



# The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

---

**February 3, 2013 10:30am**

***Mother of the New Emancipation: Mary White Ovington***

(snow date for youth worship and bi-annual meeting)

**Coffee:** Choir Coffee Sing!

**Lock-up:** Jay Anthony Gach

Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Ushers:** Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt

**Welcome:** Membership Team

---

**February 10, 2013 10:30am**

***Poetry Sunday***

**Coffee:** Michele Mittleman & Sharon Kennelty Cohen

**Lock-up:** Selina Benson

Jim Hawkins & Rev. Catherine Torpey

**Ushers:** Doris Brass & Andrew Spatt

**Welcome:** Membership Team

---

**February 17, 2013 10:30am**

***Spiritual Spring Cleaning: A Lenten Reflection***

**Coffee:** Quincy & Nicole Finch

**Lock-up:** Steve Lester

Allison Palm

**Ushers:** Anne Fleming & Jayne Davison

**Welcome:** Membership Team

---

**February 24, 2013 10:30am**

***Stewardship Sunday - We Are All Connected***

**Coffee:** Stewardship

**Lock-up:** Ken Bellafiore

Guest preacher Hollis Huston

**Ushers:** Robin Norris & Andrew Spatt

**Welcome:** Membership Team

**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)

**Office Manager & Editor, Lisa Bryson-Brockmann**

Office open each 3rd Monday & every Tuesday through Friday 9-1

Phone: (516) 623-1204

Fax: (516) 771-9308

Web: [www.SNUUC.org](http://www.SNUUC.org)

E-mail: [office@snuuc.org](mailto:office@snuuc.org)

President, Brian Larkin

Vice President, Steve Lester

Secretary, Selina Benson

Treasurer, Peter Larsen

# *Musings* from the Minister

Dear friends -

Did you know that there is a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Mexico? It is in the state of Guanajuato, in a beautiful colonial town called San Miguel de Allende. I wish I could say that the worship services were in Spanish and that it is filled with Mexican citizens, but in fact it is a community of US ex-pats. Nevertheless, I am excited to visit them this month, where I will preach one Sunday and assist my friend and colleague, the Rev. Heather Janules, in preaching the following Sunday. I will be interested in seeing what their relationship is with the larger Mexican community. This seems to be challenging for all UU congregations; a wise colleague recently said to me that because we don't have theology to unite us, our sociology connects us instead. The UU sense of unity, this person contends, comes from a shared culture, which often makes it difficult to reach out to other groups.

While there is certainly much truth to what this colleague was saying, I also know that in this congregation at least, there is something much deeper and more beautiful that unites us, and that is our love and compassion for one another. This autumn was harrowing and exhausting - especially for those directly hurt by Sandy, but even for those who managed to escape mostly unscathed. And we really pulled together. I sense a shift in the congregation - an even greater appreciation for the importance of this community as a place to come when things are bad. Another colleague observed that religious congregations are what people come to when other institutions break down. Our mission is to respond to human need - period. To figure out together what the need is, and to respond with compassion and integrity.

This month marks the beginning of our annual Stewardship campaign. It has been awe-inspiring how many of you, when asked how you are doing, have spoken of how blessed you are. Indeed, we are a blessed community: we are blessed with a strong congregation which has been a home for the human spirit for sixty years. And, now more than ever, it is clear: We are all connected.

Yours in faith, hope and love,  
Catherine

# *Thoughts from our Ministerial Intern*

Our new membership committee is bursting with ideas and can't wait to share some of them with the rest of the congregation.

We spent part of our last couple of meetings reflecting on what it means to be a member at SNUUC. Some of the benefits and responsibilities we came up with were quite tangible: you get a vote in our congregational meetings, you are expected to make a financial contribution, and you get your very own permanent name tag. Others were less tangible: you become a member of the community, you are responsible for the well-being of that community, and you have a congregation to call your own.

What does being a member mean to you? How does it enrich your life? How did becoming a SNUUC member change your relationship with the congregation? If you are not a member, what do you imagine your answers to these questions might be?

These are important questions, and I hope this discussion can move beyond the Membership Committee and into the larger congregation.

In addition to pondering the meaning of membership, we've been planning some great events for the Spring. Stayed tuned for more news about a New Member Orientation, and a "Bring a Friend" Sunday, coming up this spring!

We are always looking for new committee members. Feel free to join us at our next meeting, on February 20th from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Foyer.

Allison Palm

# *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.

SAVE THE DATE:

## 2013-2014 Financial Commitment Drive

# We Are All Connected

### Kick Off: Sunday February 24, 2013



**"We Are All Connected"** - Many people have mentioned that they love this phrase, which Barbara Singer uses each Sunday when announcing the pastoral joys and concerns of the congregation. It has proven truer than ever this year, since we were all affected by recent events: every death, every property damage, every joy was truly felt by the entire community.

We'll kick off the drive on Sunday February 24 with a sermon by

perennial favorite Hollis Huston, and conclude at the end of March. During this time, we are asked to consider afresh what SNUUC means to us today and how we can acknowledge and strengthen this great congregation, which keeps us connected, especially when times are hard, but also in times of great joy and celebration.

Please make a special effort to attend worship on Sunday, February 24. We will make this truly a celebration of our connectedness and we want each and every one of us present.

With affection and esteem, Your Stewardship team

## Caring Committee

A new Caring Committee has been formed over the past couple of months to help ensure that the congregation is being attentive to the pastoral needs of all its members. We'll be meeting monthly to identify needs in the congregation and find support for those who need it. the committee is led by our minister, Catherine Torpey, and the current members are Ilene Corina, Polly Stevens, and our Ministerial Intern, Allison Palm.

Feel free to be in touch with any of us if you know of a pastoral need, or if you are looking for support.

We are also looking to expand this committee, so if there is a member that you think would be well-suited to this committee, please let us know!



## 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.

# Among Ourselves

**We extend a hearty welcome to new members, Nicole Finch, Michele Mittleman, Eric Shefferman, Veronica Phillips and Steven Underhill.**

**Dear SNUUC Family,** my heartfelt gratitude for our loving community. For all the cards, calls & caring I received since my friend and loving companion, Scott Oglesby died suddenly on Nov 21. Thank You! For all those who helped make Scott's Service of memory, the foyer display, and the reception that followed on Dec. 26 so wonderful, thank you! You helped Scott's family know how much SNUUC meant to him and how his life touched so many of ours. Thank you! Barbara Singer

**Thanks to everyone** for joining in the Christmas Caroling at South Shore Health Care on December 13. The carolers were Peter Larsen, Jim and Diane Hawkins, Kyle Schuessler, Ilene and Steven Corina, David Silver and I. Alice Spatt was on the piano. A special thank you goes to Ilene Corina who was extra helpful and obtained gifts for the residents. Both staff and residents really enjoyed the singing and got into the holiday spirit. This is an annual event and we hope we can have more carolers next year as it is a great way to brighten others' spirits during the holiday season. JoAnn Fassman

**Congratulations Denise Metzger and Laurie Schiro** on their marriage on January 20 at SNUUC.

**Two of our young adults are working to spread the UU word.** Coral Kennelty Cohen is the newest Director of Religious Education at UUCCN in Garden City. Sam Bryson-Brockman is an RE teacher to Youth in the Winchester Massachusetts Unitarian Church.

**We received a note from long time SNUUC friend Jean Cahn.** After the storm she moved to Oneonta to be closer to her children. Jean wishes a fond farewell to all her SNUUC friends. Her address is in the new directory, available on the welcome table in the foyer.

**Hi Youth Group,** Thanks so much for the care package! It was such a great surprise to get in the mail and it was packed with so many goodies to help me get through the stress of finals week. So nice of you guys! Thanks for thinking of me!!! Love, Rachel Bryson-Brockmann

**Hey Youth Group,** I'd like to express my sincere appreciation for the care package you sent out to me. The snacks were a delish treat and the cards and messages brought a smile to my face. It was great to feel remembered by my SNUUC family and to know that I always have a spiritual home. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about college, I would love to talk to you about your steps ahead in life. Again thank you so much, Sam Bryson-Brockmann

# 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 Thrift Shop Luncheon and Fashion Show will be on Sunday, February 10 at noon in the RE wing.

**The Board will meet** on Wednesday February 13 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

**The Membership Team** is working to welcome visitors, help new members connect, and provide pastoral care for all members of the congregation. They will meet on Wednesday, February 20 at 7pm in the foyer. Speak with Allison Palm if you have questions or suggestions. All are welcome.

**The RE Committee** will meet on Sunday February 24 at noon in the RE wing.

## Join the Fun!

At this Talent Auction offering on **Saturday February 9** (date change from Friday Feb 8) 7:00pm, the **Not So Newly Wed Game**. Come cheer on your friends as they answer questions about their life and time together. May be a TMI moment or 2. What is said at the Not So Newlywed Game stays! \$10 at the door (except those who paid at the Talent Auction). All proceeds go to SNUUC. Your hosts are Addie Quinn, Ilene Corina, and Mary Brower. Adults only please.

## Everybody loves Ted!

**Join Ted on Saturday Feb 23 at 7:00pm.** Get ready for the best open mic of the year. Invite your friends, your family and your neighbors to sing, dance, tell jokes or juggle. Share your talents to raise money to help SNUUC. Doors open at 6:30 for sign up and refreshments. To help with the event or donate raffles see Ted Tiller or Ilene Corina.

*Congratulations to the winner of the 2013 Talent Auction Chili Cook Off, Rosemary Olander-Beach. Delicious!*



# SNUUC Happenings

## Yoga

Gentle Yoga with Spirit at SNUUC . As winter settles in on us, it's time to think of nurturing our spirit with healthy activities that also strengthen and balance our bodies. Please join us for a series of "Gentle Yoga with Spirit" classes as taught by Ivy Greenburg, licensed yoga instructor. Our next two series will run as follows:  
**Tuesdays** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and April 2<sup>nd</sup> \*\*  
**Thursdays** 4:30-5:30 p.m. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> \*\*

\*\* There will be NO classes during the weeks of Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Either series is available at the rate of \$75/series. Please e-mail Anne Fleming ([afleming528@gmail.com](mailto:afleming528@gmail.com)) to hold your space in one or both of the series. Also, please note, if you or a friend were severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy and just need some space for centering and warming the spirit again, we would like to welcome you to our class as our guest. Please let Anne know about this and we will handle the arrangements confidentially.

## 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.

# RE-Launch of Morning Forums!

**NEW AND IMPROVED!** FREE Starbucks coffee & bagels (can you tell we want you there?)

**NEW AND IMPROVED!** We have noticed that it is the books that are generating the most interest, and so, for 2013 we are REVISING THE SCHEDULE and keeping only the books.

**NEW AND IMPROVED!** We'll read the first chapter of each book together. No homework! We'll have photocopies of the first chapter available on the first day the book is discussed so that we can read together and you can see if you want to buy it and read it for future discussions.

Sunday mornings at 9am in the RE wing

### 1/27/13 NO MORNING FORUM

#### ***How to bury a Goldfish and other Ceremonies & Celebrations for Everyday Life***

by Virginia E. Lang & Louise B. Nayer

2/3/13 *First section will be read together: copies will be provided*

2/10/13 Discussion wraps up

2/17/13 NO MORNING FORUM

#### ***The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander*** (UUA Common Read)

2/24/13 *First section will be read together: copies will be provided*

3/3/13 Discussion continues

3/10/13 Discussion wraps up

3/17/13 NO MORNING FORUM

#### ***Beyond Revenge: The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct*** by Michael McCullough

3/24/13 *First section will be read together: copies will be provided*

3/31/13 NO MORNING FORUM

4/7/13 Discussion continues

4/14/13 Discussion wraps up

4/21/13 NO MORNING FORUM

#### ***The Seven Spiritual Laws for Parents*** by Deepak Chopra

4/28/13 *First section will be read together: copies will be provided*

5/5/13 Discussion continues

5/12/13 Discussion wraps up

# In the RE Wing

## *Reading as a Resolution*

If you have not made a resolution for the New Year, or you have not had success adhering to the goal you had set for yourself, please consider making a resolution to read more in the New Year and share this with your children.

As parents, it is essential that we teach our children to read for wisdom and pleasure. A love of reading leads to a love of what we read about. Share with your children the books you loved as a child. Expose them to the Bible or a children's book of stories from the Bible. Even if they do not end up wanting to be immersed in biblical study, they should still want to read about what really matters in life. Family reading time is a gift for everyone.

We have been experiencing especially challenging times in the past few months, from environmental disasters to the sadness that comes from living in a broken world. Books can help us try to find meaning in it all. It is a great source of comfort and inspiration for me. And one of the many joys in my life

Let me make a few reading suggestions. If you lean toward theism, read the wonderful "The Case for God" by Karen Armstrong. If you are more of a humanist, try "Good without God" by Jeffrey Epstein. How about "The Lost Art of Compassion" by Lorne Ladner or "The Art of Happiness" by the Dalai Lama? For fiction and political satire, pick up anything by Christopher Buckley or Carl Hiaasen. These are just some of my favorites.

You may also want to refer to the reading lists at the Unitarian Universalist Association website. Ask for suggestions from Catherine, Allison or a friend if you do not have current reading material in mind. Consider joining a book club.

Make a resolution to take some time away from the television, online games or other distractions and take the time to give yourself the gift of reading. It is a resolution you will be glad that you kept. And please let me know if you have a good book suggestion. I would love to know about it.

David Silver

# Compassionate Communication

## Compassionate Communication at SNUUC

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

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

Our next 13-session series begin on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** for 13 Monday evenings or Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from **9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** for 13 Saturday mornings. Pre-registration is requested and attendance at the first six sessions (fundamental track) is required of "newbies." So, if you plan on attending the spring series, or know someone who is interested in joining us, please contact Anne Fleming ([afleming528@gmail.com](mailto:afleming528@gmail.com)) or Barbara Singer ([barbara.singer@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.singer@gmail.com)).

## Midnight Run

**The Midnight Run**, a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless will be led by our Senior Youth on February 15. Senior Youth prepare for the Run at 3pm, go to NYC for the Midnight Run at 8pm and return to SNUUC at 2am. Adults and youth are invited to help prepare for the Run, come at 3pm on the 15th! Donations are needed. **All donations should be in the youth room by noon February 3.** A list of what is needed is on the welcome table or speak to a Senior Youth or Ilene Corina. Monetary donations always welcome. Thanks!

# SNUUC Calendar February 2013

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

| Sun   | Mon                                      | Tue                           | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| <b>3 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br>Snow Date BiAnnual Mtg 12 S<br>Exec Board Mtg 12 M<br>Improv 2-4 RE  | <b>4</b><br>Pilates 5pm F<br>NVC 7-9 F   | <b>5</b><br>Yoga 5:30-6:30 F  | <b>6</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE<br>Pilates 5pm F   | <b>7</b><br>Yoga 4:30-5:30 F<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Choir Practice 7:30 S                            | <b>8</b><br>Talent Auction Event<br>7pm F&S        | <b>9</b><br>NVC 9:45 F   |
| <b>10 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br><b>Poetry Sunday</b><br>Thrift Shop Lunch 12 RE<br>Rental P. Rosenberg<br>Stamping Class 3-6 RE<br>Improv 2-4 F | <b>11</b><br>Pilates 5pm F<br>NVC 7-9 F  | <b>12</b><br>No Yoga          | <b>13</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 F<br>LaLeche 9am RE<br>Pilates 5pm F<br>Board Meeting 7:30 F | <b>14</b><br>No Yoga<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Choir Practice 7:30 S                                    | <b>15</b><br>Midnight Run 3:00 K &<br>RE Overnight | <b>16</b><br>NVC 9:45 F  |
| <b>17 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br>Improv 2-4 F  | <b>18</b><br>Pilates 5pm RE<br>No NVC    | <b>19</b><br>No Yoga          | <b>20</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE<br>Pilates 5pm F<br>Membership Cmte 7F                    | <b>21</b><br>No Yoga<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Choir Practice 7:30 S                                    | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>No NVC<br>Everybody loves Ted! - a<br>Fundraiser for SNUUC<br>7pm S |
| <b>24 Morning Forum 9 RE</b><br>RE Comm 12 RE<br>Improv 2-4 F   | <b>25</b><br>Pilates 5pm RE<br>NVC 7-9 F | <b>26</b><br>Yoga 5:30-6:30 F | <b>27</b><br>ESL-Let's Talk 10-1 RE<br>Pilates 5pm F  | <b>28</b><br>Worship planning 3pm M<br>Yoga 4:30-5:30 F<br>Drumming Wkshp 6pm RE<br>Choir Practice 7:30 S | <b>31</b>  |  |

Bi-Annual Meeting, Board election & By laws change  
Sunday January 27, 12noon in the Sanctuary  
All members should attend!

New & Improved Morning Forum!  
Begins Sunday February 3, 9am in the RE wing

Everybody loves Ted! An Open Mic fundraiser for SNUUC  
Saturday February 23, 7pm

**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  
228 South Ocean Avenue  
Freeport, NY 11520