



Unitarian Universalist

Meeting House

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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - October 2016

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Cultivating Happiness

I don't believe in happiness. Whenever I have sought it or made it a goal, it has slipped through my fingers the moment I grasped it and quickly become another longing for another place or condition or time. It's not that I believe in despair in its stead. It's just that these extremes seem to breed more extremes.

And yet, so often these days I find myself feeling happy. I turn a corner in my life, and there I am, standing right before myself, smiling nonchalantly about one thing or another.

I have been forced to reassess my relationship to happiness. I have decided that it is not happiness that was ever suspect, it was the way I sought it that was fraught with pitfalls and contained the very mechanisms of its undoing.

I realized that being part of this UU Meeting House- where we work with refugees and immigrants to define what compassion from us might look like, give clothes and food to those in need on this island; where we listen well enough to become part of a system of caring- creates happiness as one of its outputs.

And it's not only this giving to others outside of our walls. It's what happens within our walls too. The other day, I officiated at a memorial service and then a wedding a few hours later. During both of these sacred, heart-felt, moving events, I felt held by something so much greater than each of us present-call it love, compassion, goodness, care, hope, community, memory- carrying us all, tending to us, offering us back to ourselves untangled, settled down, present to each other.

At this UU Meeting House, we witness each other through baby blessings, marriages, and memorials; we walk beside each other through discord, harmony and brokenness; we forgive and laugh and pick each other up again in the light of our compassion and humility and we go on in love- and offer the extra, the overflow, to others.

This system of caring, this way of being, this Meeting Place of ours cultivates happiness. This is a new kind of happiness for me. It does not create a clinging or a craving or a need for more or less. We can thrive within this happiness because it does not require our perfection or ease or put together selves.

When we stop shopping for happiness on the shelves of our lives and start living together with enough faith that we will be loved and that our loving makes a difference, happiness has a chance to grow within and through us.

May who you are find a place here to be loved and to love and so plant the seeds of happiness within and among us.

*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, October 2
"Animal Blessings"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, October 9
**"Celebrating 100
Years—A Celebration
of Susie Jarrell"**

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, October 16
"Relational Giving"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, October 23
Lay Led Service
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, October 30
**"The Many Faces of
Frankenstein"**

Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall

Families Welcome!
**Religious Education
for Children Every
Sunday**

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— October 2016

The Board of Trustees met on September 20, 2016.
The agenda included:

1. Board check in on the 5th principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. All agreed this principle is especially timely in this intense election year.
2. The Board accepted the resignation of Craig Sperry as chair of the finance committee. He will remain as an active member.
3. The Activities Room renovation team member, Christine Sanford, gave an update on plans for the next few months. Next steps include research and recommendations on the best flooring, lighting and paint for the main areas of the AR.
4. Presentation by Paul Stewart of a plan for the upcoming pledge and 2017 budget season.
5. Discussion of the Religious Exploration coordinator position that was posted in the newspaper.
6. Discussion with Susan Richards, chair of the nominating committee, regarding openings on the Board of Trustees.

The Board will meet in the AR for its fall retreat on October 29th. During this retreat we will review all comments on the congregational goals, prioritize and attach money as needed for the 2017 budget recommendations. After lunch Rev Linda will lead us in a workshop on leadership and governance.

Jan Ellsworth
President Board of Trustees
ellsjan@verizon.net

MAKE IT STOP

Imagine a world without gun violence.

MAKE IT STOP is a Nantucket group of people who meet once a month to write letters, make calls to senators and congresspeople, demonstrate, speak out, host events, and educate ourselves about how to make a difference in gun safety.

Next meeting:
Thursday, October 13th, 6:30 pm
Parsonage, 10 Fair St.

Contact Rev. Linda Simmons for more details:
revlindasimmons@gmail.com

October Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 2, 7 pm—9:30 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Erev Rosh Hashanah—Sanctuary

Monday, October 3, 8 am—1 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Rosh Hashanah—Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 4, 9 am—1 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Rosh Hashanah—Sanctuary

Saturday, October 8, 11 am—12:30 pm
Annual Organ Crawl—Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 11, 7 pm—10:30 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Kol Nidre—Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 12, 8:30 am—12 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Yom Kippur—Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 12, 12 pm—2 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Yizkor—Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 12, 5 pm—8 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam, Neilah—Sanctuary

Thursday, October 13, 11 am—12:30 pm
Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm—8 pm
Make It Stop meeting—Parsonage (10 Fair Street)

Saturday, October 15, 1 pm
Twombly/Olson Wedding—Sanctuary

Monday, October 17, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Hebrew School—Activities Room

Saturday, October 22, 9:30 am—10:30 am
Terese Virginia "Terry" Ventre Memorial Service—Sanctuary

Sunday, October 23, 12 pm (during coffee hour)
Final Congregational Town Hall Meeting—Activities Room

Monday, October 24, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, October 27, 11 am—12:30 pm
Food Rescue Meeting



Prayer and Connection

By Carl K. Borchert

I attended the Iftar event this summer that was hosted by Dr. Qureshi and his family. This breaking of fast gathering marks the end of the



Ramadan fast. I didn't know what to expect going in to it, as I had never attended such an event. I have been exposed to many negative statements about Muslims through the media and coming from people in my life who are intolerant.

I know that Islam is a peaceful religion practiced by over 1 billion people worldwide. By attending the Iftar gathering, I intended to see for myself how the prayer worked.

It came time for the prayer. I was transfixed. It was peaceful and beautiful. I was observing something so rhythmic and calm. My heart opened to it and let it in to my soul.

Thanks to our church's efforts to connect here on Nantucket with local Muslims, I feel that I have learned more about the religion this summer. Given our current world situation this is very important for me. I won't forget the beauty and peace of the prayer.

Volunteers Needed!

for the Food Pantry Open-To-All
Clothing Giveaway

Wednesday, October 12, 2 pm—4 pm
(for setup at the American Legion Hall)

Thursday, October 13, 4 pm—6:30 pm
(actual day of event—volunteers needed to help as personal shoppers, clothing porters, and to pack up clothes at conclusion)

Contact Joanna Greenfield at joannagreenfield@me.com for more information.

Congregational Town Hall Meetings

At the last board retreat in the spring, thinking of how to put our principles into action, the board put together 4 goals.



There will be one final town hall style meetings for you to offer your feedback about these goals (three previous meetings were held in September). Please join us!

We want to know what your vision for our congregation is, what you see as most important for us to live into now, what shape you see our principles needing to take at this time. We need your participation to be the best of who we are. You do not need to be a member to contribute, just someone who cares about our future as a congregation!

And then on October 29th at the Board Retreat, the board will take all of the feedback received from the congregation, revise the goals accordingly, and put together a plan for the year. It takes a village, and we are all the village!

The final congregational town hall meeting date is after service during coffee hour on Sunday, October 23.

Please join us as we practice living into our principles!

***Now accepting donations
of the following items
to be delivered
during our trip to Ascentria in
Worcester on October 12:***

Backpacks or book bags	Pencil cases
Pens, pencils, erasers	Rulers
Notebooks	Calculators
Pocket dictionaries	Pocket folders
Binders and loose leaf notebook paper	

We will be collecting these items all month—deposit them in the box in the lobby. On October 12, we will go to Worcester to meet with Ascentria and deliver the items, leaving on the 7:45 a.m. Hyline and returning on the 5 p.m. Steamship fast

Invitation to a Pledge Luncheon on October 16, 2016

It is the season for the annual Pledge Drive and this year our message is simple. We give because we are part of a community that sustains us, that nurtures us, that provides us with inspiration, compassion, hope, ideas for the journey, and challenges us to live into the best versions of ourselves.

We give because it matters to us that our congregation thrives, that we are the beacon of light that we were built to be on this island and in this world. This is our Unitarian Universalism, that offers not faith but love, not creed but inquiry, not sacrament but sacred presence.

On Sunday October 16th you are invited to a Pledge Luncheon in place of coffee hour. We will discuss the growth of our congregation and enjoy a meal together to celebrate all that we are and are yet to become.

Please join us as we continue to build this extraordinary opportunity of Unitarian Universalism, a place where all people of all faiths, genders, races, and walks of life are welcome into this covenant as we seek to define love and what shape it should take now, here, together.

Your Pledge Committee

"Our Docenting Summer of 2016"

By Peter Richards

With the passing of another summer, it's time re-view our 2016 docent season. This year our team included new member Cheryl Creighton, along with returning veterans Karin Gockel, Trish Jarrell, Grace Noyes, Libby Oldham, Christine Sanford, Craig Sperry, Paul Stewart, Jack Weinhold, and myself. My heart-felt thanks go out to all of them for their job well done!

During July and August, we filled three 2-hour shifts from 10am to 4pm weekdays and two shifts from 10 till 2 on Saturdays. In July there were 433 visitors with another 543 in August, totaling 976 for the two months. Folks came from all over the U.S. and from at least 22 countries, with England, Germany and Canada leading the way. Gorgeous weather was a key factor why attendance was down nearly 20% from last year. It was clear that visitors were enjoying more outdoor activities during their time here this summer.

It's so enjoyable talking to first-time visitors to our historic meeting house. They are amazed by the trompe l'oeil artwork, and it's a treat to see their

(continued in next column)

(Our Docenting Summer—continued from previous column)

reaction when they realize the artwork's deception. Perhaps you might give some thought about joining our team for next year. There's not a lot of memorization required and the more you do it, the easier it becomes and the more fun you'll have. Think about it... we'd love to have you!

Our Christmas Stroll Craft and Treasures Sale is coming up soon!

**Start using your talents now to make some
crafts and treasures to be sold.**

We also will need volunteers on
Friday, December 2nd to set up tables, and
Saturday, December 3rd during the sale.

Times to be announced.

For more information contact Joanna Greenfield at
joannagreenfield@me.com.



The 7th Principle Project

By Gary Langley

The 7th Principle Project had an information table at the Island Fair a few weeks ago to promote both our Food Rescue and Composting projects. We were suc-

cessful in obtaining a list of individuals interested in volunteering as well as establishments interested in partnering for food pick ups and had a number a new participants in the household composting effort. Our learning curve from the intentionally limited number of partners together with the list of potential volunteers will allow us to expand the program significantly in the coming months.



We also had a voter registration table to continue our annual effort to afford island residents an easy opportunity to register.



Four members of the Food Rescue Nantucket committee and one person from Sustainable Nantucket traveled to Martha's Vineyard at the end of September to meet with Island Grown, an organization that has very successful, well established programs for inland wide composting and gleaning (volunteers picking the remaining produce after a farmer has harvested their fields) on Martha's Vineyard. We came away with some ideas and excitement for future projects here on Nantucket. We'll let you know the results of our visit



in the next Weathervane.

Our hope is to expand our redistribution of food that would otherwise go to waste so that it might offer sustenance to others and so continue to honor this great interconnected web of which we are all a part.



Potluck

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, November 4, 2016 for a
Church Potluck Dinner in the Activities Room



To roll out our congregational goals that we have worked so hard on and celebrate our Meeting House generosity!

Sermons for October

October 2: “Animal Blessings” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Join us outside the main doors of the Sanctuary, weather permitting, for our annual Blessings of the Animals service. The offering will be donated to Nantucket Safe Harbor for Animals. Bring all your furry friends and join us for this service honoring our interconnection with all beings. In case it is raining bring a picture instead as the service will be held in the Sanctuary. Music by Stephen Estabrooks and Rob & Jen Dunbar.

October 9: “Celebrating 100 Years” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Susie Jarrell turns 100 on October 10th and this service will be a celebration of her life with music, tributes, poetry, hymns, and memories to bless us all.

October 16: “Relational Giving” - Rev. Linda Simmons

We give financially for so many reasons, from a sense of altruism to a need to express gratitude for what we have received. This sermon will look at giving as part of a relationship through which we go on well in this world, as part of the fabric of life that keeps us all sustained and moving forward as one people.

October 23: Lay Led Service

October 30: “The Many Faces of Frankenstein” - Rev. Linda Simmons

It is said that Unitarian Universalists do not have a theology of evil that holds up well when confronted with the darkness within and around us. This sermon will review some current theologies of evil and ask: What is evil and how do we respond to it as a people of faith?

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.

Second Congregational Society Unitarian Universalist

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

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister ~ Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus

Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager

Ed Sullivan, Sexton ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Jan Ellsworth (*President*), Val Hall (*Vice President*), Paul Stewart (*Treasurer*), Steve Estabrooks (*Clerk*)

Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Christine Sanford, Clay Twombly, Lora Stewart

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

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