

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Member of the New England Region of the
Unitarian Universalist Association



Unitarian Universalist Society: East is a welcoming, open-minded, spiritual community seeking truth and meaning in its many forms. We share responsibility for building a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world.

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Sunday Services Schedule

May Ministry Theme: Nurturing Beauty

In May we expect to continue expanding attendance at our hybrid Sunday services. As long as the COVID data continues its downward trend, this should be possible. The 9:00 service is in-person only. The 11:00 service is in-person and online. Of course, at the time of preparing this newsletter, we have not made any official decisions. Please watch our eblasts for information. And if you think you've missed some information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 860-646-5151 or email at uuseoffice@uuse.org.

Our Zoom login and call-in information will be shared through the congregational eblasts on Wednesdays and Saturdays. To subscribe to the congregational eblast, please send a message to e-news@uuse.org or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office to arrange another method of receiving relevant information.

May 1: "Not Yet Redeemed: Responding to an Open Letter."

This morning Rev. Josh offers a response to a 2020 "Open Letter to My Fellow White Christians," by the New York Times contributing opinion writer, Margaret Renki. This service was purchased at the 2021 UUS:E Goods and Services auction by Stan and Sue McMillen.

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

May 8: "Flower Communion."

Join us in-person or online for our annual observance of the Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion. Through story and song, we celebrate the beauty of our individuality, and the strength and warmth of our community. Bring flowers to share. Also, all are welcome to submit photos of yourself with a flower for our flower communion slideshow. Send pics to minister@uuse.org by Sunday, May 1.

Coordinators: Gina Campellone and Rev. Josh Pawelek

May 15: "Hózhó: The Way of Beauty."

Is beauty a basic need?

Can appreciation of beauty and exploring creativity bring us better health, relationships, self-understanding, and spiritual growth?

Join us to explore these questions and others, including the Diné (Navajo) concept of Hózhó.

All who attend are invited to bring an object, picture, idea, or other creation that you find beautiful to share after service..

Coordinators: Marsha Howland, Nancy Madar, and Stacey Musulin

May 22: One Service Only, at 10:00 AM

"Affirmation: A Coming-of-Age Celebration."

UUS:E's Affirmation program provides a modern Rite of Passage experience that welcomes and affirms youth as they embark on their journey towards young adulthood. This morning we affirm our coming-of-age youth as they share their credo statements with the congregation. This is always one of our most rewarding, thought-provoking services.

Coordinator: Gina Campellone

May 29: "We Remember."

On this last Sunday in May, we consider the various meanings of Memorial Day and share readings, memories, insights, and music. Friends and relatives lost in military action will be honored, as well as others we remember. Alan Ayers will sing a Civil War song, and there will be time for quiet reflection.

Coordinators: Sande Hartdagen, Sandy Karosi, and Martha Larson

June 5: "Pride, Youth-Style!"

The UUS:E Youth Group and Rev. Josh offer a Sunday service in celebration of Pride Month. With role-playing, reflection, and music, we share our experiences of living in a world that is at once open to GLBTQ people, and yet still painfully intolerant.

Coordinators: UUS:E Youth Group and Rev. Josh Pawelek.

Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for May 2022

As always, thank you for your generosity.

"We do not gather our gifts only for ourselves, but to share with the larger community."

Continuing our practice of sharing our gifts with the community beyond our walls, fifty percent of our Sunday plate collections for the month of May will be split between MARC, Inc. and MARCH, Inc.

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is an organization which supports people with disabilities, empowering them to live, work, and enjoy all their community has to offer. Through the provision of many support services, their clients become able to live their lives to the fullest according to their individual goals and dreams.

MARCH, Inc. serves people with developmental disabilities in greater Manchester and supports their families in a number of ways. It has a respite program that gives youth the chance to socialize together while giving their families a break.

Please contact Louisa Graver at lgraver163@gmail.com, David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at nancymadar@hotmail.com.

Checks made out to UUS:E will be treated as follows. If the memo line:

- ✓ is blank or "pledge" is written, all will go toward your pledge.
- ✓ has "COM" or the name of the charity is on the memo line, all will go to the charity.
- ✓ has "1/2 pledge, 1/2 COM," it will be divided equally.

2021-2022 Ministry Themes

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/themes.html>

September:	Embracing Possibility
October:	Cultivating Relationship
November:	Holding History
December:	Opening to Joy
January:	Living with Intention
February:	Widening the Circle
March:	Renewing Faith
April:	Awakening
May:	Nurturing Beauty
June:	Celebrating Blessings



Trouble Zooming In?

Some UUS:E congregants have reported not being able to sign into meetings either because they aren't receiving the Zoom links or have trouble making the link work. While some of these issues may be with the person's own computer system, there have been instances where someone has been inadvertently dropped from the distribution list of the company that manages our E-blasts. If you think this may have happened to you, contact Annie Gentile at 860-646-5151.

Unirondack is Back... and filling up fast!

After closing our doors in 2020 and a limited summer in 2021, we are excited for camp to return. Unirondack is a radically-inclusive, UU-founded summer camp located in the beautiful lake-filled Adirondacks on the ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee. We're currently enrolling for spring and summer programs, and spots are filling up!

At Unirondack we provide a space that holds progressive values but focuses on providing a space for campers to play, scream, shout, be themselves, and learn about others. Our values create norms, but it's our campers and staff arriving with a focus on creating community who provide an environment of learning and exploration that makes Unirondack special. Whether it's a camper's first time in the outdoors, diving into the fantasy world of a DnD campaign, playing music in front of an audience, or showing off their art, we aim to help youth discover new passions and parts of themselves to love.

In addition, we're hiring! Unirondack is currently hiring for summer staff, including counselors, crew members, a medical director (EMT or nurse) and a professional head cook. We offer salaried positions, and volunteer work-exchange for parents seeking to offset their camper's tuition. For more information about Unirondack, visit Unirondack.org or email us at Director@unirondack.org.

Goods & Services Auction



Come One, Come All!

The 2022 Goods & Services Auction and Cookie Competition

Online Silent Auction May 3-13, 2022

Live Event Saturday, May 14 from 2-4 PM at the meetinghouse includes the Live Auction, Cookie Contest and More (Rain date May 21)

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction opens for online bidding on May 3 at 8 AM and runs through May 13 at 10 PM at [website not ready yet, check back May 1 or later] You can go there now to preview the items and REGISTER to participate in the auction. Keep checking because more items may be added!

Auction Website Registration

You need to register in order to bid on anything, both online and at the live event.

Click "Register" on the top menu bar and follow the prompts.

Note: Creating a password is optional in the system but we highly recommend that you create one. If you don't, it will assign a PIN that you will have to use.

About Credit Cards: You can store a credit card during registration, if that is how you plan to pay. This will make check out and invoicing really easy for everyone involved. We will also accept a personal check as payment and you will have the option to pay by credit card and enter that information when you receive your invoice.

Bid High and Often!

You can start bidding at 8 AM on Tuesday May 3! The online auction will close at 10 PM on May 13.

Be sure to check back to make sure you haven't been outbid.

Live Event

Join us on Saturday, May 14 from 2-4 PM on the meetinghouse grounds for our Live Auction and Cookie Competition. (Rain Date: May 21) There will be fun for all! Socialize, try some cookies, bid on some unique treasures!

Cookie Competition

UUS:E's first ever Cookie Competition will be held at the live event. Yummy. Sample as many as you want and vote for your favorite! There will be prizes for the general, vegan, and gluten-free categories. Bragging rights and a beautiful UUS:E Master Cookie Baker Apron are up for grabs for the winners! It's not too late to enter—contact auction@uuse.org ASAP to reserve your spot in the competition.

Live Auction and Exclusive Silent Auction Items

Places at dinners offered by members, the fabulous live auction items like Rev. Josh's sermon, and bidding on baskets will only be available at the live event. You can preview all of these offerings under the "Live Events" tab on the auction website.

If you cannot go to the live event but want to bid on something, just ask a friend! Your proxy can get your bidder number from us at the registration table at the live event (or register you if you haven't already).

For the Kids

There will be a Kids Bid Table with items capped at \$10 for kids to bid on. There will also be crafts, activities, and a bounce house! And supervision for the kids while the adults go to the Live Auction.

During the live event on Saturday May 14, UUS:E will host our first ever Cookie Competition.

Lend a Hand!

The Auction Committee would greatly appreciate an hour of your time to help this event run smoothly! We need help with set up, clean up and during the event. Contact auction@uuse.org if you can take a shift.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Auction Committee—

Susan Gabriele, Carolyn Gimbrone, Jennifer Klee, Chris Larson, Stan McMillen & Nancy Papas

The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

First: **Annual Meeting!** I want to remind everyone that our Annual Meeting takes place after the second service on May 15th. The meeting should be relatively short, as we are only voting on the proposed budget and slate of officers, board members and committee chairs. All voting members should have received the call to the meeting in late April. If you are a voting member and you didn't receive the call, please contact our office.

Second: **the 8th UU Principle.** It had been our plan to vote at the Annual Meeting on whether or not to adopt the 8th UU principle as a congregation. However, after careful consideration, the Social Justice / Anti-Oppression Committee has recommended that we postpone the vote minimally until the fall. In March we had a wonderful 8th Principle workshop with Paula Cole Jones, but the workshop helped us recognize that May 15th is too soon to hold a meaningful vote. Indeed, a vote this momentous requires that we have many opportunities for study, questioning, learning and debate.

In the interest of generating understanding of and enthusiasm for the 8th Principle, the Social Justice / Anti-Oppression Committee will be offering a variety of avenues for learning. On May 1, following the second Sunday service, they will host a viewing of portions of Paula Cole Jones' March workshop. They will also provide monthly columns in this newsletter on "Why the 8th Principle Matters to Me," as well as links to helpful resources in our weekly eblasts.

The 8th Principle calls us to address all the ways various forms of oppression—racism, sexism, ableism, transphobia, etc.—live in our institution, and to truly center the work of confronting oppression in all aspects of our congregational life. This is a challenging but liberating call. But that is also true of the call implicit in the current seven UU principles! I hope you will take the time over the next six months to learn about the 8th Principle and why so many other congregations have adopted it.

Finally, our May ministry theme: **Nurturing Beauty.** I likely won't be preaching directly on this theme, so I want to take a moment here to urge you to contemplate that which is beautiful in your life, to surround yourself with that beauty, and to revel, unapologetically, in that beauty. It goes without saying that life has been difficult these past few years, and there is likely more difficulty in the future. But difficulty is not, and never has been, an excuse to deprive ourselves of beauty. Wherever you encounter beauty—in nature, in a meal well-prepared, in the arts, in music, in worship, in meaningful relationships, in community, in a good book, in a unique experience—my prayer for you at the beginning of May, is that you may encounter it in abundance, that it will feed your soul, and strengthen you for whatever difficulties lay ahead. And if you have a spare minute, please send me a note about beauty at minister@uuse.org. I'd love to learn about the beauty that surrounds you!

With love,
Rev. Josh





Green Sanctuary News

Spring is probably the time most of us feel renewed hope for the world or at least for our lives in the present. I love to see my garlic shoots coming up, since they are planted in October. I also love to see all the spring bulbs and native perennials shooting up from the long-dormant earth. Then come the first leaf and flower buds on shrubs and trees. We bask in the sun's warmth on the early spring days.

Some early vegetable gardeners get their peas and spinach in at the first possible moment, but most of us start our gardens as soon as we get some warm enough weather and start working the soil.

Learning more about regenerative agriculture, I am trying to disturb the soil of established beds as little as possible, loosening it with a garden fork, adding some compost and a little organic fertilizer, gently working it in, watering and adding seedlings or a row of seeds carefully, covering with the appropriate amount of soil. Sometimes we struggle with removing weeds, like the mugwort that seems to be taking over parts of my community garden plot at MCC. Like bittersweet, any root parts left over when pulling it out can reproduce.

Gardening can be hard work and is not always successful, but it does teach us a lot about resilience, humility and gratitude for those who do grow and handle so much of the food we eat. Food prices are climbing and that's really hard on those living on limited incomes, even harder on millions of poor people around the world, whose daily bread prices are climbing above their ability to pay. A lot of this is due to the war in Ukraine, where most grain for many poor nations has been coming from.

On top of this the climate crisis is also affecting food sources for people all around the world. Factory farming and industrial agriculture are experiencing damage from the climate crisis while greatly adding to it. But great hope can be found in regenerative agricultural methods, which rebuild

depleted soils and absorb huge amounts of carbon directly from the atmosphere. If you want to feel some rising hope, I recommend watching the documentary "Kiss the Ground," which can be found on Netflix. Whether you are vegan, vegetarian or a meat eater, you will find this film uplifting and eye-opening. Then take your own action by planting some food plants and native pollinators and deciding to buy much of your food from local growers who take good care of the soil and grow the food organically or naturally.

In our UUS:E Peas and Love garden we will be planting more pollinator flowers as well as some food crops. The herb section has a great many herbs which you are welcome to cut and use throughout the season. And come out to help care for our lovely UUS:E grounds on April 30 from 9-12.

The Green Sanctuary article is written by various members of the Sustainable Living Committee. SLC meets on second Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom for now. Our next meeting is May 10. New members are welcome and can get the Zoom link by contacting Mary Lawrence at welonwheels@hotmail.com.

Help Wanted:

Sunday Morning Zoom Hosts

The UUS:E Sunday Services, Membership, and Communications & Technology Committees are jointly seeking 5-6 people to serve as Zoom hosts for our 11:00 Sunday services.

What is a Zoom host? It's a very simple, though very important position. The Zoom host welcomes all the online guests to the service; shares important links, such as the link to the visitor welcome card, or to any upcoming events; monitors the Zoom participants for disruptive behavior (Zoom-bombing), which has yet to happen, but is always a possibility; communicates with the tech people at UUS:E if there is a problem online they may not know about; and sets up breakout rooms at the end of the service. The Zoom host may eventually share the online joys and concerns with the congregation in the sanctuary. Best of all—this job can be done from home, or from one of the offices at UUS:E. Each Zoom host will be assigned to work one Sunday a month. Questions? Interested? Contact Rev. Josh at minister@uuse.org or 860-646-5151.

So Why an 8th Principle?

by Jim Adams

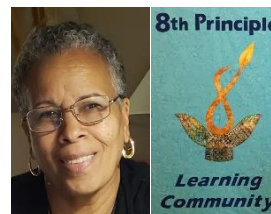
When I first heard about the proposal to add an 8th principle to the existing 7, my first reaction was to wonder why something like that was necessary. The principles seem to cover all the bases; inherent worth and dignity, justice, world community. But after listening to the sermon last fall by Rev. Christopher Long (“We’ll Build a Land: Cultivating Relationships Towards the 8th Principle”), and more recently attending the workshop “Creating a Culture of Inclusion—An 8th Principle Workshop” presented by Paula Cole Jones, I’m beginning to understand. To me, this isn’t really about adding an 8th principle. This campaign is about changing how we, as UUs, approach the much-needed work against racism and oppression in ourselves, our congregations, and our community. It’s one thing to be against racism and oppression; it’s a different thing to actively work against them.

The UUA is currently in the process of evaluating the 7 Principles for an eventual update, and it’s not clear how many we’ll end up with, or how they will be worded. What is clear is that a growing number of UU congregations, in solidarity with the UU BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) community, are agreeing that Unitarian Universalists can no longer simply oppose racism and oppression but must make a commitment to dismantle racism and other forms of oppression. And by approving the 8th Principle for their congregations, they are not only making that commitment, but are also telling the UUA to make this part of who we are.

I urge everyone to learn more about the 8th Principle campaign, what it’s all about, and why it’s important to the future of Unitarian Universalism. Watch for articles in the eblast and newsletter in the weeks/months to come, and attend an upcoming workshop where we plan to replay the Paula Cole Jones presentation. I enthusiastically support the adoption of the 8th Principle by UUS:E, and I hope you will, too.

8th Principle Learning Opportunity

Sunday, May 1, 12:30 PM in the UUS:E Sanctuary



Join Rev. Josh and members of the UUS:E Social Justice / Anti-Oppression Committee for a viewing of portions of Paula Cole Jones’ March 20 workshop, “Creating a Culture of Inclusion.” This will be an opportunity for members and friends of UUS:E to learn about and discuss the 8th Unitarian Universalist principle. Please contact the UUS:E office at 860-646-5151 or uuseoffice@uuse.org to let us know you are planning to attend, and whether you will join us in person or online.

Are You New(ish) to UUS:E?

If you are a new member of UUS:E, thinking about becoming a member, or a friend who would just like to find out more about our congregation, the Membership Committee invites you to join us for a casual “getting to know you” gathering on Sunday afternoon, May 22.

We will be meeting at the Manchester Land Trust property at 330 Bush Hill Road where we will be treated to a woodland walk led by Manchester town historian and long-time UUS:E member Susan Barlow. There’s a gazebo for shade and other attractions such as bird watching and the neighbor’s goats! You’ll have a chance to meet people from some of our congregation’s committees and interest groups, and light refreshments will be served. Children are more than welcome to attend.

Our first gathering here took place on a beautiful day last November, and we’re hoping for equally fine weather in May. (Our rain date is May 29.) We’ll meet at 1:00, after the second service at UUS:E, and will conclude at approximately 3:00 PM.

To register, please contact Annie Gentile in the church office at UUSEoffice@uuse.org no later than Thursday, May 19. If you have questions, please email sforan2@cox.net with “Membership Walk” in the subject line.

We hope to see you there!

Sheila Foran & Sylvia Ounpau
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

The President's Column

Dear Congregation,

The Desiderata has always meant a lot to me, expressing profound, hopeful and encouraging wisdom that inspires me.

There is an oft-repeated myth that the Desiderata poem was found in a Baltimore church in 1692 and is centuries old, of unknown origin. In fact, it was written in the 1920s, and was copyrighted in 1927, by a lawyer Max, Ehrmann (1872-1945) who was from Terre Haute, Indiana

You may have already read or heard the Desiderata once (or many times) before, but please take a moment and read it again, then reflect. This is profound wisdom.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender
be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,

even the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons,
they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater and lesser persons
than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however
humble;

it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of
time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love;

for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden
misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

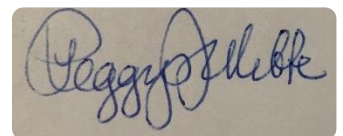
Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your
soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

— Max Ehrmann, 1927



Peggy Webbe

Member Spotlight: Sande Hartdagen and Donna Johnson

by Jacquie Heintz



Sande Hartdagen and Donna Johnson have been active UUS:E members for decades. They met via their connection to this community.

After finishing her degree at Central at night, Donna began a search for a way to make a difference. This eventually led her to UUS:E and she became a member in December of 1993. She was raised in the Catholic Church but stopped attending after high school. She clearly recalls her first visit to UUS:E, and how she was greeted. It was a very positive and emotional experience. Donna has contributed her talents in many ways over the years. She co-chaired the Holiday Fair a couple of years, served on and chaired the Personnel Committee, served on and chaired the Social Justice Committee (formerly known as Social Responsibility Committee) a couple of terms, chaired the Denominational Affairs Committee, served on the NLDC Committee, and was an auctioneer a couple of times. Donna is currently a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. She retired five years ago from a career as a business/systems analyst in the insurance software industry.

Sande describes a similar feeling of warmth and acceptance upon arrival. She grew up as a Lutheran but joined a Unitarian congregation while living in South Carolina. In 1990, in her thirties, she relocated to Connecticut and immediately found UUS:E in the yellow pages and began attending immediately.

Sande appreciates the values and spirituality in our community. Both she and Donna share a strong belief in social justice. Sande has been a member of the Social Responsibility Committee, the

Membership Committee, Sunday Services Committee, Welcoming Congregation Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Stewardship Committee, and was treasurer of the Holiday Fair for 2 years. She continues working part-time as a psychologist in private practice with the intention to retire in the coming year. Sande recently re-joined the Sunday Services Committee and is blown away by all they have accomplished since the pandemic threw us onto Zoom.

Responsibility and concerns for their elderly parents is a big part of their lives. Sande's mother, in her eighties, lives in Pennsylvania. Donna's mother, in her nineties, lives in Connecticut. A year ago, Sande's father suddenly became ill with pancreatic cancer and died within weeks.

Despite the many challenges in the past two years, there have been some positive outcomes, one of which is a deepening of friendships. Although the loss of being together at the meeting house was significant, online services were an absolute lifeline. They knew before that our community was central to their lives but appreciate it all the more after these 2 long years. With the meeting house being open, despite current limitations, Sande is hopeful that it will not be long before she can brew us some coffee again (Jacquie added that!!)

Away from UUS:E, Donna and Sande have enjoyed playing golf with friends. They both enjoy reading. Donna belongs to a book discussion group with an interesting twist. They meet quarterly and read the works of one author over a year or two and discuss them, then choose another author. Willa Cather is just now giving way to John Steinbeck. Sande loves flowers but Donna is the family gardener. Her specialty is flowers, but she also plants a few vegetables.

What began as a friendship between these two women evolved into a lifetime commitment. It was during a 1995 trip to the Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center that they became a couple. Before same-sex marriage became legal, they were married in 1998 in a "Commitment" ceremony at UUS:E, officiated by Rev. Connie Sternberg, the minister at that time. When a civil union became legal, they took that step in a small ceremony. Finally, when same-sex marriage was made legal, they had a third ceremony, with a Justice of the Peace. It has been a long journey, but they still celebrate the original date in 1998 as their wedding anniversary. That translates to almost 25 years, a Silver Anniversary! Congratulations!

History Group

Interested in joining us?

Interested in history? Always wanted to be a librarian/archivist? Are you someone who would like a role in UUS:E congregational life that offers flexibility and creativity and in which your organizational skills and attention to detail will be valued and appreciated?

The History Group is brand new and looking for people to join us. No amount of time is too small. UUS:E is over 50 years old, and we have a lot of articles, pictures, memorabilia, records, etc. that need to be organized and catalogued. Moreover, we need to come up with a good system for preserving our history going forward.

This effort was generously started and maintained by late UUS:E member Lynn Chirico with the help of some founding members of the congregation. With Lynn's passing the torch is ready to be passed to a new group of members and friends who love our community and want to keep its history alive for generations to come.

For more information or to join our group please contact either Carrie Kocher at misscarrie29@gmail.com or Elise Cotrone at elisecotrone@yahoo.com.

Stop & Shop Cards

Stop & Shop cards can still be purchased despite the pandemic. Anyone who is interested in buying a card can contact Annie, our office administrator. Cards come in \$50, \$100 and \$250 amounts. The money raised from this effort goes into the general fund. And they make great holiday gifts! If you need any help with this or more information, contact Sandy Johnson at 860-888-9673.

Interested in GA?

June 22-26, 2022 in Portland, OR

Summer will be here before we know it and with it the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA). This year's GA will be a hybrid assembly, meaning it will take place both in-person and online. GA is the annual meeting of delegates from member congregations across the country to conduct denominational business and to enjoy workshops, fellowship, music and worship together. The link [General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org/assembly) offers information about registration, housing and travel, programs and schedules, virtual participation, and other important items. Please note that under the sidebar link for Registration there are further detailed links for those interested in choir participation, volunteering opportunities, and special information for high school youth and children's programs. You are encouraged to learn more about GA and consider participating in this once-a-year event in the life of our UU denomination. For more information you may contact Carrie Kocher, Denominational Affairs, at misscarrie29@gmail.com.

Save the Date

From Dorothy Bognar, Chair, Music Committee...



Hold this date: Friday, June 24, 2022

Starting 7 PM at UUS:E

For a live, in-person duo guitar concert, given by Mark and Beverly Davis. Outside or inside—depending upon the weather.

Sponsored by the UUS:E Music Committee. Details to follow.

Beauty

A Religious Education Message from Jeffrey Schlechtweg

Beauty. Wow. I can't say it would have been my first choice. I mean, aside from a mirror, I don't see much of it in this world. (kidding—sort of) Though a romantic at heart, I am a solidly practical and pragmatic person. Function over form all day. As a former mechanic and a former military man, I can't help but think of measurable outcomes. As an educator, I feel compelled to grade or assess everything. But the more I ponder the deeper meaning of the word, the further I move from the shallow definition all too popular in our society, the more it resonates with me.

Because there is beauty in function. When something works just right, just how it should work, it is beautiful. Since the first time I read it, I have been drawn to Aristotle's philosophy of Teleology. According to Aristotle, something is good when it successfully hits the target for which it was intended; it serves its purpose, fulfills its mission. It has a function and carries it out well. Using the Greek term for an archery bull's-eye, *telos*, we call this approach teleological.

So in order for education to be "good" we must know its purpose, its goal, what it is intended to accomplish. In order to do it well here, we must identify what we are here to do. Children are not robots; they do not just do what they are programmed to do (as every parent knows all too well). In order to start taking ownership of their lives, they must begin to take ownership of their decisions. I believe that is the purpose, that is the goal, of the RE program. To help young people begin to make decisions, and to own those decisions. And, crucially, to own the consequences of those decisions. It is not easy to "teach" morality. Really, it comes more from inside than out. But what we can do for young people is help them discover their own moral compass by carefully contemplating choices, actions, and consequences. Lessons may seem simple from the outside, especially with the youngest ones, but dig deeper, and there are real gems at the heart of each of them: Compassion, cooperation, empathy, acceptance, communication, honesty, and love.

I am struck by the connection between Aristotle and a book I am currently reading by Brandon

Sanderson, a popular sci-fi/fantasy author, called **The Way of Kings**. In the book, a character seeks to understand, and then resurrect, an ancient order of morally virtuous knights. They find the following passage in a dusty tome that explains the ancient order's moral code: "And so, does the destination matter? Or is it the path we take? I declare that no accomplishment has substance nearly as great as the road used to achieve it. We are not creatures of destinations. It is the journey that shapes us. In the end, I must proclaim that no good can be achieved of false means. For the substance of our existence is not in the achievement, but in the method. The Monarch must understand this; he must not become so focused on what he wishes to accomplish that he diverts his gaze from the path he must take to arrive there."¹

And that, to come full circle, is what I think we hope to give our young people here: lessons in understanding their decisions, making them consciously, and accepting their consequences. That this is more important than the outcome, the achievement, or the prestige that those decisions lead to. And if we do it well, if we hit our target, they will grow into the understanding that the true beauty in life is in the path that we walk, not where it takes us.

¹ Sanderson, Brandon. **The Way of Kings (The Stormlight Archive, Book 1)** (p. 910). Tom Doherty Associates. Kindle Edition.

Books, Classes, and Discussions

Adult Religious Education



Book Lovers

The Book Lovers continue to meet via Zoom every second Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:00. You are welcome even if you haven't finished the book. The link is sent out each month with the meeting reminder, usually the weekend before that Tuesday by Martha Larson or Carolyn Gimbrone. Here are the books, with number of pages, for the next several months.

Goodreads descriptions:

https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/130686405-paul-cocuzzo?ref=nav_mybooks&shelf=uuse-book-lovers

- May 10, **Clock Dance**, Ann Tyler, 304 pages
- June 14, **Becoming**, Michelle Obama, 426 pages
- July 12, **The Four Winds**, Kristin Hannah, 464 pages
- August 9, **Still Life**, Louise Penny, 312 pages
- September 13, **Before We Were Yours**, Lisa Wingate, 352 pages
- October 11, **Klara and the Sun**, Kazuo Ishiguro, 320 pages

Buddhist Group

The Buddhist Group meets via Zoom at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of each month, for meditation and discussion. All are welcome, no meditation experience necessary. Contact Nancy Thompson at nancythompson123@yahoo.com for the Zoom info.



Yoga at the Meetinghouse!

All welcome to these gentle-to-moderate yoga classes in the UUS:E Meetinghouse, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM with Susan Barlow. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring a yoga mat or towel and wear comfortable clothes. All welcome, including beginners! Bring a friend or neighbor; you do not have to be a UUS:E member to come to the classes. Yoga provides an opportunity to quiet the mind as well as strengthen and relax the body. Direct questions to: Susan at SBarlow627@aol.com. Yoga is one of the UUS:E adult education offerings.

"God Talk"

A discussion group for UU theists

This ongoing group explores how UUs can name and experience God in meaningful, useful ways. All are welcome. Contact Rev. Josh at mininster@uuse.org for the Zoom link.

We meet on 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM.

Humanist Group

This ongoing group explores Religious Humanism and its applications to life, both historically and today. All welcome. Contact Rev. Josh at mininster@uuse.org for the Zoom link.

We meet on 3rd Tuesdays at 4:30 PM.

Science and Religion Discussion Group

Fourth Thursdays at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary
May topic/book: **Groupthink/Abilene Paradox**
How does science inform our beliefs? Where do science and religion meet? Where are they in opposition? Members of this ongoing group will select and discuss readings covering myriad topics such as evolutionary biology, artificial intelligence, climate change, the brain, genetics...and the way we look at the Big Questions. Contact Linda Duncan with any questions.

Upcoming topics...

Jun: Near Death Experiences

Jul: Emerging Energy Technology

Aug: Under Your Feet – Panpsychism

Sep: Misogyny and the Roots of Chauvinism – Religion

Oct: Quantum Mechanics

N/D: Creating God



Community Drum Circle

First and Third Mondays
in the Sanctuary
(depending on COVID restrictions)
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Open to all levels of ability and experience. Facilitator Mary Ertel provides djembe drums and other hand instruments, and you may bring your own.

Contact Paul Cocuzzo at pcocuzzo@gmail.com or 978-270-2056 with questions or to reserve a drum. Or even better, check out our [Meetup](#).

UUS:E GENERAL INFORMATION

UUS:E Office Schedule: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Meetinghouse Office: 860-646-5151

Office Administrator: Annie Gentile email: uuseoffice@uuse.org

Minister: Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, minister@uuse.org

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 10 AM to 7 PM and Thursday 10 AM to 4 PM

President: Peggy Webbe, 860-871-8035, peggywebbe@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education:

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, redirector@uuse.org

Newsletter Editor: Paul Cocuzzo, 978-270-2056, newsletter@uuse.org

Website Coordinator: Carol Marion 860-643-8765, uuse.web@uuse.org

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Newsletter Deadline:
The 20th of Each Month

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