



Second Congregational Society
Unitarian Universalist
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - June 2015

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons
Breaking the Barrier

Some of us from The Meeting House have decided to take up the study of Spanish. Ana Patricia Hull is our gifted, thoughtful and creative teacher. We meet at the parsonage two times a month and in between we study and work on Duo Lingo, an online, interactive language instruction site.

It can be really frustrating learning a new language. There are times during class that one or the other of us becomes confused and uncomfortable. We all pitch in during those times, offering our various levels of Spanish knowledge, as Ana Patricia guides us.

I remember a similar experience of discomfort while studying Ancient Greek for three years in Divinity School. What a difficult challenge this was for me. I must have studied 2-3 hours a day to keep up with it. I remember the conjugation of verbs, the vocabulary, the translation of the New Testament, originally written in Greek, and how this would tax me, creating such consternation that I grew to feel cursed by the language.

By the time my 3rd year of studying Ancient Greek came around, I had integrated enough of it to haltingly translate sections of the Christian Bible. One passage I chose was about when Mary Magdalene comes to Jesus' tomb and sees it empty and thinks someone has taken Jesus' body. Translating this text from the Greek, which is so much more nuanced than English, I was able to feel Mary's fear, grief and anguish in my own body. I had never before had such an experience with the Christian Bible.

Here is what learning a new language teaches me: It is painful to live within something not familiar, to feel so on the outside, to know there is meaning somewhere but to not have the skills to find it, to be the other. And, with effort, commitment, and perseverance, what is unknown can become familiar enough so that one day empathy dawns in our hearts and minds as clear as a blue-skied Nantucket morning after a deep fog and the barrier that separates us all is lifted.

May we all break the barriers that separate us, roll away the rock of the tombs that keep us from one another and so live with more joy.

Con amor y esperanza!

**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, June 7
**"The Interdependent
Web of All Existence
of Which We are a
Part"**

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 14
"Ordinary Ethics"

Rev. Linda Simmons
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 21
**"The 7th Principle
Project"**

Rev. Linda Simmons
and Grassroots
Nantucket
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, June 28
Lay Led Service
Historic Sanctuary

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The First Principle Project—A Call for Discussion

by Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President



On May 10th I had the joyful experience of leading a service entitled: "The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Being ... Rethinking Our

First Principle" Since attending last year's General Assembly in Providence and speaking with UU Minister and veterinarian - Reverend LoraKim Joyner, I have wanted to share my passion about the project she started... to bring the proposal of changing one word in the First Principle (changing "The inherent worth and dignity of each person" to "The inherent worth and dignity of each being") up for discussion for a possible vote at our July Congregational meeting.

For those of you who were at the service I led... thank you for honoring me with your presence. Thank you also to those who joined me in presenting the service and a word of special appreciation to Jim Sulzer who actually composed a song for the service; "How Can We Know?" A song he says was "a joy to write and think of the animals he's loved knowing and observing over the years." Well, it was certainly a joy to hear Jim sing this beautiful song during the service as well!

I am very hopeful with all the positive comments I received after the service, that our congregation can take a step forward and bring this proposal to a vote during our July Congregational meeting. Between now and then, I am hoping that we can schedule at least a couple of congregational conversation groups to further discuss this proposal, perhaps following a service plus an evening meeting as well for those who are interested. My hope is that having these conversations will be another way of bringing members of our congregation closer in community.... whether we agree with this proposal or not (although of course I hope you will join me in agreement with at least starting the conversation at the General Assembly level). The proposal needs the approval of 15 UU Congregations in order for it to be approved for discussion at the annual UU General Assembly.

Albert Einstein stated that "Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty" The idea of "widening our circles of compassion" is one of great appeal. In fact I would venture to say that this is something that most of us are already striving to do in our day-to-day lives. I hope that you will consider joining me in a conversation about this idea and the First Principle Project.

The First Principle Project - A Congregational Conversation

Join us in Hendrix Hall at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 22 and at 12:30 p.m. after our Sunday service on July 12 to discuss the upcoming congregational vote on changing one word in our UU First Principle - from "The inherent respect and dignity of every person" to "The inherent respect and dignity of every being". What exactly would this change mean for us as individuals and as a congregation? Susan Richards will facilitate the discussion.

June Calendar of Events

Wednesday, June 3, noon

Lunch Bunch with Rev. Linda
Parsonage, 10 Fair Street

Sunday, June 7, 7 p.m.

J-1 International Students Welcoming
Party

Brant Point

Sponsored by Nantucket Interfaith Council

Friday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.—9 p.m.

UU Community Potluck Cookout
Lora and Paul Stewart's House, 61
Madaket Rd.

Saturday, June 13, 10:30 —11:30 a.m.

Children's Storytime with Rev. Linda
Under the tent at the Farmer's Market

Friday, June 19, 7:00 p.m. —8:00 p.m.

Nantucket Book Festival Opening Event
Historic Sanctuary

Sponsored by Nantucket Book Festival
Event is free and open to the public

Monday, June 22, 6 p.m.

First Principle Project Meeting
Hendrix Hall

GRASSROOTS NANTUCKET

By Gary Langley, Grassroots Nantucket Chair



The warmth has returned, the soil temperature is up, the island is coming to life and our greenhouse seedlings are bursting from their containers: It's planting time at the Community Garden. We welcome Joanne Polster, Erik Lokensgaard and Kim Botelho to our garden crew.

In this, our second year of growing produce for the Food Pantry, we are off to a fast start. The garden construction and preparation was completed in May and the organic seeds were started in the greenhouse in April. This will allow some of the beds to be harvested and re-planted 2 or 3 times during the year.

We have taken on new ways of seeing plants and the earth in this process. We started our plants according to moon cycles (see the moon chart hanging in the Activities Room) and transplanting based on soil temperature in the garden. Each of our beds was designed based on companion planting, instructing us as to which plants best support each other, keep bugs away and add nutrients to the soil needed to flourish. If we as human beings could consider how to add to each other's capacity to thrive with the same synergy, we would all grow more beautiful.

Thank you to Marty McGowan for your garden design help and Katie Hemingway for your charts and sage advice. Joanna Greenfield has taken on a second plot in an effort to expand our capacity. Who knows, maybe a community meal with the other community gardeners is in the offing!



Grassroots Nantucket meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday in Hendrix Hall at 12:30 p.m. after the service. Come join in the fun!



Meet Our Members

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

The Strand Family



Kristina started coming to Nantucket as a child when her family visited her father's friend "Tio Tomas" ("Lazor") at Eel Skin Inn. Lazor was already a fixture in her family when Kristina

was born in New York City and dedicated at the All Souls Unitarian Church. Her family moved to Brazil, Argentina, Chili, and Mexico, then back to the U.S.

Born in North Dakota, Brad grew up in Minnesota until his family moved to Brussels, Belgium when he was in high school. Brad and Kristina met at Carleton College in Minnesota.

After living in Fort Lauderdale and Dallas, Brad and Kristina married at the Unitarian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Lazor's wedding present was a week at Eel Skin Inn, which was the beginning of Brad's love for Nantucket and the fish who patrol her shores. The Strand family now lives in California where Brad works in the tech industry.

Years ago Linda Sperry reached out to Kristina and her boys after church. Over the years, Brad and Kristina have become more connected each year with fellow church members, and now with Rev. Linda Simmons. So, it seemed right to everyone last Thanksgiving to join as members, and to "name" the youngest son's Godfather at the Meeting House.

All five Strands are deeply connected to Nantucket, and passionate about family, education, libraries, fishing, and of course the Red Sox.



Come One!

Come All!

UU Community Pot Luck Cookout

When: Friday, June 12

Time: 5:30 p.m.—9 p.m.

Where: Lora and Paul

***Stewart's Home,
61 Madaket Road***

***Bring items to share:
a main dish or side dish,
salad or dessert.***

***We'll supply the grill, various
comestibles and condiments, and
eating utensils.***

Kids of all ages welcome!

RSVP: Lora@PLPDD.com



Sermons for June

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.

June 7: "The Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part" - Rev. Linda Simmons

This past year has brought into focus inequity, race and identity in new and challenging ways. This sermon will explore this political, moral and emotional landscape and ask: Where are we now and which future is worthy of our lives?

June 14: "Ordinary Ethics" - Rev. Linda Simmons

Living our daily lives involves many decisions and actions. What are some ordinary ethics that we define our lives in relation to and why is this question important? Join us in this exploration of practical theology and ethics.

June 21: "The 7th Principle Project" - Rev. Linda Simmons and Grassroots Nantucket

Join us as Grassroots Nantucket and Rev. Linda discuss the Green Sanctuary movement and how this relates to our 7th Principle: *Respect for the Interdependent Web of Which We Are All Part.*

June 28: Lay Led Service

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.

Coffee Hour

For the summer months, May 24 - September 6, we will have light fare for coffee hour, returning to our more substantial offerings in the fall (more to come on that later). Please sign up to bring something simple during these summer Sundays: crackers and cheese, hummus, fruit, cookies, etc.

Here's to all the summer breeze conversations and easy snacking together!

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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