SUNDAY MAY 5, 10:30 AM

Program Sunday – Scott Shumway

Our Spiritual Connection with Nature

Scott Shumway recently hiked in the Costa Rican rainforest 7 hours per day over four weeks. Part of this time he was joined by 6 UUCSW members and friends. This experience and others will be used to take the congregation on a spiritual journey into Nature. Scott is a biology professor and scientist by training, but turns to the words of poets like Wendell Barry, Anna Akhmatova, and Mary Oliver to describe what it is like to experience a spiritual connection with Nature. What does it mean to “come into the peace of wild things” or have “the secret of secrets inside of me again”? And have you ever been in the forest and “vanished at least a dozen times into something better”? How can you prepare yourself to receive the mysteries of Nature into that part of you which cannot be described?

Following the service at 2:00, Scott will lead a journey into Nature on a local hiking trail (TBD) and just maybe you will discover “the secret of secrets”.

SUNDAY MAY 12, 10:30 AM

Program Sunday – Amy Martellock

Noun, Verb, and Lost Luggage: Telling and re-telling truer, better stories

We are all story-tellers, narrators of life and tea leaf readers. All of this, often, for an audience of one. The stories we tell about ourselves and about our communities do matter but they are not written in stone. Amy will explore how we tell and retell the story of who we are in ways that are true, ways that keep us stuck or that move us forward.

SUNDAY MAY 19, 10:30 AM

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado, Minister Emerita

The Place Where Love Lives

What does a mustard seed, the Kingdom of God, and love have in common? Today is a lesson in metaphor from the master storyteller, himself. Never one to tip-toe around Jesus, Rev. Cindy seeks to liberate the essence of his message to speak to the entire theological arc of our UU panoply of beliefs. Check your pre-conceived notions at the door. For those with eyes to see and ears to listen. This is a sanctuary start for the children and a great day to be together in worship. We will also be celebrating our graduating seniors with a Bridging Ceremony.

SUNDAY MAY 26, 10:30 AM

Program Sunday – Kim Hall

Memorial Day – More than a 3-Day Weekend

We hope to explore the origins of Memorial Day, and to see more clearly the difference between patriotism and nationalism in a “non-political” way. We invite you to dig up and bring photos and/or stories from your own family experiences regarding those in active service as well as veterans that we honor for their service. At the end of the service we may place flowers at the graves of veterans in a nearby cemetery for those interested. Please join us the Sunday of the Memorial Day service, and remember to bring your own family photos and stories to share.
We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has stepped up to help us through this time of transition. It is heartwarming to see the depth of kindness, caring, and commitment members and friends of UUCSW have shown in recent weeks. We are grateful that our Sunday services continue to be well attended even though we do not currently have a minister in the pulpit. In the years to come, we will no doubt look back on the spring of 2019 with much fondness for how we came together in support of this community we love.

We are grateful to our wonderful staff for their positive attitude and willingness to collaborate with our Sunday service leaders. We know there has been much slack to pick up and we appreciate the support and extra effort that our Office Assistant Elisa Scully, our Music Director Kala Farnham, and our Director of Religious Education, Cassie Lengel, have provided in this regard. A special thank you goes to Elisa for her work in collecting the documents requested by the Ministerial Search Committee and for her work with Jerry Breecher on a soon-to-be launched redesigned UUCSW website.

We extend these words of gratitude to our March/April service leaders...

- Thank you to Ann Maloney and Amy Martellock who led an inspiring service on March 24th. Many creative ideas emerged on that day including the suggestion to read the book Upcycle Your Congregation. A common read of this book has been organized (thank you Kim Hall) that will culminate in a discussion led by Amy Martellock on June 7th – look for details further down in this issue.
- Thank you to seasoned Program Committee member Jim Kirk for his thought-provoking service on March 31st on prophecy and speaking truth to power.
- Thank you to our Minister Emerita Cynthia Frado who returned on April 7th with her story stick and reminded us that we are a strong and committed community of loving people who will weather this storm of uncertainty as we have so many others in our long history. We look forward to another service with Cindy on May 19th.
- Thank you to Andy Koenigsberg for his Earth Day service on April 14th where we gained perspective on our current climate change crisis through the lens of “Deep Time”. A follow-up to this service is the formation of the “Rising Green for Mother Earth” group at UUCSW, which will help us learn what actions we can take to be better stewards of our beautiful planet. More details further down...
- Thank you to Program Committee Chair Kathie Metzger for leading our Easter Sunday service which featured a beautiful flower communion to celebrate the return of spring. Thank you also to Kathie for coordinating and scheduling all of these services!

Hopefully everyone saw the most recent update from the Ministerial Search Committee. Please join us in thanking the members of this dedicated committee (Juliana Spofford, Bruce Hall, Lisa Borchetta) and congratulating them for achieving the milestone of posting the position for a contract minister on the UUA website. This was no small task and it required many meetings and hours of work. Thanks to their efforts, we are on track with the ministerial search.

We’d like to thank those who have attended our “Listening Sessions” after church where members and friends are invited to share their thoughts with Board members. Concerns about how the Board handled the recommendation to move to a part-time minister were voiced at the first two meetings. While these were challenging conversations, we were grateful for the opportunity to have them and we believe in doing so, we move toward rebuilding the trust that some feel was broken. A request has been made to post the Board meeting minutes in the Chapel and on the website and our Clerk, Robin Fleming has taken an action item to ensure this happens. We also want to remind everyone that
Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the church and all are welcome to attend. A third
listening session is scheduled for this coming Sunday, April 28th after coffee hour.

In May, the Board will turn its attention to preparing for the Annual Meeting on Sunday June 9th. A large part of this
effort will be spent preparing the budget for the upcoming 2019/2020 fiscal year. We will hold budget preview
meetings in May; look for dates to be announced in upcoming Weekly Updates.

As always, the budget directly reflects the response to the current pledge campaign, which is why we have been
strenuously encouraging pledging these past few weeks. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged and to those
who intend to pledge but have not yet communicated their pledge to us. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out
to those we have not yet heard from and we are looking forward to these conversations.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Board of Trustees with questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully,

John Metzger, Janet Purney-Balabanis, Judith Nicholson, Lisa Shumway, and Sharon Barrett

Embedded in our UU Principles is a call to "affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence for
which we are a part". This is often the principle we refer to when we talk about our commitment to caring for the
Earth. In response to the current administration's stance on issues related to the environment and climate change, a
grassroots movement whose mission is to create an environmentally sustainable society is taking hold. A growing
number of us at UUCSW feel an increasing sense of urgency around these issues and we want to answer the call and
be part of the solution. Thankfully, there are many groups leading the charge and proposing actions we can take to
mitigate the impact we have on the environment.

To this end, we are forming a group at UUCSW called "Rising Green for Mother Earth". From this beautiful hymn, we
take the tagline "our dreaming shows us the way". Together we will identify simple, concrete actions we as individuals
and we as a committed UU community can take to restore the health of our planet. The initial meeting for this group
will take place on Monday, April 29th at 7:00 PM ET at the church. If you are interested, please email Sharon Barrett at
sharonkeyesbarrett@gmail.com or just show up. Thank you!

Ready to Take Action? Learn How to Start a Climate Victory Garden.

Thanks to everyone who has attended or led a service over the past 5 weeks. Happily, we have service leaders for all
but one service between now and our Annual Meeting on June 9th. It is said that we each have at least one sermon in
our head so if that is true for you please contact Kathie Metzger at kmetzger200@gmail.com.

A member of the Program Committee will work with you and help make leading a service a fulfilling experience.
Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Multigenerational Ethics Service!

I would like to cordially invite our RE families for a special Multigenerational service on April 28th. This service is about ethics/morality and how we teach our kids about the big questions. We would love to have your kids there so they can help me talk about all the wonderful things UUCSW is already doing and what we want more of!

RE Teacher Appreciation will also happen at this service. If you have helped teach RE this year, we invite you to come forward for a brief recognition and statement. If you are unavailable on this Sunday please see Cassie and she will get you a thank you gift! And remember, the RE year isn’t over yet! If you’d like to help with Group RE please sign up!

Thinking about being an RE Teacher?

Have you given any thought to becoming an RE teacher? Do you have kids who grown and are no longer part of RE, but you still want to teach? Have you never taught but want to see what it’s all about? Maybe you’re not quite ready for a full commitment yet and just want to give it a try? Well now’s the perfect time! For the rest of the RE year we will be holding Group RE taught primarily by our DRE Cassie Lengel. If you would like to see what goes on in RE and help out for a day to see if it’s for you please let me know! I would love the help and I bet you’d love our kids! Who knows! You may even want to teach in the fall!

Sunday Morning Programming for May:

May 5 - We will be together for a Group RE, and we will begin in the Sanctuary.

May 12 - We will be together for a Group RE, and we will begin in the chapel for a special Children’s Worship.

May 19 - We will be having a multigenerational service and celebrating any graduating seniors present.

May 26 - We will be together for a Group RE, and we will begin in the Sanctuary.
Book Group – May 10th

For MAY, we are reading Educated by Tara Westover. Please join us. The group is open to all. We usually meet in members’ homes and enjoy small groups of seven to ten people. We enjoy some light refreshments, lively discussion, and wonderful company. You are welcome to attend.

If you are planning to attend for the first time, please email: Judithteacake@gmail.com.

UU’s at Lunch, Wednesday, May 8th

We will meet for lunch at the Red Rock Grill on Route 140 in Upton on Wednesday, May 8th at 11:30. The weather is more dependable now, so we can venture a little farther from home. All are welcome, and a good time is always had by all, so please, feel free join us.

If you plan to meet with us, please let Mary Tribe (508-329-1646 or email: marytribe5@gmail.com) know by Saturday, May 4th, so she can make reservations.

Friday Fun Night

Join fellow UUCSW friends each month for Friday fun night. Stop by the chapel on the last Friday of each month at 6:30 pm to meet up with friends and decompress after a busy week. Bring a game, food and/or beverage to share, and join us for the fun.

UU Knits

Do you enjoy any type of needle or yarn craft? Then bring your WIP (Work in Progress) to sit and gab with other crafters while you make some progress! We provide a zero-pressure setting, and we have a great time. We welcome all skill levels. Join us in the parlor on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm.

UUCSW Friends of Buddha

The UUCSW Friends of Buddha have set a schedule for the rest of the church year. We will be meeting in the Parlor on the first and third Sundays of each month, 1:30 PM, until the end of the church year. Drop in or come back to discuss meditation and Buddhist ideas. No previous knowledge necessary!

For questions contact Erin Gold (kentuckybluerose@gmail.com) or Carol Palmer (cgpl1fe@yahoo.com).
Summer Services Start Sunday, June 16th at 9:30 am

As we have done for many summers. The UUCSW Program Committee will with your help sponsor a series of lay led Summer Services that will begin with Sunday, June 16th and continue through Sunday, September 1st. It is our hope that a number of you will come forward to lead a service. A sign-up board will be posted shortly in the Chapel and details about on-line sign up will be provided as well.

The Program Committee thinks that it is important for our doors to be open every Sunday and we hope that you agree. For those new to the Church, most summer services are lay-led, last about one hour, and are held in the Chapel where we generally have coffee and air conditioning.

The content does not actually need to be a "sermon". In the past, speakers have talked about a book they especially liked, led a discussion on a topic of interest or concern, offered a musical presentation, read several favorite poems and have spoken of why they were meaningful to them. We also need people to help with a simple offering of coffee and a light snack. Funds are available for this.

Last but not least, we would like to offer child care so please let your 12 and older children know about this money-making opportunity.

Questions welcome on any aspect of this. Please email Kathie Metzger at kmetzger200@gmail.com with questions or speak with any of the following members of the Program Committee: Phyllis Barrett, Jerry Breecher, Jim Kirk, or Catherine Nourse.

Pastoral Counseling Available

During the time that we are without a minister, the Pastoral Counseling Center, located at 7 Church Street in a building behind the Congregational Church, is available to our congregants.

Pastoral Counseling is available for all persons and draws on the rich traditions of both psychology and, if desired, spirituality, working from an interfaith perspective, respecting everyone’s journey as they face difficult life experiences. The center is supported in part by many of the Westborough places of worship, including ours, so that it can serve everyone, regardless of whether health insurance is available, although health insurance will be used when possible. A counselor at The Pastoral Counseling Center is able to help whether you just want a one-time meeting, or are interested in longer term help.

As a member of the Pastoral Counseling Center Board of Directors, representing our congregation, I have had the opportunity to get to know Mary Taber, the center director. Mary is a warm, caring person who is easy to talk with and will help connect you with a center therapist who is most likely to be helpful to you.

To learn more about the center please explore their website: http://pccofma.org/

or feel free to talk with me.

Sylvia Sirignano
Ministerial Search Committee Update

We are happy to share that the position posting for our new Contract Minister has officially “gone live” on the UUA website and there is already interest in the position starting to come in! Our focus now is on: creating and updating our interview materials, reviewing candidate information and scheduling our first-round interviews!

None of this would have been possible without the help of many members of our congregation and the UUCSW staff sharing their wisdom, experience, talents and trade. (We would list everyone by name – but there have been so many helping hands, we don’t want to risk accidentally omitting someone!) Know that we appreciate all that you have done to help us with this task and that includes all those who took the time to share their insights and opinions on the survey. Your voices are included in our job description and materials!

We will continue to update you on progress and process as we move forward.

Onward and thank-you, again!

The UUCSW Search Committee

Lisa Borchetta, leesabee@verizon.net
Bruce Hall, bruce300@gmail.com
Juliana Spofford, julianas@charter.net

Money Matters – May 2019

Canvass Update:
As of this writing, we are one week from the planned completion date of our 2019 Canvass and we still have a ways to go. We are currently short of our goal by $31,206 and are waiting to hear from at least 25 pledging units. As a self-funded organization, it is essential that we have pledged income on which to base our budget for the next fiscal year. Pledged gifts account for 64% of our income, with the balance coming from property usage, fund raisers and interest. Please make your pledge to support the congregation as soon as possible so we can prepare the budget for your review before the June annual meeting. Reaching financial sustainability will take commitment from all of us. If you have not pledged before and have questions, please contact Lisa Shumway (LSS0907@gmail.com) or Sharon Barrett (sharonkeyesbarrett@gmail.com).

Financial Update from the Treasurer:
Our fiscal 2018/2019 picture is strong! Our income is running ahead of budget, thanks to many of you fulfilling your pledge commitments, a number of special gifts, and increased property usage income. In addition, our expenses have remained within budget. The winter was not extraordinary in terms of heating costs, helping us to stay well within our gas and electricity budgets. Any additional income beyond our expenses will go to building our reserve funds, to protect us in the case of unexpected expenditures. We’ve recently invested in a couple of short-term CDs to boost our interest income. Additionally, this month, our electricity supplier was switched to the 100% renewable option offered through the Westborough aggregation. Let’s finish the year strong by hitting 100% on pledged income! If you don’t know where you stand on your pledge, please contact the collector, Susie Wells, at susie48winnip@gmail.com.
In preparation for creating next year’s budget, I ask all committee chairs to consider their funding needs for the coming year. I will be reaching out to each of you to get your input.

If you have any questions or ideas about the UUCSW finances, please contact me.

Thank you – Lisa Shumway (LSS0907@gmail.com), Treasurer

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**A Common Read**

*Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities*

Last year we participated in A Common Read, with the UUA, a unique experience to us, an opportunity to participate in a church-wide read, A Common Read. We are going to do our own Common Read as suggested by Ann Maloney and Amy Martellock in their March 24th sermon, Creating Our Future Together, that invited us to engage in creating a vision for the future of our congregation.

A *Common Read* invites participants to read and discuss the same book at the same time. A Common Read can build community in our congregation and provide us an opportunity to work toward common goals. You can order the paperback book or Kindle version of *Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities* on Amazon using this link.

https://www.amazon.com/Upcycle-Your-Congregation-Transforming-Communities/dp/1558968156 (Kim Hall also has several to lend. Please contact her at kkereshall@gmail.com if you would like to borrow a book.)

Kim Hall has already read it and shares the following information: I just read “Upcycle Your Congregation” cover to cover! (it is short… and very engaging). Upcycling is similar to, but a bit higher level than, “recycling.” It is a book of essays by UUs that can guide us to re-imagine, redesign and re-purpose our congregation from the great parts of what we already have into something even more beautiful.

I look forward to this Common Read as a forum to use this practical “user’s guide” for what the authors suggests as a “SPIRITUAL AUDIT” to:

1) fulfill the need for a life-giving, transformative community, which is more relevant than ever.
2) define the difference between “church” and CHURCH
3) formulate a mission statement that considers, for ourselves and others, not who we are but what are our common causes

The authors affirm that what we say, how we say it, and what we offer are ways to open the doors. In this way, we can create and sustain a UU experience together that is valuable for all.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion and know that “this could be the start of something big.”

In the Introduction by the editor, Sarah Lammert: Enhancing the quality of congregational life doesn't always require huge outlays of time and treasure. There are many ways we can 'upcycle' the things we already do in our churches, with resources we already have. These nine engaging essays from Unitarian Universalist leaders in the field show creative ways to transform the main ingredients of our congregations into something relevant, innovative, and new.
These authors are people like you real-life congregational and religious leaders who have found a way to make new wine from old wineskins, attracting new growth and vitality where things had gotten a little dim and dusty. In one case, it was as simple as flipping worship and coffee hour inviting people to attend coffee hour as the main event on Sunday. In another example, new vitality came when the leaders became laser-focused on a mission and started telling a new story about themselves that made them the heroes of their own story rather than bystanders helpless to effect change.

You don’t have to start from scratch to bring vitality to your congregation. You don’t have to take it all on at once. There are simple, yet profound ways you can use the riches you already have around you to create fun, relevance, vitality, and beauty in your religious community.

Please plan to join us on Friday, June 7th at 7:00 pm at the church to start this important discussion on our mission, vision, and values. Please go to Realm and RSVP. Thank you.
# May Calendar of Events

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
WESTBOROUGH

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DUE DATES
FOR VISTA NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Announcements, suggestions, or questions?
The VISTA is published monthly and submissions are welcome. Please email submissions to:
Andy Koenigsberg at amk32@cornell.edu.
Please put “VISTA” in the subject line.

June Vista articles due by
Noon, Tuesday, May 21st.

For updates visit uucsw.org