



Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

11 Orange Street - PO Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228 5466

September 2018 Newsletter

Common Pathways
Rev. Linda Simmons

Our Whole Lives

The Unitarian Meeting House, A Safe Place, and Fairwinds Counseling Center joined together almost two years ago in writing a grant to bring Our Whole Lives for 7th to 9th graders to our island. Developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and The United Church of Christ, Our Whole Lives is a secular, research-based, comprehensive sexuality education program using the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, which was written by a group of leading health, education, and sexuality professionals. The values of self worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusivity are at the center of the program.

A Safe Place submitted the grant and received the funding for this community focused, island-wide sexuality education program for 7th to 9th graders. The Our Whole Lives program will begin on Sunday September 16th and run through mid-February, location to be announced. We have three trained facilitators, who were trained here on island by highly skilled Our Whole Lives trainers who came from the Boston area to do this 3-day training. The three wonderful, astute facilitators are Aber Whiteford, Hannah Montgomery and Heather Francis.

Nancy Rapport is the supervisor of the program, and I will be co-facilitating the parent program that runs once a month beginning the second week in October and will be held at the UU Meeting House. The goals of the parent programs are to help parents learn a language to speak to their children about sexuality, to grow the capacity to listen and empa-

Continues on page 2



Members of Fairwinds Counseling Center, A Safe Place, and Rev. Linda, along with trainers and facilitators, during an OWL training in June.

**Join us every Sunday
at 10:45 am**

~

September 2

"Swords into Plowshares II"

Rev. Linda Simmons

September 9

**"A Language of
Reverence"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

September 16

**"Civil Disobedience for a
New Age"**

Lay Lead—John Merson

September 23

**"Climate Change and
Religion"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

September 30

"Blessing of the Animals"

Rev. Linda Simmons

thize, and to reinforce the goals of the Our Whole Lives Program.

Our Whole Lives objectives are to foster self-esteem, build acceptance and inclusion, grow an ability to articulate and practice one's deepest values, to learn what it means to be "one's best self," and to provide a base of knowledge for informed personal decision-making. Our Whole Lives programs help transform a cultural climate of fear and confusion about sexuality into a positive environment in which every person's inherent worth and dignity is valued.

I received my training as an Our Whole Lives facilitator six years ago. I remember distinctly while engaged in the training that I never felt prouder of my Unitarian heritage. So much of the program is rooted in values and social justice commitments that Unitarians honor and have upheld for generations. To be trained on how to offer accurate information about sexuality with compassion, empathy and within the framework of values that grow and support the formation of adulthood as developmentally appropriate, empowered me to feel more whole myself, more alive and capable of making better choices that encourage me to live within my own values.

That is the work of a lifetime, is it not? Living our lives—the way we spend our money, use our words, our work, our actions, what is within our ability to choose, express our sexuality—as a reflection of our values. The closer my actions come to being in alignment with my values, the healthier my life becomes. I strive to shrink the gap between values and actions with each new cycle of awareness I encounter, whether I encounter these cycles willingly or unwillingly! Our Whole Lives is such a cycle of awareness.

I leave you my friends with Our Whole Lives Program Assumptions as written in the curriculum. May they guide you to further reflection and conversation.

- All persons are sexual
- Sexuality is a good part of the human experience
- Sexuality includes much more than sexual behavior
- Human beings are sexual from the time they are born until they die
- It is natural to express sexual feelings in a variety of ways
- People engage in healthy sexual behavior for a variety of reasons, including to express caring and love, to experience intimacy and connection with another, to share pleasure, to bring new life into the world, and to have fun and relax
- Sexuality in our society is damaged by violence, exploitation, alienation, dishonesty, abuse of power, and the treatment of persons as objects
- It is healthier for young teens to postpone sexual intercourse

For more information on the Our Whole Live Program contact Nancy Rappaport at nancy@asafeplacenantucket.org

*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.



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 5th
Building & Grounds Committee
Meeting
5 pm, Activities Room

Sunday, September 9th—11th
Shirat Ha 'Yam High Holy Days
Sanctuary

Thursday, September 13th
OWL Parent Orientation Night
7 pm, Hendrix Hall

Tuesday, September 18th
Board of Trustees Meeting
5:15 pm, Activities room

September 18—19
Shirat Ha 'Yam Yom Kippur
Holidays
Sanctuary

Thursday, September 27th
Food Rescue Meeting
11 am, Activities Room



Above: Gary shows off the recently finished Food Rescue Shed; Right: Inside the shed is a large refrigerator and plenty of shelving space.



Food Rescue Report—Gary Langley

The new walk-in cooler was finally completed in July and is up and running and located on Sustainable Nantucket's community farm, thus expanding and deepening our partnership with Sustainable. This project was the result of FRN receiving a \$20,000 donation to procure refrigerated storage space from an anonymous donor who is UU Meeting House congregant. The installation of solar generated power will be forthcoming to create a self-contained unit.

After a successful pilot program last year of installing a collection bin in Wauwinet for renters to drop their non-perishable and unopened food as they leave the island, we began a similar program in Madaket this year.

It is estimated that in the last 3 years FRN has received and distributed 30 tons of food that would have otherwise found its way to the waste facility. With this refrigerated store FRN can expand their operation to include addition pick up days at Bartlett's Farm, accept additional donations at Stop and Shop, seek out new food donors and create new initiatives.

FRN welcomes anyone interested in becoming part of the important social justice action. Please email Gary at gary@blinddogphoto.com.

CHEF'S DINNER

September 17, 2018

Join Nantucket Food Fuel Rental Assistance for its annual Chef's Dinner celebrating our community.

Nantucket Yacht Club's Chef Chris Freeman will be presenting a night of culinary delights!

All proceeds benefit NFFRA's Food, Fuel, and Rental Assistance Programs.

Each year the island's churches have a friendly competition to see who can get the most tables filled. Let's make sure we fill a few tables for this worthy cause (and make a mark in the competition too)!



COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • CONFIDENTIALITY

We are seeking someone to volunteer to head up this event, please contact the office or Rev. Linda Simmons if you are interested.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

WWW.NFFRACHEFSDDINNER.EVENTBRITE.COM

Nantucket Yacht Club 6PM-9PM
One South Beach Street
Tickets \$115-Cash Bar



Nantucket Food Fuel Rental Assistance

Post Office Box 2597 | Nantucket, Massachusetts | (508) 680-5339 | www.assistnantucket.com

By the Sea

an auction to benefit the Nantucket
Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

On Saturday August 18th we held our annual Goods & Services Auction raising over \$12,000 for the Meeting House!

This year was a little different as we allowed online bidding leading up to the live auction event. We had over 100 items to be bid on including dinners with congregants, fresh loaves of Coleen's bread, and some exquisite local artwork.

The auction was held upstairs in the sanctuary for the first time, with live performances by Susan J Berman, Ray K Saunders, and Paul Connors. Bill Schutt was our fabulous auctioneer.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items to the auction and came out to bid! Special thanks to Alison Forsgren who was the captain at the helm of this auction and for all the folks who crewed the ship with her! Thanks for making the journey so enjoyable!

Religious Exploration - Summer Happenings

In early July we bade a temporary farewell to Leyah Jensen, our ever-creative RE leader who is taking some time off to have a baby! The plan is that she will be back with us later in the Fall. Before Leyah left, the RE class and the Congregation hosted a joyful baby shower at a post-service coffee hour... Good luck Leyah and we look forward to welcoming you back!

For the rest of the summer we were very lucky have the services of Katie Ponce, an islander who has an early childhood educational background. She slipped into our RE program seamlessly and did a wonderful job reading aloud the Story for All Ages each Sunday as well as working with the children on a variety of summer activities which included writing postcards to members of immigrant families separated at our country's southern border.

The RE program will continue to be active for the next few Sundays while we await Leyah's return. Sherly, our hardworking RE assistant has been with us throughout the summer and will continue on this Fall. If you are interested in helping out with the Sunday class, please let us know! We would welcome your help!

The RE Committee - Susan Richards, Lora Stewart, Michelle Whelan, and Rev. Linda Simmons



Join us for Circle Supper Friday September 28th

At 6pm on Friday September 28th, we will gather at many homes for our beloved Circle Suppers. The Hosts of each supper will decide on a pot-luck theme and be in touch with you about what you can bring. Don't miss this chance to get to know one another in new ways. There are stories waiting to be told that will delight and amaze you!



Sign up to host or attend in the activities room
or by emailing John Merson at johnmerson@gmail.com



Monday, September 3rd

The *Immigration Resource Center* will be postponed due to the holiday—we will resume Monday, October 1, 2018 and continue to be open the first Monday of each month from 5:30—7:30 pm

If you or anyone you know is in need, please email immigrationresourcecenter@gmail.com

The Office will also be closed Monday
Please plan accordingly

Sermons for September

September 2nd

Swords to Ploughshares II, Rev. Linda Simmons & Jessica Mindich

Billy Sherry will present the Swords to Ploughshares Chalice this Sunday as we welcome our distinguished guest speaker Jessica Mindich. Jessica is a former lawyer and the founder and CEO of the Caliber Collection® which takes weapons off the streets and transforms them into jewelry and nonprofit donations to help the communities in America that have been most devastated by illegal guns. Jessica is also the daughter of Eileen and Elliott Pollack, Islanders and passionate members of Shirat Ha Yam. Jessica will speak about the importance of transforming destruction into beauty in order to Raise The Caliber® of our communities. www.calibercollection.com

September 9th

A Language of Reverence, Rev. Linda Simmons

What does it mean to speak with reverence in these times? What is left to us to revere and how do we name it? How can language- its use, care and cultivation, help change our health, habits and attitudes in our daily lives? Come enjoy this play of words and ideas this Sunday where we take on language and seek to rescue its beauty and ours.

September 16th

Civil Disobedience for a New Age, John Merson

Join us for this provocative look at the history of civil disobedience and new ways to interpret our responsibilities toward each other.

September 23rd

Climate Change and Religion, Rev. Linda Simmons

Climate change is the greatest moral, physical and social problem humanity has ever faced. It is also something we have created together. People of liberal faith have always been at the forefront of moral and social calamity. What would it look like for us to be leaders in this climate change movement? How are leaders defined these day and what do leaders do?

September 30th

Blessing of the Animals, Rev. Linda Simmons

Join us on Sunday September 30th at 10:45am outside of the sanctuary on the church steps with the dogs, cats, chickens, horses, lizards, ducks, and assorted other creatures who attend this uplifting service. In the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, who loved and was said to understand animals, many Unitarian Universalist congregations and their ministers gather to bless each and every one of our furry, feathered friends who attend, while basking in the blessings that each animal bestows. There is music, laughter, tall tales told, and treats to share with animals and humans alike. Don't miss this joy-filled chance to bless and be blessed as we gather to celebrate the web of all existence of which we are all a part.

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

11 Orange Street — P. O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466

www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org

office@unitarianchurchnantucket.org — revlindasimmons@gmail.com

Church Staff

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

Barbara Elder, Music Director ~ Leyah Jensen, Religious Exploration Lead Teacher, Sherlly Morocoima, RE Assistant

Emma Young, Office Manager ~ Janelle Zapata de Morocoima, Sexton ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Val Hall, President, Susan Richards, Vice President, Paul Stewart, Treasurer, Peter Richards, Clerk

Alison K. Forsgren, Kat Robinson Grieder, Nancy Mack, Joanne Polster, Rev. Linda Simmons

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 9am—12 pm; Wednesday & Thursday 12:30—3:30 pm

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

Interested in contributing to the next weathervane?

Call, email, or stop by the office with your information.

Submissions due for the next issue by September 24th.