#### ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

MARCH
2022
Newsletter

Dear Parish of St. Anne's.

I am beginning to learn that the winter months of life at St. Anne's are filled with activity that enlivens our organization, and our spirits. It seems dizzying, at times!

Our Annual Meeting met in person, heard from every report-giver, and passed our year's Budget. We elected new leaders. And we said "Thank You" to our outgoing leaders. For many years of dedicated service to our parish community, we gave an engraved clock to warden Ed Giroux and to treasurers Sue and John Geen. We are unendingly grateful for their time spent for us.

Along with the Annual Report, fifteen people worked to complete our Parochial Report for the Diocese and national church. This last takes a lot of time to answer carefully and truthfully. It gives the national church statistics about us. And highlights our own ministries. The Report is available in our Parish Office for anyone to read.

What impresses me the most about St. Anne's this winter is the new telling of stories. Since mid-December, at some Sunday services, we have been hearing individual parishioners tell a story from their own lives that has to do with injustice. Each one has been different. Each one has been powerful. Each one has inspired us to reflect on how we can change.

Think about a story you have, and consider sharing it with us in church.

Our parishioners, who have bravely shared an experience from their own lives, have shown us many pathways to think and converse about how we treat each other in the world.

Welcome to St. Anne's parish life as we grow and expand our trust and understanding of ourselves, each other, and the world. Welcome to Lent!

Faithfully, Mthr Jennifer

#### Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

Weekly worship on our YouTube Channel:

<u>"St. Anne's Episcopal Church, N. Billerica MA"</u>

(Subscribe and see videos of our services!)

Our services are replayed on BATV

Check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StAnnesBillerica

("Like" to see videos of our services as well as other news and information!)

Check our website (stannes-billerica.org) for a link to the services.

#### Contact information:

St. Anne's Episcopal Church PO Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd. No. Billerica, MA 01862

Office Ph: 978-663-4073 Thrift Shop Ph: 978-667-6268

<u>Email</u>: <u>stannesbillerica@gmail.com</u> <u>rector@stannes-billerica.org</u>

Website:

stannes-billerica.org

Vestry:

Rosemary Kinser Warden Michael Hopkins Warden Linda Kusnierz Treasurer Marguerite Massey Clerk Pat Cregg 2023 Dotty Callihan 2023 Maria Martin 2024 2024 Marie Figenbaum Lisa Carpine 2025 Todd Baldwin 2025

# Welcome new vestry members!

Mother Jennifer's Office Hours:

Tuesdays 12-4 pm

Thursdays 2-5 pm

PLEASE call or email her with any kind of pastoral concern.

**Church Office Hours:** 

Thursdays 2-5 pm

**Thrift Shop Hours:** 

Wednesdays,

Thursdays, Fridays 10 am-2 pm

12-Step Meetings:

Wednesdays (AA) 8 pm Thursdays (NA) 7 pm

#### **Newsletter Submissions:**

For the April newsletter, please send articles by March 25 to <a href="mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com">stannesbillerica@gmail.com</a>.



New members of St. Anne's vestry will need to complete their Safe Church training as well as any existing members who haven't finished theirs. If you need help with your Safe Church training, please let Brenda know. If you have completed your Safe Church training recently, please email your Certificate to Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com). St. Anne's Safe Church Policy can be found on our website (http://stannes-billerica.org/safe-church/).

### Sign-up still open to join Holy Land pilgrimage in October

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria for "Encounters in the Holy Land," a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, Oct. 17-28. The deadline for registering is April 1. Find more details here: <a href="https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/register-april-1-2022-holy-land-pilgrimage-bishop-gayle-harris">https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/register-april-1-2022-holy-land-pilgrimage-bishop-gayle-harris</a>.

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-4824826, ext. 445).



(For more reflections, you are invited to watch and listen to Bishop Gates' sermon from Ash Wednesday, March 2, delivered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston: <a href="https://www.diomass.org/news/reflections/spiritual-scales-and-arpeggios-word-bishop-gates-beginning-lent">https://www.diomass.org/news/reflections/spiritual-scales-and-arpeggios-word-bishop-gates-beginning-lent</a>)

#### Ash Wednesday Quote from BACKSTORY PREACHING

"As a period of purification, Lent is not merely a period of bodily fasting. It is a period of general readjustment, of thorough renovation from the outer spheres of life down to the roots of its innermost fibers. We have only to glance at the chain of prayers which runs through the Lenten liturgy from Ash Wednesday to Easter to see the meaning of Lent. It is purification and liberation. It is a cure, and the fasts are meant to be medicinal. It is a sacred observance, nay, it is direct sanctification. It is the only route to freedom and fulfillment, for it loosens the grip of evil and leads us, worn and weary, to full and wholesome restoration."

-Theodore Wesseling -

Are you planning to make an adjustment that involves food, exercise, or spiritual growth? If so, as part of your Lenten reflection, would you consider making a weekly donation (**Time, Talent or Treasure**) that would support your commitment to that fulfillment?

#### Suggestions for reflection upon your gift of stewardship during Lent!

**Time** – Spring cleaning is a time to do some dusting inside or garden clean-up of outside church property;

Talent – Cook a meal or bake a special treat for a neighbor or church member who lives alone;

Treasure – Give up a beverage at your favorite café and make a monetary donation to St. Anne's or your special charity;



Take-home lessons from February are available now. If you'd like one, please let Brenda know (<a href="mailto:bkomarinski@gmail.com">bkomarinski@gmail.com</a>). For those interested, our next in-person lesson will be Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 3:30pm. In-person lessons require wearing masks due to the pandemic. I will let you know if this changes. If you are interested in assisting with in-person lessons, please let Brenda know. The symbol we will be looking is Wheat.



# **Lent Madness!**

For those who want some saintly Lenten fun, visit <a href="www.lentmadness.org">www.lentmadness.org</a> for daily "matchups" between saints. You can vote to support your favorites and see who wins the Golden Halo!

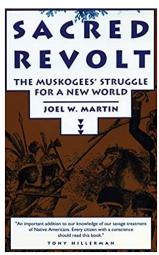


# Billerica Interfaith Association Social Justice Meeting March 22

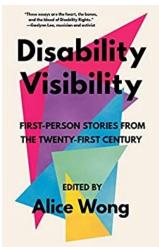
Reminder that the Billerica Interfaith Association has planned a Zoom meeting for "all social justice committees and social justice oriented folks." The meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 22**, **at 7 pm**. The purpose of the meeting will be to make introductions and outline social justice concerns in our community. The Zoom link is:



## **Social Conscience Book Group**



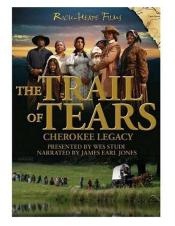
The Social Conscience book club is currently reading *Sacred Revolt* by Joel W. Martin. We are learning about the Muskogees' culture and their struggle with the new world. Sunday, March 6 we will be discussing chapters four and five. Our next book will be *Disability Visibility* edited by Alice Wong. It is a collection of first person stories written in the twenty first century. It is available by book, ebook, and audible book. I expect we will begin our third book March 20 or 27. Even if you aren't able to read the books please feel free to join us for the discussion.



-Marguerite Massey



# Movie Night – Save the Date!



We have decided to postpone Movie Night until Friday, April 1 (no joke!). This will avoid some of the colder winter weather and is after we spring ahead with the daylight savings. The next movie we will be watching is "The Trail of Tears," a documentary about the Cherokee Legacy. This film runs 105 minutes.

#### "Dirty"

The little white girl grabbed my hand And held it. She points at my dark skin, The skin of my ancestors, The Oglala Lakotas, and says, "Dirty." She immediately turns my hand With my palm open and says, "Clean." My seven-year-old mind says, "But I washed my hands." Dear God help us to clean our hearts And not to dirty the minds of our young.

-Robert Two Bulls

poem from *Race and Prayer*, edited by Malcom Boyd and Chester Talton (Morehouse, 2003)

#### From the Social Justice Committee:

Reminder to parishioners that we want to hear your stories! Do you have a personal story of an experience with social justice that you would be willing to share? (It can be something that inspired you, something that shocked you or made you think, something that motivated you to learn more or to take action.) You can share your story at the beginning of a Sunday service, as we have been doing for the past few months, or in another way. If you are interested in sharing, please contact any member of the Committee (Michele O'Shea, Marguerite Massey, Russell Bent, Brenda Komarinski).

#### Warden's Report

#### Mike Hopkins & Rosemary Kinser



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We hope everyone is looking forward to warmer days and longer daylight hours. Don't forget to Spring Forward to daylight saving time on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We lose an hour of sleep, but we gain longer sunlight!

It has been a busy time for Building & Grounds. Once the ground thaws, you will see the replacement of our parking lot sign. In addition, we have had some flooding in the Thrift shop and roof leaks in our Sacristy and Film Room. Our Vestry has voted to make the

appropriate repairs inside the Thrift Shop to eliminate the flooding and roof repairs or replacement, as needed, to ensure those leaks disappear.

#### An introduction from your newest Co-Warden, Rosemary Kinser!

I believe most of you know me. I'm the wife of Ken and the mother of Lisa & David Carpine. Our family have been members of St. Anne's for over 40 years. I have had multiple opportunities to serve our parish in various roles and committees. I have been a Lay Eucharistic Minister, usher, counter, and coffee hour host. I was a member of a "Search Committee" for a new rector, a member of Vestry a couple of times, and I have truly enjoyed faith and belief expanding experiences through participation in Lay Led Bible Studies. Outside of St. Anne's, I am a member of the MA Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat, an avid reader, love to travel and most of all spend time with my family. Like all of you, plans have been put on hold for the last couple of years due to Covid. I am seeing the light at the end of that long dark tunnel; I hope you are also. In 2020, I retired as a nurse in a leadership role of Patient Safety and one of my goals was to get more involved with my church family. So, I'm very excited about my new role.

Family is very important to me, and I consider St. Anne's an important part of my family. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve you as a Co-Warden. Please be assured I will do my best to help us grow and sustain our future in this community.

Peace, love, and happiness.....

Rosemary

#### Jennifer's Journal

#### Pastoral Care event or need?

Please don't be shy about letting me know (by email, text, phone, or at church).

#### From our Presiding Bishop's Way of Love

#### WHAT DOES LOVE DO?

#### Living the Way of Love during Pandemic: Inspire All, Imperil None

Followers of Jesus seek to do that which inspires people to love God, our neighbors, ourselves, and the earth. If one path imperils you or others and the other is more life-giving (even if it is more costly), then follow that one. The Spirit guides us toward life.

(continued on next page)

#### To keep growing, St. Anne's organization needs

4 Councils of Advice/ Committees / Groups. Or any name you wish to call them.

Buildings and Grounds Ministry (see Mike Hopkins, Co-warden)

Worship Council of Advice (see Mthr Jennifer, priest)

Pastoral Care Ministry (see Mthr Jennifer, priest)

St. Anne's in the Community/Welcoming Newcomers (see Rosemary Kinser, Co-warden)

#### Ten Ways of honoring Lent: Pick something up or Put something down

Read a Bible verse every day. Any one!

Read or write your own prayer once a week

Practice a self-denial so that you can do something different

Read an inspirational book

Follow an inspirational speaker or topic or blog

Seek God and Trust that God will find you

Do something new

Read the Table of Contents of our Book of Common Prayer. Discover p. 810

Add something to your charitable contributions



#### From St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Port Royal, VA

As I was looking for information about a contemporary language Great Litany, that we will use on March 5<sup>th</sup>, I found the website of this large church. I liked the following historical description of Lent, so thought I would pass it on to you here in our Newsletter.

Facts about Lent – by Dr. Richard P. Bucher https://www.churchsp.org/factsaboutlent2020/

- What we now call Lent was originally a period of fasting and study for catechumens who were to be baptized on the Saturday before Easter. The 40 day fast was said by Athanasius in 339 AD to be celebrated the world over. The 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness was responsible for the number 40 being chosen.
- The purpose of this extended fast was to practice self-denial and humility. This was to prepare oneself for receiving God's grace and forgiveness in baptism, given on Easter Saturday or Easter Sunday.

#### Continued Covid Caring

It is so wearying to be entering our third year with health precautions still present, in spite of continuing CDC changes. Look for a Covid Lament church service in our future where we can name aloud all that we have missed and given up. Brenda and Mike are planning this, so speak to them with your ideas.

Our Re-Gathering Committee will meet early in March to update their recommendations to our wardens and clergy.

Thank you for staying with us during this awkward and difficult time.

May you continue to cope, even thrive, during this season of Lent and eventual spring.

(continued on next page)

#### Celebrate Bishop Barbara Harris on March 13<sup>th</sup>

Who was she? While not yet a saint, our parish observance of her global ministry as the first woman consecrated a bishop in 1989 will bring her a little closer. She died on March 13, 2020. This summer, our national General Convention will consider a Resolution to place her on the Calendar of the Church. If you have a thought about this, please send an email or telephone Jayleigh, our Parish Administrator.

#### Have an idea for St. Anne's?

As your new team of leaders continues to see what shared leadership looks like, we have some requests.

Please tell others. Don't assume that we already know!

Tell, phone or email leaders (clergy & wardens)

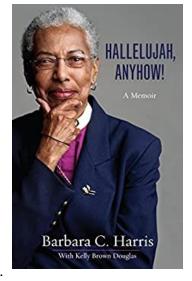
Let a vestrymember know (who will then relay it to leaders)

Calendar requests from old groups can go straight to Jayleigh, our Parish Administrator New Calendar requests for new groups should go to the leadership team first

### Remembering Bishop Barbara C. Harris

March 13, 2022, will mark the two-year anniversary of the death of Bishop Barbara C. Harris, first female bishop in the Anglican Communion and former suffragan (assisting) bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Prior to being part of the first wave of women to be ordained priest in the Episcopal Church, she was a well-known advocate for social justice and active in the civil rights movement. She retired in 2002 but continued to offer her stories, wisdom, presence, and example. She published two books: the sermon collection *Parting Words: A Farewell Discourse*, in 2003, and *Hallelujah, Anyhow! A Memoir*, in 2018.

Episcopal dioceses across the country, including the Diocese of Massachusetts, are growing a movement to add Bishop Barbara Harris to the Episcopal Church's calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, which would make her a saint of the Episcopal Church, with her feast day celebrated on March 13. Resolutions are to come before the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention in July 2022.



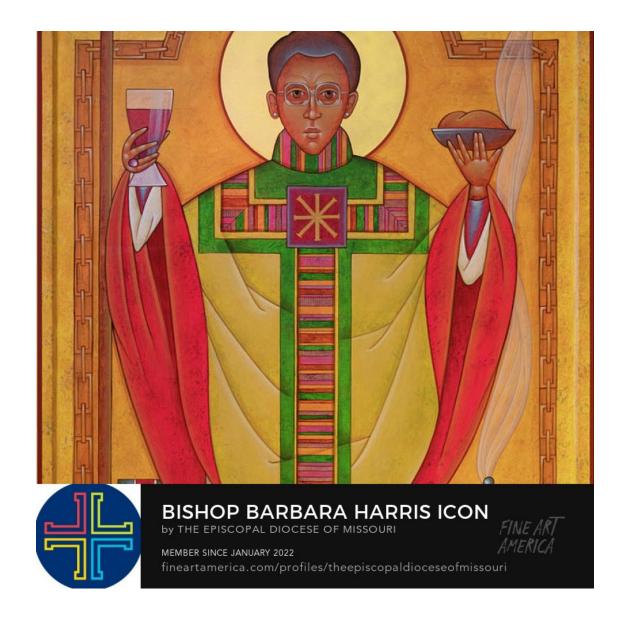
On the next page is an icon of Bishop Harris that was commissioned by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and painted by Peter Pearson. And, a collect that was written by Missouri Bishop Deon Johnson to honor her:

Everliving God, in every generation you cause fresh winds to renew, refresh, and refine your people and in your Word summon us to live courageously as Easter people in an often Good Friday world. Defend us in our own day to make no peace with oppression; that boldly following the example of your servant Barbara Clementine Harris, chosen bishop in your church, we may strive not for ease or fame but gladly toil and walk with you all along our pilgrim journey; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

More details about Bishop Harris's life and work, and the movement to commemorate her as a saint, can be found at these links:

https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/barbara-c-harris-remembering-irrepressible-first-and-tireless-advocate-justice

https://www.diomass.org/barbara-c-harris-commemoration-resources



"If we truly invest in the lives of the most vulnerable in our society, we will invest ourselves in other areas as well.

We will invest in peace with justice so that the "sword of civil unrest might be beaten into plowshares" and it's "spears into pruning hooks" at home and abroad.

We will invest in prophetic witness. A witness that advocates on behalf of the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized. A witness that questions the unquestioned and challenges the unchallenged notions of class and privilege in our society.

We will invest in the wider mission of the church, engaging ourselves in areas of public life beyond the borders of our parishes and our diocese: working to lift up the least, the lost, and the left out."

Bishop Barbara C. Harris

#### From the Desk of the Parish Administrator

A part of my work that I haven't mentioned much here is my "other job" at a United Methodist church in Melrose. I spend more time in that office than I do at St. Anne's, even though the Episcopal Church is my "home church" and I am just a guest contributor in the United Methodist Church. I have learned a lot about the UMC through my work there. I have also had the chance to observe similarities and differences that arise while carrying out my responsibilities, and I thought it would be interesting to share some of my observations.



One difference I have observed stems from the different governing structures and methods of the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church. I am only one person, so take this as a personal observation only, but there is often a lot more flexibility in the UMC in terms of who gets to do what, and how. At the United Methodist church where I work, I have a dual role as both office administrator and children's and youth minister. On weekdays, I am in the office, and on Sunday mornings, I am often in the pulpit or holding the microphone, delivering a children's sermon, or reading the day's Scripture passage.

My first thought upon being offered both positions was that this is a confusion of roles. The Episcopal Church has taught me that one must never mix

administrative work and pastoral care for the same congregation. There are indeed times when I feel awkward. Yet, this is how this church does things, and perhaps there is something to be learned. Some weeks, I write prayers for the Sunday service, design and print the bulletins, and then lead the congregation in saying those prayers during the service. (The UMC is a liturgical church but allows more flexibility in the form of each week's liturgy, since they do not use a Book of Common Prayer as we do. There is an order of worship to be used as a guideline, but it does not include specific page numbers!)

Although I have a different set of duties at my "other job," there are more similarities than differences (John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, were Anglicans, after all). Working in two church offices simultaneously has helped me to learn more quickly how to be an effective administrator, since many tasks are the same throughout the year. The only major difference in timing so far has been that the Methodist church holds its church conference in November, whereas the St. Anne's annual meeting is in January or February (given the enormous amounts of work involved in both, I am grateful for this!). Often a reminder to complete a task in one church—such as purchase seasonal stationery or make sure we have order forms for flowers—also serves as a reminder to do that same thing in the other church.



This is especially helpful as I revise the organizational systems passed down to me from previous administrators, to better suit my personal style and the needs of each church.

I hope these observations are somewhat interesting. If so, I will continue to share them in future newsletters.

-Jayleigh Lewis

"Enter into the mystery of silence. Your goal in life is not to hold your tongue but to love, to know yourself, and to receive God.

Authentic silence is the gateway to peace, adoration, and love.

-Pierre Marie Delfieux



The Theme of our Zoom Ultreya for February 2022 "LOVE"

**1 John 4:19** – We love because He first loved us.

#### **Reflections:**

How do you experience the love of Jesus in your life? Where is your love community, and how do they support you? What is your moment closest to Christ?

Our Zoom Ultreyas have allowed many to participate from all over our country. This Ultreya was hosted by Karen & Lee Conley and Ellen & Bill Harland "live" from Florida!

Zoom Ultreyas occur the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Materials are sent out and posted on the MECM website (<u>www.MassCursillo.org</u>) by Friday prior to the Ultreya.

The March 19th Ultreya will be hosted by our own Sue & John Geen!

#### All are welcome

Peace and Love to all.....

Rosemary



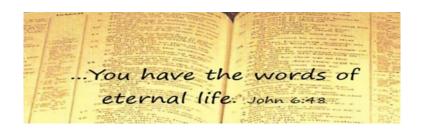


#### St. Anne's Prayer List

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child \_\_\_\_\_. Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.

Barbara Rogers, Bob MacKenzie, Cyndi, David Herring, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine McLaughlin, Helen, Jane Kotelly, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, José Soreso, José Torres, Sr., Joshua Young, Kathy Chang, Linda E., Marie Figenbaum, Marie Horgan, Mark Figenbaum, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Pat McCleave & family, Paul Hamner, Sally DiRocco, Tammy, Tom, Vicki Mahoney, Yvonne Hopkins

We also keep in our prayers all who are ill with COVID-19, the families of those who have died, and all who are grieving.



#### Remembering Leonard Youens

Leonard Youens, a parishioner at St. Anne's, died on January 25, 2022. A celebration of his life was held on February 3rd at St. James Episcopal Church in Cambridge. He was subsequently buried at Fox Hill Cemetery in Billerica. Mother Jennifer preached at his graveside.

We hold his wife, Carol, and all of his family and those who loved him in our prayers.

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die.
And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

(BCP p. 491)





Leonard's obituary can be found here: <u>burnsfuneralhomes.com/</u> tribute/details/1305/Leonard-Youens/obituary

#### Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

O God, our times are in your hand; Look with favor we pray, on your servant , as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Norm Zarella	2/15	John & Sue Geen	3/1	Jane Kotelly	4/1
Todd Baldwin	2/20	Colin Baldwin	3/7	Rosemary Kinser	4/2
		Laurie Holman	3/8	Jackson Elder	4/10
		Linda Kusnierz	3/26	Ron Desmarais	4/25
				Doreen Knowles	4/26
				Elaine Guzzetta	4/30

If you or a loved one are celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, and want it to be included in the next newsletter, please email stannesbillerica@gmail.com and let us know.

ZUMBA & LINE DANCE with Carolisa \* @ St Anne's Schedule a dance Workshop or Family Fun Dance for your "March Mondays" 6:30 -7:30p

\* New Session starts March 7

Advance sign up required @moonlightdjz@gmail.com Try it -\$10 or 4 weeks \$36 \* Gift Cards Available

special occasion!

Further info & Sign up: <a href="mailto:moonlightdjz@gmail.com">moonlightdjz@gmail.com</a>

Carolisa Moonlightdjz \* i: Carolisa's Classes

Schedule your own Workshop \*

Move, Groove, be Fit & Have FUN! Get funky to a fantastic mix of dance classics to current plus plenty of 80's, 90's; latin and Bollywood. Mix it up with different line dances each week; Learn an Irish & a barn dance! It's easy to catch on; adjust the level to suit you. Best are sneakers without much tread. Beginners & all fitness levels welcome – come with friends! Dance off calories in this FUN & friendly class!

#### \*Bellydance 101 ..1 Night Workshop @St Annes \* Monday April 4 \*6:30-7:45p

Make it a "girls' night" with friends to try this beautiful and joyous dance! Energizing yet relaxing; fast & fiery to slow & smooth, we cover all the basics in this beginner's class including a Greek dance and the beautiful Veil dance! Increase flexibility and work all muscles in this FUN & friendly class! Wear comfortable stretchy clothing and thick sox or slippers that "slide". Women of all ages and fitness levels welcome!

\*Veils can be borrowed from instructor. Veils are 2 ¾ yards by 45 inches of sheer chiffon or organza; you can also purchase material at any fabric store (no need to hem) or just improvise with something you already have at home such as a sheer window curtain!

Cost: \$12 \* \$10 by 3/28. Advance sign up required @moonlightdjz@gmail.com

\*Also on ZOOM.. Wednesdays 6:30-7:30p New Session starts 3/16\* Try it ..\$10

\*\* Masks are required in the building until further notice. Participants will have plenty of room to distance!