



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

## Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466

### Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ July 2014

## COMMON PATHWAYS

### Gathering and Goodness

by Rev. Linda Simmons

I was at General Assembly, a gathering of Unitarian Universalists from all over the world, with many of you at the end of June. It was a whirlwind of workshops, meetings, worship, meals, conversation and reflection.

In one of the workshops, Rebecca Parker, outgoing president of Starr King School for the Ministry, told a story about communion in early Christian communities. These gatherings were not about the body and blood of Christ; they were about our bodies and our connection to each other and the holy. People gathered for a potluck kind of meal, she told us. There were some things one couldn't bring: broccoli, garlic, red meat. The exclusion of meat was to honor the sacredness of all life. We were left to wonder why broccoli and garlic were forbidden.

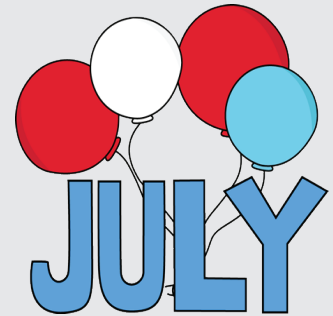
The communal wine was a celebration of the harvest, the fertility of seed and soil, and the symbiosis of earth and body. These early Christians were invited to dip their fingers into the cup of wine and touch their eyes, nose, ears, mouth in order to be awakened, to move beyond the flurry of everyday that numbs and disconnects. If there was a need for ritual to alleviate the numbness and disconnectedness of life in the days of early Christian, one can imagine that the need now is more urgent.

Touching the senses with the juice of grapes to remind ourselves we are human and therefore frail, interdependent, of the earth, flesh and bones, born of stardust and womb- struck me as so simple and healing- like a word of encouragement that reaches in and banishes the self-doubts we line up in a row that keep us small. Both of these uncomplicated acts remind us of our humanness and our holiness.

We were asked in this workshop if people feel loved when they enter our sanctuary on a Sunday morning. The experience of being loved is like that wine to the senses, like encouragement to doubt- something that we participate in and receive that opens us to ourselves and each other.

I have been giving the welcome on Sunday mornings from in front of the pulpit, several stairs below our beautiful and grand chancel. I do this because I want you to know I am here with you, that I am not sure of the way,

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JOIN US AT 10:45 A.M.  
EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday, July 6  
"Eco-Theology"  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, July 13  
"Common Roots and  
Different Routes "  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, July 20  
"The Burning Bush"  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, July 27  
"Lay Led Service"  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Historic Sanctuary

Families Welcome!  
Religious Education  
for Children Every Sunday

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jim Sulzer

It was an honor to attend this year's inspirational General Assembly in nearby Providence, RI . . . and one of my takeaways from it was a new perspective on how we might balance our priorities in the next several months.

Congregations have so many different issues to balance and nourish. Among them are the repair and maintenance of buildings, budget and fundraising, religious exploration for children and adults, Sunday services, involvement in issues of social justice and the wider community . . . the list goes on and on. And they all require participation and good work by members of our congregation.

Our recent Summer Auction, held this June, was a shining example of service to the church at its best. Linda Sperry, in another instance of her extraordinary leadership, organized a fantastic array of offerings and services, and oversaw the work of many committed volunteers to raise a substantial sum of money towards our operating budget. Thank you, Linda, for all you do.

Maintenance, repair, and beautification remain priorities at this time. The South Church Preservation Fund is about to embark on a new renovation project, which includes replacing the roof of the Meeting House. Meanwhile, the Board has been discussing two other projects: the replacement of the roof on the parsonage, and a possible "beautification project" of the Activities Room. For now, both projects are on hold, part of a "wish list," if you will. We realize that our congregation has already been stretched this year with two major, successfully completed projects: the restoration of Hendrix Hall and the new sound system.

All these projects are important, and raising money for their future implementation will be key. But I took away a different, though complementary, insight from last weekend's GA. This insight came about partly through listening to the personal stories of some truly world-class leaders such as Sister Simone Campbell (a Catholic leader in social justice) and Rev. Rebekah Montgomery (a US Army Reserve Chaplain), and also from joining in the rousing worship service led by one of Rev. Linda's friends from divinity school, David Ruffin—a "music-packed, spirit-filling worship" which involved people of all ages singing, dancing, and then marching to the river to witness "Waterfire."

The insight was simple but important: There is nothing more important than spirit, service, energy—the emotional side of why we come together as a congregation. As we attend worship services or work on committees, it is important to remember to cultivate our sense of fun (what we sometimes call our "spirit of hilarity"). We are here to be joyous, to support each other in our need, and to help make our community a better place. Let us all be open to that joy of togetherness as we move forward into our future as a congregation. And along the way, let's reach out and find others who will join us in this spirit of worship and service and fun.

Let's be part of a rising tide.

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



*Zella and Max Margolis enjoy a Story for All Ages with Rev. Linda Simmons in a recent Sunday service.*

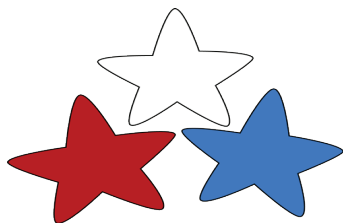
## SUMMER STARS

by Susan Richards, RE Committee Chair

If you've come to a service lately you may have noticed a couple of young familiar faces in attendance. Perhaps they've captured your attention at the front of the sanctuary during Story for All Ages with Rev Linda... or maybe you've seen them joyfully bouncing down the aisle as they are being sung out by the congregation and they head down to the Religious Exploration class, or maybe you've had a chance to see them in the Activities Room after the service, happily finishing up a project with Jen.... Yes, you may have guessed the names of our two young Religious Exploration stars....siblings Zella and Max Margolis!

During the summer months our RE numbers will typically fluctuate but Zella and Max have been our "regulars" - enthusiastically listening to stories, participating in RE chalice lightings, volunteering thoughts and ideas at our RE Circle time and working on an RE project on their own or with their friends..... their enthusiasm is contagious! Congratulations, Zella and Max....our UU Summer Stars!!

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



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that I have no answers, but that I believe when we walk together, anything is possible, love is possible. It is my wine touching the senses ritual to wake us up from our busyness and connect us heart to heart and mind to mind and so be reminded that together we change the world.

*\* 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.*

*Contact: Rev. Linda Simmons, [revlindasimmons@gmail.com](mailto:revlindasimmons@gmail.com)*

**YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND  
the Mid-Year  
Congregational Meeting  
and Financial Review  
Sunday, July 20, 2014  
following the Sunday Service  
in the  
Historic Sanctuary**



**This year's Hungarian Dinner (a fundraiser for our Transylvanian friends in Kolozs Historic Sanctuary) will be held in the Activities Room on Thursday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m. Please attend!**

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



*The Nantucket congregation was well represented at the 2014 UUA General Assembly in Providence the last week in June. Attending the conference were (left to right) Jan Ellsworth, Mary Beth Splaine, Jack Weinhold, Gary Langley, Rev. Linda Simmons, Susan Richards, Peter Richards, Craig Sperry, Linda Sperry, Paul Stewart, Mary Geissman, Jim Sulzer and Lora Stewart. Also attending but not shown here were Phil Lindsay, Maggie Casterline and Tom Thomas. Participants will be sharing their GA experiences over the coming weeks in church services, special events and future issues of the Weather-vane newsletter.*



## MY GA EXPERIENCE: “A New Way To Do Church?”

by Susan Richards



As I expected, the UU General Assembly in Providence, which quite a few of us were able to attend, was an event to remember. Just the sheer energy generated by having so many UU's together was impressive and networking opportunities were certainly plentiful! The workshops offered were wide-ranging in topics and those of us who participated from Nantucket had deliberately opted to spread ourselves out to attend as many different ones as we could.

As chairperson of our RE committee, I chose a couple of workshops with a religious education focus which turned out to be excellent presentations. Both of these workshops stressed the “landscape of change” that is impacting religious education.... that faith formation (for all ages) must go “beyond Sunday mornings”.... in short there is more than one way to “do church” and while Sunday morning may work for some of us, a community potluck or working together on an outside project, presentations on a variety of topics, etc. may actually work best for others.

Both of the workshops I attended stressed the “Four Pillars of Faith Formation”:

- \* Covenant - the way we “hold” each other
- \* Content/Curriculum - the education part... it doesn't happen only on Sundays! And it's not just for children!
- \* Community - Who are we? What do we do? Why does it matter?
- \* Context/Calling - Who is around you? Who could you partner and collaborate with or serve?

Needless to say, there is a lot to think about here! In future weeks and months I hope that I will be able to share some more of this with our congregation and perhaps together we can explore some new avenues of “doing church”!!

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

## SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP

by Lora Stewart

We did not meet in June so the group will meet twice in July! The first gathering will be at the home of Lora Stewart on **Thursday evening, July 10th from 5:30 p.m. on.** The address is **61 Madaket Road.** Come bring whatever project you are working on and enjoy some food, conversation and creativity together. I am hoping to settle on our name so I can order woven tags for our projects.

The second July gathering will be a morning gathering on **Monday, July 14th from 9:30 a.m. until noon** at our home at **61 Madaket Road** for muffins, tea and coffee as we work on our projects. In August, again at 61 Madaket Road, I would like to try **Sunday afternoon, August 24th from 2-4 p.m.**

Of course, anyone who would like to send out an invitation for other times to gather is welcome to do so. I am trying a few different times over the summer in the hope that we can catch new people who cannot make it in the evening or during the week. I will send out an email with the dates. If you would like to be on the email list, let me know. Please RSVP to me.

*Contact: Lora Stewart, Lora@PLPDD.com*

## BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

by Bob Lehman, B & G Chair

We are upgrading the cable service to the church office, including running new coaxial cable from the utility pole in front of the building. The new service will combine coverage for the main building and the parsonage, resulting in lower overall costs.

Three new low flow water saving toilets have been installed, which result in lower water usage and lower costs. The parsonage has new linoleum in the back entry and first floor bathroom. The B&G committee ripped out the old material and Island Carpet installed the beautiful new flooring last month. The historic sanctuary had a new sound system installed last month.

*Contact: Bob Lehman, rmlehman1@comcast.net*

## THIRD ANNUAL AUCTION RAISES OVER \$12,000

by Linda Sperry, Auction Chair

The Third Annual Meeting House Auction, held over the weekend of June 14-15, is now in the history books. Though it required a tremendous amount of work by a dedicated group of Meeting House members and friends, it succeeded in generating over \$12,000 for the Meeting House's operating budget. There were 59 individuals vying for 88 items offered for bidding in the live and silent auctions donated by 65 generous donors. Items ranged from hand knitted baby sweaters to 1939 World's Fair collectibles. Thanks to everyone who participated in some way to make the event a success. Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue offering the programs and services we have come to expect for ourselves, our families and our community-at-large.

*Contact: Linda Sperry, lindaspery@gmail.com*

## Let freedom ring...

13th annual public  
reading of the  
Declaration of  
Independence &  
Bill of Rights

Friday  
July 4th, 9am  
Unitarian Universalist  
Meeting House

An old fashioned  
family celebration.  
Patriotic music  
and singing.  
Signing the  
Declaration of  
Independence.



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

Sunday, July 6 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Eco-Theology”

The earth calls us all to respond to the environmental crisis of our time. Eco-theology, a movement that looks at how religion shapes us and our impact on the environment, has much to offer us in our quest to live in right relation with the earth. What does an eco-theology ask of us and how will we respond as Unitarian Universalists?



Sunday, July 13 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons and Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Common Roots and Different Routes”

Join us for a dialogue with Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor of Shirat Ha Yam and Rev. Linda Simmons that explores and celebrates the commonalities we share as Jews and Unitarian Universalists and the ways in which we are different.

Sunday, July 20 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Historic Sanctuary

“The Burning Bush”

The story of Moses in the desert has much to teach us as Unitarian Universalists. What allowed Moses to see the bush that was burning but not consumed announcing to him that he was on holy ground? This sermon will explore narratives that allow us to see what calls us into the world and narratives that keep us blind.

Sunday, July 27 ~ 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Service Committee ~ Historic Sanctuary

“Lay Led Service”

Join us this Sunday as lay leaders of our congregation lend their talents in planning and conducting this week's worship service.

*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 education begin at 10:45. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 – noon. Children begin the morning with the congregation in the historic sanctuary 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.*



## THURSDAYS @ 5 CONCERT SERIES BEGINS JULY 10TH

The popular Thursdays @ 5 Concert Series, under the direction of Music Director Diane Lehman, debuts its 2014 season with the first performance on Thursday, July 10 in the historic sanctuary.

The series will run through Thursday, August 28 and is funded by a generous grant from ReMain Nantucket. Admission is \$10 at the door.

The July lineup kicks off with **The Bob Lehman Trio** on **July 10th**, featuring Bob and Diane Lehman with Erik Wendelken on stand up bass with an entertaining hour of standards, popular and novelty tunes.

Next up in July is the **NCMC Women's Chorus** on Thursday, **July 17th**. Directed by Barbara Elder, this engaging and talented group of women offer an eclectic mix of pop tunes, folk and world music sung by women around the world.

On **Thursday, July 24th** another NCMC group, **the Jazz Band**, performs under the direction of Nigel Goss. The Big Band delivers every swing rhythm and melody you've come to expect from their huge sound of brass and percussion. This is your chance to hear music of the swing era and beyond.

Closing out the month, **vocalist Jessica Heuser and guitarist Jim Sulzer** perform on **Thursday, July 31st**. Join us as Jessica shares her glorious talent in concert with Jim. Together they take us through a myriad of genres while treating our ears to a rare combination of sound and talent.

August's lineup is equally as talented and enticing. On **Thursday, August 7th**, **Pianist/Vocalist Jacob Butler and Co.** perform, followed by a back-by-popular-demand appearance by the **Hyannis Sound Acapella** group. This special concert will take place on **Sunday, August 10th**.

Rounding out the remainder of August are the **Nigel Goss, Matt Hutchinson and Nick Hayden Trio** on **Thursday, August 14th**; **flautist Courtenay Hardy with Alan Murchie** on **Thursday, August 21st** and renowned **pianist David Crohan** on **Thursday, August 28th**. Join us and bring a friend!

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

## GRASSROOTS NANTUCKET UPDATE

by Adam Reed

Grassroots Nantucket has had some exciting progress on our community farming and composting initiatives. Over the last few weeks members of Grassroots have been helping to prepare Linda Simmons' new community garden plot. The first vegetables are in the ground and we are looking forward to a plentiful season. Our intention is to give away the food we grow to members of the church and eventually the wider community.

Our composting initiative is also officially off the ground. We have green buckets available upon request for compost collection. Additionally, we now have designated drop areas, first being 61 Madaket Road at Lora and Paul Stewart's house. We will also be collecting compost at the Community Garden on Hummock Pond Road. There will be more locations available for drop off as we get the initiative rolling.

*Contact: Adam Reed, [adam.ben.reed@gmail.com](mailto:adam.ben.reed@gmail.com)*

### SPECIAL EVENTS IN JULY

Friday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Shirat Ha Yam Service

Shirat Ha Yam warmly invites us all to a service led by Gary Bretton-Granatoor in the main sanctuary followed by the launch of the documentary, "Shirat Ha Yam, the First 30 Years."

Wednesday, July 16, noon  
The Lunch Bunch

Please join Rev. Linda Simmons at the parsonage at 10 Fair St for a brown bag lunch every third Wednesday of the month. This is an informal gathering to share food and stories. Members, friends, visitors--all are welcome!



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### Church Staff

**Rev. Linda Simmons**, *Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*  
**Diane T. Lehman**, *Music Director* ~ **Lucretia Voigt**, *Office Manager*  
**Mimi Jones 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) and by appointment*