



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

October 4, 2009 10:30 am
Come, Come Whoever You Are
In celebration of Coming Out Day

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Coffee: Selina Benson & Helene Fiber
Greeters: Jojo & Bobby Granoff
Social Action Table: Don Obers

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt
Lock-up: Rosemary Olander Beach
Ways & Means: Alice Spatt

Welcome: Lori Strumeyer

October 11, 2009 10:30 am
Celebrations of Community Ministry

For Association Sunday, we will hear reflections on their ministries from three of Long Island's most illustrious community ministers: the Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason, the Rev. Jill Bowden and the Rev. Ned Wight

Coffee: Jean Cahn & *Volunteer Needed* **Ushers:** Lori Strumeyer & Debbie Scharf

Greeter: Martha Chamberlain

Lock-up: Martha Chamberlain

Welcome: Bobby Granoff

Social Action Table: Hildegard Scheil Schubert

Ways & Means: Fylice Larsen

October 18, 2009 10:30 am
To Be Raised Up Not Grown

Guest Preacher Rev. Brent A. Smith

What is the vision of human existence our faith traditions raises us up to see? And how can that be seen during something as mundane as mowing the grass?

Coffee: Robert Esformes

Ushers: Verna & Arnie Herman

Greeters: Jojo & Bobby Granoff

Lock-up: Barbara Singer

Welcome: Rita Hines

Social Action Table: Diane Hawkins

Ways & Means: Arlene Brown

October 25, 2009 10:30 am
Moulderin' in the Grave?

Rev. Catherine Torpey

The legacy of John Brown

Coffee: Mary Canada, Dana Reinecke & Bobby Newman

Ushers: Anne Fleming & Jayne Davison

Greeter: Lori Strumeyer

Lock-up: Barbara Singer

Welcome: Polly Stevens

Social Action Table: Mirna Obers

Ways & Means: Mary Canada

Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister - Minister@SNUUC.org

Office Hours Tues and Fri 10-3, Thursdays 12-10

The Minister welcomes meeting at other times, as possible. Since she's sometimes in meetings, or away at minister's gatherings it's always best to call before dropping in.

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Rosemary Olander Beach

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Musings from the Minister

Dear friends,

This past week came the sad news that Forrest Church, the minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, passed away after a long battle with esophageal cancer. He was a friend and mentor to me, someone I turned to for advice whenever I had important decisions to make. Besides being a wise counselor, Forrest had an incredible ability to phrase things in ways that were memorable and thought-provoking. One of his most quoted phrases, which Jennifer talks about in her column this month, is that "religion is the human response to the dual reality of being alive and knowing we must die." My favorite phrase of his, however, is the very simple advice he came to give in recent years: "Love what you have. Do what you can. Be who you are."

It is simple and obvious advice, but isn't that always the best kind? He encouraged us to love what we have, rather than fighting with our lives. Too often, we think of love as something passive, something that just happens. But the advice to "love what you have" is a call to choose to live our lives by embracing the realities of our particular circumstances. In his final years, Forrest was an incredible model of living his own advice. When he learned that he was terminally ill, he embraced his life just as it was: a minister and family man who had been given only months to live – though he managed to stretch it to a year and a half. The way that he ministered to his congregation through his final days will be a model for all ministers facing similar situations for generations to come.

It's easy to love what we have when times are good. But how do we love what we have when there are family stresses that sometimes seem ready to overwhelm us, or financial strains that leave us terrified, or medical conditions that threaten our very existence? To quote from the sermon in which he announced his terminal diagnosis: We let go for dear life.

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

Catherine was featured in the August 19 issue of the Long Island Press. There is a copy of the article on the bulletin board in the hall or you can click here to read the article <http://www.longislandpress.com/2009/08/19/catherine-torpey/>

Community Minister's Corner

This August, I was named the new director of Pastoral Care and Counseling Programs at the Blanton-Peale Institute, where I have been teaching only since 2008. It has been a real privilege to assume a position of leadership at training programs so dear to me as a community minister. In pastoral counseling, the ultimate aim is to help people integrate the spiritual and psychological dimensions of their lives to such an extent that they gain a greater sense of their personal wholeness and capacity for healing. What emerges is a kind of organic integration of head and heart and being. Of course it's difficult to teach such subject matter, but I don't find that the difficulty deters me from trying. Certain sorts of material ought to be as hard to teach as they are to learn. The challenge helps keep all of us honest about just how demanding a truly collaborative educational endeavor can be.

In one of my favorite books, J.D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*, the first of the title characters complains, "You never hear any hints dropped on campus that wisdom is supposed to be the goal of knowledge. You hardly ever even hear the word 'wisdom' mentioned!" The charge may be even more valid today than it was more than fifty years ago, when Salinger penned the line. "What's the difference whether treasure is money or property or even culture or even just plain knowledge?" Franny asks. "Sometimes I think that knowledge – when it's knowledge for knowledge's sake, anyway – is the worst of all." She concludes that without "some polite little perfunctory implication that knowledge should lead to wisdom... it's just a disgusting waste of time!" This educational ethic is something I've taken very seriously.

While we can accumulate knowledge almost endlessly, it doesn't automatically get transmuted into wisdom. Wisdom often takes a while longer to uncover. It maintains – scrupulously – its own mysterious timetable. Sometimes I question how wisdom can ever be imparted. But these elusive qualities should lead us to prize it more rather than less. The Hebrew Scriptures advise us to value wisdom more precious than the rarest jewels. When we eventually encounter it, we are richer than we know. If all we're taught to do is simply recognize wisdom, we've been educated extravagantly. Those pearls of wisdom that have been cast your way: may they not escape your notice... Not for too long, at least.

Kelly Murphy Mason

OUR BOARDWALK

It has been a delight to see everyone again as we begin a “new year.”

The potluck was a yummy success – thank you to the Membership Committee and assorted members who staged this event! Our year-opening worship, the water ceremony, on September 13 found a whopping 97 people in the sanctuary. What a hearty way to begin the year.

Religious education (and exploration!) began formally on September 27. It was great to see the Brantley Wing full of kids of all ages again after our summer hiatus.

On a more somber note, on September 26, Rob Esformes resigned as president of the Board of Trustees. You may recall that he had taken a medical leave of absence in March, and it is medical issues that prevent his return at this time. The board appreciates his past leadership, and we wish him well as he continues to mend. I will continue to act as president.

The board had a very busy September meeting. At that meeting, the board approved the appointment of Bonny Levenson as acting chair of the Thrift Shop Committee; board member Ken Lawson also volunteered to be the board liaison to the committee. Both have been very busy with the Thrift Shop Committee and the Thrift Shop Visioning Task Force.

The board was happy to receive the task force’s first report, a multipage document that evidenced their hard work researching other thrift shop operations, alternative locations and reaching out to SNUUC members for ideas and inspiration.

At its September meeting, the board also continued exploring the renovation of our bathrooms to make them accessible to everyone, a mission that was articulated at a congregational meeting this year. As the year progresses, the board will continue to investigate how we might begin this project.

Yours truly,

Rosemary Olander-Beach,
Vice President, acting president

Our UU Community

The UU Congregation at Shelter Rock has started a ministry for UUs who have lost, or are about to lose, their job. In this small group, led by Abby Greene a UUCSR member and vocational counselor by profession, participants will explore their vocational strengths, interests and values. The group will meet on the 4 Tuesdays in October from 6-8pm. Registration is limited to 11 Participants. To reserve call the UUCSR office, 627-6560 ext 117.

The Garden Stage at the UU Congregation of Central Nassau offers live music for all. Friday, October 2 will feature Milton with Julia Joseph at 8pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Delicious homemade refreshments are available during intermission. E-mail calendar@uuccn.org or call the UUCCN office at 248-8855.

UU Heritage Tour – November 12-15, 2009 There will be a UU Heritage Tour of the Boston, Cambridge, and Concord area, starting 5 PM, Thursday afternoon, November 12, returning late Sunday afternoon, November 15. The tour will be led by Rev. Dr. Barry Andrews, Minister of Religious Education at UUCSR, and a scholar on Emerson and Thoreau. The tour leaves and returns to the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock parking lot. Travel is by coach bus, and lodging will be at the Eliot-Pickett House on Beacon Hill. The tour will include the *Emerson Home, Walden Pond, Louisa May Alcott Home, and the UUA Headquarters among other locations*. Cost of the tour: \$460 double occupancy, \$550 single occupancy (Costs include breakfasts, other meals will be extra). For more information or reservations, please contact Ben Bortin at 516-627-6560 x134, or Bbortin@uucsr.org. Deadline for registration and payment: October 15, 2009.

The UU Women’s Association announces their Fall Renewal Weekend, *Weaving Empowerment Throughout Life and Self-Actualizing Dreams* with Carmella Marrone. It takes place on November 13-15 at St. Josephat’s Retreat House in Glen Cove. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the hall for more information.

The UUWA is also sponsoring a 10 day guided tour of Italian cities “following in the footsteps of Margaret Fuller” in October 2010. See the flyer on the bulleting board in the hall or speak to Lynn Gross for more information.

Learn about the larger, local Long Island UU Community through the LIAC Blast. The Long Island Area Council oversees the Religious Education Programs including Coming of Age (COA), Sophia Fahs Camp and Our Whole Lives (OWL). UU Connect runs social events connecting young UUs and their families with year round events like apple picking, a NY City trip, game nights and Adventureland. Senior Youth may be dropped off with a UU Connect leader but all younger kids need a responsible adult. For more information on UU Connect see Ilene Corina. To sign up for the LIAC Blast and learn what is

Among Ourselves

A belated but sincere welcome to **Kyle Schuessler** who became a SNUUC member this June. Kyle has jumped right in and is active in many SNUUC events. Be sure to say hello the next time you see Kyle!

We extend our sympathies to **Wayne, Kim and Dylan Trefcer** on the death of Wayne's mother, Diane Trefcer on Saturday, September 19.

Jayne Davison's Talent Auction Mah Jongg games have become so popular that they're looking for another Mah Jongg set. Do you have one up in the attic that is looking for a home? Please speak to Polly Stevens or Lisa Bryson-Brockmann.

the Board thanks...

Gloria Yuin for her donation to SNUUC in honor of Rita Tancredi's birthday this summer.

Jayne Davison for letting us know that she has remembered SNUUC in her will.

All of the SNUUC members who have volunteered to teach our kids in RE this semester!

Ways & Means

OUR HOLIDAY FAIR is Sunday DECEMBER 7th!

Before you know it, it will be time for the Holiday Fair. December 7th is just around the corner. We need vendors to exhibit. If you want to reserve a table, or know someone who is interested, please call Alice Spatt. This year we are also going to have a new feature, a white elephant table! Your unwanted item is sure to be someone else's treasure. If you have something to donate, please call Alice Spatt or Arlene Brown.

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 Sundays or sign up for monthly mailings from Peter Larsen at pjl@pjlarsen.com.

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 October 4 at noon in the RE wing.

Social Justice & Environmental Committees will meet Sunday, October 11 at noon in room 1.

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

The October Thrift Shop Committee meeting will take place on October 18, one week later than it is usually held.

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

Information about upcoming RE Committee, Finance Committee and Interweave meetings will be included in future Wednesday e-mails.

the RE program is looking for...

Assistant Teachers - -and now you won't have to miss a sermon! (We're uploading edited footage of Sunday services to YouTube for easy viewing now.) Jennifer Greene is ready to tell you more, if you're leaning toward "maybe" or "yes"-- please email her at dre@snuuc.org. You can commit to one Sunday, or several--that's up to you. Spending time with the children and youth of our congregation is valuable and rewarding volunteer work you're sure to enjoy!

Camera operators—no experience necessary! Pan left & right, zoom in & out, and that's about it. If you can help us document our Sunday services, even just one Sunday a month, please email Jennifer at dre@snuuc.org. It's an easy volunteer role that's a big help to the RE program, as well as SNUUC's general publicity & outreach. View portions of the September 20 service here <http://www.youtube.com/user/snuucdre>

Loveseat, toys in good condition. Got a loveseat you'd lend or donate to SNUUC's new child-care corner? How about some toys suitable for the very young? We're looking for some comfy seating that will help create an inviting space in the RE Wing for infants and toddlers and their parents and caregivers, and some appealing toys as well. BUT please contact Jennifer at dre@snuuc.org *before* making plans to bring in any donations--thanks!

SNUUC Happenings

Improv Returns. Come out to play four Sundays in October, October 4, 11, 18 and 25, in the RE Wing at SNUUC, 6 pm to 8 pm. No experience necessary. These sessions are for everyone (16 years and older) who wants to have fun and increase creativity, confidence and spontaneity. The cost is \$100 (\$80 for returning players). Contact Brian Larkin (bolarkin@optonline.net) if you have any questions.

Seasons change and so do we... Why not come and explore how your body, mind, and spirit are dealing with the changes around and within you? Our next series of Gentle Yoga classes taught by Ivy Greenburg in the SNUUC foyer are starting soon. We meet Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., or Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Fee for either 6-week class series is \$75, payable at the first class. First Tuesday class of the next series is October 13 and first Thursday class is October 15. Please bring a mat or blanket for floor postures. Enrollment is limited by availability of space. Please contact Anne Fleming at afleming528@gmail.com to reserve your space!

Drumming Thursdays from 6 – 7:30pm. Join us to learn Afro-Caribbean drumming. \$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 at SNUUC - 8pm-9pm, only \$12 per class - no contracts to sign, no commitment, just come and stretch! Questions? Contact Bonny Levenson.

The Empathy Circle has suspended meeting for a time but will begin again when there is more interest. Speak with Anne Fleming or Barbara Singer.

Our Thrift Shop

Sure, you've always wanted to or intended to volunteer at our Church Thrift Shop. But you work all week, then there are the kids, Saturdays belong to chores and sports, Sunday morning is services. Well, now you have a whole new opportunity to volunteer, and there are perks! The Thrift Shop is now open from noon to 4 pm on Sundays and we're looking for, you guessed it, VOLUNTEERS. Just think of it... not only do you get to purchase apparel at 1/2 price, but you help the community, and help SNUUC's finances, too.

So don't hesitate another minute. We'll make sure someone is at the Shop to show you the ropes. Just call Bonny Levenson or e-mail her at (bjw8889@aol.com) and tell her you want to sign up. If we can get a dozen or so volunteers, you'd only work about once every 8 weeks. Thanks!

P.S. we sure could use volunteers for the next two Sundays (10/4 & 10/11)!

Please Note: The October Thrift Shop Committee meeting will take place on Sunday October 18, one week later than it is usually held. Please speak to Bonny Levenson if you have any questions.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

The next Social Action committee meeting will be on Sunday, October 11 at 12:15pm in room 1. Everyone is welcome to join the committee.

There will be no movie night in October. Social Action Chairperson Don Obers is looking for someone to work with him on the monthly social action movie nights. If you are interested, please speak with Don.

South Ocean Art Gallery

The current South Ocean Art Gallery exhibit is called Art in Nature and features 3 photographers and 2 painters, all capturing subjects in nature. The artists are Carolyn Melillo, Shawn Ehlers, Martie Last, Rochelle Redfield and John Kearns. All of the beautiful artwork is available for purchase; the price is listed near each piece. The artists are donating 20% of their sales to SNUUC! Take a look in the foyer, you may find the perfect piece for you or to give as a gift.

★ LOOK AT THIS! ★
★ Doodle Bugs and Pigs that fly, ★
★ Dragons that cavort on high, ★
★ Owls with a glittering eye, ★
★ Creatures with expressions wry, ★
★ All this and more, ★
★ Oh my, oh my! ★
★ Unicrafters meet in the foyer on Thursday ★
★ afternoons from 1-3. Come join us for creative ★
★ craft expression, great conversation and ★
★ yummy treats. Experience and talent not a ★
★ prerequisite. (We will teach you.) There's a ★
★ job just waiting for you. ★
★ Our Unicrafters are; Alice Spatt, Helen Joy, ★
★ Nicki Barry, Rita Tancredi and Robin Norris ★
★ ★

In the RE Wing Thrift Shop Visioning Task Force

As I sit down to write this column, word has just come that the Rev. Forrest Church, one of Unitarian Universalism's most prominent ministers, has died. He was diagnosed three years ago with incurable esophageal cancer, and his dying was not a private affair. He talked about it in numerous sermons and interviews, and last year he published *Love and Death: My Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow*.

I've always liked Rev. Church's definition of religion (which he embraced many years ago, long before his terminal diagnosis). He said that **religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die.**

Worth pondering, that...

The reality of 1) being alive, and 2) having to die. To me, it's an awesome, mind-boggling situation—there's such joy and wonder in being here, and sooner or later we all must say goodbye.

How do we deal with this heavy truth? Does it lead us to cherish this life even more? To use our limited time well?

To remember to appreciate the people around us? To spread love and kindness? To leave the world a better place?

When I was growing up, my parents were skeptical about there being any kind of afterlife. They shared with me their view that *this* life is what's important—doing one's best to be a good person, to live a good life in the here and now.

These are classic, enduring questions of life. What happens after we die? What is our purpose here? Many other religious traditions dictate certain answers, while UUism supports a free and responsible search for such theological answers. Nevertheless, **parents, I urge you--don't be shy about sharing your answers to life's great questions with your children.**

Sometimes we UU adults are so wary of indoctrination, so determined to let children form their own answers, that for their sake we avoid revealing our own thoughts and beliefs. A mistake, in my opinion. Go ahead, answer their questions about *your* personal theology! Children want to know what you believe, what you doubt, what you wonder about. It's okay to let them know.

And make sure they know this, too: even as they explore and arrive at their own beliefs about a deity, an afterlife, ultimate reality, etc., you will always love them. Always and unconditionally.

Indeed, I think the Rev. Peter Morales (our denomination's new president) puts it well when he says, "Religion is much more *about what you love* than *about what you believe*." With the religious pluralism in this world, with the theological diversity in our congregations, these are wise words to live by. Let's share them with our children.

Yours for joy and wonder, love and life--
Jennifer

On September 20th, the Thrift Shop Visioning Task Force held an Open Forum at SNUUC following services. The purpose of the Forum was four fold: to stimulate congregational participation regarding the **future** of the Thrift Shop; to look at all possibilities for the Shop including substantial growth, maintaining the current status, or facing closure; to give the congregation an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the Shop; and to look at the relationship between the Congregation and the Thrift Shop.

The TSVTF was pleased with and grateful for the turnout from the Congregation. There was discussion about the purpose/mission of the shop and most agreed that we provide an important service to the community, as well as financial assistance to SNUUC. In addition, the TSVTF questioned folks about volunteering and suggested that with the Shop now open on Sundays, perhaps more people would find it an opportunity to participate. Discussion followed regarding the Thrift Shop's monetary contribution to SNUUC. It was noted that over \$1 million has been provided to SNUUC since 1982, when records first started being kept.

When asked about their thoughts regarding growth, most of the participants would like to see growth, but understood how much that depends on location and volunteers. There were many useful suggestions put forth on ways to maintain our current growth pattern, such as, a drop box for donations at SNUUC with a specific Sunday of the month as collection day. We also discussed the many ways a Thrift Shop website could be helpful. When asked about the possibility of closure, the feeling was unanimous that we must stay open. As Betty Shelton put it, closing the Shop was "inconceivable".

The Forum ended with a brief discussion about the relationship between the Congregation and the Thrift Shop. The consensus was that we need each other!

Thank you again to all those who participated in this useful, information-gathering meeting.

Bonny Levenson, TSVTF Chair

SNUUC Calendar October 2009

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>September 27</i>	28	29 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Thrift Shop Visioning Task Force 7 F	30	1 Unicrafters 1:00 F COM 4:15 M Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	2	3 NVC 9:45am F
4 Ways & Means 12 F Improv 6pm RE	5 Pilates 8pm F	6 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	7	8 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	9	10 NVC 9:45am F
11 Social Action & Environ 12 rm 1 Improv 6pm RE	12 Pilates 8pm F	13 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Membership 7:30pm F	14 La Leche 9am RE	15 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Girl Scouts 7-8:30 F Choir Practice 7:30 S	16	17 NVC 9:45am F LI Leadership Institute
18 Thrift Shop Committee 12 rm1 Talent Auction Event 12-4 RE Improv 6pm RE	19 Pilates 8pm RE	20 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	21 Board Meeting 7:00 F	22 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S	23 Rehearsal for Improv 8S	24 NVC 9:45am F ◆ Evening of Improv! A Talent Auction Event open to all! 8S
25 Thrift Shop Training 12 RE Improv 6pm RE	26 Pilates 8pm F	27 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	28	29 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Girl Scouts 7-8:30 F Choir Practice 7:30 S	30	31 NVC 9:45am F

Be a Sunday Volunteer at our
Thrift Shop!

Talent Auction Improv Event
Saturday, October 24

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.



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