



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466 (Office)

Newsletter of the Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Church ~ April 2011

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

by Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Although Passover and Easter are related traditions because of Christianity's roots in Judaism, the annual celebrations don't always occur at the same time. In April this year, the first day of Passover is Tuesday, April 19; the eighth and final day is Tuesday, April 26. Easter week starts with Palm Sunday on April 17 and ends with Easter Sunday on April 24.

The conjunction of Passover and Easter always move me to contemplate on what these holidays mean to Unitarian Universalists. Our faith community embraces members from both the Jewish and Christian traditions, along with others who have different beliefs. Unitarian Universalism unites people of diverse theologies around universal shared values. We covenant to encourage one another to spiritual growth—to retain traditional practices that are meaningful and to adopt new ones that help us grow.

Rabbi Shimon Posner of Rancho Mirage, California, tells story from his childhood. His parents didn't keep a kosher kitchen, but were attentive to kosher ritual during Passover. To deal with the problem of kitchen surfaces that had been exposed to non-kosher cooking all year, they used lots of aluminum foil during Passover to cover all the food-preparation surfaces. One year, recent immigrants to America came to Posner's home for Passover. They walked in the kitchen, saw the foil, and immediately felt right at home. To this day, Posner says, a shopping cart filled with food and multiple rolls of aluminum foil bring back his childhood memories of Passover.

"A child's mind," Posner says, is "the place where memories are made, where memories are solidified, jelled, preserved, slow-roasted and developed into full-bodied palates." And those memories are created by the family's preparations.

We all celebrate, whether it's Easter or Passover, a holiday from a different religious tradition, or simply the advent of spring. Celebrations invite all of us to bring intention to our preparations in a way that "slow-roasts" memories. When we are attentive not just to the food we're preparing, but also to the rhythms of repetition, solidarity, and love, we help one another develop memories. These memories, in a way, become the celebration.

For Posner, it's aluminum foil. For each of us, there may be a multiplicity of little things that stimulate the recollection of family celebrations. And with those memories (if we choose the good ones) comes the feeling of being loved, being part of a family, and being engaged with a larger tradition.

Whatever celebrations a UU family chooses, the preparations can be mindful—intentional—and carried out with the purpose (in addition to the feast) of developing memories. It is these joyous, loving connections to the past that make future celebrations a powerful spiritual experience. With intention, even the most ordinary human task can teach a lesson of love. Like baking bread, and sharing it.

JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY
SERVICES AT 10:45 A.M.

Sunday, April 3
"The Hammer of Justice"

Rev. Jennifer Brooks
Children's Choir Performs "If I Had
a Hammer"

Sunday, April 10
"Humor"

Youth-Led Service
Come prepared to laugh!

Sunday, April 17
Primrose Sunday
"Fruitful"

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, April 24
Flower Communion Sunday
(Easter)

"Body and Soul"
Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Families Welcome!
Sunday School
for Children Each Week



CARING COMMUNITY UPDATE

by Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Congregational volunteers join me in making up the “Care Network” and we stand ready to help with pastoral care or other support during an illness or family crisis. Call me at 508-228-7597 or the Church Office at 508-228-5466. May each of us reach out in love to offer support when it is welcome. To volunteer for the “Care Network,” sign up on Sunday or call the office.

Recently the media have reported on the tragic death of three-year-old Nicole Garcia Tejada, whose funeral was held on March 22. To help with meals for the Garcia Tejada family, please check with Patti in the office to be put in touch with the Caring Community coordinator.

STAR ISLAND: SUMMER FAMILY FUN

by Debby Merritt

Star Island is a conference center owned by the nonprofit Star Island Corporation with historic ties to Unitarian Universalism and the United Church of Christ (UUC). Since 1914 it has offered nonsectarian, weeklong (and sometimes weekend) retreats for families and individuals with varied focuses--from art and natural history to environmental and social issues (local and worldwide). It also offers training for religious educators, youth weeks and family gatherings with a liberal spiritual quality that is uplifting and renewing.

Star Island is located on the Isles of Shoal, 10 miles out of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Each conference is self-administered, with conference chairs arranging for speakers, workshops, childcare and registration.

We have a family history with Star going back to the early 1930s. My mother was a Pelican (worker) for a few years. Her mother was “minister of the week” and a conferee. In the ‘50s I attended youth conferences and work weeks. In the ‘70s my children and I attended conferences and were also on program staff. In the ‘80s my daughter was a Pelican and I, too, was for a few weeks to fill in when the college kids had to leave at the end of the summer. In this decade, my daughter, 11-year-old granddaughter and I have attended for a week in July 2005 and 2008.

We love the community spirit we’ve experienced every time we go and the natural beauty. We are signed up for early July for another week together. (They live in Florida.) Time to renew the Star spirit!

I have further information about Star Island or you can go to www.starisland.org to see more. I also have a sign-up sheet for the mailing list, which will provide you with the “Blue Book” listing of all conferences, newsletters and other information. See me after church.

MUSIC NOTES

by Marcia Hempel, Music Director

April 3

The children will sing “If I Had a Hammer.” I hope to have about 12 children. We have some strong singers, especially the children who have been attending the Saturday rehearsals. We will continue to rehearse on Saturdays at 2 p.m. until the middle of May.

May 15

Possible date for the children to sing the Beatles “All You Need Is Love.” (Easter didn’t work out for this song after all).

May 28 and 29 - Restoration Celebration

We will have special music, with music by Haydn on Saturday, May 28th by the UU Choir and other singers from the community, conducted by Gerry Mack. Also, we will have organ music and choral music by the Accidentals and Naturals from Nantucket High School. Then on Sunday, May 29th, we will have music in Hebrew in honor of Shirat Hyam, music by Barbara Elder and special organ pieces written especially for the church. In the afternoon, Bob and Diane Lehman will play and sing jazz music in the garden, and Matt Hutchinson will play jazz upstairs. I may play some ragtime on the organ. We hope the whole island will come and see our beautiful building and celebrate the people who have made it a vibrant place.

MARK YOUR SUMMER CALENDARS!

Thursday Noonday Concerts (\$5 at the door)

July 7	UU Choir singing “Music with a Beat”
July 14	Bob and Diane Lehman, jazz
July 21	Rob Behrman, organ
July 28	Matt Hutchinson, jazz piano
August 4	Junyi Fitzgibbon, classical piano (young artist)
August 18	Meghan Trainor, singer/songwriter (young artist)
August 25	Andy Bullington and Carey Hazelgrove, rhythm & blues (guitar and vocal)

Friday Organ Concerts

Every Friday during the summer from 12:30 to 1 p.m.
Please note the change from last year’s 15 minute concerts.
Marcia Hempel, organ
Classical and ragtime included every week.
Free! (Donations accepted).

fyi....

Selected **sermons** are available on our website, www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org or get in touch with Rev. Jennifer Brooks, 508-228-7597 or nantucketminister@comcast.net. Copies of readings used in a Sunday service are available upon request.

The deadline for the monthly **Weathervane** newsletter is noon on the fourth Sunday of each month (for the following month's publication date). Please e-mail newsletter items as a Word document attachment to Sissy Girard at sissy02564@yahoo.com and put "Weathervane" on the subject line.

For an announcement for the **website**, send it to Georgen Charnes at curiositykeeper@gmail.com or provide it as an announcement for the Sunday Bulletin or the Weathervane newsletter.

To put an announcement in the **Sunday bulletin**, please call Patti Demarest in the Church Office at 508-228-5466 by noon Thursday, or e-mail nantucketminister@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Office hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon. To **reserve space for an event**, call the Church Office.

SOUTH CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND (SCPF) UPDATE

by Leslie W. Ottinger – President, SCPF

The restoration of the decorations in the main auditorium, Phase III of the current work on the meeting house, is still scheduled for completion in late April. Tentative planning is now underway for a next phase. Possibly to be included will be replacing the floor coverings, refurbishing the furniture, lectern and pews, restoring the windows, and installing new lighting. We hope to undertake this work during the winter season of 2011-2012. It is estimated that the cost will be about \$200,000. In addition to measures to raise these funds, also to be considered in the coming months is the initiation of a campaign to create a permanent maintenance fund for the building.

This ceiling medallion painting was recently completed in the historic sanctuary by artists from Ever-Greene Architectural Arts.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

by Craig Spery, Board President

Spring is slowly but surely arriving at 11 Orange Street with the colorful crocuses in bloom in the back garden. The Board of Trustees has been discussing using electronic communication during meetings, so board members not on-island have the opportunity to participate and even vote on motions. As a test at our last meeting, we used Skype to connect with Jack Weinhold from France. It worked very well with a clear and crisp connection where we could see and hear Jack and vice versa in "real time." Further discussions will continue on use of this new technology.

General Assembly (GA) takes place in Charlotte, North Carolina from June 22 - 26 and will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. The Board is seeking delegates from our congregation that might represent us at GA; three delegate credentials available.

Kat Robinson Grieder and Georgen Charnes have volunteered to be the Farewell Ceremony coordinators as we prepare to say goodbye to Jennifer and wish her well as her ministry here draws to a close. The ceremony will be held this summer in July. The Restoration Celebration committee, chaired by Christine Sanford, is busy making plans for Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, with an exciting program of speeches, music, and refreshments.

The Board of Trustees is considering different ways to distribute the Weathervane monthly newsletter. A survey to the membership will go out soon to determine what might be the best way to accomplish this task. The trend is to distribute newsletters electronically, using either e-mail or the website. Of course, we will still have the ability to send printed newsletters to those requesting it in that format.

The Interim Minister Search committee continues with their work, preparing materials for the application process leading to the April 25 announcement of potential candidates. The goal is to select an interim minister, and with the board's approval, have the minister begin on August 1, 2011.



Members of the Interim Minister Search Committee (L to R): Marina Sutro, Brian Girard (co-chair), Gerry Mack, Chris Lohmann (co-chair) and Jack Reindel. Not shown: Patrick Beaugard.

APRIL EVENTS

April 1	6 p.m.	Games Night and Potluck for All Ages - LRE event (Activities Room)
April 2	2 p.m.	Children's Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
April 3	10:45 a.m.	"Islam" is the Sunday School Topic for This Sunday (Activities Room) Sunday Service "The Hammer of Justice" - Rev. Jennifer Brooks (Hendrix Hall)
April 6	5:15 p.m.	Building & Grounds Committee (Activities Room)
April 7	5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Activities Room)
April 9	2 p.m.	Children's Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
April 10	10:45 a.m.	Youth-led Service "Humor" Children in the Choir (Hendrix Hall)
April 12	5:15 p.m.	Board Meeting - Open to all members of the congregation who wish to attend (Activities Room)
April 13	6:15 p.m.	Welcoming Committee (Activities Room)
April 14	4:15 p.m.	Fundraising Committee (Activities Room) - Fundraising ideas are welcomed.
	5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Activities Room)
April 16	9 a.m.	"Water Justice: Our Well Being, Our Rights, Our Responsibilities" regional conference at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable
	2 p.m.	Children's Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
April 17	10:45 a.m.	Primrose Sunday "Fruitful" - Rev. Jennifer Brooks (Hendrix Hall) To make donations to help give primroses to our children, in this annual service that celebrates children and the possibility of growth, please call LRE directors Sally Ure at 508-228-0188 or Lizie Hagenstein at 508-257-9779 to participate.
April 20	5:30 p.m.	Monthly Spaghetti Supper for All Ages - LRE Event (Activities Room)
April 21	5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
April 23	2 p.m.	Children's Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
April 24	10:45 a.m.	Flower Communion Sunday (Easter) "Body and Soul" - Rev. Jennifer Brooks (Hendrix Hall) Easter Egg Hunt after Sunday School and church- LRE event
	Noon	Newsletter deadline for May "Weathervane"
April 26	5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Open to all members of the congregation who wish to attend (Activities Room)
April 27	5 p.m.	LRE Committee (Activities Room)
	6:15 p.m.	Welcoming Committee (Activities Room)
April 28	5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Activities Room)
April 29		Daffodil Weekend begins on the island.
April 30	8:15 a.m.	2011 Ballou Channing District Spring Conference at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, MA
	2 p.m.	Children's Choir Practice (Hendrix Hall)

GREETINGS FROM MAINE

by Meg Hunter

This is the first opportunity to write since I joined Russ in Maine last November. Since then I started a new job, moved twice, and traveled among 4 hospitals helping my Mom who has been ill. Though we have been plenty busy, we have been thinking about you all and often wonder how things are going. We do get updates from several of you and very much appreciate that and look forward to more. Hope all is going well with the reconciliation.

Russ and kitty and I live in the Town of Limerick in what I call the Little House in the Big Woods. We have LOTS of snow! Luckily for us, we like it, though have only had a chance to X-country ski once. I don't even mind the shoveling, as it is a great work-out. It is beautiful here in a different way than Nantucket is beautiful. When I get a chance to go running on the roads or in the woods, I am constantly amazed at the picture-postcard vistas around each corner - and over each really-BIG-hill!

Re: music I was lucky enough to meet folks who get together twice a month to blue-grass jam. Some of the 25 or so people who play are fantastic musicians - there are guitars, fiddles, banjos, mandolins, stand-up bass, and harmonica. We all bring food and jam all day in Clayton's workshop. I hope to get involved in some other jams - there is all sorts of music happening around here - everything from blue-grass to choral singing to jazz to folk.

Re: work Russ is busy building the Physics Program at Bonny Eagle High School - he has just initiated an Honors Program in addition to Advanced Placement. He is very happy teaching and growing the Physics Department. I am providing school-based therapy at Acton Elementary School. I am loving the kids I work with and all the folks at school.

Am hoping the sliding economy doesn't make life impossible for my young clients and their families. A lot of Maine's people are really struggling. Some things we take for granted (food and clothes) on ACK are tantamount to luxuries here. That said, there is something very genuine and straight-forward about Maine folks. If they like you, you know it - and vice-verse. People say there is great fishing up here - and I am definitely hoping that is true. There is a lot of ice fishing now but that is not exactly what I had in mind. (No bluefish under that ice!)

Spring HAS to come
by Marta Allen

In Black Ice dark December

Pray let me remember

Pal Cherry Blossom petals

When they drift down on me

And I reach hungry for their silk

And drink again at April's Oasis

And Life is reborn

In my drought parched soul

And once more drown

In Spring's azure pool of Beauty

Lost in the Sound of one soft Breeze

Under a Butterfly's Wings.

Re: visiting other UU churches, we plan to but just haven't had the chance other than to visit the Portland UU Church last summer. We might try and find one that could use some part-time choir members. We miss singing with the Nantucket Choir and hope to sing when we are back home. Don't know when that will be - so, in the meantime if any of you happen to venture up this way please pay us a visit! Our e-mail addresses are:
Meg Hunter
meghunter@roadrunner.com
Russ Levreault - levreault@roadrunner.com



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