

# South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## *The Open Line*

April 10, 2007 A Bi-weekly Publication

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*The mission of the South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to provide a sanctuary of beauty and harmony where: We search in freedom for meaning and truth; we draw inspiration from many religious and philosophical sources while acknowledging the Judeo-Christian heritage of Unitarian Universalism; we embrace diversity and welcome people of all ages, races, and orientations; we affirm that our children and youth are an integral and important part of our religious family; we strive toward a social awareness that leads to transformative action in our community and to living in balance with the environment. Ours is a nurturing congregation where children and adults find acceptance and fellowship, feel empowered and grow spiritually.*

Sunday, April 15, 2007  
Worship 10:30 am

### **A FIRM FOUNDATION**

SNUUC's first annual Founders Day  
Rev. Catherine Torpey

Greeters: Paula Fullar & Rita Hines  
Ushers: Leslie Farrington Griggs & Billur Weigell  
Coffee: **Volunteer Needed**  
Youth Snack: Corina Family  
Welcome: Martha Chamberlain  
Social Action: Hildegard Schubert  
Ways & Means: Rita Tancredi  
Lock-up: Anne Fleming

Sunday, April 22, 2007  
Worship 10:30 am

### **CHANGING CLIMATES**

In honor of Earth Day  
Rev. Catherine Torpey & the Junior Youth

Greeters: Laura D'Angelo & Brian Larkin  
Ushers: Martha Chamberlain & Natalie Gray  
Coffee: Lisa Itts  
Youth Snack: Brower & Diggle Fox Families  
Welcome: Rita Hines  
Social Action: Leslie Farrington Griggs  
Ways & Means: Alice Spatt  
Lock-up: Paul Sherrock

Congratulations SNUUC on our 58th Anniversary!  
 On April 14, 1949 the South Nassau Unitarian Fellowship was established  
 bringing together adherents, staunch advocates  
 and believers of the "free mind principle!"

### Please bring your completed RE TASK FORCE SURVEY to SNUUC this Sunday!

The RE Task Force was created to advise SNUUC's board on several topics as we seek to replace the irreplaceable Susan Nykolak as Director of Religious Education. The survey asks a variety of questions to get a sense of what you are thinking and feeling as we proceed at this important moment in SNUUC's history. The first decision the Board needs to make is whether we will seek an "interim" DRE (someone who would not be eligible to be hired permanently), or an "acting" DRE (someone who is hired for one year but would be eligible to be hired permanently). The advantage of having an "acting" DRE is that if we like the temporary person, we can hire them. The disadvantage comes if we decide that we do not want the temporary person to remain on. It can be uncomfortable, having gotten to know the person all year, to tell them they aren't wanted as the permanent DRE.

Please help to guide the Board's decision-making process on this and other decisions by filling in the survey that was handed out on Easter Sunday (April 8). There are 3 separate surveys; one for adults, one for youth, one for children. If you did not receive a copy of the survey, please contact the office, or any member of the Task Force: Denise Hibbert, Rosemary Olander Beach, Arden Fekett or Tom Weingarten.

Please note that the RE Task Force is a temporary group advising the Board. A search committee has not been formed.

#### **Minister's Office Hours**

Tues and Thurs 10-3, Wednesdays 12-6

I also welcome meeting at other times, as possible. Since I'm sometimes in meetings, or away at minister's gatherings, it's always best to call before dropping in.

#### **Office Manager Hours**

Alternate Mondays &  
Tuesday through Friday 9:00 -1:00

#### **Director of Religious Education Hours**

Susan Nykolak

By appointment 623-1204

#### **Youth Coordinator Hours**

Paula Rosenberg

By appointment 623-1204

Next issue deadline: April 22

It will cover Sundays April 29 and May 6

# Musings from the Minister

Dear friends—

In her poem, "Afternoon on a Hill," Edna St. Vincent Millay declares:

I will be the gladdest thing under the sun! / I will touch a hundred flowers and not pick one.

I will look at cliffs and clouds with quiet eyes, / Watch the wind bow down the grass, and the grass rise.

And when lights begin to show up from the town, / I will mark which must be mine, and then start down.

It is time for us to arise, resurrected, in this refulgent time of year, and touch a hundred flowers. So often, being "the gladdest thing under the sun" is achieved by declaring our intention to be so—to notice the flowers; to touch them without need of possessing them; to watch the grass be bent by forces beyond its control, and to watch how naturally it rises up again, seeking the sun.

Alleluia, we are risen!

Yours in faith, hope and love, Catherine

## Adult RE!

The **Great Decisions** class on Mexico is scheduled for Friday afternoon, April 20 at 1:00 in the foyer. If you would like to participate, please buy the book from Catherine and read the section on Mexico in advance.

Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 is the next installment of "**Readings in Liberal Religion.**" We'll be reading Ralph Waldo Emerson's Harvard Divinity School Address. Get a copy from Catherine, or download it [www.emersoncentral.com/divaddr.htm](http://www.emersoncentral.com/divaddr.htm)

All are invited to the LIAC Spring Dinner Saturday, April 14th, at Shelter Rock UU. Enjoy dinner and the Queens Shakespeare Group doing scenes from "Romeo and Juliet". The cost is \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Call Doris Morgan, 627-6560, ex 133 for reservations.

## District 2007 Annual Meeting

The Metro New York District Annual Meeting takes place in Stamford, CT on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28. All UUs are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. The theme is *Rich, Warm, and Full: Nurturing Our Congregational Life.*

Catherine has been asked to moderate a discussion on service trips to New Orleans. Organizers hope that the workshop will lead to a district-wide trip to the Big Easy next fall or spring.

Additional speakers will be; Rev. Meg Barnhouse, nationally recognized singer/songwriter, humorist, and author of *Did I Say That Out Loud?*, among many other books and Rev. Calvin Dame, Interim Congregational Services Consultant for the District and a leading voice for Small Group Ministry.

Singing will be performed at the Saturday morning worship service by the **Metro NY District Choir.** All willing voices can participate! **Children's programming** will be offered for grades K-8 (childcare for younger children, too). **Youth** grades 9-12 are also especially invited to attend.

Sign up by going to [www.uumetrony.org/am07](http://www.uumetrony.org/am07)

Bernie Kaplan, Co-chair, Denominational Affairs

## OUR BOARDWALK

Hi everyone. In this time of renewal and rebirth, it is time for us to renew our financial commitments to SNUUC. We are now in the midst of our canvass campaign. As we consider our pledges for this coming year, we should keep in mind what SNUUC means to us.

Pledging is not about paying our bills. The bills will get paid. It is about building a strong foundation to put our faith into action. Jim and I recently invested a ridiculous amount of money re-building the foundation of our home. One interesting revelation afterwards was that, when the wind blows hard (as it has been more often than not these days) the house barely shakes, even though it is 7 feet higher than it used to be. When it was on the ground - on the old, unsteady foundation - it swayed with the slightest breeze, it seemed. Even though we spent so much money, it appears that strengthening the foundation made the whole house more stable. It was well worth the investment. Here at SNUUC we have a unique opportunity to share the joyful message of Unitarian Universalism. We have a good foundation already, something many congregations do not have. But imagine what we can do with an even stronger one.

Jim and I have decided to increase our pledge by 50 % this year. The resulting number will be ten times our first pledge. Our commitment in the beginning was tentative, and that was reflected in our pledge. As our commitment grew, so did our pledge. It now represents almost 3% of our total income. If you do the math, you will understand how much money that is. Now, I do not recommend that everyone should pledge this much of their income. We all have varying levels of commitment to SNUUC that are comfortable for each of us. But our foundation will benefit more if we go a little beyond comfortable. Jim and I have decided to put our money where our mouths are, where our hearts are, where our faith is. I ask you all to consider doing the same.

Blessings to you all, and Happy Spring!  
Jean Smyth Crocetto

## 5th Sunday Giving

Fifth Sunday Giving is a program that allows the members of SNUUC to contribute to outside organizations or agencies of their choice in the months when there is a fifth Sunday. Speak to Doug Breiding or Gail Compton if you have an idea for an organization that may benefit from our collection.

Our next 5th Sunday Giving will be Sunday, April 29 when we will ask for donations to an organization called "Smile in a Bag". This group makes up gift bags for hospitalized children.

## "Free Minds, in a Free Congregation, working for a Free World" Canvass 2007

The Stewardship Canvass team is energized and reaching out to all of us in the coming weeks. When your Canvasser calls, open your free mind to the spirit of the Rev. Carleton Fisher's lovely phrase, and open yourself to having a thoughtful conversation about what you treasure of SNUUC, and about the financial support you will pledge to give in the coming year.

**Support Our Faith — Pledge Generously**

# Among Ourselves

We send condolences to Jayne Davison and her family on the death of Jayne's grandmother, Matilda Friedman. Matilda will be especially missed by her 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Alix Stoll presents an exhibit of her abstract paintings and collage at the Ripe Art Gallery, 67a Broadway, Greenlawn. Be sure to visit soon, her wonderful artwork is there only through April 18.

Sam Bryson-Brockmann spent spring break in New Orleans working with the Acorn Group cleaning out homes damaged by hurricane Katrina so that the homeowners may move back into them. Speak to Sam to find out what you can do to get more help to this area, still in great need of assistance.

Congratulations to Tyler Mason-Draffen and Will Stevens who recently participated in the All County music concert at the Tilles Center. Let the office know if you achieved "all county" status so that we may congratulate you too.

We send best wishes to Bob McGough who had knee surgery on March 27 and is recuperating at home. Phone calls and cards are welcome!

# Committees at Work

**Thrift Shop Committee** is meeting next Sunday, April 15 at noon in room 1.

**The Board** is meeting Wednesday, April 18 at 7pm in the foyer.

**Gay Straight Dialogue** meeting on Thursday, April 26 at 8pm in the RE wing.

George Jackson will lead a **focus group discussion** on the proposed By-Laws revisions and the Policy on Disruptive Behavior on Sunday April 29 at noon in the foyer.

**Social Action Committee** meeting on Sunday, April

# Ways & Means

## Goods & Services AUCTION & Cinco de Mayo Fiesta - MAY 5th

*Our biggest fundraiser of the year is almost here!*

Everyone is invited to our Cinco De Mayo Fiesta dinner is at 5pm (doors open at 4:30). Junior youth to adult \$10, children ages 5 & up \$5. Children under 5 eat free! Dinner is by paid reservation only and includes your bidding number. Make your reservation at the Ways & Means table on Sunday or call the office. Bidding number without dinner is \$5 and includes dessert!

**Bidding begins at 6pm sharp!** This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! Let's make it the best one ever!

Auction booklets will be handed out soon at the Ways & Means table – be sure you get yours so you can study what's being offered and plan your purchases. If you cannot attend, assign a bidding proxy so you won't miss out on all the fabulous and creative offerings. Contact Rosemary Olander Beach if you require child-care during the auction. Bring your checkbook to settle your account before you leave!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please mark your calendars  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Everyone is encouraged to attend  
SNUUC Budget Hearing  
May 6 after service in the Sanctuary  
\*\*\*\*\*  
SNUUC Annual Meeting  
May 20 after service in the Sanctuary  
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# Benefit Concert

Come and enjoy music with local artists in Spanish and English and appetizers typical of Central America this Saturday, April 14, 7pm in the sanctuary. This benefit concert will be an artistic, multi-cultural event to support both the Soya Project, which feeds poor hungry children in Nicaragua, and the art and cultural Yerbabuena Theater in Brentwood, Long Island whose purpose is to promote art and cultural understanding between Latin and North Americans. Advanced tickets are \$10.

This event is sponsored by CAUSA (The Salvadoran American United Community in Action) and the SNUUC Social Action Committee. Speak to Mirna Obers Cortes for more information.

## Help Needed Please

**Would you be willing to go out of your way bit to help a fellow congregant?** The Membership Committee is trying to coordinate rides for congregants who need transportation to SNUUC. This might be on a Sunday or for a special event or maybe a meeting during the week. If you can go out of your way once in a while to help out please call Lori Strumeyer or Martha Chamberlain. Thank you from the Membership Committee.

## Building Use Etiquette

If you are part of a group or committee that uses the building during the week please be sure to clean up after yourselves, wash any dishes and check all of the outside doors to be sure our building is secure.

# Chalice Lighters

Our Chalice Lighters collection for the **First Unitarian Society of Plainfield** was \$907, including a \$50 donation from RE. These funds, plus those collected from other congregations in Metro District, will be used by Plainfield to "market itself" in their effort to grow membership. Our grateful thanks go to our generous SNUUC members for supporting one of our sister UU congregations. Alice and Carl Spatt

## Newsletter Reminder

If you would like to continue to receive the Open Line and do not make a financial pledge to SNUUC, please complete this form and send it with an annual \$20 donation (or more) to reimburse the postage and printing costs. Our mail address is South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation 228 South Ocean Ave. Freeport, NY 11520. You can also read the Open Line online at our website [www.snuuc.org](http://www.snuuc.org); click on the News link from News, Events & Info.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Dear friends: Many of you enjoyed the Easter/Spring meditation I read on Easter Sunday, and so here it is. Perhaps you will begin your own family tradition of using specific types of seasonal meditations.

Easter/Spring Service Meditation: 2007

*It is written on the arched sky, it looks out from every star. It is spread out like a legible language upon the Broad face of an unsleeping ocean. It is the poetry of Nature, It is that which uplifts the spirit within us*

*BREATHE...deeply and slowly*

*I am Spring ~ the barefoot bride of winter*

*I am April.....moody...ever changing...and full of possibilities...The earth is my mother...the seeds of change lie within me....BREATHE...what seeds will you plant now?...what are your dreams? ...What are the possibilities?...BREATHE.. deeply and slowly....*

*The beauty of the trees,*

*The softness of the air,*

*The fragrance of the grass...speaks to me.  
(What seeds will I plant? What are my dreams?)*

*The summit of the mountain,*

*The thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the sea ...  
speaks to me..... And my heart soars.*

*(What seeds will I plant? What are my dreams?)*

*Wherever I am, is home...and the earth, is paradise*

*Breathe and awaken!*

Looking forward to our many upcoming seasonal celebrations and events.

Fondly, Susan

## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

### Celebrate Earth Day with two SNUUC events and a SNUUC canvas bag!

**SNUUC Movie Night, April 20th, Friday, 7:30 pm.** "Who Killed the Electric Car?" In 1996 electric cars began to appear on roads all over California. They were quiet and fast, produced no exhaust, and ran without gasoline. Ten years later these futuristic cars were almost entirely gone. What happened? Why should we be haunted by the ghost of the electric car? Join us to unravel this mystery and learn more about the future of these cars. Discussion moderated by Cory Rosenberg. Gathering starts at 7:00. Bring refreshments and snack to share.

**Earth Day Lunch at the Solar Café, Brentwood, NY, April 22nd, Sunday, leaving SNUUC at 11:45am.** Increase your environmental consciousness with a lunch trip (everyone buys their own) to America's FIRST solar café right here on Long Island. The Solar Café is dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of renewable and sustainable living. Reservations and sign up are required. Directions available at Social Action Table.

**SNUUC Canvas Shopping Bags will soon be available.** Plastic bags, be gone! Use SNUUC environmentally friendly canvas bags for your shopping. Available April 22nd and while supplies last at Social Action table for \$12/each. Great for Mothers Day presents. Plastic bags use petrochemicals, litter our roadways, and harm marine animals, birds, seals and whales who eat them!

Be part of the solution!



## SNUUC YUUTH YOUTH NEWS

I thought Easter happened in the Spring? Was that a chilly Easter or what? I hope everyone enjoyed the Passover and Easter holiday season. I know the Yuuth did! We had the holidays in the best UU fashion! Connelly Miller presented his Youth service about Easter and the difference between the Christian belief of the resurrection and the Pagan belief of fertility and new beginnings, asking where the Easter Bunny fits in? Does the Easter Bunny draw people into church? Does it give the children an easier, happier part of the holiday to focus on, and does this make it right or ok? That sent the youth thinking and conversing on a whole new topic. Outstanding job Connelly! He then shared Easter candy with us all! We went on to make charoset, a traditional apple and lemon Passover dish. The sweet and sour reminded us of the struggle and the triumphs that have been made. The Yuuth chopped and mixed and measured and tasted until it was just right to serve at coffee hour and hoped that everyone enjoyed it with the matzoh! Everyone was invited to the SNUUC Seder that evening, to further enjoy the traditions of Passover; the service led by Bernie and Patsy Kaplan, the traditional food, and most of all the community. Once again I will say we are very fortunate to be part such an open wonderful religion where we all get to explore each other's beliefs! Happy Spring to all!

Coming up, the Yuuth have their long awaited trip to Huntington on April 15 to visit and have a workshop with Rev. Paul Ratzlaff. Rev. Paul will give an introduction to Buddhism so our youth and parents can experience yet another religious option. Youth from all over Long Island are invited to share in this full yin yang effect. The yin being the Buddhist part, the yang being afterwards when we will go play lazar tag. Once again joining the knowledge of learning and the fun of the play, always in the community of being a UU.

On April 22 the Junior Yuuth will be a part of the Earth Day service at SNUUC under the guidance of Rev. Torpey. A day to get in touch with the earth, nature and all that we can do to make it a better place. Following their service we will be joining the Social Action Committee at the Solar Café in honor of Earth Day. We will be having lunch in a restaurant solely run on solar energy. Reservations are necessary! Everyone is welcome to join us as usual!

Yours in fun & faith, Paula Rosenberg

## Scholarships for HS Seniors

The Bess and Maurice Forge Memorial Scholarship honors the life and work of two of our former members. It is awarded to a young person in our congregation who has demonstrated concern about social and political issues, is interested in activism, and has been involved in community service.

Graduating high school seniors may apply for the Forge Scholarship. Application forms are available in the office. Please complete and return by Monday, May 7.

If you have questions, please call a member of the Forge Scholarship Committee; Rita Tancredi, Ilene Corina and Susan Okun.