



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

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ November 2014

## COMMON PATHWAYS

### Stepping Stones

by Reverend Linda Simmons

My husband Gary and I went hiking at the end of October in Maine. Usually, when we hike together, we take the trails marked easy for my sake. Gary is an expert hiker and climbs 5,000 feet with 50 lbs. on his back without a thought. Me, I love the woods and love to walk but have all kinds of fears about climbing up mountains.

First, I worry that I will turn an ankle and not be able to go on, and then I worry that I will not be able to carry my pack when going up almost vertically. I worry about bears, and I worry about people who might be in the woods whose intentions are less than noble.

This time, I told Gary I wanted to carry a pack and go up a 4,000 footer with him. He was elated. The day was warm. The sun muted. There was no sign of other hikers. With each step, my fears got louder. I tried to get quiet inside; I focused my mind on my feet, the leaves on the ground, the smells. I thought I was pulling out of my fears when the terrain got rocky and very steep. When I looked up, I saw only more upness. I got tired. I got winded. My fears laughed, I told you so.

Gary kept guiding me on, telling me: If you want to live in the world well, you have to chose the stories you will imagine coming true and the ones you will let go of. If the hard ones come true, we'll deal with them then. For now, let's be here together. Can you hear the leaves falling through the forest? Can you hear the waterfall? Can you feel the strength in your body and lungs? Do you feel the life force that is so strong in you as you lift your feet over and over again to find the best rock to step on and guide you up this mountain?

Slowly, I could hear the chipmunks, startled by our appearance, skidding over dry leaves. I could hear the wind in so many trees that I thought it was raining. I could hear the language of the brook until it sounded like a room full of people speaking in hushed voices behind closed doors. I could hear my breath and Gary's breath and I knew then that there is nothing more sacred than breath and friendship and the stillness that invites presence.

I made it all the way up that mountain, limitation by limitation, wonder by wonder.

No matter what is before us, if we just put one foot in front of the other, keep breathing, rest when we need it and keep the scary thoughts from consuming us, we can do almost anything. And when we do this together, we are transformed.

This journey we are on together here at our Meeting House is like climbing a mountain. Join me, it is much less steep than it looks when you get closer, all it takes is one step at a time and we can accomplish things we never dreamed could be real.

Take my hand. I do not always know the way but I believe in our ability to find it as we go, 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, November 2  
"Politics and Religion"

Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, November 9  
"Bowls and Bonds"

Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, November 16  
"Holidays, Families and  
Giving Thanks"

Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, November 23  
"Lay Led Service"

Sunday Service Committee  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, November 30  
"The Artist's Way"

Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Families Welcome!  
Religious Education  
for Children Every Sunday.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Jim Sulzer, Board of Trustees President

The theme of the day is generosity. Rev. Linda gave a sermon recently on "Saved by Generosity." Many of you have received information on making your pledge for the coming year, with a request from Craig Sperry and me that you consider a generous increase. We understand that decisions about how much we each can afford to give are complex and highly personal.



I'd like to give a few more thoughts on generosity, which I've gleaned from a fascinating new book, *THE SOCIAL CONQUEST OF EARTH*, by Edward O. Wilson. This Pulitzer-prize winning Harvard professor, known for his expertise on the life of ants, has proposed a new wrinkle to Darwin's theory of evolution. His theory: Life does not evolve purely on the individual level ("the survival of the fittest"). Life also evolves on the group level. Groups of different species compete against one another for food and precious resources. Even within a species, different groups may compete against one another. Those species that show the highest level of cooperation and trust and altruism and, yes, generosity towards one another, are the groups that tend to survive.

According to Wilson, *Homo sapiens* emerged from Africa roughly 100,000 years ago, having survived a horrible period of drought and deprivation that forced groups of *Homo sapiens* to develop high levels of mutual generosity. When these *Homo sapiens* entered Europe and encountered the Neanderthals, who had evolved much earlier, the intelligence, flexibility, and group cohesiveness of the *Homo sapiens* offered a huge evolutionary advantage . . . and the rest is history.

Wilson writes, "People must have a tribe. It gives them a name in addition to their own and social meaning in a chaotic world . . . People savor the company of like-minded friends, and they yearn to be in one of the best."

We are blessed to be in a "tribe" of like-minded UUs. While we don't agree on everything—in fact, I think it is fair to say that UUs must, by definition, agree to disagree on any number of subjects—what does tie us together is a certain outlook, a certain attitude toward life: what we might call a spirit of generous inquisitiveness. We UUs are generous in giving our hearts and minds to the art of living. We embrace mystery and inquiry, and at the same time, we embrace connection and love. We know we don't have all the answers to the wondrous, perplexing puzzle of our vast and astonishing universe, yet we sense in our hearts and minds that we must think for ourselves—that our way of engaging both heart and mind, of searching for our own answers and not falling back on received wisdom, is the way that makes the most sense to us.

We are liberal in our outlook, tolerant in our attitudes, loving in our approach. The world needs people with our spirit and idealism; our island needs people with our impulse towards equality and mutual respect.

Let us be liberal and generous, as well, in our pledging. Let us be a group that ensures our own survival in a changing world.

**Contact:** Jim Sulzer, [sulzer@comcast.net](mailto:sulzer@comcast.net)

**Just a Reminder! Turn in Your Members Fund Pledge Cards Today!**

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

by Susan Richards, RE Committee Chair

### SPAGHETTI DINNER - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

We invite families of all sizes to join us for dinner in the Activities Room on **Friday, November 7th** from 5:30-7 pm for our first **Spaghetti Dinner** of the season. We will be posting a sign-up sheet for those who would like to contribute a favorite pasta sauce, bread, salad or a dessert. We'll provide the pasta and the beverages! Come ready to have fun with some delicious food, good friends, and Fun Food Trivia games!

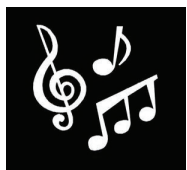
### SPIRIT PLAY SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 23RD

Susan Richards will be sharing what she learned at a recent UU RE training with all the children in RE on **Sunday, November 23rd**. The theme will be "Giving Thanks" in keeping with the season. We hope your children will be able to come to this special class!

**Contact: Susan Richards, [susanoncobble@gmail.com](mailto:susanoncobble@gmail.com)**

## MUSIC NOTES

by Diane Lehman, Music Director



Many thanks to all the people who made the Thursdays@5 Summer Concert Series a success. We couldn't have done it without you Al, Cynthia and Karin! Your welcome at the door each week and your attention to the collection were much appreciated as we profited almost \$2,000 over the course of 8 weeks from July - August.

The Meeting House was host to The Bob Lehman Trio, the NCMC Jazz Band and Women's Chorus, the duo of Jim Sulzer and Jessica Heuser, the trio of Nigel Goss, Andy Bullington and Nick Hayden, the singular talent of Jacob Butler, the partnership of Courtenay Hardy and Alan Murchie, and the pianist David Crohan, with a special performance of A Cappella by Hyannis Sound on August 10.

In choir news, we welcomed Phaedra Plank to our ranks who has brought Rowan and Anya to sing with the loyal and talented UU Choir: Thanks to Linda Spery, Grace Noyes, Nancy Rappaport, Nancy Tobias, Polly Miller, Val Hall, Cynthia Csabay, Barbara Elder, Jim Sulzer, Bob Lehman, Karin Gockel, Al Fuller, Craig Spery, Pete Sawyer, Haziell Jackson, Chris Lohmann and our visiting summer folk, Trish Jarrell, and Kathy Tyrer. Without you, there would be no song- you carry the tunes and bring the music alive each Sunday. We are so lucky to have you.



*Volunteer teachers Lora Stewart and Kat Grieder lead an activity during a recent Sunday RE class, with the assistance of Stephan Silverio. Interested in being an RE teaching assistant with lead teacher Jen Dunbar? See Susan Richards for more information.*

*Photo: Gary Langley*

We welcome all voices, and ideas for the upcoming winter months. If you have a song suggestion, or you want to play or sing, please be in touch. We will be looking for Music Committee volunteers to join us for brainstorming our 2015 Thursdays@5 Concert Series.

**Contact: Diane Lehman, [dianetlehman@comcast.net](mailto:dianetlehman@comcast.net)**



*Rev. Simmons presented roses to members of the Music Committee at a recent choir practice in appreciation for their work on the summer concert series. (Left to right) are Al Fuller, Karin Gockel, Cynthia Csabay and Rev. Linda Simmons.*



## GRASSROOTS NANTUCKET NEWS

by Gary Langley, Grassroots Nantucket Chair

Grassroots Nantucket is beginning to explore the possibility of our UU congregation becoming part of the “Green Sanctuary Program” (GSP). The GSP is a Unitarian Universalist Association initiative begun in 1989 as the “Seventh Principle Project.” It was meant to introduce UU congregations to the concept of integrating our environmental consciousness into our faith communities and help us imagine what the world would look like if congregational life reflected the seventh Principle of Unitarian Universalism. “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”.



Since then it has grown into multi-faceted structured program that invites congregations to carry out a series of actions addressing various environmental issues and when successfully completed would bring the congregation recognition or “accreditation” as a Green Sanctuary. The programs actions would focus on four main areas: Worship and Celebration, Religious Exploration, Environmental Justice and Sustainable Living. Actions would be required in all four areas.

We are excited about the possibility of this program not only involving the congregation in issues critically important to all of us but also involves outreach to our larger Nantucket community and beyond. We will keep you informed about this journey as it unfolds.

**Contact:** Gary Langley, [gary@blinddogphoto.com](mailto:gary@blinddogphoto.com)

### ENERGY INFORMATION SESSION Sunday, November 2 ~ Noon

Do you have questions about energy conservation? How about solar electric panels, solar hot water panels, or efficient heat pump heating systems?

Perhaps you want to know about the financial assistance programs being offered for energy upgrades, such as: Utility rebates, state income tax credits, federal income tax credits, and interest free bank loans.



Come **Sunday, November 2nd** to the Meeting House at noon to hear about islander and Nantucket UU leader Jack Weinhold's ongoing experience of conserving energy and saving money at his house.

### YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A NANTUCKET UU FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER

**Thursday, November 27  
2 p.m.**

Come enjoy a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner with Rev. Linda and Gary at the parsonage.

All are welcome.

Sign up sheet in the Activities Room.



## SEASONAL SUPPERS UPDATE

by Lora Stewart, Membership Committee Chair

On October 17th, the Fall Seasonal Suppers drew 28 participants! This was impressive because there was only one Sunday to sign up! This time around, there were two host venues. Many thanks to Nancy Rappaport and Steve Estabrooks and Lora and Paul Stewart who each hosted a group for a fun-filled evening of fellowship.

Each time there are Seasonal Suppers, they bring unanimous enthusiasm for the invariably lively conversation. The gatherings provide a good chance to meet new friends and catch up with folks you already know. The hosts provide the main dish and ask the "guests" for things to fill out the meal.

So... **SAVE THE DATE** for the winter Seasonal Suppers which will be held on **Friday, January 23rd**. If you have never attended, please sign up to be a guest.

If you are a regular and are able to host, please consider offering your home. You will see Lora Stewart or someone else from the Membership Committee doing sign-ups at coffee hour early in January. Make a note on your calendar!

**Contact: Lora Stewart, [lora@PLPDD.com](mailto:lora@PLPDD.com)**

*Welcome to the newest addition to the Nantucket Meeting House family! Eoin Wade Clarke was born September 8th and is the son of Bess and Gerard Clarke. Bess introduced baby Eoin to the congregation at Sunday services on October 26.*

*Photo: Gary Langley*



**Coffee  
&  
Conversation**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST COFFEE HOUR

As you know, our time together on Sundays wouldn't be complete without coffee and conversation after the morning service. It's an opportunity for us to welcome visitors and returning members as well as to catch up with each other. Val Hall, who is in charge of soliciting volunteers to host coffee hour each week, needs YOU to volunteer and sign up on the kitchen door clipboard.

Let's fill up the signup sheet through the end of the year and Val will be forever grateful for our willingness to step up. To find out more information, see Val at church or send her an e-mail. Thanks, Val, from all of us for the time you put into this important work.

**Contact: Val Hall, [scallop lady@gmail.com](mailto:scallop lady@gmail.com)**

## JOIN THE SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Five members of the Shawl Knitting/Crocheting group met on October 9th for an evening of needlework and conversation. The group has been very successful at creating a good store of shawls waiting to find homes with parishioners experiencing loss or a time of stress. If you know of someone who is in need of comfort from a concrete reminder of the affection of our congregation or if you would like to join the group, please contact Lora Stewart. New members and beginners are always welcome. If you don't yet know how to knit, someone will help you get started.

Mark your calendars for the next meeting, which will take place **Thursday, November 20th** at 7 p.m. at Lora and Paul Stewart's house, 61 Madaket Road.

**Contact: Lora Stewart, [lora@PLPDD.com](mailto:lora@PLPDD.com) or 978-729-4026.**

# SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER



Sunday, November 2  
“Politics and Religion”

It is not always easy to discern which is which in these heightened, polarized, political times. How does religion influence politics? When is this acceptable and when is it not? How can we as religious liberals reclaim our political voice?

Sunday, November 9  
“Bowls and Bonds”

I recently took Buddhist vows of refuge. My teacher told me that all our lives our bowls are turned upside down and when we take refuge, they turn upward so we can receive the gifts of life. What steps can we all take to turn our bowls upward so that life's gifts can find us?

Sunday, November 16  
“Lay-Led Service”

Join us as our Sunday Service committee members present the monthly lay-led service.

Sunday, November 23  
“Holidays, Families and Giving Thanks”

Holidays are supposed to be joyful and are for many. Holidays can also be a time when we revert to our more reactive, less mature selves that family gatherings so often inspire. This sermon will explore how gratitude can be born of understanding our genealogies and honoring our own paths.

Sunday, November 30  
“The Artist's Way”

How can living an artist's life inform the way we live our lives? How are art and theology, wellness and generosity linked? This sermon will explore the work of Julia Cameron and others in asking how we can all live with more intentionality. We will also be welcoming new members and having a special godparent ceremony.

*Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 – noon. Children begin the morning with the congregation in Hendrix Hall then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative Religious Exploration Program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs in the Activities Room at 11:45. The Meeting House Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Singers of all abilities are welcome.*



	A	B	C	D	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	<b>Summary Treasurer's Report:</b> Modeled on the summary materials explained, discussed, and voted at the January 2014 Annual Meeting.										
2	My goal is to put this summary in the May, August, November, and January Weathervanes. Paul P. Stewart, Treasurer, Paul@PLPDD.com										
3	<b>For the period January 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, inclusive</b>								<b>All 2014</b>	<b>Jan 1 - Sep 30</b>	
4	<b>2014 Pledges pledged</b>		<b>1/1/2014</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>9/30/2014</b>			<b>Income less related expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>
5	Amount Pledged		\$ 75,580	\$ 9,675	\$ 85,255			<= 2014 Pledge payments received	\$ 80,500	\$ 60,375	\$ 57,203
6	Number of Pledges		72	9	81			Sunday Plate, Gifts, etc.	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,750	\$ 8,487
7								Rentals (FdLuz, Shirat HaYam, wed, ...)	\$ 44,900	\$ 35,550	\$ 41,970
8	<b>Cash and Investments</b>		<b>1/1/2014</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>9/30/2014</b>			FUNdraising (Auction, 4th July, etc.)	\$ 21,400	\$ 21,150	\$ 17,115
9	All Bank Cash accounts CC5+NanBank		\$ 70,783	\$ (15,132)	\$ 55,651			Interest & Dividends earned	\$ 38,000	\$ 28,500	\$ 28,096
10	All Investment accounts TIAA-CREF		\$1,354,566	\$ 26,542	\$1,381,108			Principal taken from Endowment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
11	Total Cash and Investments		\$1,425,349	\$ 11,409	\$1,436,759			<b>total income less related expenses</b>	<b>\$ 197,800</b>	<b>\$ 155,325</b>	<b>\$ 152,871</b>
12											
13	<b>Designated Funds (R = Restricted)</b>		<b>1/1/2014</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>9/30/2014</b>			<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>
14	Unrestricted Cape Cod 5 CC5		\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000			Ministry (+ Guest Speakers - Parsonage)	\$ 71,000	\$ 53,250	\$ 55,138
15	Unrestricted NanBank NanBank		\$ 64,975	\$ (18,934)	\$ 45,441			Music	\$ 21,378	\$ 16,034	\$ 13,194
16	R Fix Parsonage cash NanBank		\$ 4,808	\$ 1	\$ 4,809			Lifespan Education (RE)	\$ 4,161	\$ 3,121	\$ 3,244
17	R Organ Playing Fund NanBank		\$ 1,000	\$ (600)	\$ 400			Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300
18	R Capital Reserves TIAA-CREF		\$ 897,635	\$ 17,315	\$ 914,950			Administration (- Contingency)	\$ 34,940	\$ 26,205	\$ 24,321
19	R Working Reserves TIAA-CREF		\$ 411,109	\$ 7,930	\$ 419,039			Contingency	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,525	\$ 0
20	R Organ Fund (est. 2011) TIAA-CREF		\$ 45,822	\$ 1,296	\$ 47,118			Building & Grounds (- Special Projects)	\$ 46,921	\$ 35,191	\$ 38,155
21	RR Sanford Trust (est. 1910) (BNY-Mellon)		\$ 250,949	\$ 3,065	\$ 254,014			Investment management costs	\$ 9,400	\$ 7,050	\$ 8,209
22								<b>total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 197,800</b>	<b>\$ 149,675</b>	<b>\$ 147,561</b>
23	R Special Collection Napa Valley UU Church after earthquake 8/24/2014; received and sent to them \$289										
24	Summer Concerts@5 had gross income of \$9,207 and expenses of \$7,077 for a total benefit to the church of \$2,130. Thank you, Diane Lehman!										
25	R The Hungarian Dinner on July 24, aside from being a notable culinary and cultural feast, raised \$830, of which we are sending \$730 to our Partner Church and using \$100 for our RE youth to engage with their youth.										
	<p><b>The Bottom Line:</b> We're doing reasonably well this year in all areas of our finances. Although year-to-date we're a bit below budget on some income areas and above budget on some expenses, still our total income exceeds our total expenses and is projected to continue to do so for the rest of the year.</p> <p>At the same time, we've accomplished a number of significant Special Projects (Hendrix Hall Renovation, Sanctuary Sound System), donated a number of Special Collections to worthy causes, and grown our overall net worth slightly.</p>										
26	Please join me in pledging toward 2015 and making possible another successful year for our Society. Paul P. Stewart										

## PLEDGE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN OCTOBER

by Craig Sperry, Finance Committee Chair

By now you have received a letter and pledge card in the mail. You've heard sermons and presentations over the past two Sundays as our pledge campaign launch took place in October. As you consider what your financial commitment will be for 2015, I ask you to take a moment to picture all that goes on in our congregation, our programs and ministry, and the enrichment you receive. When you think of the many benefits we gain both spiritually and mentally from our church community, it's easy to prioritize an annual financial commitment to the church over many of the other non-essential goods and services we buy every day.

This has been a remarkable year in the history of our church with our successful transition to a new settled ministry. We want to build upon that foundation and create even greater opportunity for growth in 2015. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

**Contact:** craigsperry@aol.com



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[uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net](mailto:uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net)



### 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 and Dennis Santangelo, Sextons, Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper**

### Board of Trustees

Jim Sulzer (*President*), Susan Richards (*Vice President*), Paul Stewart (*Treasurer*)  
Jan Ellsworth, Steve Estabrooks, Joy Margolis, John Rivera, Linda Sperry, Lora Stewart

### Church Office Hours

*Monday - Friday ~ 9 a.m. - noon*

### Minister's Office Hours

*Tuesday (10 a.m. - noon)*