

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

January 2023



“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



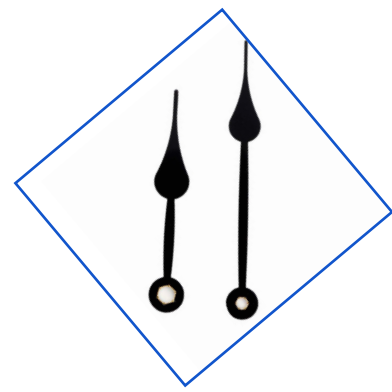
Photo of Pamet River by Tom Hamm originally published in February 24, 2021 issue of The Provincetown Independent. With permission.

“No one steps into the same river twice. The river is not the same.

The person is not the same.”

Heraclitus

The newsletter theme for January 2023 is taken from a line from Mary Oliver's *A Summer Day*: "what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"



The question shudders through me. Whether a tot or a teen, a careerist or a senior, making the most of my gift of life has challenged me to the core.

Januarys call me to take measure of what's gone before and make a plan for the year to come. I plot my way through my fresh calendar book, transferring birthdays to remember, death anniversaries too--more of those as the years pass--... but then I settle down to intentions. What do I intend for *this* year?

How do I plan to live out my ONE . . . WILD . . . and PRECIOUS . . .life?

Something this time around is asking me to look at the word "plan" and the word "wild" and see what is happening--isn't it a paradox to plan my life which, in its flow, changes at every moment? If I truly live in the now surely the act of planning itself is a contradiction. Hmmmm...

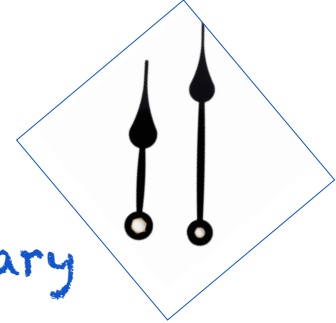
Abraham Lincoln said that if he were given 6 hours to cut down a tree he would spend four of those hours sharpening the axe. Pondering that makes me realize that when I am planning, preparing, I am living in THAT present moment; each step of the process is a "now." Were I only to plan for that felled tree and never take the steps required to make it happen, then I would be wasting the present moment and squandering the future.

So, our first page shows us the wisdom about the river always changing, about a person's not being able to step into the same river twice; and we have the wisdom of sharpening the axe; and, we have the image (above) of the hands of the clock but no clock. Hmmmm....

What IS it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship

January



We are Live
and
On-line
Sundays
11 am

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference.”

Robert Frost

We will be live-streaming via YouTube.

join in at 11 am

www.uumh.org

Click on Sermons

A note from Rev. Kate

A note from Rev. Kate



How We Spend Our Days

I think I've shared with you before that one of the things that drew me into ministry was a quote that my mother had taped to the bathroom mirror...

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."
-Annie Dillard

I realized, staring at that quote while washing my hands, that I wanted to spend my life in a more spiritual way. I wanted to connect with nature and with people. I wanted to spend my life writing, which I love. I wanted to spend my life listening and being truly present to those around me. I wanted to spend my life working for justice. For me, all those things come together in the role of minister. And I knew that if ministry was my job, something I did every day, then that would ensure that I would lead the meaningful life I was craving, because each day would be full of writing and listening and being present. Of course there are a lot of e-mails to write and respond to, some petty squabbles to referee, and lots of trying to get wax out of tablecloths. These are not things that I necessarily want to fill my life with. But, overall, this calling of mine was an answer to that Annie Dillard quote.

Mary Oliver asks us, "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" This is such a good reminder to make sure our lives are full of enough adventure, love, joy. A reminder to buck conformity and be our true selves. It's a reminder that life is short and shouldn't be wasted.

But Annie reminds us that most of the time in our life is made up of just regular old days. Of what you are doing when it is not a holiday or a special day. So it is the regular days that must be attended to with some intention and care when we are thinking about our one precious life. Did you connect with a friend today? Did you have your favorite cup of tea? Were you as patient as you could be? Did

you look at the ocean?

The longer quote, which is from *The Writing Life*, goes on to say... "What we do with this hour, and that one, is what we are doing. A schedule defends from chaos and whim. It is a net for catching days. It is a scaffolding on which a worker can stand and labor with both hands at sections of time."

So when we think of that question... "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" I hope we won't just think of the bucket list items... the big trips and the grand accomplishments. The once in a lifetime experiences. I hope we'll also think of our daily schedule. Because in the end, how we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.

Happy New Year!

Rev. Kate

*"How we spend our days is,
of course, how we spend our
lives."*

Annie Dillard



Susumu and Michael



<https://www.gofundme.com/f/provincetown-flood-to-help-michael-and-susumu?qid=06e4d596512bf07faab6dfe821eeaad0>

Go to our GOFUNDME page: copy and paste the link above into your browser and click.

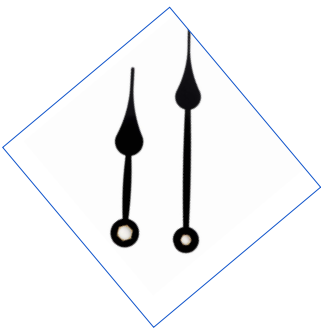
During the Dec 23rd, 2022 storm, seawater from the high tide storm surge flooded the intersection of Bradford and Howland street in Provincetown. It poured into long-time residents Michael and Susumu's apartment, destroying everything they own, including Michael's motorized wheelchair and Susumu's camera equipment. They are both safe and were evacuated by the PFD to temporary housing. ***They've lost all of their belongings as well as their housing.***

Michael is a longtime member of the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse of Provincetown, so Rev. Kate Wilkinson, Senior Minister, and Will Hildreth, Board President, are organizing this fundraiser to help Michael and Susumu put their life back together. Susumu is an artist/photographer who has lost all of his equipment.

Funds raised will be dispersed via the UU Minister's Discretionary Fund, and will be used entirely for helping Michael and Susumu recover from this awful flood emergency.

Provincetown is so special to so many visitors and friends, please help us to help these long-time year-round residents.

Thanks for your contributions, Rev Kate and Will



Connection in the Time of COVID

As we move towards the close of 2022, we continue to navigate the health and safety of our community in these challenging times.

As your Board, we continue to stay attuned to the “ numbers,” the rates of infection in our town and across the Cape and the best practices for continued safety, And... we look for ways to stay connected and ways to form new tributaries of connection.

There have been sweet and innovative ways of connecting that have come from these challenging times:

- Such as the Christmas Eve service last year on the lawn of the Meeting House, bundled up and huddled “ not too close” to each other- a magical Silent Night being led by Peter Donnelly in the window of the Meeting House. One of my favorite Christmas memories!
- There is the ongoing coffee hour held on zoom every Tuesday at 5pm. A sweet pause in the week for folks to reflect and connect from across the miles.
- And how about the 14 new members to our community, many of them tuning in to services and coffee hours and meditation each week through Zoom, some from other states and even another country.

If the fates and numbers allow, this year coming may find us with fewer restrictions and more in person connections: think return to Circle Suppers and Bingo and FUNdraising events!..... and continued ways to grow our community through the tributaries of connections made during COVID that have enhanced our community--thank you Zoom.

Blessings to us all. As a community of love and care, may we continue to forge deeper connections at The Meeting House and across the airwaves.

Peace

Alison Dwyer
At-Large Board Member



SOLSTICE ALTAR

LIGHT IS RETURNING
(by Charlie Murphy)

Light is returning
Even though it is the darkest
hour
No one can hold...
Back the dawn

Got to keep it burning
Got to keep the light of
hope alive
Make safe our journey...
Through the storm

Our planet is turning
Circle on her path around
the sun
Earth Mother is calling...
Her children home

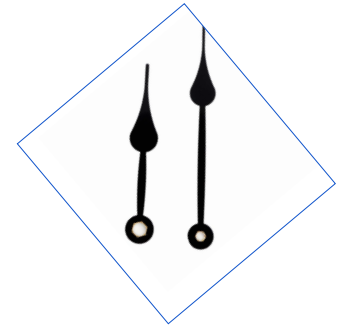


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From the Fundraising Committee



This is less a report on our fundraising for the Meeting House, and more an expression of admiration and thanks for the astonishing generosity of both our members and friends, and the larger Provincetown Community.

As you may know, during the Dec 23rd, 2022 storm, seawater from the storm surge flooded the intersection of Bradford and Howland street in Provincetown. It poured into our member Michael and his partner Susumu's apartment, destroying everything they own, including Michael's motorized wheelchair and Susumu's camera equipment. They are both safe and were evacuated by the PFD to temporary housing. They lost all of their belongings as well as their housing in the storm.

Although it cannot erase the flood and pain it caused, the last few days have brought a truly touching outpouring of support for Michael and Susumu. We watched as UU members opened their home to Michael and Susumu, and other members ran errands, helped them move, sorted through the muddy apartment, found medical equipment, brought flowers, and showed their care in so many ways. We organized GoFundMe for them and witnessed an outpouring of generosity and care. We (and they) are deeply grateful for all you've done.

If you haven't had a chance to donate and would like to, you can scan this QR code to do so.

Or give at <https://gofund.me/38fceba6>



Nearly every week I am fortunate to see the many small kindnesses that happen in our community, often quietly and without fanfare, but the last few days have been a testament to our community putting our covenant into action: "Love IS the spirit of this Meeting House. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another." I consider myself very lucky to be a part of this community.

- Will Hildreth, for the Fundraising Committee



UUMH staff Christmas luncheon
Rev. Kate, Mary, Kenneth, Steven and Joanne

UUMH Christmas Tea

at

Seashore Point



Elaine and her dear friend



Is Wave the smiling star atop the Christmas tree, or, is he growing a Christmas tree? Your guess!



Cricket and Rev. Kate



Char, Brenda Elaine, Wave



Lisa, Diana, Lorraine, Victoria



Welcoming new members continues!



Marilyn Bayer lives in Worcester, MA. She is a reader of American history, an opera lover, and is livestream addicted!



Amy Graves moved to Truro in 2018 with her partner, Anne Cowie. They have two cats and an elderly Australian Shepherd. Amy is an avid swimmer who loves the ponds.

Anne Cowie is an almost year-round North Truro resident, since 2018. She is very happy to be growing their community and friendships through a spiritual base at the UUMH!

Judy Thompson (no photo)

Judy has lived here as a year rounder for 50 years with Jerry, her husband of 55 years. She retired as a clinical social worker 13 years ago and worked in the hospice movement. She is 85 years old, in good health, and a part of WRAG (Women's Radical Aging Group). She is interested in anti-agist support and connection with women who are age peers.



Herring Cove in the Horizon, 12/29/2022
Photo: Wave



The UUMH of Provincetown is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). One of the service organizations within the UUA is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Our newsletter will be highlighting what the UUSC does on this page every month. The work of the UUSC is vital. Their scope is international. It is important that we know what is being done in our name around the world to bring food, shelter, aid of all kinds to those in direct need. It is important, too, for us to remember that the UUSC needs us to help them to do this work.

UU Meeting House News,

“Everyone has the right to migrate in a just, free, and dignified way.”

That clear truth comes from Quike Gonzalez, Executive Director of UUSC partner FM4 Paso Libre, during our recent conversation in honor of International Migrants Day.

Two decades ago, migration from Mexico to the United States began to change as increasing numbers of Central American citizens made their way through the country in search of safer and more secure lives. In Guadalajara, Quike and a group of volunteers recognized the lack of resources available for those on the move in the area.

The simple cafeteria they opened in 2007 to serve individuals in transit has now grown into a large shelter. Providing meals, clothing, overnight and longer-term stays, legal services, community support, and other assistance, the organization they started has provided safety and security for thousands of families making the difficult journey to freedom.

Alongside its collaborative network with local universities, churches, and other nonprofit groups, FM4 Paso Libre creates “a community of hospitality,” as Quike describes it.

Today, the nature of migration is changing again, with Mexico increasingly becoming a destination country for many families. FM4 Paso Libre envisions a shift from focusing on support for individuals passing through Guadalajara to long-term integration into the community. This will likely involve livelihood assistance, school enrollment, and housing support.

Through everything, our partner continues to rely on both the local and international community to sustain their work. Take a few moments today to read more of our conversation with Quike and learn about the importance of solutions developed at the community level.

In solidarity,

Deanna Johnson
Impact Storyteller



What is it you plan to do with your one
wild
and
precious life?



I plan to be a horse someday....I always thought it would a cool thing.....that way, I can sleep standing up, swish my tale when I am annoyed, eat loudly, and every now and then someone will brush me and make me shine and look into my eyes that will have stories to tell.

I will whinny to say "I love you" and snicker when I want to be alone. Maybe, if I am strong enough in my old age, someone will sit on my back and take me for a walk. Maybe a little girl named Grace would like to sing to me, or play her instruments, or just give me a hug. Brenda Silva



Best Conversation, by Brenda Silva



Tell me,
what is it you plan to do
with your one wild
and precious life?

Photo: Tracy Kachtick-Anders
Her creation in her back yard



Photo of November 2022 vigil

JOIN RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN FOR

A SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

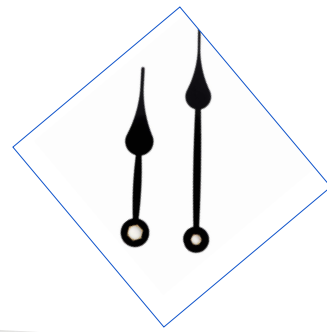


**THE FIRST
SATURDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH

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

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

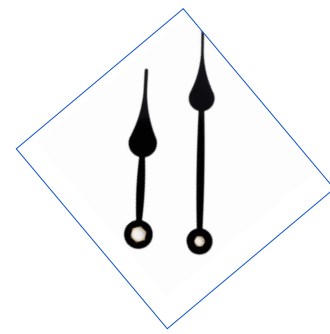
[FACEBOOK.COM/PROVINCETOWNRACIALJUSTICEPROJECT](https://facebook.com/provincetownracialjusticeproject)



"We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry." -Jimmy Carter

**Remember our
Little Free Pantry.
People are depending on our
contributions as prices climb.**

Among Ourselves



Love is the Spirit of this Meeting

- To all who are suffering and/or recovering from the many respiratory ailments in our midst, we send our love and healing energy!
- Glad to hear Lynne Wilkinson is recuperating from her shoulder surgery.
- We do so miss Elaine Anderson when we don't get to see her in person.
- It seems impossible that we will be without Lawrence Crisara, who will be moving off cape in late January. What a loss to our community! Wishing you great joy and ease in this next chapter, Lawrence!
- Congratulations on having your cataracts removed, Kathleen Henry!
- A huge hunk of gratitude to Loretta Butehorn for all she does to see to it that the Safety Committee is well-staffed each and every Sunday! It is a monumental task and she never fails!
- We send love to Brenda Silva and her family, especially her dad, Joe.
- Welcome home to Kate Wallace Rogers and Myra Kooy. They have moved into their new home in Provincetown.
- We send good wishes to Deb Arsenault and her dad, who has been having some health issues. If there is anything we can do from afar, please let us know.
- We also hold up our new member, Judy Thompson. Her husband, Jerry is having some health struggles. Let us know how we can help, Judy!

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. It is good to celebrate what is inspirational and strengthening, too.



Ibram X. Kendi is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University and the founding director of the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research.



“We are surrounded by racial inequity, as visible as the law, as hidden as our private thoughts. The question for each of us is: What side of history will we stand on? A racist is someone who is supporting a racist policy by their actions or inaction or expressing a racist idea. An antiracist is someone who is supporting an antiracist policy by their actions or expressing an antiracist idea. “Racist” and “antiracist” are like peelable name tags that are placed and replaced based on what someone is doing or not doing, supporting or expressing in each moment. These are not permanent tattoos. No one becomes a racist or antiracist. We can only strive to be one or the other. We can unknowingly strive to be a racist. We can knowingly strive to be an antiracist. Like fighting an addiction, being an antiracist requires persistent self-awareness, constant self-criticism, and regular self-examination.”

from *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi



From the Editor



So, the hands of the clock, but no numbers, no mechanism, no *clock*...what's the meaning?

I'm thinking it means we *make* our time what it means.

We are given time itself, but how we measure it, how we use it, how we save it or spend it-- is a creation of our choices, our responses to life.

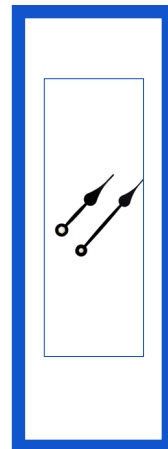
So...what is it we plan to do...

wild
precious
one
?



**I think they are asking
what IS it you plan to do with your one wild
and precious life?**

Photo: Marty Cowden



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