



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

February 5, 2012 10:30am

Voices of Diversity

Celebrating Black History Month

Rev. Catherine Torpey

An Intergenerational Service

Coffee: Hillary Parker
Lock-up: Ken Bellafiore

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt

February 12, 2012 10:30am

Poetry Sunday

With more than twenty congregants participating

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Come to the lunch with RE after the service!

Coffee: Lunch for ALL *For the Love of SNUUC!*
Lock-up: Brian Larkin

Ushers: Doris Brass & Debbie Scharf

February 19, 2012 10:30am

Playing Fair

On the Fair Trade movement

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Coffee: Volunteer Needed
Lock-up: Peter Larsen

Ushers: Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris

February 26, 2012 10:30am

Living the Legacy

Kicking off the season of stewardship

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Coffee: Volunteer Needed
Lock-up: Dana Reinecke

Ushers: Jayne Davison & Andrew Spatt

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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President, Brian Larkin
Vice President, Dana Reinecke
Secretary, Jim Hawkins
Treasurer, Peter Larsen

Musings from the Minister

Dear friends -

It's been a difficult few weeks for our SNUUC family. One beloved young member of the congregation has been in the hospital since just after Christmas, and several older members have passed away. It has been, as always, amazing to see what a loving and supportive community this is. So many people do so much to help when there is someone sick, or when a family has had a tragedy.

George Jackson, who passed away on Christmas morning, gave a sermon here a few summers ago called Dealing with Disaster. As you know, he had an accident ten years ago which left him a quadriplegic. He once told me that the most religious experience he had ever had was witnessing the love and support of this congregation in the wake of his injury. Here's how he said it in his sermon:

I would have given up hope long ago without the support system that SNUUC and others provided. It was the knowledge that people were there for me and believed in me that kept me going.

I want to thank you for the help you have given me. I hope you will continue to strengthen your compassion for others. It is one of your greatest strengths. And if you have learned anything from [my story], I hope you have learned not to accept defeat. Because doctors say it is so, does not make it so. Because doctors give up hope, does not mean there is no hope. Because life looks bleak and insurmountable, does not mean you cannot live. With love and support, we can do almost anything.

Here, here George. We owe our gratitude to him, as well as to Clarence Herisko and Virginia Terris for the many years of inspiration and friendship they have provided.

Yours in faith, love and hope,
Catherine

Thoughts from our *Field Education Student*

Why Study the Bible as a UU? Eve Stevens

As some of you know, I've been contemplating facilitating a discussion-based class on the Bible at SNUUC. Before seminary, I had little interest in knowing what the Bible said. In fact I assumed I already understood it based on the countless interpretations that found their way into daily interactions I had in my small South Carolina town. I have resented all my life those people who come at me with the Bible as a weapon. The more I study it, the more I find you could prove or disprove nearly any argument with "textual evidence" from the Bible including the sanctioning of slavery and the subservience of women. I don't want to study the Bible in order to use it as a liberal weapon. This would only result in the same amount of endless back and forth without a textually sound conclusion. Instead, I see the Bible as an invaluable historical document that shows us the highs and lows, and the humanity, desperation, and violence of an ancient people. As I study the psalms and Jesus' lessons about the inevitability of corrupt empires falling, I try to find kernels of personal truth amidst varying political and social agendas held by the Bible's authors. When I do sift out these kernels, they almost always reveal something disarming about my own society or values.

The Bible is a valuable book for anyone who contemplates the intricacies of human nature, society, and religion that have been built slowly over centuries to bring us to the present. But I also think studying the Bible is important for Unitarian Universalists specifically. First, our faith exists because Christian trail blazers were not afraid to question the meaning and use of Bible passages. The original Unitarians and Universalists were Christians, if radicals, who believed in following Jesus' teachings rather than worshipping him as a deity and denounced the doctrine of original sin. I think these founders of our faith would smile at where we are today, embracing the present while respecting the wisdom of history. Second, as I listen to the GOP candidates circulating in my home state or read my grandpa's emails, I'm reminded that Christianity specifically plays a large role in our nation's society and politics for better or worse. Being able to form opinions about the message Biblical texts deliver enables us to engage on an intellectual and informed level with our Christian neighbors who we may or may not agree with. Finally, it is handy to know why, as a UU, you either reject or incorporate the Bible into your personal faith when someone asks you about the divergent path Unitarian Universalism has taken from its Christian roots.

In April, I will invite you as members of the Unitarian Universalist community to decide what (if any) your relationship is to the Bible. We will take four weeks to explore those passages that argue for peace, social reform and ultimately the collective good for which we are still striving. I will put these passages in their historic contexts then ask us to analyze them from literary, political, social, economic, and personal perspectives. If you are interested in reading parts of the Bible for the first time, tentatively re-entering a muddied relationship with the Bible, excited about a chance to study Christian history/literature, or just like talking about socio-political movements in history please come join the discussion! Details and specific dates and times will be headed your way soon.

OUR BOARDWALK

Bittersweet relief hovers nearby as I write this final column. I'm anticipating a gaping hole where board meetings and "board home work" filled hours and bestowed purpose and community.

I leave with tremendous gratitude for the trustees I've worked alongside these past four years and for a congregation that gave me generous space for personal growth. These are gifts I will treasure for a lifetime.

At my final Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 22, the congregation elected a new board: Brian Larkin (president), Dana Reinecke (vice president), Peter Larsen (treasurer), Jim Crocetto (secretary), trustees Jean Smyth Crocetto, Mary Canada, Jay Anthony Gach and Selina Benson, and youth trustee Jessica Fox; Ken Bellafiore is a returning board member.

The congregation also elected a Nominating Committee: Denise Hibbert, John Bilello, Joe Centenni, Meghan Stark and myself -- I'm not going far.

Members will also be hearing from me as I begin working with our Stewardship Committee, Ellen Zaehringer-Gach and Barbara Singer, which kicks off its campaign this month.

With gratitude, yet soon without my yellow name tag, Rosemary Olander-Beach, president

As board presidents go, Rosemary Olander-Beach is one tough act to follow.

This week will mark the end of Rosemary's term as board president, which spanned three years. A new group of trustees will be inducted on Sunday. Rosemary has been tireless and relentless in her leadership and service to SNUUC. It is not a small thing to find someone so enthusiastic and dedicated, and I am very grateful for all she has done. Rosemary stepped in for the prior board president who left prior to ending his term. She then served 2 more years in the job - one year to complete her term on the board and one additional year that is permitted board presidents who wish to continue. Even as the board was winding up some business at its last meeting in January, Rosemary had to be talked down from proofing revisions to a policy statement that would not be finished until after her term had expired. And she is stepping up and serving on the nominating committee for next year. Rosemary, you are the best.

I'm very grateful and glad of the opportunity to serve as board president for the remainder of my term. I cannot praise enough the good sense and good humor of my colleagues on the board. I shall sorely miss Arlene Brown, Jayne Davidson and Steve Lester. Each in their way has been an invaluable member of a board that acted with professionalism and confidence through budget troubles, Rev. Torpey's sabbatical and the transitions in our Religious Education program. I look forward to working with the returning and newly elected board members this year. Congrats to all.

RE Program continues to be a priority for SNUUC and the board. The Congregation on Sunday approved the slate of members to the Permanent DRE Search Committee. The committee's task will be to solicit applications and interview candidates to hire a DRE on an open-ended basis. It is my understanding that David Silver, who was hired last year as Acting Director of Religious Education, is interested in the position and will be applying. The committee members are Lorrie Bellafiore, Jim Hawkins, Bill Bryson-Brockmann, Matt Larkin and - *here's a surprise* - Rosemary Olander-Beach. Dana Reinecke, the new board vice president, will be board liaison to the committee. Rev. Torpey will be an ex-officio member of the committee. I'm confident this group will do an outstanding job.

Brian Larkin, board president 2012

In the RE Wing

Our Winter/Spring RE semester began on Sunday January 22 with the Senior HS service. We have a full agenda planned through the end of the congregational year in June, including

social action projects, fund raisers for local charities and an RE curriculum that focuses on living a UU life.

We are also very excited about our Intergenerational Luncheon/Getting to Know You Party planned for the RE Wing on February 12 entitled "For the Love of SNUUC". All congregants are invited to join us.

Getting to know.....Alexander Markus Beach "Alex"

Attending SNUUC since 1999

Favorite school subjects are: History and Art

On my iPod: Obscure, Primus and Opeth

Volunteer Service: Park Clean Ups, Soup Kitchens, Midnight Runs

Something you may not know about me: I play the Bass

During the school year you can find me: In the 11th grade at Baldwin HS

Books I read for pleasure are: the Eragon Book Series

Favorite UU Principle: The search for truth

College Dreams: Cooper Union in New York City

Editors Note: Please stop by the RE Wing and see the beautiful artwork that Alex created at our Holiday Art Party.

For the Love of SNUUC

Everyone is invited to an Intergenerational Luncheon and Fundraiser for the Midnight Run & Smile in a Bag & other Social Action Activities. Join RE for lunch on Sunday February 12 at noon in the RE Wing. This event is sponsored by the Children & Youth of SNUUC & the RE Committee. Suggested donation is \$5.00. All congregants are invited to a hearty winter lunch and some Getting-to-Know-You activities. Committee members are invited to share your special SNUUC interests with the young people of SNUUC. Please RSVP to David Silver at dre@snuuc.org

Among Ourselves

Our recent holidays have been saddened by the passing of 3 long-time SNUUC members.

George Jackson, a SNUUC member for almost five decades, died peacefully at home on Christmas morning. George was very involved at SNUUC and served on the board. He was Professor Emeritus of History at Hofstra University, chair of the History department and was an expert on the former Soviet Union.

Clarence Herisko died on January 6. Clarence joined SNUUC in 1965 and was very active with the congregation over the decades: he ran booths at the annual fair, acted with the congregation's theatre troupe (the Universal Players), and frequently gave dramatic readings as part of Sunday morning worship. Clarence served as president of our board in 1982.

Virginia Terris died peacefully on January 12. Dr. Virginia Terris served as the head of the English Dept. at Adelphi University and was considered by many to be one of Long Island's greatest poets. A memorial service will be held in March.

Nicki Barry's expanded Cape in Hicksville is for sale; for detailed info, please call Nicki.

JoAnn Fassman give thanks to all the people who helped make Christmas Caroling at the South Shore Health Care Facility in December a success. See the Wednesday e-mail for your name!

Congratulations Ryan Lester who recently graduated from Gettysburg College with a degree in History with minors in economics and business. Ryan is currently interviewing for various sales and account manager positions with hopes of working for a few years and then continuing his studies. He will be spending the next two months in Cabo San Lucas Mexico interning at his fraternities leadership conference center.

the Board thanks...

the Senior Youth, Acting DRE David Silver, Rev. Catherine & the youth advisers for a thoughtful and rousing worship service on Jan. 22.

and its own departing trustees: Arlene Brown, Jayne Davison, Steve Lester & Rosemary Olander Beach

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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.

Thrift Shop Committee will meet on Sunday, Feb 12 at noon in room 1. A good time was had by all at the Thrift Shop Volunteers Luncheon in January.

The new Board will meet on Wednesday Feb 8 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

The RE Committee will meet Sunday, Feb 19 at 12:00 in the RE wing.

Compassionate Communication

Here at SNUUC, we have been encouraging growth towards healthy communication through our 13-week workshop series in Compassionate Communication. In the spring and again in the fall, practice groups have formed to work with the text *Nonviolent Communication – A Language of Life, 2nd ed*, by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD. and to expand our learning with related interactive exercises which work to support the teachings presented within each chapter.

Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) said that "Nonviolence means allowing the positive within you to emerge." Building on this concept, the Compassionate Communication practice group has become a vital small group ministry at SNUUC, open to all adults and youth (11th grade and up). Participants have reflected on the depth of connections made within the group as well as the potential for transformation in all their relationships as they learn to communicate compassionately and clearly with new skills and empathy.

Our next 13-session series begins Saturday, February 11th from **9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** for 13 Saturday mornings. Pre-registration is requested and attendance at the first six sessions (fundamental track) is required of "newbies" so if you plan on attending the spring series, or know someone who is interested in joining us, please contact Anne Fleming (afleming528@gmail.com) or Barbara Singer (barbara.singer@gmail.com).

SNUUC Happenings

Football Our own NY Giants will compete in the Super Bowl and you can watch it at the Nanos household while being served food and beverages. Three openings are still left for the talent auction Super Bowl party. Contact Linda Nanos at Linda_nanos@hotmail.com if you want to join the fun. Cost is \$20 per person payable to SNUUC.

Games Talent Auction Fun Night! **The Not So Newlywed Game comes to SNUUC on Saturday February 11.** What's said at the Not So Newlywed Game, stays at the Not So Newlywed Game! Adults only please! Learn more than you ever really wanted to know about your fellow congregants and their lives together. \$5.00 admission at the door. 100% goes to SNUUC. Refreshments - Doors open at 7:00, Show time 7:30

Yoga Want to nurture your body and soul? Then come join our **Gentle Yoga with Spirit** classes. These classes are taught by Ivy Greenburg, a licensed yoga teacher, and classes are geared to help you develop your yoga skills, whether you are a beginner or long-term student. Our next **Tuesday 6-week series** will begin Feb. 7, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The next **Thursday 6-week series** begins Feb. 2, 4:30 to 5:30 pm. The fee for either series is \$75, payable at the first class. Drop-in fee for either class is \$20/class and is available only as space permits. To reserve your space in either of these series, please contact Anne Fleming at afleming528@gmail.com Hope you'll join us!

Improv **Spontaneity, Creativity, Fun!** Improv classes continue at SNUUC in February. No prior experience is required. Classes are 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.

Drumming 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 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.

Pilates **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.

SNUUC Celebrates Black History Month with Two Fantastic Events

For the 3rd year running SNUUC salutes the outstanding talents of African-American musicians and visual artists within our locality with energizing, thrilling and inspiring events.

We see hosting these events as a ministry of outreach to the local community. As well as SNUUC offering a venue for enjoying this wonderful music and art, it is our hope to raise the visibility and profile of SNUUC's spiritual message, and participate in the community-wide celebration of Black History Month.

So, vote with your "seat"! Come to both events. After service, stay at SNUUC. Enjoy a light snack on us (if you purchase your ticket in advance) and come to the events that start conveniently at 1:00PM on Feb 5 and Feb 26.

Bring lots of people from outside SNUUC. This is what is in store for you:

The Third Annual Hale Smith Day Event, Sunday Feb. 5, at 1:00pm at SNUUC. The first event -- both a concert and a SNUUC art opening -- is dedicated to the memory of the distinguished African-American composer and Freeport resident, Hale Smith. Our own DrUUmatics will be on stage! The concert features TOMOKO, "the Asian Empress of Soul", Natalya Simone, "Freeport's Songbird", jazz singers Tara Nova and Melissa Abrahams, pianists/composers Paul Hefner, Rob Schwimmer and SNUUC's own Jay Anthony Gach, flutist Alice Jones, flutist/saxophonist/vocalist Cecilia Tenconi, bassist Wilbur Bascomb, and latin percussionist Ed Martinez. And, a troupe of dancers from Baldwin High School will also take part. SNUUC's South Ocean Art Gallery opens a special exhibit of the works of local young black artists from Nassau Community College. Immediately following the concert, all are invited to a reception to meet the musicians and artists. (Tickets at the door: \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5)

The Second Annual Special Vocal Concert, Sunday Feb. 26, at 1:00PM at SNUUC. Our celebration of Black History Month continues with a concert featuring vocalists "Freeport's Songbird", Natalya Simone and jazz singer extraordinaire, Tara Nova with pianists/composers Paul Hefner and Jay Anthony Gach. They will be performing traditional Negro spirituals, music by Hale Smith, Ellington, Gershwin, and songs by Long Island Composers Alliance (LICA) members on texts by African-American poets and writers. Visit the art exhibit that opened on February 5 and enjoy a reception to meet the musicians and artists. (Tickets at the door: \$10, seniors and students \$5)

Want to help? Besides being there on Feb 5 and Feb 26, there are many ways you can participate in this special ministry. Tasks exist of all sizes on event day: setting up, cleaning up, ushering, staffing the gate, looking after the musicians and artists, helping with lunch and the reception. Find a task that fits you. See any of us: Ellen Zaehringer-Gach, Jay Anthony Gach, Jean Smyth-Crocetto, Kristin Seyfried, Ian Cathcart, Sharon Nanos, Diane Hawkins.

SNUUC's 2012-2013 Financial Commitment Drive Kicks-Off On Sunday February 26, 2012 Living Our Legacy

Living Our Legacy is this year's stewardship theme. Beginning at service on Sunday February 26 and concluding at the end of March we all will consider afresh what SNUUC means to us today and how we can honor the **legacy** that has been given to us by those who have gone before with our individual financial commitments.

It is the role of the Stewardship Committee to facilitate a process that will help us each make the best pledge decision possible for ourselves and SNUUC. Our objective is to complete the drive and report the results to the Board of Trustees by the end of March for their timely use in the annual budget preparation process.

In recent years we've used various formats for conducting the canvass: telephone calls to every member; individual visits to members' homes; lunches and dinners; group gatherings after service. For the 2012-2013 drive, we will return to the format most favored by the congregation -- getting together at meals and talking "commitment", sharing our stories of what SNUUC means to us and why we continue **Living Our Legacy** by making and keeping our pledges.

At each **Commitment Event** we create an ambience that supports our getting down to the work of personal decision-making. Participants appreciate the opportunity to gain clarity on the process and to consider this important decision in concert with others.

During the month of March, the Stewardship Committee will facilitate a series of events at SNUUC on the Sundays of March:

Sunday March 4: Lunch at 12
Sunday March 18: Supper at 5

Sunday March 11: Lunch at 12
Sunday March 25: Lunch at 12

Please plan to attend one of these events so we can complete the canvass timely. Sign-up sheets will be in the Foyer in February. Sign up for the date and time that best suits you -- then:

Come gather

Review the Financial Commitment Guide

Consider the fiscal needs of SNUUC

Weigh your personal commitment to Living Our Legacy versus the personal financial resources you are willing to commit to SNUUC for 2012-13.

Make your Financial Commitment

We look forward to seeing all of you at one of the Commitment Events in March.

Respectfully, Stewardship Committee: Ellen Zaehringer-Gach, Barbara Singer, Rosemary Olander Beach

A SNUUC Wish List

Do you have some time, a skill or talent you're willing to share? Do you have a couple of hours available to help? Are you itching to use a tool you received or a skill you haven't used in a while? We have a SNUUC Wish List that can use your help. Thanks!

Our Thrift Shop has an urgent need for people to drive to homes and pick up item to be donated to the Shop. This can be a one time, weekly or monthly trip. Can you help? Please contact Deb Scharf or Thrift Shop manager Susan Schukat at the Thrift Shop, 223-3974.

There are a few wooden table tops at SNUUC that need to be refinished. Please speak with Catherine if this is something you can help with.

Flowers for the chancel can be donated for any reason;

in memory of a loved one, to honor or celebrate a special event or just because you like flowers on the chancel!

Your commemoration will be listed in the Order of Service and the Open Line.

Please sign up on the Chancel Flowers Calendar on the bulletin board in the foyer and donate \$25 to pay for the flowers. Speak to Lisa in the office for more details.

SNUUC Calendar February 2012

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Pilates 5pm F	Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	1 PULSE 1-3 F Foyer Art hanging 5	2 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	3 Concert rehearsal 12-4 S	4 Concert rehearsal 12-4 S
5 Intergenerational Service Hale Smith Concert & Foyer Art Reception 1:00 S	6 Pilates 5pm F Snow date BHM concert 7:30	7 PULSE 5-9:30 RE Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	8 LaLeche 9am RE Board Meeting 7:30 F	9 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	10 NVC 9:45 F Talent Auction event Newly Wed game F&S \$5 7pm	11 NVC 9:45 F Talent Auction event Newly Wed game F&S \$5 7pm
12 Thrift Shop Mtg 12 RE For the Love of SNUUC Lunch for all! 12-2 RE Stamping Class 3-6 RE Bonny Levenson & Paula Rosenberg	13 Pilates 5pm F	14 Ministers Cluster 9:am F Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	15	16 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	17 NVC 9:45 F Building rental 4-11pm	18 NVC 9:45 F Building rental 4-11pm
19 No RE RE Committee 12 RE Improv 2-4 F	20 Pilates 5pm RE	21 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	22	23 Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	24 NVC 9:45 F	25 NVC 9:45 F
26 Stewardship Sunday Hale Smith Concert 1:00 S	27 Snow date BHM Concert Pilates 5pm F	28 Yoga 5:30-6:30	29	Committee Budget Requests are due to the Treasurer, Peter Larsen		

SNUUC Celebrates Black History Month
with Two Fantastic Concerts Feb 5 and 26

For the Love of SNUUC - An Intergenerational Lunch &
Fundraiser for the Midnight Run, Smile in a Bag & other
Social Action Activities, Sunday February 12

SNUUC's 2012-2013 Financial Commitment Drive
Kicks-Off on Sunday February 26
Living Our Legacy

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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