



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - November 2016

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

American Promises

A recent Harvard study reports that people are experiencing high levels of stress this election season. *The Atlantic* magazine in their article, "How to Preserve your Mental Health Despite the 2016 Election" mentioned that people are reporting a sense of despair during this election that is unprecedented.

Some of these news streams say that this is not because of the candidates and our feelings about them, but because we have become aware that issues we thought we had overcome as a nation, or at least gone some way toward moving through together, are as damaged and broken as ever they were. Of course, those who live on the margins already knew this.

We find ourselves as a nation having to peek beneath the covers to see that we have not done the work we thought we did with racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and nationalism. We do not agree in ways that we thought we did about what it means to be an American people. The reflection in the mirror is one that we don't recognize, and it is frightening and disorienting for Democrats and Republicans alike. So many of us feel unmoored.

I wonder if this will push us to do the deeper and yet undone work of healing the racism and classism that lives among us, of admitting the sexism and homophobia that operates between us, of looking at the ways in which white privilege shapes our attitudes about immigrants?

The Atlantic article had a few suggestions for addressing the despair we are feeling. Chief among them was that **it's important to see action itself as valuable and worthwhile, no matter how limited the outcome.** Deciding which actions we can take to alleviate our despair, and the despair of others, is part of the call of our faith as Unitarian Universalists (UUs).

One of these actions is reminding each other that if we are to be true to our principles, not only as UUs but as Americans, then we must act as those who believe in the worth and dignity of others and treat others as worthy of this dignity, all others, those with whom we agree and disagree. We must extend the essence of what it means to be American to each other as Americans, in all of our difference and pluralism, and in doing so, live into our bones so well that we can lift this broken nation out of its own shadows.

We who do not live battered in those shadows must find the strength to give what we are asked to give when we are asked by those who see us as allies. In learning to show up for each other, as Americans, as those worthy of each other, perhaps we might reinvigorate not the American Dream but the American Promise: That all tables are welcome here, with chairs for all to sit, and food that nourishes every palate, with grace said in languages that each understands. Not so that we might treat one another the way we wish to be treated, but rather that we might learn to treat one another the way each asks to be treated.



JOIN US AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERY SUNDAY
IN HENDRIX HALL

Sunday, November 6
"Of Nations and Tribes: Getting Beyond Cavemen and Cavewomen"
Guest Speaker
Dr. Abrar Qureshi

Sunday, November 13
"Healing Together"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, November 20
"Embodied Theology"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, November 27
"The Work of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Organization"
Lay Led Service
featuring Haziell Jackson, Phaedra Plank, and Skyler Kardell
Hendrix Hall

Families Welcome!
Religious Education
for Children Every
Sunday

*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.

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— November 2016

The Board of Trustees met on October 18, 2016.
The agenda included:

1. Board check in on the 6th principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
2. Susan Richards gave an update on her progress filling the two open Board positions. She has provided a folder of information about our meeting house and its Board to one prospective member.
3. AR renovation update: on October 25th Ryder electric will begin work on the lighting upgrades in the main and children's rooms.
4. Board member activities include:
 - In collaboration with the Food Pantry, Board member Joanna Greenfield and others collected and set up a huge clothing drive for Island residents.
 - Joanna and Lora Stewart are working with Joanne Polster to design our Christmas tree for the NHA festival of trees.
 - The Christmas stroll will soon be here and Lora and Joanna are working on crafts and attic treasures to sell. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up.

Jan Ellsworth
President Board of Trustees
ellsjan@verizon.net

November Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 3, 5 pm
Newtown, the Movie—Dreamland Theater

Friday, November 4, 5 pm—8 pm
Church Potluck Dinner—Activities Room

Monday, November 7, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, November 10, 6:30 pm—8 pm
Make It Stop Meeting—Activities Room

Monday, November 14, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Monday, November 14, 6 pm—8:30 pm
Annual Vegan Thanksgiving Dinner—Activities Room

Monday, November 21, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, November 24,
Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, November 28, 3:15 pm—5 pm
Hebrew School—Activities Room

CHURCH POTLUCK DINNER

Join us on **Friday, November 4 at 6pm** with your favorite potluck dish in the



Activities Room to hear how all of your input into the congregational goals rolled out and

to celebrate our Meeting House! Get the latest on what is new with the RE Program, successes with our social justice initiatives, strategies to keep us in the press, and the ways we will be building leadership among us. We will also be celebrating the pledges that have been made so far. Please bring your filled out pledge card with you if you have not sent it in already! You are the village that keeps us strong and vibrant.

Come and be celebrated!



MAKE IT STOP

Imagine a world without gun violence.

MAKE IT STOP is a Nantucket group of people who meet once a month to write letters, make calls to senators and congresspeople, demonstrate, speak out, host events, and educate ourselves about how to make a difference in gun safety.

Next meeting:
Thursday, November 10, 6:30 pm
Activities Room

Contact Rev. Linda Simmons for more details:
revlindasimmons@gmail.com

Stroll Craft Fair

By Joanne Polster



The holidays are coming and plans for our Christmas Stroll Craft Fair and Grandma's Attic are revving up. We would like to repeat

or better last year's success, so . . .

Please, please, please search your attics, basements, garages, nooks and crannies for once-welcomed treasures that can now become someone else's treasure.

We are also looking for hand-crafted items in any medium.

You can bring donations to the Meeting House on Sundays or to the office during the weekday office hours of 9 a.m.—noon.

MAKE IT STOP

Imagine a world without gun violence

Make It Stop is an interfaith group of Nantucket people who meet monthly to discuss ways to bring the public's attention to the situation of gun violence in our country: calling local, state, and federal officials, letter-writing, participation in national phone-call conversations and becoming part of local efforts to educate ourselves and others.

Make It Stop was started after the shooting in Orlando when a small group convened at the UU Meeting House to express our grief, discontent, and sorrow. As that meeting ended, we realized that we did not want the conversation to end about what we could all do to stop gun violence. Make It Stop took shape.

Soon after we formed our group, the movie Newtown was brought to Nantucket as part of the film festival. Many of us from Make It Stop went to the film and were moved by the strength and courage of the Newtown residents and the work they are doing to end gun violence.

Rev. Linda Simmons was in touch with the producers of the film who invited her to bring the film to Nantucket for a second showing. The Dreamland agreed to show the film and donate some of the proceeds to the Alliance for Substance Abuse

Festival of Trees

By Joanne Polster



Once again, we are decorating a tree for the Nantucket Historical Association's annual Festival of Trees to be on exhibit from December 2—31 at the Whaling Museum. The tentative theme is "*All Creatures Great and Small*", and will contain roughly 50 small

soft animal toys. At the close of the Festival, the toys will be gift-wrapped and, as recommended by Pastor Eduardo Calles of Faro de Luz, sent to Pastor Rafael Alas of the Buen Pastor de Jesu Christo Church to be given to the children of Chalatenango, El Salvador. Our Sunday School children, in a joint effort with the children of Faro de Luz, Shirat Ha 'Yam, and Dr. Qureshi, will provide drawings, poems, and letters to be attached to each gift.



4th Annual Vegan Thanksgiving



Join us for an evening of compassionate eating and conversation! Dinner will be in the **Activities Room on Monday, November 14th at 6 p.m.** This is a potluck event and we welcome your creative vegan offerings.

Questions or to sign up see or email Susan Richards at susanoncobble@gmail.com.

(continued from prior column)

Prevention. **Newtown will be shown to the public on November 3rd at 5pm.**

On November 13th, the 7th Principle Project will meet after service and include in our agenda adding Make It Stop to the 7th Principle Project initiatives and taking this to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 22nd for a vote. Please join us for this important discussion

Third Quarter 2016 Treasurer's Report

Paul P. Stewart - Treasurer

Our third quarterly report of the year covers from January 1 – September 30. Our finances are running according to plan, as is our General Operating Fund annual budget. The Parsonage roof was replaced in the Spring and the accompanying project to replace the gutters has just been completed as of this report. After completing the kitchen work in the Spring, the Activities Room Renovation Fund has now accumulated enough money to replace the AR ceiling lights and make related repairs; that project that will be completed in the next week or so.

	A	B	C	D	K	L	N	O	P	Q
1	Treasurer's Report: Pledges, Funds, and General Operating Budget									
2	My goal is to put this information in the May, August, November, and February Weathervanes. Paul P. Stewart, Treasurer, Paul@PLPDD.com									
3	2016 Pledges		1/1/2016	Net Change	9/30/2016	2016 General Operating Fund		Budget		Actual
4	Amount Pledged		\$ 72,878	\$ 5,975	\$ 78,853	Income less related expenses		Annual	YTD	YTD
5	Number of Pledges		58	10	68	<= Pledge Payments Received		\$ 81,033	\$ 60,775	\$ 56,859
6						Sunday Plate and Gifts		\$ 10,974	\$ 8,230	\$ 15,737
7	Funds ('R'estricted, by 'D'onor)		1/1/2016	Net Change	9/30/2016	Rentals (Pars, FdLuz, CSHY, wed, HH ...		\$ 80,670	\$ 60,503	\$ 59,444
8	General Operating monies	CapeCod5	\$ 5,003	\$ 2	\$ 5,005	FUNdraising (Auction, 4thJuly, etc.)		\$ 17,446	\$ 16,446	\$ 19,605
9	General Operating monies	NanBank	\$ 28,281	\$ 5,347	\$ 33,627	Income from Endowment and Banks		\$ 38,616	\$ 28,962	\$ 28,962
10	Subtotal General Operating	Rows 8:9	\$ 33,284	\$ 5,348	\$ 38,632	Income from Sanford Fund		\$ 10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
11	R Parsonage Capital Maint.	NanBank	\$ 17,810	\$ (15,310)	\$ 2,500	Principal taken from Endowment		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12	R Minister's Discretionary	NanBank	\$ 1,394	\$ (48)	\$ 1,346	total income less related expenses		\$ 238,738	\$ 182,415	\$ 188,107
13	R Sabbatical Provision	NanBank	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,500					
14	R RE Committee	NanBank	\$ 389	\$ -	\$ 389			Budget		Actual
15	R Social Action	NanBank	\$ 58	\$ 23	\$ 81	Operating Expenses		Annual	YTD	YTD
16	R Membership Committee	NanBank	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 113	Ministry + Guest Speakers		\$ 100,914	\$ 77,611	\$ 77,320
17	R Caring Team	NanBank	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 113	Building & Grounds		\$ 63,654	\$ 47,741	\$ 43,940
18	R Lay Led Committee	NanBank	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 113	Operations (office, postage, etc.)		\$ 35,360	\$ 26,520	\$ 24,447
19	R Sanctuary Sound System	NanBank	\$ (1,901)	\$ (156)	\$ (2,057)	Religious Exploration (RE)		\$ 6,325	\$ 4,744	\$ 2,429
20	R Activities Room Reno.	NanBank	\$ 1,800	\$ 981	\$ 2,781	Music Program		\$ 22,830	\$ 17,122	\$ 15,691
21	R Coffee Hour Supplies	NanBank	\$ -	\$ 357	\$ 357	Denominational Affairs (UUA, etc.)		\$ 4,374	\$ 4,374	\$ 4,374
22	RD Organ Playing	NanBank	\$ 175	\$ (175)	\$ -	Committee Budgets		\$ 600	\$ 450	\$ 450
23	RD Organ Maint.✦	NanBank	\$ 1,486	\$ (703)	\$ 783	Congregational Leadership/Training		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
24	Subtotal All Bank Accounts	Rows 8:23	\$ 56,495	\$ (7,846)	\$ 48,649	Contingency/Slack		\$ 4,681	\$ 4,681	\$ 3,681
25	R Capital Reserves	Vanguard	\$ 849,503	\$ 44,059	\$ 893,562	total Operating Expenses		\$ 238,738	\$ 183,242	\$ 172,332
26	R Working Reserves	Vanguard	\$ 389,065	\$ 20,179	\$ 409,244					
27	R Capital Reserves	UU CEF	\$ 94,595	\$ 4,557	\$ 99,152	Income - Expenses		\$ 0	\$ (827)	\$ 15,775
28	Subtotal Reserves	Rows 25:27	\$ 1,333,163	\$ 68,795	\$ 1,401,958					
29	RD Organ Maint.✦ (est. 2011)	TIAA-CREF	\$ 67,837	\$ 4,337	\$ 72,174					
30	Subtotal all 'Endowment'	Rows 25:29	\$ 1,401,000	\$ 73,131	\$ 1,474,132					
31	Total all above	Rows 8:30	\$ 1,457,495	\$ 65,285	\$ 1,522,780					
32										
33	RDP Sanford Trust (est. 1910)	BNY-Mellon	\$ 237,903	\$ (10,197)	\$ 227,706	<== Sanford Trust is a right to income but we don't 'own' the principal.				
34										
35	Cell K11 includes the new roof and gutters on the Parsonage this year.									
36	Cell L20 will cover the Activities Room Ceiling Lighting and Repair.									
37	'RD Organ Playing' started with \$175, plus a generous \$1,000 donation, and we used it all enjoying Carson Cooman this summer.									
38	Share The Plate									
39	4/20/2016	Elder Services Meals program			\$ 600	(in honor of David Glidden)				
40	6/26/2016	Maria Mitchell			\$ 291					
41	10/11/2016	Nantucket Island Safe Harbor for Animals			\$ 288	(Animal Blessing service)				

The Food Rescue team, supported by a small amount from the Social Action Fund, visited Martha's Vineyard to view and learn from their experience in this area.

We have also had two collections of items and money to deliver to Ascentria in Worcester this year for the benefit of deserving refugee families and unaccompanied minors.

Please consider a generous 2017 pledge to support our congregation in the coming year. Thanks to all those who have already done so!

NEWTOWN

The Movie

At The Dreamland,
Thursday, November 3, 2016
5:00PM

Filmed over three years, the film portrays a story of the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting of schoolchildren in American history almost four years ago. The film documents a traumatized community fractured by grief and driven toward a sense of purpose to weave an intimate story of community resilience. The movie never mentions the killer's name. There is no blood shown. It is about how people go on and what they are doing to make sure this never happens again. The film was featured at this year's Nantucket Film Festival.

A panel discussion follows, including Dr. Tim Lepore, John Buckey, NHS Principal, Sergeant Kevin Marshall, NPD Crime Prevention, Ann Haaser, MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, and Rev. Linda Simmons, Unitarian Universalist Church.

Why the Film?

After the tragic shooting in Orlando, Florida, a group Led by Rev. Linda Simmons convened to mourn the loss of so many innocent people. Quite a diverse group appeared, young, older, male, female, gay, straight, multi-religious, and we paid our respects to those who were senselessly murdered. An active discussion ensued about what we could do to help stop these tragedies. We decided to form MAKE IT STOP.

MAKE IT STOP meets monthly to discuss the myriad ways to bring the public's attention to the situation of gun violence in our country: calling local, state, and federal officials, letter-writing, participation in national phone-call conversations and becoming part of local efforts to educate ourselves and others.

Proceeds from the film will benefit A.S.A.P.



A.S.A.P. is a cross-sector collaborative of community leaders, parents, youth, school administration and teachers, youth development and fraternal organizations, civic and volunteer groups, health care and business professionals, law enforcement and the media. Together they serve as the community-wide substance abuse prevention coalition known as A.S.A.P. Nantucket.



Sermons for November

November 6: "Of Nations and Tribes: Getting Beyond Cavemen and Cavewomen" - Guest Speaker Dr. Abrar Qureshi

In this era of social media where twitters go viral and being liked is simply a click away, there seems to be a sudden erosion of the glue that holds our progressive society together. Through personal and traditional stories, we will explore how an informed, educated, and aware corpus unites around a common philosophy and celebrates diversity. (Dr. Abrar Qureshi is Chief of Dermatology at the Rhode Island Hospital and visiting Dermatologist at Nantucket Cottage Hospital. He and his family started the Muslim prayer group on island that met weekly at the UU Meeting House this summer.)

November 13: "Healing Together" - Rev. Linda Simmons

With the election behind us, how do we go on? What remedies are needed to heal our wounded country, our divided discourse, our weary spirits? This sermon will explore the salves our tradition of Unitarian Universalism has for us at this fragile time of regathering in this our democratic land.

November 20: "Embodied Theology" - Rev. Linda Simmons

So much of theology can be disembodied, aligned with the supernatural, detached from this world. Our theology as Unitarian Universalists is rooted in this world but can also get heady and detached at times. This sermon will explore what an embodied approach to reverence might look and sound like.

November 27: "Unitarian Universalist United Nations Organization" - Lay Led Service

On this Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, the Lay Led Service Committee, led by Val Hall and featuring Hazi-el Jackson and students Phaedra Plank and Skyler Kardell, focuses on the work of the UUUNO. At this time of thanksgiving, we show our gratitude for all that we have in this country, and remember that people all over the world should be allowed the same freedom and abundance that we enjoy. The United Nations' goal is to ensure these basic human rights through its efforts to achieve world peace.

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

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