



The Quest

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK

We aspire to be a loving, religious community where we can grow spiritually and build a more just and joyful world. —UUCSR Vision Statement

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

[See the Program and
Event List Here](#)

September 9, 2020

9/11 MEMORIAL *The Manhasset Clergy Association*

In remembrance of the lives lost on September 11, 2001, the Manhasset Clergy Association asks that people lay flowers at the flagpole in Mary Jane Davies Park on Plandome Road. In placing flowers, we will honor the almost 3,000 who died, as well those who sustained injuries and suffering related to that day. By placing flowers, we will continue our promise to Never Forget.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020, 8:00 PM *The Rev. Jennifer L. Brower*

Soulful Sundown returns LIVE with the Cosmic Orchestra to kick-off the beginning of our reimagined congregational year. “Soulful Sundown: Where music lies at the heart of the religious experience.” *

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020, 11:00 AM *The Rev. Fred Wooten, Guest Minister*

Waking Up From the American Dream If we wonder why religion and politics so often collide it is because they both arise from deeply held beliefs about what life should be about. In this most turbulent of political seasons, there is a role religion and UUism can play—and should!—that is sorely missing. Guest Minister Rev. Fred Wooten will consider that role throughout the Service.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020, 11:00 AM *The Rev. Jaye Brooks*

Home Is Where the Heart Is The pandemic has changed how we do most things. For the safety of our members and public health, our worship services are online. In pre-pandemic years, today would be our Homecoming Service, with warm hugs as we greet one another and a picnic lunch to follow. It’s sad that we won’t meet in person today. But since the pandemic started we’ve learned something about who we are as a congregation and the home-of-the-spirit we create for one another even though we must gather as an online community. Join the Ministry Team this morning for a celebration of our Shelter Rock home, the community we’ve been strengthening since March, and the love that’s at the heart of it all.*

*UUCSR Worship Services are broadcast LIVE on uucsr.org/worship, on Facebook, and YouTube. Available thereafter on the same platforms on demand.

The Quest

TOUCHSTONES *The UUCSR Ministry Team*

We made it to the end of summer—a summer like none other for us—challenging and uncertain. A summer of pandemic was last seen nearly 100 years ago—so distant that almost no humans alive today can remember it. So distant that we have largely forgotten its lessons and are having to build anew a way forward while in the midst of our pandemic time.

As the Earth turns toward autumn and we turn toward a new congregational year—we can choose to look forward in these ways:

Allow Grieving

Yes, there is a need to grieve the many losses of this year. We are forced to be physically distant from one another. Our familiar and comforting rituals of gathering and celebration and mourning have been disrupted. Some have been ill, some have died, some have lost livelihoods, some have been traumatized. We should not ignore these events and the feelings associated with them. We will build new ritual for these times.

Embrace Joy

Even as we grieve what is painful and mourn what is lost, we can embrace life’s joys. Life is always a mix of ups and downs. There is still great pleasure and happiness present. There is still beauty and love and many possibilities.

Build Resilience

Resilience is the ability to recover from difficulties and setbacks—it is form of toughness. We can get back up after being knocked down. We do not have to be overtaken or overwhelmed or drained by trauma. We can experience “post-traumatic growth”—not to dismiss or minimize the negative but to build resources to deepen the psychological and spiritual sense of meaning that may be found in face of trauma.

Welcome Change

Our community of faith has learned some good lessons during lockdown. We have learned that we can change and grow and remain true to the mission of our congregation. Welcoming zoom came to mean, for some, finding a more accessible community. We welcomed meeting in new ways, including people in new ways—what changes do we want to keep going forward?

Autumn is traditionally our Homecoming time at UUCSR.

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TOUCHSTONES

Continued from page 1

We gather together from summer fun and travel. There was, of course, less of that this year but we will still gather (in careful ways) to renew the life of our congregation. Unitarian Universalism is our Living Tradition—and Shelter Rock is a living and loving community.

The UUCSR Ministry Team,
Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, Rev. Jennifer Brower, Rev. Jaye Brooks

UUCSR PHASE III SERVICES

Worship Services

The Ministry Team will continue to lead recorded Worship Services, available on the UUCSR website and YouTube each Sunday throughout 2020. We presently do not anticipate in-person, indoor Worship Services in 2020. We are planning for the possibility of onsite outdoor Worship Services this fall; it is dependent on health conditions and community concerns. Any onsite outdoor service would be available for viewing at home.

Weddings and Memorial Services

We will hold outdoor Rites of Passage Services with limited attendance. Those wishing to schedule a Service should contact Assistant to the Ministers Kimberly Rossiter (krossiter@uucsr.org or 516.472.2941).

Pastoral Care

The ministers continue to provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance. To schedule an appointment please contact Assistant to the Ministers Kimberly Rossiter (krossiter@uucsr.org or 516.472.2941).

NEWCOMERS



Sundays • 10:40-11:00 AM via Zoom

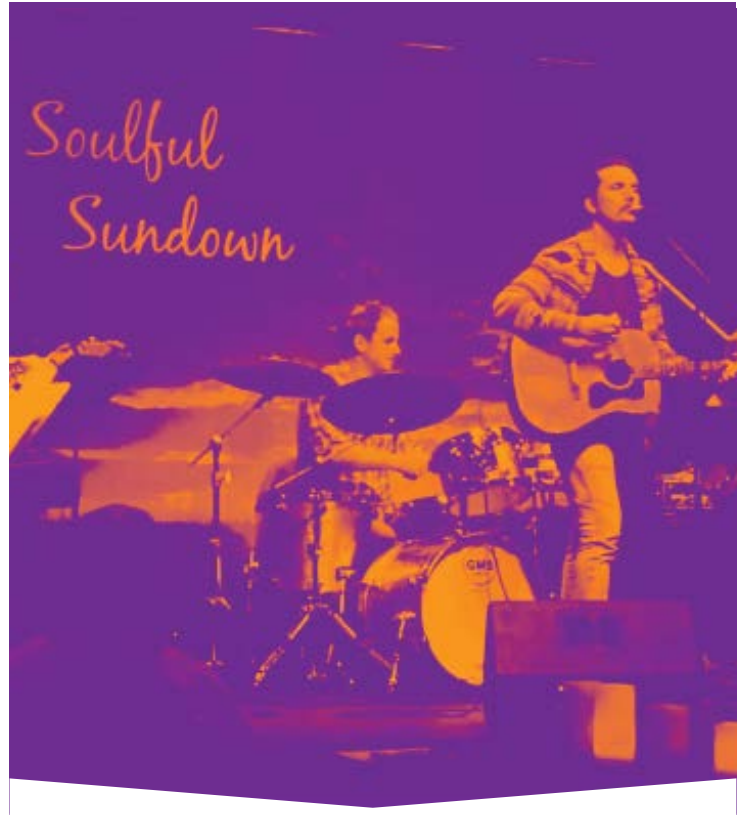
Are you new to Shelter Rock? Stop by our Welcome Space before our Sunday Services to say hi and ask questions. We look forward to meeting you!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91154123346>

PHOTOS WANTED

The Ministry Team asks UUCSR members and friends to send in photos/video of themselves or children/grandchildren lighting a chalice at home (or a candle in a cup). We hope to find a way to share these photos with our Shelter Rock community. Send to ministryteam@uucsr.org. Thank you.

SOULFUL SUNDOWN



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

Friday, September 11, 2020

8:00 PM • LIVE

at uucsr.org/worship

facebook.com/SoulfulSundown

**Where music resides
at the heart of the
religious experience**

Soulful Sundown
Second Fridays monthly

WELCOME STUDENT MINISTER!



The Ministry Team is happy to introduce our Student Minister, Alia Shinbrough (they/them), who started September 1. Some of you may have already met Alia at the September 6 Virtual Coffee Hour. Your ministers look forward to a year of mutual learning and meaningful engagement with Alia.

Alia has told us that they are excited to be joining the UUCSR community as Student Minister for this most unusual year. A recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Alia is a life-long Unitarian Universalist. They grew up in New Jersey and received their undergraduate education at Sarah Lawrence College, where they studied writing, art, and history. Their passions for social justice and community building have led them to pursue a life of service through ministry.

Outside of congregational life, they can often be found reading science fiction, keeping up-to-date on current events, connecting with friends and family, dreaming of a more just world, and spending time in the great outdoors. Feel free to get in touch with Alia at their temporary address: ministerialintern@uucsr.org. They can't wait to get to know you!

MINISTERS' PROGRAMS

- ♦ Mondays, 2:00 PM: [Meditation and Poetry](#), presented by Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore
- ♦ Tuesdays, 11:00 AM: [Living Alone During Social Distancing](#), Zoom live with Rev. Jennifer Brower
- ♦ Wednesday, 2:00 PM: [Messages](#), presented by Rev. Jaye Brooks
- ♦ [Wednesday Afternoon Conversations](#), 2:00 PM: Zoom live presented by Rev. Jaye Brooks
- ♦ Thursdays, 11:00 AM: [Living Alone During Social Distancing](#), Zoom live with Rev. Jennifer Brower
- ♦ Fridays, 2:00 PM: [Meditative Moments](#), presented by Rev. Jennifer Brower
- ♦ Second Friday evenings monthly, 8:00 PM: [Soulful Sundown](#) led by Rev. Jennifer Brower with The Cosmic Orchestra

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mark Hartman, President Board of Trustees

COVID-19 Contingency Fund Task Force

At its meeting in August, the Board of Trustees created a COVID-19 Contingency Fund Task Force for the purpose of recommending to the Board of Trustees appropriate organizations to receive the almost \$120,000 that has been allocated by the Congregation for this purpose.

The Board appointed the following to serve on this Task Force:

Terry Bain
Farah Chandu
Diane Cohen
Jim Smith
Rick Van Dyke
Jessica Vega
Heidi Warm

The Board is hoping that the Task Force will be able to present its recommendations to the Board in October.

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to all members who volunteered to serve or who nominated others to serve on this Task Force.

Mark Hartman	Jana North	Toni Logue	Brian Muellers
President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (DAC)

Richard Bock, Chair

For the past six months, representatives from the [International Council of Unitarians and Universalists \(ICUU\)](#) and the [Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council \(UUPCC\)](#) have been exploring whether and how our organizations might work in a more collaborative and sustainable way. During this time, the team explored and assessed both organizations, their missions and visions.

The unanimous conclusion of the team was the need for a new single organization that would more effectively take forward the shared values of ICUU and UUPCC.

The draft report of this work was shared with the Boards of both organizations. Each group discussed and made edits and now recommends this final report to our members. This information is now available on the UUPCC website under ["Who We Are."](#) To view a PDF of the report click ["A New Vision."](#)

On Tuesday, September 15, you are invited to join one or both of two Zoom meeting opportunities for a presentation and discussion of "A New Vision." Learn more and get the Zoom links for the September 15 meetings in a [letter from Rev. Fred Muir here](#): Questions? Please contact Trina at trina@uupcc.org.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST VEATCH PROGRAM AT SHELTER ROCK

Joan Minieri, Executive Director



How Veatch Grantees Are Doing

As I interact with congregation members, supporters of Veatch, allies, and others, there is one question they ask more than any other: How are the grantees doing? It may be an obvious question to ask these days, but it's also an important one—and the answer, in fact, is complicated.

Let's start here: our grantees have been hit hard. The multiple crises we face are impacting the communities our grantees serve most severely. Veatch grantees are primarily membership-led organizations, and they have lost many people they love and fight alongside to COVID-19. They are, for example, farmworkers and taxi drivers without the luxury of sheltering in place; Walmart and Amazon workers without health insurance; women of color incarcerated for minor offenses who can't make bail; and communities on the front lines of climate change. Our grantees organizing in Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities in Minnesota, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and so many other places, have continued to suffer from tragic and repeated instances of racism and state violence. The inability of national policymakers to alleviate the suffering caused by historic levels of unemployment and stress on small businesses has left many of our grantees, from here in New York to California, with members who are unemployed and unable to access basic services.

At the same time, Veatch grantees are leading with their resilience and lifting up their vision for a more just and joyful world. As they mourn, they organize. They are fighting to thrive, not just to survive.

In a virtual conference earlier today, I watched and listened to an amazing organizer in Alabama detail for a group of funders her organization's strategy for change. She managed to do this while deftly comforting, then bouncing her contented toddler on her knee. It was a wonderful image of power and possibility that reminded all of us of what this work is really all about.

Many Veatch grantees, from [Down Home North Carolina](#) to [Make the Road NY](#) pivoted their work at the onset of the coronavirus to transform themselves into temporary, life-saving hubs of mutual aid. Grantees like the [Movement for Black Lives](#) and the [Texas Organizing Project](#) have also been on the ground in cities and towns across the country—lending the weight of their many years of organizing experience to the uprisings against racial injustice. Grantees are recognizing the historic opportunity presented

by these crises to push through meaningful and long overdue reforms at every level of government.

They are helping demonstrate how progressive organizations can continue to push for inclusive democracy and equity—even in the face of hate and authoritarianism. In Portland, Oregon, the [Western States Center](#)—a Veatch grantee working to strengthen inclusive democracy in the Western United States—is keenly aware that all eyes are on the city, gauging its response to the far-right violence and protests currently gripping its local communities. As the group's director, Eric Ward, wrote in an update recently, the group is pushing city officials to lock arms “with community leaders, local businesses, and everyday citizens to come together and reject hate...we can come together as a city to safeguard inclusive democracy and the rights and safety of all Portlanders, while creating a blueprint for the rest of the country.” Read an op-ed Eric wrote recently on the subject [here](#).

The ways in which we support this work—through flexible, general support grants throughout the U.S. and to core denominational entities—is truly making a difference at this critical, historic moment. I hope you can take a second to read our most recent [Veatch Update newsletter](#), in which we feature grantees who have been in the national news. Our over 180 grantees across the country are speaking out. They are shaping the better world that the toddler I met today on Zoom deserves and needs—and that we know is possible.



Members of Down Home North Carolina, pictured at a pre-pandemic action, leading the statewide fight for healthcare for all.

The Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock provides support for efforts within the religious and spiritual mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock where their purposes are best served by outside agencies acting under the Veatch Program and the Congregation.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator



Slavery on Long Island

Last winter when the Social Justice Racial Justice Task Force presented “Freedom School, A Study of the Long-Term Effects of Slavery,” we discovered that slavery was not confined to the South. In fact, in the 17th century, according to [Dr. Barbara Rippel](#), professor emerita at Suffolk County Community College, “when Long Island was first settled, there were almost

2,000 slaves in New York, which was greater than the number of slaves in all of the New England states combined. During that time, half of the slaves in New York were on Long Island.”

During Freedom School, we took a virtual tour of the Raynham Hall Museum, one Long Island location where enslaved people lived. Located in Oyster Bay, the museum preserves the 300-year-old Townsend family home. (It was renamed Raynham Hall in the 1850s.) The property was purchased in 1740 by Samuel Townsend who developed a thriving shipping business and general store. Over the years the Townsends owned many enslaved African men, women, and children. Our tour guide showed us their names, listed in the opening pages of the family Bible.

In researching slavery on Long Island, I also came across the [Jupiter Hammon Project](#), sponsored by Preservation Long Island. On August 15, I participated in the first of three roundtables, “Long Island in the Black Atlantic World,” sponsored by the project. Jupiter Hammon (1711–ca. 1806) was an African man born to Rose and Obium at the Joseph Lloyd Manor on Long Island. Although enslaved, Jupiter had the good fortune to be educated alongside his owner’s children. This early education served him well because he had a talent for writing and poetry. He began publishing his writings in 1760, and in 2017, a new edition of his collected works was released. He is especially remembered for “An Address to the Negroes in the State of New-York and An Essay on Slavery,” published between 1786 and 1787, and is the first African American poet to be published in the United States.

The roundtable featured scholars of American history including Dr. Craig Wilder (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Dr. Jennifer L. Anderson (SUNY Stony Brook), and Dr. Nicole Maskiell (University of South Carolina). They helped us understand “[Long Island’s](#) central role in an Atlantic economy dependent upon the enslavement of peoples of African descent, as well as identity, agency, and connection among the region’s free and enslaved communities.” The conversation expanded my understanding of slavery as a Northern as well as a Southern institution.

The Jupiter Hammon Project is presenting two more free, virtual roundtables. On September 19, 2020, from 10:00–11:30 AM the

program will explore “The Voice of Jupiter Hammon.” You can [register here](#). The third free, virtual roundtable, “Confronting Slavery at Joseph Lloyd Manor” will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 10:00–11:30 AM. You can [register here](#). Finally, on Saturday, October 17, 2020, Jupiter Hammon’s birthday, you can participate in the “Jupiter Hammon Literary Landmark Celebration.” If the COVID situation allows, this will be a socially distanced outdoor event. If that is not possible, [registrants](#) will be notified and sent the Zoom link.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator

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

Social Justice Committee Meetings

As we begin a new congregational year, know that new members are always welcome at the meetings of our many related groups: the Social Justice Committee, the SJ Mental Health Subcommittee, the SJ LGBTQ+ Subcommittee, and the SJ Racial Justice Task Force. You’ll find information about each group in the [uucsr.org](#) calendar or contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at cderoche@uucsr.org.

Absentee Ballots

Any NYS registered voter can vote absentee. If you aren’t registered or have moved, you can register or change your address at elections.ny.gov. To request an absentee ballot, click [here](#). You can also vote in person early, from October 24 to November 1, and on election day, November 3.



Every Thursday until November 3,

North Carolina UU the Vote Weekly Phone Bank, 6:00–8:00 PM on Zoom. Join the UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina for a phone bank in partnership with Reclaim Our Vote and the North Carolina NAACP. Whether you live in North Carolina or somewhere else across the country, we greatly appreciate your willingness to support our state’s voter engagement efforts. Register [here](#). Prior to attending the phone bank, we invite you to review this Google Doc which has some brief instructions. You can find other UU the Vote volunteer opportunities at <https://www.uuthevote.org/get-involved/>

Wednesday, September 23

Together to End Solitary Confinement, Virtual Event, 6:30–7:30 PM. Join members of the Social Justice Committee as we remember those suffering the torture of solitary confinement. (The Zoom link will be the same every month.) Click here: <https://zoom.us/j/93389834659>, or call 1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 933 8983 4659.

REV. DR. NATALIE M. FENIMORE
Minister of Lifespan Religious Education



Welcome to fall. Of course, this is not the fall we are used to; it is not the fall that comes after a summer of fun and travel and camp and other sunny adventures. This summer, we have had to teach our children to wear masks and to explain why they cannot hug their grandparents. Our grads did not have their expected celebrations.

We have the pandemic and cities in protest. We have the coming elections. AND we are wrestling with decisions about school for children and youth. There is a lot of anxiety out in the world.

With all that, I do welcome you to fall at Shelter Rock because

we are still here together. We are sharing our anxiety and that sharing can make it easier to manage. We continue to build community together. To connect—online and in-person—with masks and physical distancing. We come together to make meaning of this time and grow our spirits and deepen our souls. Our Unitarian Universalist Principles are guides for the choices our families make in times of joy and times of trouble.

There will be changes this year; UUCSR will have a hybrid Religious Education (RE) Program. We will evaluate things in early November and make any adjustments needed for the program in 2021. Your participation will enable our UUCSR Religious Education Program to be the best it can be. We need you because your presence is a gift to this community.

Rev. Natalie

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)
Carson Jones, Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator

Join us for these Welcome Back to RE virtual AND in-person events all month long!



Back-to-School Bedtime Stories
Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 PM
Live on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/5102580374>

All are welcome to join Carson for this now once-a-month themed interactive online event! This month we'll hear stories about kids getting ready for their first day of school:

- *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*, by Ryan T. Higgins
- *The Day You Begin*, written by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

Family Yoga with Suzanne!

Every Sunday at 10:00 AM beginning September 13, Live on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/92506047489?pwd=MlV3allJVdJ0bDZPeWlmaU9jak5Odz09>

Let's start our Sundays off right by centering our minds, bodies, and spirits. UUCSR member, dancer, and fitness instructor, Suzanne Viverito, leads us in this half-hour of gentle breathing and stretching each week. All are welcome to join!

Young People's Virtual Choir (YPCC)

Every Sunday at 10:30 AM, beginning September 13, Live on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/92506047489?pwd=MlV3allJVdJ0bDZPeWlmaU9jak5Odz09>

RE Music Specialist, George Weisman, leads weekly rehearsals of choral pieces that will be filmed and edited together for inclusion in future Worship Services. If you've been waiting to join the YPVC, now's the time! All ages welcome! E-mail George at georgeweisman@gmail.com to express interest or just drop-in one Sunday morning!

RE Parent Orientation

Sunday, September 20, 1:00 PM, Live on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/95678638548?pwd=d1N5OXBLQ1UrZTdkUGpYS3dMOGg1UT09>

All parents and caregivers of RE participants are invited to this orientation to learn about the fun, spiritually nourishing, community reconnecting events we have planned this fall.

Outdoor RE Family Water Communion

Sunday, September 27, 1:00 PM, Meadow and Pond Area
This fall, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering twice-monthly outdoor RE family events. The first is the Unitarian Universalist ritual of Water Communion. This is a ceremony that many UU congregations hold in the fall as a symbol of their return to community. Over the next few weeks, we invite you all to collect a little bit of water from a place to which you feel spiritually connected. This could be your home, a relative's home, or a favorite stream, pond, fountain, or beach. Please keep an eye on the RE e-mails for reminders to bring your water with you when we see each other at the end of September.

Online RE Classes and Online Children's Worship begin on Sunday, October 4.

Please register your family for 2020-2021 Religious Education here: www.uucsr.org/RE

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Abigail Highland

The Art of Communicating Online

As we become more comfortable using Zoom to meet with colleagues, friends, and family, we are also learning that communicating virtually can be hard! Words get lost in garbled connections, faces freeze in hilarious ways, and sometimes delays cause awkward pauses. “Can you say that again?” “You’re muted!” “I don’t know... you froze.” Though we are endlessly nagged by technology’s downfalls, we are incredibly fortunate to have these tools to keep us connected in times of distancing.

Our use of Zoom and virtual communication will not cease when we have a virus vaccine; instead, I imagine that it will continue to grow through the 21st century and beyond. To continue to build beloved community, we must embrace online platforms and learn to use them more thoughtfully.

Our congregation is one where people of various backgrounds and beliefs come to learn, journey, and experience a community of compassion. To help foster this sense of community, we should learn to be respectful online communicators. Here are some tips I’ve put together to help us online:

Give space, take space. It is important that we allow others to speak and be heard. If you tend to talk a lot and dominate conversation, then others may not feel they have the space to share. If you’ve already spoken, try staying silent on calls for a while to allow others to chime in. Be mindful that some people appreciate an invitation to speak.

Leaders: stay aware. To help the others share thoughtfully, be careful to be dexterous and attentive in the online space. On Zoom, you can anticipate when others want to speak, look for raised hands and nonverbal signals, and make sure to go around and call on people just like you would at a roundtable.

Stay muted unless you have something to say. Your microphones can create a lot of noise that cuts over others trying to speak. Be sure to keep yourself on mute unless it is your turn.

Ask people to utilize non-verbal cues. You can utilize functions on Zoom to communicate non-verbally in a meeting. Using the reactions, chat box, and hand-raise functions are all great, and you can also physically use signals and reactions to interact.

Be Respectful. Be sure that you are using speaking time wisely and appropriately. Remember that ALL of the other participants in the meeting can hear and see you! Before you speak, stop to ask yourself, “Is what I have to say appropriate for this time and space? Is it related to this meeting? Is it respectful? Does it uphold my UU Values?”

Be Grateful. This pandemic has been an incredibly challenging time for us all. Communicating online can have its faults, but we can also relish the connection that it gives us, the fellowship that it allows for, and the warmth that it kindles in us all.

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE

Rachel Zampino, Chair



Sunday, September 13, 2020

Concert begins promptly at 2:00 PM.

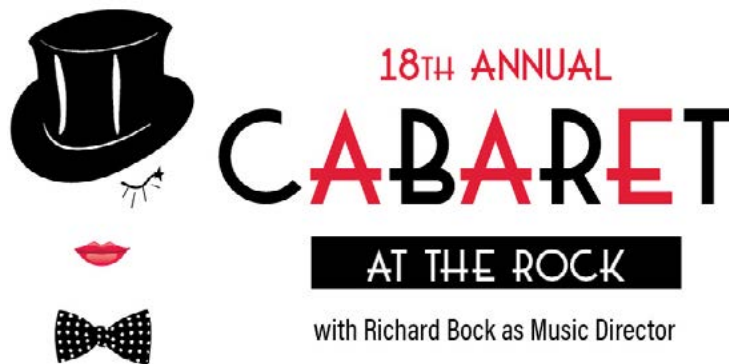
Raindate: September 27, 2020

The period for reservations is closed.

Thomas Verchot, Trumpet
Debbie Schmidt, French Horn
Dale Turk, Tuba

Jason Bitonti, Trumpet
Roger Verdi, Trombone

LIVE streamed at 2:00 PM at uucsr.org/music,
Facebook, YouTube. Available thereafter on demand.



CABARET XVIII – UPDATE

The Cabaret XVIII planning team is pleased to share that the cast is hard at work recording their musical numbers for our scheduled 2020 show on Saturday evening November 7, 2020 —“curtain up” at 7:30 PM. More than three dozen members and friends have signed on to help raise funds for our Ed Miller Memorial Music Scholarship Fund. Our biggest challenge will be to raise the thousands of dollars via online and mail-in contributions that would have been raised when we did our in-person shows in our Social Hall. Please watch future *Quest* articles for further updates but mark your calendars now for Cabaret at the Rock 2020 on November 7, 2020!

Richard Bock
Cabaret Music Director

Fire Drill Fridays

These exercises are not like the fire drills many of us older folks experienced in schools hiding under our desks fearing atomic annihilation. Our threat today is different. It is less topical and appears two-sided: global pandemics and the growing devastation of climate change. In October 2019, Jane Fonda, actor and social activist, became inspired to the climate urgency by Naomi Klein's book, *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal* and by Greta Thunberg and her call to worldwide action on climate change. Fonda then demonstrated for four months outside the White House with weekly climate rallies known as Fire Drill Fridays. These demonstrations achieved much momentum. When they ceased, Fonda was approached by Greenpeace, an organization trying to protect our planet from being destroyed..



Greenpeace is devoted to a green and peaceful future. By taking over the Fire Drill Fridays on a monthly basis in California, they began in Los Angeles, continuing in other cities like Sacramento. These demonstrations are a call for climate action in the United States and globally. They call for a rally to get ordinary citizens to acknowledge how global warming, fueled mainly by the fossil fuel industry, is harming communities. Globally, people are experiencing the wrath of nature through droughts, fires,

floods, hurricanes, etc. With the unpredictable ups and downs of daily weather and the diminishing resources of land, water and natural habitats, the wrath of climate change is a “new normal.” Greenpeace’s Fire Drill Fridays are a demand for a worldwide Green New Deal.

This Green New Deal suggests that countries like Australia stop promoting their coal agenda. It asks Brazil to stop burning their rain forests to make way for agriculture and the cattle industry. It informs us how these nations are engaging in self-interest, promoting “denial” of their culpability in climate change as their leaders can do what they want. Profits, jobs, and the economy steer their policies, not planetary and population health. This is true under the current administration in the United States, too. Meanwhile, tremendous bush fires continue in Australia eradicating human and animal life and carbon dioxide in massive amounts is released as the Brazilian rain forests burn. Pollution is increased and more of our lovely green planet is destroyed.

In the United States, the protections of air, water, soil, and habitats are being weakened by the Environmental Protection Agency. In New York State and on Long Island, it is time for us to begin our own Fire Drill Fridays. To join in the climate action movement, we should be mobilizing and organizing in our cities and communities. Greenpeace will help us. It is time for us to acknowledge the collective crises we face and make systemic changes to save ourselves and our planet.

Elaine Peters for the Green Sanctuary Committee

Presented by the Green Sanctuary Committee

A Healthy Environment: Winning Victories Together in Difficult Times with Eric Weltman

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 - 7:00 PM via Zoom

Join event: <https://zoom.us/j/98364905616>

- **Fossil fuel infrastructure vs. Clean renewable energy**
- **Polluted water vs. Potable water**
- **The Food and Water Watch connection**
- **Food and Water Action**



ERIC WELTMAN is a Senior Organizer for Food & Water Watch in New York. He has over 25 years of experience leading social justice campaigns and building progressive power.

ART COMMITTEE
Tinna Kopelow, Chair

Creativity is a natural extension of our enthusiasm.

—Earl Nightingale



A few weeks ago, we held our first UUCSR Art Committee “Creativity Conversation” on Zoom. The participants were asked to reflect on how the challenges of isolation over the past few months has affected their creativity. The answers were as diverse as the group, sparking further reflections on “what makes us creative.” Several people noted the loss of motivation to create in their usual ways (e.g., painting, writing) while for others, the lack of access to their medium of choice was a problem. What was interesting about the conversation is how nearly everyone found new ways to satisfy their “urge to create.” There were a variety of new activities, such as the use of “found objects” to create little garden areas, or using fallen tree branches to make sturdy seats in the garden, and even sharing art lessons via Zoom with grandchildren. Others chose to make music videos, learn new computer software in order to “paint,” or learn a new musical instrument. Whether it was a new activity, or an old familiar one, such as writing or jewelry making, each person shared how their creative life has continued to grow. It was interesting that some creative energy was also channeled into more practical aspects of life, such as creating menus to reduce shopping expeditions, gardening for fresh vegetables, or sewing masks to share with others.

What seemed to be a common theme throughout the conversation was our sense that life moves on, and we can continue to find ways to grow, despite the limitations of isolation. Creating, in whatever form, is a way to continue to connect both to our deeper selves, and with each other. It is, as Rollo May noted, “expressing yourself through bringing new ideas to life in whatever possible way.”

I felt a deep sense of connection to the stories everyone shared on ways they stay creatively alive in the midst of isolating. As Leonardo da Vinci advised us, “Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else.”

To further the connection with those in our Congregation who share this creative spark, the Art Committee will host further “Conversations on Creativity” via Zoom. A notice of the date and time of our next Conversation will be in the *Quest* and on the UUCSR website. But in the meantime...keep creating!

Shirley Arlt for the Art Committee

WOMEN’S GROUP
Sandra Hazel Frank, Women’s Group President

Women’s Group

Book Series

2020-2021 SCHEDULE

The Book Series is an opportunity to gather and discuss recently read books. A new book has been chosen for each month. Please contact Staff Liaison, Sharyn Esposito, to learn more (sesposito@uucsr.org or 516.472.2960).

Third Fridays, monthly, at 3:30 PM

Normally held at UUCSR, but currently being held as Zoom sessions until further notice.

Fridays	Book Titles
September 18, 2020	<i>A Spool of Blue Thread</i>
October 16, 2020	<i>The Dutch House</i>
November 20, 2020	<i>All the Flowers in Paris</i>
December 18, 2020	<i>Apeirogon</i>
January 15, 2021	<i>The Peabody Sisters</i>
February 19, 2021	<i>A Woman Is No Man</i>
March 19, 2021	<i>The Book of Longings</i>
April 16, 2021	<i>We Are All Completely Besides Ourselves</i>
May 21, 2021	<i>The Sea Wife</i>
June 18, 2021	<i>The Water Dancer</i>

ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Bob Nuxoll, Chair

KUNDALINI YOGA

From the comfort of your own home

A Zoom yoga session to align yourself vibrationally with what is positive!

Wednesdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30, 4:00-5:15 PM
\$32/\$40, members/non-members, 4 classes. Families pay once.

For inquiries, please call Beth (516.297.1042) or Paula (516.761.3046)
All are Welcome

MEMBER EVENTS

Carla Drezner, Chair

The congregation is now in UUCSR Phase III, which means that UUCSR will begin to hold some programs and events (including a new Bridge and Mahjong Group) on premises, with restrictions. For those unable or unwilling to venture to Shelter Rock, we have collected a few online programs recommended by members.

Virtual Bridge

Both of the following Bridge sites are UUCSR bridge-playing member endorsed! They are provided to augment on-premises Bridge Games, or for those who prefer virtual participation.

Fun Bridge

Before television, 50 percent of the US population played bridge after dinner as evening entertainment. According to many, bridge is the most interesting, exciting game in the world. Just ask anyone who knows how to play! You, too, can enjoy bridge in the comfort of your own home at [Funbridge.com](https://www.funbridge.com). You can download on your computer or phone and play the first 100 deals for FREE or join for \$13.99 per month, for an unlimited Premium experience. You may cancel at any time. There is also a pay-as-you-go option of \$4.99 for 50 deals or \$21.99 for 400 deals. You may choose whatever plan suits you best.

Bridge Base Online (BBO)

Bridgebase.com provides an opportunity to play a more conventional game with the foursome of your choice. Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire. <https://www.bridgebase.com/>

Food and Dining

Life at the Table

This site offers a wide variety of entertaining cooking classes. <https://lifeatthetable.com/virtual-cooking-classes>

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Gerry Matusiewicz, Chair

The firepit, located at the edge of the wooded area behind the Worship Room has been damaged by storms and deteriorated by weather. Chris Nielsen has been working for the past year on an Eagle Scout project to restore the firepit for use by the congregation. But, like so many things, his project was delayed by COVID-19. Let's help Chris complete this project.



Hello All!

I have not had the honor to meet all who this message reaches but if we haven't spoken before, my name is Christopher Nielsen, a current Life Scout in Troop 7 of Port Washington. My parents are members of the congregation. I'm writing this because I need your help. For the past year and a half I have been working with

the congregation's ministers, committees, and board members to finalize my Eagle Scout Project which will serve to directly benefit UUCSR.

I will be constructing an outdoor fire ring located in the woods directly behind the existing pond, specifically for use by the Religious Education Committee and its programs, as well as for other congregational purposes. It will serve as a retreat space, a meditative space, and for simple enjoyment.

This project has taken a lot of time to design, refine, and agree upon. Due to COVID-19, all actions had to be suspended. However, now it's time to make it happen! I must complete my Eagle Project by December (my 18th birthday), so time is of the essence.

My goal in designing this project was to make it last for many years. To that end, the quality and quantity of the materials needed will cost in the ballpark of \$2,000. So far, I have independently raised about \$1300 and will continue fundraising efforts. I'm also reaching out to congregation members for donations.

Please aid me in my mission to give back to the congregation that I know and love. Help me give back to our Unitarian Universalist family that has taught me so much.

Any donations over the cost of the project will go directly back to the congregation. Donations may be made by check or PayPal (donate@uucsr.org). Please include the words, "For Eagle Scout Project."

I thank you for your time and I would be honored if you would donate to my project.

Yours in scouting,

Chris Nielsen
2164ocn@chaminade-hs.org
516.946.8995

ONLINE/VIRTUAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see [UUCSR.org/events](https://uucsr.org/events) for additional details on all programs, INCLUDING DIRECT LINKS TO ACCESS.
See [LIACUU.org](https://liacuu.org) for other area congregations.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

3:00 PM Virtual Racial Justice Task Force Meeting
4:00 PM Kundalini Yoga
6:00 PM Ukulele Practice
7:00 PM Back to School Bedtime Stories (virtual)
7:00 PM Developmental Ministry Transition Team
7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Virtual Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting
7:30 PM Small Group Ministry Second Wednesday PM Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

11:00 AM Living Alone During Social Distancing
6:00 PM UU the Vote Weekly Phone Bank
7:00 PM Working Group Task Force Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual Choir Gathering

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

12:00 PM Great Books—Great Conversations
2:00 PM Meditative Moment
3:30 PM Women's Group Board Zoom Meeting
8:00 PM Soulful Sundown

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

10:00 AM Caring Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

9:30 AM Small Group Ministry Second Sunday AM Meeting
10:00 AM Online Family Yoga with Suzanne!
10:30 AM Young People's Virtual Choir Rehearsal
10:40 AM The Welcome Space
11:00 AM Sunday Worship: *Waking Up from the American Dream*, Rev. Fred Wooden, Guest
1:00 PM Virtual Coffee Hour
1:30 PM Small Group Ministry First Sunday—weekly Zoom meeting
2:00 PM The Modern Brass Quintet Concert

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

9:30 AM Medical Gigong for Senior Health
2:00 PM Meditation and Poetry
7:00 PM RE Committee Meeting (virtual)
7:00 PM Bylaws Committee Meeting
7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting
7:30 PM Cabaret XVIII Planning Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

11:00 AM Living Alone During Social Distancing
3:00 PM Virtual NAMI Criminal Justice Meeting
3:00 PM Art Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Virtual Event A Healthy Environment: Winning Victories Together in Difficult Times with Eric Weltman

7:30 PM DAC Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

9:30 AM Wednesday INN Cooking (formerly Saturday)
11:00 AM Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together
12:30 PM Women Talk Daytime Zoom Meeting
2:00 PM Messages
2:00 PM Wednesday Afternoon Conversations
4:00 PM Kundalini Yoga
7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Virtual Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

11:00 AM Living Alone During Social Distancing
6:00 PM Virtual UU the Vote Weekly Phone Bank

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

12:00 PM Great Books—Great Conversations
2:00 PM Meditative Moment
3:00 PM Virtual Land Management Update Meeting
3:30 PM Women's Group Book Series
7:00 PM LGBTQ+ ZOOM Gathering

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

10:00 AM Online RE Volunteer Orientation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

10:00 AM Online Family Yoga with Suzanne!
10:30 AM Young People's Virtual Choir Rehearsal
10:40 AM The Welcome Space
11:00 AM Sunday Worship: *Home Is Where the Heart Is*, The UUCSR Ministry Team
12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour
12:30 Men's Group Meeting
1:00 PM Online RE Parent Orientation

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

9:30 AM Medical Gigong for Senior Health
2:00 PM Meditation and Poetry
6:00 PM Membership Committee
7:30 PM Music and Performing Arts Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

11:00 AM Living Alone During Social Distancing
7:00 PM Small Group Ministry Fourth Tuesday Meeting
7:15 PM Board of Trustees Meeting
7:30 PM Committee on Ministry—Zoom meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

11:00 AM Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together
2:00 PM Messages

2:00 PM Wednesday Afternoon Conversations
4:00 PM Kundalini Yoga
6:00 PM Journeys: A UU Identity Group
6:00 PM Ukulele Practice

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

11:00 AM Living Alone During Social Distancing
6:00 PM Virtual UU the Vote Weekly Phone Bank
7:15 PM Board of Trustees Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

12:00 PM Great Books—Great Conversations
7:00 PM Facebook Live: A Chat About Music
7:00 PM LGBTQ+ Zoom Gathering

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

10:00 AM Online Family Yoga with Suzanne!
10:30 AM Young People's Virtual Choir Rehearsal
10:40 AM The Welcome Space
11:00 AM Sunday Worship
12:00 PM Virtual Coffee Hour
1:00 PM Outdoor RE Family Water Communion

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

9:30 AM Medical Gigong for Senior Health
2:00 Meditation and Poetry
7:00 PM Bylaws Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

11:00 AM Living Alone During Social Distancing

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

11:00 AM Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together
2:00 PM Messages
2:00 PM Wednesday Afternoon Conversations
4:00 PM Kundalini Yoga
6:00 PM Journeys: A UU Identity Group

The Quest is published twice a month, except once each in July and August. Copies are available at the UUCSR Lower Lobby, <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. Submissions: communications@uucsr.org

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September 9, 2020

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Vice President: Jana North

Secretary: Toni Logue

Treasurer: Brian Muellers

Members of the Board of Trustees

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Iliza Bartels

Chris Hilke

Brigitte Mueller

Rebecca Smith

Marsha Stone

Rick Van Dyke

Jane Weiler

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL

Next Quest: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 | Deadline for Content: Thursday, September 17, 2020

The Modern Brass Quintet

- ♦ Classical
- ♦ Broadway
- ♦ Jazz

A Special Live Streamed Concert

Sunday, September 13, 2020
Concert begins promptly at 2:00 PM

Raindate: September 27, 2020

The period for onsite reservations is closed.

LIVE streamed at 2:00 PM at uucsr.org/music, on Facebook, and YouTube.
Available thereafter on demand.