



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

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

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OCTOBER 2022

## From our Minister



*Letting there be room for not knowing is the most important thing of all.*

~ Pema Chodron

In a recent online conversation about what to expect from our religious education programming this new congregational year, I talked about liminal seasons and asserted that we are not yet out of a liminal time. It's something you may have heard about: the in between time. It's a time of uncertainty and a time of innovation. It's a time of not knowing, or not having all the answers, and as a religious community it's time that cries out for trust and patience. I'm not sure those are naturally our best attributes but I feel pretty confident that by embracing the idea of not knowing, we are making room for wonderful and important things to emerge.

Covid still lingers in our lives and causes us to step back now and again to re-assess the situation. But we are resilient and flexible, while also being cautious and caring. We may not know with certainty that every dinner and event will go on without a hitch, but we do know that trusting each other, being patient with ourselves and congregational leaders, and letting our creative juices flow, is what is most important in a liminal season.

In this continuing season of in-between, our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration may not look as big and grand as we had expected it to be but we plan to have a wonderful Sunday celebration this month with a guest speaker from the Unitarian Universalist Association, community brunch, an artifact display and fun trivia game! Then on December 9<sup>th</sup>, our actual anniversary date, we'll celebrate again with a special reception where a beautiful anniversary quilt will be unveiled. Please join me for these special events and so many more this month as you are able. The liminal season will eventually end. Until then, let's make room for trust, patience, and innovation.

With gratitude for our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday,

Rev. Kathleen

### Let's All Help Keep One Another Healthy

What is a slightly bothersome cold for you could make someone else very sick. Let's keep one another healthy as the weather changes and people spend more time indoors. Please stay home and enjoy events remotely via Zoom if you are not feeling well, whether or not your symptoms are Covid symptoms. If your symptoms are Covid symptoms, please also take a Covid test, even if they are mild and you think it is probably just allergies or an inconsequential scratchy throat. We have some rapid tests available if you need one.

*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.

**Deadline for the November *Comment* –  
Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.**

The door codes at UUCD are  
changing on  
Monday, October 3.



**October Services – One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**                      Blessing of the Animals                      Rev. Kathleen Rudoff and Sierra-Marie Gerfao  
 This multigenerational service is about gratitude for all the earth’s creatures that connect with us in the interdependent web of life. Pets that are caged, or very well behaved on a leash, as well as photos of pets, and special stuffed animals, are welcome to attend. A special section of the Fellowship Hall will be set aside for those who do not wish to sit near any pets. Sierra-Marie and Rev. Kathleen will be offering a blessing to each pet. Those who attend online are encouraged send to Rev. Kathleen, by October 1<sup>st</sup>, the name and type of pet you wish to have blessed during the service.

**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**    Big Love    Rev. Barbara Fast  
 Thank you! Thank you! A little over 6 years ago, I bid you a grateful goodbye. I am so happy to be back with you, albeit virtually, to share some reflections about life, faith and community on the occasion of your 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Thank you for inviting me.



Rev. Barbara served UUCD from 2010-2016. She moved to Southern California in 2017 with her husband Jonathan. From 2018-2021 she was the Developmental Minister at the UU Church of the Desert in Rancho Mirage, California. She retired in 2022, after 21 years of ordained UU Ministry. She is so glad to be back with you.

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**    Celebrating 200 Years!  
 Guest Rev. Lauren Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development for the Unitarian Universalist Association We will begin our celebration of our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday this morning with a special guest and music from our choir. A lovely brunch with fun trivia game will follow. Watch for more details to come.

**Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**    Bring Your Broken Hallelujah    Rev. Kathleen Rudoff  
 Leonard Cohen’s song Hallelujah is known the world over and a favorite haunting melody for many of us. There are many hallelujahs and whether perfect or broken, they all have value. We’ll explore the song, the notion of hallelujahs, and sing Cohen’s song together.

**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**    Honoring Our Beloved Dead    Lay led service  
 Sally Mandler, Melody Levy, and Randy Becker will share personal reflections on their traditions and practices for honoring loved ones who have passed away. You are invited to bring a small memento or photo of your beloved for display during the service.

# Welcome

## New Members

### Jeff Asher



Jeff was born in Brooklyn, raised in Jamaica, Queens and Massapequa, Long Island (with a long “g”). He received his Mechanical Engineering degrees at Syracuse University. Starting at GE’s R & D Center, he eventually led the development of Sodium-Sulfur Batteries for vehicles and renewable power. Good engineering try but battery life and safety made commercialization impossible.

Following GE, Jeff joined Consumer Reports and commuting to Yonkers to help protect and inform consumers. He spent 22-years there and ultimately became V-P and Technical Director responsible for all their testing including cars, appliances, foods, electronics, etc. Best job ever! He retired in 2008 to consult with MIT testing products in Africa and India.

Jeff resides in Pawling, NY with his wife, Reed. He has just finished a decade long stint on the Pawling School Board. He is an active member of the Pawling Rotary Club where he has been President and remains on their Board as Secretary after a decade of service. (No one wants the job!)

When not canoeing, biking, X-C skiing, or kayaking, he shares his life with his daughter and two sons and their five grown, grandchildren. Though born a Jew, religion was not emphasized. He found his spiritual connection as a UU beginning in Schenectady, NY and migrated to the UU in Poughkeepsie until recently. At the Poughkeepsie UU, he was active on their Board as well as various committees—RE (he is OWL-trained), Technology, Nominations, and Finance. His favorite experience was creating and leading the Death Buffet group of two-dozen members. Jeff looks forward to the UUCD as his new home and religious community.

### Jerry and Lois Ciccarelli



Jerry and Lois Ciccarelli were attracted to the liberal character and openness of this UU congregation. They will celebrate their 35th anniversary after surviving a freak blizzard on their October 4 wedding day. Jerry is from the Bronx and Danbury, has a background in design and photography, enjoys all kinds of music and classic autos, and hoards plants (never too many). Lois, a native of Stamford, finds joy in singing, writing poetry, studying religions, and spending as much time as possible with their grandson, Dean. They reside in New Milford with their beagle mix, Norma Jean, and they look forward to meeting new people and embracing change.

## Deanna Birdsong

Photo and bio will be in the November *Comment*.

## Keith Henderson



My name is Keith Henderson

I have been on the earth for 61 years, the last 4 here in Danbury. Previous to that I lived in St. Louis for 35 years, where I taught high school and raised two children (now aged 30 and 32 and living many states away.) I still teach high school, now at the Wooster School. My subjects include math, science, engineering, makerspace, and my current favorite: theater tech! I also love to sing, to canoe, to cross-country ski, to read, and to sit quietly in the woods. If you don't see me much around the congregation, it's mostly just because hubbub overstimulates me.

I was raised in the Unitarian church in Ithaca, NY. My paternal grandfather was a Presbyterian minister, many influential family friends were Quakers. On my mother's side of the family, her parents were both Unitarians in Scituate, MA. I am happy to be a contributing member of UUCD.

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Marking 200 years can be a challenge. We have been making plans. We hope over the last year you've seen Doug Parkhurst's articles on our history in the Comment. We have a new quilt in the works thanks to the leadership of Marcia Brooker. Others have also been planning. Be on the look out for visitations, not from ghosts of our past, but ministers. Babara Pescan, Barbara Fast, and Daniel O'Connell will be conducting services this fall and other minister's from our history will be sending special greetings.

October 16th we will be joined by Lauren Smith, the UUA's Director of Stewardship and Development bringing us a special message. We will follow that with a 200th Anniversary brunch. During the luncheon we will be conducting a UUCD trivia contest. We hope you've seen some of the historical facts we've been posting on Sunday mornings before the service. How many answers do you know before they are revealed? A special anniversary package of a book of our history, a bumper sticker celebrating our 200th, and a special gift will be available. So, grab your book, and start preparing to showoff your UUCD trivia smarts on October 16th. And please, proudly display our 200th Anniversary bumper sticker. Here's to another 200 years!

## From Our Director of Religious Education For Children and Youth



Dear Congregation,

Rev. Kathleen and I are so excited about what is planned this year for children and youth! If you did not have a chance to attend September's Religious Education Information Session and are wondering what is happening in Religious Education this year, [here is a video review](#) of the presentation made at the information session. These are the three most notable things to know about the year:

1. This year Religious Education is more than Sunday, more than one way. We are planning multiple forms of ministry for kids with different personalities, needs, and schedules. We hope families will find meaningful ways to plug in to what we are doing! Options include:
  - Sunday Services, including multigenerational services (10AM Sundays)
  - Forest School-Inspired Religious Education (10:15AM Sundays)
  - Community Dinners (6PM on the second Wednesdays of each month)
  - Multigenerational Social Action Projects (7PM on the fourth Fridays of each month, except in November when it will be the third Friday)
  - Special events like the Christmas pageant (yes, we are planning a pageant this year!)
  - Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education courses (times/days to be determined by each group, to begin this winter)
  - Junior High Youth Group (monthly on times/days to be determined by the group)
  - Senior High Youth Group (On Sunday mornings and afternoons whenever OWL is not meeting)

To be determined: Will we have a parent covenant group this year? A playgroup for young kids? Let's work these things out together!
  
2. Plans remain only plans unless we make them reality. While we are already launching some programs, we are still short volunteers. Any plans that don't get volunteers won't become reality.
  
3. What looks like play is much more! We are expanding our experiment with Forest School-inspired programming this year. Last May and June, this may have looked to you like babysitting or time-killing while waiting for parents while kicking around balls in the yard. In fact, it was a true education program, with experiences in both action and reflection. Want to support this effort? Here are a couple things on our wish list:
  - Hammocks on free-standing hammock stands (cloth or rope preferred)
  - Hammock swings on stands ([like this](#) or [this](#)) or a pod on a stand ([like this](#) on [this](#))

### Liberal Religious Educators Fall Conference

Our Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth will be attending the **annual Liberal Religious Educators Fall Conference from October 12-17th**. The conference theme is "Faith Made Real: Living the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle." While she is not attending this event in-person in Birmingham, AL, she will be online absorbing as much of the conference as possible so she can bring back wisdom and skills to her work with our congregation. She will be attending only to prescheduled and urgent matters at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury on these days.

## Upcoming In Children and Youth Religious Education (RE):

The nursery is open for children ages 0-5 every Sunday during service. Our nursery care providers cannot wait to welcome your children! We also offer regular programming open to children in preschool through high school.

- **Sunday, October 2nd** - Multigenerational Sunday Service - Blessing of the Animals
- **Sunday, October 9th** - No in-person programs; Resources will be shared with families in recognition of Indigenous People's Day
- **Sunday, October 16th** - Regular Sunday morning programs
- **Sunday, October 23rd** - Regular Sunday morning programs for all grades except high school; The Senior High Youth group will meet for pumpkin carving at 4PM
- **Sunday, October 30th** - Regular Sunday morning programs and an after-service all-ages Trunk-or-Treat

If you have not yet registered your family for children and youth programs, [please do so here](#).

### Changes to Religious Education Volunteer Policies

Now that children have access to Covid vaccinations, the board is no longer requiring that volunteers who work with children and youth be vaccinated against Covid. However, we want to make sure we do our part in keeping the community healthy. We do have some rapid Covid tests available should a volunteer need one. Volunteers should never come in if they are feeling even a little ill. Please contact Sierra-Marie, our Director of Religious Education, if you need to be absent.

### Urgent: Volunteers Still Needed

Here is the bad news: we do not have enough volunteers to run all of our planned programs for children and youth. Without volunteers, programs will be canceled. And here is the fantastic news: you can help us fix this! We have fun, interesting, and fulfilling volunteer jobs.

Will you help us make sure that we have a complete set of programs this year? Below are some of the volunteer positions open as of the mid-September newsletter deadline. Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Sierra-Marie, at [dre@udanbury.org](mailto:dre@udanbury.org) for help in discerning if any of these roles are right for you.

- **“Forest School” Nature Elders:** This Forest School-inspired weekly Sunday morning program focused on children in primary and lower middle school grades needs two to three volunteers to commit to spending one to two Sundays a month with them. You do not need to make a year-long commitment. We can take one set of volunteers for October through January and one set for February through May. To read a brief overview of Forest School, [click here](#). And to read about being a Nature Elder, [click here](#).
- **Our Whole Lives 4th-6th Grade Facilitator:** This is a ten-week program that will begin in the second half of the school year, and we need a non-female facilitator to complete this facilitator team. To read more about Our Whole Lives, [click here](#).
- **Junior Youth Group Facilitator:** This group of children in middle school will meet once a month for fun outings and adventures. The purpose is to build a strong community together and to give this group of kids who are very busy with sports and often not around on Sunday mornings a way to connect with one another regularly. Facilitators help plan, execute, and supervise these outings and adventures.

## From the Board of Trustees

by Margaret Henderson, President

It was such a joy to watch people gather together in September at events like Homecoming Sunday, our first choir practice this year, and the Wednesday night community pasta dinner! Among all this activity, your Board of Trustees has also been busy.

First and foremost we are thrilled to welcome John Miglietta to the Board as Vice-President! John's experience makes him the perfect person for this job. We now have a complete Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, with all positions filled. Thank you, everyone!



You'll see a note about this from Buildings & Grounds, but we'd also like to give a hearty welcome to David Luftig as our newest UUCD staff member. As the part-time Buildings & Grounds Assistant, he'll be helping with some of the heavier regular maintenance tasks.

ADA-accessible toilets have been installed in the handicapped stalls in the main bathrooms in Fellowship Hall. The new toilets are 2 inches taller. Folks who needed the taller toilets have been forced to use either the cottage house or the Lower Level of Fellowship Hall - when the lift is working. This will solve that problem.

If you're in the Cottage House, don't be alarmed if you don't see the copier sitting in the corner! Its contract has expired, and we took the opportunity to downsize to a desktop all-in-one printer/copier. Thanks to UUCD's efforts to print less and conserve more, and with the help of email and other technology, we're printing quite a bit less than we were several years ago so downsizing made sense.

By the time you read this the Board will have completed Part 2 of our Annual Retreat; we thought it better to do two half-days this year. We're working with a consultant to improve our communication both internally and with the congregation, so you can look forward to hearing more about our goals and initiatives in the coming months.

One crucial initiative is the long-term plan to address our annual deficit, which is expected to be about \$30,000 this year. We started on this last year, and we promised you we'll propose a solution next spring. In the meantime, while we figure this out, we asked everyone for a one-time voluntary contribution of \$250. As always, we are first and foremost a spiritual organization with respect for the worth and dignity of all individuals, so we know that only you can decide what's right for you and your family. But if you can help with a supplemental pledge this year of any amount, please contact Sherry, our Congregational Administrator.

As you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, we have decided to **move our annual Auction to February this year.** Between UUCD events and personal vacations, there's just too much going on this fall. So save the Auction date: **February 11, 2023.**

Finally, we want to invite everyone to join us for a 200th Anniversary brunch on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> after service! We hope to see you all there! Stay tuned for more details.



## Notes on Two Hundred Years (and More)

by Douglas H. Parkhurst

So far this year Notes has looked at some old history of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury (UUCD) and some not so old. This month let's look again at more recent happenings. We'll see what was going on during October 2000, courtesy of the UUCD newsletter *Comment*. A generation ago *Comment* was printed on paper and distributed by U.S. mail; this writer's vintage copy from October 2000 carries a 33 cent first class stamp.

The UUCD was still called Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Fairfield County (UUSNFC) in October 2000 and was known as "the Barn" to members and friends. The Society was meeting in a converted and remodeled barn (sanctuary, kitchen, and storage) and farmhouse (named Founders House and containing classrooms, offices, kitchens, and meeting space) at 9 Picketts Ridge Road, West Redding, just east of route 7, near the Ridgefield town line. Rev. Dr. Daniel Simer O'Connell had been UUSNFC minister since 1996 and was starting a four month sabbatical. Cheryl Kunst was secretary/office manager. Rev. David Bryce, then of First Unitarian Society of Westchester, New York, was acting as minister-of-the-month. Rev. Bryce was well-known to many Society members. Some ten years earlier he had been a ministerial intern at UUSNFC under the guidance of Rev. Barbara Pescan. The theme of David's front page essay in the October 2000 *Comment* was the varied meanings of "coming home."

Michael Searing, who with wife Barbara were long-time active members of UUSNFC, was President of the Board of Trustees. In his monthly column Mike touched upon the upcoming Every-Member/Friend Canvass including preliminary efforts by John Miglietta and Bob Bollinger. A Comprehensive Planning Committee was being re-formed to investigate in depth the possibility of the Society moving back to Danbury. Mike also recognized Kathleen Green for her efforts over two years in organizing and implementing a summer religious education program at the Barn. [Note - Kathleen Green is now Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rudoff, consulting minister of UUCD.]

A round-robin potluck dinner, an ever popular social activity among members and friends, was announced for Saturday evening, October 21st, at the home of Judy and Joe Teagarden. A short piece appeared in *Comment* about becoming a member of the Society. Paul Lacombe wrote about a Men's Retreat later that month at Camp Sloane in Lakeville, Connecticut, and Sky Kimball was collecting the \$100 fee from those planning to attend. Bob Weston put out a call for the loan or donation of a VHS format video projector needed for the 4th annual diversity film series sponsored by the Open Door Alliance. "Wheel of Life" milestones were shared by about a dozen people, including Joanne Davidson, Bill McWilliams, Jackie Alexander, Mary Collins, and Marcia Brooker.

Karen Judd, Director of Religious Education, announced RE Open Houses to be held on Sunday, October 15th, after each service. [Note - At that time worship services and religious education classes were held at both 9 and 11 AM on most Sundays.] Karen was looking for two teachers needed for pre-first grade classes. The first Children's Chapel of the church year was planned for Sunday, October 29th, to include the pre-first through sixth grade age groups. And, on the last weekend of the month the Senior High Youth Group would be heading for Summit, New Jersey, to participate in a "Spooky CON."

Adult RE classes were scheduled for fall, including a Reiki Workshop by Karen Judd. Joanne Wells was offering Fun With the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator; Jean Renjilian would lead Your Passionate Path; and Bob Bollinger was doing UU History and the Barn. A Retirement Investment Strategies class was also offered. These programs were planned for a variety of days and evenings so those interested could participate in more than one.

Starting in the early 1960s what is now the UUCD was part of the Metropolitan New York District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). [Note - UUA districts have mostly been abolished over the past decade.] A Fall Leadership Conference sponsored by the District was scheduled for October 14th at Community Church of New York and on November 4th a "hands-on, nuts and bolts" follow-up workshop on developing a Stewardship Plan was being offered in Plainfield, New Jersey.

The Society calendar showed meetings of the Membership, Religious Education, and Finance Committees, and the Open Door Alliance. A Women's Retreat Planning Session was scheduled as was the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees. On the last Friday of the month volunteers from UUSNFC would man the Homeless Shelter in Danbury.

The *Comment* for October 2000 included two inserts. One advertised the Goods & Services Auction to be held at the Barn on Saturday evening, November 4th. Admission for adult members and friends was \$3.00 each and child care would be available. Donations of various kinds were solicited; refreshments and a silent auction would begin at 7:00 with the main auction running from 8:45 to 10:00. The second insert announced two activities planned at Green Chimneys in Brewster, New York. The first was "Little Folk Days" on October 4th and 5th and the second was "City & Country Family Farm Day" on October 28th.

Upcoming Sunday services were listed on the back page of the newsletter. They were as follows:

- October 1<sup>st</sup>     Confidence & Leadership. By Marcia Brooker and the Sunday Service Committee. The congregation was asked to bring short readings to share on these two topics.
- October 8<sup>th</sup>     Dorothy Day - A Revolutionary. By Bob Weston, Mary Collins, Ross Fenster, and Donna Lawrence. Paul Hines, co-founder and board member of Dorothy Day shelter in Danbury would also speak.
- October 15<sup>th</sup>    A Faith that Sustains. Sermon and service by Rev. Susan Davison Archer, UU District of Metropolitan New York.
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>    Life Changes. Sermon and service by Rev. David Bryce, First Unitarian Society of Westchester.
- October 29<sup>th</sup>    Beyond the Barn. An update on activities of the UU Service Committee; UN Office; Youth Groups; and the UUA General Assembly. By Doris Henderson and the Denominational Affairs Network.

For some readers this article is a trip down memory lane. For others it is a series of snapshots of a busy month almost a quarter-century ago of what we know today as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury. For all of us it is a reminder of how important, how critical, the involvement and commitment of each lay-person is in the on-going life of the church. I trust this was both enjoyable and informative!

# Ministry/Team News

## From the *Auction Committee*

**Auction Committee Now Forming** - The Auction Committee is beginning to plan for this year's Auction and we'd like to invite anyone who's interested to come help us put on another wonderful event! If interested please contact **Peter Horton**.

**And for everyone else, please be thinking about whether there's something you'd like to donate this year - a service, a dinner or group outing, a craft item or maybe an heirloom.** We'll let you know more details about the Auction as soon as we can!

## From *Buildings and Grounds*

by Gary Mummert

### **B&G Needs Your Help**

Before the weather gets too cold volunteers are still needed for fall cleanup and other tasks. You may have heard that the Board has hired a part-time person to assist B&G on items that were deferred during the past few years that need extra care and attention. This welcomed extra help does not in any way negate the need for volunteers, so please contact **Gary Mummert** if you have some spare time. Every effort is made to be flexible based on your availability. Thanks for all your support.

## From the *Caring Circle*

by Joan Campbell



### **Our Caring Circle is Available**

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

**Joan Campbell** is the contact person for September  
**Joan Stapleton** is the assistant.

If you have a need, please contact **Joan Campbell**.

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, October 1<sup>st</sup>, some members of Soup Kitchen Team #4 (Team Leader **Bruni Edwards, Joanne Davidson, Michael Stengle, the Parr Family, Yvonne Ruddy-Stein, Rik Cousens, Ali Haffner, the Bonansina/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 and hot lunches for Pacific House 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](mailto:ddhhsandwiches@gmail.com). We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!

## Upcoming Events



**UUCD Men Conversing over Coffee** meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at UUCD in the Fellowship Hall Lower Level. For more information contact **Gary Mummert** or **Joe Gillotti**.

All aspects of this class are designed to lead a person to a feeling of wellness and learning to become calmer.

Here are some of the other techniques you will learn. We practice chanting, deep breathing, meditation, special techniques for calming the mind, tapping for health and relaxing, and the most fun of all, laughter yoga and more.

Come join our happy group, it's great value in so many ways, on Mondays 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. at UUCD. Participants must contact their doctor or medical provider for approval before attending this Chair Yoga Class. To register, or if you have questions or concerns, contact **Joe Gillotti** any evening during the week after 7:00 pm.



### BOOK DISCUSSION - *Search*



*Search*, a novel by Michelle Huneven, has been making the rounds of Unitarian Universalist book discussion groups this year. Why? Because it is a documentary-style, somewhat fictionalized account of the search process of a Unitarian Universalist congregation as it seeks out its next settled minister.

Filled with references we will all find familiar (chalice-lighting, "Spirit of Life," and more), it is the story of a complex set of committee members who try to find community and consensus in interviewing potential candidates for their ministry before struggling to name one candidate to help move them into the future.

This will be a two-part discussion:

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. - We will explore the characters and setting in the story. Which people most resonate with you? Which the least? Do they seem typical of us UUs? Does the congregation sound familiar in its decision-making, its worship, its life, its aspirations? Where do you see tensions? How do you think they could be resolved?

Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. - We will explore the storyline, the search process, both as outlined in the book and compared to the actual search process of Unitarian Universalist congregations. What seemed familiar to you? What feels strange or problematic? Do you think it led to a good outcome? ...to good feelings among the committee members?

The two sessions will be led by **Randy Becker**, a life-long Universalist Unitarian and someone who has been on both sides of the search process. Contact Randy for more information or to sign up.

### Our monthly Community Dinners continue with a chili fest on October 12!



Just bring yourself and your appetite to the Fellowship Hall. Gathering will begin at 5:45 and dinner will be available at 6:00 p.m. We will move into programming at 6:40, with a choice of discussion, activity, or choir rehearsal. The discussion and activity will end at 7:30 and choir rehearsal will end at 8:30.

October's dinner will offer a variety of chilis, cornbread, and a simple dessert. Beverages will also be available and efforts will be made to have all food ingredients labeled and allergies accommodated. Generous UUCD cooks will be preparing the food this month!

Bring family and friends and be sure to RSVP via the email invite that you will receive as we must have a head count by the deadline in order to ensure we have enough food for everyone.

## Our (Postponed) First Social Action Night is October 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-8PM to put together hygiene kits for kids of Danbury Youth Services. And please bring donations for the kits any time this month to the basket in the foyer marked "hygiene kits." We need at least 20 of each of the following items (new):

- Large Toiletry Cases, spacious enough to hold one of each of the following
- Combs, 6", with Handle
- Toothbrushes, Soft
- Toothbrush holders
- Tubes Toothpaste, 8oz.
- Packs of Single-Use Dental Flossers
- Bottles Shampoo/Body Wash, 8-12 oz.
- Bottles of Lotion, 8-12 oz.
- Pocket Packs of Facial Tissue
- Nail clippers



## Even Adults Need Treats Sometimes!



Our Senior High Youth Group wants *everybody* to have the joy of trick-or-treating this year, adults included! Please help them be successful in their first year hosting an **ALL-Ages Trunk-or-Treating event after service on Sunday, October 30th**. Costumes are most welcome but not required. Everybody please just come give and get treats! Joy all around! We will offer more detailed information as the date approaches, but here are the basics about how this works:

- RSVP when the Signup Genius invitation comes so we can let everyone know approximately how many people to expect (to help with treat preparation)
- When you park your car before the service, park in the designated area
- You are encouraged but not required to decorate your trunk for Halloween - treats will go in or on your trunk
- Bring both wrapped, edible treats and non-edible treats, which you keep separate to avoid allergen contamination
- During the event after service, we will take turns both giving out treats from our own trunks and visiting others to receive treats

Please make sure that your decorations and costumes are culturally respectful and not racist, ableist, or transphobic. Learn more and get a list of costumes and decorations to avoid here:

<http://www.lspirg.org/costumes>.



***Come experience the music  
of the people!***

## **Our Performers**

October 2  
**Pete and Maura Kennedy**

November 6  
**Pat Wictor**

December 4  
**Geoff Kaufman**

January 8  
**Sally Rogers and  
Howie Bursen**

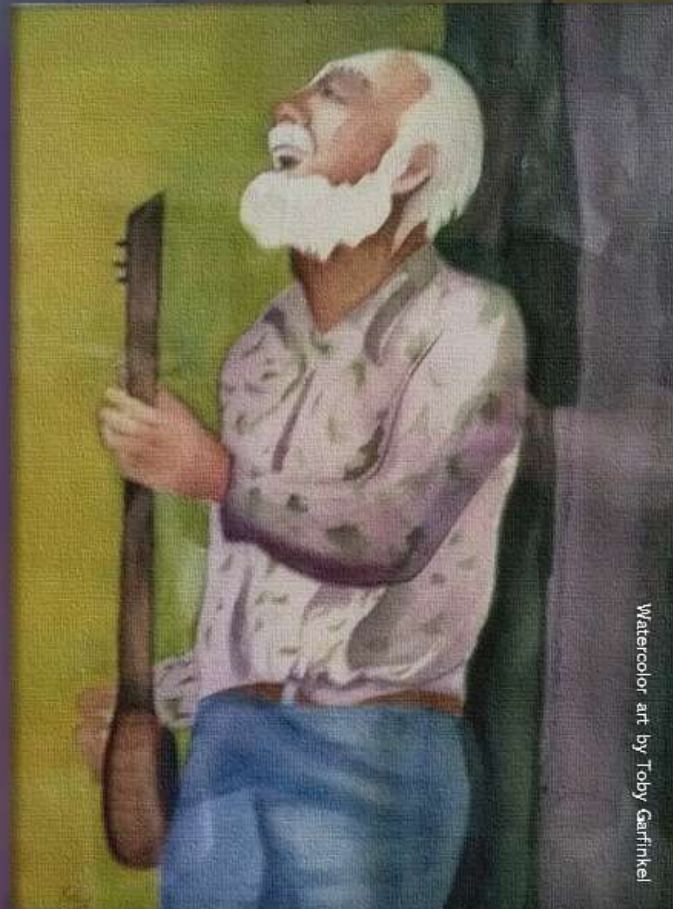
February 5  
**Lui Collins with  
Anand Nayak**

March 5  
**Betty and  
the Baby Boomers**

April 2  
**Hudson Valley Sally**

May 7  
**David Roth**

June 4  
**Rod MacDonald**



Music at the Ridge Live Acoustic Music Series  
First Sunday each month, 4-6 PM, Oct. to May  
in the beautiful Fellowship Hall of the  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury  
24 Clapboard Ridge Road

Tickets for in-person or  
Livestream through [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

<https://musicattheridge.org/>

