

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial Street • Provincetown • Massachusetts

May 2022



“The members of the UU Meeting House hold sacred each individual’s spiritual and ethical development. We welcome all and seek unity in diversity. We commit ourselves in service to the wellbeing of the congregation and to all of life.”

~Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House of Provincetown

*“A picture is a poem
without words.”
Horace*



Ada Park Snider



*detail from Francesco del Cossa's
"Saint Lucy," c. 1473*

Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship May



We are Live
and
On-line!
Sundays
11 am



We will be live-streaming via YouTube.

join in at 11 am

www.uumh.org

Click on Sermons

A note from Rev. Kate
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Lessons from the asparagus bed



The first thing to pop up in my garden every year is the asparagus. Asparagus is a perennial, meaning it grows back every year. You don't have to plant it again. You just have to trust. Every year I doubt that it will come back. "Isn't it usually up by now?" I ask Lisa. "I'm sure it's usually up by now." I stare at the bare earth, willing it to appear. And...finally...it does. Just one stalk at first. Barely visible. But then another, and another. They grow like skinny turrets of a castle, reaching elegantly up to the sky. My asparagus patch isn't huge. Just enough for a few rounds of heavenly side dishes in early spring. There is nothing better than your own, fresh asparagus. Did you know that you are actually supposed to eat asparagus with your fingers? That's how they do it in England. Unless it's being served with a sauce, of course! But asparagus doesn't need sauce. It is just delicious on it's own... the very taste of spring.

Why am I going on and on about asparagus? Well, I did just spot the very first shoot coming up through the soil this week. So it's on my mind. But also because I think we can learn many spiritual lessons from asparagus.

You can't harvest asparagus the first year you grow it, for instance. Which teaches us the value of investing in the future.

There's that faith and trust lesson that comes from watching the bare spot of ground that hosted asparagus last year. You can doubt if you want to, but it's the faith and trust that are rewarded when, every year, the trusty asparagus returns.

And one other thing... after you've eaten a spring's worth of asparagus, there's one final thing you have to do. You have to let it grow wild. You don't pick the last of the asparagus... you let it grow. It turns fernlike and gets up to 6 feet tall. A forest of asparagus ferns. You let it grow like that all summer and into the fall. Only then can you chop it down. If you don't allow it to take up it's full amount of space, if you don't allow it to let it's hair down and be free, it won't have the energy it needs to grow back next year. We should all learn to take up our rightful space and let it all go sometimes, right?

Sometimes, in late summer, I resent the amount of space the asparagus take up in my garden... space that could be used to plant other things. But I remind myself about that first taste in early spring and I remember that it's all worth it.

Rev. Kate



Photo: Ellen Anthony



On my morning walks, I have been watching how spring is slowly emerging. Birds are coming back – we hear their songs. Trees are budding. I see bunnies, chipmunks, coyotes and foxes with their babies.

Each flower is following its own path to return...crocus, hyacinth, forsythia, daffodils, tulips. I am struck by the inherent self knowledge all of nature uses to determine its pace. I thought about how each of us is determining our pace for “coming out” of this challenging pandemic. Masking or not, where and when or not...social gatherings one step at a time—so many decisions every day. Let us continue to support each other in our coming out and may we all have a joyous spring.

Susan Downey
Board Member at Large



Photo: Moses Kafka



▲ Photos: Diana Lu

JOIN RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN FOR

A SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



**THE FIRST
SATURDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH

**FROM NOON
UNTIL 1PM**
AT TOWN HALL ON
COMMERCIAL STREET

**WEAR A MASK AND MAINTAIN
SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET**

[FACEBOOK.COM/PROVINCETOWNRACIALJUSTICEPROJECT](https://www.facebook.com/provincetownracialjusticeproject)

As I am entering the Third Half of my life*, I can see I have a new chance. A re-frame. And I see how I got here and Who to thank. All of you and the UU.

When I met Marty and slowly allowed her to see me, know me, I began to feel safe in love. Safe in love was an all-new experience. She brought me to the UU. Thank you Marty!

In these seven years of attending services, working the sermon-lessons in to my living, I have begun to enter into community. Softening to strangers, changing old alienation habits, healing. Thank you each for welcoming me.

In the two years of Zoom Coffee Hour with you I see even deeper learnings. How to be in a group with respect. How to make space for listening to others. How to allow my own vulnerability to be seen with acceptance. Zoom allows me to participate but also to watch. To be in the screen and out of the screen. This weekly practice is re-shaping me. Thank you!

I can see these benchmark learnings because I am about to enter another community. One that I've avoided, feared, armed myself against: the Art community! I have become safe enough inside myself (less judging, competing, comparing) to let myself out! To show. **My first exhibit of paintings is at the Wellfleet Public Library May 1-28. Yes this is also an invitation!!!**

Ellen sold her first painting!

The point is: Thank you for this too! I finally feel settled enough in my own skin to let myself out into the wide world. Risk exposure, come what may. Skilled enough from Zooming to allow conversations to unfold around it. Wah.

This will not be the last time I love on our UU. But I had to pause and praise our beloved community.

Love, Ellen

* Born 1947, came to Cape 1984 midlife. 2022 begins my Third Half! Numerical fun.





Ada Park Snider

Poets' Corner



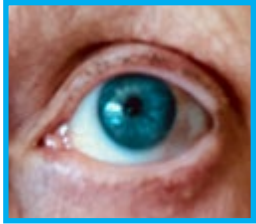
Dreaming

The earliest pools of slime explode in emerald exuberance. Let's try absurd designs, tinker with aesthetics, grow delicate structures robust as steel. Animacules relinquish their holdfasts, roam and forage. Freedom gasps in astonishment. Air floods newfound lungs and life roars ahead.

The intricacies of our living trellis tell our tale, surely as parchment scrolls or weathered inscriptions. All as true as a poem written today: I was there in dream, I saw it for real. We build all we envision, and our dreams make us whole.

A raised eyebrow and steady gaze puzzle me out. Skeptical.

I suggest: Try then the curve of wings, the intent of a tusk, the scent of gardenia, an orb spider's web. Venerate the snake, the ladybug, the cascades of bleeding hearts in spring. We dream. And so we are and live.



April Baxter



Kenneth Sutton



Photo: Wendy Kahn



Stan and Eric
(where's Bernie?)



Alison and Mel in Mexico



Char and Ada
Easter Sunday



Lisa (at Eastah)



Ready to
plant

tree



Roses, Elaine Anderson



Oil, Dianne Kopser



Ronnie and Moses



Deb Felix (r) and Polly, her mother-in-law



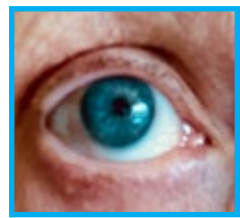
Jen
and Jane

(a few
years
back!)



Photo: Marty Cowden

Among Ourselves



- Susan Downey and Loretta Butehorn have become bi-townal once again. Congratulations on your new condo in Hingham!
- We sorely missed Mary Abt when she was not among ourselves!
- Major milestones, Jon Arterton and James Mack celebrated 20 years together and Jane Lea and Jennifer celebrated 30!
- Ellen Anthony and Lorraine Kujawa are both having art shows in May! Congratulations to both of you!
- And congratulations to Jane Bunker in all her success with the Woodson Warriors.
- Glad to hear Paul Breen's hand surgery went well.
- We are thinking of Alison Dwyer, Mary DeRocco and Allen Gallant in these times.
- David LeVangie and Keith Hunt, we love you. We are holding you in the wake of the death of both friends and family.
- We send loving energy to Kathleen and Kim's dear friends who are ill, Katy and Kathy.
- We send our love and support to Stan Hudson.

Every month, it seems, we have a page commemorating yet another life lost or tragically wounded because of systemic racism. If we fight the good fight together, if we make “good trouble,” we can change the world.



We started this page two years ago and we have listed many, many sad and horrific injustices.

For 2022, let's list the positive challenges that are being made to the system that has created such havoc and destruction in the lives of its citizenry. For 2022, let's proclaim the acts of righteousness that stake the just claim for dignity and respect. Let's tell those stories, always remembering that good trouble can change the world.

Here's one:

Marguerite Williams(neé Thomas) was born on Christmas Eve in 1895 in Washington, D.C.

She attended two years of college at the Normal School for Colored Girls (now The University of the District of Columbia), then earned her undergraduate degree from Howard University and her Masters degree from Columbia University in New York. While at Catholic University she became the first African American woman to earn a PhD. in Geology.



She was a teacher and professor, writer, and scientist.

Getting to Know You

--a new segment in the newsletter--interviews with a couple of lines telling us something we don't know about you! Compiled by Lorraine Kujawa

Kat Black

I lived in Texas from 1982 through 1985. While there I worked as a time keeper at an industrial construction site where a lignite coal burning power plant was being built.



Ada Park Snider
can play the piccolo part of
Sousa's
"Stars and Stripes Forever"
by heart!



From the Editor

Rev. Kate spent a summer making one of these--many, many different designs--for each of us. There are no words to express how much that means.



Thanks to all who submitted photos and art work to this month!
Any that I couldn't fit in, I'll use in the future.



Char,Char
Daniel and Grace LePage



Back Page
The
Meetinghouse News

Kathleen Henry, Editor

Submissions are welcomed
and encouraged!
Please submit written work,
announcements,
and artwork,
by the 20th
of the month
to
meetinghousenews@gmail.com