



**We are a spiritual community.**

## Our New Religious Exploration Director



**Kathleen Furey**

At the start of service on September 16, Alison sliced an apple crosswise and invited us to marvel. The core of this apple, and every other apple in the world, was shaped like a star, a reminder that we, like everything else in the world, are rooted in primordial stardust. Apple slices were then passed around, and we dipped them in honey to symbolize our hope for a sweet New Year.

After this auspicious start, the children and youth left for their first Sunday with Kathleen Furey, our Religious Exploration Director. She is new to Unitarian Universalism, having been raised a Catholic, but has had long experience in teaching children.

She first came to us as an actress in "Homophiles." She met Alison, liked the congregation, and loved our space. Last spring she began working as our congregational administrator, and now welcomes the opportunity to work with children again.

The theme that ran through my recent conversation with Kathleen was "fun," in that children learn because they are having fun. They are currently working on projects such as "Rules for the Gar-

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## Sundays For Bluegrass

Our Bluegrass Concert Series brings a made-in-America musical tradition to the meetinghouse beginning this month. Concerts are at 2 pm, Sunday afternoons.

**October 7 - Bennett Konesni and the Gawler Family Band** share their infectious high spirits in the dance tunes and folk traditions that shaped modern bluegrass.

**October 28 - The DuneGrass Four** bring us modern bluegrass with fiddle, guitar, mandolin, piano, and bass. Classics from Patsy Cline, "Django" flavored instrumentals, an occasional Beatle tune, all with a bluegrass twist.

**December 2 - The Eastbound Freight Bluegrass** quintet, with vocals, fiddle solos and banjo riffs, is as close to back-country hoedown as it gets in these parts.

Ticket sales benefit UUCSF and our local food pantries. Single concerts are \$20, or save with a series ticket for \$50. Contact Tip Brolin, 631-725-4821 or [ebrolin@me.com](mailto:ebrolin@me.com). We also accept credit card payments via PayPal at [uucsf.org](http://uucsf.org).

## Thoughts From Alison... Ministers - and Ministry



It's a new congregational year, and so it's a good time to touch in on this thing called ministry – and ministers. As UUCSF's minister, I'm here to serve both individuals and the congregation as a whole. But what exactly

does a minister do?

Some of what I do is right out there, and obvious. I lead worship services, teach classes and facilitate small groups. I attend meetings (lots of them!), and hold office hours. But there is much in my day that is not quite so obvious: visiting folks in the hospital and at home; meeting with clergy of other denominations; researching for a sermon next month; attending denominational events, such as ordinations and installations of other ministers; or any of a myriad of other minister-related work. That's something I really love about being a minister – every day is different, bringing me into contact with new people, ideas and situations.

But my work is at its best when it's motivated by a call from one of you; when you ask for my input, my help, or my care. Sometimes people have told me they didn't contact me regarding some concern because they thought I was "too busy," or the concern was "too small." Rarely have I found that to be the case! The list below has been adapted by many Unitarian Universalists ministers over the years. I offer it not as a checklist, but to suggest places to start our conversations.

When to Call the Minister:

- When you don't know me but would like to.
- When you'd like me to know you.
- When you have things you'd like to discuss that relate to your job, children, marriage, relationship, or anything else where a caring listener

might be of help.

- When you are going into the hospital - or someone close is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill.
- When you're planning to be married.
- When you have a child to be dedicated.
- When you're pregnant but wish you weren't. Or you're not pregnant, and wish you were.
- When you have a friend or neighbor or family member who would like to know more about Unitarian Universalism.
- When you're considering joining the congregation as a member.
- When you have suggestions about our programs.
- When you have suggestions for a sermon, or comments about a worship service.
- When you'd just like to visit or know someone else who'd like to.
- When you've been arrested.
- When you'd like to help on a committee or teach a religious education class.
- When there are community issues you'd like to discuss.
- When you wish to discuss funeral or memorial arrangements ahead of time.
- When you're unhappy with me or upset about something in the congregation.
- When you'd like to talk about religion.

Finally, our congregation has a Committee on Ministry with members Jeanne Hoenig, Mark Ewald and Carol Mason. The Committee on Ministry serves as a support group for the minister, and provides a channel of information and communication between the congregation and the minister. Please feel free to share your thoughts and feedback about any aspect of our congregation's ministry with them.

Blessings,  
Alison

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## President's Letter

The Nominating Committee is a very important element in the life of our congregation. We should all know how it works.

Each year the Nominating Committee has the task of proposing candidates for key leadership roles:

- Membership on the Board of Trustees;
- Officers: President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer;

Chairs of standing committees.

Under the bylaws, in order to serve on the Board one must be a member of the congregation, and the four officers must be members of the Board. Committee Chairs may be either members or contributing friends of the congregation. The candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee are submitted to the congregation at the annual meeting in June. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at that time.

In carrying out its mission, the Nominating Committee must consider the specific skill sets needed for each of the officer positions, as well as the qualities of a good Board member. It also must consider who would best fit the duties of the various committees for which chairs are open. Committee Chairs serve two-year terms, staggered so that roughly half of these positions need to be filled in any given year.

The bylaws specify four categories of Nominating Committee members. These are all by invitation; no one is required to serve:

- Our Minister;
- Past Presidents and co-Presidents who are current members of the congregation;
- Current Board members who are completing their second three-year term and hence are not eligible for re-election;
- Three additional persons appointed by the Board for two-year terms; none of whom may be Board members at the time of their appointment.

This year, Alison has agreed to serve both as Minister and as a Past President. Other Past Presidents serving this year are Chris Epifania, Mark Ewald, and Jeanne Wisner. I am the only Board

member completing a second three-year term, and have agreed to serve. Finally, the Board-appointed members are

Bill Dalsimer, Martha Potter, and Pam Wittenberg. Anyone with ideas relating to the nomination process is invited to speak with any of the above individuals.

In addition to the duties imposed by the bylaws, I have encouraged the Nominating Committee to take on two additional roles:

- Look for upcoming leaders. Some individuals who aren't ready to take on a responsibility just now, with nurturing of their leadership skills and confidence, next year might be ready to say *Yes* to an invitation. This year, Alison has cooperated with the Southold congregation to develop a three-part leadership development course titled, "Harvest the Power." Response from our congregation has been very gratifying.
- Think outside the box. Imagine how we might improve some aspect of our congregational life, whether through a bylaw change, a new way a committee might function, other fresh initiatives. I hope and expect some creativity to emerge along these lines this year.

Peace,  
John Andrews



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## Chalice Lighter Call

Chalice Lighter funds helped build our meeting-house, and on September 23, we helped a new UU congregation in North Brooklyn, Original Blessing, with contributions of \$1,300. If you were unable to contribute, but would still like to support them, send a check made out to "UUDMNY" (Unitarian Universalist District Metro New York), to Imke Littman, Treasurer, UUCSF, P.O. Box 1444, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. She will forward it to the District for the new congregation.

## October Service Calendar

Services begin at 10:30 AM

### October 7

**Blessing of the Animals and their Friends**  
**Matt Valentino, Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation, Worship Associate Sue Penny**  
**Susan Bailey, Musician**

In our annual celebration of the animals, we will also give thanks to those working to protect them. Matt Valentino from the Southampton Animal Shelter team will be with us to talk about his work to make rescue animals more adoptable. Please bring your animal on a leash or in a cage. Photos are welcome, too. If you don't have an animal friend nor ever will, you will still enjoy the energy in the meetinghouse during this service!

### October 14

**Día de la Raza - the Day of the People**  
**The Rev. Alison Cornish**

**Musicians: Sally Block and the Fernando Plaza family band's authentic Andean music**

A growing movement on the North American continent would forgo Columbus Day in favor of holidays that honor indigenous peoples and their continued struggles for justice. Today's service will look at the UU General Assembly's resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. This centuries-old doctrine, based on the belief that non-Christian people lack souls, still forms the legal basis for the modern-day treatment of indigenous peoples by the U.S. government.

### October 21

**Living into Community: Truth-Telling**  
**The Rev. Alison Cornish**

**George Cork Maul, musician**

This is the second in our series of the foundational practices which sustain communities of all types. How can we engage with the powerful art of telling the truth, in love, one to another?

Service Date	Set Up/ Greeters	Hospitality
Oct 7	Dailey	Potters
Oct 14	Truitt	Holsteins
Oct 21	Krinke	T. Brolin
Oct 28	Wittenbergs	Krouse/Burch
Nov 4	T. Brolin	Murphy/ McCabe

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

### October 28

**The Truth of Connection: Embracing the Oneness in All Things**

**Larry Carlson, with Worship Associates**

**Bill Dalsimer and Edna Trunzo**

**Jody Carlson, musician**

Fall brings shortening days, the uncertain outcome of the election, and struggles with the mounting costs of living. But we can take refuge in the comfort that all is One. And, in mutual service, we forget the little self and glimpse the One measureless self, the One that unifies us all. Larry and Jody Carlson often bring their gifts of spiritual musings and music to faith communities on the East End, from their home in Bridgehampton.

### November 4

**Remembering Those We Love**

**The Rev. Alison Cornish, Jim Thurman**

**Megan Chaskey, musician**

Each year we honor those whom we love, and who have died, at our annual service of remembrance. Taking our service outdoors, we will dedicate the memorial bricks which have been installed in the Remembrance Garden this year.

## Upcoming Events

All events, unless otherwise noted, are free, open to all, and held at the meetinghouse.

**Fridays, Oct. 5, 19, and Nov. 2, 10 - 11:30 am**  
**Nonviolent Communication Practice Group.** We'll be using the book, *Nonviolent Communication*, by Marshall Rosenberg.

**Sundays, Oct. 7, 28, and Dec. 2, 2 pm**  
**Bluegrass Concert Series.** See box on page 1.

**Wednesdays, Oct. 10, 24, 31,**  
**and Nov. 7, 4 - 5:30 pm**  
**Temple Adas Israel/UUCSF Book Group,** the *Book of Job*. Location alternates, with first gathering at Temple Adas Israel; please come having read chapters 1 - 5.

**Thursday, Oct. 11, 7 pm**  
**UUCSF Board-Council meeting**

**Friday, Oct. 12, 6:30 pm**  
**Caregivers' Circle** for congregants and the larger community who care for aging family members. Virginia Morris, a local author, will be joining this ongoing group to discuss her book, *How to Care for Aging Parents*.

**Sunday, Oct. 14, noon**  
**Free Qi Gong class.** As the leaves fall from the trees, find what is essential in yourself and let go of what you don't need. Join us for these ancient Chinese exercises and massages to increase balance and health. All are welcome!

**Saturday, Oct. 20, 7 -9:30 pm**  
**The Grotto coffeehouse,** so popular during last year's cold months, resumes. There will be cards, chess, checkers, backgammon, lots of board games, lively discussions, singing, coffee, tea, and cakes to enjoy, all for free. Bring yourself, your family, and your friends!

## Highlights of Board Meeting, September 25

Martha Potter was appointed to the Nominating Committee. Kathleen Furey was hired as RE Coordinator. Advertising for services by members/friends in our newsletter was not approved, but bulletin board posts would be appropriate. A coordinator is needed.

John Andrews thinks the theme of growing our congregation resonates among us, and is a good thing. The Board thought the Minister's Report deserved wider distribution, and excerpts will be included in the next newsletter. The treasurer will send a detailed Building and Grounds report to Ken Ettlinger.

June 2 was approved as the date for our Annual Meeting. John will purchase LED lights for an extra \$400. Some changes to the By-Laws for the Finance Committee were recommended, but the primary responsibility for determining their role remains with the Board. More transparency for the Helping Hand Fund was suggested, perhaps establishing it as a Standing Committee. Margi will meet with that committee. A meeting will be scheduled for the Arts Committee. It was recommended that Board members take on committee liaisons, and they will indicate their preferences.

Mark Potter is organizing a visit to the New London congregation which has grown steadily since 2001 from 135 members to 255 today. John will look into insurance liability for Hamptons Hospitality. The Board is consolidating documentation with regard to consultants. A possible name change for the congregation was put on the Council agenda for next month.

Myrna Truitt, Secretary

## Readers' Forum

### Here's our only response to last month's bleak view of gun violence:

"Speaking as a multiple gun owner, the key to this problem is to bring pressure, moral and legal, on gun owners to act responsibly. I feel it is not responsible to use human figures as targets at the gun clubs, yet all do. I also am certain these clubs and other gun owners have come in contact with the nut cases who have made the news. If you met a paranoid schizophrenic in your workplace you would do something about it. The gun clubs and gun salesmen seem to blandly ignore the nut cases which their activity attracts.

"In this country, fewer guns is a pipe dream. Even should we achieve it, the problem is to weed out the twisted, and no group is more capable of doing this than the gun owners themselves. Witness Norway."

**This month's entry is from Jim Hightower, author, syndicated columnist, and liberal activist who served eight years as Texas's elected Commissioner of Agriculture:**

"One of the least excusable of today's injustices is that in this country of unsurpassed wealth, it's an abomination that the power elites are casually tolerating poverty pay as our wage floor. How deplorable that they can actually juxtapose the words "working" and "poor" without blinking, much less blushing.

"Nearly 4 million Americans are being paid at or below the desiccated federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. For a single mother with two kids [the typical minimum-wage worker is an adult, white woman whose family relies on her paycheck.] that's \$4,000 a year beneath the poverty level. Where are the ethics in a "work ethic" that rewards so many with paychecks that deliberately hold

them in poverty?

"Consider the kind of life \$7.25 buys. At that rate, a full-time worker is taking in only \$1,250 a month, before payroll taxes. Try stretching that over the basics of rent, utilities, groceries and gas. Need car repair? Lose your job? What if you get sick? Good luck."



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## Batteries and CFLs

Our annual Water Communion service on September 9 not only celebrated this source and sustainer of life, but also called upon us to be active preservationists of clean water. This gave Diana Lindley an idea: UUCSF should have recycling bins available for dead batteries and mercury-containing compact fluorescent light bulbs.

After service she spoke with Ken Ettliger, Building and



Grounds co-chair in charge of our meetinghouse interior. Ken said he was willing to take the discarded batteries and bulbs to his school where they have the proper recycling facilities which are unfortunately no longer available at the Southampton Recycling Center.

The two new bins, clearly labeled, are easily accessible beneath the table where we keep our name tags.

### Kathleen Furey continued from page 1

den,” where the first rule is “You must get your hands dirty!” They will soon begin work on a holiday program, a short intergenerational drama or poem which Kathleen hopes will be written by the children. She will prepare lesson plans using material from the “Tapestry of Faith”, educational curricula provided by the UU Association online, as well as other sources which affirm and promote UU principles.

Other important concepts Kathleen mentioned included the building of self confidence and recognizing the importance of one’s own true voice. How do we celebrate who we are as individuals? She will encourage the children to question, to be curious, and to listen to each other. A central principle is that each of us matters, and we need to respect and include each other. Kathleen fully recognizes that UUs do not always agree about the answers to the big questions but that searching for the answers is important. As in the words of the hymn, “life is a riddle and a mystery.”

Kathleen believes that our connection to nature is our connection to the Creator. She earned her B.A. from Stony Brook in Environmental Humanities, and plans to incorporate hikes and exploration of the Long Pond Greenbelt on Sundays. Her first lesson was about water, our Social Justice theme, and she asked the children for their thoughts about water. They knew that a lot of people don’t have clean water, and that having our own water bottle is better than buying plastic throwaway bottles. One youngster mentioned the Great Pacific garbage patch. When Kathleen was asked why she had such an old, battered-looking steel water bottle, and why she didn’t buy a new one, she explained that it was her favorite and that she had had it for a long time. This led to a discussion on whether bigger, better, newer really is.

Kathleen is lively, energetic, and excited about UU Religious Exploration. She hopes to grow with the program, to shape it and move it forward, working closely with Alison and the Religious Exploration chairs, Sue Penny and Kent Martin.

Diana Lindley

## The Real Rules

As the election season builds in energy and intensity, I do want to bring you a reminder of what we, as a congregation may, and may not, do in terms of political activities. While your own political decisions are a matter of individual choice, please remember that when acting on behalf of UUCSF, or as part of UUCSF’s activities, we must all adhere to certain guidelines. (You can find the full info at [http://www.uua.org/documents/washington\\_office/real\\_rules.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/washington_office/real_rules.pdf)).

### PLEASE DO ...

- As a congregation, we may publicly comment and educate the general public and elected officials on moral and political issues.
- We can advocate for or against specific public policies by speaking out on decisions by government, executives, or courts.
- We can call, write, and meet with elected officials to support or oppose specific pieces of legislation.
- We may sponsor and distribute the results of “nonpartisan analysis, study or research” concerning specific legislation or ballot measures, such as referenda, state constitutional amendments, etc.
- We can conduct nonpartisan voter registration drives, and encourage members of our congregation and others to vote.
- And we can make efforts to educate candidates on the issues important to our congregation and encourage them to adopt a sympathetic position.

### BUT PLEASE REMEMBER...

- As a congregation, we may not endorse or oppose candidates for public office – nor may we advise members of the congregation or the public at large, directly or indirectly, to vote for or against specific candidates or political parties.
- As a congregation, we may not make financial contributions to candidates.
- As a congregation, we may not distribute or display partisan campaign literature or voter guides.

Alison Cornish

The Green Corner....

## Treasures in the Greenbelt

One hundred yards from our meetinghouse is the Long Pond Greenbelt, a series of undeveloped land and water bodies stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to Peconic Bay. On a Sunday after service last month the Southampton Trail Preservation Society and UUCSF sponsored a hike into the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt is a tattered history book of human settlement: ancient cart roads following even older Native American paths, sand pits, a long abandoned 1957 Chevrolet, overgrown drainage canals and the railroad bed that once connected Sag Harbor to Bridgehampton.

We can be thankful that the topsoil of the Greenbelt is thin; far inferior to the rich loam of the Bridgehampton farm land. Native oaks, laurel and pitch pine have now returned the Greenbelt to a condition that the first Native Americans would have recognized. During its early years, it was used primarily to gather ice from Round Pond, Long Pond and, to a lesser extent, from Crooked Pond, which we circled in our walk from the meetinghouse in August.

Today these ponds and their smaller neighbors are local treasures. They are among just 50 coastal plain ponds still existing in New York State. The identifying feature of a coastal plain pond is that it sits astride the groundwater, with no tributary streams. As the ground water level fluctuates with

time and rainfall, the level of the coastal plain pond also rises and falls, leaving a wide band of muddy shoreline during times of low water, and in high water a refuge for waterfowl.

The jewels of this treasure are the host of unique plants and insects which survive and thrive in the widely varying environment. They include the rose coreopsis, Meadow Beauty, Yellow-eyed grass, Pipewort and the carnivorous sundews. The ponds are also home to a dizzying array of dragonfly and damselfly species. Over 40 kinds may be found in the area, some of which are globally rare. The presence of clean water and adjacent shrub layers are essential for these insects, which prey on the larva and adults of other insects, including mosquitoes.

You can find more details about the coastal plain ponds at <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=9919>, or simply Google "coastal plain ponds".

Mark Potter  
With the inspiration and assistance of Stuart Lowrie



**Crooked Pond, Bridgehampton**



**Meadow Beauty**



**Yellow-eyed Grass**



**Sun Dew**



**Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly**

## Good News from Hamptons Hospitality

With our high season concluded, the six Associates who manage Hamptons Hospitality recently met to plan for the future. Jeanne Hoenig is now part of the team, joining Ingrid Krinke, Diana Lindley, Charleen Murphy, Myrna Truitt and myself.

Our FY 2011- 2012 budgetary target was \$5,000, and so far we've brought in \$7,819. Many thanks to the hosts who enabled this: Hilary Helfant, Jim Thurman, the Potters, Charleen, Ingrid, Myrna, and me, with Charlie's help. Others in the congregation who offered to be hosts also deserve thanks: the Ewalds, Joan Fontanetta, the Holsteins, Bev Krouse and Aubrey Burch, and Imke Littman.

It's both practical and reassuring to have as many host houses available as possible, and we'd very much appreciate further additions to our list. You'll never be pressured to say yes when an Associate calls you about a given date.

Along with raising money toward UUCSF's operating costs, fellowship within the wider UU community is an important goal of Hamptons Hospitality. At our recent meeting, it was clear that this hope continues to be well founded. UUs make interesting guests!

Margaret Logan

## Metro District News

Metro has a new UU Justice website ([uujusticeweb.org](http://uujusticeweb.org)), offering many participatory events for which you can register and be a part. Also featured is a "Your Voice" page offering a place to engage with others about important issues and be heard 24/7.

Fall's "Harvest the Power" training workshops will soon be underway; Alison will be one of the facilitators and can supply details. There will be something for everyone. The more knowledgeable we are, the more there is to share with others. Together we can all help to lead our congregation into a bright and promising future.

All are invited to celebrate 50 years of the UU -UNO (Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office) on Nov. 3 from 6:30 -10:00 pm at the Times Center in Manhattan. To see a flyer, go to <http://uumetrony.org/metronymminute/sep12/UUUNO.pdf>. Several members of our congregation are a part of the UU-UNO.

Are you a perennial college student always craving to learn? Then check out the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice (<http://uucsj.org/programs/>).

*Bridging: A Handbook for Congregations*, by Gail Forsyth-Vail and Jessica York, is a new book which offers invaluable insight into the ways Unitarian Universalism nurtures and honors the growth of strong, independent and caring young people.

Can you believe it? The UUA even has a YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/UUAElectronicComm>.

Pam Wittenberg



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**Vice President:** Mark Potter  
**Secretary:** Myrna Truitt  
**Treasurer:** Imke Littman  
Sue Penny  
Margaret Pulkingham

**Newsletter Information:**  
Deadline is the 15th of each month. E-mail copy, photos and events to Margaret Logan [marlogan@optonline.net](mailto:marlogan@optonline.net)  
Please start your subject line with "UU newsletter".

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Free minds, open hearts.

## Snapshots from our campout.



**From left: Don Schmitz at the grill, Stu Lowrie, Jeanne Wisner, Eileen McCabe, Tom Murphy, Sawyer Zimmerman**



**From left: Milo Youngerman, Stu Lowrie, Darius Dorph-Lowrie, Sawyer Zimmerman**



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October 2012 Newsletter