



Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church
UU NOTES Volume XLIV
November 2020, Issue 5

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Minister: Rev. Shay MacKay
Religious Education Directors:
Mesha and Ryan Quinn
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Church Administrator: Mona Ouellette
Newsletter Editor: Mona Ouellette
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Maintenance/Sexton: Bill Ouellette

UUA PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- * Justice equity, and compassion in human relations.
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- * The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

(Adopted by the 1984 and 1985 General Assemblies)

← **Services Continue to be Celebrated Online via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729> Meeting ID: 239 963 1729 Call In: (646) 876-9923

Worship for November 2020 - Don't forget to turn your clocks back on November 1st!

November 1st – Us and Them – Rev. Shay MacKay - Deconstructing the binaries that separate us.

November 8th – In Response to Election Day - Rev. Shay MacKay

November 15th – The Golden Chain: An Ife Creation Story – Rev. Shay MacKay - Ife was an ancient Yoruba city in the Osun state of Nigeria, which flourished between the 11th and 15th centuries. This is a retelling of a creation story from that tradition, mixed with African-American spirituals and neo-pagan imagery. It is written by a Unitarian Universalist educator POC.

November 22nd – The Line that Cuts the Heart -Rev. Shay MacKay *"If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?" — Aleksander Solzhenitsyn*

November 29th – Guest preacher, Reverend Molly Brewer from Portland, ME – more information to come!

Rev. Shay's Sharing...

November Theme ~ Good & Evil



“Being against evil doesn't make you good. Tonight I was against it and then I was evil myself. I could feel it coming just like a tide... I just want to destroy them. But when you start taking pleasure in it you are awfully close to the thing you're fighting.” ~ Ernest Hemingway, Islands in the Stream

We live in a culture that is defined by binaries and dichotomies, which survives by the lines drawn to separate things rather than those drawn to connect them. But as we all learn as we mature, very rarely are lines straight and clear, especially when drawn by a human hand.

Human nature is infinitely more complex than either/or, of course. As Walt Whitman said, we contain multitudes, and as we learn more and more about the human mind and spirit, we are coming to understand that so much of what we thought was defined by “this” or “that” is actually fluid and fluctuating.

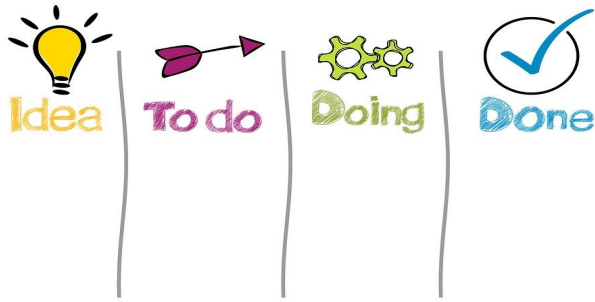
So where *do* we draw lines of distinction? Is there any value in those lines or are they merely coping mechanisms, or worse, weapons of morality deployed in attempts to control what feels chaotic and unpredictable?

I like to think I recognize the moments within myself when I slide towards the anger and fear of “evil”, that I can figure out what’s hurting me and/or others in order to change direction and move toward love – as my Unitarian faith tells me is true. I’d like to think that everyone can find wholeness, empathy, and generosity within themselves and within the world – as my Universalist faith tells me is real.

But faith can only take us so far. William Blake once wrote, “active evil is better than passive good.” Unpacking that quote would take several sermons, but it certainly presents an interesting idea – if we *are* able to recognize when we (or someone else) have moved away from love, and if we *do* believe it is possible to make a change, is it our moral obligation to take action in order to encourage that change to happen?

Oh, but then we fall down the philosophical rabbit-hole of “what is morality” and “who gets to decide what is moral”. Another series of sermons!

For now, let’s just think about the lines we draw, through word and action, that we use to create “us” and “them”, and “good” vs “evil”. Where are these lines in your life? Why have you drawn them and what does that say about *you*?



November Reflection

Even though we're not meeting at church, your Board continues to meet monthly. We hear reports from the Corner Cupboard, the Covid 19 Response team, our treasurer, minister, and others. We assess the return to in person church each month. And we spend time talking about staying connected, and how we might take care of any caring concerns that arise. We are working on a new plan to create a Caring Circle that works by sharing outreach via Google Docs. We'll let you know when it's up and running, hoping some of you will want to be a part of it.

Each of us is responding to the pandemic situation in our own way. I've talked with many folks who are happy to stay home, to get out of the hustle and bustle. People are finding many ways to use their extra time, cooking, canning, creating, puzzling, playing, sewing, gardening, etc. Some are busier than ever, being teacher, parent, worker bee all at the same time. Personally I'm doing ok. Bev and I have a cozy home, lots of fresh country air to breathe, and certainly enough home owner tasks to keep us busy. But ok is not my normal. I thrive on the moments that bring me in contact with the people I so enjoy- in exercise class, book group, pickleball, and outdoor gatherings of friends. But still I often have that empty feeling. I'm pretty sure it's because I miss my church family. Maybe I took our weekly gatherings and special events for granted, but it seems there is a big hole where all that used to be. Needless to say I look forward to the time when we can gather in person. Until then stay well, and stay connected. Judi Reis



Our Sister Church

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



Relief Committee Update

UPDATE ON SANFORD UU CHURCH'S COVID RELIEF FUND TEAM

For the end of September and the month of October, funds were used to aid in the purchase of hygiene products for young people at the Eastside Youth Program, to pay both a car payment and storage fees for an individual who had lost her job, to provide a security deposit so a homeless couple could move into a room at a local inn, to pay one month's rent to an individual who was out of work, and to provide two months' rent to a single mother who had contracted the Covid 19 virus as a result of her work as a Certified Nurse's Aide. Thanks to our generous donor, this money was quickly available to help these people get through the pandemic's impact on their lives.

Lee composed and submitted an article for the "Sanford Springvale News" about our Fund. A photograph taken by Gail of the team and Shay in front of our church accompanied the news release. The link to the article may be found on the church Facebook page and on our website under news.

The team learned from Project CommUnity that the Sanford homeless population had been living on private property, with the owner's permission, but had been forcibly evacuated by the Police Department in late September at the owner's request. These folks cannot avail themselves of the Alfred Shelter because their addictions are active; the Alfred Shelter requires persons to be clean and sober upon admission. The Sanford PD's Liaison to the homeless says the best solution is to identify another landowner who would allow the homeless community to live on their land. There are attempts being made to acquire City funding for a local Shelter, perhaps refurbishing one of the former elementary schools for daytime use, but this action is met with conservative reaction within the City Council. The matter was brought up at SUUC's October Board meeting for brainstorming; we did approve the purchase of ten sleeping bags, but encourage anyone with ideas or solutions to talk to Shay or a Board member.

We heard from one grateful woman who was helped by our contribution to the local Meals On Wheels program, and we await further stories of how individuals may have been helped by our funds.

Also! We send our love and congratulations to our team member, Lindsay (Kidder) Bellissimo, who as of October 23rd, is the happy mother of a seven-pound baby boy named Lucca!!

Submitted by Diane Whiteside-Peck

VOTE! And help others to be able to VOTE!



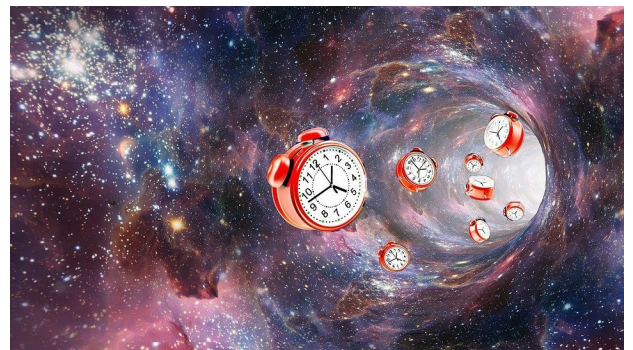
Corner Cupboard Update

The Corner Cupboard has been able to distribute our products to those in need through a variety of avenues. We have partnered with The Sanford Backpack Program during their summer food distributions. Several times, we have offered products to the homebound who receive Meals on Wheels. Case workers and others who hear of needs come to church to gather products to deliver. We are still brainstorming ways to open up safely in our usual way. If you know of any way that we can help those in need, please call the church 324-3191, or Judi 651-2033. Thanks!

CLYNK Bottle and Can Return at Hannaford

Last week we picked up \$134.52 from CLYNK returns at Hannaford. Money generated through this program is picked up throughout the year and goes into our fundraising line. Please pick up a CLYNK bag at the church for your returnable cans and bottles, the bags are located on a table in Goodall Hall for your convenience. **In light of the pandemic, you may contact the church office and have CLYNK bags mailed to you if you prefer.** Please save only the cans and bottles that are redeemable. You may drop your CLYNK bag off at any Hannaford offering this incentive or at the church. Thank you to everyone for your participation in this recycling program, we can all make a difference!

*Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour
before bedtime on Saturday, October 31st.
Daylight Saving begins Sunday, November 1st.*





OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Weekly Vespers Services – Every Thursday from 7pm to 7:30pm on Zoom. Join Rev. Shay for a time of reflection and stillness, music and poetry, meditation and connection.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83734173380>

Meeting ID: 837 3417 3380

Call In: (646) 876-9923

Coffee Hour with your Board Members and Rev. Shay – Every Sunday after our worship service, join Rev. Shay and members of your Board of Trustees on Zoom for small group discussions based around the monthly theme, that day's sermon, and other relevant topics from your lives. Here is the zoom link for our Sunday services and Coffee Hour:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729>

Meeting ID: 239 963 1729

Call In: (646) 876-9923

The Soul of Aging with Rev. Shay – Every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm on Zoom - In this program, we will creatively approach “the art” of aging intentionally, and the many soulful invitations our maturing years offer us. In a time when so many of us are entering the last season of our lives, this is for those who yearn to understand, surrender to, and be transformed by the aging process. The themes address many of the spiritual aspect of this season of our lives and include: our visions of aging, living our unlived lives, completion & forgiveness, our relationship with time, how to nurture our mystical nature, and the notion of befriending our own deaths. We will use poetry, story, music and art to explore these topics, all within the fellowship of a trustworthy community.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84624720782>

Meeting ID: 846 2472 0782

Call In: (646) 876-9923



In the SUUC Family News

Lindsay and James Bellissimo's (Patty and Roger Kidder's daughter and son-in-law) first child, a son, Lucca Matthew Bellissimo, was born on October 23rd, 2020 at 2:05pm by a non-emergency C-Section at York Hospital. Lindsay's blood pressure was too high to remain pregnant and the baby went into distress every time they tried to induce labor so the surgery was planned 2 1/2 weeks early. He weighed exactly 7 lbs. and was 19 3/4 inches long at birth. All are doing well and we expect they will be home by the time you read this announcement.

We send our love and congratulations to all!!



Board 2020-2021

Vice President: Karen Nelson - June 30, 2021

Clerk: Judi Reis - June 30, 2022

Financial Secretary: Ginny Howe - June 30, 2022

Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon - June 30, 2021

Liaisons: Janie Waterhouse - June 30, 2023, Natasha Nolan Parker - June 30, 2022, Diane Whiteside-Peck - June 30, 2021

DREs: Ryan and Mesha Quinn

Church Leadership 2020-2021

Building and Grounds: Marcel Gagnon

Capital Projects Building Committee: Howard Dupee, Bill Ouellette

Choir:

Church Historian: Helen Kane

Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane, Marcel Gagnon

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

Music Committee Chair: Melody Wood

Nominating Committee: Deb Folsom

Stewardship:

Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham

Worship: Rev. Shay MacKay

Worship Associates: Rev. Shay MacKay, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Tom Huber, Beverly Brent, Jan Sacco, Georgia Renfro

Rev. Shay's Fall Schedule - Monday is Writing Day, limited availability. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday completely available to you, please email, text or call to set up an appointment time! Friday is day off, emergency availability only. Saturday on call for pre-scheduled meetings and events; available for emergencies. Sunday is Worship and Coffee Hour. Email revshaymackay@gmail.com Phone/text 207-518-8059

Administrative Office Hours - Church office is closed due to pandemic, working from home - info@sanforduuchurch.org
Email anytime, always available

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

Newsletter Deadlines for 2020-2021 FY

December 28th

January 25th

February 22nd

March 22nd

April 26th

May 24th

June 21st

