



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

May 1, 2011 10:30am

Guest preacher Rev. Alison Cornish

Transitions - William Bridges, author of the classic book "Transitions," reminds us that adulthood is filled with endings, beginnings, and the fertile times in between. As both the congregation and the natural world move through times of transition, we explore the gifts, losses and surprises of the transitions in all our lives.

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt

Lock-up: Arlene Brown

Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ways & Means: Mary Canada

May 8, 2011 10:30am

Guest preacher Hollis Huston

So Loud I Can't Hear You: the Vanishing of Real Presence

This Sabbatical Sunday is made possible by a financial gift from Anne Fleming

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Doris Brass & Debbie Scharf

Lock-up: Steve Lester

Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ways & Means: Rita Tancredi

May 15, 2011 10:30am

Guest preacher Laura D'Angelo

Too Cool to Pray

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris

Lock-up: Jayne Davison

Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ways & Means: Alice Spatt

May 22, 2011 10:30am

Guest preacher Hollis Huston

Telling Your Story: Crossing the Barriers of Class and Grievance

This Sabbatical Sunday is made possible by a financial gift from Barbara Singer

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Jayne Davison & Anne Fleming

Lock-up: Brian Larkin

Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ways & Means: Arlene Brown

May 29, 2010 10:30am

Worship Leader Rita Hines

Faith, Flowers and Remembrance

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Andrew Spatt & Volunteer Needed

Lock-up: Ken Bellafiore

Social Action Table: Hildegard Schubert

Ways & Means: Robin Norris

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 on-call Minister for May



*Meet the
Rev. Alison Cornish*

A life-long Unitarian Universalist, the Rev. Alison Cornish came to the ministry quite gradually. Following her graduation from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and the University of York, UK, she pursued a career in architectural history and historic preservation. She was equally comfortable wearing a hard hat on site or advocating for preservation in community council rooms, and worked with a variety of museums, nonprofits and governmental agencies on their historic building problems.

Alison actually began her relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork in 1989, soon after leaving her native New England. Elected President of the UUCSF Board, she had served most of her term when she made her decision to become a minister. This entailed commuting to Andover Newton Theological School, in Massachusetts, for four and a half intensive years of study and practical training. One of her last official acts as Board President was to sign, in 1999, the contract for the 2.25 acres where the UUCSF eventually built its meetinghouse. After graduation and ordination in 2004, Alison became the UUCSF's consulting minister, and was later called as the congregation's first settled minister. As well as serving the UUCSF, she continues to pursue her interest in historic buildings by providing consulting services to Partners for Sacred Places, a national nonprofit that works with congregations of all denominations and their historic buildings. Along with her co-author, Jackie Clement, Alison is the author of the new Tapestry of Faith curriculum, "Living in the Stream: Our Unitarian Universalist Story," for the UUA.

OUR BOARDWALK

As we end April and head into May, we transition from focusing on our income -- our gifts to ourselves -- and consider how to spend this treasure.

As you can see from the Stewardship Committee's report in this issue of the Open Line, the congregation has maintained its financial equilibrium in the face of some reduced pledges. This is significant. I hope you will take the time to read the committee's entire report.

The board is so grateful to the seemingly endless hours that Ellen Zaehringer-Gach and Barbara Singer devoted to this canvass drive. Their compelling "ask," their ability to help us speak honestly and deeply about money, is a true gift to the congregation.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees will be working diligently in the next few weeks to formulate a budget that sustains and, we hope, grows SNUUC's programs. Please plan to attend the Budget Hearing on May 1 and the Biannual Meeting on May 22, both at noon in the sanctuary.

It's with some sadness that the board learned that our Director of Religious "Exploration," Jennifer Greene, will not be renewing her contract with SNUUC. We will miss Jennifer's energy, hard work and sunny disposition. Among Jennifer's reasons for leaving is a desire to pursue her other passions -- among them food justice -- and we're so happy that although Jennifer will formally leave SNUUC at the end of June, she'll remain close to our hearts and not such a far drive away in Bellport.

The Board of Trustees will be working with the RE Committee in the next few weeks to form a DRE Search Committee with the hope of having a new director in the fall.

And, finally, the board was so happy to learn that Carl Spatt will be honored with the June Z. Gillespie Award at the Metro District Meeting on May 7 in New Jersey. This award, which is nominated by the district board, "recognizes an individual who has encouraged congregational participation in denominational affairs and events at the district or national level. Through personal action and encouragement, this individual has developed denominational awareness and support of the denomination within his or her congregation." Carl is being honored with co-recipient Bill Slezak for hard work over the years to grow the Chalice Lighters program. We are so grateful for Carl for helping us to be our best selves in the greater UU community.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and a spring bursting with energy.

With gratitude,
Rosemary Olander-Beach, president,
Board of Trustees

 * All members are asked to mark your calendars and attend *
 * our Budget Hearing on Sunday, May 1 and our Bi-Annual Meeting on Sunday May 22. *
 * Both meetings will be in the sanctuary beginning at noon. *
 * All Committee chairs are reminded that Annual Reports are due to the office by May 11. *



Willing and Able
 SNUUC's 2011-2012 Annual Financial Commitment Drive
At the finish line with \$113,860 of commitments,
and awaiting a few more...
Keep rethinking "possible"!

Over the past weeks we discussed our fiscal needs and refreshed on the "Guide" and other practical concepts that help us frame our annual giving to SNUUC. We reconnected with the privilege and obligation of membership – to make a financial commitment in good faith and to keep that commitment in good standing. Most of us have made our decisions.

As of April 17, 2011 we received 73 financial commitments (pledging units) totaling \$113,860. Thank you, all.

2011-12 Financial Commitments, as of 4.17.11	
\$1 – 250	11
\$251 – 500	11
\$501 – 1,000	16
\$1,001 – 1,500	9
\$1,501 – 2,000	4
\$2,001 – 3,000	10
\$3,001 – 4,000	7
\$4,001 – 5,000	4
\$5,001 – 6,000	1
\$113,860	73

The results tell this story: 28 pledging units increased their pledges, six are the brand-new pledges of new members, 27 held firm and 12 reduced the amount of their gifts as compared to the current year. These 73 gifts bring SNUUC about \$6,000 more than last year for this group of pledging units.

The increased and new pledges helped us maintain equilibrium in face of some fairly significant reductions. We demonstrated our willingness and ability to maintain a solid level of giving.

On the other hand, our giving remains skewed to the lower absolute dollar ranges, as shown in the distribution table (similar to the current year). Unfortunately, it appears that we will not top last year's total. Our expectation is that when 100 percent of gifts are received our final number may be almost on par with last year's level, but we are not there yet.

While we await the last few decisions, we have submitted this result to the Board. Now begins the hard work of developing our operating budget for the coming fiscal year.

This result gives us all something to think about. We celebrate the financial energy, the willingness and ability, that has achieved this collective gift to SNUUC. We acknowledge, however, that this level of giving is not enough to elevate us to the place where we can fund the desired 80 to 90 percent of our operating budget from our own pledges. Are we willing and able to strive for that in the future?

Let's keep on rethinking "possible."

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

Among Ourselves

We welcome new members **Tina Marie Carr**, **Joe** and **Risa Centenni** and their daughter **Kira** and **Lisa Oldendorp**. Please be sure to say hello on Sundays and welcome them to SNUUC.

Congratulation to our recent college graduates!
Rachel Bryson-Brockmann is graduating from Clark University with a degree in English and Journalism. Rachel has an internship this summer and is looking for a job writing for magazines or online. **Sam Bryson-Brockmann** graduates from Drew University as a History and Pan African Studies major. Sam will be teaching Middle School Social Studies in Kansas City, MO with Teach for America. **Will Stevens** graduates with a BA in Music from the Purchase Conservatory of Music. Will is looking for a job in recording and production. **Matt Levenson** will graduate from the University of Georgia with a BA in International Affairs from the School of Public and International Affairs and will complete a Masters in International Policy in July. Matt will attend Aberystwyth University in Aberystwyth, Wales in September to pursue a one-year Masters in Strategic Studies.

New Spring Directories are available at the welcome table in the foyer. Look for the one with your name on it on Sunday.

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 on Sunday, May 1 at noon in the RE wing. Please attend to find out how you can help at this year's Talent Auction!

Thrift Shop Committee meeting is meeting on Sunday, May 15 at noon in the Sanctuary.

There will be a Teacher Appreciation lunch following the service on May 15 at noon. This Pot Luck will celebrate our volunteers in the RE program. Please RSVP to Ilene Corina or Lisa Bilello.

Board meeting Monday May 16 at 7pm in the foyer.

Sabbatical Committee meeting Wednesday on May 18 at 7pm.

Talent Auction!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our popular **Talent Auction and dinner on Saturday, May 7.** Dinner is at 4:45pm and the Auction begins promptly at 6pm. Enjoy a delicious dinner for just \$15 for junior youth to adult, and \$10 for ages 5 and up and then let the games begin! Reserve your space for dinner; sign up at the Ways & Means table on Sunday. Soon you will have a chance to look at the Talent Auction Booklet and preview all the great things that will be auctioned that evening. Check at the Ways & Means table on Sunday April 24 to pick up your copy of the booklet. The booklet is available online now, go to www.SNUUC.org and look for Upcoming Events on the first page. *If you are unable to attend on May 7 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. Please keep in mind our silent auction. A great gift you can't use? We can. Questions? Speak with Alice Spatt or Arlene Brown.

Security at SNUUC

Once again cars were vandalized during an evening event at SNUUC, this time on April 9. You are advised to call the Freeport Police when you have an evening event at SNUUC and ask for extra surveillance. The board plans to investigate what surveillance equipment might deter future break-ins. *It will also help to keep out of sight any valuables you may leave in your vehicle parked on the property.*

the Board thanks...

... all the members and friends who made a financial commitment to SNUUC for the upcoming year.

... Ellen Zaehring-Gach and Barbara Singer for the Stewardship Committee's tremendous work in compelling the congregation to decide how "Willing and Able" it is to sustain itself.

... the amazing anonymous congregant who donated a brand new vacuum cleaner to replace the former ailing one.

... Anne Fleming and Barbara Singer, both of whose financial gifts support Sabbatical Sundays in May.

SNUUC Happenings

Improv

Spontaneity, Creativity, Fun! Improv classes continue at SNUUC in May. No prior experience is required. Classes are held Sunday afternoons from 1 to 3. The spring Improv series commences on May 1 thru 22. A series costs \$80 for returning students, \$100 for new students. Contact Brian Larkin bo-larkin@optonline.net or Michael Rock xmrock@gmail.com.

Midnight Run

The Midnight Run, a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless, will be held by SNUUC on Friday, May 27 at 5pm, adults and youth are invited to participate. Senior Youth will go out for the Midnight Run at 8pm - and return to SNUUC at 2am May 28. Adult participation is needed; a minimum 3 drivers. Donations needed: Toiletries, men's clothing (ONLY MENS), new men's socks, underwear, back packs, carry bags. **100 of each:** water bottles, juice boxes, granola bars, plastic bags, packages of mustard, mayonnaise, napkins, forks, knives. For the **day of the run we need:** whole wheat bread (for 100 sandwiches), lunch meat, fresh fruit, lettuce. Volunteers needed to make a hot meal; Chili, Stew. **Speak with a Senior Youth member to find out how you can help.**

Yoga

Gentle Yoga with Spirit will be taking a short break! But not to worry – we have great plans for Summer Yoga complete with sizzling stretches, mindful meditations, and beautiful balancing postures. Mark your calendars to join us for one or more of the upcoming summer series!

***Please note – in order to run each series, we need a paid commitment to attend by at least six people. Reserve now so we can know which series will be running for sure!*

Proposed late spring and summer yoga class series --
- **Yoga One Day Session** – a 1-day session of Gentle Yoga on Thursday (June 23), 4:30- 5:30p.m.

- **July Yoga 5-week Summer Series** – Tuesday evenings 5:30 - 6:30 p.m (June 21-July 26 *No Class July 5*) - Thursday mornings 9-10 a.m. (June 30 – July 28).

- **August Yoga 5 Week Summer Series** - Tuesday evenings (August 2 - 30)

- **August Yoga 4-week Summer Series** - Thursday mornings (August 4 - 25).

Enrollment fees for these programs are \$12.50 (one-day session), \$75 (6-wk series), \$62.50 (5-wk series), and \$50 (4-week series). The fee is payable at the first class.

Please contact Anne Fleming at afleming528@gmail.com to reserve your space.

Drumming

Drumming Thursdays from 6 – 8pm. Join us in the RE wing to learn African drumming. \$20 a session. There is usually a drum available if you can't bring your own.

Pilates

Monday Night Pilates at SNUUC - 5pm, only \$12 per class - no contracts to sign, no commitment, just come and stretch!

Questions? Contact Bonny Levenson or Jeanne Menoutis.

South Ocean Art Gallery

Help make our next Foyer Art Show a Success! Show your Pride! Calling all artists for this first ever **LGBT Art Show!** *Paintings, Prints, Sculptures, Photo's*, Speak with Cliff or Gary (516) 546-5697 or by e-mail soulbear@optonline.net to display your art. Your work can be offered to sell. Join us at the Opening Gala Reception on Friday, May 20, meet the artists, and enjoy food, wine and live music with Phil Kennelty Cohen.

Our UU Community

The UU Congregation of Central Nassau invites you to their Garden Stage concert, featuring Sloan Wainwright, Friday, May 6. Tickets are \$20 in advance/ \$22 at the door, show is at 8:30 with open mic at 7:30, signup at 7. "Sloan's incredible gift is not only her unique songwriting ability but also her smoky, deep voiced rendition of songs. Her musical style melds the best of pop, folk, jazz and blues to create a soulful hybrid." For tickets and information email calendar@uuccn.org. Delicious homemade refreshments are available at intermission.

The UU Congregation of Queens is pleased to announce they are hosting a Social Justice Movie Night on Saturday May 7 at 7pm. See a sneak preview of the documentary film that follows diverse people through the first 5 years of rebuilding their lives in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina, titled *Land of Opportunity*. Discussion and refreshments follow the screening. Admission \$5, youth 21 and under, free. Proceeds benefit the UUCQ soup kitchen.

UUMAC is coming!! Save the dates: July 17 -23, 2011 for this family conference! Join many of your SNUUC friends as we head for the lovely rolling hills of Center Valley, PA for rest, relaxation, stimulating conversation, spiritual enlightenment, long lasting friends, good food, and great energy. To find out more about UUMAC you can look over a pamphlet found in the foyer rack; check it out on the UUMAC website; or talk to some of the many folks in our SNUUC family who attend: the Brower-Tillers, the Diggle-Foxes, the GrayStolls, the Crocetto family, the Comptons, or the Corinas. Consider a UU vacation this summer...it may change the path of your life!

GA is June 22- 26 in Charlotte, NC. If you ever thought about attending the UUA General Assembly, this is the time to do it! The GA attracts some 3,000-5,000 Unitarian Universalists from all over the USA and Canada. Go to the [UUA website](http://uua.org) for more information. **If you do not want to drive, LIAC is offering round trip coach bus transportation for \$95.** Contact David Silver at dsilver360@aol.com for additional info.

In the RE Wing

It is with a mixture of fondness, regret, and gratitude that I share the news of my decision not to renew my contract with SNUUC for next year. Working with the children, youth, and adults here has been such a wonderful experience for me, and I will miss you all! But it's time for me to move on, to pursue my passion for food education and humane advocacy. I will still be on the job through June, doing my best to facilitate the program's transition to my successor. Thank you all so very much for the privilege of having served you these past three years!

Food Not Bombs:

On Sunday, March 27th, a few SNUUC adults and youth joined me in a scouting visit to the Long Island Food Not Bombs food-share operation in Hempstead (just one of several locations around the island). The Hempstead foodshare is held every Sunday afternoon at 2 pm, near the Hempstead Long Island Rail Road station.

Our impression after observing, participating, and speaking with the coordinator was that this weekly event would be better as an ongoing service opportunity than as a one-time field trip for a large number of youth. The maximum number of new volunteers they can really handle is six. So if any SNUUC youth and their parents are interested in volunteering at the foodshare, and/or arranging to pick up and transport food donations from local grocery stores, please know that this opportunity is available each week, and the foodshare organizers would welcome your participation.

Publicity and thanks:

Cheers and thanks to Marilyn Pignataro for recent publicity efforts! Marilyn wrote two press releases in the past month: one about the SPLASH trip she organized for the 3rd-5th grade class, and one about the Easter can hunt. I'm writing this column a week before the Easter can hunt actually takes place, but to all those who will have contributed cans to the hunt/food drive, thank you so much for your donations!

Time to celebrate:

And finally, the RE Committee is planning a potluck lunch affair in celebration of all who have volunteered this year with the RE program. It will be May 15th after the service, so please plan to attend if you've been a volunteer, or if you want to help celebrate those who have volunteered!

May 15th will also be the final day of regular RE classes, with an end-of-the-year party planned for the students for May 22nd, and no RE planned for Memorial Day weekend.

Teaching next year?

And even as this RE year is winding down, planning for 2011-2012 needs to get underway! So I hope many SNUUC members will step forward now to teach next year. The children and youth of this congregation are truly a joy to be with.

With much gratitude for what we've done together, and great hopes for this program's promising future—
Jennifer

Notes from the RE Chairs

Any senior youth going on the Midnight Run on Friday, May 27 must RSVP by May 20, 2011. Drivers must register also by May 20. (see 'SNUUC Happenings' for more info)

Anyone volunteering on the day of the Midnight Run should be at SNUUC at 4:00 on May 27. Please bring \$5.00 per person for pizza. Chaperones for a sleep over should see Ilene Corina by May 20.

There will be a Teacher Appreciation lunch following the service on May 15 at noon. This Pot Luck lunch will celebrate our volunteers in the RE program. Please RSVP to Ilene Corina or Lisa Bilello.

Any committee holding an event and would like **child care**, please see Ilene Corina or Lorrie Bellafiore at least 2 weeks ahead of time so child care can be arranged.

Shopping online?

Click through amazon.snuuc.org and SNUUC gets 5-6% of your Amazon purchase. It's easy and doesn't cost you a penny more!

Just about everyone enjoys Coffee after our service on Sundays. *We need volunteers if we are to continue to have Sunday Coffee Hour.* **Volunteers are needed for all the Sundays in May.** 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.

The logo for PULSE, featuring the word "PULSE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A red pulse line is positioned above the letter "U".

Train to be a Patient's Advocate, You can Make A Difference! Family Centered Patient Advocacy Education is a one-day course that teaches the family, friends of the patient, or interested community members, how to become part of the medical "team" to help the patient get the best care possible. Monday May 2, 2011, 7:30am – 5:00pm at The Center for Learning and Innovation, 1979 Marcus Ave Suite 101 Lake Success, NY 11042 **Fee for Course: \$55.00** Speak to Ilene Corina for more information. Register Here: [Patient Advocate Training](#)

SNUUC Calendar May 2011

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Budget Hearing 12 S Ways & Means 12 RE Improv 1-3 F	<i>2</i> Pilates 5pm F	<i>3</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>6</i> Set up for talent auction	<i>7</i> NVC 9:45am F TALENT AUCTION! Dinner 4:45, Auction 6pm
<i>8</i> Improv1-3 F	<i>9</i> Pilates 5pm F	<i>10</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>11</i> LaLeche 9am RE	<i>12</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> NVC 9:45am F
<i>15</i> Thrift Shop Comm 12 S RE Volunteers Appreciation Pot Luck Lunch 12 RE & K Improv 1-3 F UU Connect Picnic Rain Place RE & K 2-5	<i>16</i> Pilates 5pm F Board Meeting 7:00 F	<i>17</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>18</i> Sabbatical Comm 7F	<i>19</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>20</i> Foyer Art Opening Reception, A GLBT Group Exhibit 7-9	<i>21</i> NVC 9:45am F
<i>22</i> Bi-Annual Meeting 12 S Improv 1-3 F	<i>23</i> Pilates 5pm RE	<i>24</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>27</i> Midnight Run 4 RE & K	<i>28</i> NVC 9:45am F
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Pilates 5pm & 8pm F	<i>31</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 PULSE 7-9 F	<i>June 2</i>	<i>2</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> NVC 9:45am F



Budget Hearing on Sunday, May 1
Bi-Annual Meeting on Sunday May 22

Talent Auction Saturday, May 7
Dinner at 4:45pm, Auction at 6pm

RE Volunteer Appreciation Pot Luck Lunch May 15
Foyer Art Opening Reception Friday May 20 7-9

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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