



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

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - February 2016

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Standing, Sitting or On Our Sides

I recently read a book about perfection, how we are all perfect and need to embrace this concept so we can be who we really are. It struck me this concept, *who we really are*, refers to a core self that is lying beneath our lives awaiting our discovery that is untouched, unblemished by all of our dos and don'ts, all of life's demands and joys, all of societies encouragements and discouragements, that is perfectly imperfect.

I think this concept keeps us always trying to peel away, get more present, move away from another distraction so that we can arrive at the beginning, the essence, the wholeness of ourselves. And while this can be good, it can also deny us so much of our experience.

We all carry so much pain and struggle in illness, and along with it, what I find to be a shame that we have somehow failed. So many conversations when we are ill or feeling far away from the self we feel we should be are about how to get back, to redo, to arrive again at a place of wholeness, beginning, return.

I wonder what would happen if we learned a language that allowed us more time to be where we are when we are not who we want to be, not feeling what we want to be feeling, not inside of the experiences that bring us the most joy. What might happen if we sought meaning when we were not able to feel ease, when the self that is waiting for us outside of all the distraction is not an original goodness, not a pure presence, not a wholeness but a limited, partial, permeable self?

This is what I imagine might happen: We might be offered a language that allowed us to breathe, to be whole in our brokenness, to embrace our discomfort and darkness and fear of it all and know that it is part of the excruciating beauty that makes us human.

The prophet Mohammed said, "Say your prayers standing but if you are unable sitting and if unable on your side." There is grace in all of life. In however we can show up, all of it is holy.

These are our questions. The answers we dance in this, our faith-filled community, graced with the melody of a bell through which the past can still be heard and a future that is rung out, a promise that only we can write the words of together.

*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, Feb. 7
"What the Winter Has to Teach Us"
Guest Speaker Aisha Asano
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, Feb. 14
"Intimacy and the Words That Never Leave God's Mouth"
Guest Speaker Johannah Murphy
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, Feb. 21
"Turning Toward the Sun—Longer Day and Rebirth of Life"
Guest Worship Leader Jim Scott
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, Feb. 28
Lay Led Service
Hendrix Hall

Families Welcome!
Religious Education for Children Every Sunday

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How Do We Matter

by Susan Richards, Outgoing Board of Trustees President

What difference does being Unitarian Universalist and being a part of this Meeting House Society on Nantucket make to me? What can I do that matters and how can I keep doing more of it?

At our January 31st service and Annual Meeting I read a poem entitled "What will Matter". It ends with the words: "Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters"

This poem resonates with me in several ways....having to do with what I, what we, can do that matters. Most important to me, and I suspect to many of us as UUers, is the element of choice, of choosing when and how to contribute.

When Peter and I became year-rounders back in 2011, we came to Nantucket with a mission - to be a part of, and contribute in whatever ways we could, to the island community. One of our first steps was to come to a service at this Meeting House and see what we could offer. That's all it took in this lovely community..... to be willing to help And we were very enthusiastically invited to participate in a wide variety of ways...

It quickly became apparent to me that by contributing what I could on various Committees, on the Board of Trustees, at our Meeting House events and fundraisers, and at services like these, that what I do can matter. While one aspect of my contribution ends on the final day of my presidency of the Board of Trustees, I know that I'll keep chipping away in any way that I can to continue to help in ways that I hope matter to a Community that I have come to love.....

From the New President – Jan Ellsworth

After the annual meeting, your Board of Trustees held its first meeting in 2016. The elected slate of officers for the Board of Trustees for 2016 is: President, Jan Ellsworth; Vice-President, Val Hall; Clerk, Stephen Estabrooks. We also welcomed two new members, Clay Twombly and Val Hall, to the Board. Our first order of business will be to plan our spring Board Retreat which will hopefully include a presentation from a member of the New England Regional UUA Leadership group.

I would like to thank Paul Stewart for his hours of hard work. As Treasurer, he comes to every Board meeting and helps us navigate what it means to have a balanced budget and still provide a meeting house for our island's liberal religion. I cannot imagine leading the Board without his guidance.

Please contact me at ellsjan@verizon.net if you have any concerns or questions.

2016 Board of Trustees

President—Jan Ellsworth

Vice President—Val Hall

Treasurer—Paul Stewart

Clerk—Stephen Estabrooks

Cynthia Csabay, Lora Stewart, Joy Margolis,
Joanna Greenfield, Clay Twombly

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Clay Twombly

I moved to Nantucket in June 2003 for a

"summer", adopted a dog, Jackson, and never left. I first started attending the Meeting House about five years ago when Mary Beth Splaine asked me to be

a part of a lay-led service. Now, in addition to teaching yoga, I have a small shop in town where I sell my prayer beads and jewelry, and other special hand-made goods. Outside of work, I love time with my fiancé Joe Olsen and my dear friends, practicing yoga and meditation, being silly, and playing with my dogs, Jackson and Eddy.



Val Hall

I was born in Vermont, but grew up all over the place as an Air Force brat. I moved to Nantucket in 1976 after returning to Vermont to go to college and start a teaching career. My husband (Bob) and I were hired to teach science, Bob at Nantucket High School and me at the middle school. After five years I went on sabbatical to Woods Hole for a Master's Degree in Marine Biology. When I returned to teaching, I began a high school marine science program, which I taught until my retirement in 2004. Then I went back to school for a PhD in marine science and technology, studying the fishery of my favorite marine animal, the bay scallop.

I joined the Second Congregational Meeting House Society in the winter of 1976-1977, brought by then choir director Ron Bredesen and school committee member Ted Anderson. In no time I realized that this is where I belonged: a congregation who worshipped *and* laughed together. Having been raised a Catholic, I never realized that Church could be so much fun! When I am not singing in the choir or volunteering in various other capacities at church, I cherish the time I spend at Nantucket Safe Harbor for Animals as an animal caregiver. I also sing in the Women's Chorus and enjoy spending time outdoors on this beautiful island.



7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary

We are working away on our initiatives, and have taken on some new ones as well. The Food Rescue initiative is growing by leaps and bounds. The goal of the project is to secure food from supermarkets, restaurants, etc. that would otherwise go to waste and redistribute it to those in need here on Nantucket. To that end, we reached out to Nantucket's Food Pantry to partner with us. Anne Marie, the director of the Food Pantry, enthusiastically responded by joining our four Food Rescue Team and offering important and well thought through ideas. Together, we believe that this 'work in process' will have positive effects for those in need in our community, both in the near future as well as the long term, creating opportunities as it evolves, limited only by the creativity and energy we can harness.

In terms of immigration, we have made contact and would like to partner with a Lutheran organization in Worcester, MA called Ascentria. This extraordinary organization works to help many in need, including the resettlement of Syrian refugee families. A group of UU churches on the Cape and Islands, including our Meeting House, will be meeting to consider how we can support Ascentria's efforts and contribute to the wellbeing of a Syrian family being resettled in MA. More to come on this as it unfolds.

Also, the year round bus initiative has seen encouraging movement. Rev. Linda, Pastor Eduardo Calles from Faro de Luz and Cecilia Gutierrez from St. Mary's met to discuss the year round bus town meetings and surveys initiated by NRTA. Both Eduardo and Cecilia took hundreds of surveys and posters and agreed to let their congregations know about the meetings on January 11th and 12th, both of which were well attended. Polly Miller from our congregation who is part of the 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary Initiative attended a stakeholders' meeting with other prominent Nantucket residents. Polly reported a very positive and generative meeting with real commitment to the year round bus. How wonderful to be on the ground floor of this good work!

Finally, the Strategic Team has met to develop a survey for the congregation, which will roll out soon concerning energy use and awareness so that we have a starting point from which to track our progress. This is also necessary for the official Green Sanctuary application to the UUA, which is a small feat in itself!

All in all, our island congregation is working away at making a positive difference in each other's lives, the island and the world. How lucky we are to be here together!

In Community,
Gary Langley

SAVE THE DATE!

Stewardship 202 Relevant Faith-Filled 21st Century Practices

A video presentation by Mark Ewert, UU Consultant, the Stewardship for Us Team, and author of The Generosity Path

Let's think holistically about stewardship in our congregation!

**Tuesday, March 8
7pm– 9pm
Hendrix Hall**

Everyone is welcome!

Spanish Conversational Group

Every 1st and 3rd Friday

5pm—6:30pm

Hendrix Hall

All levels welcome!

Just a reminder!

**Rev. Linda Simmons
will be off island for the month of
February**

**Any questions? Call the office at
508-228-5466**

The 7th Principle

Respect for the Interdependent Web of which we are Part

The 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary

Committed to Sustainability and Environmental Justice, including partnering with the most vulnerable among us, in Response to the Degradation of our Earth and its People

Projects in Process since 2014:

A community garden plot with 80% of the produce going to the Food Pantry
Clothing drives for Food Pantry clients
Voter Registration
Spanish classes so that we might be better allies with our Latino/a brothers and sisters on this island

Some of the projects for 2016:

Partnering with island immigrants and the State of MA on issues such as driver's education, licensees for all Mass residents, and assistance for Syrian Refugee families
Upcycling Food with the Food Rescue Project
Composting
Mass Save Home Audits
Developing strategies to help us discern personal and congregational energy use and awareness
Movie/potluck nights to stir interest and bring more issues to the fore

Please join us as we combine our voices, skills, resources and energy in pronouncing we are all one and together we can make a difference.

For more information contact

Gary Langley: gary@blinddogphoto.com

Paul Stewart: Paul@PLPDD.com

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Paul Stewart

At the Annual Meeting on January 31 we discussed the Treasurer's Report below. The Report shows the assets of the Society (the left side of the spreadsheet) and the general operating budget and actuals for 2015 and as recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees for 2016 (the right side).

There was discussion and Q&A on the various portions of the Report. After all discussion and questions, the Annual Meeting voted to adopt the "All 2016 Budget" in column Q.

We will report on the actual financial status of the Society in the May, August, and November Weathervanes. Questions on this and any aspect of our Society's finances are welcome.

Paul P. Stewart, Treasurer, Paul@PLPDD.com

	A	B	C	D	K	L	N	O	P	Q
1	Treasurer's Report: Pledges, Funds, and General Operating Budget									
2	My goal is to put this information in the May, August, November, and February Weathervanes. Paul P. Stewart, Treasurer, Paul@PLPDD.com									
3	2015 and starting 2016				General Operating Budget			All 2015		All 2016
4	2015 Pledges	1/1/2015	Change	12/31/2015	Income less related expenses			Budget	Actual*	Budget
5	Amount Pledged	\$ 76,434	\$ 5,890	\$ 82,324	<= Pledge Payments Received			\$ 82,314	\$ 67,747	\$ 81,033
6	Number of Pledges	68	8	76	Sunday Plate and Gifts			\$ 10,500	\$ 11,586	\$ 10,974
7					Rentals (Pars, FdLuz, CSHY, wed, HH ...			\$ 78,450	\$ 86,547	\$ 80,670
8	2016 Pledges	1/1/2016	Change	1/24/2016	FUNdraising (Auction, 4thJuly, etc.)			\$ 14,900	\$ 20,475	\$ 17,446
9	Amount Pledged	\$ 72,878	\$ 3,400	\$ 76,278	Income from Endowment and Banks			\$ 28,000	\$ 25,139	\$ 38,616
10	Number of Pledges	58	4	62	Income from Sanford Fund			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
11					Principal taken from Endowment			\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12	Funds ('R'estricted, by 'D'onor)	1/1/2015	Net Change	12/31/2015	total income less related expenses			\$ 224,164	\$ 221,494	\$ 238,738
13	General Operating monies CapeCod5	\$ 5,001	\$ 3	\$ 5,003				All 2015		All 2016
14	General Operating monies NanBank	\$ 54,018	\$ (25,736)	\$ 28,282				Budget	Actual*	Budget
15	Subtotal General Operating Rows 13:14	\$ 59,019	\$ (25,733)	\$ 33,285	Operating Expenses					
16	R Parsonage Capital Maint. NanBank	\$ 4,810	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,810	Ministry + Guest Speakers			\$ 99,850	\$ 99,850	\$ 100,914
17	R Parsonage roof, up to NanBank	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Building & Grounds			\$ 53,786	\$ 55,136	\$ 63,654
18	R Minister's Discretionary NanBank	\$ 1,488	\$ (94)	\$ 1,394	Operations (office, postage, etc.)			\$ 31,754	\$ 33,026	\$ 35,360
19	R RE Committee NanBank	\$ 100	\$ 289	\$ 389	Religious Exploration (RE)			\$ 6,241	\$ 4,609	\$ 6,325
20	R Sabbatical Provision NanBank	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	Music Program			\$ 22,045	\$ 20,921	\$ 22,830
21	R Social Action NanBank	\$ -	\$ 58	\$ 58	Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)			\$ 4,589	\$ 4,589	\$ 4,374
22	R Membership Committee NanBank	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Committee Budgets			\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 600
23	R Sanctuary Sound System NanBank	\$ (11,227)	\$ 9,326	\$ (1,901)	Congregational Leadership/Training			\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 0
24	R Activities Room Reno. NanBank	\$ -	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	Contingency/Slack			\$ 5,000	\$ 2,600	\$ 4,681
25	RD Organ Playing NanBank	\$ 275	\$ (100)	\$ 175	total Operating Expenses			\$ 224,164	\$ 221,131	\$ 238,738
26	RD Organ Maint. + NanBank	\$ -	\$ 1,486	\$ 1,486	Surplus(Deficit)			\$ 0	\$ 363	\$ 0
27	Subtotal All Bank Accounts Rows 13:26	\$ 54,464	\$ 2,031	\$ 56,495	<div> <div> Income 2016 Budget (w/o \$25K Parsonage 'rent') </div> <div> Expenses </div> </div>					
28	R Capital Reserves TIAA-CREF=>Vanguard	\$ 933,807	\$ (84,304)	\$ 849,503						
29	R Working Reserves TIAA-CREF=>Vanguard	\$ 427,675	\$ (38,610)	\$ 389,065						
30	R Capital Reserves TIAA-CREF=>UU CEF	\$ -	\$ 94,596	\$ 94,596						
31	Subtotal Reserves Rows 28:30	\$ 1,361,482	\$ (28,318)	\$ 1,333,164						
32	RD Organ Maint. + (est. 2011) TIAA-CREF	\$ 47,738	\$ 20,099	\$ 67,837						
33	Subtotal all 'Endowment' Rows 28:32	\$ 1,409,220	\$ (8,219)	\$ 1,401,001						
34	Total all above Rows 13:33	\$ 1,463,684	\$ (6,189)	\$ 1,457,496						
35										
36	RDP Sanford Trust (est. 1910) BNY-Mellon	\$ 252,469	\$ (5,560)	\$ 246,908	== Sanford Trust is a right to income but we don't "own" the principal.					

Sermons for February

February 7: "What the Winter Has to Teach Us" - Guest Speaker Aisha Asano

Despite the annoyances and frustrations it brings, winter plays an important role in the cycle of the seasons. Together, we will explore the good things about winter, and examine how to apply those lessons to our own lives. (Aisha Asano is a third year MDiv student at Harvard Divinity School and an aspirant in the UU fellowship process. Aisha feels called to food ministry, and enjoys exploring ways to integrate food and spiritual community.)

February 14: "Intimacy and the Words That Never Leave God's Mouth" - Guest Speaker Johannah Murphy

All of us have struggled at one point or another with intimacy and what it means to be intimate in the context of various relationships. Cheryl Strayed comments that "we must build the intimacy that we deserve," but what does this mean in a spiritual context? Can a spiritual intimacy help us build relationships, and can it be there for us when we have lost a sense of intimacy with our friends or partners? This week we will explore what spiritual intimacy could be, and what it is for us now. (Johannah [Jo] Murphy completed her Masters of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School this past May. Prior to Divinity School she worked in Malawi in a small village with the Peace Corps as a Community Based Resource volunteer working on environmental studies.)

February 21: "Turning Toward the Sun—Longer Day and Rebirth of Life" - A Worship Service with Guest Jim Scott

With the coming of longer days all of nature (on our side of the earth) is reawakened. With life feeling the greater light of day, all mistakes, sorrows, crimes and wounds of the past year may just be composted in the impending, relentless spring. (Jim Scott intersperses songs and personal reflections on the season with spiritual ecological awareness. Former Co-Chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program.)

February 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.*

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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 ~ Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus

Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ Jen Dunbar, Lead RE Teacher

Ed Sullivan, Sexton ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Jan Ellsworth (President), Val Hall (Vice President), Paul Stewart (Treasurer), Steve Estabrooks (Clerk)

Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Joy Margolis, Clay Twombly, Lora Stewart

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

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