

March 2019 Newsletter

Meet our board members!

At the Annual Meeting in January, we welcomed a new slate of members to the Board of Trustees. Get to know some of our new and returning board members below.

Peter Richards

Where were you born? In Yakima, Washington, in the center of the state where UFOs were first reported. Two weeks later I was born!

What was the best job you've ever had? I was a dockboy at Fairhaven Marine for the summer of 1968. (I turned 21 in July) I was outside all the time, working the docks, painting & keeping them safe and clean, helped boats with their docking lines, managed the Yachtsmen Haven and Fuel Dock... Came back for June, 1969 before graduating and moving to NYC with a real job.

What is one special talent you have? I play the Kazoo pretty well and have one with me all the time in case I need one at a moment's notice. I've played in many harbors during the summers of the 70s, 80s and 90s. Also played "Happy Birthday" to Susan over the phone about 3 weeks after I met her on Nantucket. It was my first follow up contact after meeting her at the Atlantic Cafe on 8/13/81.

Carl Borchert

If you could be pen pals with one person, living or dead, who would it be? Barack Obama

If you could have a superpower what would it be? To heal sick people and animals

What is your dream job? A singer in a rock and roll band

Natalie Chambers

Where were you born? Los Angeles

What is your dream travel destination? Eden without snakes

How do you see yourself in 5 years? Resettled as an expat in Italy

Rob Dunbar

If you could have a superpower what would it be? Ability to edit history in order to revise terrible decisions.

Join us every Sunday

at 10:45 am

~

March 3

“Made for This”

Katie Byron

March 10

“Love & Fear”

Daniel Lawlor

March 17

“Landscapes of Learning”

Rev. Linda Simmons

March 24

“Lessons from Tijuana”

Rev. Linda Simmons

March 31

“Stomping on God”

Lay Led—David Ramsdell



Calendar of Events

Monday, March 4th

Immigration

Resource Center

5:30 pm, Activities Room

Wednesday, March 6th

Building & Grounds

Committee Meeting

5 pm, Activities Room

Monday, March 18th

Neighborhood Project

5 pm, Activities Room

Tuesday, March 19th

Board of Trustees

Meeting

5:15 pm, Activities room

Thursday, March 28th

Food Rescue Meeting

11 am, Activities Room

President's Report: Coffee Hour and Beyond

Susan Richards, Board of Trustees President

The new 2019 Board of Trustees met for the first time on February 19th with our new members Natalie Chambers, Rob Dunbar, and Carl Borchert. Welcome aboard... quite literally!

The Board agenda is always chock full of important business items - the budget, buildings and grounds issues, and fundraising are always key topics of discussion. However, we make a point at the beginning of each monthly meeting to devote ourselves to the discussion of a "big issue" item. This year we have started reading a book entitled "Upcycle Your Congregation - Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities" and we are discussing a chapter at each meeting. The first chapter we read was entitled "Coffee Hour Central" which addresses the issue of how we attract people to our congregation. A quote from this chapter inspired our conversation: "When we realize that what we traditionally think of as "church" is only one way to carry out our mission, we can open our eyes to the opportunities we have to invite people into our community in new ways."

Our short but spirited discussion of this topic revolved around our own congregation of course... how do we attract new members? We listed some of the things about ourselves that we think make us special and hopefully attractive to potential new members: Our mission - Open doors, open minds,

and open hearts -describes our liberal and welcoming message, and we walk that walk with the sharing of our historic Meeting House which is home to four unique congregations - our own Unitarian Universalist congregation, Faro de Luz, Shirat Ha Yam, and most recently the Muslim prayer group. But how do we best communicate our mission and our message? As the author of this chapter asks: "Where do our church's assets meet the needs of those looking for community"? Is it in our spirited and sociable coffee hours? Or our community potlucks? Perhaps it's our musical events? Maybe it's our creative religious exploration program for children and youth? or our unique adult religious education offerings? not to mention our wide range of community service programs and outreach...

We agreed that we have much to offer a potential new member to our congregation but that perhaps we need to work on how we communicate our invitation. "What resources can we provide for people who want to have a fuller more meaningful life and how can we invite them to be a part of our community and connect with those resources?" I suspect that perhaps those of you who are reading this may have ideas of your own on this subject. At our Board meeting we decided to schedule a time to discuss this topic at further length and we welcome anyone who is interested to join our conversation! Please feel free to contact me at susanoncobble@gmail.com and I can answer any questions you may have as well as share this reading with you.

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Share a little known fact about yourself I was once an extra on an episode of “Starsky and Hutch”.

What is one item on your bucket list? To visit all 50 states.

Susan Richards

If you could have a superpower what would it be? My dream super-power is to be able to communicate with animals.

Who would attend your ideal dinner party and what would you eat? My dinner party would be vegan with some sort of delicious hearty chock-full-of veggies soup with homemade bread ... martinis would be involved as well. It would include 8 guests: Jane Goodall, Albert Schweitzer, Ghandi, Beethoven, Eleanor of Acquitaine, Leonardo de Vinci, Queen Elizabeth I, and Abigail Adams.... Runners Up: Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Thomas Jefferson, Eleanor Roosevelt, E.B. White, Wilma Rudolph, Maurice Sendak, Virginia Woolf

What is one item on your bucket list? Peter and I are eager to drive cross-country. I have fond memories of doing this a couple of times as a kid. We drove to California in my family’s Country Squire (station wagon) in 3 weeks.

Alison Forsgren

If you could have a superpower what would it be? I would like to fly, not with a cape but like a bird.

What is your dream job? Creative Director, Cirque du Soleil - circa 1988.

Share a little known fact about yourself I seriously considered going to clown college and love the Circus, the flying trapeze in particular.



HELP WANTED:

A congregant to volunteer to research, design, source, install, and maintain a Hearing Loop system in Hendrix Hall. We already have a similar system in the sanctuary. It is of use to some hearing aid users and those who use the personal amplifiers with headphones.

The necessary loop wire is already installed under the rug in Hendrix Hall, but we need the rest of the system, and someone to manage the whole project.

Please direct any questions to Paul@PLPDD.com.

Religious Exploration News: Kids for JUSTICE

From Immigrant Rights to Gun Legislation, kids around the country are standing up for justice. And this year, the children of RE are taking a stand themselves!

Grab a taste of what they've been working on so far with a short stroll down Stone Alley, just across the street. You'll be greeted by inspirational messages of reflection on fairness and peace. From the words of MLK Junior to contemporary lit on LGBTQ awareness, the kids have hidden signs that they've lovingly engraved into wood within the wall of wild ivy.

We also invite you to visit us in the kids area during coffee hour, for a little refresher on the 4th Principle with our "vision board" for our ideal World on the back wall. With wild-n-zany forms of self reflection; outreach to our legislators; and brainstorming with "no holds barred," you're guaranteed to be inspired by the courageous leadership of our UU kids.

Care to help? We're starting a collection of simple items that we'll be mailing to Venezuela. So stay tuned for collection notices and bake sales, by the kids themselves! Because you're never too young--nor too old--to make a difference toward JUSTICE for all.



Leyah reads the Story for All Ages "Ferdinand" to the "children at heart" during service Sunday March 3rd.

Congregational Growth

The New England region of the UUA "provides coaching, consulting, facilitation, training, and resources for healthy, vital Unitarian Universalist ministries".

Hilary Allen, New England region Innovation and Growth consultant, will visit us (Aeolus and Poseidon permitting) on Friday, March 29.

Hilary will lead two "Activity Sessions" on the topic of Congregational Growth.



The two Activity Sessions will be separate and not duplicative, attending both will increase the benefit for everyone.

All are welcome to attend either or both sessions; no charge.

The schedule on March 29, 2019, is:

3:30PM - 5:15PM First Activity Session

— short break —

5:30PM - 7:15PM Second Activity Session

7:20PM - 8:00PM Supper brought in to A.R. for those who chose to stay after attending the Second Activity Session.

We'll get Hilary back to the Hyline in plenty of time for the 8:20 ferry!

Questions: Paul@PLPDD.com



Join Paul Connors for a program of Irish American Popular songs—from Vaudeville to Broadway and Tin Pan Alley!

Thursday, March 28th
1:20 pm
Saltmarsh Senior Center



The new Yamaha piano, a gift to the UU Meeting House now living in Hendrix Hall

Second Congregational Society
Unitarian Universalist, Nantucket, Massachusetts
Annual Meeting - January 27, 2019
Minutes

Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Valerie Hall, Board of Trustees President, called the meeting to order in the Activities Room at 12:05pm. The necessary quorum was confirmed by Clerk, Peter Richards. Note taker: Susan Richards

II. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Susan Richards, Board of Trustees Vice President, lit the Chalice and Opening words were provided by the Reverend Linda Simmons

III. Approval of Minutes of 2018 Annual & Summer Mtgs

Clerk Peter Richards presented the Minutes of the 2018 Annual and Summer meetings: Lora Stewart moved that they be approved with a second by Paul Stewart. The Congregation voted and unanimously approved.

IV. Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of 2019 Budget

MOTION: Paul Stewart, Treasurer - made the motion to adopt the 2019 Budget, the motion was seconded by Carl Borchert. After discussion (see below for summary) the motion was voted on by the congregation and approved unanimously.

Discussion included Paul describing the budget process which begins after the third quarter of our fiscal year. The Board discusses needs and concerns for the following year - the Finance Committee then meets and reviews - making changes - additions and subtractions and a balanced budget is presented to the Board - the Board reviews and finalizes with a vote. The budget is then presented to the Congregation at our Annual Meeting. Paul stressed that this is the most important part of the process - the entire congregation having the opportunity to review, question, and discuss the budget before voting.

After the budget vote, Paul explained a change in UUA dues... which is now a percentage of our annual budget and not a per member charge as it has been in the past. This would triple our contribution which we feel is too much to take on at this time. We have decided instead to contribute 3% of our budget which is comparable to the cost of living raise that we are giving to staff *Question: Does it affect our standing? Answer: Not too much - UUA gives preference to congregations who pay full dues when it comes to the grants that they offer. *Question: would this affect our delegates at GA? - Rev Linda will look into this ... UUA expects that most congregations won't be doing the top percentage at first *Question: Are we paying our staff a competitive wage? Answer: Yes, we think so...

Annual budget doesn't represent the only money we spend for the year, there is other money that has been designated for a specific reason - Parsonage fund, Ministers discretionary fund...

MOTION: Paul made the motion to transfer the surplus from our 2018 budget (approx. \$7,050.00) to the Parsonage Capital Maintenance Fund (which will get us to \$42,000.00) Lucille Jordan seconded. Congregation voted and approved unanimously

Short discussion of our Parsonage Capital Maintenance Fund - We will most likely have a congregational meeting to discuss this project when we get a final figure of costs. \$375,000 - \$400,000 was an estimate which included all of the work needed. Are Parsonages on their way out? Should we consider selling it? These questions will all be discussed.

We'll also be working on maintenance issues - boiler, etc. Have been working with Rick and Valerie Norton - island couple who work with historic building renovations to preserve historic nature as well as functionality. Sanford Kendall was recommended if we need a second choice.

Some more discussion of Parsonage issues: If it doesn't fall under SCPF - could we ask CPC for support? Perhaps adding a basement apartment for added income? Our Parsonage Committee will meet sometime soon and a Congregational Meeting is suggested to discuss sometime soon.

AR renovations were pointed out - painting, flooring, lighting

V. Election of Board of Trustees Members

Lora Stewart, Nominating Committee Chair submitted the slate of 3 members each for 3-year terms:

Carl Borchert

Natalie Chambers

Rob Dunbar

MOTION: Kat Robinson Grieder moved to accept this slate and Alison Forsgren seconded. Motion was voted on by the Congregation and approved unanimously.

VI. Election of Treasurer

Lora Stewart, Nominating Committee Chair submitted the nomination of Paul Stewart.

MOTION: Nancy Mack moved to accept this nomination and John Merson seconded. Congregation voted and approved unanimously (with a standing ovation!)

VII. Election of South Church Preservation Fund Directors

Gary Langley, SCPF Nominating Committee Chair submitted the slate of 4 new members and 1 current member for re-election each for 3-year terms:

Four new members: Mary Bergman, Tucker Holland, Marion Conley, Polly Miller

Reelected: Debbie Kahn

MOTION: Carl Borchert moved that we accept the slate and David Hall seconded. Congregation voted and

approved unanimously.

Gary reminded the congregation that according to the by-laws of SCPF the majority of the members of the Board need to be Nantucket UU congregation members. With this vote, 6 of the 11-member Board are members of the UU congregation.

Question about fundraising: Most of the SCPF funds comes from grants

Paul let the Congregation know that the Board has voted to approve a switch to a new insurance for our Meeting house - Changing to Church Mutual Insurance -More coverage for less money!

VIII. Election of Nominating Committee

Lora Stewart, Nominating Committee Chair submitted the slate of 3 members, each for 1-year terms:

Val Hall

Susan Robinson

John Rivera

MOTION: Paul Stewart moved to accept this nomination and Nancy Mack seconded. The Congregation voted and approved unanimously.

IX. Committee Reports

Food Rescue: Gary Langley reported that Food Rescue started 4 years ago - it started with 3 members and now there are 16 volunteers in the program. A congregant donated \$20,000 for a walk in cooler, which allowed the program to accept more donations. The cooler is located at Sustainable Nantucket. The program had a very successful pickup after the Wine Festival and is now working on a relationship with Stop and Shop . Bartlett's is current biggest contributor (400 lbs a week) During the summer there are food bins located in Wauwinet and Madaket locations for renters to leave unused/unopened food after rental periods. Also working on a Pilot program at Nantucket High School to help students who are experiencing food insecurity. The group is discussing the idea of a grant for 3 years to hire a staff person to organize and take group to a higher level. Another donation just came in for \$9,000 to establish solar energy for our walk-in cooler. Making food donations weekly to Coast Guard who have been able to create their own food pantry and had their own food pantry day.

Immigration Resource Center: Rev Linda Simmons reported that this program opened in 2017 and is currently open the first Monday of each month 5:30-7:30 - not being used a lot and the feeling is there may be a fear that it's not a safe place and that ICE may be waiting for them. Recently decided to have quarterly International Potlucks at the Meeting house to increase trust in gatherings. The first one will be on Friday, February 1st. The main members of the Resource Committee will be meeting with Chief Pearlman with oth-

er clergy and island leaders so that he can answer questions and address concerns. Trying hard to be “One Island.” please use the word “undocumented” instead of “Illegal.”

FUNdraising: Alison Forsgren reports that we raised: \$19,150 with 4 events:

4th of July

By the Sea Auction

Summer Concert series

Stroll Craft Fair

This is down 3% from last year. Plan to continue 4 events - and adding one more. possibly Wee.Green - website to test drive - 20% of online expenditures on green products goes to church. And perhaps one other fundraiser maybe on Daffodil weekend - an event to fundraise and raise awareness of the church.

Alison requested other contributors for ideas and events. current committee members are: Alison Forsgren, Kat Robinson Grieder and Lora Stewart. Staff office manager Emma Young will be helping the committee in 2019. The Committee’s goal is to break events/projects down into simpler activities that everyone can do!

Communications: Bess Clarke reported that 6 months ago she, Alison Forsgren, Jack Weinhold, and Rev Linda met to discuss determining/articulating who we are and the work that we’re doing - clarifying our branding etc. Had a special speaker come in to facilitate a discussion on who we are and what we’re doing. Bess has been in touch with a professional in this field who has agreed to take this project on as her “passion project.” Bess reports that they want to be really strategic in how to proceed. Our website and branding will be addressed in 2019. Rev Linda added that a congregant has contributed to the Minister’s Discretionary fund which she is using towards this Communications Project.

X. Adjournment/Extinguishing the Chalice

Valerie Hall, Board of Trustees President adjourned the meeting at 1:22pm and Susan Richards, Board of Trustees Vice President extinguished the chalice with some closing words

Sermons for March

March 3

Made for This, Katie Byron

Whether it's becoming a parent or building the beloved community, we tell all kinds of stories about what it is that we were made to do. Sometimes we think if we were really made to do that, it should seem natural or be easy. But so often that is not the case. What do we do and who are we to become when what we were made for turns out to be really hard?

March 10

Love & Fear, Daniel Lawlor

Daniel Lawlor joins us today with a sermon titled "Love and Fear." A meditation on how we as Unitarian Universalists have an opportunity to embody Love in community. As both skeptics and optimists, our tradition calls us to balance both as we try to build communities of love- which can be easier said than done! Not too long ago, a focus on love changed the life of a congregation in an old neighborhood in San Francisco... and what it might mean for all of us UUs?

March 17

Landscapes of Learning, Rev. Linda Simmons

This sermon will explore Rev. Linda's learnings of hiking in the Arizona desert. What voice does the earth speak to us when we get quiet enough to listen? And why is listening still a source of wholeness?

March 24

Lessons from Tijuana, Rev. Linda Simmons

Join Rev. Linda as she relives her trip to Tijuana to visit Casa del Migrante. Gary's photos will grace this exploration of heart and mind learned from the people who travel without surety, safety, or welcome.

March 31

Stomping on God, David Ramsdell & Kat Robinson Grieder

This Lay led service focuses on climate change and our responsibility to the earth.

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Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister ~ **Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus**

Barbara Elder, Music Director ~ **Layah Jensen, Children & Youth Program Director**, **Sherlly Morocoima, RE Assistant**, **Emma Young, Office Manager** ~ **Janelle Zapata de Morocoima, Sexton** ~ **Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper**

Board of Trustees

Susan Richards, President, **Kat Robinson Grieder, Vice President**, **Paul Stewart, Treasurer**, **Peter Richards, Clerk**, **Alison K. Forsgren**, **Joanne Polster**, **Carl Borchert**, **Natalie Chambers**, **Rob Dunbar**, **Rev. Linda Simmons**

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 9am—12 pm

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m.—noon and by appointment