

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

July/August
2014

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

www.uucsf.org

We are a spiritual community.

March on the side of love **Friday July 4th Parade**



Join friends and congregation members to carry the UU banner in Southampton's annual July 4th parade. Sign up to receive a Standing on the Side of Love Tee shirt. More information to come, or call Aubrey Burch (631) 874-2121.

Potluck Frolic on Big Fresh Pond July 20 after service

Join your friends at the Dalsimer/Corliss home on crystal clear Big Fresh Pond off North Sea Road in Southampton.

Bring a lunch dish to share, your bathing suit and a towel, floats and boats, board games, kids, friends and visitors. All are welcome. We'll provide beverages and dessert, kayaks and a canoe.

The Reverend Keith Kron, our Sunday speaker and the Director of Transitions at the UUA will be our guest. Keith and his team help congregations like ours match up with the talents of prospective ministerial candidates.

Find us at 78 Big Fresh Pond Rd., Southampton. For directions call Bill Dalsimer 917-991-7841.

Snapshots from our Party with the New Thought Spiritual Center



Organizers Judi Simonson and Margi Pulkingham.



A few of the 70 people who attended the party we hosted on May 17th with the New Thought Spiritual Center. We netted \$255 for the Sag Harbor Food Pantry.



From the Interim Minister

In March and April, members and friends met in small groups to talk about the identity of UUCSF, and how you want it to be by the year 2020. Here is a brief summary of those conversations.

The current identity that emerges is one of an aging community with well-meaning, well-intentioned people looking for a place to direct their energy. You perceive yourselves as an inward-looking group, caring but insular, and appreciative of each other's beliefs and stories.

By 2020, you envision UUCSF as a growing congregation that is diverse in age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, education and wealth. The congregation will be an integral part of the community because of the partnerships you've formed with local groups to address current issues and needs. UUCSF will be a Green Sanctuary Congregation that is an environmental leader in the community. The Meetinghouse will be a spiritual center offering year-round programs that reflect the diversity of the membership and the surrounding community. You will be proud of who you are and your role in the wider community.

Here are some of the specifics of your aspirations for the future:

- Membership Growth that will be diverse in age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, families with children, education, and wealth
- Social Action with a clear agenda that includes a variety of issues such as immigration reform, environmental leadership, gun legislation reform, support of local food pantries, specific community service on a regular basis, services for parents and families, and partnerships with existing community non-profits with social justice missions.
- Children's Programs that offer Religious Education, pre-school, after school, and summer

programs for children of working parents, as well as intergenerational groups.

- Adult Programs replete with sharing circles, Sunday school, classes, senior-specific programs, "worship" expanded beyond Sunday morning to include meditation and small groups.
- Vibrant Music Program with a Choir and musical diversity.
- Advertising Program that reaches out to the community through a roadside pulpit, social media such as *Facebook* and website, radio, and newspapers.
- Our meetinghouse and grounds will be more appealing with an eye-catching driveway entrance and signage. There will be a second office to permit a designated Minister's office, and the attic will be transformed into usable meeting space.

Given your aspirations for 2020, these questions from an article in the summer issue of *UU World* ("*Into the Beyond*" by the Rev. Terasa Cooley) may help to guide us in our work for our remaining months together:

How can we more clearly communicate our values to the many, many people looking for this very approach to their spiritual lives?

How can congregations serve not just their own members but also the surrounding community?

How can we help people organize spiritual communities with or without a building?

To help us start addressing questions such as these, our theme for summer Sunday services is "Community." Together, we will consider ways to become the congregation you envision: one that is more reflective of the Unitarian Universalist values we hold dear.

Yours in faith,
Nancy
minister@uucsf.org

I will be on vacation July 6-20 and August 20-31. A Long Island minister will be on call while I am away, should a pressing pastoral need arise.

From the President

Why am I a Unitarian Universalist?

I was recently asked to say a few words about our congregation. This seemed a task that would require little preparation, but somehow in delivering my words, I felt that something was missing; either left unsaid, or not thought through. So I asked myself later what it is that makes me happy, even proud to be a Unitarian Universalist?

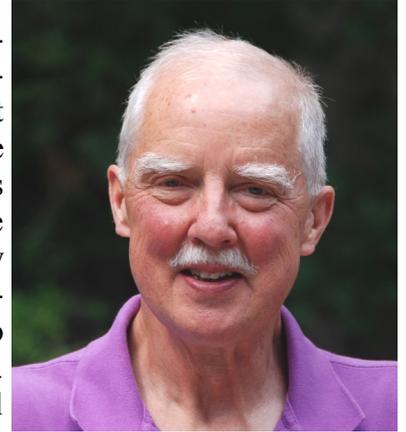
Perhaps what first comes to my mind is our foundation in what the 18th Century considered the low church Protestant tradition of a simple meetinghouse, a simplified service, and a congregation which governs itself. As someone with a distaste for authority built into my DNA, self governance has an emotional appeal which far outweighs its conceptual importance.

The simple Sunday service has another sort of emotional appeal to me. In a life which even in retirement seems filled with requests, demands, errors, back tracking and electronic confusion, our once a week service brings order to my life: a time of reflection which leads me in new directions, or simply slows me down. The ancient tunes we sing, some conceived before music was written, connect me to that unbroken chain of humanity of which we are the most recent and still pliable link.

I may be showing my age when I say that this connection with the past is important to me. Oddly, for a person who rejects the concept of God altogether, it pleases me that our forbears felt it so important to believe in a single God that they called themselves Unitarians. Like our Jewish and Muslim brothers, we have wise men and women in our traditions, but our respect for these writers and thinkers does not grant them the power of divinity.

And why Universalist? Although few, if any of us, believe in a heaven and hell, the Universalists of old believed that we are all worthy of God's love and will all be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven: a far cry from Calvin's chosen few. In some respects this forms the backbone of what I feel is our core value of tolerance for all. To the best of our abilities each of us accepts each other,

and every other human on earth as worthy of our respect and love. Not that we always achieve this goal, as when we wake in a cranky mood, or face a person or people who may endanger us. Yet I think we all strive for this tolerance and recognize when we slip from it.



Another feature which gives me pride is our tradition of social justice. Here I feel we share more with the liberal Catholics and evangelical Christians than with the established Protestant sects or our Jewish friends. I have noticed in our own congregation that our former Catholics seem more likely to take the lead in these social justice initiatives than the rest of us. Yet we all contribute, and these efforts make us proud.

Finally, and most important, let's consider the nature of our community. One of our ministers once pointed out that birth families always come with their own heavy luggage: a history of competition, jealousy, disappointed expectations and guilt. A congregation is quite different. We come to each other without the bitter taste of past hurts, with only a desire to accept those we meet here; to be accepted; and perhaps to share a measure of love. These relationships, with people we might never have met otherwise, create a safe space broader and deeper than any I have known. In a sense, they confirm my sense of humanity. They are what makes me happiest, and yes, *proud* to be a Unitarian Universalist.

Mark Potter

July/August Service Calendar

July 6

Mere Faith

Worship Leader: John Andrews

Musician: Abby Fleming

Our Unitarian Universalist principles are located in the here and now, and not in any separate spiritual realm. Nevertheless, there are two transcendental beliefs that fit well with our liberal religious tradition and can have great value in living our present lives.

July 13

Quest for Inner Peace

The Rev. Ned Wight

Worship Associates:

Stephen Flores and Pat Gorman

Rev. Ned returns as our preacher to explore the quest for inner peace. Many sages urge us to practice the disciplines of thought and feeling that will lead us to a deeper experience of inner peace. As it turns out, quieting the mind can be quite a challenge in 21st Century America. Is “inner peace” worth the effort? How might Unitarian Universalists – a people deeply invested in the virtues of reason and thought – invite a greater openness to this real of human experience? Rev. Ned will try to blaze a trail for this quest. He currently serves as Executive Director for the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, a grant-making program supporting grassroots social change.

July 20

The Next Steps:

Unitarian Universalism in the 21st Century

The Rev. Keith Kron

Worship Leader: The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold

Musician: Abby Fleming

What does it mean to be UU in this century? We could be the most relevant denomination in the country, or we could disappear. For those of us who helped to bring Unitarian Universalism to this moment, what kind of legacy do we want to create, and what kind of work must we do to create that?

The Rev. Keith Kron is the Transitions Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association’s department of Ministries and Faith Development.

Service Date	Hospitality	Greeters
July 6	John Andrews, Diana Lindley	Martha and Mark Potter
July 13	Ingrid Krinke, Hilary Helfant	Myrna Truitt, Carol Mason
July 20	Rhonda Liss, Reid Strieby	Jim Thurman, Mark Ewald
July 27	Anita Wright, Jamie Wilson	Arden Edwards, Jeanne Wisner
Aug 3	Tina Guglielmo Tip Brolin	Myrna Truitt, Kent Martin
Aug 10	Tom Murphy, Eileen McCabe	Sylvia Baruch, John Andrews
Aug 17	Nan Corliss, Anita Baskind	Arden Edwards, Jeanne Wisner
Aug 24	Don Schmitz, Sue Penny	Bev Krouse, Aubrey Burch
Aug 31	Myrna Truitt, Kent Martin	Martha and Mark Potter

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

July 27

Our Latino Neighbors: Who Is Here, Why Are They Here; Why Everyone Matters

Speaker: Sister Margaret Smyth

Worship Leader: The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold

This morning, Sister Margaret will share her passion for her work as Director of The North Fork Spanish Apostolate, and why it is so important. Our Helping Hand Fund is supporting a summer program for Latino children.

August 3

Jazz Theology

**The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold,
with Peter Weiss, and friends**

We can learn a lot from Jazz about living in the moment. Jazz is orally related, and teaches us to hear the world differently. Join us for this service that will lift up the theological and spiritual significance of jazz for our lives today.

August 10

**Immigration: Siding with the Strangers
in Our Midst**

Worship leader: Blanca Rodriguez

Worship Associates:

Stephen Flores and Pat Gorman

How do we stand with the undocumented migrants as we witness our cultural ideologies of superiority, racism, and global capitalism? Our culture elevates profit and the free flow across borders of cheap goods above the basic human rights of those actually laboring to provide them. What must we do to aid these workers to fulfill their duty to feed their families and survive with health, security and dignity? Blanca Rodriguez is a student ministerial intern at New York's All Souls Unitarian Congregation.

August 17

"My Story, by God"

The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold

Musician: Abby Fleming

Our Unitarian Universalist congregations are distinguished by the breadth of theological diversity. With atheists, humanists, agnostics, deists, Christians, pagans, and Buddhists worshipping under the same UU umbrella there is ample opportunity for discussion and potential misunderstanding, particularly when it comes to the word "God." In an effort to open the conversation to greater depth, we will consider the God of our understanding through the lens of history.

August 24

**Play/Ground: An Exploration of the Origins
of Religious Practice**

Worship Leader: Erling Hope

Play has a long history, and probably a much longer pre-history, in worship. For Hindus, Creation itself unfolds as Lila, as the playful act of the Godhead to entertain Itself. For ancient Greeks, the play-space of the theater was where religious rites were enacted. Many scholars now believe that religion began as a form of play. The magical space of the action, the (more-or-less arbitrary) sets of rules, the distillation of essential human dynamics, such as focus, or exchange, or spontaneity: Both games and religion function on these common chassis. What is the relationship, then, between these two very different human capacities? Come cast karma's dice in an exploration of the Play/Ground of Being.

August 31

**The Abundant Community: Lessons Learned
from Gardening**

Speaker: Elizabeth Terry

Musician: Abby Fleming

Sometimes our spiritual lessons are found in far off places or under unusual circumstances. However, if we are open and aware, our spiritual growth can occur when we least expect it in our own backyard. Tomatoes, squash, basil and marigolds are garden companions working together to produce an abundant harvest. Our congregations in our diversity can result in an abundant harvest of love, compassion, vitality, and abundance. Elizabeth Terry is the UUA's Donor Relations Specialist for Stewardship and Development.

Upcoming Events for the Summer Months

All events are at the meetinghouse unless otherwise noted

Friday, July 4

July 4th Parade The UUCSF will march in the Southampton, July 4th Parade. Our theme will be *Standing on the Side of Love*. Please contact Aubrey Burch for more information. 631-294-3647

Thursday, July 10, 7 pm

UUCSF Council Meeting: The Council consists of Board members and Committee Chairs

Sunday, July 17, Noon

Qi Gong Class Free and All Are Welcome. Open to the joy of movement, the warmth of the summer season, as we tune in to the energy of fire. Join us for these ancient Chinese movements and massages to improve health and balance.

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

Sunday, July 20, After Service

Pot luck Luncheon Picnic on Big Fresh Pond Please join the board and the search committee in welcoming Keith Kron of the UUA Transitions Office, who will speak on the search process at the July 20 service. Members, friends and visitors, all are welcome. We'll be at the Teepee at 78 Big Fresh Pond. Bring a lunch dish. The congregation will be providing beverages and dessert. And don't forget a bathing suit and a towel if you would like to swim. Please contact Jeanne Wisner 516-383-0415, if you are able to help set up or clean afterward. For directions, call Bill Dalsimer 917-991-7841.

Sunday, July 27, Noon

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

Sunday, August 10, Noon

Qi Gong Class Free and All Are Welcome. Open to the joy of movement, the warmth of the summer season, as we tune in to the energy of fire. Join us for these ancient Chinese movements and massages to improve health and balance.

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

Thursday, August 14, 7:00

UUCSF Board Meeting Board meetings are open to all members and friends of our congregation

Sunday, August 17, Noon

Annual Summer Picnic, After Service The summer picnic will be held on UU meeting grounds. The synagogue, Rainbow School, New Thought, and the Zendo are being invited to join us as our guests.

Sunday, August 24, Noon

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



Michel Dobbs of the Ocean Zendo was our speaker for service May 25.

Highlights of the Board

The Treasurer reported that we are in good shape, but some pledges are not in. The Rainbow School might extend their hours and will do some painting. We should remove the wicker furniture.

The Interim Minister's vacation is July 6-19 and Aug 20-31. Valerie diLorenzo has resigned from her position of RE Director, but will continue to be involved and will do a concert for us Oct 18.

The Zendo is interested in renting space from us, and would like to build a meditation center. Our budget is lower due to lower pledging because a number of people have moved. It will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

A Potluck Luncheon June 20 at Bill Dalsimer's Teepee will honor Keith Kron.

Myrna Truitt

What's Happening:

Art Exhibit: *Looking Back on Our Congregational Life.* Stop by the meetinghouse to view our latest installment by our Art Committee. The show displays the photographs taken by UUCSF member Bob Hoenig, who was our newsletter staff photographer from 2006 to 2013. Bob beautifully captures members and friends during congregational events and at play through his camera lens. The exhibit will be up through Labor Day.

Search Committee: After the congregational conversation on Sunday May 25 regarding the UUA application for a new minister, the Search Committee worked hard to make many revisions. The final application was sent to the UUA transitions office on May 27. While waiting to hear back regarding potential candidates, the Search Committee will be practicing on Skype, which will be used for the initial interview process. The Search Committee decided it was more important to take time to find the *right* person than to feel we have to find someone by February, when Nancy Arnold's contract ends.

Fellowship news: Our food pantry donations are coming in at a regular pace and are being given to the Long Island Council of Churches in River-

head, and occasionally to the Selden-Centereach Youth Association which provides food for children after school, in addition to providing the wider community with donated food, clothing, and shoes. These organizations are open year-round to help fill the daily needs of our neighbors. Please keep your donations coming. This year's summer picnic will be on Sunday, August 17, after service on our UU meeting grounds. We are inviting the synagogue, Rainbow School, New Thought, and the Zendo to join us as our guests.

Dress Down Sundays: Dress Down Sundays will be the fourth Sunday in July and August. Come on July 27 and August 24. There will be some general landscaping chores and weeding to take care of around the grounds.

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.

RE Program: RE activities will end on Sunday, June 22, and resume in September.

News from RE

Did you know you can grow your own popcorn? Perhaps this seems obvious to seasoned gardeners, but for those of us who are "new to the bloom" and, popcorn lovers to boot, this is amazing! Dear Ken Ettlinger: he helps out UUCSF in so many ways with his sage advice, abundance of seeds and now, bearer of exciting news... So on a Sunday in May we were delighted to have him back in RE. Ken told us the story of The Three Sisters and created three areas in the UUCSF garden for us to grow this wondrous combination.

For those of you who don't know, according to Iroquois legend, corn, beans, and squash are three inseparable sisters who only thrive when grown together. This tradition of inter-planting corn, beans and squash in the same mounds, widespread among Native American farming societies, is a sophisti-

cated, sustainable system that provided long-term soil fertility and a healthy diet to generations.

Ken had already laid the soil foundation; Caleb, Colin and I bound the bamboo sticks to raise above the soil mounds. Then it was time to prepare the soil with fish...dead fish. When planting, Native Americans would put a fish or eel into the hole first, and then place the seeds on top before covering with soil. This provided added fertilizer to the soil. Who are we to argue with the Native Americans? So that's what we did. After the fish come the seeds, then more soil and *voila!* The Three Sisters are alive and well and coming to life in our garden. The seed package said it takes at least 90 days. There's already growth...take a look and meet me there in September to harvest the POP-CORN. Meanwhile, enjoy the summer...

Don't rush...enjoy the summer!!!

Valerie DiLorenzo

North Fork Spanish Apostolate

Some of you have asked me about the NFSA, the work it does with immigrants, about its indefatigable Director, Sister Margaret Smyth, and my own volunteer work. Sister Margaret established the program in 1997 to enhance the quality of life for thousands of underserved women, children and immigrants on Long Island's East End. The programs are designed to break the cycle of poverty and to help achieve a long-term, sustainable difference.

Earlier this year, the Congregation, through the Helping Hand Fund, gave a generous donation to the North Fork Spanish Apostolate (NFSA) for summer programs for very needy Latino children in Riverhead. The goal is for over 40 children to attend various programs, such as sports programs and sleep-away camps.

I first learned about NFSA over ten years ago when I visited with Sister Margaret to inquire about volunteer opportunities. She immediately asked me to work with a family who had recently arrived in this country: a mother, three small children, ages 3 to 11, and her grown son and his wife, who provided the family's support. I worked with the children in a variety of ways—helping the youngest to prepare for pre-K, helping the older children with their homework, taking them to doctors, registering them for school, and taking them to movies, sports activities, etc.

Before meeting this family, I never knew that such extraordinary poverty existed in Riverhead. They are among a fairly large group of indigenous Mexicans who speak *Mexitico* and whose knowledge of Spanish is often very limited. The women are often illiterate, and several families typically live in one house, with each family occupying one bedroom and sharing the kitchen and bathroom. I have literally seen children carry their own toilet paper into the bathroom, since they are too poor to share. Eventually, the Gonzales family

returned to Mexico; the older son and breadwinner had been deported, and without his income they could not stay here.

I then worked with the Ortiz family, and they stole my heart. Even though they lived in abject poverty, the 3 children were beautifully cared for and there was a great deal of love and affection in the family. I worked with them for about 5 years until they, too, returned to Mexico—I suspect because the wife/mother of the family could never adjust to life here.

These two families were part of a larger program run by the NFSA. Currently more than 50

mothers and more than 65 pre-school children are helped by 13 volunteers. In recent years, the program has also offered classes for the mothers with topics like parenting, living in the U.S., and nutrition. Although this mother/children program is the one I am most familiar with, the NFSA offers many other kinds of help to the immigrant community, including: citizenship

classes; providing urgent financial help for things like medicine, heat, rent, insurance; providing IDs for those who cannot otherwise prove their identity; a free thrift shop which provides clothing.

The NFSA and Sister Margaret are well known throughout the immigrant community (who refer to the NFSA as *Sister Margaret's Place*) and also by the agencies and organizations that come into contact with the immigrant community, such as Hudson Health (which provides insurance for agricultural laborers), the hospital, the police, BOCES, the Youth Bureau, the Parks Department and the schools. Sister Margaret maintains close relations with the various consulates to assist with documentation for local immigrants (1600 people were helped in 2013), coordinates *pro bono* attorneys for civil cases when workers are not paid, or are otherwise cheated (about 30 clients per year).

Sylvia Baruch



Green Corner

Test Your Beachcombing Knowledge!

Beachcombing along the shores of Long Island can lead to the discovery of many interesting creatures. Test your knowledge of some common mollusks, crustaceans, and other beach treasures found on our local seashores by matching the picture with their name.* Have fun!

Happy beachcombing, and have a wonderful summer!

Anita Wright

**Answers can be found at the bottom of page 10.*



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Phone: 516-612-7909

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Vice President: Sue Penny
Secretary: Myrna Truitt
Treasurer: Imke Littman
Margaret Pulkingham
Pamela Wittenberg

Newsletter Information:
Deadline is the 10th of each month. E-mail copy, photos and events to Martha Potter mtpotter@optonline.net Please start subject line with "UU newsletter".
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Questions, Anyone?

Our Interim Minister, the Rev. Nancy Arnold, gave us the opportunity to ask some hard questions in the June 8 Service, “Questions, Anyone?” Here are some of our questions Nancy addressed.

What is God in Unitarianism, and our congregation in particular?

Would the world be better off with no religion?

In your opinion, what is the meaning of truth and its significance in our lives?

What existed before the big bang?

Why are liberal churches not growing?

Why are evangelical churches growing?

Are we too intellectual to be diverse?

How can we bring out message of peace, love, kindness and the worth and dignity of all human beings to more people?

What have other congregations done to “grow & change?”

What would you like to work on in your remaining months at UUCSF?

Would you be available to be the UUCSF “called” minister?

How do you get past the hurt in relationships with family members?

How do you remain present while experiencing fear?

How might we support families of divorce?

Tell us about your personal history – especially family history (birth, current) and how the growth of your relationships have affected your spiritual path.

Some religious affiliations (e.g. Catholics) offer services throughout the phases of life (hospitals, schools, assisted living, funerals, etc.). What does UU offer as supports, as one moves through life?

Answers to Beachcombing from page 9...

1. channeled whelk 2. jingle shell 3. lady(calico) crab 4. Atlantic jackknife clam 5. mole crab 6. skate egg case 7. bay scallop 8. ribbed mussel 9. green crab



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