



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

March 6, 2011 10:30am
Religion on One Foot

Guest Minister Rev. Paul Johnson

Coffee: *Volunteer Needed!*
Lock-up: Jayne Davison
Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt
Welcome:
Ways & Means: Mary Canada

March 13, 2011 10:30am
Times of Transition

Turn Your Clocks Ahead!

Guest preacher Bobby Newman

Coffee: *Volunteer Needed!*
Lock-up: Ken Bellafiore
Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ushers: Debbie Scharf & Doris Brass
Welcome:
Ways & Means: Rita Tancredi

March 20, 2011 10:30am
Making Mistakes, and Forgiveness

The Senior Youth Group

Coffee: Junior Youth Group
Lock-up: Brian Larkin
Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ushers: Robin Norris & Rita Tancredi
Welcome:
Ways & Means: Alice Spatt

March 27, 2011 10:30am
The Music of Enlightenment: Our Distinctive Religious Culture

Guest preacher Hollis Huston

Coffee: *Volunteer Needed!*
Lock-up: Peter Larsen
Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ushers: Jayne Davison & Andrew Spatt
Welcome:
Ways & Means: Arlene Brown

Our Minister Rev. Catherine Torpey is on sabbatical from January 1 until May 31, 2011. A sabbatical, much like a Sabbath, is intended to be a time of rest and reflection, allowing one to return to the usual round of duties with new vision and renewed enthusiasm. There is a Sabbatical Committee made up of SNUUC members whose role is to keep an eye on the congregation during the sabbatical months. Please contact one of these people if you have any questions; Anne Fleming, Denise Hibbert, Sharon Nanos, Rosemary Olander, Barbara Singer or Tom Weingarten.

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Our Preachers for March



Rev. Paul Johnson is our on-call Minister for March. Paul is in his ninth year as senior minister at the Shelter Rock congregation. Before that he served congregations in Princeton, N.J., Silver Spring, Md., and Hanska, Mn. Currently he serves on the public issues committee of the Long Island Council of Churches, the UUA's Commission on Social

Witness, and the board of Meadville/Lombard Theological School. He is a past president of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association. Paul's wife, Carol, is a social worker at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Albans/Queens. Their daughter, Kristin, is a junior at SUNY Albany, and their son David will graduate in June from a graduate program in architecture at UCLA. The title of his sermon here on March 6 is *Religion on One Foot*, and concerns the Golden Rule, the most common feature of the world's religions.

SNUUC member Bobby Newman will preach on March 13. Bobby is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Psychologist. Bobby is the first author on nine books regarding behavior therapy, the philosophy of behaviorism, the autism spectrum disorders, and utopian literature. He has published over two dozen articles in professional journals, as well as numerous popular magazine articles. A popular speaker, Bobby also provides direct treatment, staff training and consultation around the world, and has been honored for this work by several parents and professional groups. He has hosted series of radio call-in shows and been featured in professional training films. Bobby is a lay leader with the Full Inclusion Living and Learning Unitarian Universalist Society (FILL UUS). He is the director of Room to Grow and co-founder of the CUP Cafe (Coffee's Untapped Potential), a Fair Trade coffee cafe staffed entirely by individuals with developmental disabilities. Bobby is an OWL instructor, as well as a member of the trauma response and mental health caucus of the UUA and its Small Groups Ministry. He is Dana's husband and David's dad.

Our Senior Youth Group will lead the service on March 20. Their service is always interesting and well attended.

Hollis Huston often leads the service at SNUUC and he will preach here on March 27. **Hollis Huston** is a chaplain with Continuum Hospice Care in New York City, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, and a candidate for UU ministry.

OUR BOARDWALK

SNUUC's biggest fundraising effort gets under way in earnest this month, as the Stewardship Committee kicked off the 2011-12 Financial Commitment Drive, with the theme "Willing and Able," on Feb. 27. This is the time of year we decide how much of our own financial resources we are Willing and Able to commit to fund our priorities and dreams for next year.

Many congregants may not know that the Stewardship Committee's first stop in the annual canvass is at a Board of Trustees meeting, because as leaders the trustees are expected to pledge first.

Please show the Stewardship Committee what you, too, are Willing and Able to commit by making a timely pledge at one of its gatherings this month.

Speaking of priorities and dreams, the Board of Trustees came up with its own at an orientation Feb. 4. At that Friday night event, vice president Brian Larkin led trustees in a fun game that challenged trustees' knowledge of SNUUC and congregational leadership issues.

It was lively and enriching for trustees new and returning (which include, by the way, Jayne Davison, whom I inadvertently neglected to mention last month as a returning trustee!). As the board reflected on the fact that the vibrancy of the Religious Education Program is a marker of congregational health as a whole, the board committed to find new ways to support this program. Community outreach and congregational in-reach are two avenues the board will explore.

On March 6, the board is planning its annual visioning retreat. Trustees will be taking a new look at the decade-old final report of the Strategic Planning Committee that was adopted by the congregation in January 2001. The board will be examining the report's findings in light of SNUUC's new imperatives and dreams -- for instance, building a handicapped-accessible bathroom.

As we enter the third month of our minister's sabbatical, it gives me great happiness to reflect on the past two months of worship and special events that we've shepherded with the help of guest ministers and ministers-on-call. Look how Willing and Able we are!

With gratitude,

Rosemary Olander-Beach,
president, Board of Trustees

Willing and Able... in March

SNUUC's 2011-2012 Annual Financial Commitment Drive

At SNUUC we are self directing, self governing... and self financing. Do we fully appreciate that our financial commitments are SNUUC's life's blood? Do we fully appreciate that each and every one of our monetary gifts enable SNUUC's day-to-day operations?

The more we are **willing and able** to give, the more SNUUC can help enrich our lives, add value in the community, and thrive as our religious home.

To make our commitment decisions in March, we will reconsider where we are on the "Guide". Come to a Commitment Gathering (see opportunities below) to learn how the "Guide" can help us connect our commitments to our pocketbooks. We will also examine how our monetary gifts translate into the nuts and bolts of SNUUC's day-to-day operations.

Did you know that our congregation of now 134 members last year boiled down to only 79 "pledging units"? That is because many financial commitments are made by members who draw upon joint/family resources to meet their combined pledge. If you think about that, it is easier to appreciate how *amazingly* important and impactful are each of our financial commitments to SNUUC. Are we **willing and able** to give more and have more impact?

What else? Well, right now, our financial commitments provide 51% of our gross income, translating to about 65% of net income. Finance and funding theory teaches us that the more a congregation covers day-to-day operations from current pledges the healthier it is, and the better positioned for growth. In fact, more like 80% to 90% of our operating budget should come from our individual financial commitments. This fact challenges us. Are we **willing and able** to increase our percentage in a significant way?

Another way to think about it is by benchmarking our own gift against all gifts. You can see that our giving was much more heavily weighted in the \$1,000 and below category with fully 42 gifts in that zone. In other words, we are heavily dependent upon fewer donors to meet more of our needs.

If the total of last year's \$119.5K were split evenly across pledging units, we arrive at a "base" benchmark share of about \$1,500 (\$125/month). This fact challenges us. Are we **willing and able** to raise the "base" benchmark for our pledging? If those giving less than this "share" benchmark were to strive to come up to that number, we would create a much more solid and diversified foundation. Accordingly, the more we raise our giving into the zones above \$1,500, the better is our health and foundation.

There are lots more ways to "face the money". If we are **willing and able** we could also think about what would be a "total" benchmark share. What if we challenged ourselves to cover the total operating budget from our financial commitments? What would that number be on a pledging unit or per member basis?

Come to the Commitment Gatherings in March and find out. Learn, consider, then make an informed, generous and impactful Financial Commitment to SNUUC for fiscal July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

2011-12 "Willing and Able" Commitment Gatherings at SNUUC

- ◆ Pick a Sunday: March 6, 13 or 27 Attend a 45-minute Commitment Gathering in Worship Room at 12 noon after coffee hour on Sundays March 6, 13 and 27. Learn, think, commit.
- ◆ Special "newbies" lunch Sunday March 20
This gathering is designed for new and new-ish members, for those *thinking* about membership, and for "friends of SNUUC". Reserve your place at a Commitment Gathering lunch on Sunday March 20 at 12 noon in the RE wing. Reservations required.
- ◆ Sign up on Feb 27 for the session that suits you best

2010-11 Financial Commitments	
\$1 – 250	10
\$251 – 500	12
\$501 – 1,000	20
\$1,001 – 1,500	13
\$1,501 – 2,000	5
\$2,001 – 3,000	9
\$3,001 – 4,000	2
\$4,001 – 5,000	5
\$5,001 – 6,000	3
\$119,578	79

Lastly, would you be **willing and able** to complete the drive on time? Your decision is due to the Stewardship committee in March. This decision is a responsibility of membership. Come to a gathering. If you cannot, please take action by dropping off your signed Commitment Form into the Stewardship folder in the office, or mailing your signed form to SNUUC attn. Stewardship Committee. We are tiny committee of only two and so appreciate your support.

Respectfully, Stewardship Committee: Ellen Zaehring-Gach and Barbara Singer, Peter Larsen, Board Liaison

Among Ourselves

We received a card from former SNUUC member Don Stanford's children saying that Don passed away "gently" on February 10. Don was very active at SNUUC, served as our president in 1990, and was a great friend to many. Donations in memory of Don can be made to our local United Way.

We share the sad news that former SNUUC member and friend Erika Dobbelaar died of cancer on January 24, after being diagnosed only a short while before. Erika wrote and directed many children's RE plays at SNUUC. A service was held at St. Christopher's in Baldwin. Anne Fleming gave a donation to SNUUC in memory of Erika and her work with the children here, especially Anne's son Adam. Thank you Anne!

Evelyn Eickmeyer-Quinones writes us from SC; "I just wanted to let you know that I just learned that GA will be held in Charlotte, NC this year. Jose' and I live about 25 minutes away from Charlotte and would be willing to open our home for a nominal fee (to cover food!) in June when the Conference is here. We have room; two bedrooms, one with a trundle bed (that can be separated) and one room with a queen size sofa bed. Both are in the upstairs of our home (so one would need to climb stairs) and both bedrooms share a bathroom. We have a sweet dog, a lab mix, who is very friendly." Call the office if you would like to contact Evelyn about this.

We welcome new member John Bilello! John and his family; Lisa, Corey and Sarah have been very active at SNUUC for years. We're glad you're here John!

If you are someone who has been coming for a while but would like to learn more about becoming a member of SNUUC please speak with a Board member. They are the ones wearing yellow nametags on Sunday mornings.

Ways \$ Means

Saturday, May 7th, mark your calendar now! Our Annual Talent Auction is coming. This is your once a year opportunity to host and/or go to wonderful dinners. To bake a cake and purchase other tasty treats. Play poker, go bird watching, have a girls' night out, or, go to men rule the world night. We could go on and on. But maybe you can think of something better. Promissory notes are available now at the Ways & Means table in the foyer on Sundays, in the office, online under the forms link and sent out with the Wednesday e-mail. Fill out yours and carry, e-mail or snail mail it to SNUUC. Please keep in mind our silent auction. Any white elephants you want to donate? A great gift you can't use? We can. Donations? Questions? Please speak with Alice Spatt or Arlene Brown.

Committees at Work

All committee chairs are reminded that committee Budget Requests for 2011-2012 are due to the treasurer by March 13. A Budget Request Form is available on the desk in the office or at this link <http://www.snuuc.org/Forms/Budget%20Request%20Form%202011-2012.docx> Thank you for your help!!

Ways & Means Committee meeting on Sunday, March 6 at noon in the RE wing.

Thrift Shop Committee meeting on Sunday, March 13 at noon in room 1.

RE Committee meeting Sunday, March 20 at noon in the RE wing.

Board meeting Monday, March 21 at 7pm in the foyer.

the Board thanks...

Barbara Singer and Anne Flemming for stepping in and leading the memorial service for former SNUUC member Evelyn Senseney on January 29.

Ted Tiller and Ilene Corina for organizing the very successful fundraiser for Mitochondrial Disease on February 5.

Ellen Zaehring Gach and Jay Gach for bringing us the wonderful music at the concert on February 20 celebrating African American History Month.

* 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 if we are to** *
* **continue to have Sunday Coffee Hour.** *
* **No one has signed up for March.** *
* It does not have to be elaborate. You can simply *
* bring 1/2 gallon of milk and come at 10am and make *
* and serve coffee, food is optional. Ask a friend *
* or member of a committee you are on to do it with *
* you. Also watch for "pot luck" Sundays *
* where you can bring one thing to share. *
* Please choose a date and speak with Mary Brower *
* or Lisa in the office to schedule. You can also sign up *
* on the sheet; it's on the coffee table on Sunday. *
* **Thanks!!** *

Our UU Community

Seder

Our SNUUC Seder will be held on Sunday, April 17 at 5pm. Ellen Minzner has again offered to coordinate the event. If you wish to

attend, you must RSVP and sign up to contribute to the meal (a main dish, side dish or dessert and beverages), recipes are provided. Contact Ellen today to sign up, emkpsyd@yahoo.com

Art

Our next South Ocean Art Gallery exhibit features the work of Charles Santopadre and Carol Bruder. The Opening Reception will be on Friday, March 11, from 7-9. Charles has exhibited with us before and sold a lot of giclees which he'll also be selling this time. Join us on Friday night to meet the artists and enjoy beautiful art, music and light refreshments.

SAF

Applications available for Student Internship Program. The Student

Activity Fund (SAF) is a grant program funded by the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock that enables UU *high school seniors and undergraduate college students* to perform significant community service while earning money to help finance their education.

The purpose of SAF is to encourage young UUs to live their religious values through internships in social action, advocacy and service provision. Through the years, students have participated in the program in their home towns and all over the world. The program is open to high school seniors and undergraduate college students whose families are members of Long Island UU Congregations. Read about the experiences of last year's student participants on the Long Island Area Council website, <http://www.liacuu.org>. **Application Deadline for Summer 2011 and the 2011-12 Academic Year is APRIL 15, 2011.** Applications and more information about the Program are available on the LIAC Website (<http://www.liacuu.org>) or by contacting Linda Pfeiffer, Coordinator of the SAF Program by e-mail (lpfeiffer@optonline.net) or phone (631-584-6854).

The Shelter Rock Singles meets monthly, and welcomes all single adults. It convenes on third Fridays, and the next meeting will be March 18th, 7:30pm, in the Social Hall, at the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock Rd., in Manhasset. While it is supported by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock, there is no religious slant to these gatherings. \$10/person. For more information, please contact Ben Bortin, 516-627-6560 x134.

Sophia Fahs Camp news: Do you have a child or youth who will be entering 3rd-12th grade next fall? Would your child/youth be interested in attending the 2011 Sophia Fahs UU Religious Education Camp on Shelter Island for a week this August? Camp will begin 3 pm Sunday, Aug. 7, and end on Friday, Aug. 12. Applications were mailed in early February with a due date of March 15. Campers' medical forms need to be signed by a medical professional, so you may want to make any necessary office appointments *now* in order to meet the March 15 deadline and get the best tuition rate. Adult volunteers are needed! Speak with Jennifer Greene to get an application and to learn more.

Registration is now open for the UU District of Metro NY 2011 Annual Meeting! When: May 6-7, 2011

Where: Hyatt Morristown, Morristown NJ

Highlights

* *Keynote Address* by the **Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed**, author, lecture, and Affiliated Faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

* *On Friday night*, **Peter Mayer** in concert.

* *Outstanding workshop and caucusing opportunities.*

* *The UU Network Mall.*

* *Awards and scholarships presentation.*

* *Election* of the District President, Trustees at Large, members of the District Nominating Committee, and the District UUA Trustee.

Complete details, including registration and hotel information, are available at <http://www.uumetrony.org/am11/>. Register online or through the mail by printing the online form. Online registration ends April 29, or postmarked by April 26. **Hotel reservations must be made by April 26** to get the discounted rate. For the discounted rate, visit <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/UUMN> to reserve online. Or call 1-800-223-1234 and say you are attending the Unitarian Universalist meeting.

Security at SNUUC

Once again cars were vandalized during an evening event at SNUUC, this time on February 4. Car windows were broken and things were stolen. We have increased exterior lighting and will call the Freeport Police Department when we have evening events to ask that they increase their drives through the property. The board plans to investigate what surveillance equipment might deter future break-ins. *In the meantime, it might help to keep out of sight any valuables you may leave in your vehicle parked on the property.*

In the RE Wing

Here's what's been going on in the RE program at SNUUC...

The **Discovering Years** students have talked about families, why they're important. The books for story time have shown that there are all kinds & configurations of families. Love, of course, is what makes a family!

Other recent happenings in the youngest class: the "bird cookies" that they made and hung outside are long gone, but happy memories of tromping in the snow linger. And students participated in the "Butterfly Friends" skit during Jennifer's service--in which characters showed solidarity with one another. (Some butterflies were refused help because, they were told, they weren't "the same.") Many thanks to teachers Lisa Sobel and Lisa Hilliard--these children are the future of RE, and you're doing an absolutely wonderful job creating time each week that will be enjoyable and meaningful for them.

The **In Our Hands** class has been taught in February by Marilyn Pignataro and Hilliary Cole. This winter, the class has enacted and discussed a skit in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., and they've talked about resolving conflict with guest speaker Bobby Newman. To begin the "Earth Awareness" unit, Marilyn and Hilliary prepared "smelly containers," "feelie boxes," and "white stuff" to be tasted. Kudos to Hilliary and Marilyn for stepping up to lead this class. It may have the smallest number of students, but each child benefits so much from the time and love you give to your teaching role. You're both marvelous volunteers--thank you so very much.

The **Jr. Youth** class is led by dedicated volunteer Meghan Stark, plus Brian Larkin, Don Obers, and other subs--thank you, Lisa Bilello & Sharon Kennelty-Cohen. What a great place to be on Sunday mornings! They talk about important things like community service, school, and alternative endings to Teddy Tiller's book about bullying. In the spring, they may be participating in a Great South Bay clean-up project. Meghan, thank you for your willingness to continue as teacher through the end of the year--your commitment to this role is an invaluable gift to these youth.

The **Sr. Youth** class is getting ready for their worship service on March 20. The theme: Making Mistakes, and Forgiveness. (And thanks to Laura D'Angelo for all her help with the service planning!) The sr. youth have also had sessions on abortion, drug decriminalization, and St. Valentine. And I'm so pleased to welcome Sharon Kennelty-Cohen to the teaching team! She joins Bill Bryson-Brockmann and Bob McGough, plus Lisa Itts and Diane Hawkins (Lisa and Diane are both presently on family leave). And many thanks to Ilene Corina for coordinating their first bake sale to raise funds for the Midnight Run, tentatively scheduled for May 6.

A reminder: applications for Sophia Fahs UU RE Camp are due soon. (Postmark March 15th for the best tuition rate!) And what, you may wonder, is Sophia Fahs UU RE Camp? It's a weeklong, sleep-away camp each August for children/youth who are entering grades 3 - 12. Kids from UU congregations across Long Island come to Shelter Island to spend a week together--it's a great sense of community, there's plenty of fun, and time for meaningful exploration of our values. This camp is beloved by campers and staffers alike. If you're an adult interested in applying to join the camp staff, speak to me or I can direct you to many of the others at SNUUC with camp staff experience. The application forms and other camp info are available at SNUUC and also online at liacuu.org.

Peace, Jennifer

Bess and Maurice Forge Scholarship Application 2011 The Bess and Maurice

Forge Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior presently enrolled in the SNUUC RE / Youth Program or involved with SNUUC and who has been involved in social justice and community service in memory of Bess and Maurice Forge, long time members of SNUUC. Bess and Maurice were social activists during their lifetimes. They were leaders in social justice issues and denominational affairs. They were active members of the Social Action Committee. Applications (attached to the Wednesday e-mail) are due no later than **Sunday March 20, 2011** and must be submitted online to committee members Ilene Corina, Jim Hawkins and Arlene Brown.

★ **RE hosted an Intergenerational Project in February** where many ages made cards, wrote letters
★ and collected items to ship to soldiers in Baghdad. Meghan Stark tells us that the packages that we sent to the
★ military arrived in Iraq on February 21 and the soldiers all say thank you so much!
★ They are still collecting things through February. Please go to [http://www.give2thetroops.org/pdf/](http://www.give2thetroops.org/pdf/COMPLETELISTOFITEMSTODONATEGTTT.pdf)
★ [COMPLETELISTOFITEMSTODONATEGTTT.pdf](http://www.give2thetroops.org/pdf/COMPLETELISTOFITEMSTODONATEGTTT.pdf) to see the list of what they are collecting, and bring items to
★ the RE wing
★

SNUUC Calendar March 2011

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February 27 Canvass Sunday	28 Pilates 5pm F	<i>March 1</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	2 	3 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S Concert Rehearsal 6 S	4 	5 NVC 9:45am F Talent Auction event F&S 7pm
6 Ways & Means 12 RE Commitment Gathering 12 S	7 Pilates 5pm F	8 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	9 LaLeche 9am RE	10 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	11 Foyer Art Opening Reception 7-9 F	12 NVC 9:45am F Snow date for 3/5 Talent Auction event
13 <i>Turn Your Clocks Ahead</i> Committee Budget Requests Due Commitment Gathering 12 S	14 Pilates 5pm F	15 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	16 	17 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	18 LICA concert rehearsal	19 NVC 9:45am F Talent Auction event F&S 7pm
20 Sr Youth Service RE Committee 12 RE Newbies Commitment Lunch 12 Long Island Composers Alliance Concert 2:00	21 Pilates 5pm RE Board Meeting 7:00 F	22 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Social Action Event	23 	24 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	25 	26 NVC 9:45am F
27 Commitment Gathering 12 S	28 Pilates 5pm & 8pm F	29 Yoga 5:30-6:30 PULSE 7-9 F	30 	31 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>April 1</i> 	2 NVC 9:45am F

South Ocean Art Gallery Opening Reception
Friday, March 11, 7-9

All Committee Budget Requests due to the Treasurer
on March 13

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13

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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