

# Journey Well



UUSARATOGA

June 12, 2026



This weeks news:

1. The Saratoga City Design/review committee delayed the approval of the buyer's condo design at 624 Broadway. The next meeting is July 8, 2026.

This delay of a month will delay the sale closing of our present meeting house.

2. Charlie Goodridge, our realtor predicts that the sale closing won't take place until August or September. Thus, we will not be able to start our build of the new home until then.

3. The Moving Out Committee is getting organized to schedule a move from 624 a couple weeks before the closing date. More to come.

Peace

Art

HAPPY  
JUNE  
TEENTH



In this newsletter  
you can expect:

---

Upcoming  
Sunday Services

---

What's  
Happening in RE

---

Upcoming  
Events and  
meetings

---

Nw Home  
updates

---

Committees and  
Teams News  
Updates

---

THE THEME FOR JUNE IS:  
FLOURISHING TOGETHER



# Reconciliation – Healing Broken Relationships.

June 14, 2026 at 10:00 am

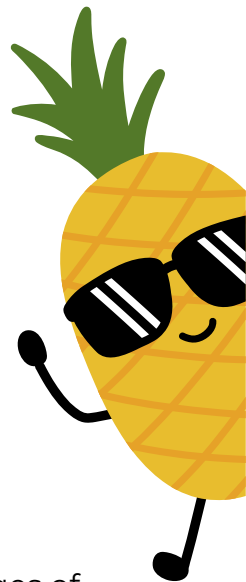
With Rev. John Fisher

Sometimes our personal relationships are more troubled than we'd wish. How can we mend what's broken? Rev. John Fisher will look at how Ho'oponopono, the Hawaiian reconciliation ritual of reconciliation, echoes UU values.



June has SO many possibilities for religious exploration. Pride celebrations and understanding, Juneteenth AND Father's Day! We'll be touching on each of these in the next few weeks. Plus we need to finish up our interviews with our future selves, 30 years from now. So interesting to hear what each kiddo envisions for her/him/them selves!

A gentle reminder: The last RE class is on June 21!




Another of Rev Viola Abbitt's services in VA [Click here for the YouTube video of the service](#)

And another! [Click here!](#)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Saratoga Springs

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



# SARATOGA'S 5th ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

## Messages of Freedom

a free event\* featuring live music, special performances, art, and knowledge - hosted by Our Lodge Foundation



**Friday, June 19, 2026 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Saratoga Regional YMCA**

**290 West Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Community Tabling & Vendors

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Family Workshops:  
Freedom Quilt Project  
Drumming Circle  
Face Painting

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Cultural Celebration Program

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Jubilee Reception  
w/ cake & ice cream



Scan QR Code or visit [www.ourlodgefoundation.org/juneteenth](http://www.ourlodgefoundation.org/juneteenth) for more info.

\*All adults (18 years and older) must sign in at YMCA's front desk with Photo ID.  
All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Event News**  
**[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)**

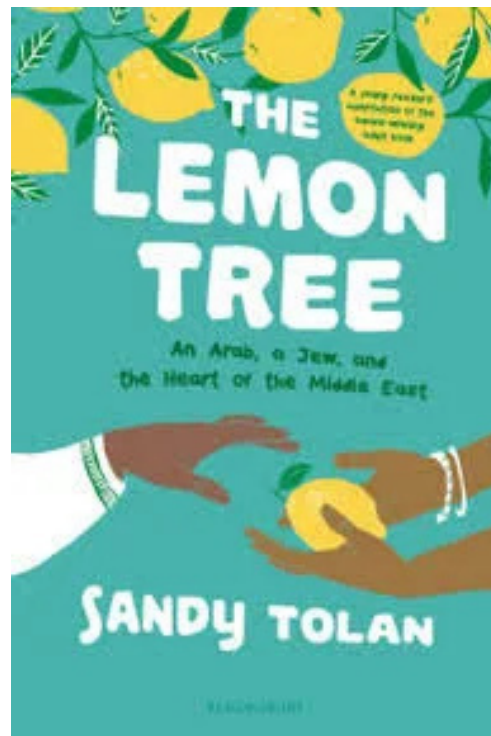
Saturday June 13, 2026  
6 pm Goods and Services Auction

Sunday June 14, 2026  
10 am Worship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)

Monday June 15, 2026  
6pm UUCSS Book Group

Thursday June 18, 2026  
9am The Men's Breakfast Group  
4pm Care Team Meeting

Sunday June 21, 2026  
Last Day of RE  
10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)



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



**THIS SATURDAY!**  
**Be there and**  
**bid!**



*UU Saratoga*  
**GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION**

Saturday, June 13, 2026  
Doors open at 6pm for wine and desserts





Who'd a Thunk it!



On May 6<sup>th</sup>, in Journey Well, I authored an article about the phenomenal victory of Golden Tempo in the Kentucky Derby. He came from dead last on the final turn of the race, with odds of 23 to 1, to win the Derby. I parlayed this stallion's incredible grit and determination with the struggles our congregation has overcome, during more than a decade of effort, to arrive at the precipice of a brand-new Meeting House.

That article closed with a teaser that Golden Tempo might appear in our backyard. And, Who'd a Thunk It, he did, last Saturday! And, unbelievably, in the Belmont Stakes, at the final turn and with 9 to 1 odds, Tempo again came from dead last to win the race by more than a length. Here indeed is a real champion, a horse with depth and character, a thoroughbred in every sense of the term.

Our Congregation is also marked by distinctive characteristics that run deeply and can be seen in our determination to finish the job of creating our Meeting House and making it a true community resource.

Since May 6<sup>th</sup> we received notice of a testamentary gift from Karen Hess of \$100,000. Karen was an active member of our Congregation more than a decade ago and may not have been known by many of you. But like Becky Hawkins and Barbara Henning, who also generously bequeathed significant sums to us from their estates, Karen clearly believed in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs. These commitments have a profoundly positive impact on our building plans. But as important as that is, they are also implacable statements regarding the assessment of these folks regarding the worth and value of the UUCSS in our community. We honor the memory of these three women and the lives of dozens of others, men and women, who have labored tirelessly to advance the vision of a new Meeting House a number of whom are actively pursuing that result.

Recently we were presented with a new challenge in the form of a Saratoga Springs Planning Board decision to delay approval of town houses proposed for the site of our existing building, a decision that may delay closing the sale of the building somewhat. It is a setback for sure, but our expectation is that it is only momentary, and approval will eventually be granted.

On the bright side is the new vibrancy that infuses our Sunday services. Fresh faces appear regularly sparking a burgeoning population of people taking the orientation class for UUs. Folks who populated our Congregation in the past, but who have recently been absent, are reappearing. The choir at the Flower Service last week topped a dozen vocalists. And, under the inspired leadership of Melissa O'Brien and the promise of V Abbit's residency as our contract minister, the inevitability of our future growth is significantly enhanced.

Eric Lawson



# FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS

For those who did not get the word last week, the Fundraising Team made \$1064 on the perennial plant sale last week. We had an impressive array of plants and fun selling them!

The Annual Auction is on Saturday June 13th at the meeting house. Damian Redman will be the auctioneer for our live auction. And Carolyn Lansberry will manage the silent auction.

The doors open at 6 PM for wine and desserts. The auction is from 6:30 to 9ish with a 15 minute intermission for more wine and desserts.

Just a reminder: these events are for all of us since they benefit the church budget and the building of the new church. So please get involved and help us make our fundraisers successful. Thank you.

Bev Lawson

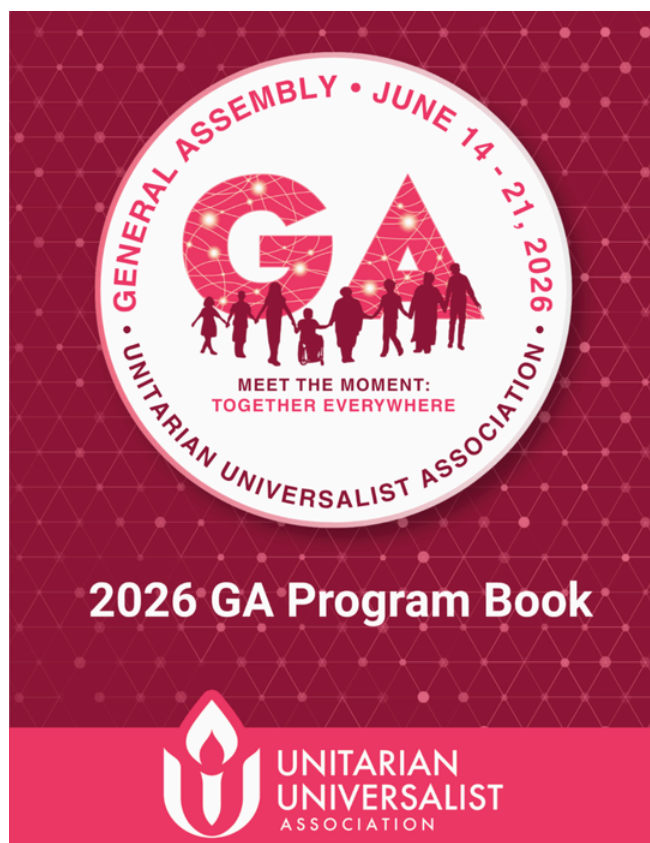


## Have You Thought About How To Donate Securities to UU Saratoga?? It's easy!

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).



# FROM OUR GA DELEGATE, LUCY MANNING



The UUA General Assembly - better known as GA - happens next week and is entitled “**Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere**”. I am honored to represent our congregation as your delegate again and want to share a few highlights for the week.

- **June 14–16: Business of the Association**

GA begins with Sunday’s Ingathering Service, followed by three days of General Sessions led by Co-Moderators Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Bill Young. Delegates will conduct the official business of the Association, including elections, reports, and discussion on key issues shaping Unitarian Universalism.

- **June 17–18: Connection, Travel, or Personal Time**

The midweek pause offers time for professional groups, identity organizations, and affiliates to gather, or for participants to take personal time for rest and reflection. These days may also be used for travel to a Satellite Site or the Studio Site in preparation for the weekend portion of GA.

- **June 19–21: Worship, Learning, and Celebration**

The weekend features worship, learning, and community events including the Meet the Moment Opening Program, Ware Lecture, Community Sing, and Sunday Worship, bringing our movement together in faith, spirit, and purpose.

GA is on zoom for the first 2 days. A new option this year are satellite sites for the last few days and I will join others to celebrate at First Church Boston. Having attended GA in person for the last 2 years (Pittsburgh and Baltimore), I found that experience especially energizing and reaffirming and look forward to the in-person option in Boston!

The main purpose of GA is to conduct the business of UUA, including budget, policies, and nomination considerations.



*A highlight is that our new minister, Rev Viola Abbitt, is nominated to serve on the Nomination Committee for a 3 year term! You can be sure that my delegate vote will support her.*

A highlight for me Wednesday is to view and discuss this film:

**Sanctuary Today: A Discussion on If I Could Stay / Si Pudiera Quedarme** 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

**Description** - Following the screening, join a live Zoom conversation exploring how faith communities and immigrant organizers across the country are reimagining the meaning of sanctuary today.

Another bonus are sessions on various aspects of our faith allowing you to share ideas and learn from fellow UUs. Here are links to some of the Break Out sessions offered which I am still considering which to attend - your suggestions are welcomed!:

- **Choosing Love: Exploring Compassion in a Hurting World**
- **Constellations of Religious Education**
- **Dreaming Into Possibilities: Innovation in Unitarian Universalism**
- **Ministry to Meet the Moment**
- **Fat Liberation in a Time of Body Fascism**
- **The Minneapolis Moment: Lessons in Multifaith Organizing**
- **Multigenerational Worship: Connection to Spirituality, Identity & Each Other**
- **Raising Children in the Midst of Collapse**
- **Staffing Sustainably and Faithfully**
- **Virtual and Hybrid Ministry: Care and Connection**
- **We Are Builders: Organizing Movement Infrastructure with Side With Love**

Finally, I am very excited to hear our guest speaker for the Ware Lecture on Saturday night - Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington.



I encourage you to review the [full schedule here](#).

## “Let’s Talk”

### UU MondayNightFilmForums

The UU Congregation of Glens Falls has been bringing community together by way of film in thoughtful non-judgmental forums. Guest moderators lead post film discussions.

This month we bring you “Plastic Detox”, the compelling 2026 documentary that examines the hidden impact of plastics on our health and environment.

Date &

Time: Monday, June 22, 2026 6:30 PM

Film:

This film is emotionally charged as it follows six couples struggling with infertility as they embark on a 12-week challenge to eliminate plastic and petrochemicals from their homes under the guidance of reproductive epidemiologist, Dr. Shanna Swan. This film will stir questions:

- Does reducing exposure to plastics improve fertility?
- How feasible is it to remove plastic from daily routines?
- What was the most surprising plastic-heavy item?
- How dangerous are microplastics? How do they seep into our daily routines?
- Why just a consumer’s burden? What about corporate responsibility?
- How to advocate for systemic changes?

Guest

Moderator:

David Sayer, our moderator, works closely with Beyond Plastics, a nationwide project founded in 2019 and led by former EPA official Judith Enck with the mission to end single-use plastic pollution. David is one of their effective educational speakers. In addition, Tracy Frisch, founder of Zero Waste Warren County, will share actions taken locally to address the plastic pollution problem.

Location: UU Congregation of Glens Falls – 21 Weeks Road  
(next to Walmart on Route 9 in Queensbury NY)

Contact: (518) 792-2811

Films are free to the public



## 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!

Click here for NYCLU Huddled Masses



# June Tenth!



Recent Sermons

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



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.

**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.**

# 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

---

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