



Unitarian Universalist Meeting House  
11 Orange Street - PO Box 1023  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
(508) 228 5466

## April 2019 Newsletter

### Common Pathways: Waiting for Somewhere to Find Us

*Rev. Linda Simmons*

Winnie the Pooh, when walking with his red balloon underneath a hollow tree, stops in the middle, right under the tree, his red balloon tapping the tree outside the entrance. Christopher Robin, who was waiting for Pooh to come through asked, "Pooh, what are you doing?"

Pooh answers, "I am waiting for somewhere to find me."

I love this image of slowing down so somewhere can find us. What is the somewhere that is looking for you?

Many of us at the UU Meeting House are talking about growth. What do we have to change, let go of, do more of, consider that we have not considered before to get the message out that this is a place that offers hope, connection to one another and the world around us, and the invitation to be transformed? Lots of ideas are being shared. We would love you to join the conversation if you have not yet!

What does it mean to be transformed? I think it means that when we are together, when we show up and open our minds and hearts together, we create something bigger than each of us. I call it Love. And the practice of this Love changes us.

We are a faith that promises that Love is redemptive, that Love saves lives.

In order to live into these promises that we gather to affirm, we have to make some room within and around ourselves to be transformed. One way to do this is by considering the stories we carry that keep us too small and too far away from our hearts. Or as Nora Bateson writes, we need to allow "thoughts yet unmet to arrive in cloaks of language, becoming bards to take you where you can see that you are wide inside."

For me, this means that just when I am ready to react with anxiety, or fear or discomfort or concern that my needs might not get met in whatever scenario is playing out for me, rather than saying something or doing something I always say and do in one way or another, I try to remember to rest for a moment while residing in my familiar story, and then offer words I do not know as well, words that make new stories and can offer me and those near me more room, words that invite us and others into those wide places inside.

What story do you tell that keeps you from yourself and those around you, that keeps you from the Love that can not only heal each one of us but the world around us?

Welcome to this new day, when the stories we tell have not yet fully woken up and the writer has not yet picked up the pen...where red balloons still have time to get stuck outside of doors we have just opened, while we wait for somewhere to find 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 every Sunday  
at 10:45 am

~

April 7

"Human Dreaming"

Rev. Linda Simmons &  
Tucker Orbison

April 14

"Art and Faith"

Rev. Linda Simmons &  
Beverly Hall

April 21

"Blooming as Spiritual  
Practice"

Rev. Linda Simmons

April 28

"Getting In Touch with  
Your Inner Pooh"

Lay Led with Susan &  
Peter Richards



## **Calendar of Events**

**Monday, April 1st**

Immigration

Resource Center

5:30 pm, Activities Room

**Wednesday, April 3rd**

Building & Grounds

Committee Meeting

5 pm, Activities Room

**Tuesday, April 9th**

Genderqueer Class

5 pm, Activities Room

**Monday, April 15th**

Neighborhood Project

5 pm, Activities Room

**Tuesday, April 16th**

Board of Trustees

Meeting

5:15 pm, Activities room

**Thursday, April 25th**

Food Rescue Meeting

11 am, Activities Room

## **President's Report: Propose, Discuss, and Decide**

*Susan Richards, Board of  
Trustees President*

At our March Board meeting, new Board member Rob Dunbar came up with a very creative way to approach the "Closing Words" segment of our meeting agenda. He borrowed the music to "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" (popular Hymn # 361 in our grey hymnal) and composed some new original lyrics reflecting in a very amusing (yet mostly true) way how our Board meetings go.

Let's take the chorus:

"Propose, discuss, and decide  
Propose, discuss, and decide  
And if we can't we'll say we tried  
Propose, discuss and decide."

This is actually a pretty accurate description of our monthly meetings. We go through the agenda, proposals are made, discussions are had, and votes on decisions are made. Sometimes when there is a lot of discussion, we may postpone a decision or change a proposal to reflect the ideas that come forth in our spirited discussions. And yes, I can safely say that we are trying as hard as we can to best serve the needs of our UU congregation.

On to verse #1:

"Who is gonna carpet all our floors?  
Who's gonna plane and paint our  
lovely doors?  
We'll have to delegate these chores  
Propose, discuss and decide."

Ah yes, here we get to the nitty gritty of our jobs as Board Trus-

tees, getting stuff done! In terms of our beautiful building, we are incredibly lucky to have the able support of the SCPF (South Church Preservation Fund) and their hardworking board (some of whom are also on our UU Board). Even with the help of the SCPF, there is much to be done. As leaders of the congregation, we try to do much of the work ourselves, but we have to ask for the help of our fellow congregants to get all the work done. And of course, if there's something you think we should be working on, or better yet, that you'd like to help with, please let us know!

And the scary final verse:

"Will we still be solvent in the fall?  
Will we even have a dollar left at all  
Will we even have a penny, I don't  
know, ask Paul  
Propose, discuss, and decide."

This is of course, the most important board job: creating and maintaining our annual budget. Balancing the budget every year, then sticking to it (with necessary flexibility from time to time), takes the creative thinking and hard work of each board member plus the important input of other committee members, especially our finance committee and our intrepid treasurer (named in the above verse!)

In conclusion, I'd like to thank Rob Dunbar, who introduced his fellow board members to the new version of this hymn - in the midst of our hard work, you managed to get us to laugh and sing as well. And although your song was quite amusing, it also hit the nail on the head in terms of what we do month after month: "Propose, discuss, and decide!"



## Religious Exploration News: Earth Month! Kids Create Their Own "New Deal"

Everyday, people make steps that turn things around. Sometimes even a small step, can make a BIG difference. Just consider how bald eagles--once on the brink of extinction--are now visible

by the dozens, soaring over the beaches of Washington. Or how our island's ban on a *small* thing like helium balloons, can save one of the Earth's *biggest* creatures, the Sperm Whale.

We are part of a web of all existence. And as *human* beings, we have a special responsibility to look out for dangers to the Earth. That's why all month long, kids will be asked: "What do *you* believe is a problem facing our planet right now?" We're speaking out! There are many different ways to help affect change, and making art for awareness is one of them. With the project kids create, they'll be reminding others of a wonder in nature--whether land, sky, or sea--that is worth protecting. We'll be sharing these ideas and many more for ways to heal the Earth all April long, through a "vision board" in the Activities area. Come and see the kids' *own* version of a "Green New Deal," where our planet Earth is front and center!



## HELP WANTED:

Looking for a volunteer to manage the Hearing Loop system in Hendrix Hall. Please direct any questions to [Paul@PLPDD.com](mailto:Paul@PLPDD.com)



**Do you have something to add?**  
**Share your love for the Meeting House**  
**with [office@unitarianchurchnantucket.org](mailto:office@unitarianchurchnantucket.org) to**  
**have your thoughts added to the “word cloud” above!**

## Today, Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw  
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,  
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths  
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight  
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight  
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants  
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,  
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white, well, today is just that kind of day.

## Gathering as One People, UU Meeting House,

Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

We offer this Interfaith service just before Passover, Ramadan and Easter to affirm that all people deserve to be treated with respect and that hatred and racism in all its forms tear holes in the fabric of our common humanity.

Please join us for prayer, silence, spoken word and song  
shared from the Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian and  
Interfaith traditions to affirm that love is stronger than hate,  
and we are its people.



# Genderqueer: The Practice of Beloved Community

**Every Tuesday for 6 weeks.**

**April 9 – May 13th • 5-6:30pm**

*(except week 2 which will be Thursday the 18th).*

**Unitarian Universalist Meeting House,  
11 Orange Street,  
*facilitated by Rev. Linda Simmons.***

This series is based on the video presentations on transgender inclusion by Rev. Mykal Slack and Zr. Alex Kapitan. We will watch the presentations, engage assigned readings and consider the practice of beloved community.

This class will offer information and the opportunity to grow as we move into a practice of welcome that has room for all of us.



**To sign up or make inquiries contact:**

revlindasimmons@gmail.com

or call 508-680-6498

***All are welcome to this free workshop.***

## Sermons for April

**April 7**

**Human Dreaming, Tucker Orbison; service leader, Rev. Linda Simmons**

The Aboriginal peoples of Australia track their land, family lines and sense of self with what are called 'songlines.' These lines travel through all of Australia and originate from the Aboriginal world view known as the Dreamtime. There is a song for everything: rock, trees, sweet potatoes, ants. Every Aboriginal person has a Dreaming that defines their kinship, territory, and their song, which guides them not only through landscape, but through life. This sermon will look at Dreaming and songlines and what Tucker will call Human Dreaming and ask what is that defines our paths and how can we learn to navigate them with peace? Join us for this special service where Tucker will be presenting this fascinating and heartfelt sermon. Avi Chitrit will also play the diggeridoo and oud during this service. Tucker Orbison is an island resident, laborer and artist. He is a longtime friend of the UU Meeting House. He is deeply connected with nature and spends a lot of time exploring the island on foot.

**April 14**

**Art and Faith: The legacy of Quaker Hanna Monaghan and her home Greater Light, Beverly Hall; service leader, Rev. Linda Simmons**

Greater Light represents the vision of two Quaker Sisters Hanna and Gertrude Monaghan who transformed an 18th century barn into their summer home and studio where their eclectic collection illuminated the Quaker belief in the "inner light." Beverly Hall has been interpreting Hanna for the past four years and will explore her passion for art and spiritually based on her research and experiences at this historic house museum known as Greater Light. Beverly Hall has been a resident of Madaket since 1965, the year she created and established the Children's Gallery on Old South Wharf. In 1972 she transitioned into Beverly Hall Photography with a specialty in family portraits. In the past three years Hall has expanded her repertoire to include interpreting Hanna Monaghan at Greater Light during the summer.

**April 21**

**Blooming as Spiritual Practice, Rev. Linda Simmons**

This Easter Sunday, we will consider what in each of us might need some tending, some nurturing and encouragement to live more fully. We'll also have a flower ceremony based on the flower communion service created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. Capeck felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. Norbert Capek died 19 years later in a Nazi concentration camp. The Flower Communion tradition is that each person is given a flower and places it in a vase during a ceremony and before leaving, each takes a different flower. The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, as no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual's flower, and thus it is with our Meeting House.

**April 28**

**Getting in Touch with Your Inner Pooh, Lay Lead with Peter & Susan Richards**

In which it is discovered that the readings of "The Tao of Pooh," "The Pooh Perplex," and "Pooh and the Philosophers" have much to teach us about living in our current turbulent times.

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### Church Staff

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

**Barbara Elder, Music Director ~ Leyah Jensen, Children & Youth Program Director, Sherlly Morocoima, RE Assistant,**

**Emma Young, Office Manager ~ Janelle Zapata de Morocoima, Sexton ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper**

### Board of Trustees

**Susan Richards, President, Kat Robinson Grieder, Vice President, Paul Stewart, Treasurer, Peter Richards, Clerk, Alison K. Forsgren, Joanne Polster, Carl Borchert, Natalie Chambers, Rob Dunbar, Rev. Linda Simmons**

**Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 9am—12 pm**

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