

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

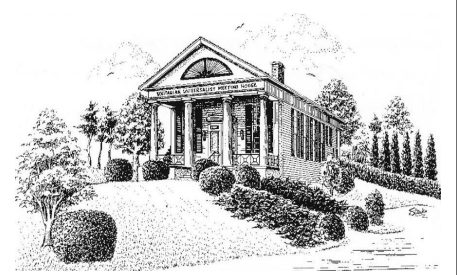
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

NOVEMBER 2012

VOLUME XVI NUMBER 11



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Handicap Lift	1
Month of Sundays	2
Sightings	3
Memorial Service	4
Gathering (Women's Group)	4
Electric Kitchen	4
Piano	5
Learning for Life	5
In Memoriam	5
Congregate House	6
Art Exhibit	6
Help Wanted Ads	6
Turkey Trot	7
Aids Orphan	7
Bits and Pieces / Member News	8

"NEWS FROM THE HILL"
 is published monthly year round by
 the UU Meeting House of Chatham.
 Editor: Susan Bauer
 Layout Editor: Ralph Bauer
 Publisher: Melissa Clayton

SUNDAY SERVICES are
 held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 next month is **MONDAY**
NOVEMBER 26. Send items to
 Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



Congregational Meeting Approves Handicap Lift

A Special Congregational Meeting took place on October 21, 2012, after the Sunday Service to hear two presentations on the lift proposed to facilitate handicapped access to the sanctuary and Fleck Room. 42 members were present. Ralph Bauer presented current fundraising results and outlined a Building and Grounds Committee (B&G) recommendation to install an external lift. B&G felt the alternative internal lift created problems with limited space in foyers both upstairs and down. The estimated cost was \$48,700.

A second proposal was presented by Hoyt Ecker, with consulting architectural assistance from John DaSilva, and was based on a lift design smaller than the one considered by B&G but deemed adequate, and installed in corners of the respective foyers in such a way as to avoid excessive retrofitting costs and to impinge relatively less on foyer space.

Unlike the high estimated cost for the larger lift considered initially by B&G, the presently proposed interior lift appears likely to cost no more than the proposed exterior lift, and may be considerably less costly. However, preliminary contractor estimates below \$30,000 were thought by John to be lower than he would expect for this type of job.

Discussion of both alternatives touched on many more details than could be resolved at the meeting, but a strong consensus emerged that intangible benefits of an interior lift as now perceived outweighed the inconvenience of loss of foyer space, and moreover, the need to move ahead without further delay was critical.

The meeting then unanimously approved "a motion to approve the lift project and instruct the Board of Trustees to move ahead with further fundraising and implementation". In a second motion, also adopted unanimously, "the Congregation of UUMH has reviewed proposals for both exterior and interior lifts and instructs the Board of Trustees to proceed with the interior design".

FALL BACK

Don't forget to set your clocks and watches back one hour on November 3 so that you arrive for Sunday morning service at just the right moment!



STAFF MEMBERS

MINISTER:

Rev. Edmund Robinson
edmund@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
ftoppa440@hotmail.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:

Melissa Clayton
melissaclayton@uumh.net

SEXTON:

Ralph Bauer
ralphb1234@cs.com

Board of Trustees

Dick Eccles, President
Elsa Bastone, Vice President
Dwight Wilson, Treasurer
Jean Mangiafico, Secretary

At large members:

Walter Diggs
Ruth Treen
Dave Hubbard

Program Council

Sally Davol, Chair

VISION STATEMENT

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

November 4 If Memory Serves Rev. Edmund Robinson

What does memory do for us? Almost all of us experience some loss of memory as we age, and for many of us this loss will be almost total. In the best of circumstances, memory does not allow us to view the past as it was when we lived it; rather we view it through the lens of today's needs, fears and hopes.

November 11 Whew, that's over!" Rev. Edmund Robinson

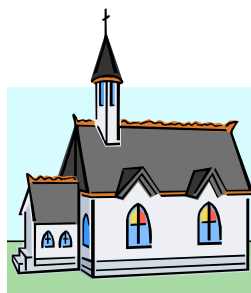
The voters have spoken. What do we do now?

November 18 Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice Rev. Edmund Robinson

The challenge is not to see life as a gift on the good days, but to be grateful for this gift on all days.

November 25 Native Americans and Cape Cod land. Todd Kelley

How do we look at the land under our feet here on Cape Cod? How do Native Americans look at the same land? Are there two perspectives on how we respect and preserve this beautiful but fragile Cape Cod?



Who's Preaching

Todd Kelley was raised on Cape Cod with a deep sense of community in a generation he says seems to be vanishing. He is a naturalist, natural resource consultant, educator, and personal guide.

Sightings**Rev. Edmund Robinson**

You may have noticed a few weeks ago an article in USA Today that said that Unitarian Universalists were growing in numbers. The article went on to say that the growth in our liberal denomination came because people were falling away from more orthodox faiths and our inclusive, pluralistic approach to religion seemed to fit the needs of the present generation.

This would be welcome news – if it were true. And it may be true in a sense. It may be true that the number of people responding to pollsters' questions about their religious identification who will say "Unitarian Universalist" is growing.

But that is not currently translating into growth in the congregations. To put our numbers in context, start from the fact that, for most of the 2000s, most Protestant denominations were losing members in absolute numbers. Against that trend, we UUs were experiencing slight growth in absolute numbers, though the American population was growing at a faster rate than the denominational membership, so we were losing ground as a percentage of population. But in the last three years, our membership has started a decline in absolute numbers. It's slight, UU World editor Chris Walton says.

For the fourth year in a row, the Unitarian Universalist Association reported a slight decrease in members of congregations, to 161,502 from 162,796 in 2011, a decline of 0.79 percent. Moreover, over the past decade, 22% of UU congregations have shrunk by 20 percent or more.

Put these membership facts from the UUA beside the polls in USA Today and we have the frustrating fact that there are a lot of people out there in the country who claim to be UU but who do not join one of our churches. I wish I had a dime for every time I met someone in this area who, learning I am a UU minister says, "Oh, I'm a UU myself, I just haven't gone to church in 10 years."

Is this the price we pay for our acceptance of all? A faith that's a mile wide and an inch deep? A faith that does not beget any level of commitment to the institutions which maintain it?

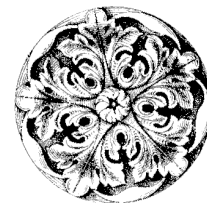
I post my sermons on Facebook and the church website, and they are accessible to all. But I can write and preach these sermons because I have a church supporting me, because I have a community of people who are willing to pool their hard-earned money to call and maintain a minister. Unitarian Universalism does not just happen; it takes work to maintain it as a force in the world.

UUA President Peter Morales has started a conversation on reaching out to those "beyond the congregation." I would love to hear your ideas on how we can get some of the "free range" UUs to take a more active part in our movement, whether within church walls or outside.

And don't forget that "growth" is not just a matter of numbers. Each of us is one person, but over the years of our lives, we have grown in maturity and knowledge. Likewise, this church grows in its understanding of itself year by year.

Blessings,

Edmund



This year the Winter Solstice falls on Friday, December 21, and our contra dance on Saturday, December 22. I am inclining toward a combination of these two events, to be held on Saturday night in the South Chatham Village Hall with the first half of the evening being musical entertainment (Boars Head Carol, 12 Days of Christmas etc.) and the second half being a dance for those who wish. But accessibility will be a problem in that space. I'd like to hear from any of you as to whether this is a good proposal, and whether you would like to be involved at some level.



Celebration of the spirit of
Bonnie Robinson
1915-2012
Wednesday November 7
1 PM
Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House, Chatham

The Gathering

The Gathering will be meeting on November 12 in the Fleck Room at 7:00 pm. It's Movie Night and we will be watching "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" starring Judi Dench. It's very, very funny! Popcorn, beverage and candy will be provided. Hope to see many women there laughing and having lots of fun! Open to all UUMH women, even if you haven't attended the Gathering before. Great night to start!



ELECTRIC KITCHEN FOR NOVEMBER

The next Electric kitchen will be held on Sunday November 18 after church at coffee hour. We will be featuring **PIES** for Thanksgiving of all kinds and sizes. We will also feature **homemade breads** like cranberry, banana, pumpkin, etc as well as **coffee cakes** for Thanksgiving morning. Bakers needed for the above goodies and buyers to purchase the goodies!



Happiness is in little things. (John Ruskin)

A NEW HOME FOR OUR CHICKERING GRAND PIANO

This piano became surplus to our needs when we accepted the donation of the Hamburg Steinway piano now in our sanctuary. The Music Committee and Trustees have endorsed our plan to donate the Chickering to The Terraces, Orleans, the retirement center where Dick and Phoebe Soule, our long-time enthusiastic members and strong supporters now live. We came to appreciate Dick's frequent entreaties about how we can increase our financial support for UUMH, and to enjoy his occasional announcement, "I have no announcement!"

The piano will be given in honor of the Soules, who along with the Terraces Administrator, were delighted at our gift. The Music Committee is arranging for a number of musical programs involving the newly located piano, featuring UUMH and other musicians.

We wish to thank Ann Eldridge for her generous willingness to store the Chickering at her home over these past seven months.



LEARNING FOR LIFE TALK ON THE LIFE OF WALTER CRONKITE

Mr. Ed Fouhy, a former CBS News colleague and friend of Walter Cronkite, will give a talk on the life of Cronkite on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 3:00 PM in the UUMH Fleck Room. In the eyes of many, Cronkite, the CBS evening news anchorman, was the most influential journalist of the 20th century.

Don't miss Fouhy's stimulating presentation!



IN MEMORIAM

EDNA WAYSON
1920-2012

FOUNDING MEMBER OF UUMH



Happiness walks on busy feet. (Kitte Turmell)

SOCIAL JUSTICE: CONGREGATE HOUSE

Volunteers will be serving the Sunday evening meal at the Captain Bearse House on November 11.

If you are interested in helping with this important service, please call Connie Pina at 508-246-3641.

Connie is also seeking someone to help her and eventually take over the coordination of these occasional dinners. It's a fun, worthwhile Sunday evening with UUMH friends and serving a very appreciative group of residents. See Connie about this as well.

UUMH ART EXHIBIT FOR NOVEMBER

The theme for our November exhibit is Autumn Exposure. The exhibit is open to all wall-hung media. Artists are invited to bring one or two pieces. Frames must have picture wire on the back.

Delivery: 9:30 AM - noon, Friday, Nov. 9th.

Pick-up: 9:30 AM - noon, Friday, Dec. 7th.

To help set the "stage" (Fleck Room), here are some thoughts:
If winter is slumber and spring is birth, and summer is life, then
autumn rounds out to be reflection. It's a time of year when the leaves are down and the perennials are gone. Mother Earth just closed up the drapes on another year and it's time to reflect on what's come before.
Mitchell Burgess, Northern Exposure (1992)

falling leaves
hide the path
so quietly

John Bailey, Autumn, a haiku year, 2001

UUMH CLASSIFIEDS

(Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)

**** Ken Davol is available for heavy lifting/chores/yard work. 774-454-3551

**** **PCA** (Personal Care Assistant)
(Daughter of Harmon and Ann Diers)
- Transportation, meal planning
- Medication reminders
- Light housekeeping, companionship
- CORI approved
- Rates lower than private agencies
Please contact Cindy Smith any time at: 774-722-2611



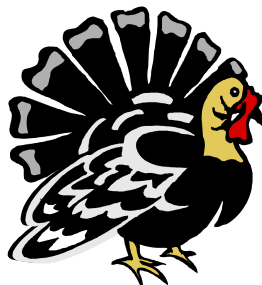
TURKEY TROT

The 8th annual Chatham Turkey Trot will take place this year on Thanksgiving Day. This fun walk or run covers 3.1 miles of winding and rolling paved roads with breathtaking scenery. Sponsored by the Chatham Walkers and our own Meeting House. Benefits Lower Cape Outreach Council. Great early Thanksgiving morning warm up for the day for you and your visiting families!

Registration is 7-8AM in the parking lot behind the Orpheum Theater in downtown Chatham. Adults: \$15 plus a bag of non-perishable groceries; ages 5-16 \$5; under 5 free with one grocery item. Free commemorative adult T-shirts while supplies last. Home made pies for sale! Also a raffle!

Park behind the Orpheum, at the Community Center or at Oyster Pond. Coordinated by Linda Redding (945-1798) and Mary Parsons (432-7194). Download an application ahead of time at uumh.net/events.

Having told you all that! Linda and Mary would be grateful to anyone who could bake a pie or two. Bring these downtown that morning or to the Meeting House the day before. (Let Linda or Mary know to expect them please). Also, even if you're not participating, how about a bag of groceries? Leave in the Food Basket upstairs the Sunday before Thanksgiving or any time before Thursday.



The sympathy of the Meeting House is extended to Ann Diers in the loss of her brother, Dr. David McDonald, age 89. Dr. McDonald had a distinguished career in psychiatry in New York City.

OUR AIDS ORPHAN IN KENYA

We are a bit short of our goal of UUMH members donating \$500 to continue our support of Godfrey Masheti for another year. Thanks to those who have already contributed. This is a last call this year to others who would like to help.

Please write a check today for \$25, \$50, or more to Crossroads Springs Africa, Inc., and mail it to them at Box 242, East Aurora, NY 14052. Please enter UUMH/Chatham on the Note line of your check.

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Great article in the October 25 Cape Cod Chronicle, right on page 2, interviewing Cheri Armstrong and highlighting both her position as our Youth Programs Director, but also her work as head of the Beacon Youth Outreach.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

ANGEL FUND COMING SOON

Just an early reminder that UUMH will again be participating in Chatham’s Angel Fund, providing a happy holiday to a needy family. Tree with gift ideas will go up the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Gifts will be accepted for three Sundays in December; checks will be accepted for the first two Sundays as gifts must be purchased with these donations. Watch for details in the December Newsletter!



What would it be like without friendly ushers greeting us at the door? Or without hot coffee, a cookie and warm conversation in the Fleck Room? Please volunteer to be an usher or a host to keep our Sundays at UUMH welcoming and joyful.

Jan Young has openings for both hosts and ushers for November and December Sundays.

Give her a call at 508-246-1105



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE



THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will meet November 19 at 10:30 AM to discuss *The language of flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. All are welcome to join us. Questions? Call Sue Bauer at 945-3264.



FREE Cape Cod LGBT Bereavement Group
For LGBT people of any age who are experiencing the loss of a parent, friend, partner/spouse, family member or other loved one.

Tuesday Evenings 5:30pm to 7:00pm
October 30 to December 18th (8 weeks)

Location: Harwich

Registration: 1-800-631-3900 x7715

Co-sponsored by Cape Cod VNA and The LGBT Aging Project

These groups are important because so many lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender adults do not feel safe at a mainstream bereavement group for fear that someone will not respect the nature of their relationship and therefore they do not have a place to process their grief.