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 Calendar Here

December 21, 2022
Monthly Theme:
Wonder

Worship Services

Saturday, December 24, 2022, 5:00 PM
Shelter Rock Ministers

Christmas Eve Service Family Service: Together in Song and Light
The 5:00 PM Service will be a Family Service full of music with the Young People's Choir joining with the Adult Choir and Jazz Ensemble to present the music of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. There will be traditional candlelighting while all sing "Silent Night." *

Saturday, December 24, 2022, 7:00 PM
Shelter Rock Ministers

Christmas Eve Vespers Service The 7:00 PM Worship Service will be a meditative Service with music, readings, and candlelighting. *

Sunday, December 25, 2022, 11:00 AM
Rev. Jaye Brooks

Christmas Stories Today is Christmas. Our gathering this Sunday morning will be for all ages and will feature some lovely, mostly true, Christmas stories. To allow as many staff as possible to have a much-deserved day off, the Service will be humbly live-streamed from the Art Gallery—recalling, perhaps, that humble manger and visitors who, if they'd had smartphones, would have posted live video. Bagel breakfast will be available at 9:30 AM. *

Sunday, January 1, 2023, 11:00 AM
Rev. Oscar Sinclair, Guest Minister

From I to We: Telling Our Stories In the Aftermath Covid-19 was a universal experience, but its impacts were often felt individually. Drawing on lessons learned this fall at The Unitarian Church of Lincoln, we'll look at one way of building community through sharing our stories. *
Note: New Year/Fresh Start Breakfast available 9:30–10:45 am, courtesy of the Caring Committee. Homemade quiche, muffins, healthy smoothies. All are welcome.

** UUCSR's Worship Services are onsite and livestreamed on uucsr.org/worship, Facebook, and YouTube; available thereafter on the same platforms and as podcasts (www.uucsr.org/podcast); also aired on NSTV.*

Touchstones

There is the Wretched Excess, the gimme, gimme, gimme more of the season. The never enough for me of the season: the gluttony, the going into debt. The too much and too many of it all—the part of the winter holidays that is all fire and no light.

And the Glorious Excess—all the bright light and music—the deeply needed impulse to make at least one day a year really, really special. We try to give our all and make the perfect day—which, of course, can't really happen—except maybe for some small children and those of us who spend the holidays watching the small children—to our delight.

In its glorious extravagance, this holiday-making: Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve revelling—can create a communal atmosphere with fewer boundaries and barriers between people. A time when our rituals and traditions are mobilized to reinforce and create relationships. The gifts given and received, the meals shared, the parties, all bring us together. It can connect us through our sharing. Maybe we need this excess of togetherness from time to time.

Maybe we still need to sit together by the fire on winter nights like primitive humans did, like hunter gathers did in ancient times. Perhaps, we are still trying to get through the long, cold winter helping each other out and sharing what we have with each other.

And there is recognition that there is a bit of a miracle in all times of excess and celebration. Humans know too well that our lives can turn from more to less in a moment. How sudden was the pandemic lockdown?

We can celebrate the gift of abundance. We can offer from the heart and give with a feeling of generosity and appreciation.

Have you ever written an abundance list? Listing all that you are thankful for and all those you appreciate having in your life. If your holiday celebrations reflect your abundance list, this season will be excessively joyful.

As we celebrate the holidays and turn toward the New Year, we offer wishes for peace, joy, and love.

Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore
Rev. Jaye Brooks
Rev. David Carl Olson

Worship Services
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Sunday, January 8, 2023, 11:00 AM
Rev. David Carl Olson

Denominational Affairs Sunday: Love at the Center Our traditions include the sacred notion that there is power in our choice to associate freely with each other and with other congregations. We express this in a number of settings—the UU Service Committee, the Long Island Area Council, Black Lives of UUism, the UU United Nations Office, and many more.

Each year, General Assembly is the most authoritative expression of our faith. In 2023, it will be especially important. We will elect a new UUA President to serve a six-year term and we will move forward to amend our basic Principles and Purposes.

Friday, January 13, 2023, 7:30 PM
Rev. Jaye Brooks

Soulful Sundown A LIVE monthly collaboration between ministers and musicians (also available online). Rev. Brooks will weave spoken word with live music from the Cosmic Orchestra. Masks encouraged. Coffee House follows with Guest Musical Artist Cassandra House. *

Sundays at Shelter Rock

Bagel Breakfast Is Back! Sundays, 9:00–10:30 AM
Every Sunday you can, once again, stop by the Social Hall for a bagel breakfast for just $1! Coffee and tea are FREE. Remember: No food or drink is permitted in the Worship Room.

Every Sunday | 10:45 AM–12:15 PM | Join using just one link. Worship Service is livestreamed and shared in the Zoom room. Afterward, stay on during online Coffee Hour. Join **HERE,** or call: 646.558.8656, Meeting ID: 829 6436 6095

Fellowship Hour After Worship Service Every Sunday
Let's break bread together after Worship in a UU way with Coffee Hour and Sunday Café luncheon in the Social Hall.
Details regarding menu and cost is publicized on the UUCSR calendar and in the Sunday morning eblast. All are welcome.

UUCSR offers transportation assistance to Worship Services for members who are unable to travel. Email ministryteam@uucsr.org, or call 516.472.2941 for an application.

Worship Services are in-person AND livestreamed! *Masks are encouraged and required for singing. Livestreams available on uucsr.org/worship, Facebook, and YouTube. Podcasts available afterward.* ***The Sunday Morning Experience is available online*** *using just one link! Beginning at 10:45 AM, join via Zoom, then stay for live Worship Service and Coffee Hour. Join HERE.*

Milestones

We mourn with... UUCSR member Suzanne Viverito whose father, Peter Samorez, died in Chicago, IL, on December 12, 2022. A memorial will be held at UUCSR on a date not yet set. Condolences may be sent to Suzanne Viverito and Family, 57 Memorial Place, Manhasset, NY 11030.

We hold in our hearts... Shelter Rock member Sandra Frank this month on what would have been her and her beloved husband Edwin's 70th wedding anniversary. Edwin Frank's death was two years ago. May the kindness and care of UUCSR congregants support Sandra at this time.

We congratulate... former UUCSR Student Minister Alia Shinbrough upon successful completion of all requirements for UU ministry. They will be ordained as the Minister for Queer Liberation at the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice in Princeton, NJ.

Membership Matters

If you are a current Shelter Rock member and have not yet made a pledge for the Congregational Year 2022–2023, and/or you have not made a payment of any amount toward your pledge, ***you must do so before December 31, 2022 to remain on the membership rolls.***

Lapsed or interrupted membership will result in a waiting period of 60 days before official membership is reinstated. Please renew now.

It's easy to renew your membership: Visit www.uucsr.org/renew or reach out to Sue Kimler at skimler@uucsr.org, 516.472.2919 if you have a question or need help. If you are experiencing financial hardship, renew your membership with a financial waiver by checking the box on the renewal form or by reaching out to the ministers, ministryteam@uucsr.org.

Congregational Affairs
Jana North, President of the Congregation

A Message from the President

At the risk of using too many football references, I will just say that after testing positive for Covid at the beginning of December, I took a bye week and stepped back from my phone and computer. That gave me a chance to rest up, review, and reset. The time period between Thanksgiving and New Years Day is always a bit of a blur anyway, so having an excuse to shut down and isolate without feeling very sick allowed me to actually look at what was going on around me.

And I realized just how much is happening at Shelter Rock and how much more will be happening in the new year. After approving the Strategic Plan in September, the Board of Trustees brought back bagels on Sundays before Service and the Cafe afterwards because members asked for more time to be together in community. We have begun planning Friday Night events which will combine spiritual renewal with old fashioned good times. A Leadership Team that will engage the congregation in plans for managing our beautiful property has begun meeting, and a Life Safety Leadership Team will be looking at security and accessibility issues at Shelter Rock.

In our continuing work on governance and organizational structure at UUCSR, the Board of Trustees has organized an ad hoc committee on policy drafting which will be looking into simplifying and clarifying the authority, accountability, and responsibility of our groups and committees. And as the developmental work of Rev. Brooks winds down, the Board has begun organizing a Ministerial Search Committee to bring a new contract minister to UUCSR this summer. Along with Rev. Olson, this new minister will work under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Fenimore, whose position as Lead Minister will be brought to the congregation for affirmation in January.

In 2023, members of the congregation will be asked if they want to participate at General Assembly in June. Being a delegate for UUCSR is a challenging but rewarding experience that every member should take advantage of sometime during their time at Shelter Rock. We will also all be asked to join the All-Congregation Retreat in May which will take place on Memorial Day weekend at Camp Zeke in Lakewood, PA. That event is often described by members as one of the most memorable of their time in the congregation.

I am glad to be feeling stronger now and looking forward to all the work ahead for the Board of Trustees and all the members of UUCSR. I want to thank all the staff at Shelter Rock who always provide amazing support as we plan programs and events that are meaningful and memorable. I hope the holidays find you all healthy and happy and that the new year inspires you to step up and maybe step out of your comfort zone and get involved.

Congregational Meeting Notice

Notice of Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 8, 2023
1:00 PM | Multiplatform | Worship Room and Zoom Webinar
Please register for online attendance HERE.

Agenda:

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

I. Approval of Minutes for November 6, 2022 Meeting
II. UUCSR Veatch Program
III. Lead Minister Resolution
IV. Denominational Affairs Committee
  • Process for Selection of Delegates to In-person or Virtual General Assembly
V. Nominating Committee
  • Nominating Process and Criteria
VI. Treasurer's Report
  • Overall Spending Limit Update
VII. President's Report
VIII. Good of the Order

Closing Words

Lost and Found

The UUCSR Lost and Found bin is located on the Lower Level across from the Reception desk. Please stop by to find things you may not have even known you lost!

Member Events Committee
Katina Manko-Mitchell, Chair

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
AT SHELTER ROCK

Roll Out the Old with the Best Entertainers in Town

Emcee
Suzanne Viverito

Rockin' DJ
Andrew Viverito

Charles Henry, piano

Best Menu in Town!
Best Price in Town!

$60 Members
$65 Non-Members
Cocktail hour in the Art Gallery at 7:30 PM

Incredible Appetizer Buffet
Festive piano music by Charles Henry

Catered Dinner by Antonino's
(vegan option available)
Midnight Champagne Toast

Bring your family and friends
to fill your own table for eight.
(Table request required at registration)
Childcare available

Register at uucsr.org/NYE22

Land Management Leadership Team (LMLT)
Carol Garbarino, Convener

A Visit to Greentree Foundation

The Greentree Foundation, UUCSR's neighbor to the west, is undertaking a multi-faceted program to restore and enhance their natural land areas which should be a model for UUCSR. The Land Management Leadership Team (LMLT) recommends UUCSR use Greentree's program as a model after its tour of their property on November 14, 2022.

The non-profit Greentree Foundation, which owns the 400-acre estate originally held by Payne Whitney, manages extensive grounds consisting of grasslands and woods. That philanthropic foundation now operates their property as a conference center for the United Nations and other groups involved in world peace and justice.

Greentree employs full-time staff and engages numerous vendors to undertake their sustainable land management program. Recently the Foundation hired a full-time naturalist who has been assembling data about the property's natural resources. For example, coyote scat has been collected and analyzed to determine that their main prey is raccoons. The hope is that the natural resource data will inform future land management decision making.

The LMLT was most impressed with Greentree's work removing winged euonymus, commonly known as burning bush, from their woodlands. This invasive plant, if left unchecked, takes over the entire forest floor and prevents native trees from growing. Over time our woodland would become primarily winged euonymus and Norway maples.

During the tour, the LMLT saw a pump station operated by the Water Authority of Great Neck North on property taken from Greentree through eminent domain. The station which contains two groundwater pumps is evidence of the importance of the site as a source of drinking water. Greentree, UUCSR, and two contiguous golf courses all hold undeveloped open spaces which are critical for groundwater recharge and aquifer protection. This undeveloped area is one of the largest areas in Nassau County to recharge the local aquifer.

In the past, Greentree mowed about 20 acres of grass. To reduce their carbon footprint and to encourage birds, pollinators, and other animal life, they have started only mowing selected areas a few times during the growing season. These areas are actively managed to encourage the growth of native grasses.

These are some of the land management actions Greentree has taken. Their land management program for both grasslands and their woods can serve as a model for UUCSR, inspiring members of the Congregation to undertake the same enhancement of the natural resource values of our land.

Dana Gumb for the Land Management Leadership Team

Green Sanctuary Committee
Stephen Ruocco, Chair

This article demonstrates the congregation's stewardship of the Earth and commitment to the Seventh Principle.

Cultivating Our Plastic Solutions Industry

The plastics industry is looking for sustainable solutions and circular options to keep plastics out of landfills and the oceans. This product is ubiquitous, globally polluting our planet. Its versatility, low density and conductivity, highly durable nature, plus versatility has caused its consumption to double in the last twenty years. From single-use items to containers and wrappers, we are choking this planet. Currently, many companies and industries are seeking ways to alleviate this harm to our air, land, and water by working toward recyclables or compostables within ten years. Included is a $5 billion fund that is paid for by the plastics industry hoping to cut this pollution via a circular economy.

A linear economy is the one where we use an item once, then discard it. The new circular economy involves recycling, repairing, transforming an old item into a new one, and reusing plastics to cut our greenhouse gases. It will make sustainability an integral part of construction, healthcare, agriculture and manufacturing, etc. This circularity of materials will help to eliminate plastic packaging replacing it with recyclable material. One of the leaders in this effort is Honeywell. Kevin Quest, global business lead at that company, is focusing on petrochemical and technology processes. He said, "Currently, 60 percent of their budget goes toward sustainable solutions (R&D) Investments in UpCycle Technology to expand types of plastics that can be recycled." Plastics can be made with a lower carbon footprint.

Another company, Jamestown Plastics in Brocton, NY, recently developed a way to keep plastic trays out of landfills. The method is to collect old trays, grind them up, and send them to an extruder. New recycled material forms new plastic trays. But good legislation should tackle this problem. California is fighting back to eliminate this ubiquitous material. Under the leadership of The Nature Conservancy, a bipartisan bill passed in June 2022 for single-use plastics to be reduced by 25 percent and be recycled or composted. A $5 billion fund paid for by the plastics industry will be created. It will help restore and protect California's lands and waters from plastic pollution.

As Alexis Jackson, ocean policy and plastics lead of The Nature Conservancy says, "Other states are already looking forward to the law as a blueprint for what's possible. The plastic problem is the climate problem. This proves we can do something tangible." Let's all start by ditching disposables, especially single-use ones.

Elaine Peters for the Green Sanctuary Committee

Hadley House Residents' Association
***Quest* Committee**

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

Hadley House is bustling. It's wonderful to be able to enjoy our holiday celebrations as we did prior to Covid! Snowflakes were created and hung with care from the ceiling. The candles were placed in the menorah, waiting for Hanukkah. We have trimmed our tree and completed the holiday decorations of the Lounge, Lobby, and Solarium. And they are beautiful, as you can see from the photo below. Arline Senft, Mike Robbins, and Doug Hyer serenaded us with holiday music.

On the December 21 winter solstice, we will join together to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and later, the New Year with food, music, and good fellowship.

The season invites connection and reflection. When our first snow comes and we are homebound, we will marvel at the beauty of snow. We may meet at favorite places in Hadley House for games, conversation or quiet contemplation, or maybe we will have a barbecue in the snow again!

The winter solstice brings us out of the dark and into the light. We have certainly had enough of the dark. Thus, the longest night of the year is lit by the gift of our belonging to this community, with hope in our hearts for peace in the world as we enter the New Year.

We wish a very Happy Holiday and healthy New Year to all our friends at UUCSR.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

Hadley House Quest Committee
First row: Lois Wolfson, Teddy Sklover, Jerry Jalazo
Second row: Nancy Jacobson, Lilyan Strassman, Barbara Singer

Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore
Lead Minister and Minister of Lifespan Religious Education

I am pleased to announce the addition of two new Shelter Rock staff members:

Jamie Walowitz joins us as the Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator. Jamie will assist the UUCSR Senior Seminar high schoolers and their adult mentors. As Coordinator for Adult Faith Engagement, Jamie will assist the Religious Education Sub-Committee for Adult Faith Engagement in developing the ongoing program for adult religious education. Jamie arrives at UUCSR with a newly minted Master of Social Work. She may be reached at jwalowitz@uucsr.org or 516.472.2943.

Jeannie Gross joins us as the Administrative Assistant for the Religious Education Program. Jeannie will also support UUCSR programs and committees. She may be reached at jgross@uucsr.org or 516.472.2914.

Youth Programs
Jamie Walowitz
Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator

Donations Needed for Midnight Run!

Join our Senior Seminar teens on their Midnight Run on Friday, February 10, 2023! Midnight Run is a volunteer-based organization with a mission to bridge the gap between the housed and those who are experiencing homelessness. Midnight Run coordinates more than 1,000 missions per year where volunteers from churches, synagogues, schools, and other philanthropic groups distribute food, clothing, blankets, and other personal care items to those who are impoverished and/or experiencing homelessness on the streets of New York City.

We are asking for donations, volunteers to prepare food, sort clothing, and compile toiletry kits, and volunteers who would like to join Senior Seminar teens on their mission in New York City. Donation boxes will be in the Main Lobby, and you can contact the new Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator, Jamie Walowitz, at 516.472.2943 or jwalowitz@uucsr.org, if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Adult Programs
Jamie Walowitz
Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator

Great Books Discussions | Fridays | 12:00–1:30 PM

Come together for conversation that is also a fun learning experience promoting civil discourse, critical thinking, and meaningful interpersonal connection. Live on Zoom HERE.
All are welcome.

The anthology for the next few weeks is *Great Conversations 3,* available through the Great Books Store

December 23: No session for Christmas weekend
December 30: No session for New Year's weekend
January 6: *Six Characters in Search of an Author,* by Luigi Pirandello
January 13: The new short story collection will begin! *Winesburg, Ohio: A Group of Tales of Ohio Small-Town Life,* by Sherwood Anderson is available on Amazon through paperback, Kindle, and audiobook for purchase HERE.

Please e-mail Jamie Walowitz, at jwalowitz@uucsr.org, if you would like to receive communications about Great Books.

Dramatic Readings | Saturday, January 21, 2022 | 6:00–9:00 PM
***The Audience* (Act II)** by Peter Morgan

About the play: "For sixty years, Elizabeth II met each of her twelve Prime Ministers in a weekly audience at Buckingham Palace. Both parties have an unspoken agreement never to repeat what is said, not even to their spouses. *The Audience* breaks this contract of silence and imagines a series of pivotal meetings between the Downing Street incumbents and their Queen."

Please RSVP to Jamie Walowitz, the new Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator, at jwalowitz@uucsr.org, if you would like a PDF of the play emailed to you or to receive a physical copy in the mail. Join Zoom Meeting HERE. Or join via telephone: call 646.558.8656, Meeting ID: 817 7007 7772 Passcode: 798549

Medical Qi Gong for Senior Health | Mondays, 9:00–10:00 AM
$50 for 5 classes, $12 per drop-in class (Register HERE or email tqh.Ashley@gmail.com).

By popular demand, Qigong instructor, Ashley Baldwin, continues leading classes. Start your week off by strengthening your balance and overall body confidence! You will learn simple, yet powerful motion and breathing exercises to improve physical balance and falling safety skills, optimize lung capacity, bolster immunity, and promote energy flow to the internal organs.

Ashley Zooms in every Monday morning to help you center your body and mind, directly from Thailand. Exercises are taught standing, with equally effective guidance for those who prefer to sit. Register HERE or email tqh.Ashley@gmail.com

Religious Education (RE)

Carson Jones, Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator

UU Kids Connect: Game Time! Continues with Winter Solstice
Wednesday, December 21, 2022 | 6:30 PM | FREE!

The third Wednesday of the month just got more exciting! Kids of all ages, from any congregation are welcome to come together for game time! Come make new UU friends from all over North America!

Game three is coming up when we'll celebrate Winter Solstice! Registration is free and the fun is priceless! Join on Zoom. Please Register Here to receive the link and all UU Kids Connect updates!

UU Kids Connect is an inter-congregational collective led by professional religious educators. Current leaders are Carson Jones (Shelter Rock, NY), Judith Hogan (UU Montclair, NJ), Jeanne Nametz (UU Ridgewood, NJ), Jennie Stillwell Belmonte (UU Somerset Hills, NJ), and Jil Novenski (Community Church, NY).

Long Island Area Council (LIAC)

Student Activity Fund Seeks Part-Time Program Director

The Student Activity Fund (SAF) of the Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations (LIAC) seeks a Part-Time Program Director, beginning March 1, 2023. Deadline for applications has been extended to January 15, 2023.

SAF is a student internship program that pays UU students to work at self-selected nonprofits that encourage them to live their religious values and that focus on social action, advocacy, or social services. SAF is supported by the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.

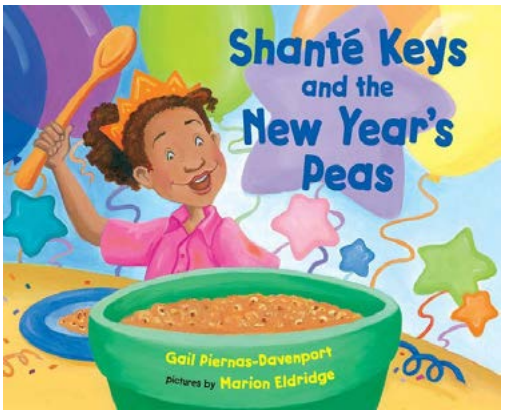
For more information about the SAF program, visit liacuu.org. To see the full job listing, click HERE.

New Year's Eats Bedtime Stories!
Wednesday, January 4 | 7:00 PM
Live on Zoom HERE

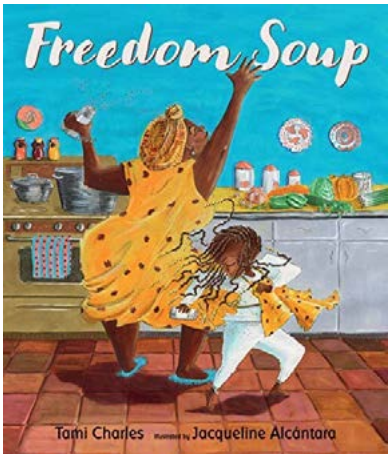
Now on the first Wednesday of the month!

All are welcome to join Carson Jones for this special interactive storytime as he reads three family-friendly stories celebrating the traditions of New Year's foods!

Feliz New Year, Ava Gabriela! written by Alexandra Alessandri illustrated by Addy Rivera Sonda



Shanté Keys and the New Year's Peas written by Gail Piernas-Davenport illustrated by Marion Eldridge



Freedom Soup written by Tami Charles illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara

Social Justice Coordinator
Claire Deroche

A More Just and Joyful World

As the end of 2022 approaches, many news outlets will be presenting stories of interest from the year just past. Among them will be narratives of war, crime, sickness, poverty, and the many other ills that plague humankind. There will also be stories of people triumphing against all odds to address these very conditions. Two of those organizations are here in our local community: Upholding Humanity and the Manhasset/Great Neck Economic Opportunity Council (EOC).

Upholding Humanity is definitely the new kid on the block! It came into being in 2021 when a group of concerned members of different faith traditions gathered at the Islamic Center of Long Island (ICLI). Dr. Isma Chaudhry, Chair of the Board of ICLI convened the meeting for the purpose of discussing the willingness of the different faith communities to address the needs of refugees coming to Long Island. Those gathered agreed that they wanted to be part of the endeavor, and thus Upholding Humanity was born. Current members of the group are Temple Sinai of Roslyn, The Community Synagogue in Sands Point, the Social Justice Committee of UUCSR, St. John's Episcopal Church Cold Spring Harbor, the UJA Federation, and ICLI.

According to project coordinator Maddy Donath, since its inception, Upholding Humanity has assisted seven families to resettle in Queens and Nassau County, apply for benefits they are eligible for, find jobs, enroll their children in school, and learn their way around the community.

With the advent of colder weather, the organization is asking partner congregations to donate Visa gift cards in amounts from $25 up to $100. These cards will allow the families to purchase clothing and other items needed for the cold weather. If you would like to participate in this project, put the gift card in an envelope, label it Refugee Project, and drop it in one of the two donation boxes in the lobby. If you have any questions, contact Social Justice Coordinator, Claire Deroche at 516.238.2191 or cderoche@uucsr.org.

A second organization worthy of consideration is the Manhasset/Great Neck Economic Opportunity Council. Founded in 1966, it played a significant role in the Civil Rights struggle.

Today, the EOC serves as a multi-faceted resource for the people of Spinney Hill in Manhasset, plus Great Neck and Port Washington. Under its roof, there's a Head Start Program; Adventures in Learning, an after-school homework and enrichment program; a food pantry run by the Shelter Rock Church; activities for youth; and a summer camp experience for children in first- through eighth-grades. Volunteer tutors are also matched with students needing one-on-one attention.

But the scope of the EOC goes beyond the programs offered at the center. This story, shared by Stephanie Chenault, Executive Director of the EOC exemplifies this reach. "A single mother in Great Neck with four young girls was evicted from a house she had been renting for years when the owner dramatically raised the rent to force her out. The Head Start Family Service Worker was able to help them find temporary housing. She made arrangements with the school district to keep the older girls in their home schools, gave the family supermarket gift cards, and helped the mother complete applications for housing and SNAP (formerly food stamps)."

If you would like to help this organization that renders invaluable service to our neighbors, make tax-deductible donations to EOC at https://www.mgneoc.com/donate. Checks should be made payable to the Manhasset/Great Neck EOC, 65 High Street, Manhasset, 11030, attention Stephanie Chenault.

Giving to organizations in our local community is one way to create a more just and joyful world!

Social Justice Announcements
Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator

Assisting Refugee Families: The UUCSR Social Justice Committee is a member of Upholding Humanity, a local interfaith effort to assist refugees from Afghanistan, El Salvador, and Ukraine. The group is collecting Visa gift cards from $25 and $100 so families may purchase winter clothing. If you wish to participate, put the card in an envelope addressed to Refugee Families Collection and drop it in one of the collection boxes in the Main Lobby. For more information, contact Claire Deroche (cderoche@uucsr.org).

Cooking Meals for Guests of the Shelters Run by the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN): On first Wednesdays and fourth Thursdays of the month, 9:00 AM–12:30 PM, volunteers gather in the Main Kitchen to cook nutritious meals delivered to three INN shelters. Check the *Quest* for any schedule changes. Register with Sharyn Esposito, sesposito@uucsr.org.

Supporting Those Experiencing Hunger: You are invited to donate non-perishable food items to the red basket in the Main Lobby. The pantry by the kitchen door is for anyone in need. Once that pantry is stocked, we donate to local food pantries.

Friday Nights with the LGBTQ+ Group on Zoom: The LGBTQ+ Sub-Committee sponsors a weekly get-together on Friday nights for its members and allies. Check in is at 6:30 PM, and gathering for facilitated conversation is at 7:00 PM. On December 23, Charlene Greenberg will lead conversation on "Holiday Stories and Songs." On December 30, Winterflower Robinson will lead a conversation on "New Year's Wishes." Join Zoom Meeting HERE. Or call 646.558.8656, Meeting ID: 940 8603 7651, Passcode: 290509

Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
Joan Minieri, Executive Director

From the Ground Up:
Veatch Sunday
January 29, 2023

Please join us in the new year for Veatch Sunday, a Shelter Rock tradition. On January 29, we are honored to welcome Dorian Warren, co-president of Veatch grantee Community Change who will speak from the pulpit about the ideals of our multiracial democracy. At 1:00 PM, Dorian will lead a very special presentation and dialogue with members at the Veatch Annual Meeting. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY CHANGE

Dorian Warren is a nationally recognized organizer, scholar, and commentator on public affairs. As co-president of Community Change, he leads one of the country's most steadfast, visionary institutions advocating for racial equity, worker rights, and social transformation. Dorian is also co-chair of the Economic Security Project and co-host of System Check, a podcast for The Nation. Through its 125 affiliates across the country, Community Change is building the leadership and power of vulnerable and low-income people, particularly in communities of color.

Community Change co-founded the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM), made up of 40 organizations fighting for a just immigration system. It is also deeply engaged in efforts to end poverty, and is fighting to institutionalize a guaranteed income in the United States. Under Dorian's leadership, Community Change is galvanizing support for Black-led organizations and promoting the leadership development of women of color.

Veatch Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from Veatch grantees. Be onsite and in-person with Dorian Warren on January 29. A livestream will be available at: uucsr.org/calendar. Save the date!

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 and Women's Group, Co-Sponsors

TGIF: Reproductive Justice
Friday, January 6, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Online via Zoom
Susan Gottehrer, Guest Speaker

Reproductive Justice
The Janes: Then and Now

What The Janes did then—
What you can do now...

Two film segments will be shared about the Janes, who were a group of unlikely outlaws.

The film, *The Janes*, depicts their story including defying the state legislature that outlawed abortion.

Learn about the Janes and about Roe and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Discussion with speaker Susan Gottehrer, Nassau County Regional Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, will follow.

Ms. Gottehrer has been a life-long activist and part of the New York Civil Liberties family since 2006.

Taking Back our Bodies and our Power: Ensuring Reproductive Rights in New York State

Join the Women's Group and Social Justice Committee online for this most important discussion on Reproductive Justice.

Join Zoom Meeting **HERE.**
Or call +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 859 0396 1744, Passcode: 11030

Women's Group
Diane Mansell, Women's Group President

Women's Film Discussion Series

Third and Fourth Fridays monthly | 7:30 PM
With co-hosts Maria Ceraulo and
Victoria Pilotti, Center for the Women of New York

Friday, December 23, 2022: *Catherine Called Birdy* (Amazon Prime)
Friday, January 20, 2023: *My Policeman* (Amazon Prime)
Friday, January 27, 2023: *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (Netflix)

Watch the films in advance, then join Zoom meetings
for lively conversation **HERE**

Book Series

All are welcome.
Third Fridays Monthly | 3:30 pm | Join HERE.
Please contact Sharyn Esposito to learn more.
sesposito@uucsr.org or 516.472.2960

January 20, 2023	*Search* by Michelle Huneven Discussion led by Patti Paris
February 17, 2023	*Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels and Crooks,* by Patrick Radden Keefe Discussion led by Ursala Salamone
March 17, 2023	*Finding Me: A Memoir* by Viola Davis Discussion led by Katherine Miller

Please visit uucsr.org/wg for additional details including a full list of titles, discussion leaders, and a printable flyer.

Women Talk Daytime

Sandra Hazel Frank, facilitator

Onsite in the Veatch Conference Room and online on Zoom. First and third Tuesdays monthly at 12:00 Noon. Bring your lunch and coffee/tea will be provided.

The first Tuesday of the month, the topic is Current Events. The topic for January 17 will be announced in the next *Quest,* dated January 11, 2023.

Wisdom, companionship, and compassion are what we bring to one another through conversation. Come share your insights. We will all be together! You are welcome to attend in person at UUCSR or join online HERE..

Women's Group
Maria Ceraulo, Chair, Women's Issues

It Takes a Congregation—and Friends

It was supposed to be a glorious day of giving to children and mothers who are justice impacted—mothers reunited with or missing their children at holiday time. With the help of so many, it turned out that way—better than hoped.

We've done similar events before Covid. This year, we decided to do the cookie baking again. You may wonder why these women, these children. As Women's Issues Chair, I am always learning about and advocating for women. I found that the Vera Institute reported the number of women held in local jails and prisons has grown exponentially in the last several decades. Today, women in the US are incarcerated at over 10 times the level in 1970—from under 8,000 to nearly 110,000! The women have experienced trauma, have unmet mental and physical health needs, are single mothers, and come from low-income communities of color. The majority are charged with low-level offenses. When incarcerated, they are separated from their children and traumatized. After release, they try to reunite with their children. Our thinking was that cookie baking is something many of these children may have missed during holidays apart from their moms. I found two groups that work to help these women avoid prison, get jobs, and housing, and reunite with their children.

The first group, New Hour, is an organization dedicated to empowering justice-impacted women, mothers, and children. It provides a program called EMERGE, which stands for Empowering Methods for Effective Reentry, Growth, and Engagement.

Women's Opportunity and Rehabilitation Center is the second group I found that provides female offenders with the opportunity to pay their debts to society without being incarcerated. The WORC program is cost-effective, eliminating the expense of incarceration, the need for foster care placement of children, and public assistance.

Shelter Rock truly rose to the occasion with assistance from the Social Justice and Religious Education Committees. The Art Committee bought gifts for the children. A Hadley House resident donated many beautiful hand-knitted gifts. Volunteers came from the Congregational Church, and from a group funded by the Veatch Program, Prison Families Alliance. We had tables of crafts, a nature walk, lunch, and a visit from Santa with gifts for children.

All did not proceed without glitches. We had excitement in the kitchen. A member held back the spray of hot water while two volunteer boys from RE helped push the accumulating water into the floor drain. Even more amazing were two women guests who got on the floor with wrenches and stopped the water! They were triumphant and soaked to the skin. We remain very grateful.

The event left us feeling gratified and satisfied that we accomplished what we set out to do with so many volunteers and helpers. Thanks to all.

Event Announcements

ALL PROGRAMS ARE ONLINE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
Please see UUCSR.org/calendar for additional details. See LIACUU.org for other area congregations.

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
6:30 PM, Social Justice Virtual Committee Meeting

6:30 PM, UU Kids Connect: Game Time!

Thursday, December 22, 2022
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

9:00 AM, Thursday INN Cooking (by registration only), Main Kitchen

1:00 PM, Not Just Bridge, Veatch Terrace Room, Ballroom

7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall

Friday, December 23, 2022
BUILDING CLOSED-Christmas Eve Holiday

6:30 PM, Friday Nights with the LGBTQ+ Group Gatherings Online

6:30 PM, Together to End Solitary Confinement Online Program

7:30 PM, Women's Group Online Film Discussion - *Catherine Called Birdy*

Saturday, December 24, 2022
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

5:00 PM, Worship Service *Together in Song and Light,* led by all Ministers, Worship Room

7:00 PM, Worship Service- *Vespers Service*, led by All Ministers, Worship Room

Sunday, December 25, 2022
10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Building Hours

10:00 AM, Caring Christmas Holiday Breakfast, Social Hall

10:45 AM, Sunday Morning Experience

11:00 AM, Worship Service *Christmas Stories* led by Rev. Jaye Brooks, Art Gallery

Monday, December 26, 2022
BUILDING CLOSED-Christmas Day Holiday

9:00 AM, Medical Qigong for Senior Health

Tuesday, December 27, 2022
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

Wednesday, December 28, 2022
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

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

2:00 PM, Wednesday Conversations

5:30 PM, Ukulele Group Practice

Thursday, December 29, 2022
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

1:00 PM, Not Just Bridge, Veatch Terrace Room, Ballroom

6:00 PM, Bookstore Meeting

7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall

Friday, December 30, 2022
BUILDING CLOSED-New Year's Eve Holiday

6:30 PM, Friday Nights with the LGBTQ+ Group Gatherings Online

Saturday, December 31, 2022
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

7:30 PM, New Year's Eve Gala at Shelter Rock!, Main Building

Sunday, January 1, 2023
9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Building Hours

9:30 AM, New Year/Fresh Start Breakfast & Coffee Hour, Social Hall

10:45 AM, Sunday Morning Experience

11:00 AM, Worship Service led by Guest Minister Oscar Sinclair, Worship Room

Monday, January 2, 2023
BUILDING CLOSED-New Year's Day Holiday

9:00 AM, Medical Qigong for Senior Health

Tuesday, January 3, 2023
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

12:00 PM, Women Talk Daytime Meeting, Veatch Conference Room and Online

7:00 PM, BOT Agenda Planning Meeting

7:30 PM, DAC Meeting

7:30 PM, President's Operation Task Force Mtg

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

9:00 AM, Wednesday INN Cooking (by registration only), Main Kitchen

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

2:00 PM, Wednesday Conversations

7:00 PM, Land Management Leadership Team Meeting

7:00 PM, New Year's Eats Bedtime Stories!

Thursday, January 5, 2023
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

10:00 AM, Personnel Committee Meeting, Office Conference Room and Online

1:00 PM, Not Just Bridge, Veatch Terrace Room, Ballroom

7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall

Friday, January 6, 2023
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

12:00 PM, Great Books - Great Conversations 3

6:30 PM, Friday Nights with the LGBTQ+ Group Gatherings Online

7:00 PM, TGIF - Reproductive Justice, Art Gallery

Saturday, January 7, 2023
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

Sunday, January 8, 2023
9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Building Hours

9:00 AM, Bagel Breakfast & Coffee, Social Hall

9:00 AM, Shelter Rock Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal, Choir Rehearsal Room

9:00 AM, Women's Group Board Meeting, Veatch Conference Room and Online

10:00 AM, Choir Rehearsal, Worship Room

10:00 AM, Young People's Choir Rehearsal, Chapel

10:45 AM, Sunday Morning Experience

11:00 AM, Religious Education (RE) Classes, RE Wing

11:00 AM, Worship Service: *Denominational Affairs Sunday: Love at the Center,* led by David Carl Olson, Worship Room

11:05 AM, Children's Worship for All Ages: Peace In, Peace Out, Chapel

12:00 PM, Sunday Cafe, Social Hall

1:00 PM, Artist Reception, Art Gallery

1:00 PM, Congregational Meeting, Worship Room and Online

1:00 PM, Love & Stitches, RE Room 15

Monday, January 9, 2023
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

9:00 AM, Medical Qigong for Senior Health

7:30 PM, RE Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

11:00 AM, Bylaws Committee Meeting, Office Conference Room

3:00 PM, Art Committee Meeting

7:00 PM, Rev. Brooks Colloquy Committee Meeting

7:00 PM, Tech 'n Talk Program - Artificial Intelligence (AI): Its Gifts and Challenges, and its Nature and Development

7:15 PM, Program Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
9:00 AM-4:30 PM, Building Hours

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

2:00 PM, Wednesday Conversations

5:30 PM, Ukulele Group Practice

Thursday, January 12, 2023
9:00 AM-9:00 PM, Building Hours

1:00 PM, Not Just Bridge, Veatch Terrace Room and Online

7:00 PM, Member Resource Committee Meeting

7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall

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

Quest Mission is to connect readers to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, to Unitarian Universalism, and to each other. *Quest* is produced by staff members Jennifer Sappell and Linda McCarthy, with the invaluable assistance of volunteers: Claire Z. Bock, and Jessica K. Vega.

Submissions: communications@uucsr.org

Quest **Guidelines**: http://j.mp/quest-gl

Quest may include views or opinions that do not necessarily reflect official policy, views of the respective boards or committees, or editorial staff.

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December 21, 2022

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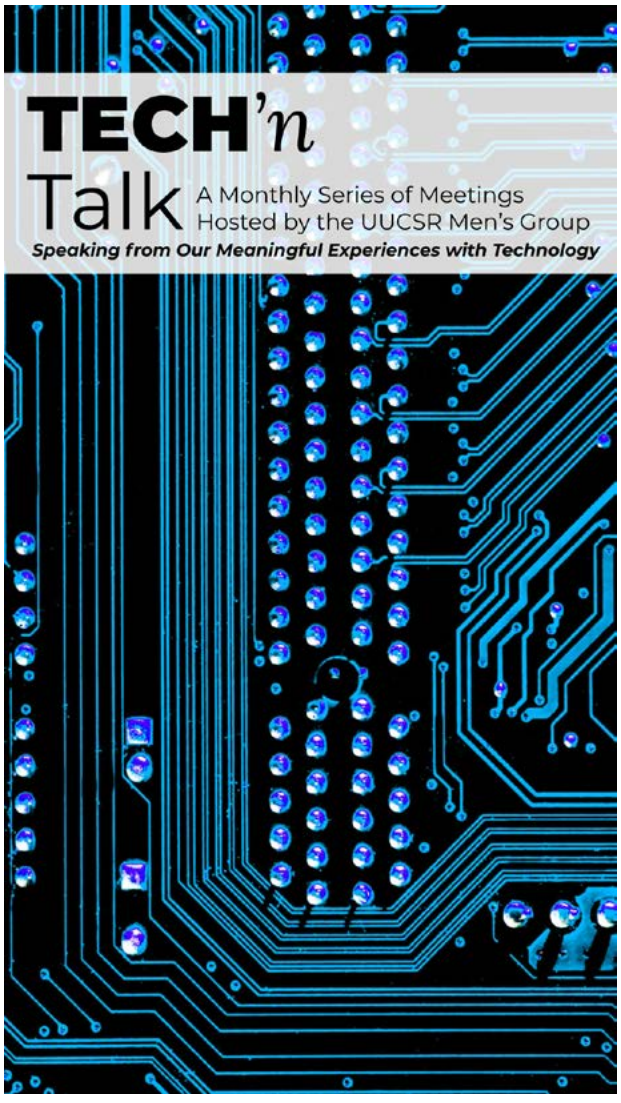
FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL

Next *Quest*: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 | Deadline for Content: Thursday, January 5, 2023

Men's Group
Larry Hass, Chair



Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Artificial Intelligence (AI):
Its Gifts and Challenges, and its Nature and Development
Presented by Herb Klitzner and Gerry Matusiewicz.
This program is part presentation and part conversation on what AI actually is: many skills pasted together, including use of language, searching collections of knowledge, voice and face recognition, sometimes social skills, and so forth.

Presented topics will include early work, current kinds of AI, major achievements, present and future opportunities and problems, Your Own Personal AI, as well as a discussion about a widely publicized new, free search and explain AI program called OpenGPT.

Join the online meeting HERE or call +1 646 558 8656,
Meeting ID: 829 6783 9221, Passcode: 058360

UPCOMING:

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
Space Voyages Past and Future: A Look at Futurist Proposals for a Mars Mission and Past Preparations for the Successful 1969 Moon Landing
Features Gerry Jalazo's "My Experiences Creating a Computer Program to Control the 1960s Lunar Lander Simulator for Astronauts." Gerry Jalazo is interviewed by Gerry Matusiewicz.

Thursday, March 23, 2023
The Technology World of the UUA
Presented by Larry Stritof, UUA Director of Information Technology (IT) Services. How do you create a virtual General Assembly (GA) gathering? Hosts are Gerry Matusiewicz and Claudia Barbey.