

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

September
2013

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

www.uucsf.org

We are a spiritual community.

October 5 Gala: Celebrating Change: *Past, Present, Future*

The 2013 Gala, **Celebrating Change: Past, Present and Future** on Saturday, October 5 begins at 6 pm at the meeting-house and features great food, homemade desserts, and a cash bar. A jazz quartet will provide live music for listening, conversation and dancing. An exciting silent auction offers dozens of personal items and services; restaurant meals; apartment vacations; docent tours; theatre tickets, and a host of other items from local merchants and friends.



The evening promises to be relaxed fun with great food, fine music, a lively auction and a time to sing the praises of worthy people and organizations working for justice for the community and our planet.

Our UU values recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person as well as the interdependent web of all existence, supported by positions adopted by the Congregation. In that spirit, we will honor and celebrate several neighbors and organizations that have contributed to change: *past, present and future*.

We will honor the Town of Southampton's **Sustainable Southampton Green Advisory Committee**, represented by its co-chair, Professor Scott Carlin. We are also pleased to honor **Sandra Dunn**, a resident of Hampton Bays and Program Director of the Local Immigration Program of the Hagedorn Foundation, working on behalf of Long Island Immigrants.

Please join us! And invite your friends.

Advance reservations are priced at \$40 for individual tickets, or \$35 per ticket for groups of four or more. The price at the door is \$50.

Proceeds of the evening will support the work of the Congregation. Ten percent of the net proceeds will be dedicated to a community project outside the Congregation.

For more information contact Jeanne Hoenig, 631-725-4537, jkhoenig@optonline.net

Campfire Kickoff

All are invited to the kickoff of our Religious Exploration program on Friday, September 13, at 6pm at the meetinghouse. We will offer pizza, salad and s'mores around the campfire. After the kids have a chance to play their favorite game, "Manhunt", we will welcome back our RE Educator, Valerie diLorenzo, and hear briefly about plans for the upcoming year.

Invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, et al for the beginning of a great program!

Kent Martin



From the Interim Minister, Nancy Arnold

When something changes in our lives, such as the ending of a ministry, a time of reorientation is usually required. An interim ministry is intended to guide a congregation through that transition time.

You may feel as if the ground is shifting under your feet, leaving you uncertain of what is to come next following Alison's departure. This can be an emotional time in the life of a congregation, which is why the UUA recommends hiring an interim minister.

Interim ministry differs from settled ministry in several ways. Unlike ministers who are "called" by the congregation, as Alison was, the Interim Minister is hired by the governing board. Interim ministers are viewed as consultants to the leadership and



members of the congregation.

To facilitate this time of assessment I will work closely with a Transition Team (also appointed by the Board). The Transition Team includes members who are widely known and respected. The Team's role is to provide the Interim Minister with insight, organizational and facilitative talent, and willing hands as the ministry proceeds. We are fortunate to have a Transition Team recently appointed by the Board. Read about them further in the President's comments.

We will be meeting shortly to start strategizing the best use of our time together.

Highlights of August Board Meeting

- ◆ Each Board member shared what's important to them for the congregation, including learning experiences, support for the minister, growth, and long-term worship planning.
- ◆ New Directory: This will include members who joined this year.
- ◆ UUA announced leadership meeting: The dates will be sent via e-mail.
- ◆ Gala: The Board approved three areas of recognition: marriage equality, immigration and sustainability. Ten percent of the monies raised will be designated for reflective bicycle vests for immigrants.
- ◆ Treasurer's report: The year ended with a \$3,000 surplus.
- ◆ Transition Team: Names were suggested
- ◆ The Nominating Committee asked to recommend names for search committee for a settled minister. This was tabled until Nancy Arnold is able to give input. The board filled the empty positions in the nominating committee.
- ◆ Housing for Nancy: This is in progress
- ◆ Members leaving: Made plans for the potluck luncheon after service on Aug. 18.

A Note from Alison

August 14, 2013

As I write this, I am packing the last of the boxes bound for Philadelphia and, unbelievably, some of the flowers from the July 28 celebration of the nine years of ministry we shared are still in full flower!

I thank you so much – for the beautiful flowers, and also the delicious food – the heartfelt words spoken and written – and the music! sung, played, clapped, and bowed – the unique and so personal wind chime – the fun of picture taking – and, of course, the hugs and tears and smiles and laughter, too.

My thanks to you all, and especially the members of the Fellowship Committee and Board of Trustees, who so artfully organized all of your contributions to make such a wondrous whole.

Blessings for all our journeys,
Alison



Organizing for Change

When we budgeted for a 3/4 time minister we stepped up to a new level of service in the UUA, our national organization, and we now share many of the same services that the UUA offers their largest congregations. As soon as Alison told us she would be leaving for her new career, we immediately began to benefit from these services.

Our district executive, Andrea Lerner, helped us through an organized search for an interim minister, resulting in our contract with The Rev. Nancy Arnold, who takes over our minister's position on September 1. An interim minister has received specific training to guide us in finding a settled minister. We can expect her to take a consultant's approach in helping us to better understand our own needs and desires, as well as the needs of the larger community here on the East End.

Andrea also directed two exit interviews, one with the Board and our former presidents, and the other with Alison. These exit interviews brought to light the congregation's strengths and weaknesses, which we will review as we develop a relationship with a new minister.

These efforts are part of an ongoing process the UUA has developed to help congregations successfully negotiate the emotional and conceptual demands of settling a long-term minister in the congregation.

We now move to a stage which greatly expands the number of members and friends handling our affairs. You are familiar with your Board, which includes Mark Potter as President, Sue Penny as Vice President, Imke Littman as Treasurer, Myrna Truitt as Secretary, with Margi Pulkingham and Pam Wittenberg.

Another important group is the Nominating Committee, which includes three former presidents, John Andrews, Chris Epifania and Mark Ewald. It also includes three members who have not served as president, Ingrid Krinke and Jeanne Hoenig who recently agreed to serve, and Martha Potter from last year's committee. They will be considering changes to our standing committee structure over the next year.

In addition we are following UUA guidelines in appointing a group entirely new to us. This is the

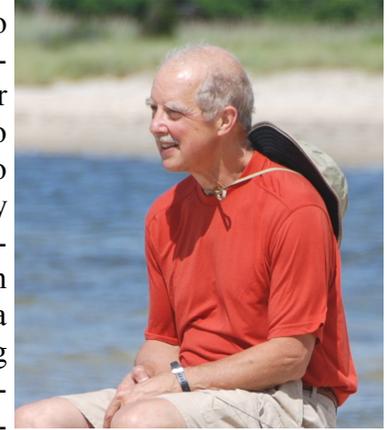
Transition Team, who will help both our interim minister and our congregation get to know each other, to work successfully from the first day. Because the Transition Team also serves as a confidential sounding board, it does not include anyone in relationship with a Board member. The Transition Team's first job is to set up meetings between the interim minister and congregational leaders: each member of the Board, every committee chair and every staff member.

For this team we are lucky to have been able to enlist five excellent representatives of the congregation, from a new member to two longtime members who have been with us since our move from Watermill. The Transition Team is: Jeanne Wisner, Stuart Lowrie, Kent Martin, John Tusa and Arden Edwards.

A final group yet to be formed will be the Search Committee. The board has decided to wait until Nancy is with us to help decide how best to form this important committee.

With all of these thoughtful, energetic people deeply involved in managing our congregation, I hope each of you, whether member or friend, will feel comfortable in picking up the phone, emailing, or pulling any one of us aside after service to share your great ideas, or, perhaps, your fears. We need everyone's help and active participation.

Mark Potter



August was a month of farewells....



We say goodbye to Alison...



...and to four long time members, from left Margaret Logan, Charles Coulter, Richard Koerner, Mariane Koerner.



Caregivers' Circle

Each month for the last year or so, participants have shared their experiences and concerns in coordinating care for their aging parents. Situations range from providing full time, hands-on care in the home to monitoring activities, nutrition, transportation and medical visits; coordinating home health-care providers; financial management; family cooperation; and issues specific to assisted living facilities or long term residential nursing home situations.

Each meeting typically begins with lighting the chalice, followed by a brief check-in from each person; a thoughtful reading with questions to consider, and allowing time for sharing responses. On occasion, a guest speaker has been invited. Participants observe the caution, *"What is said in this room, stays in this room,"* assuring confidentiality.

As Alison wrote in her farewell message after

our July meeting, *"It's been a pleasure and a privilege to convene and facilitate this group...and I hope very much that you choose to continue to care for and support one another in this sometimes delicate, often joyful, and yes, at times frustrating journey of walking with our elders in love."*

The group has opted to take some time off following Alison's departure, and hopes to reconnect with UUCF's new minister, the Rev. Nancy Arnold in September. The next meeting date and time will be announced in the newsletter, website and email formats.

Congregation members and worshiping friends, and those in the larger community who might benefit from the group, are most welcome!

Bev Krouse

This I Believe

Ed. note: This is a monthly column contributed by different people in our congregation expressing their personal spiritual beliefs. As we enter this period of transition, it may help us define who we are. Our first contributor is Ken Dorph.

I am grateful I was raised Unitarian. I never struggled with battling beliefs that ran against my ethical core or sense of logic. My Norwegian dad never seemed very interested in religion; he seemed more attached to the Norse Gods and was a perfect Unitarian. My mother did the harder work, having been raised Irish Catholic. She was an army nurse who sewed together soldiers on Normandy Beach. The war gave her a new Weltanschauung, with no room for Catholicism. She shocked her family by marrying my dad, but they eventually came around when they, like most people, realized that kindness trumps belief.

Until the age of ten, I lived in Jewish Brooklyn. Jews seemed to see their traditions as self-imposed rules (keeping kosher) or mythic stories (parting the Red Sea). There was no evangelism and I saw their religious practices as a cultural artifact, like gefilte fish, which I liked. I was a *Shabbos goy*, lighting stoves for the Orthodox each Saturday for 15 cents a pop. I asked my mom once how it was all right for them to use the flame after I lit it, not getting the logic. My mom said, "People believe different things." Her tone acknowledged my challenge but also bade me patience with the world.

The only other Gentiles were a Jehovah's Witness family. The mom left treatises around with graphic drawings of all the plagues to torment mankind at the end of days, which were imminent. They were quite disturbing, with boils and hellfire. Again I asked my mom, and she pointed out that they updated their books every twenty years, unconcerned about the impending apocalypse. This reassured me.

Then we moved to Catholic Staten Island. I recall an early talk with two friends who were Catholic, and two other friends who were not. We all wondered how the nuns could teach them that the rest of us were going to Hell when we had done

nothing wrong. And even if it *were* true (which we all doubted) it was not our fault that we happened to be born to non-Catholic homes.

Since then I have lived among Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims. I am, ironically, something of a global expert on Islamic finance. I often share Stuart's sentiment that religion can be a deeply negative force, especially when it is tribalism, or anti-science.

But at the same time I have come to believe that religious feelings are hardwired into the brain, like our language's deep structure. A Homo sapiens who believed a Higher Power could help him escape the pursuing saber-tooth perhaps drew deeper energy from this conviction. Our tendency for pattern recognition also leads there: imagining a tiger when there is none is far more likely a propensity to be passed on than the opposite of no tiger when there is. Hence, Jesus in the French toast.

My logic does not permit a Higher Power beyond coincidence. And yet I am a total romantic. When Leyla came to us, we had the *Coincidence of the Helens*: My mom and the mother of the man who linked us to Leyla were both Helens, recently dead (her birth mom's mother was also Helen, or did I make that up?). My brain knew the Helens were pure coincidence and not all that exceptional; Helen was among America's most popular names in the 1920's. But when Leyla arrived, I saw the Helens knitting fate into our miracle. My Homo sapiens brain found deep joy in turning mere coincidence into Divine Agency; Higher Purpose.

I am fine with that.

Ken Dorph

September Service Calendar

September 1

Annual Water Service-The Blessings of Water Pat Gorman and Stephen Flores

As is our tradition, we celebrate water in our own lives and look at the meaning and condition of water locally and world wide. Please bring a small amount of water from a source that has meaning to you for our celebration.

September 8

Bearers of the Flame

The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold

We will begin this interim ministry with a covenant to be partners in this endeavor. Ministry is about service, relationship, and sharing gifts with one another. Ideally, as partners in ministry, our respective gifts will be complementary during this interim time. For, as one UU minister put it: *“Ministry is too important to be left to the professionals alone.”*

September 15

Change is Inevitable, Growth is Optional

The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold

Change is a certainty in life. How we choose to respond to – or resist – change determines what transformations will take place in our lives; or not.

September 22

Re-packing Your Bags

The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold

Many of the choices we make in our lives are based on what our needs are at a particular time. If you're anything like me, you may find it difficult to part with some of the old to make room for the new. Sometimes we keep carrying the same “bags” of stuff, long after they've outlived their usefulness. Today we'll consider the benefits of examining what it is we carry with us and how we decide what to keep and what to discard.

Service Date	Greeter	Welcome Table	Hospitality
Sept 1	Linda Giordano	John Andrews	Tina Guglielmo/ Ingrid Krinke
Sept 8	Arden Edwards	Carol Mason	Bev Krouse Aubrey Burch
Sept 15	Myrna Truitt	Jeanne Wisner	Sylvia Baruch Carol Mason
Sept 22	Ingrid Krinke	Jeanne Wisner	Mark and Martha Potter
Sept 29	Hilary Helfant	Jim Thurman	John Tusa Myrna Truitt
Oct 6	Carl Wittenberg	Pam Wittenberg	Jeanne Wisner Marla Liso

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

September 29

Worksongs: A Singing Service

Edith, Bennett and the Sylvester Manor Worksongers

Join Edith and Bennett and the Sylvester Manor Worksongers as we spend a joyous morning singing the songs that they use out in the fields. Much singing will be interspersed with discussion of using music to transform the mundane in the fields, and life in general.

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, Sept. 7

Worship Associates Meeting, 8:30 am

Sunday, Sept. 8, noon

Qi Gong. Open to the wisdom of the heart in summer's fullness, connect to your inner joy. Renew and restore with these simple ancient Chinese movements and self-massages. All are welcome. For information, call Tina Curran 631-723-1923

Thursday, Sept. 12, 7 pm - Board Meeting

Board meetings are open to all members of our congregation.

Friday, Sept. 13 6 pm

RE Campfire. The Religious Education program will offer pizza, salad and s'mores around the campfire. After the kids have a chance to play their favorite game, "Manhunt", we will welcome back our RE Educator, Valerie diLorenzo, and hear briefly about plans for the upcoming year.

Sunday, Sept. 21

Dress Down Sunday.

After coffee hour, all are welcome to help weed, plant and spruce up our gardens

Saturday, Oct. 5 Gala -Celebrating Change: Past, Present and Future

Begins at 6 pm at the meetinghouse. In addition to fun, music, great food and drink, we will honor the Town of Southampton's Sustainable Southampton Green Advisory Committee, represented by its co-chair, Professor Scott Carlin. We are also pleased to honor Sandra Dunn, a resident of Hampton Bays, and Program Director of the Local Immigration Program of the Hagedorn Foundation, working on behalf of Long Island Immigrants. (Advance reservations are priced at \$40 for individual tickets, or \$35 per ticket for groups of four or more. The price at the door is \$50.)

Photos from Dress Down Sunday July 21

Right, Martha Potter and Margaret Logan. Below, Sue Penny and Margi Pulkingham.



Ken Ettliger at the wheel. Left Ken, Carl Wittenberg and Linda Giordano beside the pond.



Mark Potter amok with the weed whacker. Above right Pam Wittenberg with a prize weed.

Thoughts on Raising an Eco-Minded Child

Greetings! My name is Anita Wright and I have been an Environmental Educator for over 20 years, 15 of those with Group for the East End, a local environmental advocacy and education non-profit organization. I am delighted to begin sharing my observations and experiences with you in the UUCSF newsletter.

In a recent magazine interview, I was asked to write my thoughts on the following three questions about how to raise an eco-minded child. As a parent myself, I know that raising kids who are earth-minded these days presents many challenges. I hope you find the following tips helpful and fun!

What's important for kids to know about the Earth they live on?

- Discuss how food is grown and harvested, what resources are used to get it to your table and where your drinking water comes from.
- Grow herbs, plant a small garden, tour a farm or join a CSA.
- ♦ Find out together what materials are used to make the pencils they use in school, or for the sneakers they wear.

It's important for children to learn where things come from and where they go. In knowing how we depend on our planet for virtually everything we eat and use, kids will better understand why we need to conserve and take care of soil and water. Remember to talk about where things go when we are done using them. It's important for them to know that when we throw things "away", much of it ends up in a landfill and even in our oceans! Start a compost pile, recycle, and even talk about what happens when you flush the toilet or pour something down the drain. By understanding that things don't "disappear" when we're done with them, children are more likely to appreciate the purpose of reusing and recycling.

What can parents do to increase children's sensitivity to and respect for the Earth?

- Spend plenty of time outdoors playing and exploring.
- Demonstrate curiosity and wonder about the

natural world.

- Learn the names of plants and animals together. Many times, when children scream at the sight of a spider or attempt to crush it underfoot, they are mimicking their parents. What if, instead, parents marveled with their children at an intricate web spun by the same spider, and took time to find out it was a type of orb weaver that eats mosquitoes and its silk is ten times stronger than steel! In the words of environmentalist Baba Dioum, "*In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.*"

How do you introduce abstract concepts like climate change, and at what ages?

- Observe and discuss the cycles of nature where you live.
- Make simple connections to daily actions and conservation.
- Choose age-appropriate books, videos, or nature programs on climate change.

Climate change is a very complicated and daunting topic for even adults to wrap their heads around. This doesn't mean it's a topic that should be ignored with children, just approached with sensitivity, relevance to their lives and based on solutions they can participate in. With young children, begin with noticing when the trees begin to leaf out in the spring, which is the "longest" day of the year, and when ice first forms on the birdbath or on puddles. Remind children that turning off the lights will conserve energy, and that riding bikes to their friend's house instead of driving helps to keep our air clean. Be sure to spend time discussing their questions or concerns.



Anita Wright our new Staff Writer.

Member Profile

I grew up in Flushing, NY in a loving Catholic family. Fortunately, I had a positive experience attending both Catholic elementary and high school, thanks to the kind and compassionate nuns who taught there. As a second grader, I became very concerned about being able to get into heaven, but one of the nuns reassured me that as long as I *wanted* to be with God that was all it took to get in. It reminds me of the principle in AA, which states, “*the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking.*” The desire is the key element and it established the foundation that I had a part to play in my own spiritual growth. Wanting a direct connection to God was the beginning of my move past dogma and hierarchy. It wasn’t about an outside entity with rules and procedures, but a partnership.

While still in elementary school I read a biography of Louisa May Alcott and learned about the Transcendental movement that Emerson and Thoreau had been deeply involved in. The idea that nature is a conduit to God and that God, Man and Nature are linked, rang true for me. More writings on Transcendentalism led to my reading about Unitarianism. I am grateful that I felt free to explore such ideas and broaden my belief system.

After marrying my delightful husband, Mike, in 1982 we moved to the Catskill Mountains to raise our “yours, mine and ours” children. Swimming in the mountain streams and hiking the area with my children cemented my finding the Creator through nature. I became involved in environmental activism and was part of a successful campaign to stop a



county-wide dump from being sited on a farm in Saugerties.

In 1991 my family and I moved to East Hampton to live closer to my sisters. I was awarded a full scholarship to Southampton College, where I earned a degree in Environmental Sociology. It was a real team effort. Attending college full time while raising three young daughters took a strength even I didn’t know I had, and I couldn’t have done it without the support of my extended family. Upon graduation, I had the good fortune to work with some passionate and intelligent people, including Dr. Helen Caldicott whom I had long admired for her outstanding anti-nuclear work. We were part of a group working to convince the Secretary of Energy to close the Long Island nuclear reactor sitting atop the sole source aquifer.

During that campaign I met with parents whose children suffered from a very rare cancer, whose higher numbers around the reactor were suspicious. Talking with these parents helped me to realize that God is an energy for us to tap into, especially when we are in great distress. I don’t call on God to fix things in my life, but to gain the strength to deal with whatever is happening. I can see the Divine when people become their best selves in trying to help one another.

I have so appreciated coming to the UUCSF congregation for spiritual sustenance. It is a haven for me in this challenging world, and I gain much peace from being with others as we make our way along life’s twisty path. I need to be reminded how to stay in touch with my higher self.

Tina Guglielmo



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Margaret Pulkingham
Pamela Wittenberg

Newsletter Information:
Deadline is the 15th 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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Events Editor: John Andrews
Staff Writer: Anita Wright
Staff Photographer: Bob Hoenig
Graphic technician: Mark Potter

What's Happening

◆ The newly structured Finance Committee met for the first time on June 30. We reviewed the financial results for the fiscal year just ending. Our available cash in the bank was \$20,000 more than it was a year ago. This was in part due to two special donations that totaled \$17,000, but even aside from that, we were able to run a small surplus. The committee then reviewed its charge from the Board, which comprises four items: 1) monitoring the financial condition of the congregation on a continuous basis; 2) working harmoniously with Stewardship and the Board on the annual budgeting process; 3) long-range financial planning; 4) recommending procedures for ensuring the soundness of our financial controls. The emphasis during the next few months will be on long-term planning. The committee members are John Andrews (chair), Imke Littman (ex officio as treasurer), Aubrey Burch, and Mark Ewald.

◆ Fellowship meets every six weeks to make decisions about how to best serve our congregation's needs and wants. Sometimes we try things that do not meet either, so we regroup to figure things out. Lunches following service is one of our shining moments, however, as it accomplishes our goal of gathering us all together in fellowship. Thank you, Jeanne, and to hospitality volunteers. Still there are gaps where matters both

big and small are slipping through, and that is where Fellowship needs to lend a hand.

We are also instrumental in orchestrating summer picnics and milestones in the life of the congregation. With the help of the Welcome Table, we are better able to place names with faces, and to determine whether people's comings and goings are by choice or by necessity (such as an illness). It is Fellowship's primary goal to both reach out for whatever is needed or wanted. Please stay posted as we venture into revamping the Neighborhood Groups, which we believe can and should become a vital resource for us in terms of lay ministry and care. If you are interested in joining our committee, please see Jeanne Wisner, Marla Liso, John Andrews, Carol Mason, Jim Thurman, or Pam Wittenberg. Thank you.

◆ The congregation has gathered over 100 pounds of batteries to recycle this year!

◆ The Garden and Grounds "dress downs" will continue into September and October on the third Sunday of the month (Sept 21 and Oct 19) at 12 noon (or after coffee).

◆ Ken Ettliger and Diana Lindley are organizing a cell phone recycling campaign, since everyone has to replace their phone every year or so. They can be refurbished and sent to a women's shelter. There will be a divider in the light bulb recycling box under the table.



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