



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - June 2017

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Multiple Identities

I've been thinking a lot about the youth I worked with in a program funded by the Department of Labor before I went to Divinity School. Our mandate in this youth program was to assist the youth in getting GEDs and jobs. They were tough kids, full of pain and anger and loss. They were very often suffering with addiction and many other health issues. I loved them. They taught me how to show up beyond all guises.

To qualify to receive our services, the youth had to have dropped out of high school, live below poverty guidelines, have a learning or physical disability or a parent in jail or a documented substance abuse issue, or one of several other criteria. We had youth who were from many races, abilities and orientations, and our classroom was full of all the prejudices and stereotypes and slurs that had been used to keep most of them small and hurt and ashamed. With few exceptions, the youth used these same slurs with abandon to hurt and shame each other.

I'll never forget one youth in particular who was transgender. She was also African American and lived in the projects and worked at MacDonald's. She was quiet and smart and had a wonderful sense of humor, both about herself and the world. She carried herself with a calm and dignity and seemed to float above the slurs. I'll call her Grace.

Grace studied hard and passed her GED and then I lost track of her. I called her employer and friends and no one seemed to know where she went, or they were not willing to tell me anyway.

To become a UU minister, one is asked to do a lot of reading, attend lectures and take classes about identities, sexual and otherwise. We are asked to explore our own identities as well. In one class at Harvard Divinity School called "Meaning Making," we were asked to introduce ourselves to each other in whatever way we chose. I chose to dance. I covered my clothes with sticky notes that each had a label of a different identity on them: single mother, welfare mother, independent, woman, straight, Portuguese, American, white, strong, weak...all the labels I could think of at that time in my life-and a friend of mine, dancing with me, took note after note off of my clothing and flung them around us as we spun around the chapel our dance took place in. We whirled and whirled, while Gary drummed, the tempo ever increasing, until I was left folded in upon myself, the labels strewn around us.

Where do our labels come from? Are we the sole authors of all of our identities? Which do we construct and which are constructed by nature or nurture, culture or biology? And if some identities are beyond our choosing, why do we punish each other for those very ones: sexual orientation, gender, race, citizenship to name a few. And lastly and still importantly, who are we without our labels?

As I begin to plan my sabbatical to India that will take place in 2018 for the months of February and March and will be built around the topic of *women and religion*, I come face to face with my own and others' identities, locations, cultures and orientations. More sticky notes of my identity become visible to me as I reach beyond what I know. I lift them from my skin, noting with interest the marks they leave behind.

May the One Who Dances hold our sticky notes of identity with ease, letting them fly onto the dance floor to be retrieved or to disintegrate; as we give gratitude to those *identities that dance* for this sacred articulation of life.

*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
IN THE
HISTORIC
SANCTUARY

Sunday, June 4
"Antigone's Dilemma"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, June 11
"I & Thou"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, June 18
"Fathers, Myths and Meanings"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, June 25
"UU United Nations Organization"
Lay Led Service

Families Welcome!
Religious Exploration
for Children Every
Sunday

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— June 2017

The Board of Trustees had their monthly meeting May 16. Paul Stewart presented the first quarter Treasurer's Report, showing that we are in good financial shape. He updated us on contract renewals with Faro de Luz and Shirat Ha Yam. The Board voted to negotiate with Shirat Ha Yam for financial assistance, along with use of the AR Renovation Fund, to purchase new flooring for the Activities Room. Major items approved were Rev. Linda Simmons' Minister's Sabbatical Plan and the Letter of Agreement between Linda and the Society for the upcoming year. The Board approved the appointment of Angus MacLeod to fill Mary Beth Splaine's uncompleted term on the South Church Preservation Fund Board of Directors, and to give our appreciation to Mary Beth for her nine years of service on that Board. A joint meeting between the Board of Trustees and the SCPF Directors followed. Items of discussion were the complementary roles of the two Boards and mutual concerns for maintaining and preserving our historic building. For example, the overcrowded conditions during last year's 4th of July celebration led to a new rule that there will be no standing along the sides or sitting on the window sills in the sanctuary. Paul proudly passed around a panoramic color photograph of the new sanctuary lighting, and the group discussed plans for the May 26 Illumination Ceremony, when those lights will be officially illuminated.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Hall
President Board of Trustees
scallop lady@gmail.com

Docenting Report

by Peter Richards

July through Labor Day, and depending on the weather, perhaps well into the fall, our docent team opens the doors of our beautiful Meeting House to the public. People come from all over the country and the world to visit our island and many will make a point to visit our historic meeting house. Key talking points include the beautiful trompe l'oeil artwork, the glorious Goodrich organ up in the choir loft, and our magnificent Portuguese Bell. If you or someone you know would like to join our team, please contact Peter Richards at cobbleland@aol.com. We're always looking for new members. Discover the "real good feeling" of presenting our historic Meeting House.

June Calendar of Events

Monday, June 5, 5:30 pm—8:30 pm

Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance Immigration Resource Center—Activities Room

Tuesday, June 6, 1:30 pm—7 pm

Nantucket Preservation Trust Preservation Symposium—Sanctuary and Hendrix Hall
(for more information and to sign up, see their website at www.nantucketpreservationsymposium.org)

Monday, June 12, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Potluck and viewing of UUA President Debate—Activities Room (for more information see below)

Friday, June 16, 3 p.m.—9 p.m.

Nantucket Book Festival events—Sanctuary (for more information visit www.nantucketbookfestival.org)

Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Nantucket Book Festival events—Sanctuary and Hendrix Hall (for more information visit their website at www.nantucketbookfestival.org)

Saturday, June 17, 4:45 p.m.

Maloney Wedding—Sanctuary

Saturday, June 24

McPartland/Cook Wedding—Sanctuary

Thursday, June 29, 11 am—12 pm

Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

See You at The Meeting House!



Please join us!

**Monday June 12th
at 6:00pm
in the Activities Room**

for a potluck and a viewing of a debate between the three candidates for Unitarian Universalist Association presidency. The election will take place at General Assembly in New Orleans in June this year.

There will be good food, stimulating viewing and conversation as these extraordinary candidates discuss the most important issues facing us as a denomination!

Music Notes

from Diane Lehman, Music Director



Thanks for all your support, your comments and your encouragement. I love to play the piano, and it's a pleasure to be making the music choices to match whatever is going on each week. We are so fortunate to have the Arts Council Steinway in the sanctuary and the dependable Chickering Piano in Hendrix Hall, both of which I love to play, providing accompaniment for your hymns as well as theme-based music for each Sunday service. Tim Thompson will be our tuner, making it possible to provide the immediate attention these fragile instruments require. It's been a long winter/spring and the choir has remained a fixture at the Meeting House, providing a different anthem each Sunday. Thanks to their New England can do spirit, we continued the tradition of group singing and rounds, harmonies and duets as well as solos in church every week. Our members are always eager to bring in new singers, so if you are a singer who enjoys the company of others while raising your own voice in song, please consider joining us on Sundays. We have a short practice review at 9:30am before the service on Sundays, and we will start meeting at noon (right after the service) to go over upcoming anthems. Our choir (Grace, Val, Cheryl, Phaedra, Nancy, Polly, Cynthia, Al, Bob, and Haziell) is all familiar to you. Returning for the summer, we hope to see Trish, Ann, Liam, Linda and Craig. There's a lot to sing about! Come join us on Sundays and bring the sound of music into the sanctuary, where the Goodrich organ awaits (with new organ lights!). Ask Susie Jarrell to play! Carson Cooman (Organist/Composer) will join us for a Sunday or two, and Bill Schutt, Jordan Delphos, Jacob Butler, Bob Lehman, Cynthia Csabay, Chelsea Remick, and Jessica Heuser will be among those performing at some point during our summer season. We'll all be asked to sing the Star Spangled Banner for the 4th of July. Bring your friends and sing with us. There's always a place in the choir or on the piano bench or in front of the congregation that appreciates wonderful music—whether it be an instrumental, vocal or a self accompanied tune. Jim Sulzer, Jacob Butler, Chris Hanson and Paul Connor have all provided extra music to our services this winter, and we hope they inspire you to bring your own voice to the Meeting House.

Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance

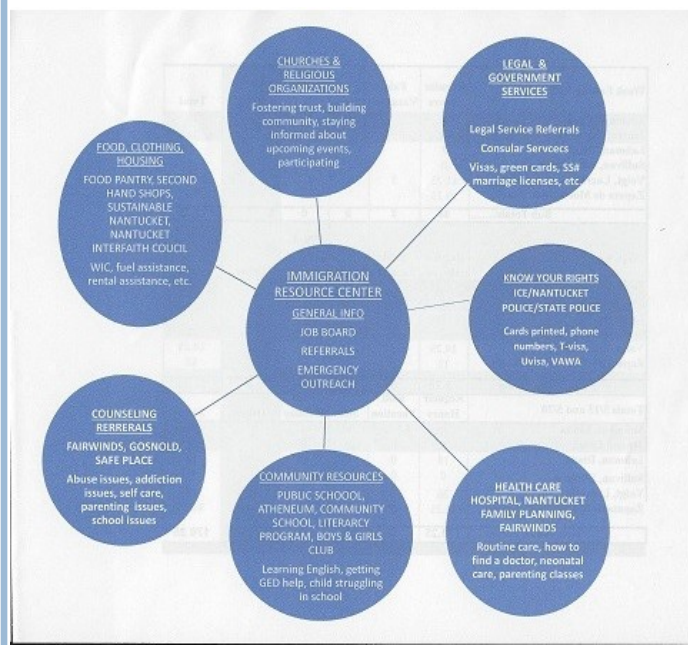
by Rev. Linda Simmons

The Immigration Resource Center (IRC), created by The Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance (NICA), will open on Monday, June 5th at the UU Meeting House from 5:30-7:30pm. We have all been working hard to put together a binder of resources that might prove useful to recent immigrants. We are hoping to be good allies and praying for the courage, humility and awareness to walk with our fears side by side.

IRC will be staffed by two people, at least one bilingual. Below is the chart we have been working with as we collect information. Three to five people from NICA have gathered around each bubble and formed a research team. We are gathering our data and putting it in the form of FAQs in an informational binder that will serve as the basis for IRC.

It is all a work in progress. We are excited, working hard and afraid that we will not be enough or have enough or know enough. This is where walking hand in hand makes the difference, knowing that we are partners with so many in this effort, that we as Anglos, recent immigrants, community & religious leaders, workers, neighbors, islanders...are gathered with the good intention of adding compassionate presence to this conversation and witness.

It is a good beginning.



Road trip to NOLA and the UU General

Assembly: Celebrating a Vote on our First Principle and Rev Linda's "Walk"

by Susan Richards

Early Monday morning, June 19th, Paul and Lora Stewart, Susan and Peter Richards, and Val Hall will start their exciting journey (a road trip!) to the UU General Assembly in New Orleans. The General Assembly is an inspirational annual coming together of UU's from all over the country (and beyond!) and well worth attending should you ever have the opportunity!

The main focus of our journey will be participating in the events of the General Assembly (June 21-25) -

workshops, talks, special services, networking, and hopefully seeing a bit of New Orleans.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There are two events happening at this conference that are especially meaningful for us Nantucket UUers. The first is the calling for a vote on The First Principle. We are a sponsoring congregation for this as we voted in our annual mid-year all-Congregation meeting back in July of 2015 to support this call for a vote for more discussion on changing the wording in our First Principle from "Inherent worth and dignity of every person" to "Inherent worth and dignity of every *being*".

Our second big event is the joyous "Walk" that our wonderful Rev Linda will be taking to celebrate her 3 years of serving as our settled minister for our Congregation. Rev. Linda, as does everyone new to ministry (as she was when she joined us) entered preliminary fellowship for the first 3 years of her ministry. During this time, the board and committee on ministry are required to send reviews of Rev. Linda's ministry to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) who review them each year and send a letter saying one can proceed to the next year of preliminary fellowship. After 3 positive reviews and responses from the UUA, Rev. Linda received the letter that said she was clearly a blessing to her congregation and she was approved for Fellowship.

At General Assembly this year, Rev. Linda, along with many others who have achieved the honor of this status, will be honored for this achievement. She will be walking across the stage in the auditorium and her name and photo flashed on the big screen. We are so excited to be there to witness this momentous event!

You will be seeing some more reports describing our experiences at this year's GA in future Weathervanes and perhaps as part of an upcoming UU service!

First Principle Project Webinar

Upcoming Webinar options -

Here's your chance to get completely updated on the First Principle vote which will be happening at this year's UU General Assembly in New Orleans later in June. Our Nantucket UU Congregation voted at our annual mid-year meeting in July of 2015 to be one of the sponsoring Congregations for this historic vote! See article in this issue on UU members trip to the General Assembly for more information!

June 10 (Saturday) at noon Eastern Standard Time

Options for joining:

From PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/462446338>

From Telephone: Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 462 446 338

June 15 (Thursday) at 7pm Eastern Standard Time

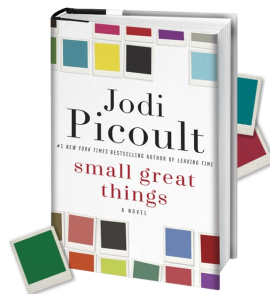
Options for joining:

From PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/531812853>

From Telephone: Dial: +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) or +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 531 812 853

New Book Group



The UU Meeting House and St. Paul's Episcopal Church will host a book group to read

Jodi Picoult's novel, Small Great Things

about racism in a small community in America.

We will meet to discuss the book and begin our own conversation about racism in our lives and communities.

Please join us for this important conversation and interesting read!

All are welcome!

Sign up in the AR or with Rev. Linda revlindasimmons@gmail.com

All Meetings are on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30pm
July 19 St. Paul's, Parish House, 20 Fair St pp 1-70.

July 26 St. Paul's, pp 71-132

August 2 St. Paul's, pp 133-197

August 9 St. Paul's, pp 198-271

August 16 St. Paul's, pp 272-335

August 23 St. Paul's, pp 336-416

August 30 St. Paul's pp 417-end

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION HAPPENINGS!

ACK-spress-- SUCCESS! \$675 Raised by 10+ Youth Through Art Show



What a show of energy; beauty; and compassion, by the troupe of 10+ kids who gave up their Friday evenings to participate in UU Nantucket's Youth Pilot Program. The results exceeded expectation: by offering their hard-earned work of 8-weeks for a charity of their choice, the children ages 9 to 12 managed to raise \$675 for the island's Animal Shelter at last month's May 5th Art Show. From lighthouses in watercolor to abstract expressionism--and even sculpture in local clay, which they fired themselves on the beach--the children wowed their attendees with work well-advanced of their age group. Yet most stunning of all, was that every single child willingly gave up artwork they loved in order to help animals. At their "Pizza Party" celebration last week, they created their own "giant check" which will be presented to NISHA at this fall's Blessing of the Animals. The kids aren't through yet, though: they've been honing their tile "bird baths" in grout and stone-laying techniques, with plans a-brew to install them in public locations for all to enjoy. So save those broken old plates, folks, and please stay tuned!



JUNE SUNDAYS: Made of Strength-- Celebrating Heritage through Craft

Get ready for fun, in the Ancient Arts!

It's where science and sacred meet: "We are descendants of the strongest," said a Lakota leader recently on the CNN show *United Shades of America*. And those words are true for each and every one of us. When poet Maya Angelou wrote the words: "I am the hope, and the dream, of the slave--" Angelou was calling for joy, not to be *ignorant* of history; but rather in awareness of what history's pain & endurance *had*, at last, rewarded. Perhaps your OWN family tree stems from some who nearly starved in the potato famine of Ireland, and gave their very last to seek Lady Liberty. Or earlier, those in Dark-Age Europe who feared enslavement or sickness at every turn. Perhaps those mysteries of Prehistory--like the pyramids of Egypt, or the monoliths of Easter Island--were built by the very hands whose DNA led up to one, magnificent *YOU*. Yet across the globe one fact unites us all with the clearest certainty: that by fire-side in frightful caves, our earliest ancestors dreamed with *hope*. And that hope, was us. So this month we'll be paying tribute to the strongest, of whom we are legacies. Come learn the ancient methods by which they strived; survived; all so that at the ends of which, *we* might thrive.

Sunday June 4th -- FISH. Viking Casting-Rods, Nets, & Whaling - 1300 AD

Sunday June 11th -- DRESS. Mediterranean Queens & Warriors - 300 AD

Sunday June 18th -- BOOK. Japanese Sketch-books; Journals; & the Illuminated Manuscript - 100 BC- 1400

Sunday June 25th -- GEM. Celtic Metalwork from Rings to Headdress - 1300 BC



Sermons for June

June 4: “Antigone’s Dilemma” - Rev. Linda Simmons

The play *Antigone* revolves around the dilemma that arises when the moral and the legal collide. This sermon will look at the Marathon Bombings and the controversy surrounding Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who lay without burial for about 27 days. What are we called to do as a people who believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all beings, and what does this look like in our day when the moral and legal collide?

June 11: “I & Thou” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Martin Buber in his book *I and Thou* writes about how human life finds its meaningfulness in relationships. In Buber’s view, all of our relationships bring us ultimately into relationship with God, who is the Eternal Thou or what Buber calls, “that [source] out of whose abundance, welling up close by, every earthly You emerges.” This sermon will entertain the questions of self, other and *god*, when god is a derivative of self and other.

June 18: “Fathers, Myths and Meaning” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Perhaps the greatest role of father is to teach us all to let the Father Image go: to open us all to the capacity to accept that we are multiple, rich, contradictory, hewn from many cloths. This Father’s Day sermon will lift up the life of Harvey Milk and his contribution to the world and our lives.

June 25: “UU United Nations Organization” - Lay Led Service

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

~ The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

~ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

~ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

~ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

~ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

~ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

~ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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On Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister (revlindasimmons@gmail.com) ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, Minister Emeritus

Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ **Leyah Jensen**, Youth Programs Coordinator

Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ **Ed Sullivan**, Sexton ~ **Chuck Gieg**, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Val Hall (President), Clay Twombly (Vice President), Paul Stewart (Treasurer), Peter Richards (Clerk)

Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Christine Sanford, Michelle Whelan, Lora Stewart

Rev. Linda Simmons (Minister)

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon

Minister’s Office Hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m. – noon and by appointment