



March 28, 2024

From *Birches* by Robert Frost

... Often you must have seen them
Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
After a rain. They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.
Soon the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells
Shattering and avalanching on the snow crust—
Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away
You'd think the inner dome of heaven had fallen.



Photo by Al Adams

“Back to the Garden”

Easter Sunday Worship Service March 31, 2024

Led by: Rev. Tori Rosati

Religious Exploration welcomes children ages 4-13.

Come in person or click below to join the service!

<https://uukennebunk.org/Sunday-Service-Access>

Or by cell phone (audio only) 929-205-6099, meeting ID 734 887 010,
Password:02448

upcoming EVENTS

- Fri. April 5, 5:30 p.m. Women's potluck: For No Particular Reason
- Sat. May 18, Rummage sale (Fri. set-up, Sun. clean-up)

Wear your Easter Bonnets/Chapeaus



Show us your style! Join us during worship on Easter this Sunday, March 31. At the end of the service, we will have our **4th Annual Easter Bonnet/Chapeau Parade**. Those in-person will parade around the sanctuary; those online will be spotlighted. Bonnets and hats don't need to be elaborate. They can be made from whatever you have in your house –

no need to purchase anything. The crazier the better. Let's see how creative we can be!

Preparing for Easter!

Last Sunday, RE teachers Jacky Peters and Gray Hirshfield helped the children pack Easter baskets for those who may not have gotten one. Thanks to all who donated treats.



About this week's sermon

As stories so often do, the Easter story holds rich metaphors of what it means to till the soil of hope and liberation in our world. The thawing ground and sprouting branches of spring are reminders that death and life are inextricably linked and give us pause to reflect on what might be resurrecting in our midst. Join us on Sunday to explore together how we plant and tend to the metaphorical gardens that abound in our midst and in so doing, create the possibility of paradise here and now on this good earth.

Reverend Tori Rosatí's Ordination

March 21, 2023
UU Church of
Haverhill



Tori and her family read before extinguishing the chalice. The Universalist symbol above is from the Essex UU Church.



Tori receives a blessing from her mentor and internship supervisor Rev. Frank Clarkson.



Rose blows bubbles over the congregation.



The congregation, connected to each other with ribbons, takes part in the ritual of laying on hands, at Tori's Ordination, which took place Saturday at the UU Church of Haverhill, MA.



Tori blows celebratory bubbles.



A letter from Rev. Tori



Dear ones,

I am grateful for the love and well wishes you all sent me for my ordination this past weekend. It was a moving service that reminded me of the powerful connections that run between and among us—connections that bring us all closer to the kind of love-filled world we all yearn and strive for every day.

I was grateful also for some time for rest afterward. My mentor and internship supervisor, Rev. Frank Clarkson, during the service on Saturday, blessed and charged me to prioritize Sabbath and rest in my ministry – to avoid email when I'm off, take care of my body and spirit, and be gentle with myself. Wise words to remember and hold close.

As we have been reflecting on shared ministry these last weeks, I extend that blessing to all of you—to prioritize rest and Sabbath in all your ministries, both in the church and in your wider lives. The world is asking much of us these days—our presence and tending, our care and attention, and our action and commitment. To answer this call, we need all the spiritual and physical reserves we can gather to meet the challenges of our time.

Let's remember that rest comes in many forms—laughter and play, deep breaths, sleep, spending time outside, playing music, reading a good book ... so many ways. I'd love to hear from each of you; how are you resting these days? What practices are you engaging in to slow down? Let me know and let each other know as well. Let's help each other to be accountable to this blessing, invite each other, through modeling and encouragement to slow down, open, and receive the nourishment of rest that sustains, awakens, and centers us all along the way.

With every blessing,
Tori

April's N.P.R Women's Potluck

Friday April 5 at 5:30 p.m. For directions/questions/RSVP: send email to: chameleonfiberworks@gmail.com . The host will provide the main course, please bring something to share with others.



Spring Auction coming—ideas, items needed!

Social events are our best money makers — please think about something fun to put up for our spring auction, which starts in April. Here are some ideas:



- Dinner for 2 or more in your house or garden
- Sunset picnic at the beach
- Sing along with snacks
- Boat ride to Vaughn's Island or ...
- Kayaking on a lake
- Dance party
- Poetry reading with dinner or dessert
- Breakfast on your deck
- Hike with picnic lunch
- Journal Making, Painting, Drawing
- Building something, workshops ...
- Use Your Imagination and Join the Fun!

BRAVO! (Correction)

Our Music Director Chris Staknys performed recently in the Hanna Powell Memorial Piano Competition and won! Among other pieces, he played Fanny Mendelssohn's *Prelude in E Minor*. Chris wanted to highlight Fanny, who was Felix Mendelssohn's sister—not his wife as previously reported.

Voices in Poetry

APRIL
06

Mihku Paul, Native
American Maliseet
poet, educator, artist



**Saturday April 6, POETRY IN THE FRIARY
at St. Anthony Franciscan Monastery
28 Beach Ave, Kennebunk 1-2:30pm**

hosted by WePoets & Verse

**Witness the raw power of poetry voices that
connect our world and ourselves, one poem at a time.**

Admission free - Donations help
the Monastery
maintain and preserve its sacred
space - all welcome-
Refreshments, Meet & Greet
after the readings.

Kimberly Ann Priest, Poet,
Author, *Slaughter the One Bird*



Sunday Morning Bookcase



- Last Sunday's Closing Song — The song we sang to extinguish the chalice was by Shoshana Jedwab.
- Podcast: [How to Citizen](#), Baratunde Thurston
- See No Stranger, A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love, Valerie Kaur
- *Darkening the Doorways: Black trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism* by Mark Morrison-Reed
- Link to <https://onbeing.org/programs/jason-reynolds-imagination-and-fortitude/> *On Being* with Krista Tippett

Concerned about gun safety?

Sign up to get information and alerts about possible action in Maine at <https://www.mainegunsafety.org/>



Scam emails: Some of you may have received an email "from me" (Tori) requesting your availability via email. Rest assured that it was not from me. Always look at the return email address to see if it looks familiar. Thank you, Tori

Letters

We are starting a new section, *Letters*. These can be letters from you — expressing your ideas and suggestions for how our church can be even more exciting, helpful, spiritual, activist, you name it! Or they may be letters the church has received, such as those thanking us for a “Share the Plate” donation. So, send your letter to First Parish News, at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com.



Dear Fellow Americans,

Guess what, it's so easy to contact our elected officials! Most prefer internet mail. Your Social Justice Network urges you to write to them about the issue you most care about.

This week, here's Senator Susan Collins: www.collins.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-collins. Actually, it's very easy to find any of our elected officials just by entering their name and title. But this contact sends you right to King's page, which you can use. Also, I recommend calling her office in Biddeford: (207) 283-1101 and speaking to an aide, who will forward your message.

Also, to keep up with our own state, keep in touch with MUUSAN, Maine UU Social Action Network, at muusan.org.

Sincerely, Vicki Adams, Social Justice Network



Spend time with our Children in Religious Exploration

Our RE coordinators need more volunteer teaching support for the remainder of this year. Jacky Peters is scheduled for hip surgery on March 4. Susie Desantis needs to take time off from teaching for the next few months as she is busy caring for her family. Gray Hirshfield will be away the Sundays of March 10th and March 17th.

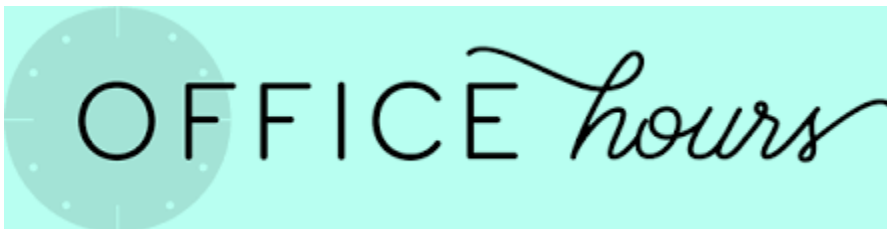
We have a few volunteers, but need more to take part in this program, which is a perfect time to get to know our kids. It can be enlightening and fun. Please note all volunteer teachers need a background check—this is a good opportunity to get one!

Every Sunday, we begin with opening words, chalice lighting, and check-ins. Most Sundays include a lesson plan, but on one Sunday per month the program will feature unscripted games and arts and crafts.

We have been very happy to see the faces of new families and children attending services and RE! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Job Opportunity

We are looking for a second childcare person to watch the younger children on Sundays. Crow Lowry has expressed interest in coming back next year. We would like to find a second person to help as we now have several younger children attending. The church has funds budgeted for childcare - two hours per Sunday. All ages and genders are welcome to apply. A background check will be required.



Tori's office hours are mostly Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the church. Due to other obligations her schedule may change. Please email the office to set a time if you wish to speak with her.

One of the important duties of a minister is pastoral care for those in need. Our minister, Tori Rosati, is available to any congregant in need. Tori can best be reached at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com. For pastoral emergencies, please use Tori's cell: (978) 238-8210.



Contribute to our Newsletter

Join the newsletter contributors! Do you have a photo to share? Perhaps an article or an upcoming event? Please e-mail your items, articles, and photos for the newsletter by **Tuesday, 10 a.m.** to uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com.

- Allison Lazos, Graphics, and layout
- Vicki Adams, Editor

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