



Shay's Sharing...



“God of many names and mystery beyond all our naming,” begins a prayer by UU minister Rev. Daniel Kanter. Muslims sing the 99 names of Allah, believing them to be outward signs of the universe’s inner mysteries. In Judaism, names convey the nature and essence of things, represent the history and reputation of what they name, and therefore, G-d’s names in all of their forms are treated with great respect and reverence. The Christian God is infinite and incomprehensible and so metaphors, given in divine revelation, are used to name that God, allowing God to be revealed to humans in finite and comprehensible ways. And as we explore the many beautiful and mysterious deities of paganism and earth-centered traditions this month, let us remember that no name for the Holy is any more or less sacred than any other.

I read somewhere once that for Unitarian Universalists, the names we use for the sacred and holy represent the vision of our highest values and hopes. If this is true, then regardless of whether you believe in an actual deity (or several), regardless of whether you believe in an interested God or no God, regardless of what you believe about something or someone larger than us moving throughout all of creation – if this is true, then when we say “God,” deep down, beneath all metaphor, we are naming the same thing.

What would our song of the names of God sound like?

Adolfo Quezada writes, “God of the Wild, you are different from what I expected. I cannot predict you. You are too free to be captured for the sake of my understanding. You are everywhere I least expect to find you.”

Let us explore the ancient and powerful Names of this wild, unpredictable thing that is hidden in all of our secret places. Let us reclaim these words that may have alienated us, wounded us, distanced us from each other and ourselves. Let us reclaim and redefine the All Things and the Nothing that God represents. Let us sing together the many names of that which we hold sacred .



Vespers Service Update - Vespers services at the Sanford UU Church have been discontinued until spring. At that time we will again offer vespers, but on a different evening. Until then, if you would like to attend a vespers service led by Rev. Shay, you are warmly welcomed at our sister church, 60 School Street in Saco. Rev. Shay will lead a vespers service at the UUCSB on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcomed!

UU Notes Newsletter Reminder - UU Notes is published the first working day of each month. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, please do so four days prior to the publication date. Thank you!

SUUC Book Group - The book group will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 17th at 6:00 p.m. in Goodall Hall or another location to be announced. We will be discussing: *An Indigenous People's History of the United States (ReVisioning American History)* Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2015)

In *An Indigenous People's History of the United States (ReVisioning American History)*, Dunbar-Ortiz adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. Spanning more than 400 years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our history. Please see Karen Nelson for more information.

Building Safety Committee - We have received approval to recruit interested congregants in the creation of a Building Safety Committee, as a sub-committee to Building and Grounds. We will review an already existing plan created by the Georgia Mountains UU Church, and edit it to fit our own needs at SUUC. If you are interested in joining, please contact Diane Whiteside-Peck.

Celebration of Life - A Celebration of Life will be held for Virginia (Ginny) Reusch at the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturday, December 28th at 11:00 a.m. Donations in her memory may be made to the Great Works Regional Land Trust, Post Office Box 152, South Berwick, Maine 03908.

Corner Cupboard Donations - Due to the many donated items we have received, and with limited storage space, we are unable to accept clothes, books, or household goods until after the new year. Thank you.

Rev. Shay's Office Hours - Rev. Shay will be in her office on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pastoral/Caring Needs - As the Board reevaluates the needs of members, friends and visitors in relation to our Standing Committees, during this time please contact Rev. Shay for all pastoral and caring needs by text or phone at 207-518-8059 or revshaymackay@gmail.com



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>11:00am worship service</p> <p>AA Vestry 5:00pm-6:15pm</p>	<p>2 Newsletter Day</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm to 7:15pm and bell choir 7:15pm to 8:00pm</p>	<p>3 Music Lessons 2:00pm-7:30pm</p> <p>Brown Bag Supper with Rev. Shay 5:00pm-6:00pm</p> <p>MTN meeting in Shay's office 6:00pm</p>	<p>4 Rev. Shay in her office 9:00am-4:00pm</p> <p>Project CommUnity 6:30pm-8:30pm in GH</p> <p>Al-Anon 6:00pm-7:00pmGH</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in vestry 7:30pm-9:00pm</p>	<p>5 VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p> <p>Bereavement Support Group GH 5:00pm-6:30pm</p> <p>Quiet Social Time 5:00pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Rev. Shay's office</p>	<p>6</p> <p>AA Vestry 6:00pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 RE classes 10:00am</p> <p>11:00am worship service</p> <p>WA meeting noon</p> <p>UU Social Justice History 1:00pm-3:00pm</p> <p>AA Vestry 5:00pm-6:15pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm to 7:15pm and bell choir 7:15pm to 8:00pm</p> <p>Board Meeting 6:30pm-8:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Music Lessons 2:00pm-7:30pm</p> <p>Deb Walsh using yellow room downstairs 4:45pm-6:30pm</p>	<p>11 Rev. Shay in her office 9:00am-4:00pm</p> <p>Women's Alliance meeting at noon</p> <p>Al-Anon 6:00pm-7:00pmGH</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in vestry 7:30pm-9:00pm</p>	<p>12 VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p> <p>Bereavement Support Group GH 5:00pm-6:30pm</p> <p>Quiet Social Time 5:00pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Rev. Shay's office</p>	<p>13</p> <p>AA Vestry 6:00pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 RE Play All Ages Sunday</p> <p>11:00am worship service</p> <p>AA Vestry 5:00pm-6:15pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm to 7:15pm and bell choir 7:15pm to 8:00pm</p> <p>Vespers service at UUCSB 7:00pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Music Lessons 2:00pm-7:30pm</p> <p>Brown Bag Supper with Rev. Shay 5:00pm-6:00pm</p> <p>MTN meeting in Shay's office 6:00pm</p>	<p>18 Rev. Shay in her office 9:00am-4:00pm</p> <p>Project CommUnity 6:30pm-8:30pm in GH</p> <p>Al-Anon 6:00pm-7:00pmGH</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in vestry 7:30pm-9:00pm</p>	<p>19 VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p> <p>Bereavement Support Group GH 5:00pm-6:30pm</p> <p>Quiet Social Time 5:00pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Rev. Shay's office</p>	<p>20 CC sets up</p> <p>AA Vestry 6:00pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>21 CC is open 10:00am –1:30pm</p> <p>RE meets at the church 10:00am-noon</p>
<p>22 Solstice Service</p> <p>RE classes 10:00am</p> <p>11:00am worship service</p> <p>AA Vestry 5:00pm-6:15pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm to 7:15pm and bell choir 7:15pm to 8:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Choir and bell choir rehearsal</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm</p> <p>Vocal and bell choir will perform, and UU Notes will sing</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Office is closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office is closed</p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p> <p>Bereavement Support Group GH 5:00pm-6:30pm</p> <p>Quiet Social Time 5:00pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Rev. Shay's office</p>	<p>27</p> <p>AA Vestry 6:00pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>28 Celebration of Life of Virginia (Ginny) Reusch at SUUC 11:00am</p>
<p>29</p> <p>11:00am worship service</p> <p>AA Vestry 5:00pm-6:15pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>				

Our Sister Church

Visit our sister church's website at <http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com/>

Storm Cancellation Information

Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church service and event cancellations are announced on the following television stations: WCSH 6, WMTW 8 and WGME 13. You may also receive the latest information regarding cancellations by calling the church office (324-3191) for the latest recording, check the top of our website or our Facebook page. In addition, a congregational email will be sent. Please note, if church is cancelled due to inclement weather, you will be able to watch and listen to Rev. Shay's sermon on Podcast via a link which will be sent to you.

Candles Lit in Memory or Honor of a Loved One

Light a candle on Christmas Eve in memory or honor of a loved one. Donations are welcome.

In Honor/Memory of _____

Your name: _____

Please leave your donation and information in the office or in the offertory plate. Thank you.

Ringers and Singers

It's that time again! Time to start rehearsing the Christmas music. As we did last year, we'll split Monday evening rehearsals with the choir: 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. for bells, and 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the choir. If you've considered joining the fun of making music, and have the rehearsal time free, come on in! You don't have to be a great singer or be able to read music. Rehearsals will be held on **December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 24th**. Hope to see you!

Mark Your Calendar Christmas Eve Service

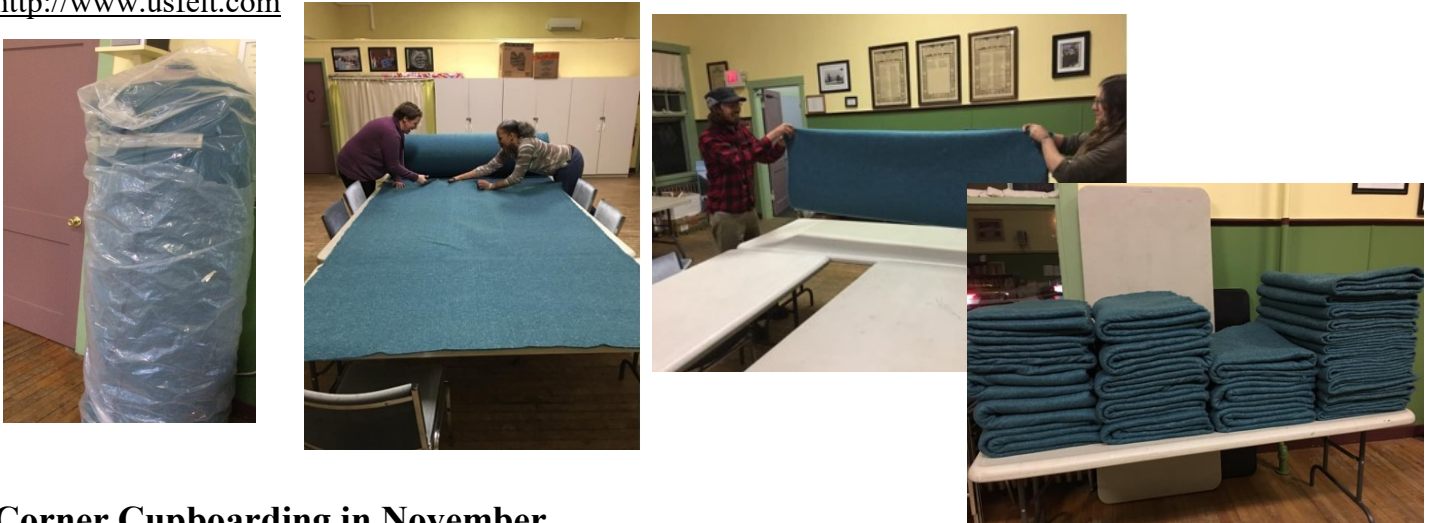
Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th with Rev. Shay MacKay. Our SUUC bell choir, vocal choir, the UU Notes, Ruth Leipold, Rev. Charles Grindle and Melody Wood will provide the music for this special service. Following the service, join us for some refreshments provided by our amazing congregation. If you are able, we ask you to kindly bring finger foods, healthy snacks, or cookie treats. Coffee and other beverages will be available. Thank you.



Blankets for the Needy

US Felt Co. in Sanford wanted to do something for people experiencing homelessness locally, so they produced this roll of beautiful blanket material. Project CommUnity has teamed up to cut the blankets to size and help get them out into the community. We look forward to distributing these blankets where they are most needed. If anyone you know is homeless and could use a warm blanket, please reach out to us. THANK YOU so much to US Felt Co. for this generous effort and donation. Your kindness will make a real difference in people's lives.

<http://www.usfelt.com>



Corner Cupboard in November

On November 16, Corner Cupboard volunteers (aged 13 to 80+) provided free non-food essentials to people from 131 households (including 14 new ones). Shoppers chose personal health, cleaning, paper, pet, baby, and other necessary products. They also selected from donated clothing, books, and miscellaneous items before moving on to dinner in the parlor. Clients included a woman who said she comes to Corner Cupboard whenever she is well enough to get there and another who was a little later than usual because she had been collecting a big bagful of discarded cans and bottles along the way. People who shop here tell us they need the Corner Cupboard and count on it. Simultaneously, the energetic and talented Project CommUnity team hosted a complete Harvest Dinner at Sanford UU Church. Locally grown produce, home cooking, and dinner and to-go meals succeeded again in building community through the caring connections between enthusiastic volunteers and well over 100 dinner guests. A Sanford High School scholar named Aiden volunteers at Corner Cupboard every month to register shoppers as they enter Goodall Hall. He says that it "Feels good to make a difference." When asked how it is working with a team that includes a number of volunteers more than a few decades older than he is, he smiled and said, "It's like I'm in the 1980s."



Quiet Social Time

Scott Knight will be leading a group where people can come together and have some low-pressure social activity. The group would start with quiet conversation while people arrive (not too loud, he wants this to be a safe space for people with sensory issues). He would then do a signal of some sort and the group would all sit and do an hour of silent activity of choice (bring a book to read, craft, journal, coloring, anything that can be done silently). At the end of the hour another signal of sorts will play and the group will come together in a circle to share anything they would

like. No one would have to share, but the space will be there for people who are excited about their activity and want to. This group is open to anyone, in or out of this church, who would benefit from silent social activity. The group will meet on Thursdays through the end of June 2020, in Rev. Shay's office from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 324-3191.



Notes from the Board

The Board gathered in Shay's office in November. We were happy to have the furnace working again as the night was cold and rainy. With a new, reduced meeting time in practice, we set out to begin promptly and communicate effectively through our agenda.

Some important items of business were on the list this month! Marcel let us know that more work is needed to truly "fix" the furnace. We learned that several people, including Bill and some repair folks, were working on days off to get heat into the sanctuary. We are so grateful for their dedication!

I was able to report the data collected for the wayside pulpit. Thirty-four surveys were collected! Thank you for sharing your thoughts and feelings! The results have been narrowed to the top 8 phrases that got the most votes from the congregation. We are happy to keep momentum going on this project which will help make our values as a congregation transparent to the broader community. Next will be design work and then installing the new banner!

Diane attended an AED training in early November and reported back to us what she'd learned! The training was helpful and gave us a lot of necessary info to move forward including how to keep the AED machine in top working order, how best to store it and other important items to have on hand in case of a medical emergency. In addition to moving forward with the installation of the AED in the church, we are also planning to keep making progress with other safety measures for the building and community of folks that use it.

An organizational plan was made for any snow day closures that may need to be called in the months ahead. Shay let us know that if she is scheduled to preach and service is cancelled at the church, she will be delivering her sermon from home! She will provide us with a way to watch the sermon from a home computer (if you have one), safely and soundly.

The Board continues to feel concern for the rising homeless population in town and are actively seeking ways to better serve this communities needs with our resources, building, time and energy. While the task seems daunting, we feel there is an abundance of momentum and heart behind this work both within our congregation and across the faith communities here in Sanford and neighboring towns.

There's always so much to discuss at these meetings, it is hard to convey all of it! I'd like to close by giving my personal remarks as the newest member of the Board. In the short time that I have served with this group of folks I have been truly moved by the care, commitment, intelligence and support that flows through these meetings. It's an honor to serve on the Board of this congregation and I look forward to continuing to grow and learn through this experience!

Be well, Natasha

Board 2019-2020

Vice President: Karen Nelson - June 30, 2021
Clerk: Janie Waterhouse - June 30, 2020
Financial Secretary: Ginny Howe - June 30, 2020
Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon - June 30, 2021
Liaisons: Judi Reis - June 30, 2020, Natasha Nolan Parker - June 30, 2022, Diane Whiteside-Peck - June 30, 2021
DREs: Ryan and Mesha Quinn

Church Leadership 2019-2020

Building and Grounds: Marcel Gagnon
Capital Projects Building Committee: Howard Dupee, Bill Ouellette
Choir: Charles Grindle
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane
Covenant of Right Relations Team: Aileen Fortune, Melody Wood, Lee Burnett, Karen Nelson, Rev. Shay
FIAT (Faith in Action Team): Patty Kidder
Finance Committee: Peg Sawyer, Pat Herrick, Ginny Howe, Deb Folsom
Fundraising Coordinator: Jan Sacco
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco, Melody Wood
Investment Management Committee: Peg Sawyer, Art Dumas, Howard Dupee
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase
Ministerial Relations Team: Tom Huber, Dee Ames, Bev Brent
Music Committee Chair: Melody Wood
Nominating Committee: Deb Folsom, David Agan, Jan Sacco
Stewardship: Helen Kane
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham
Worship: Rev. Shay MacKay
Worship Associates: Rev. Shay MacKay, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Tom Huber, Beverly Brent, Judi Reis, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse and Georgia Renfroe.

Minister - Rev. Shay MacKay. In the event of a pastoral emergency or caring concern, please contact Rev. Shay at 207-518-8059 (text/call) or at revshaymackay@gmail.com
Office hours are every Wednesday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Administrative Office Hours - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 7:00am to noon info@sanforduuchurch.org

Co-Directors of Religious Education - Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

UUCSB Leadership

President: Allen Casad
Vice President: Ron Hiser **Secretary:** Pat Snyder
Treasurer: Wendy Coleman **Collector:** Betsy Pace
At Large: Susan Young, Laurie Sivonen, Isa Ahmed
Please contact UUCSB at uuchurch@gwi.net for contact information

SUUC Church and Community Groups

AA Meetings: AA meetings are held every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:15pm and Fridays 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Vestry

Al-Anon Meetings: Wednesdays in GH 6:00pm-7:00pm or in Rev. Shay's office on days other meetings are in GH

Board Meeting: December 9th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in Goodall Hall

Book Group: Next meeting is January 17th at 6:00pm in Goodall Hall or location TBD

Choirs: Please see calendar in newsletter for dates
Corner Cupboard: CC is open on December 21st from 10:00am to 1:30pm

Evening Bereavement Group: Meetings are on Thursdays from 5:00pm-6:30pm in Goodall Hall

Maine Transgender Network (MTN): Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in Shay's office and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in Rev. Shay's office

Music Lessons: Lessons are given on Tuesdays from 2:00pm-7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets every Wednesday in the Vestry from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Project Community: Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Goodall Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Quiet Social Time: In Rev. Shay's office with Scott Knight on Thursdays from 5:00pm-7:00pm

Violence No More: Every Thursday at 5:00pm in the Vestry

Women's Alliance: Meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon

Worship Associates: Sunday, December 8th at noon