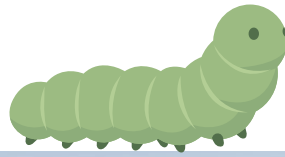


Journey Well



UUSARATOGA

April 24 2026



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



400/404 Louden Road update

1. We have received questions about our Building Permit application from Saratoga Springs. Our architects are preparing answers.
2. Our search for temporary space after the sale of 624 Broadway continues. We have ruled out the ATC downtown conference room as it's too small.
3. We continue to collect pledges for the New Home. The 50k match has generated over \$30k in donations. There is still time to take advantage of the Congregant's generous donation.
4. On Sunday 4/26 after Services, the Task Force will answer questions about the status of the New Home. Please plan on staying and participating.

Peace

Art Holmberg, NHTF

End of Life/Death Cafe/Brokaw TEDx Talk Get together April 26 after service **will be rescheduled** to accommodate New Home Coffee Chat. The new date will be posted in this newsletter as well as in the Breeze Events calendar.

There will be maintenance and upgrades being done to the Spectrum services at the remote office this coming week, 4/26-4/29. I may not get calls, texts or emails, so if it's really important, stop in!

Also, Zoom is being updated the following week, May 4-8. I'm not anticipating any issues, but please be patient through both of these transitions.

THE THEME FOR APRIL IS:
EMBRACING POSSIBILITY



This Sunday's Service



Earth Day Service: What does it mean to be in covenant with our living world?

Sunday April 26, 2026

We gather inside a living system. The Earth moves through our lives as breath, water, and ground. Earth Day invites attention. What we take. What we return. Our lives participate in something larger and continuous.

And so we are not merely guests here. We are in relationship, bound by more than gratitude, called to more than care. Covenant means the other party has standing. The river, the soil, the species we will never name, they hold a claim on us. We come today to remember that claim. And to consider what it requires of us.



A MESSAGE FROM LALE DAVIDSON

Dear friends,

It would mean a great deal to me to see you at my final reading for the Writers Project before I retire, on Monday, April 27, from 12:40 to 1:50 in the Visual Arts Gallery of Dearlove Hall, 640 Bay Road, Queensbury, NY.

I'm going to focus on my short fiction and talk a bit about "How to Write Fiction About Family Without Starting a Feud." I can't say I succeeded in avoiding a feud, but I could certainly show you how I tried.

If you live too far away, you can watch via Zoom using the QR code on the flyer, but it's not always reliable and definitely not as much fun.

Hope to see you there,
Lâle

What's Happening in RE



This month we have been exploring how we can embrace possibilities. This week in honor of Earth Day, we are considering the possibility of healing the damage we have done to the natural world and recommit to being better stewards of this planet. As we do that, we will lift up our UU value of Interdependence. All Life is interconnected, and that requires respect and responsibility for the environment and all beings.

We will practice a guided, nature-inspired yoga and mindfulness practice and engage in some fun trivia based questions about the Earth.

We hope that you, as families, will join our UU Tree Planting Team for Treetoga this Saturday!

See information about how you sign up elsewhere in this Journey Well. Start our Tree Lovers young!





Pastor's Letter

Hi Everyone.

First, a hearty thank you to all who brought beautiful flowers for our Easter service. Wow! It was just a riot of color and joy! Thank you!

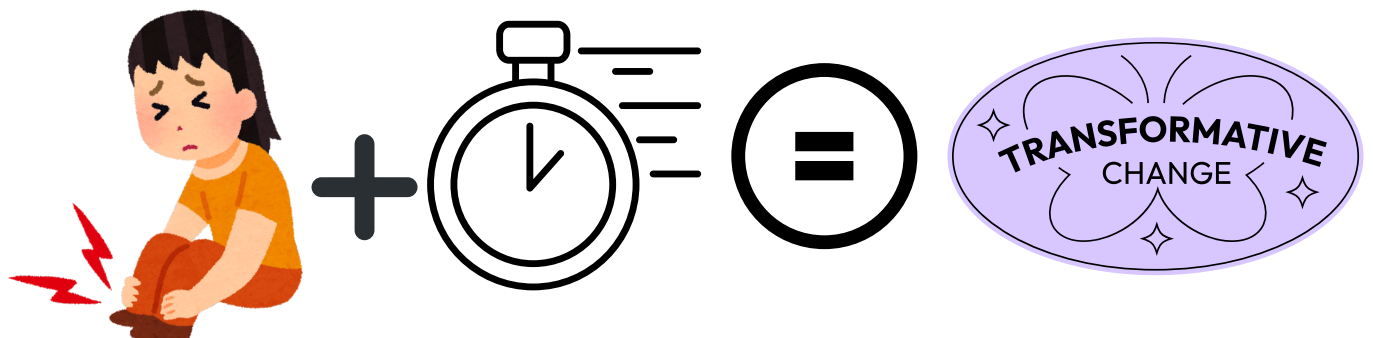
Second, please note that the open conversation around end of life/death and dying we had planned for this Sunday after the service is going to be rescheduled. Marian Bigelow and I will let you know of that date as soon as we pick it!

Third, thank you, everyone, so very much for your patience and kindness as I navigate this strange return to leg issues, which was put in motion forty years ago. I'm trying to be grateful for all the years I've had with feet and legs that carried me through life and allowed me to do all the things I love to do. I'm trying to meet these new challenges (latest development: spasms that cause the foot to contract and send me to the floor, unable to walk, waiting for the moment to pass, and saying a few choice words very loud) with some humor and curiosity ... if I have to have bones in the ankle fused is it possible to do it in the shape of a ski boot? I am meeting with a specialist at Dartmouth on Wednesday of this week and will hopefully then have a game plan.

Turn and face the strange changes is the name of the game, isn't it? (Bowie).

I will see all of you this Sunday. We have some special guests: Lucy Manning's granddaughter, Julia Effinger, is joining as a musical guest, and Lissa Mariano, the new assistant director of Mary's Haven (and a friend of mine) will share a few words about what's happening there as this lovely local hospice house reopens soon.

Warmest spring blessings to all!
Melissa



Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Saratoga Springs

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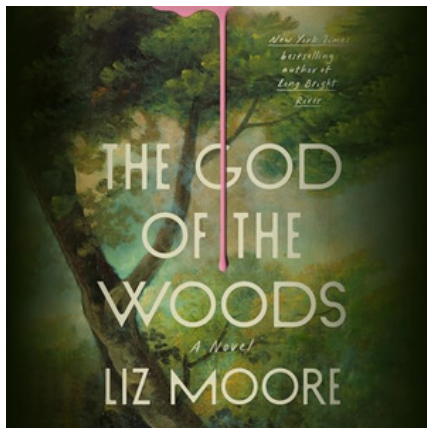
**It is spring again.
The earth is like a
child that knows
poems by heart.**

—Rainer Maria Rilke

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](#)



BOOK GROUP

May's selection is *God of The Woods* by Liz Moore. The next meeting is on Monday May 18,, 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.

Join our UU group for Tree Toga on Saturday, April 25. Rain or Shine

Meet at The High Tunnel at Pitney Meadows (north entrance) for a 9 am start and help plant the next generation of shade trees in Saratoga Springs. Afterwards celebrate at Treehouse Brewing on Route 9. Any questions, call Ron Giancola, 518-886-8471.

Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

April 26, 2026 Sunday

10am Worship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)

11am Coffee Chat with NHTF

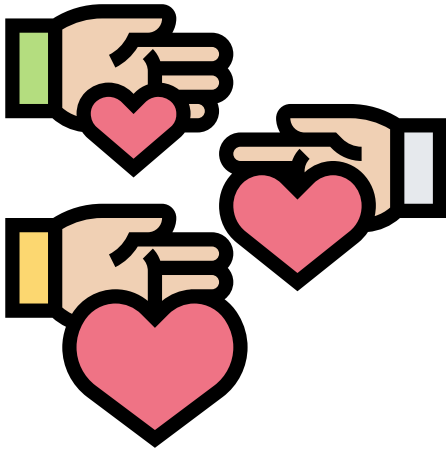
Saturday May 2, 2026 Hal Bigelow's memorial service 3pm (see info on next page)

May 3, 2026 Sunday

10am Worship Service with RE (in person and online)



LWV screening of *SUFFS*, the musical written by Barbara Kass's husband Lewis Taub's daughter. It is free and open to the public, at NYS museum on May 3. [Click here for the link to register](#)



FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS

The Fundraising Committee held a successful Trivia Night. Thirty two participants enjoyed an evening of competition, fun, good snacks and wine.

Everyone appeared to be enjoying the event.

We made \$450. Our hope is to have more trivia nights, grow the attendance and make more money for our new church building fund.

Our next fundraiser will be our annual auction which will be held in late May or early June. We will set a date shortly.

This auction is for our congregation and close friends only since many of the auctioned off items/events involve the use of our private homes. We are now looking for donations for the auction. Donations can be items or events. For example, in the past such EVENTS as boat rides, hikes, birdwatching, backyard BBQs, dinners, visits to camps, corn hole in the backyard, taking people to the airport among others have been auctioned off. ITEMS are limitless with home made pies and cakes, furniture, fire wood, house concert, etc.

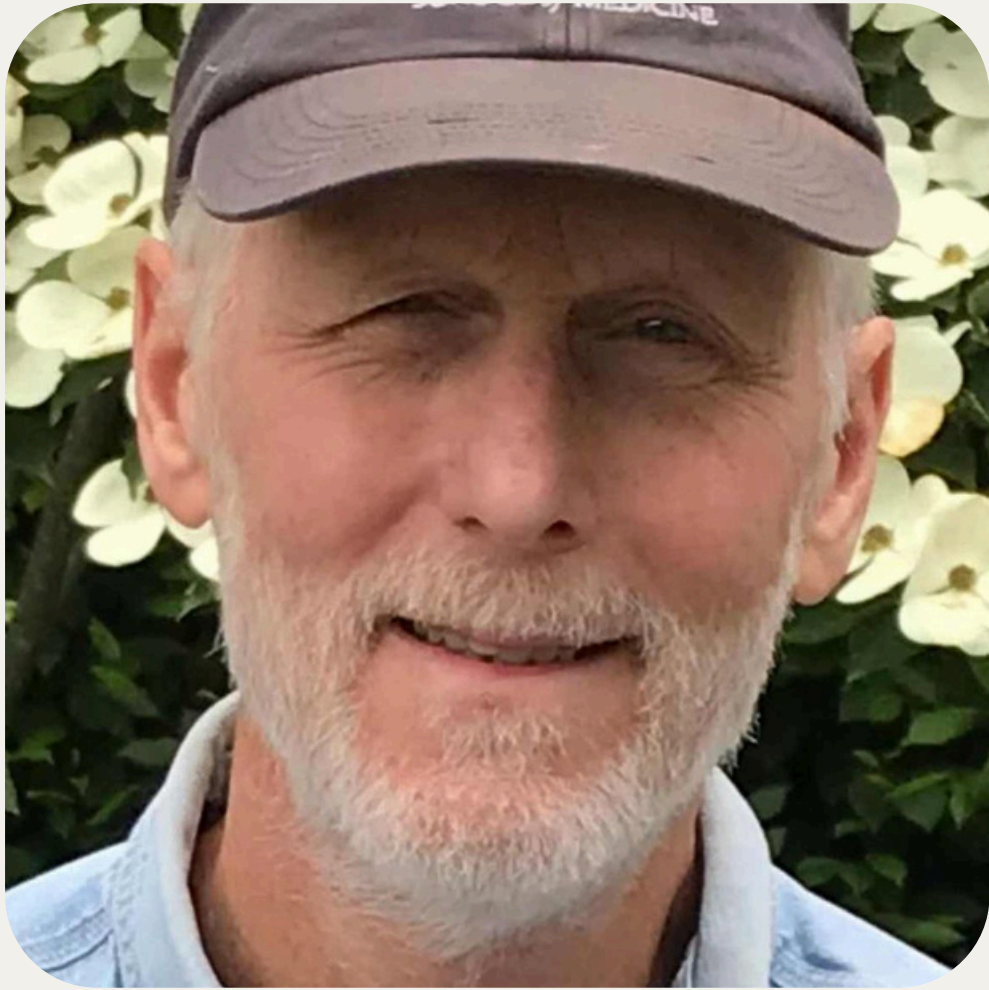
We usually have 10 items in a silent auction that runs concurrently with the active auction.

If you have an item/activity/event that you would like to auction off, please see Bev Lawson. Shortly we will have forms to fill out regarding your offerings for the auction.

Bev Lawson

Hi,
Spring





Celebrating the life of
HAL BIGELOW

PLEASE JOIN US FOR HAL'S MEMORIAL
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF
SARATOGA SPRINGS MEETINGHOUSE
624 N. BROADWAY, SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866

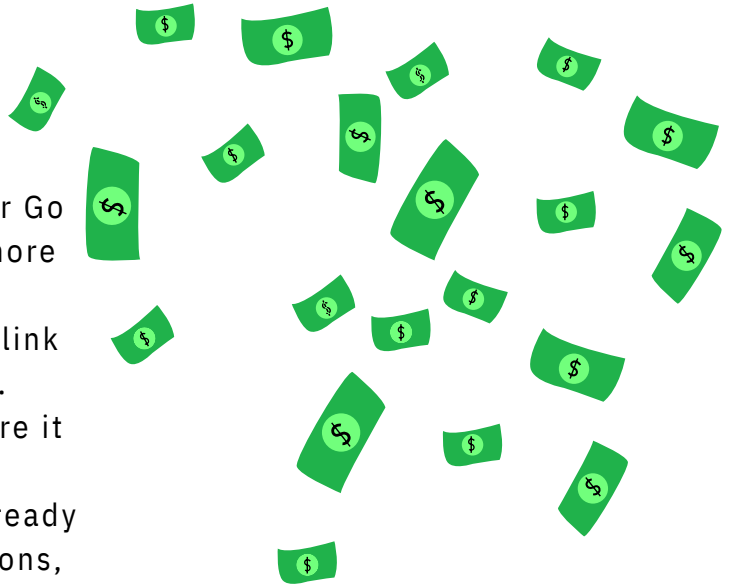
Saturday, 2nd of May 3:00pm

SHARE ME!!!

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

All it takes is a couple of clicks to send our Go Fund Me Link to everyone you know! The more it's shared the more donations we'll have toward our new home. Copy and paste the link in an email or text and share, share, share. Encourage those you send it to to also share it with everyone they know.

UPDATE: \$3,995 of the initial \$8,000 is already in our bank accounts! TWENTY ONE donations, as little as \$25 and as high as \$1000!



Let's Talk: Monday Movie Forum:

Solar Energy & the New York Power Grid will be screened Monday, April 27th at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Glens Falls, (21 Weeks Road), Queensbury, NY, at 6:30PM. Dr. Chris Hoy and Marion Trieste will facilitate a discussion after the movie. The event is free and open to the public.

Two short films explore the viability of siting and incorporating solar and wind energy in New York State's power grid. The films, made by Richard Perez, PhD, Senior Research Faculty Emeritus of the University at Albany's Atmospheric Sciences department, have been described as "transformational."

Dr. Hoy is a member of Third Act Upstate New York. Ms. Trieste is a member of the Climate Work Group at Indivisible ADK/Saratoga. Both are activists who promote education as a pathway to positive change.

The UU Congregation hosts these monthly film forums to bring the community together for thoughtful discussion of current events.



Promises Kept

On the approach to Stamford NY, while driving south on Route 10 as we often do to visit relatives in the Catskills, you may observe to the east an attractive red horse barn bearing in white lettering the expression, “Promises Kept” . I assume the phrase concludes the dual phrase, “Promises Made, Promises Kept.” It is interesting to engage in speculation as to the history behind the sign. Was the red barn the fulfillment of a promise made to build it, to relocate to the Catskills or to breed horses? Or does the expression have a religious or emotional connotation, like living a “Christian life” or fulfilling a promise to a departed loved one. It seems that whatever the promise was, it was kept, the fulfillment of an obligation, a duty discharged.

Like a handshake, historically understood to signify an understanding and a mutual commitment to honor it, the “promises made and promises kept” expression dates to medieval times as a statement of a fulfilled obligation and was understood as a mark of character and integrity.

Our faith rests on covenants, distinctive commitments we make which define us. Intuitively we know that adherence to the covenants we make constitutes an exchange of promises. In keeping the promises implicit in the covenants that define our faith, we expect reciprocity from others knowing that collectively we have created a distinctive community, one that respects kindness and decency and honors values such as pluralism, diversity, and duty. We promise to treat others as we expect to be treated – promises made promises kept – a sacred obligation.

Several years ago, we made promises to each other regarding building a New Meeting House and most of us made financial pledges to achieve that end. Based on those pledges and on solemn votes of the Congregation, our leaders moved forward in good faith and in reliance on the pledges to make commitments required to keep the promise we made to each other to build a new home. The scope of those decisions reflects the belief that the pledges will be paid and in reliance thereof binding obligations have been assumed to pay for the new building.

If you made a promise to the Congregation by way of a pledge, please keep that promise and pay your pledge. Remember that paid pledges are tax deductible.

Eric Lawson





Social Justice Team

Please check our UUSaratoga website for more info.

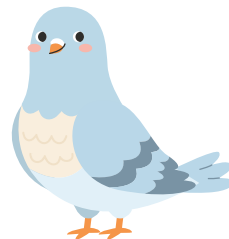
Check out the latest notes including events on our website. There's LOTS happening in our community!

Below: our Albany UU friends!



Recent Sermons

Did you miss a service? Or was there a sermon you particularly liked? Click here for them.



Give Away The Plate-for April: Saratoga Immigration Coalition



Saratoga Immigration Coalition, an organization which offers support, education and advocacy to foster communities that are welcoming to all immigrants. It is a volunteer network partnering with service providers, faith communities, civic organizations and concerned individuals to support immigrants residing in Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

Please remember that the first plate collection of the month is donated. Any other donations to the monthly GATP should be designated as such.



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

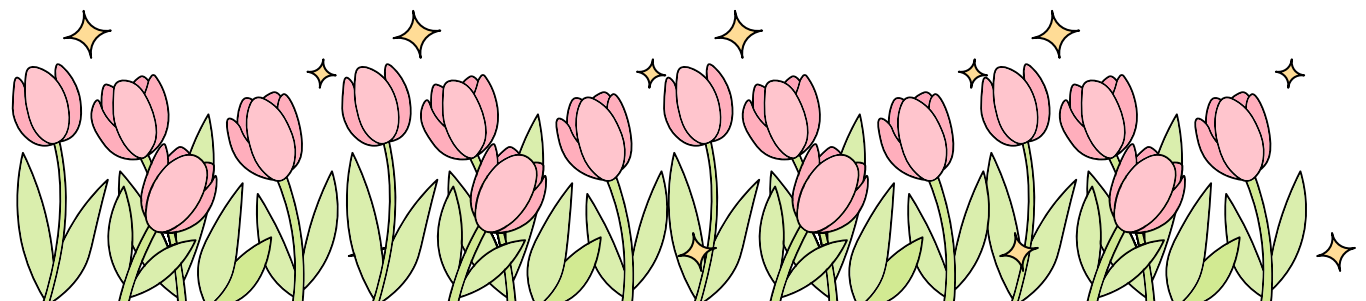
If you would like to sign the book and become a member, please let Audrey Belt (beltaudrey@gmail.com) know and she will bring the Membership Book to a UU service for you to sign. Qualifications for membership per the UUCSS Bylaws: Anyone 18 years and older can sign the book. Signing the book indicates 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 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 9:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun

Join Zoom Meeting

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

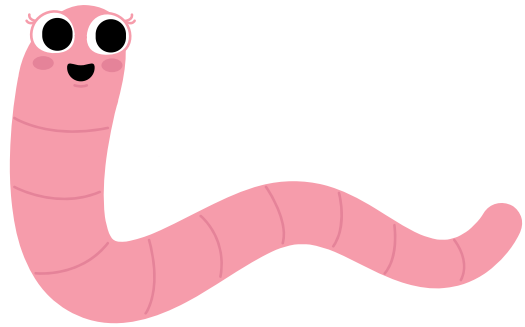
Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305

Passcode: 466653

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,91704074305# US

+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)



Join instructions

<https://zoom.us/join/91704074305/invitations?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU> (copy and paste into your browser)

OFFICE HOURS Tues-Fri 9am-3pm May close early Fridays	518-584-1555 uusaratoga.org
Meetinghouse 624 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs NY 12866	Mailing Address PO Box 26, Schuylerville NY 12871