The Quest

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK
We aspire to be a loving religious community where we can grow spiritually and build a more just and joyful world.

Touchstones

Rev. Jaye Brooks

Bittersweet

Bittersweet. It’s one of those words we can’t really understand until we experience it.

When sorrow mingles with appreciation and fondness, and love catches its breath and then sighs. When our eyes tear up even as we’re smiling.

Times of transition are bittersweet.

Yes, there is loss. We cherish the memories, relationships, and growth of times past. And yes, the future holds possibilities that may take us to new growth, new relationships, new opportunities, new love—and the wisdom that grows from everything we’ve experienced before.

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“However sheltered this port, and however calm these waters, we must not anchor here; however welcome the hospitality that surrounds us, we are permitted to receive it but a little while.”

Those words are Walt Whitman’s, from his iconic poem, “Song of the Open Road.” Soon I’ll set off for the UU Fellowship of Harford County, MD. My journey with Shelter Rock during our four-year developmental ministry is ending and a new journey is beginning—for me as well as for you.

Whenever human beings travel from one place to another—when they leave behind friends and familiar places for somewhere new—they cannot help but carry with them part of the place they’ve left behind. Something of my hopes and my love and my longing will remain at Shelter Rock; and forevermore I’ll carry in my heart a great big chunk of who you are and your deep embracing love. I am grateful for this time among you.

It is bittersweet to say good-bye: sad to bid farewell to so many good and vibrant souls and heart-warming to profess mutual appreciation and a revived sense of resilience and purpose. In every new endeavor, in every step a human being takes (no matter how small), our forays into life are buoyed and supported by the people and experiences that have readied us for the next passage.

UUCSR’s Worship Services are onsite and livestreamed on uucsr.org/worship, Facebook, and YouTube; available thereafter on the same platforms and as podcasts www.uucsr.org/podcast. Onsite, mask wearing is encouraged. Masks are required when singing.
**Milestones**

*Congratulations to...* UUCSR member, Religious Education Program graduate, and LGBTQ+ at Shelter Rock Chair Katie Ralph as she celebrates her Master of Social Work degree from Columbia University’s School of Social Work on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

*We share the proud news that...* RE Graduate Shane Logue received his law degree from Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, RI, on May 19, 2023.

**Touchstones continued from page 1**

What marks our human journey is not a change of location, but the growth we achieve along the way: compassion, courage, patience, open-mindedness, and the willingness to learn from experience. We’re all on that road, and if we’re persistent, it leads to spiritual transformation. I seek it for myself; I wish it for you all.

And so, onward! Onward, as Whitman says, to “know the universe itself as a road—as many roads—as roads for traveling souls.”

With love,
Rev. Jaye Brooks

**Ethical Rules for Departing Ministers**

When a minister leaves a congregation, a departing minister is no longer that congregation's minister. Ethics guidelines direct departing ministers to stay away, without contact, for at least a year. This separation allows the congregation to enter fully into relationship with the new minister and the reconfigured Ministry Team.

So—Rev. Jaye Brooks won’t participate in weddings or Memorial Services; provide pastoral care; discuss congregational matters; or engage in any kind of regular communication with Shelter Rock members. In our wired and connected world, this means electronic communication as well. Rev. Jaye won’t have a UUCSR email address (and will never ask you to buy gift cards).

Though she has a Facebook page, Rev. Jaye will not respond to posts by Shelter Rock congregants. But with all her love, Rev. Jaye wishes Shelter Rock members and the new Ministry Team a long and vibrant shared ministry.

**Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC)**

*Barry Nobel, Chair*

**Live Auction to Benefit UUCSR Partner Church**

_Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 1:00 PM | Social Hall_

Rev. David Carl Olson, Auctioneer

Contact Barry Nobel (barry@nobel.org, 516.318.2740, mobile or 516.570.2154, home) for questions, ideas, auction item pickup and more. Drop off donations to Receptionist Elaine Corrao’s desk anytime UUCSR is open. $5 online or at the door. Onsite only.

**Interested in attending General Assembly (GA) Online?**

_Wednesday, June 21–Sunday, June 25, 2023 | Pittsburgh, PA_

Video of some events from General Assembly (GA) 2023 will be live-streamed, June 21-25—no registration required—on UUA.org. Live-streamed events will include the General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, and Sunday Morning Worship. Other events are available to those who register for a fee, and include the ability to use an app or special browser-based version.
President’s Annual Report

The 2022/23 year at UUCSR began at the Homecoming Service and Picnic in September, which was joyfully held onsite and in-person. It was there that the congregation welcomed Rev. David Carl Olson as our new Minister of Congregational Life and he joined Rev. Jaye Brooks as part of a new ministry team supervised by Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore as Lead Minister and Minister of Lifespan Religious Education.

Several projects taken on by the Board of Trustees this year were the formation of a task force to develop a 5-Year Strategic Plan, a leadership team to write a Sustainable Land Management Statement, and a group to engage the congregation in discussion on the structure of the Veatch Program. Conversations with stakeholders throughout the congregation led the Strategic Planning Task Force to begin developing a Friday night each month to come together for a meal and to be in spiritual community. The Land Management Leadership Team engaged support from Shelter Rock members to adopt a statement that honors UU values and allows us to pass our beautiful land to future generations in a sustainable way. The Veatch Engagement Group has begun small group conversations with congregants around the issues of our philanthropic program.

This year, the Trustees committed to conversations about leadership and membership, as well as vision-based committee work and budgeting. We agreed that communication and connection within the board and within the congregation was a top priority. We worked on ways to engage all members in conversation and community both onsite and online. As the pandemic closures end, we continue to learn ways that “virtual” community can bring more of us together in a meaningful way.

The Board has also begun the complicated work of reviewing and simplifying the bylaws of the congregation. The work of the Trustees as well as that of the committees and the whole of our congregational life is governed by our bylaws. We hope to streamline and clarify what’s most important and necessary in our bylaws, understanding that this is a work in progress.

The developmental work with Rev. Jaye Brooks is ending this year and I am proud of how much progress the congregation has made with her guidance.

We will be moving into next year with a new Minister for Member and Community Engagement. Rev. Israel Buffardi will be coming to UUCSR in August and bringing with him another spiritual voice for our congregation.

I feel good about the work the Board of Trustees has accomplished this year and even better about how we have worked together in covenant. I am very grateful to all the UUCSR staff, especially the COA and the Ministers for all their support this year and to the BOT officers who carried a lot of the load and always had my back.

Board of Trustees Agendas

Tuesday, June 13, 2023
7:00 PM I. Opening Words: Ministers
7:10 PM II. May 2023 Minutes: Toni Logue, Secretary and Jane Weller
7:15 PM III. Q3 Financials Update from May Board Meeting: Moin Haque, Treasurer
7:25 PM IV. Audit Committee: Brian Muellers, Chair
• Approval of New Auditing Firm
7:45 PM V. Endowment Committee: Carole Alexander, Chair
• Amendments to the Investment Policy Statement
• Approval of CY23 and CY24 Crisis Grant Fund Set-Aside
8:10 PM VI. Amended Covid Safety Plan: Adam Barshak, COA
8:20 PM VII. Ministers Report: Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, Rev. Jaye Brooks, Rev. David Carl Olson and Erol Delos Santos, Student Minister
• Developmental Minister Final Report
• Future of Colloquy Process
• Veatch Structure Engagement Status/Next Steps
• CY24 Student Minister Status
• Fourth Friday Update
8:50 PM VIII. Congregation Operations Administrator Items: Adam Barshak
• Restricted Gift to Congregation
• Annual Performance Evaluation Process
9:00 PM IX. Good of the Order: Jana North, President

Thursday, June 15, 2023
7:00 PM I. Opening Words: Ministers
7:05 PM II. Hadley House, LLC: Jana North, President
• Policy on Engaging Legal Counsel for Changes to LLC Agreements and Related Policies
• Process for Evaluation of Recommendation on LLC Governance
• Charge to Ad Hoc Committee on Housing Subsidies for Members
• Evaluation of Legal Opinions-Executive Session
8:00 PM III. Bylaws Committee & Committee Policy Drafting Task Force: Diane Haney, Chair of Bylaws, Aimee Ripley and Ursula Salamone Page: 6
• Next Steps
8:30 PM IV. Member Resource Committee: Heather Carlson, Chair—Executive Session
• CY24 Committee Members and Chairs
8:45 PM V. President’s Report: Jana North
• Annual Meeting Recap
• Board Retreat Recap
• Program Council Retreat Recap
• Closing Words of President
9:00 PM VI. Good of the Order: Jana North, President
Edward Miller Memorial Music Scholarship Fund
Barry Nobel, Coordinator

In 2005, the Music Committee was looking for a way to update its talent show tradition when Music Director Stephen Michael Smith suggested a scholarship program in memory of UUCSR’s late Music Director Edward Miller. As committee chair at that time, I took Stephen’s idea and ran with it. Fortunately, I made the acquaintance of Susan Weber of the Nassau Music Educators Association. It has been her scholarship committee that has found so many deserving music students over the years.

Since the Scholarship’s founding, it has provided over $50,000 to 31 deserving students graduating from 22 high schools in Nassau County. Funding comes from the members of this congregation, mostly from the proceeds of an annual Cabaret. Please save the date for the next Cabaret on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

2023 Scholarship recipients participated in the UUCSR Worship Service on June 4, 2023; Cody Kanyaro and Luca Alexandru were each awarded $1,500.

Cody Kanyaro, from Plainedge High School, plays principal sax in the concert, jazz and marching bands, wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, and pit orchestra. A member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Cody also has performed with the Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony, the LI Youth Orchestra, and the Farmingdale Village Pops. He participated in All Eastern, All National, All County, and NY State Band Directors Association’s All State Honors Band. Cody will attend SUNY Binghamton University majoring in aerospace engineering and music performance.

Graduating from Syosset High School, Luca Alexandru plays jazz guitar, and has participated in select chorus, music theory, pit orchestra, and special ensembles. He was accepted to the NY All State Mixed Choir singing bass, the All State Vocal Jazz Ensemble as guitarist, the All National Jazz Ensemble on guitar, and the All Eastern Composition Symposium. A singer-songwriter, Luca has composed, recorded, and produced original songs, releasing several singles and an extended play. Luca will attend Berklee College of Music in Boston.
Online Safety at Shelter Rock and Beyond

We regret to report that Shelter Rock’s ministers’ names, with fake, non-uucsr email addresses, have once again been used in phishing attempts.

Rest assured: Shelter Rock’s database (Planning Center) has state-of-the-art security. You may read details HERE.

Religious organizations are special targets because their members have a reputation for being kind and compassionate. Typically, scammers use a process that the security community calls “Open Source Intelligence,” or OSINT, to obtain information from publicly available sources. Essentially, they use publicly available information, of which there is much more than most people realize, to identify and attack their targets. This article is a good high-level overview of what OSINT is and the threat it poses.

What can you do to stay safe? Don’t take the bait!

Phishing is the name for emails (or texts or phone calls) that pretend to be from someone trusted. Often gift cards or cash are requested, but sometimes, a recipient is invited to click a link or open an attachment that can trigger malicious code.

A good rule of thumb with emails you’re not expecting is to reach out to the sender through another channel (call, text, or visit a website).

• Scammers often spoof phone numbers to trick you into answering or responding. Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.
• Do not click any links in a text message. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure they weren’t hacked.
• Consider changing your passwords, which is recommended regularly, whether or not you’ve received a phishing attempt.
• If you provided financial information to anyone you now suspect of phishing, contact your bank or credit card company for guidance.
• Please do not click on links without checking on the sender’s address. Ask yourself if the email address, language, and grammar are reasonable.

• Please pause to think, “Is this a reasonable request?”
• Ask yourself, “Is this message normal given my relationship with the sender?”

Tips to prevent a scam:

• Don’t act quickly. Scams are based on fear and urgency.
• Check the email address BEHIND a sender’s name. Is anything fishy?
• UUCSR emails would always END in uucsr.org.
• Most businesses would not use a gmail address.
• If anything is too good to be true, it probably is.
• Is there a strange payment or gift involved?
• Notice threatening behavior.
• Be suspicious of fake caller IDs.
• Be cautious of impersonation.
• Do not reveal personal information.
• Avoid suspicious links.
• Notice if there is an attempt to gain your compassion and sympathy.
• Ask a friend or family member.
• Close apps, websites, and your online connections when they’re not in use.
• Update your browser.
• Monitor your credit history.

Password safety may be one of best and easiest good habits that one could ever develop.

• USE MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA) WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
• Use strong passwords. Combine letters, numbers, and other symbols at least 16 characters long.
• Use different passwords for every site.
• Change your passwords now and then.
• Use a password vault; never keep an unsecured list.
• Resist the ease of storing passwords on your browser. Many browsers offer to save your passwords when you browse sites. Risks are not worth the convenience.
• Do not share passwords.

Please be reassured that the MY UUCSR database and website (uucsr.org) are as secure as is possible. If you have any questions, please contact Communications Manager Jen Sappell (jsappell@uucsr.org, 516.472.2980). Thank you.
All are invited to participate in the Feasts and Festivals Interfaith Potluck Lunch this Sunday, June 11!

Religious Education at UUCSR is dedicated to the exploration of world religions. Shelter Rock is blessed with diverse heritage among our membership representing Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Wicca, Neo-Paganism, and we are planning a joyful potluck luncheon that will shine the light on all of us! Participants from all across the congregation are invited to share of themselves and volunteer to help serve and bring in dishes for what we hope will be the first annual celebration of foods from the faith traditions we grew up with and practice today. The lunch will be held following Worship on Sunday, June 11. If you have a delicious offering you would like to contribute, or if you would like to help serve at the grand finale of this year’s Feasts and Festivals quarterly events, please Register Here. Feel free to contact Carson Jones at cjones@uucsr.org and Jeannie Gross at jgross@uucsr.org

Registration for 2023–24 Religious Education for Children and Youth and the all ages RE Summer Program is NOW OPEN!

This summer, from Sunday, July 16 to Sunday, August 13, we will begin to explore next year’s RE theme of LOVE. Over these five Sundays, RE Music Specialist George Weisman and Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator Carson Jones (plus some special guests) will guide families on a sonic journey to discover the complexities of what love sounds like. Our multi-sensory exploration will include many brand-new summer activities, plus some old favorites such as sprinklers and Slip ’n’ Slides, s’mores, and the ever-popular Slime Making!

Your one-stop sign-up for this summer’s super-fun five Sunday all ages RE Summer Program and the 2023-24 Religious Education Classes for Children and Youth is now live by clicking here: Please Register for 2023-24 Religious Education. Even if you have recently filled out your registration form, we do need a new registration every year. Kindly complete this form again so that we have the most up-to-date information on how to best serve your family. Please feel free to reach out to Carson Jones at cjones@uucsr.org with any questions.

Pride without Prejudice Bedtime Stories!

Wednesday, June 14 | 7:00 pm | Live on Zoom HERE

On the first Wednesday of the month, all are welcome to join Carson Jones for this special interactive storytime as he reads three family-friendly stories celebrating LGBTQIA+ Pride!

’Twas the Night Before Pride
written by Joanna McClintick and illustrated by Juana Medina

Teo’s Tutu
written by Maryann Jacob Macias and illustrated by Alea Marley

Ritu Weds Chandni
written and illustrated by Ameya Narvankar
**Event Highlights**

Friday, June 9, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Social Hall  
**Soulful Sundown**  
See page 1 of this Quest for details

Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 12:00 PM | Social Hall  
**Feasts and Festivals Interfaith Potluck Lunch**  
See page 6 for details

Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 1:00 PM | Social Hall  
**Live Auction To Benefit UUCSR Partner Church**  
Visit uucsr.org/23partnerauction for details

Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 1:00-3:00 PM | Art Gallery  
**Artists' Reception for Cynthia Pascal and Steven Vando**  
Images in Color: Paintings on exhibit through June 27, 2023.

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Live on Zoom HERE  
**Pride without Prejudice Bedtime Stories**  
See page 6 for details

Friday, June 16, 2023 | 6:00 PM | Social Hall  
**Veatch Conversations (with supper onsite)**  
Details and registration HERE.

**UUCSR Summer Hours**

UUCSR is operating with a significant reduction in Facilities staff. While a search for replacements has been underway for some time, the likelihood of trained new hires in place soon is slim. Please keep Shelter Rock in mind if you hear of anyone looking for full-time or part-time facilities work. And please be especially appreciative of the truly exceptional work currently demonstrated by Adrian Rivera, Andrew Breen, Roberto Aguirre, Cornell Carolina, Valentin Guerrero, and Enrique Porras. They deserve patience and gratitude for long hours and little time off.

Please note that there will be differences in evening hours during July and August. The Wednesday evening hours in July are primarily to support Summer Concert Rehearsal for the Concert on July 30. Shelter Rock will be open on two Thursdays in July and all Thursdays in August so that there will be one full evening of operations throughout the summer months.

The following 2023 Summer Schedule balances programming commitments and facilities staff availability.

**July 5 – July 31, 2023**  
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM Sundays  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Weekdays  
EXCEPT: Extended hours on Wednesdays, July 12 and 26  
Extended hours on Thursdays, July 13 and 27  
Friday, July 14 for Soulful Sundown

**August 1 – Labor Day, 2023**  
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM Sundays  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Weekdays  
EXCEPT: Extended hours every Thursday  
Extended hours Fridays, August 11 and 25

There are no Saturday hours during July and August unless a scheduling exception has been pre-approved.
DANCE VISIONS NY
with Farah Chandu and Willow in
RISING UP!

Dance Visions NY: Rising Up!
with Farah Chandu and Willow Interfaith Women’s Choir
Sunday, June 18, 2023 | 1:00 PM | Outdoors on the Grounds

Grounded in contemporary movements for social justice, the program will promote thought and encourage action through artistic expression. The program includes original, timely, and meaningful dance, music, poetry, and theater. It expresses the climate of our times by excellent, diverse artists. Local not-for-profit organizations addressing urgent problems of our time will offer information about how to be part of the solution.

Visit uucsr.org/23dance for details. Free and all welcome.

That’s Entertainment—A Concert Not-To-Be-Missed
Oyster Bay Music Festival Performs at UUCSR
Friday, June 30, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Worship Room

Features a varied program filled with virtuoso instrumentalists, chamber music masterpieces, favorite arias, Broadway tunes, and even some of your favorite movie themes—all in one concert. There will also be the unusual and rarely heard, such as a violinist accompanied by a 2.5 octave musical glass set and a performance on the musical saw by Dale Stuckenbruck (one of the premier saw players in world) together with celebrated pianist Maxim Lando.

Visit uucsr.org/23obmf for details. Free and all welcome.

The Quest
June 7, 2023