

# Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

May 22 2026



## NEW HOME UPDATE!

1. Our attorney submitted an affidavit to NYS Attorneys General to receive approval to sell 624 Broadway.
2. Met with Don Davis, our architect to review our Building Permit request. Information was submitted to the City for approval.
3. Task Force is considering recommending another capital campaign to raise money for the New Home. So far, 67 members have pledged.
4. A group of Congregants have shown an interest in helping with the landscaping and plantings. If members do this ourselves, we could save money.
5. Paver fundraiser coming. More to follow in weeks ahead.

...AND SOME OFFICE UPDATES! <sup>The Task Force</sup>

We now have our own Zoom license instead of being under the UUA's. It took two weeks but I did manage to finally get the 50% discount!

I've been working diligently to make sure UU Saratoga is a registered and designated 501c3 in the state of NY. So far, it's been rejected twice. Thursday I had to pay the fee to have it "reviewed." That's a good sign!

I've also managed to get Canva (which I use to create this newsletter every week) FOR NON-PROFITS! More features, still free to use!

The office is closed all next week so I can spend time with my daughter before she's off on her own into the world! If you need something, contact the Board by emailing [board@uusaratoga.org](mailto:board@uusaratoga.org)

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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Nw Home updates

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Committees and Teams News Updates

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THE THEME FOR JUNE IS:  
FLOURISHING TOGETHER



## This Sunday's Service

**Crossing the Threshold**  
**May 24, 2026 at 10:00 am**

**Crossing the Threshold: The beginning of our 8-part series on transitions in our lives and our congregation.**

**"Thresholds have a way of waking us up. They remind us that life does not remain fixed. Communities do not remain fixed. We do not remain fixed."**

## What's Happening in RE



**There is NO class this week. Enjoy some sunshine and family time together!**

**A Taste of What's To Come!**  
**[Click here to see some of Rev. Viola Abbitt's sermons.](#)**

## JUST A QUICK NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

FRIENDS!

I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME IN MONTANA, BREATHING IN THE LANDSCAPE AND SPENDING EVERY SECOND MY DAUGHTER WOULD ALLOW IN HER COMPANY. GLACIER! WHITEFISH. IT WAS A WONDERFUL WAY TO TURN 61.

JUST A REMINDER THAT THIS SUNDAY I WILL HAVE A BRIEF COFFEE CHAT ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL CARE FOR SENIORS PROJECT MY SON, SAM, AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON. WE NEED A SMALL COHORT OF USERS FOR A PILOT PROGRAM. I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND HOPE YOU'RE INTERESTING IN HELPING.

THEN ON JUNE 7 MARION BIGELOW AND I WILL HOST A POST-SERVICE GATHERING ON THE AMAZING AND WONDERFUL SUBJECT OF OUR MORTALITY! PLEASE JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE ALL THINGS END OF LIFE ... AND MAYBE EVEN BEYOND!

CHEERS AND SEE YOU THIS SUNDAY WHEN WE WILL BEGIN OUR 8-WEEK EXPLORATION OF TRANSITIONS AND THRESHOLDS AS WE EACH SEEK TO BECOME CURIOUS AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. THIS WILL MOVE US THROUGH MY WINDING DOWN AND PREPARATIONS TO WELCOME REV. VIOLA!

WITH MANY BLESSINGS,  
MELISSA



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Saratoga Springs**

518-584-1555 • uusatoga.org



**Gardening is active  
participation in the  
deepest mysteries  
of the universe.**

—Thomas Berry

## 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

June's selection is *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan. The next meeting is on Monday June 15, 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).



## Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

**Sunday May 24**

**10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)**

**11am The SAM Project: pilot program**

**Tuesday May 26**

**7pm League of Women Voters event  
Sanctuary**

**Sunday May 31**

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

**Tuesday June 2**

**12pm UUCSS Ladies Luncheon Off site**

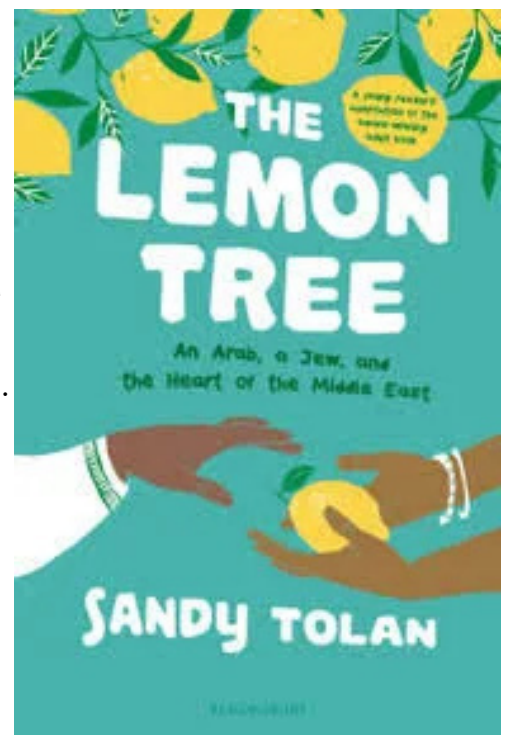
**Wednesday June 3**

**10am New Home Task Force meeting**

**6pm Learning about UU Sanctuary**

**Thursday June 4**

**9am The Breakfast Group Off site**





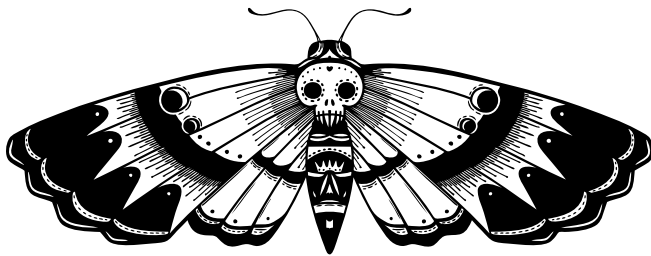
ABOUT UU

Learning  
— IS —  
FUN!

On Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 to 8:00 PM, the Membership/Hospitality Team will offer the class "Learning about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSS (LAUU)." The one night session will be led by Faye Mihuta, Barbara Floeser, and Dianne Kiernan.

Attendees will meet others new to the congregation while we define Unitarian Universalism and explore its long and rich history, as well as learn about the founding of UUCSS. We will talk about our collective values and beliefs and have the opportunity to discuss those with one another. Leaders will also share what it means to become a member of this congregation and the many ways in which people can engage in congregational life at UUCSS.

As a way to prepare for this class, those who sign up will receive a link to three short videos about Unitarian Universalism that total about 30 minutes of viewing time. There will be a sign up sheet at the rear of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Floeser--[bfloeseraka@gmail.com](mailto:bfloeseraka@gmail.com). Thank you for considering joining us on June 3 for some thoughtful reflections.....and refreshments!

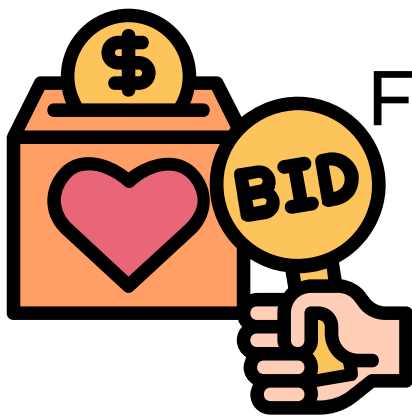


Death Cafe Sunday June 7 at Meeting House 11:30am

Hosted by Melissa O'Brien and Marian Bigelow

Easy, open discussion of End of Life issues.

Suggested you watch Tom Brokaw Ted talk beforehand. [Click here for the video](#)



# FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS



Our next fundraiser will be our annual auction which will be held on Saturday June 13 from 6-8:30pm. 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 STILL 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.

There are forms in the back of the sanctuary to fill out for each item to be included in the auction. If you have decided on an item, please fill out a form and give it to Kerry or Bev this Sunday. We need to have all forms by the end of May.

We still need a few more items for the live and silent auction on Saturday June 13th. I must know what the items are by June 1st so we can print a bulletin describing all the items which we can use during the auction. We need help with the action and people to bake goodies for our consumption during intermission. Please sign up on the yellow paper in the back of the sanctuary. Damian Redman has volunteered to be the auctioneer again this year. He had the opportunity to be the auctioneer last year and must have enjoyed it since he is willing to auction items again.

## Perennial Sale

For many years the church has held a vegetable, herbs and perennial flowers sale at the church in May. The highlight was always Murray's tomatoes. A couple years ago we discontinued the tradition since most of those growing plants, dividing perennials and helping with the sale were in their 70s and 80s and growing tired of the intense labor for this event. But last Sunday a conversation in the back of the church about what to do with our divided perennials led to a plan to have a small perennial flower sale on Lawson's front lawn late in May---date to be determined. If you are interested and have perennials, please divide and pot them as soon as you can so they can rejuvenate and look perky by sale time. If you need pots, help yourself. They are in the fenced in playground area. Please let Bev know what you're contributing to the sale!

## Have You Thought About How To Donate Securities to UU Saratoga?? It's easy!

Transferring appreciated securities with long-term capital gains directly to UUCSS is a tax-efficient way to give. When you donate securities directly, you may avoid paying capital gains tax and may also qualify for a federal income tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the donated assets. For more information and instructions on donating securities, including stocks and mutual funds, please email Diane Allegro at [diane.allegro@outlook.com](mailto:diane.allegro@outlook.com).





## 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!

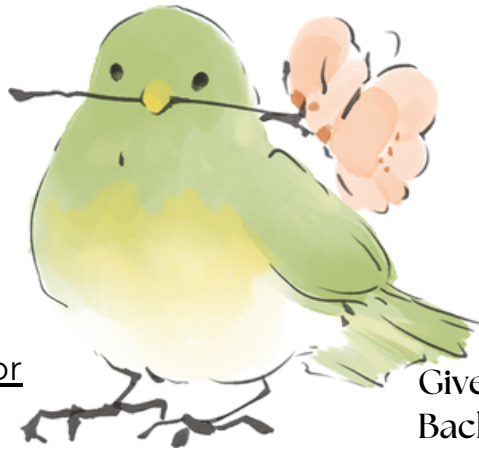
At 7PM on May 26 at the UU Saratoga Church the League is hosting a workshop for the community to better understand the DDDA. Please share and join us.  
<https://www.lwvsaratoga.org/events/2026/4/30/dddaworkshop>

Mark Long is stepping down as the chair of this incredible group as of June 1. We wish you well!

### 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.



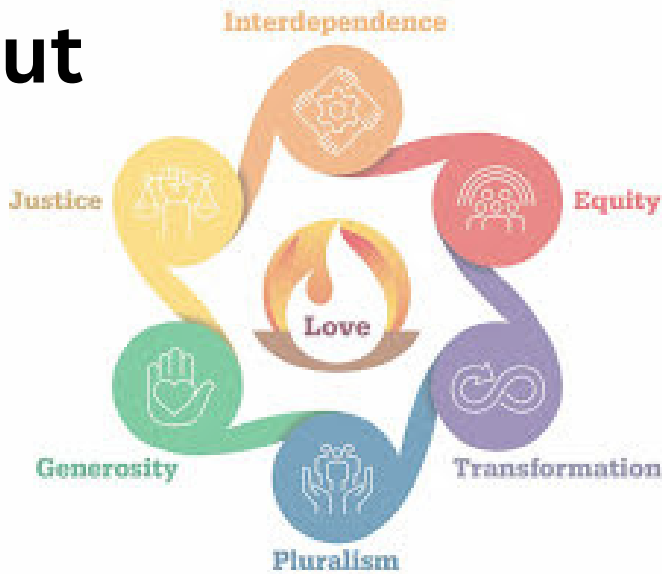
## Give Away The Plate-for June is BEST: Backstretch Employees Service Team

Devoted to meeting the health and social welfare needs of several thousand backstretch workers of the Aqueduct, Belmont, and Saratoga racetracks by providing on-site counseling and primary healthcare services, access to health insurance and case management assistance.

### 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](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](#)**

# Sunday



UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Worship Service  
Time: 10:00am  
Every week on Sun

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?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU> (copy and paste into your browser)

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