
Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

20 February 2026



Our new home-coming Dec 2026- 400 Loudon Road

Our New Meetinghouse is Progressing!



The Task Force and your Board continue to progress in their efforts.

- 1. The sales' contract for 624 N. Broadway has been signed and approved by our attorney. We hope to close on the sale by mid Summer.**
- 2. On Wednesday, February 18, Rosick Well Drilling Company drilled our wells on the parcel at 400 Loudon Road. (photo above!)**
- 3. Bast Hatfield, our contractor will give us a contract to review. They hope to start the building in early April and complete their work in December, 2026.**
- 4. We are in the process of contacting Congregants who pledged for the capital campaign to submit their pledges now. We need the pledges to develop a payment schedule for the contractor. Onward!**

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Upcoming
Sunday Services

What's
Happening in RE

Upcoming
Events and
meetings

Social Justice
Team News

Committees and
Teams News
Updates

THE THEME FOR FEBRUARY IS:
EMBODYING RESILIENCE



This Sunday's Service



Resilience as Shared, Interdependent Strength

Sunday, February 22, 2026

There are some unique energetics present this week, happening amidst all the eruption and disruption. It's was a highly charged week with Chinese New Year on Tuesday. It meant the end of the Year of the Snake, and the start of the Year of the Fire Horse. This brings strength, fast movement forward shifts and a potent energy of transformation.

Then there's Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, a solar eclipse in Antarctica, and a new moon. Lent began with Ash Wednesday and it was also the beginning of Ramadan.

Many of us loved the past two weeks of the Olympics, watching athletes from countries all over the world come together to compete, but also to support each other. The whole world is celebrating something, amidst the chaos of complicated times. This is where we are today, let's choose to look toward the good things happening in our lives and in the world.

Please visit our website for information on attending Sunday Service via Zoom, for a copy of the Order of Service and the music sheet.

What's happening in RE



What is a bear with no teeth called?

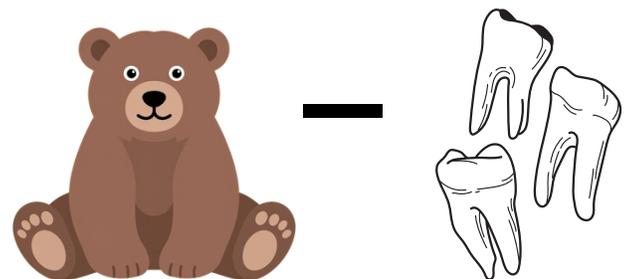
What, you say?

All month long we are exploring sources of resilience. This week we are exploring how humor is an important option. Humor and wit are such important components of being a Unitarian Universalist. Fun and laughter help us stretch and bounce back, even if it's a groaner!

As we discuss this important tool of resistance, we are asking each young UU to come prepared with a joke to share. (Bob Mohonski is a great resource for those who don't know!)

And for those of you still reading, A GUMMY BEAR!

Love,
Julie and Sue





CODE BLUE SHELTER COLLECTION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!
Our congregation donated the following items needed by the Code Blue Shelter to

serve our neighbors:

11 lbs coffee

20 lbs sugar

30 hand warmers

81 cans hearty soup

596 ziploc bags

1095 sq ft aluminum foil

Your generosity has touched many members of our larger beloved community.

UUA COMMON READ

Your Social Justice Team is considering hosting a discussion series during the month of May on this year's UUA Common Read selection: *Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection* (Skinner House, 2022) by Deepa Iyer. Before making the commitment, we want to have an idea of how many might be interested in participating. Go to our website for in-depth information and then let someone on the Social Justice Team know next week if you are interested! (Mark Long, Lucy Manning, Linda or Ron Giancola, Kerry Nelson, Undine Giguere, Mike Andolina, or Karen Carruthers)



Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

February 22, 2026 Sunday
10amWorship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)
Baked Goods Silent Auction

February 24, 2026 Tuesday
6:30pmBoard meeting Off site

February 25, 2026 Wednesday
10amNew Home Task Force meeting

March 1, 2026 Sunday
10amWorship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)



We wanted to extend these invitations from Matt Meyer, who led our worship service this past Sunday.

You can stay in touch with Matt by signing up for his email list.

Matt's congregation, Sanctuary Boston, just released an album of original UU music. Check out the album and their music video, via links on our website.

You can read Matt's sermon, Holy Doubt, as well.

Just visit our website under "Past Services" for clickable links to the email list, album and music video, and sermon.

CIRCLE SUPPERS ARE BACK

Back by popular demand, the Membership/Hospitality Team is looking for volunteers to host another round of Circle Suppers this Spring.

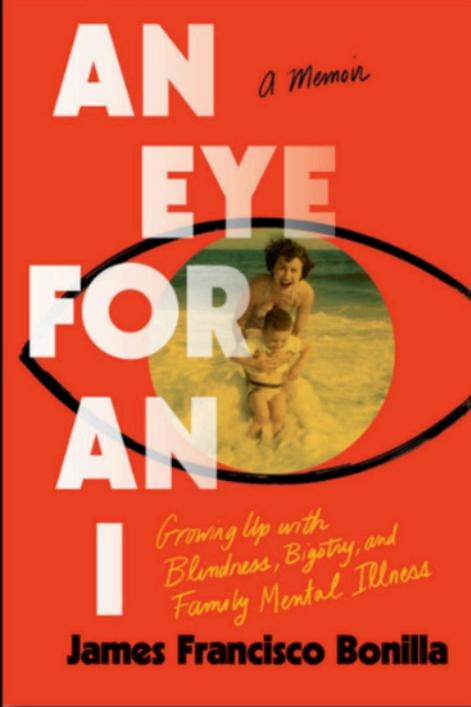
Here is how it works:

A host or co-hosts offer their home for a meal and conversation. The host provides the main dish, and guests bring the supporting dishes to complete the meal. It's a wonderful way to get to know new people whom you haven't gotten to talk with at coffee hour, or to eat and relax with those you have known for years. Please let Audrey Belt (beltaudrey@gmail.com) or Carolyn Lansberry (carlan55@gmail.com) know if you would like to host a dinner. After we find hosts we will have a sheet with dates in the back of the sanctuary for people to sign up.



Upcoming Presentation at Skidmore College

March 4th: An Eye for an I: Growing Up with Blindness, Bigotry, and Family Mental Illness is a memoir by James Francisco Bonilla that chronicles his experiences as a blind Puerto Rican boy in New York City, detailing his struggles with racism, bullying, and his mother's mental illness, and his journey to becoming a social justice advocate. The book explores themes of disability, identity, and trauma, highlighting how he overcame adversity, regained partial sight, and found purpose in fighting for others.



James Francisco Bonilla:
Author, Activist, and Scholar

Campus Conversation

**From Adversity to Action:
How I Learned to Navigate
(Dis)ability, Racism, and
Family Mental Illness in
Challenging Times**



Abel Arango
Assistant Professor,
Spanish



Violeta Lorenzo
Associate Professor,
Spanish



June Paul
Associate Professor,
Social Work

**Wednesday, March 4
6:30-8:00 pm
Davis Auditorium**

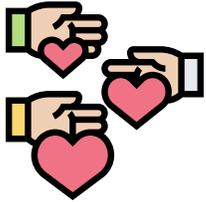
**James Francisco Bonilla
in conversation with
Abel Arango, Violeta
Lorenzo & June Paul**

Buy A Chair

As a way to honor the recent death of our beloved Arliss Nygard, an idea arose from a recent gathering of Melissa and Board Members. Would you like to “purchase” a new chair for our congregation?

Arliss worked for months on the new chair project. We all remember the clipboards dangling from the sample chairs Arliss arranged to have shipped to us. We wrote down our comments and opinions. Arliss put all this together and selected our perfect chair. We have ordered the chairs and will be able to enjoy them within the next month.

We are asking you to write a check for \$100, payable to UUSaratoga, with “chair” in the memo line. This will be a loving memorial for Arliss. Please bring your checks this Sunday, and give them to Mike Egerman or any Board member. The Board, and Arliss’s loving husband, Murray, thank you.



Our second silent auction baked good sale is this Sunday before and after the service. If you love blueberry pie, this sale is for you!!

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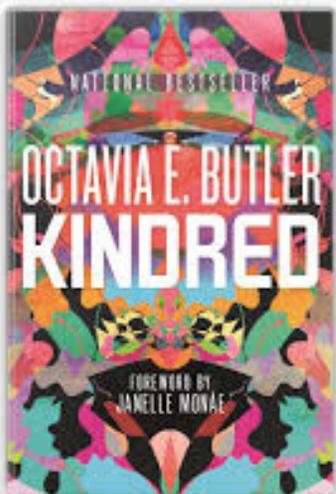
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!

Dan Berggren will give a concert on Friday evening March 20th. Dan is a tradition-based songsmith who writes with honesty, humor and a strong sense of place. Accompanied by guitar and banjo, his songs about life, love, hard-working people, taking care of our planet and each other, are all woven together with humor and stories of community. Doors open at 6:45. The concert begins at 7. Refreshments and wine/non-alcoholic beverages may be purchased before the concert and at intermission. Admission is \$20 if tickets are purchased ahead of time and \$25 at the door the night of the concert. You can sign up on-line. We will also sell tickets a couple Sunday mornings at the church. More details next week.

And on April 18th we will hold our first ever Trivia Night. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

In late May or early June we will hold our annual goods and services auction. So begin to think about what you might have that you can offer for auction. Ideas: a dinner for 6, a boat ride, a homemade cake, a smallish piece of furniture, etc.

If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please let someone from the Fundraising Team know. Members are Bev Lawson, Kerry Nelson, Carolyn Lansberry, Mary Ann Miller and Loretta Minet.'



BOOK GROUP

March's selection is "Kindred" by Octavia Butler. The next meeting is on Monday March 16, 2026 at 6pm. All book lovers are welcome. For information, please contact Barbara Egerman at begerman3@gmail.com, or Carolyn Lansberry at carlan55@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. The Minister Search Committee values your input and will use it to guide their work. Here is a synopsis of the survey results:

38 total responses

35 members/3 non-members

Years attending: 1-3 yrs: 6

4-6 yrs: 2

7-10 yrs: 9

10+ yrs: 21

Why did you come to UUCSS?

- seeking spiritual development/home for self/family
- UU/liberal religious values
- seeking like-minded community
- invited by friends/family

Why stay?

- the community/sense of family/friendships/like-minded
- UU values/UU message
- spiritual home/meaningful services
- social activism
- feel supported/nurtured/comfortable
- still learning, seeking, growing
- music

In last ministry, I wish had more...

- genuine, loving, compassionate, outgoing/open personality of minister
- deep spiritual exploration, reflection/reverence, compelling services
- open communication/transparency
- outreach to housebound, pastoral care
- families with children
- RE (adult and children)
- variety, innovation in services
- members
- congregation-wide social justice activities
- organization between minister and Board, Teams
- better staff supervision, meeting deadlines & obligations by minister

In last ministry I wish had less...

- social activism, causes, political agenda
- secrecy, in-fighting, factions, cliques, divisions
- reservedness, controlling by minister
- fundraising, announcements during services
- improv/unpolished services

What could improve with fresh perspective/energy

- outreach, new members, visibility in the community
- increase members/families
- UU learning/RE/sermon discussions
- community activities, after service activities
- healing wounds/divisions
- interfaith connections/activities
- more creative/innovative services
- better connection with minister, more pastoral care
- more spiritual concerns/less political agenda
- increased transparency, better communication
- more choir
- better organization
- modern music

What I hope never changes

- UU values, UU connection
- sense of community/belonging, love for each other, friendships
- commitment to social justice, volunteerism
- resilience, enthusiasm, hope
- welcoming attitude, openness
- challenging sermons, relatable messages
- quality of music
- learning, RE
- stones & water, rituals



Social Justice Team

Please check our UUSaratoga website for more info.

Ongoing: Vigils at the Post Office (corners of Broadway & Lake/Church)
Organized by: Indivisible ADK/Saratoga, Linda LeTendre (AKA - Notorious RBG) and other troublemakers. Saturdays - Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Join our hardy band of allies - great vibes from supportive honking, with an occasional pair of loud pickups. Bring your signs, some also provided. Fine fellowship and friendly furballs.

Check out the latest notes including events on our website. There's LOTS happening in our community!



Give Away The Plate- for February

Wellspring is the domestic violence and sexual assault services resource for Saratoga County, NY and the sexual assault services resource for Washington County, NY. Our mission is supporting survivors and engaging our community to end relationship and sexual abuse.

Wayside Pulpit

The Wayside Pulpit provides messages of inspiration for those who pass by our door. These quotations are chosen biweekly from the collective wisdom of the ages to reflect the diverse and life-affirming beliefs of our congregation.

[Click here for the archive](#)

Recent Sermons

Our website is up and running! If you're navigating to it, be sure it's the NEW website:

<https://uusaratoga.org/>

The past sermons are being uploaded. [Click here for them.](#)

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD

Why Host?

Hosts gain unique insight into the behind-the-scenes operation of Opera Saratoga! Plus, you have the opportunity to get to know one of the very talented artists we are fortunate enough to have in Saratoga Springs for the Opera. Many of our past hosts have developed life-long friendships with their guests!



Founded originally as the Lake George Opera Festival in 1962, Opera Saratoga is now located in Saratoga Springs, New York. The company is home to the second oldest artist training program in the country, with alumni singing around the world. During the summer of 2026, Opera Saratoga will present two mainstage productions - *The Elixir of Love* and *My Fair Lady* - along with multiple concerts and events over the 6-week period between May 20 and June 28, 2025. Members of the Festival Artist Program are featured prominently in all productions and concerts, while receiving professional training to help advance their careers.



19 Roosevelt Drive, Suite 215
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
www.operasaratoga.org
info@operasaratoga.org
518-584-6018



OPERA SARATOGA BECOME A 2026 HOUSING HOST!

Interested in hosting?

Contact Opera Saratoga
518-584-6018
info@operasaratoga.org

Requirements

In order to ensure the comfort of both the visiting artists and the hosts, we have established some basic requirements for our guests:

- Private bedroom for each Opera Saratoga guest
- Kitchen privileges
- Access to laundry facilities, if they are available
- WiFi access
- The host residence must be no more than a 30 minute drive to downtown Saratoga Springs
- Non-smoking household

Note: Hosts are **not** expected to provide food or transportation

"We have had such delightful experiences hosting young artists! In addition to the pleasure of their company, it has allowed us to 'eavesdrop' on voices warming up and informal conversations that capture behind the scenes views of the life and work of striving artists! The weeks flew by!"

Susi Ritzenberg, Housing Host, 2017-2019, 2023-2025

When are hosts needed?

Most artists require housing for 6 weeks, from May 18 - June 29, 2026, though some may vary slightly.

Inquire for details:

518-584-6018

info@operasaratoga.org

Get to know a young performer at the start of their career!

Opera Saratoga is deeply appreciative of the hosts who make our summer festival possible by generously offering accommodations to Opera Saratoga's Festival Artists. We consider hosts an integral part of the greater Opera Saratoga community. Here are some benefits that hosts receive:

- Invitation to Festival Artist Welcome Breakfast, End of Season Party, and other exclusive events.
- Attend a dress rehearsal for one of Opera Saratoga's performances, for the entire host family.
- Exclusive invite to our Festival Gala at a discounted price.
- Recognition for your generosity in Opera Saratoga's seasonal program.
- Access to the Patron's Lounge during intermissions at Opera Saratoga performances - enjoy a glass of wine with fellow hosts and patrons.

"There is no need to do anything but open your door. These young people make you feel included with their work at Opera Saratoga. You really feel a part of the organization. You understand the hard work they do day after day, and the years of study getting to this point. It's an enriching experience and one I can't wait to repeat! I can honestly say that they gave to me so much more than I gave to them."

Cindy Spence, Housing Host, 2016-2019 & 2024-2025



More Info About UUSaratoga



Joys & Sorrows

If you have a personal joy or sorrow in your personal life that you would like to make known to your fellow congregants, we encourage you to click on the link below to email the Care Team in a sentence or two what you would like us to read aloud during our Sunday worship. (Late entries may have to be included in the following week.) To share a Joy or Sorrow, please email the Care Team at careteam@uusaratoga.org.

Message from the Membership & Hospitality Team

In an effort to make visitors to UUSaratoga feel more welcome, the Membership & Hospitality Team asks everyone to be aware of newcomers and people you may not know who are sitting near you on Sunday morning or standing alone at coffee hour. Greet them warmly. Ask if they have any questions, thank them for coming, and tell them you hope to see them again.

Welcoming is a spiritual practice and a way of sharing the message of our UU faith.

To become a member of the Congregation

If you would like to sign the book and become a member, please let Audrey Belt (beltaudrey@gmail.com) know and she will bring the Membership Book to a UU service for you to sign. Qualifications for membership per the UUCSS Bylaws: Anyone 18 years and older can sign the book. Signing the book indicates that you subscribe to the purposes of the Congregation and agree to participate in and support the Congregation's programs and activities, and to support the Congregation with an annual recorded financial contribution.

Have an announcement?

Email, text or call Juliana at the office (uusaratoga@gmail.com 518-584-1555) for information to be shared at the beginning of Sunday service. The deadline for receiving your info is NOON THURSDAYS.

TO ATTEND SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE [CLICK HERE](#)



UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Worship Service

Time: Jan 18, 2026 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun, 97 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w)

[icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w)

[SOTWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?pwd=7z4cyYIVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1>

Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305

Passcode: 466653

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,91704074305# US

+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)

Join instructions

[https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?](https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU)

[signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU](https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU)

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