



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

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ August 2014

COMMON PATHWAYS

Befriending Ourselves
by Rev. Linda Simmons

Watching Neci come down the gang plank of the ferry in her red dress and high heeled sandals, I did not see a middle aged woman with my middle aged eyes. Embracing on Straight Wharf, arms strong around each other, we became the women we were when we met, twenty something, adventurous, bubbling with ideas and certainty, in love with everything.

Neci was here for three days. Amazing to me how little time is needed for 30 years to fall away and the life and wonder of youth to fill my bones. Neci and I walked the beaches in the sun and laughed and talked all night and held hands and marveled at the darkness and vulnerability roaming the night beach in the rain.

Once, feeling overcome with life, we rolled in the sand and giggled. Later that day sitting in a meeting, I reached up to fix my hair and was surprised to feel sand on my scalp, like finding school papers written in elementary school and no longer recognizing the handwriting.

We are so many selves, all mixed up together. Different relationships bring different aspects of who we are to the fore. The sand in my hair reminded me that we only exist in relation to one another.

We are blessed to be in covenantal community with each other, to have the courage to be seen as all of who we are, to have the courage to be known. We are blessed to live in relationship to a noble religious history of justice, human rights, access and dignity for all, and to be part of a religious history that failed in all of these ways at different times but never let that failure be the final word. We as Unitarian Universalists have always rolled up our sleeves and kept moving toward awakening.

All of these relationships keep us whole and allow us to not only roll down sand hills but to stand strong in the face of injustice, learning to dance with all of who we are.

** Nantucket is full of common pathways, some known by many, others known only by a few. Our Meeting House brings us together, traveling over many pathways, some common, some not, as we learn to walk with each other even when the ways are unfamiliar and unmarked.*



**JOIN US AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERY SUNDAY**

Sunday, August 3
"Languages of War and Peace"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 10
"We Are Nature"

Harrison Blum and
Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 17
"Geographies of Grace"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 24
"Lay Led Service"

Sunday Service
Committee
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 31
"Right Livelihood"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Families Welcome!
Religious Education
for Children Every Sunday.

MID-YEAR STATE OF THE CONGREGATION REPORT

by Jim Sulzer, Board of Trustees President

I am delighted to tell you that the state of our congregation is very good. We have a wonderful new, settled minister, the Reverend Linda Simmons, who was installed almost a year ago to the day, and I think I speak for all of us in saying how thrilled we are to have her here. Her range of talents is remarkable—she gives deeply inspiring sermons, she is active in forging community bonds, she speaks with sincerity and integrity on issues of social justice facing our island and the larger world, and she has a soothing, healing touch in matters of pastoral care. She is incredibly dedicated to her work as a minister. She has been all we hoped and dreamed for, and more.

In the past year we have gained nine new members, and equally as important, for the first time in many years, we have been able to establish a balanced operating budget—a budget that does not require the withdrawal of funds from the principal of our endowment. The outlook on that front is rosy, as pledges continue to grow and as the fruits of our labor will start to show up, little by little, in the gradual return to this building being a vibrant home for community events and for weddings.

While we have arrived at a good place as a congregation, I would suggest that much work remains to be done. Much of our success has rested on the shoulders of some outstanding leaders over the past three or four years who gave us their all. We now need to broaden our shoulders, as it were. We need to keep cultivating new leaders; we need members of the congregation to step forward. We also need to broaden our financial support from everyone. And we need to start a discussion, among all members of our congregation, about our mission. What do we value? How do we see ourselves, as spiritual beings and as members of a committed group of UUs? Over the next year, the Board, with the active leadership of Rev. Linda, will work to get this positive process of self-reflection started.

The Board is there to work with and to support our minister, to make sure the church finances are in order, to assist the work of various committees, to set priorities for the year, and to take on various initiatives. By way of example, for this year the Board set the following priorities: RE training & materials • Beautification of AR • Continue grass-roots Nantucket/community engagement • Leadership development & training • Mission/Fall retreat • Handbook revision • Summer membership inclusion/welcome/involvement • Welcoming committee • Growing the caring committee • Stewardship

One of those priorities, the Handbook revision, has proven to be quite an undertaking, and I am grateful to Susan Richards and Paul Stewart for leading this exhaustive work.

The real power of our congregation rests with the members themselves—the installation of Rev. Linda as our minister, for example, needed a congregation vote. Our yearly budget requires a congregation vote. Our revised handbook will require a congregation vote. Meanwhile, the Board deals with ongoing, smaller issues. Some of them that we have faced in recent months include: Should pets other than service animals be allowed in the building? What rates should we set for the rental of our building and for weddings? Do we wish to encourage or discourage clapping after music during a church service? There are no right or wrong answers to any of these issues, and our discussions are often spirited and include many of your voices that we bring to the board. Through it all, I am proud to say, we remain respectful of one another, and in casting our votes, decisions are made in the best interests of the congregation, not personal preference.

One last thing: We do have a “dream list,” if you will, of projects we would love to undertake, but for which we need funding. We would like to beautify the Activities Room—that busy room in the back downstairs—by replacing the carpet with something more durable and repainting the walls. We would like to replace the parsonage roof. Those old shingles don’t have much life left in ‘em. If any of you would like to help fund these projects, please come see me. I will be all ears.

Contact: Jim Sulzer, sulzer@comcast.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: A MIDSUMMER CHECK-IN

by Susan Richards, RE Committee Chair

Summer is a unique time for our Religious Exploration (RE) group. For many families it's the busiest time of the year and sometimes a few weeks can go by between Sunday visits to the Meeting House. Some families are visiting the island for varying lengths of time and they may pay a Sunday Service visit or two. The summer sees first timers to our church as well as long time returnees. Our congregation welcomes you all and, of course, RE welcomes all children to our program!

To complement our varying numbers of children, we have chosen to work on a summer-long project of making our own books of the Seven Principles. We are focusing on a principle a week and children work on individual principles at their own pace. Our circle time and chalice lighting focuses on the Principle of the week and gives children a chance to think and talk about each principle before they incorporate it into creating their Principle page.

A few other things have been going on behind the scenes in RE. As the RE chair, recently I was able to attend a day-long UU training on a wonderful RE curriculum called "Spirit Play" led by the creator of the program, Dr. Nita Penfold. This is a curriculum that is geared towards a multi-age group of children and has a foundation based on the Montessori Method whose goal is to create a "peaceful community of independent children." Key to the curriculum is the storytelling format which focuses on stories that explore our Seven Principles as well as the history behind Unitarian Universalism. It was truly an inspirational day of training which I look forward to sharing with our ever-evolving RE program!

This summer Rev. Linda and our RE lead teacher Jen Dunbar have begun to meet regularly to discuss curriculum as well as plans for our RE group of children. We are hoping to use the Spirit Play curriculum and are also looking at ways of learning about other world religions and how they relate to our "UUness." Ideas are flowing!

As we approach September we expect another transition in our RE group as the families who have been so busy during the summer get a chance to return to our Sunday services as the busy season winds down and, of course, our summer visitors will be leaving us until next summer! In June we

said goodbye to our wonderful child care assistant Blake Lazarus and we are looking forward to welcoming a new child care assistant in September. Hopefully we'll be announcing the name of that assistant very soon!

As always, we welcome every congregant's input to our program. Do you have a question, a comment, a suggestion or an idea to share? Are you interested in helping out in a Sunday RE class or would you like to pay a visit to and possibly join our RE Committee? Just contact Rev. Linda or myself!

Contact: Susan Richards, susanoncobble@gmail.com



For more information about the "Spirit Play" curriculum, visit www.spirit-play.com.

SECOND QUARTER 2014 TREASURER'S REPORT

by Paul Stewart, Treasurer

The church's fiscal year is the calendar year. We approved our annual operating budget at the January 2014 Annual Meeting and we have been operating on that budget since then. Results for the first half of 2014 are as shown in the Report below.

I am happy to note that pledges have been increasing and total income is exceeding total expenses 'year to date' (YTD); all good financial news. Please continue to pay your pledges as the year goes along.

We have also accomplished two "special projects" this year which were outside the annual operating budget, the Hendrix Hall renovation and the new sound system. Those special projects have been partly financed by donations from individuals but mainly by grants and contributions from other organizations.

We have another project which must be attended to in the near future for which we cannot expect grants like the above. The roof on our parsonage behind the church is very worn and curling in some sections and, although it is not yet noticeably leaking, it must be attended to within the next 18 months. We have obtained estimates of between \$6,000 for a partial job to about \$25,000 for the full job including gutters. We already put aside \$4,809 for parsonage repairs in prior years. Thus we anticipate the need to raise up to an additional \$20,000 to complete this necessary capital project.

Thanks to all for your support of our congregation and our historic home!

Contact: Paul P. Stewart, Paul@PLPDD.com



A crew of painters has been busy at work this summer brightening up the exterior of the Meeting House. Thank you to the South Church Preservation Fund for supporting this effort and also to Adam Zanelli and his crew from Nantucket Heritage Painting Company of Nantucket.

Photo by Gary Langley

Opposite page: Treasurer Paul Stewart not only knows how to keep our financial house in order but he also lends his skills at woodworking and gardening at the Nantucket Community Garden plot this summer along with other members of grassroots Nantucket.

Photo by Gary Langley

	A	B	C	D	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Summary Treasurer's Report: Modeled on the summary materials explained, discussed, and voted at the January 2014 Annual Meeting.										
2	My goal is to put this summary in the May, August, November, and January Weathervanes. Paul P. Stewart, Treasurer, Paul@PLPDD.com										
3	For the period January 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014, inclusive								All 2014	Jan 1 - Jun 30	
4	2014 Pledges pledged		1/1/2014	Change	6/30/2014			Income less related expenses	Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
5	Number of Pledges		72	8	80			<= 2014 Pledge payments received	\$ 80,500	\$ 40,250	\$ 44,526
6	Amount Pledged		\$ 75,580	\$ 8,915	\$ 84,495			Sunday Plate, Gifts, etc.	\$ 13,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,656
7								Rentals (FdLuz, Shirat HaYam, wed, ...)	\$ 44,900	\$ 26,200	\$ 28,053
8	Cash and Investments		1/1/2014	Change	6/30/2014			FUNdraising (Auction, 4th July, etc.)	\$ 21,400	\$ 16,100	\$ 12,076
9	All Bank Cash accounts	(NanBank)	\$ 70,783	\$ 975	\$ 71,758			Interest & Dividends earned	\$ 38,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 17,116
10	All Investment accounts	(TIAA-CREF)	\$1,354,566	\$ 37,058	\$1,391,624			Principal taken from Endowment#	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,514
11	Total Cash and Investments		\$1,425,349	\$ 38,033	\$1,463,383			total income less related expenses	\$ 197,800	\$ 108,050	\$ 109,940
12											
13	Designated Funds (R = Restricted)		1/1/2014	Change	6/30/2014			Operating Expenses	Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
14	Unrestricted cash	(NanBank)	\$ 65,975	\$ 975	\$ 66,949			Ministry (+ Guest Speakers - Parsonage)	\$ 71,000	\$ 35,500	\$ 36,176
15	R Fix Parsonage cash	(NanBank)	\$ 4,808	\$ 1	\$ 4,809			Music	\$ 21,378	\$ 10,689	\$ 8,598
16	R Capital Reserves ⁹	(TIAA-CREF)	\$ 897,635	\$ 24,156	\$ 921,791			Lifespan Education (RE, etc.)	\$ 4,161	\$ 2,081	\$ 2,368
17	R Working Reserves [‡]	(TIAA-CREF)	\$ 411,109	\$ 11,063	\$ 422,173			Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300
18	R Organ Fund (est. 2011)	(TIAA-CREF)	\$ 45,822	\$ 1,838	\$ 47,660			Administration (except Contingency)	\$ 34,940	\$ 17,470	\$ 15,636
19	R Sanford Trust* (est. 1910)	(BNY-Mellon)	\$ 250,949	\$ 1,710	\$ 252,659			Contingency	\$ 4,700	\$ 2,350	\$ 0
20	Project: Hendrix Hall	(NanBank)	\$ 24,400	\$ (24,400)	\$ -			Building & Grounds (-Special Projects)	\$ 46,921	\$ 23,461	\$ 30,492
21	Project: Sound System	(NanBank)	\$ 22,000	\$ (23,877)	\$ (1,877)			Investment management costs	\$ 9,400	\$ 4,700	\$ 5,429
22	other Funds: Summer Concerts, Organ Playing, Minister's Discretionary							total Operating Expenses	\$ 197,800	\$ 101,550	\$ 103,999
40	⁹ More or [‡] Less restricted by Policy adopted at Congregational Meeting 7/25/2010 (see Congregational Handbook on our website)										
41	*The Sanford Trust pays us income but we have no right to the principal. The principal balance proves its ability to pay the income (4.0%/year).										
42	[‡] <= 2014 Pledge payments received' is all payments on 2014 pledges received thru 6/30/14 plus all payments (\$1,332) on 2013 Pledges since 1/1/2014.										
43	"We have stopped all withdrawals from TIAA-CREF so the Interest&Dividends earned will eventually reverse any YearToDate (YTD) over-withdrawals.										



SAVE THE DATE! CLIMATE MARCH IN NYC SEPTEMBER 21-22

Join us as we go to New York City for The People's Climate March, the largest climate march in history. Let's make history together! We will be renting a van and there will be home hospitality. More information will come soon. You can also visit www.peoplesclimate.org/march/. Sign up in the activities room or e-mail Rev. Linda Simmons.

Contact: Rev. Linda Simmons, revlindasimmons@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday, August 3 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Languages of War and Peace”

Our world is in turmoil: climate change, Israel & Gaza, children coming in droves to the border, the Ukraine, and countless other examples of violence and despair fill the media and our attention. What can we do? What should we do? How are we called as people of faith to respond?

Sunday, August 10 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Harrison Blum ~ Historic Sanctuary

“We Are Nature”

This sermon will draw from traditional Buddhist teachings on impermanence and interconnection to situate the human being within the natural world, as nature aware of itself.

Harrison Blum is the Buddhist Spiritual Advisor and Mindfulness Programs Coordinator at Northeastern University, as well as a Staff Chaplain at Franciscan Hospital for Children. He received a Master of Divinity from Harvard and a Master of Education from Lesley, and is an authorized Community Dharma Leader in the Insight Meditation tradition.

Sunday, August 17 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Geographies of Grace”

Grace is an illusive word that gets all tied up with God and unearned forgiveness. Grace can also be something that happens when we are with each other, simply, wholly, without guile or agenda. What is the language of this grace?

Sunday, August 24 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Service Committee ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Lay Led Service”

Join us this Sunday as lay leaders of our congregation lend their talents in planning and conducting this week’s worship service.

Sunday, August 17 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Right Livelihood”

The Buddhist concept of right livelihood comes to mind during this Labor Day. What is right livelihood and how does one live into this? As a congregation and Meeting House, what does right livelihood mean? How might we all live into our values with more ease?

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 – noon. Children begin the morning with the congregation in the historic sanctuary 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. The Meeting House Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Singers of all abilities are welcome.

HUNGARIAN DINNER RAISES \$830 FOR PARTNER CHURCH

On July 24th, 26 members and friends enjoyed a delicious Hungarian meal organized under the direction of Ilse Sangree with some assistance from Jim Sulzer. This fundraiser realized \$830 to support our partnership with Kolozs Historic Sanctuary in Transylvania. What a success! Thank you to all the chefs who followed Ilse's recipes and, of course, a special thank you to Ilse.

AUGUST CONCERT SERIES WELCOMES BACK HYANNIS SOUND

The popular Thursdays @ 5 Concert Series, under the direction of Music Director Diane Lehman, continues each week through Thursday, August 28. The series is funded by a generous grant from ReMain Nantucket. Admission is \$10 at the door. All concerts take place in the historic sanctuary.

August's lineup features a variety of talented musicians. On **Thursday, August 7th, Pianist/Vocalist Jacob Butler and Co.** perform. Then back-by-popular-demand for a special Sunday afternoon concert is **The Hyannis Sound Acapella** group. This performance will take place at 5 p.m. on **Sunday, August 10th.**

Rounding out the remainder of August are the **Nigel Goss, Matt Hutchinson and Nick Hayden Trio** on **Thursday, August 14th**, flautist **Courtenay Hardy with Alan Murchie** on **Thursday, August 21st** and renowned pianist **David Crohan** on **Thursday, August 28th.**

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS IN AUGUST

~SUMMER MEMBERS' GATHERING

Wednesday, August 13 ~ 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Home of Jim Sulzer & Barbara Elder
14 Back Street

All summer members are invited to a gathering with Rev. Linda Simmons and the Board of Trustees at the home of board president Jim Sulzer and his wife, Barbara Elder.

~THE LUNCH BUNCH

Monday, August 18 ~ Noon
Parsonage ~ 10 Fair St.

The lunch bunch is moving to the 3rd Monday for the month of August. Join Rev. Linda for this informal brown bag lunch at the parsonage on 10 Fair St. Visitors, guest, members, friends welcome!

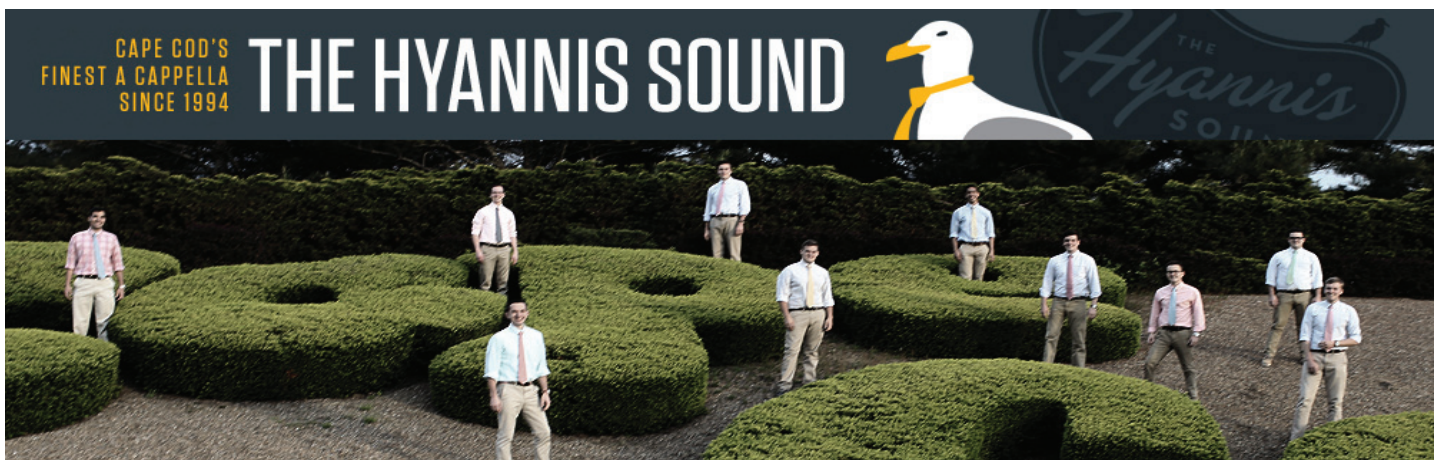
~JAZZ UNDER THE DOME

Saturday, August 23 ~ 3-5 p.m.

Please join us for this jazz tribute to honor the life of beloved congregation member Jack Reindel in the historic sanctuary.

~KNITTING GROUP/SHAWL MINISTRY

The knitting group is going to take a break until fall. The break does not rule out a spontaneous get together should anyone wish to meet, however. Contact Lora Stewart at 978-729-4026 or lora@PLPDD.com.





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Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, *Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*
Diane T. Lehman, *Music Director* ~ **Lucretia Voigt**, *Office Manager*
Ed Sullivan and Dennis Santangelo, *Sextons*, **Chuck Gieg**, *Bookkeeper*

Board of Trustees

Jim Sulzer (*President*), Susan Richards (*Vice President*), Paul Stewart (*Treasurer*)
Jan Ellsworth, Steve Estabrooks, Joy Margolis, John Rivera, Linda Sperry, Lora Stewart

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday ~ 9 a.m. - noon

Minister's Office Hours

Tuesday (10 a.m. - noon) and by appointment