



Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist  
11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ March 2013

## WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET

Reflections on the life and lives of a religious community

by Rev. David M. Horst

Re-emerge, re-energize, re-commit. Nantucket's Unitarian Universalist congregation is ready for its future and you can be a part of it!

Recently 14 new and returning members joined the congregation. There is no better sign of health and vitality. We welcome them and thank you, the current members and friends, for reaching out to your friends and neighbors with the good news of our Unitarian Universalist liberal religion.

The Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Linda Sperry and Brian Girard, gathers for its annual planning retreat this month. This is the time the leaders of the congregation assess progress, set goals, and dream some dreams of the future. Spirits are high and hopes are strong. Don't hesitate to talk with Linda, Brian, or any member of the Board with your ideas and dreams.

A task group of the Board is working to revitalize some key committees including Membership, Music, and Worship. If you are not currently volunteering some time, please consider joining one of these committees. Everyone's gifts and talents are needed to build on the current surge of energy and support. I extend my thanks to members of the Religious Education, Finance, Building and Grounds, Fundraising, and Personnel Committees who have stayed involved and active throughout this transitional period.

The Ministerial Search Committee has been extraordinarily busy meeting and interviewing the pre-candidates for your settled Minister. A final candidate will be selected this month. She or he will be with you from April 21 - 28 to lead worship services, meet and talk, socialize, and come to know your hopes and dreams. The congregational vote to call the new Minister takes place on Sunday, April 28, following the service. It is imperative that all voting members participate.

Your paid staff is doing a great job with the many tasks required to maintain the administration, programming, and upkeep of the Meeting House. Kaitlyn Burke, Office Assistant, and Kim LaRue, Bookkeeper, are very

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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, March 3  
"Does Prayer Work?"

Sunday, March 10  
"Staring into Space"

Sunday, March 17  
"Sinners and Saints"

Sunday, March 24  
"Kindness"  
Fourth Sunday  
Lay-Led Service

March 31  
"The Jewish Jesus"  
Fourth Sunday



## Where Land and Sea Meet (continued)

capably maintaining the office and finances of the congregation. The extraordinarily talented and versatile Diane Lehman continues as Acting Director of Music with every expectation that she will assume the permanent Director of Music position within a few months. We are thankful for our Sextons, Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo, who perform their tasks diligently and with a real sense of caring for the Meeting House and its members.

For myself, I am gratified beyond measure to witness the progress that you have made since I washed ashore in August 2011 to serve as your Interim Minister. My family and I have greatly enjoyed our time on this island. We look forward to our final months here before we move on to our next adventure. I hope to announce our plans by the end of March.

Life in the Meeting House rolls on. Summer music, worship, and education programs will be announced soon. Summer residents and tourists arrive again. Your new Minister will be in the pulpit in August. You have a lot to look forward to.

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the present and future growth and success of Nantucket's liberal religious community.

*"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.*



## President's Report

Linda Sperry, President Board of Trustees

Recently our Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service committee led a thought-provoking service focused on our seventh UU principle—"respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." As the worship leader Christine Sanford asked for feedback following her remarks, the comments on interdependence covered astute observations both global and local. We left the service with warm feelings on that cold, snowy day knowing that in our little part of the world there in Hendrix Hall, we are making a difference.

Over the past few weeks your Board of Trustees has been diligently discussing our interdependent web on a more local level within our congregation. How can our various church committees for the new year best provide us all with opportunities to utilize our particular talents and expertise as volunteers for the good of the whole? Knowing that everyone has busy lives with family and work outside of our church lives, how can we achieve a balance so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute their time and talents without being overburdened?

Researchers Scott Thumma and Warren Bird—authors of *The Other 80 Percent*—found in their studies that most churches are run by 20 percent of the congregation. They opine that the other 80 percent tend to act like spectators.

In order for a church our size to be a thriving, active, energetic and dynamic congregation, we all need to raise the bar and be willing to each commit to taking on at least one responsibility as a committee member, a task force member, a coordinator, a choir member, a religious education teacher, etc. and serve in some capacity.

Imagine the impact we can make if we truly form that strong interdependent web within our congregation and all equally share the responsibilities of making it happen here at 11 Orange Street!

I invite you to think about how you would be willing to serve during 2013. Let Rev. Horst, myself or any member of the Board (Brian Girard, Susan Richards, Bob Hall, Jack Weinhold, John Rivera, Matrina Sutro, David Hall, Jim Sulzer) know that you want to step up and serve. We're not asking for a lifetime commitment; it can be just this year, it might be one Sunday only or a few months. There are job descriptions to fit every talent and schedule of availability.

I'll leave you with this comment From Diana Larsen and Sharon Buckmaster, of FutureWorks Consulting.

"The interdependent group is one of independently thinking individuals who depend on each other for a common goal or purpose, and harness the powerful potential of a group. As Lily Tomlin once put it, 'We're all in this together, by ourselves.'"

Thanks in advance for stepping up to serve in 2013. See you in church.

## Settled Minister Search

### An Update

Craig Sperry, Search Committee Chair

We received applications of interest from eight ministers. After preliminary phone interviews and reference checking we narrowed the list to four pre-candidates that would take part in the Pre-Candidating process. Pre-Candidating involves getting to know the candidates better, meeting with them and hearing them preach in an off island pulpit. We also bring the pre-candidates to the island to see the Meeting House and Parsonage and to experience the island first hand.

We've met with two pre-candidates so far and we'll meet with the other two in the first weeks of March.

Choosing the next settled minister is a weighty decision, requiring that the committee take many factors into consideration to make the best choice. Having the congregation involved in the process continues to be very important, and so, the search committee is hosting a Question and Answer Information session following the coffee hour on Sunday, March 17. All are welcome to hear the latest updates on the search process, give the committee feedback, and get answer to any questions you might have. Childcare will be provided.

After the Sunday Q&A meeting, the search committee will have four days to review the incredible amount of information we have gathered. After in-depth deliberation, we will make our choice and expect to make the offer to the selected minister on March 21.

Following a commitment by the selected minister, the Search Committee will provide lots of information in the April edition of the Weathervane about how our choice fits the church's criteria. We will also schedule another Q&A session with the congregation in early April to provide an opportunity for additional questions and feedback.

The last step in the search process is Candidating Week which refers to the time when the selected ministerial candidate visits with the congregation, and the congregation has the opportunity to meet with her and decide if the chosen candidate will be our next settled minister. The week starts on Sunday, April 21, with the

candidate delivering the sermon that day. During the following week she will be meeting with as many of us as possible, with the Board of Trustees and committees, and in informal situations such as potluck dinners.

She will preach again on April 28, and following that service there will be a congregational meeting at which all the members of the congregation who are present will vote. If the vote is an overwhelming "Yes!"; the candidate will be called and asked to commit to becoming our new settled minister. If all goes well, the new minister will start August 1, 2013.

### What can you do until April 28?

1. Attend the Q&A Information session hosted by the Search Committee on Sunday, March 17 after the service
2. If you are member of a committee, plan to have a meeting, with the candidate present, during Candidating Week. April 21st -28th
3. Not on a committee? Keep your schedule open for a social event or two, with the candidate, during Candidating Week. April 21st -28th
4. If you are not a member of the congregation yet, contact Reverend Horst to inquire about joining. You must sign the membership book prior to voting on April 28.

Thank you for the trust you have put in the Search Committee to find a new settled minister. We are all committed to the very best outcome. Please contact us with your questions and comments.



## Welcome New Members

*Tobias Glidden*

*Susan Turer*

*Rich Turer*

*Danica Connors*

*Jan Ellsworth*



## March 2013 Sunday Services

**Sunday, March 3 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall**

### **'Does Prayer Work?'**

The World Day of Prayer on March 1 and the National Day of Prayer on May 2 are times when hundreds of thousands of people of faith around the world and in our nation pray to God asking for divine help and guidance in human affairs. On these occasions we ask ourselves, Does prayer work? And, if so, How? Today we take a faithful but critical look at the power of prayer in personal as well as communal lives. Hear excerpts from Anne Lamotts' witty and wise new book *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. Music with Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

**Sunday, March 10 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall**

### **'Staring into Space'**

The recent landing of Curiosity on the planet Mars takes our earth-bound imagination to the far-off universe, its origins, and its endless time. When and how did the universe begin? Why are we here? Does the apparent "grand design" of the universe confirm the belief in a creator God or eliminate such a belief once and for all? Join Rev. Horst as he discusses the latest book by the renowned Stephen Hawking, *The Grand Design*, and its implications for religious faith in his sermon "Staring into Space." Music with Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

**Sunday, March 17 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall**

### **'Sinners and Saints'**

Let's put St. Patrick back into St. Patrick's Day! Rev. Horst shares the story and legends of St. Patrick on this holiday when everyone gets their Irish on! Perhaps the life and legacy of this Catholic saint has something to teach us Unitarian Universalists. Come enjoy some good singing, a traditional Irish story, and a fun sermon entitled "Sinners and Saints." Be sure to wear some green! Music with Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

**Sunday, March 24 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall**

### **'Kindness'**

The Fourth Sunday Committee presents the service reflecting on the Dharma Lama's definition of religion: "This is my simple religion. There is no need for Temples, no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple. The philosophy is Kindness." Mary Beth Splaine and Jim Sulzer lead the service, Music with Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

**Sunday, March 31 - 10:45 a.m. - Hendrix Hall**

### **'Celebrating Easter and Passover'**

This year the Jewish celebration of Passover and the Christian holy day of Easter overlap. This is an opportunity to discuss the connections and differences between these two traditions, particularly in the ways we honor the Jewishness of Jesus. Easter and Passover are also seasonal celebrations, the time when we say goodbye to winter and welcome in the spring! Rev. Horst presents a sermon entitled "The Jewish Jesus." Music with Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is the home of Nantucket's Second Congregational Meeting House Society, Nantucket's liberal religious community. Sunday morning worship, music, and religious education begin at 10:45. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 - noon on Sunday mornings. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation in Hendrix Hall 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 in the Activities Room at 11:45. Bring brunch food to share. The Meeting House Choir rehearses on Saturday afternoons at 3 and Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Hendrix Hall.

## On the Road

### Adventures of the Search

Sissy Girard

To paraphrase the Postal Workers motto...Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor high winds, nor gloom of night, stays these Search Committee members from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

The blizzard, which struck the island on February 10th, canceled the boats as well as our first Neutral Pulpit meeting. Yes, we were disappointed, but being an even-tempered and flexible committee, we took it in stride and re-scheduled.

A week later, when the second storm was predicted, this even-tempered and flexible committee was poised and ready to implement Plan B. Our pre-candidate flew into Logan, then caught a Cape Air to the island. Between the arrival from Boston and departure to Hyannis, there was enough time for the entire committee to assemble at the airport, become the welcome committee and do a little "getting to know you/us" meeting before our ambassador, Barbara Elder, accompanied our guest to Hyannis.

To be on the safe/right side for the Sunday morning service, three of us boarded the 4:35 p.m. Grey Lady and spent Saturday night in Hyannis. Through the night, the snow kept falling, and the winds kept howling. The dreaded call "Due to the blizzard conditions, Services have been canceled today" came quite early.

So, what do you do when you're weather-bound in Hyannis? Yes, of course, we went to the mall, had a long, friendly, informative lunch, and we even went to the movies. Late that afternoon the second dreaded call came, the boat was canceled!!! So, once again, the even-tempered, flexible and now intrepid committee members, as well as our amazing "trooper" pre-candidate ordered a picnic supper and gathered for another opportunity to get to know each other better.

Hallelujah! Monday morning, we all boarded The Nantucket and rocked 'n' rolled our way back home. Our pre-candidate conducted a service, presented the sermon, Barbara Elder provided the music, and our expert stealth caterers provided a delicious lunch in the AR. In spite of the challenges, our experiences and memories are all positive.

Our next experience, February 24th, was also a bit stressful. Weather again was an issue, in fact, the boats were canceled after the arrival of the 8:45 a.m. Sissy and Peter

were already off island and met Craig and Yve at the church a few minutes before the service began. We enjoyed a lovely service and were warmly welcomed. We invited our pre-candidate to lunch and spent most of the afternoon discussing our goals and expectations for the congregation, as well as those of the prospective minister. Returning home presented a challenge, once again. The Hy-Line canceled their 7:00 pm run due to high winds. The planes were flying, but availability was a problem. Suddenly, luck was on our side, and two seats became available on the last trip of the day, phew!

We're half way there with two more pre-candidates to visit in neutral pulpits. This even-tempered, flexible, intrepid committee is now well-seasoned. There is nothing that gets us down or discourages us from performing the job you have trusted us to do.

I'm so glad to have the opportunity to let you know how much this Search Committee is committed and dedicated to you and the real needs of the congregation. There are no hidden agendas; there will be no settling for second best, we are not pressured by anyone or anything. I, personally, am so proud and honored to be a member of this committee, getting to know each member on a deeper level and knowing that each of us shares the same goal... to find "our" minister.



## Community Forum

### Second Amendment Rights

Rev. David Horst

The Meeting House hosted a Community Forum to discuss Second Amendment rights and gun violence on Saturday morning, March 2. More than 20 island residents attended representing many points of view.

Members of the Board and David Horst, Interim Minister, organized the forum in response to the "Day of Resistance" pro-gun rally held at Milestone Rotary and the counter-rally at Children's Beach the previous Saturday.

"Since the Newtown shootings, our nation has been in the midst of a divisive debate on the rights of gun owners and the need to reduce gun violence," said Rev. Horst.

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## Winter Exhibition Features Meeting House Artists

We are fortunate to have many talented artists among us in our Nantucket Unitarian Universalist congregation. To brighten the winter days at the Meeting House we are pleased to present a collection of recent work by eight painters and photographers in our midst. The artwork is hung on the walls of the Activities Room for viewing during coffee hour through the end of April. Selected pieces



Anne Sutherland

are for sale, with 40% of the sales price going to our church operating budget. If you are interested in purchasing a work by any of these artists, please contact Christine Sanford or Linda Sperry. Meeting House artists represented in the exhibition are David Barham ("Granada," oil on canvas and "Into Twilight," oil on board), Margaret Fox ("Turn to Face the Choir," oil on panel), Tamzin Hutchinson ("Storm Cloud," oil on canvas), Lauri Robertson ("My Favorite Forlorn Tree," giclée print), Edwin Rudd ("Island Tribe," watercolor on paper), Christine Sanford ("Paint by Numbers," oil on board), Anne Sutherland ("Joyce's Peonies," oil on canvas), and Jack Weinhold ("Great Point Study 1," giclée print on canvas.)

Future shows are being planned for the summer and fall. If you would like to suggest an exhibition focus, contribute a piece of art or participate in some other way, please contact the church office.



## Task Force Report Committees and Coordinators

Susan Richards

Committee and Coordinator work is vital in the day-to-day running of our Congregation. Recently, a Task Force comprised of Board and Congregation members convened to look at our current list of committees and coordinator positions, active and not-so-active. Our goal was to review, define, and make recommendations as needed.

While many of our committees are very active and meet regularly, some are in need of additional members and a bit of revitalization. In addition, based upon input from

the congregation, the task force is recommending that a couple of new committees, Adult Education and community Outreach, might be welcome in our religious community. They are on the agenda for Board discussion and information on their status will be coming soon.

Along with our Board of Trustees, current committees in our congregation are - Building and Grounds, Finance, Fourth Sunday Lay-Led, Fundraising, Music, Peace and Justice, Personnel, Pledge/Members Fund, Religious Education, Welcoming & Membership. And some members also serve on the board of The South Church Preservation Fund, an Affiliate Organization

Coordinating positions are: Greeters, Website, Weather-vane newsletter, Hospitality and Docents.

Interested in joining a committee or assisting in a coordinator role? A good way to get answer to questions about any of these committees or coordinating positions is to attend a meeting. Meetings are open to anyone, and you will find meeting times and dates listed in the Sunday order of service.

Perhaps you would like to jump right into a specific project on one of these committees? Just speak with Interim Minister, David Horst, or a member of the Board of trustees. Whether you're a new or seasoned congregation member or friend, your time and talent is vital to the life and growth of the congregation



## Community Forum (continued)

"We wanted to create a forum for civil dialogue so that the issue could be de-polarized, creating a path to consensus and a community response."

Rev. Horst moderated the discussion, which was thoughtful and civil. No conclusions were reached, but many commented about the culture of violence in which we live and that gun violence is but one symptom of a much greater problem.

A second Community Forum is scheduled for Saturday, April 6. Rev. Horst and the congregation previously discussed gun violence at the January 6 service. A prayer vigil for the Newtown victims was held at the Meeting House on December 16.

## Meeting House Notes

Mary Beth Splaine, President

Michael May, Executive Director of the Nantucket Preservation Trust and a board member of the South Church Preservation Fund is chairing the publication of an updated version of the history of the Meeting House. Michael reports: "The publication, "The Unitarian Meeting House: A History Commemorating 200 Years", completed by the Nantucket Preservation Trust for the South Church Preservation Fund in 2009 is out of print, but plans are now underway to reprint the book and make it available for sale by summer.

The book, which chronicles the history of the church from its founding in 1809, will be updated with a narrative about the preservation story of the Meeting House. The fully illustrated limited edition will also highlight the recent work, including the restoration of the bell frame, tower, town clock, and the reconstruction of the interior's trompe l'oeil painting as well as acknowledgment of major donors to the preservation project."

This is a special opportunity for members of the congregation to order the book prior to publication. Please contact Mary Beth Splaine, [mb@nantucket.net](mailto:mb@nantucket.net), with your order. The price should be approximately \$25.

The book will quickly become a collector's item and every member should have one.



## Coming, Coming, Sold....

**The annual Goods and Services Auction  
is coming June 15th.**

**It's time to begin building the 2013 team for  
the best Auction yet.**

**Come to the information and organization  
meeting March 10, after service and coffee.**

**There's a job for every interest and skill – it's  
limited time, intense collaborative fun and  
work, with a high satisfaction factor.**

**Be part of the Auction Action this year.**

## YOUTH GROUP

**Thursdays at 6 pm**

The high school 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

## New Edition

**The Unitarian Meeting House  
A History from 1809 to the present  
highlighting the recent work.**

**Written by Betsy Tyler  
to order - [mb@nantucket.net](mailto:mb@nantucket.net)**

## Spring Your Clocks Ahead

**One Hour  
Saturday Night  
March 9th  
To Be on Time  
Sunday the 10th**

## GREETERS

Please sign up to be a Sunday morning greeter!

Greeters welcome members, friends, and  
guests; hand out name badges, bulletins,  
and hymnals; and answer visitors' questions.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet  
in Hendrix Hall  
next Sunday morning!

## **Fouth Sunday**

**In February**

Christine Sanford

With Diane Lehman on vacation, Amanda Torchia and Jacob Butler choose and beautifully performed the music for the day.

Chrisitine Sanford opened the service with her own poem about winter, Tobias Glidden lit the chalice, and the Story for all Ages was lead by Michelle Whelan reading her two favorite children's tales.

Grace Noyes shared the story of her family's move to Nantucket, their history on island, and her love of buildings followed by two lovely poems, January and February from her sister Nancy Adam. These poems are from a collection of poems in Nancy's book Nantucket X12 , which can be found in our lending library in the AR.

Following Christine's presentation, Thoughts on the 7th Principle, the service was opened to a congregation discussion of the subject.

Coffee hour was lively with lots of conversation and good food from Val and Bob Hall, Karin Goekel, Yve Shevalier, Grace Noyes and Christine Sanford.

Many thanks to Rev. David Horst, Alyson Gaylord-Loy, and Jen Dunbar for being the day's Religious Education team, and to all who participated and helped to make another Fourth Sunday service a success.

## **Bring your Search questions.....**

**The settled minister search committee invites all of us to attend an informal information session in Hendrix Hall after the coffee hour on Sunday, March 17.**

**They will be providing us with an update and answer questions prior to the important March 21 date.  
(when they must call their choice)**

**Of course, the work they are doing requires a certain level of confidentiality but they will be prepared to answer as many of our questions as they can.**

**Please plan on attending this important session!**

**Child care will be available.**

## **You're invited to Seder**

**The Society and Shirat Ha Yam are jointly hosting the Jewish ritual feast of Seder, marking the beginning of Passover. Thursday evening, March 28th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the AR.**

## **Unitarian Universalists' Seven Principles**

**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.**



The Nantucket  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fundraising Committee  
invites you to a

## St. Patrick's Day Dinner

**Sunday, March 17**

**6:00 p.m. • \$20 per person (at the door)**

Residence of Jack Weinhold and Mary Beth Splaine  
15 South Shore Road (off Surfside)

Join members and friends of the Nantucket Unitarian Universalist congregation for a traditional St. Patrick's Day feast, featuring corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, Irish soda bread and other Irish delights. The dinner will be lovingly prepared and served by your UU Fundraising Committee.

All proceeds will go to the 2013 operating budget. Sign up on the Activities Room bulletin board near the kitchen. Are you a long-time member of the congregation? Bring a new member or friend as your guest!





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**Church Staff**

**David M. Horst**, *Interim Minister* - **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*  
**Diane T. Lehman**, *Acting Music Director* - **Kaitlyn Burke**, *Office Assistant*  
**Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo**, *Sextons*

**Board of Trustees**

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

**Church Office Hours**

*Monday - Friday ~ 9:00 a.m. - Noon*

**Minister's Office Hours**

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