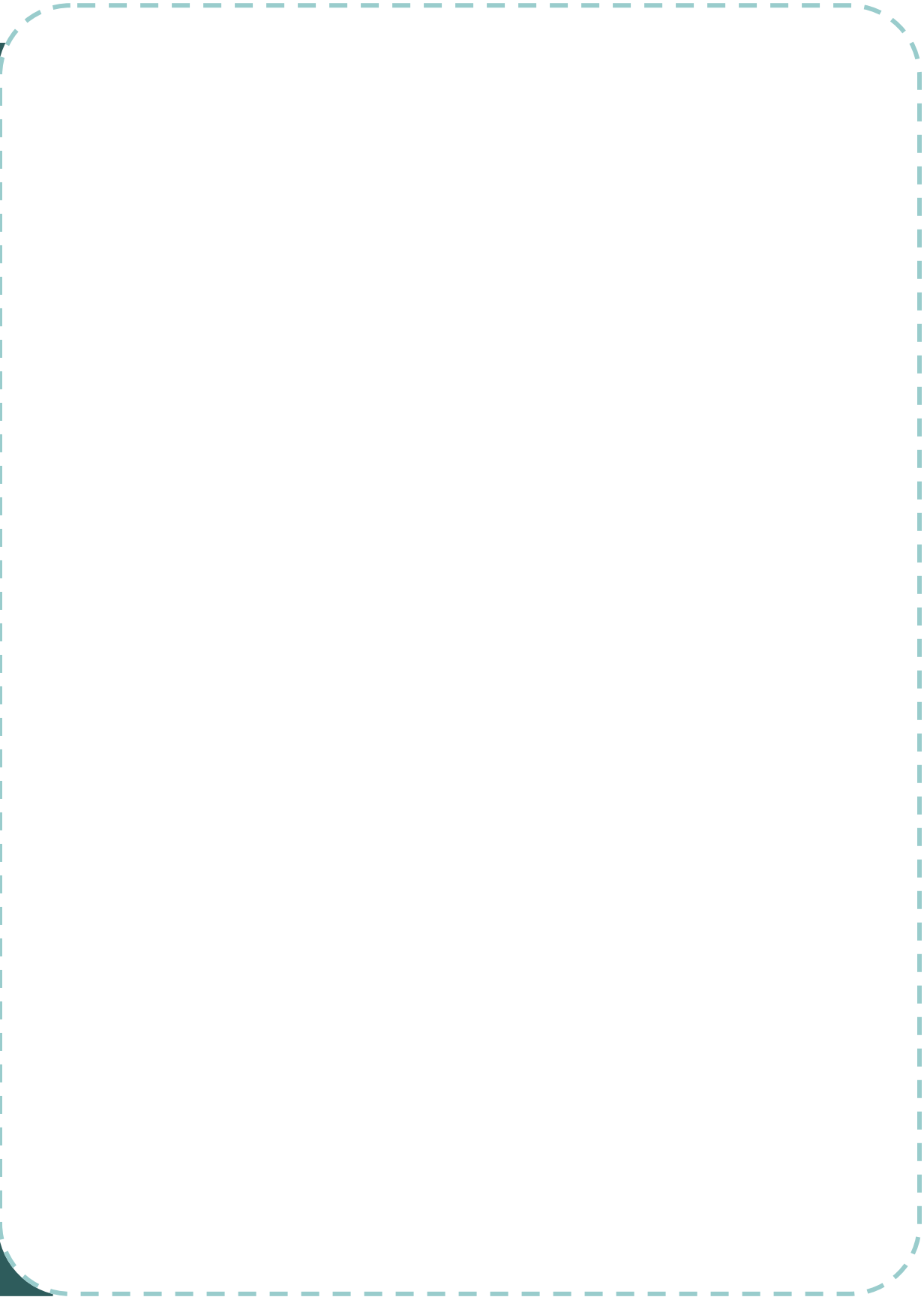
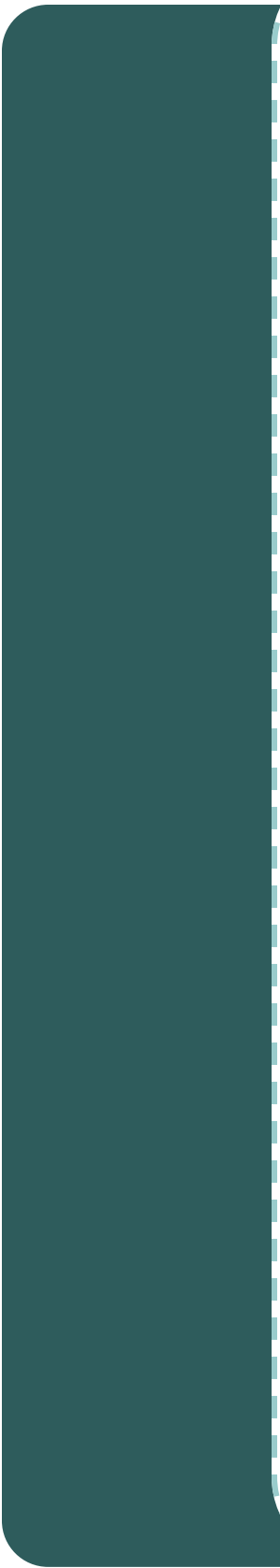
www.uusmv.org

We've added a couple of new
features to our website,
www.uusmv.org. We now
have a button at the top of
our homepage that links di-
rectly to our Zoom meeting
when clicked. It says: “Virtual
Sunday Services: 11:00 am.
Please join us.”

We've added a new menu
item under Universal Justice:
Black Lives Matter, where
we've placed a ton of re-
sources for your use. You can
access that page by clicking on
the Black Lives Matter banner
on the homepage slider or by
going to the Universal Justice



menu and clicking on the sub-
menu item. Thanks to Dorie
Godfrey and Kristy Brooks
for compiling the wonderful
resources.
—Lori Shaller



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.

April 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2 2:00 pm: Backyard Team Meeting	3 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting
4 11:00 am: <i>A Brighter Coming Day</i> - Rever- end Jennifer Johnson Service Coordinator: Celeste Stickney	5	6 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	7	8 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	9	10
11 11:00 am: <i>Love and Loss</i> - Reverend Vicky Hanjian Service Coordinator: Jennifer Knight	12	13 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 2:00 pm: Book Club Meeting	14 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	15	16	17 6:00 pm: Virtual Social: Italian Dinner
18 11:00 am: <i>Jane Leade: Mystic Mother of Uni- versalism</i> - Reverend Fayre Stephenson Service Coordinator: Celeste Stickney	19	20 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	21	22 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	23	24
25 11:00 am: <i>Becoming - cristy cardinal</i> Service Coordinators: Sue Streeter and Barb Caseau	26	27 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	28 2:00 pm: "Aging to Sageing" Group Meeting	29	30	



Happy Birthday!!!

Wishing You the very best on your birthday and the whole year through!

Dorie Godfrey who will be 73 on April 2
Nancy Wood who will be a very young 93 on April 14
Ann Maley who celebrates on April 17
Eric Brooks's big day is April 19
Michael Savoy who celebrates on April 22
Mary Jane Aldrich Moodie is celebrating on April 23
Rich Peia will have his birthday on April 25
Johanna Kobran will joyfully celebrate being 85 on
April 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