

COMMON PATHWAYS

Stumbling Toward Grace

by Rev. Linda Simmons

I was hiking with Gary recently in the Maine Woods near the Canadian border. The punctuated silence, crunching of fall's leaves giving way to spring blossom, the wind, rivers, waterfalls and birds chat, chat, chattering imbued my cells with the ancient language of wellness, connection, presence.

We returned to Nantucket and Figawi, which I had thought was an Italian word for sailboat racing! Taking our usual evening strolls through downtown streets this weekend with Gary, I reached into that silence gifted to me in the Maine Woods and I extended it to everyone I saw. I don't think they knew they were momentarily embraced in the graceful fecundity those woods offer that nurtures bear and moose, wood thrush and red squirrel.

What are people who come to Figawi seeking? For surely we are all seekers and all engage in actions to create some kind of meaning that offers us a sense of wholeness, even if only momentarily. I think all these young folk stumbling around, coming in and out of bars, were seeking connection, seeking an ability to forget so that they might live into a sense of themselves that was always whole, always good enough, always happy enough to say and do anything.

Forgetting as a way toward happiness is one I think we have all practiced at some points in our lives and still do practice here and there though perhaps in less rambunctious ways.

I believe that it is only through remembering that happiness can be wrought. Remembering can be exhausting and yet until we are willing to remember, to plumb the depths of our own lives, we will continue to insist that someone else, something else, somewhere else holds the key to our peace. Remembering with enough humility, forgiveness and grace offers us our lives.

(continued on page 3)



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

Sunday, June 1
"The Art of Forgiving"
Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 8
"A Good Word for Magic"
Dr. Dan McKanan
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 15
"Authoring Our Lives"
Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 22
"The Better Part of Us"
Rev. Gyerő Dávid
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 29
"A Year to Live"
Rev. Vera O'Brien
Historic Sanctuary

Families Welcome!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jim Sulzer

Our oldest child, Will, is getting married in June. As parents do at such times, I find my thoughts turning to the future. I am full of hope that he and Amita will thrive, that they will find deep joy in the blessings of marriage and family. At the same time, I find myself remembering Will's earliest days—especially his early years on the island, when Barbara and I were new washashores who found a home in this church. It seems just yesterday, that intense, all-consuming love and attention of raising a young child of two or three.

The fall of our second year here, Ted Anderson asked me to give a sermon, and I wrote about what I knew best at the time, which was raising Will. I recounted how Will liked to see the moon in the afternoon sky—he would point at it and call it “Annu.” He loved to dance at the edge of the water at Steps Beach while Barbara or I swam into shore toward him, pretending to be a sea monster. Trying to widen his horizons beyond the sea, we brought him to a mountainous area west of here and took him on a tour of a famous cave; when we showed him the stalactites, he responded, “Those aren't slacktites. Those are dinosaur bones!” To teach him about echoes, we shouted and let him hear our voices bounce off the hills. He listened carefully and asked, “Are echoes mean? Do they have big teeth?”

Funny comments. Good times.

I knew then how lucky Barbara and I were to be raising children, and also how lucky we were, in being a part of this loving and accepting UU congregation. Both acts—being a parent and joining a congregation—are leaps of faith into the future.

Thirty years ago, in my sermon, I tried to put those stirrings of the future into words, and I tried to express it through a metaphor: the lost river of grace that each of us carries inside us. Most of us probably know that feeling of grace that comes and goes, seemingly of its own will. I wrote that children are like the river of grace coming back to us, the lost river rising to meet us. I suggested that the love we give our children, they will carry forward on their own journeys down the rivers of their lives.

Our congregation also journeys with us on our passage through time. Congregants of all ages and stages of life, all ride forward together in an ongoing flow of memories, dreams, and aspirations.

I hope that our youngest members may grow up and find, as adults, the peace and companionship that we are so fortunate to have in our UU meetinghouse today.

P.S. At the end of that sermon thirty years ago, I mentioned by name some of the youngest children in our congregation: Michael Gaillard, Will Sulzer, Heather Thompson, and Martha Cary. What has become of them all, so many years later? Michael, an adjunct professor of photography at Columbia University, has his own photography studio, and is now a father. Will is a software engineer in the heart of the start-up culture and has already seen the sale of one company; he has created an annual scholarship for a Nantucket High School student. Heather is a highly skilled navigation officer working on large commercial ships; she is also the mother of a child. Martha is an actress and script supervisor who works on numerous TV shows. What can I say, these UU kids from Nantucket are doing all right for themselves!

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There is no one else, nowhere else, nothing else that holds the key to peace. It is waiting for all of us inside of the simple, sober, and sobering moment of now.

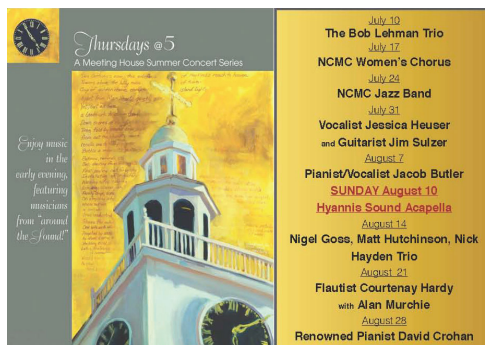
This can be hard work. And because it can be hard we come together week after week and affirm each other's dignity, goodness, wholeness, and right to be and become. We renew our covenant to each other and the world in committed and dare I say, religious community, when religion means showing up no matter what, showing up even when our wounds and anger and fear are right on our sleeves and opening our minds and hearts to building and being part of this our beloved community.

We give each other the strength, the courage and the vision to be whole. What is the answer to the question *figawi?* Right here.

** 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.*

THURSDAYS @ 5 CONCERT SERIES KICKS OFF JULY 10

The popular Thursdays @ 5 Concert Series, under the direction of Music Director Diane Lehman, debuts its 2014 season with the first performance on Thursday, July 10 in the historic sanctuary. The series will run through Thursday, August 28 and is funded by a generous grant from ReMain Nantucket. Admission is \$10 at the door.



The July lineup kicks off with The Bob Lehman Trio on July 10th, featuring Bob and Diane Lehman with Erik Wendelken on stand up bass with an entertaining hour of standards, popular and novelty tunes.

Next up in July is the NCMC Women's Chorus on Thursday, July 17. 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.

On Thursday, July 24 another NCMC group, the Jazz Band, performs 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. This is your chance to hear music of the swing era and beyond.

Closing out the month, vocalist Jessica Heuser and Guitarist Jim Sulzer perform on Thursday, July 31. Join us as Jessica shares her glorious talent with in concert with Jim. Together they take us through a myriad of genres while treating our ears to a rare combination of sound and talent.

August's lineup is equally as talented and enticing. On Thursday, August 7, Pianist/Vocalist Jacob Butler and Co. perform, followed by a back-by-popular-demand appearance by the Hyannis Sound Acapella group. This special concert will take place on Sunday, August 10. Rounding out the remainder of August are the Nigel Goss, Matt Hutchinson and Nick Hayden Trio on Thursday, August 14, flautist Courtenay Hardy with Alan Murchie on Thursday, August 21 and renowned pianist David Crohan on Thursday, August 28. Join us and bring a friend!

EASY LISTENING

by Jack Weinhold

Thanks to funding from ReMain Nantucket, the M.S. Worthington Foundation, Congregation Shirat Ha Yam, and Second Congregational members, there's a new sound system in the main sanctuary. Over the past six months we worked with Pro Sound Systems of Braintree to design, build and install a custom audio system for the sanctuary space.

All spaces are different and therefore influence, in different ways, how sound moves around a room and how it is heard. Digital electronics and recent advances in speaker design have made it possible to custom design amplification for a space that produces clarity and high volume levels, when needed, without getting the dreadful squeal of feedback.

Most people will never notice the speakers, (actually 64 small speakers in two narrow enclosures) hanging high on the sidewalls behind the shutters. We have a new microphone on the lectern which does not creak and clack when a new speaker moves it up or down, and allows for a more comfortable speaking distance. We integrated our two hand-held microphones into the system and added an "invisible" head-set for hands-off speaking away from the lectern.

The previously installed audio loop system that provides amplified sound directly to hearing aids and the earphone sets we loan to guests, is incorporated in the new rack of amplifiers and digital signal processors, in the southwest corner of the room. Controls are a simple on-off switch and master volume control (with a purposely limited range of adjustment) making operation easy and reliable for all users. And the entire system, including microphones, will soon be enclosed in a lockable cabinet.

Many thanks to all who helped out with this project, including: David Barham, Craig Sperry, Nathan Killeen and his crew who hung the speakers and hid the cables, and Meeting House painter/master plasterer Pen Austin who restored the walls at the end of it all.



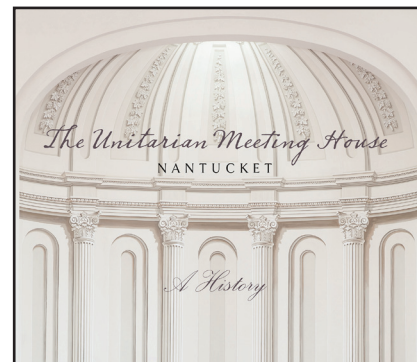
Shown in the photograph are Matthew Anderson and Craig Sperry discussing the placement of a signal input location behind the lectern. Notice Matt sitting with his legs inside the a pedestal which connected to the sub platform space below the lectern where microphone and speaker cables were run for the system.

SCPF UPDATE

by Mary Beth Splaine, SCPF President

BOOKS

The long-awaited expanded history of the 1809 Unitarian Meeting House has arrived and is on sale Sundays after service. It will soon be available in local book stores and at the Nantucket Book Festival. We encourage you to buy two copies, one for yourself and one for a gift. It is beautiful and a bargain at \$20! See us at the table each Sunday at the bottom of the stairs to the sanctuary!



DOCENTS

The docent program starts in July with two shifts a day 10-12 and 12-2, Monday-Saturday. Please sign up to be part of this program which welcomes visitors to our restored sanctuary. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase our Meeting House, interest future donors, and meet interesting people from around the world. Libby Oldham is heading the docent program this year and would love to hear from you at meoldham@comcast.com. Questions? See Mary Beth, Craig Sperry, the Stewarts, John Rivera, the Richards, Gary, Jack Weinhold, Trish Jarrell, the Norkins and Alexander and Otto all of whom served as docents last year. Be part of the team this summer. It's a very rewarding way to serve.

Contact: Mary Beth Splaine, marybethsplaine@gmail.com

READY, SET, BID!

by Linda Sperry

Your auction task force has been working diligently over the past month to put together a superb collection of live and silent auction items for the upcoming June 14th event. This is our primary annual fundraiser to augment our annual pledge drive so we're counting on each and everyone to join in the festivities. Bring a friend and neighbor, too. There are plenty of items at a variety of prices. And you'll be happy to know that 100% of the money raised will go toward Meeting House programs and activities that build our community.

On page 7 of this Weathervane you'll find a preliminary list of auction items as of May 27. There's still time to donate items and to volunteer to help set up, greet, contact winning bidders and clean up. Just as the last two years, we will hold the silent auction from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday, followed by the live auction led by Bob Lehman from 7-8 p.m. And we'll have free food and drink for all who attend.



*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
lindasperry@gmail.com.*

Then we'll continue the silent auction at coffee hour on Sunday. Winning bidders can check out and pay for items starting at 12:30 p.m. Those who are not at the coffee hour will be contacted by phone. See you on the 14th!

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE



Sunday, June 1 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“The Art of Forgiving”

What is forgiveness and how and when does embodying it bring peace and wholeness? This sermon will look at the tragedy that happened in the Amish community in 2006 and the worldwide conversation about forgiveness that followed. What is forgiving and does it have the power to save?

Sunday, June 8 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Dan McKanan ~ Historic Sanctuary

“A Good Word for Magic”

What does magic have to do with sustainability? Unitarian scholar and Harvard Divinity School professor Dan McKanan will reflect on his current research on environmental practices within esoteric and magical spiritual traditions. Magical practice, which Dan defines as “changing the world by changing our consciousness,” can help all of us find a home in a sustainable future.

Sunday, June 15 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Authoring Our Lives”

This Father’s Day I wrestle with the person and myth of father using some of the work of Joseph Campbell to explore this rugged terrain. What does it mean to author our lives?

Sunday, June 22 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Győő Dávid, Transylvanian Unitarian minister from our partner church in Kolozs
Historic Sanctuary

“The Better Part of Us”

More and more Unitarians and Universalists are connected with each other in a global community. What bonds us together are not creeds or beliefs or even theologies or philosophies. It is our values that bind us. We may not have one shared faith, but we shall have one shared love for the values that guide us in living out our faith, and in serving our communities.

Sunday, June 29 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Vera O’Brien, Chaplain at Brigham and Women’s Hospital ~ Historic Sanctuary

“A Year to Live”

What transformational lessons might we learn about our own lives from patients who are facing death? What might their families and physicians teach us? Wisdom from many sources will inspire us as we consider new perspectives.

*Religious Exploration Classes and Childcare are Provided each Sunday at 10:45.
Join Us for Coffee and Conversation After Each Service in the Activities Room.*



Third Annual Auction at the Meeting House Saturday, June 14, 2014



Auction items as of May 27, 2014

1. Nantucket Historic Prints
2. Bread Maker Machine
3. Boston Beacon Hill Apartment Stay
4. Case of Domaine Houchart Wine
5. Potted Summer Garden
6. Power Washing Services
7. Stay at the Carriage House B & B
8. Boston Back Bay Apartment Stay
9. Original Painting by Christine Sanford
10. Landscape Design Consultation
11. Hauling Services in Ford F150 Truck
12. Disc Golf Outing and Tailgate Party
13. Handcrafted Antique Tablecloth
14. Piano-Music-Vocal Instruction
15. Choose the Music for a Sunday Service
16. Tile Installation Services
17. Framed Photograph by Gary Langley
18. Handcrafted Carriage Baby Blankets
19. Photoshop & Digital Photo Lessons
20. Autumn Italian Dinner Party
21. Pops Concert Tickets and Picnic
22. Classical Guitar Performance
23. "Green Your Home" Service
24. Dinner for Four Prepared & Delivered
25. Home Organizing Services
26. Tuckernuck Experience for Two
27. Friday Night Reserved Parking Spot
28. "A Walk in Squam Swamp" Outing/Book
29. North Andover House Stay
30. Wild Fruit Picking and Canning
31. Tour of Hidden Ponds of Nantucket
32. Four Wheel Drive Trip to Great Point
33. Yellow Baby Sweater & Matching Hat
34. Handcrafted Quilted Baby Blanket
35. Round of Golf for Four at Miacomet
36. August CSA Basket from Moors End Farm
37. Two Dozen Home Baked Gourmet Cookies Delivered to Your House (4 times)
38. Traditional Southwestern Necklace
39. Nantucket Health Club Month Membership
40. Placemats and Napkins from Nantucket Looms
41. Gift Certificate from Peach Trees
42. Organic Tomato and Basil Plant from Pumpkin Pond Farm
43. Sermon Topic and Preparation with Rev. Linda Simmons
44. Month of Vegan Soups, Stews & Chowders
45. Scrabble-Mania!
46. Knitted Women's Red Mittens
47. Great Point Guided Tour with Trustees of the Reservation Guide
48. Dinner Party Preparation and Service
49. Dinner Party with Tyler & Alyson, Linda & Craig Preparing and Serving
50. Bicycle Maintenance Services
51. Folger's Marsh Guided Trip with Field Guide Len Germinara
52. Private Boston Area Cycling Tour for Two
53. Handcrafted, One-of-a-Kind Pearl Necklace
54. Traditional Swiss Dinner for Eight
55. Two Summer Flower Garden Containers from Garden Design Company
56. Golf Outing at Sankaty Head Golf Club
57. Two Red Sox Tickets
58. Two Nantucket Graphic Prints
59. Original Painting by David Lazarus

.....and more to come by June 14th!



Second Congregational Meeting House Society
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Second Congregational Meeting House Society Unitarian Universalist



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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