



Unitarian Universalist  
Meeting House  
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023  
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(508) 228-5466

## Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - June 2016

### COMMON PATHWAYS \*

By Reverend Linda Simmons

### Baccalaureate

June is the month of high school graduations and this year the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House will host the Baccalaureate. The baccalaureate service derives from the medieval European custom of presenting the candidates for the degree of Bachelor (bacca) with laurels (lauri). The Baccalaureate ceremony is a service of worship in celebration of and thanksgiving for lives dedicated to learning and wisdom.

The baccalaureate service is believed to have originated at the University of Oxford in 1432 when each bachelor was required to deliver a sermon in Latin as part of his academic requirements. Needless to say, our high school graduates will be delivering no such sermons, nor will our island ministers, who will join me in the presentation of some of the Baccalaureate service components.

As I craft the welcome to the baccalaureate and my section of the interfaith prayer for the service, and as so many of our own family members graduate from one station of life or another, and we contemplate what to gift them, and what to write in cards and letters, I find myself reflecting on what I might have benefitted from hearing when I was graduating from high school. The answer is: There are no words that could have much changed me at that time. For better and worse, I was determined to follow a path that had long been in the making and follow it I would. So much of what I wanted then was about being somewhere else, being someone else, arriving in another time and place. As I look in our young people's eyes and faces, I see my young self there still. No matter that iphones are held and snapchat rules this new day. The young still look east (or west as the case may be), misty eyed.

Gary and I walk in the Maine woods each May and take the same hike each year to a particular waterfall that we both love. This year, we took a different path there by mistake. It was longer and more difficult. I became upset as the day grew hotter and the path more narrow. I got tired and cranky. I wanted to stop even though we had not reached our destination. When we finally arrived at our beautiful waterfall, I marveled and lamented: How far I have come from my young, adventurous self!

I think Walt Whitman had it right long ago when he wrote, "Will you seek in far off places? Surely you come home at last; in familiar forms and faces, things best known, you find best. Joy and peace are in this hour, here, not in another place. Here in this beloved flower; now, in this beloved face."

So in my graduation cards this year I will write: Live each day as best you can. And when you wish to speak of days and new ways, I am ready to listen. And if ever you need respite, the door is always open and the tea is brewing.

\*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  
OUR BEAUTIFUL  
SANCTUARY

**Sunday, June 5**  
**"Our Children/  
Ourselves"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

**Sunday, June 12**  
**"How Mr. Ben and  
Ms. Huong Started  
Children of Vietnam"**

Guest Speaker  
John Merson

**Sunday, June 19**  
**"The Politics of  
Identity"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

**Sunday, June 26**  
**"Nonprofits on  
Nantucket: Maria  
Mitchell Association"**  
**Lay Led Service**

Guest Speaker David  
Gagnon, Executive Di-  
rector of MMA

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

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S MONTHLY REPORT**

by Jan Ellsworth, Board of Trustees President

The Board of Trustees met on May 17, 2016.

The agenda included:

1. Rev. Linda is on vacation this month so did not join us.
2. This month's UU principle check was on Justice, Equity and Compassion in human relations.
3. We continue to devote the first part of every meeting to selected readings and discussion of our liberal faith. As I mentioned last month we are reading Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together, developed by UUA.
4. With Susan Richards, the Board discussed the open position on the Board and the search for a religious exploration director.
5. There was ongoing discussion on the development of Board and Congregational priorities. This is a new process for us and we spent time finalizing the priorities and discussing how to present them out to the congregation.
6. The Board spent most of the meeting reviewing and discussing Rev. Linda's annual evaluation. It is a requirement of the UUA that new ministers be evaluated by their Board and the Committee on Ministry for the first three years of their settled ministry. This is Rev. Linda's third and final evaluation year. The process includes completion of a templated evaluation and submission to the UUA by the mid-June deadline.

*See you on the bike path – Fitbit in hand!*

*Jan Ellsworth, President Board of Trustees*

*I can be reached at [ellsjan@verizon.net](mailto:ellsjan@verizon.net).*

## **LAY LED SERVICE COMMITTEE**

by Val Hall, Lay Led Service Committee

The members of the Lay-Led Service Committee have been very active this spring. In March, Val Hall led a service during which three members of our congregation (Grace Noyes, David Hall, and Dennis Simmons) described their individual spiritual journeys. The April service was prepared by Peter and Susan Richards and led by Kat Robinson-Grieder. With the title "MMRACKulous", the service featured Scott Leonard, director of the newly formed Marine Mammal Rescue. In addition to outlining the development of this group, Scott spoke about many issues involving marine mammals in Nantucket waters. The May service was planned and led by Emily Seawall-Butler, who was also its speaker. Emily titled her sermon "Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself", an exploration of finding new neural pathways in one's thinking. On June 26, David Gagnon, executive director of Maria Mitchell Association, will speak on the role nonprofits play on Nantucket, and what makes MMA so special among them. He will briefly tell the story of the association's namesake and describe examples of children and adults whose lives were changed by being involved in MMA activities.

## **JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Thursday, June 2, 10 am—12 pm**

UU Webinar: *Embracing Who we Are—Unlocking the Aging Congregation's Gifts*—Activities Room

**Saturday, June 4**

O'Reilly/Ciminero Wedding—Sanctuary

**Wednesday, June 8, 12 pm**

Summer Brown Bag Lunch Bunch gathering—Parsonage, 10 Fair Street

**Friday, June 10**

Nantucket High School Baccalaureate—Sanctuary

**Saturday, June 11**

Farrell/Johnson Wedding—Sanctuary

**Sunday, June 12, 7 pm**

J—1 Visa Student Welcome Picnic—Brant Point Lighthouse

**Friday, June 17, 7 pm—8 pm**

Nantucket Book Festival Opening Ceremony—Sanctuary

**Saturday, June 18, 2:30 pm—5 pm**

Nantucket Book Festival Events—Sanctuary

**Sunday, June 26, 2:00 pm—3:30 pm**

Kirtan Chanting—Activities Room

**Thursday, June 30, 8 pm—10 pm**

Iftar Dinner—Activities Room

***Come Join Us at The Meeting House!***





Jen and Rob Dunbar playing together at Jen's last service in Hendrix Hall as our RE lead teacher. We will miss Jen's creativity, ability to teach the UU principles with such open-hearted commitment and joy, and her true love of children and education. We wish her all the luck and continued success in the world. Don't be a stranger dear Jen!

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

by Susan Richards, RE Committee Chair

We bid a fond farewell to our long-time RE Lead Teacher Jen Dunbar. Her steady and caring presence will definitely be missed!

As the congregation moves upstairs to the Sanctuary, the RE program moves into Summer Mode! Our Sunday group format will become more relaxed for the summer months. We will still begin with a circle time, our chalice lighting, and a recitation of our UURE covenant, but then the group of children will have a choice of a craft, games, free play, and/or a walk around town. If the children have ideas for activities, this would be a great time to bring them forward! Feel free to contact me at [susanoncobble@gmail.com](mailto:susanoncobble@gmail.com) with any suggestions.

Our RE Lead Teacher position is still open, so if anyone has questions and/or is interested in this position, please see Rev. Linda or email her at [revlindasimmons@gmail.com](mailto:revlindasimmons@gmail.com).



## MUSIC NOTES

by Diane Lehman, Music Director

The Thursdays@5 Concert Series is back again for the 4th year! As always, you will enjoy professional local musicians in the beautiful Sanctuary of The Meeting House at 11 Orange Street every Thursday from July 7 through August 25. The last concert of the series will feature Emerging Singers as they use a song to help tell their own story. We are looking for singers with stories! Anyone who is interested should contact me: [dianetlehman@comcast.net](mailto:dianetlehman@comcast.net). We will be working to create a unique concert with voices, both singing and speaking, as a centerpiece. The concert will be the culmination of our summer's work and a celebration for all who have been involved in its planning.

The summer will be filled with great music leading up to August 25, with wonderful Jazz from the **Delaware Saxophone Quartet** on July 7th, brilliant piano chops from our Club Car's own **Anthony Healy** on July 14th, and rafter-raising melodies and sounds from the **NCMC Women's Chorus** on July 21st. To end the month of July with sounds that will echo in the Sanctuary long after he has left the building, on July 28th **Carson Cooman** will play the historic Goodrich Organ in a program of new music, including a colorful and jazzy suite by German composer Andreas Wilscher inspired by oceanic creatures. Also included will be a suite of Renaissance dances by Carlotta Ferrari and a suite by New England composer James Woodman. August will bring the return of our stunning soprano, **Jessica Hueser**, in a program of beautiful vocal pieces on August 4th, followed on August 11th by the equally exquisite playing of **Matt Hutchinson** who returns to play a concert of elegant and swinging Jazz piano, drawing his material from the great American Songbook and various classic Jazz composers. **Nigel Goss** brings island friends and fans together to musically toast the summer of 2016 with his mix of musicians that are sure to delight on August 18th.

Please contact me if you would like to volunteer for any of these dates. And remember to spread the word that we are looking for **Singers and Their Stories** for the final concert on August 25th as part of the Thursdays@5 Concert Series 2016.

*See you at The Meeting House!*





## **7th PRINCIPLE PROJECT**

by Rev. Linda Simmons

Our visit to Ascentria in Worcester, MA May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with Paul Stewart, Gary Langley, Rev. Linda, Holly McGowan and Val Hall and all of our supplies for Syrian Refugee families was a wonder!

We pulled into Ascentria with Paul Stewart's van and Holly McGowan's car loaded to the gills with pots, pans, towels, sheets, diapers, blankets, quilts, carpets, silverware, utensils, cleaning supplies and much more. The items were stacked so high in Paul's van he could barely see out the back.



We were met by folks who poured out of the building to help us. Nabil from Iraq, Bernard from Rwanda, Devi from Nepal, Sydney from Liberia, Eldri from Albania, and Saint Cyr from Central African Republic all made light work of the heavy task and soon the van and Holly's car were unloaded.

Our next journey was into the Ascentria building itself where we met with the Ascentria team including Marisa Lutz, the Faith Relations Manager, who has been our liaison throughout this process. Also present were members of the UU church of Worcester and members of the UU Fellowship of Falmouth. We shared an hour of fellowship and learned much more about what Ascentria is doing with refugee popula-

tions, including the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program and The Refugee Children Program. There is so much more opportunity to be involved. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks!

After leaving Ascentria, we went with the UU Fellowship of Falmouth folks to the Worcester Art Museum for lunch and there met Joan Kariko and Ellen Ferrante who represent RAW: Refugee Artisans of Worcester. RAW is an amazing collection of 23 artisans from 13 countries who have all been refugees in camps for more than 15 years before coming to this country. The artisans receive 85% of the proceeds from the sale of the art. The art they showed us was not only stunning, the stories behind each piece were so moving we were all in tears. Needless to say, we all walked away with at least one piece!



What a day of meeting the world and growing the mind and soul! What a day of creating deeper bonds with old friends and learning new stories and laughing at the same old, endearing ones.

We arrived safe on our island in the early evening, our mother ship awaiting us once more, pieces of so many of us in the shape of towels and sheets, quilts and blankets- now on beds and on towel racks ready to greet those whose lives we can barely imagine. I hope they feel our compassion as they wash their faces and lie their travel worn bodies down to rest.



## ***WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!***

*During the service on Sunday, May 22, James Flaherty, Pat Jones, Laura Donnelly, Cheryl Creighton, and Jamie Dickinson joined our congregation as members. We are honored to welcome you into our UU family!*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the special collection for David Glidden at the service on April 10. We raised \$600 that was donated to the Meals Program where David volunteered. Elder Services has notified his family.

### **J-1 Visa Students Welcome Picnic Sunday, June 12, 7 p.m. Brant Point Lighthouse**

***Join us for a picnic at the beautiful Brant Point Lighthouse as we welcome the J-1 Visa Students who are here for the summer.***

***Come welcome these Students to our special island!***



## **Brown Bag Lunch Bunch Is Back!**

Join Rev. Linda for the summer brown bag *Lunch Bunch* gatherings at the parsonage, 10 Fair Street, at noon.

The first Wednesday of each month (for June it will be the second Wednesday, June 8th), we will gather for lunch and conversation and enjoy each other's company for a relaxed summer hour on our lovely island.

**Please join us! No RSVP required!**



## **IFTAR DINNER CELEBRATION**

Join us as Laura and Abrar Qureshi lead an Iftar celebration. Iftar is the breaking of the Ramadan fast. For Muslims all over the world, Ramadan is a mandatory month of fasting (unless unable due to ill health) from dawn until sunset and is meant to bring one closer to God. The breaking of fast is a great and festive celebration. Details to be announced.

***Please Plan On Joining Us!***



## **Sermons for June**

### **June 5: "Our Children / Ourselves" - Rev. Linda Simmons**

What is our commitment to each other and our children? This sermon will reflect on children, love, and service. We will also have a Child Dedication for Marley Ruth-Clara Perry.

### **June 12: "How Mr. Ben and Ms. Huong Started *Children of Vietnam*" - Guest Speaker John Merson**

John Merson will tell the story of how the charity, *Children of Vietnam*, was established in 1998 by an American engineer on assignment in Vietnam and a Vietnamese social worker, and how it continues today. Join John during coffee hour for a slideshow of children and the countryside taken during his bike ride for *Children of Vietnam*, the charity based in Da Nang, Vietnam, that works with children and families affected by Agent Orange. He will answer questions on life in Vietnam today, including the warm reception given to President Obama.

### **June 19: "The Politics of Identity" - Rev. Linda Simmons**

What are identity politics and how are they used to maintain or destroy genders, races, religions, classes? What are the great political identity battles of our times? Perhaps most importantly, what is our accountability within all of this as a liberal people of conscience who are seeking balance and justice? Join us this Sunday where these themes will be explored.

### **June 26: "Nantucket Nonprofits: Maria Mitchell Association" - Lay Led Service - Guest Speaker David Gagnon, Executive Director of Maria Mitchell Association**

David Gagnon, Executive Director of MMA, will speak on the role nonprofits play on Nantucket, and what makes MMA so special among them. He will briefly tell the story of the Association's namesake and describe examples of children and adults whose lives were changed by being involved in MMA activities.

*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.*

## **Unitarian Universalist Meeting House**

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### **Church Staff**

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

**Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ Jen Dunbar, Lead RE Teacher**

**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, Clay Twombly, Lora Stewart**

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**