

South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Open Line

June 5, 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.

Summer Sundays 10:30 at SNUUC

June 10

Preaching: Gabi Parks "Humor in Church?"

Worship Associate: Mary Canada

Ushers & Refreshments: Jeanne Menoutis & Martha Chamberlain

Lock-up: George Jackson

June 17

Preaching: Rev. Catherine Torpey

TRIBUTE SUNDAY, including the presentation of Forge scholarships and an honoring of Fathers

Worship Associate: Ilene Corina etc

Ushers & Refreshments: Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris

Lock-up: Anne Fleming

June 24

Preaching: George Jackson "On War and Morality"

Worship Associate: Rita Hines

Ushers & Refreshments: Sajid & Alexis Surve

Lock-up: George Jackson

July 1

Preaching: Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

"Dynamic Faith: Tillich's Theology Today"

Worship Associate: Mary Canada

Ushers & Refreshments: Ilene Corina & Anne Fleming

Lock-up: Carrie Mason-Draffen

July 8

Preaching: Hollis Huston

"Explain Yourself! -- Why Each of Us Should Have at Least One Elevator Speech"

Worship Associate: Laura D'Angelo

Ushers & Refreshments: Rita Hines

Lock-up: Rita Hines

July 15

Preaching: Rev. Catherine Torpey

"What Does a Person Deserve By Being Alive?"

Worship Associate: Mary Brower

Ushers & Refreshments: Carrie Mason-Draffen

Lock-up: Alix Stoll

July 22

Preaching: Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

"Questions of Angels Among Us"

Worship Associate: Anne Fleming

Usher & Refreshments & Lockup: Barbara Singer

July 29

Preaching: Linda Nanos "On Immigration"

FIFTH SUNDAY GIVING

Worship Associate: Rita Hines

Ushers & Refreshments: Edwin Lazo

Lock-up: Ken Lawson

August 5

Preaching: Rev. Catherine Torpey

"Lust: An Occasional Series on the Seven Deadly Sins"

Worship Associate: Anne Fleming

Ushers & Refreshments: Jim & Jean Crocetto

Lock-up: Jean Smyth-Crocetto

August 12

Preaching: Hollis Huston

"The Meaning of Life-Is It Important to Get the Right Answer?"

Worship Associate: Laura D'Angelo

Ushers & Refreshments: *volunteer needed*

Lock-up: George Jackson

August 19

Preaching: Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

"Enlightening Experience: Emersonian Insight"

Worship Associate: Mary Canada

Ushers & Refreshments: Denise Hibbert

Lock-up: Kelly Murphy Mason

August 26

Preaching: Rev. Lilia Cuervo

Worship Associate: Rita Hines

Ushers & Refreshments: Edwin Lazo & Jean Smyth-Crocetto

Lock-up: Rita Hines

September 2

Preaching: Hollis Huston

"Unitarian Revelation -- How We Know What We Know"

Worship Associate: Mary Canada

Ushers & Refreshments: Denise Hibbert

Lock-up: Carrie Mason-Draffen

Office Summer Schedule

The SNUUC office will close for the summer on Friday, June 8. It will reopen on Wednesday, September 5. Phone messages and e-mail will be answered weekly.

In case of emergency please call Board President Jean Smyth Crocetto or Vice President George Jackson.

Next issue deadline: Thursday, August 30

It will cover all Sundays in September

Minister's Summer Office Hours

Rev. Torpey will be on vacation for portions of the summer when a local UU Minister will be available. In an emergency please call Board President Jean Smyth Crocetto or Vice President George Jackson for information on who best to call.

Musings from the Minister

Dear friends,

I will be enjoying a very UU summer this year. In June, I will be attending General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. In July, I will go to UUMAC—the UU Mid-Atlantic Community—as one of the workshop presenters. Finally, in August, I will be acting as the Youth Director for Sophia Fahs Camp. I'm grateful that summertime offers me so many opportunities to deepen and broaden my experience of our great religious heritage. I know I will see many of you at camp and at UUMAC. In future years, I hope that more of us will travel together to General Assembly. It is always energizing to be among the most dedicated, enthusiastic and engaged UU's in the country.

When we resume religious education programming in the fall, I hope that we will use our new circumstances as an opportunity to deepen and broaden even further the experience of UUism for our young people here at SNUUC. How this happens will be a collaborative process among all of us. I look forward to working with you to shape the future!

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

Community Minister's Corner

The Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason
Summer 2007

The unofficial start of summer is Memorial Day, a strangely somber inauguration of a season of carefree days spent in the sun. That Monday holiday gives people a nice opportunity to get away for the first of many a long weekend, yet it also reminds all of us to recall those gone from our midst for good.

Next weekend I myself will be out of town, attending my college reunion. Fifteen year ago, I tossed my mortarboard cap in the air, bid a farewell to student life, and stepped out into a summer day that for me marked the much awaited, eagerly anticipated beginning of adult life. Now that I am considerably farther along in that adult life, I wonder what my rush was.

The first time I will be returning to campus as an ordained minister will also be the first time I will be co-officiating at a memorial service. On Sunday morning, an Episcopalian priest and I will lead our fellow members of the Class of '92 in mourning the loss of the 13 members of our class who have died since graduation. Whether their deaths took place years ago or months ago, they all died far too young, which means they all died tragically.

We will grieve those tragedies during a weekend that is otherwise meant to be a series of celebrations. Being thirty-somethings, we alums will trade many stories of job promotions, recent marriages or maybe divorces, the births of children, all the sorts of stories that our 13 classmates by rights ought to be trading with us. And that will alter somewhat how we tell them, I think, and how those stories sound to us.

In summertime, the Gershwins wrote, "the livin' is easy... Don't you cry." Living is not always or even often easy – that is exactly what the ease of summer underscores for us. Sometimes, though, it can be. Those easy times are ones we can and should relish, knowing as we do that sadness will someday be standing by.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the relaxed rhythms of summer let us savor moments could have passed without our having tasted them at all. The flavor of life is bittersweet. If we are lucky to live long enough, we tend to acquire a taste for it. This summer, remember to treasure the warmer spells in our time together, because at those clambakes and barbecues, we just might recognize that our deepest hunger is what is being fed.

★ Sunday, June 17 will be our second annual ★
★ "Tribute Sunday," when we will acknowledge ★
★ all those who have left our SNUUC community ★
★ by moving or death, and all those who have ★
★ joined or been born into our congregation. ★
★ Please contact Catherine with any names of ★
★ anyone you wish to have acknowledged. ★
★ This service will be in conjunction with the ★
★ awarding of the Forge Scholarships and an ★
★ acknowledgement of fathers for Fathers Day. ★
★

REIMAGING THE DIVINE THINKING ABOUT GOD IN NEW WAYS

AUGUST 25, 2007. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Have you been hurt by the teachings and actions of your former religion? Are you disenchanted with teachings on the supernatural? Are you bothered by the idea of a vengeful, bearded God, watching your every step? Have you given up the restrictive, old ideas of God and Mystery, and yet haven't replaced them with fresh, exciting, life-giving ideas? If your answer is "Yes!" to one or all of these questions, this workshop is for you. Are you willing to continue letting others define God for you? If your answer is "No!" then, this hands-on, non-dogmatic, free thinking exploration of images of the Holy is specially for you.

Offered by the Rev. Lilia Cuervo, a Unitarian Universalist minister who has served congregations on Long Island and in San Jose, California.

Adult RE and More

The next **Great Decisions** class is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 8 at 1:00 in the foyer. The topic is the Middle East. If you would like to participate, please buy the \$16 book from Catherine and read the section in advance.

Sunday, June 17 after worship, Catherine will lead an **informal chat** in the foyer to talk about **the future of RE and any other congregational issues.**

Special Friends!!

Special Friends is a program where an adult SNUUC member and a child up to age 16 are matched and join in three special group events on Sunday afternoons after service beginning in September. If you are interested please see Ilene Corina or Jojo Granoff.

When religious education is not in session childcare for 2nd grade and younger is available during Sunday services. All other children and youth are encouraged to attend the service in the sanctuary. Remember to collect a vial of water during your summer for our water ceremony at The September 9th service.

Among Ourselves

Many thanks go to Bonny Levenson, the organization queen, and all the helpers who played a part in this weekend's festivities. Thanks to all who set up, decorated, entertained, cooked, served, cleaned up and barbecued. A grand time was had by all thanks to you!

We welcome new members Alexis and Sajid Surve. Be sure to say hello when you see them at coffee hour!

Thank you to the Open Line folders, Dorothy Seacord, Verna and Arnie Herman and Bonny Levenson, who are here bright and early Wednesday mornings to make sure you get your newsletter. Please remember to let the office know if you choose to read your Open Line on line and save the stamps and paper!

A note from Dianne Kessler. "I would like to express my gratitude to the following women for giving up their time to take me to my treatments; Bonny Levenson, Rita Hines, Diane Hawkins, Lynn Gross, Patsy Kaplan and a special thank you to Linda Nanos for coordinating all of the appointments. Thank you to everyone for all of your kind efforts. Love, Dianne Kessler. PS Ladies, please be aware that mammograms and sonograms do not always detect all types of breast cancers. Ask your doctor about an MRI. It saved my life."

Lisa Itts will be performing at and hosting a party for the release of her new CD, "Sourcerer" Sunday, June 24 6-9pm in Rockville Centre. Information for tickets available at her website at www.lisaitts.com

Please check in the coat closet in the hallway and on the counter in the kitchen to see if there are things there that belong to you. *Any clothes and dishes that remain after next week will be donated to the thrift shop.*

The song Phil Kennelty Cohen sang at the retirement party for Susan Nykolak, "A Song For Susan" can be heard during the month of June at <http://www.myspace.com/phriendzy>

All are welcome to Friday Nights at Jones Beach. Get together for dinner from 6pm until dusk. Bring food, drinks and friends. Meet at Field 6 in front of the

Committees at Work

The Thrift Shop committee is meeting on Sunday, June 10 at 12:00 in the RE wing.

Board meeting Wednesday, June 20 at 7pm.

The Environmental Committee will meet on Sunday, June 24th, in the RE wing after coffee hour at noon to put together an agenda of things we want to do next year. We need your ideas! All welcome.

The Gay/Straight Dialogue's next meeting will be on Sunday, July 8th. It will be a field trip at 12 noon, following the service. **All are invited!!** Call Bob

Help Wanted

As you know, the **Geoffrey Canada lecture and reception** is rescheduled for Thursday, June 14 at 7pm. Alice Spatt is once again coordinating the food for the reception afterwards. She asks that you please bring finger foods; small sandwiches, appetizers, cookies, fruit, whatever you offered to bring to the March reception. Alice is out of town until just before the event; please speak to Billur Weigell or Laura D'Angelo if you have any questions.

The search for the permanent replacement for our Director of Religious Education will take place during the year to come, and will include input from all segments of the congregation. The Board is currently seeking nominations (including self-nominations) for a search committee to find the permanent DRE. This committee will be asked to organize focus groups in the congregation in the fall in preparation for a spring search. Please submit your names to Jean Smyth-Crocetto.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY CLASS

If you ever watched "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and thought it looked like fun, or if you'd just like to be a little more playful, creative and self-confident, then this class is for you. Michael Rock teaches acting and improvisation for The Second City Training Center in Manhattan. He is a friend of Catherine and has agreed to offer a special 3-week class at SNUUC. The class costs \$75 per person for the three sessions. Dates are Sundays, July 29, August 5 and August 19 (skipping August 12) from 6:30 to 8:30pm. To sign up, e-mail Michael at rock@michaelrock.com. This class is open to adults and youth 15 years and older. All levels of experience welcome.

YOGA MINI SESSION

We are offering a 3-week mini-session of Gentle Yoga at SNUUC on Mondays (June 4, 11, and 18). All classes in this mini-session run from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the foyer. We are also planning to offer a summer 6-week session which will be on Tuesday mornings (July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, and 21). The summer session classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the foyer. Enrollment fees for these two programs are \$30 (mini-sessions) and \$60 (6-wk sessions). This fee is payable at the first class. Since space is limited, please contact Anne Fleming to reserve your space.

SUMMER DRUMMER SPECIAL!

Our amazing drumming teachers, Craig and Bill, are offering a special rate for new students. Pay \$135 in advance to drum every Thursday night from 6:00-7:30 in July and August. This works out to only \$15 a lesson. We learn African and Afro Caribbean beats. For more information, speak to Laura D'Angelo.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

The Empathy Circle will meet on three Saturdays over the summer - June 23, July 14 and August 11 from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. in the foyer. Anyone who has completed one of the 13 week practice groups is welcome to join us. Please contact Barbara Singer or Anne Fleming.

The next 13 week practice group of Compassionate Communication will begin on Saturday, September 15 and run through Saturday, December 15. Newcomers as well as returnees welcome. Please contact Barbara Singer or Anne Fleming if you will be joining us this fall.

Help the Cuba Caravan

Join us at SNUUC on Saturday, June 30 at 6:30pm for a fundraising event to support the 18th Friendship Caravan to Cuba. The evening will include a potluck supper, film screening, music and guest speaker from IFCO's Cuba Caravan staff. Admission is free, donations are appreciated.

The caravan's theme is a dedication to Cuba's elders, celebrating that so many Cubans now live to an advanced age. Join us to learn also about Cuba's provision of free medical school training for students from all over the world, including the US. For more information or to volunteer to help host the event, please contact Don or Mirna Obers-Cortes. For more information about IFCO/PASTORS FOR PEACE visit their website at www.ifconews.org. If you cannot attend, but would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please make any checks payable to IFCO and give them to Don or Mirna or mail them directly to IFCO at 418 West 145th Street, New York, NY 10031.



Dear friends:

Thank you so very much for the beautiful retirement party; the flowers, balloons, the special and thoughtful gifts, the music, the delicious food, the amazing memory scrapbook, to be treasured forever, what your children and youth said to me, but most of all for all of your love and good wishes.

A special thanks to Dennis Compton, Phil Kennely Cohen, Peter Larsen, Will Stevens, Katie Keller and Bill Levenson, for the special music, to Bonny Levenson and Paula Rosenberg for organizing the party; to all who helped serve and clean up, and to Catherine for helping me to leave SNUUC well, and in a positive spirit. I hold you all in my heart and wish you all, only the **best!**

I also would like to congratulate Paula Rosenberg on her transition from SNUUC to the UU Congregation of Queens as their brand new and first, DRE. It has been a joy to work with Paula and I know that she will continue to grow personally and professionally in her new position. I know too that she will be greatly missed by many. As Hannah sang at our service this week: *Because we knew her, we have been changed...for good.*

Love, Susan

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

The Social Action Committee will be helping to coordinate the thrift shop staying open late one night a week so we can meet new neighbors, help the community purchase inexpensive gently used items and raise additional funds for SNUUC. If you or anyone in your family have thought about working at the thrift shop but couldn't because they weren't open when you were available, now is your time to help. Families are encouraged to participate for 3 hours a month by scheduling one Monday night a month to participate.

Hours to help will be Monday evenings from 4:00 - 7:00 and families who can come for 2 - 4 hours once a month are suggested. Children must be old enough and able to work unsupervised. If you would like to sign up yourself or your entire family, see Leslie Farrington, Ilene Corina or anyone at the Social Action Table. Everyone is needed to make this work.

Do you have a favorite charity? Would you like to raise money for them in only a few minutes? Members of the Social Action Committee will be coming around to ask you what YOUR favorite charity is to get them on the list for 5th Sunday Giving,

Applications for the CAiR program are now available. Community Achievers in Residence gives a few hours respite time to foster families. Adults willing to give 2-4 hours a month on the second Saturday October - May to share a talent, organized games, dance, play cards or just help supervise are invited to complete an application. Youth over age 14 are invited to participate with their parent but must be able to work unsupervised. A mandatory orientation will take place late summer.



SNUUC YUUTH YOUTH NEWS

Monday morning, still not ready to say goodbye. Someone told me yesterday it's not goodbye, it's just so long. I truly feel that it is not good-bye, that it is just a growth spurt. You have all become my family, my friends, my kids and many times my life. I will carry your flame in my heart forever. It is the flame you have created which will help UUCQ grow.

I don't even know where to begin with the thank yous. I feel that I could thank each one of you individually for some part of my journey here. Thank you Catherine for your support on my transition and the WOO HAA I didn't want. It was beautiful! Thank you to the congregation for the beautiful chalice that will continue our flame in Queens in the spirit of growth.

Susan, thank you again and again for seeing in me what I couldn't see, for giving me the tools and the courage to fly. None of this could have been done without your mentorship, your guidance, your trust and your love. You truly have been the wing beneath my wings. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul!

Bonny, you were just always there for me, always, every meeting, every event, every level. My right hand woman. You are my friend, my confidant, my level-headed sounding board when things got crazy. Your devotion to the youth program and ICOP was phenomenal. Thank you!

Hannah, my Hannah; that song, ooooo, that song is etched into my heart forever. You and that song mean the world to me! I will always be here for you and all the youth forever! Even if I should get old someday! You are such a talented, beautiful, outgoing woman. You will get far in this world. Thank you for making my departure a whole lot more meaningful. I have certainly changed for the better because I knew you Hannah! I Love You!

Lisa, thank you for keeping all the times and dates right. Gail, thank you for constantly showing me the other side of everything! Dorothy, thank you for your constant support from behind the scenes. Polly, thank you for taking care of coffee forever, without a sound! Laurette and Jojo, thank you for steering us for the past 2 years. Travis, thank you for making me try so hard to include all levels and personalities of youth. Thank you for your constant controversy! I Love You for it! Remember, it's gonna be GREAT! (lol) Thank you, Ilene, for constantly bringing social action for the youth to participate in. Thanks to Priscilla, Alix, Natalie and Jenn for their constant education of GSD. You made us a more respectful bunch. Thank you Peter, for your years and years of support both in the class and with the music. You truly get it with them! Thank you every parent that drove, slept on a floor, apple picked, coffee housed. Thank you for doing them to make the program a success! Thank you to all of the youth who got up every Sunday when I know you didn't want to! For all of your involvement on social action, on youth services and on congregational work. You made my job look and feel easy. Keep up your determination in all that you do. I will continue to be your LIYUUTH advisor, OWL consultant and your friend forever!

Last but not least, I want to thank my husband Saul and my son Cory. Saul has been behind me every step of the way. Building stuff, fixing stuff, buying stuff. He created our famous hayrides; he has given up a whole lot of me to give to SNUUC and I thank him for every minute of it. Cory, I have watched you grow up in SNUUC and I am overwhelmed by the young man you have turned out to be because of it. You are incredible and you have always supported me in my work and have helped me on every level, especially proof reading! I love you both. Thank you!

Until we meet again, Paula Rosenberg