

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

June  
2014

977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike  
PO Box 1444, Bridgehampton, NY 11932

[www.uucsf.org](http://www.uucsf.org)

**We are a spiritual community.**

## Annual Meeting June 22

Immediately after Sunday service on June 22 we meet to approve a budget for the 2014-2015 calendar year, to elect committee chairs and to discuss the status of our search for a new minister. We'll email the budget and agenda before the meeting. While everyone is welcome to attend, only members may vote.

## Nominating Committee Report

The following is the Nominating Committee's report concerning nominations for next year's Board members, officers, and committee heads: Imke Littman and Myrna Truitt were nominated to serve another three-year term as Board members. The following current officers were nominated to serve another one-year term in their respective positions: President Mark Potter, Vice President Sue Penny, Secretary Myrna Truitt, Treasurer Imke Littman.

The following committee chairs whose terms expire this June agreed to serve for at least one more year: Arts Hilary Helfant, Building & Grounds Ken Ettlinger, Children's Programs Sue Penny, Communications Martha Potter, Fellowship Pam Wittenberg.

The terms of the Finance and Stewardship committee chairs end in 2015. Both John Andrews and Carl Wittenberg have agreed to serve until then. *The Social Justice and Adult Education committee chairs remain open.*

## RE Campout

All are welcome to join the RE families and volunteers at our annual RE Campout and Potluck dinner at the meetinghouse lawn on the evening of Saturday, June 21. Please bring your favorite salad or dessert for the potluck. We will provide burgers, hot dogs, tofu pups, chips and drinks. And, of course, we will have a roaring fire with marshmallow roasting and s'mores to follow dinner. We'll enjoy music and storytelling around the fire. Feel free to come by to pitch your tent around 4 pm. Dinner will take place around 6 - 7 pm. If you don't have a tent, or need some help with camping gear, please call Kent Martin at 806-2092. In case of rain, all activities move indoors (except for the fire.)

**PLEASE RSVP TO KENT OR SUE PENNY SO WE HAVE A HEAD COUNT FOR FOOD!**



**After planting the garden, Ken Ettlinger entertained the youngsters with a balancing game.**



## From the Interim Minister

As I work with you in this transition time, I continue to unearth the origins of current practices, most recently the Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF). To ensure a common understanding of both the purpose and funding of the MDF, I'd like to share some of its history with you.

Long before there was a Minister's Discretionary Fund, the Helping Hand Fund (HHF) was established "to provide short-term help to individuals in our community who have immediate need and have exhausted other remedies." As time went on, "non-profit entities that affirm our Unitarian Universalist principles and our congregational mission" were also to be considered. Money was raised through specific donations from individuals, a supplementary collection every Sunday, and fundraising events.

When Alison Cornish became your minister in 2004, she established a Minister's Discretionary Fund. The MDF is a descendent of the historic "parson's purse" – funds donated to the cleric to be used for the good of others in the congregation or in the community at large. Disbursements from the MDF are predicated on trust: that the minister will keep confidential its uses and recipients, and that the minister will not personally profit from the funds.

The MDF was originally funded by a grant of \$500 through the UUCSF Board of Trustees, and then sustained by fees and honoraria Alison received for memorial services, speaking engagements, and gifts in appreciation of her ministry. The monies were co-mingled with the

UUCSF general fund, and disbursed by Alison on a reimbursement basis (to assure confidentiality).

In 2007, the Board approved a recommendation that "the Minister's Discretionary Fund have a separate checking account... The Treasurer would review the account once a year." In 2008, the HHF decided to allocate 30% of its income to the MDF. The intention was that the HHF would deal with organizations while Alison would consider individuals' requests. In addition to the funding from the HHF, the MDF received voluntary contributions, as well as the monies Alison contributed from her ministerial services.

Some congregations maintain the MDF as part of their annual budget. The ones with which I've had personal experience have designated the Christmas Eve offering, or sent an annual personal appeal during the holiday season to benefit the MDF. Donations are also given throughout the year.

Since my arrival in September, the sole income for the MDF has been the allocated 30% from the HHF which totals less than the disbursements in that same period.

Shared ministry invites members of faith communities to work cooperatively to serve the needs of the congregation. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to those in need by direct contact with me. Only with your help can the needs of others be met.

In addition to your generosity to the Helping Hand Fund, I hope you will consider a donation to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Checks can be written out either to UUCSF (designate "MDF" on the memo line) or to Nancy O. Arnold.

Thank you for your trust, and for your generosity of spirit.

Yours in faith,

Nancy  
[minister@uucsf.org](mailto:minister@uucsf.org)

I will be attending Ministry Days, and then the UUA General Assembly, in Providence, Rhode Island from June 23-29. The leadership will know how to reach me in the event of an emergency.

## The Box

In the summer of 1962 I dropped out of school and took a job as a carpenter's helper. For a farm boy this was better than college, and a huge step up from shoveling manure. Power tools hadn't yet found their way to our rural town in western Connecticut, so each of the master carpenters owned a wooden box with every tool he needed to build a home, from the concrete footings to the kitchen cabinets or a mahogany banister.

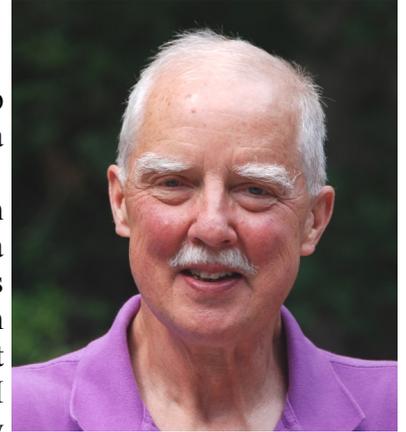
Eager to learn, I let the tools guide my path. To graduate from carrying two-by-fours to nailing studs, I purchased a 20 ounce framing hammer, a tri-square, and a Disston cross cut saw, 8 teeth per inch. When we reached the rafters I bought a framing square. When the sheetrock arrived, the carpenters taught me to use a 16 ounce hammer and to leave a slight dimple in the skin of the paper so painters could hide my nail. The molding required a finish saw, a block plane, a Yankee push drill, a nail set and a coping saw. By the end of August I owned more tools than I could carry, so I set out to build myself a toolbox; a premier toolbox.

I built it of clear 3/4 white pine, large enough to include all the tools I still hoped to own, and finished it with a yellow pine closet pole run through the top as a handle. It stopped all conversation when I arrived on the job the following morning. One of the carpenters asked me if it was a coffin, another asked if I thought it was heavy enough, the strongest of them grasped the handle with both hands and limped across the floor as if it weighed 150 pounds. When I went to leave the job that evening I found I could not budge it. Someone had screwed it to the floor.

The following week an older carpenter, probably in his mid-50s, who had taken a liking to me, showed me his tool box, built of 1/2 inch plywood, glued and screwed with a partition for three saws and a tray nested in the top for the small tools. It was half the weight of mine and carried more tools. When I arrived on the job 3 days later with a box identical to his, he gave me a blackened trace strap which he had saved from a plow harness in his grandfather's barn. I screwed the ancient leather to both ends of my box as a carrying strap, and with

that took one step closer to becoming a master carpenter.

I worked with these men for over a year, my last year as a teenager, and in that time the most important task I learned was not how



to read a blueprint, or cut a rafter, or hang a door, or even sharpen a handsaw. The most important lesson was to respect the experience of those who have gone before me: not always easy for a teenager. The men were not all equally capable, yet even the least competent of them was able to say to me, "Mark, I've forgotten more than you know."

I thought of that box recently when I opened a meeting of our Board of Trustees with a reading from Marge Piercy which described the value of careful labor. It seemed appropriate for a board meeting in which we intended to complete next year's budget. Here's an excerpt:

*"I want to be with people who submerge in the task... Who are not parlor generals and field deserters but move in a common rhythm when the food must come in or the fire be put out..."*

When I commented that it was not a reading I had ever seen, another board member said they had often used that same reading while they were fund raising and building our meetinghouse.

In this time of transition between ministers, it is a comfort to have friends like these with long memories, who have seen many congregations and many ministers through the growing times.

Mark Potter

## June Service Calendar

*When fear strikes, we stand on the side of love*

### June 1

#### The Fear that Binds Us

**The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold**

A friend once pointed out to me that there are only two real motivations in life: we can choose to live out of fear, or we can choose to live with love. I have come to believe this is true. I'll share with you my thoughts about how fear and love affect our personal, as well as our congregational life.

**Worship Associate: Kent Martin**

**Musician: Abby Fleming**

### June 8

#### Questions, Anyone?

**The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold**

Are there things you've wanted to know that never seem to be addressed in a Sunday service? This is your opportunity! Today's "sermon" will be a response to questions composed by the congregation during the service.

**Worship Associate: Edna Trunzo**

### June 15

#### Who is Family?

**The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold, Ken Dorph, and Stuart Lowrie**

In this congregation we affirm the quality of relationships called "family." We are host to traditional nuclear families – i.e., mother, father, and children – as well as to families with parents of the same gender, single-parent families, and families and singles with no children. Some families have to work harder than others to overcome prejudice, often seeking out "families of choice" in which to be accepted as they are. Standing on the side of love means being unafraid to embrace family, in all of its manifestations. On this Father's Day, and Gay Pride Sunday, we will lift up "family" in its most inclusive sense.

**Worship Associate: John Andrews**

**Musician: Abby Fleming**

Service Date	Greeter	Hospitality
June 1	Carol and David Holstein	Jamie Wilson Carol Mason
June 8	Eileen McCabe Tom Murphy	Rhonda Liss Reid Strieby
June 15	Mark Ewald Myrna Truitt	Eileen McCabe Tom Murphy
June 22	Arden Edwards Sylvia Baruch	Ingrid Krinke Bill Dalsimer
June 29	Carol Mason Ingrid Krinke	Don Schmitz Sue Penny

Should you need to arrange a substitute, please notify Kat Gioia, our administrator, of the change you have made. 631-537-0132

### June 22

#### Standing on the Side of Love for All Ages

**Valerie Dilorenzo, Religious Educator, Children, and The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold**

Join us as we bring to a close the Religious Exploration program for this year by honoring the volunteers, our educator and our young people. Let's celebrate our commitment to building a community for all ages!

*This service will include our Flower Communion, so please bring a flower to share. If you have an abundant garden, please bring extras for guests.*

### June 29

#### Seedtime, the History, Husbandry, Politics and Promise of Seeds

**Speaker: Scott Chaskey**

Interspersed with music and songs that move us in our relationship with the natural world, Scott Chaskey will give us a taste of scholarship and storytelling from his newest book, *Seedtime*, and lead us to a deeper understanding of the vital role of seeds in every facet of our lives. He will invite us to a celebration as well as a call to action, urging us to renew our role as citizens of nature to preserve global biodiversity through seeds.

**Musician: Megan Chaskey**

## Upcoming Events

*All events are at the meetinghouse .*

**Sunday, June 8, Noon**

**Spring Qi Gong Class.** Join us for these ancient Chinese movements and massages. We will work with the energy of spring and early summer to rejuvenate and freshen ourselves, and our sense of direction. **Free, and all are welcome.**

For more info, call Tina Curran (631) 723-1923.

**Thursday, June 12, 7 pm**

**UUCSF Board Meeting:** Board meetings are open to all members and friends of our congregation. This month the Board will be considering the budget, which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 22.

**Sunday, June 15, 2:00-4:00 pm**

**Edna's Luncheon Ministry:** Edna Trunzo conducts inspirational lunches with simple thought provoking ideas to live a happier, fuller and more rewarding life. Held at the meetinghouse. Edna is an Interfaith Minister. All are welcome to join her. For more information call (631) 604 1080, or e-mail; [etrunzo\\_06@yahoo.com](mailto:etrunzo_06@yahoo.com) Contributions toward the cost of lunch will be appreciated.

**Saturday, June 21, RE camp-out and pot luck  
4 pm to pitch a tent 6-7 pm dinner**

Annual RE campout and pot luck dinner. Bring a salad or dessert of your choice. Burgers, hot dogs, tofu pups, chips and drinks will be provided. All are welcome.

**Sunday June 22, Noon**

**Annual Meeting:** We meet to approve a budget for the 2014-2015 calendar year, to elect committee chairs and to discuss the status of our search for a new minister.

**Sunday, June 29, Noon**

**Dress Down Sunday:** There will be some general landscaping chores and weeding to take care of around the grounds.

## Religious Education

By the time you read this, we will be at the onset of "Full Hamptons Glory" and the end of another year at RE at UUCSF. I feel blessed to be a part of this special community; such a wonderful and eclectic group of people; so kind, welcoming, supportive and fun. Please allow me this time and space to say, *Thank You* for sharing your time and open hearts with RE, and with me, personally.

We have wonderful kids - each should be celebrated. Nature walks become like AP science class when accompanied by Caleb and Colin. Their superior IQ, combined with warmth, sense of humor and great delivery make for a memorable experience. Finn's determination, exuberance and joy of discovery can make you feel like anything is possible. I can't wait to see his plan for rebuilding the dam come to fruition. Kaylie has a perfect combination of girlish charm and tomboy "dig in and do it" attitude. She always wears a smile and is ready to go with the flow. Layla's wit and creative spirit shines through in whatever she does. Her sense of adventure and "thinking outside the box" keeps us on our toes. And Flynn - steady, calm, co-talented - a friend and equal to all. I've never seen anyone master the Rainbow Loom like she does.

Let's hope the summer can bring new ideas and fresh faces into our program.

*Enjoy, thank you and God bless!*

Valerie DiLorenzo

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## Sunflower Dreams



Here are a few of the possibilities, hopes and miracles we wrote on our planting sticks in the sunflower garden: *Joy, Peace, Love, Health, Earth Healing, Compassion, Brother/Sisterhood, Climate Stability, Spiritual Growth, Reconciliation, Respect and love for all living things.*

Let them grow strong.

## What's Happening

- **General Assembly: June 25-29** UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI. Nancy Arnold and Mark and Martha Potter will be attending.
- **The Search Committee:** The Search Committee has completed the application for a three quarter time developmental minister. The congregation is invited to read and comment on the application form after the service on May 25. We hope to send it to the UUA transitions office by early June. The candidates selected will mostly likely be from the Northeast.
- **Children's Garden:** UU gardeners, Kaylie, Finn and Caleb planted all the fixings (lettuce, onions, snap peas, radishes and carrots) which they are hoping to turn into a large congregational salad perhaps sometime in late June. The kids also planted purple potatoes and peanuts just for fun. Kent, Sue and Mindy became experts mixing compost and topsoil to spread over what was planted. We took the door to the garden down, and Sue is working with the children to make it into some sort of garden sign.
- **The garden pond** is looking good with all the roof runoff it collects, which is used to water the garden during the summer. There are plans to stock it with tadpoles and we are watching to see if the duckweed will cover the surface like last summer. Everybody worked to move the logs from one of the dead trees cut down this winter so that they could be used for some challenging balancing games, and that fun continued even after coffee hour as Karl came to help. Caleb pointed out a truly gorgeous mass of shelf fungi growing on one of the logs which we will not eat; however, there will be rhubarb and asparagus to harvest soon. Other garden projects for the future include a three sisters planting (corn, beans and squash), a strawberry patch and a sorghum labyrinth.
- **During the summer there will be informal meetings in the garden before and after service to putter around**, and everyone is invited to help make the garden bigger and better with your creative ideas. We also need help replacing an old

pitcher pump located near the garden. Perhaps someone has a huge pipe wrench and knows how to use it.

- **Dress Down Sunday, June 29** after service. There will be some general landscaping chores and weeding to take care of around the grounds.
- **The North Fork Spanish Apostolate** needs volunteers: to work with needy Hispanic children in the Riverhead-Flanders area. Contact Sylvia Baruch at 728-5387 or call Sister Margaret Smyth, the Director of the North Fork Spanish Apostolate, directly at 369-4601. The Helping Hands has donated \$2000 for the group's summer program for Mexican children, organized by Helen Halverson,
- **Food Pantry:** Please remember to bring an item for the food pantry box each Sunday. Buy an extra item when you are doing your weekly shopping.
- **Caregivers' Support Group:** Compassionate caregiving of elderly parents, ill spouses/partners etc. is accompanied by stress and burn-out. *Caregivers* need caring! Please join us for sharing and support. Bring a friend. For info call Eda Lorello, facilitator, at 725-8093.

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## Highlights of May Board Meetings

In a special meeting the Board and the Search committee reviewed the application to the UUA for a Developmental Minister. After much discussion and consultation with the UUA we decided to offer the minimum level of compensation to meet the UUA fair compensation rules for our geographic area. The Board scheduled an informational meeting with the congregation for May 25.

In their regular May meeting the board worked out an annual budget for the coming fiscal year which they will present for the congregations approval on June 22. Valerie diLorenzo agreed to perform in a fundraiser for us in the fall. The board hired Peter Weiss to bring us into the 21st Century with a website easy to update and a Facebook page which Pam Wittenberg & Ken Ettlinger agreed to host.

## Exploring Alternatives, Take Two – A Fun Day for Families

If you walked in the doors of our meetinghouse on Saturday, March 15, you might have noticed something different about the place. At the entrance you were greeted by sign-up tables. Behind them, a group of kids were invited to dance and sing along with Nancy Remkus. Everyone loosened up as she got them moving with a series of songs, old and new, fast and funny. Nancy gave the growing



crowd a chance to enjoy a little silliness, to shed self-consciousness so they could get into the events of the day.

“Exploring Alternatives – A Fun Day for Families” is sponsored by Alternatives Counseling Services, a local nonprofit devoted to prevention, treatment, and recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. They’re partnered with our Congregation for this one-day event. The purpose of the day is to have families enjoy positive methods of stress management, with several alternatives available.

After singing, the big group splits up and everyone joins one of four sessions. Kim Jones leads Stress Busters, which helps kids to identify sources of stress in their lives, and to find effective coping

tools to lessen it. Jaki Jackson loosens up her group with yoga, which teaches flexibility, balance, calm, and body awareness. Hilary Helfant provides piles of art supplies and has her group making their own T-shirts, encouraging the use of personal statements and images to make individually unique designs. Upstairs, Pat Gorman and Tina Curran are leading “Kung Fu Games” and have children doing a number of exercises which test coordination, reflexes, agility, and get their endorphins flowing.

As participants flow out of their sessions they are greeted by tables of healthy snacks: fruit, vegetables, chips, dips, and drinks. Everyone gets a healthy energy boost. Some are sharing notes with brothers, sisters, and friends about their particular event. Others are glancing at the growing cluster of drums in the main room.



No drum is left unclaimed, as Daniel Bailey leads a drum circle. He uses increasingly complex beats, challenging everyone to repeat the sequence before giving them another. Arms and hands rise and fall together as he shows them how to use different parts of the hand to make different sounds. Everyone loses track of time.

For a finale, there’s a group singing with Nancy Remkus. Smiling and (hopefully) relaxed families leave, but not empty-handed. For parents, there are a number of materials on anti-bullying and peaceful communication, prescription drug use awareness, and tips for teens. Plus everyone gets their own stress-buster bag with foam stress balls, wristbands, flashlights and bubbles.



**Minister:** the Rev. Nancy Arnold  
Phone: 516-612-7909

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631-537-0132 [admin@uucsf.org](mailto:admin@uucsf.org)

**UUCSF Board:**  
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**Vice President:** Sue Penny  
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Margaret Pulkingham  
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**Newsletter Information:**  
Deadline is the 10th of each month. E-mail copy, photos and events to Martha Potter [mtpotter@optonline.net](mailto:mtpotter@optonline.net) Please start subject line with “UU newsletter”.

Editor: Martha Potter 725-0450  
Copy Editor: Bev Krouse  
Events Editor: John Andrews

## Restoring the Dunes, One Plug at a Time

On the very blustery afternoon of April 29, with slate grey skies darkening to the south, 27 volunteers arrived at Sagg Main Beach ready to help plant about 1,600 plugs of American beach grass on the dunes.

The sand was whipping and the rain clouds threatened, but in less than one hour, every last plug of the beach grass was planted!

American beach grass is known in the botanical world as *Ammophila breviligulata*. Its genus name, *Ammophila* stems from the Greek word *Ammos*, meaning sand and *Phillia*, meaning lover. Sand lover; how fitting! Beach grass thrives on the first line of coastal sand dunes, stabilizing the sand and actually building the dunes with its long underground stems (called rhizomes).

This is my fourteenth year as Group for the East End's Habitat Restoration Coordinator, and I have yet to tire of organizing beach grass plantings. It's so, well, *satisfying*. The beach grass plugs are easy to handle, and once established, they spread rapidly. A bare or damaged dune can transform into thriving clumps of beach grass in just a few grow-

ing seasons, (as long as it gets plenty of rain the first season and it's not stepped or driven on)! And who doesn't love digging in the sand? I think that's why, over the years, I've watched volunteers, ages 3 to 83 eagerly plant beach grass all over the East End's ocean and bay beaches, helping to grow sand dunes; which are our first line of defense against coastal storms and important habitat for many animals.



A big thanks to our fellow UU's who braved the conditions to volunteer their time and effort on this project: **John and Carol Andrews, Linda Giordano, Diana Lindley, Martha Potter and Jeanne Wisner.** Other volunteers that afternoon included students from the Bridgehampton Environmental and Outdoor Club,

and the Eastern Long Island Surfriders.

Sixteen hundred plants may sound like a lot, but there's plenty more work to be done. If you like digging in the sand, stay tuned for a beach grass planting at Sagg Main Beach in the fall of 2014.

Anita Wright



**Unitarian Universalist**  
Congregation of the South Fork

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