

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

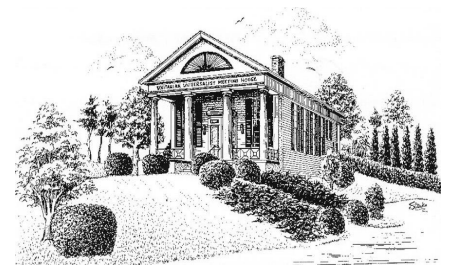
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY MAY 23**. Send items to Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



THRIFT SHOP OPENING DAY IS MAY 15

From May 1st, the Thrift Shop will be evolving as we set up and begin accepting donations. There will be workers there to accept your donations Tuesday-Friday from 10AM to 2PM. Please do not leave donations at other times.

Remember that we do not accept winter clothes or large pieces of furniture. Also, no electronics, digital items, or any other items we cannot check to make sure that they work.

Happy to have....summer clothes for all ages, toys and games, shoes, scarves, dishes and kitchenware, paintings, jewelry, bedding, linens, books, CDs, DVDs, gadgets, or just about anything else you would like to move on.

Official opening day is May 15!! We look forward to your donations and your purchases.

Questions? Mary Chesnut 432-5610 or Barbara Blanchard 945-7721.



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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

May 5 This Great and Astonishing Dance in Which We Move
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Though many of us are beyond our dancing years, we are still caught up in the larger movement called life, and will be so long as we have breath. After considering dance as a metaphor for life, those who wish are welcome to step outside and dance around out May Pole, weather permitting. Suggested wear: white, with flowers.

May 12 Generation to Generation
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Mothers Day is an appropriate time to reflect on how we are each the result of thousands of accidents of history and love from those who have gone before, however imperfect.

May 19 Terror and Error
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Does a “war on terror” still make any sense, when two individuals acting alone can create enough havoc to paralyze a city? Should we return the word “war” to affairs between nations?

May 26 Memorials and Peacemakers
Rev. Edmund Robinson

On Memorial Day we rightly honor those who gave “the full measure of devotion,” who died fighting in the wars of the United States. But where is the occasion to honor those who opposed wars, who did their best to keep us out of wars, from Presidents to pacifists to nonviolent resisters. It seems to me that the nation also owes a debt of gratitude to those.



Sightings
the Rev. Edmund Robinson

After the Boston marathon bombings but before suspects had been identified, I wrote a little piece reflecting how I thought the events in Boston fit in with the ideas on evil I had been exploring in my sermon. Among other things I said this:

“... calling [this act] evil does not explain it. The word evil has great emotional content, but is little help in shedding light on what brings about actions like this. Worse, it is usually used to justify retribution: actions which, in the abstract, would be considered evil in themselves, but which are thought to be justified in retribution to the evil which we have suffered.

“We went down this road after 9/11. Afghanistan was a plausible target because they seemed to giving safe harbor to the organization which launched the attacks on us. After we had invaded Afghanistan, the administration tried to make a case for Iraq. But the evidence for Saddam’s supposed weapons of mass destruction was always thin; the emotional support for that invasion among most of the American people was retribution, however misplaced, for the attacks of 9/11.

“One of the clearest teachings of Jesus is not to return evil for evil. ‘But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.’ (Matt 5:39).”

I sent the essay to the paper (which didn’t print it), posted it on Facebook and e-mailed it to the congregation. One person who reacted was a former member of this congregation who said she found it too “political,” and it confirmed her feeling that the Meeting House was not welcoming to people of conservative political opinions.

I found this surprising at first. I had felt that I was making a moral or religious point, but certainly the example I used was one with which some will disagree. And it raises the question which I have considered many times before: to what extent should a minister offer his/her take on the moral issues of the day? My feeling is that a minister is called to apply religious principles to what is happening, to help people understand how they apply. Otherwise, religion is a dead letter, irrelevant to real life.

But I would be interested in feedback from any of you of any political stripe. I do not think we should be in lockstep politically, rather it seems to me that political diversity is as desirable as diversity of backgrounds, ethnicities or sexual orientations. What do you think?

Blessings,

Edmund



KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY



**Come One, Come All to a Kentucky Derby Party and Pot Luck Supper
Saturday, May 4 at 4:00 PM
at the home of Gail Eldredge 9 Old Comers Road, Chatham**

Post time for the Derby is approximately 6:30, give or take a few minutes, and we will watch the Race live on a large screen TV, rooting for our favorites to win.

Please call Charlotte Edgecombe at 398-8516 or email her at edgecombe@comcast.net. if you are planning to attend and let her know what you will be bringing. Gail will be providing the "Mint Juleps" and cucumber sandwiches. All members and friends of the Meeting House are welcome.

There also will be lots of fun games to play like Derby Pool and Derby Trivia.
And ladies, don't forget to wear your most beautiful hats!!
Hoping to see many of you all there.

PIANO CONCERT TO BENEFIT MEETING HOUSE

On June 9 at 4PM, Shelley Hartman and Amanda Hartman will perform a concert at the Meeting House. The concert program will contain works for solo piano by Chopin and Brahms and works for violin by Mendelssohn and Bach. Tickets will be available at the Meeting House early in May.

Mr. Shelley Hartman, pianist, won the Artist's International Piano Competition in New York City, has played at Carnegie Recital Hall five times, and has appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras. Mr. Hartman holds a Master's degree from Juilliard and an MBA from Columbia University. Amanda Hartman, violinist, is performing in June at the Hungarian House Concert Hall New York City and in Harrisburg, PA. Ms. Hartman has also performed at Carnegie Hall and Symphony Space as a member of the Interschool Symphony Orchestra, and in music festivals in France and Germany. Ms. Hartman attended the Special Music School of America in New York City.

Shelley and Amanda are Marion Harcourt's son-in-law and granddaughter, respectively.



Never lose a chance of saying a kind word. (Thackeray)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

On May 5 three volunteers from UUMH will prepare and serve the evening supper at the Chatham Congregate House (aka the Captain Bearse House).

If anyone would like to make cookies to go with their ice cream for dessert, it would be greatly appreciated by the residents there and also by those preparing the supper.

Please get in touch with Connie Pina at 432-3414.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS**Demise of the Organ**

The Music Committee reports that the organ is not now serviceable, and that repair or replacement is required. The Board has accepted the recommendation that the UUMH needs to have an organ as a vital part of our music program, and supports the Music Committee in creating an organ-search committee to identify possible options, including both repair and replacement opportunities.

Anyone interested in helping with this search or advising the Committee is invited to contact Mary Chesnut, Co-Chair at 432-5610. We hope to take whatever action appears feasible and supportable as soon as possible.

Continuation of the Youth Program

The Board supports continuing with the Program for another year, even though the number of young people attracted so far is less than was anticipated. Progress, though, has been substantial, and the Board commends Cheri Armstrong on her enthusiastic leadership, which resulted in a thoroughly enjoyable program by ten children of the Beacon Outreach at our Service on April 21. The Board plans to review progress in December, 2013 and assess whether we wish to continue beyond June 2014.

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS

Candlelight dinners will resume in the fall. Anyone interested in coordinating these dinners, please contact Sue Bauer 945-3264. Dinners are usually held each month in members' homes and are pot luck. Details can be changed or rearranged by the chair and/or any participants. It's a fun way to get to know small groups of members and friends of UUMH, perhaps someone you have met at coffee hour and would like to know better. The coordinator will have a signup sheet at coffee hour and will divide participants into small groups. that's about the extent of the duties. How about it?!



Measure men round the heart. (English proverb)

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pianist Jacqueline Schwab (wife of Rev. Edmund Robinson) has just released a new solo CD (her fourth) *True Blue Waltz*, featuring her solo piano flights of improvisation on (mainly) contemporary waltzes and traditional airs from round the world.

To order a copy, contact her at jaspianist@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY CHANGES



.Update on Summer Concert Series

The Meeting House Summer concert series enters its fifth summer. This year, the concerts are on Thursday nights in July and August. I will be asking for volunteers to help with these concerts in the next few weeks. Mark your calendars!

Thanks, Edmund

- July 11 All Worn Out Jug Band
- July 18 Allan Brooks group
- July 25 Outer Cape Chorale Chamber group
- August 1 Out Late with Diana di Gioia
- August 8 Jacqueline Schwab with fiddler Anne Hooper -- classical and Scottish
- August 15 Sue Keller ragtime pianist/vocalist
- August 22 Jacqueline Schwab with clarinetist Clayton March -- klezmer
- August 29 Young Artists showcase with Jessie Edgar, classical piano, Jonathan Ford on Irish pennywhistle and multi-instrumentalist Julian Petrallia.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE



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

Wanted! Gardeners for Harwich Community Garden

I have two rows with a roto tiller available in an irrigated area. I'd love to share the planting with any interested gardeners.

Walter Diggs

Wanted: Sunny, open field (1/2-2 acres, minimum 200 ft. x 200 ft.) for organic growing of vegetables, fruits and cut flowers; Long-Term Lease,. Call Dr. Joyce R. Young, N.D., M.S. Botany at 348-1722

