



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

November 6, 2011 10:30am **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS** Rev. Catherine Torpey
Welcoming Constraint

Kicking off a month of worships around the theme of hospitality
Chalice Lighters Sunday

Coffee: Robin Norris & Rita Tancredi
Lock-up: Rosemary Olander Beach

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt
Ways & Means: Rita Hines & Bobby Newman

November 13, 2011 10:30am Rev. Catherine Torpey
Transgender Day of Remembrance

Coffee: VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Lock-up: Jim Crocetto

Ushers: Doris Brass & Debbie Scharf
Ways & Means: Rita Hines & Bobby Newman

November 20, 2011 10:30am Rev. Catherine Torpey
Guest at Your Table

A service with our Junior Youth

Coffee: Senior Youth
Lock-up: Rosemary Olander Beach

Ushers: Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris
Ways & Means: Rita Hines & Bobby Newman

November 27 2011 10:30am Rev. Catherine Torpey
Welcoming Peace

Hanging of the Greens follows Worship

Coffee: Lorrie & Ken Bellafiore
Lock-up: Arlene Brown

Ushers: Jayne Davison & Anne Fleming
Ways & Means: Rita Hines & Bobby Newman

Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister - Minister@SNUUC.org
Office Hours Tuesday and Wednesday 10-3, Thursday 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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Musings

from the Minister



Dear friends -

There is a worldwide movement afoot. The Arab Spring has continued into autumn with the fall of Muammar Qaddafi in Libya and smooth voting in Tunisia offering hope that democracy has a chance to flourish there. Here in the United States, the Occupy Wall Street movement has inspired in many a hope for our own renewed democracy.

I have been down at Zucotti Park with the protesters on a number of occasions. There is a quirky and motley crowd down there, with lots of people giving lots of strong opinions on a wide range of topics. I love the feeling of a true public square, where individuals are free to stand on their soapboxes and others surround them and listen and argue. The most interesting moment for me was when one tall, African American man in khakis and a polo shirt was trying to convince a group of the protesters that what America needed was for more individuals to take responsibility for their own futures and stop expecting hand-outs. He was surrounded by people of all sizes, races and persuasions, eager to convince him of why history or societal failures or lack of proper legislation was stacking the deck against individuals. I found few of the arguments on either side very well-reasoned or insightful, but in that moment and many others, what I loved was the lively debate of important issues.

Many aspects of this movement mirror what we strive for in Unitarian Universalism: an openness to all voices, to all people of good will who would like to participate; a search for a more just society, which supports the individual in their quest for happiness and meaning; a willingness to wait and see what emerges from the group's common struggle, rather than an imposition of a creed from on high.

Many criticize the OWS movement for not knowing what it wants. Many criticize Unitarian Universalists for similar reasons. But I think it's obvious in both cases what people want: more justice, more compassion, more meaning, more community. If we do not rush to find easy answers, the way to achieve these great ambitions is sure to emerge.

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

Stewardship does not end with our pledge: That's what I've been pondering as the congregational year gets into full swing. Most of us think deeply about stewardship during our annual canvass, and we may start the new congregational year with the idea that stewardship can be dispensed with in our weekly or monthly pledge payment.

But stewardship informs almost everything we do at SNUUC -- hosting coffee hour, teaching religious education, ushering, keeping the kitchen stocked, serving on vital committees. These are all functions that keep the congregation going.

With the Association Appeal, we have an opportunity to steward the larger Unitarian Universalist community -- national, regional and local. SNUUC's Association Appeal began October 16, asking members to contribute \$88 above and beyond their annual pledges to fund the congregation's dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Metro District and the Long Island Area Council. These dues add up to about \$12,000 a year, an amount each member can fund with an extra \$1.69 per week.

I have personal reasons for giving to the appeal: Ensuring that when I call the UUA with a question vital to board work there is someone there to answer it, giving my values a larger voice through UUA social justice initiatives, making it possible for the Metro District to provide leadership opportunities for lay leadership, and keeping alive LIAC programs that have enriched my children, in particular the Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age programs that have connected my children with like-minded youths across Long Island and the Metro District.

Board members will be available each Sunday through November 27 to distribute Association Appeal forms and collect donations. Please give as early and as generously as you can.

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

the Board thanks... The 40 members who have already responded to the Association Appeal by paying \$88 per member!

Thoughts from our Field Education Student

UU Revolutionaries by Eve Stevens

As I listen to the news recently, I hear stories of social justice struggling to spread itself across the globe. I am sometimes breathless with excitement at these stories of human beings overthrowing violent, corrupt systems and instilling hope in the possibility of just and peaceful societies. Then of course, I heard the news of Qaddafi's death. How the "freedom fighters" pulled at his hair and invited people from miles around to unleash their grief and rage on his lifeless body. The potential of the ancient trend of human self interest and violence comes to mind, as does the fear that "freedom fighters" everywhere may very well bring an equally destructive system into place once the smoke of the old has cleared. At the root of my fear is perhaps the human tendency (certainly my own) to see the world in extremes in times of revolution. These are the bad guys, these are the good guys.

Most recently, the spirit of revolution has made its way into my backyard. Students from my liberal seminary mobilize a few days a week to offer food, clothes, minor medical help, and conversation to the people protesting in Zucotti Park. Excitement flickers across our faces every time Occupy Wall Street is brought into the conversation. It feels like the ideals, the moral goals, and lofty expectations of human progress that we try to theorize and study into being every day in our classes, are coming to life around us. Of course, when I go down to Zucotti Park, I mill around a bit, read protest signs and think to myself, now what? I have been comforted by the words of my friends who argue that the Civil Rights and Gay Rights movements were directionless at first. People just stopped sitting around thinking about how they couldn't do anything to stop systematic oppression, and acted. Directionless at first, but slowly they built meaning and purpose. Articulate arguments and strategies developed. The oppressed and their allies overthrew a societal mindset. Therefore, I keep going down to OWS to show that I too think the economic system we have in place is not working. Too many people are struggling to find the daily resources and comfort needed to stay afloat, let alone enjoy their existence.

What is the UU stance on all this? Listening to the growing discontent and frustration with the "one percent" I am again reminded of what the "freedom fighters" often forget in the face of exciting opportunities to shake the structure of oppression: the humanity of those viewed as the oppressor. If we as UUs want to build a new, more just socio-economic reality, one that lives up to our repeatedly promised American ideals, I think we have to listen to the call of our faith to emphasize the *inherent worth and dignity* of the "one percent." Anyway, our theology leads us away from polarized, extreme perspectives such as righteous and sinful, heaven and hell. Even in times of revolution and zeal for a cause, we are taught by our faith to consider the human complexity that exists between the extremes. It is my hope that UUs who are frustrated by the status quo and UUs who are frustrated by the Occupy Wall Street movement, will engage each other in open-minded conversation. Our faith sets us up perfectly to be examples of how to engage the full spectrum of human experience when making societal changes. This month, when OWS comes up in our conversations, let us think of how to keep our minds open to possibility. As UUs we can contribute to a truly equitable overhaul of systems of oppression by dispelling the misconception that those who think differently than we do are our enemies.

★
★ **New social-media policy** ★
★
★ The board wants to encourage new ways of connecting members and friends. ★
★
★ At its September board meeting, trustees adopted a policy to ensure appropriate use of SNUUC's ★
★ name. The policy states: Groups and individuals who wish to establish a social-media presence ★
★ in the name of SNUUC must get board approval. ★
★
★ Please contact a board member if you're interested in establishing a Facebook page, Twitter ★
★ account or any other new social-media presence on SNUUC's behalf. ★
★
★

Among Ourselves

We welcome new members **Nancy Tuttle, Elizabeth (Liz) DiMaggio**, who has already joined our new Ways & Means committee and **Kristin Seyfried**, a soprano in our choir! Please say hello to Liz, Nancy and Kristin when you see them at coffee hour.

Thank you Linda & Nick Nanos who contributed \$50 to SNUUC's Special Occasion & Memorial Gifts in honor of Sharon Nanos' special birthday.

We send condolences to Diane & Jim Hawkins. Diane's father, Anthony Nish, passed away on October 24. He was 86 and Diane and Jim say he had a good life. Funeral services were held in NJ.

Committees at Work

A number of our committees are looking for new people and new ideas. Please speak with a board member if you are interested.

The NEW Ways & Means Committee will meet on Sunday, November 6 at noon. Please speak with Bobby Newman or Rita Hines if you would like to get involved.

The Board will meet on Wednesday November 9 at 7pm in the foyer.

Thrift Shop Committee will meet on Sunday, November 13 at noon in room 1.

The RE Committee will meet Sunday, November 20 at 12:00 in the RE wing.

Association Appeal

As many of you know, we have begun this year's Association Appeal, a special collection of \$88 per member to fund our congregation's membership in the larger Unitarian Universalist community -- national, regional and local.

If you have already given, please accept our gratitude: We have received 35 members' dues. This is close to the total of 38 we collected last year, so it seems we are off to a fantastic start. If you have yet to give, please remember that this year, for the first time, we are sending to the UUA, the Metro District and LIAC only those dues we raise during this special appeal.

Board members will be on hand the next several Sundays to distribute and collect Association Appeal forms and dues. Please give as soon as you can.

Holiday Fair!

Heigh, ho! Come to SNUUC's Holiday Fair, Sunday, December 4th from noon to 6pm -- it's going to be different this year!

There will be live musical entertainment, hearty refreshments of all kinds for sale, and a groaning board of home-baked desserts! There will be raffles and in-house and outside vendors, selling unique and unusual Christmas and Chanukah gifts -- from jewelry to Kenyan art to pottery, clothing, and crafts. Why trek to the mall when you can do it all here, and have lots of fun and food besides?

We are still seeking vendors, \$45 per table, \$40 if vendor provides own table. Tell your artisan friends! SNUUC vendors receive their tables at half-price. Volunteers for cooking, baking, soup-making and serving urgently needed!

Contact Bobby Newman or Rita Hines in person, by phone or by email. Let's make this a truly memorable holiday get-together and a moneymaker for our congregation!

* **The Nominating Committee** is seeking members, *
* including a youth, interested in serving on the Board of *
* Trustees as well as next year's Nominating Committee. *
* If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, *
* please speak to Rita Hines as soon as possible. *
* Our annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 22 at *
* noon in the Sanctuary when we'll vote on the slate. *

Our UU Community

A message from UU Metro District Executive, Andrea Lerner, Defying Gravity OPEN for registration!

The 6th Annual Leadership Day: Defying Gravity will take place on Saturday, November 5, 9am-4pm at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. *Multigenerational Congregations Reframing Hope. How can we transform our congregational life to meet the future?*

Leadership in a congregation can feel like a heavy responsibility. Come to the Defying Gravity Leadership Day and find out how the very role you play in your congregation can lighten your heart and expand your soul. This multi-track conference will provide specific skills instruction tailored just for you - to help make serving your congregation more enjoyable - uncovering the link between service and your personal spiritual growth. . [Click here](#) to register. [Click here](#) for a flyer. [Click here](#) for track descriptions. For more information: [Andrea Lerner](#)

SNUUC Happenings

Spontaneity, Creativity, Fun! Improv classes continue at SNUUC. No prior experience is required. Classes are held Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4. A series costs \$80 for returning students, \$100 for new students. Contact Brian Larkin bolarkin@optonline.net to register.

Join SNUUC's drumming ministry, the DrUUmatics, to learn African drumming on Thursdays from 6 – 8pm in the RE wing. There is usually a drum available if you can't bring your own. *Learn to play that djembe!* We teach a beginner djembe class at SNUUC on the first Thursday of every month, from 6-8. The first hour is devoted to technique and traditional West African rhythms, and the second hour to listening and collaborating with other instruments. Come on down and give it a try; \$15 per class. Check out their website druumatics.org.

Monday Night Pilates at SNUUC - 5-6pm, only \$12 per class - no contracts to sign, no commitment, just come and stretch! Questions? Contact Bonny Levenson or Jeanne Menoutis.

If you've been thinking about joining the choir, now is the time. Attend three choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30pm to see if we can make beautiful music together. Call Ellen Zaehringer-Gach or Joe McAuley.



A Day of Drum and Dance!

Have you always wanted to learn to belly dance? Rock to an Afro-Caribbean beat? Make a drum pulse with middle-eastern rhythms? Dance and drum like an African?

Stop wishing you could have all that fun and join in!

The DrUUmatics, SNUUC's drum ministry, is hosting a Day of Drum and Dance November 5 at SNUUC.

The day will be packed with workshops that include belly dance, African dance, Middle Eastern and Latin drumming, absolute beginner djembe classes and more. Sign up for the entire day of classes plus a community drum circle in the evening for only \$69. Or, you can pick and choose the classes that most interest you for only \$20 a pop.

Check out the schedule on our websites druumatics.org. You can download the registration form and send it to SNUUC. For more information, call Laura D'Angelo at 516-655-1207.

Chalice Lighters

November 6 is Chalice Lighter Sunday. Valerie Pierce, will be representing the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, Somerville, NJ, which has been chosen to be the recipient of the Chalice Lighters Call for the Fall of 2011.

In an effort to fully welcome members, friends, staff, and visitors, the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills has begun a project to bring the building they purchased in 2010 into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Handicap accessibility by 2014 is crucial to their commitment to inclusivity; indeed, "they vowed not to dedicate the building they purchased until it is renovated to become accessible to all who seek to enter their doors".

Please do not put Chalice Lighter donations in the plate. Your contributions will be collected in the foyer after the service. As a general guide, it is hoped that individuals will contribute \$20 and families, \$30. Please make checks payable to "UUDMNY." with "Chalice Lighters Call Fall 2011" on the memo line. Receipts will be available for cash donations.

Our Thrift Shop

Have you been to our Thrift Shop lately? Our Thrift Shop, located at 22 West Merrick Road here in Freeport, is a terrific place to shop and to donate clean, gently used saleable merchandise. *It's also a great place to volunteer some time.* Speak to Susan Schukat, the manager at the Thrift Shop, Deb Scharf, Thrift Shop committee president, or Rosemary Olander Beach to find out how you can help.

Did you know that the SNUUC Thrift Shop's yearly income contributes more than \$10,000 a year to the operating funds of the congregation? To do this, they need donations, which the shop sells at a low cost, to keep these funds coming in. **Our Thrift Shop Committee urges you to donate** clothes and HARD GOODS; pots, pans, dinnerware, silverware, small to medium sized furniture, appliances, new-in-the-box items that maybe you received as a gift and don't need or want and whatever else you think might brighten up someone's life.

Our Thrift Shop is open Monday through Saturday; hours are from 10 am to 4 pm, whenever possible. The phone number at the Thrift Shop is 223-3974.

In the RE Wing

"We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body"

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The South Nassau UU Congregation Religious Education Program is a cooperative effort in which volunteers and new ideas are always needed. The RE Wing is currently looking for teachers for the winter and spring semester beginning on January 22, 2012 and welcomes and encourages your participation. There is room for everyone, whether for full time or substitute teaching, assistance with artistic and social action projects, helping out with youth events or sharing a special talent.

None of us are as good as all of us. Please consider joining the dedicated volunteers in the RE Wing!

Notes from the RE Wing

Our fall classes are well underway and our youth are working with their teachers and classmates to develop a strong grasp of our UU principles and to understand how our actions can change the world.

Fall Classes and Curriculum

Grades

K-2

3-5

6-8

9-12

Curriculum

Our Seven Principles

A Stepping Stone Year

Popcorn Theology- The Gospel According to The Simpsons

Paying It Forward-Living a UU Life

Sunday November 6 will be the first Social Action Sunday in the RE Wing. The youth will begin in the Sanctuary, then will move to the RE Wing to work together to make and decorate care packages for our SNUUC young adults/RE alumni away at college. If you have children away at school, please let me know their campus addresses. If you have thoughts on what to include in the packages to make them special, please drop me a note.

Sunday November 20 will be our annual Junior High School "Guests at Your Table" service. Planning sessions and rehearsals will take place with the youth on **Friday November 4 at 6:00pm and Friday November 18 at 6:00pm**. Both sessions will include a dinner break. Parents, please make sure that your children are available for the planning sessions that will be led by Catherine with the assistance of their RE teachers.

Senior HS youth will also be hosting the Coffee Hour following the service on **Sunday November 20**. The youth will be responsible for setting and cleaning up and providing refreshments for the congregation.

In addition to our Sunday SNUUC Religious Education programs and activities, you may be interested in viewing the website "Between Sundays", a site developed by The Church of the Larger Fellowship for UU parents and families. What does it mean to be a UU and how do our beliefs make a difference in this world? This wonderful resource has some answers to these questions and something for all ages. Please visit the website at <http://clf.uua.org/betweensundays/>

If you would like to reach out to me regarding ideas for the RE Wing or for any other issues regarding the RE Wing, please do not hesitate to contact me at SNUUC or by e-mail at dre@snuuc.org

In Service, David Silver

Toiletries are being collected for the residents of Shore Health Care Facility. These items will be given out at our Holiday Caroling at the facility in December. The toiletries can be the small ones you get at hotels or any new, unused items you may have at home or want to purchase to donate. Look for the box that says "Donations for Toiletries" located in the RE wing. See JoAnn Fassman for more information, and thanks!

This year our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, GA, is taking place in Phoenix Arizona at the end of June. It is going to be a "Justice GA," meaning it is going to be focused on learning about immigration issues. There will be some local actions planned. The GA attracts some 3,000-5,000 Unitarian Universalists from all over the USA and Canada. Go to the [UUA website](http://www.uua.org) for more information.

SNUUC Calendar November 2011

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<p><i>3</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p><i>4</i> Jr Youth service planning 6 RE</p>	<p><i>5</i> NVC meeting off site ► Day of Drum & Dance Whole building, all day</p>
<p><i>6</i> <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> Ways & Means 12 F Improv 2-4 F Stamping Class 3-6 RE Bonny Levenson & Paula Rosenberg</p>	<p><i>7</i> Pilates 5pm F</p>	<p><i>8</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F</p>	<p><i>9</i> LaLeche 9am RE Board Meeting 7:00 F</p>	<p><i>10</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p><i>11</i> Chaplain Training</p>	<p><i>12</i> NVC 9:45 F Whole building, 2 overnites</p>
<p><i>13</i> Thrift Shop Mtg 12 RE Improv 2-4 F OWL 2-6 RE</p>	<p><i>14</i> Pilates 5pm F</p>	<p><i>15</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p><i>18</i> Jr Youth service planning 6 RE</p>	<p><i>19</i> NVC 9:45 F</p>
<p><i>20</i> Jr Youth Service Guest at your Table RE Committee 12 RE Improv 2-4 F</p>	<p><i>21</i> Pilates 5pm RE</p>	<p><i>22</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i> Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i> No NVC</p>
<p><i>27</i> No RE Hangin' of the Greens follows Worship <u>December 4</u> SNUUC Holiday Fair! 12-6</p>	<p><i>28</i> Pilates 5pm F</p>	<p><i>29</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p>December 1 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i> NVC 9:45 F Set-up for our Holiday Fair! 10-3</p>

A Day of Drum & Dance
Saturday November 5 www.druumatics.org

SNUUC's Holiday Fair
Sunday December 4, 12-6

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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