



Unitarian Universalist

Meeting House

11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - March 2017

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Stories of Identity

We hear a lot about identity these days in the media: Who the Democrats are and are not, who immigrants, Muslims, liberals and conservatives and Republicans and middle class Americans and nationalists and the tea party are and all of the labels being made up anew each day on all sides to uplift and slur these identities. It's an identity battleground.

I have taken on the study of identity in this milieu. It is a wormhole. I am reading books that tell me that there are false selves and only one true self and that this true self is the source of all consciousness; books that remind that it is only through mutual flourishing, not domination, that we can go on; books that look at the processes we use to construct others as victims so we can abuse and disregard them without guilt; books that advocate a golden rule that allows the other room to be other and focuses on building a just society rather than on finding common ground.

Here is what I have come to so far: the stories we tell about who we are and how we got here and where we might go from here allow us certain ways forward both as a people and a nation and refuse us others.

Consider the story of genesis. If God had not punished Adam and Eve for wanting knowledge, banning them from joy and ease, but welcomed their enthusiasm and thirst for life and opened the gates of Eden into a world in which they were not dominators but co-creators with all of the rest of life, into a life in which they were welcomed as shameless and beautiful, how different would our story as a nation be today?

What if this god knew itself as partial, limited, and interdependent with its creation? Might we be more able to sit together and imagine a way forward as co-creators, as brothers, as sisters, as those who share in this reality and are responsible for its future and ourselves?

Here is another kind of story from Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer. There are two plants, the aster and the goldenrod. They grow side by side. The aster is royal purple, the goldenrod golden yellow. These two flowers populate field after field together and dazzle the eye.

Kimmerer writes that one of the reasons these two colors are so striking together is because they are complimentary colors; they are opposite on the color wheel, and such pigments put beside one another have an energetic reciprocity for our eyes. They leave a color afterimage so that we see them even after we turn away.

This of course does not matter to the asters or the goldenrod, except bees see these two colors in similar ways that we do. Their contrast in a meadow makes them be

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JOIN US AT
10:45 A.M.
EVERY SUNDAY
IN
HENDRIX HALL

*"The truth about
stories is, that's all
we are."
Thomas King*

Sunday, March 5
"Stories and Identity"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, March 12
"Stories We Tell"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, March 19
Lay Led Service

Sunday, March 26
"Stories That Save Us"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Families Welcome!
Religious Exploration
for Children Every
Sunday

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— March 2017

The Board of Trustees met during Linda's absence on February 21. The major actions were as follows:

- We welcomed new members, Michelle Whelan and Peter Richards. Peter will serve as clerk.
- Christine Sanford read a poem by Nancy Adam entitled "February" and we discussed the third UU Principle (Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation).
- The Board decided that our first two 2017 "Share the Plate" recipients will be PASCON and the Food Pantry. Generally, a Share the Plate collection is done four times a year.
- Lora Stewart reported about the recent immigration meeting at St. Mary's, where lawyers were present to make sure our immigrant population know their rights regarding ICE. There is growing fear after reports of deportations from Nantucket.
- A committee is working on the noise issue in the parsonage, particularly emanating from the NHA library's HVAC system.
- The UU congregation in Barnstable would like to travel to Nantucket for a joint fundraiser in early May. We are seeking more information at this time.
- We decided to have a get together with the South Church Preservation Board after our regular meeting on May 16 to discuss common concerns. By then, repairs will have occurred on the cracks which appeared after the new light fixtures were installed in the main sanctuary.
- We began a discussion concerning how we can best assist our "at risk" neighbors. Some suggestions were to serve as "human shields" in such areas as supermarkets and shields, and to open our meeting house as a sanctuary for those in need.
- The Board will have its spring retreat on Saturday, March 18 from 9-4 in the Activities Room.

Val Hall

President Board of Trustees
scallop lady@gmail.com

**Join us for the next meeting of
Indivisible Nantucket
Sunday, March 5
12:15 p.m.—1:15 p.m., Hendrix Hall**

Indivisible Nantucket is a group of concerned citizens meeting to discuss how to remain actively involved in our democratic nation through engaged citizenship. Please join us as we learn how to increase the breadth and reach of our civic engagement.

(continued from prior page)

magnets, and so they are pollinated more rapidly when they grow together than apart.

They grow together because it is beautiful and beauty creates more beauty. It is science and spirit. It is mutual flourishing rather than mutual domination.

Stories, the way we tell them, allow us new stories, generate or divide and give room for or deny the lives that might occupy them.

How can we live into this story that we are in now in ways that allow us more room to care for each other? What stories do you want to tell now my friends and how will we tell them?

*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

March Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 1, 3 pm—5 pm

Meeting On Immigration (a task force of Indivisible Nantucket) - Hendrix Hall

Sunday, March 5, 12:15 pm—1:15 pm

Indivisible Nantucket—Hendrix Hall

Monday, March 6, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, March 9, 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

Make It Stop Meeting—Activities Room

Friday, March 10, 5 pm—6:30 pm

ACK-spress (Junior Youth Group) - Activities Room

Sunday, March 12, 12:15 p.m.

Rev. Linda and Gary presentation—Hendrix Hall

Monday, March 13, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Friday, March 17, 6 pm—8 pm

St. Patrick's Day Dinner—Activities Room

Monday, March 20, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Friday, March 24, 5 pm—6:30 pm

ACK-spress (Junior Youth Group) - Activities Room

Monday, March 27, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, March 30, 11 am—12 pm

Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Walking In the Footsteps



On Sunday,
March 12 at
12:15 p.m. join
Rev. Linda and
Gary as they of-
fer a power
point presenta-
tion of their re-
cent trip to the
US/Mexican

border with the Tucson Samaritans.

MEETING ON IMMIGRATION (a task force of INDIVISIBLE NANTUCKET)

Please join Rev. Linda and Tom Ryan from St. Mary's for a meeting on Immigration, a task force of *Indivisible Nantucket*, on Wednesday, March 1, from 3 pm – 5 pm in Hendrix Hall.



Fundraiser:

St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Friday, March 17, 2017
6:00PM

At the Meeting House. **BYOB!**

Boiled Dinner: Corned Beef and Cabbage, and other Irish specialties.
Adults \$20, Children pay their age; to benefit the congregation.

Sign up or e-mail Lora@PLPDD.com, please!



YOU ARE INVITED

to a special coffee hour on
Sunday, March 26
in honor of
Jack Weinhold's 80th
Birthday

Join us for a quiche lunch, a
bite of birthday cake, and
some bubbly, to celebrate
Jack and the 30+ years he
has been working with and
for our Meeting House
congregation.

In the Activities Room
immediately following the
service.

See you there!

Religious Exploration

By Leyah Jensen, Youth Program Coordinator

Sundays in March...we're all about the animals! And kid's take center stage, by helping creatures in critical need.

ANIMALS "TWEET" FOR JUSTICE. This March, Sundays are 'for the Birds!' And Nantucket's Other Wonderful Creatures, as Well. Often the biggest impact for change comes from kids, not adults. Children have a uniquely-creative way of waking people up, and of inspiring the potential that lies in each and every one of us for healing our planet. Please join us this March, where kids will discuss--in their own words--what it means to make a more just world. And that includes creating more fairness for even the tiniest of creatures; so that *all* beings have a chance, to grow and to thrive.

Sunday March 5th -- **ACK-TION: Scallops Call for a Second-Helping**

Anyone with a grim side has a colorful side, as well--just ask a scallop! These incredible creatures have been developing advanced eyesight over thousands of years. That means that when those little shells slowly peep open in your hand, their tiny blue eyes are actually "taking you in." Yet scallops are facing a crisis in our bay. Studies say that the number one cause is fertilizers and pesticides, which bring ruin of the eel grass that scallops call home. So kids this Sunday will be invited to come up with an ad-campaign that will creatively educate our community about the true wonder of a scallop, and the fact that "*green lawns = brown bays.*" And for a tiny take-home treasure, each child will get help creating a real-scallop "locket" from a Nantucket-selling jewelry artist.

Sunday March 12th -- **CELEBRATE: "Mutts" Have Won Equal Rights, at Last**

Sunday March 19th -- **DEMONSTRATE: Birds Get a Treat Worth Tweeting About**

Sunday March 26th -- **DREAM-IT: Fishing Nets Become Catchers of Dreams**

ACK-spress YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM:

Led by educator, designer, and RSDI trained artist
Leyah Jensen.

This "Pilot Program" gathers youth ages 9-12 for 6 art classes that range from painting, sculpture, musical instrument building, and electronic assembling to paper boat making. Our last session will be an Art Show where youth will sell their works with proceeds going to a non-profit of their choice. **Upcoming classes are Friday evenings, March 10 & 24 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. in the Activities Room.** Free for all who enroll! Limited spaces so sign up now at ack-spress@gmail.com or call Linda at 508-680-6498.

For detailed class descriptions visit our Facebook page: ACK-spress.

Youth ACK-spress

By Leyah Jensen, Youth Program Coordinator

Youth **ACK-spress!** topped to thirteen kids last month, who attended session "POUND! Sculpture" to enjoy a faux-bonfire at this "ancient ancestors" & Native American



peoples- appreciation class. The kids each made an amulet; a sculpture; as well as some pottery. And with a successful test firing of our Nantucket-native clay--geologically pure...and, free!--our fantastic works will be completed by a paleolithic-style firing this Spring. In



addition to clay creations, the kids created some beautiful mosaic materials by breaking tossed-out plates for making bird baths that will benefit a local cause. Art Show details to follow, so please stay tuned!



Sermons for March

"The truth about stories is, that's all we are." Thomas King

March 5: "Stories and Identity" - Rev. Linda Simmons

The stories we tell about where we come from and where we are now, inform where we might go from here. This sermon will look at the work of Robin Wall Kimmerer and ask: What other stories are needed now so that we might have more love and courage and capacity for generative rather than divisive thought and action among us?

March 12: "Stories We Tell" - Rev. Linda Simmons

How do stories shape the lives of Self AND those we name as Other? This sermon will refer to Rev. Linda's journey to and across the Mexican border and her work with the Tucson Samaritans while reviewing the work of Dr. Albert Bandura on moral agency and how the stories we tell create moral agency, ethics and patterns of behavior.

Please join Rev. Linda and Gary after this service for a slide show and presentation of their Arizona/Mexican Tucson Samaritan journey.

March 19: - Lay Led Service

March 26: "Stories that Save Us"

Rev. Dr. Sharon Welch, UU minister and professor of Religion and Society at the UU Seminary Meadville Lombard in Chicago, recently taught an online course, *Strategic Nonviolent Resistance*, a class that built on the power of stories to save us. As so many of us work for social change and justice in these political times, what stories can we learn to tell and live by that can offer us and those that come after us resilience, courage and hope?

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

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister ~ **Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus**
Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ **Leyah Jensen, Youth Programs Coordinator**
Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ **Ed Sullivan, 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