



Second Congregational Society
Unitarian Universalist
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - April 2016

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Potlucks and Faith

Every several months, we have a potluck with Faro de Luz, the Latino congregation from El Salvador that we share our Meeting House with. They always bring copious amounts of food and drink: *pupusas*, *empanadas*, *tamales* and my favorite, *atol de elote*, a sweet drink made of corn, sugar and milk.

We share much conversation, mostly in English, with the few Spanish words and phrases that some of us know and are learning. The feeling in the room is one of camaraderie, hope, communion.

This last potluck, we began to have another kind of conversation than our usual friendly banter about home, work and faith. Our friends from Faro de Luz spoke of some of the difficulties experienced by their children in finding meaning and purpose in the Nantucket schools and community, in finding a sense of place and purpose. They told us that many in their community worry that this might never be home, that they might never feel they truly belong here.

There are many kinds of conversation. Some conversation serves to remind us of who we are. Other conversation reminds us of who others are. And then there is the kind of conversation that asks us to recognize that who we are and who others are is part of a miracle that is fragile and conditional and must be tended to and held to the heart like a newborn to survive. The latter is the kind of conversation we had during our last potluck.

Those are the conversations that remind me that Unitarian Universalism is a faith that is a great responsibility because it does not promise that there is anything better anywhere else, in any other lifetime. It promises that the kingdom of all that is worthy of us is right here, right now- so we better get to saving ourselves and each other. Our faith is not in something we cannot see or touch. It is in each other, it is a faith in the miracle of life and that we all deserve to experience this miracle equally. Our faith cannot be put on hold, cannot wait for another day, cannot wait for prayers to be made visible. Our faith has no cloak that holds us in the dark. We must stand in this storm of life and be the vision of peace that our ancestors entrusted us with.

May each day find us worthy of the beautiful promise of our faith my friends.

*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, April 3
"Holy Conversations"
Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall
(A *Talk About* with
Rev. Linda
at 12 p.m. in Hendrix
Hall)

Sunday, April 10
**"Music and the
American Ethos"**
Rev. Linda Simmons
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, April 17
**"When a Story is
Heard"**
Guest Speaker Lani
Peterson
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, April 24
MMRACK(ulous)!
Lay Led Service
Hendrix Hall

Families Welcome!
Religious Education
for Children Every
Sunday

BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S MONTHLY REPORT

by Jan Ellsworth, Board of Trustees President

The Board of Trustees met on March 15, 2016. The March agenda included:

- Rev. Linda's report on her activities over the last month. Of note is the upcoming welcome for J-1 youth this summer.
- Treasurer's update included information on issues related to the tower and recent renovations on the parsonage roof. We have several companies that rent space on our tower that include T-Mobile and Verizon.
- Further discussion on the board spring retreat April 9, 2016.
- Activity Room (AR) and Kitchen renovations continue. The cabinet doors are down and being painted and repaired off site. Painting to the kitchen will began 3/21/16.
- Rev. Linda and the Board discussed a visitors welcome table for after service coffee hour in the AR on Sundays. She and Gary experienced this while on vacation and found this great way to welcome visitors. More to come on that.
- Rev. Linda will offer baby blessings as a part of Sunday services free of charge. Families will be encouraged to meet with Rev. Linda and attend services. If they desire a blessing as a separate event we will use the charge structure that is in place.
- The Board will volunteer at one or two community activities during 2016. Recently we volunteered at a community dinner. It is a great team building activity for all!
- The quarterly Share the Plate donation will continue in 2016. The Board will collect ideas on local non-profit groups that could use our support. At the April meeting we will vote on four agencies and dates for the Share the Plate.

Have a happy early spring!

I can be reached at ellsjan@verizon.net.

World Religion Class

**Judaism, Christianity, Unitarian/Universalism & Islam
Seven Mondays from 6 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
March 14—April 25**

Join Rev. Linda Simmons at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House for this introductory course which looks at how these religions evolved in relation to each other and major economic and historical movements. Please obtain and be prepared to read short sections of and discuss Karen Armstrong's book [A History of God: The 4,000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.](#)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Jen Dunbar

Towards the end of February we learned about the famous Susan B. Anthony. We learned about what she did for women in our country and the right to vote. In her honor during March we had a "fruit election". We nominated three fruits to run for president: Wally the Watermelon, Jale Peno, and Nora Appleton. The next week we invited all the members to vote for their favorite. The following week we counted the votes. It was a very close race with Wally as the winner with 12 votes. Jale Peno had 11 votes, and Nora had 10. The children had a wonderful time with this project.

In April we will learn about more holidays of world religions. We will celebrate Earth Day. We will do a neighborhood clean-up as well as recycled art projects.

We continue to collect change for Nantucket families in need.

We are looking forward to the month ahead!

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, April 4, 6pm—7:30pm

World Religion Class—Activities Room

Monday, April 11, 6pm—7:30 pm

World Religion Class—Activities Room

Monday, April 18, 6pm—7:30pm

World Religion Class—Activities Room

Monday, April 25, 6pm—7:30pm

World Religion Class—Activities Room

Friday, April 29, 5:30pm—8pm

Religious Exploration Community Seder—
Activities Room

Come Join Us at The Meeting House!



Irish Dancing at
The St. Patrick's
Day Dinner in
March at The
Meeting House.

7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary

by Gary Langley

Our congregation is on the path to becoming a Green Sanctuary through the 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary Program which is a journey that will encompass many projects over the coming years in areas concerning Sustainable Living, Environmental Justice, Social Change, Religious Education, Worship and Celebration.

The Strategic Team has been working diligently, constructing the road map for those journeys. One of the steps is to design a congregational wide survey which will ascertain the attitudes and practices on a wide range of sustainability practices and should be rolled out in the next month

The first major Sustainable Living project is Food Rescue. It is an initiative aimed at the food waste in our cycle of food production and distribution here on Nantucket.

We are at the beginning of an exciting new initiative for our community. Our to do list so far includes:

- * Meeting with Stop and Shop to explore the opportunities to reclaim food waste and establish a pilot program.
- * Meeting with a realty company to explore the opportunities to reclaim food waste from weekly rental turnover and establish a pilot program.
- * Meeting with a local restaurant to establish a pilot program for the prepared food market, including catering.

Other on going projects under the 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary umbrella include: Immigration issues, voter registration, clothing drives, composting, and the community garden project where we donate 50% of the proceeds to the Food Pantry.

We are also gathering items to donate to Syrian refugee families. There will be a field trip to Ascentria in Worcester, a Lutheran organization helping to resettle refugee families in and around Worcester, on May 25th. Items needed are: blankets, bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, silverware, pots & pans, baking dishes, green cleaning supplies (dish soap, laundry detergent, bathroom & kitchen cleaners, sponges), waste baskets, laundry baskets, trash bags, light bulbs, and 7th Generation diapers. Please bring items to the UU Meeting House for drop off on Sundays during service or Monday- Friday from 9-noon. Cash donations are also accepted.

Many hands will be needed as we engage in this important work to change ourselves and our world. We welcome your energy and ideas.



Our first delivery to the Food Pantry from left over prepared food from the [Nantucket Culinary Center & Corner Table Café](#). Thank you Joy and Greg Margolis. Our Food Rescue project is currently recovering food waste from food growers, food sellers and various other source in our community. If you'd

like to become involved, our 'Food Rescue Team' meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:00 in Hendrix Hall at the Unitarian Meeting House.



Our Board of Trustees volunteered to serve at the Community Dinner at the American Legion this February.



Sermons for April

April 3: "Holy Conversations" - Rev. Linda Simmons

What does it mean to be Unitarian Universalist in 2016 for us on Nantucket? What does it mean to be connected to other Unitarian Universalists in the country and world and how do we, so far away, live into our leadership together and as a denomination? What is our holy conversation as a people and community? **Please join Rev. Linda at 12 p.m. in Hendrix Hall for a Talk About after this service to explore some of your ideas and responses to the sermon ideas.**

April 10: "Music and the American Ethos" - Rev. Linda Simmons

The New York Times Magazine recently wrote about 25 songs that tell us where music is going. Music also tells us so much about where we are going, what we are caring about, worrying about, trying to change, and are focusing on. Come and hear snippets of the latest tunes as this sermon considers how popular music reflects the American ethos.

April 17: "When a Story is Heard" - Guest Speaker Lani Peterson

Although long time Unitarian Universalist Lani Peterson is often hired as a StoryTELLER, the most important work she does is to be a StoryLISTENER. Through her work with **Public Voice: Storytelling for Social Change**, she has had the privilege of listening to people whose voices are often silenced. She has witnessed people grapple with their stories of being in prison, being homeless, of dealing with poverty, violence, and racism, and watched them emerge from isolated places of shame, anger, and despair to find courage, peace, and empowerment. Come join Lani as she shares the journey of listening and some of the stories she has been blessed to hear.

April 24: "MMRACK(ulous)!" - Guest Speaker Scott Leonard, Lay Led Service

Re-establishing a Nantucket Marine Mammal Rescue Team (MMRACK) after more than two years without one required lateral thinking by the stakeholders involved—the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, UMass Boston, and the Nantucket Community. We came up with an option which has not been used anywhere else. As we celebrate Earth Day on Nantucket, join Scott Leonard of the Nantucket Marine Mammal Conversation Program, who will speak about this important initiative and its place on our island.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

~ The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

~ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

~ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

~ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

~ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

~ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

~ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister ~ **Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus**

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

Ed Sullivan, Sexton ~ **Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper**

Board of Trustees

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

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

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

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