



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

## Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - September 2017

### COMMON PATHWAYS \*

By Reverend Linda Simmons

#### Walking Home

The Immigration Resource Center (IRC) was birthed from the Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance (NICA) which started meeting in March of 2017 in response to some of the new immigration measures coming from the current administration. Both groups gather and exist under the umbrella of the UU Meeting House. The Immigration Resource Center (IRC) is open the first Monday of every month from 5:30-7:30pm. We have at least 3 people on deck, and at least of us speaks Spanish fluently.

When gathering at our first NICA meetings in March and April, the question was raised: how can we be of use to each other in this climate of fear, sense of isolation and distance from our neighbors? The answer from recent immigrants was clear: create an Immigration Resource Center! So, we meet in eight teams of two or three or so to research various areas that we were told immigrants have questions around: Know Your Rights, Community Resources, Education, Health Care, Counseling, Housing Rights, etc. and we went into the community and did research, gathered information, had meetings with community leaders of organizations. Over time, we built a notebook organized by FAQs and tabbed for easy use.

I was also in touch with three immigration lawyers on the mainland who agreed to do pro-bono work for us if an undocumented immigrant comes in with any question. They have made good on their word. I have made calls to cell phones that have been answered after hours and we have talked for hours on certain cases that they have followed up on.

This is how we got connected to Catholic Charities in Boston, through one of the pro bono immigration lawyers who suggested to them that they contact us to work with the Central American Minor Refugees Program on island. Which they did. Now, the Immigration Resource Center will be supporting the Boston Catholic Charities case workers with refugee resettlement when they come on island to be reconnected to their parents. Eight or so of us have received training from Boston Catholic Charities to participate in this.

I believe that showing up for each other offers each of us the possibility of learning ourselves in new ways so that we might continually rediscover our humanity in one another, in those we find similar to us and those to whom the connection is not strong because of things we have agreed to let create distance and indifference between us like ethnicity, language, habits, race, religion or dress.

When we risk something to be connected, there is a barrier that breaks and a ground that becomes visible with footprints that are side by side, mine and yours and theirs and ours.

Turns out, we've been walking each other home, as Ram Dass says, for a long time: gender, race, education, finances, status, ability not getting anyone of us there sooner than another. Turns out, getting there happens not by moving up but by moving in, by reaching out, by staying near by. Home is about love. It always has been.

\*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, September 3**  
"Improv Church"  
Rev. Diane Miller

**Sunday, September 10**  
"My Uncle Ralph"  
Brian McDermott

**Sunday, September 17**  
Lay Led Service

**Sunday, September 24**  
"Building Resilience  
and Finding Joy"  
Rev. Linda Simmons

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

## **Board of Trustees Monthly Report— September 2017**

The last meeting of the Board of Trustees was on August 15. After opening words from Joanna Greenfield and ongoing discussion of the book, “Serving with Grace”, Rev. Linda gave her Minister’s Report. Special emphasis was a grant proposal about to be submitted to CHIP for the OWL program, conducted in partnership with A Safe Place and Fairwinds. The Board voted to support the grant proposal. In his Governance Report, treasurer Paul Stewart reported that we made \$14,800 at the church auction, which is over budget. He expressed concern that the number of active pledgers has dropped from 80 to 62 in the past 3 years. Paul is writing a grant to the CPC to fund the replacement of the sanctuary windows. Val will write a letter of support on behalf of the Board. Clerk Peter Richards presented a list of current committees, including those which are “ad hoc”. The Board decided that the first two “Volunteer Fairs” during coffee hour will feature the Welcoming and Membership Committees (Sept 17) and the Board of Trustees (October 15). We are hoping that these will spark interest and lead to more congregational involvement. The Board then reviewed progress we are making on our congregational goals. Other than Social Justice, more needs to be done on the others. Finally, we are planning a potluck supper on September 9 with Faro De Luz, the Muslim congregation, Immigration Resource volunteers, and the Religious Education committee. A good time will be had by all!

Respectfully submitted,

**Val Hall**  
*President Board of Trustees*  
[scallop lady@gmail.com](mailto:scallop lady@gmail.com)

## ***The Immigration Resource Center is Open!***

**Monday, September 4  
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!***

## ***September Calendar of Events***

**Friday, September 1, 12:45 p.m.—2 p.m.**  
Muslim Prayer Service—Hendrix Hall

**Monday, September 4, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**  
Immigration Resource Center—Activities Room

**Friday, September 8, 12:45 p.m.—2 p.m.**  
Muslim Prayer Service—Hendrix Hall

**Saturday, September 9, 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.**  
Multi-congregational Pot Luck—Activities Room

**Monday, September 11, 12 p.m.—12:30 p.m.**  
Hurricane Harvey Benefit: Meditative Piano Music and Reflection—Sanctuary

**Monday, September 11, 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**  
NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

**Wednesday, September 20, 6 p.m.—10 p.m.**  
Shirat Ha ‘Yam Erev Rosh Hashanah—Sanctuary

**Thursday, September 21, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.**  
Shirat Ha ‘Yam Rosh Hashanah (1st day)—Sanctuary

**Friday, September 22, 8 a.m.—12 p.m.**  
Shirat Ha ‘Yam Rosh Hashanah (2nd day)—Sanctuary

**Monday, September 25, 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**  
NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

**Thursday, September 28, 11 a.m.—12 p.m.**  
Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

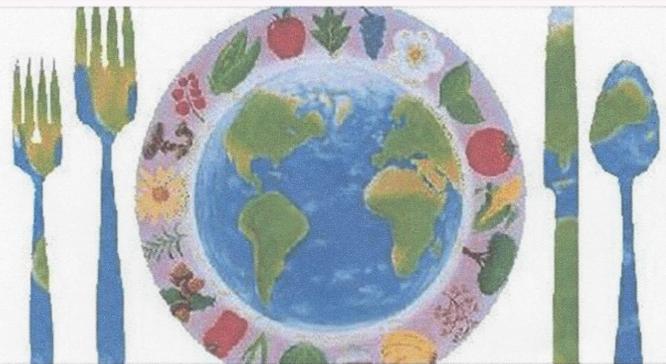
**Friday, September 29, 6 p.m.—9:30 p.m.**  
Shirat Ha ‘Yam Kol Nidre—Sanctuary

**Saturday, September 30, 8 a.m.—7 p.m.**  
Shirat Ha ‘Yam Yom Kippur—Sanctuary

***See You at The Meeting House!***



Model Paul Stewart, with Laurie Schutt, helping at the Annual Meeting House Auction on August 5.



Join us for a potluck with Faro de Luz, Shirat Ha Yam, members of the Immigration Resource Center and the Muslim Community for a potluck on **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>** at 4:30pm in the activities room at the **UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE.**

**COME ONE, COME ALL! LET'S CELEBRATE LOVE, LIFE AND THE DIVERSITY THAT MAKES US ALL RICHER, WISER AND MORE HOLY!**

**BRING SOME MUSIC TO SHARE IN A LANGUAGE YOU LOVE.**

**CHILDREN WELCOME.**



*On Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special collection for victims of Hurricane Harvey.*

*You can make checks out to the UU Meeting House*

*with Hurricane Harvey in the memo line and send them to us here at the UU Meeting House, PO Box 1023 if you will not be in attendance next Sunday. We will be sending these funds to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee who is working with the UUA to monitor the storm's impact on at-risk populations who may not be able to access relief services and are traditionally left out of mainstream response efforts.*



## What's Happening in RE?



Over the summer ACK-spress met 3 times: once to test our cardboard boats in Miacomet Pond, another time to clean up Lily Pond Park, and finally we met at the animal shelter to install one of the bird baths we made, to learn about the shelter and to visit with the animals.

Sunday morning RE had fun with "All about U" this summer! ... kids were able to work on their own projects - from safety vests to couture jewelry to sewing costumes and crowns, to making brownies for UU coffee hour and birthday cards for congregation members..... we've been enjoying having fun together and taking care of each other too!



Coming in the Fall for RE Sunday mornings our theme for the year is: "Being UU Everyday" - a Tapestry of Faith curriculum. If you'd like to do a little bit of reading up on this theme, here's the link: <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs>.

We're looking forward to an exciting start to a brand new UU year in Religious Exploration!

*The RE team: Leyah Jensen, Youth Coordinator, Lora Stewart and Susan Richards; RE Committee*

Please join us on at **noon on Monday, September 11th** in the beautiful UU Meeting House Sanctuary on 11 Orange St for 30 minutes of meditative piano music by Diane Lehman and opening reflection/meditation by Rev. Linda Simmons. **All donations collected to benefit victims of Hurricane Harvey.**



## **Sermons for September**

### **September 3: “Improv Church” - Rev. Diane Miller**

A sermon about the principles of improvising on stage, and how they can apply to our personal lives, families, and church. Rev. Miller is a UU Minister who retired after forty years of congregational ministries, Executive Staff at the UUA, and interim ministries. She is the mother of two grown sons. She has relocated to Salina, Kansas to be near her two grandchildren. She was the minister at First Religious Society in Carlisle, Massachusetts while Rev. Linda did her Internship there and treasures being colleagues with Linda.

### **September 10: “My Uncle Ralph” - Brian McDermott**

This sermon will be a tale of two Unitarians and one Unitarian Universalist, both related by blood but separated in time and by politics and personality. As it all turns out when you look carefully enough, both shared a demonstrable belief in the basic seven tenets of the Unitarian Universalist faith.

### **September 17: Lay Led Service**

### **September 24: “Building Resilience and Finding Joy” - Rev. Linda Simmons**

How is resilience built and joy found when facing adversity, the daily challenges of life and health and personal and political realities? This sermon will look at the work of Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant and their book Option B.

*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/](https://www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/)

### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Linda Simmons**, *Minister* ([revlindasimmons@gmail.com](mailto: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*