



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

May 3, 2009 10:30 am Chalice Lighters **BUDGET HEARING 12:00** Rev. Catherine Torpey
Legislating Morality

Thoughts on aligning civic and moral value

Coffee: Doug Breiding

Lock-up: Jayne Davison

Social Action Table: Mary Brower

Ushers: Jayne Davison & Anne Fleming

Welcome: Lori Strumeyer

Ways & Means: Mary Canada

May 10, 2009 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Mother's Day and Flower Celebration

Kindly bring in either cut flowers or a small potted plant. Your offering will be placed on the chancel, and you will be invited to bring home one of the flowers or potted plants that another brought in.

Coffee: Lisa Itts

Lock-up: Anne Fleming

Social Action Table: Don Obers

Ushers: Robin Norris & Rita Tancredi

Welcome: Membership Committee

Ways & Means: Rita Tancredi

May 17, 2009 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Atman and the Oversoul The interplay between Hinduism and Transcendentalism

Part of a series of sermons on SNUUC's window

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Lock-up: Tom Weingarten

Social Action Table: Hildegard Scheil Schubert

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt

Welcome:

Ways & Means: Arlene Brown

May 24, 2009 10:30am

Guest Preacher Hollis Huston

Jesus Was a Humanist

What does the 'Love of God' actually mean in practice?

Coffee: Ellen Minzner

Lock-up: Rosemary Olander Beach

Social Action Table: Doug Breiding

Ushers: Rosemary Olander Beach & Alex Larsen

Welcome: Verna Herman

Ways & Means: Alice Spatt

May 31, 2009 10:30am **ANNUAL MEETING 12:00**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Stepping Out Bridging Sunday

Thoughts on life's many transitions

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Lock-up: Arlene Brown

Social Action Table:

Ushers: Dana Reinecki & Bobby Newman

Welcome: Linda Nanos

Ways & Means: Mary Canada

Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister - 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

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Vice President, Rosemary Olander Beach
Secretary, Barbara Singer
Treasurer, Tom Weingarten

OUR BOARDWALK

Spring has sprung, finally it seems, and for me it brings a sense of renewal and purpose -- just the frame of mind for embarking on this year's budgeting process. It is hard upon us, and at our April meeting the Board of Trustees spent much time discussing priorities and the dollars that fund them.

We were happy to receive the Stewardship Committee's canvass news -- financial commitments that are a net increase over last year's. This increasing level of financial stewardship by members is particularly gratifying given the financial difficulties and uncertainties many among us are facing. Clearly, it will take all of us pulling together, sharing our resources, to make sure SNUUC thrives.

The board will be working closely with the Finance Committee in the next few weeks to develop a budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Please note the following dates, when the board will present the budget for the congregation's feedback and, finally, vote.

May 3 (noon): The board will present the proposed 2009-10 budget to the congregation for discussion and feedback. (This is also the date by which committees' annual reports are due in the office so they can be ready in time for the May 31 congregational meeting.)

May 31 (noon): The board presents the final 2009-10 budget to the congregation for a vote.

At its last board meeting, trustees also approved a proposal for the formation of a Thrift Shop Visioning Task Force to plan for the future of the Thrift Shop. Recent years have seen a decline in receipts, yet the shop remains a thriving operation that makes a significant contribution to SNUUC. The task force, whose members will comprise Thrift Shop workers, the minister and other congregants, will solicit ideas and information from a wide range of "Thrifties" and congregants in an effort to plan for the Thrift Shop's future - can we "grow it" wildly, will it continue to have solid success, or how will we know if we must plan for its closure? The task force will report to the board as it progresses over the next several months.

Finally, these attendance figures, provided to the board in the Rev. Catherine Torpey's April report, provide an interesting snapshot of Sundays at SNUUC:

March 22: 53 in worship; 94 in the building (Justice Sunday)

March 29: 96 in worship; 104 in the building (Junior Youth Worship)

April 5: 56 in worship; 95 in the building (Passover)

April 12: 117 in worship; 125 in the building (Easter)

Please don't hesitate to contact me, or any board member, if you have comments or questions.

Rosemary Olander-Beach, Vice President

“Woyaya” We Got There! A Successful Annual Drive for “This Special Place”

On the first Sunday in March we kicked off the annual campaign for Financial Commitments in worship by singing a lovely song called “Woyaya”. The song communicates how we are going on a journey... we don't quite know how we will get there, but “we know within” that we will get there.

The Stewardship Committee is so happy to report that, indeed, we got there! The annual drive has been a great success. Together we have promised \$124,551 to SNUUC for the coming fiscal year. That represents an increase of \$5,669 over the current commitment base. This is remarkable. Here is a representation of 86 pieces of good news:

\$1 - 250	12
\$251 - 500	11
\$501 - 1,000	21
\$1,001 - 1,500	14
\$1,501 - 2,000	11
\$2,001 - 3,000	7
\$3,001 - 4,000	3
\$4,001 - 5,000	5
\$5,001 - 6,000	2

And, more good news may yet come. When three more ‘pledging units’ have completed their decision making for ‘09-’10 we expect the finally tally to go up a bit more.

We loved doing ‘stewardship’ with many of you at the “Eat, Be Merry and Commit” meals that were a feature of this year’s campaign. We are particularly grateful to Tom and Rosemary Beach and Joe McAuley for hosting two wonderful dinners.

Thank you, one and all, for giving generously to SNUUC, and for participating whole heartedly in this crucial effort. Collectively, our commitments are the life’s blood of “This Special Place”.

Woyaya!

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee
(Carl Spatt, Barbara Singer, Arlene Brown)

Respectfully,
Ellen Zaehring-Gach, Chair

Among Ourselves

Calling all "Gaia" Groupies! If you're hip to the sound of SNUUC's drumming ensemble, you might enjoy their next performance. Saturday, May 9th at 7pm, the Huntington Fellowship is presenting "An Evening of Music and Entertainment". This is a 90 minute program including wine, soft drinks and appetizers. The cost at the door is \$25. Gaia has been invited to kick off the event (promptly at 7) which features friends and members of the Huntington UU Fellowship. For further information, contact Priscilla Gray.

Our neighbor across the street on South Ocean has asked that we not park in the small space between the driveways of the white house and the brown shingle house, it makes it difficult to back out of her driveway. Please honor our neighbors and do not block or park too close to their driveways.

* **Reminder:** All committees are asked to *
* submit written annual reports to the Board by *
* May 10 (in plenty of time for the May bi-annual *
* meeting on May 31, and prior to the May 13 *
* Board meeting). *

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.

Social Justice & Environmental Committees meeting Sundays April 26 and May 31 at noon in the room 1.

RE Committee meeting Sunday May 3 at 9am in the youth room.

Ways & Means Committee meeting Monday, May 4 at Alice Spatt's home.

Finance Committee meeting Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30pm in room 1.

Thrift Shop Committee meeting Sunday, May 10 at noon in room 1.

Membership Committee meeting Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

Board meeting Wednesday, May 13 at 7pm in the foyer.

Talent Auction & Dinner

We look forward to seeing everyone at our very popular Talent Auction and dinner on Saturday, May 2. Dinner is at 5pm and the bidding begins promptly at 6pm. Enjoy home baked desserts after! We hope you've had a chance to look at the Talent Auction Booklet and preview all the fun things that will be auctioned that evening. You can pick up your copy of the booklet at the Ways & Means table on Sunday. The booklet is also available online, go to www.SNUUC.org, look for Upcoming Events on the first page or click here; Booklet, Dinner and more! *If you are unable to attend on May 2 ask someone to be your Bidding Proxy so you can enjoy all the happenings this year.* Please remember your check book, all auction items need to be paid for that evening.

SNUUC Happenings

The Communal Table is a group of SNUUC people getting together to dine out. To date we've done Dim Sum, Indian Buffet, and are eagerly looking forward to our next outing at a Thai Restaurant in Rockville Center. We will be getting together on Sunday, May 17th, after church. Any questions, suggestions, or just want to join us? Call Twanya Schmidt, or Arlene Brown.

The Gay-Straight Dialogue committee is making some important changes we wanted to tell you about. With Chairman Bob McGough's enthusiastic support, Priscilla Gray is returning to be a co-chair of the committee. Priscilla was a founding chair of the committee, and brings energy and creativity to the job. Also, Bob and Priscilla have agreed to change the committee's name to **Interweave**. Interweave is the name of the UU organization that certifies Welcoming Congregations, a status SNUUC achieved a couple of years ago. The name speaks to the idea of weaving LBGTQ and heterosexual people together with the goal of seeking equality and justice for all. We want to be a resource for the congregation. After having sponsored a winter social, SNUUC's Interweave is looking for ideas for activities and for people who will lead those activities. If you have an idea for which you'd like to be the point person, please contact Priscilla Gray or Bob McGough.

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.

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

In the RE Wing

RE - it's not just for Sundays!

Here are some online resources for your religious exploration at home:

"Between Sundays: Answering Kids' Questions" is a website to help parents and other adults answer children's **religious questions**. You'll find it at clf.uua.org/betweensundays/. Some sample questions: "Do UUs pray?" "Can you believe anything you want to as a UU?" The home page advises, "Don't be concerned about your own level of knowledge....Learn along with your kids, explore religious concepts together—model the 'search for truth and meaning' in an open and loving environment."

"Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography," at www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/, is a project of the UU Historical Society; it has over 300 **biographies** so far.

At the "Unitarian Universalist Family Network" site (archive.uua.org/families/index.html), click on the "Family Life Stages" page, and check out "The Un-Class for Unitarian Universalist Parents" for ideas for **activities** and parenting tips.

And this article by Meg Cox from the *UU World* archives has suggestions to help you create your own **family rituals**: "New Family Traditions," at uuworld.org/2003/04/feature2.html.

Finally, here are some possibilities for home rituals your family might find meaningful:

Try this idea for a **bedtime prayer** for parents/guardians and children together.

-- Tonight I am thankful for... (*say some of the good things that happened to you today.*)

-- And I am sorry for... (*what happened today that you feel sorry for doing or saying?*)

-- Tomorrow I intend to... (*what do you intend to do differently, or improve, tomorrow?*)

and/or

-- Tomorrow I hope for... (*things you hope for and how you think you can make them happen.*)

Here is a simple **table grace** to try: "Let us give thanks and be nourished by this meal & this time together. Amen."

At dinner with friends recently, I improvised a table grace using the words from our Sunday morning chalice lighting, and my friends loved it. If your child is already familiar with this one, they might enjoy the chance to lead your family in grace before your meal. Give it a try!

"Let us open our eyes	To see what is beautiful
Let us open our minds	To know what is true
Let us open our hearts	To love one another
And let us be thankful for this food."	

Yours, Jennifer

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Join us on Saturday May 9 at 7:30 for the next Film Night when the Social Action committee will present films and clips from the animated genre which will address issues in a variety of ways. The political cartoon has a venerable and significant history as an art form and a political device. Before the American Revolution, cartoons mocked King George. After the Revolution, they've mocked George Washington and every president since. From the National Lampoon to the New Yorker, from neo-Nazis on the right to communists on the left, cartoons and animation have been used to make political points. In this movie night, we will show short animated films and clips. We hope these will include Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* (a modern satire on the environment); *Walt Disney on the Front Lines* (epitomizing WWII American propaganda) and George Orwell's *The Animal Farm* (a satire depicting man's cruel treatment of animals and the dangers of totalitarianism on both the extreme right and the left).

We are excited about this offering and hope you will join us for what is sure to be an interesting evening and a provocative discussion.

Doug Breiding and Don Obers, Movie Night Coordinators

HELP SUPPORT THE 2009 CUBA CARAVAN!

The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/Pastors for Peace is now planning the 20th Friendship Caravan to Cuba during the month of July 2009. Humanitarian Aid collected for the caravan will be supporting the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Cuba after the devastating impact of Hurricanes Gustav, Ike and Poloma in Fall 2008. IFCO/Pastors for Peace also believes that NOW, with our new president and his administration, is the time to finally end the US government's economic blockade against Cuba.

The Social Action Committee at SNUUC is once again, for the tenth consecutive year, organizing to support IFCO's Cuba Caravan. HELP IS NEEDED BY IFCO IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- 1) Help raise money to purchase, or arrange for a tax-exempt donation, of the following types of vehicles: school buses, ambulances, trucks or bookmobiles
- 2) Help locate and gather medical and construction equipment and supplies
- 3) Consider applying to travel on the caravan to Cuba during July 2009
- 4) Help organize a fundraising event for the Caravan at SNUUC at the beginning of July

Please contact Don or Mirna Obers if you can help or volunteer in any of the above ways.

SNUUC Calendar May 2009

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>April 26</i> Social Action & Environ 12 rm 1 Caring Congregations 12 F	27 Pilates 8pm F	28 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F PULSE 6-9 RE	29	30 COM 4:15 M Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>May 1</i> Talent Auction Set-up	2 NVC 9:30-12 F Talent Auction ! Dinner 5pm Auction 6pm
3 Chalice Lighters Sunday Budget Hearing 12 S RE Committee 9am RE COA Building Theology 2 F Sr. OWL 3 RE	4 Girl Scouts 7-8:30 RE Ways & Means- outside of bldg Pilates 8pm F	5 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Empathy Circle 7:30-9 F	6 Finance Comm 7:00 RE	7 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	8	9 NVC 9:30-12 F ♦ Social Action film 7:30 Assorted Animated Films
10 Thrift Shop 12 rm1	11 Pilates 8pm F	12 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Membership 7:30pm F	13 La Leche 9am RE Board Meeting 7:00 F	14 La Leche 1-3 RE Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	15	16
17 Art Committee Framing Work- shop 12 RE	18 Girl Scouts 7-8:30 RE Pilates 8pm F	19 Empathy Circle 7:30-9 F Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	20	21 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	22	23
24 <hr/> May 31 Bi Annual Meeting 12 S Social Action & Environ 12 rm 1	25 Pilates 8pm F	26 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F PULSE 6:45-9 F	27	28 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	29	30

**All members are asked to attend
the **Budget Hearing** on Sunday May 3,
and the **Annual Meeting** on Sunday May 31.
All of these meetings are at noon in the Sanctuary.
*Your input at these meetings is important!***

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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