



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

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - August 2015

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Shakespeare Revisited

I went to a theater workshop event recently with Ralph Zito, Professor and Chair at the Department of the Drama College of Visual and Performing Arts in Syracuse University. Zito talked about Shakespeare and how he comes alive when he works with actors on a Shakespeare piece. It is what connects him, ignites a fire in his belly, and reminds him why he loves his work.

Zito told us that Shakespeare's language is not an old language but rather is an old picture of a new language. Old English was spoken and written in Britain from the 5th century to the middle of the 11th century and is close to the Germanic mother tongue of the Anglo-Saxons.

With the arrival of the French-speaking Normans in 1066, Old English underwent dramatic changes and by 1350 it had evolved into Middle English. By about 1450, Middle English was replaced with Early Modern English, the language of Shakespeare, which is almost identical to contemporary English. The Oxford English Dictionary credits Shakespeare with the introduction of nearly 3,000 words into the English language.

I think of Unitarian Francis David, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania. In 1568 at a church in Torda, Transylvania, Christian ministers, including David, were chosen by the King, who was seeking to put an end to the theological arguments among them, to speak about why the denominations they represented should become the religion of the land. David argued for toleration among religions and won the day. The Edit of Toleration was created stating: *No one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone*. It was the first of its kind.

In 2012, I had the privilege of being in the church in Torda, Transylvania where this all happened and when I saw the painting of Francis David, I was so overcome that I wept. What David did had never been done before. It was an old painting of a new idea.

Our faith tradition no longer feels radical for its rejections of the trinity and of a god that damns people to hell. What we have left are not only our old photographs of a newness that rocked the Christian faith in its day; we have this language we are still creating that speaks the words of justice, peace, covenant and respect. We are a people without creed or sacred text who declare our creed to be love, our text to be inquiry, our sacraments to be each action taken in communion with each other and the world.

It's what connects us, gives us fire in our bellies, and reminds us of why we do this covenanted showing up. I hear Shakespeare encouraging us on, "It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves."

*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 2
**"Gaia, Mother Earth
and The Oneness of
Everything"**

Musician Jim Scott
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 9
**"The Blessings of a
Spacious Mind"**

Harrison Blum
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 16
"Inside Out"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 23
Lay Led Service
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 30
"Nature Online"

Crocker Snow
Historic Sanctuary

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Democratic gathering...

by Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President

On Sunday, July 19th following yet another thought-provoking service led by Rev Linda, over 45 members of our Congregation gathered in the cool of air-conditioned Hendrix Hall to attend a mid-year in review meeting and exercise our right as members of our Democratic faith to express our thoughts, feelings, and opinions, and vote on a national UU issue. I focus on the words "Democratic faith" because I know that the right for all members of our congregation to vote on issues that impact us directly and indirectly is not one that members of all faiths enjoy, and it's a right that I don't think should ever be taken for granted.

Following warm words of welcome words from Rev Linda, I had the pleasure of introducing the hard working leader of our Finance Committee, Craig Sperry, who in turn introduced our equally hard-working Treasurer, Paul Stewart. A quick, yet very thorough review of our mid-year financial state by Paul revealed a budget that has been kept in careful consideration and the bottom-line that all is going very well. Comments from congregants reminded us that this hasn't always been the case and that we, as a congregation have had our periods of struggle. It was good to be reminded of this as well as the need for us to "keep pledging" and working to grow our congregation and expand on its programs.

The other part of our meeting was devoted to consideration of the revision of our UU First Principle... changing the word "person" to "being" in "The inherent worth and dignity of every person". Thoughtful comments were shared and in the end it was overwhelmingly voted that "Yes"...this is a topic worthy of further discussion and consideration by the national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). If you have any thoughts or comments on this revision, please get them to me in writing by August 20th and we will send them on to the UUA.

The First Principle Project Conversation Continues!

In the September Weathervane, we are inviting those interested to submit their thoughts and ideas about the 1st Principle Project Conversation to the office at "office@unitarianchurchnantucket.org" no later than Monday, August 20th. Please limit your piece to 150 words. If you prefer not to submit your thoughts for publication in the Weathervane but would still like them to be included in our mailing to the UUA, please send them in to Susan Richards at "susanoncobble@gmail.com" also by August 20th.

August Calendar of Events

Saturday, August 1, 5 p.m.—7 p.m. and

Sunday, August 2, 9:30 a.m.—12 p.m.

Annual Meeting House Auction

Hendrix Hall

Tuesday, August 4, 7 p.m.

The Moth Radio Hour

Presented by The Nantucket Arts Council

Historic Sanctuary

Thursday, August 6, 5 p.m.

The Hyannis Sound Men's A Capella Group

Historic Sanctuary

Monday, August 10, 8 p.m.

Panel Discussion: The Future of Investigative Journalism

Presented by The Nantucket Atheneum

Historic Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 12, noon

Lunch Bunch with Rev. Linda

Parsonage, 10 Fair Street

Wednesday, August 12, 8 p.m.

Geschke Lecture Series: Roz Chast

Presented by The Nantucket Atheneum

Historic Sanctuary

Thursday, August 13, 5 p.m.

Jessica Goodenough Heuser, Soprano

Historic Sanctuary

Monday, August 17, 7 p.m.

Tulgey Wood Benefit Concert

Historic Sanctuary

Thursday, August 20, 5 p.m.

The Bob Lehman Trio

Historic Sanctuary

Saturday, August 22, 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Children's Storytime with Rev. Linda

Farmer's Market under the tent

Thursday, August 27, 5 p.m.

NCMC Jazz Band

Historic Sanctuary

Saturday, August 29, 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Children's Storytime with Rev. Linda

Farmer's Market under the tent

See You At The Meeting House!

Meet Our Members

"Meet Our Members" is a monthly series highlighting a different member or family each month.

Mary Geissman



Eight years ago I attended my first UU church service, in this sanctuary. Although we had visited Nantucket from time to time since 1973, my partner Jerry and I were spending our first full summer on the island. I was seeking activities so we attended the 4th of July program and a couple of talks at the Meeting House. As I was a political and social justice activist, I was impressed with the type of programs taking place here; the anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan gave one of the talks.

I became curious about the UU church and one Sunday attended a service. I grew up Episcopalian, but for years I had been mostly an "Easter-Christmas" Christian. However, the UU service resonated with me, and I came back most Sundays for the rest of the summer and signed the book as an associate member. I also took part in a peace and justice vigil, and joined the peace and justice committee.

When I returned to New York that fall, I attended services at two of the UU churches in Manhattan, and in January 2007, I joined All Souls Unitarian Church. Since then, I have attended church services almost every Sunday – in New York during the year, here on Nantucket in the summers, and even at All Souls Washington, DC when I visit there.

Why the sudden change in my life – from not attending church for years to hardly missing a Sunday? The services are a welcome time to pause and reflect, with beautiful music, usually intellectually challenging sermons that often touch on important issues in the world, and relevant readings and meditations. I find the UU religion very comfortable and compatible with my beliefs. And most importantly, the churches have given me a community of friends and acquaintances, both here and in New York.

I enjoy coming to church on Nantucket in the summer and like the relative informality of the service, especially the opportunity for participation by members in the introduction of visitors, the greeting of one another, the sharing of joys and sorrows, the music, and Rev. Linda. Over the past ten years, I loved getting to know the people and taking part in peace and justice activities.

I am very happy to have two church homes.

BENEFIT CONCERT

August 17th

From Mozart to Motown...and More

DAVID CROHAN, PIANO



WITH BOB LEHMAN, TENOR

7 pm, Monday, August 17
Unitarian Meeting House, 11 Orange St.

Admission Free
Donations accepted for The Tulgey Wood



THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN OUR AUCTION!
Join us for a great opportunity to bid on goods and services in our silent auction and live auction.

There are over 100 different items including artwork, dining, vacation stays, jewelry, entertainment, instruction & enlightenment, food & wine, children's items, clothing & accessories, collectibles, gardening, home services, outings & activities.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HOUSE SOCIETY

AUCTION

TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

SILENT AUCTION ~ 5:00—7:30 PM

LIVE AUCTION STARTS AT 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND

9:30 AM —12:30 PM

Think Globally August 2nd

By Haziel Jackson

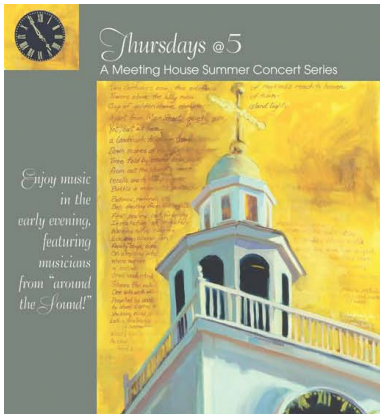
Imagine you and I having a voice at the United Nations! What wonderful advice we could give them!
Well, we do. It's the Unitarian Universalist U.N. Office, UU-UNO for short, and it has "Consultative Status" right at the U.N. in New York.

What's more, our representative Bruce Knotts, having been a 25 year U.S. State Dept. diplomat (luckily he survived Al Qaeda's bombing of our embassy in Kenya) really knows the ropes—and how to untie some sticky international knots.

In fact, he and his youthful staff have been at the forefront (often as chairperson) of the U.N.-NGO committees on: Sustainable Development; Climate Change; UNICEF; Disarmament, Peace and Security; and Human Rights—bravely campaigning for Women’s, Children’s, LGBT, and Indigenous People’s rights. (Our UU-UNO successfully led the 1990s fight to create the International Criminal Court to prevent genocide, dictatorship, and “crimes against humanity.”)

All we have to do is back them up! Sunday the 2nd of August is our chance. The Share the Plate offering will all go to support the UU-UNO. And three of our island's special young folk will dramatically make the presentation. It's an exciting event that you, and your checkbook, will not want to miss.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Summary Treasurer's Report: Based on the materials explained, discussed, and approved at the January 2015 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, 2015, through June 30, 2015, inclusive													All 2015		Jan 1 - Jun 30	
4	2015 Pledges pledged			1/1/2015		Change		6/30/2015	Income less related expenses			Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual			
5	Amount Pledged (corrected)			\$	76,434	\$	2,770	\$	79,204	<= 2015 Pledge payments received		\$	82,314	\$	41,157	\$	35,909
6	Number of Pledges (corrected)				68		6		74	Sunday Plate and Gifts		\$	10,500	\$	5,250	\$	4,562
7										Rentals (Pars, FdLuz, CSHY, wed, HH ...)		\$	78,450	\$	43,225	\$	58,386
8	Cash and Investments			1/1/2015		Net Change		6/30/2015	FUNdraising (Auction, 4th July, etc.)		\$	14,900	\$	500	\$	520	
9	Bank Cash accounts	CapeCod5+NanBank		\$	54,494	\$	1,919	\$	56,413	Net income from Endowment		\$	38,000	\$	14,100	\$	15,787
10	Investment accounts	TIAA+Vanguard+CEF		\$	1,409,220	\$	(2,650)	\$	1,406,570	Principal taken from Endowment		\$	0	\$	0	\$	0
11	Total Cash and Investments			\$	1,463,714	\$	(730)	\$	1,462,984	total income less related expenses		\$	224,164	\$	104,232	\$	115,165
12																	
13	Designated Funds (R = Restricted)			1/1/2015		Net Change		6/30/2015	Operating Expenses			Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual			
14	General Operating monies	CapeCod5		\$	5,001	\$	1	\$	5,002	Ministry + Guest Speakers		\$	99,850	\$	49,925	\$	47,436
15	General Operating monies	NanBank		\$	54,048	\$	(10,928)	\$	43,120	Building & Grounds		\$	53,786	\$	26,893	\$	26,584
16	R Parsonage Capital Maint.	NanBank		\$	4,810	\$	1,500	\$	6,310	Operations (office, postage, etc.)		\$	31,754	\$	15,877	\$	16,092
17	RD Organ Playing	NanBank		\$	275	\$	600	\$	875	Religious Exploration (RE)		\$	6,241	\$	3,120	\$	2,796
18	R Minister's Discretionary	NanBank		\$	1,488	\$	(63)	\$	1,425	Music		\$	22,045	\$	11,022	\$	9,467
19	R RE Committee	NanBank		\$	100	\$	289	\$	389	Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)		\$	4,589	\$	4,589	\$	4,589
20	R Sabbatical Provision	NanBank		\$	-	\$	1,000	\$	1,000	Congregational Leadership/Training		\$	500	\$	250	\$	0
21	R Social Action	NanBank		\$	-	\$	94	\$	94	Committee Budgets		\$	400	\$	200	\$	200
22	R Membership Committee	NanBank		\$	-	\$	100	\$	100	Contingency/Slack		\$	5,000	\$	2,500	\$	575
23	R Sanctuary Sound System			\$	(11,227)	\$	9,326	\$	(1,901)	Total Operating Expenses		\$	224,164	\$	114,377	\$	107,738
24	R Capital Reserves	TIAA-CREF=>Vanguard		\$	933,807	\$	(71,988)	\$	861,819	<== Three shaded rows to left are our general 'Endowment'							
25	R Working Reserves	TIAA-CREF=>Vanguard		\$	427,675	\$	(32,969)	\$	394,706								
26	R Capital Reserves	TIAA-CREF=>UUA CEF		\$	-	\$	101,321	\$	101,321								
27	RD Organ Maint.	(est. 2011) TIAA-CREF		\$	47,738	\$	986	\$	48,724	<== This row is an endowment restricted to maintenance of our Organ.							
29	RDP Sanford Trust	(est. 1910) BNY-Mellon		\$	252,469	\$	493	\$	252,961	<== Sanford Trust is a right to income but we don't "own" the principal.							
30																	
31	1. Moving our Endowment Reserves from TIAA-CREF to Vanguard and \$100,000 to the UUA Common Endowment Fund was completed in April.																
32	2. The Organ Maintenance Fund was informed this July of a \$25,000 bequest coming to us from the 'Curtis and Pamela Livingston Trust'.																
33	3. The Sanctuary Sound System received the payment of a \$10,000 matching grant in April from ReMain.																
34	4. \$10,000 of accumulated income was transferred in May from our Endowment account to our Nantucket Bank account (first such transfer in a year).																
35	5. The 4th of July event took in \$3,018, netting \$2,910, well over its budgeted \$1,600.																
36	6. The South Church Preservation Fund, supported by a \$250,000 grant received from the Community Preservation Fund, will oversee a project this Fall to reroof the Meeting House and hopefully repaint the steeple at the same time.																
37	7. The Parsonage Capital Maintenance Fund, plus up to \$10,000 as authorized by the 2015 Annual Meeting, will pay to reroof the Parsonage this Fall.																
38																	
39	In summary, thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity, the Society's finances are looking good at the half-way point of 2015.																



2015 Thursdays @ 5 Concert Series

TICKETS at the Door \$12

Kids -12 FREE

DISCOUNTED TICKET BOOKS FOR MULTIPLE CONCERTS

Thursday, July 16: The Delaware Valley Saxophone Quartet

Based in beautiful Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Delaware Valley Saxophone Quartet plays a broad range of music from classical to jazz to popular.

Thursday, July 23: NCMC Women's Chorus

NCMC Women's Chorus, directed by Barbara Elder. This engaging and talented group of women offer an eclectic mix of pop tunes, folk and world music sung by women around the world. An uplifting and joyful concert for all ages.

Thursday, July 30: Matt Hutchinson – Jazz Pianist

Pianist Matthew Hutchinson performs soulful, personal interpretations of classic jazz compositions and other songs from the Great American Songbook.

Thursday, August 6: Hyannis Sound – Men's A Capella Group

Founded in 1994, The Hyannis Sound provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of singing and traveling for 10 young men each Summer, and a vocal experience their audiences can't get enough of and look forward to each year.

Thursday, August 13: Jessica Goodenough Heuser -Soprano

Women Find A Voice - A concert of words and music written by women. From medieval to modern chant to today, this concert will have something for everyone! Diane Lehman, piano Guest vocalists TBA.

Thursday, August 20: The Bob Lehman Trio

Bob and Diane Lehman with Erik Wendelken on the stand-up bass come to the Meeting House for an entertaining hour of standards, popular and novelty tunes. Join in the fun with this local band led by our very own Bob Lehman.

Thursday, August 27: NCMC Jazz Band

Under the direction of Nigel Goss, the Big Band delivers every swing rhythm and melody you've come to expect from their huge sound of brass and percussion. Come hear the music of the swing era and beyond, and just try to stay seated while the danceable strains of all the classics fill the sanctuary and bring down the house!

**All performances in the historic auditorium of the
Second Congregational Meeting House, Unitarian Universalist, 11 Orange Street, Nantucket
*ALL CONCERTS BEGIN AT 5 P.M. ON THURSDAYS***

Sermons for August

On the first Sunday of every month, Rev. Linda will remain in the Sanctuary after service to give an overview of what it means to become a member of the UU Meeting House and to answer questions. Please join us for this informative and low-key discussion.

August 2: "Gaia, Mother Earth and The Oneness of Everything" - Musician Jim Scott

This Sunday we will celebrate the earth with Jim Scott's original songs and readings along with his personal reflections on the idea of Mother Earth or "Gaia" being one living organism. Our "spiritual response" in word and action is so timely now, as "the spirit of life on earth is in crisis". Jim's uplifting songs provide the balance to the wake up call, leaving us a vision and an inspiration to take the healing into our own hands.

August 9: "The Blessings of a Spacious Mind" - Harrison Blum, Guest Speaker

This sermon explores the use of negative space in art and Japanese design as metaphors for a spacious and open mind. Ideas and anecdotes from clinical mindfulness and contemplative dance will be shared, as well as potential applications for social justice. Harrison Blum, the Buddhist Spiritual Advisor and Mindfulness Programs Coordinator at Northeastern University, as well as a Staff Chaplain at Franciscan Hospital for Children, will be preaching.

August 16: "Inside Out" - Rev. Linda Simmons

The popular movie *Inside Out* happens inside the mind of an 11 year old where each strong emotion has a different identity. This sermon will look at our views of the mind. How does the way we imagine our minds influence how we talk about experience? What happens when our view of the mind shifts?

August 23: Lay Led Service

August 30: "Nature Online" - Crocker Snow, Guest Speaker

What is an ecosystem? What is evolution? What is dynamic or organic change? Does Nature have a heart? What is beauty and what a blemish? Does land have a gender? All such grand metaphysical quandaries are posed if not answered with over 65 years of bearing witness to the life spirit of Nantucket's outlier island, Muskeget. Join us this Sunday as Crocker Snow, author of *Muskeget: Raw, Restless, Relentless Island* shares his thoughts with us.

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

11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-5466 (Office)
www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org
office@unitarianchurchnantucket.org

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 and Dennis Santangelo, Sextons ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Susan Richards (*President*), Jan Ellsworth (*Vice President*), Paul Stewart (*Treasurer*), Steve Estabrooks (*Clerk*)
Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Joy Margolis, Jim Sulzer, Lora Stewart

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon
Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m. - noon and by appointment