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# Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

March 13 2026



## Update on Funding for the New Home (and ways you can help)

**We continue to work with Bast Hatfield, our builder, the City of Saratoga Springs, and our architects SD Atelier to begin the project in April at 400 Louden Road.**

**With the sale of 624 Broadway, Congregants pledging, and our fundraising, financing is within reach. There are a few other initiatives underway that you may want to consider.**

**First, a Congregant has offered \$50,000.00 in matching funds for new donations. What this means is if you make a new donation of \$100.00, they will give another \$100.00 of their funds. This adds up fast.**

**Second, The Board launched a Go Fund Me Campaign recently. As a result, friends and relatives can give small and large amounts to the New Home project. Please contact Juliana in the Church office, who will walk you through sharing the Go Fund Me.**

**Third, Dan Berggren, our favorite professional Folk Singer is giving a benefit concert at 624 Broadway on March 27. Please consider purchasing a ticket or inviting friends to join us for this entertaining concert. Proceeds will go towards UUCSS and our New Home. Contact Juliana for more details.**

**I hope one or more of these initiatives appeal to you.**

**Thanks from the Board and the New Home Task Force.**

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In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Upcoming  
Sunday Services

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What's  
Happening in RE

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Upcoming  
Events and  
meetings

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Social Justice  
Team News

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Committees and  
Teams News  
Updates

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THE THEME FOR MARCH IS:  
PAYING ATTENTION





## The Courage to Begin Again

Sunday, March 15, 2026 10am

The courage to begin again reminds us that renewal remains available in every moment, and that each of us carries the capacity to shape what comes next.



**We will observe World Poetry Day (3/21) at our service on the 22nd. If you have a favorite poem you'd like to share, please bring it that day.**

## The Power of Paying Attention to the Present Moment.

What a timely reminder for all of us! All month long, we are exploring how powerful attention is. This week, we are focusing on the power of paying attention to the present moment. As we do that, we will have the chance to explore some of the ways we can recenter ourselves in a world full of distractions. We have a chance to celebrate the wisdom of Buddhism and the spiritual practice of being in the present moment. Learning and practicing this important tool can become a Lifelong goal. How valuable it can be, to learn it at a young age!

See you Sunday!

Julie, Sue and Lucy...**and MARIGOLD!**

An added plus for families and any UU's that value the Interdependent Web of Life! Sustainable Saratoga is sponsoring It's a Bug's World!

This Sunday, March 15th after RE until 4 PM at the Saratoga Springs City Center A FREE interactive insect expo that's fun for the whole family!

Get close up with insects, learn why they matter, and discover cool career paths in entomology, all in one bug-tastic day!

Tell someone who loves bugs!

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# Inspiration

The Campaign to relocate to a better church building began more than two decades ago, within a year or two after first moving into 624 North Broadway. Our purchase of that building was indeed fortuitous because a few far-sighted individuals, with absolutely nothing in the bank, convinced an enthusiastic Congregation that through their gifts and loans (most of which would be forgiven) and a favorable purchase price, we would have our own space.

That foresight and leadership was so accurate that the building was soon bursting at the seams, the Congregation's growth only stopped by the building itself. Not only did the leadership of more than two decades ago prove fortuitous, but that decision continues to resonate favorably today. Consider that the original purchase price of 624 North Broadway has increased by well over 300% and that wealth provides much of the financial basis for our new Meeting House at 400 Loudon Road. But not all of the money needed for the purchase.

Today we stand on a new precipice as we anticipate financing our new Meeting House, but it is a familiar place. We have been here before and our past gives us promise of a bright future. Imagine us in a brand-new structure specifically designed for our needs and for the needs of the wider community we are part of. Our new building will help us fulfill the promise of our vision of being a welcoming community, a place where tolerance, kindness, respect for science and generosity prevail.

Not only will we be lifted by the soaring words and gifted rhetoric of thoughtful leaders in our new Meeting House, but our doors will be open to share their wisdom with the wider community. Now we will be able to host our own private celebrations and will also open our facility to community wide celebrations such as the recognition of social justice pioneers, hosting educational seminars and sponsoring popular entertainers as well as providing sanctuary to people without a church home to hold private services. Our new space will amplify our presence in the community and permit us to enthusiastically embrace the basic principles of our faith.

As we anticipate the end of a challenging winter and look forward to the sweet blooms of springtime and the warm breezes of new life, we also eagerly look forward to the first shovelfuls of earth being turned at 400 Loudon Road. This exciting time is right around the corner! It is time for all of us to lean in. The pledges made in the last two years have been less than half collected and the money will soon be owed to our building contractor. Also, soon a financial challenge will be offered --- a 50/50 opportunity to have the value of your gift doubled. Stay tuned. We can occupy our new building debt free with your help. WE CAN DO THIS!

Eric and Beverly Lawson

**The Hudson-Mohawk cluster will hold its shared worship service on April 19th at Schenectady UU. We will be needing 3-5 volunteers to help with greeting, ushers, coffee, snack clean up, etc. More info in the coming weeks.**

## **A new member of our Board of Trustees**

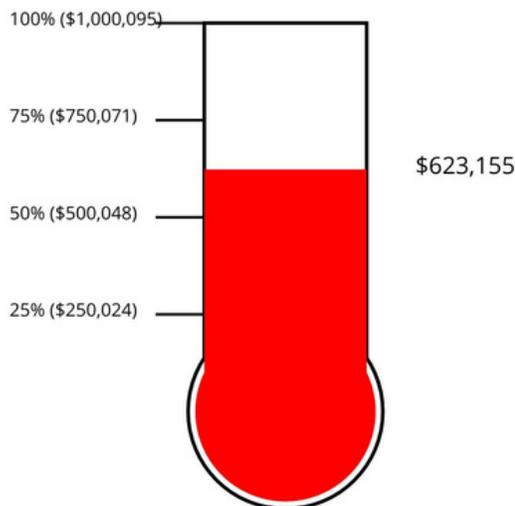
**This week Dianne Kiernan was welcomed to the board as the newest Trustee at Large. Congratulations to her!**



### **Support our Community at Large Rachel Sumner and Traveling Light - at Caffe Lena This Thursday, March 19 at 7 PM**

**If you are looking for a performer who fits with UU values, give Rachel a try. In 2024 Rachel was named a Kerrville New Folk winner, one of the most respected honors in songwriting, and five of her songs are now archived at the Library of Congress. The folk world is excited about Rachel because, in keeping with folk tradition, she's trying to do something that's more than entertainment. Her songs tell stories that would otherwise go unheard, like "Radium Girls (Curie Eleison)", about factory workers poisoned by radium paint in the early 1900s. This eye-opening, true-history ballad has been streamed hundreds of thousands of times and shared widely in classrooms and folk circles across the country. It's through songwriters like Rachel that we hang onto our history and pass forward stories that are important to our lives--but not necessarily important to the commercial music world or mass media."**

**WATCH THIS  
NEW HOME  
THERMOMETER GROW  
AS DONATIONS FLOW IN**



## Arliss Nygard Legacy

As you might remember, our dear friend Arliss spent much time and effort in helping us choose the best chair for our new building. Remember the many choices with clipboards attached for comments? Based on her survey and hard work, a selection was made but unfortunately, Arliss is not with us to enjoy the fruit of her labor. She was definitely there in Spirit this past Tuesday!

On Tuesday, 120 new chairs arrived, on three pallets which were dropped off by the sidewalk in front of the church! We knew they had been shipped but no advance notice for the delivery date...just the knock on the meeting house door! Juliana and Sue Fisher fielded an urgent call from Alan B and a team left into action! Thankfully it was a beautiful day and within a few hours all the chairs were unwrapped and set up inside. Of course then, the old chairs needed to be removed as well, and they were taken downstairs and put in the old church office. What an amazing team of people pulled this giant effort together! Not surprising if you know our UU work ethic.

Thanks also, to the people who have donated \$100 for each chair as a tribute to our beloved Arliss.



**Clockwise: The Erics unloading the chairs off the pallets, Bev, Myron and John C. removing the various plastic coverings, The Chair Gang enjoying the fruits of their labor. Not pictured: Juliana, Eric B. (just his arm is there!), and Linda**

**And thanks to the following team of people who performed the magic last Tuesday!**

**Sue and John Fisher**

**Mary Cae Asay**

**Alan Bartenhagen**

**John Collins**

**Eric and Juliana**

**Bodensieck**

**Bev and Eric Lawson**

**Myron Muth**

**Linda Giancola**



## Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

**March 15, Sunday**  
**10am Worship Service with RE**

**March 16, Monday**  
**6pm Book Group**

**March 18, Wednesday**  
**4pm Care Team meeting**

**March 19, Thursday**  
**9am The Breakfast Group**

## Minister Search Committee Update

To date the search for a contract minister to start in August 2026 has been unsuccessful. The Minister Search Committee will continue its efforts and thanks everyone for their support.



**Go Fund Me Is LIVE!**

<https://gofund.me/15b1f07ad>

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs has outgrown its current Meetinghouse at 624 North Broadway. Our growing Congregation, including its lively children's education classes, expansive community outreach programs, social justice initiatives, and partnerships with many diverse organizations have strained our physical capacity. To continue to be responsible stewards of the world we all share and to provide spiritual sustenance in a challenging world, we are building a new, inspiring Meetinghouse; a place that will be available to the whole community, a place of peace, tranquility, love and inspiration. We are a 501(c)3 organization. Please join us and help us fulfill this dream. We need your help.

## 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](mailto:beltaudrey@gmail.com)) or Carolyn Lansberry ([carlan55@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Buy A Chair

As a way to honor our beloved Arliss Nygard, you may "purchase" a new chair for our congregation! 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. **As of today, 29 chairs have been "purchased!"**

## TREE TOGA 15: April 25, 2026

### Planting the next generation of trees in Saratoga Springs

Grab your family, friends and colleagues, or come by yourself and make new friends. Join the fun with Sustainable Saratoga's Urban Forestry Project for Tree Toga! Since 2014, we've planted a whopping 458 leafy giants all over Saratoga Springs. Mark your calendar – we plant in honor of Arbor Day, on the last Saturday in April.



Here's how it works: Volunteers assemble to learn the art of bare-root tree planting, belt out our catchy planting anthem (check the video!), and say cheese for the group pic. Then, armed with the expert guidance of our Lead Planters, teams scatter citywide to transform the streets into a green paradise. By lunchtime, we've worked our planting magic, and it's time to toast to success at a local pub

## The Care Team is looking for Friends!

The Care Team is one of the intricate woven fabrics of strength that holds our beloved community together. It is a simple way to connect with another human being, showing care and compassion, especially in times of need, urgent or small. Would you like to make a difference in your life by offering a bit of help?

This is a list of current tasks that outlines the requests for help the Care Team most often gets. Please take a look at it, and see if any of these are a good fit for you. If you would like to help, please let us know! We welcome any gift of service!

1. Transportation to church service and back
2. Transportation to church events
3. Transportation to appointments or doctors visits
4. Shopping for groceries
5. Meal preparation
6. Sitting with someone who is ill
7. Writing cards of encouragement
8. Yard work
9. Pet care in emergencies



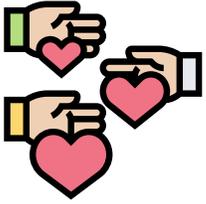
We at the Care Team are grateful for your generosity in time, effort, and spirit. Without you, we could not build the kind of tight community we all feel in our congregation. With your help we can truly “hold one another in our hearts”.

Please email your information or any questions you may have to:

[tarilee@gmail.com](mailto:tarilee@gmail.com)

Thanks for your help!

Tari Lee Muth, Care Team Chair



FUNDRAISING  
TEAM NEWS

Sign up to  
attend the  
concert on  
March 27

[Click here for  
the form and  
payment  
options](#)

**THE DAN BERGGREN CONCERT DATE IS MARCH 27!**

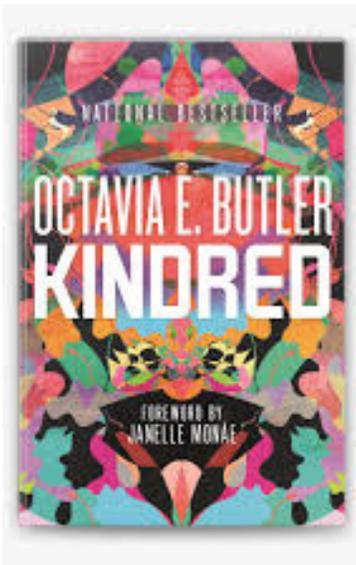
Tickets for the Dan Berggren will be sold after church THIS SUNDAY for \$20 per person

[Click here to sign up and purchase your tickets!](#)

*We are looking for a few people to each donate a bottle of wine for our use at the Dan Berggren concert. We also need people to set and clean up the meeting house, sell refreshments, pour wine, cashier, etc. Please check the sign up sheets in the back of the church and add your name to one of the tasks. Sign up sheets in the back of the sanctuary!*

April 18th we will hold our first ever Trivia Night. Stay tuned for more details.

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](mailto:begerman3@gmail.com), or Carolyn Lansberry at [carlan55@gmail.com](mailto:carlan55@gmail.com).**

Message from Marian,  
**Not just for the "Old Folks"**

We were all rocked by my husband Hal's quick death. As many of you know, I have always been interested in End of Life issues.

I am now energized to do some outreach with our UU community about this issue.

But where does the Not just for the Old Folks come in?

**I am including a link to an 18 minute TEDx Stanford Talk.**

**"A Daughter to Father Heart to Heart with Tom and Jennifer Brokaw"**

Jennifer is an ER doctor who questions her dad's idea that he has taken care of what he wants in his "final" days, weeks, months of life.

She even brings up the fact that she had a very serious skiing accident that happened in her 20's.

So, give it 18 minutes...On YouTube, just click the link below

We can gather in the future and talk about it if you want and I know you won't regret it.



**[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL YOUTUBE TEDxTALK](#)  
and feel free to contact Marian Bigelow if you  
watched. She would love to hear about it from you!**



# DAN BERGGREN

“THE SOUND OF THE ADIRONDACKS”

-BILL MCKIBBEN



MAR 27, 2026

DOORS: 6:45 - SHOW: 7:00



**TICKETS**  
**\$20 IN ADVANCE**  
**\$25 AT THE DOOR**

[UUSARATOGA.ORG/DONATE](https://UUSARATOGA.ORG/DONATE)

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION OF SARATOGA SPRINGS  
624 N. BROADWAY**

DAN BERGGREN IS A TRADITION-BASED SONGSMITH WHO WRITES WITH HONESTY, HUMOR, AND A DEEP SENSE OF PLACE. ROOTED IN THE ADIRONDACKS BUT BELOVED ACROSS BORDERS, DAN WEAVES TOGETHER STORIES OF COMMUNITY, HARD-WORKING PEOPLE, AND OUR CONNECTION TO THE LAND. ACCOMPANIED BY GUITAR AND BANJO, THIS **2025 CAPITAL REGION THOMAS EDISON MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE** OFFERS A RICH, CALMING VOICE THAT BILL MCKIBBEN CALLS "THE SOUND OF THE ADIRONDACKS."



At the capable hands of Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director, our choir is learning new pieces for future services. When you see a member of the choir or Carol Ann be sure and thank them for their hard work bringing a joyful sound to Sunday services.

## Celebrating One of Our Own

An article in *Saratoga Today* (March 6-12 edition, by Jonathon Norcross) celebrates our very own Zack Coffin! He has written and self-published a fantasy novel, titled “Fallen Light” which will be available at local bookstores and on Amazon. The novel, while it includes all the various fantasy races, like elves and orcs, it’s “very character driven” and focuses on how the characters interact with each other. Congratulations on your debut novel, Zack!

## 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.

***You may noticed it hasn't changed in a while. With the snow and weather, it's been difficult to post. We'll be back at it in the early spring.***

[Click here for the archive](#)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Saratoga Springs

518-584-1555 • [uusaratoga.org](http://uusaratoga.org)



Peace is practiced,  
not just prayed.



## 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.

On the next two pages you'll find information Pendell Hill.

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



## Give Away The Plate- for March

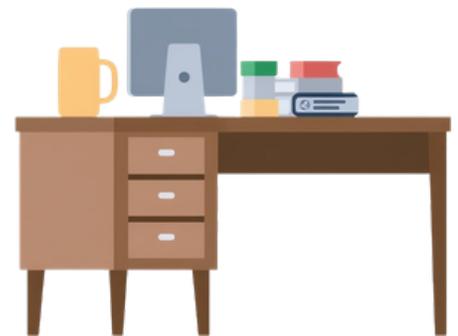
Saratoga Pride is a network of LGBTQ community members and allies dedicated to:

- Fostering connections among Saratoga area LGBTQ community members and visitors
- Enhancing the visibility of the LGBTQ community in Saratoga and the surrounding region
- Recognizing local businesses and organizations that welcome the LGBTQ community
- Increasing awareness of LGBTQ-owned and inclusive businesses and services in the region.



## Recent Sermons

Did you miss service? or was there a sermon you particularly liked? [Click here for them.](#)



## **\*OFFICE HOURS\***

**Juliana will be in the remote office**

***Tuesday through Friday from 9am to 3pm.***

**She will likely leave early on Fridays to accommodate her allowed amount of hours.**

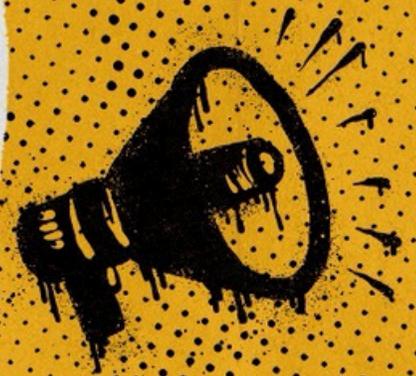
**HOLD THE DATE**

**NO THRONES. NO CROWNS.**

**NO KINGS.**

**→ MARCH 28 ←**

**NOKINGS.ORG**



**SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY**



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 SIGN UP FOR *JOURNEY WELL*, OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, PLEASE USE THE FORM ON THE HOME PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE (lower right)

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

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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)

UUSARATOGA	518-584-1555
<a href="http://uusaratoga.org">uusaratoga.org</a>	Send mail: PO Box 26, Schuylerville NY 12871 Location: 624 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs NY 12866