



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

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - October 2017

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

To Everything There is a Season

In the book Option B by Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant they write, "Collective resilience requires more than just shared hope- it is also fueled by shared experiences and shared narratives..."

This autumn weather brings me to reflect on all the shared experiences and narratives we have collected over the past four plus years together. These bring me hope and give me courage when I take on new things, write sermons and prayers, work with you in building new programs and classes, make new calls to our state reps to pull together a rally in support of DACA, that I am in the midst of doing. All of who we have been together is part of all of who I am now. We are part of one another.

This past week, our dear Diane Lehman announced that she will be leaving the music program at the UU Meeting House. Her last day is Sunday November 5th. She has found full time employment at St. Mary's Church.

Diane took this new job while loving us all here and valuing us and all that we do and knowing she needed to say yes to this opportunity. I am so grateful that as a musician she has found full time work with benefits! How much she deserves this!

I will miss Diane, as I know we all will. How many of my memories include Diane, our collegiality, conversations about music and sermons, dreams for the Meeting House, laughter, commiseration, and plans. I know she will carry us with her, as she will always be with us. That's the way it works.

As the board plans its next meeting to work on the next steps, what lies before us now is the opportunity to be resilient, to share more deeply, to lean in, to listen with more compassion, to trust with more grace and to play with more ease. We have all we need to do this, because dear friends, we have one another and a story of not only our faith and its power to transform lives, but the story of each one of us and how we have been transformed living side by side these many years.

May we use this time of uncertainty to grow closer, and to become more faithful until what is next becomes clear, which it always does when born out of non-anxious presence.

Diane will always be part of us and we of her. Can't wait to watch her blossom in this next part of her journey, and us in ours too!

*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 THE
HISTORIC
SANCTUARY

Sunday, October 1
"Blessing of the
Animals"

Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, October 8
"Humanism, Being
Good & Where We Go
From Here"

Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, October 15
"The Art of Meaning"
Rev. Kimberley Debus

Sunday, October 22
"Life: A Balance of
Holding On and
Letting Go"

Lay Led Service

Sunday, October 29
"Thriving Together"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Families Welcome!
Religious Exploration
for Children Every
Sunday

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— October 2017

Your Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 18.

Gary Langley spoke about the Food Rescue program. Over the past year Gary and Jack Weinhold have grown this program to a volunteer group of 14 who have rescued over 20,000 pounds of food which was donated to the Food Pantry and other deserving Island recipients. Gary also announced the recent receipt of a generous pledge of \$20,000 to obtain refrigerated storage for donated foods.

Lora Stewart led a further discussion of the Congregational Goals set last year:

- #1. Social Justice Initiatives
- #2. Lifelong Religious Exploration
- #3. Communications Plan
- #4. Involve members [and friends] in activities

Progress is being made on those and further specific actions have now been planned. A specific action on #4 is to hold periodic “Volunteer Fairs” during Coffee Hour to describe various activities.

Is there an area that interests you? Please visit the table when you see an activity being highlighted.

“All regular Board and Committee meetings are open to attendance by members [and friends] of the congregation, except when in Executive Session [E.S. is almost never]. Most meetings are on the church calendar which is accessible from the web site. If you wish to be specially informed of meetings, please contact the chair of the respective group.” **Please come see for yourself what your Board does.**

Next Board meeting is October 17 at 4:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Stewart

(our President, Val Hall, is in Japan for two weeks)



October Calendar of Events

Monday, October 1, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Monday, October 1, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Immigration Resource Center—Activities Room

Wednesday, October 4, 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
A Year to Live Workshop—Activities Room

Saturday, October 7, 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Organ Crawl—Sanctuary

Monday, October 9, 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

Monday, October 16, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Monday, October 23, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Monday, October 23, 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m.—12 p.m.
Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Monday, October 30, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

See You at The Meeting House!

The Immigration Resource Center is Open!

**Monday, October 2
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Activities Room**

and the first Monday of each month.
The IRC is a safe place to ask questions, receive referrals and compassion. If we don't know where to find the answers, we'll learn together!
Spanish, Portuguese, and English spoken.

Spread the word!

**Refurbishing the Auditorium Windows
of the
Historic Unitarian Meeting House**



The South Church Preservation Fund
FY2019 application to
The Nantucket Community Preservation Committee
September 8, 2017

A YEAR TO LIVE CLASS

How would you live
if you knew you only had one year to live?

This class led by Rev. Linda Simmons lets you put this question to the test. When people do know that their lives are drawing to a close, they often experience a great deal of personal and spiritual growth. In this class, we will face mortality with intentional preparation, and live one year consciously, to the fullest. Class topics will include: Forgiveness, making peace with our lives, writing an ethical will (or legacy letter, which is a way to share our values, blessings, life's lessons), exploring our concepts of death and those from religions around the world, culminating in a "celebration of life" for all participants. Class will meet the first Wednesday of every month from 10:30-12:00pm for one year at the UU Meeting House: Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, (no class Feb 7), March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, second Wednesday due to Holiday July 11, August 1, Sept 5.

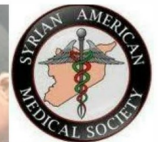
Sign up by emailing
revlindasimmons@gmail.com,
calling at 508-680-6498, or
on the sign up sheet in AR.

HHRD & SAMS THANKSGIVING Syrian Refugee Relief Service Trip Nov 18 2017

Donations accepted Thru Nov. 4, 2017



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT



Your donations will be delivered by hand to Syrian Refugee's in Jordan. Please help this Thanksgiving: please donate generously.

"If you see something wrong in the world, do something about it... If you can't do something about it, then speak up about it... And if you are powerless to say something, then at least pray about it."

— Muhammad PBUH

NANTUCKET CONTACT: RACHEL DIXON
RACHELDIXON@COMCAST.NET 508 364-2380

Nantucket Collection Drop off Location:
UU Church, 11 Orange Street, Nantucket, MA 02554

OFF ISLAND MAILING ADDRESS:
AFNAAN QURESHI C/O SYRIAN REFUGEE RELIEF
24 HALLETT HILL ROAD, WESTON, MA 02493

Items in URGENT NEED as winter is upon these families:

Diapers of all sizes, feminine pads, baby wipes, tooth brushes, sanitary wipes, tums, antacids
Infant/toddler clothes: fleeces, hats, gloves, socks and underwear garments for children, women/ men

Our friends and neighbors, the Qureshis, will be traveling to Jordan at Thanksgiving to visit Syrian refugee camps that do not receive aid from NGOs with suitcases of supplies that we all gather on our little island. Afnaan Qureshi, the oldest son of Dr. Abrar and Laura Qureshi, is organizing this effort with other young people on island.

If you cannot donate items because of distance, you can write a check to the UU Meeting House and "SAMS" on the memo line for the Syrian American Medical Society (www.sams-usa.net). The Qureshis are working with this organization who will get the money to the Syrian Refugee camps.

Thank you for your efforts and care as we practice our principles of one world, one love, one human dignity.



Docenting Review 2017

This past summer was one of the busiest in recent memory. For the most part the weather was excellent throughout July and August which usually doesn't translate well for great numbers of visitors to the sanctuary. In July we greeted 484 with another 408 in August for a total of 892 visitors for the summer, only 84 less than last year. They came from all over the world, including some 20 foreign countries with Canada and the UK leading the way.

This season we welcomed Ezra Descarfino to our team and Cheryl Creighton was back for her second year. Also returning this summer were veterans Linda & Craig Sperry, Jack Weinhold, Libby Oldham, Gary Langley, Paul Stewart, Christine Sanford, Trish Jarrell and Susan & Peter Richards.

We filled three 2-hour shifts from 10am to 4pm weekdays and two shifts from 10am to 2pm on Saturdays. We counted \$414.79 in cash donations from visitors throughout the two months. That money is designated to the South Church Preservation Fund.

We look forward to next summer and hope to attract more new members to our docent team. As Christine said when we were looking for someone to fill an extra shift one week, "I'll take it — I just love sitting in the sanctuary!"

It really is a very pleasant experience meeting new people who truly love our meeting house! Please consider joining our team!

Peter Richards, docent coordinator

Congratulations to our Youth Programs' Coordinator Leyah Jensen



who was married in a unique and joyful ceremony on Saturday, September 23. RE regulars Eva and Rowan Blake were bridesmaids and RE Committee members Lora Stewart and Susan Richards were wedding guests!

Religious Exploration - Discovering who we are as UU's!

The coming year (October - June) we will be exploring what it means to be a UU. Goals will be to:

- Identify common traits of faithful UUers, including revering life, being welcoming, finding beauty in our uniqueness, and sharing leadership
- Find ways to live the UU principles in our everyday lives
- Explore the nature of rituals and the role they play in our lives
- Build leadership skills

In the first few weeks of this unit we will be:

- Discussing and creating our group rules
- Participating in the Animal Blessing service
- Talking about the rituals we are already experiencing at home, at school, and at the Meeting House
- Making our own personal chalices as well as one together for our RE class
- Recognizing symbols of major religions, including the ones "under our roof"
- Hosting our first RE Pasta Potluck of the year on Friday, November 3rd

Do you have questions about what's happening in RE or want to share a suggestion or comment? Please see Youth Coordinator Leyah Jensen or RE Committee members Lora Stewart and Susan Richards.

Thank you and we look forward to our year together as UU's!

*Susan Richards
susanoncobble@gmail.com*

RE Potluck Friday, November 3, 5:30-7pm

RE is hosting a Pasta Potluck dinner and first get-together of the new season on **Friday, November 3rd in the Activities Room!** We'll provide the pasta, bread, and beverages. Please bring a favorite pasta sauce, a salad, or a dessert to share! Sign-up sheet will be available soon! In honor of Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner, animal advocate and wildlife veterinarian, who will be with us that weekend, we will be featuring a rousing game of Animal Trivia!!



Reverence for Life Weekend

with Reverend Dr. LoraKim Joyner

by Susan Richards

November 4th-5th: Mark your calendars for an exciting mid-Fall weekend with Rev. Dr. LoraKim as she offers us and the greater Nantucket community a full day workshop on Saturday, a bird walk late Saturday afternoon and a sure-to-be inspirational sermon at Sunday's service.



LoraKim currently lives in White Plains, New Jersey and is a UU multi-species minister, a wildlife veterinarian, a certified trainer in nonviolent communication, and Co-Director of the organization, One Earth. She states that her goal is to “foster compassionate communication in our communities of mixed species so that all beings may flourish.”

Saturday's workshop/retreat is part of One Earth Conservation's Nurture Nature Program which aims to inspire, motivate, educate, and support people to take care of themselves, their organizations, other individuals of all species by developing their awareness and understanding of nature, especially human nature as it relates to all of nature. **Workshop is scheduled for 9-2:30pm and will include lunch for all participants.**



Wild Bird Walk: A chance to get outside, weather as always, permitting! LoraKim has led bird walks all over the country and will lead us in some guided reflections as well as in observing the nature and birds around us. **Scheduled for 4pm - sunset on Saturday.**

Sunday's service theme will be “Reverence for Life” : Rev. Dr. Joyner will be speaking about Albert Schweitzer, physician, theologian, musician, and philosopher, who gave to the world the Reverence for Life Ethic. More than anything his life was his argument. How can we live like he did,

with deep reverence for all of life in ways that nurture and save ourselves, as we save the world. Come join one another as we reflect upon this, and what it means to be human in a multispecies world.

Each of these three events stands alone and we welcome you to attend one, two, or all three of them. Contact me at susanoncobble@gmail.com to sign up, or call the church office at 508-228-5466.

Sermons for October

October 1: "Blessing of the Animals" - Rev. Linda Simmons

Join us for the annual Blessing of the Animals on the steps of the Sanctuary, weather permitting. Any and all animals welcome—from angel fish to roosters, geckos to horses. In case it is raining, bring a picture of your animal instead as the service will be held in the Sanctuary. Contact the church office at 508-228-5466 if you have any questions.

October 8: "Humanism, Being Good & Where We Go From Here" - Rev. Linda Simmons

Why is it so hard to be good people sometimes? Do you feel that our culture encourages us to live ethically or unethically? This sermon will look at some of the greats, past and present, who have lived good lives and ask how we can live our lives with a stronger moral compass in a time when true North often feels lost.

October 15: "The Art of Meaning" - Guest Speaker Rev. Kimberley Debus

Art has power to move us and change our lives. But what is it about the arts? We'll examine the ways viewing, performing, and making art helps us make sense of our lives, our communities, and all of creation. (Kimberley Debus works as a community minister in the Albany, NY area, inspiring congregations to more artful and art-filled worship, congregational life, and public witness. She has previously served the First Universalist Church of Southold on Long Island and One Island Family UU Congregation in Key West. She will be serving us for two months during Rev. Linda's spring sabbatical.)

October 22: "Life: A Balance of Holding On and Letting Go" - Lay Led Service

Val Hall and Linda Sperry lead this month's Lay Led Service with readings, music, and personal reflections on words by the poet Rumi—"Life is a balance of holding on and letting go."

October 29: "Thriving Together" - Rev. Linda Simmons

What does it mean to thrive together? How do we care for each other as we face life's transitions, the twists and turns around us, the needs that we cannot predict and those we can that still are not easy to balance? This service will be a celebration of who we are and what we mean to each other.

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.*

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Nantucket, MA 02554

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On Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister (revlindasimmons@gmail.com) ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, Minister Emeritus

Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ **Leyah Jensen**, Youth Programs Coordinator

Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ **Janelle Zapata de Morcoima**, Sexton ~ **Chuck Gieg**, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Val Hall (President), Clay Twombly (Vice President), Paul Stewart (Treasurer), Peter Richards (Clerk)

Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Christine Sanford, Michelle Whelan, Lora Stewart

Rev. Linda Simmons (Minister)

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon

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