

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

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

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P.O. Box 132, Menemsha, MA 02552

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

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

-----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-693-5472 – Mike Kobran 693-7083 (seasonal) – Betsy Buck 627-8342

-----Next Copy Deadline: May 15-----

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11:00 a.m.

- May 4- **A Moment in History: Living for a Faith, The Rev. William Zelazny.** In the early-1500s Unitarianism was a thriving faith in Poland as the Minor Reformed Church. But within decades religious forces started to attack the church. The members kept their faith even when faced with losing all. We'll revisit this time in Unitarian history and then will ask the question: what can this show of faith mean for us today? Rev. Zelazny has been District Executive of the Ballou Channing District since 1999. He has served as Parish Minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, TX, and before that, as Associate Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE. His Master of Divinity degree is from Starr King School for the Ministry.
- May 11- **70 Years of a Religious Odyssey, Michael Kobran.** Today UUSMV member Michael Kobran will trace his religious background from being born into a Ukrainian Greek Catholic New Jersey family in 1938 to his introduction to U-Uism in 1965 in Detroit, Michigan, with subsequent UU churches in Flint, Michigan, Monmouth County, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and Martha's Vineyard. He will tell us what influenced the evolution of his religious beliefs and why he thinks non-believers belong to churches—and why they should. He will also discuss but not solve, the dilemma that religious diversity presents to a democratic society.
- May 18- **The Rev. Judith Downing.** Our Interim Ministry Consultant returns to the UUSMV pulpit. As on this day we are having the kick-off to our Pledge Campaign, Rev. Downing will give one of her thoughtful, incisive, pertinent talks to put us in the mood to be most generous when considering our pledge. She will stay after the service for a congregational meeting related to pledge and interim issues.
- May 25- **The Church's Faith in You: Building Your Own Theology, Ken Beebe.** UUSMV member Ken Beebe has been a frequent and popular speaker in our pulpit. Today he gives us a basis for building our own theology using the Seven Principles that UUs have covenanted to affirm and promote. "Yes, we're going to go over those seven again, says Ken. (A good teacher, as Ken was before retirement, knows how important it is to repeat significant ideas.) A special musical offering awaits us, too. Laura Pritchard and her choir from Arlington, MA, visit for Memorial Day—as they did last year.

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY WORKSHOP

Two sessions: Tuesdays May 13 and 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Conducted by Ken Beebe and Janet Holladay

Bring your thoughts, values and imagination

The Rev. Arlene Bodge is available for pastoral care. Appointments can be arranged by contacting the Caring Network chair Sarah Shepard (see phone in masthead, above.)

Trustees of UUSMV – Buildings and Grounds Concerns

Steve Engh: 696-1075 – Mary Miller: 627-7053 – Jack Street – 696-1893

Transition Team Report:

Upon the recommendation of the TT, the PC has engaged Rev. Arlene Bodge to provide pastoral care during the time UUSMV is without a minister.

The application for an Interim Minister was amended and approved by the Parish Committee and submitted by Mimi of the Transition Team to the Transitions Director of the UU Association. It will be reviewed by the Interim Ministers convening in Texas, April 13-17. We hope to know by mid-May if we have interested applicants. Our application is for a full-year, half-time Interim Minister, with a 2nd year an option. The salary offer is \$40,000 which includes housing, benefits, professional and relocation/commuting expenses. The allocation of \$40,000 to compensation categories will be the choice of the Interim Minister. The feasibility of offering a \$40,000 salary was discussed with Treasurer Blair Shick who deemed such a commitment very realistic and in keeping with the UU guidelines.

The Interim Minister will be asked to lead two Sunday services per month, September through June, with Island on-site presence of at least 8-10 days per month, terms negotiable. July & August are designated as study leave and vacation.

Sarah has resigned from the TT, and the PC asked Dick Mezger to replace Sarah on the Transition Team. He has accepted.

President Sarah was designated by the PC to head a screening/interviewing process for the new Interim Minister candidates. She will be assisted by Catherine DeVito, Jane Thayer and Jim Thomas. Sarah is compiling packets of impressive material about our Island and our church community to send to each interim applicant.

The Transition Team has engaged the following ministers to preach for us in May: May 4--Rev. Bill Zelazny, May 18-- Rev. Judith Downing. After the service on May 18 a congregational meeting will be held. Please plan to attend.

TT meetings for the month of May are as follows: May 16, 12:00-2:00 p.m; May 30, 12:00-2:00 P.M. All are welcome. We especially like to hear your suggestions and ideas.

The Transition Team Members: Mary Miller - Convener, Mimi Davisson, Dick Mezger, Andi Suter, Jane Thayer, and Jim Thomas

UU REVIVAL FESTIVAL SATURDAY, MAY 17 AT FIRST PARISH UU IN CANTON, MA FROM 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. SPONSORED BY THE BALLOU CHANNING AND MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICTS

Rev. Bill Zelazny, Ballou Channing District Executive Director, writes: "The district staff and leaders have been told for several years that the UUs in the district want more opportunities to explore UU faith and their spirituality. We have heard their request and are providing that opportunity with the UU Revival Festival. There will be thought provoking sermons on faith, small discussion groups for sharing and talking with other Unitarian Universalists about faith and other personal spirituality. Rousing sermons will be offered by outstanding UU ministers: Rev. Tim Kutzmark of Reading, Rev. Parisa Parsa of Milton, Rev. Victoria Weinstein of Norwell and Rev. Erik Wikstrom of Brewster. Spirited hymn singing will be led by Jeanne Gagne and Matthew Moore. Set a day aside to hear about, think about, talk about, your Unitarian Universalist faith." \$35 per adult. Registration forms are on the back table of the Chapel.

In Our UUSMV Community:

Thanks are due to all who generously contributed food items for the Island Food Pantry this winter and to Philisse Barrows who took the contributions to the Pantry cupboards each month.

We welcome Gretchen Jacobs, MD, to membership in UUSMV. Her address is 34 Plum Cove Road, Vineyard Haven, Her phone is 693-3185. She does not have an e-mail address.

Blair Shick has a new e-mail address: bshick2@verizon.net.

Al and Susan Harris have moved to South Yarmouth on the Cape. We thank Al who led the Worship Service on April 20, when that date unexpectedly became open. A special cake for the HARRISES was part of the social hour refreshments following the Service. We wish them well in their new life and hope they will come to UUSMV for special occasions and visits and that we will be able to visit them at their home at 10 Alpine Street, South Yarmouth, MA, 02664. Their e-mail addresses will remain the same.

John Ebbs has been in the hospital in Boston and in a rehabilitation facility in Springfield for the last month. He is now at home and is continuing to recuperate from his fall. Josette thanks the many UUSMVers who sent messages of help and assurance.

Letter from the President:

Mimi Davisson and I attended a Ballou Channing District Cape and Island Cluster meeting in Barnstable on March 22nd. We thank the kind members of the Falmouth Fellowship who gave us rides from and to Woods Hole. We met with members of the Barnstable, Brewster and Falmouth Churches, discussed our current situations and mutual interests. Mimi and I were able to report about our application for a part-time Interim Minister and our bequest from Rev. Ken and Ruth Smith. We came away from the meeting grateful to find that, though we all had challenges, UUSMV was doing very well.

Our whole congregation was glad to be able to thank Janet Holladay on Sunday, April 6, for the work she had done as our Pastoral Associate during the latter portion of Rev. Judy Campbell's ministry. Happily it was also Janet's birthday, so we also celebrated with cake and a basket of cards.

We all thank Bill Bernard of Greenlawn Company of Martha's Vineyard who donated our snow removal this winter.

We also thank Stephanie Michalczyk who raked and made our grounds look so nice for Easter Sunday. And Anita Christian, Jeanne Hewett, and Liz Loucks who made a wonderful floral display for our Easter Worship Service.

UUSMV took part in "Lights Out Martha's Vineyard", part of a worldwide effort to show how we could reduce energy consumption by turning off all but essential lighting.

Sarah Shepard

2008 Summer Retreats Update:

Star Island, to which several of our members make a yearly weeklong visit, is located in the Isles of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire, has many programs and also offers day trips, family vacations and retreats. For more information, visit the website, www.starisland.org.

Ferry Beach is located off the coast of Saco, Maine and also has vacation offerings, retreats and conferences. The Ferry Beach website is: www.ferrybeach.org. Both islands are affiliated with Unitarian-Universalism. There are posters and pamphlets at the back of the Chapel.

PFLAG of MV – Successful Event:

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays sponsored an informational session on Saturday, March 15, at UUSMV. We were privileged to have two knowledgeable lawyers, Jennifer Levi and Margot Parrot, discuss the rights, or lack thereof, that accompany same-sex marriages, civil unions, and domestic partnerships. Another major topic was the implications of DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) – a Federal Law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

The discussion was not only useful for those in the GLBT (Gay Lesbian Bisexual & Transgender) community for purposes of estate planning, but also for those in the non-GLBT community – for these laws are an example of the legal inequalities that exist in the US. In the words of one non-same-sex married woman who attended... "I never realized how privileged I am." For those of you unable to attend, a DVD/video of the event is available for you to borrow. Contact Chris Seidel 508-693-9438.

The Annual Pledge Canvass Will Begin May 18.

There is no mystery to the annual Canvass; it is members canvassing members to support the religious community that supports us all. Your pledge is an expression of commitment to support an institution that makes a difference in our lives.

How much is that worth to you? What is the full potential of the UUSMV? Your answers will reveal a lot about us as a community. Please join with us and make this year's pledge campaign a success.

When you receive your letter, and hopefully increase your pledge, mail the pledge card back to the church office.

UUSMV has the shortest Canvass I have ever been part of. Members seldom are called since everyone quickly returns their pledge card.

The Pledge Canvass ends on Saturday, May 24 with a Potluck Supper at the Chapel at 6:00 p.m.. The PC will provide the main course, desserts and drinks with music (CDs) and dancing. Please bring salads or a vegetable dish.

Many Thanks, Your Pledge Chair, **Catherine DeVito**

The Island Food Pantry closed at the end of April until the fall, but emergency needs can be met during the summer by phoning the Rev. Arman Hanjian at 508-696-8225.

The Neighborhood Convention:

The May meeting will gather at Grace Episcopal Church on Tuesday, May 6, at 10:45 a.m. Vintage Voices will present a program of songs and spirituals. We are invited to bring our sandwich/salad and our hosts will provide beverage and dessert.

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, June 24-27. We are allowed two delegates. Anyone interested in attending should speak to a Parish Committee member

Parish Committee Report – April:

Minutes of April 2, 2008 PC meeting.

President Sarah Shepard introduced Rev. Arlene Bodge and passed out a letter of agreement enabling Arlene to administer traditional pastoral care to the congregation until an interim minister is in place.

The PC agreed that all referrals for pastoral care from members should go through the chair of the Caring Committee; at this time the chair is Sarah Shepard. There was some concern that confidentiality might be an issue. The majority thought the Caring Committee head would not have knowledge of the issues but would only be referring the person to Rev. Bodge.

Minutes of April 16, 2008 PC meeting.

The Committee welcomes Gretchen Jacobs who has signed the Membership book.

Motion approved for the "Make Your Own Theology" workshop to be given on May 13 and May 20 by Ken Beebe and Janet Holladay

Future Agenda Items:

Coordination and responsibility for Worship Services and the Minister's role in this area.

The relationship and responsibilities between Minister and PC, and between the Minister and the Worship Committee.

This topic is important to the PC and will be discussed with any future candidate for Minister or Interim.

President's Report: Jennifer Parkinson will join the B&B Committee. The B&B Committee will hold its first meeting to plan for the Columbus Day Weekend, on May 5.

Motion approved to appoint Catherine DeVito as Pledge Chair for FY 08-09. Pledge Week will take place May 18 through 24. There will be a Potluck on the final night of the Pledge Week, May 24 at 6:00 p.m.

The next PC meeting will be held on May 7 at 7:00 p.m..

Catherine DeVito, secretary

Mindfulness News ~ by Jo Rice

On Saturday April 5 Jo & Peg sped out Route 6 to the Brewster UU Church on the Cape in order to attend a day-long retreat led by Mark Hart of Amherst, MA. Needless to say the church was spacious and welcoming. The retreat yielded benefits still being felt as the Buddha's teachings find their way more & more deeply into my heart and mind. Here are a few of the views I am developing.

When dealing with the fear of those having "differing views" or who come from other countries, histories, races & religions I try to: find things that we have in common by widening my lens to include them so we can help each other in friendship. Together we then seek a safe "meadow" where we can sit down in a circle to share about our human existence on this fragile planet (seeing our planet as a tiny dot of water covered by a thin glaze of air in an enormous universe beyond our mind's ability to comprehend.) When I meet a person who can't speak my language I try to learn a few of their words or instead of walking away I turn towards them hoping they might understand my high school Spanish? ☺

I find that I am building bridges of lovingkindness connecting my heart/mind with those from worlds both near and far away. This study of meditation is softening my heart and is really "working for me". Testimonial by Jo Rice ☺

Learn more about the source of this wisdom by attending the "Mindfulness" workshops with Chas Di Capua in our chapel, May 3 & June 21, 2008. Times TBA. ☺!!

For more info call: *JO Rice* at 508-693-2827 or email jcotrice@comcast.net

Burton-Sundman Family Will Hold Sale:

The Burton-Sundman Family will have a household sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The sale will take place at the recreation building next to Clara Kennedy's house, 599 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.

Betty has had various businesses over the years, including a book and toy store and an antique gallery. Many items from them will be available for purchase--lots of new and used items, priced to sell.

UUSMV Member Is Host of Radio Program:

Lauri Bradway is a co-host of The Raven's Nest on Sunday mornings, broadcast over FM community radio WVVY, 93.7. Hours are 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. The program includes a weekly subject dealing with concerns of our time plus music.

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

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


Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 – 4 pm

Caring Coordinator: Catherine DeVito: 508-693-5372

Hospitality Coordinator: Pamela Street: 508-696-1893

May 2008

All Activities Held at UUSMV Stevens Chapel Unless Otherwise Noted

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Contact Rebecca Gilbert, 508- 645-2871, for info about the Earth- Based Spirituality Group			1	2	3 9:00-12:00 Meditation with Chas DiCapua
4 11 am: Rev Zelazny: "A Moment in History: Living for a Faith" Exit Interview for Rev Judy Campbell	5	6 5:30 Worship Committee	7 7:00pm PC Meeting	8 3:00pm: Women's Group TBA	9	10
11 11 am: Michael Kobran: "70 Years of a Religious Odyssey"	12	13 7:00pm Ken Beebe: Building Your Own Theology	14	15 7:30 Music Comm.	16 12:00- 2:00pm: Transitions Team	17 SERVE 11:30- 1:00
18 11 am: Rev Judith Downing 1-2:30 Congregational Meeting	19	20 7:00pm Ken Beebe: Building Your Own Theology	21 7:00pm PC Meeting	22 3:00pm: Women's Group @ Susan Johnson's 508- 693-7973	23	24 6:00pm Pledge Potluck
25 11 am: Ken Beebe: "The Church's Faith in You: Building Your Own Theology"	26	27	28	29	30 12:00- 2:00pm: Transitions Team	31