

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
P.O. Box 1236, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
A Welcoming Congregation
January 2008**

Carol Loud, Music Director – 696-0380
Peg Thayer, Office Administrator

Judith Neeld, Editor – 693-5832
P.O. Box 132, Menemsha, MA 02552

www.uusmv.info - Church Office: 508-693-8982 – uusmv@uusmv.info

: Church Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

-----**Parish Committee**-----

Sarah Shepard, President – 693-3271 - Mimi Davisson, Vice President -- 696 -1075
Catherine DeVito, Secretary – 693-5372 -- Blair Shick, Treasurer – 693-6258

Members-at-large:

Peter Palches-693-5427 – Mike Kobran 693-7083 (seasonal) – Betsy Buck 627-5292

-----**Next Copy Deadline: January 15**-----

SUNDAY SERVICES – 11:00 a.m.

- Jan. 6 - **On Time and Change**, The Rev. Richard Fewkes, long-time UUSMV friend and Rev. Judy's mentor in Norwell, has chosen a fitting topic for the first Sunday of the new year, particularly apt as Rev. Judy's ministry with us has ended and we are looking forward to what is next. (First Sunday: please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry collection in the foyer.)
- Jan. 13- **Faith in Change**, The Rev. Judith Downing, our BCD Transition Team consultant, will speak. "We do not welcome change easily. We are creatures of habit and comfort. But it comes, we are forced into it and even choose it sometimes. How we face it, react to it and what it does to us is worth reflecting upon.

*UUSMV is now moving through the transition: first, of saying farewell to our retiring minister and second, of facing future opportunities and challenges. The **Worship Committee** therefore proposes that some of our services in the coming months follow a single theme: "Who are we and what are the various ways we have of being a church community?" The Committee invites and welcomes your thoughts, opinions and suggestions for services on this fruitful, many-faceted theme. Call Nancy Cox or e-mail Arlene Conroy (see Church Directory for numbers).*

- Jan. 20- **Who we Are: the People Speak**. Sitting in a circle, the congregation and representatives from the various groups and committees within UUSMV will speak spontaneously and informally on what it's like to be in their particular group—such as, for example, "Being in the Women's Group is like (finish the sentence)" or, " Being on the Music Committee is like (finish the sentence)." Use colors, sounds, poetic images (such as "a flower") and, above all, your imaginations. It should be an enlightening—and entertaining—morning.
- Jan. 27- **Getting the Church You Want**, The Rev. Roberta Finkelstein. Decades ago, Harville Hendricks, a therapist with a theological bent, wrote a book called Getting the Love You Want. His thesis is--we all bring unconscious expectations to our relationships that get in the way of our ability to establish true intimacy. Roberta applies his principles to the way we create community in a congregation. Particularly, at a time of ministerial transition, it is important to acknowledge and articulate our expectations so we are able to establish a healthy relationship with each other and, ultimately, with a new minister. Roberta is minister of South Church in Portsmouth, NH. She is a life-long Unitarian Universalist and a frequent visitor to the island.
Light lunch follows.

Trustees of UUSMV – Buildings and Grounds Concerns
Steve Engh: 696-1075 – Mary Miller: 627-7053 – Jack Street – 696-1893

Transition Discussion

Rev. Judy's departure is a fact and we have a transition to chart.

**Join UUSMV Members and Friends
for a discussion of important transition matters.**

Sunday, January 13, after the service

Share your ideas, pose your questions, voice your concerns.

**Rev. Judith Downing, the BCD Transition Consultant,
will lead the discussion.**

Everybody is invited. Your participation is vitally important.

Letter from the President of the Parish Committee:

As Rev. Judy so aptly pointed out in her December 2nd sermon, "Looking Backward, Looking Forward", January is named for the Roman god of two faces who looks both ways. And here we are. Rev. Judy has stepped down after seven years of service with us and it is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished during her ministry at UUSMV and where we wish to go forward from here. We are a stronger and more vibrant church than when she came, but, of course, there is always room for improvement. As we think about "what next", we must meet, converse and reflect how we want our church to be and how we can best achieve what needs to be done to get to utopia. At a recent Transition Team meeting, Jim Thomas suggested that we decide what we are about, what we wish to be and how we can manage our resources, administration, governance, structure and facilities to achieve that end.

Several plans have been made to enable these deliberations: We will celebrate the seven years of Rev. Judy's ministry on January 6th. On January 13th, Rev. Judith Downing, our BCD Transition consultant will provide the morning service after which, sustained by a light lunch, Rev. Downing will tell us what the UUA procedures/timetables are and allow us to ask her any questions. We will then have four Wednesday noon brown bag lunches for further discussion which will be facilitated by Janet Holladay (*see back of Calendar for details*). The Worship Committee is providing a service by Rev. Roberta Finklestein, our neighbor in the summer and the minister of the Portsmouth, NH, church, who will also speak on this theme. The Transition Team will meet on Thursdays in January at 10 AM in the chapel and, although they may occasionally have to go into executive session to discuss an applicant for the Consulting Minister, all are most welcome to come. The Transition Team members, Andi Suter, Mary Miller, Jim Thomas, Mimi Davisson and I are always ready to answer questions and to hear your comments. I urge you all to take part as best you can. As President Johnson once said, (I hope I have the right President), "Let us reason together."

Sarah Shepard

A Movie Potluck Can Lighten Winter Blues:

The first movie potluck of the winter will take place Saturday, January 19th from 6 to 8 at the Starks, 185 Sandpiper Lane, unit 12 in Tashmoo Woods, Vineyard Haven. The movie we will be discussing is "The Lives of Others", the brilliant German film. It's available through Netflix, at the video stores and at the library. If you order the DVD at the library, order in advance since there is a waiting list. If the librarian can't find it under the above title, ask for "Das Leben der Anderen" since it's a German film with subtitles.

We're going to cap the attendees at 20 because of the size of the living room. Since the Wilsons, the Ebbs and the Starks are 6, the first 14 people who call Leslie J or Myra at 508-693-8296 will be the lucky ones. When you call, we'll decide what dish to bring.

Caring Coordinator: Sunny Wilson, 627-7041 -- **Hospitality Coordinator:** Susan Harris, 693-3553

In Our UUSMV Community:

Our condolences to Jim Sullivan whose father has recently died....We send our best wishes for good healing to Martha Farwell who recently suffered a fall in Needham; cards can be sent to Martha at her Needham address...And also good wishes for healing to the mother of Celeste Stickney who recently also suffered a fall in her Falmouth care facility....After the worship service on December 2, a reception was held to honor Yvonne LaBreque, a member since 1981. Yvonne is moving to Oregon to be near her daughter, granddaughter, grandson, their spouses and her great-grandson. Her address there will be: Odd Fellows Home, Unit C - 309, 3320 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland, OR, 97202....The *Vineyard Style* magazine winter issue has an article about Ted and Jeanne Hewett's garden.; The December 14 issue of the *Vineyard Gazette* has an article about the Susan Klein Storytelling Evening at UUSMV with some photographs of the chapel decorated for Christmas. Look them up....We welcome new members, David Medeiros and Tacey Burton Medeiros and also Ben Touchstone, grandson of Dick and Martha Mezger....Our thanks to Philisse Barrows who has agreed to take our monthly donations to the Island Food Pantry....Christmas cards, made by our own Peg Thayer, were signed after the service on December 9th, and sent to our seasonal members and friends....Our chapel looks especially lovely with the holiday decorations this year....We thank Martha Mezger, Chuck and Judy Ratte, Mike and Sarah Shepard, Mary Miller, Al and Susan Harris, Jack Street, Dick Mezger, Norman Stickney, Gail Touchstone and Stephanie Michalczyk for putting them up....We also thank Mary Miller and Judy Ratte who found the lush poinsettias and placed them so beautifully, as well as all who donated them.... This was followed by soup....At the end of November, we had a lawn raking party after which the bagged leaves were taken for compost by several members.... After the raking, Chuck Ratte did a follow-up rake because a subsequent storm had brought down many more leaves; thanks to all who participated....Congratulations to Matthew Silva who has joined Rita Brown in the ranks of the Edgartown EMT's.... Best wishes to Sandy Stone-Benjamin who, with others, has opened RISE, Vineyard Performing Arts, at the Woodland Center in Vineyard Haven to offer dance and yoga classes.

New Chapel Doors Celebration:

By Wednesday, December 12, the new doors honoring the seven years of Rev. Judy's ministry at UUSMV were installed. Rev. Judy had been invited to lunch at the Black Dog by Mimi Davisson who "just had to stop by the church to pick something up". When they arrived, thirty five of us were waiting. Rev. Judy was surprised. We lined the path to the top step and explained to Rev. Judy that we were ceremonially inaugurating the new doors. Rev. Judy then cut a ribbon held by Peter Palches and Mary Miller, two members of the Design Team (Betsy Buck was unable to come) and Rev. Judy was the first to open the doors. We all followed Rev. Judy into the chapel while Carol Loud played a fanfare followed by the hymn, "Enter, Rejoice and Come In". Tim Colon, who made the doors, as well as his wife, Tricia, and son, Felix, were there. Rev. Judy seemed stunned, and truly pleased. The doors are very beautiful and were designed to reflect the wainscoting for the lower half and the diamond panes of the stained glass windows for the upper half. Tim made them of salvaged wood so they look as if they have always been there. Plain glass could not be used due to the building code, and safety glass was much too expensive, so a pale yellow Plexiglas was used to perfect effect. The color reflects the light already in the chapel and the Plexiglas is transparent. The doors now represent the welcoming and warmth that Rev. Judy has advocated during her time with us. Since Rev. Judy had originally been invited to lunch, twenty of us went with her. It was a very happy day.

Sarah Shepard

Did You Feed the Guest at Your Table Well?

We hope you fed the Guest At Your Table well and that your Guest is very full. Now that the holidays are over it is time to collect the proceeds from hosting our symbolic guests so that the contributions can be sent to the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) for their good works.

Sometime during the month of January please return your Guest At Your Table bank to the chapel with your name on it. Please leave your bank on the chapel office desk or give it directly to Mimi Davisson. If you want to have a record of your contribution, please write a check to UUSC for the amount in your bank instead of returning the change and give it to Mimi.

If you did not take a bank home and wish that you had, you can still write a check to UUSC and it will be sent along with the bank collections.

Thanks from the **UUSMV Social Action Network**

The Neighborhood Convention:

The Neighborhood Convention will meet on Tuesday, January 8th at 10:45 at St. Andrews Church in Edgartown. Hospice will present the program, "Hope, Comfort, Compassion". We are invited to bring our sandwich/salad and our hosts will provide beverages and desserts.

**UUSMV
P.O. Box 1236
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568**

Parish Committee Minutes, December 5, 2007.

We were welcomed by a box of fresh holly sent from the Revells. Christmas goodies were passed around. Rev. Judy lit the menorah; it was the second day of Hanukkah

Treasurer's Report: it was noted that administrative cost was high this month due to the printing and mailing of the phone directory. Mimi was thanked for a job well done in getting out the directories.

Ministers Report: Rev. Judy reported that 15 people attended the snowflake workshop. Rev. Hensley from Grace Church will be at the Christmas service. The board thanked Rev. Judy for seven years as minister of UUSMV and noted that it was her 85th PC meeting.

Membership Report: Sarah reported that we are losing three loyal and much appreciated members. Georgia and Ray Franklin have moved to a retirement community in New Jersey; Georgia was president of UUSMV in the 1980's and Raymond was on our Board of Trustees. Yvonne LaBrecque, a member since 1981, is also going to a retirement community in Oregon. We welcome two new members David Medeiros and Tacey Burton-Medeiros. Mimi stated that our membership has grown; last year dues payment to the UUA was for 65 members and this year it is for about 70. (this does not include some summer members.) All members should be receiving a copy of UU World Magazine.

Other Matters: Sarah announced that Janet Holladay will head four workshops with discussion of results and questions arising from our recent Transition Survey. They will be held on Wednesdays after the second Sunday at noon starting January 16, 2008, for four weeks. Betty Burton has asked that the workshop on Voluntary Simplicity be changed to February. Movie/Potluck: Myra Stark plans to have a group similar to the summer theater group but the topic will be a movie. It is planned to see the movie, "The Lives of Others", and to meet on the third Saturday of January at her house. (see *Newsletter*). **The Transition Team** reports that their meetings are open to those who would like to attend. There are times that executive session is required. Call Mary Miller for dates. **The next PC meeting** is on January 9th, 2008. See your Board at work. All are welcome.

Catherine DeVito, secretary

Getting the Church You Want - Brown-Bag Lunch Conversation

Members and friends of UUSMV are invited to participate in a series of conversations at Noon about our church's future. I hope to encourage lively interchanges conducted in the theological spirit of passion and discipline, as described in a recent sermon. The topics listed below were identified in the recent survey conducted by our Transition Team as the most important needs of our church. Our conversations will address these issues, but need not be limited to them. Hope you can join me. Thanks, **Janet Holladay**

Wednesday, **January 16** — "Attract more members"

Wednesday, **January 23** — "Seek greater member participation both in programs and financially"

Wednesday, **January 30** — "Raise more funds"

Wednesday, **February 6** — "Become a more active force in the outside community"

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION ~ HAPPY NEW YEAR REPORT - by Jo Rice

Jo Rice & Peg Thayer wish to say thanks to our UUSMV community for supporting our work on behalf of the "Mindfulness Program" led by Chas Di Capua taking place in our Chapel monthly during the fall. This provided the opportunity for both UU's and the island of Martha's Vineyard to learn from an experienced teacher such as Chas Di Capua of IMS about the mentally & physically healthy practice of Insight Meditation also called: Vipassana (clear seeing) or Mindfulness Meditation.

This "experiential process" is for me a mental "coolant" that relieves the pressure and heat of the constantly "thinking mind" allowing it to "let go" of what I call the "grinding on" thus lowering my blood pressure, promoting deeper and more beneficial sleep, physical rest and mental peace. I am convinced that it alone causes my body to resist most severe illnesses and pain.

Our most recent Mindfulness Session led by Chas on Saturday, Dec. 15, bringing 19 people into the Chapel, was clearly "successful" as was the Panel Discussion moderated & led by Peter Palches, Nancy Cox, Peg Thayer and JO Rice on Dec. 16th which enjoyed a good turnout as well. We are presently re-evaluating the program and will know soon what Chas' schedule for 2008 is & will let you know in next month's UU Newsletter.

Meanwhile THANKS to the following helpers, we had a "very good year": Janet Holladay, Norm Stickney, Susan Phelps, Jane Thayer, Sandy Raymond, Sarah Shepard, Sara Kuh, Judith Neeld & many more!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! We'll be seeing you in the UU Chapel!
In "metta" (lovingkindness) to all....JO & PEG, December 17, 2007...

*The Congregation
of the Unitarian Universalist Society
of Martha's Vineyard*

*Invites You to
A Service to Celebrate
Rev. Judith C. Campbell's
Seven Years of Ministry
to Our Congregation*

Sunday, January 6, 2008, 4 p.m.

*Stevens Chapel
238 Main Street
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts*

Reception following the Service

Report from Our Transition Team



The unveiling of the new doors into the chapel on December 12 was a grand success – Rev. Judy was totally surprised and thrilled. Tim Colon, the well-known Vineyard artist/woodworker who made the doors, did a marvelous job of matching the doors to the ambience of the chapel. They look as though they've been in place since the chapel was built.

The service of celebration for Rev. Judy's seven years of ministry to our congregation will be on Sunday, January 6, 4 p.m. at Stevens Chapel, followed by a reception. This will be Rev. Judy's last appearance in the chapel as our Minister.

Rev. Judith Downing, our Transition Consultant, will lead the Sunday, January 13 service at Stevens chapel and will meet with the congregation after the service to talk about transition issues and to answer questions. This discussion is for everybody – Members and Friends – so please plan to attend and participate.

Janet Holladay will be leading a series of brown bag lunch conversations, starting January 16, about matters of interest that emerged from the August Transition Survey. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Transition Team is continuing its search for a part-time Consulting Minister to fill the gap in time between Rev. Judy's departure and late summer when Interim Ministers traditionally begin year-long engagements. We have identified several candidates and are discussing possibilities with them. We are still cautiously optimistic about finding a Consulting Minister.

As we described in last month's newsletter, the Consulting Minister will lead two services a month, provide pastoral care, help the congregation define what we will want from an Interim Minister, help the congregation recognize and deal with internal congregational issues, and help the congregation determine UUSMV's longer range direction.

Until a Consulting Minister is in place, please contact the Caring Network Coordinator or UUSMV President if you have emergency pastoral care needs or know of someone with such needs.

Rev. Judy's retirement is now a fact. We are facing an important period of discernment about what we want to be as a UU congregation. Discovering our future will be an on-going process – not something that we can decide in one congregational meeting – and it is important that everyone participate in the process as fully as possible.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas and invite you to attend Transition Team meetings. They are every Thursday, 10 a.m., at Stevens chapel and they are listed in the newsletter calendar.

Thanks in advance for helping this Transition process to be constructive and successful.

The Transition Team

Mary Miller - Convener, Jim Thomas, Andi Suter, Sarah Shepard, Mimi Davisson

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

PO Box 1236, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Phone: 508-693-8982 Email: uusmv@uusmv.info Website: www.uusmv.info


Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 – 4 pm

Caring Coordinator: Sunny Wilson: 508-627-7041

Hospitality Coordinator: Susan Harris: 508-693-3553

January 2008

All Activities Held at UUSMV Stevens Chapel Unless Otherwise Noted

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed- nesday	Thursday	Fri- day	Saturday
	Contact Rebecca Gilbert, 508- 645-2871, for info about the Earth- Based Spirituality Group	1	2	3 10:00am Transitions	4 12:30 Reflections Group 5:15 Worship Comm	5 Meditation with Chas DiCapua
6 11 am: Rev Fewkes: "On Time and Change" 4:00 Celebration of Rev Judy's Ministry	7	8	9 5:30: Spirituals Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PC Meeting	10 10:00am Transitions Women's Group: Jeanne Hewett: 508-693- 0919 7:30: Music Comm.	11	12
13 11 am: Rev Judith Downing: "Faith in Change" 12:15-1:00 SERVE	14	15	16 12:15: Brown Bag Discussion: "Attract More Members" 5:30: Spirituals Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00am Transitions	18	19
20 11 am: "Who We Are: The People Speak"	21	22	23 12:15: Brown Bag Discussion: "Raise More Funds"	24 10:00am Transitions Women's Group: Susan Johnson: 508- 693-7973	25	26 SERVE 11:30- 1:00
27 11 am: Rev Roberta Finkelstein: "Getting the Church You Want"	28	29	30 12:15: Brown Bag Discussion: "Religious Education"	31 10:00am Transitions		