



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

Whoever you are, Whomever you love, Wherever you are
in your life's journey, YOU are Welcome Here.

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OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE MINISTER

Our theme for October is "courage". I've been thinking a lot about courage as I reflect on "Mistakes and Miracles", our common read. The book is about how congregations can engage with multiculturalism and anti-racism.

As a white person, raised in a majority-white, economically-lucky suburb in Connecticut, I know that engaging outside of my "comfort zone", and learning from others from different backgrounds than my own, is going to mean putting my foot in my mouth sometimes. There is simply so much I don't know. I don't mind telling you that I make mistakes all the time. I don't make these mistakes willfully - in fact, I try to be careful - and nevertheless, I still make them. A lot. I have learned quite a bit about genuine apologies, too.

But part of this, for me, is learning to be courageous. Because I don't want our country to be as divided as it currently is. And so we need to try and get to know people who are different than we are - even if we don't always know how to do it well. How about you? What does courage mean for you, this month?

Blessings,
Rev Bob Janis- Dillon

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Join us every Sunday at 10:30am.

- October 9 - Courage and Humility (In-person & Zoom)
- October 16 - The Courage of Grief (Zoom only)
- October 23 - What Did You Learn in School Today? (In-person & Zoom)
- October 30 - Fear Knocked (In-person & Zoom)

For more information please visit the Worship Service page on our website.



OCTOBER HALF PLATE RECIPIENT IS HARAMBEE
[HTTPS://WWW.HARAMBEEKINGSTONNY.ORG/](https://www.harambeekingstonny.org/)



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FROM THE UU BOARD

Fall has come with its change of seasons, just as we move from one mode of communication to another, move our ad-ministerial center from the Farmhouse to the Sanctuary and start down paths of restaffing and ministerial search. While a few kinks remain in our communications pipeline, the results are clear: thousands of hits on social media, hundreds of expressed interest, and 15-20 outside attendees at our Encanto event. Will this bring new members? Only time will tell. For now, we are modifying our physical layout to use our space more efficiently with our new admin office to be completed later this month. We are also probing possibilities of partnership with our sister congregation in Poughkeepsie: from shared events and resources to joint ministry (sharing a full-time minister between our two congregations). Finally, we bid farewell to Laurie our able administrator for the past three years during the depths of Covid, as we begin our search for her replacement in a post-Covid world.

-Mark S. Howenstien
UU Catskills President

All Congregation Meeting Sunday, Oct 9

There will be a short all-congregational meeting following our service on Sunday October 9th following service to discuss our upcoming ministerial search and our possibilities of partnership with the Poughkeepsie Fellowship. The meeting will be held live in the Sanctuary and streamed on Zoom. Like Donna mentioned this Sunday we are walking down a path with purpose as yet untrodden by our congregation. Come and join in this endeavor. The dance will follow.

The Proposed 8th Principle Congregational Read

Our first of 3 scheduled Congregational discussions of the 2022 UUA Read, *Mistakes and Miracles*, is on October 27th at 6:00 pm. We will be covering the introductory section and Chapters 1 and 2 which end on page 67. Don't wait until the last minute to buy your book and start reading. This is BIG work we will be doing and your thoughts are very important. See the 8th Principle page under "Committees" on UUCatskills.org for background information. Questions? Speak to Rev. Bob.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Wednesday, October 5 at 5pm - Writing Group SGM (Zoom)
Thursday, October 6 at 7pm - Spoken Word (In-person)
Friday, October 7 at 12pm - Climate Action Team Rallie (In-person)
Saturday, October 8 at 10:30am - Kingston Women in Black (In-person)
Saturday, October 8 at 11am - An Indigenous People's Day Celebration (In-person)
Sunday, October 9 at 12pm - Community Dance, Sing & Picnic (In-person)
Thursday, October 13 at 5pm - Uplift Action Launch Party (In-person)
Friday, October 14 at 2:30pm - Stop Funding Climate Chaos (In-person)
Friday, October 14 at 4pm - Play Haven Toy & Clothing Swap (In-person)
Saturday, October 16 at 11:45am - Fall Family Gathering
Tuesday, October 18 at 5:30pm - ThirtyPlus Group Wine Tasting
Thursday, October 20 at 5pm - Social Action Committee Quarterly Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, October 20 at 6pm - Resilience: The Biology of Stress and Science of Hope (Zoom)
Friday, October 21 at 12pm - Climate Action Team Rallie (In-person)
Friday, October 21 at 3pm - Voting Rights (In-person)
Sunday October 23 at 12pm - Blue Jean Sunday (In-person)
Tuesday, October 25 at 7pm - Tuesday Night Great Books (Zoom)
Thursday, October 27 at 6pm - 8th Principle Book Discussion (In-person)
Friday, October 28 at 12pm - Climate Action Team Rallie (In-person)

Recurring Events

Every Sunday at 7pm - Grief Support Group (Zoom)
Every Thursday at 7pm - Bedtime Story and More! (Zoom)
First Saturday at 11am - Buddhacats Affinity Group (In-person)
First Saturday at 7pm - Folk Guild (In-person)
First Thursday at 11am - Hangout with Rev. Bob (In-person & Zoom)
First Thursday at 7pm - Spoken Word (In-person)
Second Tuesday at 5pm - Anti-racism Task Force (Zoom)
Third Monday at 5pm - Buddhacats Affinity Group (Zoom)
Third Tuesday at 5pm - Climate Action Team (Zoom)
Last Tuesday at 7:30pm - Women's Group (Zoom)
Last Tuesday at 7pm - Tuesday Night Great Books (Zoom)

[Check Out All Events](#)



OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Community Dance & Sing

Sunday, Oct 9 from 12-3pm. Join us for the Community Dance, Sing and Picnic. BYO Picnic (carry in, carry out). All are welcome. Simple traditional country dances will be taught and prompted; live music; also times to sing-along and enjoy performances. Dancing & other activities will be outdoors; wear sensible shoes. Donations optional.

Fall Family Gathering

Sunday, Oct 16 from 12 -1 :30 pm. Join us for pizza, stories, music and pumpkin painting. RSVP to janepodelluu@gmail.com

Thirty Plus Group

Tuesday, Oct 18 from 5:30 - 7pm. Thirty Plus Group wine tasting & meetup at Erin Burton's house in Kingston. To rsvp or to be added to our UUCatskills Thirty Plus Group email list, email erin.hilgart@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The October Blue Jean Sunday will be October 23. Please join our dedicated team working to enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary. We meet 12 noon - 4pm at the Sanctuary. Lunch will be provided Please email windsay1121@gmail.com if you can volunteer.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

DONNA SCHLACHMAN

The SAC Committee's next Quarterly Meeting is October 20th from 5:00-6:00. Our 7 working groups (Anti-Racism Task Force, Climate Action Team, Food Justice Working Group, LGBTQIA+ Working Group, Ulster Immigrant Defense Network Team, Voting Rights Team, and Women's Reproductive Task Force.) will report in and we will discuss opportunities to support the work being done and pool energies. Funding requests will be considered. This meeting is on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99873698313?pwd=RWU3ODJneVNtd0NtRVUxakd4L3pyUT09>

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

DONNA SCHLACHMAN

ARTF regularly meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:00-6:00. For our October 11th meeting, we will welcome Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael who will tell us about her experience with Reparations at the UU Montclair in New Jersey. Bring your questions regarding what "reparations" means, what does that look like in today's America; how can one little congregation be involved in this work? All are welcome. <https://zoom.us/j/93777702091?pwd=QXVxcDhHU2dPNFRVK3FCK0JDeFJOUT09>

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

KATHY KASSNER

UU Catskills is partnering with Rivers and Mountains GreenFaith Circle (<https://www.rivers-mountains-greenfaith.org/>) GreenFaith International is a multi-faith organization committed to building the climate and environmental movement. Here are two opportunities for you to put your UU values into action in October.

On Friday, October 14th, we will travel to Albany for “TD Bank Stop Funding Climate Chaos.” Meet at UU at 2:30 pm to carpool. Contact Kathy if interested. More information on the event here. <https://mailchi.mp/119af2f6f2e9/stopfundingclimatechaos>.

On the other Fridays in October, we will stand with signs demanding the end to fossil fuel use and deforestation, a move to 100% renewables, and for a just transition. Meet at Academy Green Park at noon. Contact Karen Miller for more information. These rallies lead up to the COP27, the United Nations Climate Conference taking place in Egypt this November.

FOOD JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

KAREN MILLER

The current members are Donna Schlachman, Roselyn Daniell, Constance Rudd, Lois Slade, Paula Silbey, Paulie Pfeiffer, Kathy Eberlein, Nancy Emery, Joanne Steele, Vickie O’Dougherty. Kathy Eberlein has gone from delivering food to the Fridge, to being a Sponsor for the Shopper. There is an ongoing need for sponsors, egg cartons to Lois Slade, donations of non-perishable food items and all kinds of shopping bags, to be put into the box in the Sanctuary Hallway. See the Food Justice Working Group webpage for more updates.

VOTING RIGHTS TASK FORCE

KAREN MILLER

The first action, on September 7th from 3-6 in the Sanctuary, was a letter writing campaign, in collaboration with UU the Vote. Karen Miller, Roselyn Daniell and Donna Schlachman attended. The next letter writing campaign will take place on October 21st, from 3-6pm, in the Sanctuary. Where there will be more opportunities to take action, suggested by UU the Vote and UUSJ, regarding voting rights.

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE TASK FORCE

KAREN HOWENSTEIN

Please join us for Albany's Abortion Rights Rally
We will be rallying alongside supporters of reproductive rights all across the country in coalition with Women's March's National Weekend of Action. Fellow Community-Based Organizations from the Capital Region will be present, sharing resources and information, and fighting for the essential right to abortion for all!

When: Saturday, October 8th 1-3 pm

Where: West Capitol Park, Albany

Karen Howenstein
845-706-0734 cell

CONTACT INFORMATION

UUCS Minister - Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon minister@uucatskills.org
UUCS Office Administrator - Laurie Nash uuccoffice@gmail.com
Director of Religious Exploration - Jane Podell RE@uucatskills.org
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