



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

January 4, 2009 10:30 am

Guest minister Rev. Meg Barnhouse

Mango Thoughts in a Meatloaf Town

Rev. Meg Barnhouse will read from her books and sing some of her wonderful original songs

Coffee: Laura D'Angelo & Brian Larkin **Ushers:** Jayne Davison & Anne Fleming
Lock-up: Anne Fleming **Welcome:** Verna Herman
Social Action Table: **Ways & Means:**

January 11, 2009 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Sloth Last of a series on the Seven Deadly Sins

Coffee: Polly & Frank Stevens **Ushers:** Denise Hibbert & Martha Chamberlain
Lock-up: Tom Weingarten **Welcome:** Polly Stevens
Social Action Table: **Ways & Means:**

January 18, 2009 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Dreaming While Awake Thoughts on Martin Luther King in the age of Barack Obama
We will have the dedication of a new baby: Sedona, daughter of Christie Allen and Emily Brodeur

Coffee: Sharon & Phil Kennelty Cohen **Ushers:** Lori Strumeyer & Andrew Spatt
Lock-up: Rosemary Olander Beach **Welcome:** Martha Chamberlain
Social Action Table: **Ways & Means:**

January 25, 2009 10:30am

Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Worship

Coffee: Junior Youth **Ushers:** Junior Youth
Lock-up: Anne Fleming **Welcome:** Lori Strumeyer
Social Action Table: **Ways & Means:**

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.

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

Director of Religious Education, Jennifer Greene Hours by appointment

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Community Minister,
Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason
Board President,
Robert Esformes

Musings from the Minister

Dear friends,

How differently 2009 begins than did 2008. At this time last year, the stock market was at 13,000, Hillary Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani were sure to be the nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties, and at SNUUC there was tremendous anxiety about who would be leading our religious education program. What a difference a year makes!

As 2009 begins, our economic future looks grim and there is much hope invested in our new president, Barack Obama. But the truth is, of course, that we cannot know what the future will hold: what we fear might never come to pass, and that which we're leaning on might prove less sure than we'd imagined. Our sources of anxiety and insecurity will shift, and the people and things in which we invest our hopes will shift as well. What's certain is that we will engage in the dance between anxiety and hope.

Parker Palmer, an author and theologian, was recently a guest on the NPR program "Speaking of Faith." In the program, the host reminds him of a story Palmer had told about a time of depression he had had in his life. His therapist had asked him if it were possible to see his depression as a friend, "bringing you down to earth, to ground on which it is safe to walk." We have certainly been brought down to earth in these times and we will be challenged to re-evaluate again and again where it is truly safe to put our hopes, our self-definition and our self-worth.

Mr. Palmer went on to say that part of what had taken him into depression was that he'd been living life "at artificial heights, at untenable elevations," where he had relied upon "a kind of inflated ego or a free-floating spirituality." His false sense of self had put him at an altitude where he was bound to trip and fall.

At times where we take a fall, we learn the truth about where the ground is, about where it is truly safe to walk. In the year ahead, we will be finding our true ground together.

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

Community Minister's Corner

Every four years in this county, we inaugurate a new president in January. This January, we will be witnesses to an especially historic Inauguration, as America swears in its first African-American president. It is a celebration we should most assuredly resolve to take some part in, even if we do not find ourselves standing on the Mall in Washington, DC.

Whether you partake in it by turning on your TV, tuning in your radio, or sharing the event with friends or perhaps a local interest group, I hope you are able to savor the start of this new era. All beginnings contain both risks and promises, and in all likelihood, a few of each will be realized, some even before we feel ourselves ready for them.

It's important, then, that we understand that this national venture is indeed all of ours together. President-Elect Barack Obama has repeatedly called on us to renew our commitment to be unified as a people, particularly in time as trying as ours. He wants not only to be the president of these United States, but also the president of us, its inhabitants. Let's help him with that.

So as a person of good faith, ask yourself what you might be able to inaugurate with the start of a new administration -- a more hopeful attitude, maybe, or a readiness to welcome the changes to come, or a zeal for civic involvement, or an openness to having difficult dialogues, or a decision to do still more on behalf of your immediate community. It's never too late to become the kind of American citizen you always wanted to be, and 2009 is as fine a time to start as any.

The Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

Start the new year right! **On the first Sunday in January, SNUUC will be privileged to have the Rev. Meg Barnhouse in our pulpit**, where she will read from her books and sing some of her wonderful original songs. Many UUs have said hearing her makes them feel excited about our movement and proud to be part of it. She is currently a minister in Spartanburg, South Carolina; some of you might have seen her at the Metro New York District Annual Meeting a couple of years ago. Learn more about her at www.megbarnhouse.com. Her partner, Kiya Heartwood, will sing during the service as well; her music can be sampled at www.wishingchair.com. This will be a worship service not to be missed!



I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. It is officially 2009. Where does the time go?

For those of you who walk the hallway between the kitchen and the foyer, you may have noticed the new doors for our storage closets. They now actually work! On behalf of the board, the Unicrafters and all the committees who utilize these closets, a huge thank you goes to Scott Miller for donating the time and labor of his employees to build a whole new set of doors. Thank you, Scott; you have given a lot, time and time again.

The holidays are a time of joy and togetherness. I hope that each of you has been able to spend this holiday with your family and friends. It's a time when special things occur; when they do, embrace it! We have a family from France visiting for the holidays who have never been to the U.S. before. Having them see New York during the holidays and spending time with them is special.

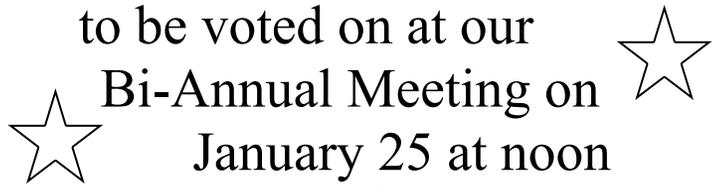
Our congregation and all the people in it are special. When I see all of us together, I realize that SNUUC is a special place - not because of the building, but because of the people. You are what makes SNUUC the special place that it is.

As of this writing, we have not had our December board meeting, so I cannot report on any new actions. Please be aware that we have the bi-annual meeting January 25 at noon.

I wish for all of you that the New Year brings renewed faith and a fresh start to your lives.

Faithfully yours, Rob

Proposed Slate of Nominations to be voted on at our Bi-Annual Meeting on January 25 at noon



All members and interested friends are encouraged to attend this meeting

- President (1 year term) & Trustee (continuing)
Robert Esformes
- Vice President (1 Year Term) & Trustee (completing term of resigned trustee)
Rosemary Olander-Beach
- Secretary (1 year term) & trustee (continuing)
Barbara Singer
- Trustee (3 year term) Arlene Brown
- Trustee (3 year term) Martha Chamberlain
- Trustee (3 year term) Jayne Davison
- Continuing Officer
- Treasurer (2nd year of 2 year term) & Trustee (continuing) Tom Weingarten
- Continuing Trustees
Anne Fleming
Ken Lawson
Travis Compton (Youth Trustee)
- 2009 Nominating Committee: Mary Brower (2nd year), Fylice Larsen, Bobby Newman, Jean Smyth Crocetto, Diane Hawkins
- Submitted by the 2008 Nominating Committee: Bonny Levenson, Laura D'Angelo, Peter Larsen, Ken Bellafiore, Mary Brower

Snow date for the Annual Meeting is February 1

Our UU Community

UU churches in the Washington DC area are making lodging available for those attending the Barak Obama Inauguration. Speak to Lisa in the office if you would like more information.

The Young Adult Steering Committee of the UU Metro District invites all UU young adults, 18-35, to their **Winter Retreat at Frost Valley, February 13-16.** Their goals for the weekend are relaxation, reflection, connections & spirituality. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the hall for more information or visit their site at <http://uumetrony.org/ya/events.html>

Prep for Peacemaking is a forum intended to deepen your understanding of the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, a Congregational Study/Action issue that will be discussed at General Assembly in June. The Huntington and Shelter Rock UU Congregations invite you to this forum on February 28. See the sheet on the bulletin board in the hall for more information.

A reminder that the LI Council of Churches needs all kinds of nonperishable food at their Freeport pantry (450 North Main Street, 516-868-4989). They always need infant formula (especially Enfamil with LIPIL) and volunteers to help bag food and receive guests, any day Monday through Friday, anytime between 10:00 and 4:00, particularly around the lunch hour. They also need drivers who can pick up food donations occasionally and deliver them to Freeport, Hempstead, or Riverhead, as you are needed and as you happen to be available—with absolutely no guilt when you do not happen to be free.

Among Ourselves

Many, many thanks go to Scott Miller and his workers Martin and Wilfred for replacing the closet doors in the hallway between the foyer and the kitchen. They look marvelous!

Congratulations to Natalie Gray who was selected to attend a special four day conference in New Orleans in early December. It was the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, an annual conference which stems from the adult annual People of Color Conference. Natalie met students from all over the country and Europe, learning skills to bring back to her school community. For Natalie, one of the highlights was the keynote speaker, Sidney Poitier! She said he was amazing!

Congratulations to Scott Miller. He passed his bar exams for New York & Connecticut!

Thanks to the Ways & Means committee for organizing a terrific holiday fair and lunch. A good time was had by all!

And thank you Lorrie Bellafiore and Alice Spatt for decorating the foyer and sanctuary for the holidays!

Ways \$ Means

Do you buy groceries? Then be a part of SNUUC's Grocery Store/Gift Card Program. You buy the cards at face value and use them as you would cash or give as a gift! Proceeds from the card sales help raise money for SNUUC! The cards can be purchased at the Ways and Means table on Sunday or sign up for monthly mailings with Alexis Surve. AlexisSurve@gmail.com. Please remember that all payments for the monthly grocery card mailings are now due on the 15th of each month.

This year's UU General Assembly is in Salt Lake City at the end of June.

You can attend on your own or as a representative from SNUUC.

To learn more about General Assembly, visit www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/.

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 hall and call if you would like to learn more about a committee.

Ways & Means committee meeting Sunday, January 4 at noon in the RE wing.

RE Committee meeting Sunday January 11 at 12:15 in the youth room.

Thrift Shop Committee meeting Sunday, January 11 at noon in room 1.

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

Finance Committee meeting Wednesday, January 14 at 7:30pm in room 1.

Board meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 7pm in the foyer.

Our Thrift Shop

Our Thrift Shop, located at 22 West Merrick Road in Freeport, is open 10-4, every day but Sunday. It is staffed by many SNUUC members and community volunteers and is a terrific place to shop, to volunteer and to donate clean, gently used saleable merchandise. Right now they are looking for pots, pans, dishes, furniture, jewelry and nick-nacks to sell. No clothing is needed at this time.

They can use your help and your merchandise, and you will probably find something great for you

Stop by or contact Dorothy Curran to see how you can help. gardenwomyn@optonline.net. The phone number of the thrift shop is 223-3974.

Pledge statements were not mailed out for the end of November because of timing with bank statements and the bookkeeper. Statements with an ending date of December 31 will be mailed in January. *If you have any questions about your pledge statement, please call Lisa in the office.*

SNUUC Happenings

See the Social Action column on page 6 to learn more about attending a viewing of the movie *Judgment at Nuremberg* at SNUUC on Saturday, January 3 at 7:30.

Senior Moments, welcome Seniors and Caregivers. Join us at our next meeting on Sunday, January 4 at noon in the RE wing. Come with your questions, problems and answers for the rest of us. For example: I need a plumber, cleaner, handyman, doctor, aide, companion, driver, physical therapist, etc. What is Craig's List and how can it help me? How can I afford help? Twanya Schmidt will share her experiences and her knowledge with us. Come and share your experiences with us as well.

We know you continue to stretch your mind throughout the winter, but how about stretching your body? If you are looking for a way to add some balance, strength, and flexibility to your life, come and join us for either of our next 6-week sessions of **Gentle Yoga with Spirit** right here at SNUUC. These classes are taught by Ivy Greenburg, a licensed yoga instructor. Enrollment is open to all, regardless of ability or previous experience with yoga. Our next sessions begin on Tuesday, January 6th (5:30-6:30) or Thursday, January 8th (4:30-5:30). The cost for either 6-week course is \$70 payable at the first class. Since space is limited, please contact Anne Fleming at afleming528@gmail.com to reserve your space!

I M P R O V! Welcome to 2009! The very good news is: Improv is back!!! The talented, funny, energetic and enthusiastic Michael Rock - a professional actor, acting teacher and improv guru - returns in 2009 with another series of fun and creative improvisational acting classes. Improvisation is GREAT for anybody who occasionally communicates with other human beings! No acting experience is necessary. Classes will be on four Sundays evenings, starting January 11. Check out Michael Rock's website: <http://homepage.mac.com/xmrock/classes.htm> for more information about these classes. Tuition is \$100 for the series (returning class members receive a \$20 discount). For more info contact Brian Larkin (bolarkin@optonline.net).

On Sunday January 18 following the service, Social Justice co-chairs Don Obers and Doug Breiding will be available to address questions about the Immigrant Rights Resolution that is going to the congregation for a vote at the Congregational meeting on January 25.

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.

Continued —▶

Monday Night Pilates - 8-9pm, only \$12 per class - no

South Ocean Art Gallery

Don't miss our next art opening - a photography exhibit featuring **Karen Michel**, (a well known local painter and photographer and co owner with Carlo Thertus of CASK in Lynbrook) and **Jason Gorbel**, the black and white photography winner from the Freeport Library's Juried Art Show. Karen specializes in colorful, energetic, altered photography while Jason's work provides a nice contrast in black and white.

The opening reception will be in the foyer on Friday, January 9, 2009 from 7-9pm. Come, meet the artists and enjoy a relaxing evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Us for a Mid-Winter Social!

See the flyer included with this Open Line for information about a fun gathering hosted by the Membership Committee and the Gay-Straight Dialogue on January 31.

more SNUUC Happenings!

contracts to sign, no commitment, just come and stretch! Contact Bonny Levenson for information.

NVC Empathy Sessions are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 7:30-9 pm in the foyer. Everyone who has participated in a 13 week Compassionate Communication Series is invited to join us to practice empathy skills. Speak to Anne Fleming or Barbara Singer.

Reiki Circle - Enjoy the Universal Life Force energy called Reiki. Reiki can restore inner peace, reduce stress, and support the body's ability to heal itself. If there is enough interest, classes will be starting at SNUUC, every other Wednesday at 6pm beginning in January, cost is \$18. Speak to Brian Larkin or call Maryann at 516-546-3649 for reservations as space is limited.

SNUUC Calendar January 2009

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>December 28</i> Social Action & Environ 12 rm 1	29 Pilates 8pm F	30	31	<i>January 1</i>	2	3 NVC 9:30-12 F ♦ Social Action movie <i>Judgment at Nuremberg</i> 7:30 S
4 ♦ Rev. Meg Barnhouse Guest Preacher 10:30 Ways & Means 12 RE Senior Moments 12 Rm1	5 Girl Scouts 7-8:30 RE Pilates 8pm F	6 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Empathy Circle 7:30-9 F	7 Art hanging 5-7	8 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	9 ♦ Foyer Art Opening Reception 7-9	10 NVC 9:30-12 F LI Leadership Inst 10-3 Outside Group 5-11pm
11 RE Committee 9am rm1 Youth Drumming 9am Y Thrft Shop Comm 12 rm1 Youth Alumni Reunion 12 RE IMPROV - RE	12 Pilates 8pm F	13 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Membership 7:30pm F	14 La Leche 9am RE Finance Comm 7:00 RE	15 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	16 Talent Auction Event 6-11 F	17
18 Youth Drumming 9am Y Social Action 12 S IMPROV - RE	19 Pilates 8pm F	20 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Empathy Circle 7:30 F	21 Board Meeting 7:30 F	22 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	23	24
25 Youth Worship Service ♦ Bi-Annual Meeting 12 S Youth Drumming 9am Y IMPROV - RE	26 Girl Scouts 7-8:30 RE Pilates 8pm F	27 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	28	29 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	30	31 ♦ Mid-Winter Social 7-11 F

Social Justice Movie Night
Saturday, January 3, 7pm
Rev. Meg Barnhouse, guest minister
Sunday, January 4, 10:30am
South Ocean Art Gallery Opening Reception
Friday, January 9, 7-9pm
Bi-Annual Congregational meeting
Sunday January 25, noon
Mid-Winter Social
January 31, 7-11pm

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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