



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



[See Holiday Happenings Here](#)

[See the Calendar List Here](#)

December 23, 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020, 3:00 PM
Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore



The Children Come Family Christmas Eve Worship Service features the annual First Grade RE Class Nativity Play and carols. The Jazz Ensemble will participate. [View HERE](#) at 3:00 PM.

The Service may also be enjoyed in a Christmas Eve Service Viewing Space via Zoom. [Register HERE](#) and join at 2:45 PM to watch the Service in community hosted by Student Minister Alia Shinbrough. This will be a quiet, contemplative space, with a “whisper section” in the chat. You’re invited to bring your home chalice and candles for the candlelighting portion of the service. Please register for the Viewing Space. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to join.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Cathi Zillmann, Chair



If you have already made your membership pledge and a payment for 2020-2021, “Thank you!” If not, please do so by Wednesday, December 30, 2020 by phone (516.472.2919) or by Thursday, December 31, 2020 online (www.uucsr.org/donate) to avoid a lapse in membership. Waivers of pledges and payments are available, if needed. Please contact Sue Kimler (516.472.2919) or Kimberly Rossiter (516.472.2941). Thank you.

TOUCHSTONES
The Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore

The COVID vaccine is on the way—2020 is ending and hopefully taking with it some of the despair so many have been feeling. But we still need to get through this winter and well into the spring with continued isolation and possible lockdowns.



Remember to find a way to sing, to dance, to encounter beauty and joy—feast on life—as we wait—and prepare for what is to come, as we continue to reflect and reimagine what our community will be after this moment. How do we actualize our hopes and dreams? How do we build on all that we now know is close to the heart and soul, cherished, in this community of faith? What do we long to celebrate?

We can begin by acknowledging that while we are waiting, we are now also living. As the author David Russell Mosley reminds us, isolated, we should feast anyway. We want to survive and also to do more than survive. Mosley writes, “We bake bread for utility but we don’t stop there; we make cake. We do not need cake, it is the definition of gratuity. We make it because it tastes good, because it is beautiful...we make cake to celebrate...to feast, to worship.”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020, 8:00 PM
Rev. Jaye Brooks



Light of the World Christmas Eve Worship Service is one of readings and carols that tells the birth story of Jesus of Nazareth, Light of the World, whose message of love and peace encourages each of us to be light-bearers in our time. [View HERE at 8:00 PM.](#)

The Service is also available in a Viewing Space via Zoom hosted by Student Minister Alia Shinbrough. [Register HERE](#) and join the Zoom space at 7:45 PM to watch in community. You’re invited to have your home chalice and candles for candlelighting portions of the service. Please register for the Viewing Space. After registering, you will receive an email with a link to join.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020, 11:00 AM
Cassandra Montenegro, Guest Seminarian

Sublime Silences In Virginia Woolf's novel, *To the Lighthouse*, silence is both a welcome vehicle for inquiry into selfhood, and an oppressive force that unravels the self. How is it that we hold these two contradictions at once, and give silence the place it needs so that we come to know freedom for ourselves? *

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021, 11:00 AM
Rev. Jennifer L. Brower



Hinge of the Year This Sunday morning, as we are poised on the Hinge of the Year, having left 2020 behind and just entering 2021, UUCSR members and our gifted professional soloists share some of what they discerned in the strange days of past year, and offer their hopes for the days ahead. Join us. *

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021, 8:00 PM
The Rev. Jennifer L. Brower

Soulful Sundown Features spoken word by the Rev. Jennifer Brower and music by The Cosmic Orchestra: "Where music lies at the heart of the religious experience." [Join here.](#) *

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021, 11:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore

Our 8th Principle? Unitarian Universalist congregations are considering adding an 8th Principle which speaks directly to the need to build the Beloved Community by working for racial justice, equity, and inclusion. How might we engage in this conversation? *

* UUCSR Worship Services are live streamed on uucsr.org/worship, on Facebook, and YouTube. They are available thereafter on the same platforms and as podcasts. Visit www.uucsr.org/podcast. Also on NSTV and via phone at 516.289.0020.

UUCSR PODCASTS

Now you can listen to UUCSR Services and recorded events on-the-go. Find UUCSR wherever you get your music: iTunes, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music, Stitcher, Tune In+Alexa, iheart Radio, Pandora, RSS Feed. More platforms are coming soon. Visit www.uucsr.org/podcast for the full array.

TOUCHSTONES
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In the midst of this season of continued separation and darkness, in scarcity and suffering, we should still celebrate. We should begin to bring into being all our hopes. We can live in the spirit of another beginning, of preparation for the new and unknown to come. We should share what we have and who we are, in the spirit of feasting. We should make a sacred offering to others and to ourselves. I offer these words for this time from "First Comes the Waiting," by Erica Hewitt:

This is the season of endings and beginnings, when small signs of dawn pierce through the night and something new is born. But first comes the waiting. First come the lessons of endings and beginnings. The Presence of Life, the sheltering Spirit of Life, grieves with those sweeping up the debris of loss; waits with those who restlessly reach out for change; grants us courage in the night to guard each other's dreams for this holy, wondrous universe. Grant us, O Universe unfolding in mystery, a sense of your timing. May we loosen our grip on that which doesn't serve us, leaving behind that which we have outworn or outgrown. Teach us the lessons of beginnings. Remind us that such waitings and endings may be a starting place, a planting of seeds which bring what is ready to be born—something right and just and different; a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love—in the fullness of time.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE
Carol McHugh, Chair

Not having Services in the UUCSR Worship Room has left many of us feeling a loss of fellowship that came from seeing one another on Sundays. With that in mind, the ministers would like to have more members participate in virtual Sunday Services.

You are invited to send in a photo or video of yourself and/or your family lighting a candle to be included in a worship service. If you'd like to read a short passage to be included in a service, please contact Carol McHugh (718.736.5407 or cmchugh@optimum.net) or Rev. Jaye Brooks (516.472.2916 or jbrooks@uucsr.org). Instructions and assistance will be gladly provided! Thank you for considering participating.

NEWCOMERS
Abigail Highland, Membership Coordinator



Sundays • 10:40-11:00 AM

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

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

DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The Rev. Jaye Brooks



Who owns the congregation? This is the provocative question that Dan Hotchkiss discusses in his book *Governance & Ministry*.

Most UUs would say the members own the congregation. After all, we have congregational polity: authority may be delegated to Board, ministers, and staff, but ultimately resides in the

members acting as a body—acting together as a congregation. Hotchkiss offers an interesting twist on this idea—he says that the mission owns the congregation.

This twist is fascinating because the members are the source of the mission—the purpose—of the congregation. About eight years ago, UUCSR members engaged in consultative dialogue to arrive at a mission and vision statement. These days we use a short-form version that includes the “purpose” statement in the Bylaws. This short version is expressed as action statements, which makes it easier for volunteers and staff to align programs and decisions with the congregation-derived mission.



Here at UUCSR, we:

- Create loving religious community
- Encourage spiritual growth
- Build a more just and joyful world
- Promote and practice UU values

This mission “owns” the congregation—for the moment. At a Purpose Workshop following the January 10 Congregational Meeting, we’ll hone in on the purpose and direction our members see as central to the life of the congregation. What emerges may alter our mission, or not. But the values and ideas that predominate and resonate will drive both immediate decision-making and the formation of a five-year strategic plan.

Who owns the congregation? The values and central purpose that members define as the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock.

January 10, 2021 Congregational Meeting via Zoom | 1:00 PM

- I. Approval of Minutes of November 8, 2020 Meeting
- II. UUCSR Veatch Program
- III. Denominational Affairs Committee
- IV. Nominating Committee
- V. Treasurer’s Report
- VI. President’s Report
- VII. Purpose Workshop
- VIII. Good Of The Order

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mark Hartman, President



Seasons Greetings

This is the last edition of the *Quest* for calendar year 2020. Last January, I am sure that no one anticipated what this year would be like. I know that I didn’t. Looking back over the past five to ten years, it is impossible not to recognize a number of evolutionary changes in the life of the congregation.

By definition, however, evolutionary changes are the ones that are easy to miss while they are taking place; they become obvious only after the passage of time.

This year, the congregation lived through and is continuing to live through unanticipated events that are forcing the congregation to consider what its future will look like in the aftermath of a pandemic, whether it will want to try to follow the path we were on before the pandemic or try to find a different and perhaps less familiar path. Events are forcing us to consider these questions at a much faster rate than we are used to. I think we are up to this challenge.

As President of the congregation, I would be remiss if I didn’t take this opportunity to recognize and express my sincere appreciation to the members of the congregation and staff who are supportive of the mission and vision of this congregation and who, in their own way, are helping to answer the question of where are we going.

Until next time,

Mark

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

Extended Building Closure Notice

The following resolution was approved by the Board of Trustees at its December 17, 2020 meeting at the recommendation of the Board’s COVID-19 Reopening Task Force.

Due to the dramatic rise in COVID-19 infection indicators, the congregation will remain physically closed through January 31, 2021, extending its current closure that began on November 26, 2020. We will continue to gather online as a loving religious community for worship, programs, and meetings. Staff and ministers are available to you by phone, email, and Zoom during their regular work hours. Facilities staff will remain onsite as needed to maintain the property. The property will not be accessible to members or guests unless at the discretion of the COA or President.

Please see page 11 of this *Quest* for additional date-related information.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (DAC) *Richard Bock, Chair*

DAC Announces General Assembly (GA) Call for Virtual Delegates

At its December 17, 2020 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved DAC's 2021 Virtual GA Guidelines. The UUA's original plan to hold the 2021 General Assembly in Milwaukee, WI, was scrapped, a victim of the COVID-19 pandemic. GA 2021 will take place next June 23–27 as a virtual event. Shelter Rock's total number of delegates for 2021 will be determined by our membership that we report to the UUA as of December 31, 2020. In the past, we have had as many as 14 delegates and as few as 10 for in-person GAs.

Last year's virtual delegates to the 2020 GA (originally scheduled for Providence, RI) will be eligible to be considered as virtual delegates to the 2021 Virtual GA. UUCSR members interested in receiving the guidelines and application form, please contact Richard Bock (rbock@optonline.net) or Elaine Corrao (ecorrao@uucsr.org) for a link to download and print the document with instructions how to submit the completed application form to the Delegate Selection Team.

Notes from UU@UN by Janet Bendowitz

The 75th Anniversary of the United Nations presents an opportunity to examine how power is exercised within this global body. The UN began at a time when the big world powers had unfettered sway in the world, while many countries still remained under colonial rule.

The number of powerful nations has expanded since 1945. Most of the world's countries are now independent, and the number of UU Member States has expanded from 51 to 193. During this time, the influence of non-governmental organizations, such as the UU@UN also grew. The input and expertise of such organizations make the UN more effective.

In the early days, the UN Security Council had the power to control much of the rest of the UN. However, in recent years, the UN General Assembly has worked to counterbalance the Security Council's power. A movement of about 40 Member States aims to impose a code of conduct on the Security Council, requiring any vetoes to be explained, and prohibiting the veto for humanitarian issues such as food and medical assistance.

The UU@UN plays a leadership role in most civil-society-led social justice causes at the United Nations. Foremost, many looked to the United States for leadership at the UN. With the election of the Biden-Harris administration, and the return to the UN system of multilateral diplomacy, it is likely that the world can again look to the United States for leadership in areas such as human rights, climate change, and global security.

NGOs, such as the UU@UN, aid advocacy and hold those in power accountable, plus ensure commitment to a better and more just world. UUCSR envoys are actively engaged in keeping abreast of events at the UU@UN and will keep you informed in future issues of the *Quest*.

CARING COMMITTEE *Winterflower Robinson, Chair*

The COVID-19 Pandemic Has Changed the Nature of Caring...

Now more than ever, there is a strong need for community outreach in times of anxiety, crises and suffering. As a way of helping our community, we have compiled a list of relevant community resources which may be found on the UUCSR website: www.uucsr.org/caring



Resources That May Help During the COVID Crisis

- ◆ [Bereavement Groups](#)
- ◆ [Caring and Help at Shelter Rock](#)
- ◆ [Counseling](#)
- ◆ [Emergency Hotline Contacts](#)
- ◆ [End of Life Planning](#)
- ◆ [Enriching Home Activities](#)
- ◆ [In-Home Assistance](#)
- ◆ [Legal and Financial Counseling](#)
- ◆ [Local Food Distribution](#)
- ◆ [Project Independence](#)
- ◆ [Queens Resources](#)
- ◆ [Retirement Planning](#)
- ◆ [Shopping and Meal Resources](#)
- ◆ [Transportation](#)

For further information, please contact the Community Resource Team:

Rhonda Kessler: rkesslerlcsww@gmail.com or 516.319.1360 (cell)
Jean Smith: zmuchkas@gmail.com or 516.785.6513 (home)

Living Alongside Cancer

FREE | Third Thursdays Monthly | 7:00 PM

A healing circle provides time together for learning tools to manage the ongoing stress and symptoms from testing and medications, and creating healthy boundaries to keep ourselves safe. The group meets for 90 minutes and is facilitated by Caron Hunter, a holistic health-care provider and interfaith minister. Caron teaches a compassionate and empowering approach to healing, and offers over 30 years of personal and professional healing experience. [Register in advance for this meeting series HERE](#). For questions or Zoom assistance, please contact Assistant to the Ministers Kimberly Rossiter (krossiter@uucsr.org, 516.472.2941).

MEMBER EVENTS COMMITTEE

Carla Drezner, Chair

Back Together in 2021:
A Virtual UUCSR New Year's Eve Celebration



Join your hosts Maria and Frank Doyle for an evening of:

- ✦ New Year's celebrations around the globe
- ✦ Virtual all-attendee group-hug screen shot
- ✦ Year-in-Review: There WAS goodness in 2020!
- ✦ Shared resolutions, hopes, and dreams
- ✦ Classic UUCSR NYE Photos
- ✦ Almost-live music and group sing-along
- ✦ Interactive games & raffles
- ✦ Virtual 2021 New Year's toast
- ✦ Many surprises and special guests

FREE

Where: Zoom. For a link to the party, [please pre-register HERE](#). An email confirmation will provide you with the link to login.

Food and Drink: BYO

Attire: Evening casual

ENJOY!



GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Ellen Council, Chair

Some Environmental Wins and Loses



Under the current administration, Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have imperiled the environmental safety nets for Americans. What has been accomplished defines the future of the United States: toxic or non-toxic rulings versus preservation or destruction of our natural resources.

Compiling a list is like sitting on a see-saw. But here goes!

One of the losses is the assault on the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument and its defunding. It was designated the first marine national monument in the Atlantic. Defunding allows commercial fishing in this beautiful habitat teeming with underwater canyons and mountain wildlife. These Canyons contain feeding grounds for endangered whales and provide homes for many common and uncommon species of fish. A disturbed ecosystem will annihilate everything.

The EPA has weakened protections in many areas. These include regulations under the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. Now the fossil fuel and chemical industries can virtually do as they please with no penalties. This means that science-based assessment and public health impacts, such as power plants and pipelines, won't be reviewed or under scrutiny after getting the go-ahead. This green-light to dangerous industrial projects hits low income and communities of color disproportionately.

On the other hand, environment wins can be seen in small and big ways. One small way is banning the use of TCVP in dog's flea collars. These leave chemical residues on fur, passed on to children. Cancelling whale meat in Iceland is another win. As the desire for whale meat has plummeted, whale watching has increased. Thus, seasonal commercial whaling has been canceled.

Another big win is having the Supreme Court side with environmentalists to reject the Keystone XL Pipeline and their environmental permit for water crossings. This would've destroyed 600 miles of the Appalachian Trail on the east coast of the United States. In the West, the Dakota Access Pipeline has been court-ordered to shut down during an environmental review. Standing Rock and the Cheyenne River people are hopeful. In addition, Montana, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska will also be temporarily saved from a flood of toxic tar sands oil and spills. Under a new administration, protecting our environment there may be a permanent withdrawal from any agreement with TransCanada.

These are just some of the losses and gains perpetuated in the last few years.

Elaine Peters for the Green Sanctuary Committee

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
VEATCH PROGRAM AT SHELTER ROCK**
Joan Miniéri, Executive Director

Power and Possibility: We Vision a World
Veatch Sunday, January 31

Each January, on Veatch Sunday, we welcome Veatch grantees to Shelter Rock to share with the Congregation in worship, fellowship, and learning. Grantees tell us that being invited to Veatch Sunday is a very special honor, unlike any other in the landscape of social change philanthropy. Their visits become a memorable part of the long relationship we have with so many communities and organizations around the country.

This year, our remote format allows us to easily bring in multiple speakers from Veatch grantees all across the country, and to discuss what we learn from them in small, virtual groups. I hope you will join our staff and governors in community with our grantees, as we reflect on this astonishing year and consider the transformational possibilities before us. More details and registration information will follow in the weeks ahead. Please save the date of Sunday, January 31, for what we are planning:

In the 11:00 AM Worship Service, we will lift up the theme: *Power and Possibility: We Vision a World*. Multiple grantees—including Bhairavi Desai, director of New York Taxi Workers Alliance, and Andrea Dehlendorf, co-director of United for Respect, among others—will collectively deliver the sermon on this theme. We'll hear about the possibilities envisioned by these leaders and the world they are bringing into reality. Following the streamed Service, Veatch staff and governors will join the Coffee Hour.



*Bhairavi Desai,
New York Taxi
Workers Alliance*

At 1:00 PM, our virtual Annual Meeting will explore, "Recovery in Our Health, Economy and Democracy." Grantees, live via Zoom, will speak to their work in these areas, and to the powerful role of Veatch as a funder of long-term, social change in this crucial time. Veatch grantees have been hit hard this year, and yet, they inspire us every day. Please join us on Veatch Sunday, January 31 to hear about their fights for low-income people of color, immigrants, and other vulnerable groups. And how, despite unimaginable challenges, these same grantees educated millions of voters and ensured that our country stood up to voter suppression efforts, attempts to undo fair elections, and other attacks on our democratic institutions.

They are truly building the world we so desperately need, and that we know, through our values, is possible.

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



Looking Back To Look Ahead!

During this time of pandemic uncertainty, it's easy to lose sight of where we've come from and where we are going. In this column, I'd like to share a brief summary of just that!

The Social Justice Committee began 2020 offering two new programs: "UU the Vote" and "1619: Slavery Then and Now." With UU the Vote, we looked forward to hands-on activities with our local partners. With the 1619 Project, we expected to build on participants' interest and offer further education. When the pandemic caused the closure of the congregation, we had to adapt.

Through our partnership with UU the Vote, we wrote 3,000 postcards to voters in states with high rates of voter suppression, sent hundreds of letters reminding folks to go to the polls, and participated in phone and text banks. We learned how to use Zoom, and in May, we held the final session of the 1619 Project program.



Next, we took up education about the Eighth Principle and, to date, we've offered five programs on the topic. We've also participated in programs about the NY UU Justice Network, currently in formation. We continued our monthly vigils for those in solitary confinement, substituting LED candles for the real thing. In August, we co-sponsored the annual remembrance of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We also had a drop-off collection of school supplies and Sunday plate collections totaling \$1,135 for children in the Village of Hempstead. In November, we collaborated with the Veatch Funding Program to offer "Election 2020 Debrief." On December 10, during a 24-hour Zoom event in Support of the HALT Solitary Confinement Act, we provided an hour of programming. We are co-sponsors of the Mitten Tree Project and have organized information for a space on the UUCSR website for participation in Write4Rights. We've sent dozens of holiday greetings to individuals suffering the torture of solitary confinement.

I report all this to let you know that, in spite of the pandemic, we are adapting, and thanks to the efforts of many, many members, your Social Justice Ministry is alive and well. We know that whatever the future holds, we have changed, and that will influence our way going forward. In all the uncertainty, we have not lost sight of our mission: to create a just and joyful world.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator

Holiday Giving

This season's Worship Service collections are benefiting the North Shore Soup Kitchen and the AIDS Center of Queens County to provide food to those who don't have enough to eat. Please give generously: www.uucsr.org/donate

The Mitten Tree: Toys and New Winter Clothing

Please see page 9 of this *Quest* for details of the traditional Shelter Rock holiday Mitten Tree program.

UU the Vote

Electoral Work Continues! UU the Vote continues to partner with Reclaim Our Vote to get out the vote in Georgia for the January 5, 2021 run-off election for the state's two US Senate seats. This is an important election, and we need to help often disenfranchised voters with information about early voting and election day polling sites. To register for phone banking to Georgia go to <https://www.uuthevote.org/georgia/>.

Protecting Human Rights

Write4Rights: Each year in December, Amnesty International recognizes International Human Rights Day with a letter-writing campaign. The organization highlights a group of political prisoners, and around the world, volunteers write letters to governments urging the release of these individuals and to the political prisoners themselves to send a message of hope. You can access the campaign and all the information you need online at <https://uucsr.org/programs/social-justice/write-for-rights/>. These letters do make a difference! As a result of last year's campaign, Magai Matiop Ngong was released from death row in South Sudan. Because of the 2017 campaign, Taner Kılıç was released from prison in Turkey and reunited with his family. This holiday season give the gift of freedom! Join Write4Rights!

Holiday Wishes to UUs Who Are Incarcerated

The UU Church of the Larger Fellowship has a ministry to incarcerated individuals, most of whom found Unitarian Universalism while in prison. To participate in this holiday project, complete [this Google form](#). You will receive an email with the information you need to send greetings to someone living in prison.

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

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.) Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91455260335?pwd=aE5CRjRiNXNBUWpTZFhOb3JpQXg5dz09> Meeting ID: 914 5526 0335 Passcode: 901854 Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Racial Justice Task Force Virtual Meeting, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92545484255?pwd=aXRJVDI5VFpacoRpRokyOHh5QodMQT09> Meeting ID: 925 4548 4255 Passcode: 274017 Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 NY

LGBTQ+ SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Susan L. Roberts, Chair



Some members of the LGBTQ+ Subcommittee, joined by others in the congregation, have been meeting regularly since October to discuss issues of Transgender Inclusion. This course, designed by the Transforming Hearts Collective, was purchased and initiated when the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Adult curriculum pivoted to a more Zoom-friendly format in the wake of the pandemic. Our subcommittee

brought this course to the attention of the UUCSR congregation after learning about it at the 2019 General Assembly in Spokane.

The course brings up many of the same practical and emotional issues that we face as a denomination and a congregation looking to adopt a new Eighth Principle that calls us to “dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” The readings, videos, and discussion groups have challenged all of us as we get to the heart of what it means to become a Beloved Community.

The fourth session of this six-session curriculum explores the depth of spirituality present in our LGBTQ+ community. Living on the margins of a dominant and domineering culture forces those marginalized to walk with feet in two worlds. These are not new ideas and are present in many cultures.

LGBTQ+ is grateful to the congregation for purchasing the Transgender Inclusion course. After it concludes on January 5, there may be interest in a repeat presentation of it as part of our exploration of the Eighth Principle.

Look for ongoing focus on the LGBTQ+ community's unique spiritual gifts via regular Friday Zoom Gatherings. Refer to the UUCSR Calendar for times and links. All are welcome!

Are You on Facebook?

LGBTQ+ at Shelter Rock is a Facebook Group open to all. You are welcome to join this new group to stay informed about the incredible number of stories, news items, images, ideas, and fun shared on social media!

LGBTQ+ at Shelter Rock is a subcommittee of the UUCSR Social Justice Committee. The Social Justice Committee charge is to provide opportunities for members and friends to become informed about and involved in social, moral, ethical, and economic problems and issues through social action. LGBTQ+ does exactly that for the LGBTQ+ community and all friends.

Welcome!



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation at Shelter Rock
Human. Kind.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)
Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore, Minister of Lifespan Religious Education



**2020 Has Been a Traumatic,
Exhausting Year—Full
Of Challenges to Us as a
Community of Faith**

The Religious Education Program for Children and Youth has been so very fortunate to have so many people continuing to support our children, youth, and families as they have moved from in-person to virtual RE Classes and virtual worship. All our RE volunteers are fantastic! Some volunteers have had to make understandable

schedule adjustments (and life adjustments). We deeply appreciate those who have been able to be our virtual RE teachers in 2020.

Many Thanks to Our RE Volunteers

They pivoted from the classroom to the Zoom room with grace and commitment. Our young people continued to be held in love and community by these volunteers:

Carol Cannova	Lisa Brody	Laura Grassie
Mary Lou Nolan	Bob Gayle	Frank Teltsch
Kluger	Bill Kahn	Charlie Arrowood
Karen Martinez	Judith Wylie-Rosett	Bill Carmody
Melissa Pappas	Dominic Adinolfi	Marcelo Da Silva
Susanna Seto	Scott Barbey	Debbie Kahn
Lesley Broder	Toni Logue	
Cathy Shannon	Ruth O'Shea	
Christina Richer	Paul Drezner	
Peter Birdsall	Basia Kerr	

Thank You to the First and Second Grade RE Volunteers and Children

The First and Second Grade RE Class have been helping to plan a wonderful presentation of the story, "Christmas in the Stable," for the 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service. This annual presentation was accomplished by recordings from home this year due to the COVID lockdown. The joy and wonder IS still there!

Lesley Broder	Harry Healy	Talia Richer
Cathy Shannon	Lucy Ambrose	Jackson Ripley
Christina Richer	Angela Cannova	Beatrix Santoli
Peter Birdsall	Hailey D'Aguzzo	Emmett Singh
Sebastian Arden	Teddy Falivena	
Arya Bustamante	Brandon Feuer	
Vivienne Cassidy	Salil Haque	
Desmond Curiale	Cole Martinez	
Elinor Cyr	Emily Matthews	



Kwanzaa: A Celebration of African American Culture

In these cold, dark winter nights many of our traditions call us to come together for warmth, comfort, and community. Our spirits can be strengthened as we realize that we are not alone. While Hanukkah and Christmas are religious celebrations, they also include distinct cultural traditions. Kwanzaa, which is celebrated from December 29–January 1, is not religious but a celebration of African American culture. As a home-based cultural practice, pluralist, and accessible to Black people of all faiths, Kwanzaa is especially welcome in these times of sheltering at home.

Kwanzaa was conceived and developed in California during the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements of the 1960s by Dr. Maulana Karenga. Kwanzaa is modeled on African harvest festivals. There are Seven Principles of Kwanzaa in Swahili:

1. *Umoja*: Unity
2. *Kujichagulia*: Self Determination
3. *Ujima*: Collective Work and Responsibility
4. *Ujamaa*: Cooperative Economics
5. *Nia*: Purpose
6. *Kuumba*: Creativity
7. *Imani*: Faith

As a winter celebration, Kwanzaa features the bringing of light, with the candles in the *kinara* (candleholder). Kwanzaa can give spiritual grounding, and provide quiet reflection. Kwanzaa rituals can build a healing space for those experiencing racial trauma. Resilience and strength can be gained through this celebration of Black survival and creativity. Kwanzaa is a ritual expression that Black Lives Matter.

ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Bob Nuxoll, Chair

**Soulful Songs
and Stories**



The January 1 mailing, "Practicing Love with Its Sleeves Rolled Up," consists of songs and stories about community and interdependence. It's built around the poem, "Declaration of Interdependence," by Richard Blanco, and two songs we first heard on *Grey's Anatomy*: Goldford's, "Walk with Me," and "Take Me In," by The War and Treaty. Additional poems, stories, and quotes are from Edward Hays, Desmond Tutu, Dean Koontz, Ani DiFranco, bell hooks, and others. Since we're emerging from the darkness of politics, the pandemic, and the Winter Solstice, we're including seven musical pieces to accompany us into the light.

To have Soulful Songs and Stories emailed to you, register with Jessica Pond (Jpond@uucsr.org or 516.472.2914). If you missed any of the past PDFs, you can find them at www.j.mp/uucsr-sss

Alice Giordano and Steve Marston

MITTEN TREE PROJECT

Co-sponsored by the Religious Education
and the Social Justice Committees

Mitten Tree Tradition Continues This Year

The annual project to remember children served by the AIDS Center of Queens County (ACQC) continues this year, co-sponsored by the Religious Education Committee and the Social Justice Committee. If you wish to donate a gift for a child, infant through 18-years-old, [please consult this list with links](#) to make an online purchase. ACQC staff will match the gifts with children they serve and make them available for families to pick up. (They will continue to distribute gifts after Christmas.)



ACQC is also asking for new winter clothing for adults and children: coats, scarves, mittens, and hats.

Finally, ACQC has shared a list of families in great need. If you'd like to help one of those families, please contact Claire Deroche (cderoche@uucsr.org) who will connect you with ACQC staff.

You can have gifts and clothing delivered to: AIDS Center of Queens County, 161-21 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, New York 11432, Attn: Rosemary Lopez

Questions? Contact Carson Jones at cjones@uucsr.org or Claire Deroche at cderoche@uucsr.org.

Thank you for remembering those in need!

THANK YOU

I was touched by members of the Congregation's many expressions of sympathy for the loss of my mother, Catherine, and my friend, Kathy. Messages were thoughtful, personal, and compassionate. Special thanks too for the lovely flower arrangement. With the flowers and cards, I created an altar of remembrance for my mom, keeping her ever present these past few weeks.

In Gratitude Angela (Cesa)

Your thoughtful expressions of sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you for thinking of our family during the difficult time following the death of my daughter's husband, Jermaine Livingston. Your cards were sincerely appreciated

WinterFlower and Russell Robinson and Venette Livingston

BOOKSTORE COMMITTEE

Robin Finman-Jones, Chair

The UUCSR Bookstore Committee met in November and discussed what could be done, even though we are not able to enter the store area due to pandemic regulations.

The goal was to come up with a way to make the items in the Bookstore available to congregants in some manner by relocation of the merchandise. Please stay tuned.

In the meantime, please look at this column to see what is going on at the UUA Bookstore and other books of interest to our members. Lois Wolfson, a Bookstore Committee member, will continue to write a column in the *Quest* as she has done in the past.

For now, it has been brought to my attention that we have many congregation members who are authors!

- Latifa Woodhouse is our newest author, having just published *Latifa Unveiled*. Other authors include James Smith, Susan Roberts, Lois Wolfson, and Renee Silver.
- Lilyan Strassman is about to finish a book that many people may love to read.
- We also have two playwrights in our congregation: Gary Mitchell, and Wolstan (Wally) Brown.

Interviews with UUCSR authors are planned. We'll learn more about the books and each author's writing process.

Several times a week, Governor Cuomo gives an update on the COVID-19 virus. He always ends on a lighter or happier note. One day last week, he mentioned that the National Women's Hall of Fame located in Seneca Falls, NY, would be holding its virtual Induction ceremony on December 10, 2020.

So, what is unique about the event this year besides being a virtual event? The members of the National Women's Hall of Fame noticed a lack of diversity in past induction ceremonies. So this year, the women being inducted all are of African American descent.

The women who were honored at the December 10 ceremony are:

Aretha Franklin (singer and activist, 1942-2018)
Barbara Hillary (adventurer, nurse, climate activist, 1931-2019)
Henrietta Lacks (whose cancer cells are the source of one of the most important cell lines in medical research, 1920-1951)
Toni Morrison (author 1931-2019)
Barbara Rose Johns Powell (activist and librarian 1935-1991)
Mary Church Terrell (suffragist and civil rights activist 1863-1954).

Books are available about many of the honorees listed above.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Maria Ceraulo, Chair, Women's Issues



Women Leading the Way

You may remember the TV commercial about the woman who can bring home the bacon and fry it up in a pan. It made one think that a woman can be beautiful, do anything, and do it well. That was a perfume commercial in the 1980s. Today, there's a woman who can even bend a bull to her will. There's another woman who can lead a country with a

"well-being budget."

The only newly elected Republican woman to the Senate is Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming. She moved an uncooperative bull by just being nice. She had the courage and will to get a moody and aggressive animal into a trailer. How did she do it? The story goes that she approached Romeo (the bull), spoke kindly, and pulled the beast by the ear—gently. He was persuaded to get into the trailer! It certainly looks like this skill may be put to very good use in the Senate.

The well-being budget was constructed in New Zealand. It was mentioned in an article featuring Mariana Mazzucato, economist and professor at University College London. Part of her mission is to reimagine capitalism. She cites the well-being budget as an example of an approach to include other things in the measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It should not be determined only by goods and services sold in markets. Particularly because of COVID, there's a new value to the work of mostly women in health and social care, education, public transportation, supermarkets, and delivery services. All these things contribute to well-being and need to be included in calculations of GDP.

New Zealand offers the world's most promising alternative to the way things are being done in more right-wing populism. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, reelected in a landslide, is a beacon of hope for those seeking a government focused on inclusion and competence. The newly elected majority consists mostly of women. It includes the first member of African descent, a former refugee from Eritrea. Nanaia Mahuta is the new foreign minister—the first Maori female. The deputy prime minister is openly gay. Eleven lawmakers are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. There are a dozen people of Pacific Island descent, and 16 Maori members. It is the most diverse Parliament the country has ever seen. The focus seems to be on progress without fame. How refreshing.

Women are in the forefront of innovative approaches to the problems of today. They can do much more than cook up the bacon. As leaders in the Senate, in the economy, and in the country of New Zealand, they are moving forward inclusively and progressively. We rejoice in their accomplishments, anticipate great things in the future, and wish them success.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Bill Carmody, Chair

Look Ma, I'm on PBS!

In a recent *Quest* column, President Mark Hartman wrote that UUCSR is planning to launch its first television piece called "Spotlight On." It will air on PBS in 2021. As such, the Publicity and Promotions Committee invites members to indicate their interest in participating on screen.

If you or a family member are comfortable representing UUCSR and Unitarian Universalism in front of a camera, please contact Jen Sappell (JSappell@uucsr.org) with the subject, "PBS Spotlight On Participation." Speakers of all ages, ethnicities and faith backgrounds are encouraged. If you have ever spoken before the congregation (either physically or virtually), please mention that. Why? Because your experience in front of the congregation is great practice for being in front of a camera.

In addition to the broadcast spot, plans are underway to use film clips across platforms such as social media and the internet, and for other future promotional endeavors.

Storytelling Workshop

Feeling a bit shy, but wish you were a better storyteller? That's okay, too. In the coming months, the Publicity and Promotions Committee will announce a storytelling workshop that includes coaching by a professional storyteller. More details will be provided in a future *Quest*, but know that the Publicity and Promotions Committee is working diligently to help you and UUCSR tell stories. We know that UUCSR is all about its members and we are excited to highlight their stories.

Members of the Publicity and Promotions Committee look forward to working with the congregation to shine a bright light on members and the important work that they are doing in the world.

Be well!

WOMEN'S GROUP

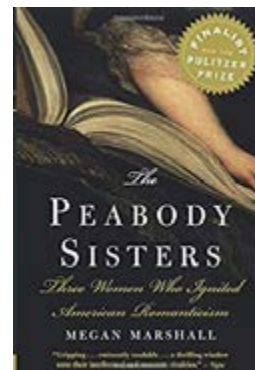
Sandra Hazel Frank, Women's Group President

Women's Group Book Series

Friday, January 15, 2020 | 3:30 PM

All are welcome to discuss *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*, by Megan Marshall. The story is a window into 19th-century life.

The Book Series is an opportunity to gather and discuss recently read books. Please contact Staff Liaison Sharyn Esposito to learn more (sesposito@uucsr.org or 516.472.2960). Currently being held as Zoom sessions until further notice.



ONLINE EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see [UUCSR.org/events](https://uucsr.org/events) for additional details on all programs.

See [LIACUU.org](https://liacuu.org) for other area congregations.

Extended Building Closure Notice

The following resolution was approved by the Board of Trustees at its December 17, 2020 meeting at the recommendation of the Board's COVID-19 Reopening Task Force:

Due to the dramatic rise in COVID-19 infection indicators, the Congregation will remain physically closed through January 31, 2021, extending its current closure that began on November 26, 2020. We will continue to gather online as a loving religious community for worship, programs, and meetings. Staff and ministers are available to you by phone, email, and Zoom during their regular work hours. Facilities staff will remain onsite, as needed, to maintain the property. The property will not be accessible to members or guests except at the discretion of the COA or President.

STAFF HOLIDAYS:

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Friday, December 25, 2020

Thursday, December 31, 2020

Friday, January 1, 2021

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

9:30 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

11:00 AM, Living Solo While Distancing

12:00 PM, Christmas Dinner Pick-Up

HOLIDAY EVENT

3:00 PM, *The Children Come*, Family Christmas Eve Worship, Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore

HOLIDAY EVENT

8:00 PM, *Light of the World*, Christmas Eve Worship Service, Rev. Jaye Brooks

HOLIDAY EVENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

7:00 AM, Christmas Morning Reading, Rev. Jennifer L. Brower

HOLIDAY EVENT

2:00 PM, Meditative Moment

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020

11:00 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

9:00 AM, Jazz Ensemble with Dan Pratt

10:40 AM, The Welcome Space

11:00 AM, Sunday Worship: *Sublime Silences*, Cassandra Montenegro, Guest Seminarian

12:00 PM, Virtual Coffee Hour

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

8:30 AM, Medical Qigong for Senior Health -

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

9:00 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

11:00 AM, Living Solo While Distancing

1:00 PM, Caring Hearts Quilters

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

11:00 AM, Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together

2:00 PM, Wednesday Afternoon Conversations

2:00 PM, Messages

4:00 PM, Kundalini Yoga

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

9:30 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

11:00 AM, Living Solo While Distancing

9:30 PM, Virtual New Year's Eve Party

HOLIDAY EVENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

2:00 PM, Meditative Moment

4:00 PM, Community Conversations, Hadley House

7:00 PM, LGBTQ+ Zoom Gathering

8:45 PM, Virtual Film Discussion: *Effie Gray*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021

11:00 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

9:00 AM, Jazz Ensemble with Dan Pratt
10:40 AM, The Welcome Space

11:00 AM, Sunday Worship: *Hinge of the Year*, Rev. Jennifer L. Brower and members of UUCSR

HOLIDAY EVENT

12:30 PM, Men's Group Zoom Meeting

1:30 PM, Small Group Ministry, First Sunday Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

1:00 PM, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations (Monday group discussion)

2:00 PM, Meditation and Poetry

3:00 PM, Mental Health Sub-Committee Zoom Meeting

7:00 PM, RE Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

9:00 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

11:00 AM, Living Solo While Physical Distancing

3:00 PM, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations (Tuesday group discussion)

7:00 PM, Agenda Planning Meeting

7:00 PM, Small Group Ministry First Tuesday Meeting

7:30 PM, Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

11:00 AM, Crafting for Sanity and Community Zoom Get-Together

12:30 PM, Women Talk Daytime Zoom

2:00 PM, Wednesday Afternoon Conversations

2:00 PM, Messages

3:00 PM, Virtual Racial Justice Task Force

4:00 PM, Kundalini Yoga

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

9:15 AM, Thursday INN Cooking

9:30 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

11:00 AM, Living Solo While Physical Distancing

7:30 PM, Virtual Choir Gathering

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

12:00 PM, Great Books: *Great Conversations*

2:00 PM, Meditative Moment

8:00 PM, Soulful Sundown

8:45 PM, Virtual Film Discussion: *Bombshell*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021

10:00 AM, Caring Committee Meeting

11:00 AM, Yoga on Zoom with Mike Mancini

11:00 AM, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations (Saturday group discussion)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

9:00 AM, Jazz Ensemble with Dan Pratt

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, Online RE Classes

11:00 AM, RE Classes

11:00 AM, Sunday Worship: *Our 8th Principle?*, Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore

1:00 PM, Congregational Meeting

1:00 PM, Just and Joyful: Online Children's Worship for All Ages

2:00 PM, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations (Sunday group discussion)

7:30 PM, Music and Performing Arts Committee Meeting

The Quest is published twice a month, except once each in July and August. Copies are available in 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

Quest Guidelines: <http://j.mp/quest-gl>

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December 23, 2020

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Next Quest: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 | Deadline for Content: Thursday, January 7, 2021

Wishing Shelter Rock's
members and friends

Peace, Love,
and Good Health

this holiday season!