



The Open Line

SOUTH NASSAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

June 19, 2016

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Heidi Swartz
What I Learned from being a Hospital Chaplain
Worship Associate: Martha Chamberlain
Ushers & Refreshments: Rita Hines
Board Member on Duty: Ellen Zaehring-Gach

June 26, 2016

Preaching: Hollis Huston
Be Careful What You Wish For
Worship Associate: Carrie Mason-Draffen
Ushers & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Paul Sherrock

July 3, 2016

Preaching: Rev. Linda Anderson
Attachment: Not too tight, not too loose
Worship Associate: Rita Hines
Ushers & Refreshments: Barbara Singer
Board Member on Duty: Barbara Singer

July 10, 2016

Preaching: Rev. Julie Newhall
Life Lessons from Gloria Steinem
Worship Associate: Jim Hawkins
Ushers & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Rosemary Olander-Beach

July 17, 2016

Preaching: Hollis Huston
The Meaning of "Is"
Worship Associate: Martha Chamberlain
Usher & Refreshments: Barbara Singer
Board Member on Duty: Ken Bellafiore

July 24, 2016

Preaching: Rev. Julie Newhall
Back to the Future?
Worship Associate: Carrie Mason-Draffen
Usher & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Steve Underhill

July 31, 2016

Preaching: Hollis Huston
Do You Hear? Do You Hear?
Worship Associate: Laura D'Angelo
Usher & Refreshments: Rosemary Olander-Beach
Board Member on Duty: Ellen Zaehring-Gach

August 7, 2016

Preaching: Rev. Linda Anderson
Healing
Worship Associate: Jim Hawkins
Ushers & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Paul Sherrock

August 14, 2016

Preaching: Hollis Huston
What Time Is It? Linear, Social or Sacred?
Worship Associate: Laura D'Angelo
Ushers & Refreshments: Rosemary Olander-Beach
Board Member on Duty: Barbara Singer

August 21, 2016

Preaching: Hollis Huston
Keeping Our Big Mouths Shut
Worship Associate: Carrie Mason-Draffen
Ushers & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Rosemary Olander-Beach

August 28, 2016

Preaching: Rev. Linda Anderson
Tennis Lessons
Worship Associate: Martha Chamberlain
Ushers & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Ken Bellafiore

September 4, 2016 (Labor Day weekend)

Preaching: Hollis Huston
The American Dream
Worship Associate: Carrie Mason-Draffen
Ushers & Refreshments: TBA
Board Member on Duty: Steve Underhill

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Vice President, Ken Bellafiore
Secretary, Barbara Singer
Treasurer, Ellen Zaehring-Gach

Office Summer Schedule

The SNUUC office will close for the Summer after Friday, June 17. It will reopen on Tuesday, September 6. Phone messages and e-mail will be answered weekly. In case of emergency please call Board President Rosemary Olander-Beach or Vice President Ken Bellafiore. September Open Line deadline is Sunday, August 28.

Musings from the Minister

As the South Nassau UU Congregation gathered under the Linden Tree for a scrumptious end-of-year picnic on June 12, families in Orlando, FL were reeling with the news that a gunman had entered a popular gay bar and sprayed the crowd with a volley of bullets that left 49 people dead and over 50 injured. As we munched down hot dogs and hamburgers and a bevy of salads and sides, families in Orlando were searching hospital lists and trying to hold onto the hope that missing loved ones were still alive.

The gunman was an angry 29-year-old son of an Afghani immigrant. He claimed that he was in sympathy with ISIS. A co-worker is quoted as saying that the gunman openly hated gays and Jews. While there are, seemingly, no direct ties to ISIS, the group claims the actions of its members and its sympathizers. (You can see it's strategically smart, if your intent is creating an atmosphere of terror.)

Reactions are mixed. Outrage, sympathy, repeated calls for gun control measures and a reiteration of the position that all Muslims should be banned from entering the country.

It's frightening to think that terrorist violence can erupt in any place at any time. And it's frightening to think that the policy of our nation and the policies of our hearts will turn to judging and treating people suspiciously because of their heritage and religion.

It goes against all that we, as a nation, and most specifically, Unitarian Universalists, hold as fundamental: the inherent worth and dignity of all people, life, liberty and justice for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, nationality, religion or ethnic origin.

This violence, this vitriol is a deflection of the living of our lives and the sharing of the inherent joyous bounty as human beings.

And it is my hope that what comes out of this, and other acts of violence and intolerance, is a resolve and a commitment to peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our community, peace in our state, peace in our nation, peace in our world.

My hope is that we will become ever more committed to the congregational life of SNUUC where together we find our prophetic voice, mission and purpose and make peace in the world.

Next year's overarching theme is "Getting to Yes." We'll be getting to yes by continuing to build our Religious Education Program. We'll be getting to yes by continuing to fortify our finances and getting to a balanced budget. We'll be getting to yes by developing, defining, and documenting our committee structure. We'll be getting to yes by exploring cutting-edge leadership and decision-making models of governance as we prepare for welcoming a developmental minister in the fall of 2017 and prepare ourselves for leadership in this congregation and in the community at large.

As we mourn with families in Florida and across the nation, let us resolve to appreciate the bounty and the peace at South Nassau UU Congregation. Let us strengthen our resolve to become known as agents of change and a model and a community that helps our nation and our world be one where all human life flourishes.

May it be so.

Laurie Stuart, Transition Minister

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee has been working mightily to bring this year's canvass to a close. There are still a few members and friends who have not pledged for the 2016-2017 fiscal year -- if you are one of these, please call or email the committee co-chairs as soon as possible.

July 1 is the beginning of SNUUC's new fiscal year. That means that your 2015-16 pledge should be paid by then. Please do your best to bring your payments up to date; can you pay more? That would be amazing!

Here's a great quote to ponder from Douglas Taylor, a UU minister: "Money is a tool of the sacred; money represents a 'divine interaction' of values."

Payments toward 2016-17 can begin after July 1. Thank you for your mindful stewardship of our spiritual home!

Rosemary Olander-Beach and Jean Smyth-Crocetto, Stewardship Committee co-chairs

OUR BOARDWALK

What a way to end the congregational year, with the well-attended and delicious All-Congregation Cookout and Potluck on June 12! Nearly 60 members and friends gathered on SNUUC's front lawn to feast on burgers, dogs and tasty sides and desserts. It was a windy but sunny day – look in this issue for photos from the event taken by Avery Benson, youth trustee and senior youth member.

Many thanks to Marietta Cleckley, the Membership Committee's special events coordinator, for taking on the event this year. And many thanks to the grillers, Brian Larkin and Tom Beach, and the many members and friends who brought food and helped with setup and cleanup.

This was truly a congregation-wide party!

Planning for our next ministry

Since the congregation's vote at the May 15 biannual meeting to pursue a developmental minister beginning in September 2017, the board has been talking about the next steps in this process. Among the first steps is reaching out to our regional staff as well as the UUA Transitions Office to map out a timeline for the hiring of a developmental minister. This has already begun.

Because of the congregation's (tremendous!) interim work with Transition Minister Laurie Stuart, the board feels confident in having identified areas of "stuckness" that may be addressed by developmental ministry. These areas will be explored by the board to create congregational goals for developmental ministry.

In the fall, however, the board and the minister will begin to help the congregation get ready for developmental ministry. Among the long-term goals the board has identified are leadership development, diagramming how the congregation works, strengthening committees and facilitating committee information-sharing, revamping our mission, and supporting year-round stewardship.

For the short-term, the board will develop a social-media policy, ask committees to create congregational-year goals, and finalize the language for an endowment fund to become part of the bylaws.

Religious Education Program News

The board is happy to announce that Meghan LaDue has been hired to fill the position of youth coordinator. Meghan, a "graduate" of SNUUC's Religious Education program, says she is very excited about continuing to develop the SNUUC program. She looks forward to helping the congregation's youth connect with other UUs across Long Island. The board is pleased that our RE program is now fully staffed, and it looks forward to continuing to build the program. For more information about volunteering in this vital program, please contact RE Coordinator Harriet Arnold at RE@snuuc.org.

It sounds like a lot to do – and it is! Members and friends can help by deciding what committees and other activities they will "own" in the coming congregational year. There are currently sign-up sheets for SNUUC's committee posted in the foyer. Please take some time to sign up to work on one or more committee or event.

One of the most exciting events already planned for next year is the ordination of our Transition Minister Laurie Stuart. This event is scheduled for the afternoon of October 1. Please mark your calendars and sign up to help with this event!

The future of our spiritual home

Many years ago, this congregation adopted a mission statement that begins:

The Mission of the South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation

is to provide a sanctuary of beauty and harmony...
It goes on to say that we wish to search for "meaning and truth" and "welcome people of all ages, races and orientations." That we "affirm our children and youth are an ... important part of our religious family." That we will "strive toward social awareness that leads to transformative action" in our community.

These are wonderful words, but they need to be supported by our actions. One of the most important ways that we can live the essence of these words – I'll shorten them to "create a sanctuary where people of all ages can work toward transformative action in our communities" – is with financial stewardship that mirrors our spiritual aspirations.

The coming year brings an opportunity for new faces and new energy on the Stewardship Committee, in particular. If you feel called to inspire giving based on spiritual commitment and faith, please consider working on this vital committee.

Coming back together again

The All-Congregation Potluck that begins the new "congregational year" is set for September 10 at 5 pm. The Membership Committee, which organizes this event, can use your help for setup and cleanup – so plan to arrive early or stay late. I can't wait to see what everyone will bring to this potluck!

On behalf of the board, I wish everyone a safe and happy summer. We're looking forward to seeing you back in the sanctuary for our "first Sunday" together again on September 11.

With gratitude,
Rosemary Olander-Beach,
President, Board of Trustees
rosemaryolander@optimum.net

Among Ourselves

If you would like to follow **Steven Corina** through his journey in the Peace Corps, please look for Steven's Journey on Facebook. This is a private group so his mom can sometimes post candid experiences and photos that he is able to send via texting.

Please remember if you are traveling this summer to save your unused travel sized lotions, soaps and shampoo for The Midnight Run! Please ask your friends to save them too.

Remember, too, that we'll celebrate our coming back together on **September 11 with a water ceremony**. So if you're around water, grab a vial to use in our annual ritual.



Barbara Behrens is joyful after signing her membership card and becoming SNUUC's newest member. She joins Avery Benson, Vic Carbone, Mary Costello, Maria Chambers, Jeannie Shaw Chambers, Paul Eichmann, Nancy Levy, Charlotte McDonnell, Angelo Musto and Rose Musto as the congregation's 2016 new members. Behrens is a regular attendee of Compassionate Communication and lives in Merrick.

The Membership Committee Wants You!

The mission of the SNUUC Membership Committee is to welcome new people and take care of our existing ones. And one of our goals for the upcoming year is to create fun, child-friendly family events to promote the growth and strength of families in our congregation. If this sounds like the committee for you, please add your name to our sign-up sheet in the foyer and plan to join us for our retreat on Thursday, August 11, at 5pm. We are hoping to make it a relaxed, enjoyable evening with pizza and a sitter, if needed, as we begin to make our plans. Speak with Julie Buckley or contact her at julie.buckley@aol.com if you have any questions.

Welcome Back Pot Luck

Mark your calendars now for the Back-to-SNUUC Potluck on Saturday, September 10 at 5 pm. This potluck is the informal kickoff to the next congregational year and we'd love to see all SNUUC members and friends there! Sign-up sheets will be posted in the foyer beginning in August.

Please bring food enough for at least 8.

Bring your favorite dish or if your name begins with

***A - H - bring a Salad or Vegetable**

***I - O bring a Main Course**

***P - Z bring a Dessert**

This is great time to get together with your SNUUC friends, share Summer happenings and get excited about the year to come. The Membership Committee needs YOU to help with set-up and cleanup. If you can pitch in, please contact membership committee chair, Julie Buckley, julie.buckley@aol.com



Labor Day Bagel Bash!

Patsy Kaplan, Mary Brower and Arnie Herman invite you to the Annual Talent Auction offering, Bagel Bash, on Labor Day, Monday, September 5 from 11 am - 3 pm at Patsy's home in Wantagh. Come to this popular event marking the beginning of Fall; an all congregation gathering where we catch up on Summer news before starting the new SNUUC congregation year. Enjoy bagels and spreads, coffee, tea and juice. Outdoor games are available. This event is rain or shine; Patsy has a lovely sun porch. Cost is \$10 per adult with the money going to SNUUC. Kids accompanied by a parent are free. There is a mandatory sign up. If you did not purchase this event at the Talent Auction in May, please contact Mary, mlbrowerapr@aol.com, to tell her you are coming and get directions to Patsy's home. Please give your check, made to SNUUC, to Mary or leave it in the office. Patsy's home is handicap accessible for the outdoors only. See you at the Bagel Bash!

SNUUC Happenings

Meditation Wake up a little earlier on Saturday and join the **Meditation Group**. Our group practice meets at 9 am in the RE wing on Saturday mornings. This group is open to beginners. All you need to do is take a seat. For more info please contact Brian Larkin, bolarkin@optonline.net

Yoga Summertime...and the living is easy. Come out for a stretch, strengthening exercise, or balance pose with us in one of our next **Gentle Yoga with Spirit** series. Leave feeling relaxed and at ease! Linda Cucurullo will be offering Monday morning yoga class series at 9 am in the SNUUC foyer from June 13 through September 5. Enrollment is open to all, regardless of ability or previous experience with yoga. The cost for a 6-week series is \$75 (\$60 to Linda and \$15 to SNUUC) and is payable at the first class. Please contact Anne Olsen if you would like to join them this Summer, afleming528@gmail.com

NVC **Compassionate Communication** - Based on Marshall Rosenberg's book "Nonviolent Communication - a language of life", the compassionate communication practice group meets in the foyer for 13 weeks every spring and fall to learn and practice Rosenberg's process of listening empathically and speaking honestly. Since the group began in 2005, close to 100 people have participated in at least one 13-week series and many have chosen to continue year after year. Contact Anne Olsen or Barbara Singer to learn more and to register for the fall semester.

Druumatics **SNUUC's drumming ministry, the DrUUmatics**, practices every Thursday at 6:30pm in the RE wing. You can check on their website for info about where they are playing: www.druumatics.org, or find the DrUUmatics page on Facebook. If there is enough interest, they will offer drumming workshops too! Speak with Sharon Nanos or Laura D'Angelo.

Pilates **Pilates classes** at SNUUC take place on Mondays at 4:30 pm and Wednesdays at 6 pm in the foyer. Only \$12 per class - no contracts to sign, no commitment, just come and stretch! Questions? Please contact Leslie Farrington.

Painting **Painting Your Way Out of a Corner: The Art of Getting Unstuck**. This no-mistakes approach to painting is based on improvisational technique and our classes offer everyone, regardless of art expertise or experience, the chance to explore what is going on inside of our hearts and outside of our thoughts. Please contact Anne Olsen for more information, afleming528@gmail.com.

Our Thrift Shop



Our Unitarian Thrift Shop is located at 22 W. Merrick Road and is a great place to volunteer, donate or shop! Your support of our Thrift Shop can come in different forms.

Are You a Yard Sale Addict? If so, you can help the Thrift Shop while enjoying yourself! When you visit yard sales, look around for the following items; glassware, dishes, pots and pans, flatware, art objects, jewelry, shelves and collectibles. These are all very desirable, salable items in our Thrift Shop. When you find a yard sale with any of these items that are in good, salable condition, you can help in any of the following ways: Purchase the items, donate them to the Thrift Shop and received a tax slip for an income tax deduction. OR 2) Give a Thrift Shop business card to the yard sale operator and ask if he/she would call to have these items picked up at the end of the sale. The operator will receive a tax slip for the donated merchandise.

Donating sellable items is a great start. So is volunteering your time to help fully staff our shop. Shopping in our store might find you that little treasure you didn't even know you needed but could easily welcome warmly into your home! The Thrift Shop's income contributes significantly each year to the operating funds of the congregation which is still another way that you will be helping out SNUUC!

The Thrift Shop is currently open Monday and Tuesday from 10 am to 1 pm and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. The phone number is 516-223-3974. Any questions? Please feel free to talk with some of our regular volunteers at the shop: Andrew Spatt, Joe McAuley, Anne Olsen, Jay Gach, Arnie Herman, Jim Hawkins, Bobby Granoff, Doris Brass, Robin Norris and Ken Lawson.



Choir Director Ellen Zaehringer-Gach gets help from the RE children in leading the congregation in the rousing hymn of Gaedeamus Hodie at the June 5 Celebrating with New Friends sanctuary service.

In the RE Wing

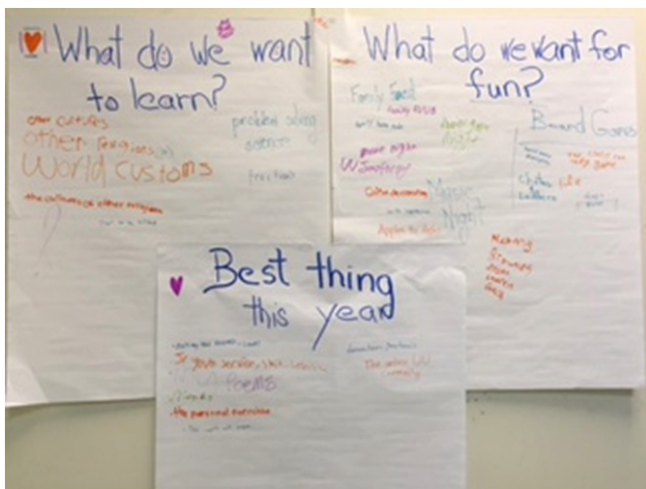
"There once was a Bald Man who sat down after work on a hot summer's day. A Fly came up and kept buzzing about his bald pate, and stinging him from time to time. The Man aimed a blow at his little enemy, but - whack - his palm come on his own head instead; again the Fly tormented him, but this time the Man was wiser and said: **You will only injure yourself if you take notice of despicable enemies.**
- Aesop

This summer as we enjoy the long, warm days and nights punctuated by political fighting and rhetoric that may sting our UU ears, let us remember that one of our most renowned Unitarians, Ralph Waldo Emerson, warned us that, *Do what we can, summer will have its flies.* And truer words were never spoken but I must take issue with the wise Aesop and his moral to the story. At this time we must not only take notice of the despicable and acknowledge its presence but we must stand together to stop the rhetoric of hate. Never has it been more important to be Standing on the Side of Love.

I wish you all a peaceful summer of family, friends, joy and warmth and the courage to live our values every day.

Read to each other every day and I look forward to seeing you all in the sanctuary this summer and in a refurbished RE space in the fall.

Harriet Arnold
RE Coordinator



The children looked forward and back when they created lists about their experiences in RE this year during the last regular session of the program on June 12. If you're interested in child care over the summer, contact Lisa Itts, lisaitts@optonline.net



Sign up sheets for the 2016-2017 committees are in the foyer. Two new "teams" have been added this year: Social Action Exploration and Music. These teams will work on exploring how to develop these interests into vibrant functioning programs. There is also a signup for those who wish to help facilitate Laurie's October 1st ordination. Grab a pen and sign up!

Check out these important SNUUC dates happening in the next few months and mark your calendars

June 29: Ordination Planning Committee will hold its kickoff meeting, virtually, at 5:30 pm, another meeting is planned for August 10. Speak to Barbara Singer for more information.

August 14: Congregational Council will meet from noon to 3 pm: committee chairs and representatives are encouraged to attend!

August 21: Congregational Cleanup Day from noon to 4 pm – more hands make light work!

September 10: All-Congregation Welcome Back Potluck at 5 pm. Bring your favorite dish to share! (See page 4 for more info.)

September 11: All-congregation Water Ceremony during worship will start us on the "new year". (Bring a small vial of water from your summer travels or from your faucet at home.)

September 18 South Ocean Art Gallery Opening Reception 1 to 3 pm in the foyer.

September 18: First day of Religious Education classes for children and youth.

October 1: Ordination of SNUUC Transition Minister Laurie Stuart at 1 pm.



An enjoyable and delicious time was had by all at the annual All-Congregation Cookout and Potluck on Sunday, June 12, during Coffee Hour.

Many thanks go to the Membership Committee and all their helpers who organized, set-up, cooked and cleaned-up!



Peri Gagliano, left, Leanna Pignataro, Veronica Underhill, Ellen Zaehring-Gach, Lauren Gach and Jay Gach all celebrate the end of the regular congregational year with friends and food.



Super grillers Brian Larkin, left, and Tom Beach take a break from cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers for the picnic.



Family members Bea, left, Maggie, Rose and Angelo Musto are delighted to celebrate their first year at SNUUC.



Ken Lawson, left, Phil Kennelty-Cohen, Samantha Rivera, Doris Brass and Nancy and Bill Levy enjoy each other's company under the tree on the front lawn.

Please pay your pledge balance by June 30
Ordination Planning Committee kickoff meeting, virtually, 5:30 pm, June 29
Speak to Barbara Singer for more info
This Summer at SNUUC enjoy
Sunday service at 10:30 am
Please check the service schedule on the front page of this newsletter
and call or e-mail the Board Member on Duty with
announcements for the Sunday Services
Sign up for the Labor Day Bagel Bash!
Save September 10 at 5 pm for our Fall Potluck!

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.



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Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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