



Second Congregational Meeting House Society
Unitarian Universalist
11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ December 2012

WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET

Reflections on the life and lives of a religious community

by Rev. David M. Horst

The month of December may be the end of the year, but it's a really a time of looking forward. We celebrate the hope and joy of Christmas, the liberating message of Hanukkah, the lengthening of days following the solstice, and the renewal of the spirit heralded by the New Year. We turn from the old to the new, the dark to the light, the past to the future.

December is a time of turning in congregational life as well. The Ministerial Search Committee brings the Rev. Keith Kron of the Unitarian Universalist Association to the Meeting House to provide insight and guidance as you prepare to settle a new minister next August.

Come to the Meeting House this month with a sense of expectation and readiness to be turned. You have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. Change has happened here, and you have managed it well. Now you must turn and follow your hearts and minds to a broader vision of the liberal ministry on Nantucket. Now you must turn and reach out to others to share with them the good news of the Unitarian Universalist faith.

I predict that 2013 will be pivotal year in the long life of Nantucket's Unitarian Universalist congregation. You've made some tough but smart decisions, committed yourselves to fiscal sustainability, and renewed your commitment to the liberal ministry. I applaud you for all you've done, and I'll walk with you in the final months of this two-year transition.

Right now your presence, ideas, talents, financial contributions, and positive spirit are needed more than ever. The congregational leadership is working diligently, and new volunteers and leaders are stepping forward with commitment and enthusiasm. The Nantucket congregation is poised for a new era of growth, and you and each and every member can play an important part.

The future beckons. Be a part of it. Make it happen. I look forward to seeing you at the Meeting House during the next few weeks, and I extend my best wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyous holiday season.

"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.



SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, Dec. 2
"A Christmas Carol"
10:45 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 9
Hanukkah Celebration
10:45 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16
"Beyond Categorical
Thinking"
10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 21
Winter Solstice Event
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 23
Fourth Sunday Lay-Led
10:45 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 30
"Resolutions for the
Planet"
10:45 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 31
"Ring in the New Year"
11:30 p.m.

MEMBERS FUND UPDATE

by Jack Weinhold, Treasurer

As this issue of Weathervane goes to press the Members Fund campaign to fund next year's budget is drawing to a close. 68% of our members have committed to purchasing 660 shares of the 1000 shares needed to fully fund our 2013 programs — Ministry, Music, and Religious Education.

If you have not done so already, please return your completed Members Fund card today. Your shares are needed to reach our goal and give us a full calendar of programs in 2013.

Already returned your Members Fund card? Please consider the best year-end investment you can make—another five or ten shares in the 2013 Members Fund. Please feel free to use the enclosed envelope to make your donation.

Happy Holidays from the Fund & Finance Committees

2013 grateful
generosity

JOIN US FOR "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

Members of the congregation present a staged reading of Charles Dickens' beloved holiday classic "A Christmas Carol" on Sunday morning, December 2, at 10:45 as part of Christmas Stroll weekend. Participants are Avery Elford, Alyson Gaylord-Loy, James Grieder, William Grieder, David Horst, Darly Horst-Loy, Domnica Horst-Loy, Chris Lohmann, Grace Noyes, Peter Richards, Susan Richards, Linda Sperry, and Sally Ure. A \$10 donation at the door is requested.



James Grieder and Alyson Gaylord-Loy



RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE MEETING HOUSE!

Ring out the old and ring in the new at this outdoor family-friendly event. Presented in conjunction with the Nantucket New Years celebration. Join your family and friends on the Meeting House front steps on Monday night, December 31, at 11:30 p.m. for live music and a sing-a-long, followed by a traditional countdown and group bell-ringing (BYOB - Bring Your Own Bells) at midnight accompanying the pealing of the Meeting House's 1813 Portuguese bell. Parade of bell ringers down Main Street, too!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

by Bob Hall, Board President

This will be the last issue of the Weathervane that we publish on paper for most people. In January 2013 you will be able to access the Weathervane via a PDF file from our website. We will send out an email reminder at the first of each month. For anyone who wishes to receive the printed version, please call Kim at the office and we will be sure you receive yours by mail in the traditional way.

It has been a busy fall! We moved downstairs on October 21 and began the pledge drive for 2013. As mentioned in the previous issue, we are calling the pledge drive a Members Fund Drive to highlight the fact that when we “pledge” we are really buying a share of our programs. We have decided to extend the formal drive for another two weeks, ending December 9. Treasurer Jack Weinhold reports on the Members Fund Drive elsewhere in this issue.

The Fourth Sunday Lay-Led committee is back in action. Val and I were privileged to speak at the first lay-led service on October 28 recalling our experiences as teachers in the Nantucket Public Schools. The November 25 lay-led service was “Beyond Thanksgiving Gratitude” featuring Clay Twombly.

On November 2 we held four “Seasonal Suppers.” Four couples hosted a group at their home. The host couple provided the main dish while those who signed up brought along bread, wine, desserts, etc. The four hosts were Lora and Paul Stewart (“Seasonal Supper” organizers), Craig and Linda Sperry, Jack Weinhold and Mary Beth Splaine, and Val and Bob Hall. Thanks go out to the hosts. About 28 people participated. We all had a great time getting to know everyone a little better while enjoying a real feast.

We held a drive for the Food Pantry ending Sunday, November 18. The trustees voted to give the Sunday collection to the food pantry. In all, we donated eight full bags of groceries and \$306 in cash. The Food Pantry likes cash because they can buy food off-island at below wholesale price.

For Christmas Stroll weekend we are again having a reading of Dicken’s “A Christmas Carol” in lieu of our regular Sunday service. Last year it was directed by Bradford Garrison. He gave his materials to Rev. Horst, and his wife, Alyson, who offered to direct the production. The readers are primarily members of our congregation and have been rehearsing diligently. Last year Hendrix Hall was nearly packed so it would be wise to come early this year. Children are welcomed. Casey Boukus and Rev. Horst are again holding a Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21. This year the plan is to hold the event at Mitchell’s Book Corner, but please check to be sure of the time and place. Last year about 50 people attended this fun and meaningful celebration. Thank you, Casey, for giving of your time, energy, and creativity.

On Christmas Eve we will again go caroling followed by a dinner at the church. Details will follow. This is always a most enjoyable way to begin that special night. To join the caroling group show up at the Meeting House immediately after the town red ticket raffle. This year’s New Year’s Eve Celebration will be very different! We are cooperating with the Nantucket New Years community celebration by providing two events. The theme of “New Years’ Resolutions” will begin on Sunday, December 30 when Rev. Horst will lead a service centered on making resolutions for our planet. We have made a major change for New Year’s Eve.

For many reasons mostly concerning safety issues, we are not going up into the tower and ringing the bell as has been the tradition for many years. Instead, we will hold a community-wide family event at the front steps of the church. Preliminary plans are for everyone to ring in the new year with their own bell as the church bell tolls. There will be appropriate music. Stay tuned for detailed plans which will be announced via email and on our website.



IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Casey Sayre Boukus

Hello all! I feel a bit out of touch as the merry old land of Oz has kept me quite busy these past few weeks in the theater rather than the meetinghouse, so those of you involved with the RE program please forgive any oversight I might make! Speaking of theater, there has been a lot of drama drama drama, with many of our kids in full rehearsal mode for our now annual production of "A Christmas Carol", to be presented on Sunday of Stroll weekend, directed by Alyson Gaylord-Loy. We are also still working toward a mini-theatrical version of the story "The Magic Vase" to be offered as the Time for the Ages by myself and the children in mid-December. And let's not forget, quite a few of our kids, as well as several adults, are in Theater Workshop's production of "The Wizard of Oz". If you haven't already, I encourage you to visit the land of munchkins, winkies, jitterbugs, flying monkeys and Ozians... not to mention the very talented, endearing and humorous cowardly lion!

Apart from theatrical endeavors, the children have been studying bees, their homes, jobs and cooperative lifestyle. After the holidays we will move into a wider study of animal homes and habitats and how we can learn from them as well as about them. And speaking of the holidays, Alyson led last Sunday's program with a Thanksgiving theme, and Yuletide, Hannukah and Christmas themes are on the near horizon. Our Winter Solstice Celebration, another annual tradition, will be Friday the 21st with storytelling, drumming, chanting and more... Keep an eye and ear out for more information! Anyone interested in getting involved with us please don't hesitate to speak with an RE member!

ARCHIVIST REPORT

by Joanne Polster

As work on the archives and records of the Meeting House is now up-to-date, I want to prepare a complete and revised index to the material.

I would be most grateful if anyone holding church records, papers, photos, artifacts, anything relating to its life and activities would deliver them to the church office as soon as possible.

For more information, contact me at 508-228-4481.



*This poem was presented by Katherine St.
Juste in July during the service "Why Poetry Matters."*

I Heard a Bird Sing by Oliver Herford (1863-1935)

I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.

"We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,"
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.



Bob Hall (left), President of the Board of Trustees, and David Horst, Interim Minister, presented a gicleé print of the Meeting House by Bill Welch to Joan (center) and Les (right) Ottinger on October 31 to thank them for their 14 years of service to the congregation. The couple recently left the island and moved to the Boston area.



The Nantucket Chamber of Commerce's annual Red Ticket promotion is now underway! Throughout the holiday season, participating merchants distribute one Red Ticket for every \$25 you spend in their shops. Collect as many tickets as you can, then consider donating them to your congregation to make us eligible for a cash prize at the December 24 drawing. Tickets may be dropped off at the church office on weekday mornings or in Hendrix Hall on Sunday morning. This year the Chamber has put together a new event, Double Red Ticket and Community Stroll Day, for island residents on Saturday, December 8.

JOIN US ON DECEMBER 6TH

Members of the Meeting House Choir, the Youth Group, and Music Committee invite you to a Season's Greetings Party on Thursday evening, December 6, at 6 p.m. in the Activities Room and Hendrix Hall. All are welcome!

Come enjoy a post-Stroll, pre-Christmas and Hanukkah intergenerational get together with a dinner prepared by the Youth Group and songs and carols led by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and members of the choir.

Bring a story, poem, skit, or song to share! If you play guitar or other musical instrument, bring it along too!

Haziel Jackson, a member of the Music Committee and organizer of the event, says, "Let's celebrate together the holiday season, make new friends, and give newcomers a chance to share something of themselves -- and warm up the old bones of the Meeting House with season's cheer and song!"



Clay Twombly, members of the Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service Committee, and the Meeting House Choir presented a thoughtful and informative Sunday worship service entitled "Gratitude Beyond Thanksgiving" on November 25.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE • DECEMBER 14



David Horst and Alyson Gaylord-Loy invite Meeting House members and friends to a Holiday Open House at the parsonage, 10 Fair Street, on Friday evening, December 14, from 6 - 8 o'clock. Stop by and enjoy a hot toddy, cookies, and warm holiday greetings with the Horst-Loy family. Children are welcome.

December Sunday Services

Sunday, December 2

10:45 a.m.

“Staged Reading of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens” in Memory of Bradford Garrison

Meeting House Players. Directed by Alyson Gaylord-Loy (Hendrix Hall)

Members of the congregation present a staged reading of Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday classic A Christmas Carol. Children and families welcome. Music by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

Sunday, December 9

10:45 a.m.

“Hanukkah Celebration”

We tell the story of the Maccabees and the miracle of Hanukkah. Rev. Horst leads the service and presents “A Great Miracle.” Music by Diane Lehman and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

Sunday, December 16

10:45 a.m.

“Beyond Categorical Thinking”

We welcome the Rev. Keith Kron, Transitions Director, Ministries and Faith Development, at the Unitarian Universalist Association to present “Beyond Categorical Thinking,” a program that works with Unitarian Universalist congregations to promote inclusive thinking in the ministerial search process. During Rev. Kron’s visit, we will learn more about our institutional culture, examine ways we can be more inclusive in our consideration of ministerial candidates, and surface subtle and often unconscious biases members hold that may result in a decision to not select the minister who would be the best fit for our ministerial needs. Music by Diane Lehman and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Workshop follows the service led by Rev. Kron.

Friday, December 21

6:30 p.m. ~ Mitchell’s Book Corner

Winter Solstice Celebration

Join us for a service to honor and celebrate the longest night of the year! Casey Boukus begins the evening with story telling then joins David Horst for poetry, singing, drumming, and prayer. “So the shortest day came, and the year died; and everywhere ... came people singing and dancing to drive the dark away” (Susan Cooper). Families welcome. Our thanks to Mitchell’s for hosting this event. Come celebrate!

Sunday, December 23

10:45 a.m.

Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service

The Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service Committee leads today’s service. Music by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

Sunday, December 30

10:45 a.m.

“Resolutions for the Planet”

Come share your resolutions for a more sustainable and just planet in which all people in all nations can live together in peace. Presented in conjunction with the Nantucket New Years celebration. Rev. Horst leads the service and presents “We Are.” Music by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Craig Spery, Search Committee Chair

We have been hard at work since last month. The two most difficult and time-consuming parts of the search process are the congregational survey and the production of our “advertising” documents. The survey was completed earlier this fall, and the other documents are mostly done.

The first thing we worked on was the Congregational Record. This is where we spell out all the facts and figures about the congregation, including budgets, attendance figures and programs. This is the first look at the congregation that a prospective candidate will have, besides our website and our Facebook page.

The second part of our advertising is called the Congregational Packet. This is where we explain what we are looking for in a minister and go into more detail about our programming, other UU connections, such as the District offices and information about the island. We have letters of recommendation, descriptions of our services, a detailed history of the church, and a lot of photos, including a CD of photos by Cary Hazlegrove. The Packet will be available for you to see on our website. We will also print a paper copy to keep in church office.

These documents are posted online by the UUA for prospective candidates. We have started to receive names of interested ministers. Then the resume reviewing, interviewing, and reference checking will begin. We are looking forward to talking to, meeting with, and hearing sermons from ministers we hope will be in contention for our next settled minister.

On Monday, December 10, our committee will take part in a mini-retreat in the morning and a workshop in the afternoon conducted by Rev. Judith Campbell. We will also work with Rev. Keith Kron on Saturday, December 15 and Sunday, December 16.

The search process is an open one, so please ask us about anything you like, except the names of candidates. These need to be kept confidential. Members of the committee serving with me are Nancy Rappaport, Yve Shevalier, Peter Richards, Casey Bokus, Barbara Elder, Sissy Girard and Abby Slosek.



Sunday, December 9 • 4:30 p.m.

Dinner & Workshop

Rev. Judith Campbell

Join us for a pot luck dinner and workshop with Rev. Judith Campbell, our MSR (Ministerial Settlement Representative) from the Ballou Channing District. Rev. Campbell will lead a program outlining the search process for a settled minister. All members and friends are invited to join the Board of Trustees and the search committee to participate in this important workshop. Childcare will be provided.

Sunday, December 16 • 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Service & Workshop

Rev. Keith Kron

Rev. Keith Kron, director of the UUA Transitions office, will preach at the morning service. After the coffee hour/brunch, Rev. Kron will conduct an important workshop, “Beyond Categorical Thinking” from 12:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Childcare will be provided.



Four possible things to do with the envelope you find in this copy of the Weathervane:

- (1) Send in the balance of your 2012 pledge.
- (2) Make a year-end donation so we meet our Members Fund goal for 2013.
- (3) Send the church staff a holiday card.
- (4) All of the above.



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Church Staff

David M. Horst, *Interim Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*
Diane T. Lehman, *Acting Music Director* ~ **Kim N. LaRue**, *Office Administrator*
Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo, *Sextons*

Board of Trustees

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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday ~ 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Minister's Office Hours

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