

## **ST. JOHN NUUSLETTER:** February 2022

Happy February St. John Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The beginning of 2022 was a little touch and go, but we have once again navigated the covid craze and are moving forward. February brings two familiar faces to the pulpit, our returning visiting ministers Rev. Allen Wells and Merry Stockwell will be joining us. We could not be more pleased with their return to St. John.

February also brings us Black History Month, Groundhog's Day, the Chinese New Year - Year of the Tiger (Feb 2), President's Day, Valentine's Day, and for me, a LOT of visitors. It is a month to honor our past, look to the future, and sprinkle in a little love along the way.

As a reminder, we meet at the **Giff Hill School Lower Campus** Sundays at 10 am. We require masks while inside and we encourage all to get vaccinated. We hope you can join us!

### **SUNDAY SERVICE - 10am - Lower Giff Hill Meeting Hall**

#### **February 6: FREEDOM FROM ME-DOM – Rev. Allen Wells**

A look at the one consensual illusion that is responsible for all of our suffering

This is Allen's 10th year as visiting minister for St. John UU. The Rev. Allen Wells, B.A., B.D, is a Unitarian Universalist Minister. He is a counselor and teaches classes such as insight meditation and assists with special needs. He directs Allen Wells Counseling in Morristown, NJ, which specializes in holistic mind/body psychotherapy from a spiritual perspective. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School and the Integrative Study Practice Program of the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies. He also holds a post graduate certificate in Counseling from the Blanton Peale Institute and Counseling Center in NYC. Allen's interest lies in unifying the interior, spiritual quality of our lives with the external, interpersonal and political areas in which we live.

#### **February 13: Repairing Ourselves – Merry Stockwell**

In these most challenging times we are all a bit battered. Where do we seek sanctuary and what sustains us? Repairing ourselves when we have experienced some damage can make us more unique and valuable.

Merry grew up in a Boston suburb, married a fellow Bates College student, raised three children and had a 25 year career as Director of Religious Education, serving 3 different New Hampshire UU churches. After her husband of 45 years died she lived alone in their home in the woods of New Hampshire for 4 years, and presently resides in a neighborhood in southwestern New Hampshire when she isn't traveling. Coming of age as an Elder in these times in our culture is her newest absorbing interest and challenge. Spending time with her 5 grandchildren is her greatest joy.

**February 20: Is Perfection What We Are Seeking? – Merry Stockwell**

Perfection and our pursuit of it can be a misguided quest. We will take a closer look at paradox, reality, and the choices we make.

**February 27: Circles - Merry Stockwell**

Circles and cycles; beginnings and endings; budding and blossoming. We will look at our constant state of becoming.

**STJUUF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Have You Ever Wanted to be a Preacher?**

Now might be your big chance. We have a few open Sunday's in April and May. If you are interested in sharing your story, please let me, Erin Lieb know.

**UU World**

I was excited this week to open up my mailbox and see the UU World waiting for me. The UU World is the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association. If you would like to receive a copy, please let me, Erin Lieb know and I will pass it along to the powers that be.

**We Are All in This Together**

If you have information you would like to distribute, please let me, Erin Lieb, know. If you have a community event that you would like to submit for the March newsletter, pass it my way. If you have ideas for programs, outings, weekday classes/discussions, I am all ears.

**Yoga with Suki**

Suki is discontinuing Yoga for now. It may be pick up later in the year.

**FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **St. John School of the Arts – Art Auction**

**February 1 - February 28**

Support the arts in our community! Several of our UU members have works of art in this year's Art Auction. Preview the artwork and register to bid here:

<https://cbo.io/bidapp/index.php?slug=stjsa>

### **Get Trashed Cruz Bay**

**Saturday, February 5, 2022 - 10am**

Meet at the National Park Pavilion 10am. Bags, gloves, and grabbers provided. More information: <https://fb.me/e/2QVYg1edl>

### **Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park Gala - VIRTUAL**

**Saturday, February 5, 2022 - 6pm**

We have so much to celebrate! Join us for a fun virtual evening with friends and family! This year's Annual Gala to benefit Friends of Virgin Islands National Park includes Park Trivia, multiple opportunities to win great prizes, and an online auction! More information here: <https://friendsvinp.org/annual-gala/>