



# The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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**November 4, 2012 10:30am**     **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**     Rev. Catherine Torpey  
***Informed Worship***

**Carl Sagan and the Theological Implications of Cosmology**

**Coffee:** Selina Benson & Helene Fiber  
**Lock-up:** Dana Reinecke

**Ushers:** Andrew Spatt & Volunteer Needed  
**Welcome:** Membership Team

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**November 11, 2012 10:30am**

Rev Ian White Maher

***Hello, Non-believers***

**Chalice Lighters with Guest Preacher, Rev Ian White Maher from the new  
UU Congregation in Brooklyn, Original Blessing**

**Coffee:** *Volunteer Needed*  
**Lock-up:** Jim Crocetto

**Ushers:** Anne Fleming & Jayne Davison  
**Welcome:** Membership Team

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**November 18, 2012 10:30am**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

***Guest at Your Table***

**A service with our Junior Youth**

**Stay for Turkey, Trimmings and Technology immediately after the service, sign up beginning Nov 4**

**Coffee:** Martha Chamberlain & Addi Quinn  
**Lock-up:** Jean Smyth Crocetto

**Ushers:** Doris Brass & Andrew Spatt  
**Welcome:** Membership Team

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**November 25, 2012 10:30am**

Allison Palm, Ministerial Intern

***The Breath Before the Rush***

**Coffee: Pot Luck, please bring something for the table, Volunteer needed to coordinate**

**Ushers:** Robin Norris & Andrew Spatt

**Lock-up:** Mary Canada

**Welcome:** Membership Team

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

Catherine is in the office several times a week and works from home on other days. Monday is her day off. Please feel free to call her at any time to talk or to make an appointment.

Allison Palm, Ministerial Intern Thursday 11-4 [PalmAlli@gmail.com](mailto:PalmAlli@gmail.com)

**Director of Religious Education, David Silver**

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

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Secretary, Jim Crocetto

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# *Muusings* *from the Minister*

Dear friends - Our country once again will be selecting its leader this month. The practice of going to the polls is one that many of us take for granted, perhaps because from our earliest days on these shores, we made choices through a democratic process. One of the earliest documents in our religious history is the Cambridge Platform - the agreement made through a year-long series of conversations by residents of Cambridge, Massachusetts. It did not say much about what one must believe, but focused on how congregations would govern themselves. Such a democratic way of organizing people makes for messy governance and lots of chances to argue.

Democracy is not particularly efficient and often not very satisfying. We usually don't get exactly what we want, and we can usually see that things could be done much better if only a wise and benevolent dictator could "make it so." However, democracy is the best way to govern among all the alternatives out there. But if we don't have clean elections, a true reflection of the will of the people, and a reasonable chance for people to make choices in their lives, then we don't really have democracy. I have been concerned about efforts throughout the country to restrict access to the polls by requiring voter identifications which sound easier to get than they are. Unbiased studies have shown that it is rare for people to show up at polls and vote when they are not legitimate voters. What isn't rare are efforts to limit who is included in "We the People."

As we go out to cast our votes, may we be grateful to have inherited the right to have our voices heard and seek to defend that right for all people - most especially our own. And may your preferred candidate win.

Yours in faith, hope and love,  
Catherine

# *Thoughts from our* *Ministerial Intern*

It's been a pleasure to work with the new Membership Team these past couple of months. We've got lots of ideas and plans in the works. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> we'll be formally welcoming new members into our community with a ceremony during the service. I know it has been a while since this has happened at SNUUC—we'll have a good crowd of new members to welcome!

One of our big conversations has been about welcoming—both welcoming new members and, perhaps more importantly, welcoming those who visit us on Sunday mornings. How welcoming are we? How friendly do we appear to visitors? Do those red cups actually get people to talk to you?

One of the blessings and curses of being part of a small congregation is that everyone knows everyone else. It is a blessing for those who've been around for a while because you can come to church on Sunday and be greeted by a sea of familiar faces. It can really feel like coming home each week. It can be a curse for those not-so-familiar faces. We may be friendly to each other, but are we friendly to those who come through our doors for the first time? The folks on the Membership Team have been looking out for those red cups at coffee hour – have you?

To be a truly friendly church, to be truly welcoming, we have to be most friendly not to our friends, but to those who we have never met before. What if we all tried to talk to one person we didn't know or didn't know well at coffee hour each week? Who knows who you might meet or what you might learn! Who knows whose life you might change just by saying hello.

May we be ever aware of the strangers in our midst, and may we be ever seeking to make them our friends.

Blessings,  
Allison

## Association Appeal

If you have already given, please accept our gratitude. Last year we received 61 members' dues. This was an increase from the 40 we received the year before and we hope to collect even more this year. If you have yet to give, please remember that once again 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.

As many of you know, we have begun this year's Association Appeal, a special collection of \$90 per member to fund our congregation's membership in the larger Unitarian Universalist community -- national, regional and local.

# OUR BOARDWALK

The Wider Embrace

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called not to be convinced of our own beliefs, but to be in awe in how belief inspires so much in every human life. We respect and embrace diversity in our congregation and throughout Unitarian Universalism. As part of our mission, we have pledged to be welcoming and open our house to those fleeing a painful religious past, those who are seeking a spiritual home and those who find our church a way to do some good in the world.

Our journey as a congregation came to a cross roads several years ago during the Great Recession. We saw our pledge base take a harsh economic hit. I'm sure every family at SNUUC, if not a first-hand witness, knew someone hurt in the economic downturn that struck in 2007. Our congregation, like so many families on Long Island and around the United States, was faced with hard choices.

I recall Rosemary Beach, then president, and I looking at what other congregations, large and small, were doing to ride out this storm. We hit upon the stories of UU congregations that had found ways to close holes in their budgets by segregating their association dues from their operating budgets. It was not an easy decision. Some felt it was flawed, that it was basically asking people to pledge twice.

We felt that being part of the UUA, the Metro District, and LIAC is more than merely putting a name on our building. It means touching lives, such as our youth who go to Sophia Fahs Camp, experience the OWL program and complete Coming of Age. Without the UUA we would not have our minister Catherine Torpey or our ministerial intern Alison Palm. Our identity as a congregation is inextricably bound to UUism. As our minister recently reminded us, as UUs we are called to broaden our embrace, to bring more people into our circle of compassion and understanding.

As Trustees, however, we were tasked to keep the doors open and look to the future. We knew that drawing down more than \$11,000 annually from our savings was not sustainable during hard times. As a matter of policy, it was decided that the money set aside in our savings would not be sent to Boston or the Metro District.

So, we created the association appeal. I am hopeful that every member of SNUUC will participate this year. Together we can achieve our goal of being a full fair-share congregation. I know that \$90, the cost of our association dues on a per-member basis, is not trivial. I also know it is putting our money where our faith is. It is for blessings we can't see. With much gratitude for those who have already contributed, please take part and make this the year we are again a fair-share congregation.

Brian Larkin, Board president

# Morning Forum

Morning Forums are off and running! Please join us - these morning sessions are a great time to connect with other SNUUC folks around issues relevant to our religious and civic life together.

Morning Forums are our weekly Adult Education class. Our ministry staff (Rev. Catherine Torpey, DRE David Silver and our new Intern, Allison Palm) rotate leadership of an adult education class each Sunday morning all year. The topics 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.

**The classes take place from 9am to 10am, usually in the Religious Education wing and all are welcome to come to one or all sessions.**

**Here is the schedule for November:**

November 4 Civic Engagement  
Inclusion, Impact and Innovation  
Leader is David Silver

November 11 Book of the Month Club  
*Who Will Remember Me?: A Daughter's Memoir of Grief and Recovery* by Barbara Hamilton-Holway  
Leader is Allison Palm

November 18 What Moves Us  
William Ellery Channing: Emotional Struggle  
Leader is Allison Palm

**November 25, no Morning Forum**

The December Book of the Month is *The Battle for Christmas* by Stephen Niccenbaum. The discussion will be on December 19.

Copies of the books are on sale during coffee hour on Sundays and in the office during the week.

# Among Ourselves

**We welcome new member Lauren Gach.** Lauren's friendly face is often seen at SNUUC, she signed a membership card in September and is a graduate of our senior youth RE program. So glad you joined Lauren!

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.** November 11 and 25 are available this month. 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 has been a date change for the Chili Cook-Off a Talent Auction offering** that was scheduled for November 10. The new date is Saturday January 19 at SNUUC. Mark your calendar and plan a night of fun with friends at the very first SNUUC Chili Cook-off hosted by Peter Larsen, JoJo Granoff and Ilene Corina. For just \$15 (100% goes to SNUUC) you can sample at least 4 different types of home-made chili, have some corn bread, drink a beer (for purchase) or soda (free) and even have a hot dog on the side!

If you think YOU make the best chili, you can enter it into the chili cook-off too! Speak with Ilene, Peter or JoJo.

## Our Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop Committee will meet on Sunday, November 11, at noon. The main focus will be on reorganizing the Shop and setting out concrete steps for now and the future.

Our Thrift Shop manager, Susan Schukat, submitted her resignation, effective Saturday, October 13. We are grateful for Susan's excellent service to us and we wish her all the best. The Board is meeting with Thrifties to discuss how to proceed. We will give updates as we have more information.

# 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 RE Committee** will meet on Sunday, November 11 at noon in the RE wing.

**The next Board meeting** will be on Wednesday November 14 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

**The revitalized Membership Team** is working to welcome visitors, help new members connect, and provide pastoral care for all members of the congregation. The membership team will meet on Thursday November 15 at 7pm in the foyer. Speak with Allison Palm if you have questions or suggestions. All are welcome.

## 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 La Due (Stark).

**Our annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 27 at noon in the Sanctuary when we'll vote on the slate.**

## Chalice Lighters

**The Fall 2012 Chalice Lighters Call will be for Original Blessing, a new UU congregation being planted in Brooklyn NY,** the first new congregation to be started in the District in nearly 20 years. **The Rev. Ian White Maher** is the congregation's minister. For more information about Original Blessing, visit the [Facebook page](#). The Fall Chalice Lighters collection will take place at SNUUC on November 11 when Rev. Maher will be preaching here.

# Holiday Fair!

Wow, folks, it's almost November and the Holiday Fair, one of SNUUC's biggest fundraisers, is just around the corner -- Sunday December 2nd! Last year's fair was so festive and successful, and the volunteerism was so impressive, that we're hoping to do it all over again, with an a la carte lunch with all your favorite fixin's, a cash bar with a bit of holiday cheer (something new), live music, raffles, and a dizzying number of vendors. If you know an artist or crafter who might like to sell at our fair, see Rita Hines for a registration form and let's recruit 'em! Sign up sheets for volunteer positions at the fair will be at the Ways and Means table on Sunday. You can help in any way you choose. (Don't make us nag you by email or telephone!).

In an effort to make our fair more child-friendly and draw in more people, we are seeking a volunteer Santa (better yet, a couple of Santas) to hear those requests for expensive electronics from the tots! We also need a volunteer holiday face-painter. Do you think you could fill the bill? If so, see Rita Hines, Liz Di Maggio, or Mary Canada. If you have something to donate for our raffle table, we'd be much obliged.

It's the congregation that makes the Holiday Fair. Please find a task you'd like to do; that's what makes it fun. And bring all your family and friends! We had a great turnout last year -- let's do it again. Let's make merry and let's make money!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

## General Assembly

**Next year our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, GA,** is taking place in Louisville, Kentucky on June 19-23, 2013. General Assembly is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. 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 Happenings

### Games

Join us for **Intergenerational Games Night** on Friday November 9 from 7-9 in the RE wing with board games, video games, cards, snacks and art projects.

### T, T & T

**The Intergenerational Luncheon/Holiday Decoration Party** is Sunday November 18 immediately after the service. We are calling it **"Turkey, Trimmings and Technology"**. The cost is only \$5.00 for a great meal and lots of fun and community. Sign up begins on Sunday November 4

### Yoga

**Gentle Yoga with Spirit Classes** take place most Tuesday and Thursdays

here at SNUUC. Your body, your mind, and your spirit 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 current series of classes began in October but you can usually drop in on a class and then join the next series. Please contact Anne Fleming at [afleming528@gmail.com](mailto:afleming528@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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

**Pilates classes** at SNUUC take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 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.

# In the RE Wing



Our fall calendar is certainly full of all kinds of activities as we move into the holiday season. Along with our regular religious education program, we will be celebrating the annual **Jr. HS led Guests at Your Table Service** on Sunday November 18. Please note the events we have planned and mark your calendars to make sure you are a part of them:

**Sunday October 28 SNUUC Annual Halloween Party.** Costumes, games, pumpkin decorating, crafts.

**Friday November 2 Jr. HS Service.** Rehearsal 6pm-8pm. Grades 5-8

**Friday November 9 Intergenerational Games Night.** Board Games, Video Games, Cards, Snacks and Art Projects. 7pm-9pm

**Sunday November 11 Campus Ministry Project.** Chalice necklace creations with Ellen Minzner. Care packages for SNUUC college/graduate school attendees

**Sunday November 11 Jr. HS Service.** Rehearsal 1pm-3pm

**Friday November 16 Jr. HS Service.** Rehearsal 6pm-8pm

**Friday November 16-18 Worship Planning Con.** For Senior HS youth

**Sunday November 18 Jr. HS led Guest at Your Table Service**

**Sunday November 18 Intergenerational Luncheon/Congregational Decorating. Turkey, Trimmings & Technology.** Immediately after Service

If you have an idea for an event or social justice project involving our youth in the months to come, please let me know.

David Silver  
Director of Religious Education

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. **SNUUC would like to have someone from our congregation who will regularly tell us about the good works UUSC does and describe how we can become involved. If you can be that representative, please tell Catherine or a Board member.** Here is information about the UUSC, taken from their website, <http://www.uusc.org/>

"We envision a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes [economic rights](#), advances [environmental justice](#), defends [civil liberties](#), and preserves the rights of people in times of [humanitarian crisis](#).

We also engage local communities through our service-learning program, [JustWorks](#), which introduces participants to the work of our domestic and overseas partners — who are often on the front lines of addressing social-justice issues.

Our work is built on the conviction that all people are entitled to basic human rights, which transcend divisions of class, race, nationality, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, and gender.

We rely on our members and supporters — people just like you — to fund our programs. Anyone wishing to support human rights and social justice is welcome to [join us](#). UUSC is an associate member of the [Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](#), but receives no general financial support from the UUA. Neither do we receive funding from federal or state governments or institutions, ensuring our independent voice."

Their **Mission Statement** is: UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.



Bringing compassion to healthcare is the mission of Dr. Robin Youngson, an anesthesiologist from New Zealand. He founded Hearts in Healthcare following a personal experience with the inhuman care of his daughter, who was in a hospital for three months with a broken neck.

Dr. Youngson recently published the book "Time to Care" and travels the world to spread his mission. He will be stopping off at SNUUC on Sunday, November 25, 2012 at 3:00 PM as a guest of PULSE of NY to have a discussion about his work and his book.

Please come and support this cause and learn what you can do to help bring back the compassion in healthcare. See Ilene Corina or Leslie Farrington for more information

# SNUUC Calendar November 2012

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>	<i>3</i>
<i>4 Turn your clocks back!</i> <b>Morning Forum 9 RE</b> Exec Board Mtg 12 M Improv 2-4 RE Mission Mosaic 12:30 RE	<i>5</i> Pilates 5pm F NVC 7-9 F	<i>6</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>7</i> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE Pilates 5pm F	<i>8</i> Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>9</i> Intergen Game Night 7 RE ALL INVITED!	<i>10</i> NVC 9:45 F
<i>11 Morning Forum 9 RE</i> Chalice Lighters Sunday RE Committee mtg 12 RE Jr Youth Svc Planning 1-3 Improv 2-4 F Stamping Class 3-6 RE	<i>12</i> Pilates 5pm F NVC 7-9 F	<i>13</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>14</i> LaLeche 9am RE ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F Board Meeting 7:30 F Pilates 5pm F	<i>15</i> Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Membership mtg 7pm Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>16</i> Jr Youth service planning 6pm S 7pm Sr. HS Worship	<i>17</i> NVC 9:45 out of building Working Con overnite 2 nites until 8am Sunday
<i>18 Morning Forum 9 RE</i> Jr Youth Service Hanging of the Greens 11:30 Intergenerational Turkey & Technology lunch 12 RE Improv 2-4 F	<i>19</i> Pilates 5pm RE NVC 7-9 F	<i>20</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>21</i> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE Pilates 5pm F	<i>22 Thanksgiving</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25 no Morning Forum</i> PULSE book signing Improv 2-4 F	<i>26</i> Pilates 5pm RE NVC 7-9 F	<i>27</i> Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	<i>28</i> ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE Pilates 5pm F Worship Planning 7 F	<i>29</i> Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	<i>30</i> Jr Youth service planning	<i>December 1</i> NVC 9:45 F New Member Dinner 5:30 RE Holiday Fair is Tomorrow!

Read inside for more information about...  
Sunday Morning Forum  
Intergenerational Game Night , November 9  
Holiday Fair, December 2

**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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