

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

Unitarian Universalist

Nantucket, MA

January 31, 2021

2020 Board of Trustees

| | Term Ends |
|---|------------------|
| Susan Richards, <i>President</i> | January 2021 |
| Alison Forsgren, <i>Vice President</i> | January 2021 |
| Jeffrey Thomson, <i>Treasurer</i> (Jan.2020-Nov.2020) | January 2021 |
| Kat Robinson Grieder, <i>Asst. Treasurer/Interim Treasurer</i> (Nov.2020-Jan. 2021) | January 2021 |
| Susan Berman | January 2023 |
| Carl Borchert | January 2022 |
| Natalie Chambers | January 2022 |
| Rob Dunbar | January 2022 |
| Loretta Middleton | January 2023 |
| Rev. Linda Simmons | |

Board terms are three years, except for the Treasurer whose term is one year. Board members, including the Treasurer, are elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The board elects its other officers annually from among its members.

2020 Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, *Minister*
Rev. Ted Anderson, *Minister Emeritus*
Nigel Goss, *Music Director*
Leyah Jensen, *Children & Youth Program Director*
Sherlly Morocoima, *C-WE Assistant & Sexton*
Sue Mynttinen, *Office Manager*

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes..... | 3 |
| 2020 Summer Meeting Minutes..... | 6 |
| Minister's Report..... | 10 |
| President's & Clerk's Report | 13 |
| Music Director's Report..... | 17 |
| Archives | 19 |
| Building and Grounds Committee | 19 |
| Recovery Team Report | 21 |
| Caring Team | 22 |
| Citizen of the World Explorers Committee | 24 |
| Committee on Ministry | 26 |
| Communications Committee | 26 |
| Fundraising Committee..... | 27 |
| Growing Connections Between Friends and Members Committee..... | 28 |
| Lay Led Service Committee..... | 29 |
| Nominating Committee..... | 30 |
| Pledge Committee Report..... | 31 |
| 7th Principle Project..... | 32 |
| Food Rescue Nantucket | 32 |
| Immigration Resource Center | 33 |
| Treasurer's Report | 33 |
| Reserves and Annual Reserve Income | 36 |
| South Church Preservation Fund (SCPF) 2020 Annual Report..... | 37 |

2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Second Congregational Society
Unitarian Universalist, Nantucket, Massachusetts
Minutes for the Annual Congregational Meeting
January 26, 2020 - 12:00pm
Note Taker - Susan Richards

I. Call to Order and Establish Quorum at Noon

Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President

Peter Richards, Board of Trustees Clerk - Peter declared that there were 25+ members present- enough to provide a quorum for this meeting

II. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Kat Robinson Grieder , Board of Trustees Vice President lit the chalice. Theme of her opening words were: "Have a wide vision and work together".

III. Approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual & Summer Mtgs - motion made by Carl Borchert and seconded by Paul Stewart to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual and Summer Meetings - Vote of Unanimous approval by the Congregation

IV. Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of 2020 Budget

Paul Stewart, Treasurer - Congregational Vote

Paul Stewart, Treasurer - motion to accept the 2020 proposed budget which is presented in the Annual Report /Suse Robinson seconded.

Discussion:

- Paul reviewed the process for establishing the budget and then highlighted that the congregation has the final say on the vote - He reviewed the graphs and pie charts presented in the annual report - biggest section of budget pie is pledges, endowments, rentals
- Our long-time tenant, Faro de Luz is moving out and a new congregation Servants of the Heart Ministries (SHIM) is moving in and already paying rent - discussion of how that impacts the budget
- Our fundraising line is likely to change
- Sanford fund - too much? And now they're sending us a little less (from \$10k to \$9K)
- Discussion about reserves and our goal to have it at least keep up with inflation - we are doing well with our investments because the market is up - 3% of interest

goes back to budget

- Question - how do we do as a congregation at keeping our pledges - Jack Weinhold used to call to remind people to pledge - this year's pledge thermometer is looking good - anything more we get is growth
- Our pledge to UUA - the amount we raise staff salaries we'll give to UUA as a pledge (instead of 3X our usual amount pledged)
- Question - Tijuana washing machine - what is this? Place where Linda and Gary volunteered needed a washing machine - we were able to raise the money thru donations -
- Explanation of Funds by Paul for committees, parsonage, etc.

VOTE on acceptance of 2020 Annual budget - Approved unanimously -

VOTE - Second proposal by Paul proposal and seconded by Lucille - 2019 budget surplus of \$16,369.00- Allocate of surplus - to sabbatical provision fund - \$3,300, \$3,000 to Minister discretionary fund and the rest to Parsonage Renovation fund - Voted on and approved unanimously

V. Honoring Outgoing Board members - Susan and Rev Linda - Joanne Polster, Peter Richards and Paul Stewart were recognized for their years of service on the Board of Trustees - A special award of an engraved compass to Paul for his 6 years of dedicated service as Treasurer!

VI Election of Board of Trustees Members

Val Hall, Nominating Committee Chair placed in nomination Congregation members Loretta Middleton and Susan Berman for a 3-year term. - Kat seconded the motion. Voted on and approved unanimously.

VII. Election of Treasurer

Val Hall, Nominating Committee Chair placed in nomination Jeffrey Thomsen for a 1-year term as Treasurer. Paul Stewart seconded. Voted on and approved unanimously.

VIII. Election of South Church Preservation Fund Directors

Gary Langley as chair of SCPF placed in nomination: New member Chris Hansen and returning members Angus McCleod , Gary Langley, Peter Richards and Lucille Jordon seconded. Voted on and approved unanimously.

- Gary reported that the Board has been busy with a variety of building projects including an exterior painting job which includes regilding of the building dome) and will be paid for by a grant... pending expected approval at Town Meeting in March.
- Other jobs that have been completed or are in process involve roof and windows and refurbished sashes. In addition, the Board has found a painting group that does the painting without scaffolding saving a large amount of money.

IX. Election of Nominating Committee

Val Hall, Nominating Committee Chair placed in nomination Peter Richards, Joanne Polster and Anne Perkins - seconded by Lucille Jordan. Voted on and approved unanimously.

X. Rededication of AR - Rev Linda Simmons proposed that the Congregation dedicate the refurbished Activities Room to Rev. Ted Anderson and that we celebrate with a celebration on June 3rd. Motion was seconded by Lucile Jordan. Voted on and approved unanimously. Rev Ted has consented to this plan and will try to attend the celebration. This will also be the kick off our growth campaign and named in Ted's honor - #radical welcome - Another idea was a possible Ted Anderson fund for Social Justice (hasn't been discussed with Ted) - Voted on and approved unanimously

XI. Committee Reports:

Food Rescue - Gary Langley provide an overview. The very successful program is beginning its 6th year. Many weekly deliveries are being made by a dedicated group of volunteers. Work on the solar cooler is almost complete - Food Rescue has received a total of \$1,100 from the Karesshi olive oil

Immigration Resource Center and Winter Monday Suppers - Rev Linda reported that the Winter Monday suppers have been a huge success. The immigration Resource Center continues to be open the first Monday of every month and use is increasing.

- **Make it Stop** (Gun control) - Randi Alfather reported that the group is working on a movie and discussion presentation with a focus on this being a public health issue vs a constitutional issue.
- **LGBTI+I** s working on a Workshop series -and is starting a support group at Handlebar Cafe
- **FUNdraising** - Alison Forsgren reports that the group is working on a couple of new ideas with a major focus on the 4th of July celebration - to collect more money - # tag on phone to make digital donations
- A couple of raffles - wine raffle - congregant is interested in doing... Another yard sale? Alison stressed that fundraising needs to be work that we share not just hard work for a few! - 4th of July planning meeting coming soon
- **Communications** - Bess Clarke reports that this committee of Alison Forsgren, Rev Linda, Emma Young, and Sue Mynttinen has been working all year to define their mission and develop marketing tools to attract more members for more revenue - they have developed new logo which is in use and a new brochure has just been completed and being distributed soon - The focus of the campaign will be print/digital/possible radio - Rev Linda is developing a series of 7 Principles workshops Social media is being used to attract the next generation of Nantucket UUers - The Committee will be collaborating with the June 3rd AR dedication event to spread the word of #Radical Welcome - \$4,000 of our original grant is

left so will be using the rest of these funds in 2020

XIII. Adjournment/Extinguishing the Chalice at 1:20pm

Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President adjourned the meeting with the Closing words:

The Work We Share ... By Krista Taves

It is our work, shared with each other in covenant,

That creates and sustains this beloved community.

We extinguish this chalice, but its light lives on

in the directions we have chosen today.

2020 SUMMER MEETING MINUTES

Second Congregational Meeting House Society

Unitarian Universalist, Nantucket, Massachusetts

Summer Congregational Meeting -August 16, 2020

I. Call to Order at 11:40am

Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President

II. Lighting of Chalice and Opening Words

Rev Linda Simmons

III. Social Justice Update

Monday Night Suppers:

- Pastor Garfield - reported on Monday night dinners - 9 dinners/25 meals
- SHIM loves to help and be a service to the Community
- lots of SHIM congregants volunteered every Monday evening

Immigration Resource Center -

- Debbie Debois reported that the Center has been going on since 2017
- the Immigrant Committee COVID relief fund - awarded \$20,000 grant in May from Com Foundation - covering costs besides food/rent - awarded a second grant

in July of \$20,000 - 41 total households helped - Funds went to water/utility hospital directly - 22 applicants received grants/100 people

- Learned 3 main things - Lots of people unemployed in March/April/May and fell behind - feel like there will be a need in the winter again - 2) Still a gap in funds needed - 3) Still families in need who haven't asked for help
- Calin Duke, Liz Schaerfer, Susan Kirk, Nini Lafarge, Vanessa Rendiero are the major center volunteers (along with Debbie and Rev Linda)
- Debbie encourages everyone to pass the word to people who may need the help...

General:

- Most of Rev Linda's social justice work involves getting calls from the community
- how can we be more diversified?
- The work is open-ended- tell us what you need and we will continue!

III. Pandemic Update

Recovery Team - Paul Stewart reporting:

- In May - the BOT created the Recovery Team to address Meeting House usage during the Pandemic
- 12-24 individuals in SHIM have been meeting in the Sanctuary since July 1st - only congregation in "Front" - HH - Sanctuary - 36-84 individuals - better ventilation in Sanctuary
- SHY paid their regular rent even though they didn't use Meeting House in July/August but want to do High Holy days in September
- 2 groups (SHY and SHIM) will be meeting with proper timing between - then back to just SHIM in October
- BOT is voting this Thursday on virtual services thru December -
- Getting colder so use of Sanctuary is questionable
- No known answer to having more than one congregation using the same space... Muslim group and UUs using the back of the Meeting House thru the summer
- Suggestion of using outdoors while the weather is good for services. - perhaps an outdoor service not on a Sunday is being considered....

IV. SCPF Update

Gary Langley reports:

- put an application in for painting and repair of church - Paul Stewart put the proposal together last September and we were granted about half of what we wanted
- using steeplejack company which doesn't need scaffolding ...much less expensive!

- the painting will be starting Sept 8th including regilding the dome - won't be working during High Holy Days
- Hoping to have enough money left over to replace wrought iron railings in front of church and Hendrix Hall - perhaps simplifying HH railings and just have one side
- Gary (SCPF President) wanted to recognizing the committee members SCPF Christine Sanford, Treasurer, Chris Hanson, Bob Middleton, Susan Hochwald, Angus McCleod, Mary Bergman, Polly Miller
- Angus and Gary - project managers of painting
- Next year's goal is to figure out a maintenance process between UU and SCPF

V. Growth and Communications Update

Report from Alison Forsgren - Other hardworking members: Bess Clark, Sue Mynttinen, Rev Linda with help from others as well

- Committee meets every Thursday
- new brand - new logo!
- the committee has morphed into the fundraising -
- Auction earned (54 auction items) - \$12, 436.00
- Have been working hard on social media - Instagram - listen to 89.5 - Linda has recorded messages

VII. Financial Committee Report for Mid-Year 2020 -

Volunteer Treasurer, Jeffrey Thomson

- Screen shared Statement of net - assets (this is what a non-profit calls it) - Review of all financial forms -
- 1,941.000 - Total financial assets including the endowment/reserves
- Considering an audit in future - finance committee discussing this possibility - \$173, 778 - restricted funds - Jeffrey reviewed and explained certain areas -
- Review of Activity for our reserves - moved funds into Vanguard to earn interest income - 3% distribution rate - included in budget
- Budget review - should come in above budget for 2020 provided everyone gives their pledges
- Contributions - Big thank you to Kathy who made a \$50,000 donation to our Congregation in memory of Crowell -- made it unrestricted because of COVID - special donation - Jeffrey stressed that we always come to congregation to vote on any special uses of funds
- Shortfall in rental income - - SHIM didn't use space in April/May/June and didn't pay - \$30,000 total shortfall expected.

- SHY paid their whole rental
- We may get grant from Community Foundation to make up difference in fundraising budget
- Some extra expenses come with virtual meetings (tech person and zoom license) - Bookkeeper wasn't able to work for 6 weeks - B&G - overage - hoping that our insurance will pay claim for lightening...
- Everyone has been extremely generous - Very proud of our BOT and Congregation for standing by our employees and paying them all thru Sept 30th...
- Revenue Forecast - 220,001 (including \$50,000 special gift) - Should be quite close to our \$261,295 with \$258, 538
- Question on Insurance - we're on target
- Question on credit card cost - can add in Tithely
- R&D - Restricted by Donor - we have to stick with
- Relationship with SCPF? - established as non-profit in 1982 - separate entity from church board - has authority to carry out projects - created so we can fundraise - responsible for historical preservation - UUBOT responsible for ongoing daily maintenance - CPC will provide funds for painting - want to work out something between the two boards (UU and SCPF) to cover the "grey area" of maintenance -
- Endowment question - \$1,800,000 is our endowment - 3% goes to our budget - We have a policy not to use the principle - except for 3% interest

VIII. Adjournment and Extinguishing of Chalice - Adjourned at 1:15pm

Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President

MINISTER'S REPORT

I have served as your minister now for seven and a half years, and what a year this one has been! You continue to teach me what it means to show up with an open heart, a quiet mind and a willingness to be vulnerable. Every year, I learn more about what it means to live with an open heart. Every year, I give thanks for the privilege and honor of accompanying you on this journey.

This year, I led worship services on 36 Sundays offering reflection topics that included themes such as: *Love in the Time of Coronavirus*, *Becoming Wild during the Pandemic*, *Lessons from the Battlefield or How to Keep our Hearts open*, *Objects in the Mirror are Closer than they Appear*, and *Mindfulness on Our Feet*.

We also welcomed many guests to our zoom services including Dr. Mary-Francis O'Connor who spoke about *Grief in the Time of Covid*; Matthew Pargeter-Villareal offered *Listening to the Feeling Within*, Roddy Biggs led us in *Called out of the Closet towards Faith*, musician and gifted speaker Matt Meyers reminded us that *It Takes Practice*, Rev. Matthew Funke and Barbara Lemon shared their extraordinary work with *No More Deaths*, Dr. Robert Brooks suggested *Strategies for Leading a Resilient Life*, Rev. Kim Joyner shared *The Grace and Beauty of Tragedy*, Lama Rod Owens offered us *Love and Fear in Times of War*, Dr. Kahlil Abdur-Rashid guided us in *Reimagining Community & Proximity in the Midst of Individualism & Isolation* and our much loved former ministerial intern, Rev. Roger Bertschausen reminded us of *Partnership in an Interconnected World*. I also collaborated with UU member Paula Korn to take us all to Mars on December 22nd with *Join the Journey*. We also blessed the animals over zoom on October 4th, those that bless us with their lives and those that bless us with their memories too.

We had our beautiful zoom Christmas Eve service with poetry, music, candles and prayer. Thank you to all who participated. It was restoring.

In addition to my Sunday morning responsibilities, I officiated at six weddings, all outside and very small, one zoom vow renewal and two zoom memorial services. So much was put on hold this year. Gratefully, our caring for one another was not one these.

We welcomed four new members in 2020: Paula Korn, Jane Bourette, Nancy Adrian and Carol Benchley. They bless us all with their committed presence.

In February of 2020, Gary and I took a week from vacationing in California's Big Bear Mountains to work at a homeless shelter in San Diego, [The Alpha Project Bridge Shelter](#). We learned from the people there that having a bed and community support offers them the hope they need to reenter the world with meaning. I continue to work on Nantucket with other community leaders to create a Warming Station here for the coldest of winter

nights, and though Covid has slowed this process down, I am committed to seeing it through.

Our social justice commitments, through the 7th Principle Project, continue to be a corner stone of our Society. Since June of 2020, The Immigration Resource Center (IRC) has received over \$60,000 through the Community Foundation for the IRC Covid Relief Fund for immigrants affected by the pandemic through exposure or loss of work. These resources, paid to the vendors directly, are used for to pay for cable, internet and phone bills as well as medical bills and insurance, transportation related expenses, including bus passes, gasoline, car payments, and groceries.

The IRC also applied for and received a new grant from the Community Foundation for a contract with Linguistica, an on-demand telephone interpreter service. This will be made available to all ACK human services agencies supporting clients during the COVID pandemic, including the Food, Fuel and Rental Assistance program. The IRC is the administrator for the program.

Food Rescue, closed down due to Covid, has been morphing in some exciting ways that director Gary Langley will give a more detailed report on the pages herein.

Other social justice work that we have been part of include a Black Lives Matter vigil that I planned with Nantucket Justice League. Over 500 people were in attendance on Main Street. The young people from Nantucket Justice League who spoke were extraordinary. Also speaking was [Dr. Kahlil Abdur-Rashid](#), the Muslim Chaplain at Harvard Divinity School. Many in attendance said his words were reminiscent of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's.

The day after the BLM rally, Dr. Abdur-Rashid came to the UU Meeting House. He participated, with the Muslim Prayer Group, Masjid Al-Bahr, Mosque of the Ocean, that meets at the UU Meeting House in the summer, and members of the UU Meeting House congregation in blessing the new sign Masjid Al-Bahr on our building and the honoring our interconnectedness.

I spoke at a rally on the Town Green after RBG died. I also organized and took place in a zoom Interfaith Service of Solidarity and Healing with many other island ministers and an interfaith message of healing before the holidays. I was also invited to speak on climate justice at the Atheneum with a member of [CREW](#), Communities Responding to Extreme Weather.

From December 30-February 24th, we had meals every Monday through the Monday Night Supper program which the Community Foundation funded through a grant for those experiencing food insecurity. Avi Chitrit cooked up a storm each week and there were often over 30 people in attendance. Not only were the meals delicious, but they

were served as five courses and a local pastry chef Katie Stotler from The Pearl and The Boarding House donated her homemade and extraordinary desserts each week!

We received another grant through the Community Foundation from May-June 2020 to provide meals from Kitty's in a streamlined fashion- in one door and out the other- for those experiencing food insecurity. Servants Heart International Ministries (SHIM) participated in full force as did many UU folks. SHIM became new renters for and colleagues and friends with the UU Meeting House congregation in 2020, just as Faro de Luz found their own building for worship and faithful community building. Pastor Garfield Bloise is their pastor and has become a good friend. It has been an honor to participate in social justice offerings with him. He and I were invited to the hospital this year to speak about Covid and courage and community. It was a joy to participate with this open-hearted pastor.

Sunny Daily and I are part of a team organizing and supporting a café for LGBTQ support folks at the Handle Bar Café (and now over zoom) with [PFLAG](#) facilitators: Sue Mynttinen, Suzanne Fronzuto, and Kathy Butterworth.

I continue to serve as a member of the Interfaith Council, as Chaplain for the Fire Department, Palliative and Supportive Care or PASCON and Cottage Hospital. I also serve as the Grievance Officer for Nantucket Housing Authority. I am a member of the Ethics Committee at Cottage Hospital as well.

I devote a large part of my ministry to pastoral care, and this year saw so many more needs amongst us with the anxieties of COVID-19 and these political times. I hold this part of my ministry with you as sacred. You bless me through our visits and phone calls.

My gratitude to the staff and leadership of the church is overflowing this year. As everything shook, not only our faith in our country and its leadership, but in our own safety and well-being, as terrains shifted and shifted again, you all showed up, with your whole selves, through thick and thin. You are the reason we are still here, in one piece, and moving into a new year with some hope and courage. Bless you all dear people. Bless you.

Special thanks must be expressed for members of the Board, especially President Susan Richards, Vice President Alison Forsgren and Treasurer Kat Robinson Grieder and to Jeffrey Thomson for the nine months he served as treasurer; to Finance Committee members Randi Allfather, Kat Robinson Grieder, Peter Richards, Susan Richards, William Schutt, Paul Stewart, and Jim Sulzer for their extraordinary talents and commitment to the congregation; and to committee chairs and members, specifically, Citizen of the World Chairs: Susan Richards and Lora Stewart; Lay Led Service Committee Chair: Susan Richards; Nominating Committee Chair: Jim Sulzer; Building

and Grounds Chair: David Hall; 7th Principle Project Chair: Gary Langley; Caring and Membership Committees' Chair: Lora Stewart; South Church Preservation Fund President: Gary Langley; Manager of Church Archives: Joanne Polster; Committee on Ministry Chair: Cheryl Creighton; Recovery Team Chair, Paul Stewart; and the Gardening Committee chairs Joanne Polster and Nancy Mack. And last but not least, much gratitude to our staff: Nigel Goss, Music Director; Sue Mynttinen, Office Manager; Leyah Jensen, Children Youth Program Director, Sherlly Morocoima, Sexton and Gardener- for their continued service and devotion. We would be lost without you.

I also thank my colleague, Ted Anderson, *Minister Emeritus*, for the blessing of his friendship.

Thank you all for showing up, keeping the faith, and working to increase the measure of love and justice in the world. It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister

PRESIDENT'S & CLERK'S REPORT

Wow! Little did I know as I entered my 2nd year as President of our Board of Trustees and the end of my 2nd full term on the Board, how memorable and truly unique a year 2020 was going to be. I thought a timeline of the past year as seen through my eyes as President of the Board might be of interest.

January - We welcomed 2020 as usual with our Annual Congregational Meeting... held in the Activities Room. Loretta Middleton and Susan Berman were voted in as new Board Members and Jeffrey Thomson as new Treasurer. Outgoing Board members Joanne Polster and Peter Richards were recognized for their service to the Board. We also recognized the hard work of outgoing Treasurer, Paul Stewart - who had given us six years of conscientious work. What a job he did (and is still doing) for our Congregation!

February - Little did we know that our February Board meeting would be our last in person for the rest of the year and beyond. The new Board enthusiastically dove into a multitude of projects including bigger and better fundraising events like our 4th of July Declaration of Independence reading, (see July), a Board Spring retreat, and a new Music Program initiative and Treasurer position restructuring.

March/April - Our first virtual Board Meeting (via zoom) on March 31st.... Just after our first virtual service. If we had known this was to be the first of so many zoom meetings and events, I'm actually not sure how we would have taken it... but we didn't actually have a lot of time to think about it as we had so many challenges to tackle - taking care of our staff, congregation, building, budget, and community service projects in this time of

COVID would be our focus for the next 10 months (and counting) Headed into April, we voted to extend staff pay so that full salaries would be received through June.

May - Although we have decided as a Congregation to “go virtual” in terms of services and meetings through the summer, we had to decide how to handle our two renting congregations - Shirat Ha Yam and SHIM. We formed a Recovery Task force to tackle this issue... figuring out if and how our renters could use the space safely and responsibly. This was a big job! This was also a big month for planning the 4th of July virtual event...

June - A report from Gary Langley representing the South Church Preservation Fund (SCPF) who informed us of the church painting (and dome gilding!) project to be done. Not for the first time do I remember how thankful I am that we have an organization dedicated to the well-being of our Meeting House building. We voted to continue paying the salaries of our staff through September 30th. (In reality, although we aren't using the building, all of our staff is working remotely and even Sherlly, our sexton (and previously also our C-WE aide to Leyah) is doing extra work for us - focusing on outside grounds and garden work.

July - A virtual 4th of July reading of the Declaration of Independence was held after a massive amount of prep work managed by congregant Cynthia Csabay... a hugely popular event in person for the past 20 years...we were able to keep it going virtually with hopes to return to an in-person event in the summer of 2021 (or more likely 2022) A new challenge this month - an electrical storm hit Nantucket and lightning literally struck us - impacting the electrical systems of both the Parsonage and the Meeting House.... especially the office computer. Significant work, time, and finances went into making sure all repairs were made.

August - Our Annual Congregational Summer meeting was held (virtual meetings continuing) with reports from the Immigration Resource Center who had applied for and received two substantial grants to use to distribute funds to people who need help with expenses besides food and rent ... a growing number of island families are experiencing significant financial distress. A report from the Recovery Task Force informed us of how much behind the scenes work was going on to help us navigate the use of our building, balancing state Covid guidelines with the needs of various people and congregations who requested use of the space. At our August Board meeting we voted to extend our virtual services and other congregational functions through the end of December.

September - Discussion and beginning of work on ventilation options for Hendrix Hall. Winter is coming and the SHIM congregation who are currently using the sanctuary, will need to move to Hendrix Hall. We successfully managed to share the space through the summer with SHIM in the sanctuary and the Muslim congregation in the AR, while there were occasional (and well-spaced) visits to the office by UU staff and volunteers as

needed. UU and Shirat Ha Yam congregations both continue to meet virtually. The Nominating Committee met with us to get a start on the nominating of Board Trustees process for 2021.

October - We had a very rewarding virtual Board Retreat this month. Our Spring retreat had to be cancelled as we were so busy managing COVID-19 issues. Needless to say, it was missed. The Board is typically so busy overseeing the day to day/month to month operations of our Congregation's business that there's usually no time for much needed "big picture" discussions. Our 2019 Fall retreat had been at the Nantucket Yacht Club and it felt like a real get-away in our room overlooking the harbor. Zooming was not quite as luxurious but we did have a chance to leave the business side of church management behind and discuss issues like best practices for Board communication, establishing an Indigenous Peoples Task Force, and discuss our UU Constitution and by-laws in a meaningful way!

November/December - Two extra Board meetings in addition to our regular Board meetings to accept the resignation of Treasurer Jeffrey Thomson and discuss and vote to approve Kat Robinson Grieder moving from Assistant Treasurer to Interim Treasurer for the rest of the 2020 term. The 2021 Pledge Committee made up of Kat, Rev Linda, and myself "leaped" into full gear, developing a Pledge drive theme and sending out Pledge letters to all members and friends. In addition, 2021 budget discussions and development were also in full gear with multiple FinCom meetings occurring during this time to be sure all is ready for the Annual Meeting in January. A very busy two-month period!

And there you have it! 2020 in a nutshell, highlighting just a few of the many meetings, events, and happenings that have gone on for our busy little congregation in a not-so typical year. I hope that you take time to read the rest of the reports in this Annual Report... so much dedication and hard work has gone into the challenge of getting us through 2020 with flying colors!

Clerk's Report: I am including this report in my President's report because we actually have gone a year without a Clerk so I am sharing what information we do have here. In 2020 many of the Clerk's duties have been handled by a rotation of different people and perhaps in a bit more relaxed fashion than in other years. The good news is that there is a Clerk on the slate of our Board 2021 nominees. For now, here is what we can report in this section:

- The Clerk's Committee for this year met on January 10th, 2021 and included Susan Richards, Lora Stewart, Paul Stewart, and Kat Robinson Grieder. This Committee reviewed the Membership list and finalized the exact membership count under UUA guidelines. The final Member Count is 72 and the "Non-

Member Friends” is 77. Both numbers represent an increase over 2019 when our numbers were 65 for members and 55 for non-member friends.

- In spite of the Pandemic dominating most of 2020, only one service was missed (on March 15th, right after the lockdown was announced) and we began having virtual services (via Zoom) on March 22nd. Because one service was added in 2020 (a magical Christmas Eve service!) we still had 52 services in 2020.
- Attendance was not regularly taken in 2020. It was noticed and commented on by many that thanks to the virtual services, we added quite a few attendees who were not on Nantucket, including several members who are typically not on island for several months of the year. This was an unexpected “Pandemic perk” and has led us to make plans to hopefully continue a virtual aspect of future services even when we return to in-person services. If an educated guess were to be taken, I would say that the amount of service attendees ranged from 25 - 65 with the average Sunday service seeing attendance in the mid-40's.
- In terms of children and youth, our Youth and Children Program Director, Leyah Jensen has been active throughout 2020 and has managed to stay in contact with 10 families and 16 children through a combination of zoom C-WE classes and regular personal delivery of UU Activity Kits painstakingly and so creatively assembled by Leyah.

As I am stepping down from my position of President after two years, I'd like to close my report with an abundance of gratitude to:

- **My fellow Board members** - Alison Forsgren, Kat Robinson Grieder, Carl Borchert, Rob Dunbar, Natalie Chambers, Loretta Middleton, Susan Berman, and Jeffrey Thomson (who was with us for most of 2020) - Your steady presence at each of our zoom meetings and your willingness to step up to help our Congregation is so appreciated!
- **Outgoing Board members** - Alison Forsgren and Kat Robinson Grieder - what a dynamic duo you have been on the Board! I am going to miss you at our monthly meetings but know that I'll be seeing you as you step into other UU roles!
- **All the members of our Congregation** who have stepped up during these strange times...and there have been many.... Some who come to mind - Paul and Lora Stewart, Gary Langley, Joanne Polster, Nancy Mack, Val Hall, Cheryl Creighton, Randi Allfather, Elisabeth Sorrows and the Saturday morning crafters. You can be sure I will be contacting you personally later if I am forgetting to name you here!
- **Our staff** who have been so flexible, hard-working, and willing to think outside the box - Sue Mynttinen, Nigel Goss, Leyah Jensen, and Sherlly Morocoima.

And of course, as always, there is:

- **Rev Linda...** you continue to be such an inspirational leader to all of us, never more so than in this past crazy pandemic year!

Thank you all!

Susan Richards, President

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Well, as I begin to write the report of last year, I suppose I can mention that 2020 was a year like no other. Since the subject of this report is more specific, I won't discuss world events, just to say that in my short 34 years on the planet, it was probably the single most stressful and amazing period of time I have ever experienced. In the music program at the Unitarian Church on Nantucket, I believe I can say that we rose to occasions and circumstances, and adapted with grace, aplomb, and style! But, let's begin at the beginning.

In January February and the first two weeks of March, we had our services in Hendrix Hall. Folks gathered each Sunday, listened to poetry, sermons and sang hymns. I was away on Jan 12, and Jamie Howarth subbed on piano. The choir met for weekly rehearsals, and we performed anthems new to the choir, including a setting of the I Have a Dream Speech for MLK Day on Jan 19, 2020, Shall We Gather At The River by Aaron Copland, and an arrangement of Blackbird by the Beatles on March 8. Some familiar anthems included Deep Peace, an Irish Blessing, and Great Trees, by Mary and Peter Amidon. In mid-March, as we were preparing music for Saint Patrick's Day that included a choral arrangement of Parting Glass and a guest fiddler to play jigs and reels, the world including the UU music program, came to a screeching and sudden halt! On March 15, as Rev Linda was making her way back from her vacation, we decided to cancel service.

On March 22, we had our first online service. Rev Linda, Gary and I met in Hendrix hall to broadcast, assisted by Sue Mynttinen, and her husband John. We sang There is more Love Somewhere, and I've got Peace Like a River, and I performed two piano solos. On March 29, church service was held on Zoom, with the congregation logging in for the first time, and the staff doing our jobs from home. Linda preached, and I reappropriated equipment from my live performance rig to set up a virtual performance space. The congregation tried to sing hymns together over zoom, the tunes were Come Sing a Song with Me, and Amazing Grace. We abandoned it after the first verse of Amazing Grace. It didn't work, people experienced time lags, confusion and frustration trying to sing along, so the following week, we began our UU Meeting House Virtual Choir!

Beginning with the service on April 5, 2020, the Virtual Choir began the weekly routine of recording hymns to be broadcast over zoom, with the congregation singing along at home. I record instrumental accompaniments for the hymns, and have enjoyed employing

my multi-instrumental skills to supplement the usual piano music. The choir records themselves singing along, emails the voice recordings back to me, and I mix everyone together to make our final product. This process takes three days, from Wednesday to Saturday. We record two hymns fresh each week, for the opening and closing hymn. Our first two were Guide My Feet and Blue Boat Home. For the middle hymn we recycle a recording for approximately a month at a time, and these have included favorites such as Meditation on Breathing, Woyaya, We Give Thanks, Filled with Loving Kindness, and others.

The choir has grown in numbers and skill during this time, our email list now includes 19 members, both myself and our members have refined and improved our recording practices and honed our musical skills. Not everyone participates each week, but all are invited to sing whenever they have time and inclination. Some of our instrumentally skilled members have contributed to the recordings, adding guitar, ukulele, and flute on occasion. We have had choir members participating from near and far, including Cape Cod, New York City, and California. We have recorded a few anthems during this time, including Swimming to The Other Side for the August 16 Congregational Meeting, and A Place In the Choir for the blessing of the animals on October 4.

Other happenings in the Virch Church music program include guest artists and our Summer Noonday Concert Series. Guests included Carson Cooman who performed organ solos and accompanied the virtual choir on May 31 and Aug 9, Matt Meyer, who provided music and worship on September 12 while I took a vacation, as well as congregants including Susan Berman, Phaedra Plank, Jim Sulzer, Cynthia Sabe and Chris Hanson, who performed on various occasions, both live and prerecorded. The Noonday Concert Series was prerecorded and broadcast via Zoom Meet, I produced multi-camera videos recorded in the Sanctuary at 11 Orange Street of Isaiah Williams on organ, Jacob Butler on guitar and Vocals, myself on double bass, and Nick Davies and Ivy Ringel performed duos from their home in Indianapolis. This provided an intimate concert experience, with half hour shows, followed by brief chats with the artists. The four concerts were each broadcast twice, for a total of 8 shows, between July 16 and Sep 3. The process was assisted by Barbara Elder, our previous music director, and Jeffrey Thompson, the two worked on communications and advertising, as well as fundraising.

Our musical year finished with a lovely Christmas Eve service, produced by myself and the choir, which featured our first attempt at a video project, Solstice Song, guest soloists Jessica Sanseverino and Phaedra Plank, two hymns, and even a musical collaboration between Rev. Linda and me!

All this puts us in good position for growth and play in 2021. The choir continues to record some of the best Virtual Choir Recordings I have heard, we have guest musicians scheduled for the winter and early spring months, and I look forward to continuing to

experiment and forge new territory with the Nantucket UU music program, whether this is online virtually, or back in person when the opportunity arises.

Respectfully submitted,

Nigel Goss, Music Director

ARCHIVES

Since March 2020, I have been unable to work on the Archives located in the Records Room in the Parsonage attic. Covid-19 caught me in the midst of inventorying and editing the Archives, now largely unfinished. I am hoping that once the ban is lifted in 2021 I will be able to complete the work and add any new documents.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Polster

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Buildings and Grounds committee has been busy keeping the UU Meeting House, now 212 years old, and the parsonage, which is significantly older, up and working.

2020 started like most years, with in-person services and rentals of the Meeting House.

In February the Activities Room renovation project was nearing its completion, with nice sound absorbent panels added to the AR ceiling. The only thing remaining on that project is floor trim around the columns.

In mid-March, 2020, the WHO characterized COVID-19 as a Pandemic. Soon gatherings were restricted or forbidden, there were “shelter in place” orders, and the Meeting House was closed to all group use. In early May the Board of Trustees created the Recovery Team to develop and propose plans for restarting the use of the Meeting House for in-person services and other gatherings. Please refer to the Recovery Team’s annual report in this same booklet for the details of the numerous COVID-related adaptations and updates completed in the Meeting House this year.

In late June the Meeting House and Parsonage suffered a near-miss from lightning. The damage was repaired over the next few months:

- The Comcast cable from the street to the office was replaced and better grounded
- The timer for the Clock and Lantern Level lights was replaced
- The ringer circuit for the Portuguese Bell was replaced
- The office printer was replaced
- The office computer was repaired and returned to service
- Wayne Alarm repaired their alarm system

Our affiliate organization the South Church Preservation Fund also made significant capital repairs to the Meeting House in 2020. Please refer to the South Church Preservation Fund's annual report in this same booklet for details.

On September 14 it was discovered that the oil tank in the parsonage basement was leaking slightly. Wallingford Heating came to inspect and strongly suggested an emergency replacement. The old tank was replaced with a modern twin-wall tank in a matter of days.

Since we had such a good experience with Wallingford Heating, and a new oil tank, we asked for a proposal on replacing the oil furnace and hot water exchanger (projects that were years overdue and on which we had had failures previously). Their proposal was accepted and work was started. When their recommended chimney group Viking Chimney climbed to the roof to insert the required chimney liner, they found that the chimney mortar had deteriorated so much that light shone through some of the joints. They repaired that unexpected problem and completed the installation. So now the parsonage has a completely new oil tank, boiler, and hot water supply system. In February we had a contractor in the parsonage to quote on replacing the upstairs bathroom sink and vanity. He noted that there were lead supply lines to that sink that would need to be replaced, and he also noted that the floor tile might be asbestos, which would complicate the job even more. There was concern that we might be housing our Minister in a dangerous situation. Unfortunately, due to COVID there were few alternatives for professional help (most people didn't want other people coming into their house, and many professional labs and resources were on limited duty and had long backlogs). Gary completed a full set of DIY tests for water contamination, asbestos, and lead paint. While significant lead paint was detected, no other hazards were identified (most notably, no asbestos tile or dust and no contaminants in the water).

When the cool Fall winds started to blow, but with COVID authorities still strongly recommending outdoor group meetings, Rev. Linda asked that some way be found to make the parsonage porch able to be used year-round. Vinyl curtains were installed on the parsonage porch so that pastoral visits could occur with safety, and a radiant heater was obtained to add some warmth.

We continue to have plenty of work to do maintaining our antique buildings. We welcome new committee members and especially appreciate helpers on various projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Buildings and Grounds Committee

David Hall, Chair

Angus MacLeod

Carl Borchert

Gary Langley

Rev. Linda Simmons, scribe

Paul Stewart, consultant

Recovery Team Report

In mid-March, 2020, the WHO characterized COVID-19 as a Pandemic. Soon gatherings were restricted or forbidden, there were “shelter in place” orders, and the Meeting House was closed.

In early May, 2020, our Board of Trustees created the Recovery Team task force (President Susan Richards, Rev. Linda Simmons, Cheryl Creighton, and Paul Stewart) to develop and propose plans for restarting the use of the Meeting House for in-person services and other gatherings. Servants Heart International Ministries (SHIM) expressed their interest in re-opening immediately; Congregation Shirat HaYam said they were not considering an immediate re-opening but were still considering their options for later, especially their High Holy Days; Masjid Al-Bahr (Mosque of the Ocean), the Muslim Prayer Group, said they were interested in their usual Friday mid-day use of the Activities Room in July and August; and we UUs decided we would not re-open for in-person services over the Summer of 2020 (with reconsideration each quarter).

The plan developed for the initial reopening was to physically separate the ‘front’ of the Meeting House (the sanctuary, Hendrix Hall, and the small bathroom) from the ‘rear’ (Activities Room, children’s area, kitchen, office, and large bathroom) by adding locks to two existing doors.

Hendrix Hall had practically no ventilation or air filtering, so it was determined to be unsafe for use except for storage. The sanctuary has large openable windows and flow-through doors to provide excellent natural ventilation. The sanctuary is also large, providing meeting space for 36 to 84 people with the required 6 foot spacing between immediate households (exact occupancy dependent on the sizes of the households). With the physical separation of ‘front’ and ‘rear’ areas, we could allow SHIM to meet in the sanctuary (and use the small bathroom adjacent to Hendrix Hall) four days a week, the Muslim Prayer Group to use the Activities Room on Fridays, and we UUs to use the office as needed.

That was the situation through the Summer. In September, we asked SHIM to meet for a few weeks out of the building while Congregation Shirat HaYam held a Bat Mitzvah and High Holy Days in the sanctuary. SHIM returned to the sanctuary at the end of September.

Given the sanctuary has no heat, and faced with approaching winter, the Recovery Team and Board agreed to improve Hendrix Hall’s HVAC and air filtration by adding 6 portable HEPA filters plus a MERV 13 filter and an anti-virus peroxide generator to the existing HVAC system. The same upgrade was applied to the ‘rear’ (Activities Room) area, plus one more HEPA filter in the office.

With that, we felt safe offering, and SHIM felt safe using, Hendrix Hall. SHIM moved downstairs to Hendrix Hall in early November.

Then we started work to separate the sanctuary from Hendrix Hall. We replaced an old frozen keylock on the main front door to allow access from outside to the foyer and sanctuary without going through Hendrix Hall. SCPF will complete refurbishing the sanctuary windows over the winter. The sanctuary will be ready for separate use when the weather warms. The major remaining issue is that there is no bathroom adjacent to the sanctuary.

As long as the Pandemic is a significant health concern and recommended precautions are similar to what they are currently, we have no practical plan to suggest other than the current one (one congregation has exclusive use of (and responsibility for) each separate space for a period of weeks).

The “new normal” goal is to resume in-person events on our usual schedule in our usual spaces, although the hope is also that we can continue a remote participation capability for those who are far away or feel safer at home.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stewart

CARING TEAM

The mission of the Caring Team is to augment the pastoral care provided to members of the congregation by Reverend Linda Simmons and to help facilitate a culture of caring within the Meeting House community.

In coordination with Reverend Simmons, the Caring Team:

- * Reaches out to parishioners with phone calls, visits and cards when appropriate
- * Facilitates providing meals, transportation and errands for those in need
- * Arranges occasional help with small household jobs as needed
- * Helps identify needs and resources among friends and family
- * Encourages others in the congregation to participate in fulfilling our mission

With the start of the pandemic and Sunday Services going virtual, this has been a challenging year for the Team. The need for physical distancing has added to the challenge of connecting with members of the Meeting House community. Reverend Linda continues to make the majority of the “in person” visits, but these are augmented regularly by members of the Team who keep in contact with specific members of the community and, until it got too cold, met outside. Before Covid 19 hit the island, an occasional meal out was enjoyed. Since the virus came, many meals have been cooked and delivered by Team members and others in the congregation. Creativity has been the

name of the game for visits this year. There have been many phone calls, walks and “drinks or dinner on the deck” where physical distance can be maintained. Since the temperature became seasonally cooler, Reverend Linda’s covered porch has been transformed with vinyl siding and a heater for pastoral visits. Lora Stewart also has propane heaters for her deck and when the weather is not too cold nor the wind too strong, visiting on the deck is sometimes possible. Rides to doctor’s appointments for members/friends of the Meeting House community have been provided with care around physical distancing. Masks are always required when in a car.

Under the umbrella of the Caring Team, the **Shawl Ministry** is dedicated to knitting and crocheting shawls for Meeting House congregants and their loved ones facing illness, bereavement or other challenges. Joanne Polster continues to be our champion shawl knitter, but with the help of the Craft Group members, we have been able to keep up with the need for shawls so far. Twelve shawls have been given out in 2020, bringing the total since the ministry was started in 2013 to 74!! In February, all who had received a shawl throughout the years, were invited to bring theirs to service and we had a Blessing Ceremony. We are always looking for knitters and, thanks to a budgetary allocation to the Caring Team, we have the yarn. The shawls do not require much skill so, if you would like a cozy winter project, the Caring Team would appreciate it if you are willing to knit or crochet one. When given, they represent the caring of the whole Meeting House community.

We have a wonderful Caring Team! “Warm Hearts” in this group are abundant!! Natalie Chambers brings her knowledge as a physician. Alison Forsgren brings her deep knowledge of the Nantucket community in general as well as knowledge from her work with elder services on island. Our new addition this year is Nancy Adrian, RN, who now works at Nantucket Cottage Hospital on the medical/surgical floor. Before she moved to Nantucket, Nancy worked, for many years, as a psych nurse at Tufts New England Medical Center. For over ten years, Nancy and Lora Stewart served together on a previous Caring Team. Retired now, Lora Stewart has a Masters Degree in Counseling and Human Development and worked with children for many years. The Caring Team members do NOT do counseling but, with our backgrounds, we all enjoy people and are good listeners. We are happiest when we can make new friends, provide company, conversation and help out here and there as needed and wanted.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stewart, Chair

CITIZEN OF THE WORLD EXPLORERS COMMITTEE

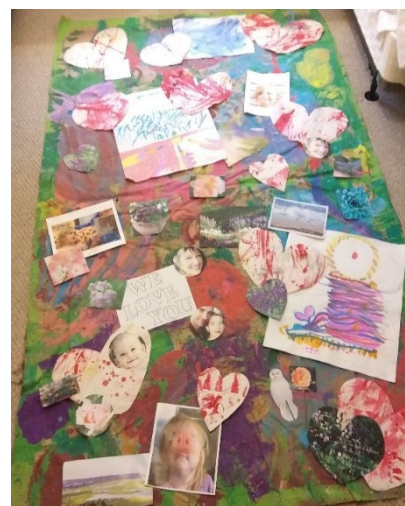


Like everyone else in our island congregation, the children, our Citizens of the World Explorers (C-WERs) have been hugely impacted by this strange new pandemic world. Classes began as usual in January and continued in-person until half-way through March with the theme continuing to be the UU Seven Principles with a focus on group community service projects. When COVID hit... zoom services took over with barely an interruption, and Leyah and the children

also jumped bravely into the world of virtual religious exploration! For a while Leyah and the children met virtually at their usual time during the service...but soon it became apparent that a time right after the service would make it easier for parents to help out when their children needed some “in-person” assistance so noon classes became the norm and this continued through June.

We decided to take July and August off to give the children a break from their screens and also to allow Leyah the time for a cross-country road trip to visit family.

With the coming of Labor Day, Leyah was back with enthusiasm and lots of ideas for zooming and connecting with families with regular (typically twice a month) deliveries of zip-lock activity bags for every C-WE participant. Since the Fall, Leyah has succeeded in regularly reaching out to 10 or so families and a total of 16 children this way. The children really look forward to “delivery days” when Leyah drops off these kits of unique crafting objects from yarn and ribbon to colored pencils and stationary paper - almost all donated and/or recycled materials of course!



I don't think it can be stressed enough how thankful we are to Leyah for her enthusiasm, creativity, flexibility and willingness to “think outside the box” to give our UU families with children a UU experience unlike any other!

Finally.... nobody can describe what a typical C-WE experience is like better than Leyah (She is entering her 5th year with us now) ...So here you go... directly from our Children and Youth Program Director herself:

What a season of giving it's been, like no year before! The kids of C - WE started early with a public Art Show--and one proving they've learned a thing or two about "social distancing," as their outdoor display is the perfect place to make your afternoon outing for uplifting artwork still up in the windows of Orange Street. Most amazing of all is the complete diversity of colors and styles you will discover there, given the fact that every child received the same simple kit of watercolors and paper accompanied by a Zoom tutorial covering watercolor "special effects" via things from their own home like salt and rubbing alcohol.

The special "home delivery" of Ziplocked kits continued throughout the fall, with woolen yarns in every color for homemade looms to glittery craft items galore. Next up on our list of service projects were large-scale cards and murals for the elders of Our Island Home. With encouraging words and the faces of our congregation to keep them company, they'll be knowing that "we care" all through the winter months ahead.

And who could forget, our annual Christmas tree! Our previous "goodwill" themes have ranged from fairies of principle--who touted tiny birch-bark banners of kindness--to last year's "open doors" theme. This year though, we went full-fledged on Light itself, and the promise of

rebirth therein. Moreover, what better way to promote our UU values than celebrating the new gold-leafing on our dome with a tree donned in "bling"! From real gold-leafed



Introducing CALENDAR 2021
by the kids of Unitarian Universalists NANTUCKET



balls and feathers, to precious snow globes made by the kids at home were filled with tiny mirrors to reflect light...this year was our most cohesive and inspiring tree yet, with compliments of enjoyment from store owners to passing strangers alike.

And the kids aren't done yet! Because a calendar of their artwork and filled with messages of encouragement is "in the works"...so standby for YOUR copy, coming soon!

There is much to look forward to in 2021 and we have no doubt that Leyah and our C-WEers will bravely and creatively take on whatever challenges this new year brings us!

C-WE Committee - Susan Richards, Lora Stewart and Leyah Jensen Marshall

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Committee on Ministry serves as the liaison between the Minister and the congregation. Its responsibility is to be available to offer guidance and advise Reverend Linda as needed during the year. The COM's broad goal is to maintain a positive congregational environment, facilitating the reconciliation of people who desire to remain in relationship with one another. Members of the congregation are encouraged to discuss any concerns they might have with regard to ministry first with the Minister and then if needed with a member of the committee.

This year committee members Nancy Mack, Peter Richards, and Cheryl Creighton continued to advise, offer guidance, and to be in conversation with Reverend Linda as needed on topics of personnel policy, pastoral care needs, group dynamics, and safety.

Last year we announced that we intended to roll out UU's *Soul Matters* Sharing Circle program in early summer of 2020. The rollout was postponed as Covid-19 swept in early in the year, causing so much in our world to drastically shift. And instead, we have been blessed by both the staff and so many congregation members who immediately stepped forward with strength and resilience to offer a variety of opportunities for members and friends to gather online and continue in community, music, meditation, conversation, fun, and laughter. Truly a silver lining of 2020.

Cheryl Creighton, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee's goal is to provide our members with the tools to articulate all that we believe in so that we may grow our congregation.

The Communications Committee spent the first several months of 2020 finalizing the new marketing brochure that introduced the new handle #RadicalWelcomeACK. The brochure drew upon the seven guiding principles of the Unitarian Universalism to help illustrate who we are and the projects we are invested in. Included with the brochure was a #RadicalWelcomeACK bumper sticker and the renewed and continued energy to contribute to our Instagram account #UUNantucket.

We were also given an opportunity to record 15 second "spots" on 89.5FM which Rev. Linda has recorded messages of warmth, comfort and welcome to share with the

community. These ads play 4X/day.

A more comprehensive marketing roll-out, which included the dedication of the Ted Anderson Room (from the activities room) at an event that Ted was going to attend, has been sidelined until further notice. Growing our congregation took on a different meaning as COVID took over.

The Communications Committee works closely with the Fundraising Committee to strategize how we can leverage our leadership in social justice to help finance our good works.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Clarke & Alison Forsgren

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

First, I would like to thank everyone for their participation in our fundraising efforts, whether you donated items, purchased items or gave time, energy or ideas to the Meeting House fundraising effort.

Early in 2020 (February 18) the Communication and Marketing Committee met to establish goals and a timeline for UU Fundraising, looking to capitalize on the annual events we hold and new ideas to grow our coffers and congregation. We were able to host the Fourth of July, Summer Auction and Holiday Craft Sale virtually. Some new ideas will need to wait until we can gather and others adjusted to be virtual. We are pleased to have met our line-item income prediction. We can now collect pledges/donations electronically (Tithely), as well as text to give, which will be valuable for us to reach people outside the congregation when we can again invite people to our Meeting House.

The July Fourth event was the most impacted of our fundraising efforts. [The Reading of the Constitution](#) was produced and filmed in the sanctuary, one of the early socially distanced events by Channel 18 under strict COVID regulations. It was underwritten by all of four of the congregations at the Meeting House for the community and we are not counting it as a fundraiser this year.

The Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds Summer Virtual Auction was a success. The Auctria software used in previous years for previews and organizing bidders allowed us to process credit card payments for “touch free” transactions. We had 54 items and earned \$12,170. Our bidder list grew to 226 with most new bidders from outside the congregation - one of our goals - largely with the help of free on-line advertising, Thanks DayBreak!

The UU Holiday Craft Sale, done in 2019 as part of the High School's December Delight, was also done virtually using the Auctria website this year. The Craft Group made and/or collected 113 items which earned \$2,934. This is an event that we would like to continue and expand on.

We have a beautiful quilt handmade by Susan Kirk that we plan to raffle. Additional suggestions for fundraising have been Pie Auction, Wine Raffle, UU White Elephant Sale. Respectfully submitted,

Alison K. Forsgren, Board Liaison - Fundraising Committee
alisonkforsgren@gmail.com

Please be in touch with any comments or suggestions.

GROWING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FRIENDS AND MEMBERS COMMITTEE

(formerly known as 'Membership')

The mission of this committee has always been to:

1. Support and recognize current members
2. Intentionally welcome and encourage new members
3. Welcome our summer members and plan church wide social activities that are intentionally inclusive
4. Plan ongoing social activities that are welcoming. These activities are designed to encourage participation by current members and friends as well as others.

At the beginning of 2020, everyone anticipated that we would continue with our traditional gatherings. We would have pot luck suppers, small group Seasonal Suppers in congregant's homes (AKA "Circle Suppers"), our annual "Souper Bowl" party, our St. Patrick's dinner, our annual Summer Gathering, our End of Summer Barbeque and, of course, our group Thanksgiving Dinner. As you can see, we do like to eat together! Alas, this was not to be. COVID-19 spoiled our plans and we became creative. This was one area where COVID-19 produced some "Silver Linings".

Zoom has been a tremendous asset this year. It has made it possible for us to have our virtual Sunday services and has been the catalyst to many social groups:

- The long-running *Craft Group* (that has met for several years on Saturday mornings), went from an "in person" gathering to a virtual gathering on Zoom. This has been a wonderful social group of creative people (and those less creative come up with other projects while they participate in the weekly chat). This group is mostly social, but some members of the group also donate their crafts to the annual holiday fundraiser,
- *Fun Fridays* have also gone virtual, and include a variety of activities (e.g., Bingo or another game, *Trivia Night with Parker Richards*, or a movie night).

New groups include:

- *Tea with Susan Richards* on Monday at 4pm,
- *Meditation* at 5pm on some Wednesdays,

- This fall, a monthly *Cooking Club* was added where someone volunteers to be the instructor and everyone else follows along on Zoom. This has been lots of fun.
 - There is a rumor going around that a *Book Discussion Group* may be starting soon.
- If you have an idea, feel free to suggest other ways to gather virtually while we cope with Covid. Surely, some of these new Zoom events will continue even after we can eat together again 😊

Every year this committee also:

1. Participates in New Member Ceremonies throughout the year, and
2. Assists the Meeting House Clerk in determining the number of church members to report to the UUA as part of our annual report to the UUA.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stewart, Chair, and Susan Richards

LAY LED SERVICE COMMITTEE

As in past years, the Lay Led Service Committee has planned and officiated one Sunday service each month. The committee consisted of Susan Richards (Chair), Val Hall, Kat Robinson Grieder, and Elisabeth Sorrows. Wonderful music was provided each month by Music Director Nigel Goss and the Meeting House choir. During most of this pandemic year, our services were conducted virtually, via Zoom, which had its challenges, but also its rewards.

Here are the topics and service leaders and guests by month:

- January 26. Since this was the date of our Annual Meeting, Susan and Kat, President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees conducted the service
- February 23. Kat planned, led, and gave the Reflection in a service about loneliness, a condition many of us have in the winter.
- March 22. It was during this month that, because of the pandemic, the Board of Trustees voted to go virtual. After one Sunday of no service, Rev. Linda, recently back from her vacation to Arizona with Gary, led our first Zoom service that Sunday.
- April 26. Val led a service called “Poetry for Our Planet”. Several members of the congregation read poems, many by our favorite poet, Mary Oliver. We were also graced by a recording of Linda Worster’s song, “No Boundaries” during the Offertory.
- May 17. Due to technical difficulties, this service had to be postponed until May 24. “The Grace and Beauty of Tragedy” was led by Susan, and featured a returning guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner.

- June 14. Susan led a service postponed from March when the lockdown had begun. Guest speaker Peter Panchy, retired NHS American history teacher, spoke about “Living Up to Our Ideals – Creating A Culture of Equality and Safety,”
- July and August. The Committee assisted Linda by introducing guest speakers that she had invited to participate in one service per month.
- September 27. Kat invited guest speaker, Woullard Lett from the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston, to speak about reparations, in a service entitled “Right Relations/Reparations: Rooted in Despair”.
- October 25. Susan led a service called “The Wisdom of Trees”, where poetry was read and Nantucket Land Council Executive Director Emily Molden gave her perspectives.
- November 22. In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Val invited guest speaker Annawon Weeden of the Wampanoag and Pequod tribes to speak to us about how closely aligned Native Americans’ beliefs are to UU’s Seventh Principle.
- December 27. Kat and Val planned and led a service in which family holiday traditions were shared by members of the congregation in narratives and photographs.

The committee would like to thank all who contributed to the services during this unusual year, and hope that some of you will be willing to do so in the future. If you are interested, please contact one of the committee members. We would be happy to hear from you!

Respectfully submitted,

Val Hall

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year’s Nominating Committee consisted of Joanne Polster, Anne Perkins, and Jim Sulzer. Our charge was to nominate

Three Board of Trustees members to begin their three-year terms in 2021

Treasurer to serve in 2021

Three Nominating Committee members to serve in 2021

Our nominations are:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3 nominees)

Kristina Strand

Lydia Sussek

Susan Richards (pending approval by the congregation of the new policy allowing a board member to repeat a 3-year term)

TREASURER

Paul Stewart

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Randi Allfather

Anne Perkins

Peter Richards

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Polster, Anne Perkins, Jim Sulzer

PLEDGE COMMITTEE REPORT

The theme for the 2021 pledge drive was **#Leap4UUNantucket**. Even though 2020 was a very different year for our congregation, we wanted to focus on what we have to be grateful for, even though we are physically separated, and how together we can ***leap into our connection, courage, and commitment*** as we look ahead to 2021.

As of this writing, we have received 52 pledges totaling \$82,738 towards our goal of \$95,000 for 2021. Our goal is slightly higher than it was in 2019, but we feel confident that it will not take too much of a leap to reach it! Pledges continue to come in and we expect more throughout the year. If you haven't pledged already, please join us.

We would like to thank the members and associate members of the congregation for their generous support. Everyone can contribute something (time, treasure, talent) and all of it combined makes a whole greater than the individual parts. We would also like to acknowledge the many friends of our congregation who pledge, even though they may not be members! Finally, we would like to give special thanks to our office manager, Sue Mynttinen, who designed this year's pledge logo and assisted the committee with helpful ideas and practical expertise.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Richards

Kat Robinson Grieder

Rev. Linda Simmons



7TH PRINCIPLE PROJECT

The UU 7th principle states: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

In 2014 our Unitarian Universalist Meeting House congregation voted on a number of possible social justice projects that were presented. It was decided that the top three vote getters would be incorporated under the umbrella organization, 'The 7th Principle Project'. The following reports outline the activity in those areas during this past year.

Food Rescue Nantucket

In March, 2020, Food Rescue Nantucket (FRN) was temporarily shut down due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The reasons were as follows:

- 1) our food distribution network (such as Faro de Luz, Maria Mitchell, the Coast Guard) was inactive and/or not accepting food
- 2) most of our pick-up locations were not operating (such as our three food drop off locations for renters leaving the island, various retail food establishments) while, concurrently, the food pantry began picking up most of the food that our major donor (Bartlett's Farm) had available.
- 3) for the safety of our volunteers, who are folks most at risk for contracting the virus

Since FRN wasn't going to be using our walk-in cooler, we decided that it would be a valuable resource for the Sustainable Nantucket farmers, and so, allowed them full use of it until further notice.

The solar project for the walk-in cooler was up and running in July and is not only paying for the cooler's energy usage but is now returning, to the UU Church, the income generated over and above its energy usage cost.

As 2021 unfolds we will be reassessing FRN's future. We have been in contact with and have high hopes of partnering with Process First and 100 Mile Makers who are teaming up to launch the Nantucket Community Food System Pilot Program to tackle food system issues on the island with the following goals:

- 1) Effectively address food insecurity & food waste
- 2) Provide greater and more cost-effective access to local food
- 3) Increase resilient on-island food production.

We are in hopes that this new island initiative will produce not only viable partnership but ideas, resources, contacts and leadership to move these important island issues forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Langley, Director, Food Rescue Nantucket

Immigration Resource Center

The Immigration Resource Center (IRC) has received over \$60,000 through the Community Foundation for the IRC COVID-19 Relief Fund for immigrants affected by the pandemic through exposure or loss of work. These resources, paid to the vendors directly, are used for to pay for cable, internet and phone bills as well as medical bills and insurance, transportation related expenses, including bus passes, gasoline, car payments, and groceries.

The IRC also applied for and received a new grant from the Community Foundation for a contract with Linguistica, an on-demand telephone interpreter service. This will be made available to all ACK human services agencies supporting clients during the COVID pandemic, including the Food, Fuel and Rental Assistance program. The IRC is the administrator for the program.

From December 30-February 24th, we had meals every Monday through the Monday Night Supper program which the Community Foundation funded through a grant for those experiencing food insecurity. Avi Chitrit cooked up a storm each week and there were often over 30 people in attendance. Not only were the meals delicious, but they were served as five courses and a local pastry chef Katie Stotler from The Pearl and The Boarding House donated her homemade and extraordinary desserts each week!

We received another grant through the Community Foundation from May-June 2020 to provide meals from Kitty's in a streamlined fashion- in one door and out the other- for those experiencing food insecurity. Servants Heart International Ministries (SHIM) participated in full force as did many UU folks.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister, UU Church

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2020 was full of change and challenges, but despite the obstacles we are entering 2021 in a strong financial position. To begin with, we started the year off with changes in three key positions relating to church finances. Sue Mynttinen replaced Emma Young as the Office Manager; Jeffrey Thomson replaced Paul Stewart as the Treasurer, with Kat Robinson Grieder filling in as Assistant Treasurer at the beginning of the year when Jeffrey was out of the country; and we hired Samantha McLaughlin of S & J Bookkeeping and Payroll Services to replace Chuck Gieg and Fogged In Bookkeeping.

From when Jeffrey returned to the island at the end of March until his abrupt resignation in November, he brought his extensive professional experience in financial audits to his

work as Treasurer. He was able to do an enormous amount in a very short period of time. Among his many accomplishments were the following:

- Standardized the church's financial statements and began the process of moving to accrual accounting from a hybrid cash / accrual system
- Successfully applied for a PPP Loan on behalf of the congregation
- Researched and resolved the issue of a payroll tax refund from the IRS several years ago that was thought to be an overpayment and determined that it was a legitimate refund.
- Made a great deal of headway in resolving questions regarding the significant rent increase from the American Tower Corporation (ATC) that began in the fall of 2019.
- Successfully advocated for a transfer of excessive funds in our operating bank accounts to investment accounts
- Began a challenging budgeting process that included a complicated assessment of staff wage levels and benefits.

After Jeffrey's resignation, Kat agreed to serve as Treasurer until the election of a new Treasurer at the Annual Meeting. She was duly appointed to that position by the Board and continued budget preparation in conjunction with the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees.

We are ending the year with a significant surplus of over \$170,000. While expenses came in slightly under budget, the surplus is almost entirely due to a special memorial gift of \$50K and the Board's decision to recognize as income the additional payments (above what had been expected) from the American Tower Corporation (ATC) rental of the tower that had been booked as a liability until the reason for the increase could be resolved. There has been much debate among members of the Finance Committee about the disposition of these funds. Jeffrey received multiple assurances and statements from ATC that indicated that the payments were correct, but the size of the increase (from a bit under \$900/month to over \$7,000/month) continued to raise questions about whether ATC had been underpaying prior to the increase, or whether the increase was a mistake. Jeffrey was pursuing the answer to the question until his resignation. As of this writing, the question has not been definitively resolved, but the duration of the higher payments made church leadership comfortable in accepting the funds into income for the purposes of financial reporting. The payment received in the beginning of January, however, is significantly lower than over the past year - just over \$1,000 – which raises further questions that have not been answered.

COVID-19 affected the Meeting House in both positive and negative ways. We had a reduction in rental income from weddings, events, and rent from other congregations.

Notably, however, Congregation Shirat Ha Yam paid their entire rent despite not being able to use the Meeting House over the summer. In the fall, the board approved the expense to upgrade the HVAC system in the Meeting House and purchase free-standing air purifiers to increase safe use of the building. We also incurred additional unexpected expenses due to a lightning strike that also affected many residences and businesses in the downtown area. Expenses totaling a little under \$5,000 included replacement of some network and computer equipment and repairs to the Meeting House's fire alarm system.

The Parsonage, an old building that has been neglected in terms of regular maintenance and updates over the years, continues to need costly repairs. This year, a leak in the oil tank in the basement was the catalyst that led to subsequent replacement of the oil burner and boiler, with related work on the heating system and chimney. These expenses added up to approximately \$30,000, which was paid from the Parsonage Capital Maintenance Fund.

The proposed budget is significantly higher (18%) than the prior year. This is in large part due to staff wage and/or hour increases. The Finance Committee and Board discussed and debated staff compensation and benefits at length during the budget process in light of our continued financial obligation, the congregation's needs, and UUA guidelines about benefits and compensation. Not everyone was comfortable with the size of the overall increase due to concerns about future sustainable income to cover the expense. The majority, however, felt the expense to invest in our staff is justified given the congregation's needs and strong financial position despite the challenges of the pandemic. We also have a particularly strong staff team and want to recognize their skills and dedication from the past year as we move forward.

With thanks to all the members of the Finance Committee and Investment Subcommittee, and to partial year Treasurer, Jeffrey Thomson, this report is respectfully submitted,

Kat Robinson Grieder
Interim Treasurer

Finance Committee: Randi Allfather, Peter Richards, Kat Robinson Grieder, Bill Schutt, Paul Stewart, Jim Sulzer, Susan Richards (Board President), and Rev. Linda Simmons

Investment Subcommittee: Randi Allfather, Natalie Chambers, Bill Schutt, Paul Stewart, Susan Richards (Board President), and Rev. Linda Simmons

Reserves and Annual Reserve Income

Paul Stewart, Chair, Investment Subcommittee

Our Reserves have two distinct components: Restricted Reserves and Unrestricted Reserves. Our only Restricted Reserve is our Organ Maintenance Fund which is invested at TIAA and is restricted by donors to the maintenance of our 1831 Goodrich organ. The rest of our Reserves are Unrestricted and are invested mostly at Vanguard, with a smaller amount at the UU Common Endowment Fund. The rest of this page refers only to our Unrestricted Reserves.

Our **Unrestricted Reserves Goal** is to maintain the real value of our Unrestricted Reserves in perpetuity, while using as much as possible, as steadily as possible, to support our congregation's activities. The history of our Unrestricted Reserves from 2012 to now, with inflation factored in, is:

| | Z | AA | AB | AC | AD | AE | AF | AG |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| 59 | Unrestricted Reserves | | | adjusting for inflation | | | | |
| 60 | | 'Nominal', as reported | | 'Inflation' | | 'Real', in 12/31/2012 \$\$ (adjusted for inflation) | | |
| 61 | As of | Reserves (Vanguard + UUCEF*) | vs prior year | Consumer Price Index (CPI-u) | Annual rate of Inflation | in 12/31/2012 \$\$ | vs prior year | change vs 2012 |
| 62 | 12/31/2012 | \$1,246,791 | | 229.601 | | \$ 1,246,791 | | |
| 63 | 12/31/2013 | \$1,308,845 | 5% | 233.049 | 1.5% | \$ 1,289,480 | 3% | 3% |
| 64 | 12/31/2014 | \$1,308,368 | 0% | 234.812 | 0.8% | \$ 1,279,332 | -1% | 3% |
| 65 | 12/31/2015 | \$1,333,163 | 2% | 236.525 | 0.7% | \$ 1,294,136 | 1% | 4% |
| 66 | 12/31/2016 | \$1,395,649 | 5% | 241.432 | 2.1% | \$ 1,327,258 | 3% | 6% |
| 67 | 12/31/2017 | \$1,577,136 | 13% | 246.524 | 2.1% | \$ 1,468,871 | 11% | 18% |
| 68 | 12/31/2018 | \$1,485,469 | -6% | 251.233 | 1.9% | \$ 1,357,565 | -8% | 9% |
| 69 | 12/31/2019 | \$1,720,628 | 16% | 256.974 | 2.3% | \$ 1,537,346 | 13% | 23% |
| 70 | 12/31/2020 | \$2,103,694 | 22% | 260.474 | 1.4% | \$ 1,854,351 | 21% | 49% |
| 71 | Includes | \$ 118,216 | added in 4Q2020! | | | | | |
| 72 | growth (2020 - 2012) in 2012 \$\$: | | | | | \$ 607,560 | | |
| 73 | that same \$607,560 in 2020 \$\$: | | | | | \$ 689,255 | | |



Our Unrestricted Reserves have grown well over the tabulated time, thanks to very positive markets. Stock and bond markets don't always go up so steeply, however, sometimes they swoon for months or years (for example, the DJIA gained nothing in the 5½ years preceding 12/31/2012).

Process for computing annual income from Unrestricted Reserves: using the total value of our Unrestricted Reserves (UReserves) at the end of our 3rd quarter (end of September), average over the most recent 3 years (highlighted in green below), and use the percent shown of that average for our annual budget. Of that amount, 10% is diverted to a good use that could be paused for a year or two if necessary (for 6 years we have chosen the Parsonage Capital Maintenance Fund), and the remainder goes to the General Budget. In a down year, we could consider not diverting the 10% to keep the General Budget support as steady as possible. All this, with actuals, is as shown in the table below:

| | BC | BD | BE | BF | BG | BH | BI | BJ | BK | BL |
|----|---|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|----------|------------------------|--------|
| 21 | Compute annual income from Unrestricted Reserves | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | End of | Value | Vanguard | + UUCEF | =UReserves | 3 Year Avg. | % | = | Change from Prior Year | |
| 23 | 3Q2014 | 3Q values | all at TIAA-CREF | | \$1,343,964 | | | | Reserves | Income |
| 24 | 3Q2015 | 3Q values | \$1,194,214 | \$ 92,783 | \$1,286,997 | | | | 109% | |
| 25 | 3Q2016 | 3Q values | \$1,302,806 | \$ 99,152 | \$1,401,958 | \$1,344,306 | 3% | \$40,329 | 110% | 105% |
| 26 | 3Q2017 | 3Q values | \$1,424,254 | \$112,004 | \$1,536,258 | \$1,408,404 | 3% | \$42,252 | 105% | 108% |
| 27 | 3Q2018 | 3Q values | \$1,493,653 | \$120,234 | \$1,613,887 | \$1,517,368 | 3% | \$45,521 | 102% | 105% |
| 28 | 3Q2019 | 3Q values | \$1,518,525 | \$122,786 | \$1,641,311 | \$1,597,152 | 3% | \$47,915 | 118% | 126% |
| 29 | 3Q2020 | 3Q+Invest | \$1,806,278 | \$133,264 | \$1,939,542 | \$1,731,580 | 3.5% | \$60,605 | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | The Board, Finance Committee, and Investment Subcommittee all voted to invest \$118,216 of 'AmTowerCorp overpay?' money from our bank account into our Unrestricted Reserves in 4Q2020. | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | | | |

The Investment Subcommittee meets 2 or 3 times a year to review and adjust our investments and, like all committees, welcomes interested congregants. Contact me to Zoom in. Paul@PLPDD.com

SOUTH CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND (SCPF) 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

In the recent past the historic UU Meeting House, through the SCPF, has accomplished the following:

- 1) a completely new roof
- 2) all new interior lighting
- 3) refurbishing the triple hung windows with historic wavy glass for both the north and south sides
- 4) A new sound system for the main sanctuary

The painting and repair of the Meeting House, which began in September 2020, is the final major project for the building for the foreseeable future. To date, the contractor has re-gilded the gold dome, repaired the bell tower's wooden slates as well as other wooden components and painted the entire exterior. Items remaining to complete the project are;

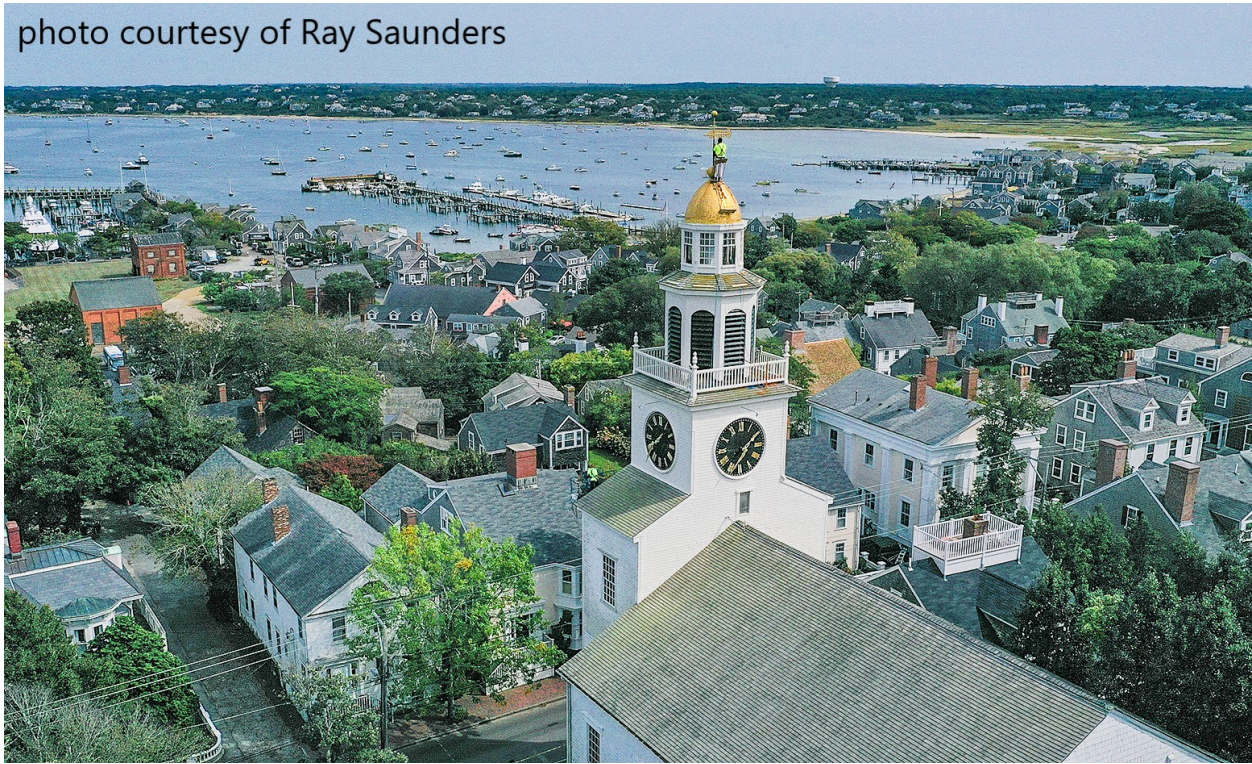
- 1) replacing the wire mesh in the bell tower designed to keep birds from nesting
- 2) replacing the wooden railings and hardware on the wheelchair ramp
- 3) replacing the wrought iron railings for the entrances for both the main sanctuary and Hendrix Hall
- 4) repainting the the exterior window sash of the triple hung windows on the south side

Our 2021 focus will be:

- 1) continuing the current fund-raising effort
- 2) work with the UU Buildings and Grounds committee and the UU Board to identify and designate responsibility between SCPF and the UU congregation for all necessary, ongoing maintenance items in order to prevent the condition of the meeting house from deteriorating to point that it needs such extensive work, as was recently accomplished.
- 3) survey and identify any possible projects needed for the interior of the main sanctuary.



photo courtesy of Ray Saunders



The SCPF Board of Directors for 2021 are as follows:

Paul Stewart, Susan Hochwald, Mary Bergman, Christine Sanford, Angus McLeod, Polly Miller (Brd. Secretary), Bob Middleton, Chris Hanson (Brd. Treasurer), Marion Roland and Gary Langley (Brd. President).

I would like to thank the board members for their diligence and hard work in our efforts to keep our beautiful meeting house the jewel that it is.

Gary Langley, President, South Church Preservation Fund