



# The Quest

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK**  
*We aspire to be a loving religious community where we can grow spiritually and build a more just and joyful world.*



**August 9, 2023**  
**Monthly Theme:**  
**JOY**

**Welcome Home Picnic!**

**Come to Your Spiritual Home**

**Sunday, September 17**  
**Worship Service 11 AM**  
**Picnic to Follow**

**Food | Live Music**  
**Games For All Ages**

**\$5/adult**  
**Children and Youth FREE**

**Sign-up at [ucsr.org/23picnic](https://ucsr.org/23picnic)**



## TOUCHSTONES

Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore



### Workism

I read a recent article in *The Atlantic* which noted that about 40 million Americans, 12 percent of the population, have stopped going to church (or other religious institution) in the past 25 years. This represents the largest concentrated change in church attendance in American history. The authors do note that religious abuse and corruption play a role in lower attendance—people have been hurt in religious community—but a larger share of those who have left religious community have done so because American life in the 21 century does not support participation in religious community. To quote the article, “Contemporary America simply isn’t set up to promote mutuality, care, or common life. Rather, it is designed to maximize individual accomplishment as defined by professional and financial success. Such a system leaves precious little time or energy for forms of community that don’t contribute to one’s own professional life or, as one ages, the professional prospects of one’s children.”

*The Atlantic* writer, Derek Thompson, coined the term “workism” in 2019—work changing from a means of material production to a means of identity production—work as a kind of religion which supports identity and community. Work can become a guiding principle of our lives and cause us to drop other priorities—congregational attendance being one. But Thompson also believes that work cannot actually take on the role of a faith community. The “workism” culture has left many lonely, anxious, and uncertain about where we fit in society.

How might we push back? How might we build supportive spiritual lives? Yes, we might intentionally take time to come together in religious community, in a traditional religious setting—and also embrace online faith communities, faith-based social justice actions, conversation groups outside the traditional religious services, personal reflection, study time, and sabbath commitment. As Jake Meador writes, “Churches (religious community) could model better, truer sorts of communities, ones in which the hungry are fed, the weak are lifted up, and the proud

*Touchstones continues on page 2*

## TOUCHSTONES

continued from page 1

cast down. Creating an environment where people can ask more of one another, and give more in turn, seems like a wise rule of thumb for any community....”

May our congregation become such a model faith community.

Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore  
Lead Minister and Minister of Lifespan Religious Education

## WORSHIP SERVICES

All Worship Services Are in the Worship Room with NEW Lighting, Audio, and Broadcast Improvements

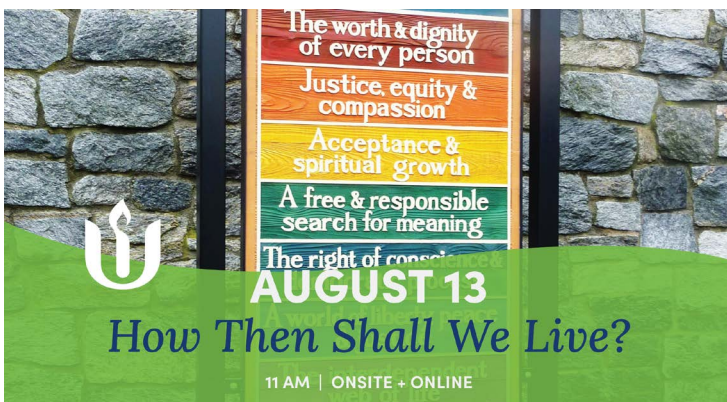
Friday, August 11, 7:30 PM | *Soulful Sundown: Heat & Light*



led by Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore

With live music from the Cosmic Orchestra, onsite and online. Special guest artist Deb Talan at onsite-only coffee house afterward. All are welcome.  
*Where music resides at the heart of religious experience.*

Sunday, August 13, 11:00 AM | *How Then Shall We Live?*



led by Guest Minister Rev. Michael Crumpler

In light of the hate that is fueling our culture and targeting our people, how shall we live out our Unitarian Universalist values?

## WORSHIP SERVICES

continued from previous column

Sunday, August 20, 11:00 AM | *What Have You Got To Lose?*



led by Guest Minister Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson

We often find ourselves stuck in unhelpful patterns, afraid to take a chance on something new. This week, we ask: “What have we got to lose?”

Sunday, August 27, 11:00 AM | TBA

led by Guest Minister Rev. Daniel Lawlor

Sunday, September 3, 11:00 AM | *The Year to Save the Earth*

led by Guest Speaker Jim Scott

A mix of powerful songs and beautiful projected images takes us from celebration to grieving, protest, learning, and positive vision for the planet. Jim Scott’s lyrical melodies and outspoken poetry celebrate what’s beautiful, amazing, and fragile, nurturing a spirit of collective action for our planet.

Friday, September 8, 7:30 PM | *Soulful Sundown*

led by Rev. David Carl Olson

With live music from the Cosmic Orchestra, onsite and online. Special guest artist Jill Sobule at onsite-only coffee house afterward. All are welcome.

Sunday, September 10, 11:00 AM | *How Unitarian Universalism Can Inspire Advocacy and Acceptance*

led by Guest Speaker Sheri Thomas

Together, we’ll explore how promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, can inspire us to embrace advocacy and acceptance and help remove the stigmas surrounding physical disabilities and mental health.

Sunday, September 17, 11:00 AM | *Welcome Home Sunday*

led by Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, Rev. David Carl Olson, Rev. Israel Buffardi  
*In our annual ritual of Homecoming, we gather together after our summer adventures. We will reflect on what has been gained by taking a break from some of the routines of school and work. And we will also celebrate how good it feels to come home together again to share our summer stories, renew connections, and rejoice together.*

UUCSR Worship Services are onsite and livestreamed Sundays at 11:00 AM and second Fridays monthly at 7:30 PM. Livestreamed on [uucsr.org/worship](https://uucsr.org/worship), Facebook, and YouTube; available thereafter on the same platforms and as podcasts [www.uucsr.org/podcast](https://www.uucsr.org/podcast). Onsite, mask wearing is optional.

## MILESTONES

**We ask for cards and well wishes for...** Mary Watts who is recovering from surgery at the Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Great Neck. Cards sent to Mary's home will be hand-delivered to her at rehab by her daughter Elizabeth.

14 Bayview Court  
Manhasset, NY 11030

**A Celebration of Life is planned for...** Longtime Shelter Rock member Allen Schwab on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 2:00 PM, in the Worship Room. Allen died surrounded by his loved ones on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Allen is survived by his daughter, Madeleine Schwab and his beloved wife, Cheryl. All are welcome.

## THANK YOU

I would like to take the time to thank the congregation and the Caring Committee for the beautiful flowers and cards that I received while on the mend. I am doing better and thank all of you.

Henriette (Jetty) Purohit

I want to thank the ministers and the congregation for the absolutely beautiful flowers that were sent to the Service for John. I also thank you for your warm wishes and prayers during this difficult time. All was appreciated.

Claire Brady

## CARING COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

Suzanne Viverito, Chair

**Living With Cancer** is a free online group that meets third Tuesdays monthly at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The program is led by Caron Hunter, a holistic health care provider and interfaith minister, as she facilitates and teaches a compassionate and empowering approach to healing. People living with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis may join a safe, confidential group where members may share their experiences with others who understand the intricacies. In this supportive environment, we lift each other up, learn tools for coping with stress, meditate together, and open a prayerful spirit within ourselves to encourage healing.



Dr. Caron Hunter

**Care for the Caregiver** is held on the third Monday monthly at 7:00 PM. Those who care for anyone navigating the physical/emotional/mental challenges of caregiving are welcome to this free, online, confidential group, led by Caron Hunter.

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Sharyn Esposito ([sesposito@uucsr.org](mailto:sesposito@uucsr.org) or 516.472.2960).

## CHRIS HILKE

President of the Congregation



As I write this quick August update, we are finalizing the agenda for the first Board Retreat of the Congregational Year. The Board of Trustees, along with ministers and COA Adam Barshak, will gather onsite on August 13. I'm particularly looking forward to gathering in person. Monthly BOT meetings will continue to be held on Zoom. We know that remote meetings are an efficient and convenient way to conduct business.

And the availability of online meetings probably saved us during the pandemic. It is important, though, to balance those meetings with gatherings in the building. Our Retreat is one opportunity for us to be together. In addition to this, I will work to provide more ways for Trustees to spend time face-to-face. We may gather for coffee on Sunday mornings or make a point of sitting together for lunch following services. These meetings will not involve business; rather, they will offer a place for us to be in community with one another. And if you see us, please join us. It's a quick and easy way to let trustees know what's on your mind.

We can all remember how we missed being together during the pandemic and how anxious we were to be back in the building. Let's not forget how that felt. Many of us are not taking advantage of the wide range of opportunities before us. Attendance is down at congregational functions. Committees should strive to meet in person as often as possible. It's easy to stay home and not make the drive in the dark or bad weather. Pj's are far more comfortable than pants and a shirt. There are legitimate reasons, such as health and safety, to stay away. And under those circumstances, Zoom is a godsend. But please remember how great it feels when you walk in the door at Shelter Rock. You can see old friends, make new ones, worship and celebrate and play, and do good work together. It's important to be in community—in person. Please think about this the next time you're tempted to connect by way of your computer.



Finally, I would like to extend my personal welcome to Rev. Israel Buffardi. He joined Shelter Rock on August 1 as the new Associate Minister for Member and Community Engagement. Please be sure to seek him out, introduce yourself, and welcome him into our community. Enjoy the rest of your summer and remember to mark your calendars for Homecoming on September 17.

## CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chris Hilke, President of the Congregation

### UUCSR Has Announced \$325,000 in Grants to Address the Refugee Crisis on Long Island

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock has released to the press news regarding disbursement of grants to three faith-based organizations that provide resettlement services to Humanitarian Parolees from Afghanistan and the Ukraine:

- \$200,000 to Catholic Charities of Long Island
- \$75,000 to the Community Synagogue for the project Upholding Humanity
- \$50,000 to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph for the project Long Island Immigration Clinic

The grants were approved at the June 4, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting. The following are funded by the Congregation and are separate from UUCSR Veatch Program funding.

**Catholic Charities of Long Island (CCLI):** CCLI has a Refugee Resettlement Program for those who arrive on Long Island fleeing war, natural disaster, human trafficking, and persecution, in their countries of origin. CCLI is currently serving refugees classified as Humanitarian Parolees from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

**Upholding Humanity:** Upholding Humanity is a coalition of organizations that support the resettlement of Humanitarian Parolees from Afghanistan and Ukraine on Long Island. They include: Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Islamic Center of Long Island, UJA-Federation of New York, St. John's Episcopal Church (Cold Spring Harbor), American Jewish Committee of Long Island, Temple Sinai of Roslyn, and The Community Synagogue (Port Washington). They are currently in the process of resettling six Afghan families and three Ukrainian families locally.

**Long Island Immigration Clinic (LIIC):** Founded in 2021, the LIIC works to provide legal support and resettlement services to undocumented immigrants in Nassau and Suffolk counties. It is located in Brentwood on the campus of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. LIIC is currently assisting six Ukraine and Afghan families who are classified as Humanitarian Parolees.

## CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chris Hilke, President; Aimee Vella Ripley, Vice President;  
Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, Lead Minister;  
Adam Barshak, Congregation Operations Administrator

### Program Committee Support Structure

UUCSR has a dedicated and highly proficient staff whose task is to enable the congregation to fulfil its mission, vision, and goals. The staff working to support program committees work in collaboration with Facilities, Communications, and Finance staff.

Staff members whose work supports program committees are supervised by the Congregation Operations Administrator and the Ministers—and their work supports UUCSR leadership and committees. For this Congregational Year, there has been some realignment of which staff members support which groups and committees to better align staffing to meet the needs of the congregation. Please visit [uucsr.org/staff](http://uucsr.org/staff) for contact information.

#### Assistant to the Ministers Sharyn Esposito supports:

- Ministers
- Caring Committee
- Denominational Affairs
- Membership Committee

#### Executive Assistant Tammy Weil supports:

- Board of Trustees
- Program Council

#### Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche supports:

- Social Justice efforts of the congregation

#### Religious Education Coordinator Carson Jones supports:

- Religious Education Program
- Religious Education Committee

#### Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator Jaime Walowitz supports:

- Adult Faith Engagement
- Senior Seminar
- Small Group Ministry
- Adult Programs

#### Committee Assistant Jeannie Gross supports:

- Religious Education
- Social Justice Committee
- Social Justice Sub-Committees

#### Committee Assistant Carrie Ann Sampogna supports:

- Worship
- Music and Performing Arts
- Art Committee

#### Committee Assistant Alexa Jellema supports:

- Bookstore
- Green Sanctuary
- Member Events
- Men's Group
- Women's Group
-

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator



### Join Reclaim Our Vote

Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) is a project of the not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization, Center for Common Ground (CCG) based in Virginia. ROV seeks to increase voter turnout among Black, Hispanic, and Asian-American voters. Their current campaign will target those voters in Virginia ahead of the election on November 7, 2023, when all 40 State Senate seats, all

100 State House of Delegates seats, and many local offices are up for election. ROV takes names, regardless of party affiliation, from voter rolls which are public information. This is a completely non-partisan effort by a nonpartisan organization.

The Virginia Election will set the stage for 2024, and it is crucial that we turn out as many voters as possible. The UUCSR Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a postcard writing drive targeting Virginia voters. All materials, except postcard postage, will be provided, and there will be training available. If you'd like to join the group, please register at [uucsr.org/23reclaimourvote](https://uucsr.org/23reclaimourvote)

Registration ends September 8, 2023. For further information about ROV, go to <https://www.centerforcommonground.org/> and scroll to Current Campaigns. Questions? Contact Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator at [ROVuucsr@gmail.com](mailto:ROVuucsr@gmail.com)



## YOUTH PROGRAM

Jamie Walowitz

Youth and Adult Faith Engagement Coordinator



### An Opportunity for Youth Leadership

For Unitarian Universalists working with youth, a core objective of the work is the encouragement and development of youth leadership. This is something that we will be working on in the Senior Seminar class this upcoming Religious Education year.

Each Sunday, one Shelter Rock youth will lead part of a class. They can teach a skill or give a talk. The Senior Seminar Advisors and I aim to give youth as many opportunities as possible to grow their leadership skills. Work has already begun with the class; last April, youth led workshops and activities for other high school-aged UU youth at a Senior Conference.

Plans are to continue the work starting with the first major youth-centered activity of the Congregational Year. On Indigenous Peoples' Day Weekend, October 7-9, 2023, we look forward to hosting seventh- to twelfth-grade UUCSR youth at the Annual Youth Retreat at Camp Zeke in Lakewood, PA.

This is an incredible opportunity for connection, bonding, building upon faith and spirituality, and leading. We are excited to have youth leading activities and workshops, and showcasing their talents to their peers. For more information and to register, visit [uucsr.org/23youthretreat](https://uucsr.org/23youthretreat).

Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 20, 2023.



## ART COMMITTEE

Paul Kopelow, Chair

### Congregational Art Show

On Exhibit in the Art Gallery  
Now through Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Please call for best viewing hours  
516.627.6560

All are welcome to see collected works from UUCSR community members of all ages.



UUCSR Art Committee presents **LENS SCAPES**  
by members of the Long Island Center of Photography  
September 9–October 10, 2023  
Reception: Sunday, October 8, 2023 | 1–3 PM  
All are welcome.

## MUSIC AT SHELTER ROCK

Stephen Michael Smith, Music Director



Watch and listen to the 2023 Summer Concert at your convenience [HERE](#).

## UUCSR BLOG LINKS

Blogs located on [uucsr.org](http://uucsr.org) are updated with ministers' and members' content as often as it is shared. Stay up-to-date and informed with the content below that interests you most.

### [All UUCSR Posts](#)

All blog entries in one place, and some ONLY in this collection.

### [Clarity, by Rev. David Carl Olson](#)

### [Denominational Affairs \(DAC\) Updates](#)

### [Green Sanctuary Articles](#)

UUCSR's most active blog contains a submission by Renée Silver that includes an origin of the word "bee" and a story of the use of beehives during WWII to help members of the Resistance.

### [Social Justice Articles](#)

### [Touchstones Ministry Team Blog](#)

You may always catch up on minister's writings all in one place in the ministers' blog.

### [Veatch Blog](#)

What are Veatch grantees doing to support democracy, labor and immigrant rights, and racial justice? How are they forging stories of hope and opportunity for all? Visit the Veatch blog for a taste of what a delegation of UUCSR and Veatch leadership learned on a May site to the nation's capital.

### [Women's Group](#)

## MUSIC AT SHELTER ROCK

Stephen Michael Smith, Music Director

### Upcoming Musical Events at Shelter Rock

(Watch for more information about Music and Performing Arts Events in *Quest* and in Featured Programs descriptions on [uucsr.org](http://uucsr.org).)

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 | 7:00 PM**

#### Cabaret at the Rock

Annual Fundraising Event to benefit the Edward Miller Memorial Music Scholarship Fund

**Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 2:00 PM**

#### Annual Messiah Sing

The UUCSR Choir and Soloists with The Orchestra at Shelter Rock

**Saturday, February 3, 2024 | 7:00 PM**

#### History of Gospel Music Concert

**Sunday, April 14, 2024 | 11:00 AM**

#### Music Sunday 2024

The UUCSR Choir and Soloists with The Orchestra at Shelter Rock

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Every Thursday | 1:00–4:00 PM or until “Game Over”



### Veatch Ballroom

UUCSR bridge players welcome game players of all kinds to join them on Thursday afternoons. Canasta, Mah Jong, Scrabble, etc. are all welcome. Questions? Contact Carla Drezner at [stargatecd@aol.com](mailto:stargatecd@aol.com)



Friday, August 11, 2023 | Approximately 8:15 PM | Worship Room  
*Soulful Sundown Coffee House*

Guest artist Deb Talan at onsite-only coffee house following the Soulful Sundown Service with Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore.  
*Where music resides at the heart of religious experience.*

Sunday, August 13, 2023 | 11:00 AM  
The Sounds of Love—An RE Outdoor Summer Program for All Ages



Meets in the RE Wing and on the grounds at UUCSR.  
Details [HERE](#).

Every Tuesday | 6:30 PM | Via Zoom [HERE](#)  
Friday Nights with the LGBTQ+ Friends



Gatherings have moved to Tuesday for July and August. The LGBTQ+ Sub-Committee is not just for Queer folk, but the + includes friends, allies, and parents. Check in is at 6:30 PM, and gathering for facilitated conversation is at 7:00 PM. Members hope you will join this event and become a regular!

Friday, August 25 | 6:30 PM | Social Hall and Art Gallery



August Fourth Friday Presents Experience the JOY of Mindful Movement | Sponsored by the UUCSR Caring Committee

Enjoy a light supper in the Social Hall and then move to the Art Gallery where your guide, Suzanne Viverito, will help you experience the JOY of Mindful Movement—calm and focus your mind as you connect your breath with gentle movement. This is NOT an exercise class.

You will either be seated on or always standing next to a chair. Please register [HERE](#) so that we may be sure that we have enough props for all who attend. Registration also helps with meal planning. Thank you.

Call or email Sharyn at [sesposito@uucsr.org](mailto:sesposito@uucsr.org) or 516.472.2960 with any questions.

Friday, September 8, 2023 | Approximately 8:15 PM | Worship Room  
*Soulful Sundown Coffee House*

Guest artist Jill Sobule at onsite-only coffee house following the Soulful Sundown Service.  
*Where music resides at the heart of religious experience.*

Sunday, September 17, 2023 | 12:00 PM | Patio  
(weather permitting)  
Registration and details [HERE](#)



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK

48 Shelter Rock Rd, Manhasset, NY 11030 | 516.627.6560 | [uucsr.org](https://uucsr.org) | [info@uucsr.org](mailto:info@uucsr.org)

**Lead Minister and Minister of Lifespan Religious Education**  
Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore ([nfenimore@uucsr.org](mailto:nfenimore@uucsr.org))

**Associate Minister for Congregational Life**  
Rev. David Carl Olson ([dcolson@uucsr.org](mailto:dcolson@uucsr.org))

**Associate Minister for Member and Community Engagement**  
Rev. Israel Buffardi ([ibuffardi@uucsr.org](mailto:ibuffardi@uucsr.org))

**Congregation Operations Administrator**  
Adam Barshak ([abarshak@uucsr.org](mailto:abarshak@uucsr.org))

**Executive Director, Veatch Program**  
Joan Minieri ([joan@veatch.org](mailto:joan@veatch.org))

**Music Director**  
Stephen Michael Smith ([ssmith@uucsr.org](mailto:ssmith@uucsr.org))

**Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator**  
Carson Jones ([cjones@uucsr.org](mailto:cjones@uucsr.org))

**Social Justice Coordinator**  
Claire Deroche ([cderoche@uucsr.org](mailto:cderoche@uucsr.org))

## **Officers of the Congregation**

**President:** Chris Hilke  
**Vice President:** Aimee Vella Ripley  
**Secretary:** Toni Logue  
**Treasurer:** Moin Haque

## **Members of the Board of Trustees**

Carole Alexander	Marvin Brown
Claudia Barbey	Bill Carmody
Iliza Bartels	Bill Kahn
Riki Birk	Ursula Salamone

**August 9, 2023**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL**

**Next Quest: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 | Deadline for Content: Thursday, August 31, 2023**



*UUCSR Wildflower Garden*

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