



# The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

---

**February 1, 2009 10:30 am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***I've Known Rivers***

Pain and redemption in the work of Langston Hughes

**Coffee:** Lorrie & Ken Bellafiore

**Ushers:** Jayne Davison & Anne Fleming

**Lock-up:** Robert Esformes

**Welcome:** Polly Stevens

**Social Action Table:** Hildegard Schubert

**Ways & Means:** Fylice Larsen

---

**February 8, 2009 10:30am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***Irish Spring***

Jim Hawkins and Greg Ryan celebrate Imbolc with Irish music and stories

**Coffee:** Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris

**Ushers:** Lori Strumeyer & Debbie Scharf

**Lock-up:** Barbara Singer

**Welcome:** Bobby Granoff

**Social Action Table:**

**Ways & Means:** Mary Canada

---

**February 15, 2009 10:30am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***Going Through the Motions***

There's more to say about sloth in mid-February

**Coffee:** Lori Strumeyer & Debbie Scharf

**Ushers:** Martha Chamberlain & Andrew Spatt

**Lock-up:** Ken Lawson

**Welcome:** Martha Chamberlain

**Social Action Table:** Diane Hawkins

**Ways & Means:** Rita Tancredi

---

**February 22, 2009 10:30am**

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

***Everything in Turn: Spokes in the Buddhist Wheel***

Part of the ongoing series on SNUUC stained glass window

**Coffee:** Gail & Dennis Compton

**Ushers:** Robin Norris & Rita Tancredi

**Lock-up:** Martha Chamberlain

**Welcome:** Linda Nanos

**Social Action Table:**

**Ways & Means:** Alice Spatt

**Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister** - [Minister@snuuc.org](mailto:Minister@snuuc.org)

**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 [DRE@snuuc.org](mailto:DRE@snuuc.org)

**Office Manager & Editor, Lisa Bryson-Brockmann** [office@snuuc.org](mailto:office@snuuc.org)

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

Phone: (516) 623-1204

Fax: (516) 771-9308

Web: [www.SNUUC.org](http://www.SNUUC.org)

E-mail: [office@snuuc.org](mailto:office@snuuc.org)

Community Minister,

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason

Board President, Robert Esformes

# *Muusings*

## *from the Minister*

Dear friends,

The days of February are both short and long. Short, because the sun sets so early and the cold is so fierce. Long because the sun sets so early and the cold is so fierce! In these cold, dark days, I look to poets such as Langston Hughes to understand how to live richly in times when I feel impoverished.

Langston Hughes' poetry conveys both the profound oppression suffered by the African American and the spiritual strength that triumphs over that oppression.

"Triumph over" is, perhaps, not the right phrase – "triumph through" seems more fitting, for his poetry seems to convey that his people have – in spite of the intent of their oppressors – made spiritual meaning of their suffering. I find great inspiration in knowing that even in suffering much greater than my own, other people have managed to thrive – if not materially, then spiritually.

I end with the poem that first brought him widespread acclaim was *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*:

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.  
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.  
I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.  
I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

Yours in faith, hope and love, Catherine

# Stewardship News

When it gets colder, it gets hotter for your Stewardship Committee! February marks the opening of SNUUC's annual "Canvass Season".

The lifeblood of SNUUC is our combined Annual Financial Commitments. Through the accumulated power of our individual commitments we keep SNUUC alive and well -- full of programs and rich in community. The Stewardship Committee aims to provide practical support and a clear process that will help each of us to make this crucial decision. Discovering anew that place where our commitment to SNUUC and our personal resources meet is a significant part of our spiritual journey.

Please stay tuned for news and updates as we enter this season of important renewal.

## February Canvass Activities

- Canvass Training: The Annual Training and Canvassing event for the Canvass Team will take place Saturday February 7, 12:30 to 3:00 (lunch included) and on Sunday February 8, 12:00-1:30 (refresher only) at SNUUC. Stewardship invites back our experienced canvassers and encourages newcomers to join this vital and rewarding effort.

- Awareness Building and Leadership Canvassing will be ongoing during the month.

Respectfully, Stewardship Committee:

Ellen Zaehringer-Gach, Arlene Brown, Carl Spatt.

Board Liaison: Barbara Singer

# Coming of Age

## *Coming of Age & Building Your Own Theology*

In order to enrich the experience of our Coming of Age youth, Rev. Torpey is running four special sessions, open only to SNUUC youth currently in the Long Island Coming of Age program. We'll use the tried-and-true UU curriculum "Building Your Own Theology" to help you shape your thinking about your credo and to (hopefully) deepen your experience. The sessions will be fun and very interactive, and we can use some of our time together to complete assignments such as interviewing the minister. We'll meet February 1 and 22, April 5 and May 3 (that's the first Sunday of each month, with the exception that March 1 was pushed earlier). We'll meet from 2-4pm at SNUUC. See you there!

## Caring Congregation Workshops

The first three of a series of ten workshops based on the Caring Congregations trainings will be provided at SNUUC. Caring Congregations is a workshop series that aims to heighten awareness and to help those with mental and behavioral difficulties to be welcomed and participate to the greatest extent possible in congregational life. The seminars will run for 12 to 1:30, and will be conducted by Mary Brower, Kelly Murphy Mason and Bobby Newman. The dates of the first three workshops are February 22, March 8, and March 22. A sheet will be available for pre-registration. Light refreshments will be served.

# Among Ourselves

**Special thanks go to the Nevitt family** for donating the TV/VCR/DVD player to the youth room!

**A note from Susan Okun** who moved to CA.  
"Dear Friends at SNUUC, Thank you for the wonderful Christmas card and all your warm wishes. On Christmas Eve I thought of you and SNUUC's beautiful service, I truly missed being there with you. I am settling in slowly. I love being so near my family, and every day find something else to like about my new house and community. Best wishes to you and your families for Peace and Joy and many blessings in the New Year. Love, Susan"  
Call the office for Susan's new address and phone.

# Our UU Community

**News from the UU Metro District: We're looking for great ideas for a new District logo, so we're holding a logo contest! What design can you imagine that really says who we are?** Participants at the District Annual Meeting, May 1-2 will vote to select the winning design from among the top 4 finalists. The new logo will be incorporated into a new District banner to be unveiled at the 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City June 24-28. The four finalists will receive a \$50 gift certificate to use at the bookstore at the District Annual Meeting or for items available from the UUA Bookstore. The creator of the chosen design will receive a \$200 award by check and will be highlighted in the May issue of our newsletter, The Metro NY Minute. Submissions should be submitted by attachment as commonly used art formats of at least 300 DPI. PDF files are preferred. Submit your ideas to Laurie Golson at [ls.golson@verizon.net](mailto:ls.golson@verizon.net) by March 15, 2009.

**You are invited to submit a nomination** for one or more of four **2009 District Awards** and to **encourage youth to apply** for one of three **2009 District Scholarships**. The presentation of awards and scholarship will be a highlight of the 2009 District Annual Meeting. Nominations are submitted by individual UUs and congregations. Please visit this site for more information, <http://uumetrony.org/awards&scholarships/awards.htm> and consider who you may nominate for one of these awards. The nomination and application deadline is March 1.

**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. At GA, delegates will have the ability to debate and then vote to accept or reject the draft Statement. This forum is intended to provide a unique opportunity to consider the many issues involved in peacemaking, not only to prepare for an informed discussion at GA, but also to present ideas for actions as a faith community. The Huntington and Shelter Rock UU Congregations invite you to this forum on February 28, 10am-3pm. See the sheet on the bulletin board in the hall for more info.

## Committees at Work

**Ways & Means** committee meeting Sunday, February 1 at noon in the RE wing.

**Social Justice & Environmental** Committee meeting Sunday, February 1 at noon in the RE wing.

**RE** Committee meeting Sunday February 8 at noon in the youth room.

**Thrift Shop** Committee meeting Sunday, February 8 at noon in room 1.

**Membership** Committee meeting Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

**Finance** Committee meeting Wednesday, February 11 at 7:30pm in room 1.

**Board** meeting on Wednesday, February 18 at 7pm in the foyer.

**Congregational Council meeting Wednesday, February 25. All committees are asked to send a representative.**

## SNUUC Happenings

**Senior Moments, welcome Seniors and Caregivers.** Join us at our next meeting on Sunday, February 22 at noon in the RE wing. Come

with your questions, problems and answers. 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.

**Circle Suppers are a wonderful way** to share delicious food and good conversation with a small group of SNUUC members & friends. Someone serves as host, volunteers their home and prepares an appetizer for the guests who will bring the salad, main course and dessert. The next Circle Supper will be on Saturday, February 28 at 6:30pm. Sign-up as a host or guest on the sheet at the Welcome table on Sundays.

The next 13 week series of **Compassionate Communication at SNUUC** begins on Saturday, February 7. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the hall to learn more about Nonviolent Communication.

**Who wants Senior OWL?** "Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith" is the set of comprehensive sexuality education curricula for children, youth, and adults developed jointly by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the United Church of Christ. The Senior High level of OWL is designated for 10th-12th graders. SNUUC's RE Committee and RE Director Jennifer Greene would like to hear from youth, and parents of youth, to assess the level of interest in a Sr. High OWL course. Please contact Jennifer at [dre@snuuc.org](mailto:dre@snuuc.org).

# In the RE Wing

"Let us live the poetry we sing." These are the words on the gravestone of poet Edwin Markham (1852-1940). Markham is best known to UUs for his poem, "Outwitted," which circulated widely among Unitarians and Universalists in the 1950s:

*He drew a circle that shut me out—  
? Heretic, a rebel, a thing to flout. ?  
But Love and I had the wit to win: ?  
We drew a circle that took him in!*

I never get tired of the story in this poem! It's still beloved to many. One young adult UU friend of mine is fond of reciting it for others, as part of his "elevator speech" summing up what thrills him about UUism.

Markham's idea of Love's circle is even built into the design of some of our houses of worship. I know of two congregations—one in Schenectady, and one in Baton Rouge—which cite this verse as the inspiration for elements of their architecture.

The message is an enduring one. That great Nazarene, Jesus, preached it 2000 years ago, and a humorous bumper sticker reminds us of it today (*Love your enemies. It really gets them confused!*) At SNUUC, we can help our children develop an expansive concept of **us** that whittles away at an "us versus them" mentality. We can nurture an expansive concept of **family**—yes, we are all brothers and sisters in the human family. We can tell stories and sing songs that affirm the inherent dignity of us all.

Indeed, Love's circle is built into the very mission of our RE program. And it's modeled every week by SNUUC's teacher-volunteers, whose service I'd like to recognize with a valentine.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> term teachers: Anne Fleming and Jayne Davison!  
Rita Hines and Jim Crocetto! Fylice Larsen and Rosemary Olander-Beach!

And the 2<sup>nd</sup> term teachers: Dana Reinecke and Lisa Sobell!  
Laura D'Angelo and Alex Larsen! Bobby Newman and Peter Larsen!

And 3<sup>rd</sup> term teachers: Cliff Teachout! Selina Benson and Chris Ragusa!  
Diane Hawkins and Mary Brower! Sharon Nanos and Brian Larkin!

And Ilene Corina assisted by Laurette Nevitt and John Bilello, who have facilitated the Sr. Youth group since September!  
And Bobby Granoff, who has served snack since September, too!

And those cheerful substitutes who filled in at the last minute: Bobby Newman, Gail Compton, Andrea Weingarten, Fylice and John and Ilene and Rosemary and YOU? (If I missed you, shoot me an email.)

RE volunteers, here's a valentine for you

For the time that you give, for the good that you do.  
SNUUC children and youth are truly blessed

By the gift of yourselves--volunteers, you're the best.

Love and peace to all, Jennifer

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

On Saturday February 7 at 7:30pm the Social Action Committee will present the film, **A Great and Mighty Walk** about the life of John H. Clark. This movie commemorates the civil rights struggle and is a biography of one of it's leaders. Please join us for the screening and informative discussion.

**Environmental Committee** Go on a low-carbon diet! Time to renew our pledge to use less carbon and create less global warming. See large carbon-free footprint in foyer to see list of what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Help with ideas for making SNUUC more carbon-free. If you wish to chart your green actions, you can go to

<http://www.renewableenergylongisland.org/>

## South Ocean Art Gallery

Join the Art Committee on Saturday, March 28 from 1 to 4pm for an **Art Happenings**. Instruction and materials will be available for creating Eco-Art (from recycled materials). You may want to consider displaying your work from this art session at the May 8 Art Opening at our own South Ocean Gallery in the foyer. For information, on Art Happening and Art Opening, contact Diane Hawkins at [parkviewdesign@verizon.net](mailto:parkviewdesign@verizon.net). Please email her in advance if you are coming so we know numbers!

## Sophia Fahs Camp News

- There is a new application and tuition schedule for 2009! For considerable savings off the price of Sophia Fahs UU RE Camp, parents will need to have their completed applications (which includes the medical form to be filled out by your health care professional) postmarked by March 16 this year. So if your child/youth wants to attend camp, but their last physical exam was more than two years ago from now, you'll want to make a doctor's appointment immediately, to be able to meet the March 16<sup>th</sup> postmark deadline.
- Camp applications will be available from RE Director Jennifer Greene in early February.

# SNUUC Calendar February 2009

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Snow date for Annual Meeting Social Action & Environ 12 rm 1 Ways & Means 12 RE COA-Building Theology 2 RE	<b>2</b> Pilates 8pm F	<b>3</b> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Empathy Circle 7:30-9 F	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> COM 4:15 M Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE	<b>6</b> Board Orientation 7pm F	<b>7</b> NVC 9:30-12 F Canvass Training 12 F LIAC COA 12:30-5:30 RE ♦ Social Action movie 7:30
<b>8</b> Snow date for Youth Sunday RE Committee 12 rm youth rm Thrft Shop 12 rm1 Canvass Training 12 S	<b>9</b> Girl Scouts 7-8:30 RE Pilates 8pm F	<b>10</b> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Membership 7:30pm F	<b>11</b> La Leche 9am RE Finance Comm 7:00 RE PULSE 6:30-9 F	<b>12</b> La Leche 1-3 RE Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> NVC 9:30-12 F Stewardship 12 .F
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pilates 8pm F	<b>7</b> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Empathy Circle 7:30-9 F	<b>18</b> Board Meeting 7:00 F	<b>19</b> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> NVC 9:30-12 F Stewardship 12 F
<b>22</b> Senior Moments 12 rm 1 Caring Congregation workshop 12:00 COA-Building Theology 2 RE	<b>23</b> Girl Scouts 7-8:30 RE Pilates 8pm F	<b>24</b> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<b>25</b> Congregational Council 7pm F	<b>26</b> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<b>27</b> Talent Auction Event 6-11 F	<b>28</b> NVC 9:30-12 F Stewardship 12 F ♦ Circle Suppers in members homes 6:30

Coming of Age-Building Your Own Theology  
Sunday February 1 & 22 2-4pm

Social Action Movie *A Great and Mighty Walk*  
Saturday February 7, 7:30

Congregational Council meeting  
A representative from each committee should attend  
Wednesday February 25, 7pm

Circle Suppers  
Saturday February 28, 6:30

**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