



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - April 2017

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

In the Name of Love

I've decided to take Love on as a Spring project. So, I've been reading love poems and books with titles like *Love & Survival*, and I've been focusing on love in and around me hoping it will jump start some feelings of renewal and rebirth for the next round of whatever will be asked of us all in the seasons to come.

It has worked a fairly well, mostly because I am really stubborn and when I decide that love is going to make me feel lighter and more hopeful then it better! And then it occurred to me, if I am looking for light hearted escape from the politics, media and despair of the times, I better find another metaphorical basket than love in which to put those eggs!

I have come to recognize, again, that love is a practice that is mighty and difficult. Loving another or a profession or an ideal or a community, can expose us to such vulnerability, longing, frailty and a commitment to protect and honor- all of which can lay us bare before ourselves and others as often as cover us up again and inspire us. It takes courage and resilience, patience and stamina and energy to love.

As UU minister Rev. Annie Gonzales Milliken writes, "Real love has high expectations, clear boundaries, encourages transformation, and is context dependent.... *Let us stay centered in love and let us never ever forget what love looks like.* Love is not nice, it is often uncomfortable, it is not about our egos, it does not always make us feel good, it is inconvenient, it takes sides. Love is hard. Do it anyway."

April is the month of spring, rebirth, daffodils...and I will devote my sermons to the subject of love: love as that which holds us, challenges us, comforts us and breaks us open. I've let go of my expectation that love will refresh us with its peace or charm or ease. It's enough that love will find us where we are and make of us more than we might otherwise become.

*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, April 2
"The Blessings of a
Skinned Knee"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, April 9
"In the Name of Love"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, April 16
"Rebirth"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, April 23
"The Tao of Spring"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, April 30
"Nantucket's Fishing
Heritage"
Lay Led Service
Guest Speaker—Bill
Blount

Families Welcome!
Religious Exploration
for Children Every
Sunday



Board of Trustees Monthly Report— April 2017

The Board of Trustees have had a busy month. On Saturday, March 18, we held our spring retreat. We first reviewed our Congregational goals to determine what effort we have been putting into them, how well our budget reflects these goals, and what our next steps should be. This exercise showed that we have already made great strides with some goals. For example, we have a strong Seventh Principle Project group involved in food rescue, community garden, clothing drives, and now immigration through the newly formed Indivisible group. However, the budget does not allow much funding towards these efforts. We have also established a Youth Group and strengthened our Sunday morning children's program, facilitated by the RE Committee and our new RE director, Leyah Jensen. We have been able to develop more public relations materials, including more articles in the local newspaper. Areas we feel need more work are adult education, welcoming strategies, engaging potential new members, FUNdraising, expanding the Pledge Committee, and increased participation and training of lay leaders. To help in these areas, we plan to have a Volunteer Fair after church on May 7.

The Board also discussed our Roles and Responsibilities, both written and unwritten, and how best to communicate with one-another. We decided that one of the most important unwritten role of Board members is to serve as spiritual leaders. We meditated and discussed what that means and how we can support each other in that endeavor. We also practiced Nonviolent Communication methods.

Finally, we began to draft a Mission Statement after some encouraging and clarifying words from Rev. Linda: 1) What do we do? 2) Who do we do it for? We will be sharing this draft with the congregation at a later time, seeking your input before finalizing our Mission.

Our last Board meeting was on March 21. The full agenda included on update on OWL (Our Whole Lives) program planning, sanctuary renovations, pledges, cell phone carrier rentals of tower space, a May visit by members of the Barnstable UU congregation, a proposed summer speaker series, and upcoming contract renewals. Val Hall and Peter Richards were elected to serve as delegates, along with Rev. Linda, to the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans in June. They will be joined by Susan Richards, Paul and Lora Stewart, and possibly Joanna Greenfield.

Val Hall
President Board of Trustees
scalopladylady@gmail.com

April Calendar of Events

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

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

Friday, April 7, 5 pm—7 pm
ACK-spress (Junior Youth Group) - Activities Room

Sunday, April 9, 12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
Indivisible Nantucket Meeting—Hendrix Hall

Monday, April 10, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Friday, April 14, 5 pm—7 pm
ACK-spress fire pit on the beach

Thursday, April 20, 5 pm
Immigration Task Force Meeting—Hendrix Hall

Thursday, April 20, 5:30 pm—6:30 pm
Make It Stop Meeting—Activities Room

Monday, April 24, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, April 27, 11 am—12 pm
Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Friday, April 28, 5 pm—7 pm
ACK-spress (Junior Youth Group) - Activities Room

ACK-spress UPDATE:

April and May dates have been set for classes to continue. All classes are Friday evenings from 5-7pm. The next class is Friday April 7th. Subsequent classes are April 14th for a firepit at the beach to fire clay projects for the ART SHOW on April 28th in the AR of all the art the youth have made (proceeds to go to a local non-profit still under discussion).

Last 2 classes are Friday May 5 & 19 (art and work on Community Service Project with the values of UGAA-

Understanding, Giving, Awareness and Acceptance). Look forward to seeing you all at the Art Show! More details to come!



Toys for El Salvador

By: Joanne Polster

The toys sent to El Salvador were joyfully received as you see from the photos sent by Pastor Rafael of the church Iglesia de Jesucristo el Buen Pastor in Chalatenango, El Salvador.

This happy conclusion of our participation in the NHA's Festival of Trees with our tree "All Creatures Great and Small" and its story of the toy donation could not have been accomplished without the involvement of many people whose



commitment made it possible and to whom we owe a great vote of thanks. In the first place, we want to thank Pastor Eduardo of Faro de Luz. We could not have done it without him. He originally put us in contact with Pastor Rafael, secured the photographs both before and after, and then acted as liaison throughout the project. Our Committee: Joanna Greenfield; Nancy Mack; Joe Olsen, master of tree lighting; Lora Stewart whose glorious replica of the church tower topped the tree; and Paul Stewart, who designed and printed the free handout with the 7 principles that accompanied the tree (copies are available at Hendrix Hall). Then there was Leyah Jensen and her class who produced the ingenious pop-up cards which we sent

along with the toys; Rowan Blake who translated the names of the toys into Spanish and wrote both the English and Spanish words on little tags that accompanied each animal; Gary Langley's photo of Leyah and her class during their visit to the tree at the museum which we framed and included in the package; Ana Patricia Hull, who translated our letter to Pastor Rafael into Spanish; Lucretia Voigt, with her computer skills; and last but certainly not least—members of the congregation whose generous contributions covered the substantial shipping charges.

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE**
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

MORE LOVE. LESS HATE.



**Mission Statement:**
A welcoming congregation of and for all ages
Working for justice and compassion in our world
Encouraging spiritual journeys and thoughtful dialogue.

HOME ABOUT US WORSHIP CHILDREN & YOUTH SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CALENDAR EVENTS

OUR NEXT SERVICES
March 19, 2017, 10:30am
The Influence of UU Women
Rev. Kristen Harper

**Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper**
I welcome you to join this vibrant, intergenerational community.
Letter to Gov. Baker

Upcoming Events
■ Step By Step
The Green Sanctuary Committee has led the way for UUCB to be the first faith community to join

The Unitarian Church of Barnstable has contacted us to ask about coming to Nantucket for a visit and a tour. We have arranged that we will host them on a day trip on May 6, 2017. About 30 people will arrive on a morning boat and a few Nantucket UUs will greet them and walk with them to the Meeting House. We will provide tours of our Meeting House, a talk by Rev. Linda on 'current congregational goings-on (and we've got lots!)', and lunch in the AR (for which they will pay us). Then a walk back through town, with some commentary on "Nantucket past and present", to the boat dock.

The timing depends on what boats they choose, but no more than 11ish to 1ish.

We are looking for a few guides to do the two tours (docents for the Meeting House, and informal town walking tours). We are also looking for everyone who would like to meet some parishioners from our closest UU neighbors. Lunch will be \$20 (or equivalent in donated food). Anyone who can join us for even part of the day is welcome.

Paul Stewart—Paul@PLPDD.com

Lay Led Service Committee Report

The March 19 lay led service was entitled "Stories that Sustain Us". This moving service was led by a troika made up of Kat Robinson Grieder, Grace Noyes, and Val Hall. Congregants Mary Beth Splaine, Paul Stewart, Dennis Simmons, and Val Hall gave both prose and poetic tributes to people who had influenced their lives and/or helped them through difficult times. Diane Lehman added beautiful vocal and piano music fitting the themes of both Saint Patrick's Day and that of the stories told.

The next lay led service will be on April 30, and will honor Nantucket's fishing heritage. Britt Martinez and Val Hall will be the service leaders. Bill Blount, the island's only commercial offshore fisherman, will

speak about his experiences on the water, and the spirituality he has gained through them. Diane Lehman and Jacob Butler will provide music from the sea, including Jacob's rendition of the song, "Downeaster Alexa".



Respectfully submitted,
Val Hall, Chair

Sermons for April

April 2: “The Blessings of a Skinned Knee” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Dr. Wendy Mogel in her parenting book, The Blessings of a Skinned Knee, writes about the need for moderation, celebration, and sanctification in order for children to be healthy and well. This sermon will look at the values of moderation, celebration, and sanctification and what spiritual wisdom they have to offer us in this season of rebirth and renewal.

April 9: “In the Name of Love” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Spring, rebirth and love seem to go hand in hand. What is love for you? What do you love? How does love change your life? This sermon will explore love and how we might live into it more fully as a political and moral commitment.

April 16: “Rebirth” - Rev. Linda Simmons

On this Sunday, a sacred holiday marking resurrection to Christians, marking Passover for Jews when the chains of bondage would break, and also marked by rebirth and spring by traditions around the world, we will celebrate the return of light and color and warmth with poetry, music, song, meditation and goodwill. Join us for a service of gentleness and hope.

April 23: “The Tao of Spring” - Rev. Linda Simmons

Though spring can bring great joy, it can also awaken the many losses of the seasons of life. How can we learn to carry joy and loss side by side with equanimity and grace? This sermon will consider spring from a Taoist perspective and ask: When we are able to experience life with more ease, what might life offer us that it cannot otherwise?

April 30: “Nantucket’s Fishing Heritage” - Lay Led Service with Guest Speaker Bill Blount

Bill Blount, the island’s only commercial offshore fisherman, will speak about his experiences on the water, and the spirituality he has gained through them. Diane Lehman and Jacob Butler will provide music from the sea, including Jacob’s rendition of the song “Downeaster Alexa”.

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 ~ Leyah Jensen, Youth Programs Coordinator
Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ Ed Sullivan, Sexton ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Val Hall (President), Clay Twombly (Vice President), Paul Stewart (Treasurer), Peter Richards (Clerk)
Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Christine Sanford, Michelle Whelan, 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