



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ May 2014

COMMON PATHWAYS

Growing Memories

by Rev. Linda Simmons

Spring has been calling Gary and me into the church and parsonage gardens for weeks now. Finally, unable to ignore the repeating melody, we put on our old clothes, gathered our tools, and headed out.

The sun was brilliant. The earth smelled like time. The small heads of buds reaching for the sky became visible under each pull of the rake. Each patch of earth revealed something new to us, something growing, dying, reaching, blooming.

Sitting on the ground to stuff the bags with the leaves, pushing them all in with my hands, like packing for a trip unable to decide what to take so taking it all, covered in earth's matter, all those other hands that have worked these gardens joined mine. I could see other ministers, parishioners, and friends, planting, raking, weeding, tending these gardens. I know some of these good folk are gone now. Their memories still nourish the soil, still bring forth new life, still call out to us: Seize the Day!

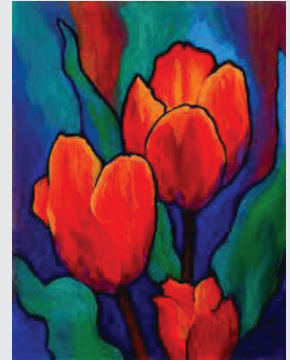
It has been just over a year since I was called here on the Sunday of Daffodil weekend. That day is planted in my memory with deep roots. Working in the garden, combining my touch and longing with all those who crouched here before me, all who tenderly dropped seed to earth, fastened my life to this quiet harmony.

Life is precious and frail and calls us to touch and be touched by the rooted memories and visions that hold us here whenever we sit quietly enough to discern the whisper, whenever we respond to the call of life outside the doors of our houses and minds.

Spring is upon us! I join my voice with the chorus of hallelujahs and know that we have this day together to tend, to plant and nurture our love and commitment to each other, this community and earth.

** 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.*

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



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

Sunday, May 4

"Ted Talk"

Rev. Ted Anderson and
Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, May 11

"Recipe for a Healthy
Planet: Honoring and Pro-
tecting Mother Nature"

Dr. Sarah Oktay and Sun-
day Service Committee
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, May 18

"Magic, Science and
Vulnerability"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, May 25

"Reflections on
War and Peace"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jim Sulzer

After a long, hard winter, spring is finally here. I think we all can feel our petals being pulled open, little by little, by the sunny and warm days that are starting to arrive.

It is time to sand and repaint the boat, to clean out closets, to sort through clothes. And time to reconsider where we are in our lives as we enter the busy cycles of spring and summer.

In one of her recent sermons, Rev. Linda asked, "If you were arrested for being a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" A wonderful question! With its sly humor, it gets right to the heart of a serious matter: What does it mean to be a UU? And is each of us "guilty as charged"?

I suspect that we would all answer the question differently, but I also suspect there might be some common threads. For me, being a Unitarian Universalist means, in part, that there is no central scripture—no authoritative, received wisdom—that can tell me the answers to life or how to live; instead, I have to trust in myself and trust in my own experiences of life. But at the same time, being a UU means that I feel humble before the mysteries of our world and of our universe—that I try to remain open to the goodness around me and try to act in a way that shows respect for others, their lives and their beliefs. For me being a Unitarian Universalist is, perhaps, more a frame of mind and an attitude toward my life, and others' lives, than a system of beliefs.

During the interfaith service on April 21 honoring those who were impacted by last year's Boston Marathon bombings, I was reminded of how much there is to learn from the rich religious traditions all around us. The Kirtan chanting by Mary Ellen Ross and Joanne Damour, with drumming by Gary Langley, set a magical tone of healing and redemption. The visualized meditation, led by Tibetan Buddhist nun Lama Yeshe Palmo, took me through my breathing and into a spiritual place of peace and forgiveness. Larry Levine took us through some lovely Hebrew prayers of peace. Tom Ryan, of St. Mary's Our Lady of the Isle Roman Catholic Church, gave an inspirational talk on what "strong" means in Boston Strong. And our own Reverend Linda Simmons, as always, gave a heartfelt and eloquent message of faith.

As UUs we draw from many sources of inspiration and growth, but it all comes back, finally, to each one of us. What are our own ideals, and how well can we put them into practice? It is wonderful to be part of such a nurturing and sustaining community of people who trust to themselves, while remaining open to those around them. One and all: a possible reading of the meaning of being Unitarian Universalist.

Contact: Jim Sulzer, sulzer@comcast.net



Photo by Gary Langley

MONTHLY POTLUCK UPDATE

by Susan Richards, RE Committee Chair

Since October the Religious Exploration Committee has been coordinating very successful monthly family potluck meals. The dinner themes have ranged from trivia contests to karaoke to our most recent focus of the joyous celebration of Passover with Shirat Ha'Yam.

With our newest UU initiated group "Grassroots Nantucket" we have also helped coordinate two very well attended potlucks with Faro de Luz. Getting together with the congregations of Shirat Ha'Yam and Faro de Luz has been most enjoyable for all involved and we have plans for more gatherings for all three congregations in the upcoming months!

For the rest of the spring and summer, we'll be taking a break from our RE coordinated events and will plan on resuming our potlucks in the fall.

Contact: Susan Richards, susanoncobble@gmail.com



SEASONAL SUPPER SET FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH

by Lora Stewart

The date of the next Seasonal Supper has changed! It is now scheduled for Friday, June 6th.

These are small dinner parties in parishioners' homes; often several different gatherings on the same night. The host provides the main dish and the other participants fill in the appetizers, side dishes, salad, and dessert. These are wonderful small parties that provide a great way to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

New members and those that have been away for a while are especially encouraged to sign up. As we get closer to the date, we will be looking for host homes and other participants. Keep an eye out for Mary Beth Splaine and Lora Stewart at Sunday coffee hour to sign up.



Third Annual Auction at the Meeting House

Saturday, June 14
6 - 8 p.m.

To donate items or volunteer for the auction event,
contact Linda Sperry at 508-228-7892 or
lindaspery@gmail.com.

NANTUCKET COASTAL CONSERVANCY

to preserve and protect
nantucket's natural beaches

UMASS Boston School for the Environment, The Nantucket Civic League
and the Nantucket Coastal Conservancy invite you to join us for a conversation about



A Global Perspective on Coastal Management Issues in an Era of Rising Sea Level

Tuesday, May 13 @ 5:00 pm

Hendrix Hall at the Unitarian Meeting House on Orange Street

featuring:



Cornelia Dean

Guest Lecturer at Brown University, former Science Editor of the NY Times and author
of "Against the Tide: The Battle for America's Beaches"



Dr. Robert Young

Director, Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, a joint venture of Duke and
Western Carolina Universities, and co-author with Dr. Orrin Pilkey of "The Rising Sea"



MEETING HOUSE FEATURED FOR PRESERVATION MONTH

by Mary Beth Splaine, SCPF President

South Church Preservation Fund will present a talk by David Barham on Saturday, May 24 at 4 p.m. as part of Preservation Month sponsored by the Nantucket Preservation Trust. SCPF will host the event, a slide presentation of the recent restoration work followed by a tour of the sanctuary and a reception in the garden. David has been one of the leading lights of the project working closely with Brian Pfeiffer, architectural historian overseeing the work. Congregation members are cordially invited to attend.



“The Nantucket Unitarian Meeting House, a History” will become available on Memorial Day Weekend. The 100 page book published by SCPF tells the story of our 1809 building through the most recent restoration project. Beautifully designed by Kathleen Hay and full of pictures both historical and contemporary, the book will make a perfect gift. Plan now to buy at least two copies, one for yourself and one for a gift. More information to come.

Painting the Facade

Plans have been made to paint the facade of the Meeting House in May. Disappointment in the durability of the 2010 paint job has led to several washings of the facade in the past few years. The latest project will improve the look of the building as we await the major work of next year when the entire building will be painted and the roof replaced.

Contact: Mary Beth Splaine, marybethsplaine@gmail.com

SHAWL GROUP REPORT

by Lora Stewart

The Shawl Ministry is a great success! Our weekly gatherings have been lots of fun and highly productive. We have given out 10 shawls and one scarf. We also have a stockpile of half a dozen shawls and there are others in various stages of completion. As summer approaches and we all are getting busier, we are switching from once a week to once a month until fall. If you are on the email list, you will be notified of the dates and places for our “high season” gatherings. If you are not on the list and would like to be, please email Lora Stewart

Contact: Lora Stewart, Lora@PLPDD.com

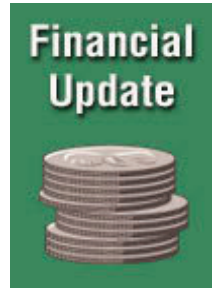


Members of the UU congregation and Shirat Ha Yam gathered together on April 8 for a Passover Seder, a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Photo by Susan Richards

FINANCIAL UPDATE

by Paul Stewart, Treasurer



Here is the Summary Treasurer's Report for the first quarter of 2014, although a couple of the reported items cover a slightly longer period: '2014 Pledges pledged' is for the 2014 Pledge campaign run in late 2013. '<=2014 Pledge payments received' include 2014 pledge payments received in 2013 and up through March 31, 2014. It also includes \$607 of 2013 Pledge payments received in the first quarter of 2014.

*The Hendrix Hall renovation project took place mainly in February 2014, but fundraising started in late 2013 and final bills continued to be paid into April. We will be reimbursed for shares of this work by SCPF and Shirat HaYam, and our unrestricted bank balance will rebound when we receive those reimbursements. The Special Collections are shown from last year and will scroll off as we hold similar collections this year.

Looking at the numbers, we're following the same trend as in the past few years (slightly negative cash flow in the winter). Much of the divergence from our spending budget is timing-related (for example, Ministry); the biggest divergence (Building & Grounds) is related to a large early insurance payment which will even out over the year.

I am pleased to report that we've received two new pledges and one increased pledge in this first quarter. Overall, things are proceeding as planned. Questions are welcome.

Contact: Paul Stewart, Paul@PLPDD.com

Summary Treasurer's Report: Modeled on the summary materials explained, discussed, and voted at the January 2014 Annual Meeting. My goal is to put this summary in the May, August, November, and January Weathervanes. Paul P. Stewart - Treasurer: Paul@PLPDD.com							
For the period January 1, 2014, through March 31, 2014, inclusive				All 2014	Jan 1 - Mar 31		
2014 Pledges pledged	1/1/2014	Change	3/31/2014	Income less related expenses	Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Number of Pledges	72	2	74	<= 2014 Pledge payments received	\$ 80,500	\$ 20,125	\$ 20,290
Amount Pledged	\$ 75,580	\$ 2,600	\$ 78,180	Plate, Gifts, etc.	\$ 13,000	\$ 3,250	\$ 2,224
				Rentals (FdLuz, Shirat HaYam, wed, ...)	\$ 44,900	\$ 9,350	\$ 11,278
				FUNdraising (Auction, 4thJuly, etc.)	\$ 21,400	\$ 850	\$ 491
Cash and Investments	1/1/2014	Change	3/31/2014	Interest & Dividends [#]	\$ 38,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,969
All Nantucket Bank Cash accounts*	\$ 70,783	\$ (16,980)	\$ 53,803	Principal taken from Endowment [#]	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 9,858
All TIAA-CREF Investment accounts	\$ 1,354,566	\$ 1,933	\$ 1,356,499	total income less related expenses	\$ 197,800	\$ 43,075	\$ 54,111
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 1,425,349	\$ (15,047)	\$ 1,410,302				
Designated Funds (R = Restricted)	Received	Paid Out	Balance	Operating Expenses	Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Unrestricted cash (NanBank)	\$ 36,362	\$ (53,343)	\$ 48,994	Ministry (+ Guest Speakers - Parsonage)	\$ 71,000	\$ 17,750	\$ 19,170
R Fix Parsonage cash (NanBank)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,809	Music	\$ 21,378	\$ 5,345	\$ 4,594
R Capital Reserves ^o (TIAA-CREF)	\$ 5,123	\$ (1,853)	\$ 898,552	Lifespan Education (RE, etc.)	\$ 4,161	\$ 1,040	\$ 1,355
R Working Reserves [‡] (TIAA-CREF)	\$ 2,346	\$ (15,474)	\$ 411,529	Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300
R Organ Fund (est. 2011) (TIAA-CREF)	\$ 220	\$ 0	\$ 46,418	Administration (except Contingency)	\$ 34,940	\$ 8,735	\$ 8,170
R Sanford Fund (est. 1910) (BNY-Mellon)	\$ 0	\$ (2,500)	\$ 248,449	Contingency	\$ 4,700	\$ 1,175	\$ 0
Project: Hendrix Hall* (NanBank)	\$ 6,300	\$ (24,149)	\$ (17,849)	Building & Grounds (-Hendrix Project)	\$ 46,921	\$ 11,730	\$ 15,521
Special Collection 12/22/13: Minister's Discretionary Fund: \$624				Investment management costs	\$ 9,400	\$ 2,350	\$ 2,702
Special Collection 11/24/13: Philippines Relief (via UUSC): \$729				total Operating Expenses	\$ 197,800	\$ 53,425	\$ 56,813

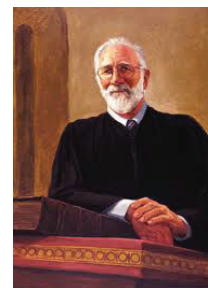
^oMore or [‡]Less restricted by Policy adopted at Congregational Meeting 7/25/2010 (see Congregational Handbook on our website)

[#]We are working to stop all withdrawals from TIAA-CREF so the Interest&Dividends earned will reverse the YearToDate (YTD) over-withdrawals.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

Sunday, May 4 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Ted Anderson and Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Hendrix Hall
“Ted Talk”



Please join us for this special service with Minister Emeritus Ted Anderson. Rev. Simmons will be interviewing Ted about his life using questions collected from congregants. Ted will also be reading the children's story.

Sunday, May 11 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Mother's Day

Dr. Sarah Oktay and the Sunday Service Committee ~ Hendrix Hall
“A Recipe for a Healthy Planet: Honoring and Protecting Mother Nature”



Humans profoundly impact Planet Earth and Mother Nature in both positive and negative ways. Our relationship with our planet and all living things will determine how long we are able to live in harmony with our environment. We will discuss small and large acts of stewardship that ensure that our role is both respectful and enduring on this planet.



Sunday, May 18 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Hendrix Hall
“Magic, Science and Vulnerability”

Looking at magic, science and vulnerability from new vantage points, prodded on by the research of many venerable people, has led to a peeking under the caution and awe these words evoke to see what else is there to help us live into our lives with more joy, possibility and even wonder.



Sunday, May 25 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Memorial Day

“Reflections on War and Peace”
Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Hendrix Hall

Memorial Day reminds us that we are all affected by war. Many of us know or have known people who have fought them. This sermon looks at what it means to honor those who fight and die in war while honoring our Unitarian Universalist historical commitment to peace.

*Religious Exploration classes and Childcare are provided each Sunday at 10:45.
Coffee and conversation after each service in the Activities Room.*

SAVE THE DATES: THURSDAYS, MAY 1, 8, 15

From 4 - 6 p.m., member Joanna Greenfield will give a series of talks on the toxins in everyday cleansers, toiletries, pesticides, clothing and food, and show how to substitute simple, safer, cheaper alternatives. Free of charge. Public invited.



Haziel Jackson and Jack Reindel volunteer for Habitat for Humanity with the UU Nantucket group several years ago.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce that long-time Nantucket UU member Jack Reindel passed away on April 17, 2014 after celebrating his 90th birthday earlier in the week. Jack was a dedicated choir member, as well as active on the building and grounds and fundraising committees for many years. He was a big fan of jazz music and also enjoyed listening to performances on the Meeting House's cherished Goodrich organ. He was also an avid and accomplished golfer.

He was always ready to volunteer to help with Meeting House projects. He orchestrated a successful fundraising concert, "Jazz Under the Dome," to raise money for gilding the dome on the Meeting House and freely donated his time and kindness to all. A longtime resident of Sconset, he was instrumental in securing numerous donations from the island's golf clubs and other entities for church auctions and events. During Jack's last Sunday at the Meeting House, the coffee hour crowd joined together to sing "Happy Birthday" to him. A musical performance in his honor is being planned for this summer. Adieu, Jack!

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

Each Weathervane issue features profiles of new members who have joined our congregation. This month's profiles are about Gary Langley and Dennis Simmons. To find out about becoming a member, contact Rev. Linda Simmons.

Gary Langley was born and grew up in upstate New York. After being drafted by the Army in '66, he spent a fractious year in Vietnam. Retuning, Gary finishing college, and spent the next 18 years in the corporate maze before deciding that photography was more to his liking, and honed those skills over the next 25 years, settling on architectural photograph as a career focus.

Since moving to Nantucket in July 2013 with Linda Simmons, his fantastic wife, he has given up his photography business and is feeling the joy of rediscovery. Gary has been a lifelong bicyclist and hiker, first discovering the Adirondack Mountains as a child and then the mountains of Maine and NH. Before arriving on Nantucket he enjoyed learning West African music and culture through the djembe drum and continues to try and find opportunities to continue on that path. Before joining this congregation, Gary had no religious affiliation but is discovering the joys of community and spiritual growth that he is finding here. He has a wonderful daughter and 3 beautiful grandchildren living in Maine.

Dennis Simmons was born in Milford Massachusetts and grew up in a neighboring town called Hopedale, which was in its beginning a Unitarian Utopian society in the mid 1800's. Growing up there he wasn't so interested in the town's history until he was living here and went on-line to see the town's web site to see pictures of himself and friends of when he lived and went to school there. That's when he read about the UU tradition and became interested and started attending church here.

Dennis likes Unitarian Universalism because it embraces all wisdom traditions, its ethics and concerns on human rights and on life now rather than speculations about gods and the here after. He feels members have been very welcoming and have shown a lot of love. He looks forward to Sunday services and especially the music program which is very inspiring.

Dennis came to Nantucket 26 years ago to work for three weeks and never left. He's by trade a drywall and plasterer. He has lived on the water for a number of years aboard the sailing boat Estrela Do Mar. He's an accomplished sailer and a musician. I've sailed back and forth to Florida 4x and Cuba twice.

Welcome to Gary and Dennis!



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Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, *Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*
Diane T. Lehman, *Music Director* ~ **Lucretia Voigt**, *Office Manager*
Mimi Jones 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