



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

Welcoming all in a spirit of compassion, inquiry, and service

FEBRUARY 2022

From our Minister



Freedom and happiness are found in the flexibility and ease with which we move through change. ~ Gautama Buddha

Flexibility has become an absolute necessity thanks to the pandemic, and yet flexibility has also become one of the most challenging tasks of our lives! I want to thank the UUCD leadership, and all of you, for your flexibility over the past month or more as together we have gone from an in-person and online service on Sunday, to strictly online. It may very well be that sometime this month we will be able gather in person and flexibility will be called upon once again as we consider appropriate protocols, shift our service scripts, and prepare our Fellowship Hall. Change and flexibility go hand-in-hand. I agree with the Buddha when he said that freedom and happiness are found in the flexibility and ease with which we move through change. He didn't say it would be easy, and it usually isn't. But that flexibility frees us up to a fuller life experience and opportunities we might otherwise not see.

Being flexible with our expectations of each other is something else that is challenging in this time of uncertainty. It requires understanding, patience, and forgiveness; recognizing that the values we share are more significant than any disagreement or disappointment. As the famous Unitarian Francis David said, "We need not think alike to love alike". It is healthy to have differing opinions and important to share from our personal perspectives. Flexibility beckons when those opinions and perspectives differ from our own and we need to take a breath, step back, and listen without formulating a response or reacting. In beloved community we seek to be in right relationship with one another by listening, by letting others know when we've been hurt, by apologizing, and by working together with flexibility at our core. It's tough business but it is where freedom and happiness are found and flourish.

Let's commit ourselves to bend and not break; being flexible with ourselves and each other as we dive into the last half of our congregational year together. We have much to look forward to in 2022! You can count on me to walk with you as I'm honored to be your minister, proud of your flexibility, and ready to face the challenges ahead with you.

Grateful for the strength of flexibility,

Rev. Kathleen

Our Mission Statement:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is an open religious community that welcomes a diversity of people, ideas and beliefs. We celebrate together that which is good in life, and offer comfort and care in times of need. With others, we work to create a just society and a sustainable Earth. We stand as a beacon for independent thought, and encourage lifelong spiritual and intellectual exploration. - Adopted by this congregation May 16, 2008

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is a UUA designated “Welcoming Congregation.” Our congregation is welcoming to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. The Welcoming Congregation program is consistent with our first UU principle in which we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We welcome all – regardless of age, race, disability, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religious background, or political affiliation – factors that can separate people in our larger culture.

Current Board of Trustees		
Co-President	Michele Cousens	203-223-1036 mcoutens7@comcast.net
Co-President	Margaret Henderson	314-518-1412 ravenhen@gmail.com
Secretary	Samantha McCoy	203-270-9954 samantha.ligon.mccoy@gmail.com
Treasurer	Marie Dupree	203-947-1001 treasurer@uudanbury.org
Trustee	Debra Oria	203-240-9461 debraoria@sbcglobal.net
Trustee	Peter Horton	914-522-8154 hortonpsh@yahoo.com
Trustee	Diane Purvis	914-450-4030 dianehpurvis@gmail.com

Minister:	Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rudoff	minister@uudanbury.org
Director of Religious Education:	Sierra-Maria Gerfao	dre@uudanbury.org
Music Director:	Jerry Phelps	musicdirector@uudanbury.org
Office Manager:	Sherry Kyriacou	officemanager@uudanbury.org

Deadline for the March Comment – Friday, February 18th.

Contact names in the February Comment:

- Gale Alexander: 860-350-4915**
rabbatnet@aol.com
- Val Cochrane: 203-791-1378**
vcsew.what@gmail.com
- Bruni Edwards: 404-421-4018**
Bruni30@hotmail.com
- Karen & Joe Gillotti: 203-730-9440**
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Ctdemfem22@gmail.com
- Gary Mummert: 202-957-8311**
gmum4530@gmail.com
- Douglas Parkhurst: 802-368-7164**
Dpark127@aol.com

February Services – One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 6th The Importance of Black History: Don't Abandon the Idea John Cherry

John Cherry is a native Danburian and has lived here most of his life. He is a retired elementary school teacher who taught for thirty-six and one half years. He has been active in the community: serving on the Board of the Danbury Music Centre for several years and working with Harambee, a youth organization, he was on the Board of Directors for the Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut and is still a member of the Danbury Cultural Commission. John enjoys traveling, reading and collecting just about everything. His favorite purchases are those related to Black History. He is thankful for this opportunity and hopes that you find value in the comments he will be sharing. This service is sponsored by our 8th Principle Action Group.

Sunday, February 13th Seeing The World In Gasps Rev. Dr. Kathleen A. Rudoff

When our lives feel overwhelmed with crises arising from our own personal circumstances, as well as chaos around the globe, we often wind up viewing the world through a narrowed lens and gasping for breath. How long can we keep this up, and how can we see and breathe fully again? Start with the knowledge that we are in this together and commit to supporting one another.

Sunday, February 20th Flowing in the Stream Rev. Dr. Susan Rak



One of the Four Immeasurables in Buddhist teaching is “Equanimity” - being in the middle of it all and cultivating a sense of balance. So we begin here to find a way to live with and through the instability that so often characterizes our lives.

The Reverend Dr. Susan Veronica Rak has been a Unitarian Universalist since the early 1970's and Unitarian Universalist Minister since 1996. She earned her Masters of Divinity at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster PA, and received a Doctor of Ministry from Meadville-Lombard Theological School (Chicago IL). Rev. Susan has served our faith as interim and settled minister in the greater New York and Philadelphia area. She also was the UUA Program Consultant for the Joseph Priestley District (1997-2001) and prior to that, worked as a UU religious educator for 15 years. She continues her volunteer work in support of Unitarian Universalism by serving as President of the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association. She and her spouse, Dr. Mary Chinery (Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, Georgian Court University, Lakewood NJ) reside in Asbury Park NJ.

Sunday, February 27th I Doubt It Rev. Dr. Kathleen A. Rudoff

To doubt is to question and that is a part of the free and responsible search for truth and meaning that we affirm and promote as our 4th Principle as Unitarian Universalists. Our focus is the question, not the answer. Let’s claim our heritage as doubters!



Pathway to Membership Class with Rev. Kathleen
 Sunday, February 27th – 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

- In this workshop, you will...
- Learn about Unitarian Universalism
 - Discover what UU Danbury can offer you
 - Receive information about how to become a member

Please contact **Bruni Edwards** to receive Zoom link to attend this class. If you are interested but can’t make that date, please contact Bruni or Rev. Kathleen.

Questions for the Minister



For the remainder of this congregational year, Rev. Kathleen will answer a question that has been frequently asked by members of the congregation. This month the question is “What do you do with all your free time since you’re not a full-time minister?”

This is a great question and I’m glad to have the opportunity to answer it and offer an explanation on what it means to be a your half-time consulting minister. I am contracted to provide two Sunday services a month, and am responsible for overseeing and helping the Sunday Services Ministry Team organize all Sunday services throughout the congregational year. I’m also committed to attending monthly standing committee meetings, supervising UUCD staff, providing pastoral care, working with the Membership Team, and supporting stewardship efforts. UUCD is not the only ministry that I am engaged in. I’m also on the faculty of Claremont Lincoln University; teaching in the Peace and Social Justice Masters degree program, as well core courses in mindfulness and inquiry. As you might imagine, my free time is not abundant!

In an effort to stay within the hours of my half-time contract moving forward, I have designated Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday as my UUCD ministry days. This will mean that it may take a day or two for me to reply to your email or phone call, and I will generally not be available for meetings on other days of the week. But, of course, when urgent and emergency situations arise I make exceptions to my schedule. I realize that having a half-time minister means less accessibility and availability than may be optimum, but I hope this explanation provides some clarification and gives some food-for-thought for UUCD’s future. Please feel free to reach out with other questions, concerns, and suggestions. I love hearing from you!

Rev. Kathleen Announces Last Call for the Credo Challenge – Will you take it?



In last month’s *Comment* I challenged you to listen to your heart to discern and discover your truth in this moment of your life, and then tell the story of your truth in a *This I believe* statement. It’s what we ask our youth to do when they complete their Coming of Age program! My colleague, Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, has said, “A credo is a snapshot of your values, faith, identity, and belief at one point in time. As Unitarian Universalists, we understand that your religious ideas will evolve throughout your life. It is understood by all that your credo is simply an expression of where you are now and not for all time.” I’m encouraging you to do this because it’s

part of the responsible search for truth and meaning that we affirm and promote in our fourth principle. If you choose to take this challenge but do not wish to share your credo with me, please just email me and let me know you’re doing it so you can be counted among those courageous people who respond to the challenge! The deadline for receiving your credo is February 20th.

In an effort to assist you in this challenge, I will hold a Zoom session on Tuesday, February 8th, 7:30-8:15 p.m. for anyone that would like some guidance on how to get their credo writing started. If you’d like the link for this session, please email me at minister@uudanbury.org. You can do this!

Notes on Two Hundred Years (and More)

by Douglas H. Parkhurst

A rather curious headline appeared above a story on page one of the Waterbury (CT) Evening Democrat on Thursday, February 14, 1889. It read "One Preacher Less in the Family." The story: "Danbury, Conn., Feb. 14. - The sudden disappearance of the Rev. W.J. Crosley, pastor of the Universalist church, is as much a mystery as ever. He left Danbury Sunday night, taking with him much property belonging to his wife, who is also a Universalist preacher of some note. He had tendered his resignation as pastor of the church and had collected \$100 back salary due him. His wife procured an attachment of \$2,000 against him, which covers what property he left....Crosley was last seen boarding the Washington express train bound west."

The Rev. William J. Crosley and family came to Danbury in 1887. At that time the Universalist Church was located on Liberty Street, a little east of and opposite Delay Street in the center of town. Born in 1845 in Ohio, William Crosley was the brother of two Universalist ministers and husband of a third. A farmer early in life he began preaching around 1867 after service in the 34th and 36th Regiments Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Crosley attended Canton Theological School in Canton, New York, and was ordained in 1870. During his ministerial career, besides Danbury, Rev. Crosley served Universalists in New Hampshire, Ohio, and Indiana. He was described as "a studious and faithful man, performing his work handicapped by a retiring disposition; a devoted pastor over several parishes in Ohio. There was no stain upon his name nor character." A year after leaving Danbury he was serving a parish in Ohio. William Crosley left the Universalist ministry around 1897 after more than twenty-five years of service.

The Rev. Charlotta (Lotta) Davis Crosley was born in Ohio in 1848. She married Sampson Gath, a Civil War veteran, in 1867; this marriage ended with the death of her husband within a year. In 1870 she married William J. Crosley. She was the mother of two sons, one by Gath and one by Crosley. Lotta Crosley attended Western College in Oxford, Ohio, began preaching in the mid-1870s, and was ordained in Ohio in 1879. Records show Rev. Lotta Crosley supplied the pulpit part-time at the Long Ridge Universalist Society (which building is the present-day home of St. Francis Episcopal Church in the northern part of Stamford) while residing in Connecticut. Perhaps she preached in Danbury as well though we do not have documentation of this. During her long career Rev. Crosley also served parishes in Ohio, Indiana, and Colorado. It was said of Lotta Crosley, "No woman in Ohio was better known for her good works.... She had spoken to rich and poor. She had gone into palaces and hovels. She had carried the divine word into the house of law-makers and behind prison walls....There was a welcome for her everywhere."

What happened between this couple in February of 1889? Did personal differences, financial pressures, or occupational stress become too much? We don't know for sure beyond what appears to have been a family split. We can infer that divorce followed the Crosleys' departure from Danbury. William Crosley married again, in Iowa, in 1895. By 1900 he and his second wife, Frances, were living in Arkansas where William owned a farm. He died in Arkansas in 1907 and was buried there. Moving back to Ohio, Lotta Crosley continued in the Universalist ministry for the rest of her life. She died in West Virginia in 1917 while on a trip to supply a pulpit. She was laid to rest in Ohio, next to her first husband Sampson Gath.

From the Board of Trustees

by Margaret Henderson, Co-President



February's Focus for the Board of Trustees: Inclusivity

A friend of mine who knew calligraphy once made a lovely card for me at this time of year that said, "Tra-la, it's February, the lusty month of February!" Here's to the dead of winter!

Hopefully by the time you read this covid numbers will be trending down and the Board will be planning how we can safely re-gather in person on Sunday mornings. In the meantime, we've been working on inclusivity. You will soon notice new signs for the restrooms in Fellowship Hall that are more welcoming to people who don't fit the traditional binary gender categories. This is an example of what happens when we ask, "We say we are a Welcoming Congregation. What is the experience of marginalized individuals when they come to our services?" Seeing restrooms right after you come in that say "Men" and "Women" implies that we think this covers everyone, when we know it doesn't. One Board member recently described their pain when they saw a special public restroom designated for transgender people with a sign that said, "Please ask for key." This is how some people come to feel pushed to the margins of our society.

This month several of our greeters from the Membership Team will attend an online UUA workshop on "Widening the Welcome: How to build the beloved community by being inclusive of all." The goal is to make sure that friends and visitors are receiving our message of welcome when they first enter the door.

The 8th Principle Action Group, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month, is currently exploring two questions: How successfully are we avoiding microaggressions throughout our congregation? And how can we build our skill at de-centering whiteness? Look for discussions on these topics in the upcoming months.

We also continue our work to protect voting rights. Lynn Taborsak is once again coordinating a postcard campaign in conjunction with Common Cause. For details contact Lynn. And see the separate article on page 10 about Saturday morning protests to support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act in Congress.

In other business the Safe Congregations Team is planning a walk-through of our facilities with the police, to make sure we're doing all we can to protect both people and property.

Finally, I offer my best advice for how to get through February:

- Keep busy
- Look for opportunities to practice compassion
- Eat lots of soup
- Hang on till spring!



by Sierra-Marie Gerfao, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth

Upcoming In Children and Youth Religious Education (RE):

We look forward to returning to in-person services and simultaneous indoor Religious Education. We anticipate this return to take place sometime this month. The following is based on a return mid-month and is subject to change.

- **February 6:** Family Dinner on Zoom
- **February 13:** “Share the Love” Drive-Through
- **February 20:** Regular Religious Education programming
- **February 27:** Regular Religious Education programming AND Mystery Buddies starts

Participate in “Share the Love Sunday”!

All ages of adults and children are invited to participate in this special event on **Sunday, February 13th, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** In advance, participants will receive small laminated paper hearts, a sharpie to use for writing on the laminated hearts, and some ideas about how to write short messages of encouragement on the hearts.

On Sunday the 13th, come by the congregational parking lot anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Please wear a mask and bring your laminated hearts; food pantry donations of non-perishables and toiletries; and financial donations for Danbury-area organizations that directly serve the community, such as the Danbury Women's Center (you will receive a list of these organizations in advance).

Leave some hearts with encouraging messages, take a heart with an encouraging message home with you, and leave food and financial donations for good causes. Any encouraging messages that don't go home with participants will go with the food to the food pantry, for either staff or community members, or to the children's hospital.

If you plan to participate, please **RSVP by February 5th** to Sierra-Marie at dre@uudanbury.org. You can write an email to the same address to nominate an area organization for donations.

Mystery Buddies is Back!

Last year we offered a postcard exchange between kids and young adults in pairs who got to know each other over a four-week period of exchanging notes without knowing one another's identities. After our final postcard exchange, we held a celebratory event in which mystery buddies learned one another's identities. This year, we are doing the same with kids and congregational elders. All participants will receive a postcard kit with everything they need to participate. Mystery Buddies will run from February 27th through our celebratory event on March 27th. If you'd like to learn more or find out how you can participate, please reach out to Rev. Kathleen or contact Sierra-Marie at dre at uudanbury dot org.

From Our Director of Religious Education For Children and Youth



Dear Congregation,

One of the things you may remember me saying repeatedly last year while we were having services online-only is “children are always in the room.” Computer, tablet, and phone cameras don’t necessarily show us who is in the room, so it felt important that we regularly reminded ourselves of the presence of children who may have been off-screen.

Thinking of who could be in the room isn’t simply a practice that is good when we are online, however. You may also recall me saying that my colleague CB Beal teaches a concept called “[preemptive radical inclusion](#)” that involves the idea that justice and equity require us to assume that everyone is present all the time.

For example, it does not produce justice and equity to wait until someone with a visible disability shows up before we ensure accessibility. It does not produce justice and equity to wait to give people an opportunity to tell us the correct pronouns to use for them until we’ve made the mistake of using the wrong pronouns. And if I, as a white minister who guest preaches once a month in a number of majority-white congregations in New England, write a sermon about racial justice with the assumption that only white people will be in the room, I am not fostering justice and equity. Of course, there are many more examples we could consider.

As we again prepare ourselves to return to a multiplatform set of Sunday experiences, it is a good time to remind ourselves that ministering according to our shared values requires us to presume that everybody is always in the room. This reminder will be well-situated in the moment as we are challenged once again by our multiplatform reality to consider that there are people participating online (with others in the room) and people participating in-person.

This also means that there are always newcomers. Here is an example of a simple way that keeping this in mind changes how we operate. You may have noticed that I rarely use abbreviations, and that when I do, I make sure there is a note in parentheses indicating what the abbreviation stands for. For instance, I don’t often say “UUCD” when I am talking about the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury. I don’t often say “RE” when I am talking about Religious Education programming. (In fact, I tend to talk about activities, ministries, classes, groups, and *programs* for children and teens, rather than using the more insider term “Religious Education,” which is a lifelong endeavor not specific to children and youth in any case.)

I wonder if there are ways you are practicing Preemptive Radical Inclusion, even if you didn’t before realize it. I wonder if there are ways you could imagine the practice of Preemptive Radical inclusion shifting or transforming our community life. What if, for instance, we keep on assuming that children are always in the room even if we don’t see them in the fellowship hall? What if we assume that there is not one developmental experience (or “stage”) represented in the congregation when we gather for any purpose?

Warmly,
Sierra-Mari

Ministry/Team News

From the *Finance Team*



UU Danbury
Fiscal Oversight Dashboard

Second Quarter 2021-22

Trend Analysis – Current Operating Budget

07/01/2021 – 12/31/2021	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2020 YTD Actual	2019 YTD Actual
Total Revenue	\$155,407	\$122,815	\$120,853	\$140,801
Total Expenses	\$135,461	\$135,938	\$124,852	\$115,801
Surplus (Deficit)	\$19,946	(\$13,322)	(\$3,999)	\$24,800

Paid Pledges / Other Income

07/01/2021 – 12/31/2021	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2020 YTD Actual	2019 YTD Actual
Paid Pledges (for current year)	\$93,822	\$79,214	\$87,221	\$99,204
Paid Pledges (for previous year)	\$8,125	\$0	\$3,845	\$5,812
Other Income (including Anne Thorpe Trust Income)	\$53,660	\$57,091	\$29,887	\$35,586
Total	\$155,407	\$122,815	\$120,853	\$140,801

Note that as of December 31, 54% of the annual pledges have been paid; Thank you for paying your pledges regularly and keeping our budget on track! If you have any questions on this quarterly report, please contact Carl Tichler, chair of the finance team.

From the *Caring Circle Ministry*

Our Caring Circle is Available

Our 'Care Coordinator' receives requests and answers questions for the Caring Circle.



Valerie Cochrane is the contact person for February and March.

Karen Gillotti is the assistant.

If you have a need, please contact **Val** at 203-791-1378 or vcsew.what@gmail.com.

Please note that your call will be returned as quickly as possible but it may be at the end of the day.

From the *Social Action Council*

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Judy Lacker

On Saturday, February 5th, some members of Soup Kitchen Team #4 (Team Leader **Michele Cousens, Rik Cousens, Joanne Davidson, Michael Stengle, the Parr family, Bruni Edwards, Yvonne Ruddy-Stein, Ali Haffner, and the Bonansinga/Twombly family**) will be returning to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street to help serve take-out meals that were cooked in volunteers' homes as well as bagged sandwiches for lunches and breakfasts, (to be delivered to the Super 8 homeless shelter), also prepared in volunteers' homes as well as through donations. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to serve the guests a meal inside because of the Covid pandemic.

You can also help feed our neighbors with a gift card in any amount from any local supermarket. In addition, you can still continue to make food donations to the Daily Bread Food Pantry (25 West Street - entrance off Terrace Place). Donations are accepted on Mondays between 11 am and 2 pm and on Fridays between 8:30 am and 11:30 am. Lynn Taborsak has also been scheduling the sandwich donations so we have just the right amount each day at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in making sandwiches, please email her at ddhhsandwiches@gmail.com. We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!

The 8th Principle Action Group

The 8th Principle Action Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Join us online February 1st as we look for ways to "accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions" so we can build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community. Contact **Margaret Henderson** for more information.

Note: Mark your calendar now for the March meeting on March 1!

The following message was created by Joe Gilotti and Gary Mummert and has been endorsed by the UUCD Social Action Council since it works to dismantle oppression as required by our 8th Principle.

Please join us in an effort to support the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act in the United States Senate. This legislation will come up for a vote in a matter of weeks, and it is in grave danger of being defeated. President Biden has stated, "All those who instigated and supported ... the attack on the Capitol on January 6th are holding a dagger to the throat of democracy. We could lose this treasure of a long-standing democracy and true form of honest representative government." Now is the time to get moving and make our voices heard.

Join us **in front of the Danbury War Memorial** at South Street and Memorial Drive for this one-hour vigil. We plan to meet **every Saturday** from now until the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and other voting rights bills have been voted upon by the Congress.

Dress warm, wear your boots, bring a folding chair and a hot drink. The intent of this gathering is simply to inform voters and send a formidable message to the United States Senate. Bring your own home-made sign, create your own message, with large letters (the bigger the better!). A few examples might be

- SAVE DEMOCRACY, E-MAIL CONGRESS NOW
- PASS THE JOHN LEWIS ACT
- HONOR VOTING FOR ALL - DON'T TAKE AWAY VOTING RIGHTS
- THE CONSTITUTION STATE SUPPORTS THE CONSTITUTION
- WE WANT TRUE SELF-GOVERNING FOR ALL

We are facing a potential crisis. There is no time for wishing and hoping that everything will work out fine, no time to depend on others. Stand up and be heard before it's too late, and before we all have deep regrets due to lack of action.

All UU members and friends must let Joe Gillotti or Garry Mummert, know in advance, by phone or email, if you are planning to attend the one-hour vigil at Rogers Park on Saturday between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm. When the head count reaches a certain level, the City of Danbury requires written notification.

From the *Nominating Team*

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work of identifying candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees and on the Nominating Committee for terms that begin July 1, 2022. A number of positions are opening up. Anyone who is interested in exploring the possibility of serving on the Board or Nominating Committee should contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Yvonne Ruddy-Stein, Chair ruddystein@sbcglobal.net

Jane Leff CTdemfem22@gmail.com

Bob Bollinger bbollingerx@gmail.com

Upcoming Events



UUCD Men Conversing over Coffee meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m. at UUCD in the Fellowship Hall Lower Level. For more information contact **Gary Mummert** or **Joe Gillotti**.

Women On Our Own

This group is for women who are living on their own. Our circumstances will be similar, but different, and we will be talking about what works well, what is lacking, and so on. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. February meeting dates are the 8th and 22nd. All those who identify as women, are UUCD members or friends, and are living on your own are welcome to join us. We hope to see you. Bring your ideas. Contact **Jane Leff** for more information and the Zoom links.



The **Conversations book group** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 17th. The next book we'll be discussing is **LIGHTS OUT - Pride, Delusion, and the Fall of General Electric** by Thomas Gryta and Ted Mann. According to the Wall Street Journal, this is the definitive story of an American business powerhouse losing its way. If you've ever worked for GE, owned stock in the company, or was a customer or vendor, you'll find this scathing comparison of its leaders and their practices will grab your interest. This is especially true if you owned stock in GE and lost money. **Lights Out** is a readable and deeply reported account of the disintegration of one of the most iconic firms in America. Call or email **Mary Ann Kulla** if you're planning to join in.



It's coming! UUCD will celebrate our 200th birthday in 2022. If you'd like to be part of planning and have ideas as to how we can celebrate and spread the word about UUCD, come and join the 200th Anniversary Ministry. Contact **Gale Alexander**.



Interfaith AIDS Ministry (IAM) of Greater Danbury, Inc., would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for donating to the Adopt a Family program this past holiday season. Because of your generosity and kindness we were able to bring such joy to our clients during this very special time of year. The donations we received from you were so kind and thoughtful. Our clients have expressed their gratitude and appreciation on how these donations have made a difference for them.

IAM was established in 1989 and then instituted The Living Pantry in 1995 to meet the special nutritional needs of those living with HIV disease. We have a nutritionist on staff offering assessments, education and guidance to our pantry recipients. The Living Pantry distributes meats, fish, fresh produce, dairy items, bakery products, non-perishable food items and personal care items, while educating our clients living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

We thank you for improving the lives of those we serve and we wish you a beautiful happy, healthy New Year, full of joy and good health! If we can be of any assistance or address any questions or concerns you might have, please do not hesitate to call 203-748-4077.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy Clementi".

Lucy Clementi
Executive Director
iamlucyc@sbcglobal.net

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Barbara".

Theresa Barbara
Director of Operations
iamtheresab@yahoo.com

A graphic design featuring the word "FEBRUARY" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered and set against a background of vibrant, overlapping brushstrokes in shades of magenta, blue, and red. The brushstrokes are dynamic and expressive, creating a sense of movement and energy. The overall composition is clean and modern.

FEBRUARY