



Unitarian Universalist  
Meeting House  
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
(508) 228-5466

## Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - December 2017

### COMMON PATHWAYS \*

By Reverend Linda Simmons

#### Leaving Room at the Table of Life

The *Year to Live* class has been a fascinating journey. Though there is a clear syllabus, the places we have traveled together have been unmarked in many ways. We have taken on the goals of a life review, forgiveness, worthiness and what it is to negotiate peace with one's life.

In preparation for the class, I recently listened to a CD by Elisa Pearmain called *Forgiveness: Telling our Stories in New Ways*. Pearmain challenges us by defining forgiveness as: Giving up all hope of having a better past. In defining forgiveness this way, she said we can learn to finally accept our losses and move more fully toward embodying own lives. And that is the point of it all really, to arrive here at last, home in our own lives, able to be present with who we are and where we are and so give of ourselves more fully, unrestrained.

Michelle Obama gave a speech on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at a Pennsylvania Conference for Women and she mentioned that so many women do not speak or act or do what they feel called to do because they are afraid of failing, making a mistake, not being good enough. I think of this in terms of forgiveness and what Elisa Pearmain is trying to teach as well. When we can enter our own lives, make peace with who we are, we can stand and be counted, speak and be willing to err and have the strength to apologize and move forward; we can embody our lives gracefully and teach from them, giving up what has not served us and claiming what has.

Michelle Obama mentioned in various ways that if we are to be a healthy people and nation then at every decision making table there needs to be diversity, a multiplicity of perspectives informed by gender and race. I think that when we are able to really come to terms with our lives, really live into who we are and love ourselves with our limitations and wholenesses, we can also make room for others to stand fully and wholly beside us too, without the need to be the only voices, perspectives, ways of seeing or being in the room. When we can forgive our own lives, we can occupy our place and space and leave room for others too.

The holidays are complicated times. There is so much vying for attention. May we forgive ourselves and each other by accepting who and what and where we are and so consciously set a place for many others at our tables.

\*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

#### **December 3**

**"Embodying Life's Rhythms"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

#### **December 10**

**"Living Beautifully in an Age of Vitriol"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

#### **December 17**

**"Light into Darkness"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

#### **December 24**

**"Birthing Peace"**

Rev. Linda Simmons

#### **December 31**

**"Creating Resolution"**

Lay Led Service

**Families Welcome!  
Religious Exploration  
for Children Every  
Sunday**

## **Board of Trustees Monthly Report— December 2017**

The Board of Trustees met November 14. Rev. Linda reported she was interviewed for the Immigration Resource Center, we are on the front page of Nantucketweddings.com, the new Religious Education assistant Sherlly Morocoima is doing very well, as is the monthly “Year to Live” class Linda facilitates. Treasurer Paul Stewart reported slight changes to our endowment portfolio to protect us from market instability, and progress made by the Pledge Committee. 2018 pledge letters were mailed, and pledge cards are being returned. Paul also presented a draft of the 2018 budget.

The Board took these actions:

- Approved Board members to volunteer at the Community Dinner held December 12.
- Met with the Nominating Committee to discuss candidates to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting.
- Received a report from Barbara Elder, Music Committee chair, on a job description for the new Music Director. All agreed that the highest priority was ability to lead the choir.
- Voted unanimously to accept the job description, timeline, and overall plan for the Music Program. The search will begin the week before Thanksgiving.
- Voted that one-third of last year’s “gate” be added to the 2018 summer concert series, after Barbara volunteered to manage it.
- Discussed finding coordinators for each FUNdraising event ( St. Patrick’s Day dinner, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, Goods and Services auction, etc.) so we can count on this income in our 2018 budget. Several Board members have stepped up, but more volunteers are needed.
- Discussed a possible orientation for new members after Annual Meeting.

***Respectfully Submitted,  
Val Hall, President  
scallop lady@gmail.com***

## ***The Immigration Resource Center is Open!***

**Monday, December 4  
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m., Activities Room**  
and the first Monday of each month.

The IRC is a safe place to ask questions, receive referrals and compassion. If we don’t know where to find the answers, we’ll learn together!

Spanish, Portuguese, and English spoken.

***Spread the word!***

## ***December Calendar of Events***

**Friday, December 1, 5 p.m.— 7 p.m.**

ACK-tion: Derby Building with the U.S. Coast Guard—Brant Point Light Station

**Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m.— 3 p.m.**

Christmas Stroll Craft Sale and Grandma’s Attic—Activities Room

**Monday, December 4, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.**

Shirat Ha ‘Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

**Monday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

Immigration Resource Center—Activities Room

**Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.—8 p.m.**

NICA Meeting—Activities Room

**Wednesday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.**

A Year to Live Workshop—Activities Room

**Monday, December 11, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.**

Shirat Ha ‘Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

**Monday, December 11, 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**

NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

**Friday, December 15, 5 p.m.—7 p.m.**

ACK-tion: Sculpt Your Way to Creative Bliss—Activities Room

**Tuesday, December 19**

Board of Trustees Meeting—Activities Room

**Sunday, December 24 after the Red Ticket Drawing**

Christmas Eve Caroling

**Monday, December 25, 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**

NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

**Thursday, December 28, 11 a.m.—12 p.m.**

Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

***See You at The Meeting House!***



## Nurturing Nature, Nurturing Ourselves

by Susan Richards

In early November our congregation welcomed Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner along with her co-presenter Gail Koelln for a weekend of camaraderie, inquiry, feasting, humor, and most importantly, learning about ourselves in relationship to nature....

After a Friday evening community potluck, a small but very enthusiastic group of us attended a “Nurture Nature” day-long workshop led by LoraKim and Gail where, among many other things we learned about the biology of why nature is good for our physical and mental health, (including communing with the earth as pictured here!) We imagined what it might feel like to be a



wolf or a chickadee, and discussed the importance of five human intelligences - emotional, social, multi-species, ecological, and spiritual. We concluded the day with a “Wild Walk” at Sanford Farm and a lovely dinner at Jack Weinhold’s and Mary Beth Splaine’s...



LoraKim’s service on Sunday focused on Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, doctor, theologian, and musician who lived and taught his philosophy of reverence for all life. She spoke inspiringly of her goal to foster compassionate communication in our communities of mixed

species so that all beings may flourish.

Such a satisfying as well as inspirational weekend! For those of you who may have missed participating and meeting LoraKim and Gail, you can learn more about them and their mission at their One Earth Conservation website of [www.oneearthconservation.org](http://www.oneearthconservation.org).

## **Telling Our Stories, Changing Our Stories**

**A Storytelling Workshop  
Led by Lani Peterson**

**Saturday, January 6, 2018  
9 a.m.—4 p.m.**

**Meeting House Activities Room**

**Tuition: \$75 (some scholarships  
available)**

**Sign up now**—call or email Mary Beth Splaine at 508-228-0406 or [mb@nantucket.net](mailto:mb@nantucket.net).

**Visit Lani’s website at [lanipeterson.com](http://lanipeterson.com).**

Co-sponsored by Mary Beth Splaine and Darcie Evans



## **It’s here—The Stroll Sale!! Saturday December 2nd, 9 am—3 pm**

**We need volunteers and donors for our gorgeous  
Stroll Craft and Treasures Sale!**

Please volunteer for setup on Friday at 2pm, to run a table for two hours on Saturday between 9am-3pm, or to pack the leftovers from 3-4:30pm.

Also, we are still taking donations! Clear out your closets; we need crafts, china, art, gifts, silver, quality housewares, small furniture, jewelry and anything else that might bring someone joy. Also, if you have broken or unmatched jewelry that can be used to make new ones, please donate. We can rebuild. Empty boxes with lids that can be wrapped, and jewelry and gift boxes would be great too. Call Joanna at (203) 856-1723 for pickup anytime.

***And please join us with your family and guests  
for a glorious time!***



## FOOD RESCUE NANTUCKET

As we begin our third year of operation, Food Rescue Nantucket (FRN) has grown to 16 volunteers, 11 regular food donors and 6 points for redistribution. During this time it is estimated that we have rescued and redistributed nearly 15 tons of food.



As we are continually seeking new strategies to increase our rescue efforts, one new initiative this year is the addition of a food collection bin in Wauwinet to collect the unopened and non-perishable food from the rental units in the area. Every Monday since it's installation in July, until last month, we have collected bags of food destined for the Food Pantry. We have been given permission for another collection bin to be located at the Madaket Fire Station and will be installed for next summer's rental season.



Another new initiative is the harvesting or 'gleaning' from island farms and to process the produce at the Nantucket schools for use in their lunch program, under the direction of the Food Service Director, Linda Peterson. This initiative is in partnership with Sustainable Nantucket's Farm to School Program, headed up by Calin Duke. Our first glean resulted in approximately 500 lbs. of tomatoes and many bags of beets. The Farm to School program and FRN have also teamed up, and are in discussion with the Nantucket schools administration, to institute a new program of compost for the campus-wide lunch food waste. We see this as not only a productive venture but also an important learning experience and a valuable tool for the students.

And finally we have been given a \$20,000 donation from a congregant at the Unitarian Church for the explicit purpose of purchasing a walk-in refrigeration/freezer unit. Sustainable Nantucket has generously agreed to locate the unit at their Community Farm Institute and will be available for FRN, the Food Pantry and Sustainable Nantucket. We are excited about this real opportunity to move our food rescue program to a new level.

*In community,*

*Gary Langley*

*Director, Food Rescue Nantucket*



A wreath of crazy straws, super glue, and fishing line by UU Meeting House congregant Ezra Descarfino and donated by Linda and Craig Sperry to brighten our holidays!

## CHRISTMAS STROLL CRAFT SALE and GRANDMA'S ATTIC



**Unitarian Universalist Meeting House**  
**11 Orange Street**

Enter through the side door to Hendrix Hall.

Get all your holiday shopping done in one place! Stroll into the Meeting House for homemade crafts and artisan items, jewelry, and white elephant items.

**Saturday, December 2**

**9am – 3pm**



## Kids' Christmas Tree Declares 'Peace,' Pint-Size!

by Leyah Jensen

This week, take a stroll past the Nantucket Pharmacy to discover the Unitarian Universalist Christmas Tree decked in red and white. As you get closer, you'll see the children's hard efforts in tiny "fairy folk" from around the world. That's because a theme of universal understanding is the perfect way to end a year of outreach.

El Salvador was our first stop, when the children sold marzipan creations at coffee hour to buy a shipment of art supplies. Next they created fuzzy toy buffalo for Lakota Sioux at the Pipeline Project, which were delivered to American Indian children at the National Day of Mourning. And topping the list of love-packed shipments, the children joined up with the Qureshi family volunteering in Syrian refugee camps to help stuff a donated container. The kids first held a jewelry sale, and then used the funds to purchase coloring supplies. Then into the cargo, as well, went a stack of homemade workbooks---and one huge tangle of tiny teddies!

Our ACK-tion group recently did some cookie baking and sharing with the residents at the Landmark House:



And coming up in *ACK-tion*:

**ROCK...OR ROLL! Friday, December 1st 5pm-7pm**

**DERBIE-BUILDING WITH U.S. COAST GUARD**...a challenge for the brave, & inspired by the fearless! *One packaged "potluck" item is requested.*

**MEETS:** Brant Point Light Station / **COMMUNITY PARTNER:** U.S. Coast Guard

**MISSION:** *Boost your community--AND confidence--with hands-on fun!*

**CLAY-EXTRAVAGANZA Friday, December 15th 5-7pm**

**SCULPT YOUR WAY TO CREATIVE BLISS . . .** then share the love, with 'Our Island Home'. **FREE!** *Just \$5 donation for pizza requested.*

**MEETS:** UU Meeting House, with Saturday 10am delivery and hanging.

**COMMUNITY PARTNER:** Our Island Home

**MISSION:** *Bringing Christmas cheer, to our favorite home-bound elderly!*



## Resource center a help for immigrants

By Carolyn Bostick  
cbostick@inkym.com

Imagine you are a new immigrant trying to assimilate in your new home. You begin to make friends in the community, find work and put down roots.

But because your status in the United States is not yet permanent, you aren't able to get an American driver's license.

On Nantucket, the Nantucket Regional Transit Authority is operational for only part of the year. The rest of the time, the only options are cabs, getting rides from friends or walking.

If you need to get to a doctor's appointment or go to the grocery store and can't walk or afford the cab fare, your limited options may put you behind the wheel of a vehicle without a license.

"It's a nightmare to drive when you don't have your license," Regina Zinser said. Zinser is an immigrant from Brazil who knows many people unable to get their licenses here on the island they now call home.

Immigrants who don't have an American license and are pulled over for a minor traffic violation are put in the path of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and face deportation.

"I have many friends still in that situation. All of them want to be out of the shadows but they are so afraid, but they have a reason for that," Brazilian native Vanessa Rendeiro said.

Rendeiro and Zinser are both immigrants who now assist their peers in the community navigate how to get basic resources as well as ask immigration status questions from a lawyer through the newly-formed Immigrant Resource Center of Nantucket.

The resource center came into existence in March of this year in order to illuminate some of the questions that immigrants on the island have regarding anything from getting a Social Security card to getting immigration status questions answered by an immigration lawyer.

The group began with the



Photo by Nicole Harnishfeger

From left, Rev. Linda Simmons, Vanessa Rendeiro, Regina Zinser and Debbie DuBois of the Immigrant Resource Center of Nantucket at the Unitarian Meeting House.

Unitarian Universalist Church after a number of recent immigrants approached Rev. Linda Simmons and other church members to ask if there was some way to compile and reference the many practical and complex questions that immigrants have.

At the first meeting, about 60 people showed up and voiced their concerns, many of them stemming from the isolationist rhetoric they were hearing from the Trump administration and the travel ban and changes being made to the United States immigration policy.

"What we heard most was that people didn't feel an integral part of the community in that sense. They wanted to feel if something happened, they would have a place to go, that people would know that something had happened," Simmons said.

Clergy members from different congregations on the island began lending assistance and then some community members not affiliated with a church began to ask how they, too, could become involved.

"What I've observed is that each group of folks, whether they're from El Salvador or Jamaica or Ireland or from Nepal seems to support new immigrants. I think perhaps we could have done this work sooner, but I think it wasn't quite as necessary. A lot had to do with the change in immigration policies," Debbie DuBois said.

With America's immigra-

tion policies coming more under scrutiny, DuBois said that it was exciting to see so many immigrants and natives come together to answer the question "What can I do to act locally?"

A list of frequently-asked questions was compiled as part of the Immigrant Resource Center to help others clear up obstacles to obtaining better health and tax information, get a Social Security number, food or clothing resources that are already offered to the community.

"It is a matter of course that on a small island that clergy are very much in touch with immigrant communities and become perhaps resources," Simmons said.

"We have got this hub that is more than ecumenical and more than interfaith, it's a real cross section of our island."

The group now meets on the first Monday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a Spanish interpreter, Portuguese interpreter and a pro bono immigration lawyer only a phone call away to help new arrivals learn what they need to know.

"We are here and maybe we don't have all the answers but we're here to help you and we're going to find them together," Rendeiro said.

The Unitarian Church has been petitioning the state to create a Safe Driving Bill to deal with some of the hurdles immigrants face in getting a license to drive and obtain insurance.

"If they could choose, they would not drive at all, but there are no year-round public transportation services," Rendeiro said.

To transfer your driver's license from another country, you must have valid immigration status for at least 12 months from the date of application. Otherwise, a hold will be placed on your record.

The U.S. doesn't require licensees from Mexico and Canada to retake the driving test, but for people from many other countries, there are more hoops for immigrants to jump through even when there aren't visa lapses or other issues.

Currently, police chief William Pittman said island police aren't necessarily looking to flag immigrants who are not up to date with their paperwork.

"The issue that we encounter most frequently is when somebody is taken into custody and arrested, we have to ask their immigration status. That's really the only time we ask any questions regarding citizenship," Pittman said.

"If they provide false documentation, that's a problem. If they provide any kind of legal documentation, they would just be summonsed to court."

If an individual is arrested and jailed, their fingerprints are entered into a database that would alert ICE to their immigration status.

To assuage some of these fears, the Immigrant Resource Center hopes to let the public know that no matter a person's immigration status, the community will embrace and support them.

"We are all joined together, no matter what country we came from or how long ago our ancestors came from that country," Simmons said.

If you are interested in helping at the Immigrant Resource Center, email [immigrationresourcecenter@gmail.com](mailto:immigrationresourcecenter@gmail.com).

The next open day for the resource center is Monday, Dec. 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Meeting House, 11 Orange St.

## **Sermons for December**

### **December 5: “Embodying Life’s Rhythms” - Rev. Linda Simmons**

The ongoing class *A Year to Live* here at the UU Meeting House is offering many gems that will be reflected in this sermon, from making life more precious, to deepening the practice of forgiveness of self and other, to learning to hold it all more lightly. There will also be a **Table of Remembrance** where we can bring pictures of loved ones who have died and light candles of remembrance.

### **December 10: “Living Beautifully in an Age of Vitriol\*” - Rev. Linda Simmons**

Omid Safi, from Duke University’s Islamic Studies Center, writes about living beautifully in an age of vitriol. This sermon will explore some of his ideas and other aspects of civility and how we can maintain and reflect our and others’ dignity in this anxious, politically divisive time. \*Could offer tools in preparation for the Holidays!

### **December 17: “Light into Darkness” - Rev. Linda Simmons**

The solstice is upon us; the shortest day of the year descends. This sermon will explore the dance of light and darkness in our lives through poetry, song, and meditation. Come and celebrate the return of light and the blessing of darkness in this non-traditional service.

### **December 24: “Birthing Peace” - Rev. Linda Simmons**

What can the holidays teach us about rekindling a commitment to peace, fostering goodwill, and participating in each other’s lives with more compassion? Join us for this Christmas Eve service of song and hope.

### **December 31: “Creating Resolution” - Lay Led Service**

Led by Ezra Descarfino, Paul Connors, and Val Hall, this service will deal with the alternate definition of “resolution”: “the peaceful act of solving a problem or settling a dispute”. We will reflect on the world’s issues that deeply need resolution (hunger, intolerance, violence, war, climate change, habitat destruction, etc.), and try to suggest some solutions. Paul will also lead the congregation in some traditional New Year’s carols, and the service will culminate with a potluck celebration in the Activities Room. So bring food, drink, or musical instruments to celebrate the Hope and Resolution which come with a New Year!

*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.*

## **Unitarian Universalist Meeting House**

11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

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On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/](https://www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/)

### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Linda Simmons**, Minister ([revlindasimmons@gmail.com](mailto:revlindasimmons@gmail.com)) ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, Minister Emeritus

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

**Lucretia Voigt**, Office Manager ~ **Janelle Zapata de Morcoima**, 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, 9:30 a.m. - noon

**Minister’s Office Hours:** Tuesday, 10 a.m. – noon and by appointment