



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

March 4, 2012 10:30am Rev. Catherine Torpey
Healthy, Whole and Holy
Celebrating Patient Safety Week

Coffee: Lisa & John Bilello, Andrea & Tom Weingarten **Ushers:** Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt
Lock-up: Jim Crocetto

March 11, 2012 10:30am Rev. Catherine Torpey **Turn Your Clocks Ahead!**
Playing Fair
On the Fair Trade Movement and Celebrating Girl Scout Sunday
The Drummatiks will play

Coffee: Girl Scouts & Rosemary Olander Beach **Ushers:** Doris Brass & Debbie Scharf
Lock-up: Jean Smyth Crocetto

March 18, 2012 10:30am Guest preacher, Rev. Laurel Koeps
Yours, Mine and Ours

Coffee: Senior Youth Bake Sale for Midnight Run **Ushers:** Rita Tancredi & Robin Norris
Lock-up: Mary Canada

March 25, 2012 10:30am Rev. Catherine Torpey
Going to the Well
On the right to water - celebrating Justice Sunday in support of the UUSC

Coffee: Volunteer Needed **Ushers:** Jayne Davison & Andrew Spatt
Lock-up: Jay Anthony Gach

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 -

March means that once again we enter the season of our annual Financial Commitment Campaign. This year the Stewardship Committee invites us to see our gifts to the congregation as the way in which we live the legacy that has been handed down to us. We began with a visionary and optimistic group of Unitarians who wanted to start strong, and so insisted that Lon Ray Call be our first minister. Lon had already completed an illustrious career, having served what was then the American Unitarian Association as a minister-at-large. He founded thirteen congregations and is remembered in our history books as "one of the preeminent leaders in twentieth-century Unitarian extension work." When Lon retired, a brief ministry by Straughan Gettier was quickly followed by the calling of another minister of national stature, Carleton Fisher. Carleton had served as the president of what was then the Universalist Church of America and actually presided over the historic meeting in 1957 when the Universalists and Unitarians agreed to merge into the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Modern theorists of ecclesiology (that's the study of how churches work) talk a lot about the "DNA" of congregations. Just as the lives of individuals are set on a certain course because of their early experiences, the course which congregations set early on have a profound effect on where they go into the future. This congregation was started on very solid footing due not only to the ministers, but more importantly due to the many congregants who chose ministers who would take them where they wanted to be led. And so this congregation has remained a beacon of liberal religion in South Nassau - a religion which (as Charles Dickens wrote) "has sympathy for [those] of every creed and ventures to pass judgment on none." We have consistently been societal leaders in our welcome toward people of all ethnicities, theologies, sexual orientations and gender identities - and who knows what barrier we will be needed to help break down in days and years to come? We have consistently embraced the arts as a vital means of expressing spirituality. And, of course, we have been simply a warm and friendly place for souls seeking community.

Come, let us live out and live into the fine legacy we have been given!

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

Community Minister's Corner

I was very moved by the poetry service in February. It was amazing to see so many different people get organized. Jim did an excellent job of inspiring all of us to look deeper within ourselves, to choose one poem that speaks to our lived experience. I found myself curious as to why people chose the poems they did. Was it one a favorite teacher had introduced? An encouraging word in a time of need? An image that described a personal spiritual experience? As I looked through the poems I almost chose to share, Anne Sexton's "Her Kind" kept coming up. One of my mom's graduate students shared this poem with me when I was about sixteen. He was probably in his mid-forties and he was trying to explain to me that he was a feminist. I could not understand what he meant, or how a man could be a feminist. After studying various forms of feminism and women's experiences through college and graduate school, I find myself wondering how many UUs who identify as male would call themselves feminists? I think Anne Sexton's poem takes into account various forms of experience women throughout history have had - as temptress, witch, healer, domestic worker. As you read "Her Kind" ask yourself if you are a feminist. Next month I'll talk more about what that might mean for UUs.

Her Kind
Anne Sexton

I have gone out, a possessed witch,
Haunting the black air, braver at night;
Dreaming evil, I have done my hitch
Over the plain houses, light by light:
Lonely thing, twelve-fingered, out of mind.
A woman like that is not a woman, quite.
I have been her kind.

I have found the warm caves in the woods,
Filled them with skillets, carvings, shelves,
Closets, silks, innumerable goods;
Fixed the suppers for the worms and the elves:
Whining, rearranging the disaligned.
A woman like that is misunderstood.
I have been her kind.

I have ridden in your cart, driver,
Waved my nude arms at villages going by,
Learning the last bright routes, survivor
Where your flames still bite my thigh
And my ribs crack where your wheels wind.
A woman like that is not ashamed to die.
I have been her kind.

Eve Stevens

OUR BOARDWALK

What an amazing month this February has been at SNUUC. The energy, beauty and fellowship is as high as I have ever experienced it. I just want to take a moment to express my gratitude to so many people who are contributing to the vibrant life of this congregation.

Poetry Sunday was great. I was particularly gratified that several of SNUUC's own poets, Alix Stoll, Virginia Terris, Ted Tiller and Sean Nanos, were represented in the amazing breadth of poetry and song that was shared. Jim and Diane Hawkins brought the initial inspiration (from a similar service they attended in New Jersey). I want to again thank them for sharing this idea and molding it into a moving service. It was a spark that found eager fuel – our members seem to love poetry and few are timid near a microphone. The variety of poems reminded me of one of the statements of our congregation's mission: "We embrace diversity and welcome people of all ages, races and orientations." In this context, to embrace diversity meant not only to practice the skill of listening to the poems and songs, but to listen for the connections between the readers and their words. The order of service contained notes from the several of the readers about why they chose a particular poem and I found that part of the service to be very effective. I want to thank everyone who participated in Poetry Sunday, and also thank Rev. Torpey for helping to organize and improve the service. I look forward to the next one, as I understand this will be an annual event.

Black History Month at SNUUC has become a high-point in our congregational calendar with the annual Hale Smith concert. The show pays tribute to the late Hale Smith, a classical composer who worked with many jazz greats and lived in Freeport. When we have the chance to open our sanctuary to the community and invite in so much musical talent, it is an event worth celebrating. The mayor of Freeport, Andrew Hardwick, and Hale Smith's widow, the former Juanita Howard, were in attendance. Not a note would have sounded but for the impressive skill and energy of Ellen Zaehring Gach and Jay Gach, who again spearheaded this event. Many thanks to them for their outstanding efforts. SNUUC's own drum ministry, the DRUUMATICS, with some help from drummer John Ward added terrific energy (and were featured in photos published in Newsday). Our entire congregation can take pride in how many hands were joined to make this event a reality – from working the door, creating a fun pre-concert luncheon, the reception that followed and the work of putting our house back in order. Thanks to all.

February also saw the "For the Love of SNUUC" luncheon, the launching of new community service initiatives, revelations during the "Not So Newlywed Game" and more. For a small congregation, we sure know how to play hard. We have much to appreciate, much for which we can hold out our thanks.

Brian Larkin, president

NEW!

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Our Field Education student, Eve Stevens, will be leading a Sunday Morning Adult Education discussion group beginning on March 11 from 9am to 10am. We will meet most Sundays throughout the spring; check the Wednesday e-mail or the Sunday announcements each week for details and for occasional Sundays off. The specific topics will vary, but she will begin with looking at the Bible from a UU perspective. This will be a fun way to learn and to fellowship with one another, so please support our Field Ed student and come to Room 1 in the RE wing. We'll put on hot water for tea or instant coffee, but bring your own breakfast if you'd like to nibble while you chat! It is not required that you sign up in advance, but we will place a sign-up sheet in the foyer to give Eve an idea of whom to expect.

Our UU Community

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 2012 Sophia Fahs UU Religious Education Camp on Shelter Island for a week this August? Camp begins at 3 pm Sunday, Aug. 5, and ends on Friday, Aug. 10. Applications to previous campers were mailed 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 David Silver to get an application and to learn more.

LIAC & UU Connect invite you to their annual Pasta Party and Talent Show. Saturday, March 31, 6pm at SNUUC. Free admission! Please bring a non-perishable food item to support our local Food Bank. Contact David Silver for more information.

Save the date for the **LIAC Annual Dinner** with guest speaker Rev. Randy Becker, Saturday April 28 at UU Shelter Rock. More info to come.

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales invites you to General Assembly (GA), June 20-24 in Phoenix AZ <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/invites/192553.shtml>
The Phoenix Witness Project is a scholarship fund intended to help more youth and young adults attend GA. In lieu of a Spring 2012 Chalice Lighters Call, you will have an opportunity to contribute to a scholarship fund. The form for applying for a scholarship will be available by March 1. Questions? Contact Chris Buja, Trustee-at-Large and chairman of the Phoenix Witness Project task force, at dlfd@uucsh.org.

Among Ourselves

We share the sad news that former SNUUC member Dorothy Seacord died peacefully on February 18 at her new home in Rhode Island. Dorothy was 93.

We welcome new members Adeline Quinn, and from the Senior Youth; Jessica Fox, Matt Larkin. Please say hello and welcome to Addi, Jessica & Matt!

The Footnotes (Ian Cathcart and Kristin Seyfried from our choir) are playing at the restaurant/bar RS Jones, 153 Merrick Ave. in Merrick on Thursday, March 1 from 7 to 10pm. Good food and good music, so come and sing along with Ian & Kristin!

There will be a memorial service for long time SNUUC member **Virginia Terris** on Saturday, March 24 at 11am at SNUUC.

Have you done your taxes yet? Phil Kennelty Cohen is a tax preparer for H&R Block and will donate his services to a lucky bidder with the proceeds going to SNUUC as a late entry Talent Auction item. Bidding starts at \$100. Contact Phil at philk-c@optimum.net

All are invited to attend a memorial service for **George Jackson** at Hofstra University in Hempstead. The service will be on Wednesday, April 25 at 11:30 on the 10th floor of the Library.

DRE Search Committee News

The DRE Search Committee, charged by the board at its January meeting, has had two meetings so far. The search for a permanent DRE at this time is a process that was set in motion in 2011, when the board decided to hire an acting DRE when Jennifer Greene resigned her position. SNUUC's Acting DRE David Silver is eligible to apply for the permanent position.

At its first meeting, the DRE Search Committee elected Bill Bryson-Brockmann to chair the committee; Rosemary Olander-Beach volunteered to serve as secretary. The other members of the committee are Lorrie Bellafiore, Jim Hawkins, Matt Larkin and the Rev. Catherine Torpey; Dana Reinecke, the vice president of the board of trustees and board liaison to the RE Committee, will also be attending its meetings.

The DRE job description has been distributed inside and outside the congregation with the intent of gathering as many candidates as possible. They are included with the Wednesday e-mail. Minutes of the committee's first meeting are also posted on the SNUUC bulletin board. Please contact committee members if you have any questions.

Committees at Work

Committee chairs are reminded that committee Budget Requests for 2012-2013 are due to the Treasurer, Peter Larsen by March 11. Budget Request Forms are available on the office desk and online. Thank you for your help!

Thrift Shop Committee will meet on Sunday, March 11 at noon in the Sanctuary.

The Board will meet on Wednesday March 14 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

The RE Committee will meet Sunday, March 18 at 12:00 in the RE wing.

Evening classes in

Compassionate Communication

Want to explore the potential of Compassionate Communication in your personal or professional life? There is a new EVENING study group forming starting Monday, March 26th. This class will run on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Since much of our work together is aimed at small group interactions, we will be able to run the group only if we get a committed sign-up of ten or more individuals.

The focus of our time in group together is studying Marshall Rosenberg's process of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) which was first introduced to SNUUC in 2003 by Rev. Paul Ratzlaff. Our practice group will work with the text *Nonviolent Communication – A Language of Life, 2nd ed, by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD.* and related interactive exercises will be introduced which actively support the teachings presented within each chapter.

Similar to our on-going Compassionate Communication Saturday morning practice groups, the evening series is open to all adults and youth (11th grade and up). Exercises in each session work towards deepening connections made within the group as well as creating the potential for transformation in your outside relationships. Additionally, while regular attendance to the classes is important, attendance in the first six sessions (fundamental track) is strongly recommended in order to develop a common understanding of the process as well as to build our group trust and confidence in one another for deeper sharing.

As mentioned previously, we are looking for a registration of at least ten individuals. If you plan on attending this evening series, or know someone who is interested in joining us, please contact Anne Fleming (afleming528@gmail.com) or Barbara Singer (barbara.singer@gmail.com) now. Hope you will join us and come out to learn to communicate compassionately and clearly with new skills and through empathy!

SNUUC Happenings

Midnight Run The **Midnight Run**, a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless will be led by SNUUC on May 4. Senior Youth go out for the Midnight Run at 8pm and return to SNUUC at 2am. Adults and youth are invited to participate in the preparing for the Run. Senior Youth and families who want to help with the Midnight Run are asked to attend a planning meeting at noon in the sanctuary on March 4 and help with the Bake Sale during coffee hour on Sunday March 18.

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.

Improv **Spontaneity, Creativity, Fun!** Improv classes continue at SNUUC in March. 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.

SNUUC's 2012-2013 Financial Commitment Drive Kicks-Off this Sunday , 2/26 Living Our Legacy

Living Our Legacy is this year's stewardship theme. Beginning at service this 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 11: Lunch at 12**
- Sunday March 18: Supper at 5**
- Sunday March 25: Lunch at 12**

Please plan to attend one of these events so we can complete the canvass timely. Sign-up sheets are 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 Zaehring-Gach, Barbara Singer, Rosemary Olander Beach

 * Sunday Coffee hour is a good time to
 * talk with friends and meet new people
 * but it can't happen without your help.
 * *Many thanks to those who signed up to serve coffee.*
 * Sunday March 25 and beyond are still available.
 * Please check your calendars and
 * sign up for a Sunday or two on the sheet on the
 * coffee table on Sundays or contact the office.
 * We are looking for someone to help
 * sign up volunteers, if you can help please
 * speak with Catherine or a Board member.
 * Thanks!

In the RE Wing Wise & Witty Women!

It takes a SNUUC Village

The saying "It takes a village to raise a child" is attributed to an old African proverb. Hillary Clinton popularized this expression in her 1996 book "It takes a Village". In her book, Ms. Clinton wrote about the network of relationships and values that connect us and bind us together. Children are raised not just by their parents, she opined, but also by all of the other people in the community and society.

I am thankful for the 'village' that we have in the RE Wing. Our young people are surrounded by a supportive and nurturing group of congregants who have chosen to become an integral part of the village we have created for our children and youth.

It starts with our Minister who oversees the spiritual practices and religious education programs that we utilize. It includes Jim and Diane Hawkins. Our village leaders are a wonderful pro active Religious Education Committee, led by the caring leadership of Lisa Bilello and Ilene Corina. We have the wonderful Lorrie Bellafiore, who works tirelessly behind the scenes to make all our special events a success. Our RE village has dedicated teaching volunteers to help our young people on their spiritual journey. Rita Hines and Steven Corina are just two of our dedicated teachers who have volunteered to teach both semesters this year. Many other SNUUC members enhance our village in positive ways with contributions of music, supervision, event planning, holiday celebrations and more. Our village is blessed by the presence of Michele Bennett, Eve Stevens, Bob McGough and so many others.

If you have not been an active participant in our RE village, consider volunteering as an RE teacher or as a friend to the RE program in the future. There will always be room for your contributions. Our 'village' would welcome you with open arms.

David Silver,
Acting Director of Religious Education

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.

Chancel Flowers were given by Rosemary and Tom Beach on February 19 in celebration of their wedding anniversary!

What does "www" stand for?
That's right - Wise and Witty Women!
Friday March 23, 7:30 at SNUUC

Spend a wonderful evening with Anne Fleming, Alix Stoll, Priscilla Gray and Catherine Torpey as they entertain and delight you with words of women, from mothers to daughters, Eleanor Roosevelt to the Dixie Chicks. Topics include "What is real?", "Who is God?" and "Why in the world are you wearing that?" Tickets for this not-for-women-only event are a cut-rate bargain at \$10. All proceeds from this Talent Auction offering go to SNUUC. Contact Anne Fleming for tickets.



PULSE of NY is offering a 6 month series on the first Wednesday of each month as part of the Patient Safety Advisory Council's mission to have a wide-reaching impact on improving patient safety awareness and health literacy in local communities while strengthening ties with health care providers.

On Wednesday, March 7 from 1-3 at SNUUC the topic will be *When Tragedy Strikes; Preparing for Your Future*. Learn the most common mistakes people make and how to avoid them. Elaine Quigley, LCSW, founder of Metro ElderCare Agency, will present a program which will take the mystery out of preparing for your future and how you can help others prepare.

This program is free and open to the public. Contact Ilene Corina for more information

The April 4 conversation is titled *Advanced Directives*. More information will follow.

SNUUC Calendar March 2012

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | Committee Budget Requests are due to the Treasurer, Peter Larsen | | <i>1</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> NVC 9:45 out of building LILL whole building, all day |
| 4 Stewardship Lunch 12 RE Adult Education 9-10a, RE Midnight Run Planning 12 S Improv 2-4 F | <i>5</i> Pilates 5pm F | <i>6</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F | <i>7</i> PULSE 1-3 F | <i>8</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> NVC 9:45 F Stewardship 12 F |
| 11 Stewardship Lunch 12 RE Adult Education 9-10a, RE Thrift Shop Mtg 12 RE Stamping Class 3-6 RE Bonny Levenson & Paula Rosenberg | <i>12</i> Pilates 5pm F | <i>13</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F | <i>14</i> Lalèche 9am RE Board Meeting 7:30 F | <i>15</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S | <i>16</i> Talent Auction event F&K 6-11pm | <i>17</i> NVC 9:45 F Stewardship 12 F |
| 18 Bake Sale Midnight Run Adult Education 9-10a, RE Stewardship Supper 5 RE RE Committee 12 RE Improv 2-4 F | <i>19</i> Pilates 5pm RE | <i>20</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F | <i>21</i> | <i>22</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S | <i>23</i> Wise & Witty Women A talent auction event for all 7:30 S \$10 | <i>24</i> Memorial Service for Virginia Terris 11 am NVC 9:45 F Stewardship 12 F |
| 25 Stewardship Lunch 12 RE Adult Education 9-10a, RE Stamping Class 3-6 RE Bonny Levenson & Paula Rosenberg Improv 2-4 F | <i>26</i> Pilates 5pm F | <i>27</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 | <i>28</i> | <i>29</i> Unicrafters 1:00 F Yoga 4:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S | <i>30</i> | <i>31</i> NVC 9:45 F Stewardship 12 F LIAC & UUConnect Pasta Party & Talent Show 6pm RE |

Vocal Concert & Reception in celebration of Black History Month, this Sunday, February 26, 1:00 at SNUUC
Sophia Fahs Camp applications are due
Sunday Morning Adult Ed with Eve Stevens beginning March 11
Evening classes in Compassionate Communication starting March 26

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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