



# The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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October 7, 2012 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

*Born This Way*

Coming Out Sunday

OutFest Art Show & Entertainment 12-4

Coffee: Please bring a Snack & support OutFest

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt

Lock-up: Selina Benson

Welcome: Liz DiMaggio

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October 14, 2012 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

*Our Covenantal Faith*

Association Sunday

Coffee: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: Doris Brass & Andrew Spatt

Lock-up: Ken Bellafiore

Welcome: Liz DiMaggio

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October 21, 2012 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

*Informed Worship*

Carl Sagan and the Theological Implications of Cosmology

Coffee: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: Anne Fleming & Jayne Davison

Lock-up: Brian Larkin

Welcome: Liz DiMaggio

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October 28, 2012 10:30am

Guest preacher Allison Palm

*Saints, Souls, and Wretches*

All Souls Day

Coffee: **Pot Luck! Please bring something for the coffee table** *Volunteer Needed to serve coffee*

Ushers: Robin Norris & Andrew Spatt

Lock-up: Peter Larsen

Welcome: Liz DiMaggio

**Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister** - [Minister@SNUUC.org](mailto: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.

**Intern Minister, Allison Palm**

**Director of Religious Education, David Silver**

Hours by appointment [DRE@SNUUC.org](mailto:DRE@SNUUC.org)

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Vice President, Dana Reinecke

Secretary, Jim Crocetto

Treasurer, Peter Larsen

# *Muusings*

## *from the Minister*

Dear friends,

Mid-September saw violent rage in the Middle East in response to a short film, claiming to be a trailer for a longer film. Among the victims of these violent protests was the US Ambassador to Libya – a country which recently threw off the shackles of a cruel dictator. Protests have broken out in 20 countries, with many of them displaying ugly violence.

I watched the trailer on the internet, and I would echo the words of our Secretary of State: "To us, to me personally, this video is disgusting and reprehensible. It appears to have a deeply cynical purpose: to denigrate a great religion and to provoke rage."

Partly because the violence began on September 11, there has been speculation about whether the film is simply a pretext for an attack that had already been planned. No matter the origins, however, the anger appears to be widespread and genuine.

In 1917, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote the majority opinion for the Supreme Court in case testing the limits of free speech. He wrote that "the most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic.... The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent." This film, in the eyes of many, is the equivalent of having falsely shouted "fire" in a theater.

On the other hand, in the New York Times on September 17, an article analyzing the incidents reports that some Muslims say that "the outpouring of outrage against the video had built up over a long period of perceived denigrations of Muslims and their faith by the US or its military."

A few years ago, cartoons depicting Mohammed unfavorably were published in a Danish newspaper, with a similar reaction in the Muslim world. When a plot to assassinate the cartoonist was discovered a couple of years later, the newspaper re-published the cartoons in defiance, as a statement about the right to free speech. I understood the newspaper's actions, but also wondered about the line between an assertion of one's rights and deliberate provocation.

The human tendency in the wake of such upsetting incidents is to take sides. We often insist that one side is right and the other is wrong. Sometimes, there is little moral ambiguity, but what disturbs me is that, having decided that the other side is wrong, all its motivations are dismissed without distinguishing the motives from the tragic choice of method. The truth is that even the most egregious acts usually carry a variety of motives, some more legitimate than others. What is most useful, most humane, most UU, is to discern what the legitimate concerns are, even when the actions are reprehensible.

What motivated the film maker? Besides the desire to insult, which seems obvious, is there a legitimate concern about the fanaticism in the Muslim world, and a legitimate concern to deal with it head on?

What is motivating the protests? Besides demonization of the West, is there a legitimate concern that Western powers have acted consistently in ways that denigrate whole peoples, whole regions, a whole religion?

For our national leaders to deal wisely with these issues, they need a public which is wise enough to insist that they discern the legitimate needs of all sides.

Yours in faith, hope and love,  
Catherine

# OUR BOARDWALK

And we're off. Another congregational year has started and this one promises to be exceptional.

For just a moment, I would like to look back at the year just passed. The 2011-12 fiscal year started with a projected deficit of \$9,229. Thanks in part to the amazing team at the Thrift Shop, members who filled their pledges and some interest income, we were able to finish the year in the black. If you haven't heard, we actually closed 2011-12 with a contribution to SNUUC's savings account of \$8,323.71. I have to send a big shout out to our Treasurer, Peter Larsen, who has been doing great work. He has kept the books clear, consistent and up to date and has been mindful of every dollar. Many thanks Peter.

As few weeks before the water ceremony brought us back together at SNUUC, the Board of Trustees attended a retreat led by the Rev. Alison Cornish. Rev. Cornish is the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at the South Fork. One of the questions Rev. Cornish asked the trustees present was: What does SNUUC do? The list was impressive: Coming of Age, Our Whole Lives, support Metro District, support the UUA, PULSE, Smile-in-a-Bag, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Giving, clothing drives, the midnight run, our Thrift Shop, Adult RE, Youth RE, Hale Smith Concert, Improv, Druumatics, Unicrafters, Talent Auction, Art Committee, volunteers at the Freeport INN, worship, yoga, Non-Violent Communication, holiday fair, Interweave, and much more.

SNUUC does a lot. And we do it on a shoestring. So as the Board looked forward to this new congregational year, one of the themes that arose at our retreat was membership. We want to have a strong membership and reach into the broader community because we have so much to offer.

Another theme that emerged from our retreat was hospitality. The practice of "Radical Hospitality" is about creating an active and intentional practice of welcoming and receiving strangers, so they can find a spiritual home. This practice can also be personal, as one can invite oneself to be more open, to be more receptive to the compassionate and generous parts of one's self. As a board, we recognized that SNUUC has much: a building, a choir, a cool minister, a congregation of open minded and open hearted people. We have much to share.

So as we move forward into this coming year, I'm excited and hopeful that our congregation will accept and adopt this theme of hospitality. Inwardly, we can focus on being kind to our selves and each other, and outwardly, we can be more welcoming. Here we go.

Brian Larkin, board president

## Our UU Community

2012 NY State Convention of Universalists annual meeting will be held on October 12-13 at the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs. The keynote speaker is The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President, Meadville Lombard Theological School.

For a brochure go to [http://nyscu.org/AM\\_brochures/2012/2012\\_AM\\_brochure.pdf](http://nyscu.org/AM_brochures/2012/2012_AM_brochure.pdf)

To register go to <https://www.formdesk.com/uufoms/NYSCU>

Building a Culture of Generosity is a regional workshop for Unitarian Universalists hosted by the Central Unitarian Church, a Threshold Congregation at 156 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ and takes place on Saturday, October 27, 9-4. The workshop features Dr. Wayne Clark, Director of Congregational Stewardship Services for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Registration is \$20. To register, visit <https://www.formdesk.com/uufoms/stewardship>

## Nominations

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 would like to be considered or would like someone else to be considered please speak to a Nominating Committee member as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
John Bilello, Joe Centenni, Denise Hibbert,  
Rosemary Olander-Beach and Meghan Stark

# Among Ourselves

**A memorial service for SNUUC charter member Rose Kuhn** will be held on Sunday, September 30 at 12:30 after coffee hour.

**Congratulations Mary Brower** who received Molloy College's Outstanding Faculty Member award. Mary spends extra time with her students making sure they pass her class in adult education.

We all enjoy socializing after the Sunday service, a cup of coffee or tea in hand makes it so much more pleasant. **Please volunteer to do coffee hour on one of the upcoming Sundays.** If you are new or new to preparing coffee hour, invite someone else to do it with you. The only requirement is to bring ½ gallon of milk. Snacks can be as simple or elaborate as you want to make it. The sign-up sheet is on the coffee table on Sundays or speak with Mary Brower.

**There are a few spaces available for the Talent Auction offering - 4 African Drumming workshops!** This is series of four exciting African Drumming lessons. Learn ensemble drumming in a spirit of joy and community. Unleash your inner fire! The dates are Sundays October 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 12:15-1:45pm. The classes are offered by Sharon Nanos and Laura D'Angelo The bid/cost (which goes to SNUUC) is \$50 for the series, \$20 for single workshop, 16 and older. Speak with Sharon or Laura if you would like to attend.

# Committees at Work

SNUUC Committees meet regularly and most encourage attendance at their meetings even if you are not a member of the committee. Speak with a Board member if you would like to learn more about a committee.

**The next Board meeting** will be on Wednesday October 10 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

**The RE Committee** will meet on Wednesday October 17 at 6pm in the RE wing.

The September organizational meeting of the **Membership Team** was led by our Ministerial Intern Allison Palm. The revitalized Membership Team will work to welcome visitors, help new members connect, and provide pastoral care for all members of the congregation. Please check the Wednesday e-mails for future meeting dates and attend if you have ideas about membership or if you are interested in joining the team. All are welcome.

# Morning Forum

Ever wish you had an excuse to get to SNUUC early every week? To sip your coffee and munch on your bagel whilst pondering the meaning of the universe, learning to live your UU values more fully and bonding with other fabulous people? Well, your wish has come true!

Morning Forums are our weekly Adult Education class. Our ministry staff (Rev. Catherine Torpey, DRE David Silver and our new Intern, Allison Palm) will rotate leadership of an adult education class each Sunday morning all year. The topics will follow this basic schedule: The first Sunday of each month will deal with a theme of Civic Engagement. Second Sundays are a Book of the Month, selected and announced in advance. The third Sundays are sessions of a UU curriculum called "What Moves Us." The fourth Sunday of each month will explore themes from the Bible. **They take place from 9am to 10am, usually in the Religious Education wing and all are welcome to come to one or all sessions.**

**The Morning Forums begin on September 30**, with Catherine leading the discussion of the film "The Bible Tells Me So," which discusses what the Bible does and does not say about homosexuality.

**Here is the schedule for October:**

## **October 7 Civic Engagement**

Theme: Film "The Bible Tells Me So" - part 2  
A liberal take on the Bible and Homosexuality  
Leader: Allison Palm

## **October 14 Book of the Month Club**

Book: *Saffron Sky: A Life between Iran and America*  
by Gelareh Asayesh.  
Leader: Catherine Torpey

## **October 21 What Moves Us**

Theme: Hosea Ballou: Happiness  
Leader: David Silver

## **October 28 Bible**

Theme: Biblical views of the afterlife  
Leader: Catherine Torpey

The November Book of the Month is *Who Will Remember Me?: A Daughter's Memoir of Grief and Recovery*, by Barbara Hamilton-Holway. The discussion will be on November 11. To get a taste of the book, you can read Barbara's article from the UU World: <http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/108191.shtml>.

Copies of both books will be on sale during coffee hour in October.

# SNUUC Happenings

## Yoga

As Fall approaches, we begin to think about coming inside, centering ourselves and appreciating the abundance in our lives. What better way to be kind to yourself at this time than by joining one of our **Gentle Yoga with Spirit Classes** here at SNUUC? Your body, your mind, and your spirit will relax and replenish as you gently stretch, balance, and strengthen muscles and thoughts. Our classes are taught by licensed yoga instructor, Ivy Greenburg, and meet in the SNUUC foyer. There are two groups -- Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm, or Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 pm. Fee for either 6-week class series is \$75, payable at the first class. The first Tuesday class of the next series is October 2 and the first Thursday class is October 4. Enrollment is limited by availability of space. Please contact Anne Fleming at [afleming528@gmail.com](mailto:afleming528@gmail.com) to reserve your space!

## Drumming

**Learn to play that djembe!** Join SNUUC's drumming ministry, the DrUUmatics, to learn West African drumming. The DrUUmatics teach a beginner djembe class every Thursday from 6-7pm in the RE wing. The class is devoted to teaching proper technique and traditional West African rhythms. There is usually a drum available if you can't bring your own. Come on down and give it a try! \$15 per class. Check out the website for more info: <http://www.druumatics.org> or find the DrUUmatics page on Facebook.

## 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. 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](mailto:bolarkin@optonline.net) to register.

Can't remember the date of the next Talent Auction event you bid on? Me either. Ever wish you could get your hands on the auction book. Me too.

Here's a link to an abbreviated Talent Auction booklet to help you remember:

<http://www.snuuc.org/Forms/TA12calendarOfEvents.pdf>

# LGBT OutFest

Join us at SNUUC on Sunday, October 7 for our Coming Out Service, which will be followed by the new LGBT OutFest Art Show and Concert. Coordinators of the show, Cliff Teachout and Gary Rosenberg invite everyone to attend and enjoy the art show, entertainment and light refreshments from 12-4pm. For more information or to help at the event call or email Cliff or Gary, [soulbear@optonline.net](mailto:soulbear@optonline.net).

## Improv Show!

SNUUC's talented Improv group invite you to attend their 2nd annual Improv Show, a Talent Auction offering, on Saturday evening, October 27, 7:30 at SNUUC. Talent Auction purchasers are reminded to attend, newcomers pay \$20 at the door. Come and be entertained, surprised and delighted!

## Our Thrift Shop

**Are You a Yard Sale Addict?** If so, you can help our Thrift Shop while enjoying yourself! When you visit yard sales, look around for the following items; glassware, dishes, pots and pans, flatware, art objects, jewelry, shelves and collectibles. These are all very desirable, salable items in our Thrift Shop.

When you find a yard sale with any of these items that are in good, salable condition, you can help in any of the following ways:  
Purchase the items, donate them to the Thrift Shop and received a tax slip for an income tax deduction.  
OR 2) Give a Thrift Shop business card to the yard sale operator and he/she would call the shop to arrange delivery at the end of the sale. The operator will receive a tax slip for the donated merchandise.

Enjoy yourself and help out the Thrift Shop at the same time!

# In the RE Wing

On September 16, we began a new religious education season at SNUUC. As in the past, we will strive to create a caring, spiritual community for our children and youth in which we can grow our souls and create a more just society and world.

Some of the programs that we are standing behind and offering to our children and youth in the upcoming weeks are:

- ▶ Senior Youth involvement with the Metro District YAC protest of Racial Injustice and Book Banning in Arizona
- ▶ Working with the local Food Bank on October 8
- ▶ The Our Whole Lives Program on for grades 7-9 offered through LIAC
- ▶ World Food Day on October 16
- ▶ Social Action CON for Senior HS youth at Stony Brook from October 26-28
- ▶ National Make a Difference Day on October 27
- ▶ Campus Ministry Social Action Project on November 4
- ▶ Intergenerational Games Night at SNUUC on Friday November 9
- ▶ Working Con on Worship for Senior HS youth at SNUUC from November 16-18

I am very excited about this new RE year. And there is plenty of room for congregants to support the work being done in the RE Wing. Please let me know if you would like to get more involved with the program.

David Silver  
Director of Religious Education

# "Heist"

SNUUC member Lisa Oldendorp in conjunction with MoveOn.org is showing the movie "Heist" at SNUUC on Friday, October 19 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

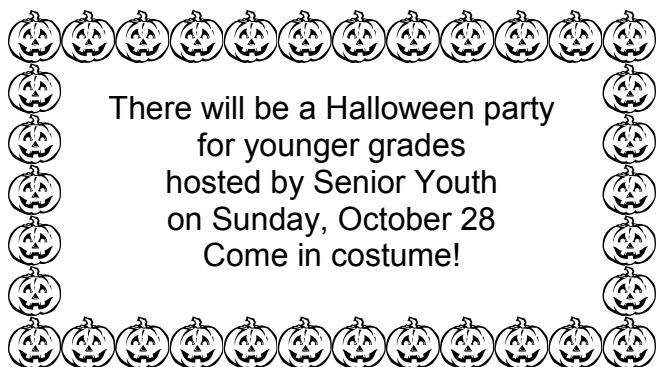
This is the way it is advertised; "Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?" is a documentary about the roots of the American economic crisis, and the continuing assault on working and middle class people in the United States. "Heist" unflinchingly reveals the crumbling structure of the U.S. economy - the result of four decades of deregulation, massive job outsourcing, and tax policies favoring mega-corporations and wealthy elites, implemented by both the Republican and Democratic parties. "Heist" offers a robust Take Action section with real world solutions for everyday Americans to participate in the restoration of economic fairness and our democracy.

For further information or if you would like to help with Movie Night please contact Lisa Oldendorp at [eslsk8r@verizon.net](mailto:eslsk8r@verizon.net).

## Fifth Sunday Giving

**On months with a fifth Sunday, the monies received during the offering is designated for a not for profit charity.** The Fifth Sunday Giving committee is looking for members. It is a minimal commitment of one hour every few months. The committee reviews applications and chooses what charity will benefit from one Sunday's collection plate in a month where there are five Sundays.

The committee is looking for submissions of worthwhile non-profit charities who will benefit from one of our Sunday Collections plates in a month where there are five Sundays (December is the next one). Someone from the charity or the person submitting the applications must give a short talk before the collection describing the charity and who benefits. Please call or email Mary Brower at [mlbrower@aol.com](mailto:mlbrower@aol.com).



## PULSE

PULSE of NY, the only community based, independent patient safety organization in New York and the first in the US, founded at SNUUC in 1996, will be holding a FUNdraiser on Sunday, October 21 at the Brokerage Comedy Club, 2797 Merrick Rd. Bellmore. "Patient Safety Isn't Funny but Laughter is the Best Medicine" Doors open at 7:00pm show time is at 8:00. Tickets are \$20.00 each and there is a 2 drink minimum. A regular restaurant menu is available. Raffles, give-a-ways and lots of friends will make this a special evening! **ONLY tickets purchased in advance will go towards helping PULSE of NY.** See Ilene Corina, Leslie Farrington or John Bilello for more information or to purchase tickets or for opportunities to post a journal ad.

# SNUUC Calendar October 2012

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Pilates 5pm F NVC 7-9 F	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> NVC 9:45 F
<b>7</b> Coming Out Service <b>Morning Forum 9 RE</b> <b>OutFest</b> 1:00 Exec Board Mtg 12 M Improv 2-4 RE Drumming Wkshp 12:15 RE	<b>8</b> Pilates 5pm F NVC 7-9 F	<b>9</b> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<b>10</b> LaLeche 9am RE ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F Board Meeting 7:30 F	<b>11</b> Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> NVC 9:45 F
<b>14 Morning Forum 9 RE</b> Improv 2-4 F Drumming Wkshp 12:15 RE Stamping Class 3-6 RE	<b>15</b> PULSE 6-9 RE Pilates 5pm F NVC 7-9 F	<b>16</b> No Yoga	<b>17</b> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F RE Meeting 6 RE	<b>18</b> No Yoga Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<b>19</b> Movie Night "Heist" 7:30 RE	<b>20</b> NVC 9:45 F
<b>21 Morning Forum 9 RE</b> Drumming Wkshp 12:15 RE Improv 2-4 F	<b>22</b> Pilates 5pm RE NVC 7-9 F	<b>23</b> No Yoga	<b>24</b> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F Worship Planning 7 F	<b>25</b> Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> NVC 9:45 F Talent Auction Improv Show F&S 7:30
<b>28 Morning Forum 9 RE</b> RE Children's Halloween Party Drumming Wkshp 12:15 RE Improv 2-4 F	<b>29</b> Pilates 5pm RE NVC 7-9 F	<b>30</b> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<b>31</b> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F	<b>November 1</b> Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<b>2</b> Jr Youth service planning	<b>3</b> NVC 9:45 F

Read inside for more information about...

Morning Forum on Sunday Mornings

OutFest Art Show and Entertainment  
Sunday October 7

Movie Night Friday October 19

Improv Show October 28

**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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