

# UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

May 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.”



“When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this - you haven't.”

Thomas  
Edison



The month of May is named after the goddess Maia who was the Roman goddess of fertility. The verb “may” probably comes from the Germanic, through Old English, meaning to be able, to be strong, to have power. The word in English can also mean possibility, permission, wishing...The word history for these three letters, “MAY”, is a jumble of origins and meanings which inspired me to think, “Wow, all the possibilities in the word May, a word which itself means possibility. What a theme for the newsletter!” So from that thought, to the philosophical . . . possibility, possibility, possibility:

Rumi says, “You are not a drop in the ocean, you are the ocean in a drop.”

I say: That slows me, stills me, until I feel the weight of the water against the inmost layer of my skin. Its movement. Its salt.

Rumi says, “The universe is not outside of you. Look inside yourself; everything that you want, you already are.”

I say: Beyond knowing, beyond all edges, yet within the edges of my being, is the universe? I am made of stardust, it is said; dust from the moment of creation itself.

Rumi says, “Ask all of yourself.”

I say: Rumi means don’t ask another, don’t ask “God.”

All is within each of us.

So, Rumi says, ask yourself.

That reduces me to awe.

Ask my self? Ask my self?

All possibility is with me. Within us. Okay, wow.

Worship Worship Worship  
Worship Worship Worship  
Worship Worship Worship

May



We  
are

LIVE!  
and  
On-line  
Sundays  
11 am

We live-stream  
via YouTube.  
Join in at 11 am  
[www.uumh.org](http://www.uumh.org)  
Click on Sermons

“

”

I AM ONLY ONE, BUT I AM ONE. I  
CANNOT DO EVERYTHING, BUT I  
CAN DO SOMETHING. AND I WILL  
NOT LET WHAT I CANNOT DO  
INTERFERE WITH WHAT I CAN DO.

— EDWARD EVERETT HALE

A note from Rev. Kate  
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Belum

I've shared with you before a reading by Robert Fulghum (the author of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*) called "Belum." That's what I thought of when I heard that the newsletter theme this month is "MAY-be."

In Indonesia, Fulghum explains, there is a word that means 'not quite yet.' It is a lovely word, he says, implying continuing possibility. It is considered rude there to say no outright. So instead they use this word that means perhaps. Maybe. Possibly. Not yes or no, but squarely within the realm of what might be.

This is, indeed, the season of possibility. The weather is warming, the plants are emerging, stores are opening, and our energy is coming back. People are coming back to the Outer Cape. We don't know yet what this summer will be like, but it is full of potential.

This is the month, before things get too crazy, that is akin to the moment of looking at a wrapped present, and getting almost more joy by wondering what is inside than you do from opening it. Or the few moments before putting your coin to a scratch ticket, when you dream about what you would do with the money should you win. This is the month when the imagining happens.

Let's not rush into summer this year. Let's linger in the MAY-be.

Rev. Kate

# *In Memoriam*

Allen Gallant



Carol Klass

Death is only a  
launching into the  
region of the strange  
Untried; it is but the  
first salutation to the  
possibilities of the  
immense Remote, the  
Wild, the Watery, the  
Unshored.

Herman Melville



Peter Gallagher



From the Board

From the Board

From the Board

### My UU Journey, by Dave Hawver

In 1968, when I was 5 years old, my parents, who met in 9th grade in the Youth Group at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, took me to Davies Memorial Unitarian Church in Camp Springs, Maryland. My parents became deeply involved in the church over the next 7 years--Dad served as Treasurer, Mom was in the Theatre Group, and we hosted an annual Garage Sale to benefit the church in our front yard. All of their friends were church members. We attended countless church picnics, river retreats, camping trips, crab feasts, and ski trips. I don't remember much about the Religious Education curriculum, except that, rather than studying scripture, we learned values through singing songs ("Magic Penny" was a favorite"), bread-baking, copper enameling, and decision-making (by playing "Risk"). At one service about "Who are your heroes?" my Dad spoke about Travis McGee, the protagonist of the John D. McDonald novels.

In 1975, we moved to Kensington, MD, and attended Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda. The Junior High Youth Group was a big part of my life for the next 3 years—bake sales, church overnights, pottery, ski trips, and retreats to the Catoctin Mountains. In 8th grade, I took "About Your Sexuality," the precursor to the current "Our Whole Lives" class, where, in addition to the "nuts and bolts" of anatomy, I learned about sexual orientation, gender identity, relationships, STDs, birth control, and that sexuality is a natural and healthy part of being a human. So much better than the short and sterile version taught in school health classes! In 9th grade, I learned about the history of Unitarian Universalism, culminating in a field trip to Boston (the Mecca of US UUism), and received a Chalice pin at the end-of-year Coming of Age ceremony.

I took a break from organized religion for high school and college, and, in 1985, joined the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture (a lot like UUism!) with my wife, Deb Felix. The intellectual, philosophical, and ethical approach to religion was appealing to both of us, and we helped to co-found The Uptown Coffee House, a venue for live folk music in Riverdale, NY, hosting performers such as Patty Larkin, Rod MacDonald,

Bill Staines, and Robbie O'Connell. My primary role was chief baker of delicious treats to sell during intermission.

In 1992, we moved to North Bethesda, MD, and in 1998, when our kids were 5 and 2 years old, we joined Cedar Lane UU Church so they could get the same kind of values-based RE that I had experienced. Over the next 14 years, I taught 2nd grade for 4 years (highlights were Trash and Treasure walks around the grounds, picking up litter and finding interesting bits of Nature to incorporate into craft projects; 6th grade for 1 year (exploring other religions—Buddhist and Hindu temples, a synagogue, and a Quaker Meeting), and OWL (human sexuality) for 5 years. I also enjoyed teaching juggling and knitting in 4-week Spring Bee sessions at the end of each church year.

In 2012 I began my participation in the “upstairs” (i.e., adult) part of CLUUC by joining the Senior Minister Search Committee, an unforgettable growth experience, listening to dozens of sermons, learning so much about how other UU congregations worship, and bonding with other committee members during this intense year of work together. Then I joined the Nominating Committee, and, when a Board Nominee dropped out at the last minute, the Committee met in my absence and nominated me for the Board position. My first year on the Board, I felt out of my element and was thinking of resigning, when, unexpectedly, I was nominated to be President-Elect. After some soul-searching, I accepted, largely because I really liked the person who would be President the next year, and I very much enjoyed the next year working closely with her, the other Board officers, Staff, and the Ministry Team to make the best decisions on behalf of the congregation. My third (and last) year on the Board, as President, took me way outside my comfort zone, with some challenging issues arising. I learned a lot, about myself as well as how churches work, but I was very happy to hand over the gavel to the incoming President at the end of that year! I also enjoyed attending the UU General Assembly in Portland, OR, Columbus, OH, and New Orleans, LA those three years. There is nothing like hearing thousands of UUs in the same room singing “Spirit of Life” in beautiful harmony!

On August 8, 2020, I moved to Wellfleet, MA, where Deb had already found a wonderful community here at UUMH of Provincetown, which I enthusiastically joined in Spring of 2021. The outstanding sermons given by Rev. Kate and guest preachers consistently move my soul, and my life is enriched by the music and the thoughtfulness and compassion of the members and staff. Here at the UUMH of Provincetown my UU journey continues as a volunteer on the Safety Team, an At-Large Board member, and as a delegate to the upcoming UU General Assembly in Pittsburgh. I look forward to getting to know more of you as our journey together continues.

Peace,  
Dave Hawver

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)





"The people who give you their food give you their heart." Cesar Chavez

Please remember our  
Little Free Pantry.  
People are depending on our  
contributions as prices climb.



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.



Mary Katherine Morn, President and CEO of the UUSC, is visiting us at the UUMH and offering the sermon on May 21!

We are honored to welcome her and are grateful that we will hear directly from her about the wonderful work the UUSC does worldwide.

Please mark your calendars and come in person if possible to give her a rousing hello. We will be live streaming, of course, so everyone will be able to see her and hear her words.

# Poet's Corner

Mother may I? Yes, I may take a baby step. Backwards? A given. Life is a chess-board and I am a knight. No, I will take a giant step forward without asking.

May I run for office? I know the silent credo. I bow to necessity. Whose necessity?

Observe that it is easier to dance than to walk. I may also twirl in place. When I mark time in pointless revolutions I annoy my neighbours. Good! I must move sideways, crablike. Let's sidestep the issue. I step out of your line of sight.

May I jump into icy water on New Year's Day? The cause is good. May I wave at polar bears and seals? I will sing with whales. Polyphony: let's harmonize. Let's help beached dolphins. Let us return, for a time, to the sea. Where the horizon bends imperceptibly, with gravity drawing everything to earth's core.

Mother may I plunge into Titan's subsurface ocean? I can take the pressure. May I stroke the exotic manta rays and swim countercurrent? ... What's that? Your voice does not carry through empty space.

I will abandon Triton and plunge among the stars and breathe deeply, filling my lungs with emptiness. We all start somewhere.

--Heather Ferguson



## Green

I am trying to mix the colour of the  
Bursting maple leaves,  
The late afternoon May sun shining on clusters sing  
As they unfurl into spring life,  
While I struggle with the task of matching their beauty.

Methodically mixing combinations,  
Settling on cobalt and naples yellow might work  
But so simple for nature  
To create the perfect palette year after year,  
Seemingly without any effort.

I must pay attention  
While the leaves uncurl and the green darkens,  
As the orderly row of Norwegian Maple that straddle our fence  
Morph into their annual wall creating a cocoon of privacy  
And sweet coolness on hot July noons.

Pay attention, your painting can wait.  
We are mixing the greens here, claim the trees.

Deb Arsenault

# Among Ourselves



*Love is the Spirit*

- Thinking of Dianne Kopser and her mom, as they both travel through their respective medical journeys.
- So glad that Bruce De Ste Croix is on the other side of hernia surgery.
- So happy to have Kenneth Sutton back with us! We missed his kind and gentle soul.
- Still holding Mary Abt on our hearts. Losing a sister is so hard.
- Bon voyage and bienvenue to Marty Hassell and Ellen Anthony, home from Paris!
- Congratulations to Jane Bunker on her show at the Carter Woodson Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Sending love to Annie Daignault, whose brother is ill.
- We send a big hello to Loretta Butehorn, Susan Downey and Lawrence Crisara.
- Michael Fernandes and Susumu Kishihara, we love you! May your “not fair” be behind you!
- Karen Kuehl, we are so glad you are up and around again!

**“I dwell in possibility.”  
Emily Dickenson**

There is a tiger in the room. We are ignoring it but that doesn't make it go away. Here on the very edge of the continent where gender expressions of various stripes are accepted and welcomed, it can be hard for us to believe that "hom-o-sex-u-als and trans people" are being targeted in other states, let alone other countries. That's the tiger.

We live on a peninsula of rare Cape light, gorgeous sunsets, briny air, where men can walk hand in hand as they amble down Commercial Street and a woman can kiss a woman on a street corner. We seem far, far removed from school districts where "the" word cannot be spoken; far removed from gun violence against gays; far removed.

Let it be so  
that we are safe here.

Let it be so  
that our non-binary, gay, and trans, and questioning siblings and their families can flourish in safety here.

Let it be so  
that we work and struggle and fight and pray that safety and justice exist for all--in our state, our country, our world.

In Nigeria, homosexuals are put to death for their "sin".

In Florida, teachers who say the word the "gay" in class fear they can be fired.

In Montana, a duly elected trans woman can be banned from the legislative floor in her constituents' state capital for calling attention to the fact that anti-trans legislation is a life and death issue.

We breathe rare air in Provincetown. Let it fill our lungs so that our cries and our protests and outrage are heard far and wide.

More than 300,000 high school-aged (ages 13-17) trans youth live in the US today, many who need gender affirming care. Half of these youth (47.7%, or 143,000) live in states in which transgender youth have lost or are at risk of losing access to gender-affirming care. More than one in four (29.6% or 88,900 total) trans youth aged 13-17 live in states that have passed bans on gender affirming care. An additional 18.0% (54,100 total) trans youth are living in states that are considering bills and policies that will deny more trans kids access to life saving gender affirming care.

Ref: Human Rights Campaign website <https://www.hrc.org/resources/attacks-on-gender-affirming-care-by-state-map>

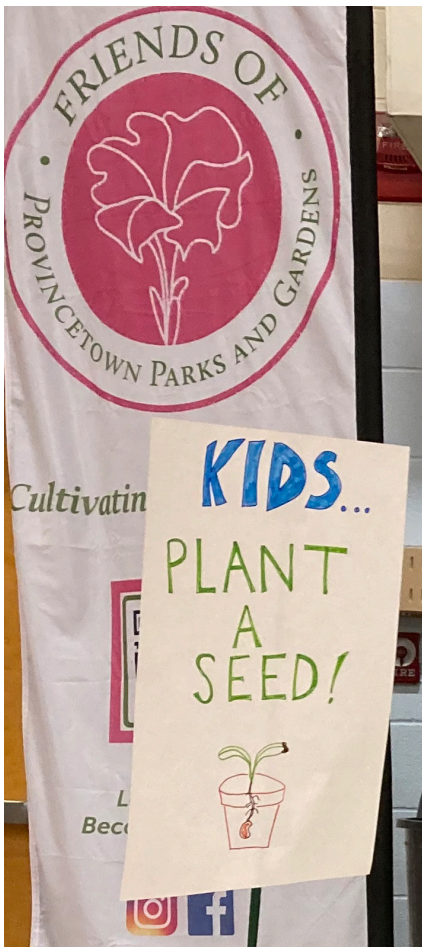




Bill Docker BLOOMS!!



Hop to it, you sweeties!



Tracy Day





*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.*



US Police killed at least 1,197 people in 2022. Black people were 26% of those killed by police in 2022 despite being only 13% of the population.

Police have killed 363 people in 2023.

<https://mappingpoliceviolence.us/>



# For the Beauty of the Earth

JOE DUDZINSKI  
Artistic Director

Contemporary choral works from the last century celebrating nature, the earth, its peoples, and the connectedness of all living things.

**MAY 19**

Friday • 7 PM

Provincetown Town Hall

**MAY 20**

Saturday • 5 PM

Provincetown Town Hall

**MAY 21**

Sunday • 3 PM

Nauset Middle School

All concerts are free • no ticket needed • contributions welcomed • Learn more at [outercapechorale.org](http://outercapechorale.org)  
Saturday concert is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube



Mass Cultural Council and local councils for Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Orleans, Brewster, and Harwich.



Thursday June 22

is the first Artisan Craft Fair at The UU . The fair is every Thursday until the end of August except the week of Carnival. There are a couple of spaces left . For information call Joanne Cove at 508-487-4096 or email at [covetown1@Verizon.net](mailto:covetown1@Verizon.net)



Photo: Marty Cowden



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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](mailto:meetinghousenews@gmail.com)