



Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
**Unitarian Universalist**  
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ January 2013

## WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET

Reflections on the life and lives of a religious community

by Rev. David M. Horst

The chilly, grey days of January offer us time and space to reflect on our personal, family, and communal lives. The busyness of the holidays is over, the tourists are back home, and the beaches and moors are at rest. Now we can take time for ourselves and our friends and neighbors on this island community.

We are still reeling from the horrific shootings of schoolchildren and teachers in Newtown, Connecticut, and think daily of the families affected by the deaths of their children and loved ones. How do we make sense of a tragedy that makes no sense? What can we possibly say or do to reduce the likelihood that such an awful massacre does not happen again? At the January 6 service we'll try to gain some insight on the Newtown killings and the ways we might respond.

January 13, the day of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, is also a time for reflection. I invite you to gather for Sunday morning worship and tell your stories of memory and hope. Where have you been as a congregation? Where are you going? Bring a story of the past and a hope for the future to share. I invite you also to tell each other the ways this congregation has touched your life in the past and how it enriches your life today.

The annual Martin Luther King holiday draws us together as citizens to reflect on race and racism in America. This year we are likely to hear much conversation about King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which he presented at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., 50 years ago this year. King's words and actions continue to inspire and challenge us, especially his commitment to nonviolence in the face of oppression and injustice. Come to the January 20 service and do your part to keep the dream alive.

In moments of solitude and contemplation this month, each of us might reflect on our personal lives as well: How have we changed and grown this year? What have we lost and gained? Where do we go from here?

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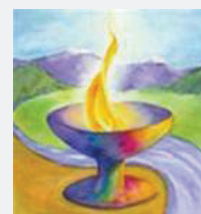
Join us for Sunday  
services each week!  
Choir practice at 9:30  
a.m. with religious  
education and services  
starting at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, January 6  
"The Violence We Make"

Sunday, January 13  
"The Church of Memory  
and Hope"  
(Annual Meeting  
following the service)

Sunday, January 20  
"Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Tribute"

Sunday, January 27  
"Fourth Sunday Lay-Led  
Service"



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Right now I'm finding comfort and hope in the words of Thomas Merton (1915 - 1968), the Christian monk, poet, and social activist. He wrote, "Can contemplation still find a place in a world of technology and conflict which is ours? Does it belong only to the past? The answer to this is that, since the direct and pure experience of reality in its ultimate root is [humankind's] deepest need, contemplation must be possible if [humankind] is to remain human...."

I commend Merton's words to you and invite you to make the month of January a time of reflection on your personal life and the life of our nation past, present, and future. Let's seek ways to "remain human" in a world that is too often just the opposite. Peace and blessings be upon us all.

*"Where land and sea meet" is my Nantucket analogy for congregational life. A church lives in a tidal zone where our private and public lives meet and converge like the meeting place of the land and sea.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

by Casey Sayre Bokus

Happy New Year from RE!

What a bunch of busy bees! What a festive holiday season! What a lovely turnout for the Solstice Storytelling and Celebration at Mitchell's. We wove together winter mythology and rebirth of the sun imagery with drumming and chanting and the children were right there on beat!

I hear the kids trooped off to their regularly scheduled program the following Sunday despite no scheduled teachers that day. This is what we want from our young spiritual members though, is it not? Joy and eagerness and familiarity in the Meeting House. And of course folks stepped up to lend a guiding hand. This is what volunteering and welcoming our young ones is all about.

As we move into the new year and the growing light and as I work with the others on the Search Committee, I am filled with excitement for new endeavors, new ideas, new energy with our youth and in our congregation as a whole. May the new year be full of hope and promise for us all, may we delve into our learning and growing and planting new seeds. May we sing in harmony as energies shift and may we continue to build a community where our children can voice their truth, know they belong, and grow healthy, beautiful and strong!



*RE Committee Co-Chair Anne Sutherland and Committee Member Sissy Girard and class proudly display the mural they painted.*

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

by Bob Hall, Board President

It has been another busy month at the Meeting House and January promises to be equally busy. First, a thank you goes to Abby Slosek for providing the two beautiful wreaths that decorate the front doors of our Meeting House. Placing wreaths on the doors has been a long-standing tradition, and we are grateful for Abby's donation from Moor's End Farm.

Our first December service was a reading and dramatization of Dicken's Christmas Carol. The entire cast consisted of over a dozen members from our congregation. Playing the role of Tiny Tim, young Darly Horst-Loy sang sweetly, bringing tears to our eyes. The entire reading was warmly received by an audience of over 80 people. A very special thank-you goes to Alyson Gaylord-Loy for directing this production. The Youth Group and Choir met for a joint dinner on December 13, followed by an hour or so of singing, playing the guitar and piano. It was a wonderful, happy, inspiring evening. Thanks to our Youth Group leaders, David Horst, Christine Sanford, Henry Sanford, and Yve Shevalier for leading this terrific group of high school students. The youth group created and set off a letter of condolences to the families of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy on behalf of our congregation.

On December 16, we were privileged to have Keith Kron, UUA Transitions Director, speak at our Sunday service. The Board of Trustees and the Search Committee provided lunch after which Keith led a workshop "Beyond Categorical Thinking." Keith is an inspiring speaker and an excellent teacher. On December 21, Casey Boukus led a Winter Solstice event at Mitchell's Book Corner. Special thanks to Casey for including our congregation in this thoughtful and interesting service. Again this year we are grateful that Bob and Diane Lehman led the Christmas Eve caroling. Afterwards, Diane and Bob provided refreshments for the carolers back in the Activities Room. We thank Diane and Bob for their continuing service to our congregation.

Our Nantucket's New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31 drew a crowd of over 40 people. We hope you were among those who joined us to ring in the New Year. The idea was inspired by John Rivera. Linda Sperry and David Horst together led a planning group that organized our New Year's Eve Event. A thoughtful and generous person donated funds to purchase over 200 small bells. David Horst led us in song; Jack Weinhold produced a great "Happy New Year" banner that hung in front of the church. At the stroke of midnight, David Hall and John Rivera rang the bell in the tower. As the bell rang, the group marched down Main Street, crossed and marched back, all the time ringing those bells. The event was coordinated with the Nantucket Visitor Services Committee.

For some time we have considered finding our Estey Organ a new home. It has not been played in many years. Its particular tone is suitable for a limited number of pieces. The Estey was donated to the congregation many years ago by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Willard. We are uncertain of the exact date but it was present in the early 1970's. Henry senior is deceased but we were able to speak to his son, Henry (age 84), a few weeks ago who gave us permission to deal with the organ as we desired. We have two possible homes for the organ and will vote on whether or not to find it a new home at the Annual Meeting. There is an unsung hero maintaining the webcam in our tower. The webcam is available at our website as the "View from the Steeple." Chris Wilson donated the camera, hooked it to the internet and services it as needed, all free of charge. Thank you, Chris!

In anticipation of the Annual Meeting, the budget and pledge committees have been busy. Two years ago we decided to begin the annual pledge drive in October so that we would have sound figures on which to make a budget. This year we called the pledge drive the Members Fund Drive emphasizing the fact that each of our contributions buys shares in our programs. Reports from the treasurer and pledge committee are located elsewhere in this issue. If you have not yet made a pledge, please give us a call. If you have already made a pledge, please consider increasing it. If every member gave \$20 a week, our financial concerns would be met. Where else can you get an inspiring morning with great music, free food and great company for just \$20?!

The Annual Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, January 13. Please mark your calendars for this very important meeting, and please make every effort to attend. We hope to see you there.



SAVE THE DATE!  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13  
AFTER THE CHURCH  
SERVICE & COFFEE HOUR  
Childcare will be available.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Linda Spery, Committee Chair

An important source of revenue for our annual operating budget is the Goods & Services Auction, which was established last year as an annual event. In 2012 the auction was held Memorial Day weekend and was very successful not only at raising funds and exceeding projections but also in building community with members and friends finding opportunities to get to know one better.

In 2013 we will be holding the live and silent auction on Saturday, June 15 and will continue the silent auction after church on Sunday, June 16. The location of the event will be the Activities Room.

If you are interested in serving on the auction committee, please contact me so that you can be involved in our first organizational meeting of 2013, which will take place in February. Start thinking of items and events you would like to offer in the auction. If you need ideas, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at [linda@sonnpr.com](mailto:linda@sonnpr.com) or 508-228-7892.

## RELAX AND RE-CENTER YOURSELF

Join Rev. Horst and members and friends of the congregation for 30 minutes of silent meditation, chanting, and prayer every Sunday morning at 9 in Hendrix Hall. Come relax and re-center yourself as you begin your day and week.

## MEMBERS FUND UPDATE

by Jack Weinhold, Treasurer

As of January 1, 97% of active congregation members have purchased 700 shares in the 2013 Members Fund. The \$70,000 represented by those shares will be used, along with revenue from building rental fees, fundraising events, interest from our endowment, and special gifts, to help balance next year's budget of \$229,500.

The co-chairs of the 2013 Fund, Peter Richards and Jack Weinhold, especially thank Linda Spery for her pledging experience and inspiration to carry on, Bob Hall for accounting detail work, and Kim LaRue for her always cheerful office back-up. It takes a whole congregation to make the Members Fund a success.

Thank you to all who have thus far participated, especially those who are new to the congregation and have jumped right in with a financial commitment.

If you have not made a financial commitment for 2013, there is still an opportunity to do so at a level which is commensurate with your financial abilities. We welcome all commitments, large and small! Contact me at [jackweinhold@gmail.com](mailto:jackweinhold@gmail.com) or call the church office.



*Created by Children in the RE Program*

## FOURTH SUNDAY LAY-LED SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Sissy Girard

This committee will be celebrating its third year of presenting monthly services in April. For the first time, the committee enjoyed a hiatus during the summer months and resumed its services in October.

The first Fourth Sunday service in 2012 was "Passing It On." Lucille Jordan participated in the service and Marty Erhart, Bob Hall and Debby Merritt made presentations.

In February, the second Unitarian Universalist Principle of Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations was presented. Grace Noyes joined Christine Sanford and Sissy Girard in addressing the topics of justice, equity, and compassion separately.

"Community Engagement" was the theme for March. Presentations were made by Craig Sperry for Habitat for Humanity and Kat Grieder for A Safe Place. Suggestions were offered for the many volunteer opportunities on island, and the Corporal Works of Mercy were reviewed.

April 22 was Earth Day as well as the Fourth Sunday. The service focused on the care and feeding of our planet. Christine Sanford presented the history of Earth Day, Haziel Jackson read excerpts from "The Lives of a Cell" and Casey Boukus led us in a blessing and meditation.

Memorial Day Remembrance was the topic for May. We honored all veterans, and distributed red poppies to all present. Pete Sawyer, one of our WWII veterans, lit the chalice. Bob Lehman sang Stars and Stripes Forever. Presentations were made by Christine Sanford and Rev. David Horst.

The Fourth Sunday lay-led services resumed in October, Education Month. "Live to Learn" was the theme. Val and Bob Hall presented reflections on their long-lived teaching careers.

"Beyond Thanksgiving Gratitude" was presented in November by Christine Sanford and Clay Twombly. This service concentrated on the process of "self" centering. John Rivera lit the chalice as he read words by Kahlil Gibran.

In December, "Celebrating Around the World" was the topic. The rites, rituals, and celebrations from each continent were researched by the committee and presented by Yve Shevalier, who also led the service.

Thanks to each of you for your continued interest and support. Please let us know if you might have a particular interest or subject you'd like us to research and present at a future Fourth Sunday service. Please contact any committee member with your suggestions.

Happy New Year!

Sissy, Margaret, Christine, Yve, and Mary Beth



*Religious education committee co-chair Susan Richards and children in the religious education program at the beginning of a Sunday RE class with chalice lighting and circle time.*

Members Fund Pledges for 2013  
Are Still Being Accepted!  
Contact the Church Office or Jack Weinhold.



## January 2013 Sunday Services

### **Sunday, January 6 - 10:45 a.m. ~ Hendrix Hall** **"The Violence We Make"**

The horrific shootings of schoolchildren and teachers in Newtown, Connecticut, force us to confront yet again at our culture of violence in America. Today let's take a hard look the problem, try to gain some insights, and determine actions we might take. David Horst, Interim Minister, leads the service and presents "The Violence We Make." Music by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

### **Sunday, January 13 - 10:45 a.m. ~ Hendrix Hall** **"The Church of Memory and Hope"**

The Nantucket congregation has a remarkable history and a bright future. We'll share our memories and hopes this morning in preparation for the Annual Meeting that follows the service and coffee hour. How has your congregation touched your life in the past and how does it enrich your life today? David Horst leads the service and presents "The Church of Memory and Hope." Music by Diane Lehman and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

### **Sunday, January 20 - 10:45 a.m. ~ Hendrix Hall** **"Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute"**

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave one of his most memorable speeches at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963. The year 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of King's oft-quoted words, "I have a dream." Stephen Prothero, Professor of Religion at Boston University, includes King's speech in his American Bible. We'll consider the legacy of this important piece of "scripture" in our history and its implications for our political and civic life today. David Horst leads the service and presents "The Dream Lives On." Music by Diane Lehman and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.

### **Sunday, January 27 - 10:45 a.m. ~ Hendrix Hall** **"Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service"**

The Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service Committee leads today's service. Music by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir. Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share.



## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Craig Spery, Chair

The Ministerial Search Committee has entered into the most exciting part of the search process. Candidates have applied, and now we are reviewing their resumes and beginning to hold interviews. We received 8 applications! The candidates have varying amounts of experience and viewpoints, and are from all over the country. We will be speaking with all of them and narrowing our choices to three or four that we think would be good matches for us.

During January and February we will be meeting in person with those fortunate few and getting to know them better. They will also be asking us questions and trying to decide for themselves if they think they want to continue with us. We have to keep in mind that while we are considering them, they have applied to other churches who will be making the same kinds of decisions. It is exciting but also a little nerve-wracking.

Please keep in touch with us with your questions and comments. We are trying hard to find the best match for us as we go forward with our plans to bring liberal religious excellence to Nantucket.

WE NEED FREE AIRLINE TICKETS for our candidates. If you have frequent flier miles/awards and would like to donate them, it would help lower our travel costs considerably. We have to fly at least three candidates round trip in the next two months. Ask for details.

Members of the Search Committee are Sissy Girard, Yve Shevalier, Abby Slosek, Casey Boukus, Barbara Elder, Peter Richards, Nancy Rappaport and myself.

The Youth Group meets every Thursday evening at 6 in the Activities Room. Participating youth enjoy a potluck supper, check in and sharing time, games, and conversation. See youth advisors Christine Sanford, Henry Sanford, David Horst, or Yve Shevalier to get involved.



*Jack Weinhold prepares to welcome New Year's Eve revelers to the Meeting House to participate in our celebration that evening. Our thanks to Jack for creating the sign hanging on the building.*

## BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

by Bob Lehman, Building & Grounds Chair

While Rev. Horst and family were off island during the holidays, the Building & Grounds Committee was able to perform a number of needed repairs and tasks at the personage.

This included reattaching the dishwasher top support, reinstalling the kitchen cabinet heat vent, repairing and painting the bath vanity, caulking and painting the tub enclosure and repairing and reinstalling the outdoor light fixture.

Dennis Santangelo, Craig Spery and I worked together as a team to get the work done.



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[uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net](mailto:uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net)



### Church Staff

**David M. Horst**, *Interim Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*  
**Diane T. Lehman**, *Acting Music Director* ~ **Kim N. LaRue**, *Office Administrator*  
**Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo**, *Sextons*

### Board of Trustees

Bob Hall (President), Christine Sanford (Vice President), Susan Richards (Clerk),  
Jack Weinhold (Treasurer), Brian Girard, David Hall, John Rivera, Linda Sperry, Marina Sutro

### Church Office Hours

*Monday - Friday ~ 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.*

### Minister's Office Hours

*Tuesday (10 a.m. - noon) and Friday (noon - 2 p.m.)*