

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

March 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

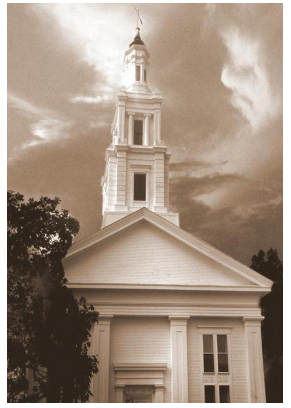


Photo: Mason Morfit



LUCK



Ah, the shamrock, a three leafed clover, is considered lucky. Indeed, a FOUR leafed clover sure is a rare thing, don't you know, doubling up the luck as it were. No one knows for sure where the whole thing started--the clover and luck, meaning. But for years and years, long before you were a wee glimmer in your da's eye, the shamrock had its lucky powers.

Luck, you say. What is luck when all is said and done? Me mam says tis the grace of God and to call it luck is a sin. Me Uncle Jack, gone to Boston he has, he writes that America is all about luck--and not a shamrock in sight. So, what is that about then?

Luck. I'm a lucky man, don't you know, because, well, I think I am. Thinking it is more than half the battle. I'm lucky each day because the sun rises. I do nothing at all to make that happen and yet it does. I'm lucky each day when I drink me cuppa and thank heavens I have the use of me arm to raise the drink to me lips and have the taste of me tongue to enjoy it so.

And on the unlucky day that comes when ye least expect it--when the horse rears up and Jimmy falls, or when doesn't it rain so hard the crick becomes a river and sure the crops are ruined--on that unlucky day I *decide* I am a lucky man because sure doesn't the sunset bring an end to that terrible day and don't the stars come out after all and am I not soon to be gifted with another sunrise in but a few hours. Another chance it tis. Another chance. Every day above ground and all that.

Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship

March



We are Live
and
On-line
Sundays
11 am

“Luck is believing you’re lucky.”
Tennessee Williams

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



I've been thinking about that concept of luck since Kathleen proposed it as a theme for the March newsletter. It seems to me that the whole of life is based on the luck of the draw... the family we were born into, the time period we live in, our parents' wealth or lack thereof, which acts as a springboard for all of life's opportunities.

I don't think there is an omnipotent force behind our luck or misfortune. It's more like a shuffled deck of cards that gets dealt out each day. Some days we will be lucky. Some days we will not. It's no reflection on our character or even karma.

But I do remember an experience when I was about 8 years old that made me feel very lucky indeed. And I was convinced that the universe had aligned just for me.

My parents had brought me to a play. It was Brigadoon, I remember. And I just loved the concept that there could be a magical village that appears only once every hundred years. A place where life is simpler and easier and full of beauty.

Well, in the lobby they were selling raffle tickets, and I either had some pocket money or my parents gave us a few dollars, because I bought two raffle tickets that night with the absolute surety that I would win. And I did!

I won... a small, portable, black and white tv set! Now this was a huge coup, because my mother had thus far forbidden us from having a television in our house. And that felt like a huge hardship and unfairness in my life ☹️. But now... now I had won my very own TV. The luck of the draw had gone in my favor. She could hardly argue with that.



I kept that TV set in my room, and by raising the retractable antennae up as far as it could go, and positioning it just so near my bedroom window, I could get a few channels. At night, with the volume low, I would secretly watch that TV under my covers long after my parents thought I had gone to bed.

I still LOVE to watch TV, although I can't stand the commercials, so I mostly watch streaming services like Netflix, Britbox, and PBS Passport. I attribute my passion to those early years of not having a TV, and to the magical late night binging sessions under my covers once I had won that tiny set of my own.

From time to time, though, I wonder if there really is a magical village where life is easier and simpler. And when I picture it, I think it probably doesn't have any TV sets or computers or cell phones. Time feels spacious there because none of it is taken up by e-mails or facebook or television. And it's more peaceful because you know your neighbors. And your heart is not constantly broken by all the problems of the world because you are not connected so quickly to every news story.

A world without television or personal computers... Ahhhh, Brigadoon indeed.

Rev. Kate





"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.



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)



From the Board

From the Board

From the Board

FINGERS CROSSED

My favorite word for good luck is serendipity. Serendipity seems to find me often. I live a charmed life! I used to think that we make our own luck, but I wonder, if that is true, why is good luck sometimes elusive?

Bad luck is another matter. I've always felt bad luck could be warded off through rituals based on superstitions. I always throw a pinch of salt over my left shoulder if I spill salt. I avoid walking under ladders, try not to open an umbrella indoors, knock on wood when I say something definitive ("I never get sick! Knock on wood!") I'm careful not to break a mirror which of course would mean seven years of bad luck.

Years ago, I bought into the old wife's tales, "Find a penny, pick it up and all day long, you'll have good luck" or "See a pin, pick it up/and all day long you'll have good luck/ See a pin, let it lay/ and your luck will pass away." To this day, I never pass either a penny or a pin without picking it up. You would not believe how many lucky pennies I have, not to mention straight pins.

One of the superstitions I think I made up (correct me if I'm wrong) is that when I take off my shoes and set them aside, I always place them left on the left and right on the right. It feels like to do otherwise would cause me to stumble, actually or figuratively.

Two superstitions I turn around are Friday the 13th and black cats crossing one's path. Both I consider good luck. My dad was born on Friday the 13th (very lucky for me) and of course I AM the Black Kat!!

I love the phrase, "It was just dumb luck." Kind of a way to be self-deprecating when you don't want to take credit for some achievement. I was happy to find out that dumb luck is not stupid luck, but luck that is out of the blue, unannounced, unspoken, as in deaf and dumb. And the phrase, "He's down on his luck," seems to be a way of giving someone the benefit of the doubt who is not doing well financially and/or otherwise.

Ultimately, I return to the idea that we can make our own luck by putting out positive, loving energy into the Universe. It is certainly my experience that it comes back in spades!

Your Treasurer,
Kat Black



Soul Collage Cards

A UU Meeting House Winter Spirituality Series Event

Come collage with us! You don't have to be an artist!

Originally developed by Seena Frost, the idea of SoulCollage is that each card, created through cutting and pasting a collage of magazine images, is a mirror of the self and soul.

Explore different parts of yourself through this creative process and get to know others on a deeper level.

Leave your inner critic at home!



**Mondays,
March 6, 13, 20**

2:30-4pm

This event will be in person at the UU Meeting House of Provincetown.

To Register : e-mail revkate@uumh.org

MUSIC FOR Turkey & Syria

fundraising
concert

JOHN THOMAS
piano



KEN FIELD
sax & flute

JUSTIN TORRELLAS
reeds



BASEL ZAYED
oud & vocals



Turkish & Syrian folk melodies

Mevlevi sema ceremonial music  compositions by Fazıl Say

meditative & inspiring music

SUNDAY MARCH 12 @5pm

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House
236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA 508.487.9344

ALL DONATIONS FOR THE CONCERT WILL BE SENT TO DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS, a well-known organization providing life-saving help to people affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

live-streamed on YouTube Great Music on Sundays @5 channel



COVID
PROTOCOL
bring your mask

doctorswithoutborders.org uumh.org youtube.com/c/GreatMusiconSundaysat5
ptownmusic.com johnwthomas.com kenfield.org baselzayed.com



venmo

write "Turkey/Syria"
with your donation

Poets' Corner
Poets' Corner
Poets' Corner



Splitting wood

“Fortune comes to those who work.”

“Fortune comes to those who wait.”

I watch my love splitting wood.
Mallet on wedge: the off-beat tempo
sprays showers of sparks.
The cottage fills with jazz rhythms;
I jiggle a waltz and admire
the flushed cheeks and flexing muscles,
the growing pile of chunks and kindling:
warmth for the snow-bound silence to
come.

At the first rumble of thunder,
he ducks in through the door.
Sheets of rain flood the parched earth.
Windows shake. The heavens roar.
Lighting splits our old oak. A casual hit.

The road to the nearest hospital is blocked,
our cell phone down.

Everywhere trees topple.
Let's wait.
Let's wrap silence around us.

--Heather Ferguson



Photo: Marty Cowden

“Who could be so lucky? The one who comes to a lake for water
and sees the reflection of moon.”

— Rumi

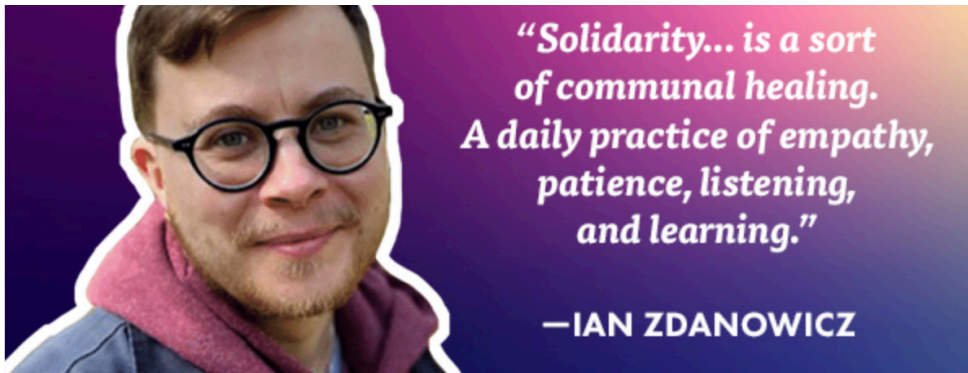
On February 26, Cricket turned 100! Family and friends celebrated with her at Seashore Point. When the party was over, she stood up and said to us all: “My family has expanded to include all of you. May you have a Provincetown in your life. And if I had any idea where I was, I would leave.” (Her wry sense of humor had us roaring!) from Kat Black



**Happy 100th Birthday,
Cricket!**



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 direst need. It is important, too, for us to remember that the UUSC needs us to help them to do this work.



Solidarity and mutual care are core values for the Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP), a UUSC partner since 2017.

QDEP assists LGBTQIA+ folks directly impacted by the immigration system — providing spaces where people feel they belong, with agency and power to rebuild their lives, connecting to community in a new country.

Ian Zdanowicz's story ([Guest at Your Table - Ian Zdanowicz.mp4](#)) is one example of the kind of hope that QDEP offers. He fled Poland over a decade ago to escape persecution based on his identity. "Especially as a trans person and as an immigrant, it takes time to rebuild your life in a foreign place and culture," says Ian. "It can be really scary and very lonely." His search for community in the United States led him to QDEP where he first became a member, then a volunteer, then a staff member, and eventually becoming co-director of the organization for a time.

Even as queer asylum seekers face daily acts of discrimination and hurt, the solidarity and mutual care shown between QDEP members help build trust and community. Its peer support program assists members who need accompaniment to medical or legal appointments and court hearings. It means being there for something as small as showing someone how to navigate public transportation or as big as giving emotional support during the most difficult times, such as losing a loved one to transphobic violence.

UUSC funds QDEP's direct services program, which assists LGBTQIA+ immigrants in ICE detention and provides those who are newly released with rent, grocery, and utility funds.

The care that QDEP offers serves as a model for building a better future, not based on criminalization and detention of immigrants, but instead developing networks of support and communities of belonging.

You can bolster the efforts of UUSC partners like QDEP who are creating systems of mutual aid and solidarity by making a special gift to UUSC today.

Among Ourselves



Love is the Spirit of this Meeting

- The world is a hard place these days, between racial inequality, political brokenness, death, dying, ill health and mother nature bringing her wrath. We, on the Pastoral Care Team are holding all of your sadness and despair on our hearts and sending love. We are all wearing a black armband and helping each other through. It's what we do.
- We will miss our member, Roger Chauvette. He brought so much to the UUMH and to the town of Provincetown. We will always remember him with love. And we send all our love to his family.
- Rev. Bill Clark has lost a few beloveds in the recent months. We are holding you tight, Bill.
- Kenneth Sutton is recovering from an ankle fusion. We love you, Kenneth, and hope this will lead to no more pain. Mary DeRocco is facing the same surgery too. May you both be well. Call on us in your recovery. There are always "Helping Hands!"
- Bruce DeSteCroix is reaping the benefits of the new dental clinic in town. It's taken years, but he is finally being looked after.
- Rev. Kate's dad, Don, just turned 80. Guess what? So did Mason Morfit! Happy belated birthday.
- We hold Mary Abt in our prayers, as she goes through her sister's last days. Mary, we love you!

- We miss our dear Elaine Anderson, who has been unable to make it to church of late.
- So good to see: Len Bowen, Paul Breen, Bo Harris, Dana and John Keyes and Diana Liu back in our pews.
- Congratulations to Dave Hawver, who retired after 23 years with the FDA.
- We continue to hold Michael Fernandes and Susumu Kishihara in all our best wishes.
- We were so sorry to hear of the death of Pastor Brenda's great nephew. Our condolences, Brenda.
- Linnet Hultin is in our thoughts, as she tries to find a pain free state. We love you, Linnet.
- Wendy Kahn is also dealing with chronic pain. We love you!
- Healing wishes are being sent in the direction of Elizabeth Johnson, who had to cut her vacation short because of ill health.
- As ever, Tracy Kachtick-Anders and her family have our love and support.

“All of us have good luck and bad luck. It is the one who persists through the bad luck--who keeps right on going--is the one who is there when the good luck comes--and is ready to receive it.” Robert Collier

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.



On July 10, 2015, Texas State Trooper Brian Encinia pulls over and arrests a 28-year-old Black woman, Sandra Bland, for failing to signal a lane change. Three days later Sandra Bland dies in jail. Death ruled a suicide.

I Remember Her

I remember her
Do you remember her
I remember her.
Switching, her crime
Sandra her name.
Pulled over.
Unraveling, pulled stitch
by stitch, emptiness
slowly growing to a gape
Where no stitch at all
remained.
The pulled thread left a hole,
a cell, an empty cell
Sandra was her name
No blinker her shame
I remember her
Do you remember her
I remember her when I change lanes
each
time
Blink-a blank-a Sandra
Sandra Bland
I remember you.
(KMH)



From the Editor

I've been thinking about luck. This one gets a cure--that one is cut down young. This one marries once and it works for life. That one marries several times; that one not at all.

"Good luck on your exam!" Luck has nothing to do with it, you mutter, swinging your backpack onto your shoulder. I've studied my head off. Not luck; hard work.

"It's God's will, not luck." God's will, you shudder, visualizing the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, remembering the tsunami. God's will?

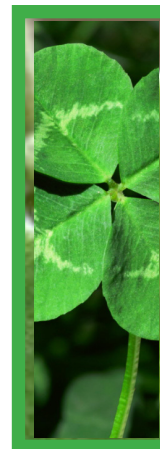
Life is a succession of moments, some of which are random, some of which are results of causes. Even totally random luck--like winning a television set--could not have happened unless the raffle ticket had been purchased. Most of life's moments are a combination of random, reason, talent, and, who knows. Sitting around wishing for good luck makes as much sense as expecting to win the television set without buying the raffle ticket. Sitting around jealous of others' good luck, or bemoaning one's own bad luck amounts to a sore bottom and no progress made.

I am trying to live out my days noticing all the random acts of nature, the random acts of human kindness, random beauty, random hilarity... I am letting myself be surprised at all this randomness and as I do I experience more energy and positivity and, well, don't I stand up and get to doing something!

Lucky me!



"You're one lucky guy . . . you've got a great case!"



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