



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

October 7, 2007 10:30 am

Guest preacher Rev. Lilia Cuervo

Transcendentalism

An exciting UU spiritual path

Greeter: Bonny Levenson

Ushers: volunteer needed

Welcome: Martha Chamberlain

Ways & Means: Rita Tancredi & Jan Robbins

Coffee: Membership Committee

Lock-up: Jean Smyth Crocetto

Social Action Table:

October 14, 2007 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Association Sunday

Faith of the Larger Liberty

Greeter: volunteer needed

Ushers: Ilona & Clarence Herisko

Welcome: Bobby Granoff

Ways & Means: Arlene Brown & Alice Spatt

Coffee: Membership Committee

Lock-up: George Jackson

Social Action Table:

October 21, 2007 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Extracting the Life Everlasting

Thoughts on healthcare and stem cell research

Greeter: Hannah Nevitt

Ushers: volunteer needed

Welcome: Verna Herman

Ways & Means: Lynn Gross & Fylice Larsen

Coffee: Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris

Lock-up: Anne Fleming

Social Action Table:

October 28, 2007 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Inherent Worth and Dignity

The First Principle of the UUA

Greeter: Verna Herman

Ushers: volunteer needed

Welcome: Polly Stevens

Ways & Means: Mary Canada & Arlene Brown

Coffee: Unicrafters

Lock-up: Barbara Singer

Social Action Table:

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

Office Manager & Editor, Lisa Bryson-Brockmann

Office open each 3rd Monday & every Tuesday through Friday 9-1

Phone: (516) 623-1204

Fax: (516) 771-9308

Web: www.SNUUC.org

E-mail: SNUUC@verizon.net

Community Minister,

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

Board President,

Jean Smyth Crocetto

Musings from the Minister

Dear friends—

Our first Open Forum was a great success. Over twenty of you showed up with a long list of thoughts and ideas that you wished to talk about. The topic of the war in Iraq was the first one to come up, and several of you wanted to generate more political activism at SNUUC, with talk of getting groups to attend protests or other events. The issue of congregational finances came up, with a desire for more clarity and congregational discussion about budgetary issues. A number of you wanted to share ideas about how it's working to have all ages together for the beginning of worship. But the issue that we chose to discuss for most of the hour was Joys and Sorrows. A straw poll was taken, and two thirds of those in attendance expressed missing having spoken Joys and Sorrows during worship, with one third feeling the opposite way. A very lively discussion ensued, where a number of you expressed that you miss having people speak spontaneously because it offered a chance to connect with people. One person described "feeling shushed" by having this part of worship taken away. Others expressed that they preferred the experience of worship without the open sharing. There were too many feelings and thoughts expressed to write here. For now, my plan is to work with Bonny Levenson, Rita Hines and Linda Nanos to try to meet all needs if possible through a kind of "middle way."

I will be scheduling these Open Forums about once a month as a means of fostering communication among all of us. Please come to listen to others and share your vision with us!

Yours in faith, hope and love, Catherine

Chalice Lighters

Now is the time to announce the **Chalice Lighter's Call** for this Fall season. However, the UUA is launching a national marketing/fund-raising campaign in early October, in partnership with Time Magazine, promoting the good news of UUism to the larger world. Rev. Torpey is planning a Sunday worship service on October 14, **Association Sunday**, devoted to the UUA and also to their campaign. Accordingly, **the Metro District is encouraging congregations to support Association Sunday as the Chalice Lighters this Fall.**

The object of Chalice Lighters is to promote growth of UUism and this is precisely the purpose of this drive. Please see the flyer enclosed in this Open Line.

Community Minister's Corner

While still a seminarian at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I led a Samhain service for the students involved in the Unitarian Universalist campus ministry at Columbia University. My suspicion is that the service was first and last such service seen in St. Paul's Chapel. Samhain, pronounced *so-ween*, was the pagan precursor to our contemporary Halloween celebrations, although the resemblance between the two holidays seems to have faded with time.

For the Celts, Samhain represented the close of the warm season and the start of the cold one. As the lunar fire-festival held on October 31, Samhain marked the time of autumnal ingathering and was thus recognized as a time of truce, when all weapons would be put away. Herds were gathered into stockades for safekeeping, crops harvested in their abundance. There was no need to fight one another in these times of plenty, no cause to raid another's stores. People would instead survive the dark days ahead by being shelter to one another.

Interestingly enough, Samhain was considered the beginning of the Celtic new year. This meant that the Celtic year began with a fallow period of hibernation and shadow and then progressed toward the bright and joyous revivals of spring and summer. The year started with people banding together around the bonfire to lend each other warmth.

The bonfire that served to drive away the darkness and cold on Samhain later became the bonfire lit to keep evil spirits at bay on Halloween. But the ancient Celts knew that there was little point in dreading what was inevitable, especially not this slow descent into winter. So they welcomed what could not be changed, implicitly trusting in the wisdom of the cycle of seasons, facing their fears squarely.

Acceptance is the soul of Samhain. What they did not curse, the Celts blessed. The heir of those Celts, I could claim that generous spirit as my rightful inheritance, if only I would. Like so many of my contemporaries, I resist not only the earth's turning, but also countless other forms of change, necessary as I know them to be.

I tend to dread change; at times, I suppose, I am even tempted to curse it. Those are responses born of fear, instinctive reactions that can pass in moments, if I let them go. The earth – and indeed, life itself – calls on us to be brave and further, to be brave day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. We all need to light the fires that make light of our fears, not only at annual feasts or holiday celebrations, but every day that we have the good fortune to inhabit. Light those fires wherever you are, welcome whatever comes to you, and your gathering will need no greater sanctuary.

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

OUR BOARDWALK

Greetings everyone,

This Sunday, September 30, 2007, we begin the work of finding a permanent Director of Religious Education for SNUUC. This is a task in which we all play a role. Whether you have children in the Religious Education program or not, the education of SNUUC's young people in the faith of our congregation is an integral part of our congregation's mission. After all, they are the future of our faith. The slate nominated by the board to tackle this task on our behalf is :

Lisa Bilello, Coral Kennelty-Cohen, Sharon Nanos, Susan Okun, Sharon Kennelty-Cohen, Leslie Farrington-Griggs, Jayne Davison

Please attend the special congregational meeting this Sunday September 30, 2007 at noon to vote on our nominated slate.

Blessings, Jean

Worshipping with Our Hands: This workshop for adults will offer religious education about the use of prayer beads across traditions, including the Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist ones. Our community minister, the Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason, will lead the workshop beginning at noon on Sunday, October 28, at SNUUC. She will provide examples and illustrations of various prayer beads, as well as suggestions for incorporating prayer beads into your own spiritual practice. If you already use some yourself, you are welcome to bring them along!

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.

Our UU Community

LIAC The Long Island Area Council of Unitarian Universalist Congregations, LIAC, is a way for all UU families on Long Island to connect. SNUUC member Ilene Corina has recently taken on the role of President to attempt to connect the people and projects associated with Unitarian Universalism with other families throughout Long Island and Queens. Her hope is that these UUs will consider how they can partner with others with similar interests as they organize their events, activities and proposals. There is bound to be someone just waiting to work with you on a project but if we don't share this information amongst each other, it just won't happen. If you are interested in becoming a delegate to LIAC and work directly with a program or on a committee please tell Catherine or the Board that you are interested in being nominated. Some of the programs and committees that LIAC needs delegates for are: Coming of Age, Our Whole Life, Sophia Fahs and LIYUUTH. Other areas are Special Events and Public Relations. There is so much to share!

DARFUR The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington is sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk for Darfur Relief at 8am on Sunday, October 21, rain or shine. This event is open to all people eager to do something positive about the suffering in Darfur. After more than 4 years of a genocidal civil war in Darfur in the Sudan there are between 2 and 4 million refugees desperate for life-sustaining help. From its inception in the early years of WW II to the present day, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has been aiding refugees from genocide. It's current program of direct aid to refugees and advocacy to protect the victims from further violence is called Drumbeat for Darfur. All proceeds from this event go to UUSC's Darfur Relief Fund. Run (professionally timed) or walk 5 kilometers (3.1miles), then enjoy refreshments and socializing with fellow participants. Registrants will receive commemorative tee shirts, as will **virtual** participants.

Adult pre-event registration: \$30, Event day: \$35, Virtual: \$30; Youth (18 and under): \$17. All registration fees, donations and sponsorships are tax deductible. Email: uufhoffice@optonline.net and put Darfur in the subject line or telephone 631-427-9547 for registration forms.

Open Forum

On Sunday October 21 at noon in the sanctuary we will have another Open Forum, a congregational discussion where you can bring your thoughts, ideas and concerns. We'll have these approximately once a month. All Welcome!

Among Ourselves

Best wishes and congratulations to our DRE Mino Lora as she and Bob Braswell are married in Central Park on September 29. Catherine Torpey is officiating at the ceremony. Congratulate Mino when she returns on October 7 as she and Bob will co-lead a theater and improvisation workshop with the Junior and Senior Youth.

We welcome new members Lisa Itts and Michael Hartman. Lisa and Michael live in Long Beach and Lisa is the new Sunday Coffee Volunteer sign up person. Please be sure to check your calendar to see when you can serve coffee and tell Lisa!

Travis Compton, who has attended our congregation all his life with his family, has become a full-fledged member. Please thank him for making this commitment to SNUUC. He has been a valued member of our youth group and is also a leader at Sophia Fahs camp and UUMAC.

Marge Viemeister is doing well with rehab in anticipation of moving out to Minnesota to be with her family. She welcomes cards and visits at Broadlawn Health Care RM 168B, 399 County Line Rd, Amityville, NY 11701

Talent Auction Item - Date Change - Walk in Clark Gardens changed from Sunday, October 21 to Sunday, October 14. Barbara Singer has been unable to contact Bidder No. 57 about this change. If anyone has contact information for someone named Rittenhaus please call Barbara.

Ways & Means

Mark your calendar! Sunday, Dec. 2 is our annual Holiday Fair. It will start with a delicious lunch followed by plenty of fun holiday shopping including wonderful handmade items by our Unicrafters. And new this year, we are offering tables to our congregants to showcase their talents and sell their crafts. Please contact someone from the Ways & Means committee to reserve your table. The charge for the table will be 20% of what you sell. All proceeds go to benefit SNUUC.

Gift Cards and Grocery Store Cards

Did you know you can buy your grocery store cards at SNUUC? When you do, SNUUC gets a percentage. We always have King Kullen, Pathmark, Stop & Shop, Waldbaums, Fairway and Starbucks cards on hand. To make it easier, why not get on our monthly mailing and have them sent directly to your house! Remember, it costs you nothing and SNUUC benefits. See a complete list of what's available on line at SNUUC.ORG or stop by the Ways & Means table.

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.

Committee Chairs are reminded that there will be a Congregational Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 10 at 7pm. If you cannot attend please be sure someone from your committee goes to this meeting.

Finance Committee meeting, Monday, October 1 at 7:30 in the RE wing.

The Gay Straight Dialogue Group is hoping you will join them at their next meeting on Sunday, October 7 at noon in the foyer.

Help plan a memorable event! October 7, 12:00, help plan for the Carrie Mason Draffen book signing event scheduled for November 17. See Ilene Corina.

Environmental Committee meeting October 7th at 12 noon under linden tree (weather permitting) or in the foyer at the Social Action table.

Ways & Means committee meeting on Sunday, October 7 at noon in room 1 Join them as they plan for upcoming events.

Membership Committee meeting Tuesday October 9 at 7:30.

Joint RE Committee meeting Sunday October 14. Primary at 9am, Joint RE at 9:30, Youth at 12:00.

Thrift Shop Committee meeting Sunday October 14 at noon in room 1.

Board meeting on Wednesday, October 17 at 7pm in the foyer.

Social Action Committee meeting on Sunday, October 28 at 12 in room 1.

It's time to name names. The Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions for candidates to serve as members of the Board of Trustees.

Printed forms are available in the SNUUC administrative office and in the foyer during coffee hour for the next several weeks. If you want to suggest a candidate please use the form and pass it along to a member of the committee. The Nominating Committee members - namely Jojo Granoff, Bonny Levenson, Steve Lester, Lori Strumeyer and Brian Larkin - also would be happy to hear personally from members of the congregation with your suggestions for the next slate of candidates.

SNUUC Happenings

Our Thrift Shop

Improv Classes 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. The class costs \$100 per person for the four sessions. Dates are Sunday October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 6:30-8:30. To sign up, e-mail Michael at rock@michaelrock.com. This class is open to adults & youth 15 years & up. All levels of experience welcome.

Gentle Yoga with a focus on health, well being, and balance with spirit continues at SNUUC. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm, \$70 for our 6-week class, payable at the first class. The next session begins on October 16. 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 another bridge group on Wednesday, October 17 at 7pm in the RE wing. Novices can receive instructions and those who know how to play will enjoy a fun game with friends.

Meditation The ongoing Monday night meditation group, the South Ocean Sangha (SOS) has been meeting weekly since January 2006 at 7:15 on Monday nights and always welcome you to join them for meditation, reading and discussion of Buddhist teachings.

Poetry Circle This fall's first meeting of the Poetry Circle will be on Sunday October 21 following services at 12:30pm. Please come, bring your own poems, or that of another favorite poet to read and share among poetry fans. All are welcome!

Wayne Dyer Meditation A meditation/discussion group continues on October 14 and 28. 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.

Drumming Thursdays from 6 – 7:30pm, a small but dedicated group learns Afro-Caribbean drumming. You are always welcome to join us. \$25 a session for non-members or \$20 for members. There is usually a drum available if you can't bring your own.

* Sunday Coffee hour is a good time to talk with *
* friends and meet new people but it can't happen *
* without your help. **Volunteers are needed to serve** *
* **coffee.** The coffee volunteers are reminded that the *
* youth are sharing our coffee hour in the foyer. *
* Please speak to Lisa Itts or e-mail her, *
* lisaitts@optonline.net if you can help. *
* Sunday ushers and greeters are another important *
* part of our worship. **Please speak to Rosemary** *
* **Olander Beach to sign up to usher or Sharon** *
* **Kennelty Cohen to sign up to greet.** *

Are You a Yard Sale Addict? If so, you can help the Thrift Shop while enjoying yourself! When you visit yard sales, look around for the following items; glassware, dishes, pots and pans, flatware, art objects, jewelry, shelves and collectibles. These are all very desirable, salable items in our Thrift Shop. (Clothing is not needed at this time)

When you find a yard sale with any of these items that are in good, salable condition, you can help in any of the following ways:

Purchase the items, donate them to the Thrift Shop and received a tax slip for an income tax deduction. OR 2) Give a Thrift Shop business card to the yard sale operator and he/she would call to have these items picked up at the end of the sale. The operator will receive a tax slip for the donated merchandise. Contact Ken Lawson, Phil Kennelty-Cohen, Joe MacAuley or Dorothy Curran for the pickup.

Enjoy yourself and help out the Thrift Shop at the same time!

UNICRAFTERS They are not a SNUUC secret society. They are actually a group of creative individuals who meet in the foyer every Thursday from 1 to 3 to make distinctive articles to be sold during the December holiday season. Newcomers are welcome and there are projects ranging from the very easy to the more complex. We have something for everyone. Most of all we always need new ideas.

Be a part of a friendly fun-loving group. The conversations are great and the refreshments are the best. Want to know more? Ask Alice Spatt, Rita Tancredi, Paula Fullar, Robin Norris, Abby Parker or Helen Joy.

South Ocean Art Gallery

Current exhibit opening was a huge success. It was an entertaining evening that brought in many non-SNUUC members, a very lively crowd indeed. We sold \$1500.00 worth of art work on that evening. As of September 2007 we raised SNUUC's share of the sales revenue from 15% to 20%. This exhibit will close on Sunday, October 28 after coffee hour. The artists will be there for the coffee hour so you will have another chance to meet and talk with them. We still have time to make more sales. Take a good look, and remember that there is no better gift than an original painting.

Our next exhibit will open Friday, November 9th with the reception from 7-9pm. The featured artist is our own Jean Kahn. Make sure to mark your calendars and support Jean's delightful work. Another fun filled evening is promised.

RE-adjustment

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Hello again, and thank you all for registering your children for our Religious Education program. If you still haven't done so, there is still time. Please join us!

We had a fun and successful opening Sunday in RE on September 16th. Each group created banners on two of the **7 Principles** and a group from the senior youth also made homemade chalices for each RE classroom. I invite you to come over to the RE area and look at the work of our children and youth. They did a beautiful job!

This upcoming month we have our first "special Sunday" scheduled for the Columbus Day weekend. On Sunday October 7th, my husband, Bob Braswell, and I will co-lead a theater and improvisation workshop with the Jr. and Sr. Youth. The Primary grades will also be involved in a special group activity with their teachers. This day will serve as a wonderful opportunity for community building among our students, where we will remind one another of the value of working together as a group in a fun and dynamic way.

This month, the younger primary grades will also be involved with the UNICEF Trick or Treat project for Halloween, and the Senior Youth will work together on creating a Haunted House for the younger grades. These projects are both great ways to enjoy the holiday while still giving back to the community. We are looking for a parent or adult who would like to be part of the Halloween committee with the senior youth. If you are interested in helping to organize this traditional SNUUC event, please contact me and/or the youth co-chairs: Lisa Billelo & Ellen Minzner.

As October approaches, the permanent DRE committee is elected, and we all start settling into our new positions in RE, may we remember to keep on discovering new changes and challenges for our Religious Education program which can help us grow and learn more about what we want for our future.

Here's to another great month!

Peace, Mino

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 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.

The Social Action Committee is meeting this Sunday, September 30 at 9am in the RE wing.

Help plan a memorable event! October 7, 12:00 help plan for Carrie Mason Draffen book signing event scheduled for November 17. Remember that many hands make less work and is much more fun!

The next, and possibly final **mandatory training for the CAIR program**, offering respite time to local foster families, will be Saturday October 13 at 1:00 with an expectation that the program will begin in November. For more information for both of these events speak to Ilene Corina.

Next **Environmental Committee** meeting will be on October 7 at 12 noon under linden tree (weather permitting) or in foyer at the Social Action table.

RELI's (Renewable Energy Long Island) Solar House Tour/October 6 Learn about solar houses in our area! We are meeting at SNUUC on October 6th to tour local solar houses (Baldwin, North Bellmore, Long Beach, Point Lookout). Contact Mary Brower or Diane Hawkins for more information.

Temporary Labyrinth Always wanted to walk a labyrinth, but never had the chance? Always wanted to help create a labyrinth? Meet at SNUUC on October 13th at 11:30 am to help set up a simple labyrinth. We will be walking the labyrinth on October 14, after services, guided by Sharon Kennelty-Cohen.

Cooking Fundraiser on November 3 to Help Make SNUUC a Green Sanctuary Biodegradable cutlery, energy audit, on-demand hot water heater, solar lights, fluorescent bulbs, bins for paper waster, all save money but also cost money in the beginning. Come to our "Crepes Made Easy" Cooking Class Fundraiser at SNUUC on November 3rd from 2 to 5pm. Lucy Van Horn, a long-established cooking teacher all over Long Island, will show you how almost anything can be wrapped in a crepe! This class will cover making crepes as main dishes and as desserts, both French and Italian recipes. (You may have sampled Lucy's work at Chuck Van Horn's art opening at SNUUC last year!) Cost is \$35 for the demonstration and \$10 for people who only want to sample at the 4pm tasting at the end! Contact Diane Hawkins and look for sign up sheet in October.

Canvas Shopping Bags available at the Social Action Table for \$15.

Please recycle your Order of Service and any other paper waste in the Recycling Bin in Foyer. If you are skilled at woodworking and can help us make two or three more bins, please contact Diane Hawkins.

calendar

Special Congregational meeting
to vote on the DRE Search Committee
Sunday September 30, noon

Congregational Council meeting
A representative from each committee should attend
Wednesday October 10, 7pm

Open Forum, Sunday October 21, noon
Discussion for your thoughts, ideas, concerns

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.



SNUUC South Nassau
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
228 South Ocean Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520