



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

November 4, 2007 10:30 am

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Anger

Another sermon in an occasional series on the Seven Deadly Sins

Greeter: The Larsen Family

Ushers: Lori Strumeyer & Bob McGough

Welcome: Betty Shelton

Ways & Means: Fylice Larsen & Jan Robbins

Coffee: Linda Nanos & Alix Larsen & Family

Lock-up: Carrie Mason Draffen

Social Action Table:

November 11, 2007 10:30 am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Crossing the Gender Divide

Thoughts on Gender Identity

Greeter: Virginia Terris

Ushers: Martha Chamberlain & Bonny Levenson

Welcome: Lori Strumeyer

Ways & Means: Arlene Brown & Mary Canada

Coffee: Isabelle Gille & Robert Esformes

Lock-up: Rita Hines

Social Action Table:

November 18, 2007 10:30 am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Thanks Receiving

Thoughts on Sharing Our Gifts

Greeter: Gail & Dennis Compton

Ushers: Laurette Nevitt & Jojo Granoff

Welcome: Verna Herman

Ways & Means: Alice Spatt & Fylice Larsen

Coffee: Coral & Sharon Kennelty Cohen

Lock-up: Alix Stoll

Social Action Table:

November 25, 2007 10:30 am

Guest Preacher Hollis Huston will join us this morning

Greeter: Joel Gershen & Jean Cahn

Ushers: Tom Beach & volunteer needed

Welcome:

Ways & Means: Rita Tancredi & Fylice Larsen

Coffee: Linda & Nick Nanos

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

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Hours by appointment

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Community Minister,

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

Board President,

Jean Smyth Crocetto

Musings from the Minister

Dear friends—

One of our readings this past Sunday was by a man named Matthew Sanford, who was featured on “Speaking of Faith,” the public radio program. Matthew had a devastating accident at the age of thirteen which left him a paraplegic. In his memoir, *Waking*, he wrote that while he was in recovery from breaking so much of his body, when he was locked in contraptions to keep his head and body from being able to move, he learned that no matter what, time keeps moving. “It may move slowly, it may be without contour or flare, but it keeps moving, *plink, plink, plink.*” Even in the horrifying, endless moments in the intensive care unit, he says “I learned how to stay faithful to living, to trust that the passage of time brings results—one way or another.”

In the season of Thanksgiving that approaches, we often think of thankfulness as a feeling. But what about when there seems little to be thankful for—or even, as in the case of Matthew after his accident—there is much to be angry or resentful about? During those periods of life (and maybe at all times, ultimately), gratitude can be more about having faith in living. The passage of time brings results, no matter what, and so each day is an opportunity to be open to new possibilities, new blessings, new insights.

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

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!

Community Minister's Corner

The very first day of November is a lesser-known religious holiday called All Saints' Day. In the blink of an eye, you might miss its appearance on the calendar. That day, Catholics, Lutherans, and Episcopalians – among others – commonly pay homage the entire assemblage of canonized saints such as Valentine, Jude and Patrick. Originally, their celebrations were observed in Hallowmas, a mass for the hallowed saints, which helps explain the nomenclature of Halloween, once dubbed All Hallows' Eve and only later elided into its present name. Some Unitarian Universalists celebrate Halloween with great relish; far fewer of us mark even the passage of All Saints Day. We don't usually claim our saints in that way, on that day, although we certainly do have some in our tradition.

One of our great Unitarian ministers, the Rev. William Ellery Channing, more than a century ago declared: “I am a living member of that great family of all souls!” Since he's no longer living now, Channing's life can actually be commemorated on the second day of November, the festival recognized as All Souls' Day. An ecumenical observance, it calls into remembrance the souls of the faithful departed.

How telling it is that Channing himself did not want to be counted among the saints. Nor did he, for all his infamous and purported heresies, want to be remembered as either an infidel or a sinner. He wanted simply to be tallied with the mass of humanity. In truth, though, Channing thought far more highly of humanity than did most theologians of his day.

Most Unitarians Universalists today share his optimistic outlook on human nature. What we would be wise to share also would be a measure of Channing's deep humility and fellow feeling. This October, the Unitarian Universalist Association commemorated its first Association Sunday. Indeed, our religious tradition calls on us to think of ourselves as associated with others at an intimate spiritual level, not merely a congregational one. The Universalists of Channing's century were proclaiming not only the common origin of humanity preached by the Unitarians, but furthermore, its shared destiny in “the final harmony of all souls with God.”

We Unitarian Universalists have a long legacy of allying ourselves neither with the saints nor the sinners, but rather, walking among the mortals, standing in satisfied solidarity with the mass of souls. If nothing else, let's celebrate that this November 2nd. Remember to mark it on your calendar: All Soul's Day. It belongs to all of us, the avowedly Unitarian, the avowedly Universalist, or some hybrid variation of the two or possibly more religious lineages. It belongs to all of us in the human family by virtue of our being human. It belongs to all of us as surely as we belong to one another. Celebrate that.

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

Spotlight on Torture

The Social Justice Committee invites you to a showing of a recently produced film documentary, which details the nature, and practice of torture in the infamous Abu Ghirab prison in Iraq.

Ghosts of Abu Ghirab will be shown on Saturday, October 27 at 7pm in the foyer. SNUUC joins over 500 other congregations in showing this film during the last week in October. This is a disturbingly graphic and powerful film about torture by Rory Kennedy and distributed by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Come and see for yourself how this excellent and moving documentary addresses critical human rights and policy issues. Participate in a discussion moderated by Rev. Catherine Torpey, following the film.

Ghosts of Abu Ghirab, as described on the film jacket; " Through startling interviews with perpetrators, witnesses and victims, ghosts of Abu Ghirab examines and contextualizes the abuses that occurred in the fall of 2003 at the notorious Iraqi prison, abuses documented in photographs that are etched into our national consciousness. The film probes the psychology of how typical American men and women came to commit these atrocious acts and, on a parallel track, explores the policy decisions that eroded our compliance with the Geneva conventions and contributed to making torture a reality. Ultimately, the film asks what these events say about America, our government and the military and human nature."

This powerful film is for mature audiences only.

Our UU Community

Buying a PUMPKIN? Enjoy a visit to the UU Congregation of Central Nassau-Garden City Pumpkin Patch and do a little good in the world. The pumpkins are trucked directly to UUCCN-Garden City from Farmington, New Mexico where they are grown in an ideal dry climate, making them last longer and are less prone to rotting.

The pumpkins are grown on a Navajo Reservation, which is leased by the pumpkin grower (who paid over 2.5 million to lease the land last year). Any member of the Navajos is guaranteed a job and is given first preference for harvesting (and planting) the pumpkins. There are always more jobs and outside people are then hired for same job. Everyone receives the same rate of pay. The Farmington Navajos have chosen to develop and lease their land for farming rather than open casinos.

The Garden City Pumpkin Patch is open from 11-7:00 pm daily through Halloween. Address is 223 Stewart Avenue at the corner of Nassau Blvd, Garden City. Contact Patsy Kaplan for more information if needed.

More information: From their web site (NAPI--Navajo Agricultural Products Industry) "In April of 1970, the Navajo Nation embarked on a grand scheme to make the high desert near Farmington bloom. The Navajo Agricultural Products Industry is the fruit of that effort, demonstrating what is possible through determination, careful planning, legal assertiveness and plain hard work.

Halloween Event for Young Adults

The UUFSB Wombats Young Adult (20-40ish) Group in conjunction with the Bellport UU Fellowship are hosting a **Halloween Inter-Congregational Costume Party.** The party will be on Saturday November 3 at 7pm at the Bellport Unitarian Fellowship. Directions can be found at www.UUFB.org. Please wear a costume, bring snack food to share and an optional donation of a non-perishable food item for a local food pantry. Young adults only, no children. RSVP to Stephanie Regan at wombats@uufsb.org You are invited to join them for a fun evening with fellow UUs.

The RE committee has been very busy organizing, adjusting and learning . This year they are unable to host the Thanksgiving lunch that we've had in previous Novembers. Be sure to attend the next SNUUC luncheon at our Holiday Fair on December 2!

Among Ourselves

Congratulations to Board youth member Cory Rosenberg who has been named a Commended Student in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students place among the top 5% of more than 1.4 million students entered in the competition. Great job Cory!

Marge Viemeister and Paul Scire have moved from Amityville to be closer to their children. Marge is with her son and his family in Minnesota and Paul is in Florida. We will greatly miss their presence here at SNUUC and we wish them well.

Paula and Bill Fullar are moving. We wish them luck but we will miss them! They're having a big House Sale on Sunday October 28 at 53 Miller Place (right behind SNUUC). They ask that you "Please stop by that day and say So Long!"

We send get well wishes to Saul Rosenberg who had a stay in the hospital and is home recuperating, slowly but surely. If you are able to help Paula with a meal, please call Bonny Levenson who is organizing a "meals on wheels" for them.

We send get well wishes to Nick and Ron Nanos' mother who recently fell and broke her hip. She is resting after a successful operation.

Ways & Means

Mark your calendar! Sunday, December 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.

Social Action Committee meetings on Sundays October 28 and November 25 at noon in room 1.

Ways & Means Committee meeting, Sunday November 4 at noon in room 1. Meet with them to see how you can help with this year's Holiday Fair.

Finance Committee meeting on Monday, November 5 at 7:30 in the RE wing.

CAiR orientation, Wednesday, November 7 at 7pm in the RE wing.

RE Committee meeting Sunday November 11 in the youth room, Primary 9am, Joint 9:30, Youth 12.

Membership Committee meeting Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 in the foyer.

Board meeting Wednesday November 14 at 7:00 in the foyer.

Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting Sunday, November 18 at 9am.

Notes from the Office

The flowers on the chance! can be donated in memory of a loved one or to honor a special event. Pick a date and your commemoration will be listed in that Sunday's Order of Service. Please sign up on the flower calendar in the foyer and donate \$25 to SNUUC. Speak to Lisa in the office for more details.

Sunday service announcements must be e-mailed or delivered to the office by Friday morning at 9am.

Wednesday announcements, e-mailed and sent to the congregation, must be received by Tuesday afternoon.

★ **Sunday service volunteers are needed.** ★
★ Please e-mail Rosemary Olander Beach to ★
★ usher, rosemary.olander@verizon.net, ★
★ Sharon Kennelty Cohen to greet, sken- ★
★ nelty@earthlink.net, and ★
★ Lisa Itts to serve coffee, lisaitts@optonline.net. ★
★ Coffee servers are reminded that the youth are ★
★ sharing our coffee hour in the foyer. ★
★ Thank you very much! ★

SNUUC Happenings

Crepes Made Easy! A Cooking Demonstration with Lucy Van Horn. On Saturday, November 3 from 2 to 5 learn how to make crepes as main dishes and as a dessert, from both French and Italian recipes. There may be just a few spots remaining. Call Diane Hawkins today! Cost is \$35 for demonstration and tasting; \$10 for tasting alone (at 4pm). Proceeds go to help make SNUUC a Green Sanctuary!

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, November 7 at 7pm in the RE wing. Novices can receive instructions and those who know how to play will enjoy a fun game with friends.

The Environmental Committee has put up a **temporary labyrinth on the front lawn under the linden tree.** It will be there for a few weeks for you to walk through. Speak to Sharon Kennelty-Cohen for information about labyrinths.

The next Open Forum will be Sunday, November 18 at noon in the sanctuary. This is a congregational discussion where you can bring your thoughts ideas and concerns. We'll have these approximately once a month. All Welcome!

Planning for World AIDS Day event, November 30-December 2. Are you interested in helping to plan this weekend spectacular World AIDS Day event with a Friday night movie, Saturday World AIDS Day event, 5th Sunday Giving and service? A committee is needed to begin planning and spread the word to the community. Speak to someone from Social Action.

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.

Wayne Dyer Meditation A meditation/discussion group continues on November 11 at noon in the Sanctuary. 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.

Foyer Art Gallery

Artist Jean Cahn, from SNUUC, will be the featured artist for the next South Ocean Art Gallery Exhibit. The Opening Reception for Jean's paintings and sculpture will be on Friday, November 9, 2007 from 7-9 pm in the foyer. Come and enjoy beautiful artwork, light fare, live music by Pete DeFiore and conversation with the artist, Jean Cahn.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

On Sunday evening, November 18 at 7pm, SNUUC will host a very special event. The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world. The last couple of years, this event was hosted by the UU Fellowship of Huntington, and this year we're honored that they've asked to hold it here. Our choir and our drumming group will most likely be participating in the service itself, and our Gay Straight Dialogue Group will assist with ushering. This event is expected to be moving and powerful. Please come support the transgender community and show that we truly are a Welcoming Congregation!

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, Robin Norris, Abby Parker or Helen Joy.

RE-adjustment

October has been a great month for our RE program. It has been enriched by special SNUUC events, such as an improvisation workshop with the youth over Columbus Day weekend, as well as district wide events like the Youth Leadership Con which our Youth Co-Chair, Ellen Minzner, and some of our youth attended and had a wonderful time. We also have Creepy Con coming up this weekend, sponsored by LIYUUTH. Two of the most exciting things left for October are just a few days away: UNICEF Trick or Treat with the primary grades and the very exciting yearly tradition of the SNUUC Halloween sleepover this upcoming Friday October 26th. Rosemary Olander-Beach has taken on this task and I am so grateful to her and all the parents who have volunteered to help out with this wonderful event. May it be a fun and positive experience for all of our RE children and youth participating!

November brings us new and exciting activities, as well as new RE teachers for our children and youth! On November 4th we begin our second session of RE with new sets of teachers. That day, we will begin at 9:30am with a teacher training for all the new RE teachers. Thank you so much for all of those who volunteered to teach our children! We are still looking for some parents or adults of the congregation to teach our senior youth group, so I encourage you to contact me to volunteer.

We have an REC meeting scheduled for 9:00am on Sunday November 18th, which all parents are welcome to attend; and an RE "Special Sunday" scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend on Sunday, November 25th.

Last but not least, I am thrilled to ask all youth and primary students interested in being part of the RE Holiday Pageant (grades 3-12) to join me for rehearsals, which will be held on Wednesdays at 6pm. Rehearsals will begin the first week of November on the 7th. I will be directing our Holiday pageant, which we will create together and present during worship on December 16th. A sign up sheet will be posted on my office door for those students interested in being part of this project. Come join me in creating a theater piece suited for the Holiday season, told from a UU's perspective!

Thank you everyone for being so welcoming and open to such big changes in RE. We will continue to learn and grow together as we discover what is best for our children and youth at SNUUC.

Until next month! Mino Lora-Braswell.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

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. See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for more information.

Please bring your old batteries to SNUUC. We are collecting batteries in a small box at the Social Action Table. They will be taken to the trash site near the Levy Preserve where they are put in containers. No car batteries, please. They are taken by the S.T.O.P. program.

PULSE now offers Patient Consulting Services, which is help in preparing patients for doctor's visits, surgery or hospitalization. A Patient Consultant will meet with you to help you prepare for these events including preparing medication lists, updating test results and medical documentation and doctors' and healthcare providers' contact information. Other available services include checking for expired medication, organizing a calendar for appointments, deciding healthcare proxy and family advocate and helping family members prepare to be a health advocate. While this pilot is being tested, this service will be free to the first 20 people who sign up. Receive a personal Medical Diary. See Ilene Corina for PULSE.

Important RE Dates

RE Holiday Pageant Rehearsal Wednesday evenings in November (except November 21) 6-8 (see Mino's column)

Sunday, November 4 New Teacher Training 9:30 am

Saturday, November 17, Metro YRUU New Advisor Training, Westport CT - See Ellen Minzner for details

Sunday, November 18, 9:00 am Primary RE Council, 9:30 am Joint Council, 12:00 Youth Council

Sunday, November 18, Mandatory OWL Parents meeting, time and location TBA.

SNUUC Calendar November 2007

Meeting places: S-Sanctuary F-Foyer RE-RE Wing M-Minister's Office

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 28 Social Action 12 RE Worshipping with our hands 12 S Rev Kelly Murphy Mason Foyer art take down 12:30 Improv Class 6:30 RE	29 Meditation 7:15 F& S	30 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F LIAC Covenant meeting 7pm F	31	November 1 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30	2 Meditation 9am F	3 NVC 9:45am F ♦ Crepes Fundraiser for Green Sanctuary K2:00
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends RE Teacher Training 9:30 RE Ways & Means 12 RE rm1	5 Meditation 7:15 F& S Finance Comm 7:30 RE	6 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	7 ♦ Bridge Group 7pm F CAIR Orientation 7pm RE LIAC Finance mtg 12 F RE Holiday Pageant Rehearsal 6-8 RE	8 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30	9 Meditation 9am F ♦ Foyer Art Opening Reception 7-9 F Artist Jean Cahn	10 NVC 9:45am F CAIR 1:00 RE
11 Thrift Shop Comm 12:00 RE Gay Straight Dialogue 12 Y W. Dyer Meditation 12:00 S Environmental Comm 12 F Transgender Event Rehearse 2S Spiritual Directions 7 F	12 Meditation 7:15 F& S	13 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Membership 7:30pm F	14 La Leche 9am RE RE Holiday Pageant Rehearsal 6-8 RE Board Meeting 7:00 F	15 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	16 Meditation 9am F	17 NVC 9:45am F ♦ Carrie Mason-Draffen Book Signing & intro to Compassionate Communi- cation Event 6:30- F
18 Building & Grounds 9am RE Primary-9Joint-9:30, Youth-12 ♦ Open Forum 12 S ♦ Transgender Day of Remem- brance Event 6:00 S	19 Meditation 7:15 F& S	20 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25 Social Action 12 RE W Dyer Meditation 6:30 F	26 Meditation 7:15 F& S	27	28 PULSE 6:30 F RE Holiday Pageant Rehearsal 6-8 RE	29 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	30 Meditation 9am F	December 1 NVC 9:45am F Set up for Holiday Fair 4:00

Foyer Art Opening Reception, artist Jean Cahn
Friday, November 9, 7-9pm

Transgender Day of Remembrance Service
Sunday, November 18, 6pm

Holiday Fair, Sunday December 2

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
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