
Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

April 3 2026



Update from Task Force regarding New Home

1. Jim Cox, our attorney completed his evaluation of the Bast Hatfield Contract. He stated that it was a standard document with no issues in the language of the document. We spent time reviewing the financial aspects of the contract. We need to demonstrate how the construction will be paid for before they start the work. If we don't pay our bills on time, there will be penalties. As everyone knows, a large portion of the Contract costs will be paid by the sale of our building in July. Thus, we will not sign the contract until the sale is completed and we can demonstrate our ability to pay for the construction.

2. Go Fund Me and \$50,000.00 matching continue. We are still short about \$64,000.00. There will be a Congregation wide email with specific guidelines on how you can send the Go Fund Me initiative to friends and relatives. Every amount of money will be matched up to \$50,000.00, so even small contributions will be doubled.

3. A couple members of the Congregation are exploring temporary space for Services when we sell 624 Broadway. We will likely need to be in temporary space for 6-8 months. We are looking at the newly renovated Art Center and the Senior Citizens Center. We will keep Congregants informed and seek everyone's input once we have all the details. Stand by!

4. We will meet with Bast Hatfield staff soon and go over our lawyer's comments and request changes to the Construction Contract. More to come after the meeting.

That's all for this week.

Art for the Task Force

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 APRIL IS:
EMBRACING POSSIBILITY



This Sunday's Service



EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2026 10:00AM

MELISSA O'BRIEN, INTERIM PASTOR



The Hudson-Mohawk cluster will hold its shared worship service on April 19th at Schenectady UU. We will be needing 3-4 volunteers to help with greeting, ushers, coffee, snack clean up, etc. More info in the coming weeks.

Want to attend virtually?

The worship link is

<http://bit.ly/uuschenectadyworship>

The service will be at 10:30.

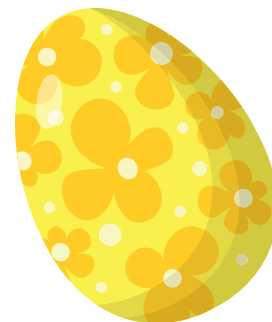
Remember, there will be NO IN PERSON OR ZOOM service at 624 N. Broadway on April 19th.

What's Happening in RE



April--All month long we will be exploring how we can embrace possibilities. This week we are exploring how we can embrace the possibility of building a better world. Sometimes people treat each other unfairly. Our UU faith reminds us that it is possible to build a better world and everyone of us has a part to play with our words, our kindness, our creativity or our courage. Our faith invites us to keep caring and building together. Every one of us helps shape the world we share. We will consider lots of possibilities... and have some fun too!

Thinking ahead: The last day of RE on Sundays will be June 21 . It will start up again in September.



Hudson Mohawk area Unitarian Universalist congregations annual joint worship service
Unitarian Universalists of Albany, Catskills, Glens Falls, Saratoga Springs & Schenectady



Sunday April 19

at 10:30 am

1221 Wendell Ave, 12308
UU Society of Schenectady
Zoom info at uuschenectady.org

Activities provided for
kids 5 -12, and childcare
for younger kids.

Finger-food potluck
after worship.

A movie will be offered
for kids to watch during
the workshop.

WORSHIP 10:30 am

Reckoning with Resilience

Julian of Norwich famously said “All manner of things will be well.” But how is that possible when there is so much oppression, suffering, and violence?

In this age of encroaching fascism, we must build practices of resilience & joy amidst grief, anger, & despair. Come sing, pray, play, & reckon together! Music from our joint choir.

WORKSHOP 12:15 pm

Undermining Pillars of Support:

4th Amendment Wedge Strategy

How do we prevent an authoritarian administration from becoming full-on fascism? Today we'll: review ways to undermine Pillars of Support and practice strategic non-cooperation

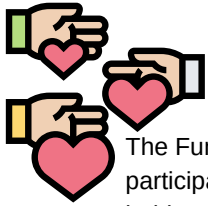
explore how UUs can help grow networks of 4th Amendment Workplaces to help employers and workers understand their rights if ICE arrives

provide training and materials to recruit local businesses in this work and build relationships within your congregation and community.

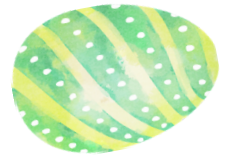
Our Guest Minister & Workshop Leader

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, they/them, is a Leadership Development Specialist at Side With Love, the UUA's national organizing department. Cathy runs SWL's monthly *Gathering* and recently supported UUs nationwide in the successful *Stop Avelo* campaign, co-leading the Delaware Coalition. They also love singing, dark chocolate, board games, gardening, and being silly.





FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS



The Fundraising Committee is planning our next fundraiser, a "Trivia Night". This will be a smaller event limited to 48 participants plus those who help with the evening. Our goal is to see if it is successful in which case we may be able to hold a number of Trivia nights through the course of the year. It is also less intense work-wise than many of our events. Trivia Night will be held in the meeting house on Saturday April 18th from 6:30 to 8:30 with the doors opening at 6PM. The cost is \$10 per player which includes admission and snacks. Wine and beverages will be for sale. We will have 12 tables of 4 each. People can sign up with a group of four or pair up at the church with others who do not have a group of four. Little prizes will be provided for the winning table of each of six sets of questions and larger prizes for the table that has the highest overall score for the six sets.

Doug Halburg will play the keyboard while tables discuss the answers to questions to minimize contestants hearing another table's discussion.

We will sell tickets in the back of the church on a couple Sundays to avoid paying a percentage of the admission fee per ticket for a credit card company fee.

The only problem is the lack of tables in the church. Therefore we need 8 people to offer to bring a card table to the church. We have access to 4 already. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church for those of you who can loan a card table.

See me if you have questions.

In late May or early June we will have our annual goods and services auction. Please be thinking about what you might have to auction off---a meal, an item, a service, etc.

We hold this auction just for our church members and friends since many of the auctioned off items involve coming to a person's home.

Bev Lawson



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

For General Assembly in 2026, we are creating a virtual "everywhere GA" with both online and distributed in-person options that will allow Unitarian Universalists to participate in whichever way works best for them. This new format will reduce travel costs and environmental impacts, offer optional in-person connections, streamline production costs, and provide a more flexible schedule for participants.

We know there is a deep need in this moment to build and sustain community as Unitarian Universalists. Given the strain that our congregations and individual UUs face in the current political climate, when travel brings increased risks and person-to-person connection remains important to our continued thriving, we are leaning into this creative approach.

To maintain safety, accessibility, and equity, the UUA is offering several ways to engage with the content and connections offered at this virtual GA, including fully virtual participation streaming live across many time zones.

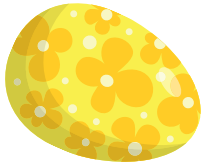
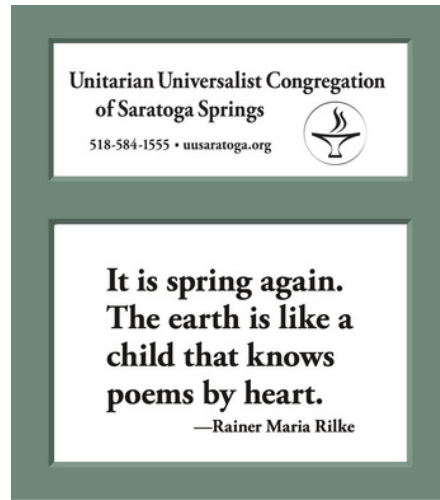
By experimenting with smaller, more localized gatherings we can uphold the value of equity for GA participants around the country and production quality that supports the experience of online attendees. Truly, we can be together everywhere as we build the courage and capacity to Meet the Moment.

UUSaratoga is looking for delegates to attend in any and all ways. Take a look at the UUA website and check out the many options to attend.

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](#)

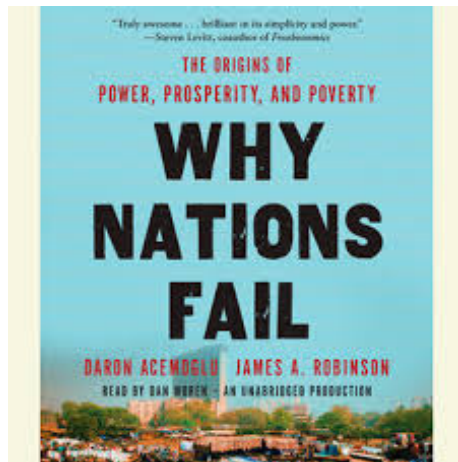


LADIES' LUNCHEON

Spring feels like it is just about here! Come out and celebrate with old friends, and meet some new ones at our monthly luncheon gathering. It's an opportunity to sit and chat in a relaxed atmosphere so we get to know each other a little better.

We will meet on Tuesday, April 7th at 12:00noon. We meet at the Regent Restaurant in the Brookmere Hotel in Saratoga Springs. The food is good, and the company is great! If you would like to join us please RSVP tarilee@gmail.com and I will save a space at the table for you!

Tari Lee



BOOK GROUP

April's selection is "Why Nations Fail" by D. Acemoglu & James Robinson. The next meeting is on Monday April 20, 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.

Legacy



In his profoundly thoughtful sermon last Sunday, “The Journey Inward,” Kevin O’Brien invited us to examine the relationship between spirituality and suffering in our lives.

In 2024 Becky Hawkins, a longtime member of the UUCSS, was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. For those of us who knew Becky, her reaction to this dreadful diagnosis was not surprising. Becky’s life had been characterized by an exuberance that was close to breathtaking. Her commitment to people close to her, including the children she taught in Broadalbin, and to the beliefs and ideas that she resonated with was total. There was nothing timid about Becky and that included her faith.

In the months prior to her passing in April 2025, Becky travelled widely even going overseas, visited friends from long ago, made new friends and extracted from the fleeting time left to her, joy, love, and devotion. And when her last hours on earth became apparent and even though she was unable to speak, she still was able to have those closest to her lie beside her as she completed her physical journey on earth.

Although her passing removed Becky physically, it did nothing but brighten the marvelous memories she left behind; her persona lived on in her life’s work and the personal reminiscences of all who knew her. She left more than these treasured hallmarks, however.

Following her death, it was revealed that Becky had designated UUCSS in her will with a gift of more than \$240,000. This was a gift of pure love, a gesture at the end of Becky’s life reflecting in a stunning fashion her commitment to the individuals who constitute the UUCSS- you and me- and the principles and values it stands for.

As generous as it is, Becky’s gift was fortuitous as well, being made at a critical time in the fund-raising efforts for a new church. The gift provided the momentum needed to make our dream of a new building a reality. At this point we are within \$65,000 of fully financing the cost of our new meeting house. While not a piddling sum, the energy and enthusiasm on display in recent months assures me that the final gap in financing will be closed thereby authorizing Arthur Holmberg to sign the construction contract.

Faced with the absolute certainty of her own demise and gripped by the cruelty of her failing health, Becky found expression in her gift to us and to the community we serve.

As Kevin O’Brien brought to our attention, Viktor Frankl wrote, “If there is meaning to life, there must be meaning to suffering”.

When you occupy our new Meeting House, Becky will be there to greet you.

Eric Lawson

Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

April 5, 2026 Sunday
10am Worship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)

April 7, 2026 Tuesday
12pm UUCSS Ladies Luncheon Off site

April 8, 2026 Wednesday
10am New Home Task Force meeting

April 9, 2026 Thursday
10am Membership/Hospitality Team meeting
6:30pm Board meeting

April 12, 2026 Sunday
10am Worship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)



There are still spaces left at the April and May Circle Suppers.

Three host families would love to welcome you into their homes for a delicious meal, interesting conversation and friendly gathering. The host provides the main dish, guests bring a side. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary. After you choose your date, call the host and let them know what you would like to bring.

Hosts:

Bev and Eric Lawson - Saturday, April 25

Elizabeth and John Collins - Sunday, May 3

Barbara and Joe Floeser - Saturday, May 16

Phone numbers are on the sign-up sheet

Go Fund Me Is LIVE!

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

As we move forward to build our new home, we need your help. Please share the above link to our Go Fund Me drive with your friends, family, businesses and community. If they cannot donate, they can also share the link with their friends, family, etc. The farther it spreads the better it'll work to get us those needed funds!



Moving Out Again?!

As the time for the meeting house to be sold approaches, we will again need a new temporary spot for our Sunday services. As you might know, the Task Force team visited many sites that were unworkable or too expensive. Caffe Lena became our adopted home until we are in the new building.

Of course, the disabled elevator, limited social time and RE space resulted in our return to 624 Broadway. Well, it's time again to relocate. The elevator is fixed, and there is RE space downstairs that is workable, we are negotiating for a longer social hour....and the price of \$50 a week is such a gift. The purpose of this message is to ask anyone who would like to search for a different alternative to please jump in and let the Task Force know your thinking. Of course, nothing will be ideal but we are open to suggestions. We have about 4 months left at our present spot.

Julie Holmberg for the Task Force



NEWS FROM THE UUA



As the UUA continues to implement recommendations from the widening the Circle of Concern report, we are taking a serious look at the barriers preventing full inclusion in the religious leadership of our faith. In response to a growing understanding of the rapidly changing needs of our congregations and ministers, the Transitions Review Task Force has been charged with undertaking a comprehensive review and redesign of the ministerial transitions process. Learn about the Task Force and how you can share feedback confidentially through our online survey form.

[Transitions Review Task Force](#)

On April 13, Side With Love's The Gathering will focus on how we can turn our congregations and communities into Hubs of Resilience. Amid extreme weather and climate disruption, our congregations and communities can be powerful hubs of care, connection, and critical infrastructure. Join Rachel Myslivy, Side With Love's Climate Justice Strategist, at 8pm ET/5pm PT to learn more. [The Gathering: Hubs of Resilience](#)

Rev. Sofia Bentancourt wants to share an important message with you that's new for everyone at UUA - a State of the Association meant to update you on the work of your Association, invite you into further collaboration, and offer the kind of transparency that is required for all of us to hold the heart of the faith together. This event was held on March 30th.

[Click here to watch it via YouTube](#)





Self-Portrait with Death Playing the Fiddle by Arnold Böcklin (1827-1901)

Skidmore Chorus presents an evening of compelling choral music featuring Mozart's Requiem and Caroline Shaw's To the Hands. The Skidmore Orchestra joins the chorus for Mozart's Requiem, conducted by Georgia Mills. Floydd Ricketts conducts Shaw's To the Hands, a work that blends contemporary and baroque styles and reflects on themes of displacement and human connection.

FEATURING

Naomi Wagner, soprano
Julia Steidle, mezzo-soprano
Casey Gray, tenor
Christopher Price, baritone

This concert is free and open to the public. RSVP is encouraged!

Presented by the Skidmore Department of Music

MOZART REQUIEM

WITH TO THE HANDS BY CAROLINE SHAW

TUE, APRIL 21 at 7:00PM

[Click here to RSVP](#)





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!



Give Away The Plate- for April: Saratoga Immigration Coalition

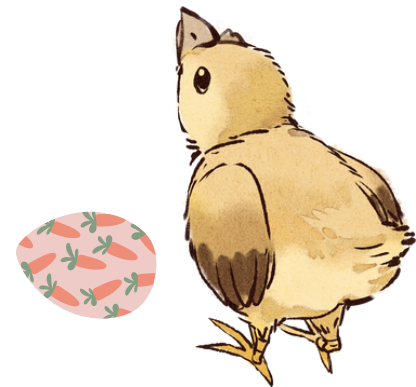
Saratoga Immigration Coalition, an organization which offers support, education and advocacy to foster communities that are welcoming to all immigrants. It is a volunteer network partnering with service providers, faith communities, civic organizations and concerned individuals to support immigrants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



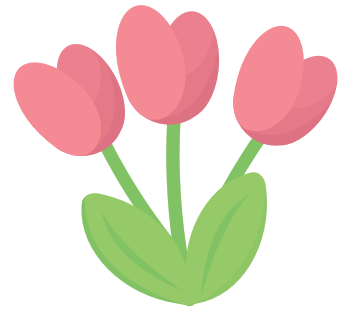
Recent Sermons

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





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/meetings/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