

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair

THE GAZETTE

Our Newsletter for May 2021

Vol. 124 Issue 9

Our Mission:

*Grounded in faith, we come together to nurture the soul,
inspire hope and bring into being a more just and loving world.*



*"There are only true stories.
We are discovering the truth in them."
—Christina Baldwin*



The Gazette is a monthly publication of:
 The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
 67 Church Street, Montclair NJ 07042
 (973) 744-6276
 Website: www.uumontclair.org

**THE DEADLINE FOR
 THE JUNE GAZETTE IS
 SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021**

At the time of this printing, all UUCM staff are working remotely from home. We can be reached at the emails listed below.

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day.

OUR MINISTERS AND STAFF:

Senior Co-Minister: Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, Ext. 0011, revanya@uumontclair.org
Senior Co-Minister: Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael, Ext. 0011, revscott@uumontclair.org
Intern Minister: Ali K.C. Bell, intern@uumontclair.org
Director of Music Ministries: Markus Grae-Hauck, Ext. 0015, musicdir@uumontclair.org
Administrator: Danielle Carlo, Ext. 0012, admin@uumontclair.org
Office & Communications Manager: Jaclyn Puleo, Ext. 0010, officemgr@uumontclair.org
Director of Religious Education : Judith Hogan, Ext. 0016, jhogan@uumontclair.org
Bookkeeper: Emilia Sadonis, Ext. 0019, accountant@uumontclair.org
Technology Systems Consultant: Bruce For, bruce.for@uumontclair.org
Lead Custodian: Dawn Coleman, custodian@uumontclair.org
Affiliated Community Minister: Rev. Jacqueline Lahey
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman
Minister Emerita: Rev. Judy Tomlinson

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020 –2021

President: Peter Arian, boardpresident@uumontclair.org
President-Elect: Michael Hetrick
Past President: Susan Raufer
Treasurer: Chris Corbett, boardtreasurer@uumontclair.org
Secretary: Shannon Gattens, boardsecretary@uumontclair.org

Trustees-At-Large: Lauren Carlton, Francesca Elms, Elaine Gibson, Ramona Hilgenkamp, Wil Hylton, David Jones, Nick Lewis and Matt Silverman.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ministers' Columns.....	page 3
Theme of the Month.....	page 4
Family Ministry.....	page 5
Governance.....	page 6
FAQ's.....	page 7
Religious Education	page 8
Grow	page 9
Worship	page 11
Connect.....	page 14
Serve.....	page 17
Upcoming Services.....	back cover

**WE COME
 TOGETHER TO
 NURTURE
 THE SOUL
 INSPIRE
 HOPE
 AND BRING INTO
 BEING A MORE
 JUST AND
 LOVING
 WORLD**

InFaith: A Healing Story

From Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, Senior Co-Minister

"We cannot wish old feelings away nor do spiritual exercises for overcoming them until we have woven a healing story that transforms our previous life's experience and gives meaning to whatever pain we have endured."

- Joan Borysenko

What is the healing story we will tell of the losses we have endured during the dual pandemics of American racism and COVID-19? That isn't a trick question, nor a rhetorical one. I don't think there is an easy answer and I suspect that most of us will pose different answers over time.

My healing stories usually begin with connection. You've likely heard this in my sermons. Distance, disconnection and isolation perpetuate the world's ills but connection is the means to transformation. The Christian Scriptures proclaim that 'wherever two or more are gathered' the holy is there. Throughout these months of trial, as we have suffered these dual pandemics I have seen us building and rebuilding our means and methods for connection - walking towards, not away from our shared pain and our shared possibility.

Perhaps when you look back a month from now, a year from now, ten years from now, your healing story will be woven around connections - the connections that held, healed or saved you from the hells of these trying times. As Joan Borysenko claims above, telling healing stories will give meaning to the disparate pains and will move us out of the mire and toward transformation.



iPonder: Ordination

From Ali K.C. Bell, Intern Minister

I can't believe it! My ordination date is fast approaching—Saturday, **May 22, 2021** at Noon EDT- and you are all invited to this virtual event.

I remember when I started the process of becoming a UU minister over two years ago. The story I told myself about how this event would go is nothing like what my actual ordination will turn out to be like so many who have celebrated major milestones in their lives during the pandemic. However, the creativity and new ways I have learned to build community and build memories in this pandemic help me to be filled with joy and excitement for the ordination that is coming together! I cannot wait to share this special moment in my ministry with you.

RSVP at bit.ly/ordain-ali and sign up.

In faith,
Intern Minister Ali



STORY

What does it mean to be a people of story?

ZOOM YOUR (OR THEIR) STORY

We hold on to each other by holding on to one another's stories. And yet too often we let those stories slip away.

Parents and grandparents long to remember their children and grandchildren when they were young. Likewise, children and grandchildren wish they captured more stories of their elders before they were gone. So why wait? During the pandemic, Zoom has become a way for us to connect across distance, but it also offers us a way to capture each other's stories. All we need to do is hop on, hit record and let the storytelling begin!

For this exercise, think of someone whose story you want to hold tight. Invite them to join you on Zoom. Be sure to come with a rich question. For instance: What has been the best day of your life? When did you first fall in love? What was war like? Who is your best friend and why? What was your proudest moment? What was life like when you were my age? Or maybe it is the story of your relationship you want to capture. In that case, think of this less like an interview and more like a conversation. Come with a sparky question you both can answer, like: Are there things about me that you've always wanted to know but have never asked? Or What is your first memory of me?

If you record someone in our congregation please share your recording with our archivists, Irene Sanderson and Becky Doggett. Our archivists are hoping to digitize our archival materials so these video stories will fit right in!

ROOT WORD: Our use of the word story stems from the Latin term *istori* meaning "history, account, tale." This goes back to the Ancient Greek *historéō*, "I inquire" which also formed the idea of "one who knows," from Proto-Indo-European **wéydtōr*, "knower, wise person".

Guiding questions for further exploration:

- What story did you first fall in love with?
- How has the role of story in your life changed as you've grown older?
- When did you first feel like you understood your plot line?

Watch:

A Catalyst for Humanity, a Conversation with Isabell Wilkerson -

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxVeDIs_XXg

Watch:

The Danger of a Single Story, Chimamanda Adichie -

www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en&utm_source=tedcomshare

Watch:

Kurt Vonnegut on The Shape of Stories -

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOGrU_4z1Vc&list=PLcEd0IYa_i8aRXfTJs4vwQFg4fFCepIiWF&index=2

Read:

A Story I Inherited by Jabari S. Jones -

www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/story-inherited

FAMILY MINISTRY

Soul Matters for Family Ministries: Story

This month we're exploring the many ways our UU faith invites us to explore being "A People of Story." We're doing that by looking at five ways that stories remind us who we are:

As UU's (Lesson A & Who We are as Unitarian Universalists)

As a Family (Lesson B & Mother's Day)

As Anti-Racists (Lesson C)

As Living and Interconnected Beings (Lesson D & Evolution)

As Courageous People (Lesson E & Memorial Day)

Lesson A—Stories remind us who we are as Unitarian Universalists

Theme Angle: UU congregations share a lot of attributes, but at the same time, no two UU communities are the same. And often their uniqueness is rooted in a very particular event in their history: a fire, an act of justice, a new building, creating a memorial garden, an argument even or a church member who became famous. Story is what keeps that event alive, and even more importantly, story is what enables that event to become the glue that binds the community together.

Introduce It (Object Lesson) - Stories We Tell About Our Congregation

Reflection Object: Your congregation's membership book, or other significant item from its history. This might be a picture of an older building, an act of justice by members, creation of a memorial garden or a labyrinth, a famous member, or an early minister.

Suggested Script: The theme this month is Story. When we think about stories, we often think first of picture books and fairy tales. But being a people of story is much more. Stories tell us who we are. This month we use the theme of story to tell us who we are as Unitarian Universalists, a family, as anti-racists, as living beings and as courageous people.

THIS is our UU Montclair congregational history! For our UUCM Story about the founding of our congregation, click this link (www.uumontclair.org/im-new/who-we-are/) for "In The Beginning...The Founding Mothers..."

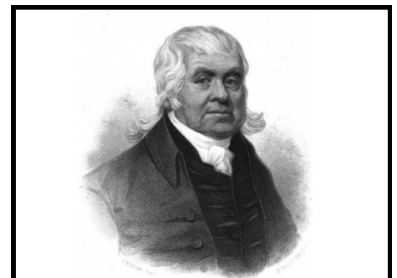
Closing: Explain to the kids what impact this event and these stories have had on the congregation. What they inspired or how they guided the church in times of discernment. End by explaining that the story is now in their care, both as they use it for inspiration themselves and as they ensure it is passed on to others.

Lead With Strategy: Who in your congregation keeps the archives? Or who knows what stories are behind certain architectural features or historical items? Invite them to share their experience.

Tell It and Talk About It (Story)

Option #2 John Murray and the Winds of Change from Tapestry of Faith, Creating Home

Here's a story about Unitarian Universalism. The story of John Murray and Thomas Potter is one of the core stories of Universalism in America. It includes elements of mystery and even the miraculous abating of the wind. Note that this is also used as a Meditative Story in the next section and plan accordingly. www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/home/session12/60161.shtml. Optional Coloring Page to go with the story: www.uua.org/files/pdf/k/klart_ch12_john_murray_and_winds_of_change.pdf



Online Permission Note: Tapestry of Faith material has been authorized for online use. See www.uua.org/re/tapestry/downloading.



The Board Corner

From Shannon Gattens on behalf of the Board of Trustees



On Sunday, March 27th the UUCM Board and 8th Principle Project Committee co-hosted the first Racial Justice Summit. In attendance were members from the Undoing Racism Team (formerly the Undoing Racism Committee), Allies for Racial Equity (ARE), BLUU (Black Lives UU), the Social Justice Coalition, the Religious Education Team (formerly the Religious Education Committee), the Board of Trustees, and participants of the UUA course Beloved Conversations.

The groups shared current initiatives and plans for the future. We also identified key differentiators among the groups, for example, BLUU and ARE identify as social-relational groups whereas the SJC and URT identify as social justice groups. Full meetings notes can be found here: tinyurl.com/28k734t9.

Finally, we affirmed support for the continued educational and outreach activities to ensure a smooth adoption of the 8th Principle (www.8thprincipleuu.org) at our Congregational meeting in June.

The Board is committed to supporting all of the UUCM initiatives that allow the spaces- and actions- for us to continue our path towards “accountably dismantl[ing] racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” For more information about the 8th Principle Initiative click here: tinyurl.com/xt9f5s5h.

UUA's General Assembly 2021

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates. The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2021!**



GA is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

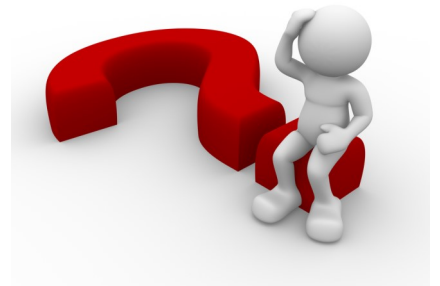
Our Annual Meeting is Coming Soon!

Our Congregational Annual Meeting already? Yes! Believe it or not, the Annual Meeting is already on the congregational calendar for Sunday, **June 6, 2020**, at 11:00 AM. At this meeting, you will be able to hear reports from the president and your ministers about the state of the congregation, you will hear from the Social Justice Coalition about its plans for the coming year, and importantly, you will be able to vote on important issues including a proposed bylaws change, a slate of candidates for leadership positions in the congregation, and our proposed budget for the next year. Please keep an eye out for the meeting packet which will be coming to you around mid-May and plan to attend this meeting! If you are unable to attend virtually, the packet will contain a proxy form so that your vote may still be counted.

FAQ'S

Where can I watch Sunday Services?

On Sundays, watch live at 10am visit: <https://www.facebook.com/uumontclair/live>. Watch past sermons on our YouTube page (www.youtube.com/user/uumontclair).



How can I access Closed Captioning for virtual services and meetings?

There are apps available for iPhone (<https://otter.ai/login>) and Android (<https://www.android.com/accessibility/live-transcribe/>) that can assist you. Zoom has announced it will provide its high-quality ASR captions (Live Transcript) FREE for people with hearing loss, as well as other groups who require this feature for accessibility reasons. Click here to request access: tinyurl.com/yd6bn2zb. This feature will be rolled out to all free accounts by Fall 2021.

How do I schedule a meeting with a minister?

Contact Rev. Scott (revscott@uumontclair.org) and Intern Ali (intern@uumontclair.org) directly. To schedule a meeting with Rev. Anya please use this application: calendly.com/revanya.

How do I submit an announcement?

Direct communication to the congregation via all-congregation announcements, postings on the website, social media posts, and printed materials should all go to our Office & Communications Manager Jaclyn Puleo (officemgr@uumontclair.org). Leaders can communicate with the congregation by sending their announcement with this form: forms.gle/Bq9bh4mckxU9HJbb7. We send out our weekly email blast on Monday. All announcements for the coming week are included in the blast and also added to our website and social media pages. UUCM-related events take precedence over outside events but we do our best to accommodate all requests.

How do I submit a remembrance?

If you would like a candle lit during Sunday service, please email remembrances@uumontclair.org no later than Thursday 8:00 AM with your request. Please include a brief description of your candle of sorrow, joy, etc. We will include in our Sunday service along with our weekly eblast and newsletter.

How do I login to Realm?

Visit: www.onrealm.org/uumontclair. Don't have a login? Contact Danielle Carlo at admin@uumontclair.org.

Where can I find links to online meetings?

In two places: Realm and the weekly e-blast. To be added to the e-blast list, please email officemgr@uumontclair.org.

Can someone help me with virtual programming?

We have several volunteers in the congregation who can act as a 'Buddy' to help you navigate thru Virtual Programming, Zoom and/or Realm. If you would like a Buddy to help you learn any of these platforms, please send Administrator Danielle Carlo an email (admin@uumontclair.org) and she will connect you to one of our willing Buddies.



Family Ministries—Religious Education

From Judith Hogan, Director of Religious Education

"As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into an enormous insect." -- from The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

"I AM!"

As we emerge from a dormant state of COVID isolation, the landscape around us has changed significantly. We rub our eyes and stare at the vast and verdant expanse before us, squinting and slightly confused as we adjust our gaze, allowing the light to shine and clarify the path ahead. Adjusting.

We have arrived at a point where there is no going back to the way things were. We must rely on the wisdom gained from a year of unknowns and "unknowables" where we took stock, maintained, overcame, grieved, retreated, found joy in the familiar, and pushed forward, determined some days only to move from one room in our homes to another. Contemplating...

Where was I? Ah, yes, the road ahead, less traveled but still stretching before us, beckoning us to explore and proceed... Flowers. A grazing deer, car horns, food delivery, Zoom links, screen time... Where are we? Distractions.

For far too long we have continued along, blindly going on and about with our daily rote activities - creating, accepting, and maintaining the status quo, doing and getting things done. Where did the old path take us? Realizing.

Inspiration smells like blue/green algae to me, and actionable steps are a bioluminescent ocean wave riding the joy of a summer's evening wind like the perfect belly laugh of a really happy baby. It's infectious, and soon that laugh has us laughing also, and again, laughing. Laughing and laughing until there's tears. Progress.

The slate is blank. The road ahead has adventure and nuanced moments of dappled sunlight to illuminate the way. Let's rethink the start of our own stories. Inspire ourselves to keep "becoming" (April's theme). "I AM - inspired."

Soul Matters, Calendar Connections for May 2021 - Story

Click on the name on each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith: [Beltane](#) (Pagan) - May 1 | [Ramadan](#) (Islam) - April 12 - May 11, 2021 | [Ascension Day](#) (Christian) - May 13, 2021 | [Eid al Fitr](#) (Islam) - Begins May 12, 2021 | [Shavuot](#) (Jewish) - May 17, 2021, begins on the evening of the 16th | [Pentecost](#) (Christian) - May 23, 2021

Unitarian Universalist: Anniversary of [William Ellery Channing's Baltimore Sermon](#), "[Unitarian Christianity](#)" - May 5th (1819) | [UUA Founding Day](#) (1961) - May 12 | [Emerson's birthday](#) - May 25 (1803) | American Unitarian Association founded May 25 (1825)

National & Cultural: Jewish American Heritage Month | Asian/ Pacific American Heritage Month | [May Day](#)/ International Workers Day - May 1 | [Cinco de Mayo](#) - May 5 | [Mother's Day](#) (US & Canada) - May 9, 2021 | First HIV/ AIDS death in North America - May 15 (1969) | [Brown v. Board of Education](#) - May 17 (1954) | [Agender Pride Day](#) - May 19 | Birthday of [Malcolm X](#) (May 19, 1925) | [Victoria Day](#) (Canada) May 21 | Harvey Milk, gay rights activist, born - May 22, 1930 | [Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day](#) - May 24 | Memorial Day (US) - May 31



How do I make a monetary donation to UUCM?

You can visit our website at www.uumontclair.org. Our homepage has buttons on how to donate electronically. You can also text **UUCM Plate \$5** or **UUCM MESH \$5** (or the dollar amount of your choice) to **73256**. Standard text message rates do apply. Checks may also be made out to **UUCM**. Please use the memo line to indicate to us your intentions (i.e., Annual Pledge, Plate Collection, MESH). You can also make donations via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

Mortenson Scholarship

Each year, the Mortenson Scholarship Fund awards small education grants to children of UUCM members or members. This fund was established by Dorothy Mortenson, in memory of her husband who was a teacher and is open to persons of all ages who are active members of UUCM. To apply or for info, visit: www.uumontclair.org/mortenson-scholarship/ or contact Nicole Rinklin at mortensonscholarship@uumontclair.org.



The Mortenson Scholarship Awards will be presented at our May 9, 2021 Sunday service.

2021 Spring "People's Choice" Bible Study

Where We Will Examine what **YOU** want to Study



Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2021, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Zoom

Come encounter the Judeo Christian Scriptures through a Unitarian Universalist lens. Rev. Scott will lead an examination of texts suggested by the class. A good Study Bible will help best prepare you for this class ~ and it's a good thing to add to your library! The NRSV or NIV are two translations we recommend. Register at: tinyurl.com/yc3axyup. After you register, send Rev Scott the Bible Passages/Stories you want us to explore: revscott@uumontclair.org.

UUCM Archives Project

Do You Know Who These People Are? The folks in the picture are our UUCM ancestors. This picture resides in our Archives.

Do you know where the Archives are located? They are downstairs in the Annex, outside of the Administrator, Danielle Carlo's office.

We are starting on a much needed new project to get our Archives digitized. Many of our oldest, history-rich pieces are beginning to crumble with age. We have things dating from 1884. The first minutes of our Congregation are yellowing and showing acid damage. Some papers are showing damage because of the acid used in some inks. Before we have nothing left we must try to save them. The time to take care of this is now! We don't want to lose these treasures. It will take time, patience and MONEY! By digitizing our Archives, it means our community will have access to our old photos and records via Realm. People who want information about UUCM will be able to find it easily. Our Archives are a resource that should be used and shared.



Do you have an interest in helping with this project? Do you have skills to bring to this? If so, please contact our Archives volunteers - Irene Sanderson, Rebecca Doggett, or Jerry Fried - at archives@uumontclair.org.

Religious Education Teachers Needed!



The 2021-2022 START DATE for our UUCM Religious Education (RE) classes is Sunday, October 3, 2021. Although that seems like a very long time from now, planning and teacher recruitment is in the beginning stages, with a full-scale recruitment campaign to begin in earnest in April.

There are various teaching, and assisting opportunities on offer, and as it is the start of a new season, if you are already a teacher or assistant, but would like to volunteer for a different grade/class, this is your opportunity. Classes available are:

- Kindergarten -1st Grades
- 2nd & 3rd Grades
- 4th & 5th Grades
- 6th & 7th Grades
- 8th Grade - Heeding the Call (HTC)
- 9th Grade - Coming of Age (COA)
- Senior Youth - Life Hacks 101
- **RE Class Coordinating Teacher:**
Responsibilities - Acts as liaison between the RE Director, RE Team, and individual Teaching Teams. Is an active member of the Teaching Team, and manages the Teaching Team including scheduling. Evaluate, revise, adapt and organize current curriculum and communicate Team satisfaction/concerns. Maintain open two-way communication with class parents. Coordinate offsite RE Class activities with the Director of Religious Education.
- **Lead Teacher:**
Responsibilities - Leads the individual classes they teach. They take existing curriculum and present it in a way that works with their individual teaching style. Work in tandem with an Assisting Teacher for the class.
- **Assistant Teacher:**
Responsibilities - Admits kids into the classroom (especially on Zoom), takes attendance and enters it in Realm at the end of class. Provides general overall assistance for Lead Teacher.
- **Floating Assisting Teacher:**
Responsibilities - Admits kids into the classroom (especially on Zoom), takes attendance and enters it in Realm at the end of class. Provides general overall assistance for Lead Teacher. Has the same responsibilities as Assistant Teacher but can float between different classes and grades as needed.
- **Children's Chapel Lead:**
Responsibilities - Acts as Liaison between the Children's Chapel Program, the Religious Education Director and the RE Team. In collaboration with the Religious Education Director, determines, and organizes annual programming for the Children's Chapel Program. Develops and coordinates Children's Chapel Support Team.

Please **REGISTER TODAY** at <https://tinyurl.com/yw4mt8zu> to indicate your availability and interest in being an integral part of what keeps our UUCM RE Program so vital and relevant. Our UUCM RE Program is made better with your volunteerism. If you need more information, please reach out to our Director of Religious Education Judith Hogan at jhogan@uumontclair.org.

Supporting UUCM on Amazon

Please consider supporting UUCM by shopping on AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to UUCM. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service. AmazonSmile has donated over \$200 million to charities worldwide! You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1526651 or with AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app.





Below are Sacred Wheel CUUPs' upcoming Zoom meetings:



- **Beltaine Celebration—Saturday, May 1, 2021, at 7:30 PM.** Beltaine also known as May Day is a Gaelic festival. It is most commonly held on May 1, which is the halfway point between Ostara, the spring equinox and Litha, the summer solstice. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Participants are asked to have something for "cakes and ale" to be able to join in at that time of the rite.
Join on Zoom: tinyurl.com/yds3lkuy / Meeting ID: 981 3712 3604 Passcode: UUCM
- **Divination Workshop - Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 7:30 PM.** We will explore different tools used in divination. There will be a chance for participants to talk about the tools they use.
Join on Zoom: tinyurl.com/264pnw4d / Meeting ID: 981 6648 7262 / Passcode: UUCM
- **Monthly Open Healing Circle — Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 7:30 PM.** If you would like to assist or have a request for yourself or someone else, please join us. For those unfamiliar -healing circles are similar to prayers. It is the intent we put into it. If you like to join in and have no experience, we will teach you. Alternatively, if you are new to this, you are welcome to just sit back and observe.
Join on Zoom: tinyurl.com/2ranrrxs / Meeting ID: 922 7371 5743 / Passcode: UUCM

All are welcome to Sacred Wheel CUUPs events. Email sacredwheelcuups@uumontclair.org for more info or visit us on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/UUCMSacredWheel.

On That Note...

From Markus Grae-Hauck, Director of Music Ministries

"One day you will tell your story of how you overcame what you went through and it will be someone else's survival guide." -- Brené Brown

I have been wondering how a generation or two from now people will talk about the pandemic we are currently experiencing. Will it be only a story about a terrible disaster that disrupted everything before we returned to life as we knew it? Or will it also be about resilience, compassion, and rethinking some of the fundamentals we had taken for granted for so long?



Of course the answer to this question is partly rooted in the predisposition of the person who tells the story. We all see the world as we are; and so the way facts are selected, emphasized or omitted, contextualized, and chronicled is a major determinant of the overall narrative. At the same time, we need to remember that we have the power to choose our response to the circumstances. So let us choose wisely, mindful of the tale that we want our children and grandchildren to know.

Here are some musical selections that speak to Story, our theme for the month of May:

- Soil's Daughter - Aisha Badru: www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-hGvaABIOM
- Little Love - Gabriel Kahane: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjSaErHKV7M
- Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story (Finale from Hamilton): www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnypiKNaJE
- I'll Follow Your Trail - Sean Rowe: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd7VqA0ZA-U
- Orson Welles - Joe Henry: www.youtube.com/watch?v=quYAgRS4rsY



Yes, you can still share remembrances at our virtual services. If you would like to have the Sunday worship leader share your remembrance please send it to Remembrances@uumontclair.org by **Thursday at 10am**.

If you would prefer not to have your concern read aloud, email your name, address, phone number to PastoralCare@uumontclair.org and explain your situation or concern.

Anne Hennessy lit a candle for her brother Dan and shares, "My brother Dan unexpectedly went to Heaven. My heart is beyond broken, he was my Irish twin, friend and much loved brother. Please light a candle for him and keep his daughter Payton, family and friends in your prayers."

Joel Naftelberg and Beth Smith lit a candle for Bobby Byrnes, Joel's childhood friend who has been in and out of the hospital with a serious cardiac ailment. Please hold Bobby in your prayers as he fights for his life.

We lit a candle for Makiyah Bryant, a sixteen year old African American child of God killed by Ohio Police. We light this candle to bear witness, to mourn, and to let her light, the light that was her life, shine.

We lit a candle in solemn recognition, that while George Floyd's life has not been restored, the trial of Derek Chauvin chipped the armour of white supremacy. We celebrate the honest testimony of Chauvin's colleagues and we honor the movement for Black Lives that has, by its resilience brought forth this verdict.

Roz Gohagen lit a candle for her cousin, Janie Daniels-Robinson, who died on April 5th at 103. Roz and Janie spoke weekly. Roz's first vivid memory of Janie was of her generosity to Roz, with a gift of a bracelet, when she was only three. Janie is survived by her son, Steven, two grandsons, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Amy Hains lit a candle for her father, John Sincok, who is entering hospice after battling cancer and emphysema. Amy and her family were able to spend time with her father during these last few weeks together. Please hold Amy and her family in your love. Shannon Gattens lit a candle for support for Amy. Amy, may you feel our love as your father is gifted by your own.

Kathryn Kempf lit a candle in memory of her father, Arthur Kempf, who died on April 7, 2021 in Los Angeles. Kathryn is grateful he no longer suffers in pain.

Lauren Carlton lit a candle for a work mate of 9 years Agnes Carson, who died on April 11, 2021. Agnes had lots of funny stories, was infinitely patient, and always had a positive thing to say about everyone. Lauren hopes this candle lets her know she is thinking of her.

We lit a candle in sorrow and outrage at a police-involved killing of a black man. We lift the family of Daunte Wright in our prayers. We hold the Brooklyn Center, MN community in care and responsibility as they determine how they will account for the injustice of this stolen life.

We lit a candle in sorrow and outrage learning of another police shooting of an African American male - Adam Toledo, 13, was killed by police in Chicago. Thursday night we also witnessed a video of a Soldier in South Carolina assaulting a black man. Holy one, the need to dismantle White Supremacy has never been more evident than it is this morning. Bring us hope and real change, and soon

We lit a candle in sorrow at news of a Mass Shooting at a FedEx Facility in Indianapolis. Prayers for the families of the slain, and for that community. Help us stem the tide of murderous rage and easy access to weapons of mass destruction for the violent and the unhinged ...

We lit a candle to celebrate our own Kira Pipkins, as she made history as a wrestler by becoming the first athlete in Bloomfield history to capture two state individual titles in any sport. Way to go Kira!

We lit a candle to honor the three year anniversary of the installation of Rev. Scott and Rev. Anya as Co-Ministers in service to our congregation. At the end of this congregational year our congregation and our Senior Co-Ministers will have been joined together in ministry for four years of challenging and beautiful work.

We lit a candle of remembrance for Hsu Wang Runden. Hsu was a member of our congregation some decades past when her then husband, John P. Runden Jr. served as the chair of our Board of Trustees. Hsu died on April 4, 2021 and Rev. Anya performed her graveside memorial on April 8, 2021.

Remembrances continued on next page.

Remembrances Continued.

Wayne Foti lit a candle in remembrance of Joyce Morrissey and shares, "On April 1st, 2009 my best friend Joyce died at age 62 from a brain hemorrhage. We were members of the UU Congregation of Plainfield. She was the light of my life. May she rest in peace."

Maggie and Peter Arian lit a candle in remembrance of Maggie's friend Ryan Kolenovic who took his own life a year ago April 9th. His kind and warm soul and quirky sense of humor are wonderful memories in an otherwise very difficult year. May his spirit be at peace.

David Lewis lit a candle for Roy Imhoff. Roy attended our congregation in the 1970s. He died on April 4, 2021 from complications after major surgery. Roy opted for hospice rather than any further interventions.

Karen Fried lit a candle for her brother Ken, who passed away 3 years ago and shares: "He was my big brother, my role model, a gentle and generous spirit who never sought the spotlight, but lived a life of service. He was a compassionate voice of justice and is so missed (but I'm pretty certain that he visits me often in the form of a blue jay).

Kim McClennon lit a candle for her godfather, known as Uncle Roy. He passed away on April 7, 2021 at age 89 due to natural causes.

Teresa DeSousa lit a candle for the mother of her business partner and friend Ivan Kaplan, who is going into hospice. And Teresa lit a candle for the mother of her best friend, Ginny Osborn, who is in hospice.

Kathleen Shaughnessy lit a candle for her aunt and uncle who lost their dog Hershey after 15 years. Kathleen adds, "My aunt is still really upset, and says the house feels empty now that Hershey is gone."

Deborah Ann Tripoldi lit a candle of remembrance for the family of Nancy Frattolillo. Nancy died on April 2, 2021. Nancy will never be forgotten.

Judie Rinearson lit a candle for her dear 80-year old friend Myra who was hospitalized in Kentucky for heart-related problems. The prognosis isn't very promising. Please keep Myra in your thoughts and prayers.

We lit a candle in celebration - on April 11, 2021 Jan Carlsson-Bull will celebrate 30 years since her graduation from Union Theological Seminary. And beyond that on April 11 Jan will celebrate 20 years of membership at UUCM.

We lit a candle for Judith Rew's inmate friend, Al Rashid. Mr. Rashid died on March 30, 2021 in a prison hospital in Trenton of colorectal cancer. He was 47. Judith received the notice of Mr. Rashid's death as she was the only contact they had on record. Please take a moment in prayer or intention to hold this loss in remembrance.

Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull lit a candle for a dear long time friend, Lynda Shannon Bluestein. Lynda is amid metastatic ovarian cancer and is "recovering" from surgery. Lynda is a former President of our Unitarian Universalist region and past chair and member of the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly Planning Committee as well as an activist for love and justice. To send notes of love and support, please contact Jan.

We lit a candle to witness the atrocity of another mass shooting. With this light we decry the abuse of violence and pray for the families mourning their own in Orange, California.

We lit a candle in remembrance of Jordan Tassy, a son of this congregation who died in the early morning of March 25th due to complications of COVID-19. Jordan, who always had a kind word to share and a smile to offer, has left us far too soon. We mourn his passing as we remember him with our love. And as we mourn, we lit a candle for Norma Tassy, Jordan's mom, Tom, and Jordan's many friends. Knowing the weight of grief that they are shouldering, we hope that this candle and our attention brings them strength and reminds them that they are not alone - that our faith community and community of neighbors is bearing witness and offering love. A memorial service was held on April 10, 2021.

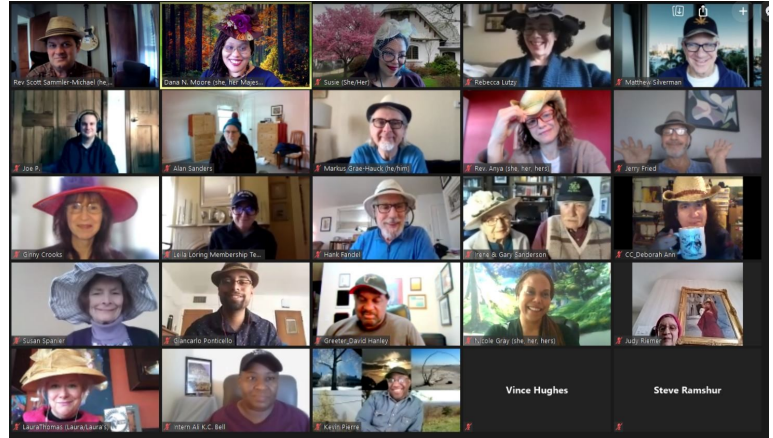
We lit a candle in remembrance of once member of our congregation Jack Grebe. Jack died of natural causes after a long illness, on March 20th, at 92 years of age. Please hold Lois Grebe, Jack's wife, in your thoughts and prayers. She and Jack moved to Cape Cod some years back, but Lois still recognizes our congregation as her faith home.

We lit a candle for the victims of the mass shooting at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado. Once again we are filled with anger and grief as the easy access to weapons of mass murder continues to terrorize our nation. With this candle we pray we will not become accustomed to this mayhem but will strive to change the laws that aids and abets these acts of terror.

We lit a candle in gratitude that many of our regular guests at our MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope) received the single shot vaccine for COVID-19 recently at the Salvation Army Citadel. May they be well.



You are invited to join us for our virtual Connection Café every Sunday at 11:00 AM via Zoom. Participants report that this format allows us to build relationships across the congregation in ways that will sustain us as individual participants and support our growth as a community. **Would you like to host and be our virtual barista?** We welcome groups and individuals. Our team handles all of the tech (we hold planning sessions on Saturdays). Virtual baristas get to pick the welcome music, poll the participants/ gather needed info, share group/individual goals and activities, and make a call to action (invitation, request for help/volunteers etc.). Please visit: tinyurl.com/y8y9eemg to view available spots. Email connectioncafe@uumontclair.org for more info. So grab your coffee and join us for a fun way to connect on Sunday morning. All are welcome. We hope you can join us! Join on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98495539203> / Phone # +1 929 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 984 9553 9203



Find us on social media!

Join us on social media by visiting us at:
 Facebook: [UU Congregation at Montclair](https://www.facebook.com/uu.congregationatmontclair)
 Twitter: [@uumontclair](https://twitter.com/uumontclair)
 Instagram: [uu_montclair](https://www.instagram.com/uu_montclair)
 YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCiu_muZvGUGZpyiDUfT88hMg/



If you have an update or announcement you would like posted through our social networks or on our website, send to officemgr@uumontclair.org.

Starting in May, the Care Team will repeat an effort to reach out, by phone, to all members in the congregation. These congregational calls, made twice last year, were very successful. Our goal is to feel connected in a very disconnected time. The calls team, led by Kim McLennon, is looking for a group of volunteers to share in making these calls. The Care Team looks forward to reaching out to each family.



Looking for Volunteer Opportunities? The UU Care Team Ministry is a wonderful way to do service and help out your fellow UU's. The Care Team and Membership Team are actively reaching out to all members of the congregation. If you are interested in volunteering with this effort or other services we offer, please email careteam@uumontclair.org.

Rev. Anya is the point of contact for our Care Team Ministries, but both Revs. Anya and Scott are available for pastoral care. They can be reached at revanya@uumontclair.org or at revscott@uumontclair.org.



Since 2001, Covenant Groups have been an important lay led small group ministry at UUCM. They're instrumental in providing the opportunity to build and strengthen social and spiritual connections in our community. Information on our current groups is listed below. Explore our existing Covenant Groups by visiting:

www.uumontclair.org/commuunity/covenant-groups/ or contact

Covenant Group Program Coordinator Claudia Sanders at covenantgroups@uumontclair.org.

- **Soul Matters Covenant Groups:**

Each will meet monthly and consider the theme of the month and to share personal reflections of our respective life journeys relative to each theme.

- **Monday Soul Matters** meets on the fourth Monday at 4:00 PM.
- **Wednesday Soul Matters** meets the third Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

- **Drop In Covenant Group** meets weekly on Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Looking for spiritual connection in this time of distancing? This group creates connection through a chalice lighting, check-in and discussion. No commitment is required - drop-in any week. Open to High School Youth and Adults. **Zoom link:** uuma.zoom.us/j/670520878

- **New Member Covenant Group** is for new members & visitors who wish to know the congregation better.

- **Art and Soul** welcomes anyone with a passion for the visual arts; anyone who finds spiritual connection and personal expression within the act of making, contemplating and/or discussing visual creation and ideas relating to it.

- The **Poetry Covenant Group** is open to those who enjoy reading poetry and sharing this love with others. After the reading of each poem there is an opportunity for a discussion of the offering. You can also bring a favorite poem to share.

- Our **Food Diplomacy Covenant Group** is returning! Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

- Our **Positive Place Covenant Group** welcomes family members of people with a mental illness. Our mission is empowerment, friendship and support.

- **Writing as Spiritual Practice is our newest Covenant Group starting in May!** Prior to meeting, we will write a reflection based on the monthly theme. During the meeting, we will share our written work aloud to fuel a deeper understanding of the topic and what it means to each of our lives.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Membership Poll

The Membership Team is reaching out to better understand the needs of the UUCM community and to make sure our team is visible and connected to the congregation. Please take a moment to take our Membership Team Poll (poll.app.do/uucm-membership-committee-poll) to better serve our community.

Newcomer Connections

Are you new to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair? Join with one of our ministers and other newcomers to for a short, honest, in-depth conversation. We will meet on the first Sunday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on **May 2, 2021** at 11:00 AM.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96688023261> / Phone # +1 929 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 966 8802 3261

Pathways to Membership Class

Join us for a 2-session Pathways to Membership Class as we deepen our understanding of the intricacies of the UU tradition as well as the complexity of our congregational life. This class is your path to becoming a member and joining UUCM. Details on our next session will be provided soon.

New Member Covenant Group

Brand New to UUCM, or new in the past few years? This welcoming group is for new members and visitors who wish to know the congregation better. Details on our next session will be provided soon.

Email admin@uumontclair.org for Zoom links.

The **UUCM Men's Group** welcomes everyone who identifies as male to share mutual support and discussions about our lives, triumphs, and struggles. Our next Zoom meeting will be on **May 8, 2021** at 8:30 AM. Email mensgroup@uumontclair.org for information.



The **UUCM Dream Group** meets on Monday **May 10, 2021** from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Are you interested in learning more about what your dreams can reveal about you and your life? Bring a brief written description of a recent or past dream to share. Instructions for new members will be provided.

The **Senior Lunch Bunch** meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from Noon to 1:30 PM. Our next meetings will be on **May 12 & 26, 2021**. Our meetings focus on simply sharing general conversation about things that we have done recently and things going on around us. Remember, all UUs and their friends are welcome; there are no age constraints on participation.

Our **UUCM Women's Group** meets on Friday, **May 14, 2021** from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please email womensgroup@uumontclair.org to get info or get on the email list. Come and enjoy the company and support of other women! Our intention is to be compassionate to one another by being responsive to each other's needs, maintaining and respecting each other's confidentiality, while being responsible for our own needs.

The **Crazy QUUilters** meet on Saturday **May 15, 2021** at 11:00 AM. Join this growing community whether you are a novice or expert crafter. Email us for patterns at crazyquilters@uumontclair.org. Financial support to help with our supplies can be made using the Donate button at www.uumontclair.org, for the fund for "Crazy QUUilters Donations".

Our **Grief Support Group** provides a caring and confidential environment that allows its members to share their experiences with others around their loss. The group is facilitated by an experienced group leader and participation guidelines are provided. Our next meeting will be on **May 17, 2021** at 6:30 PM. Email griefsupport@uumontclair.org for info.

UUs for Jewish Awareness, is open to all members and friends of UUCM who have Jewish roots or relatives and/or an interest in learning more about Jewish customs and culture. We meet on Monday, **May 17, 2021** at 7:30 PM.

UUCM Theater Group meets monthly for virtual play readings that incorporate UU monthly themes. No memorization and no rehearsals necessary. UUCM member Laura Thomas will provide scripts a week prior to the meet. We meet on Saturday, **May 22, 2021** at 7:30 PM. Stay tuned for details on our next meeting.

Our **Short Fiction Group** meets on Tuesday, **May 25, 2021** at 1:30 PM. We read 30-35 pages of short fiction from various collections of stories each month, and we welcome those who read the stories and come prepared for a good discussion.



Allies for Racial Equity (ARE)

Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) is a race based affinity group intended to ground white people in accepting their own whiteness without shame or defensiveness, with curiosity around how whiteness has played out in their family and history to build healthy anti-racist identities. Additionally, ARE disrupts oppression, uproots white supremacy, and plants seeds of justice. This is a ministry of faith which leads all who participate to spiritual growth and wholeness. We honor each other's humanity and capacity for growth by offering ourselves and each other grace and accountability. To become more familiar with our group, please visit: tinyurl.com/2fd5furb. Our next meetings will be on Tuesdays, **May 11 & 25, 2021**, at 7:30 PM.



Black Lives of UU Montclair (BLUUM)

Black Lives of UU Montclair (BLUUM) is for all people connected to Unitarian Universalism that identify as Black. We recognize that Identity is a deeply personal and sensitive subject for many of our members and we are committed to creating and maintaining safe, and supportive space for our diverse communities. Our group was created to meet the needs of our growing, diverse communities with the help and Focused Initiative of Intern Minister Ali K.C. Bell, and is coordinated by member Dana N. Moore. BLUUM, as it is affectionately known, meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 6:00-7:30 PM. We will meet next on **May 21, 2021**. We invite all Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color (BIPOC) UUCM Members, and "UU Friendly" folks to join us at one of our upcoming meetings. Please connect with us via email at (bluum@uumontclair.org) and find us on Realm for regular updates.



Sharing Our Riches

As Unitarian Universalists, one thing that we value is the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. The health of this web relies on us giving of our time, our talents, and our resources. When you give monetarily to the U, 80% of your gifts will care for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, and 20% will support our justice recipient.

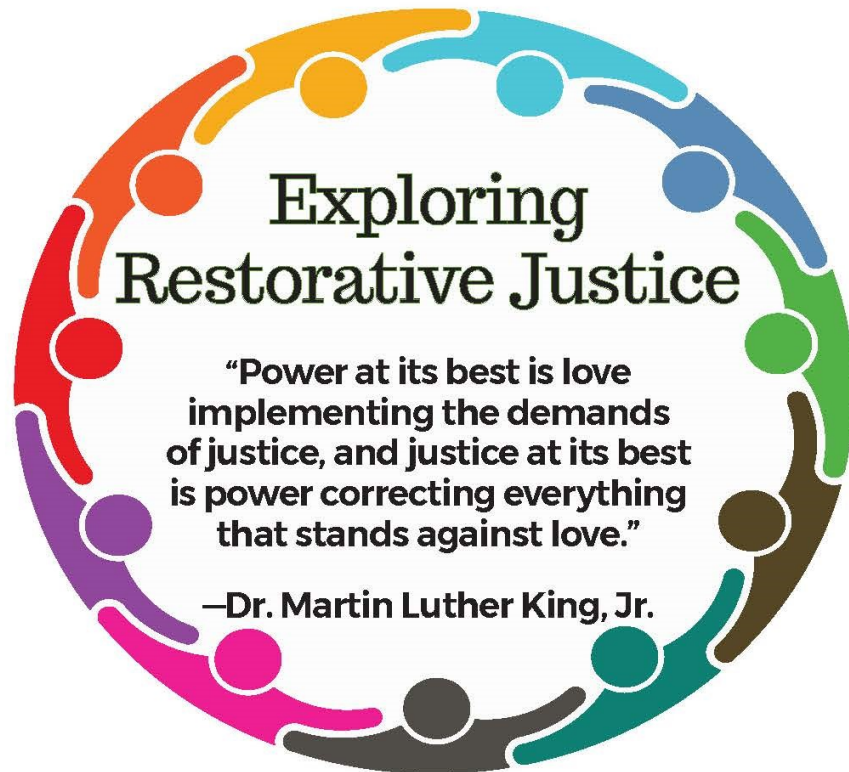
Our March recipient was [Nancy's Place](#), Montclair a residential crisis center for youth who have suffered from abuse, neglect, abandonment, homelessness, and human trafficking build a life for themselves. Their values align with our UU values of "inherent dignity of every person - with an equal claim to life, liberty and justice". We collected a total donation of \$437.28 for them.

Our May recipient will be Wind of the Spirit, an organization that works with immigrant communities to ensure their access to information and empowerment. They currently support communities in The City of Orange and several NJ towns. Partnering with First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex they presented the "Know Your Rights" and Sanctuary City campaigns. Among other efforts they made and distributed over 10,000 face coverings, provided a COVID-19 awareness training to 2,000 workers, and ensured that 3,000 families were registered for the census. To learn more, please visit: wotsnj.org.



× Immigrant Resource Center ×

RE-ENVISIONING COMMUNITY:



Six Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:45

- April 29:** Restorative Justice and Peacemaking Circles: An Introduction
Jessica Laus, NJ Restorative Justice Network
- May 6:** Restorative Justice Montclair: Circles and Beyond
Gayl Shepard and Faculty, Montclair Public Schools
- May 13:** Youth Restorative Justice in Maplewood, NJ: A Community Model
Rev. Brenda Ehlers-Wheeler, Morrow Church
- May 20:** Youth Justice and a Community-Led Approach to Restorative Justice
Retha Onitiri, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
- May 27:** Foregrounding Restorative Justice through Institutional Change
Dr. Jason Williams, Montclair State University; Tia Ryans, F.O.R.T.E. House
- June 3:** Community Gathering: Moving Forward Together

REGISTER HERE:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/UUCMERJ>

You can attend one, a few, or all of the sessions.

The program is hosted by the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair (UUCM),
sponsored by its Social Justice Coalition,
and developed in collaboration with the
New Jersey Restorative Justice Network (NJ-RJN).

Questions? Contact us at socialjustice@uumontclair.org



Living Into the Eighth Principle: Undoing Racism and Eighth Principle Teams Create Joint Accountability Tool

From Nicole Gray, Eighth Principle Implementation Project, and Jane Gaertner, Undoing Racism Team

On March 21, 2021, the Undoing Racism Team held a virtual Women's History Month program: "Women and Power: Advancing Justice." During this one-hour program three prominent women of color discussed how they leverage their power to advance justice throughout the state. Panelists included UUCM's Devany Kurtti, activist and senior, Montclair High School's Center for Social Justice; Milly Silva, Executive Vice President, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East; and NJ State Senator Nia Gill, representing the 34th District. The panel discussion was moderated by UUCM member, Wendy McNeil. During the program, Dr. Jessica Valiente, Executive Director of Youth Orchestras of Essex County, and two of her talented daughters performed musical pieces composed by women.



What we learned and why it matters—What we learned from these dynamic panelists was that we can leverage power from where we stand right now, whether that's the State Senate or a Montclair Unity March. As Nia Gill said, "Power is for women very organic." For Black and Brown women, determined and persistent grass-roots organizing has often been a key power tool---but it works, especially when allies join and become accountable.

Your chance to be accountable to the Eighth Principle - As part of intersectional efforts at UUCM, we invite every leader or member of UUCM groups to view this program (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rcd-Jzb6wrQ&t=21s) and use our discussion questions as a way to be accountable to this work.

Please support this initiative by introducing the topic and sharing the link to the program with your group. Then schedule a virtual group discussion to answer six questions designed to help you learn from women of color about how to become allies.

We hope you will participate in this first-time initiative. Thank you for your willingness to commit to doing the work and standing in your integrity to be accountable as we move towards implementation of the Eighth Principle. To obtain the discussion questions, please email undoingracism@uumontclair.org.

Montclair Emergency Services for Hope (MESH): Honoring a Loved with a MESH Café Donation

Many thanks to Tracey Hill for sponsoring a MESH Café meal in honor of her Dad, Fred Hill Sr., and brother-in-law Jimmy Jandoli. "Because they both worked so hard, my family does not have to struggle and we are all better because of the wonderful influence they had on us," Tracey said. "We are truly blessed for having had them in our lives." With the donation, "we wanted to acknowledge how special they both were and that they are missed terribly, while also doing something good for people who are struggling."



The cost of sponsoring a meal in honor of a loved one is \$250. To coordinate, please contact David Bronstein at meshcafe@uumontclair.org. Of course, a donation in any amount will be greatly appreciated and put to good work, feeding the many guests who rely on us for sustenance both in spirit and body each week.

Sunday Collection: When there is a month with 5 Sundays there will be just one Sunday Offering collection, and MESH will get the entire collection. Our next 5th Sunday collection will be on **May 30, 2021**. Every penny received is used to buy food for the guests. No exceptions. Thank you so much to everyone who contributes to UUCM MESH via the UU collection, donations in honor or memory of an event or person, or out of extreme generosity. To make the donation, visit www.uumontclair.org/donate and choose "MESH Donation" under the "Fund" drop-down menu.

Thanks for all of your support as we work through this difficult time. The MESH team and guests all feel your love and generosity!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT MONTCLAIR
67 Church Street, Montclair NJ 07042



DATED MATERIAL ~ PLEASE EXPEDITE

MAY 2021

A Month of Story

SUNDAYS SERVICES WILL BE STREAMED LIVE AT 10:00 AM
AT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UUMONTCLAIR/LIVE](https://www.facebook.com/uumontclair/live)

To navigate our videos and live streams on Facebook,
click on the "More" option where you will see a button for Video and Live.



May 2, 2021

"The Power of Story: 2021's Coming of Age Class"

Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael

May 9, 2021

"Two Truths and a Lie"

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

May 16, 2021

"From Grief to Gratitude"

Rev. Jackie Lahey

May 23, 2021

"You Have a Story Only You Can Tell"

Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael

May 30, 2021

"Salt and Pepper Soup"

Intern Minister Ali K.C. Bell