

*“From the first time we sat down with Rev. Linda Simmons to talk about our wedding, we knew we were in good hands. Not only did she guide us through the formalities of creating a wedding ceremony, but she nurtured both of us along the path of preparing for marriage. She told us from the beginning that she was there to support us and she never let us down. And she couldn’t have been more right! Linda is our minister, and we were so blessed and honored to have her officiate our wedding and are grateful she is still a part of our lives.”*

~ Clay and Joe, married October 15, 2016

*“It was important to us that our ceremony be held in a sacred and spiritual space that embodied an open mind, open heart and historical presence. Further, fully understanding that we have absolutely no control over the often unpredictable island weather, we knew it was crucial that we select an indoor location with plenty of space and time-honored beauty. We feel strongly that the UU Meeting House is an integral earmark of the Nantucket Landscape as well as a fundamental thread of the Nantucket web of life. Its essence is one of non-bias support and acceptance, and for us personally, a place where intellect and love reside hand in hand. These are key elements of our relationship, so it seemed entirely befitting and a natural choice.*

*Linda was wonderful from the very beginning to the celebratory end. She extended herself to us as individuals and a couple. She supported and challenged us; listened and shared; guided and nurtured the process for and with us. Our personal feelings and wishes were acknowledged and honored. She welcomed us with open arms and invited us to help shape a ceremony and experience that would forever be one of the most important experiences of our lives. Linda offered a cornucopia of wisdom and an exuberance of spirit. With a steady hand, jubilant laugh and gracious approach, she was more than just an officiant, she was an extension of humanity and we will forever be thankful for the time we spent with her.”*

~ Natalie and Arlene, married June 4, 2016

*“The moment we walked into the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House we knew we wanted to be married there. It was a spiritual experience. Then we met Rev. Linda Simmons. The three of us formed an instant connection. We felt cared for and seen by her, and for a gay couple that is a gift. We never thought marriage would be an option in our lifetime, and Linda understood the gravity of this. She guided us through our initial sit down and gave us questions to answer about each other. It was an invaluable exercise. Then our special day came. And on that altar the three of us had another spiritual experience that brought laughter and tears. We are forever grateful for the gift Linda has given us. We wish the same joy, love, understanding and guidance for all couples who embark on the journey of marriage. Linda continues to be a guide in our lives and a piece of our hearts.”*

~ James Michael and Jonathan, married October 3, 2015

*“Clay and I, after being in a relationship for fourteen years, thought it time to make a commitment to each other. Marriage equality was not available in Texas at that time so we looked elsewhere. Being Christian we wanted a church ceremony and loving the ocean (our home is in the historic port city of Galveston) we wanted to be on the water. We chose*

*Nantucket as I had been there in the early 1970's, Massachusetts was the first state to have marriage equality, and there was a Unitarian Universalist church there. What we did not realize was how blessed we were to be welcomed and counseled (long distance!) by Rev. Linda Simmons. She did everything and more to make our special day perfect. Just before the service when she found our prerecorded music was not working with their sound system she went on line, found each piece and quickly downloaded them. We cannot express our gratitude enough for the love and caring we experienced."*

~ Fred and Clay, married September 6, 2014