



2022 JULY/AUGUST Newsletter

SUMMER 2022 Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST

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**Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon, minister of UU Catskills,
is on study leave and vacation, returning July 23.**

July Sunday Services

10:30 am

Live (and on Zoom) **July 24** and **July 31**. Other dates are Zoom only.

Zoom connection: <https://tinyurl.com/UUCC-SundayWorship>

Or call: 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 612 724 145, Password: 342554

July 24 *Question Box Service* Live at UU Catskills and on Zoom **Rev Bob
Kathy Atwell, W.A.**

Unitarian Universalists are sometimes known as “people of the questions” —we tend to question dogma, and wonder about the workings of the universe. In this service, attendees—whether in person or on Zoom—will be invited to submit whatever questions they have about religion, Unitarian Universalism, the congregation, the meaning of life, their favorite ice cream flavor. Rev. Bob will attempt to address them all (though probably not definitively answer them!)

July 31 *Mentor Me* Live at UU Catskills and on Zoom **Stephanie Kresser
Vickie O'Dougherty, W.A.**

Stephanie Kresser, LMSW, is the Director of *Mentor Me of Ulster County*, which has a goal of matching at-promise youth with inspiring mentors, focusing on whole person wellness and supportive relationships. Stephanie will speak about the Mentor Me program and its work in our community.

Half-plate donations for **JULY** will go to the
Ulster Immigrant Defense Network (UIDN)
UU Catskills is an affiliate member of UIDN.

Mission: To provide a network of safety and support to immigrants, regardless of status. UIDN is committed to building a world of racial justice, equity and inclusion, and respect for diversity. *We seek in our actions to bring such a world into being by fighting against all forms of racism and xenophobia; listening hard to the voices of the most impacted communities; and seeking dialogue and solidarity with others who work for racial, social, economic, and environmental justice.*

<https://ulsterimmigrantdefensenetwork.org>

Donate online at <https://www.uucatskills.org/donate> or send your check payable to UUCatskills to UUC, 320 Sawkill Road, Kingston, NY 12401.

Please write "half-plate" in the memo line.

Please combine donations into one monthly donation.

See PayPal QR code on p. 2. for easy donations through Pay Pal!

UUC Minister

Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon

minister@uucatskills.org

UUC Office Administrator

Laurie Nash

uuccoffice@gmail.com

Director of

Religious Exploration

Jane Podell

RE@uucatskills.org

Music Director

Catherine Cattabiani

geoeliot7@gmail.com

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Catskills

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August Sunday Services

10:30 am

August 7, 14, 21 dates for Sunday Services are Zoom only;
August 28 is Live at UU Catskills and on Zoom.

Zoom connection: <https://tinyurl.com/UUCC-SundayWorship>
Or call: 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 612 724 145, Password: 3425

August 7 *Turning to One Another* Zoom only **Kathy Atwell, W.A.**
Do we turn to self-help books or each other? Let's explore this together.

August 14 *UUSC Short History* Zoom only **Jenny Giddy, W.A.**
Our UU faith and principles have inspired a number of outstanding leaders to venture beyond their own congregational and country's borders to try and help those suffering and in need of assistance around the world. Jenny will share a short history and role of the UUSC (*Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*) as well as the Canadian version (now called *Seed Change*) and its redoubtable founder, Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova. We will watch an excerpt from the Ken Burns documentary about the role of Rev. Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha (founders of the UUSC) and their role in assisting refugees escaping to America from the Nazis.

August 21 *Spiritual Epiphany* * Zoom only **Vickie O'Dougherty, W.A.**

August 28 *The Art of Slow* Live and on Zoom **Rev. Terri Pahucki**
How might our faith communities call us to move beyond urgency thinking to remake our world with deep, slow intentionality? Let us explore the radical practice of slowing to create change together.

Rev. Terri Pahucki (she/her) is the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Stamford, CT. Terri earned her Master of Divinity from Drew Theological School and Hartford Seminary, and was ordained at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester (her internship congregation) in Fall 2021.

Half-plate donation recipients for August will be announced in Weekly Update.

Payments are easy when a QR code connects you to the precise Pay Pal page you need:



*** Calling all members who have had a *SPIRITUAL EPIPHANY***

Have you had a moment in life that would be called a spiritual epiphany or a "road to Damascus" moment? We will video your story, which will be shared with the Congregation in a Zoom service on August 21st.

To participate, call Vickie O'Dougherty at 845-532-9991
or email her at VickieOdie@gmail.com

President's Column

Mark S. Howenstein

July / August 2022

July is the beginning of a new fiscal year for UUCC. It is a good time to celebrate our accomplishments of the past year, to recognize our ongoing challenges for the year to come, and to set our preliminary course for our future. Regarding our congregation's accomplishments during the past year, we:

- secured a wonderful transitional minister in Reverend Bob;
- entered into our first long-term lease with Play Haven;
- successfully navigated the surges and swells of Covid;
- maintained as best we could our faltering facilities;
- won a \$20,000 Chalice Lighter's Grant;
- resurrected the Social Action Committee with its many recharged social justice teams;
- mounted numerous hybrid services and meetings—on line and in person; and
- prepared the foundation and framework for a five-year strategy to move forward into a post-Covid world.

Quite a lot to be proud of, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

But we do have serious challenges ahead.

- Our Reopening Survey revealed our aging population—5/6 of us are age 65 or older with nearly 1/2 of us over 75. New, younger members are needed and so, we must reach out to our larger community to make our presence known.
- Our Pledge Campaign once again failed to secure enough financial commitment to sustain us, so we will need to borrow over \$20,000 from savings to balance our budget. Did you know that intentional communities most often fail for financial reasons, rather than fading ideals or vision? Alternative, more sustainable funding must be found.
- Our aging facilities must be addressed to avoid undue economic drain. The farmhouse remains an albatross that we cannot seem to dispel. Yet as Covid subsidies and matters return to "normal", we must renew our deliberations about its (and our property's) future.
- And finally, we need volunteers—volunteers to staff our vacant Pledge, Fund Raising and Leadership Development Committees, volunteers to assume leadership of dormant, chairless committees, and volunteers to contribute to the simple, everyday maintenance of our facilities.

Quite a lot to be concerned about, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

There are clearly two paths that lie ahead. We can keep going down the same path of dwindling resources of time, treasure and talent, trying to make the most of what remains, *or* we can change our course, change ourselves and change our strategies to meet these changing times. This Board has chosen the latter path by investing in technology, marketing and membership development, revising our committee structure and framing a five-year plan to meet the challenges ahead. It will take time to assess our needs and forge our way ahead. It will take treasure to invest in these new ways of doing things. And it will take talent to address these challenges in the most constructive, productive ways.

I hope that you will support this agenda in whatever ways you can. Your engagement is absolutely needed. This is the year to turn our ship around—to patch up its holes and set a sustainable course for the future. If we want UUCC to endure, and surely we do, is there really any other choice?

Announcements



UU 101

Come learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation!

Rev. Bob will be conducting a UU 101 session on Sunday, August 28, at 12 noon, following Sunday Service.

This one-hour session will be oriented for visitors and anyone considering membership in UU Catskills, but all are welcome. This will be a hybrid session, live at UU Catskills and on Zoom.

Those attending the service in person that morning can just gather back in the Sanctuary at noon. Those attending by Zoom for this specific program, use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96198213251?pwd=TnBYK0Fha1h4VmJFRWJoZHd2dUZEUT09>
Meeting ID: 961 9821 3251. Passcode: 745610; 1.646.558.8656 .

August Blue Jean Sunday!

The August Blue Jean Sunday will be **August 14**. Please join our dedicated team working to enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary. We meet 12 noon - 12:30 pm at the Sanctuary. Lunch will be provided. We are hoping to paint the entrance of the Sanctuary!

Bill Lindsay, B&G Committee Chair

When: **Second Sunday** of each month

Who: Hosted by the Buildings and Grounds Committee

What: **Blue Jean Sundays** will be scheduled on the **Second Sunday** of each month March - November

We are looking for 4-6 volunteers each Sunday.

Lunch will be provided by the congregation.

Please email windsay1121@gmail.com if you can volunteer

Religious Exploration

Jane Podell, Director of R.E.

Stories will always matter

Some people say when we are born we're born into stories. I say we're also born from stories.

~Ben Okri, Nigerian novelist

Sometimes we tell them face to face and around campfires; through pictures drawn on cave walls, through song, and on Thursday evenings at 7pm, on Zoom.

Our weekly *Bedtime Stories* will continue through the summer, and people of all ages are welcome.

Our *Bedtime Story* group is quite lovely, and one of our elders who attends every Thursday from Wisconsin has said that we have become family to him. How could we not? Each week we share a story that connects us to one another. We share universal truths that speak to 3-year olds and 90-year olds at the same time.

Stories help us live well. Stories will always matter.

Click here if you would like to join us on **Thursdays at 7 pm**. Or copy & paste:
<https://zoom.us/j/99249467998>

Please take a look at the story covers below. These are a just a few stories that we've heard this past spring:

(upper left – clockwise)



Koko's Kitten by Francine Patterson
The Girl who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble
The Everything Seed by Carole Martignacco
The Hungry Coat told by UU Lea Morris
Zen Shorts by Jon J Muth
The Starfish Story by Loren Eiseley
A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz
Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

In these timeless stories of deep meaning, what resonated with us? Lots. The profound power of interspecies connections.... when we feel broken, where can healing come from? each life you touch matters and there are messages about friendship, luck, generosity, anger, loving ourselves.

Stories will always matter.

UU Catskills Updates Social Action Updates

from the **Social Action Committee (SAC)**

Donna Schlachman

The SAC meets quarterly to work towards a coordinated voice for social justice at UUCC. Presently we have five active groups that address the following areas: **Climate Change, Food Justice, Racism, Reproductive Rights, and Immigrant Justice.** The SAC is presently **seeking volunteers for LGBTQ+ Justice and Voting Rights.** There is ample support and resources for this work through the UUA and in our own communities

Locally, for LGBTQ support and information, we have the Dutchess Pride Center, the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Center, and the Newburgh LGBTQ Center. The UUA's LGBTQ Justice offers many resources for individuals and congregations. Visit them at UUA.org. Please step up and **help us keep our Welcoming Congregation status alive and thriving.**

In the area of Voting Rights, there is **UUtheVote** as well as multiple local and national organizations working to preserve our democracy by assuring that everyone has access to the ballot box. The mid-term elections are on everyone's mind, and none of us can afford for anyone to be unable to vote.

Our next **Social Action Committee (SAC)** quarterly meeting is **July 26 at 5 pm**

Our agenda will include:

1. Meeting our goal of joint planning, communication and use of resources.
2. UU Catskills' marketing effort
3. Shared Plate donation recipients for the 2022-2023 UUCC year
4. *Living our UU Values* Sunday service October 2.

Anyone interested in social justice work at UUCC is welcome to attend.

<https://zoom.us/j/94636144257?pwd=OWpzTy9QLzhCVmlSeHBxRnZsSGVXdz09>

Meeting ID: 946 3614 4257 Passcode: 525582 Dial via 646 558 8656

Anti-racism Task Force and the 8th Principle - Donna Schlachman

(The Anti-racism Task Force met July 12th and will not meet in August)

The Anti-Racism Task Force, through reading, listening, watching, discussing, and activism, seeks to engage in the transformative work of building a culture not based on white supremacist indoctrination and ideologies. Those who took the opportunity to experience the *Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry* that visited Kingston as part of *Juneteenth*, or were able to view the documentary *Stitch, Breathe, Speak*, were reminded of how embedded racism is in ourselves and our institutions, and of the need to create Beloved Communities.

Our 7 UU Principles provide us with an anti-racism foundation for our lives, but they do not call us into community and into action. For this reason, we are hoping that UU Catskills will take on the work of adopting the 8th Principle. We UUs have been complicit in the racism of our nation. Over 200 congregations have made a commitment to action by adopting the proposed *8th UU Principle*. [See top of p.7.](#)

UU Catskills Updates Social Action Updates

Proposed 8th UU Principle:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

For more information, see 8thprincipleuu.org.

The UU Common Read 2022

In preparation for our congregation's consideration of the 8th Principle, Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon is asking everyone to participate in the UU **Common Read: *Mistakes and Miracles*** by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. We will start our reading in late August or early September. (Help accessing books will be provided.) The UUA describes ***Mistakes and Miracles*** this way: "A white minister and a lay person of color explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. They shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found."

Rev. Bob has shared his belief that our congregation's engagement in The UU **Common Read** is a first step in determining how committed we are to becoming part of the solution and not remaining part of the problem. "Our future as a species, and as a congregation, depends upon our ability to come together across all real and perceived differences."

Climate Action Team – Kathy Kassner

Opportunities to be an Environmental Steward

Those moments when you sense your interconnection with all things, they are invitations into relationship. Beyond caring for creation or stewarding Earth's resources, it is entering into an actual relationship with particular places and of the living world that can provide an embodied, rooted foundation for transformation. The global shift necessary to actually survive the crises we've created depends on a deep inner change. (Victoria Loorz, MDv.)

Bring your food scraps and Terracycle items to containers behind the Sanctuary. You will find a list of accepted items on the Climate Action Team Bulletin Board, and on the containers behind the Sanctuary. Contact Karen 845.399.2805.

Climate Action Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 16 5 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96954354063?pwd=STVOVENNVmJZMCtCN250TWRnam54dz09>

Meeting ID: 969 5435 4063 Passcode: 096367

One tap mobile +16465588656,,96954354063#,,,,*096367# US (New York)

UU Catskills Updates Social Action Updates



SAVE THE DATE

September 28th at 7 pm

Join us on Zoom for *Green The Grid*
a presentation by New Yorkers for Clean Power
Zoom link TBA

HELP WANTED! HELP WANTED! HELP WANTED! HELP WANTED!

Ulster Immigrant Defense Network (UIDN) – Kathy Eberlein

UU Catskills is an affiliate of UIDN and as such, we attempt to meet their needs by supporting the programs they offer our immigrant friends and neighbors.

At this time we have donated our offertory half-plate, we have done a successful personal care collection for distribution, and some members/friends volunteer at the Wednesday Food and Clothing Distribution Market.

But more volunteers are still needed.

Providing transportation for people to doctor appointments, court appearances, school meetings, shopping, etc. is greatly needed. IF you have a little free time, have a car, and know how to drive, this is your opportunity to volunteer!

All the information you need to become a volunteer at UIDN is on their website Ulsterimmigrantdefensenetwork.org. Let's show that we care and are affiliates in more than name only!

If you have any questions contact Kathy Eberlein (starsong47@earthlink.net) or call (845) 532-6954.

On behalf of UIDN, Thank you!

Report from Karen Miller

UU General Assembly June 22-26, 2022

More than 3,200 UUs came together virtually and in Portland, OR for this year's General Assembly.

I was one of 1,776 delegates from 597 congregations who participated, voting democratically on denomination business. Attendees joined in worship, workshops and justice-making. If you are interested in getting more details, and watching one of the many workshops offered at this year's General Assembly, call Karen Miller 845.399.2805.

UU Catskills Updates

from the ThirtyPlus Group

Erin Hilgart

This month's **ThirtyPlus** meet up is **July 27th at 3:30 pm**. We will have a pool party (weather permitting). Swimming starts at 3:30 pm and the social gathering with potluck snacks and beverages will follow at around 5 pm. Families and kids welcome.

Please contact Erin Hilgart at erin.hilgart@gmail.com with questions.

from the UU Catskills Women's Group

Joanne Steele, joannesteele5@gmail.com

We learn from each other. We gather monthly, currently by Zoom, on the fourth Tuesday at 7 pm. We share our life's events since our last meeting and talk about an issue of the day affecting us. A topic is suggested prior that we may talk about unless something more pressing comes up. You are welcome to join us!

We meet via Zoom the **fourth Tuesday, 7:30 pm to 9 pm**, of every month

Tuesday, August 23

Join Zoom meeting; <https://zoom.us/j/98539336771> Meeting ID: 985 3933 6771

One tap mobile +16465588656,,98539336771# US (New York)

LET'S DANCE

Friends of the UUC **Barbara Kidney and Andrew Dalton** need some help from members of the congregation in order to arrange a community dance at UUC this fall (See June newsletter's "Let's Dance!" on p. 11 for details (<https://www.uucatskills.org/nuusletters>)). This potential event, suitable for all ages and open to the public, would be a fund- and fun-raiser for the congregation. What is essential is some help with in-house event coordination and publicity. Email Barbara at bask999@yahoo.com or call/text 845.313.8035.

Coming! This Weekend!

The Encanto Festival

July 24

after Sunday service with Rev. Bob

11:30 am- 2 pm

Join us for this family-friendly outdoor event on **Sunday, July 24**, following our Sunday morning worship.

Plan on experiencing the magic as we follow the theme of the Disney movie *Encanto*, where every child in the Madrigal family was blessed with a unique magical power. That is, everyone except Mirabel.

A multigenerational celebration of the magic we ALL have!

And that's not all!

On **Saturday, July 23**, the evening before our festival, there will be a showing of the movie *Encanto* in our Sanctuary at **6 pm**. Please join us for some old-fashioned camaraderie of all ages!

Reservations are not required but encouraged.

Questions? Contact R.E. Director at janepodelluu@gmail.com
(A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, September 18)

Folk Guild Returns to UU Catskills!

First Saturday of each month

Saturday, September 3

The **Kingston Chapter of the Hudson Valley Folk Guild** returns to their favorite venue for live performances on the first Saturday evening of each month starting in September at **the UU Catskills Sanctuary**.

The program consists of an open mic and a feature performer. It starts at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 10:15 p.m. Doors open at 6:30, Open Mic sign-up at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$6 (\$5 for Folk Guild members and senior citizens). Folk Guild membership is \$10 per year and members are also entitled to discounts at Folk Guild events in Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Rock Tavern

Dates to Gather

Page numbers listed with events refer to where you can find more information and links in this newsletter

Sundays	Grief Support Group 7 pm If you would like to know more about this group, email uuccoffice@gmail.com for Zoom connection.
Thursday evenings	Bedtime Story and More! 7 pm (p.5.) <i>It's a peaceful, joyful time of connection.</i> Children and youth of all ages are welcome. Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/99249467998

Saturday, July 23	<i>Encanto</i> Movie at UU Catskills 6 pm (p.10)
Sunday, July 24	<i>Encanto</i> Festival 11:30 am – 2 pm (p.10)
Tuesday, July 26	UU Women's Group 7:30 pm – 9 pm (p.9)
Tuesday, July 26	Social Action Committee 5 pm (p.6)
Wednesday, July 27	ThirtyPlus Group 3:30 pm Contact Erin.hilgart@gmail.com
Wednesday, August 3	Writing Group 5 pm on Zoom Contact Elisa elwin12@icloud.com .
No August Meeting	Anti-Racism Action Group (p. 6)
Sunday, August 14	Blue Jean Sunday noon/12:30 pm (p.4)
Tuesday, August 16	Climate Action Team 5 pm (p. 7)
Tuesday, August 23	UU Women's Group 7:30 pm – 9 pm on Zoom (p.9)
Sunday, August 28	UU 101 following services at 12 noon (p.4)

July 20 – August 31, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			JULY 20	21 7 pm Bedtime Story And More!	22	23 6 pm <i>Encanto</i> Movie
24 10:30 am Service LIVE at UCC plus on Zoom 11:30 am – 2 pm <i>Encanto Festival</i> 7 pm Grief Support	25	26 5 pm Social Action Committee 7:30 pm – 9 pm Women’s Group	27 3:30 pm ThirtyPlus Group	28 10 am Board of Trustees 7 pm Bedtime Story And More!	29	30
31 10:30 am LIVE at UCC plus on Zoom 7 pm Grief Support	AUG 1	2	3 5 pm Writing Group	4 7 pm Bedtime Story And More!	5	6
7 10:30 am Service on Zoom only 7 pm Grief Support	8	9	10	11 7 pm Bedtime Story And More!	12	13
14 10:30 am Service on Zoom only Blue Jean Sunday 7 pm Grief Support	15	16 5pm Climate Action Team Meeting	17	18 7 pm Bedtime Story And More	19	20
21 10:30 am Service on Zoom only 7 pm Grief Support Group	22	23 7:30 pm Women’s Group	24	25 7 pm Bedtime Story And More	26	27
28 10:30 am Service LIVE at UCC and on Zoom 7 pm Grief Support Group	29	30	31			