



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

March
2013

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

www.uucsf.org

We are a spiritual community.

Come one, come all to Celebration Sunday, March 17



Friends, members, and newcomers: we hope you will join us for our 10:30 Sunday service March 17. This is the day we'll celebrate all the energy that makes our congregation hum. With Carl Wittenberg as our master of ceremonies, the mood will be light and fun for everyone.

We'll open our service, as always, with music, a story, joys and concerns, and then begin our celebration. This will be a good-news time, with details where we need them and an overview of all we're doing: Maureen's Haven volunteers; new social justice efforts; the people our Helping Hand Fund has touched; our children; our book groups; concerts; the Caregivers' Circle; holistic healing; Qi Gong; the coffee house; plus anecdotes from the volunteers who plan our worship, pay the bills, and manage the facilities. This is a day to remind us why we contribute our time and our hard-earned money to this vital community. And for newcomers, this is a great opportunity to learn more about UUCSF.

To wrap up the celebration, those who are pledging will hand in our pledge forms. And then we'll turn to the delicious soup the Fellowship Group has prepared for us.

Mark Potter

Chinese New Year Blizzard

These are pictures from the February 10 inter-generational celebration of the Chinese New Year with Pat Gorman, Stephen "Tuna" Flores and George Cork Maul. The 18 inches of snow which fell that weekend kept many of us home.



Detail of the Wishing Tree.

Jeanne Wisner in front of the Wishing Tree.

Thoughts ... from Alison
*Early Morning, and the
Interdependent Web of All Existence*



It's thanks to our elderly cat, Mr. Tilley, that my meditation practice has changed; even evolved. Allow me to explain ...

Over the past few months, Tilley has decided it is a fine idea to begin his day in the pre-dawn hours, say, around 4:50 am. He wakes from his long winter's nap on the upstairs couch, and immediately makes his presence known. He cries all the way down the stairs to our bedroom door, where he continues to yowl until "served," which, for him, means being let outside, then fed, then a drink of fresh water, so that he can settle down again, without another peep.

I stumble through this progression of tasks only half awake. But by the time I have finished, I am fully awake and unlikely to get back to sleep, while, paradoxically, Tilley settles in for his morning nap.

Skipping past the unfairness of it all, my gratitude for this new-though-not-of-my-choosing-routine is slowly growing. You see, I have never been a morning person. Not when roused by my mother to go to school (or, as a teenager, roused even earlier to be at the skating rink at 5:00 am); not when, jolted alert by strong coffee, I had to be at work on a construction site by 7:00 am; not even when, newly partnered, Pat would pull me from delicious sleep to see the sunrise over the ocean. I have neither found it easy nor attractive to be up early. But then, I have never lived with an insistent, persistent, elderly cat

So I have tried to put this newly found time to good use. After Tilley is resettled and other early morning chores like restarting the woodstove are done, I read a few lines to set myself in a medita-

tive place, pick up my knitting, and listen to the quiet.

What has come, with the steady rhythm of needles and the ever-earlier growing light, is a sense of connection with others who also wake to greet a new day. Next door, my neighbors' lights come on, readying for school and work. Another neighbor's car headlights pierce the dark as she heads out to pick up the school bus she'll drive today. As my meditation expands, I begin to think about the dawn that has already broken across lands east of us, faces known and unknown; friends and strangers, drawn from sleep by a crying child, a job to do, a prayer to chant. And as my knitting - my chain of interconnected loops - grows, a favorite image comes to mind: *Indra's Net*, from Hinduism's *Rig Veda*:

There is an endless net of threads throughout the universe ...

At every crossing of the threads there is an individual.

And every individual is a crystal bead.

And every crystal bead reflects not only the light from every other crystal in the net, but also every other reflection throughout the entire universe.

Tilley is a bead in the net, and so am I. So are you, and so is each being who rises to greet another day, whether with willingness or reticence, grumpiness or joy, heaviness in the heart or declarations of hope. We are connected. We are, indeed, jewels: made more beautiful by the reflections and refractions of one another.

May we awaken to that truth.

Blessings,
Alison

President's Letter

I've been a Unitarian Universalist for seven years, and I've been your president for nearly three. I'm in a mood to try to sum up what I've learned from my UU experience.

The first is a strong feeling that Unitarian Universalism has much to offer our nation and the world. The second is an equally strong feeling that our denomination has not gained the traction it deserves in our contemporary social and spiritual milieu.

Our culture is trapped between two dead-end views of life. One, which has many divergent tendrils, portrays a variety of detailed metaphysical dogmas, each of which threatens eternal grief to those who decline to join its particular strand. The other maintains that, in the last analysis, life has no meaning beyond the atoms and molecules of which we are composed, and that it is all "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

I believe it's time to sweep both of these destructive notions off the table. I hold great hope that we are entering a new axial age, in which fresh insights will propel humankind into new and higher levels of understanding and being. I also recognize that, as in the first axial age 2500 years ago, this



higher level of spirituality will not free us from anxiety, evil, and death.

I see Unitarian Universalism as providing the faith we need to live lovingly in the midst of a transformation that is unlikely to be completed during our lifetime. It is manifest to me in three short sentences:

- What we believe about life after death won't change it.
- We won't be punished for guessing wrong.
- Therefore, let us take care of one another here and now.

Our faith, it seems to me, is as simple as that.

Peace,
John Andrews



Better in Body, Mind & Spirit

On Saturday, February 23, the 4th Holistic Healing Clinic (HHC) was held at the meeting-house. This year's HHC was pared down to one day, but the positive impact that the annual event has on the community was experienced by all who participated. Much gratitude to the dedicated practitioners, including: Tuna Flores; Margaret Pulkingham; Joan Garro; Megan Chaskey; Rachel Rudansky; Anna Marie Wellins; and Anne Van Couvering. Their collaborative skills resulted in 33 people being treated for free that day. We would also like to acknowledge our UUCSF volunteers who added to the event's success: Tom Murphy; Don Schmitz; Pat Moran; Kent Martin; Chris Epifania; Lee Dailey; and Hilary Helfant.

Jeanne & Bob Hoenig

March Service Calendar

Services begin on Sunday at 10:30 am unless otherwise indicated.

March 10

Longing to Hear Again: How Religious Tradition Can Speak in Postmodern Times

Rabbi Leon Morris with Worship Associate Edna Trunzo

Abby Fleming, musician

Rabbi Leon, who serves Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, returns to our pulpit to explore the connections and differences between *memory* and *history*. His thoughts are inspired by the teachings of the late historian Yosef Yerushalmi.

March 17

A Celebration of Us!

The Rev. Alison Cornish

and the Stewardship Committee

Lysbet Rogers, musician

It's time to lift up the good work, service, and joyful spirit of our own members and friends here at the meetinghouse. Come to celebrate, cheer on, and perhaps even learn something new about who we are, what we have, and all we do at our meetinghouse. (See page 1 for more details.)

March 24

Dangerous Territory

Clare Coss

with Worship Associate Chris Epifania

Peter Weiss, musician

Psychotherapist, activist and playwright, Clare Coss speaks from her conviction that we have it in our power to create a just and safe world. Today her focus is on Mary White Ovington, cofounder, with W.E.B. DuBois, of the NAACP. Ovington, a Unitarian, rebelled against family's expectations and became the first white woman in 20th Century America to dedicate her life to racial justice.

At noon, after service, Clare Coss presents a dramatic reading of "Dangerous Territory," her play about Ovington. This play, Julian Bond wrote, "puts history, hope and a wrongfully unknown early heroine of the civil rights movement on the stage." Blanche Wiesen Cook will lead discussion following the reading.

Service Date	Greeters	Hospitality
Mar 10	Martin/ Thurman	Krouse/Burch
Mar 17	Krouse/Burch	Gordon/Mason
Mar 24	Logan/Coulter	Truitt/Baskind
Mar 31	Mason/Ewald	Andrews/Tusa
Apr 7	McCabe/T. Murphy	Wisner/Liso
Should you need to arrange a substitute, please notify Kathleen Furey, administrator, of the change you have made. 631-537-0132		

Friday, March 29, 7 pm

Tenebrae Service

The Rev. Alison Cornish

Poet Theodore Roethke writes, "in a dark time, the eye begins to see." Come share our annual service of shadows commemorating the Christian holiday of Good Friday.

March 31 7 am

Easter Sunrise Service

Ocean Road Beach, Bridgehampton

Each year our congregation joins with Bridgehampton's churches to celebrate Easter on the beach.

March 31

Awakening Our Vision Anew

The Rev. Alison Cornish

Louise Pecoraro, musician

With Easter, and the coming of spring, one story is concluded and another begins. What is it that "the eye begins to see" at the dawn of this season of transformation?

April 7

Greeting the Unseen Guest: Hope

The Rev. Alison Cornish

This Sunday begins a three-service series on the famously "unseen guests," hope, faith and love. Faith and love will follow in May and June.

Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, events are at the meeting-house, open to all comers, and free of charge

Friday, March 8, 10 - 11:30 am

Nonviolent Communication Practice Group

For details, call Jaki Jackson, 631-267-8556.

Sunday, March 10, noon

Qi Gong. Refresh your creativity and vision in body, mind and spirit. Be as flexible and strong as a new young branch with these simple movements and self-massages for balance and self healing. Free, and all are welcome.



Friday, March 15, 6:30 pm

Caregivers' Circle for congregants and others in the larger community who are caring for aging family members.

Saturday, March 16, 7 - 9:30 pm

Community Coffeehouse

Card and board games; chess; checkers; Scrabble; and backgammon. Conversation and open mike. Admission and refreshments are free. Bring yourself, your family, and your friends.



Sunday, March 24, noon

Clare Coss presents a dramatic reading of her play, "Dangerous Territory." See Service Calendar for details.

Sunday, April 7, 1:30 pm

Memorial Service for UUCSF member Leonard Harmon.

February Board Meeting Highlights

- Alison is leading a seminar on March 10 in Com-mack about environmental worship. Congregation is invited.
- Treasurer reports all is well, pledges ahead of schedule, contributions up because of coins. Events have brought in a little over \$1500. With another event we should come in on target.
- Harvest the Power seminars will be held March, April and May. Six people have accepted.
- Alliance with Conservative Synagogue generally accepted by congregation. We are waiting to hear back from them.
- Proposed that we include Rainbow School in signage and inform ACOA group.
- John Andrews agreed to chair Name Change team.
- Meeting was held with Rainbow School principals which represents possible opportunity for Religious Exploration. They are interested in participating in future art exhibits. Expressed interest in improving outdoor cement walls, would like to plant another forsythia and clear path down to water. Expressed concern about neighbors' use of playground equipment, suggested a sign. They would like to place sand underneath equipment. Board approved forsythia, sand, clearing path, and will contact Erling Hope about possibilities for cement wall.
- Discussed policy regarding inappropriate behavior for both adults and children. Need to draft policies for our congregation and present to congregation. Suggested a self-disclosure form for all volunteers in RE. A congregational covenant is a possibility. Board members will send comments to Sue Penny.

Myrna Truitt
Secretary

Maureen's Haven: Hospitality for those in need

Across this threshold may these things never cross - anger, anxiety, hatred, hunger, insult or injury. May this mezuzah remind all who enter to bring with them – love, laughter, kindness and comfort. Let the doors of this house be open wide so that all who enter may find shelter and love.

- Mezuzah at the Maureen's Haven site, Jewish Center of the Hamptons

For many years now, Maureen's Haven has organized the East End's faith communities into a network of hospitality and assistance for our area's homeless population. At UUCSF we have long considered being a part of this work, and this year a small group took a step across that threshold.

This, briefly, is how the program works. Congregations on both the North and South Forks commit to offering nightly hospitality. People with no place to sleep for the night are picked up by a van at a designated gathering point and brought to a participating congregation where a hot dinner and space for sleeping await their arrival. The next morning, after a hot breakfast, guests head out with their belongings, a packed lunch, and a bus or train ticket. Three healthful meals, a clean and warm shelter from the elements and night, a bathroom – all provided by volunteers – that's the formula.

In November, December and January, our congregation provided packed lunches for those spending a night at the Jewish Center of the Hamptons (JCOH). One weekend in February, we also provided dinner, beds, breakfast and lunch. Our volunteers also stayed overnight, did the setup and cleanup. And, for the first time, we shared supper and conversation with the guests.

The JCOH has a separate house that serves as a Maureen's Haven site every Saturday night, November through March. Its mezuzah quoted above, offers a keen reminder of the hopes that guide this work of religious hospitality. As complex as the program is in its design and logistics, its mission and purpose is truly summed up in the admonition of the golden rule, a form of which is found in nearly every faith: Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Those of us involved in the program this year have been on both sides of that maxim. Sylvia Baruch, who asked for donations from local merchants for our monthly lunchmaking, says, "it was very heartwarming to see the way some food purveyors were generous, with little formality ... and then it was fun joining with others in an assembly line, making the sandwiches..." Carol Holstein notes that her first night volunteering was "full of fellowship, working together to make the evening's shelter welcoming. And it was rewarding to put our faith into action and spend time with the guests." Tom Murphy and Eileen McCabe added, "The food, camaraderie and experience told us we'll do it again," while Ingrid Krinke reflected on the challenge of finding a way to connect with the guests, many of whom didn't, or couldn't, engage in conversation. But when asked if she would do it again, Ingrid emphatically replied, "Yes, because until there is a better system, it is important that we do this."

Maureen's Haven will soon wind up its season, having provided literally hundreds of "shelter bed nights." Our involvement has offered not only a chance to give of ourselves, but also an opportunity to witness the very real conditions in which our neighbors live each and every day.

This year's volunteers: Jeanne and Bob Hoenig; Carl and Pam Wittenberg; Pat and Larry Darcey; Tom Murphy and Eileen McCabe; Ingrid Krinke; Carol Holstein; Sylvia Baruch and Ed Stateman; Alison Cornish

Winter Birds

The first harbingers of last month's blizzard were the birds. The trees and shrubs around our bird feeders were alive with beaks and eyes and feathers. In the last few hours before dark I saw nuthatches, chickadees, siskins, titmouse, mourning doves, blue jays, cardinals, varieties of sparrows; a dozen different species, far more than an amateur like me could count.



In Mary Renault's *The King Must Die*, she reminds us that the ancient world believed animals, such as dogs, cats and reptiles, would predict earthquakes by howling, crying or leaving their burrows. I thought of this as I watched the birds gorging, filling their crops and gizzards with seed to hold them over until the snowfall stopped. It confirmed the science-based predictions of the blizzard which buried us late that night.

As we sat snug in front of the fire, I could not help but wonder how these feathered jewels, tiny scraps of flesh and bone, would survive.

If global climate change is flooding our beaches, destroying our coral reefs and fueling violent storms, how is it changing the lives of these birds? When I ask this



question of the Audubon Society, I discover that the cold weather is not the problem. They fluff their feathers, roost together in the lee of buildings and trees, and shiver. When all else fails, they shut down temporarily, going into a state of torpor.

Their problem is the heat. To beat the heat and follow their food sources, birds are doing something very practical. They are moving north. Over the past 40 years, "60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter have moved, shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles." At the same time the reduced ice cover in the north has directly benefited waterfowl such as Mergansers, Black Ducks, Teal and Coot. However, the news isn't all good. Drought and air pollution have drastically reduced the prairie range of our inland birds.



The Audubon Society tracks this with their annual Christmas bird count which they have been organizing for 112 years. If you want to participate next Christmas, check it out at audubon.org. The Christmas Bird Count teams you with experienced bird watchers, in what they call "Count Circles". If you should prefer to participate in a more informal process you can also join the Great Backyard Bird Count, which this year is occurring as I write this, over the weekend of February 15.

Because birds are such sensitive barometers of the environment, these counts are a great way to help measure the huge footprint we humans leave on our earth.

Mark Potter



Minister: the Rev. Alison Cornish
Office hours Wed. 1-5 pm and by appointment
Phone: 631-804-7850

UUCSF Contact information:
Administrator: Kathleen Furey
631-537-0132 admin@uucsf.org

UUCSF Board:
President: John Andrews
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
Please start your subject line with "UU newsletter".

Editor: Margaret Logan 283-1586
Copy Editor: Bev Krouse
Communications Chair: Martha Potter
Staff Photographer: Bob Hoenig
Graphic technician: Mark Potter



Artists Stephen "Tuna" Flores and Milo Youngerman, with some of their earlier work at the opening of the meetinghouse's Children's Art Exhibit in February. Other artists represented included Jacob Weinstein, Harry Weinstein, Anya Weinstein, Willa Stow, Kyle Darcy, Philip Errico, Gabriel Augustus Burford, Matt Keegan, Shannon Darcy, Anne Marie Errico, and Graham Connor Burford.

Student Internships Now Available

The Student Activity Fund, a grant program funded by the Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, enables UU high school seniors and undergraduate college students on Long Island to perform significant community service while earning money to help finance their education.

The purpose of the Fund is to encourage young Unitarian Universalists to live their religious values through internships in social action, advocacy, and service provision. Through the years, students have participated in their home towns and all over the world. The program is open to students who will be high school seniors and undergraduate college students next fall, and whose families are members of Long Island UU Congregations. You can read about the experiences of last year's student participants at www.liacuu.org

The application deadline is April 15, for Summer, 2013 and the 2013-14 academic year. Applications and more information about the program are available on the LIAC Website (www.liacuu.org) or by contacting Linda Pfeiffer, Coordinator of the SAF Program by e-mail (lpfeiffer@optonline.net) or phone (631-584-6854).



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the South Fork

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

March 2013 Newsletter