



# The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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**December 2, 2012 10:30am**

*Morning Forum 9am: Unitarian Universalism & Classism (Allison Palm)*

**Chalica: a seasonal celebration of our Seven Principles** Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Coffee:** Selena Benson & Helene Fiber **Ushers:** Andrew Spatt & Volunteer Needed **Lock-up:** Jay Gach

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**December 9, 2012 10:30am**

*Morning Forum 9am: Book Club, "The Battle for Christmas" (Catherine Torpey)*

**Seeing the Light: a Hanukkah celebration** Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Coffee:** Volunteer Needed **Ushers:** Doris Brass & Andrew Spatt **Lock-up:** Selina Benson

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**December 16, 2012 10:30am**

*Morning Forum 9am: Margaret Fuller: The Human Heart (David Silver)*

**Oh, That Star: Carl Sagan and the Meaning of Cosmology** Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Coffee:** Volunteer Needed **Ushers:** Anne Fleming & Jayne Davison **Lock-up:** Ken Bellafiore

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**December 23, 2012 10:30am**

*Morning Forum 9am: Comparing the Birth Narratives in the gospels of Matthew and Luke (Catherine Torpey)*

**Where is the Light? A Winter Solstice Celebration** Allison Palm, Ministerial Intern

**Coffee:** Volunteer Needed **Ushers:** Robin Norris & Andrew Spatt **Lock-up:** Brian Larkin

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**December 24, 2012 5:30pm**

Christmas Eve

**What Manner of King is This?**

**Ushers:** Andrew Spatt & Volunteers Needed

**Lock-up**

Rev. Catherine Torpey

See page 2 for  
January Sundays

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**December 30, 2012 10:30am**

*No Morning Forum*

**Goodbyes and Hellos**

A ritual for the New Year

Rev. Carol Huston

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

**Ushers:** Andrew Spatt & Volunteer Needed **Lock-up:** Peter Larsen

**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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Vice President, Dana Reinecke

Secretary, Jim Crocetto

Treasurer, Peter Larsen

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**January 6, 2013 10:30am**

*No Morning Forum*

**The Lessons of Lessening**  
On lightening our loads

Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Coffee:** Volunteer Needed

**Ushers:** Andrew Spatt & Volunteer Needed

**Lock-up:** Dana Reinecke

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**January 13, 2013 10:30am**

*Morning Forum: Love in a Headscarf (Allison Palm)*

**One is Enough: Michael Servetus Day**  
Celebrating our Unitarian heritage

Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Coffee:** Senior Youth Bake Sale for Midnight Run

**Ushers:** Doris Brass & Andrew Spatt

**Lock-up:** Jim Crocetto

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**January 20, 2013 10:30am**

*Morning Forum: Sophia Lyon Fahs: Religious Naturalism (David Silver)*

**Prophets of a Future Not Our Own**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Allison Palm

**Coffee:** Volunteer Needed

**Ushers:** Anne Fleming & Jayne Davison

**Lock-up:** Jean Smyth Crocetto

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**January 27, 2013 10:30am**

*Morning Forum: The Psalms (Allison Palm)*

**Senior Youth Worship**

**Coffee:** Volunteer Needed

**Ushers:** Robin Norris & Andrew Spatt

**Lock-up:** Mary Canada

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## 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 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 9 to 10am most Sunday mornings, usually in the Religious Education wing and all are welcome to come to one or all sessions. The topics are listed with the Sunday morning schedule in this newsletter on pages 1 & 2.

The January book of the Month is "Love in a Headscarf" by Shelina Janmohamed. Allison Palm will lead the discussion on January 13.

## Association Appeal

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.

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.

# *Muusings* from the Minister

Dear friends - It's been hard times around here since "Superstorm" Sandy - not technically a hurricane by the time it reached us, but relentless in its destruction. From the loss of electricity to the lack of gasoline, to cancellations of school or workplace disruptions, almost all of us have felt its effects. Our congregation's building escaped unscathed, but many of you have lost entire floors of your homes or businesses - sometimes both. Some of you were even in the terrifying position of being home as waters rose, wondering if you would get out without harm coming to you or your family. Many of you have been displaced into the homes of family and friends, on couches or floors, worrying that you are imposing too much on the kindness of these good people. Thankfully, I am aware of no one in the congregation who suffered any bodily harm in the storm, though some had to escape through flood waters. It has been amazing to see how many of you have opened your homes to one another, offered food, rides, and more. One member carried a disabled friend down 16 flights of stairs.

You have managed this horrible experience with remarkable grace. The resilience and generosity within our congregation is amazing. On the Sunday after the storm, our worship time was used to help you connect with each other and try to take a breath after a harrowing week. The first family to speak had lost their home, and was living with friends but needed a temporary home for their dog. The next person to raise her hand offered to take the dog, to spontaneous applause from the rest of us. There has been so much generosity and good will - it is truly heart-warming.

The holiday season always begins with Thanksgiving. I am moved by how many, despite serious losses, have said that they feel blessed: grateful for the generosity and goodwill of others, and grateful for what they have not lost: most notably, that no one has been physically hurt. Though I live in Manhattan, I had a storage unit in Freeport where all of my family memorabilia was stored and is now a wet, goopy, moldy mess. For me, this loss has prompted reflection about what really matters - what kinds of things are truly meaningful, and how very many things are more burdensome than helpful. The good that can come of such disasters is that we allow them to make us more mindful of what we are grateful for, without denying the pain of what we have lost. We will be pressured in this season to buy more stuff. How much of the stuff we lost really needs to be bought again? This holiday season, I will try to "lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Maybe instead of replacing wet books I haven't read in years, I will spend money to be with the people I love, give food to those who hunger, and gasoline to get me to places where clean-up is still needed.

May your holidays be free of burdensome things, and filled with companionship and love.

Yours in faith, hope and love, Catherine

## **OUR BOARDWALK**



The morning after Hurricane Sandy, I like so many of my neighbors walked my property to assess what damage, if any, had been left behind. I was lucky. We had no power, but our home had not suffered any real damage. We would have to stake some Leylands in the back yard, but that was about it. At SNUUC, our linden tree suffered some, but not substantial damage. The end of a great branch is now cut as a reminder of the storm. Our building is fine. It did not flood and power came back the week of Sandy.

Many in our congregation continue to deal with the fallout from this gigantic event. Members who live near the ocean or canals suffered real material losses. They also are physically and emotionally drained. Everyone has a story, either of experiencing or witnessing loss; everyone knows someone who suffered a real hit.

It is natural to assess what has happened after a traumatic event. I'm so glad that many of our members are OK and will be all right. And I'm so proud of our minister who, accompanied by our ministerial intern, Allison Palm, worked the phone and drove where she was needed to assist others. I'm so proud of so many SNUUC members who have been active in local relief efforts. Within a week of the storm, our congregation organized a response. We have set up a Google Group to connect with post-storm relief. Members were contacted and assisted. These efforts continue.

On Sunday, November 18, we set in motion initiatives to create a response as a congregation to the broader community. Many families in Freeport are homeless. There are continuing needs in Long Beach and across the South Shore. Please let Allison Palm or Catherine know if you would like to join a group that will take on some relief effort tasks in the coming weeks in Long Beach. As winter approaches, it is appropriate we recognize how fortunate we are. And it is completely fitting with the character of our members, that we are motivated and mobilized to assist others and are grateful for the opportunity. Brian Larkin, Board President

# Among Ourselves

We welcome new member **Alex Beach**. Alex, a member of our senior youth is also a talented artist. Check out his artwork in the RE wing.

**Thank you to the Junior Youth** for their inspiring and energetic Guest at Your Table worship service on Nov. 18. It's wonderful to see these young people on the chancel. Pick up your box from the table in the foyer.

**Thank you Rita Hines and her helpers** for organizing SNUUC's annual Holiday Fair!

**December 16 is the annual Holiday Trip** where we meet at the festive Hicks Nursery on Jericho Tpke in Westbury at 3pm, followed by dinner at the Old Country Buffet and a trip to the Christmas Tree at EAB/Reckson Plaza. All SNUUCites and friends are welcome. Hicks has an animated holiday story and usually Santa and some of his reindeer are there with plenty of photo opportunities. See or call Mary Brower if you have questions.

Don't spend Christmas Eve in the kitchen! **Come to Chen's Buffet City 3056 Hempstead Tpke, Levittown for dinner immediately following our Christmas Eve service.** No reservations required. Bring your friends and family and spend time with your SNUUC family. Speak with Ilene Corina for info.

**Come to the Chili Cook-Off, a Talent Auction offering on Saturday, January 19 at SNUUC, 7pm.** 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 UU Community

The UU Congregation of Central Nassau, Stewart Ave in Garden City, invites you to their December Garden Stage concerts. Joni Mitchell's "Blue" 40th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, Dec 2 at 3:00 \$20 Adv/\$22 door. This concert will feature a stellar cast of some of the NYC area's finest female singer/songwriters. And Season of Light with Magpie & Kim & Reggie Harris on Friday, Dec 7 \$20 Adv/\$22 door. For tickets and information; [calendar@uuccn.org](mailto:calendar@uuccn.org), 248-8891, [www.GardenStage.com](http://www.GardenStage.com), [www.uuccn.org](http://www.uuccn.org)

# 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 Sundays, December 16 (RE holiday party) and January 20 at noon in the RE wing.

**The Board will meet** on Wednesdays December 12 and January 9 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

**The revitalized Membership Team** is working to welcome welcome visitors, help new members connect, and provide pastoral care for all members of the congregation. They announce these upcoming events; Saturday, December 1, 5:30pm - New Member Spaghetti Dinner 5:30-8pm, Sunday December 2 - New Member Welcome Ceremony (during service), Wednesdays December 19 and January 16, 7pm - Membership Team Meetings. Speak with Allison Palm if you have questions or suggestions. All are welcome.

**Thrift Shop Committee will meet** on Sundays December 9 and January 13, at noon in the RE wing. The Thrift Shop Luncheon and Fashion Show will be on Sunday, February 10 at noon in the RE wing.

**Shopping online?**  
Click through [amazon.snuuc.org](http://amazon.snuuc.org) & SNUUC gets 5-6% of your Amazon purchase.  
It's easy and doesn't cost you a penny more!  
Please bring your wrapped and numbered Share the Light holiday gifts to SNUUC by Sunday December 9.  
Guest at Your Table boxes are due to SNUUC on January 6.  
Thank You!

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\* 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.** All Sundays are \*  
\* available except December 2 and January 13. If you \*  
\* are new or new to preparing coffee hour invite \*  
\* someone else to do it with you. The only \*  
\* requirement is to bring 1/2 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. \*  
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# Holiday Fair!

**COME TO OUR HOLIDAY FAIR  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd 12 -5  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

There will be live music and refreshments of all kinds for sale, as well as a groaning board of home-baked goods. There will be in-house and outside vendors selling unique and unusual Christmas and Hanukkah gifts, from jewelry to pottery and crafts. Why trek to the mall when you can do it all here, and have lots of fun and food besides?

If you have questions or want to help, please contact Rita Hines. Let's make this a truly memorable holiday festival and a real moneymaker for our congregation!

**We are in great need of volunteers to set up and decorate our dining room for the Holiday Fair from 10:30am on Saturday, December 1st. There will be coffee and bagels! We also need strong arms to set up vendor tables in the foyer between 12 noon and 3pm on that Saturday. Please call or email Rita Hines at [rita.hines26@yahoo.com](mailto:rita.hines26@yahoo.com). Thank you!**

## Our Thrift Shop

**Have you been to our Thrift Shop lately?** Our Thrift Shop, located at 22 West Merrick Road here in Freeport, is a terrific place to shop and to donate clean, gently used saleable merchandise. The shop needs your donations. Trinkets, costume jewelry, small furniture, kitchen items and small appliances all sell very well. **Did you receive a gift that's just not your thing? Donate it to the Thrift Shop!** *It's also a great place to volunteer some time, speak to Joe McAuley.* Our Thrift Shop is open Wednesday through Saturday; hours are from 10 am to 4 pm, whenever possible. The phone number is 223-3974.

**Thank you Joe McAuley, Doris Brass, Mary Canada and Debbie Scharf for stepping up to form the Thrift Shop Transition Team. Be sure to read the letter about the Thrift Shop that was emailed to the congregation on November 13.**

## Chancel Flowers

Flowers on 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.

Our Biannual Meeting will be on  
January 27, 2013 at noon.  
All members are asked to attend.

Because of superstorm Sandy, the Nominating Committee will be submitting a slate for the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee in early December. It will be sent to members by email -- or by U.S. Postal Service in the case of members without email.

## SNUUC Happenings

### Yoga

It's that MOST wonderful time of the year...the time when we eat too much, rush around too much, and in general just overdo too much! Why not slow things down a bit and join us for a class series of Gentle Yoga with Spirit? Calm your mind; nourish your body and spirit. Our current class series have been extended through Dec. 4 (Tuesday series) and Dec. 6 (Thursday series) because of recent schedule changes. Our NEXT series will run as follows: Tuesdays - 5:30-6:30pm Dec. 11 - Feb. 5. Thursdays 4:30-5:30 pm Dec. 13 - Jan 24. *There will be NO classes during the week of Dec. 29 through Jan. 5.* Both series are available at the rate of \$75/class. Please e-mail Anne Fleming ([afleming528@gmail.com](mailto:afleming528@gmail.com)) to hold 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

**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

Cultivating an attitude of gratitude was what I had in mind when I sat in with the Senior HS youth one recent Sunday. Or at least getting the youth to be mindful of the topic would have been fine. What I came away with was something very different.

I do not usually have the opportunity to spend much time teaching RE classes. But on this particular morning, I was a substitute working along with Bill Bryson-Brockmann, who has been leading this class for over a year. I started by asking the youth some general spiritual questions: Do you pray, and if you do, who do you pray to and what do you pray for? What do you think about what happens after you die? After an interesting sharing of personal beliefs, I handed everyone a clipboard with some paper and asked them to think about what it means to have gratitude and to then make a list of everything that they are grateful for. I instructed them not to limit their entries, that it could include everything from their families to their fingers.

The youth immediately started writing and I finally had to tell them to stop. Everyone went around the room sharing about 10 things that they are grateful for. There were many more items on their lists. And this was before the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. I am sure that they could add many more things to their lists today.

So it appears that the youth already understand the importance of gratitude and realize that everything is a gift. I hope your level of gratitude is high also. If you are not the grateful sort, think about this: Cultivating an attitude of gratitude has been linked to better health, less anxiety and depression, higher long term satisfaction with life and kinder behavior toward others. And more than any emotion, gratitude is the emotion of friendship.

Happy Holidays to all. I am grateful for so many things in my life, especially that I have all of you as a part of my community.

David Silver  
Director of Religious Education

## Spread some Holiday Cheer

**Please join us at our Annual Christmas Caroling** at South Shore Health Care at 275 West Merrick Road in Freeport on Thursday, December 13 at 6pm. We would like to put together an intergenerational choir for this event. This is a heartwarming time to help cheer up our elders at holiday time. We often go to Friendly's after to extend the good cheer. **There will be a rehearsal on Sunday December 9 after the service.** If you want to participate please contact either David Silver or JoAnn Fassman.

Please bring your wrapped and numbered **Share the Light Gifts** to the SNUUC RE Wing by Sunday, December 9.

You have a few weeks to fill your **Guest at Your Table boxes.** Please bring them back to SNUUC by January 6. If you didn't get a chance to pick up a box at the Junior Youth service on November 18, there's one on a table in the foyer for you!

## Midnight Run

**Our Senior Youth are preparing for another Midnight Run, this one in February.** The Midnight Run is a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless. Volunteers distribute food, clothing, blankets and personal care items to the homeless poor on the streets of NYC. That human exchange, rather than the exchange of goods, is the essence of the Midnight Run mission. Please keep in mind that we will be collecting toiletries, socks and men's coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and blankets for the Run.

**There will be a meeting on Sunday December 2 for anyone who can help plan for this Midnight Run.** Meet in the Sr. Youth room at 11:45. These meetings usually last less than 30 minutes so there will be plenty of time to attend the Holiday Fair lunch & shopping! Please come ready to share how you can help. You can collect supplies, help to prepare on the night of the run and / or actually come on the Midnight Run. Come to learn the details and how to participate. Speak to Ilene Corina or a Senior Youth for more information.

# SNUUC Calendar December 2012

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

| Sun   | Mon                                      | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri       | Sat   |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|---|
| <b>2 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br><b>Holiday Fair!</b><br>Exec Board Mtg 12 M<br>Improv 2-4 RE   | <b>3</b><br>Pilates 5pm F<br>NVC 7-9 F   | <b>4</b><br>Yoga 5:30-6:30 F                             | <b>5</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE<br>Pilates 5pm F   | <b>6</b><br>Yoga 4:30-5:30 F<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Choir Practice 7:30 S                          | <b>7</b>  | <b>1</b><br>NVC 9:45 F<br>New Member Dinner 5:30<br>Set up for Holiday Fair |
| <b>9 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br>Thrift Shop Cmte mtg 12 RE<br>Improv 2-4 F<br>Stamping Class 3-6 RE                                    | <b>10</b><br>Pilates 5pm F<br>NVC 7-9 F  | <b>11</b><br>Minister Meeting 10-1 F<br>Yoga 5:30-6:30 F | <b>12</b><br>LaLeche 9am RE<br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F<br>Board Meeting 7:30 F<br>Pilates 5pm F | <b>13</b><br>Yoga 4:30-5:30 F<br>Holiday Caroling 6pm<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Choir Practice 7:30 S | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>NVC 9:45 F   |
| <b>16 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br>RE Holiday Party 12 RE<br>Christmas Eve rehearse 1pm<br>Family Holiday Hicks trip 3pm<br>Improv 2-4 F | <b>17</b><br>Pilates 5pm RE<br>NVC 7-9 F | <b>18</b><br>Yoga 5:30-6:30 F                            | <b>19</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE<br>Pilates 5pm F<br>Membership mtg 7pm                    | <b>20</b><br>Yoga 4:30-5:30 F<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Christmas Eve rehearsal<br>5pm                | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>NVC 9:45 F   |
| <b>23 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br>Christmas Eve rehearse 1pm<br>Improv 2-4 F  | <b>24</b>                                | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE<br>Pilates 5pm F  | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>   |
| <b>30 NO Morning Forum</b>  | <b>31</b>                                |  |   |   |           |   |

**COME TO OUR HOLIDAY FAIR  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd 12 -5  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

Christmas Caroling Thursday, December 13, 6pm  
Rehearsal Sunday December 9 after the service

Biannual Meeting Sunday January 27, 2013 at noon.  
All I members are asked to attend.

**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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Freeport, NY 11520