May 20, 2020

Ministry Team Online

May Theme: Threshold

Prerecorded Worship Services become available every Sunday at 11:00 AM and thereafter on uucsr.org, Facebook, and YouTube. Visit uucsr.org/worship any time for gatherings of music, reflection, and prayer.

Sunday, May 24, 2020, 11:00 AM

Memorial Day Service

Memory and Meaning

On Memorial Day weekend, our thoughts turn to those who spent their lives in service to their country. This weekend we remember them. We remember, too, the many essential workers who keep our country going while risking their own lives. How do we bring meaning to their sacrifices on behalf of those of us who are sheltered on the home front?

This online Service will be led by the Rev. Jaye Brooks, with Rev. Jennifer Brower and Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore. Special music is planned.

Monday, May 25, 2020

Memorial Day Holiday

Shelter Rock’s employees have worked without any routines for over two months. Ministers have worked to reinvent ministry online, and staff members have worked to restructure programming and operations. Schedules have been up-ended, with people working from their dining room tables, basements, guest rooms, and kitchens to respond to the rules of quarantine.

On this Memorial Day weekend, the UUCSR offices are closed, Friday afternoon through Monday. Staff and members are wished much-needed respite from work and stress. May it be so.

Touchstones

The Rev. Jennifer L. Brower

Before March 20, 2020, the day when we began remote congregational life, I had not used Zoom. When it came to this technological marvel, I was the opposite of an “early adopter.” Now, two months later, Zoom has become a meaningful part of my daily life. It is my portal to the world, a primary means by which I serve my ministry and it is the method by which I spend time with friends and family. How quickly I have grown comfortable with, and to rely upon, Zoom! With the advent of COVID-19, my feelings about this technology have been radically altered.

COVID-19 has done that with many aspects of our lives. It has changed, in perhaps surprising ways, how we feel about and view nearly everything.

These days, I hear from members of UUCSR how they, too, have been nudged to change their perspective or functioning or have been pushed to fresh insights in response to the presence of the coronavirus in our world.

This strange and difficult time has led to deep revelation. Folks speak of what they are discerning about their life—their deepest fears and needs.

What are you discovering, I wonder? Others have spoken of what they now understand to be essential to their well-being. One member said she has come to know that she must always have a garden to tend.

What do you need to feel grounded? And still others are celebrating having tackled previously overwhelming challenges—like learning to use all manner of new technologies. Of what are you proud these days?

Like individuals and families, our congregation, too, is in a stage of self-development. What are our fears for our future? What are we discerning about what is essential to our well-being and our identity?

Continued on page 2
What do we need in order to be a thriving, welcoming, spiritually nurturing Unitarian Universalist congregation in the digital world? How do we create community when we cannot gather together and when we are no longer bound by driving distance? While we would not have wished for this experience, of this we can be sure—we have been and will continue to be changed by it. Although those changes may not always be easy or comfortable, I have faith that together we are ready to grow, and I have hope for what will yet be.

Wishing you and yours good health and peace of mind,

Rev. Jennifer

Ministers’ Programs

♦ Mondays, 2:00 PM: Meditation and Poetry, prerecorded by Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore
♦ Tuesdays, 11:00 AM: Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom live with Rev. Jennifer Brower
♦ Wednesday Afternoon and Evening Conversations, 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM: Zoom live with Rev. Jaye Brooks
♦ Thursdays, 11:00 AM: Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom live with Rev. Jennifer Brower
♦ Fridays, 2:00 PM: Meditative Moments, prerecorded by Rev. Jennifer Brower

Giving

UUCSR has a generous practice of sharing special Worship Service collections with a variety of not-for-profit organizations.

During the period of March 29–May 10, 2020, the following donations were made:

- $224 was collected for Save the Children to assist in ensuring that children grow up healthy, learning, and safe in the US and more than 120 countries.
- $4,483 was collected for the Long Island Council of Churches Food Pantry. The Emergency Pantry has served 14,038 neighbors 126,342 meals during the first four months of 2020.

It’s not too late to make a difference! Donate now!

1. Go to the website: uucsr.org/donate
2. Send a text to: 516.210.2528
3. On PayPal give to: donate@uucsr.org

Thank you!

Contemporary Worship
led by Rev. Jennifer L. Brower
with the Cosmic Orchestra

Sunday, May 24, 2020
8:00 PM Facebook Live
at facebook.com/SoulfulSundown
Coffee House chat via Zoom after

Where music resides
at the heart of the religious experience.

Soulful Sundown
Second Fridays monthly beginning June 12
**Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock**

Joan Minieri, Executive Director

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**New York's Taxi Workers Organizing Through Hardship**

New York’s taxi drivers now face a daunting choice each day—stay home and forgo income, or venture out in a pandemic to compete for dwindling numbers of passengers. Beyond the economic consequences, the human toll of this choice has been devastating. Veatch grantee, the NY Taxi Workers Alliance is a 21,000-member union of taxi, green car, app-based, livery and corporate car drivers. They have lost 28 members to the virus, and hundreds more have fallen ill.

Well before this pandemic, New York’s taxi workers were reeling from new taxes and fees, intense competition stoked by app-based services like Uber, the devaluation of medallions from $1 million to $250,000—and tragic suicides by drivers impacted by these mounting pressures. UUCSR members met members of the NY Taxi Workers Alliance on our bus trip two years ago.

The organization has quickly transformed itself into a needed resource hub for members, releasing a comprehensive 24-chapter resource guide for drivers and their families impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The guide includes step-by-step instructions for applying for unemployment insurance, disaster loans, and other needed financial, health, and legal supports.

At the same time, the group’s members, led by Director Bhairavi Desai, continue to fight for policy change. The Alliance is demanding the MTA, which contracted with taxi drivers to supply transport for essential workers, pay drivers living wages and hazard pay. They have also joined forces with other groups to demand a suspension of rents and mortgages, and are fighting companies like Uber, which are holding up unemployment benefits for drivers.

Learn more about this inspiring organization. And be sure to sign up for our e-blasts for more updates on Veatch grantees.

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**UUCSR/NSUUS Trivia Game, Pt. 4**

Answers on page 13 of this Quest

1. Look at the walls—there are probably more than 100 names written all over them! Where are you? Whose names are they?

2. Other than the choir loft, what was located on the second floor at our Plandome church building?

3. I can see nine foxes on the building! Where am I standing and where are the foxes?

4. How many flagpoles do we have at UUCSR? The locations?

5. What is most unusual about the roof over our UUCSR RE wing?

6. What do the letters “TRC” mean at Shelter Rock?

7. Where is Shelter Rock’s Partner Church located?

8. Where can you find two “crows nests” at UUCSR?

9. When we bought the Shelter Rock property, what changes were necessary for our Veatch House to comply with building codes?

10. How far south does our Shelter Rock property extend?

11. Member and former President Bob Sunley wrote a book about our early history that captures the essence of our beginnings as a congregation. What is the title of that book?

12. What important funding role did we play in the history of the UUA’s Beacon Press with a title that made history?

13. Why did the members of our congregation take a 2.1-mile hike?

14. The chalice table in our Worship Room has four hand-carved wooden panels. Who is the very talented woodcarver who carved the panels as a gift to the congregation?

15. Our congregation’s original name was shortened to NSUS; later it was NSUUS. Why was it necessary to add another “U” and when did it happen?

16. Member Events Committee sponsored an entertainment event titled “Showtime” that ran for 20 years; currently, the program is called “Cabaret at the Rock” and has had its 17th-anniversary production. In its 37-year history, only one performer ever stopped the show and merited an encore. Who was the performer and what was the song?
Questions from the Congregational Gathering

On Sunday, May 3, we held the first Congregational Gathering using Zoom webinar technology. At its peak, at least 96 members were connected through electronic devices. In some cases, several members shared a single device, and I am confident that well over 100 members participated at one time or another, with most staying connected until we concluded a little over an hour after we began.

As part of the Gathering, we asked those participating to submit any questions they had. While the format did not lend itself to providing answers in real time (we will try to do better next time), we did commit to trying to provide answers where we could. Approximately 10 members submitted questions, some general in nature and some very specific. The general questions raised some common themes and, with Brian Mueller’s and Adam Barshak’s assistance, I would like to provide a more complete response than would have been possible during the Gathering.

1. Several questions were about the ability to use Zoom technology to conduct a Congregational Meeting where actions are decided because votes are taken.

These questions raise some very serious and difficult issues and concerns that emerge from our own Bylaws, as well as a number of provisions in New York statutory law. Some of you have noted that Governor Cuomo has “waived” various provisions of State Law to enable some entities to hold Zoom meetings. This is true, but not the end of the discussion. Governor Cuomo has temporarily waived provisions of State Law pertaining to for-profit business corporations to enable certain shareholder meetings to be conducted remotely. UUCSR is not a business corporation. Governor Cuomo has also waived certain provisions of the not-for-profit corporation law which would enable not-for-profit corporations with a membership to conduct their annual meeting by Zoom. Although UUCSR is considered a not-for-profit corporation, UUCSR is also governed by New York’s Religious Corporation Law. Governor Cuomo has also waived the requirements contained in the Religious Corporation Law that apply to us and which appear to preclude Zoom meetings and voting for Unitarian Universalist Congregations throughout New York State.

As a result, Brian has written to a number of our elected officials in Albany to ask whether Governor Cuomo can be persuaded to waive the appropriate provisions of the Religious Corporation Law in order, from the perspective of New York law, for UUCSR to conduct its Annual Meeting and vote by Zoom. Although Governor Cuomo lacks any authority to waive the provisions in our Bylaws, if he were to waive the New York State provisions, I believe the Board of Trustees might decide to follow suit based upon the exigent circumstances that we are facing.

Such a solution would be a “one-off” with respect to the State Law issues, at best, only good for this year’s Annual Meeting. But what about the larger issues that are present? What are the values inherent in conducting in-person or physical Congregational meetings, and do the benefits derived from eliminating or modifying that practice outweigh the benefits of its continuation? I can see the strengths and weaknesses of each position. If in-person meetings create barriers to participation, then shouldn’t we try to remove those barriers? On the other hand, if we meet by Zoom, do we not lose the sense of community that we gain by coming together in-person to express our views and our votes? Will Zoom add to a sense of anonymity to our deliberations ultimately leading to Congregational detachment from the important decisions that belong to the Congregation? Ultimately, will Zoom technology lead to more or fewer members participating at Congregational Meetings?

As I have said to many of you, at the end of the day, I don’t know where I come down on these matters. I do know, however, that it is rarely prudent or necessary to rush to judgment before there has been an opportunity for discussion using the processes that we have used to make difficult decisions in the past. And, of course, this issue does not require a binary solution. There are lots of alternatives between 100 percent in-person Congregational meetings and 100 percent Zoom meetings.

To Be Continued...

2. A question was asked about the Veatch Grants that were discussed at the Gathering.

The language of the Veatch Resolution is very clear. Veatch Grants in excess of $75,000 require the prior approval of the Congregation. If the Congregation is unable to hold a meeting at which this issue may be presented prior to June 30, I believe two avenues are available.

Under the terms of the Veatch Resolution, if there are unallocated funds in the Veatch portion of the Budget, the Veatch Board of Governors may elect to ask that the Congregation “carry forward” the unallocated funds (in this case more than $4 million) to the Veatch allocation in next year’s budget, i.e., Fiscal Year 2021. Although a possible path, this way is not my preference.

As an alternative, I believe the underlying facts are sufficient for the Board of Trustees to reasonably conclude that the failure to make the grants in question constitutes an emergency. If an emergency exists, then our Bylaws authorize the Board to exercise its discretion to make the grants in question.

If the Congregation can not meet prior to June 30, I am convinced that the Board of Trustees will select one of these paths.
The third general question related to my proposal to the Board of Trustees to establish a COVID-19 Emergency Fund of not more than $50,000. This Fund would expire on June 30, 2020.

Funding for this Emergency Fund has nothing to do with the COVID-19 Contingency Fund that is included in the Operations and Funding Budget for FY 2021. Under our Bylaws, the Board is prohibited from spending more than $50,000 in any fiscal year without the approval of the Congregation. That means that the Board may spend up to $50,000 in any fiscal year that has not been approved by the Congregation in the Budget or elsewhere. Over the past many years, Boards have used this Board Discretionary Fund for many purposes. I will be requesting that the Board dedicate this year’s available Board Discretionary Fund for making COVID-19 gifts. On July 1, the Board Discretionary Fund for FY 2020 is no longer available and the $118,000 Board COVID-19 Contingency Fund, if approved, may be used.

4. Was the Congregational Gathering recorded and if so, how may it be viewed again?

Unfortunately, as a result of a mix-up with Zoom, the Gathering was not recorded. We hope future Gatherings will be recorded and will be able to be viewed at a subsequent time by any member.

5. What does OCIO mean?

OCIO stands for Outsourced Chief Investment Officer. A decision was made by the Board of Trustees approximately three years ago to work with an outside company to manage our investment portfolio under parameters set by our Investment Committee and approved by the Board. The current OCIO is SEI Investments Company.

6. Can I send a donation via text?

Texting a donation to UUCSR:
- Text the word GIVE to UUCSR at 516.210.2528.
- When using the text feature for the first time, you will receive a link to the UUCSR Donation Form. The link will include the words: “shelfbygiving.church” and clicking on the link will allow you to select the type of donation being made, enter the amount, and credit card or bank account information. Click submit.
- After the first gift, text the dollar amount and one of these keywords: PLEDGE, OFFERING, or GENERAL. (For example: texting the phrase “100 PLEDGE” will process as a $100 pledge contribution using the credit card or ACH account used the first time).

7. As a result of various closures and cancellations this year due to COVID-19, next year’s expenditures for those same items could be higher. Should next year’s budget be adjusted to compensate?

The Budget is only a plan for next year’s spending. It is not carved in stone. However, as others have noted, one can discern an organization’s values by examining its budget. We believe the proposed budget and the manner in which we handle its implementation provide sufficient flexibility to address the very real and understandable concerns that we may need to “double up” some expenditures next year because we did not make the expenditure this Spring.

Until next time, stay tuned and be safe.

Mark
Comments, questions or concerns may be sent to president@uucsr.org.

Emergency Funding Announcement

You can make a difference!

The Board of Trustees has created a COVID-19 Emergency Funding Program to make up to 10 awards, of $5,000 each, by June 30. This money will be given to local organizations that share our values and have demonstrated their commitment to them by providing support and assistance to those suffering tremendously as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In establishing this Program, the Board seeks to honor and recognize the work that has been done, and that it expects will continue.

The first step in this process is for members to suggest organizations that they believe should receive an award. Suggestions should be sent to Tammy Weil at tweil@uucsr.org, no later than Friday, May 29. The Board expects to make final decisions at its June meetings.

Please consider what organizations you think deserve funding. If you have any questions, please reach out to Barry Nobel, Jana North, or Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore. Thank you.

Mark Hartman
President
Supporting Our Partner Church

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the George Kesner Memorial Book Exchange Fund by making purchases of books and DVDs from the George Kesner Memorial Book Exchange. Book Exchange sales are the primary fundraising vehicle for Shelter Rock’s Partner Church, the Unitarian Church, located in Csikszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), Transylvania, in Romania. Books and DVDs for sale in the Book Exchange are donated by members and friends of the congregation.

Book and DVD sales recently amounted to $1,700 which was sent to the Unitarian Church, to the Rev. Alpar Solymosi. Elena Litescu, the Denominational Affairs Committee Partner Church Liaison, says that Rev. Solymosi explained that these funds will be used for the recent restorations to the church and to help partially cover the outstanding balance associated with the restoration and installation of church pews, a project that was completed last summer.

Register for Virtual General Assembly: June 24–28, 2020

REGISTER NOW for the first-ever, totally Virtual General Assembly (VGA) at: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants. Experience the thrill of VGA—worship, workshops, speakers, and more—from the comfort of your home, via your computer. The Registration Fee is $150 per person. For more information about VGA, go to https://www.uua.org/ga.
Soulful Songs & Stories

Soulful Song Lovers & Story Tellers

The idea behind Soulful Songs and Stories is that a song speaks to us and we speak to the song—and each other—about what we know best: ourselves and our experience.

Until we meet again, we're still offering a song, but with other people’s stories in the hope that they may encourage us to further share our own stories, and to put them in a new light.

The PDF, to be posted and emailed Friday, May 22, is about laughter; the subject the following week is sowing seeds and letting go of expectations. We also suggest additional music to chase away the COVID-19 blues and to ease your trouble in mind.

Get the PDF on the webpage, www.j.mp/uucsr-sss, or have it emailed to you by registering with Jessica Pond, jpond@uucsr.org.

Namasté,

Alice Giordano and Steve Marston
Social Justice Committee
Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator

It’s Time to Get Ready to Vote

In this time of COVID-19, the thought of going to the polls to vote can literally bring on an anxiety attack. But here in New York, we will be able to cast our votes via absentee ballots, no questions asked.

On April 9, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order stating that every New York State registered voter could vote absentee in any election on or before June 23, the date of NYS’s primary.

While there will be open polling places, many will prefer the safety of an absentee ballot. Here’s a time-line of how it will work.

Saturday, May 23
By this date, registered voters should have received an application in the mail to request an absentee ballot. If you didn’t receive the application with a postage-paid return option, check your voter registration or contact your local Board of Elections. When you complete your application, check “temporary illness or physical disability” as the reason you are requesting an absentee ballot. Note: If you do not have a local or primary election in your district, you will not receive a ballot application.

Friday, May 29
If you need to register to vote or change the address on your registration, you must do that by May 29. Those with an ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles can do this online. You can also request that a form be mailed to you or by calling your local Board of Elections.

Tuesday, June 16
In order to receive your absentee ballot in time for the election, your ballot application must be postmarked or faxed or emailed by June 16.

Monday, June 22
You must submit your absentee ballot no later than June 22. Voting has never been more important than it is now, and in New York State, it has never been easier for everyone.

Social Justice Announcements

For further information about any of these announcements, please contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at cderoche@uucsr.org or 516.472.2977.

Thursday, May 21
“The Other Slavery: The Enslavement of Indigenous Peoples in America,” 3:00 PM, via Zoom. This is the 4th session of Freedom School in which WinterFlower Robinson will present a history that is little known or taught in school. To join the Zoom program, go to https://zoom.us/j/96522197214 or dial +1 646 558 8656. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force. See display ad on following page.

Saturday, March 23
Together to End Solitary Confinement, 6:30 PM. Join us for this monthly remembrance of those suffering the torture of solitary confinement. Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/97381786008, or dial +1 646 558 8656.

Thursday, May 28
“The Eighth Principle: A Pathway to the Beloved Community,” 3:00 PM, via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/92472857125, or join via phone: +1 646 558 8656. The Eighth Principle is an effort to highlight our commitment to building “a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” Paula Cole Jones, Interim Central Region Staff, who has an extensive background in multicultural community and dismantling systems of oppression, will join us to help us understand this principle and why we need it. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force. See display ad on following page.

Monday, June 1
Mental Health Subcommittee Zoom Meeting, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, June 3
Racial Justice Task Force Zoom Meeting, 3:00 PM

Outreach to Those in Need
The Solidarity Fund: Since the COVID-19 crisis began, LI Jobs with Justice Solidarity Fund has distributed $16,600 to 145 immigrant families who lost their incomes and another $2,250 to community food pantries. One-hundred percent of contributions go directly to a family in need. For most hard-working, unemployed immigrants, there will be NO help EXCEPT from private sources like the Long Island Jobs with Justice Solidarity Fund. Undocumented immigrants make up 90 percent of the people they have helped. To make a donation go to https://longislandjwj.org/donate/solidarity-fund/

You may also mail a check to:
LI Jobs with Justice
Solidarity Fund
390 Rabro Drive
Hauppauge, NY 11788

The Quest
FREEDOM SCHOOL
Examining Slavery and its Consequences for the 21st Century

SESSION IV

The Other Slavery: Indigenous Enslavement in America
Thursday, May 21, 2020
Virtual Program • 3:00 PM

Led by WinterFlower Robinson

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://zoom.us/j/96522197214

Dial by your location:
+1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 965 2219 7214

Racial Justice Task Force of The Social Justice Committee

The Eighth Principle:
A Pathway to the Beloved Community

Thursday, May 28, 2020 | 3:00 PM

Paula Cole Jones, Guest Speaker

Join members of the Racial Justice Task Force and guest speaker, Paula Cole Jones to explore the possibility of adopting the Eighth Principle:

We, the member 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.

Could the adoption and practice of this Eighth Principle put us on the path to the radical fullness of our Unitarian Universalist faith? We hope you’ll join us for this important conversation.

To join via Zoom, go to: https://zoom.us/j/92472857125
To join via phone, dial +1 646 558 8656
MILESTONES

**We share the sad news...** of the death of UUCSR member Edward de Sciora. Edward died on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, with his family by his side. He was 92 years of age. Edward is survived by his wife Susan, children Edward (Petra), Peter (Alana), Christine Paquette (Thomas), and grandchildren Edward, Julia, Emily, Harper, and James. A private family interment was held. Future memorial plans will be announced at a later time. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

*The de Sciora Family*
1 Green Hays
*Port Washington, NY 11050*

**We share the sad news...** of the death of UUCSR member Irene Craft. Irene died peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. She was 94 years of age. Irene is survived by her son Michael Craft (Cindy), daughter Patricia Pfaff (Christian), grandchildren Karen and Nicole, and several great grandchildren. Memorial plans will be announced at a later time. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

*The Craft Family*
214 South Centre Ave
*Rockville Centre, NY 11570*

**We mourn with...** UUCSR members Betty and Alan Gold as they grieve the death of their son, Karl Gold. Karl died of a heart attack on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. He was 44 years of age. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Lizzy Gold. A memorial will be planned for a future date. Cards may be sent to:

*Alan and Betty Gold*
13915 83rd Ave, Apt 623
*Briarwood, NY 11435-1523*

**We mourn with...** Marilyn Fischell as she grieves the death of her aunt, Ethel Schwebel. Ethel died on May 6, 2020. She was 100 years of age. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

*Marilyn Fischell*
11 Welwyn Rd, Apt 2A
*Great Neck, NY 11021-3519*

**We mourn with...** Susan and Marc Solomon, and their daughters Rachel and Sarah, as they grieve the death of Susan’s mother, Mary Danatos Christie. Mary died on May 3, 2020 from complications related to COVID-19. She was 92 years of age. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

*The Solomon Family*
33 Frances Ln
*Massapequa Park, NY 11762-3717*

**We celebrate with...** Rhonda Kessler and her partner Bill Moerck as Rhonda’s daughter Julie Dana Kessler weds Matthew Spencer Gold on Saturday, May 23, 2020. The couple will be married at their home in Denver, CO, and Rhonda and Bill will enjoy the celebration virtually. Another celebration will be held when it is safe for all to attend.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE
*Bill Carmody, Chair*

UUCSR Worship Services

**Broadcast on Public Access Television**

**Tuesdays | 3:00 PM**

**Saturdays | 9:00 PM**

**Sundays | 9:00 PM**

If you know of anyone interested in viewing UUCSR Worship Services, especially those without internet access, please share this broadcast information.

NSTV (formally known as PATV) is the community media station on:

**Channel 20** (Altice) and **Channel 37** (Verizon)

in the incorporated villages of Great Neck/North Shore:

North Shore TV-Long Island (NSTV) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization providing services to their communities and to other not-for-profit organizations serving their communities.
The UUCSR Board has approved a COVID-19 emergency fund of $50,000 to be used by June 30, 2020. Members of the Congregation are asked to identify possible beneficiaries and provide those names to Tammy Weil at tweil@uucsr.org by May 29, 2020. Separately, as part of next year’s budget, there is a COVID-19 contingency fund of approximately $120,000, for which the board will later discuss criteria.

Additionally, several advertisements have been placed in local press (Newsday, Blank Slate Media, The Island Now) to thank first responders, healthcare workers, and employees of essential services.

Please take a moment to light a candle of appreciation by clicking on the advertisement below. Feel welcome to share the site, and to visit often. There is much for which we are ALL grateful!

COVID-19 Response
Mark Hartman, President of the Congregation

Thank You
Essential Workers
Heroes

Light a Virtual Candle

uucsr.org/lightacandle

Light a candle of hope, thanks, honor or in memoriam.
Your candles are free and remain lit for 48 hours.
All are welcome.
leaders of the world on the editorial page of the New York Times: “In a Crisis, True Leaders Stand Out.” It made me smile.

The newspaper recognized Mettee Federiksen of Denmark, Angela Merkel of Germany, and Jacinda Anders of New Zealand. They were recognized for their leadership during this pandemic. They demonstrated resolve, courage, empathy, respect for science, and decency. Combining male and female traits, they performed what Professor Joan Williams, called “gender judo.”

The first woman to receive the attention in the editorial was Jacinda Anders. At 38 years of age, she became one of the few world leaders to give birth in office. After mass shootings in her country, Jacinda Anders acted within days, banning military style semiautomatic weapons. When New Zealand had only 52 cases of the coronavirus, she detailed guidelines the government would follow. She demonstrated strength and compassion when she said, “Please be strong, be kind and united against COVID-19.” Then she joined with the prime minister of Australia to practically eliminate the virus from their nations.

In Germany, Angela Merkel acted early and calmly. She quickly got testing underway at a far higher rate than other countries. As she is a scientist, Ms. Merkel was credible with her people. She showed her concern and humanity by telling them, “Take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.” There were relatively low mortality rates in Germany.

Traditional male or female traits have not always helped women succeed. I can remember when women were told to “act like men” in order to get ahead. They worked on being authoritative and decisive. Then they were told they were too aggressive. When they exhibited more feminine qualities like niceness, nurturing, and warmth, they were seen as pushovers, not to be taken seriously. A body of research by a Harvard Business School professor, Amy Cuddy, found that successful women leaders combine both characteristics performing “gender judo.”

The women cited in the New York Times have demonstrated both sets of qualities with great impact. They took quick and bold action. They demonstrated respect for science, transparent messaging, constant updating of evidence, and prompt assurance of financial support. The empathy and concern for their people were loud and clear. They were tough and graceful. All are better for it.

In 1976, the Toxic Substance Control Act was established to protect us from thousands of chemicals found in everyday products. One group of chemicals is PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances). They have been linked to cancers and used in common items: makeup, paint, floss, nonstick cookware, food packing, like wrappers and takeaway containers, outdoor durable water repellent clothing, stain resistant carpets, furniture, rugs and firefighting foam. In 2016, reforms were enacted that applied only to new, untested chemicals; the restrictions and regulations on products already in use were dismissed. This lax framework for rules is being challenged by Earthjustice, an environmental organization, by suing the EPA in the courts.

Another chemical that is putting consumers and workers at risk is chlorpyrifos. It is an agricultural pesticide that causes brain damage. Again, Earthjustice is litigating in the courts on the grounds of health, civil rights, and labor organization. Many states are partnering with them, or are litigating by themselves. Other groups that are impacted by chemical hazards at their jobs, such as firefighters, are fighting back because of their cancer rates. They show how workers and consumers are put in harm’s way because of lax laws permitted to the chemical industry.

Our bedrock environmental laws are being smashed. The Clean Air and Clean Water Act is being rolled back as protections are loosened. The EPA is permitting pollution of our air and water which contributes to the cancerous and unhealthy conditions that follow. We, consumers, must try to prevent destruction of these protections. We should be fighting for protections and holding complicit chemical companies and other similar industries. We need to have public access for transparency of environmental information available, and engage in decision-making that will save our lives, communities, and the environment.

Elaine Peters for the Green Sanctuary Committee
Neighbor Helping Neighbor

We are blessed to live at Hadley House. Reaching out to one another, we are weathering the coronavirus storm, all things considered. We are sheltering in place, keeping social distance, and self-quarantining. Many among us have found new ways to connect and support one another and the larger community.

Barbara Singer and Cathi Zillmann, our Residents’ Association Co-Chairs, have been remarkable in their generous efforts to keep in touch and lift spirits. They have supplemented the Weekly Blast with daily Neighbor Notes slipped under each door relating updates of activities available, cogent observations about the experience we all feel, and providing humor and uplift with amusing jokes and riddles. Thank you, Barbara and Cathi!

Our Hadley House Caring Circle, Roz Levinson, Fran Verplank, Nancy Keegan, Cathi Zillmann, and Katherine Miller, have been regularly reaching out to more isolated residents here. And UUCSR has been making contacts with us regularly, as well. Thank you all.

Jim Smith initiated a weekly collection of food and money for Littig House Community Center, which is part of a low-income housing development in Port Washington. So far he has raised over $1,400 and a lot of food donations. Go Jim!

Every night at 7:00 PM, we gather in the parking lot to honor our front line heroes, by clanging pots and pan, drums and chimes. Lilyan Strassman writes, “It’s thrilling to see people on their balconies, joining and making us feel like a community again.”

Lilyan continues her Meditation and Zen Walk program weekly in our garden. She takes us to greater calm in the midst of chaos. Other programs have returned again, albeit online: YoFit with Mirea Ellis, and Qi Gong with Ashley Baldwin, all the way from Chang Mai. Many of us have become prodigious “Zoomers.”

Nancy Jacobson has been volunteering with Project Independence as a telephone visitor to seniors in the Town of North Hempstead. More volunteers are needed, so call 311 to offer your service. Nancy has also been busy sewing masks using Cathi Zillmann’s sewing machine. Nancy reports, “It gives me comfort to be helping others and have a creative outlet.”

Building Manager Adrian Mesareja keeps the building spotless and sanitized, and Social Worker Susan Bagnini has been tireless in her support and assistance. So many wonderful people create a caring home for all of us. We wish you all well in the weeks ahead.

Jerry Jalazo relates, “I have been social distancing since I was five years old, when my Mother said, ‘Don’t talk to strangers, and BE QUIET!’”

Hadley House Residents’ Association Quest Committee: Nancy Jacobson, Jerry Jalazo, Barbara Singer, Lilyan Strassman
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020
Green Sanctuary Committee Zoom Meeting, 7:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Conversations, Zoom, 8:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Freedom School - The Other Slavery: The Enslavement of Indigenous Peoples in America, Zoom, 3:00 PM, see page 9
Thursday Meditations, Zoom, 5:00 PM
Choir Gathering, Zoom, 7:30 PM
RE Community Check-In, Zoom, 8:00 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Meditative Moment, 2:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
LGBTQ+ Zoom Meeting, 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020
Together to End Solitary Confinement, Zoom, 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020
Sunday Worship, 11:00 AM
Virtual Coffee Hour, 12:00 PM
Children’s Worship, 1:00 PM
Soulful Sundown Contemporary Worship, 8:00 PM, Facebook Live on Soulful Sundown at Shelter Rock UU FB Page

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
Medical Qigong for Senior Health Online Classes, 9:30 AM
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Meditation and Poetry, 2:00 PM

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020
Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Wednesday Afternoon Conversations, Zoom, 2:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
Small Group Ministry Second Wednesday PM Meeting, Zoom, 7:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Conversations, Zoom, 8:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
The Eighth Principle: A Pathway to the Beloved Community with guest speaker Paula Cole Jones, Zoom, 3:00 PM, see page 9
Thursday Meditations, Zoom, 5:00 PM
Shelter Rock Forum, Zoom, 6:00 PM
Choir Gathering, Zoom, 7:30 PM
RE Community Check-In, Zoom, 8:00 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Women’s Group Board Zoom Luncheon Meeting, Zoom, 12:30 PM
Meditative Moment, 2:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
LGBTQ+ Zoom Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020
Sunday Worship, 11:00 AM
Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom, 12:00 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020
Medical Qigong for Senior Health, 11:00 AM
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Meditation and Poetry, 2:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
BOT Agenda Planning Meeting, Zoom, 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020
Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together, Zoom, 11:00 AM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Choir Gathering, Zoom, 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Meditative Moment, 2:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
LGBTQ+ Zoom Meeting, 7:00 PM
RE Volunteer Appreciation Cocktail Hour, Zoom, 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020
Caring Committee Meeting, Zoom, 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020
Sunday Worship, 11:00 AM
Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Talent Show for All Ages, Zoom, 1:00 PM, see page 7
Small Group Ministry First Sunday, Zoom, 1:15 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020
Medical Qigong for Senior Health, 11:00 AM
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
Meditation and Poetry, 2:00 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020
Introducing Keith Fiveson and the Center for Wellbeing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Adult Programs Committee Meeting, Zoom, 5:00 PM
Veatch BOG June Grants Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020
CRAFTING FOR SANITY AND COMMUNITY ZOOM GET-TOGETHER, ZOOM, 11:00 AM
Wednesday Afternoon Conversations, Zoom, 2:00 PM
Social Justice Committee Meeting, Zoom, 3:00 PM

Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Conversations, Zoom, 8:00 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Board of Trustees Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 PM
Choir Gathering, Zoom, 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM
SGM Third Friday Hadley House Meeting, Zoom, 1:30 PM
Bedtime Story, Zoom, 7:00 PM
LGBTQ+ Zoom Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020
Sunday Worship, 11:00 AM
Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom, 12:00 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020
Medical Qigong for Senior Health, 11:00 AM
Great Books Poetry, Zoom, 12:00 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020
Living Alone During Social Distancing, Zoom, 11:00 AM
Committee on Ministry Meeting, Zoom, 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020
Virtual General Assembly, Day 1 of 5, Zoom, Registration required: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants
Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together, Zoom, 11:00 AM

The Quest is published twice a month, except once each in July and August. Copies are available at the Welcome Desk in the UUCSR Main Lobby, at https://uucsr.org/on-demand/quest-newsletter, and via email. Sign up for email at https://uucsr.org/on-demand.

The Quest Mission is to connect readers to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, to Unitarian Universalism, and to each other.

The Quest is produced by staff members Jennifer Sappell and Linda McCarthy, with the invaluable assistance of volunteers: Claire Z. Bock, Maxine Dangler, Steve Marston, and Jessica K. Vega.
Next Quest: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 | Deadline for Content: Thursday, May 28, 2020

**Virtual Bedtime Stories**

**Mondays • Wednesdays • Fridays**

7:00 PM via Zoom

(see page 7)

No Bedtime Story Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

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**Classics Week**

- **Wednesday, May 20**
  - *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* by Beatrix Potter

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**Heroic Animals Week**

- **Wednesday, May 27**
  - *The Bravest Cat* by Dr. Seuss
  - *Horton Hears a Who!* by Dr. Seuss

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(see page 7)