Soulful Sundown offers Rev. Olson’s spoken word with music from the Cosmic Orchestra, onsite and online. Special guest musical artist Kemp Harris featured at onsite-only Coffee House afterward. Where music resides at the heart of religious experience. Open to all at NO CHARGE.

Thinking Otherwise: Learning To Be More Than Human There is growing conversation about what it means to be human. It isn’t just about ChatGPT but something more spiritual and creative; something that asks us to reconsider our human uniqueness and think about the intelligence present in the world around us—from trees to sea creatures. You are invited to think with me about what it might mean for all of us to open up to being more than human. Rev. Dr. Claire MacDonald is a UK-based minister and arts practitioner working on collaboration, community and conversation.

Being Creative, Finding Community Held in the Veatch Ballroom, this Service includes group singing and sharing. Rev. Olson was formerly Associate Director of the Institute for Theology and the Arts at Andover Newton Theological School. There, community was emphasized through collective creative acts by visual artists, dancers, and musicians. Theologians in residence helped the community see the long human story of spirituality, morality, and ethics.

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 optional.

Policing, Power and Poetic Justice Monday, July 17, is the ninth anniversary of the death of Eric Garner. Using poetry to punctuate the views of marginalized voices, we’ll address the issue of policing Black bodies and mental health. What is the origin tale of policing in the US and what have been the global implications in its development?

Love Is at the Center

The recent Annual Meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association—we call it General Assembly or “GA”—decided by an overwhelming majority that there is something that ought to be at the center of our faith: LOVE.

When an earlier generation created the Unitarian Universalist Association, they called us a “Living Tradition.” We came about by a consolidation of the Universalist Church of America, chartered in New York, and the American Unitarian Association, chartered in Massachusetts. Two legislatures had to allow our consolidation, and you can imagine that we were very careful in crafting our legal documents. In writing a new set of corporate bylaws, we expressed that we were very careful in crafting our legal documents. In writing a new set of corporate bylaws, we expressed that our Association exists for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes, and we stated the Principles which underlie those purposes.

In those initial years, we created a new religious movement. We engaged in actions in the public square that largely brought us together—like support for voting and other civil rights. We also were perplexed around some matters—like the war against Vietnam. By the 1970s, people throughout our movement were asking questions about how—despite our best intentions—male supremacy was somehow encoded in who we are as a system. When women among us asked us to consider the language that we use in our hymns and readings and even in our many careful documents, we knew that it was time to reconsider the founding Principles in our bylaws.

By 1984, we were ready to state in a new way the Principles behind the purposes of our Association. At our General Assemblies in 1984 and 1985, we amended our Bylaws to reflect the seven Principles that many of us have known from their publication in our hymnal to many curriculums by which we teach ourselves and others a liberal and liberating way of growing a soul.

We promised ourselves, then, that we would not let those Principles sit unchallenged. We would not allow them to become a kind of creed. We even voted to formally examine the Principles.

Touchstones continues on page 2
The Quest
continued from page 1

each decade. (By the way, we’ve had a tough time keeping to that schedule! We’ve deferred in practice to a reconsideration about every fifteen years.)

At this year’s General Assembly, over 85 percent of GA delegates accepted the recommendation of the Article II Study Commission that the purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is “to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.” The General Assembly approved restating our Principles as a network of interrelated, shared values and the covenants which derive from those values.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Transformation We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

Our whole association is invited to another year of considering the action of General Assembly and any amendments adopted by the Board of Trustees in the next year. Delegates will finally approve these amendments to our Bylaws at General Assembly 2024.

There was one additional issue of some contention presented before the General Assembly: that the Common Endowment Fund be fully divested of any funds vested in the fossil fuel industry. The action also sought to make immediate reparation to indigenous peoples and those Black and Brown communities and refugees who are the special victims of prior and ongoing wars fueled by the fossil fuel industry.

In a letter by President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray to President Sofía Betancourt, they supported the decision of the UUA Board of Trustees to reject the resolution. They also congratulated the UU Young Adults for Divestment for their activism and high ideals, and suggested that the Social Investment Committee responsible to the UUA Board of Trustees would attend to their concerns as the whole association moves toward more fully sustainable investing.

Democracy, I have been told, is not for the faint of heart. GA included a few days of contentious consideration around an important single issue. It affirmed a larger conversation about what might be the center of our religious life. This messiness is, as the activists insist, “what democracy looks like.” My aim, in our diverse congregation, is for us to find ways to live a vital religious life with one another that gives us, from time to time, a chance to consider things that stretch us, even as we return to those basic values which we live into in our education work, our actions for social justice, and our worship life. Wouldn’t it be something if we were known as a place where Love is at the center of our collective life, and where hard questions are (from time to time!) welcomed and faithfully addressed?

Happy mid-summer, friends.

Yours in a faith that is liberal and liberating,

Rev. David Carl Olson
Associate Minister for Congregational Life
A Message From the President

As I begin my term as President of the Congregation, I want to thank you all for the opportunity you have given me to be of service and give back. My childhood UU religious education and upbringing played an essential role in shaping who I am. It has made me a better partner, parent, and friend and I am grateful for it.

I was new to the area when I first came to Shelter Rock; a relocation from Philadelphia for my husband Cliff’s job. This move was unlike others we had made over the years. Moving someplace new when you are in your late 50s is different. The elements that have always anchored your life aren’t there. Our daughters were grown, so there was no Home and School Association or other parent-related group for me to slide into. I was not here for a job of my own. And there aren’t many 50-somethings looking to add new members to their long-term social networks. The logical place for me to settle in was at a new UU congregation. I had visited Shelter Rock during a house hunting trip earlier in the year. The Worship Room immediately resonated with me. I saw similarities between Shelter Rock’s and Unity Church’s in St Paul, MN, the congregation that raised me. I felt that I had found my new home.

It took some time for me to find my place at Shelter Rock. Things did not go as I had hoped. Although some members called, invited, and lunched with me, many of my early experiences weren’t welcoming. I often times did not feel included—I was not invited to join a table at events or Sunday lunch, I wasn’t approached before or after Sunday Services. I kept coming back because I was lonely—and determined. I kept trying because Shelter Rock was really all I had. So it had to work. And ultimately, it did. But one result of my experience is a commitment to make Shelter Rock the place I was looking for when I arrive on Long Island, to help Shelter Rock become a model welcoming community. Many among us, not least of which the individuals on our Membership Committee, share this goal and exemplify the loving congregation we strive to be. This is who we say we are and I believe this is who we want to be. Everyone who walks through our front door should feel it. Many of us act in a way that exemplifies the loving congregation we strive to be. But each and every one of us needs to do our part.

My goal during the next two years is to lead the Board’s efforts to move the Strategic Plan forward. We need to ask ourselves at every turn how our activities, meetings, and events align with the Plan. We will continue our work to update and streamline the bylaws, a major undertaking that will take a considerable amount of time and effort. Program committees will be asked to focus on activities that directly relate to the Strategic Plan. Committee structure needs to be examined with a eye to maximizing what can be accomplished by our pool of volunteers (and lay leaders). These structures and activities were developed for a world that no longer exists; we need to adjust to the differences.

And finally, I want to thank our outgoing President Jana North. She invited me to become Vice President but treated me like a Co-President. I will continue that approach with Aimee Vella Ripley, our the new Vice President. That strategy best serves the congregation and I am in debt to Jana for showing me the way. I am excited about what lies ahead. Know that I will always give it my best effort. I know you all will too.

We send our sympathies to UUCSR member... Claire Brady whose beloved husband, John, died peacefully at the age of 92. John died on Friday, June 30, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. In addition to his wife, Claire, he is survived by his two children, Denise and William. A service is planned for Wednesday, July 26 at 10:30 AM, at Our Lady of Fatima, 6 Cottonwood Road (off Manorhaven Blvd), Manorhaven, NY 11050. Condolences may be sent to:

Claire Brady
464 Main St, Apt. 216
Port Washington, NY 11050

We hold in our hearts... Terry Bain, her husband, Marc Santiago, and their extended family as they mourn the death of Terry and Marc’s 31-year-old nephew, David Bain, who passed away unexpectedly at his home in Woodstock, VT on June 21, 2023. Condolences may be sent to:

Terry Bain and Marc Santiago and Family
461 McDermott Rd
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

We congratulate UUCSR member... Doris Smith as she celebrates her 98th birthday on July 26. Doris is currently in Florida and doing well. She misses seeing everyone at UUCSR. She has been keeping in touch through her son Henry. Birthday greetings may be emailed to Doris at doriswinifredsmith@gmail.com.
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (DAC)
Barry Nobel, Chair

2023 UUA General Assembly (GA) in Pittsburg, PA

The 2023 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the umbrella organization for Unitarian Universalists around the world, voted by a 80/20 margin to accept the revision of UUA Bylaws Article II proposed by the Article II Study Commission, which defines our values and their sources. The proposal contains two amendments passed by the GA individually which enhanced the document:

1. adds "foster...spiritual development" to the mission statement
2. adds "to support and encourage the creation of new Unitarian Universalist communities" to the mission statement

These amendments will be included in the next draft of the Article II proposal, which itself will be voted on during the 2024 General Assembly. Additional amendments will be entertained before and during the 2024 GA. In the 2024 vote, the new Article II will need to pass with 2/3 of the delegates voting "yes" in order for it to become part of the UUA Bylaws.

Descriptions of the 2023 GA, including ballot results can be found at: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2023/business

Music at Shelter Rock
Stephen Michael Smith, Music Director

The Orchestra at Shelter Rock
Stephen Michael Smith, Conductor

Rich Musical Heritage of Ukraine

SUMMER ORCHESTRAL CONCERT
Featured Piano Soloist Nathaniel LaNasa

Sunday, July 30, 2023
1 PM • Onsite and Online

• Suggested donation: $10
• Families $20 max. • Under 18: FREE!
• Simultaneously broadcast outdoors at NO CHARGE

Featuring masterworks by
Myloka Lysenko • Myroslav Skoryk
Boris Lyatoshinksky • Sergey Lyapunov

REGISTER HERE
uucsr.org/23summer

Reception to meet the artists following

RACIAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Democracy in the U.S. and the Rise of Fascism

Friday, August 4, 2023, 7:30–9:30 PM | Via Zoom
Special Showing Presented by the 8th Principle Learning Community

Paula Cole Jones has arranged for a private screening of a highly regarded UU Forum originally held in June 2023.

Presenters:

Please register in advance for this Zoom Meeting HERE. After registering, you will receive a confirmation containing information about joining the meeting.
Art Committee
Paul Kopelow, Chair

Last Call! Share Your Creative Work at the Congregational Art Show.

We are looking forward to a great Congregational Art Show Reception on Sunday, August 6, 2023. Now is the time to select the items of artwork you would like to share with the congregation. We are looking forward to seeing what the painters, poets, sculptors, potters, photographers, and fabric artists are going to share with us this year.

This is your chance to shine! See you there!

Full details and registration forms can be found HERE, on the UUCSR website (uucsr.org), and in the Main Lobby. You can also contact Carrie Ann Sampogan at 516.472.2975 or csampogna@uucsr.org for a Registration Form.

Submitted by Shirley Arlt for the Art Committee

Original paintings, collage, sculpture, photography, pen and ink, mixed media, prints, poetry (8½ by 11 format), and other creative works.

Regrettably, storage is not available post-show.

Please contact Carrie Ann Sampogan with questions or for appointments (516.472.2975 or csampogna@uucsr.org).

Art Exhibit | Saturday, July 1–Tuesday, August 1, 2023 | Art Gallery It’s What We’ve All Been Thinking, by Artist, Brent Wickes Artist’s Reception: Sunday, July 16, 2023 | 1:00–3:00 pm All are welcome.
See UUCSR Collected Blogs on UUCSR.org:

**All UUCSR Posts**
All blog entries in one place, and some ONLY in this collection. See Carla and Paul Drezer’s Thank You to all who made the Memorial Day weekend All-Congregation Retreat a great success. Also includes [link to a large Retreat photo album.](#)

**Clarity, by Rev. David Carl Olson**
Article II explained

**Denominational Affairs (DAC) Updates**
DAC Chair Barry Nobel compiled a fascinating and exhaustive history of the Partner Church Program at Shelter Rock.

**Green Sanctuary Articles**
Way down yonder by the Paw Paw tree.
What? Where?

**Social Justice Articles**

**Touchstones Ministry Team Blog**
Rev. Olson provides a GA recap. This blog is a collection of all ministers missives in one place!

**Veatch Blog**
Stay tuned for updates.

**Women’s Group**
2023 July Update from the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women: Aid for Displaced Ukrainians

Stay Informed!
In addition to *Quest* articles and Events Highlights in *Quest*, both members AND non-members have several ways to stay informed.

Visit [uucsr.org/calendar](http://uucsr.org/calendar) for additional event information including login or registration requirements, if necessary.

**OR**

Visit [MYUUCSR Sign Ups on uucsr.org](http://uucsr.org)

**OR**

Use the incredibly handy mobile app and/or web experience to access calendar, directory, resources, and more available from Church Center

Download on the Apple App
Download on Google Play Store

**AND**

Follow articles that are shared as blog content on uucsr.org.

Tips for navigating the new uucsr.org website:

- **There are four tabs at the top of uucsr.org. Most content of interest to members may be found under the fourth tab: RESOURCES.**
- On any page, click the logo to return to the home/about page.
- When in doubt, please use the SEARCH icon located at top right! (The search icon is a magnifying glass.) Click and then enter any words to describe what you might want to find. Scroll down to see pages that include the language for which you have searched.
- The top-most entry under RESOURCES is the CALENDAR, that also includes a quick link to FEATURED PROGRAMS for convenient sign-ups.
- The second entry under RESOURCES is MY UUCSR. After logging in, members may use it for a quick link to the UUCSR database for the Online Directory of members, for individual and household info, plus giving information, committees, and groups to which you belong and more. Non-members have limited access.
- Member-only documents are securely stored under MY UUCSR. Click GROUPS, then Members of Shelter Rock. Click Resources to find a list of recently uploaded reports, minutes, agendas, policies, etc.

Questions, comments, and assistance navigating new options are available. Contact Jen Sappell at 516.472.2980 or email communications@uucsr.org.
Event Highlights

Every Thursday | 1:00–4:00 PM or until "Game Over"
Veatch Ballroom
BRIDGE, CANASTA, GAMES AND FUN
UUCSR bridge players welcome game players of all kinds to join them on Thursday afternoons. Canasta, Mah Jong, Scrabble, etc. are all welcome. Questions? Contact Carla Drezner at stargatecd@aol.com
See page 5 of this Quest for details.

Every Tuesday | 6:30 PM | Via Zoom HERE
Friday Nights with the LGBTQ+ Friends has moved to Tuesday for July and August. The LGBTQ+ Sub-Committee is not just for Queer folk, but the + includes friends, allies, and parents. Check-in is at 6:30 PM, and gathering for facilitated conversation is at 7:00 PM. Members hope you will join them and become a regular!

Friday, July 14, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Worship Room
SOULFUL SUNDOWN AT SHELTER ROCK
WHERE MUSIC RESIDES AT THE HEART OF THE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
See page 1 of this Quest for details

Sunday, July 16–Sunday, August 13, 2023 The Sounds of Love–An RE Outdoor Summer Program for All Ages
Families meet at 11:00 AM on Sundays, July 16, 23, 30, August 6 and 13, in the RE Wing and on the grounds at UUCSR.
Details HERE.

Sunday, July 16, 2023 | 12:00–3:00 PM | Veatch Ballroom
Women's Group Annual Meeting and Election Luncheon
Register at uucsr.org/23wglunch

Artist's Reception: Sunday, July 16, 2023 | 1:00–3:00 PM | Art Gallery | Art Exhibit | Saturday, July 1–Tuesday, August 1, 2023
It's What We've All Been Thinking, by Artist, Brent Wickes. All are welcome.

Friday, July 28, 2023 | 6:30 PM | Patio
FOURTH FRIDAY at Shelter Rock
Fourth Friday Celebrates Getting Grounded: Creativity, Cooperation and Presence
Friday, July 28 • 6:30 PM • Patio and Main Lobby
July’s Fourth Friday will be a special workshop to build a temporary labyrinth on the lawn at Shelter Rock. We’ll share an outdoor meal of salads and cool drinks, and then work and play together creating a classic labyrinth. There will be song and a few words of blessing, and then we’ll walk the labyrinth. You will be invited to feel your own groundedness as we journey together into the center and out to the world.
Registration requested for meal planning purposes. Call or email Sharyn at sesposito@uucsr.org or 516.472.2960 with any questions.

Saturday, July 29, 2023 | 5:00 PM
Veatch Terrace
Midsummer Night Lobster Fest
In Loving Memory of Jean Judd
Dinner and a Show!
Details and registration at uucsr.org/23lobster

Sunday, July 30, 2023 | 1:00 PM | Worship Room
Orchestra at Shelter Rock Annual Summer Concert
Rich Musical Heritage of Ukraine
Festive Piano Soloist Nathaniel LaNasa, Featured Piano Soloist
See page 4 of this Quest for details.
Correction Notice

The June 21, 2023 Quest newsletter contained errors in UUCSR’s posted summer hours. The Communications Department apologizes for the error and for any inconvenience caused. The following is a Corrected Notice of Summer Hours of operation.

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.

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<th>July 5–July 31, 2023</th>
<th>August 1–Labor Day, September 4, 2023</th>
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<td>Sunday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Closed (except July 29, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM )</td>
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*Quest* is published twice a month, except once each in July and August. Copies are available in the UUCSR Lobbies, [https://uucsr.org/on-demand/quest-newsletter](https://uucsr.org/on-demand/quest-newsletter), and via email. Sign up for email at [https://uucsr.org/on-demand](https://uucsr.org/on-demand). *Quest* Mission is to connect readers to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, to Unitarian Universalism, and to each other. *Quest* is produced by staff members Jennifer Sappell and Linda McCarthy, with the invaluable assistance of member volunteers Claire Z. Bock, and Jessica K. Vega. Submissions: communications@uucsr.org Quest Guidelines: [http://j.mp/quest-gl](http://j.mp/quest-gl) *Quest* may include views or opinions that do not necessarily reflect official policy, views of the respective boards or committees, or editorial staff.