



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

## Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466

### Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ April 2014

## COMMON PATHWAYS

### Rooms and Ruminations

by Rev. Linda Simmons

When I wake each morning, I put on some warm clothes and head out for a run. Gary joins me and we make our way out to the Yacht Club docks on Washington Street Extension. It has been wild and wonderful to experience Nantucket in the morning light from these docks. The wind is many times fierce and icy and the sea changes from grey and roiling, to blue and still. Clouds race across the sky that is sometimes lit pink with the rising sun, and is sometimes grey, snow falling on our red cheeks.

Every morning is different on these docks.

There is a Buddhist story about the mind and a monkey. There is a monkey in a room with four walls and four windows. It goes from one window to the other, and each time it looks out, it sees a changed vista: the light shifts, the animals playing change, the wind and shadows never cease their dance. The monkey is discomfited that nothing ever stays the same; there seems nothing to hold onto.

The mind, goes the story, is the room itself. When the monkey sits in the center of the room, it finds stillness and stability, a frame through which to view all else.

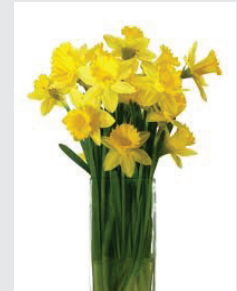
Thinking of this the other day on the docks, I pondered what stays the same: the sky is always above us, the same sea pulses beneath our feet, the sun- whether tucked behind the clouds or touching my skin with warmth is ever present. These things remain. And when we turn to come back to shore, our church stands tall and sure on the hill and calls me home.

It struck me that the fabric of life holds us here, each of us woven into this world in our own way, each of us making up a distinct part of life's tapestry.

We bless and are blessed by each other. This is the room of my faith; this is the place I stand that remains while all else shifts.

We bless and are blessed by each other. Most days, that is enough for me.

*\* 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.  
FOR SERVICES  
EVERY SUNDAY.

Sunday, April 6  
"Worth Dying For"  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, April 13  
"Palms and Prophecies"  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday  
"The Devotion of  
Our Lives"  
Rev. Linda Simmons  
Hendrix Hall

Sunday, April 27  
Lay Led Service  
Hendrix Hall

Families Welcome!  
Religious Education  
for Children Every Sunday

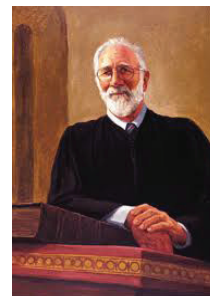
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
ACTIVITIES ROOM  
SEDER MEAL WITH SHIRAT HA'YAM



MONDAY, APRIL 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
HENDRIX HALL  
THE MARATHON: CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE



SUNDAY MAY 4, 10:45 a.m.  
HENDRIX HALL  
TED TALK



Please join us for this special service with Minister Emeritus Ted Anderson. Rev. Linda will be interviewing Ted about his life. We are collecting questions folks might like to hear Ted answer. Not all questions will be included in this TED TALK but we will do our best to get to most of them. E-mail your questions before May 4 to [revlindasimmons@gmail.com](mailto:revlindasimmons@gmail.com).

**“Thinking Outside the Box: A Collaborative Approach to Multigenerational Ministry” is a free workshop being offered by our UUA Ballou Channing District on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. at the UU Fellowship of Falmouth, 840 Sandwich Road. Leading the workshop will be Kimberly Paquette, Northern New England District Multigenerational Ministry Director.**

The workshop organizers point out that our society is comprised of 5 generations today. What might we do in our congregations to fully engage all ages? Join fellow religious professionals and lay leaders to learn about generational theory and trends, and hear examples of what others are doing to encourage multigenerational connections within their congregations. If you're interested in going as a group, see Rev. Simmons.

## SPRINGING INTO RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

by Susan Richards, RE Committee Chair

Now that we've gotten that spring blizzard out of the way, hopefully we can turn our thoughts to spring in RE! While class size has been small over the past few weeks, spirit has been high as we explore facets of what it means to be a UU... our uniqueness, our respect for each other, and the importance of our loved ones in our lives. All have been themes on Sundays.

A few RE reminders -

~We continue to start each class by lighting our chalice and reciting our UU covenant, then we go around our circle so that each of us has a chance to answer the question of the day - from "what's your favorite color?" to "What makes you unique?" Typically Jen will read a book related to the topic of the day and then on to a special project... check out our bulletin board to see some of these projects!

~Don't forget to come check in with Jen after service is over to "pick up" your child

~Please remember that children always need to be accompanied by their parents or responsible adult when they are in Hendrix Hall.

~Blake Lazarus is the caregiver for the younger children and will be in church by 10:45am... if your child would like to go to the Activities Room earlier than the usual children's departure time in the service, she can be with them there... just let Jen or Blake know!

~We are still looking for RE volunteers to bring in snacks, help during an RE class, or be on our RE Committee which meets the second Tuesday of each month in the AR at 4 pm. Please see Susan Richards or Jen if you are interested in helping out.

*Joanna Greenfield invites you to a seminar on chemical free living based on her next book "One Lighted Breath: A Journey Across the US in Search of a Clean Place to Live," at the Salt Marsh Center, Thursday, May 1, 1:30 p.m. Contact: Joanna Greenfield, joannagreenfield@me.com.*

## SAVE THE DATE

# Third Annual Auction at the Meeting House

Saturday, June 14  
6 - 8 p.m.

To donate items or volunteer to serve on the planning committee, contact Linda Sperry  
lindaspery@gmail.com

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

Want to attend General Assembly in Providence in June but need some financial assistance? Our UU district (Ballou Channing) is offering scholarships for General Assembly registration. The District has fifteen \$250 scholarships to assist with General Assembly registration.



The scholarships will be given out by lottery. Submission deadline is April 8. The drawing will be at 1 p.m. on April 10. The checks will be sent to lucky winners by the end of April.

To find out more about the scholarships and how to apply, contact Rev. Simmons. To find out more about carpooling to Providence or sharing lodging, contact Lora Stewart or Mary Beth Splaine.

### Contacts:

**Mary Beth Splaine**, marybethsplaine@gmail.com

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

**Rev. Linda Simmons**, revlindasimmons@gmail.com



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jim Sulzer

This past week during “Joys and Concerns,” I shared the news that Jack Weinhold has asked to resign from his position on the Board of Trustees, where he has served for a number of years, playing a major role in steering our church successfully through its recent challenges and transitions. I explained that this news was a “concern” because Jack’s knowledge, wisdom, and commitment are impossible to match. He and his wife, Mary Beth Splaine, are tremendous leaders whose contributions, in many ways, are incalculable.

I also mentioned that this news does contain a few joys as well. One is that Jack has offered to continue his leadership role in a number of areas, including being the producer of our now-famous Fourth of July celebration. Another joy (or “Joy,” as it turns out) is that our congregation is full of members who are ready to step into leadership roles, and it took our nominating committee little time to recommend an outstanding candidate to fill the board position: Joy Margolis. We are delighted to welcome Joy onto the board. She brings many skills and strengths to the task, including extensive knowledge of non-profit organizations, and she also represents a crucial (and, I hope, growing) segment of our population: parents with young children.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (he of “The Ancient Mariner”) once wrote a reflection on how inhumane all our lives would be without the presence of older people, and how lacking in merriment our lives would be without the presence of children. The span of different ages and different generations enriches the lives of us all. In our congregation we are blessed to have all age groups well represented; there is a nice balance that bodes well for the future.

Our congregation has already entered a time of peaceful transition as newer members come into positions of leadership, whether it be in Grassroots Nantucket, in Religious Exploration, in Shawl Ministry, or in serving on the Board of Trustees. New voices and new leaders are emerging, in a remarkably respectful and harmonious way. Might I go so far as to suggest that our congregation has a nice, buoyant feel to it these days? Such a scenario is possible only because of the tireless labors of longtime leaders such as Jack Weinhold, and also because of the willingness of new leaders to step up and help us move forward into a confident and inviting future. We welcome all who wish to join us in affirming the great UU values of dignity and compassion for every person.

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

*Board of Trustees President Jim Sulzer (second from right) is joined by Gary Langley on drum and new member Rob Dunbar as Faro de Luz soloist Nancy Rodriguez leads group singing in both Spanish and English during the monthly spaghetti dinner on March 21st in the Activities Room. Over 50 members of the UU and Faro de Luz congregations enjoyed the evening of food and fellowship.*



## GRASSROOTS NANTUCKET UPDATE

by Adam Reed, Co-chair

Grassroots Nantucket held successful voter registrations outside the mid-island and downtown Stop & Shop over the months of February and March. The encouragement received from the community was overwhelming and we made some excellent headway in establishing a presence on the island.

To continue our mission of inclusivity for all people, Grassroots hosted its first workshop, "Building the World We Dream About." We had a great turnout from both UU's and members of the community beyond the congregation. The intention of the workshop was to help us to better live in right relations with all our neighbors. Much was shared, awareness spread and we look forward to holding more workshops, classes and lectures in the future.

Grassroots Nantucket will be organizing a composting/fertilizer operation. We will be ordering sealable buckets for UU's and the community, to be distributed free of charge. This is a great environmental opportunity for the community and could provide all-natural organic fertilizer for our next project (coming soon...). If you have expertise in composting and/or you just can't wait to get started, talk to Tobias Glidden or myself for more information.

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

## SHAWL GROUP REPORT

by Lora Stewar

The Shawl Group gathered a number of times in March. Several beautiful shawls were completed and two were given. We are always looking for people to join the group. Contact me so we can put you on the e-mail notification list. In April, we will be experimenting with different times to make it possible for more people to participate. We invite you to join in the fun!

**Contact: Lora Stewart, [Lora@PLPDD.com](mailto:Lora@PLPDD.com)**

## ST. PATRICK'S DINNER 2014 IS A BIG SUCCESS!

This year 20 adults and 7 children participated in the Meeting House's annual St Patrick's Day Dinner at the home of Lora and Paul Stewart. The kids and their parents arrived early to enjoy their boiled dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots, accompanied by soda bread and Irish tea cake with lemon and strawberry sauce.

After dinner an active group of kids frolicked in the yard. As they headed home, the second group of adults came and spent a lovely evening eating and socializing. What a great way to raise \$300 toward the annual budget! Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to the Stewarts for hosting this year's celebration.



*Chris Lohmann and Steve Estabrooks were two of the lucky winners of a golf outing at Sankaty Head Golf Club at last year's Meeting House Auction. The Auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year and is expected to net \$15,000 this year for our operating budget. To be successful, we need EVERY member to participate by offering auction items, bidding on items and bringing a friend! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 14, 6-8 p.m.*

**Contact: Linda Sperry, [lindaspery@gmail.com](mailto:lindaspery@gmail.com)**

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

Sunday, April 6 ~ 10:45 a.m.  
Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Hendrix Hall  
“Worth Dying For”



What does it mean to live a life knowing that we die? How do we face each day knowing that we will one day not be here to face each day? This sermon will be look at these questions, pondering the lessons and practices of mortality.

Sunday, April 13 ~ 10:45 a.m.  
Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Hendrix Hall  
“Palms and Prophecies”

The story of the Palm Sunday is in part a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies to bring a peace-maker who would insist that the world operate on principles of equity and justice. What prophecy has each of us come to fulfill with our lives and does Unitarian Universalism inform this?

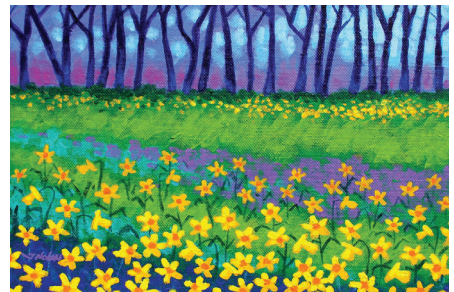
Sunday, April 20 ~ 10:45 a.m.  
Easter Sunday  
Rev. Linda Simmons ~ Hendrix Hall  
“The Devotion of Our Lives”



Studying the New Testament in Divinity School, I came to understand that each gospel was a response to a particular community at a particular time with particular needs. These communities had similarities and differences. What united them and kept Christianity alive? What unites us as Unitarian Universalists and how is this expressed in our daily lives? As we consider this holiday of resurrection and mortality, the question of how we chose to live this one precious life comes to the fore.

Sunday, April 27 ~ 10:45 a.m.  
Daffodil Weekend on Nantucket  
Lay Led Service  
Sunday Service Committee ~ Hendrix Hall

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







## IN MEMORIAM

Summer member Patricia (“Patti”) Raymond Thomas, 70, of Buckingham, Pennsylvania and Nantucket died peacefully at home on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 after a five-year struggle with metastatic breast cancer.

Over the 50 years of marriage, Patti and husband Tom enjoyed summer months at the family home in Surfside and were regulars at Sunday services at the Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. Patti and Tom enjoyed participating in the Fourth of July event at the Meeting House and the summer auction. They were regular attendees at General Assembly throughout the years and represented the Nantucket Meeting House by carrying our banner in the opening ceremonies.

Patti and Tom met at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. In addition to Tom, Patti is survived by three children, and eight grandchildren. Patti is also survived by her sister and her brother, his wife and son. In addition to the affiliation with the Nantucket UU congregation, Patti and Tom have been active members of the Buxmont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Warrington, Pennsylvania for many years. A celebration of Patti’s life was held at the church on March 7.

## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

*Among our new members are Rob Dunbar and Joanna Greenfield. Other new members will be featured in future issues of the Weathervane. To find out about becoming a member, contact Rev. Linda Simmons.*

Our newest member, **Rob Dunbar**, was welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, March 23. Rob was born in Queens, New York and grew up in Rhode Island. He’s lived on Nantucket for 30 years and has been married to Small Friends teacher Jen Dunbar for four years. They celebrate their anniversary on April 17. Rob is a handyman and a musician. He plays mandolin for the popular local string band Four Easy Payments.

Together he and Jen have collaborated on six songs with Jen writing the lyrics and Rob penning the music. He’s been playing music since he was 18 and started playing professionally at age 30. Rob likes Unitarian Universalism because it allows him to be spiritual without a rigid belief system. He would like to thank the congregation for accepting him as a member. “I have felt nothing but care and support coming from the members,” Rob adds.

**Joanna Greenfield** was born in New York City, and grew up in Connecticut. She left school between her junior and senior years of college to study wildlife biology in Kenya and then work in the Impenetrable Forest of Uganda with some BaKiga tribesmen, studying chimpanzees. After finishing her thesis, on the chimpanzees, she went to Israel to work in a predator breeding reserve in the Negev desert. There, she was attacked by a hyena, and while recovering, started writing about Africa. After a year of a doctoral program, she gave up science, and went back to Africa to watch the animals.

She eventually went to writing school to turn the 6,000 pages she had written into a book and her story of the hyena attack was published in the New Yorker before she graduated. The book sold, and she used the advance to travel for six years across America, living in tent camps and youth hostels, looking for a clean place to live, but encountering chemicals even in the most beautiful, isolated places. And that became the next book. Greenfield teaches seminars from the next book now on how to live without chemicals more cheaply and more healthily. Joanna was brought to the meeting house for the Blessing of the Animals by Gwen Richter, and has been met with such warmth and wisdom and humor and great music that she has never left, and is grateful to you all.



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[uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net](mailto:uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net)

### 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*