



Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist  
11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023  
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ April 2013

## Where Land and Sea Meet

Rev. David M. Horst, Interim Minister

*My friends, you stand at the threshold.* This old, historic congregation is about to become young and growing again.

I celebrate with you the naming of your candidate for settled Minister, Linda Simmons; and I congratulate members of the Ministerial Search Committee for a job well done. Save lots of room on your calendars to get acquainted with Rev. Simmons during her candidating week, April 21 - 28. You'll hear her preach and lead worship twice as well as have multiple opportunities to meet and talk with her face-to-face.

Following the Sunday morning service on April 28, members will gather to vote to call Rev. Simmons to the Nantucket ministry—a momentous occasion in the life of a congregation. *It is imperative that you and all members participate to demonstrate your support as Rev. Simmons begins her ministry with you.*

In anticipation of Rev. Simmons' arrival this summer, the leadership of the congregation continues to plot the future direction of the Meeting House community. At the annual Board Retreat on March 6, members of the Board committed to eight priorities for the coming year:

1. Parting with the Interim Minister
2. Welcoming and settling the new Minister
3. Re-establishing the Membership, Music, and Worship Committees
4. Promoting and sustaining the Music at the Meeting House program
5. Expanding the Children's and Youth Religious Exploration program
6. Initiating an Adult Religious Exploration program
7. Increasing participation and giving levels in the Members Fund
8. Creating more opportunities for fun and hilarity

I'm especially heartened to see a renewed commitment to music and learning programs because there is such a great need for them across the age spectrum. Lively, diverse music programs and lifespan learning opportunities will be key in growing the congregation along with strong worship, community service, and social justice programs.

Unitarian Universalists "do church" in ways unlike more traditional religious

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Join us for Sunday  
services each week!  
Choir practice at 9:30 a.m.  
with religious education  
and services starting at  
10:45 a.m.

Sunday, April 7  
"The Song of Life"

Sunday, April 14  
"Happy Birthday  
Buddha"

Sunday, April 21  
"A Quest for a  
Religious Life"  
(Rev. Linda Simmons,  
Settled Ministerial  
Candidate)

Sunday, April 28  
"Illuminating the  
Common Pathways"  
Flower Communion  
Celebration  
(Rev. Linda Simmons,  
Settled Ministerial  
Candidate)

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communities. All decisions and authority are vested in the members of congregation. The aim of professional ministerial leadership is to coalesce ideas and opinions, identify everyone's gifts and talents, be an inspiration and catalyst for action, mourn with you your defeats and losses, and celebrate your successes and joys. This approach to congregational life is at once liberating and daunting, but it is at the heart of a freely gathered, covenantal community.

Your new minister will bring fresh ideas and energy, *but always remember that you own the church*. You are the stakeholders, you are the volunteers, you are the financial supporters, and you are the recipients of all the benefits and blessings that this religious community offers you. Most gratifying for me during this transitional period has been to see you *reclaim* your church—and you have done so.

The Meeting House and the people who gather within are yours to love and nourish. As you move through this threshold into a new era of shared ministry, continue to love and nourish this special community and invite others to join with you.

Good days lie ahead for the Nantucket Unitarian Universalists. Thank you for doing your part to make it happen.

*"Where land and sea meet" is my Nantucket analogy for congregational life. A church lives in a tidal zone where our private and public lives meet and converge like the meeting place of the land and sea.*



Rev. Horst facilitating the annual trustees' retreat. top- Jim Sulzer, David Horst, David Hall, Bob Hall; bottom- Jack Weinhold, Linda Sperry, John Rivera, Susan Richards.

*"We are an open, diverse, loving and respectful, compassionate and supportive congregation. Building on the foundation of Sunday worship services with uplifting music and inspiring and challenging sermons, we are a place where there are exciting, provocative, interesting, and fun year-round youth and adult programs that motivate involvement of the congregation in the direction of community outreach and social justice."* A work-in-progress congregation vision statement, drafted at the annual trustees retreat 2/18/2012, and revised during the retreat of 3/16/2013.

WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBERS

Bess Clarke  
Cynthia Csabay  
Rachel Slosek



## Our Settled Ministerial Candidate

Craig Spery, Search Committee Chair

The Search Committee is very pleased to announce the selection of Linda Simmons as the candidate for our next settled minister. After careful consideration of the initial eight well qualified applicants who expressed interest in becoming our settled ministerial candidate, we unanimously decided that Linda would be the best choice for our congregation. She has accepted our offer and will be here for Candidating Week from April 21 to April 28.

Linda is currently the junior youth and "Coming of Age" coordinator at First Religious Society in Carlisle, Massachusetts while she completes her Masters of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School. She also served as ministerial intern and summer minister for two years at First Church in Boston.

Her ordination will take place May 4 at First Church in Boston. We are already making plans to assemble a delegation from Nantucket to attend the event and show our support and get to know Linda's colleagues, family and friends who will be in attendance. If you'd like to be a part of that delegation, please let me know so we can start planning transportation.

Prior to entering the ministry, she held a variety of positions in adult and secondary education, training and program management in New Hampshire and Maine, including work with at risk youth in federally funded programs for 12 years. She attended New Seminary in New York City and graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Hampshire with a B.A. in economics and a minor in philosophy.

Linda has a daughter, Regina, who is a farmer living in Maine with her partner. Linda has travelled extensively and has lived abroad in India, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands.

Linda's teaching background will play a major role as our congregation launches a new adult religious education program this year. Currently at the First Religious Society in Carlisle, she is teaching a World Religions adult education series on focusing on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. She has taught a number of other adult education classes at First Church in Boston as well, including Non-Violent Communication, Transitions and Faith, The Re-Invention Convention and others.

Her service as the new Unitarian Universalist minister on Nantucket is contingent on the congregational vote on April 28 at the conclusion of Candidating Week. The congregational meeting on April 28 represents an important

milestone in the history of the Meeting House. We urge everyone to attend the meeting as well as the church services on both April 21 and April 28.



Plans for Candidating Week events are already underway to enable each and every member and friend of the congregation to have an opportunity to talk with Linda and get to know her as we have as your Search Committee.

Upon confirmation by the congregation, Linda and her husband, professional photographer Gary Langley, have plans to move from the Boston area to Nantucket in late July for Linda to begin serving as our settled minister beginning August 1, filling the position that will be vacated by interim minister David Horst, who will be moving on to another assignment within the UUA when his term as interim concludes on July 31.

Her website can be accessed at <http://revlindasimmons.com/> to find out more information. The user name to use to access the resume and biography section is **guest** and the password is **revlindasimmons**. We will also be posting Linda's resume and biography on our Members section of the church website.



## April 2013 Sunday Services

Sunday, April 7 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall

### 'The Song of Life'

Today we consider how music makes us human. Drawing inspiration and insights from Daniel J. Levitin's book, *The World in Six Songs*, David Horst discusses how music and our brains evolved over tens of thousands of years and all around the world in a sermon entitled "The Song of Life." Levitin argues that "music is not simply a distraction or a pastime, but a core element of our identity as a species." We welcome guest artist Pam Goddard, flute, performing works by Tchaikovsky, Delibes, Bach, and Telleman. Members of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir join our Meeting House Choir to perform the beautiful Alleluia by Randall Thompson. Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, accompanies and Ann Colgrove directs.

Sunday, April 14 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall

### 'Happy Birthday, Buddha!'

Come wish the Buddha a Happy Birthday! The anniversary of the historical Buddha's birth is this month, so let's celebrate—quietly and reverently, of course. Today we'll learn a little about the life and legend of The Enlightened One and how Buddhist philosophy and practice can inform our religious lives as Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Horst presents a sermon entitled "Happy Birthday, Buddha!" and leads an extended guided meditation based on the Bodhisattva vows, "May all sentient beings be well and enjoy the root of happiness...." Music with Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

Sunday April 21, - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall - Rev. Linda Simmons, Ministerial Candidate

### 'A Quest for a Religious Life'

Religion is not an easy word or concept for us as Unitarian Universalists. The Latin root of religion means to bind. Being bound can suggest a commitment to living our lives together, knowing that what we do and how we do it matters. Religion becomes then about relationships. With this sermon, I will explore that what we name as meaningful and how we orient our lives around it, changes us and the world, binding us one to another and to the world around us in significant ways.

Sunday April 28, - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall - Rev. Linda Simmons, Ministerial Candidate

### 'Illuminating the Common Pathways'

According to the book *Away Off Shore* written by Nathaniel Philbrick, as Nantucket grew in the 19th century due to the whaling industry, when whale oil was not selling, the people could not afford to light the streets and when it was selling, they felt it too precious to use in lighting the streets. Due to this, people sometimes wandered off the paths and found themselves lost or falling into unexpected or unpleasant circumstances. Reading this, I wondered what it means to light the common pathways together; to name what we share that can illuminate the way forward.

*The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is the home of Nantucket's Second Congregational Meeting House Society, Nantucket's liberal religious community. Sunday morning worship, music, and religious education begin at 10:45. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 - noon on Sunday mornings. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation in Hendrix Hall then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative Religious Exploration Program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs in the Activities Room at 11:45. Bring brunch food to share. The Meeting House Choir rehearses on Saturday afternoons at 3 and Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Hendrix Hall. Singers of all abilities are welcome!*

## President's Column

Linda Spery

In October our congregation, under the leadership of Board president Bob Hall, took a leap of faith and entered into a search for a settled minister. Since that time our dedicated search committee, chosen by the congregation, devoted countless hours as they accomplished what is usually a year-long series of tasks in a mere six months. They accomplished all this without cutting corners and always keeping their eyes on the goal of identifying the right candidate to fit our congregation and to pick up where our wonderful interim minister David Horst leaves off when he goes on to new opportunities at the end of July.

March 21 at noon was an important time for this process. It was the day and time designated by the Unitarian Universalist Association for congregations and candidates to formally make their intentions known to one another. At that time our search committee's #1 pre-candidate—Reverend Linda Simmons-- accepted the invitation to be our candidate for settled minister without hesitation.

She is eager to meet each and every one of you during candidating week April 21-28. The search committee chose this week knowing that some of our seasonal members are back on island for Daffodil Weekend (April 26-28) and might attend the Sunday service on the 28th, after which the congregational vote will be taken on formally calling Reverend Simmons as our minister. You can read more about Reverend Simmons' background on page 3.

In addition to our search committee, many more members played important roles over the past weeks and months, getting us to this milestone in the search process.

Thank you, David Horst, Alyson Gaylord-Loy, Domnica and Darly Horst-Loy, Mimi Jones, Dennis Santangelo, Brian Girard, Jim Sulzer, Susan Richards, Mary Beth Splaine and Jack Weinhold for helping put our best foot forward with the four pre-candidates who visited the island earlier in the year. Your efforts made the parsonage, the activities room, the sanctuary and Hendrix Hall sparkle for the pre-candidates who toured our facilities. Thanks to you, the food, transportation and hospitality were top notch as well for these important visits.

I'd also like to recognize our negotiating committee—Christine Sanford, Brian Girard and Gwen Richter—for their commitment to work with me on finalizing the terms of the agreement with the candidate. And to our treasurer Bob Hall, finance committee member Jack Weinhold and David Horst for your calculations, editing and advice.

Last but not least, our superstar search committee deserves our heartfelt thanks and recognition—Barbara Elder, Casey Boukus, Abby Slosek, Peter Richards, Yve Shevalier, Sissy Girard, Nancy Rappaport and Craig Spery. Surely there is no better search committee anywhere! For all the storms you weathered during your neutral- pulpit visits in the wicked winter weather, your thoughtful weekly meetings, your diligent research and everything else you accomplished, we are most grateful.

See you in church! Especially on April 21 and 28 to hear and meet our candidate!

### Join...

...the delegation of members attending Linda Simmons Ordination, May 4th at First Church in Boston.

Be part of the support and celebration for our Settled Ministerial Candidate.

~

For transportation information contact Linda Spery  
lindaspery@gmail.com  
508-228-7892.

### Open Rehearsals

From 12 noon–2pm each Sunday in April through September the main sanctuary of the Meeting House is the place to be for music lovers.

Diane Lehman, Acting Music Director of Music at the Meeting House invites you to an open rehearsal of groups and individuals as they prepare for island performances throughout the summer. Immerse yourself in the progress of musical presentations as Diane blends her experience and talented direction with the skills of the performers to make memorable music.

Do you know someone who would like rehearsal time? Contact Diane - musicdirector@unitarianchurchnantucket.org.



## The R.E. Column

### The End of Religious Education

Susan Richards, Chair

**T**hat got your attention, didn't it? Now for an explanation! At our recent Board of Trustees retreat, while discussing our Religious Education program, it was suggested that perhaps it's the word "Exploration" that describes what our children, youth, and adults are up to when we come to the Meeting House for Sunday services, time in the Activity Room and special UU events. We are actually exploring who we are, what's important to us, how we want to contribute, and what our place is in our congregation, our community, and in the world.

This year, in our Sunday morning program, the children have been exploring the concept of "Home", using the "Creating Home" curriculum which is available to us through the Unitarian Universalist Association (you can find it at their website; [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)) What is a home? Where do we feel "at home"? What can we do to make our own family, community, and spiritual homes? Our explorations have involved active discussions, stories, activities, games, and music. Above all we want the children to feel comfortable and safe expressing themselves and their ideas with their "Sunday Home" friends here at the Meeting House!

Does becoming the "Religious Exploration" program mean that education no longer occurs for our children and youth? I think we all know the answer to that! We are simply more accurately describing what goes on in our programs..... exploration leads to education which leads to more exploration.... a circle of learning that actively includes all who participate!

And so as our program moves forward into Spring and Summer with "Religious Exploration" as our new name, we are excited to acknowledge ourselves as "Explorers". Remember, as Ansel Adams once said: "In wisdom gathered over time I have found that every experience is a form of exploration". If you'd like to join our explorations or have an experience or idea you'd like to share, please contact the "new" Religious Exploration Team! We are: Susan Richards, Chair; Casey Boukus; Yve Shevalier; Sissy Girard.



### UU Youth!

#### What's Happening...

Every Thursday evening a group of 8-10 youths (generally teens 15-18 years old) gather in the Activity Room for an evening of good food and thoughtful conversation, with Yve Shevalier, Christine Sanford, Henry Sanford, and the Reverend Horst rotating as dedicated adult advisors.

What exactly happens on any given Thursday night from 6-7:30 pm? Advisor Christine Sanford likens the event to a

weekly "Supper Club". All are welcome and all help put the supper together - usually a pasta or pizza dish with a big salad.

The camaraderie of this group is always in evidence as they share thoughts, ideas, concerns, and, of course, humor... lots of laughter with this group!

An example of an evening with the UU Youth: A delicious dinner, followed by everyone taking turns with a Rubik's Cube brought in by one of the youth to see who could do it the fastest, a discussion about the value of the state MCAS test, which then somehow segued into a spirited conversation about good and evil and heaven and hell, with very interesting viewpoints being shared!

Two members of the UU group had recently participated in important and fun events. Cailian Daily was in a group of finalists interviewing for a chance to experience a semester abroad in Oman. Avery Elford was one of the contestants in the high school's "Jr. Mister" competition!

If you are interested in participating or helping out with this group, or if you have any ideas you'd like to share, please contact one of the advisors!



### Next Community Forum

#### to discuss the Second Amendment and Gun Violence

More than 20 Meeting House members and island neighbors attended the Community Forum to discuss Second Amendment rights and gun violence on March 2 at the Meeting House.

We heard many points of view in a discussion that was both thoughtful and civil. Rev. Horst and members of the Board of Trustees organized the forum in response to the "Day of Resistance" pro-gun rally held at Milestone Rotary and the counter-rally at Children's Beach the February 23.

Since the Newtown shootings, our nation has been in the midst of a divisive debate on the rights of gun owners and the need to reduce gun violence. We were pleased to provide an opportunity to exchange opinions and ideas with the hope of finding common ground and possible solutions.

We invite everyone to a second Community Forum on Saturday morning, April 6, at 11 o'clock in Hendrix Hall. Rev. Horst moderates the conversation. Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors.

## 2nd annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 17



## Fourth Sunday, March 24th





## Meet recent members...



Gwen Richter



Joy Margolis



Danica Connors



Cynthia Csabay



Tobias Glidden



Bess Clarke



Abby Slosek



Becky Hudson

## Seder at the Meeting House, March 28th







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**Church Staff**

**David M. Horst**, *Interim Minister* - **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*  
**Diane T. Lehman**, *Acting Music Director* - **Kaitlyn Burke**, *Office Assistant*  
**Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo**, *Sextons*

**Board of Trustees**

Linda Sperry (President), Brian Girard (Vice President), Susan Richards (Clerk),  
Bob Hall (Treasurer), David Hall, John Rivera, Jim Sulzer, Marina Sutro, Jack Weinhold

**Church Office Hours**

*Monday - Friday ~ 9:00 a.m. - Noon*

**Minister's Office Hours**

*Tuesday (10 a.m. - noon) and Friday (noon - 2 p.m.)*