



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - January 2017

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Unwrapping the Darkness

The holidays are behind us now, the presents unwrapped, the punch bowls emptied, the pounds put on, the memories, for better or worse, made. And now the winter comes in earnest to our little island with its darkness. I stay inside mostly when it is dark outside. I don't like the darkness. I never have.

Lately, it occurs to me that my life is leading me ever deeper into the places we identify as dark: my work with hospice and palliative care that so often leads me to the bedsides of those who are dying; the social justice movements we take up that seek to shield others from the darkness: immigrants at risk of deportation, our planet that continues to be put at greater risk and our stand with so many folk who are vulnerable. We consider it our ethical and spiritual duty as Unitarian Universalists to stare into to the jaws of racism, misogyny and xenophobia- to not look away, to stay awake when the lights are turned off.

So it has struck me lately, it might be time to befriend the darkness because I think we need its medicine.

I read a book the other day by Barbara Brown Taylor, Learning to Walk in the Dark. It came at the right time.

She writes, "Step 1 of learning to walk in the dark is to give up running the show. Next you sign the waiver that allows you to bump into some things that may frighten you at first. Finally you ask darkness to teach you what you need to know."

What does the darkness have to teach you? I think the answer is becoming simpler for me as I age, confront my own mortality, and bury some of the people I love. I think I am trying to learn to love life, not by resisting the darkness, but by allowing it to be part of the picture. This can never mean for me that I will stop caring when others that do not have what I have by birth or skin color seek my alliance. Though it may have to mean I accept that the darkness, including my own, is part of life and that when we learn to walk with it instead of hiding from it or resisting it, we have more capacity to be in sacred awareness: like this moment with the darkness all through the world outside, a single lamp lighting this keyboard, and imagining with tenderness your dear faces in my mind.

I close with one more quote from Taylor, "The real problem has far less to do with what is really out there than it does with our resistance to finding out what is really out there. The suffering comes from our reluctance to learn to walk in the dark."

Here, take my hand, together the darkness will be less frightening. Perhaps if we learn to walk side by side, we can learn to hold the gifts of the darkness with peace too.

*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
IN HENDRIX HALL

Sunday, January 1
"The Moral Imagination"

Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, January 8
"Brave Heart"

Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, January 15
"World Day of Migrants and Refugees"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, January 22
"The Differences We Make"

Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, January 29
"Reflections From the Bedside"

Lay Led Service featuring
Charlene Thurston,
Program Director, Palliative and Supportive
Care of Nantucket

Families Welcome!
Religious Exploration
for Children Every
Sunday

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— January 2017

The Board of Trustees met on December 20, 2016.
The agenda included:

1. Board check in was on the 1st principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Susan Richards and the nominating committee brought three candidates to the Board for approval and to move forward to the annual meeting: Michelle Whelan, Peter Richards and Christine Sanford. We are so fortunate to have such great candidates coming on the Board in 2017.
3. The Re committee welcomes new members Alison Levine, Lora Stewart, and Leyah Jenson, who will join Rev Linda and Susan Richards. Stay tuned for exciting new projects in 2017.
4. Treasurer, Paul Stewart, reviewed the proposed 2017 Meeting House budget with the Board. Over the last two meetings we have carefully reviewed all elements of the budget and have approved it for presentation at the annual congregational meeting which takes place on January 20, 2017.
5. Other Board agenda items included:
 - Our Clerk, Stephen Estabrooks, is working with the treasurer to prepare our UUA annual certification of membership.
 - Shirat Ha Am has offered to work with us to clean up our back garden. This will allow us to have a nice outdoor space to gather during the warm months.
 - Haziel Jackson has volunteered to join Rev Linda on the interfaith council.
 - In 2017, the Committee on Ministry will begin planning for Rev Linda's sabbatical in 2018.
 - The Board began planning the agenda for the January 2017 annual congregational meeting, e.g., the 7th Principle Project team will ask for the membership to vote to add the Make it Stop initiative to their mission.

Jan Ellsworth
President Board of Trustees
ellsjan@verizon.net

What Now Meeting

What Now will meet again **after coffee hour on January 8 in Hendrix Hall**. **What Now** is the working name of a group that first met after service on December 11, 2016, to discuss possible social and political actions. Topics include a Speaker series, action on climate change, immigration issues, classism, the economy, gun safety, etc.

Come one, come all!

January Calendar of Events

Friday, January 6, 5:30 pm—7:30 pm
RE Potluck Palooza!—Activities Room

Sunday, January 8, 11:45 am—12:15 pm
Budget Discussion during coffee hour—Activities Room

Sunday, January 8, 12:15 pm—1:15 pm
What Now Meeting—Activities Room

Monday, January 9, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, January 12, 6:30 pm—7:30 pm
Make It Stop Meeting—Activities Room

Friday, January 13, 5 pm—6:30 pm
ACK-spress (Junior Youth Group) - Activities Room

Monday, January 16
Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Thursday, January 19, 11 am—12:30 pm
Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Sunday, January 22, 11:45 am—12:30 pm
Annual Meeting—Hendrix Hall

Monday, January 23, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Friday, January 27, 5 pm—6:30 pm
ACK-spress (Junior Youth Group) - Activities Room

Monday, January 30, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Hebrew School—Activities Room

RE Potluck Palooza!

Celebrate the New Year, meet Leyah, our new RE coordinator extraordinaire, wear festive clothes, play seasonal games, solve a riddle or two, and perhaps even sign a few songs. Of course, you can also plan on enjoying the yummy food that we'll all be bringing in!

Join us on **Friday, January 6th at 5:30 pm in the Activities Room**. Contact Susan Richards at susanoncobble@gmail.com if you have any question.



Let There Be Light!

by Paul Stewart, President, SCPF

Excitement mounts as we await the delivery of the newly fabricated historically accurate chandeliers and wall scones, the finishing touches for our beautifully restored Sanctuary.



'Final test fitting before polishing' of the top portion of the main chandelier

Designed by the Luce Group and fabricated by Paul Ivazes of Quality Lighting, under the supervision of SCPF Director David Barham, the new lighting is being financed by a grant from the Community Preservation Fund. It is due to be



installed in February or March and celebrated in late Spring when SCPF and the Congregation invite the community for the unveiling.

Stay tuned. Let's turn this into a wonderful light-filled celebration together.

Meeting House Tree at the Whaling Museum

Last week a little boy came into the Whaling Museum for one of the school tours. As they made their way through the museum, this little boy was very taken with the story of the Unitarian Meeting House's Christmas Tree in the Nantucket Corner;

the one with all of the stuffed animals on it that will be donated to children in El Salvador.

And then a week later, this same little boy and his family came to



the museum with a stuffed animal of their own. The child was so moved by the tree and the toys and where they will be going, that he had decided he wanted to donate one of his own stuffed animals. He brought his stuffed tiger, named Tyke, to leave under the tree to be donated.

This is what happens when the 7th Principle- Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of which We are a Part- is shared and celebrated. May we continue to find ways to spread this love and the beloved community it creates.

Joining you as your new Youth Programs' Coordinator

Leyah Jensen

There's never been a more poignant time for bringing all of the island's community together. That is why I could not be more honored or energized to serve the UU Meeting House congregation. With its brilliant and diverse membership and Rev. Linda at the helm, this is the place where I feel a new dawn has already been awakening. I could not be more thrilled to be a part of the great ideas Rev. Linda has long been planning that will foster its youngest members.



I have served as a leader and advocate for children for two decades. I led a career in children's publishing for more than a decade specializing in celebrity authors, children's photography and educational diversity. Under my authorship, I have enjoyed titles published around the world. With a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, I have also taught art around the globe in children's homes from Haiti to Nepal.

I find Nantucket home with its natural beauty and intellectual, forefront community. It's here that I now look forward to continuing a life-long commitment to educating and supporting children.

I currently work at The Exploration Station after school program and was the Program Coordinator for Kinder Arts at the Nantucket Island School of Art & Design in 2013.

ACK-spress! - YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM

led by Leyah Jensen, Bio on Page 3

This "Pilot Program" is designed toward gathering youth ages 9-12 who are ready to "come into their own" by an exciting splash-concoction of everything that is--FUN! In a safe space under empowering professional guidance, this combination of art, science, physical activity and the individualized opportunity for self-expression will never fail to find natural ends in good works for the community. Our last session will be an Art Show where we sell our works with the proceeds going to a social justice cause that the youth chose.

This six-week "Winter Session" will serve as basis to gather a once a week ACK-spress youth group that will incorporate social justice and value building components.

**All Classes are Friday evenings from 5-6:30pm
at the UU Meeting House on 11 Orange St.
Free for all who enroll!!**

**Limited spaces so sign up now at ackspress@gmail.com
or call Linda at 508-680-6498.
Like us in Facebook at ACK-spress.**

I. Friday, January 13th- SPLASH! Paint Big, Paint Loud, Paint Wild

Historic Inspiration: The Action Painters of the 50s & 60s.

Painting. In this first session, Nantucket youth will have the chance to paint larger than life. Each youth will discover for themselves, how to—

- * UNLOCK the secret painter inside, through our intro's goofy "blindfold challenge" made for putting the shyest of us right at ease.

- * REVEAL the skill of ancient genius, by exploring a cove of mystery brushes...(is that grapes you're painting with?!)

- * MASTER your biggest canvas ever, by tossing color onto what WAS ordinary--bedsheets to boxes--for a masterpiece only you could create.

- * INVENT the perfect paintbrush when you thought you had none, & make paint from old foods in the pantry and fridge.

- * PROVE that success is REALLY just about getting up again when we fail, as each of us turn our least favorite piece of the session into something brand new.

(continued on Page 5)

(continued from page 4) - ACK-spress classes

II. Friday, January 27th - BUST! Light the Possibilities of LEDs Electronics.

Historic Inspiration: The Ruff-and-Tumble Inventors of early America
In this session we will take apart simple battery cell & copper operated lights to find out how the electronics that are able to dazzle us actually work. Then we will reconfigure the parts into a host of possibilities, from fashion to pop-ups to dog collars to ...well, the choice is yours! The purpose of this class is to foster the inventor that lies within each of us, when we ask the question: "What do people really need?" and, "What could I make that might help?"

III. Friday, February 10th - POUND! Sculpture

Historic Inspiration: Prehistoric Ancestors Discover a Life-Changing Miracle.

IV. February 24th - BANG! Making Instruments for Our Very Own Song Music

V. Friday, March 10th - POP! Paper from Pop-Ups to Boats--Now, Get In It! Paper

VI. Friday, March 24th – Art Show where we will show and sell our work with proceeds going to a local non-profit

ACK-spress needs your help!
We are looking for donations of the following items:

1. Old, crusty household paint brushes
2. 2 large bags of wheat flour, outdated is great
3. Old lead free latex paint, old cans, tubes, old photos, old political magazines, old tickets, bed-sheets, etc...-- **THIS IS BASICALLY ANYTHING FREE & LIGHT-WEIGHT--SEE RAUCH-ENBERG <https://www.pinterest.com/cielodesigns/artist-robert-rauschenberg>
4. Knitting needles, variety of sizes
5. Wood Glue & Duct tape
6. Old, ugly beaded necklaces, junk jewelry to take apart
7. Old Squirt-bottles for water

You can bring items on Sunday, or drop them at the church office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon.

Thanks in advance!

Proposed 2017 General Operating Budget

The budget process we follow is laid out in our Congregational Handbook:

The Finance Committee shall develop the Church's annual budget in conjunction with the various departments and committees, within the context of the actual financial realities and long term goals, and present a budget to the Board of Trustees for approval by December 15, and then to the congregation two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

At its December 20 meeting your Board of Trustees voted to approve the '2017 Proposed' budget shown below.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
14	2016 General Operating Fund	2016		2017		2017B vs 2016B	
15	Income less related expenses	Budget	*Projected	Proposed		\$	%
16	Pledge Payments Received	\$ 81,033	\$ 77,657	\$ 88,282		\$ 7,249	9%
17	Sunday Plate and Gifts	\$ 10,974	\$ 19,500	\$ 12,800		\$ 1,826	17%
18	Rentals (Pars, FdLuz, CSHY, wed, HH ...)	\$ 80,670	\$ 71,961	\$ 77,124		\$ (3,546)	-4%
19	FUNdraising (Auction, 4thJuly, etc.)	\$ 17,446	\$ 22,581	\$ 21,522		\$ 4,077	23%
20	Income from Reserves and Banks	\$ 38,616	\$ 38,616	\$ 40,328		\$ 1,712	4%
21	Income from Sanford Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		\$ -	0%
22	total Income less related expenses	\$ 238,738	\$ 240,315	\$ 250,056		\$ 11,318	5%
23	Operating Expenses:						
24	Ministry + Guest Speakers	\$ 100,915	\$ 101,674	\$ 102,162		\$ 1,247	1%
25	Building & Grounds	\$ 63,654	\$ 63,371	\$ 65,340		\$ 1,686	3%
26	Operations (office, postage, etc.)	\$ 35,360	\$ 33,816	\$ 36,432		\$ 1,073	3%
27	Music Program	\$ 22,830	\$ 22,830	\$ 23,913		\$ 1,083	5%
28	Religious Exploration (RE)	\$ 6,325	\$ 5,053	\$ 13,574		\$ 7,249	115%
29	Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)	\$ 4,374	\$ 4,374	\$ 5,106		\$ 732	17%
30	Committee Budgets	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600		\$ -	0%
31	Congregational Leadership/Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
32	Beautification of AR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
33	Contingency/Slack	\$ 4,681	\$ 4,681	\$ 2,929		\$ (1,752)	-37%
34	total Operating Expenses	\$ 238,738	\$ 236,397	\$ 250,056		\$ 11,318	5%
35							
36	Income - Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 3,917	\$ 0			

This budget is balanced, Expenses equal Income. It provides for:

A new Religious Exploration Pilot Program,

Paying our 'full fair share' of UUA national and District dues,

Prefunding \$2,000 for Advertising & PR (in Operations) out of Contingency/Slack

Thanks to all who have pledged to the support of our congregation; your pledges are our largest and most reliable source of income. It's not too late, all pledges are appreciated!

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 22, 2017, and one of the topics is approving our annual budget. I'll be hosting a 'Budget Discussion' immediately after service on January 8 in the RE area - bring your coffee and questions, I'll bring copies of the proposed budget and we'll have a short informal discussion. Or I'm always available to answer questions in person or by email.

Sermons for January

January 1: "The Moral Imagination" - Rev. Linda Simmons

In his book *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*, John Lederach describes the *moral imagination* as the capacity to recognize turning points and possibilities in order to venture down unknown paths and create what does not yet exist. Join me this New Year's Day as we explore Lederach's work and consider some unknown paths that might serve us in our own journeys ahead.

January 8: "Brave Heart" - Rev. Linda Simmons

What does it take to nurture bravery? What do we need more of to live into being the people we want to be to face what we need to face in this world? This sermon will explore wholeheartedness and vulnerability as keys to resilience and bravery.

January 15: "World Day of Migrants and Refugees" - Rev. Linda Simmons

January 15th is the 103th annual "World Day of Migrants and Refugees." We will honor this day together by welcoming members of Faro de Luz, the El Salvadorian congregation that meets three times a week at the UU Meeting House, and Tom Ryan to the pulpit. Tom works for St. Mary's Parish on Nantucket and for the non-denominational Community of Jesus in Orleans. He's a long-time leader of the Cape Cod Council of Churches and the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission. Members of Faro de Luz will speak about immigrant issues on Nantucket since the election; Rev. Linda will consider an ethical response to immigration as US citizens; and Tom Ryan, who has broad experience in human right's work, will consider how we can be accountable allies here on Nantucket. There will be a *Talk About* after this service with members of Faro de Luz and Tom Ryan.

January 22: "The Differences We Make" - Rev. Linda Simmons

This service comes right before the Annual Meeting. The question in the order of service for the month of January has been: **What role/s do you play in our UU Meeting House community?** This service will look at and celebrate the roles of our congregational president, the board, the minister, the congregation, and each of you in it; while asking: How do these roles create the gestalt that is this UU Meeting House community? What more of ourselves would we like to see in this picture? **If you cannot be at this service, please feel free to email in your response to this question above so we can include it.** (revlindasimmons@gmail.com)

January 29: "Reflections from the Bedside" - Lay Led Service with Charlene Thurston, Program Director, Palliative and Supportive Care of Nantucket

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On Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/

Church Staff

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

Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ Leyah Jensen, Youth Programs Coordinator

Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ 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, Christine Sanford, Clay Twombly, Lora Stewart

Rev. Linda Simmons (Minister)

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

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