

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 5

May 2021

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Mission and Vision 2025

Thank you to members who have reached out to the Mission and Vision 2025 team with your thoughts, questions, and feedback for the proposed Mission and Vision 2025.

We had an excellent discussion on Saturday, April 17. As a result of your input, we looked at the Mission and the Vision components and reworked the 4th Vision

component.

This final proposal will come before the voting members at a special congregation meeting on **Sunday, May 16** after the worship service.

We are happy to answer questions and/or discuss this proposal with any member between now and May 16. Please don't hesitate to

reach out! Many thanks to the Mission and Vision 2025 team for the thoughtful work to craft this proposal, using member input from the universal justice discussion in January and the questionnaire and congregation discussion in February. The Team: Kristy Brooks, Rita Brown, Jan Casey, Dorie Godfrey, Karen Sankey, and Jim Thomas.

A Mission Statement is a short description of WHY an organization exists. The Vision describes the CLEAR AND INSPIRATIONAL PRIORITIES for desired change that will result from the congregation's work in the next 5 years.

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MISSION (Proposed)
We are an intentionally

welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action, racial equity, and universal justice.

Rationale for a change in the Mission statement: Adding racial equity to our Mission conveys the high priority it has at this time in our history.

VISION 2025 (Proposed)

* In 2025, we are a vibrant, healthy, multigenerational, and caring congregation that lives our Unitarian Universalist Principles. In sup-

port of our Mission, we have....

- Built a loving and supportive, multicultural community.
- * Created thriving shared ministries led by our minister, lay leaders, and the congregation working collaboratively.
- * Worked to accountably dismantle white supremacy, racism, and all intersecting oppressions in ourselves, our community, our institutions, and our democracy.
- Determined the feasibility of a new building/

addition that will enhance our ability to serve our congregation and the island community.

...... As we seek to widen our spiritual horizons.

As the members of UUSMV consider adoption of this proposed Mission and Vision 2025, can <u>you</u> affirm each as a priority for the focus of our energy, time and resources for the next 5 years?

Where do we go from here? Once the final Mission and Vision 2025 are adopted by the voting members of the congregation, committees and working groups will develop measurable goals and actions for the coming year(s).

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



May 2: Beyond Charity: Understanding Voudou's Potential to Create Change -Rick Bausman

Voudou is a powerful, widespread spiritual and cultural



entity in Haiti. During our service, Rick will introduce us to his film Bat Tanbou, which chronicles his journey to discover Voudou's potential to catalyze sustainable change, and begins to dismantle centuries of unjust, damaging, abstract mythology that has been and continues to be carcinogenic to Haiti's development.

May 9: A Spirituality of Gratitude and Surrender - Kurt Aschermann



The so-called "spiritual life" is often seen as some-

thing outside of, or separate from, our everyday life.

But by concentrating on being grateful and giving up some control, our spiritual life can be our life and not something extra. In this message we will explore how the faith traditions of the world have several things in common, including a call for compassion, peace and gratitude. And that when we surrender to "what is" these characteristics become ingrained in our life.

May 16: Listening to Our Own Stories - C.L. Fornari



We often tell the same stories many

times, to others and to ourselves. The telling is important, but there's also value to hearing anew the tales that we tell.

May 23: Sailing in the Wake of Our Ancestors - Sam Low



For the last 40 years, Hokule'a, a replica of the ancient vessels that Polynesians used to settle the entire Pacific, one third of earth, has been guided on voyages of over 2,000 miles by navigators who find landfall by a world of natural signs — wind, wave, bird flight and stars. Hokule'a visited Martha's Vineyard in 2016.

May 30: Uncovering Our Memories -Changing Our Stories - Reverend Vicky Hanjian



Using a "new to us" story of the 1st rec-

orded celebration of Memorial Day, we will explore how changing our lens can change our stories.

Please see pages 4 and 9 for the speakers' biographies.

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President's Message

Intersections

I grew up in a small Midwestern town in northwest Illinois. We were surrounded by farm country on all sides. There were many intersections in town and in the country where streets and roads met. Vehicle and foot traffic entering an intersection from all four directions at once could create a traffic jam. So too are the intersections each of us is made of. I am white, gender identify as a woman, a lesbian, over 70, spiritual but not religious, of primarily eastern European ancestry, and hearing impaired. These are all integral parts of my identity and exist intertwined in the core of my person. You simply cannot just "see me" as a lesbian without acknowledging me as white and

as an aging woman, and so on to include all the parts that make me....me. The 7 roads of "me" meet and merge into the intersection as one whole person. I am that "traffic jam" sitting in the middle of the intersection at the outskirts of town. When we talk about the intersectionality of oppressions, this is the basic tenant we are talking about. We each have overlapping identities. For example, I face the multiple oppressions and prejudices of sexism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism. Therefore, we cannot simply take on the work of racism or any oppression alone. A Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) person is not just a person of color; we must "see" that the other parts of h/her identity, sexual orientation,

gender identity, and other oppressions, are an integral part of the whole person. Therefore, as we study and educate ourselves about racism, we must also understand sexism, and heterosexism, and other oppressions. We cannot move through the crossroads and intersections of life unless we learn to combat the simultaneous oppressions everyone faces. In fact, I would boldly say that as Unitarian Universalists, we are at a crossroad in our spiritual journey for justice for all. Each of us must embrace our 1st Principle to honor and value the inherent worth and dignity of every person. With abiding friendship, Rita Brown, President



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, Isabel Noel.

Condolences to **Betsy Buck** on the recent and unexpected death of her brother.

Join me in wishing Janie
Flanders's son Sam a speedy
recovery for his broken leg.
Happy 40th Anniversary to Brad
and Diane Purvis.
Congratulations to Danielle

Hopkins (pictured above), daughter of Freedom Cartwright and Ewell Hopkins, on her graduation from Barnard College in NYC with her bachelor's degree with honors in American History, with minors in Spanish and Latin American Studies.
Also, healing thoughts to Freedom Cartwright and Esther Hopkins who both broke their arms in separate incidents recently. Hopefully, this ends UUSMV's three-month streak of broken arms. Be careful out there!

-- Celeste Stickney

May Social Event: Dinner on Zoom

Join us in the UUSMV Zoom meeting for our monthly social event: dinner at **6:00 pm**, **Saturday, May 22**. We will gather virtually with our own meals to share drinks, food and conversation. Our Heritage

month theme is Asian Pacific Islanders so bring your favorite Meal to match that theme and wear a Hawaiian shirt or outfit if you have one. Aloha
—Celeste Stickney



PC Notes



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

Freshly power

washed Chapel

Your Parish Committee met via Zoom last month on April 14th. Here are some highlights.

Our neighbors

at 248 Main St. will attend the May PC meeting to discuss the terms of the Covenant we originally made with South Mountain.

We approved a proposal from a local graphic designer for a new logo for our
 Church. Options will be presented to the Congregation for a future vote.

•UUSMV's financial position continues to remain solid with a YTD excess of \$38,030. This is due in large part to the Luce Fund distribution, as well as to the receipt of 49% of budgeted pledges.

• The Finance Committee

met to talk about investment policies and procedures.

•In order to maintain a positive relationship with MV Savings Bank for any future needs, we'll keep ~\$35K in the UUSMV checking account.

- •Given low interest rates, Finance Committee recommended cash move out of the Vanguard Money Market Fund into their Balanced Fund, which has better returns.
- The Minister's Discretionary
 Fund has been renamed the
 "Helping Hand Fund." Please let
 Jan know if you need any assistance. Requests are confidential.
- The Chapel exterior was power washed. Take a walk or a drive by and see how great it looks!
 Additional improvements are in the pipeline.
- The newly named "Out Back Team" reported that they have a timeline set up to complete a Needs Assessment for the backyard and to give a presentation

to the PC by the end of 2021. Stay tuned for updates!

- •We continue to discuss when it might make sense to reopen the Chapel. We are thinking about our most vulnerable members. We don't have a date yet but will continue to consult the UUA and CDC guidelines.
- •We discussed the Minister search. There was a lot of brainstorming around how we might "do things differently" given how popular Zoom has become for many of our members and friends. We'll continue to explore options in conjunction with the Minister Search Team.

The next PC meeting: Wednesday, May 12th, 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

Worship Service Leaders' Bios

Rick Bausman is Hountogi, a ceremonial drummer, who regularly plays for Voudou ceremony in communities all over Haiti. He is the founder and Director of Rhythm of Life, a nonprofit organization that uses the power of ensemble drumming to help people in communities across the US and around the world. Currently Rhythm of Life is focused on developing The Milocan Project in Haiti in collaboration with the KNVA.

Kurt Aschermann spent

over 40 years as a marketing and resource development professional, primarily at Boys & Girls Clubs of America. He has been a professional athlete, served in government, been a schoolteacher, and is the author of three books.

In 2013, Kurt founded a small group program, follow Him, which explores the Jesus Way as a simple approach to living a life of simplicity, compassion, and peace. He is also a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship.

Kurt and his wife Anna reside in the historic district of Leesburg, Virginia. They have seven children and eight grandchildren between them.

C.L. Fornari is a creative gardening expert and self-defined "plant geek" who transitioned from artist to garden communicator in 1995. She speaks to audiences at horticultural trade shows, garden clubs, botanical gardens, master gardener symposiums, alumni/women's groups, neighborhood associations, and podcasts.

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...fostering universal justice and community action...

Governor Baker signs Massachusetts Climate Law

During Earth Month, April 2021, Governor Baker signed "An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy" that:

Creates a 2050 climate

roadmap

- Codifies strong environmental justice protections
- Increases offshore wind resources
- Enhances appliance energy efficiency standards
- Improves gas safety provisions and enforcement
- Provides low-income and

business solar initiatives

- Allows municipalities to tailor state net-zero energy building codes to meet local needs
- Supports equitable green workforce development

Barb Caseau and Katharine Colon



UUSMV Allies for Racial Equality Working Group

We're excited to announce that our <u>UUSMV.org</u> website now contains an abundance of resources for Anti-Racism and other oppressions. Visit our home page and click the link right under the Black Lives Matter banner. You'll be taken to a page that contains additional links for resources in the following categories:

Books for Adults

- Books for Kids and Teens
- Podcasts
- Films/Documentaries/Videos
- Online Racial Equity Workshops
- Articles
- Black History Archival Projects -You Can Help!

If you have suggestions for other resources you would like to see added to these lists, please email them to Kristy Brooks at kristyannb@comcast.net or Lori Shaller at uu.society.mv@gmail.com. Be a supportive ally!!

—Kristy Brooks

Part of our anti-racism work is recognizing and remembering the atrocities perpetrated on people of color in this country.

- Week of May 2, 1992 Riots in Los Angeles sparked by the acquittal of white police officers who beat Black motorist Rodney King leaving 53 people dead, 2000 injured and \$1 billion in damage.
- •Week of May 9, 2010 Schools in Tucson, Arizona are barred from

teaching Mexican American Studies this week after governor signs bill banning all ethnic studies courses.

- •Week of May16, 2012 North Carolina legislators recommend \$50,000 compensation for victims of forced sterilization program from 1930s to 1970s; 60% of women sterilized against their will were Black.
- •Week of May 23, 2020 A white Minneapolis police officer kills George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by pinning his

neck to the ground and choking him, sparking global protests against police brutality.

•Week of May 30, 1921 White people attack prosperous Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma and burn it to the ground during two days of rioting that leaves up to 300 people dead.

Karen Sankey – source: First Parish Unitarian UU Church, Duxbury



With the rise in hate crimes, this year Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month matters even more. Take time to reflect on the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to our

nation. Beginning May 1979, Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month works to recognize Asians and Pacific Islanders within the United States.

Science and Ancient Indigenous Beliefs



A panorama of the Milky Way from Mauna Kea, Hawaii. From left, University of Hawaii 2.2 Meter Telescope, Mauna Kea Summit, Kilauea Volcano under cloud cover and Mauna Loa.Credit...Joe Marquez, NY Times 10/3/2016.

It is often said that science is our culture's god, and that we suffer from a lack of mysticism. But both require a willingness to question, and the humility to listen to answers that change over time.

In the illegally annexed state of Hawaii, what is often framed as a struggle between modern science and ancient indigenous beliefs is presently taking place. On a mountain top claimed as sacred by locals, giant telescopes are being built in the face of continuing protests. The confrontation is not between science and spirit, but rather a matter of whose knowledge is considered important.

Both western science and the traditions of Pacific Islanders rest on long, accurate observation of nature, and both have given rise to useful results, such as the ability to find one's position at sea. Western science is technology based—hence the telescopes—and navigation had to wait for the invention of an accurate clock. Pacific Island cultures had long used other effective ways to find - and give directions to - tiny islands in the middle of the world's most enormous ocean. Their methods are knowledge based, passed on orally, and take the form of stories. When they say the mountain needs to remain pure like a

maiden for the waters to remain clean, or that it functions as an umbilicus for the earth, it may not sound like scientific language to us, but it is. Incidentally, environmental science backs up the mythical connection to water filtration, and the importance of the ways volcanos connect earth's inner core with the atmosphere. I love telescopes, and I say: put them on ships, or satellites, or shoot them into deep space. Leave the mountaintops alone. For an indigenous perspective, check out the podcast 'All My

Relations,' 'For Love of Mauna

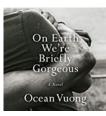
-Rebecca Gilbert

Kea.'

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Books by Asian Pacific Islander Authors

Literature helps authors speak their truth. Reading can help others learn about cultures and the truths of others. Here are some books by Asian Pacific Islander authors.



On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous is the debut novel by Ocean Vuong, Vietnamese American poet. It is a portrait of a family, a first love, and the

redemptive power of storytelling. Born in Saigon, Vietnam and raised in Hartford, Connecticut in a working-class family of nail salon and factory laborers, Ocean was educated at nearby Manchester Community College before transferring to Pace University to study International Market-

ing. Without completing his first term, he dropped out of Business school and enrolled at Brooklyn College, where he graduated with a BA in Nineteenth Century American Literature. He subsequently received his MFA in Poetry from NYU. He currently lives in Northampton, Massachusetts where he serves as an Associate Professor in the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at UMass-Amherst.



Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng is the story of a Chinese American family living in a small town in Ohio in the 1970s. It is a moving story of family, secrets, and longing. Celeste Ng (pronounced "ing") grew up

in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Shaker Heights, Ohio. She graduated from Harvard University and earned an MFA from the University of Michigan. She now lives in Cambridge, MA.



A Stranger's Journey: Race, Identity, and Narrative Craft in Writing by David Mura addresses the increasingly diverse American literature and explores a more inclusive

and expansive definition of writing particularly in relationship to race. Mura is a Japanese American poet, novelist, playwright, critic, and performance artist. His parents were interned during World War II. He earned his B.A. from Grinnell College and his M.F.A. from Vermont College of Fine Arts. He currently resides in Minnesota.

—Dorie Godfrey

Sacred Ground Asian American Learning

One of the outcomes for many of us who took the Sacred Ground course was that it was such an "eye opener" about the history of racism for many different groups. Asian Americans are/were no exception. What did we know about them before we participated in SG? We had some idea that they were involved in the gold rush and the building of the transcontinental railway, but we largely lost track of them in our white dominated unconscious culture after that. One exception was the internment of Japanese Americans during WW II. Without any direct contact with any Asian Americans, we sort of subscribed to the myth that they were all a one culture model minority that had been assimilated into the dominant white culture based on their family values and the emphasis on the education of their youth. How uninformed and oblivious we were!Some of the things we learned from the SG readings and videos were:

•There was a lot of economic anxiety

in the early West that they were a threat to white American workers.

•Their early stereotype was that they were somewhat "weird", and they were thought of as the "yellow peril."



- •They were denied citizenship and, in 1882, Congress passed the first of a series of Chinese Exclusion Acts.
- •From an article we read by Jeff Guo entitled "The Real Reason Why the US Became Less Racist to Asian Americans", there was a "long tradition in the Western world with portraying the 'Orient as unknowable and mysterious."
- When jobs in mining, the railroads and agriculture dried up, Asian Americans

fled to the cities where they were thought to have a thriving vice economy frequently participated in by whites.

- They were restricted to segregated neighborhoods and schools and barred from certain kinds of employment.
- •The last of the racial restrictions to citizenship didn't fall until 1952.
- It is completely wrong to lump all Asian Americans together. There are huge differences between South Asians, East Asians, Chinese, Japanese...

So, what changed:

- During WWII, when China was America's Pacific ally, lawmakers decided to overturn Chinese exclusion as a goodwill gesture to China.
- •At the beginning of the Cold War, American policy makers wanted to improve our image in the world, particularly in the Far East. So, particularly with Japan, Congress overturned the Japanese exclusion laws in 1952.

Continued on page 8

Asian and Pacific Islander Identities and Diversity

The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence uses Asians and Pacific Islanders to include people of Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander ancestry who trace their origins and identities to the countries, states, or jurisdictions and/or the diasporic communities of the following geographic regions:

Central Asia: Afghani, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgians, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek.

East Asia: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Okinawan, Taiwanese, Tibetan.

Hawai'i and Pacific Islands:

Carolinian, Chamorro, Chuukese, Fijian, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Kosraean.

Marshallese, Native Hawaiian, Niuean, Palauan, Papua New Guinean, Pohnpeian, Samoan, Tokelauan.

Tongan, Yapese.

Southeast Asia: Bruneian, Burmese, Cambodian, Filipino (also regarded as Pacific Islanders), Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, Mien, Singaporean, Timorese, Thai, Vietnamese. South Asia: Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Indian, Maldivians, Nepali, Pakistani, Sri Lankan.

West Asia is typically referred to as the Middle East. Geographically, it includes the countries of Bahrain,

Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey (straddles Europe and Asia), United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Source: https://www.apigbv.org/resources/asian-andpacific-islander-identities-anddiversity/

—Dorie Godfrey



Continued from page 7: Sacred Ground Asian American Learning

- •The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act passage led to the immigration of a large number of highly skilled people from Asia and this helped perpetuate the model minority myth.

 So, as a result of our participation in Sacred Ground, where are we now:
- •We realize that we know very
- little of the different cultures of the different home countries of Asian Americans. Our dominant white culture has tended to dump them all together. This is a good thing for us to explore during this year's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month.
- The racism against Asian
 Americans has a long history and, to some extent, it still exists today. We whites have more work to do to understand and appreciate the different ways Asian American cultures enrich our lives.
- —Peter Meleney and Char Owens

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May Meetings

Men's Group meets
Saturday, May 8, 9:30
am. If the weather is
nice, we will probably
meet behind the church.
—Peter Meleney

Women's Group meets Thursday, May 13 and Thursday, May 27, 2:00 pm via Zoom.

—Celeste Stickney



books selected for May: This Land Is Our Land by Suketu Mehta and On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the 20th Century by Tom Snyder. Both are available from the library.

-Peter Meleney



Sewcial Action
Knitworkers continue to work individually at home and are looing forward to re-

suming in-person sessions in June.

-Laura Beebe

"Ageing to Sageing"
Group meets Wednesday,
May 26, 2:00 pm on Zoom.
—Ann Hollister

Join us for **B-I-N-G-O!!**Friday, April 30 and Friday, May 14, 6:00-7:30
pm on Zoom. It's FREE to play and you could win fun prizes!!!

Contact Kristy Brooks for BINGO card delivery on Island.

-Kristy Brooks



This Old Church

Dammit! Now I am a believer. After the recent deluge (16 April 2021 Friday over 2 inches of rain on my gauge in Edgartown.) I had a vision. I would go to the Chapel and look at the new door and see if it is wet. IT IS WET. The prioritization must be moved up to

II (which is kind of exponentially and geometrically much much more than I0, as all us realists know. II may also be the speed of dark.)
So, if I cannot get any interest from Island hackers/ contractors, I will do it myself (if the powers that be agree of

course). Time for another trustees pow wow TBA .

Parenthetically, do I have too many parentheses? In other news, Lucinda has a stained-glass repair person to work on that really bad one. I just must get it out of the wall.

—Norman Stickney, Trustee

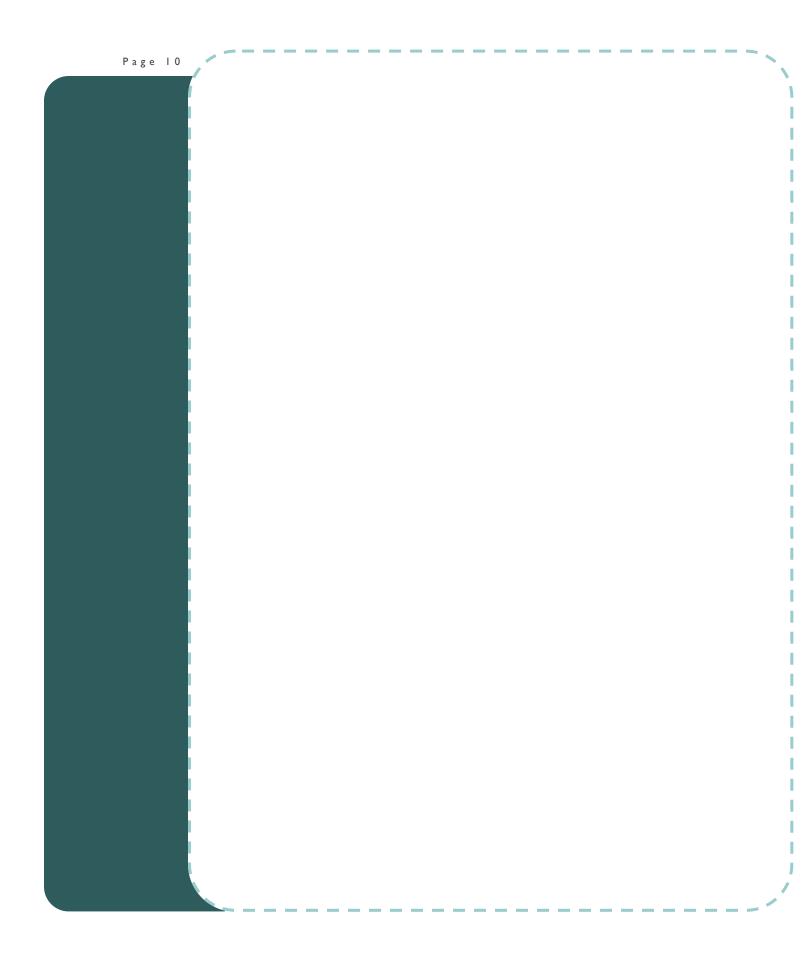
Worship Service Speakers' Bios Continued from page 4

Sam Low, a writer, cultural anthropologist, and documentary filmmaker, will tell the mo'olelo, the story, of how the rediscovery of this ancient science and the achievements of their ancestors has revitalized Polynesian culture.

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.

May Caring Coordinator: Jack Street



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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/94076687362pwd=STN5bVZXd21neEpmaUxTYW5ib0pWdz09
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.

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11:00 am: Beyond Chari- ty: Understanding Vou- dou's Potential to Create Change - Rick Bausman	3:00 pm: Protecting Democra- cy Team Meeting	4 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	5 2:00 pm: Out Back Team Meeting	6	7	8 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting
9 11:00 am: Spirituality of Gratitude and Surrender - Kurt Aschermann	10	9:30 am: Meditation Circle 2:00 pm: Book Club Meeting	12 4:00 pm: Parish Com- mittee Meeting	13 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	14 6:00 pm: B-I-N-G-O	15
16 11:00 am: Listening to Our Own Stories - C.L. Fornari 12:00: Congregational Meeting	17	18 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	19	20	21	10:00 am: Allies for Racial Justice Meeting 6:00 pm: Zoom Dinner and Socializing
23 11:00 am: Sailing in the Wake of Our Ancestors - Sam Low	24	25 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	26 2:00 pm: "Ageing to Sageing" Group Meeting	27 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting	28	29
30 11:00 am: Uncovering Our Memories - Chang- ing Our Stories - Rever- end Vicky Hanjian	31					



Wishing the sunniest birthdays to
Kristine Hopkins on May 6
Rebecca Gilbert on May 10
Reverend Judy Campbell on May 13
Mimi Davisson on May 18
Judy Crawford who will celebrate her 81st on May 23,
and
Doreen Kinsman who will celebrate her 90th!!!!!! On May 28!

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