



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

January 6, 2008 10:30 am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations

Thoughts on the Second Principle of the UUA

Greeter: JoAnn Fassman

Coffee: Ellen Minzner & Martha Chamberlain

Ushers: Denise Hibbert & Anne Fleming

Lock-up: Carrie Mason Draffen

Welcome:

Social Action Table:

Ways & Means:

January 13, 2008 10:30am

Rev. Eddie Jusino (First Presbyterian Church, Freeport) **preaching**

Greeter: Polly Stevens

Coffee: Denise Hibbert

Ushers: Jim Crocetto & Rosemary Olander Beach

Lock-up: Rita Hines

Welcome:

Social Action Table:

Ways & Means:

January 20, 2008 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Not "If" but "Though"

On Martin Luther King's theology at the end of his life

Greeter:

Coffee:

Ushers: Hildegard Schubert

Lock-up: Alix Stoll

Welcome:

Social Action Table:

Ways & Means:

January 27, 2008 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Senior Youth Service

Bi-Annual Meeting 12:00

No RE

Greeter:

Coffee: Rita Tancredi, Ilona Herisko, Abby Parker

Ushers:

Lock-up: Barbara Singer

Welcome:

Social Action Table:

Ways & Means:

Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister - Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-5g

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-Braswell

Hours by appointment

Office Manager & Editor, Lisa Bryson-Brockmann

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

The office will be closed December 24 – January 1

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Community Minister,

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

Board President,

Jean Smyth Crocetto

Musings from the Minister

Dear friends—

In 1850, Edgar Allen Poe wrote a short story called "A Descent into the Maelstrom," which is the fictional first-person account of a man who lived through a terrifying storm. The turning point of the story is when he realizes that all hope is lost: "It may appear strange," the character says, "but now, when we were in the very jaws of the gulf, I felt more composed than when we were only approaching it. Having made up my mind to hope no more, I got rid of a great deal of that terror which unmanned me at first." No longer focused on getting out of the storm, with a strange calm he begins to observe the manner in which the storm is tossing his ship. While his brother, terrified, clings to the mast, he himself can see clearly that only by jumping ship is it possible to be saved.

While I've never been in quite that harrowing a situation, I have found myself in times when the thing I've been clinging to for dear life turns out to be the very thing I most need to let go of. December can be such a storm of activity or emotion or both—January often feels like the calm after the storm. January may be just the right time of year to slow down and take notice of what we have been clinging to as though our lives depended on it. Maybe our lives depend on letting go instead.

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

Want to contribute to worship?

If you have a song or a poem, or if you'd like to give the welcome or be a worship associate on a Sunday morning, please never hesitate to let Rev. Torpey know!

Your participation is always welcome.

Community Minister's Corner

The poet Ovid was so taken with the month of January that he devoted a poem to cataloguing its highlights. In "Kalends", he writes: "See how Janus appears first in my song to announce a happy year to you..." Months in the Julian calendar were not merely named for gods and emperors, but dedicated to them, as well. In Roman mythology, Janus was the god of gates and doorways, beginnings and endings. He seemed the obvious choice of deities to preside over the month of changing years.

Janus is perhaps most recognizable in profile, as he actually has two faces looking in opposite directions, forward and backward. "Tell me the reason," Ovid muses, "why you alone of all the gods look both as what's behind you and what's in front..." Ovid observes that even the Greeks, whose pantheon the Romans so handily appropriated, had no counterpart to "two-headed Janus, source of the silently gliding year".

We tend not to let the year glide by silently anymore, at least not in New York, where throngs teem into Times Square with noisemakers and loudspeakers blaring. As a New Yorker, I have never so assiduously avoided a place in time as I have New Year's Eve in Time Square. I have not even felt tempted to watch the ball drop in person. Truth be told, I'd rather sit at home and just flip a page in the calendar. What we should probably be marking at day's end on December 31st is the earth's continuing to spin on its axis without our actually turning it.

A brand new year seems to hold out twin possibilities of a clean break and fresh start, a swift and sharp descent into a future disconnected from a past that is presumably altogether too familiar. These shiny possibilities do not bear much resemblance to the virtues of twin Janus, who simultaneously witnesses past, present, and future in his encompassing vision. For his part, he holds steady, posted at "Heaven's Gate with the gentle Hours," those goddesses of time, keeping him company.

Our modern conception of time is not this gentle. If anything, we've gotten contentious about time. We're always racing against the clock in an attempt to beat it. But that doesn't seem a very sporting contest, honestly. What if we regarded time as our friend and not our foe? What if we let it keep us good company? What if we glided happily through the days of our life?

The job of Janus, according to Ovid, is "to send Peace" to the world. He beholds the past with gratitude and the future with equanimity and in doing so remains present to the present. We've moved from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in recent centuries, but Janus still remains the patron of the first month. Come January, we could all try his kind of multitasking for a change.

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason



Health & Wealth! A New Year's Wish for SNUUC

Hello everyone,
As I write this, I am not sure if this is my last column or my second to last one. I think I have one more, but in case I am wrong, I want to let you all know what an honor it has been to serve this congregation as board president. While the challenges sometimes exceeded my energy level, I always felt supported. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some of you better and to work with very dedicated, sensitive people who really care about what is best for this UU community we call our spiritual home.

As we look to the new year, and a new board, I am hopeful that some of the new approaches to governance we have tried over the past two years have been helpful and will continue. I also hope that we continue to meet challenges with open minds and hearts, so that we do not get stuck in old habits that no longer serve us.

Thank you for trusting me. And thank you for allowing me to serve SNUUC.

May you be blessed with joy and light. Jean

Proposed Slate of Nominations to be voted on at the Bi-Annual Meeting on January 27 at noon

- President (1 year term) and trustee (3 year term):
Robert Esformes
- Vice President (2nd term) and trustee (continuing):
George Jackson
- Secretary (2nd term) and trustee (continuing):
Anne Fleming
- Treasurer (2 year term) and trustee (3 year term):
Thomas Weingarten
- Trustee (3 year term): Leslie Farrington-Griggs
- Youth trustee (1 year term): Coral Kennelty-Cohen
- Continuing trustees:
Carrie Mason-Draffen
Jean Smyth-Crocetto
Barbara Singer
Ken Lawson
- 2008 Nomination Committee: Bonny Levenson (2nd year), Laura D'Angelo, Peter Larsen, Ken Bellafiore, Mary Brower
- Submitted by the 2007 Nominating Committee: Jojo Granoff, Brian Larkin, Steve Lester, Bonny Levenson, Lori Strumeyer

As we of the Stewardship Committee open our season of heightened mission, we pause to consider this heartfelt wish we make for SNUUC and ask, "Does Health depend upon Wealth?"

We each tell our commitment to SNUUC in so many ways: by our presence, by our deeds, and by our ever-faithful and generous financial support. Notice that it is our financial support that provides SNUUC's practical foundation – keeps the lights on, pays the minister and staffs salaries, meets invoices, cares for our building, and funds wonderful programs.

Yes, for us to be healthy now and in the future, we rely tangibly and urgently upon our members' ongoing generous and increasing financial support – upon our Wealth.

This year we have been given the gift of a crystal clear objective that will define our 2008-09 Pledge Canvass. Only by investing in our children will we have a healthy future. So, solidly funding the Director of Religious Education (DRE) post will preserve and promote SNUUC's health.

How can you help to make our wish for SNUUC's Health & Wealth come true? This year, say "Yes" to being a Canvasser. Say "Yes" to having one, two or three canvass conversations during the Pledge Canvass. Personally participate in the full process of securing Health and Wealth for SNUUC.

SAVE THE DATE for CANVASS TRAINING
Saturday February 23, 2008 12:00 – 3:00PM. Lunch, Childcare and Good Spirits Provided

Happy New Year!
Stewardship Committee: Ellen Zaehring-Gach,
Chair, Carl Spatt, Arlene Brown
Barbara Singer, Board of Trustees Liaison

 In the rare event that weather causes
 Sunday worship and/or RE to be cancelled,
 there will be a message left
 on the office answering machine by 8:30am.
 If the message on the machine doesn't mention
 the snow, then there is no cancellation.
 You are also free to try phoning the minister, the
 board president or the DRE.

Among Ourselves

We share the sad news that Marge Viemeister passed away on December 7 in Minnesota. She was a long-time member and the unofficial historian of the congregation. Marge will be greatly missed. Her children plan to have a memorial service at SNUUC, but probably not until late spring or early summer, when they can scatter her ashes in the bay near where she lived with her long-time companion, Paul Scire.

Thank you to all the members of the Ways & Means Committee and their helpers for another terrific Holiday Fair! It was helpful, delicious and fun!!

Many thanks go to the SNUUC holiday decorators, Lorrie Bellafiore, Alice Spatt, Lori Strumeyer and Livia Polise who spruced up our foyer and chancel.

Paul Scire's 100th Birthday is January 19! Be sure to sign the birthday card the membership committee has at the welcome table on upcoming Sundays and they will send it to Paul.

Read the Social Action column about the New Sanctuary Sunday Program for Immigrant Rights at SNUUC

Ways & Means

Thank you for making the Holiday Fair a success! Ways & Means would like to thank everyone who helped publicize, set up, cook, bake, serve, dine, bought, sold, laughed and had fun! Final results aren't in yet, we'll keep you posted. But without you, the Holiday Fair wouldn't be possible.

As always, SNUUC stained glass stationery is available at the Ways & Means table, the gift card list is available on line and can be ordered anytime. Make it even easier, put yourself on automatic monthly mailings for grocery stores, gas stations and the restaurants you frequent. Don't forget, remind your friends to go to SNUUC.ORG before ordering on Amazon.com.

Many thanks from the Ways & Means Committee (positions available, no experience necessary!)

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.

Stewardship Committee will meet each Saturday in January at noon in the Foyer. Please speak to Ellen Zaehring-Gach, Carl Spatt or Arlene Brown about attending these important meetings.

Ways & Means committee meeting Sunday, January 6, noon in room 1.

Finance Committee meeting Monday, January 7, 7:30 in the RE wing.

Membership Committee meeting Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 in the foyer.

RE committee meeting Sunday, January 13 in the youth room, Primary 9am, Joint 9:30, Youth 12:00.

Thrift Shop committee meeting Sunday, January 13, noon in room 1.

Board meeting Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 in the foyer.

Social Action committee meeting Sunday, January 27, noon.

Where do we want to be in 2010 as Long Island UU's?

We Invite You To Join Us for a Planning Meeting On Collaborative Work Projects of L.I. UU's

When: Thursday Evening, January 10, 2007

Where: UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

We Are Discussing Ideas for Creating a Strong Network of Congregations for All Unitarian Universalists in the Long Island Area. These Projects begin in 2008 We need your input & ideas Now!

Sample topics to be discussed, but are not limited to, include:

- Social Action Spring Recess Island Wide Project
- Pot Luck Supper with special activities for all LI UU's
- Planning workshops
- Exchange Network
 - Artists Exchange
 - Long Island Speakers Bureau
 - Committee Meeting Exchange and Growth

Please Come Meet & Brainstorm With Us!

We Welcome Your Involvement &

Look Forward to Hearing Your Ideas!

For more info or to RSVP contact:

Ilene Corina, email: icorina@aol.com

The DRE Search

► **We want your opinion!** ◀

Search for a

Permanent Director of Religious Education (DRE)

How does our Religious Education program fulfill the SNUUC mission?

What are the strengths of our RE program?

What qualities and qualifications do you think a new DRE should have?

► Come to an *Open Forum* with the DRE Search Committee on

Sunday, January 13 at 12 noon in the sanctuary.

Come to share your ideas and dreams for RE.

We want to hear from everyone!

Now is the time to make your voice heard.

Please join us for a lively discussion on January 13.

Questions?

See Lisa Bilello or Sharon Nanos, co-chairpersons.

South Ocean Art Gallery Opening Reception

There will be a wonderful photography exhibit in the foyer at the South Ocean Art Gallery to welcome the new year . This exhibit features two accomplished artists; Michael Rathsam with his color photographs and Martin Hochberg with his black and white images.

Please join us for the opening reception on Friday, January 11 from 7-9pm. Meet the artists and enjoy live music by Chris Ross and Steve Martin.

★ 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.**

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, January 8. Please bring a mat or blanket. 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.

Compassionate Communication at SNUUC. Our next 13-session series covering Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication – A Language of Life, 2nd ed.*, begins on Saturday, February 2 and is open to all adults and youth (11th 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 winter series please put your name on the sign-up list in the foyer and read the 1st chapter of Rosenberg's book before February 2. Books may be purchased from Amazon (use the SNUUC link). For more information speak with Anne Fleming or Barbara Singer.

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 January 6 and 20. 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. Drums are always available if you can't bring your own.

The ***Friday Morning Buddhist Meditation Group*** meets at 9 AM. Presently the Friday group is reading dialogues and commentaries on the Buddha's Third Noble Truth. For questions about the group or for instructions on how to meditate, speak to Nick Nanos. Newcomers are welcome!

Creative Clusters The Artist's Way Group at SNUUC is at capacity. A waiting list is being compiled for those who are still interested. [The Artist's Way](#) is a "course in discovering and recovering your creative self," and the title of a book by film director and writer Julia Cameron. The group will be meeting over 12 sessions this winter on Sunday evenings at SNUUC. If you would like to get on the waiting list, or have any questions about the program, please contact Brian Larkin.

RE-adjustment

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Welcome 2008!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season full of love, peace and joy. It was an extra special one for me, as I experienced Christmas for the first time as a newly married woman. What joy!

Some of you may have noticed that we have not had the senior youth present in the first 15 minutes of service. In December, some of the senior youth approached me about their thoughts on having their own Senior Youth Worship. They spoke with their teachers, and Coral Kennelty-Cohen and Teddy Tiller led the first class youth worship in December on the theme of Hanukkah. It was a wonderful success! I will be providing the youth with a list of all the themes Rev. Catherine will be preaching on every week; so the youth are speaking, in their own words, of the same themes. We will miss them in the sanctuary, but encourage and admire their leadership!

We start 2008 with a lot of exciting projects for our RE program. On January 6th we begin our third RE session with all new teachers. I will lead an RE teacher training for all the session's teachers on that opening day at 9am.

This month we will have the senior youth's service on January 27th and in preparation for that, Catherine and I will be hosting a senior youth sleepover at SNUUC on Friday, January 25th. We will share a spaghetti dinner, rehearse the service and have a great time!

Our youth co-chair, Ellen Minzner, and I would really love for the SNUUC youth to be more actively involved in the Metro UU events. There are two very exciting youth cons coming up, for which registration is now open. There is a social con called the Youth Never Never Land Con which will be held in Lincroft, NJ on January 18-20; and a Youth Leadership Development Con on February 1-3 on Mohegan Lake, NY. I strongly encourage all youth to attend. As always, you can find information on these cons and all RE events in our RE board, check them out!

Please come and speak to me if you have any concerns, ideas or thoughts on RE.

Peace and joy,
Mino.

New Sanctuary Sunday Program for Immigrant Rights at SNUUC

On Sunday January 20 SNUUC will host a special after service program focused on the New Sanctuary movement which supports immigrant rights throughout our nation. It seems particularly appropriate to acknowledge the human rights and contributions of immigrants on Martin Luther King Sunday. Dr. King reminds us of our moral duty to act as compassionate ambassadors of justice if we are to truly bear witness to our first principle acknowledging the worth and dignity of every person.

SNUUC will present a program which will feature speakers who have experienced abuse and intimidation and others who have defended their rights. The program will also offer a talk back question and answer opportunity for congregation members.

We will also have a special luncheon hosted by Tom Beach at reasonable rates. Please come and share your questions and perspectives

The next Social Action committee meeting is Sunday, January 27 at noon in room 1. The committee is collecting your used batteries in box at Social Action Table. Remember to take canvas when you shop! (We have some bags remaining for \$15/each.) Please put your order of service in the recycling bin after service.

PLEASE WRITE IN YOUR CALENDARS
THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR RE:

1/6: (9am) Teacher Training. First day of RE 2008.

1/13: (9am) REC meeting

1/18 - 1/20: Never Never Land Con in Lincroft, NY

1/25 - 1/26: Sr. Youth SNUUC sleepover

1/27: Intergenerational Senior Youth Service. NO RE

2/1 - 2/3 Leadership Development Con, Metro YRUU
Mohegan Lake NY

SNUUC Calendar January 2008

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 30 ♦ Kwanzaa Service No RE	December 31	January 1 Happy New Year!	2	3 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	4 Meditation 9am F	5 NVC 9:45 F Stewardship 12 F
6 RE Teacher Training 9 RE Ways & Means 12 rm1 OWL 2-6 RE The Artists Way 6:30 F Wayne Dyer Meditation 6:30 F	7 Meditation 7:15 F& S Finance Comm 7:30 RE	8 Yoga 5:30-6:30 Membership 7:30pm F	9 La Leche 9am RE Foyer Art Hanging 4:30	10 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	11 Meditation 9am F ♦ Foyer Art Opening Reception 7 F	12 Girl Scouts 10am RE Stewardship 12 F CAIR 1:00 RE
13 Thrift Shop Comm 12:00 RE ♦ Open Forum-DRE Search 12S RE Primary-9:Joint-9:30, Youth-12 LIAC 1:00 F. OWL 2-6 RE The Artists Way 6:30 F Spiritual Directions 7 F	14 Meditation 7:15 F& S	15 Yoga 5:30-6:30	16 Board Meeting 7:00 F	17 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	18 Meditation 9am F	19 Stewardship 12 F
20 New Member Recognition ♦ Sanctuary Sunday Program & Lunch 12 S W. Dyer Meditation 6:30 F The Artists Way 6:30 F	21 Meditation 7:15 F& S	22 Yoga 5:30-6:30 PULSE 7:00 F	23	24 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	25 Meditation 9am F New Member Spaghetti Dinner Sr Youth Sleepover 6:00	26 Girl Scouts 10am RE Stewardship 12 F
27 Senior Youth Service NoRE ♦ Bi Annual Meeting 12:00 S Social Action 12 rm 1 OWL 2-6 RE The Artists Way 6:30 F	28 Meditation 7:15 F& S	29 Yoga 5:30-6:30	30	31 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>February 1</i> Meditation 9am F	2 NVC 9:45 F Girl Scouts 10am RE Stewardship 12 F

Foyer Art Opening Reception
Friday, January 11 7-9pm

Open Forum, Sunday January 13, noon
Discussion about the Permanent DRE Search

Bi-Annual Meeting
Sunday January 27 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.



SNUUC South Nassau
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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