



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

June 2, 2013 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Arrivals and Departures

Bridging, Coming of Age and New Member celebrations

Coffee: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Nicki Barry & Andrew Spatt

Lock-up: Selina Benson

Welcome: Membership Committee

June 9, 2013 10:30am

Rev. Catherine Torpey

Risking Oneself: What's worthy of a gamble?

Today is our Flower Communion. Please bring in one flower to be contributed to our bouquet
The service will be followed by our annual picnic welcoming in the summer

Coffee: Picnic!

Ushers: Doris Brass & Andrew Spatt

Lock-up: Steve Lester

Welcome: Membership Committee

June 16, 2013 10:30am

Chalice Lighters Appeal

Guest preacher Rev. Ian White Maher

Hello, non-believers

Greeter/Usher/Snack: *Volunteer Needed*

Lock-up: Ken Bellafiore

June 23, 2013 10:30am

Guest preacher Hollis Huston

The Only Thing We Have to Fear

Greeter/Usher/Snack: Ilene Corina

Lock-up: Brian Larkin

June 30, 2013 10:30am

Allison Palm

Spiritual Practice, Spiritual Living

Greeter/Usher/Snack: *Volunteer Needed*

Lock-up: Peter Larsen

Rev Catherine Torpey, Minister - 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 student@snuuc.org

Director of Religious Education, David Silver

Hours by appointment 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

E-mail: office@snuuc.org

President, Brian Larkin

Vice President, Steve Lester

Secretary, Selina Benson

Treasurer, Peter Larsen

Musings

from the Minister



Reasons To Grow

From the poem, "Summer," by Amy Lowell, 1912:

*Above me spreads the hot, blue mid-day sky,
Far down the hillside lies the sleeping lake
Lazily reflecting back the sun,
And scarcely ruffled by the little breeze
Which wanders idly through the nodding ferns.
The blue crest of the distant mountain, tops
The green crest of the hill on which I sit;
And it is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer,
The very crown of nature's changing year
When all her surging life is at its full.*

In this excerpt, the poet is acknowledging the glories of warm, slow, "deep-toned" summers, "the very crown of nature's changing year." But if you read the whole of the poem, which you'll have to Google or find in a book of poetry on a library shelf, Amy Lowell says that for her, summertime is not the season of the year she most looks forward to, as others do. For her, it is a time that is a pause, a time when she must regretfully leave the bustling city and go to the country. (Clearly, she was from a family of means, who "summered" in the country.) While she understands that others wait all year for the summer, what she really loves is the exhilarating company of other people: "closest contact with the human world/ Is like a lantern shining in the night/ To light me to a knowledge of myself."

In our modern, ultra-connected world, summertime, and even vacation, does not cut us off from human interaction the way that it did in her day. But often, it still gives us the greatest chance most of us have to disconnect for a bit, to slow down, to re-connect with the natural world in a way that is refreshing and invigorating.

As the warmer months come, may life for all of us "surge at its full."

Yours in faith, hope and love,
Catherine

There are many excellent reasons for our congregation to grow, but, here is the rub: raising more money is not one of them.

That was the conclusion shared at a workshop on growth strategies for smaller congregations that I attended at the Metro District Annual Meeting in May. As we discussed how and why congregations grow, I was curious as to where others have been successful and why. How is that some congregations are becoming smaller, their religious education programs shrinking and others are finding they have "too many" young families (what a complaint to have!).

Some of it is just plain demographics and real estate: the Brooklyn Heights congregation is seeing a lot of growth among young families, smaller congregations to our north and seeing their RE census decline. But, the ebb and flow of young families to the suburbs is only a part of the story. At the seminar I attended, we heard about congregations that have doubled in size in rural areas and urban congregations that have not changed in size in a decade.

At SNUUC, we have been anxious about our fiscal health for a number of years. This is not a new story. One answer that seems to come around again and again is to attract "new members" who can share some of the pledging load. It sounds very logical.

But we have to ask ourselves: Would anyone seeking a spiritual home be attracted to us because we are hurting financially? Really?

So, why grow? Staying the same size or shrinking can be comfortable: no need for those name tags any more, no need to wash red mugs.

During the seminar a woman sitting next to me from the Kingston (N.Y.) congregation started contorting her face when this topic was discussed. She vehemently advocated we tackle the opposite question: Why would a congregation not grow? Why would the mission of liberal religion, the freedom, authenticity, love, connection and caring we experience in our congregation not be shared?

There is an Indian proverb: That which is not given away is lost.

So why grow? To live our mission, to share our light, to broaden the circumference of our community, to be generous, to make new friends ... please, find me some Sunday at SNUUC and tell me what you think.

Brian Larkin, board president

the Board thanks...

all the people who helped to make our
Talent Auction a great event
on Saturday night May 4,
especially Rita Hines, Liz DiMaggio
& Mary Canada!

Visioning the Year to Come

*We pledged,
now it's your turn!*

With this year's groundbreaking Covenant Feast, the Stewardship Team pledged it would not coming calling -- via telephone or in person -- to track down member pledges. In that spirit, we are now kindly asking that you make your financial commitment using the form you received in March if you have not already done so. Of course, we have additional forms if you need one; just give us a holler.

Because our next fiscal year begins July 1, please mail or drop off your financial commitment form by June 15. Member pledges are the largest source of income to our congregation, and we count on them to maintain our financial health.

And thank you to those who have already made their financial commitments for the continuing life of the congregation: We are all connected!

Stewardship Team
Ellen Zaehring-Gach and Barbara Singer

This meeting, which in the past we called a "Calendar Meeting" is really a chance to look together at SNUUC's year as a whole. What's missing in our plans for the year? What are some events that we could do differently and better? What are some ways in which we could make our congregational life more fun, more meaningful, more... whatever you feel it ought to be! Do we need to add in social action? Potlucks?

It's a chance to brainstorm and vision. So, please come! Yes, we'll go over the calendar, but that is just the scaffolding on which we build our dreams!

We'll be in the foyer on Wednesday June 5 at 7pm, please join us!

Our UU Community

Summer Camp for All Ages!
Unitarian Universalist
MidAtlantic Community
UUMAC

There are lots of vacations that are fun, but not too many that have the potential to change your life. This experience of intentional all-ages community springs up at DeSales University in Pennsylvania for one short week each July.

This year UUMAC is July 14-20. Based on the principles of Unitarian Universalism, campers of all ages have an opportunity to play, learn, worship and create together while enjoying the luxury of air-conditioned dorms, wonderful food, and a serene vacation atmosphere. Activities are plentiful and include a variety of workshops, children's and teen programs, morning and evening worship services, a theme speaker, a carnival, off campus trips including whitewater rafting, and lots more on campus fun.

Shared babysitting allows parents to participate in evening activities after the children have gone to bed. Scholarships are available as are opportunities to defray your cost by volunteering for a staff position. Do all of it or just relax, you will be transformed by this amazing community. Facilities cater to special needs.

For more information visit www.uumac.org or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybw4tQS8-y4&feature=related> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjPmFxeAIUs&NR=1&feature=endscreen>

One Month to Go

* Because member pledges are the *
* largest source of income to our congregation, *
* we're counting on you fulfilling your *
* 2012-13 financial commitment *
* so we can keep the lights on -- *
* and the sermons and coffee flowing. *
* SNUUC's current fiscal year, which ends *
* June 30, 2013, is 90 percent complete. *
* Your pledge should be 90 percent paid as well. *
* Thank you very much for your financial support! *

Among Ourselves

Join the Fun at SNUUC!

The choir recently enjoyed a music filled evening, singing with **Bernie Kaplan** at his home. We are holding Bernie & his wife Patsy in our hearts and prayers as he has recently begun treatment for an aggressive form of melanoma.

Allison Palm, our ministerial intern this year and next, graduated from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, MA on Saturday May 18. Allison has earned her Master of Divinity. Congratulations Allison!

Eve Stevens, our field education student last year, received her MDiv from Union Theological Seminary.

June Owens' beloved guide dog & companion, April, passed away recently. You may have met April with June on one of her many trips to SNUUC. We send our condolences to June and her family.

Alice Spatt is home and recuperating well after her recent knee operation and rehab. The therapists who come to the house are very pleased with her progress. Give Alice & Carl a call to wish them well.

Congratulations to our high school graduates!

Alex Beach is graduating from Baldwin Senior High School. He'll be volunteering at the thrift shop this summer -- as well as seeking paid employment -- before he leaves in the fall to attend Purchase College.

Jessica Fox is graduating in the top 5 of her class from Babylon High School. Jessica is President of her Spanish Club & VP of the Math Club as well as being on the UU Church Board. Jessica will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and plans to become a Chemical Engineer.

Matt Larkin graduates from Calhoun High School. He will be entering Clark University in the fall. This summer he plans to participate in a Student Activity Fund project through the Veatch Fund, which is administered at Shelter Rock.

Tess Larsen is graduating with high honors from W.C. Mepham High School. In September, she will be attending the University of Pittsburgh majoring in accounting. Tess is currently seeking summer employment, so ...

Two Women - Songs and Stories Sunday June 2 at 12 noon

In case you missed the evening of Wine, Women, Songs... and Stories, Barbara Singer and Anne Fleming are offering a repeat performance in the afternoon at SNUUC. The show runs about an hour and is filled with fun, interesting tales, and inspiring songs. Admission is \$15 at the door, all proceeds go to SNUUC. They would love to see you there!

Come to The Not So Newlywed Game on Saturday June 8 at 7:00pm

Cheer on your friends and learn more about them that you ever needed to know. It's a night of fun, comedy and laughter. And don't we all need some of that in our life! 7:00 refreshments 7:30 show time! Bring your friends, neighbors, family all for a fun night out to do something different! \$10 at the door (unless you already paid at our 2012 Talent Auction). Adults only please



TALENT AUCTION NEWS

A good time was had by all at our popular Talent Auction & Dinner on Saturday, May 4. Many thanks go to the hard working talent auction ladies Rita Hines, Liz DiMaggio and Mary Canada and all of their helpers. Thanks also to the people who contributed an event or item to the Auction. It takes a congregation to make a Talent Auction and you did it! Be sure to read the "Talent Auction Honor Roll" which thanks the many workers who helped to make this auction a success. There are a few auction events with openings, here's the list:

TALENT AUCTION EVENTS STILL OPEN

Wine, Women, Songs, and Stories: Part 1 and Part deux: Those two sirens (Fleming and Singer) deliver the ultimate cabaret. Sunday, 6/2, \$15 and Friday, 11/1 \$15 in advance and unlimited, but you pay \$20 at the door.

Fancy Holiday Cocktails and Finger Foods at Rita Hines's house; Chestnuts roasting by an open fire, lobster bisque, and more! Saturday, 12/7 \$45, one place open.

Men Rule Da World: Bill BB and his henchmen are plotting world domination. Fat chance! Friday, 3/7; \$25, 2 places open.

Family Bingo: The Weingartens are hosting a furiously competitive bout of bingo! Saturday, 9/21; \$10 adult, \$5 child, unlimited.

Movin' on Down Pool and Deck Party at June Owens's house: Gorgeous setting on the bay, a pool to cool off in on a hot July day, great food and company. Saturday, 7/6; \$15, 9 places open.

Sophistication in a Cup: Offered by our own Catherine. If you're not already a coffee maven you'll become one. Saturday, 4/5 in Manhattan; \$35, one place open.

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 June 2 at noon in the RE wing.

The Thrift Shop Committee will meet on Sunday June 9 at noon in the RE wing

The Board will meet on Wednesday June 12 at 7:30pm in the foyer.

SNUUC Happenings

Yoga Happily, Gentle Yoga with Spirit continues in the SNUUC foyer with Ivy Greenburg, licensed yoga instructor. The group meets for an hour on Tuesday at 5:30 & Thursday at 4:30. For more info about the upcoming sessions, contact Anne Fleming afleming528@gmail.com

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: druumatics.org or find the DrUUmatics page on Facebook.

Pilates Pilates classes at SNUUC take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings 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 to register.

South Ocean Art Gallery

We would like to draw your attention to the nature photography of Long Island by Andrea Baum and the anagama pottery by Shana Berman which are on display in the South Ocean Art Gallery in our foyer.

Andrea is new to displaying her work and makes her own prints, which are available from \$75 to \$125. Shana's pottery is made by a Japanese, Chinese and Korean process called anagama (meaning "one chamber"). These pieces don't have a glaze but the patina comes from the ash of the burning wood that is in the kiln. The work is fired for five consecutive days using only wood. Her work is for sale from \$8 to \$50 and is microwave and dishwasher safe. Contact Diane Hawkins for details.

★ We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual "Welcome Summer Barbecue" on Sunday June 9 right after service. ★
★ We will provide food for the grill & the beverages. ★
★ Please bring a salad, dessert or side dish to share ★
★ Please speak with a the Membership Committee to find out how you can help! ★

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. *It's also a great place to volunteer some time. Did you receive a gift that's just not your thing? Donate it to the Thrift Shop!* Trinkets, costume jewelry, small electronics and kitchen items all sell very well. Our Thrift Shop is open Tuesday through Saturday; hours are from 10 am to 4 pm, whenever possible. The phone number is 223-3974.



★ **A Caring Committee has been formed** to help ensure that the congregation is being attentive to the pastoral needs of all its members. We meet 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. ★

You are invited to join Allison Palm and Diane Hawkins to find fresh answers to the age-old question, "Why pray?"

This Prayer Group had its first meeting at SNUUC in the sanctuary in February. The group meets every other Thursday (June 13, 27) 5:45 to 7:15pm in the sanctuary. Allison, Diane and others look at the shared prayer forms of many faiths and create a practice that you can make your own, by composing your own prayers and reading together the book *Simply Pray* by Erik Walker Wikstrom. For more information, contact Allison at student@snuuc.org or Diane at danish0407@verizon.net.

In the RE Wing

As our religious education program officially winds down for the 2012-2013 Fall/Spring semesters, I look back at the past nine months with appreciation for the efforts of the volunteers in the RE Wing without whom our program could not have been as effective, engaging and enjoyable as it was. I cannot thank you enough for teaching, serving on the RE Committee and assisting as needed.

As I think about some of the highlights of the past year, including wonderful classroom interactions, Social Action Sundays, Youth Led Services, a Midnight Run, Passover Seder, Intergenerational Games Nights, Easter Pageant and revival of the SNUUC Garden to name a few, I am also thinking ahead to the Fall and the first day of RE classes and Teacher Orientation in September.

I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer. Keep our UU principles close to your heart and keep the lines of communication open with your children so that they are mindful of their thoughts and behavior in living our faith.

I hope to see you around SNUUC this summer. In addition, I will be enjoying my ninth year at Sophia Fahs Summer RE Camp in August (my fifth year on the Camp Board) and also thinking about how to make our RE program "the best" that it can be in the months and years to come.

A Poem by Meg Bowman

This summer take time:

To Dream- It hitches your soul to the stars
To Work- It is the price of success
To Think- it is the source of power
To Play- it is the source of power
To Play- it is the secret of youth
To Love- it is the spirit of life
To Read- it is the foundation of knowledge
To Meditate- it is the highway of reverence
To Enjoy Friends- it is the source of happiness
To Make the World Better- it is the purpose of life
For Beauty- it is everywhere in nature
To Laugh- it helps with life's loads
For Health- it is the treasure of life
To Plan- it is the secret to being able to have time to take time for the first twelve things

David Silver, DRE



**PULSE presents
Cautious Patient Community Meetings.**

Attend these meetings to determine solutions that will enable you to have your healthcare needs met. Share your knowledge and healthcare experiences with other participants and take away important information shared by the [Cautious Patient Foundation](#). Participants in a CPC learn how to find what they need, and then learn the best ways to be respectful but insistent on getting those healthcare needs met.

We hope that the participants of CPC meetings will assist us by sharing their knowledge and experiences with other participants as well as take away important information from Cautious Patient Foundation materials to help ensure their own best outcomes.

See www.cautiouspatientcommunities.org.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. **This is a 3-meeting series scheduled for June 10, 17, and 24. 7:00-8:30 pm at SNUUC.**

Call Ilene Corina at 579-4711 to reserve your space. Check this link <http://pulseofny.org/resources/CPC%20MEETING%20JUNE.pdf>

SNUUC Calendar June 2013

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 RE Recognition B-fast 9 RE RE Comm 12 RE Exec Board Mtg 12 M Wine, Women, Songs & Stories 12 S All Invited \$15 Improv 2-4 RE	3 Pilates 5pm F	4 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	5 Visioning the Year to Come! 7pm F Pilates 6pm F	6 Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6:30 RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	7	8 Not So NewlyWed Game All invited! 7pm F
9 <i>PICNIC!</i> 12 front lawn Thrft Shop Comm 12 RE Improv 2-4 F	10 Pilates 5pm F PULSE 6:30-9 F	11 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	12 LaLeche 9am RE Board Meeting 7:30 F	13 Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Prayer Group 5:45-7:15 S Drumming Wkshp 6:30 RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	14 LIAC event 6pm RE	15
16 Chalice Lighters Sunday Improv 2-4 F	17 Pilates 5pm F PULSE 6:30-9 F	18 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F	19 Pilates 6pm F	20 Worship planning 3pm M Yoga 4:30-5:30 F Drumming Wkshp 6:30 RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	21	22
23 Improv 2-4 F	24 Pilates 5pm F PULSE 6:30-9 F	25	26 Pilates 6pm F	27 Prayer Group 5:45-7:15 S Drumming Wkshp 6:30 RE Choir Practice 7:30 S	28	29
30 Improv 2-4 F						

.....
Visioning the Year to Come, Wednesday June 5, 7pm
Two Women - Songs and Stories, Sunday June 2, noon
The Not So Newlywed Game, Saturday June 8, 7pm
"Welcome Summer Barbecue" Sunday June 9 right after service
.....

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