



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ August 2013

On My Mind

by Rev. Linda Simmons

I have been with you on the island for a week as of this writing and I fall in love each day with some new aspect of life here, not only island life, but life as your minister. I could not have guessed how at ease I would feel in the pulpit in the sanctuary of the Meeting House this past Sunday. It was too cold when I was here last to use! The minute I entered the church, I felt embraced, at peace, grounded, as if I had come through these doors a hundred times before. And then there were all of you, trickling in, chatting, looking beautiful and full of hope.

The light in the sanctuary is enough on its own to transport one to another place, but then the music and the solos and the joys and concerns and the gestures, words, poems, greetings combined with the play of the soft breeze on your faces: I just became part of it all, like swimming in the sea.

I have much to learn about you all. I have much to learn about this church and island and myself in this church and on this island and there is nothing else I want to do! I am here fully, completely invested, ready to walk this journey of faith with you and make of this life something we can all look back on and say, I did what was mine to do, and I did it with my whole heart.

Thank you for welcoming me. Thank you for having faith in me. I know transitions are difficult. I know many of you will miss David Horst and his lovely family. I know I cannot be David for you. I can however be here with you as you grieve David's loss and we can all work together to make space, each in our own way and in our own time, for a new ministry.

There is much to celebrate and much to plan. All of it brings me great joy. My husband Gary and I are settling into the parsonage each day more fully and are looking forward to inviting you to an open house by the end of August.

Thank you for who you are. Thank you for this invitation to join you. I am here.



Join us for Sunday
services each week!
Choir practice at 10:00
a.m. with religious
exploration and services
starting at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, August 4
"What Do You Say
That I Am"

Sunday, August 11
"Promises, Promises"

Sunday, August 18
"Spiritual Wealth"

Sunday, August 25
"The Faith
We Make"

Presidents Column

by Linda Sperry

Ready. Set. GROW!

When a new minister begins service to a congregation, there is often an increase in attendance and membership. Additionally in the fall, as the Religious Exploration program starts up in sync with the new school year, enrollment of children in the RE increases.

So, as we welcome our new settled minister, Rev. Linda Simmons, AND we approach the start of the school year, I thought it would be apropos to talk about growth within our congregation.

Oftentimes we think of growth in terms of numbers but it's important to think of growth in broader terms. According to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and author Loren Mead in his book *More Than Numbers: the Way Churches Grow*, there are four types of growth:

- numerical (the number of people attending worship and programs, or number of members),
- maturational (growth in the spiritual maturity of each member),
- organic (a congregation's ability to maintain its health and to engage with the world),
- incarnational (making real and living our values in the world), and
- associational (relationship to other Unitarian Universalist (UU) Congregations and the wider community).

We represent the only true liberal religious experience on Nantucket and have room for many other islanders who share our beliefs. As our website says, "Welcome to Unitarian Universalism, a religion that celebrates diversity of belief and is guided by seven principles. Our congregations are places where we gather to nurture our spirits and put our faith into action through social justice work in our communities and the wider world."

As we enter this important new phase in the life of our congregation, I encourage you to embrace growth and change within yourselves and the congregation. How can you make it happen?

- Invite a friend or neighbor to try us out at a service, concert, lecture or other event.
- Enroll your son or daughter in RE this fall.
- Sign up for one of the adult RE classes that Rev. Simmons will be organizing this fall.
- Become a congregational leader by stepping up to volunteer for one of the committees or coordinator positions needing to be filled.
- Be a greeter and welcome others to church services.
- Host the coffee hour with another member of the congregation.
- Open a room in your home for the bed & breakfast program to welcome another UU from a congregation on the Cape or nearby who wants to visit the island.
- Organize a social justice project in our community that is near and dear to you.
- Plan on being a part of the UUA General Assembly in June 2014 in Providence to become immersed in what being a UU is all about and to see first-hand how to be a part of the bigger picture when UU's from throughout the world gather together.

See you in church!

From the Pew

by Jim Sulzer

Sunday, July 28, 2013, was a day of special significance and symbolism for our UU congregation, as two leaders shared the podium for the Sunday service: our departing interim minister, David Horst, and our incoming settled minister, Linda Simmons. It was, I think, apparent to everyone in the meetinghouse that David and Linda exhibited a highly evolved sense of grace, mutual respect, and sympathetic humor as they led the service together and concluded with a touchingly personal discussion of what “faith” means to each of them.

The orderly and humane passing of the chalice from David to Linda also has a larger meaning for our growth as a congregation. It is, I would argue, a sign that our congregation has made major strides towards the goal of governing itself successfully. Since the year 2000, we have struggled with some difficult growing pains. Now, after much work and some wise leadership, we are moving forward with new purpose.

When my wife Barbara Elder and I first joined the congregation in 1982—31 years ago!—the church was ten years into the ministry of the greatly esteemed Ted Anderson, who served from 1972 to 2000. Ted had a unique combination of skills: majestic sermons, a sparkling intellect, an incredible laugh, sincere friendliness and a “common touch,” and a fierce loyalty to those in his charge. He was, and is, one of a kind, and he is much loved for these extraordinary traits.

In the wake of Ted’s ministry, and in his sudden absence, the congregation needed to learn—in many cases for the first time—how to govern itself. Congregations face many challenges: how to set up humane yet accountable parameters for an office staff, how to make good decisions about finances, how to identify and attract effective leaders—and most importantly, how to define who we are, what we stand for, and why we are here.

For years, I think, in various ways, we have struggled with those issues. Now, after two years of David

Horst’s informed advice and steady leadership, we have made real progress. And finally, we are ready to welcome our new settled minister Linda Simmons, who comes to us with so much promise and such a sense on all sides of open and loving hearts. We are very fortunate indeed to have reached this point. The wonderful service on Sunday, July 28 ushered in a new and exciting time in our congregational life.



From Congregation Shirat HaYam Celebrating 30 Years

Congregation Shirat HaYam is the pluralistic Jewish congregation of Nantucket. We began in 1983 and are excited and pleased to be celebrating our 30th anniversary this summer. Pluralistic for us means that we are not affiliated with any particular segment of Judaism but take facets of all in order to accommodate the most attendees.

We meet formally on Friday evenings from Memorial Day weekend until the conclusion of our High Holidays, generally through September. We also offer a diverse speakers program with guest speakers representing all aspects of life, including literature, news, sports and entertainment. During the off-season, we meet more informally to celebrate holidays, life cycle events and just for fun and community. We also offer a tuition-free religious school for our island children.

As part of our anniversary celebration, Shirat HaYam has finally placed a sign on our shared sacred space. We also donated two trees and a plaque to replace the ailing trees in front of the Pacific National Bank on Main Street. We had a celebratory weekend on July 17-19, which will include a dedication of the new sign, religious observance with a noted rabbi, a study session, and of course, some food.

Our membership is highly involved with the larger island community. We belong to the Interfaith Council and have representatives on the boards of both the Rental Assistance Program and the Nantucket Food Pantry. Additionally we participate

continued on page 5



August 2013 Sunday Services

Sunday, August 4 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Some say that we all have one true name and that is only audible when spoken by another. We all have more than one true name and they grow within us and are nourished and shaped by others as we step out into them. What is our true name or names? What makes a name true and how are we called into this world?

Sunday, August 11 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

"Promises, Promises"

There are promises we make to each other and there is a role of covenant in our churches, throughout history and also now in this church. What promises do we make to each other and what is their function in keeping us together and vital as a community of faith?

Sunday, August 18 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

"Authenticity and What Binds Us"

The Reverend Doctor Serene Jones, President of Union Theological Seminary recently asked the question, "What would remain unspoken if we lost our churches?" What is given voice, what is made to take shape in the act of being religious people? Not all of us would agree to being religious people, but if religion means to bind and we join together every Sunday, bound to one another and the world through a covenant that seeks justice, equity and compassion, there are aspects of religious life we embody. So, what would remain unspoken if we closed up shop tomorrow and why does it matter?

Sunday, August 25 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service

On Nantucket we have many beaches to choose from. Each of us finds our way to a special one that calls and welcomes us, and it becomes our beach. Many of us have washed ashore to the Meeting House; a safe place that both holds and changes us. This Sunday several of us will be talking about what has led us here, to this Unitarian Universalist faith, to this Meeting House, to this shore in our lives. We invite you to journey with us as we explore the stories of our individual spiritual paths.

The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is the home of Nantucket's Second Congregational Meeting House Society, Nantucket's liberal religious community. Sunday morning worship, music, and religious exploration begin at 10:45 in the historic sanctuary. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 - noon on Sunday mornings. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation 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 Thursdays at 6:30 and Sunday mornings at 10 in the sanctuary. Singers of all abilities are welcome! Wheelchair accessible. The sanctuary is equipped with an audio induction loop assistive listening system. Switch your hearing aid to "T" during the service or pick up a headset at the rear of the sanctuary.

in many other organizations, including the South Church Preservation Fund, Nantucket Historical Association, Maria Mitchell Association, Nantucket Land Council, the Dreamland Foundation, Nantucket Preservation Trust, Nantucket Community Music Center as well as others.

Our programs, including our High Holiday services, are open to all. Please join us. For more information and to see our calendar of events, check out our website www.shirathayamnantucket.org or call us at 508-228-6588. We look forward to seeing you.



Opportunities Abound Congregational Involvement

Adult Education Committee – This new committee is being formed to work with Rev. Linda Simmons on opportunities for spiritual and intellectual growth for adults. Contact: Rev. Simmons.

Finance Committee – This important group oversees income and spending patterns, updates and advises the Board of Trustees and works closely with the Treasurer. Contact: Craig Spery.

Fundraising Committee – There are several needs for the fundraising efforts for the Meeting House this fall—(1) a new coordinator for the Bed & Breakfast Program and (2) a team for the Fall Harvest Fair. Contact: Linda Spery.

Greeter Coordinator – At the present time, members of the Board of Trustees are serving as greeters each Sunday. A coordinator is needed to maintain the list of greeters, contact greeters each Friday to remind them before Sunday of their responsibilities and volunteer commitment. Soliciting new greeters is also a part of the job. Contact: Linda Spery.

Personnel Committee – This committee advises and assists the minister and, as requested, the Board of Trustees on matters of employee relations and practices for the church staff. Additional members are needed to fill out this committee. Contact: Rev. Simmons.

Religious Exploration Committee – The Religious Exploration Committee is responsible for religious and ethical programming for children and youth in our church community. The RE committee also provides direction and chooses curricula for the year-round Sunday program for younger children and the Youth Program held every Thursday night during the school year. Contact: Susan Richards.

Sunday Service Committee – This new committee is being formed to provide assistance to new settled minister Rev. Linda Simmons with Sunday services each month, with the exception of the Fourth Sunday, which is planned and carried out by the Fourth Sunday Committee. Contact: Rev. Simmons.

Website Coordinator – Are you familiar with WordPress and have time to do weekly updates to maintain the church website? Our long-time talented webmaster Georgen Charnes moved with her family recently to Florida and there are some of us currently taking over her responsibilities. Contact: Linda Spery.

Welcoming & Membership Committee – This committee welcomes newcomers, supports them in the process of forming connections within the congregation and encourages them along the path to membership. Contact: Mary Beth Splaine.



Finance Committee Update by Craig Spery

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I'd like to thank all of you who attended the congregational meeting on July 21 as we presented our mid-year financial review (January 1 – June 30, 2013).

As the Finance Chair, I am pleased to announce that our revenues year-to-date exceed what we have budgeted and our expenses are below the budgeted amount. All indications are that things should continue in this manner through December 31, barring any unforeseen circumstances. However, this will only happen if everyone fulfills their pledge commitment and new members realize that making a pledge

continued on page 7

Summer at the Meeting House - 2013

Thursdays@5, Thursday, August 1–5 p.m.

Timbukblues

Timbukblues is an acoustic country blues band that performs both traditional and original acoustic blues music. Chuck, Erik and Tom are Nantucket musicians and are no strangers to the Nantucket stage. They perform weekly at the Cisco Brewery, the Starlight Café and Rose and Crown.

Sunday, August 4 – 10:45 a.m.

Welcome Rev. Linda Simmons

This Sunday Service marks the beginning of Rev. Simmons ministry with us.

Thursdays@5, Thursday, August 8–5 p.m.

Tony Deblois

Tony is a 37-year-old pianist from Randolph, MA is blind, autistic, has Savant Syndrome, and has been playing the piano since age two. He was the subject of the 1997 CBS made for TV, Movie of the Week “Journey of the Heart” which was inspired by actual events in Tony’s life.

Sunday, August 11–5 p.m.

Hyannis Sound

This nationally recognized, all male a capella group comes to Nantucket for an afternoon of acapella renditions of pop songs, spanning decades of popular music. With six studio albums and a seventh due out this fall Hyannis Sound provides a unique and interactive entertainment experience.

Sunday, August 11 6:30 p.m.

Seasonal-Members Dinner Party

An early evening dinner gathering with Rev. Simmons and her husband, Gary Langley, hosted by the Board of Trustees.

Thursdays@5, Thursday, August 15–5 p.m.

Courtney Hardy – Classical Flute

A professional touring flautist, Courtney presents works by Mozart, Debussy, Gaubert, Mendelssohn and Poulenc in this charming concert, accompanied by Alan Murchie on piano. Music for a summer afternoon, including a piece by Nantucket’s Ned Rorem.

Thursdays@5, Thursday, August 22–5 p.m.

6X6 - Erik Wendelken and Chuck Colley

Both Erik and Chuck are long time island singers/songwriters with a new CD, 6X6. Their music will speak to the islander in you, and their words will keep Nantucket in your mind wherever you go.

Thursdays@5, Thursday, August 29–5 p.m.

Jessica Lambrecht, Operatic Soprano

Jessie is an operatic soprano and Nantucket native with a world of classical repertoire in her heart and desire to share it with you. Her program includes some crowd favorites, and her voice fills the Meeting House with a generous performance that wins rave reviews each time she sings.

Thursdays@5, Thursday, September 5–5 p.m.

The Matt Hutchinson/Nigel Goss Trio

Nick Hayden completes the group for a jazz infused program that's sure to be memorable. With their combined talents and improvisational skills, they have been the backbone of music on Nantucket, in concert or in restaurants. You will recognize their familiar and pleasing sound while enjoying their camaraderie and hearing some stories of music "around the sound".

Thursdays@5, Thursday, September 12–5 p.m.

NCMC Jazz Band

Playing music from the Swing Era you will want to get up and dance! This fine group of island volunteer musicians have played for dances, concerts, the county fair and in the bandstand at Children's Beach for over a decade. Under Nigel Goss's direction you'll relive your favorite sounds that remind you of the time when music was mostly played "LIVE" and people flocked to see and hear the sounds of "The Big Band."

Finance continued from page 5

to the Members Fund is an important part of how we are able to provide programs and serve our community.

A special thanks to Bob Hall for his service as treasurer and a welcome to incoming treasurer Peter Richards, who joins us as a member of the Finance Committee. I'd also like to recognize long-time Finance Committee members Brian Girard and Larry Miller, who are now serving on the newly formed Investment Committee. The primary task of the Investment Committee is to oversee the endowment funds held by the congregation and secondarily to establish a legacy program for bequests, where members can include the church in their financial planning.

As we approach the fall season, our Committee will begin work on formulating the budget for the 2014 Fiscal Year (which coincides with the 2014 calendar year). There are challenges that lie ahead as we look to establishing next year's budget when we will continue to reduce our reliance on endowment fund principal to supplement the operating budget.

If you have any questions or concerns about the church's financial picture, please contact myself or other members of the Finance Committee—Gwen Richter, Jack Weinhold, Peter Richards and ex officio members Rev. Linda Simmons and Board of Trustees president Linda Sperry.

Religious Exploration

by Susan Richards

This summer has been dedicated to fun and exploration for children of year-rounders and summer guests! They created their own "stations" of play and creativity; from the art table bursting projects, to duplo houses, "under the table" lego building, and a blanket and chair fort with "secret" entrance! Instead of beginning with circle time, we ended with a group discussions of our favorite activity of the week and had a sing-a-long led by Jen Dunbar! The summer has been full of "exploration" stations in the Activity Room and we plan on continuing this format through August. Children are encouraged to bring in "shareable" games and toys.

Our regular RE program will resume in September. Building on last years Home unit from the UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum we will begin a new unit of exploration that will continue through the spring. Please contact the RE Committee or Rev. Simmons if you would like to participate in our selection.

Our RE program is a volunteer effort and we need new committee members and teachers. We will soon be contacting parents to see where they can best help. We are planning an RE Orientation session in the Fall and welcome anyone interested in our Religious Exploration program to attend!





Second Congregational
Meeting House Society
11 Orange Street
P.O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554

Second Congregational Meeting House Society
Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-5466 (Office)
www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org
office@unitarianchurchnantucket.org

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons *Minister* - **Rev. Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*
Diane T. Lehman, *Director of Music* - **Kaitlyn Burke**, *Office Assistant*
Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo, *Sextons*

Board of Trustees

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

Church Office Hours

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

Minister's Office Hours

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