



# The Open Line

**SOUTH NASSAU  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**

**September 9, 2007 10:30 am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***Fall Ingathering and Water Communion***

There will be a Bake Sale Fundraiser for CAiR during coffee hour

Bring water from a meaningful place for our Water Communion

Greeters: volunteer coordinator needed

Coffee: Lisa Itts

Ushers: Arnie & Verna Herman

Lock-up: Rita Hines

Welcome: Sharon & Coral Kennelty Cohen

Social Action Table: Ilene Corina & Doug Breiding

Ways & Means: Jan Robbins & Arlene Brown

**September 16, 2007 10:30am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***May You Be Inscribed in the Book of Life***

Thoughts on embracing the future. A celebration of the Jewish High Holy Days

Greeters: volunteer coordinator needed

Coffee: Gail & Dennis Compton

Ushers: volunteer coordinator needed

Lock-up: Alix Stoll

Welcome: Lori Strumeyer

Social Action Table: Ilene Corina & Doug Breiding

Ways & Means: Fylice Larsen & Mary Canada

**September 23, 2007 10:30am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***The Power of a Bounce***

Thoughts on being resilient when we get tossed around

Greeters: volunteer coordinator needed

Coffee: volunteer needed

Ushers: volunteer coordinator needed

Lck-up: Barbara Singer

Welcome: Bobby Granoff

Social Action Table: Leslie Farrington Griggs & Diane Hawkins

Ways & Means: Alice Spatt & Rita Tancredi

**September 30, 2007 10:30am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***The Right of Conscience***

Today is 5th Sunday Giving for the INN

The Fifth Principle of the UUA and the first in an occasional sermon series

Greeters: volunteer coordinator needed

Coffee: Mary Canada & volunteer

Ushers: volunteer coordinator needed

Lock-up: Ken Lawson

Welcome: Betty Shelton

Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert & Ilene Corina

Ways & Means: Lynne Gross & Fylice Larsen

**Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister - 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.

**Interim Director of Religious Education, Mino Lora - Hours by appointment**

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Community Minister,  
Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason  
Board President,  
Jean Smyth Crocetto

# *Musings*

## *from the Minister*

Dear friends—

I went to a weekend workshop once where the very first thing that the leader said on Friday night was, “Well, this workshop is almost over now.” We all laughed, but she explained that she was serious: she wanted us to be conscious that the time would go so quickly that when the weekend was done, we’ll feel as though we’d just gotten there. And so it is with summer. As I get older, they seem to go more and more swiftly. Autumn draws near and we will soon be in the swing of things with congregational life and school life (for those of you who are students or have them in your home). In a short time, summertime will seem a dream. If you haven’t yet gotten your fill of the beach or whatever seasonal activity you love, try to sneak in a little bit more in the next couple of weeks.

The big new and exciting change in the congregation this year is the arrival of our new Interim Director of Religious Education, Mino Lora. She has been working hard this summer to get herself oriented and to get to know key volunteers in the Religious Education program. In early July, many RE families met Mino for the first time, and in the course of that discussion, it became evident that many of you would really like to try having children and youth begin their Sundays in the sanctuary. So, this year we will be trying out what we’ll call “Community Worship” time, where the young people will join us for about the first fifteen minutes every Sunday. I am looking forward to having the entire community together, from the biggest to the littlest, every week. I hope it will be an energizing way to begin worship, and that it will increase our oneness as a community.

Mino and I decided that we’d like to have a theme of “UU identity” for the year. As the Search Committee for the permanent DRE swings into gear, it seemed smart for us as a congregation to deepen our roots in our denomination. I will preach a sermon series on the Seven Principles, and Mino and I will coordinate the themes of worship with the themes in the RE wing so that not only will we spend time together each Sunday, but we’ll even be talking about the same ideas.

We want and need all of your energy and input to help shape the future of RE and of SNUUC. I can’t see what this year holds!

Yours in faith, hope and love, Catherine

## *Community Minister's Corner*

Unitarian Universalist congregations do not set the calendar by the liturgical year; instead, we follow the academic term, generally dispersing in June, reconvening in September. Our new year starts around the same time school does. Despite having been away from academia for years now, September still fills me with a sense of eager anticipation. I’m primed and ready to learn; I want to be taught new things. Only, there is no professor handing me a syllabus from the front of the room. So I discover that I have to set my own curriculum.

Don’t we all, ultimately? Those of us who intend to be life-long learners are required to follow our curiosity where it leads us. Last week, on a momentary impulse, I pulled out a book that has been sitting on my shelf for years, Roger Walsh’s psychospiritual primer titled *Essential Spirituality*. I thought it would be a rudimentary read for me, merely a quick refresher course I could skim in a sitting. But the book proved far more absorbing than I’d expected; it reminded me of much I’d forgotten I knew and then raised a few questions I hadn’t thought to ask. Suddenly, I’m curious about the teachings of Confucius, when I’d really never considered them as a subject of study before.

If we find we’ve generated more questions than we can readily answer, we are engaging creation at its deepest levels, at the levels of wonder and awe, those essentials of religious experience. The high holy days of September that mark the start of the Jewish new year are quite aptly called the Days of Awe; they culminate in Yom Kippur, when the faithful ask God to inscribe their name in the Book of Life. These are days of complete devotion to the spiritual dimensions of living, the same dimensions we often overlook.

“As long as you live,” the Roman philosopher Seneca exhorted, “keep learning how to live.” Undertaken in earnest, learning itself is a spiritual practice. It reminds us that we are alive in the midst of mystery. When we’re not continuously amazed by things, it’s likely that we’re not just not paying attention. An academic advisor of mine once joked that we need to guard against our schooling getting in the way of our education. I still consider it sage advice, the best any advisor ever gave me – or rather (and perhaps more tellingly), the only I can recall being given. Whatever demands get placed on us, we must never forget our real fascinations. Try to remember yours in the days that follow, all you who would be students of the spirit!

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

# OUR BOARDWALK

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a fun, safe and healthy summer. I saw many of you at UUMAC in July, which was a great deal of fun, and I know many of you were at Sophia Fahs a few weeks ago. I hear that was fun, too. Here at SNUUC we are preparing to search for our permanent DRE. The Board had decided on a slate to present to the congregation for a vote on at a special congregational meeting on Sunday September 30 at noon. The proposed members of the DRE search committee are Lisa Bilello, Leslie Farrington-Griggs, Sharon Kennelty Cohen, Sharon Nanos, Coral Kennelty Cohen, Jayne Davison and Susan Okun. We hope that all SNUUC members will be present at that meeting.

The board has been busy this summer addressing all sorts of interesting issues. One major development is that we will soon have a new sign outside on the wall of the Brantley wing identifying us as "South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation" and will include a chalice. How cool is that? The signage task force has done a spectacular job selecting the lettering styles and color. But that is only phase One. The next phase will involve lighting and the final phase will provide for a sign announcing special events, such as the Art exhibits.

The Board meeting for September is on September 19 at 7:00 in the foyer. I look forward to seeing everyone on September 8th for our pot-luck and September 9th for our water service.

Love and blessings, Jean

## *SNUUC Sundays*

*Bake Sale & Fundraiser* - On Sunday September 9 during coffee hour there will be a bake sale / fundraiser organized by the youth to raise money for the CAiR Program. Our goal is to raise \$500 to purchase 5 drums that can be used by the foster children who participate in the CAiR program at SNUUC on Saturday mornings once a month and also be used by SNUUC members if they want to try drumming at SNUUC on Thursday nights and do not have their own drum. Those who "Buy a Drum" individually or combined with another family for \$100 will have their name listed on the wall on our drum tree in the hallway for everyone to see. Drums can also be purchased in memory or in honor of someone. Donations in any amount are being accepted through the months of September and October. For more information about the CAiR program see Ilene Corina or for bake sale info, Ellen Minzer.

*Joys and Sorrows* - We're trying something new this year. Bonny Levenson and Linda Nanos have stepped forward to coordinate informing the congregation about pastoral issues of members. Each week, they will gather information about pastoral concerns and inform us in Sunday morning worship about joys and sorrows. We can continue to use the written joys and sorrows cards, and we'll continue to have silent candle-lighting, but this will be a way of making sure we hear verbally each week about important events in one another's lives. Please be sure to inform Linda or Bonny of information you'd like to have shared in this way.

*Open Forum* - On Sunday September 23 at noon in the sanctuary we will have our first Open Forum, a congregational discussion where you can bring your thoughts, ideas and concerns. We'll have these approximately once a month. All Welcome!

*Fifth 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. All of the money collected in the collection plate on that day will go to that organization, unless the congregant requests otherwise. The Fifth Sunday Giving for September 30 will go to the INN, the Interfaith Nutrition Network, a busy soup kitchen in Freeport. Quite a few SNUUC members volunteer regularly at the INN: Betty Shelton, Dorothy Seacord, Arnie Herman and Ken Lawson. A number of our youth have volunteered at the INN when they can, as community service. Please come prepared on September 30 with cash or a check to donate to this worthy organization.

*Special Friends* - Would you like to be a part of the revived Special Friends project beginning this fall? SNUUC adults and children up to age 16 are coupled and will enjoy a few organized events together on Sunday afternoons after service at SNUUC. Children will need their parent's permission. If you would like to be part of the Special Friends project, please speak to Ilene Corina or Jojo Granoff. They would like to know if there is an interest to run this program, please call Ilene or Jojo ASAP to tell them you and/or your child would like to participate.

# Among Ourselves

Congratulations and best wishes go to Alexis and Sajid Surve on the birth of their daughter Amaya Evelyn! Amaya was born on June 28 and she weighed 6 lbs 12 oz, and was 20 inches tall. Many of us met beautiful Amaya at the Kaplan's talent auction Labor Day bagel brunch.

Long-time member and former choir director Richard ("Dick") Barry died this summer. His wife Nicki invites all members of SNUUC to Dick's memorial service, to be held here in our sanctuary on Saturday, September 8 at 2pm. For more information please contact Nicki Barry, whose name is in the directory.

We send our thoughts and best wishes to Marge Viemeister who suffered a mild stroke late August. She is improving daily, rehabilitating at South Side Hospital and welcomes cards sent to her home in lieu of calls or visits at this time.

# Committees at Work.

SNUUC Committees meet regularly and most encourage attendance at their meetings even if you are not a member of the committee. Check the committee chairperson list on the bulletin board in the foyer and call if you would like to learn more about a committee.

**Buildings and Grounds** committee meeting Sunday, September 9 at 9am.

**Thrift Shop** committee meeting on Sunday, September 9 at 12 in room 1.

**RE Registration, Teacher Recruitment & Teacher Orientation** Sundays, September 9 and 16, 9am in the youth room.

**Membership** committee meeting on Tuesday, September 11 at 8pm in the foyer.

**Environmental** committee meeting on Sunday, September 16 at 12 under the linden tree.

**Board meeting** Wednesday, September 19, 7pm in the foyer.

**Gay Straight Dialogue** group meeting Wednesday, September 19 at 7:30 in the RE wing.

**Joint RE committee meeting**, primary and youth, Sunday September 23, 9am in the RE wing.

**Social Action** committee meeting Sunday September 30 at 9am in room 1,

# Ways & Means

**Gift Cards - Painless Fundraising for SNUUC** If you are new to SNUUC perhaps you have not heard about our gift certificate/ gift card program. We sell gift cards to members at face value, and make our profit because we buy them at a discount.

Supermarket gift cards are available every Sunday at the Ways and Means table during coffee hour. If you shop at Waldbaums, Stop and Shop, King Kullen, Pathmark, or Fairway we have cards for you. For every hundred dollars of cards you purchase we make five dollars. Think how much that adds up to if everyone from SNUUC would use gift cards for at least some of their food purchases. Stop by the table to purchase gift cards or place yourself on the list to have cards mailed to you at home. You can pick the mailing schedule that best suits your needs.

Are you a Starbucks fan? We have Starbucks cards available at the table too. In addition, we take special orders for cards from all the major department stores, clothing stores, restaurants, bookstores, movie theaters, and more. Go to the [www.SNUUC.org](http://www.SNUUC.org) and click on fund raising to see a list of gift cards. Think about ordering cards for birthday and holiday gifts. Use them for you own holiday shopping as well. Order forms are available on our website or at the Ways & Means table in the foyer on Sunday mornings. Orders are placed following the last Sunday of the month and can be picked up the following Sunday. We place more frequent orders as the holidays near.

Questions? Need more information? Stop by the Ways and Means table on Sunday, or call Jan Robbins.

**Back by popular demand!** Way & Means is preparing the SNUUC Yellow Pages for the fall edition of our phone book. If you have an ad or know someone that would like to place an ad, the time is now! Babysitters, this is your chance! Have an electrician you'd like to recommend? A housepainter? A tarot card reader? A psychic? Get their card (and check payable to SNUUC) and give it to Ways & Means! Business card ads are \$50 for the year; half page ads are \$75; full page ads are \$100 for a year of coverage!!! (that's both fall and spring editions!!!). And best of all, 100% of the proceeds go to SNUUC!

## Join us at the South Ocean Art Gallery Opening Reception

This Friday, September 7 from 7-9pm in the foyer.

This exhibition and sale will feature a group art show with various artists and media. The artists Siran Pirani, Brian Pungler, Rochelle Redfield, Amanda Schank and Melanie Wolf will be in attendance to show their work and answer your questions. Join them for a relaxing evening and enjoy live music by Greg Ryan, refreshments and light fare. Contact Billur Weigell of Jeanne Menoutis if you have any questions.

## It's time for our annual FALL KICKOFF POTLUCK

This Saturday, September 8 - 6pm Come & join the fun!

If your last name begins with: A - H please bring Dessert  
I - O please bring Salad or Vegetable  
P - Z please bring Main Dish

Thank you to the Membership Committee who are hosting this event and will also provide the beverages. Please assist them by arriving early at 5:00 to help set-up or stay after to help put away tables and chairs.

## Our UU Community RE Events

Speak to the Youth Committee chairs, Ellen Minzner or Lisa Bilello for more information about these youth activities.

- Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> **Youth Bake Sale/Fundraiser for CaiR** at coffee hour. Remember to bring your baked goods! Volunteers are needed to help that day.
- **UU Metro District Junior High Retreat**, for grades 7 & 8, 9:00 am, Saturday, 9/15 to 9:00 am, Sunday, 9/16. Camp Ma-Kee-Ya, Harriman State Park, NY.
- **I Think I CON – YRUU** for grades 9 – 12 at Stony Brook UU Fellowship. Friday 10/5, 7pm to Sunday 10/7, 9am.
- **UU Kids Day**, Saturday September 29 from 2-4 at the UU Fellowship in Huntington. All UU kids ages 7-12 are invited for fun and friendship. E-mail Joanne Polichetti, jpolichetti@yahoo.com for more info and to RSVP
- **Metro District OWL Training** for potential Owl Leaders: November 2-4 Elementary OWL, Shelter Rock. November 2-4 Jr/Sr OWL, Shelter Rock.

## SNUUC Happenings

**Gentle Yoga** with a focus on health, well being, and balance with spirit is returning to the SNUUC foyer! Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$70 for our 6-week class, payable at the first class. First class -- Sept. 4th. Please bring a mat or blanket for floor postures. Our teacher is Ivy Greenburg who is a licensed yoga instructor and has worked with classes both in independent living situations as well as in studio yoga classes. Enrollment is limited by availability of space. Please call Anne Fleming or contact her at afleming528@gmail.com to reserve your space!

**Bridge Group.** For those who already know how to play Bridge and those who would like to learn, Alice Spatt and Helen Joy are holding a bridge group on Wednesday, September 12 at 7pm in the foyer. Novices can receive instructions and those who know how to play will enjoy a fun game with friends.

**Compassionate Communication** at SNUUC. Our next 13-session series covering the thirteen chapters of Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication – A Language of Life, 2nd ed.*, begins on Saturday, September 15 and is open to all adults and youth (11<sup>th</sup> grade and up). Beginners and those who have already participated in an NVC intro class are welcome to join us in the Foyer from 9:45 to 11:45 for 13 Saturday mornings. If you wish to attend the fall series, or know someone who would, please put your name on the sign-up list in the foyer and read the first chapter of Rosenberg's book before September 15. Books may be purchased from Amazon (use the SNUUC link). For more information please speak with Anne Fleming or Barbara Singer.

**Wayne Dyer Meditation.** A meditation/discussion group continues on September 16 at 6:30 and will meet every other Sunday. It is based on Dr. Wayne Dyer's inspirational CD's and movies under the category of "Spiritual Cinema" (ex: "The Secret"). Please see Lisa Itts for details.

**Circle Suppers** are a wonderful way to share delicious food & good conversation with a small group of SNUUC members & friends. Someone serves as host, volunteers their home and prepares an appetizer for the guests who will bring the salad, main course and dessert. The next Circle Supper will be on Saturday, September 29 at 7pm. Sign-up as a host or guest on the sheet in the foyer. Enjoy an evening with friends, both new & old. See a membership committee member or someone at the welcome table for more information.

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

**Be prepared to CAiR!** The Community Achievers in Residence Program, offering respite time to local foster families, will begin the second Saturday of October. If you did not complete an application, there is still time to do so at the mandatory orientation on Sunday, September 16 at noon. If you cannot make it, another will be scheduled, but no one can attend the CAiR program without an orientation. See Ilene Corina or Doug Breiding for more information.

**Workshop and Book Signing:** Save the date! November 17, in the evening, we will be holding a workshop celebrating the publication of the book by SNUUC board member Carrie Mason -Draffen titled 151 Quick Ideas to Deal With Difficult People. To help plan for this interactive workshop and book signing please see Ilene Corina.

Planning for **World AIDS Day event**, November 30-December 2. Are you are interested in helping to plan this week-end spectacular World AIDS Day event with a Friday night movie, Saturday World AIDS Day event, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Giving and service? A committee is needed to begin planning and spread the word to the community.

Join our newly formed **Environmental Committee** for a meeting after service under the linden tree on September 16, noon to 1pm, to discuss our plans for the new church year. We will be discussing ways to become a Green Sanctuary which involves activities surrounding building and grounds, religious education, services and outreach to a group involved with environmental justice. We also want to discuss a labyrinth project for SNUUC. All welcome!!!

**Please recycle** your order of service and old papers around SNUUC. Look for the recycle bins! We will be creating art projects with the papers for our May art show!! Watch for more details on workshops after the first of the year when we will be using the paper to make papier mache!

Do you know what the different numbers on the bottom of your plastic containers mean? Come by Social Action Table on September 16th after service if you know. Put your answer on a piece of paper provided and put it into the Environmental Solutions Box for a chance to win a SNUUC canvas bag! Drawing on September 16th at noon!

Remember we have the **SNUUC reusable canvas shopping bags**. They are \$15 each. Bring your own bag with you when you go shopping!

## RE-adjustment

Hello to everyone at SNUUC! I am very excited to be writing my first Open Line article as your new Interim DRE. I am thrilled to begin our new year and am looking forward to working with all of you to discover what our congregation needs in the RE wing and as a whole; for our RE program is truly an essential part in our children's lives as well as our own.

There will be many changes this year, some will thrive and some might fail, but I promise it can all be a positive learning experience for all of us. In the meetings I had over the summer with members of the Board, the RE committee and some of the youth I listened. I listened to the needs and wants of this congregation and have put together a Religious Education program which will hopefully reflect that.

This year's overlaying theme for all of SNUUC is **UU Identity**. Under this broad umbrella I have chosen specific curriculum for the Primary and the Youth as well as special activities and workshops dealing with art, social action, environmentalism and peace which will be led by guests as well as SNUUC members. We will work, teach and learn together as a congregation. We will have projects that include every one of us, from the youngest to the eldest, from the RE wing, to the sanctuary. There will be a true sense of community and a palpable web of interdependence among us.

Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley wrote in the book Essex Conversations: "*Identity involves formation and change*". I believe this year will be a great year for us to rediscover and strengthen our identity as Unitarian Universalists, as children, as youth and as adults. We will discover our identity as a congregation and community and what that means for our place, and responsibility, in this world.

In order for all this formation to occur I will truly need all of your help by volunteering for our RE program. We have a lot of positions to be filled as teachers, and special events coordinators; and I am counting on all of you (not only parents but all SNUUC adults!) to make this happen.

My office is always open. I hope that within this first month of working together I get an opportunity to meet and speak with each and every one of you.

Here's to a year full of growth, peace and understanding. Mino Lora

Foyer Art Reception  
Friday, September 7, 7-9pm in the Foyer  
Annual Fall Potluck Dinner  
Saturday, September 8, 6pm in the RE Wing  
Fall Ingathering and Water Communion  
Sunday, September 9, Worship 10:30 am  
Special Congregational Meeting  
to vote on the DRE Search Committee  
Sunday September 30, 12:00, Sanctuary

**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.



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