

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

October 2022



“The members of the UU Meeting House hold sacred each individual’s spiritual and ethical development. We welcome all and seek unity in diversity. We commit ourselves in service to the wellbeing of the congregation and to all of life.”

~Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House of Provincetown

WHO,

ME?



I went to Catholic kindergarten. In the classroom was an easel on which hung a sheath of 2'x 4' panels which illustrated famous moments from the Bible. The first one, and the only one I remember actually, was of Adam and Eve. They are clinging to each other, bent over and cringing as they walk, leafy patches covering their private parts. The figures are big--almost four feet tall and after all, we four year olds were not much taller than that, so the couple loomed over me. They are in such despair, such fear. And it is all their own fault. Hmm, no, it is HER fault.

I think it is even back then when I was only five that I wondered: why would God do that?-- create them when He (always a He, of course) knew (knows everything, right?) they would disobey and eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Isn't He setting them up to fail?

Later, the cultural castigation of the female of the species will do its damage to me, but this, my first childhood reaction was not shame or guilt at a woman's having done the deed, but rather, puzzlement at God's seeming inconsistency of purpose. I was many years in discovering that the men (yes, men) who wrote Genesis were attempting to make sense of life's mortality, pain and suffering, crime, hatred,

injustice. . . on and on. The Genesis creation stories (note: plural!) about Eve and Adam offer a couple of suggestions as to why human life has such major negatives. Philosophy and theology have spent years and spilled much ink delving into the questions since.

Some of the poems and quotes in the pages to come offer insights about Eve that celebrate courage and creativity, risk-taking and curiosity.

So, take a bite of that and chew on it! Would you rather be perfect in an unchanging Eden, or, would you prefer to take a great risk and explore the unknown?

“There is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.”
Virginia Woolf



Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship October



We are Live
and
On-line
Sundays
11 am

Why I Wake Early

Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who made the morning and spread it
over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories, and into the
windows of, even,
the miserable and the crotchety
- best preacher that ever was, dear star,
that just happens to be where you are in the
universe to keep us from ever-darkness,
to ease us with warm touching, to hold us in the
great hands of light - good morning,
good morning, good morning.
Watch, now, how I start the day in happiness,
in kindness.
— Mary Oliver

We will be live-streaming via YouTube.

join in at 11 am

www.uumh.org

Click on Sermons

A note from Rev. Kate
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A note from Rev. Kate



The other day I officiated a wedding at a very special locale. It was early morning, and all the guests made the trek out to the middle of the dunes, where the couple and their friends had earlier set up chairs and flowers, coffee and muffins.

We were all a little out of breath when we arrived! But it was such a stunning setting! So worth the extra effort to get there! Due to the early hour, we were all by ourselves, held in the hollow of a dune, with a distant view of the water.

I invited the guests to take a few minutes to become present to the moment, the setting, the ceremony:

“So let’s take a moment now to look around us at this incredible natural beauty,” I said. “And let’s even close our eyes and take in the sounds of this place. What do you hear? The distant waves? The birds? The breathing of those around you. The presence of dear friends chosen to be here to bless this day. And is there anything better than that smell? The morning dew-soaked sand? The drying grasses? The salty air. Let’s spend just another moment in this stillness, held by the dunes, and holding this dear couple in our love, using all our senses to become fully present to this moment, this ceremony.”

Even though I was the one to craft the words of becoming present, I want to thank this young couple for inviting me out into the dunes in the early morning...further out than I usually venture. It made ME present to the place I live in a way I haven’t been lately. I forget to adventure out into the dunes. I forget to take a moment to smell the sea air and listen to the waves. This ceremony reminded me.

May you have moments of true presence yourself this month. May you use your five senses to ground yourself in your own landscape. May you be held by the presence of the circle of people who love YOU.

Rev. Kate

NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF... LET'S TALK ABOUT DEATH

a week of free death education, art, & conversation

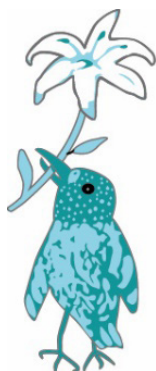
October 10-15, 2022



Presented by the Lily House
at the Provincetown Commons 46 Bradford Street

|
Topics Include:

death cafés, home funerals, pet loss, planned giving,
medical aid in dying, psychedelics for end-of-life care,
storytelling, making clay Xolos, interactive arts, and more!



the
Lily House

a community home for living & dying



REGISTER HERE: thelilyhouse.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

4:00-5:30pm

Death Café

a participant-led discussion about death and dying with tea and cake

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

11:00am-12:30pm

Good Grief: On Loving Pets, Here and Hereafter
author talk/reading followed by Q&A and book signing

E.B. Bartels, Author

2:00-3:30pm

Pet Loss: Engaging with Art and Ritual

panel discussion with audience participation

E.B. Bartels, Author

Glenn Loomis, Pet Doula

Jen Rumpza, Artist Pet Portraiture

Dawn Walsh, Home Funeral Guide

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

11:00am-12:30pm

Leaving a Legacy in Life and Death

planned giving, philanthropy, and possibilities

Susan Veroff, Director Emerita, Principal Gifts,

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

2:00-4:00pm

Xoloitzcuintli: Dog Spirit Guide to the Kingdom
of the Dead

make your own clay Xolo, a central figure in
the tradition of the Mexican Día de Muertos

Ellen Lebow, Artist

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

11:00am-12:30pm

Medical Aid in Dying and Palliative Sedation

end-of-life choices supporting our right to die
with dignity

Roger Kligler, M.D.

2:00pm-3:30pm

Home Funerals: Reclaiming Our Human Right to
Care for Our Dead

interactive workshop with audience participa-
tion

Dawn Walsh, Home Funeral Guide

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

11:00am-12:30pm

Living, Dying, Grieving: Community-Centered Continuum
of Care

panel discussion with audience participation Gwynne

Guzzeau, Helping Our Women Executive Director

Glenn Loomis, Lily House Board President

Rachel Peters, In-Home Personal Caretaker

Kathleen Shien-O'Brien, Sharing Kindness Clinical Consul-
tant

1:30-4:30pm

Let's Talk About Death

interactive workshop on developing and sharing your
stories

Vanessa Vartabedian, Mosquito Story Slam Creator and
Producer

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

11:00am-12:30pm

Cannabis and Psychedelics to Ease the Journey

panel discussion with audience participation

Gwynne Guzzeau, MS Certification in Psychedelic Assist-
ed Therapies

Jack Hudson, founder Ermont Medical Cannabis Dispen-
sary

Patricia van Dijkhuisen, MSW focusing on end-of-life
support

2:00-3:30pm

Death Café

a participant-led discussion about death and dying with
tea and cake

ONGOING INTERACTIVE ARTS

Before I Die

*A global art project that invites us to reflect upon our mortality
and consider the things that matter most. Program participants
are invited to contribute to a chalkboard wall with the prompt
"Before I Die, I Want To _____."*

Community Ofrenda

*Central to the Mexican Día de Muertos, ofrendas are altars of
offerings (flowers, photos, food, drink, candles, personal memen-
toes, etc.) created to remember deceased loved ones and invite
them back for a visit. Program participants are invited to bring
their own ofrenda items to contribute to a community ofrenda
exhibition.*

Phone on the Wind

*An installation phone booth for calling the dead located in the
Sculpture Gardens of the Provincetown Commons. Program par-
ticipants are invited to pick up the phone, dial the number, and
(re)connect with a loved one.*

Racial Justice Provincetown is one of the sponsors of this institute.

Several UUMH members are planning to attend. If you would like more information please contact Rev. Kate.

#WPSCapeCod

OCTOBER 28 - 29, 2022



MONIQUE CLARK



DEBBY IRVING



EDDIE MOORE JR

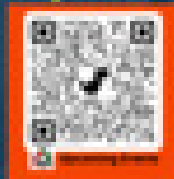
Critical Discussions On:

- 👤 Privilege
- 👤 Education
- 👤 Social Justice
- 👤 (dis)Ability
- 👤 Other Forms of Oppression & Moore



RACE: Our Hidden History
Reflect. Act. Commit. Educate.

Register Now!



Barnstable High School
744 West Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601



www.theprivilegeinstitute.com

“Compassion... asks us to look into our own hearts, discover what gives us pain, and then refuse, under any circumstance whatsoever, to inflict that pain on anybody else.”
--Karen Armstrong



From the Board

From the Board

From the Board

In my first year as your Treasurer, I have learned that we are very fortunate to have such a generous congregation. During the pandemic, many churches really struggled financially and some had to close. Thankfully this was not the case for UUMH. Please know that your donations, large and small, make a huge difference in our sustainability. Currently we are reviewing our 2022 pledges, and will soon be sending out reminders; also, now is the time when we begin our new pledge drive for 2023. We can't thank you enough for your contributions and pledges.

Our budget is approximately \$250,000 per year. We balance our budget thanks to your donations and the income from our endowment. Our endowment is managed by the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). The market hasn't been doing well this year, but we are maintaining. I attend quarterly UUCEF meetings on Zoom, and what I am most impressed by is how the focus is on "Socially Responsible Investing."

This year we have been challenged by a property that was donated to us with the stipulation that the resident of the property could live there for the rest of his life. That individual passed away a few months ago, and so began our process to sell the property. Easier said than done. Hopefully at our annual meeting in December, we will be able to report progress on the sale, but in the meantime, we are spending a good bit on building maintenance and repairs. It should all come back to us once the property is sold. The income from the sale will go into our endowment fund.

Thank you to all who participated in devoting our offertory plate to Pakistan during the disastrous monsoon flooding in September! Your generosity knows no bounds or borders!

Kat Black
Treasurer

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."
G.D. Anderson



From the FUNdraising Committee
From the FUNdraising Committee
From the FUNdraising Committee

It's been a challenging few years, as we all know. One of the ways that has manifested at the Meetinghouse is our inability to do "in-person" fundraising events. This has made the work of the fundraising committee complicated and somewhat tenuous.

That said, we are so grateful for the generosity of our members and friends throughout the pandemic in the form of pledges, time, volunteerism, care for our Meetinghouse building, and of course the love and kindness we see shared in our community every day. You inspire me in so many ways, and I am deeply grateful.

One very positive thing to come out of our pandemic experience has been the food pantry, which has clearly become a valuable resource to the town and a vital form of ministry to our community. We are grateful to have received a generous gift of the shed that houses it, but over time have realized that a more substantial structure would improve its usefulness and safety. To that end, as we move into fall we will be announcing a fundraising effort to replace the plastic structure with a similarly sized wooden structure with insulation and a door less likely to blow open in winter storms.

We know these are challenging times for many of us, so please, once this effort is underway do not feel pressured to give. More information about this project will be coming soon.

Thanks to all of you for being part of the tapestry of kind hearts and beautiful spirits that make the Meetinghouse such a vibrant and caring community.

Will Hildreth, UUMH of Provincetown Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

"A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men."
— Gloria Steinem



The UUMH of Provincetown is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). One of the service organizations within the UUA is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Our newsletter will be highlighting what the UUSC does on this page every month. The work of the UUSC is vital. Their scope is international. It is important that we know what is being done in our name around the world to bring food, shelter, aid of all kinds to those in direct need. It is important, too, for us to remember that the UUSC needs us to help them to do this work.

“UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Our work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity.”



Our UUMH can help by staying informed, spreading the word, donating our personal funds and urging others to do so, and, by celebrating in gratitude the good UUSC does in our name.

“UUSC is part of Detention Watch Network’s Communities Not Cages coalition, which named Etowah among the “First 10” detention centers targeted for shut-down campaigns based on the severity of conditions there. The end of the ICE contract at Etowah marks the 10th termination of an immigration detention contract (at least) since the beginning of 2021. Contracts at Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia and Bristol County Detention Center in Massachusetts were both terminated in May, 2021 by ICE following campaigns by local organizers and people in detention there, documenting the severity of abuses occurring inside.”

JOIN RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN FOR

A SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



**THE FIRST
SATURDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH

**FROM NOON
UNTIL 1PM**
AT TOWN HALL ON
COMMERCIAL STREET

**WEAR A MASK AND MAINTAIN
SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET**

[FACEBOOK.COM/PROVINCETOWNRACIALJUSTICEPROJECT](https://www.facebook.com/provincetownracialjusticeproject)



"The people who give you their food give you their heart." Cesar Chavez

Remember our
Little Free Pantry.
People are depending on our
contributions as prices climb.

Poet's Corner



Eve Remembering

Toni Morrison - 1931-2011

1

I tore from a limb fruit that had lost its green.
My hands were warmed by the heat of an apple
Fire red and humming.
I bit sweet power to the core.
How can I say what it was like?
The taste! The taste undid my eyes
And led me far from the gardens planted for a child
To wildernesses deeper than any master's call.

2

Now these cool hands guide what they once caressed;
Lips forget what they have kissed.
My eyes now pool their light
Better the summit to see.

3

I would do it all over again:
Be the harbor and set the sail,
Loose the breeze and harness the gale,
Cherish the harvest of what I have been.
Better the summit to scale.
Better the summit to be.



a poem by Rita Dove

EVE, the mother of us all, World Creator, Consciousness Giver, Humanity Affirmer, who took the vital first step for all of us by scratching the itch of her curiosity, growing restless and bored with the perfection of Eden.

Courageous Eve, no wimpy, lockstep, vapid heaven life for her.

Nor for any of us pulled along in her wake as she steps out from the mind-numbing stupor of endless tropical days, blandly naked in Paradise.

Eve, who brought upon us the fig leaf and thus the deliciousness of mystery, hiddenness, slow disrobing, the revelations begat by mortal trembling flesh and its desires.

Eve, whose bold encounter with the apple, whose implicit challenge to Adam to be a man and stand up with her to claim the fruit of the world, supposedly brought upon us the wrath of God.

But come on now: God can't have but secretly smiled, lauding the gumption of his daughter and her willingness to slake her curiosity and step into time, her assertion and acceptance of the suffering and death that would attend adulthood for herself and all the progeny who would succeed her.

"Yes!" said Eve, emphatically, "I'm having some," while Adam bumbled about in the garden.

"Yes!" to "the red heft" of desire, her "outstretched palm" brushing past any resistance, not needing any "whispered intelligence" from the serpent or anyone else to know what she would, what she must, do.

It was Eve who carried our consciousness on her back and brought us to it, to this, our beloved, enchanted, beautiful and suffering world.

Behold.



- To all who were affected by the ravages of Hurricane Ian, we send all our love and support.
- We are shocked and saddened by the death of Susan Howe and her son, Adam. Please know that our prayers and loving thoughts are with all who are reeling from this tragic event.
- We hold all first responders in esteem in this sadness. Their work is beyond our comprehension.
- We also send prayers to all who are touched by Alfredo's (of Chach and Napi's) health issues.
- We welcome Rev Kate and Lisa back from their long-awaited vacation.
- Our hearts are with all that were affected by the death of Casey Sanderson.
- Kalden Wangmo is making an appearance among us this month! Always a joy.
- So sad that Marty Hassell and Ellen Anthony (wasn't she fabulous on 9/18...thank you) had to cancel their travel plan because of that nasty virus.
- Our hearts are full of loving thoughts for Roger Chauvette.
- Thank you to all our swimmers and paddlers in the Swim for Life.

- Bruce DeSteCroix's siblings are in varying states of distress. We send out love and best wishes to Bruce and his family. We also hope that Bruce is healthy and happy.
- So good to have Rev. Bill Clark in the pulpit, where he should be!
- Dianne Kopser spent three weeks with her mom, whose health is not good. We love you Diane and hope that you find firm footing wherever you go!
- Lynne Wilkinson is facing shoulder surgery and we are hoping that she can find pain-free living in the interim.
- Deb Felix has suffered the death of two close family friends. We've got you, Deb.
- Happy 80th, Sheila Ryan. We miss you so!
- Good healing and pain free thoughts to Myya Beck, who is facing her 3rd knee surgery in as many years.
- Goodbye Jane Bunker and Mason Morfit, see you next summer.
- We are sending love and more love to Len Bowen. You can lean on us any time, Len!
- Mel and Alison Dwyer are recovering from COVID and preparing for the arrival of Jake, their grandson, who will be living with them. We can't wait to see Jake again!
- Ken Wozniak was in town! Wish we'd seen him on Sunday but great that he stopped by the Meeting House to meet Rev Kate!
- Always good to see David Mills!
- We so miss Elizabeth Johnson and wish her all the best!

“WE’LL BUILD A LAND WHERE WE BIND UP THE BROKEN. WE’LL BUILD A LAND WHERE THE CAPTIVES GO FREE, WHERE THE OIL OF GLADNESS DISSOLVES ALL MOURNING, OH, WE’LL BUILD A LAND--A LAND THAT CAN BE!”

-- CAROLYN MCDADE

Every month, it seems, we have a page commemorating yet another life lost or tragically wounded because of systemic racism. If we fight the good fight together, if we make “good trouble,” we can change the world.



In 2022, we might feel strongly that current times are the worst days ever for our country. A friend of mine, a wise black man who is a UU minister and a chaplain in the Armed Forces, said to me not long ago that perhaps the worst time was the Reconstruction Period (1865-1877). I've tried to learn more about that period since then.

“Merely to call Reconstruction a failure is too simplistic. Reconstruction was overthrown, subverted, and betrayed — . . . ‘Looking back over the whole policy of reconstruction, it seems to me that the wisest thing would have been to have continued for some time the military rule,’ said Ulysses S. Grant:

‘That was our right as a conqueror, and it was a mild penalty for the stupendous crime of treason. Military rule would have been just to all, to the negro who wanted freedom, the white man who wanted protection, the Northern man who wanted Union. . . . The trouble about military rule in the South was that our people did not like it. It was not in accordance with our institutions. I am clear now that it would have been better for the North to have . . . held the South in a territorial condition.’

He was surely right, but right will not stand as right if it is realized too late. ‘I wonder if our white fellow-men realize the true sense or meaning of brotherhood?’ demanded Susie King Taylor, a slave-born teacher and military nurse. ‘Was the war in vain? Has it brought freedom, in the full sense of the word, or has it not made our condition more hopeless.’ A century and a half later, her question still echoes horribly.”

Oxford University Press

From *Reconstruction: A Concise History*. Copyright© 2018 by Allen C. Guelzo and published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

“Reconstruction is the lens through which we have to view the rest of American history.”

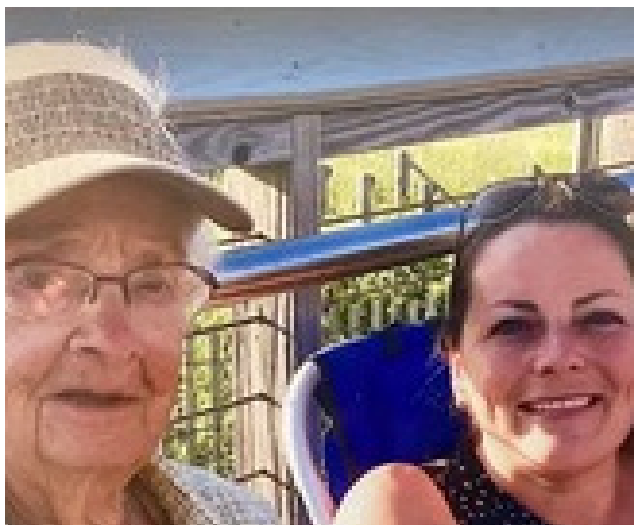
— Greg Carr, associate professor, Howard University

Getting to Know You

curated by Lorraine Kujawa



Cricket played the
clarinet
in a five piece
band!
She ROCKED!!



Betty "Cricket" Comey and Rev. Kate



There are two quotes from Audre Lorde--a black feminist philosopher and activist who died too young--that keep me on track:

The first quote reminds me of Eve . . .

“Nothing I accept about myself can be used against me!”

I ask myself, do I accept my humanness, my curiosity, my willingness to risk safety in the pursuit of knowledge and truth? If I do, then all of society’s myths about serpents and temptations and denigrations cannot harm me or define me.

The second quote reminds me that whoever that first woman was, she is part of me. . .

“I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own. And I am not free as long as one person of Color remains chained. Nor is anyone of you.”

I ask myself, do I use the freedom that is mine? Is my courage based on honesty and clarity? Do I acknowledge the Afghan woman as my sister? the trans woman? Do I step forward, step out?

So, I pray:

Eve, ancestor of all, all genders, all the races, all humans everywhere, encourage me to feed those hungry for food and hungry for truth; help me change the future forever by taking the next step.



MARTY COWDEN

Photo: Marty Cowden

“Hear me as a woman.
Have me as your sister.
On purpled battlefield breaking day,
So I might say our victory is just beginning,
See me as change,
Say I am movement,
That I am the year,
and I am the era
of the women.”
Amanda Gorman



Back Page
The
Meetinghouse News

Kathleen Henry, Editor

Submissions are welcomed
and encouraged!
Please submit written work,
announcements,
and artwork,
by the 20th
of the month
to
meetinghousenews@gmail.com