



Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist  
11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ June 2013

## Where Land and Sea Meet

Rev. David M. Horst, Interim Minister

We have arrived at the threshold of summer! Now we prepare for “the season” when visitors come ashore and summer residents return. The resort of Nantucket comes alive with friends old and new. The inns, shops, restaurants, museums, theaters, tour guides, boat charters, and bike rental shops offer a warm welcome to all who come to enjoy the beauty, recreation, entertainment, night life, and good food the island offers—and, most of all, the beaches!

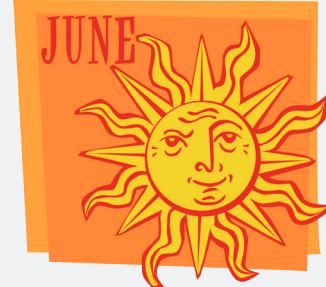
For many year-round members and friends of the congregation it's back to work, with long weeks serving the tourist trade on which this island economy (and their household income) depends. For all of us in the Meeting House community we begin planning and preparing our music, worship, and education programs for members, visitors, and summer residents.

The most important way you can help get the summer off to a good start is by supporting the Meeting House Auction on June 15. Donate goods or services or bid on goods and services. Most of all, plan to attend as we raise some funds and enjoy some fun together.

The “Sunday Open Rehearsal” program, led by Diane Lehman, Director of Music, is well underway, bringing island amateur and professional musical talent to the Meeting House every Sunday at noon to prepare for upcoming concerts here and around the island. On June 13 the new “Thursdays@5” concert series debuts with the island’s own Coq Au Vin performing lively gypsy music followed by the Meeting House Choir on June 20 and the Bart Weisman Trio on June 27. We are thankful to ReMain Nantucket for underwriting this new series, which replaces the Noonday Concert Series of many years. Two Sunday afternoon concerts, supported by the M. S. Worthington Foundation, will be announced soon.

John Rivera, a member of the Board and coordinator of the docent program, is recruiting volunteers and planning a training session to prepare for weekday tours of the historic Meeting House in July and August. Please come to the training session and sign up for a weekly shift.

Susan Richards, a member of the Board and chair of the Religious Exploration Committee, is planning a Sunday morning “sUmmer fUn” program for our children and visitors’ children. Many volunteers are needed, so sign up today to help.



Join us for Sunday services each week!  
Choir practice at 9:30 a.m.  
with religious education and services starting at  
10:45 a.m.

Sunday, June 2  
“Be Happy”

Sunday, June 9  
“Pride Sunday”

Sunday, June 16  
“The End of Belief”

Sunday, June 23  
“Earth Rhythms”  
(A Fourth Sunday lay-led service)

Sunday, June 30  
“Two Who Dared”

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Diane and I are putting together a schedule of Sunday morning music and worship programs in June and July offering a variety of interesting and entertaining topics in word and music. This month the music and worship themes are the meaning of happiness, gay pride, and “The End of Belief.” Sounds intriguing, I hope! Rev. Linda Simmons and I will lead worship together on July 28 and then she takes over worship leadership and preaching duties beginning on August 4 as I head off to my new assignment with the congregation in Paramus, New Jersey.

The Nantucket summer begins! Be a part of it at your Meeting House, the summer home on Nantucket for music, worship, education, and ideas.

*“Where land and sea meet” is my Nantucket analogy for congregational life. A church lives in a tidal zone where our private and public lives meet and converge like the meeting place of the land and sea.*

## President's Column

Linda Sperry, President, Board of Trustees

In its April 20th edition, the New York Times published an opinion piece entitled “The Benefits of Church” by Stanford University anthropologist and author (“When God Talks Back”) T. M. Luhrmann.

In her article, Dr. Luhrmann said, “One of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you.”

The author continued by saying, “Religious attendance—at least, religiosity—boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two to three years to your life. The reason for this is not entirely clear. Social support is no doubt part of the story.”

Though I’m certainly not an anthropologist with the extensive background of Dr. Luhrmann, I have to agree with her assessment that going to church each week is a good thing, in my opinion.

On Nantucket, especially in the summertime, there are a myriad of activities competing for our time on a Sunday morning. House guests, warm beach days, yoga classes, dog walks at Sanford Farm, bird watching, leisurely brunches, “Meet the Press,” savoring the Times, bike riding, jogging, or sailing in the harbor are among the many alternatives to attending Sunday services at the Meeting House.

Besides, we tell ourselves, “finding a parking spot is challenging, it’s warm (or cold) in the sanctuary upstairs, we have to get dressed up, we have to get the kids all cleaned up, etc.”

Yes, the aforementioned options and reasoning are all valid. But like Dr. Luhrmann, I’d like to advocate for church going on Sunday morning. Especially this summer. Why?

1. You can take The Wave, walk, ride your bike or ask a fellow church member for a ride if you are concerned about parking.
2. The Sunday service can be a respite from the hustle and bustle of the Nantucket summer outside the church doors.
3. The music performed by our music director Diane Lehman and the choir can transport you to a world of tranquility.
4. The sermon, readings and meditation can provide food for thought and contemplation for the week ahead.
5. If you have kids in the RE program, they can have an experience that will contribute to a greater understanding of the world around them, thanks to the dedicated RE teachers who challenge them each week.
6. The Sunday service and coffee hour afterwards give you a chance to connect with a community of like-minded folks who value and genuinely care for you and your family.
7. We have an awesome interim minister—Rev. David Horst—who is with us until July 31, and a new settled minister—Rev. Linda Simmons—whose first appearance in the pulpit will be July 28, and she would love to see us fill our spacious sanctuary on Sunday mornings.
8. Our summer members are with us for a limited time only as they divide their time between their other homes and Nantucket. Summer Sundays are our opportunity to renew relationships and catch up with all that’s happened in their lives since last season.

I’m sure you can round out the list and make it a top 10 list by adding your own reasons in addition to my own.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

Join me for Sunday services this summer. Boost your immune system. Lower your blood pressure. Be a part of a caring community. And have a great summer on this wonderful island of ours! See you in church!



## Music at the Meeting House Diane Lehman, Director of Music

Music at the Meeting House never sounded so good!

The choir is in full attendance each Sunday morning, and we've even added a few new members. Our willing soloists; Amanda, Bob, Jessie and Cynthia have contributed so often to our services that people are stopping them in the street to ask for requests. Our staple of dedicated singers has broadened their repertoire this year and will be putting on a concert of their own with a Unitarian themed song list, complete with solos and a little barbershop to kick it up a notch.

### Thursdays @ 5 Concert Series

Noonday Concerts, a staple of music at the Meeting House for two decades has changed its time of day to 5 p.m. and broadened its offerings under a new name, Thursdays@5. The new series will also be longer than before with concerts running June 13th through September 12th.

The Music Committee of Al Fuller, Karin Gockel and Cynthia Csabay is teaming up with our office administrator Kaitlyn Burke to put out the word for this new Thursdays@5 series. We are expecting a great turnout for all 14 concerts, which will take place each Thursday afternoon at 5 p.m.

The Summer Music Series, Thursdays@5 begins June 13, featuring Coq Au Vin, the local gypsy band. The Meeting House Choir will then perform the following Thursday, June 20th, followed on June 27th by The Bart Weisman Trio, an all jazz group from the Cape.

Then in July we have The Bob Lehman Trio on July 4th with "A Tribute to the United States of America" and Singer-Songwriter Daniel Charness on July 11th. A local favorite—The Nantucket Women's Chorus—will be featured on July 18th, conducted by Barbara Elder. Finishing up July, we have acclaimed baritone John Murelle singing the songs of Duke Ellington.

August begins with TimBukBlues on August 1st followed on August 8th by Tony Deblois, a fabulous pianist whose personal story is inspiring. On Sunday, August 11, we're ex-

cited to have Hyannis Sound, a talented all-male a cappella group, performing for the first time on Nantucket. Filling out our August schedule is returning flutist Courtney Hardy on August 15th and soprano Jessie Ann Lambrecht, singing an operatic program on August 29th. If you missed Jessie's concert last year, you missed a great show. She is an amazing talent.

You'll also not want to miss our very own Matt Hutchinson performing with Nigel Goss on bass on September 5th followed by the NCMC Jazz Band on September 12th to wind down the season.

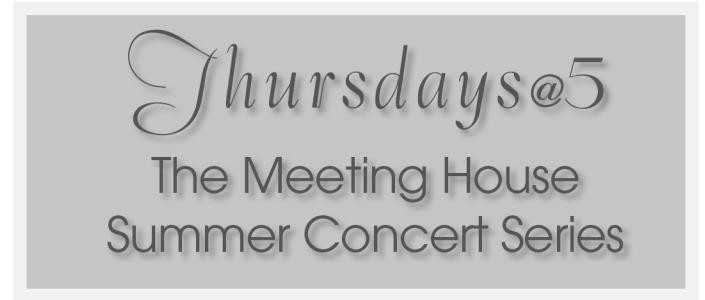
For more information, tune into ACK radio 97.7 FM or visit <http://www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org/community/meeting-house-summer-concerts>

### Open Rehearsal Sundays

The Open Rehearsal Series each Sunday from noon–1:30 p.m. is an opportunity to work on your own repertoire for a future concert. If you have an idea for a musical performance, you need a little space to practice in, would like a little encouragement from other musicians, or you just want to hear yourself perform in the beautiful Meeting House upstairs sanctuary we are providing the room for 90 minutes each Sunday.

You may come and find a band practicing or a solo musician testing the acoustics, or a pianist in the middle of a rehearsal with a soloist. An open rehearsal is a drop-in for all—both listeners and performers of all ages. I will be happy to accompany you if you are able to bring sheet music. All instruments, all voices and all styles of music are joyfully welcomed.

All of this music at the Meeting House comes to you thanks to the musicians who generously give of themselves and their talents. If you are interested in helping or being a part of this exciting new musical direction, please let us know. We are always looking for volunteers to help bring people into the Meeting House and enjoy its setting of peace and harmony.





## June 2013 Sunday Services

Sunday, June 2 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

“Be Happy”

It sounds so easy—be happy!—but we all struggle to find happiness in our lives. Is happiness something we achieve or is happiness more a state of mind? Come join us for some insights and laughter. Rev. Horst explores the meaning of happiness in his sermon entitled, “Be Happy,” with insights from Daniel Gilbert’s popular book, *Stumbling on Happiness*. Diane Lehman, Director of Music, the Meeting House Choir, and soloists provide happy music.

Sunday, June 9 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

“Pride Sunday”

We celebrate our second annual Pride Sunday! 2012 and 2013 have been milestone years in the struggle for equal rights for gay and lesbian individuals and couples, and their families as well as transgender individuals. Same-sex marriage is now legal in a dozen states, the Boy Scouts recently lifted its ban on gay scouts, and we await the Supreme Court decisions on California’s Proposition 8 and the federal Defense of Marriage Act. What’s left to be done? Plenty! Rev. Horst discusses the road ahead in GLBT rights in a sermon entitled “Equality Now!” Music with Diane Lehman, Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

Sunday, June 16 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

“The End of Belief”

In the age of science and reason, do beliefs matter? Is it possible to be a religious person without a fixed set of beliefs? Are there any beliefs we live by that help us live lives of purpose and meaning? Rev. Horst explores these and other questions in his sermon “The End of Belief.” Music with Diane Lehman, Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

Sunday, June 23 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

“Earth Rhythm” A Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service

Religions of the earth have long found deep meaning in the natural rhythms of our planet and its moon. Casey Boukus, a Wiccan, will weave a picture of these beliefs and practices on this day of the full moon. Join us for learning and music with Diane Lehman, Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

Sunday, June 30 - 10:45 a.m. - Historic Sanctuary

“Two Who Dared”

In conjunction with the Nantucket Film Festival, we present Artemis Joukowsky, director of *Two Who Dared: The Sharps’ War*, a film about his grandparents Waitstill and Martha Sharpe, a Unitarian minister and his wife who help save imperiled Jews and refugees at the onset of World War II. The documentary film will be screened on Friday afternoon, June 28, at 2:30 at the Dreamland Theater. Mr. Joukowsky gives us additional insight into his grandparents and the making of the film. Rev. Horst leads the service. Music with Diane Lehman, Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir.

*The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is the home of Nantucket’s Second Congregational Meeting House Society, Nantucket’s liberal religious community. Sunday morning worship, music, and religious education begin at 10:45. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided at no charge from 10:30 - noon. Children begin the morning with the congregation in Hendrix Hall then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative Religious Exploration Program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs in the Activities Room at 11:45. The Meeting House Choir rehearses on Saturday afternoons at 3 and Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Hendrix Hall. Singers of all abilities are welcome!*

## Community Peace and Justice

It's going to be a busy summer for the Peace and Justice stalwarts. It was decided at our May meeting to gather at the Federal Street Post Office between 11:00 and noon on Saturday, June 15th. Ending the war in Afghanistan will be the focus of this rally. We'll address the proposed building of nine bases planned for the post war period, and the depth of corruption in the Karzai regime.

Subsequent rallies (June 22nd and 29th) will zero in on related veteran concerns, e.g. failure of the VA to respond to military disability claims, the disturbing increase in veteran suicides, and the alarming number of homeless veterans.

The July and August rally schedules have not been finalized, but will center on raising awareness of current concerns, e.g. gun control legislation, reducing gun violence, voter suppression, and climate change. Lively topics!

If you share our dedication to find peaceful solutions and a common ground of tolerance, we welcome your participation. Come stand with us for 15 or 20 minutes, hold one of our posters or one of your own design, or just hold a cup of coffee. We look forward to seeing you on June 15th. Your company is very appreciated.



## SUMMER FUN IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION Casey Boukus

Summer is almost here and changes abound in the landscape, our schedules, our energies... Changes happen at the Meeting House as well: we move up to the sanctuary, we welcome back summer members as well as new visitors, we hit the beach. For some of us business blooms. For others, things slow or shift gears. Some of us hide from the crowds and avoid town. Others enjoy the burgeoning energy and bustle of seasonal activity.

For those of us in RE we never know who will waltz, skip, crawl or be carried through the Meeting House doors and join us for Sunday's activities! So this year we are planning for that unknown! We are planning to spend as much time outdoors as weather allows, either in the back garden or walking to the Atheneum gardens or on leisurely strolls around town.

We are in the process of stocking the RE space with lots of art supplies, books, games and activities for our youngsters to use. We will still begin each Sunday morning with our sacred

circle time, connecting with one another, sharing experiences, favorites, stories that lead us into deeper relationship with each other and our spiritual community. We will light our chalice and honor passages of import: birthdays, loved ones visiting, sadnesses, and achievements.

And then we will allow children to gravitate toward places that call them, whether that be an art project, a game or a story shared. We are trying to accommodate a range of ages and make the time spent together, although fairly brief, meaningful and hopefully enjoyable for each child.

However our SUMMER FUN program is all volunteer and in need of reinforcements. Our needs include 1. teacher's helpers, 2. assistance with snacks, 3. books, games, and art supplies, 4. presenters to share talents or experiences. Please join us. We know you'll enjoy being part of the exploration.

And welcome summer!



## Our Docents

Each summer, July 1st through August 30th, a team of docents greet the thousand or so visitors who walk thorough the doors of our historic house. It's an interesting and important job, sharing the history of our building. Interesting in that docents get to talk with people from all corners of the world, and important because they are our representatives who tell the real story of the Meeting House. The bell rings 52 times, three times a day. Yes there originally was a balcony around the sanctuary. It's called trompe l'oeil and was painted in 1843... And so much more.

It takes 12 dedicated volunteers each summer to provide the welcome for those seeking out the Unitarian Meeting House, many of whom come because of the admonition in the guide books, "not to be missed when you visit Nantucket."

Each docent works one shift a week, and there are two shifts a day, from 10 a.m. to noon, and noon until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each summer docents receive an orientation and training in the history and myths of the building, providing them with the background to faithfully tell the story of the Meeting House.

Perhaps you have an interest in our history, and would enjoy sharing your enthusiasm with people from many cultures. The commitment is for two hours a week, for nine weeks, and the reward is receiving the training and meeting so many interesting folks. John Rivera is the coordinator of the Docent Program. You can contact him through riveraj7@comcast.net, or catch him in church on Sunday.

# Summer at the Meeting House - 2013

## **Friday, June 7 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Baccalaureate:** The Meeting House in cooperation with the Interfaith Council hosts the Baccalaureate service for the Nantucket class of 2013 in the sanctuary. Rev. David Horst and Diane Lehman, Director of Music, lead the service with local clergy, members of the graduating class, and school faculty. A full house is expected!

## **Saturday, June 8 – All day**

## **Sunday, June 9 - 10:45 a.m.**

**Gay Pride:** On Saturday a contingent of Nantucketers travel to Boston to march with our congregation's rainbow whale banner in the annual Boston Pride Parade. Back on island our Sunday service celebrates the year's progress and identifies the challenges that remain as we continue moving to GLBT equal rights.

## **Thursday, June 13 – 5 p.m.**

**Thursdays@5:** The new concert series kicks off with Coq Au Vin followed by the Meeting House Choir on June 20 and the Bart Weisman trio (jazz) on June 27. The series continues for 12 more weeks ending with master jazz pianist Matt Hutchinson on September 12. For the complete calendar of concerts [click here](#). Thursdays@5 is made possible by grants from The M.S. Worthington Foundation and ReMain Nantucket.

## **Every Sunday, Noon–2p.m.**

**Open Rehearsal:** This is a drop-in in the sanctuary for all, listeners and performers of any age. Diane Lehman, Director of Music, will be happy to play for you or accompany you if you bring sheet music. Any instruments are welcome, all voices, and certainly all styles of music are joyfully welcomed.

## **Saturday, June 15 – 6–8 p.m.**

**Meeting House Auction:** The live auction runs 7–8 p.m. in Hendrix Hall with the silent auction opening at 6 p.m. and continuing next day after Sunday service; last bid at 12:30 p.m. Bob Lehman brings the hammer down on—Weekend stays in Boston's Back Bay and Beacon Hill; Red Sox tickets, Round trip airline tickets to Boston, and Hyannis; B&B nights on Nantucket; Golf Foursome at Sankaty; Restaurant dining; Art, Crafts; Furniture; Jewelry; Apparel and much more. Don't miss this exciting evening. All proceeds from the auction are for the upkeep and programs of the Meeting House.

## **Thursday, July 4 – 9 a.m.**

**4th of July:** The 11th Annual reading of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. This event has become a standing-room-only celebration to begin the day in Yankee Doodle Style, with patriotic songs, kids signing a copy of the Declaration of Independence, and the winner of a raffle climbing the tower to ring in the Fourth on the historic Portuguese Bell. Come early and be sure of getting a seat.

## **Sunday, July 21–Noon**

**Mid-Summer Congregation Meeting:** This annual gathering brings together year-round and seasonal members of the congregation to present a mid-year financial report, to vote on by-law changes if any, and to discuss other items best heard by the whole congregational community.

## **Sunday, July 21–12:45 p.m.**

**Farewell Party:** Saying our goodbyes to Interim Minister David Horst. This will be the official congregational send-off party, a fete on the lawn for Rev. David and his family. David remains "on duty" through July 31 when he turns over the ministry of the congregation to our newly settled minister, Rev. Linda Simmons. We will miss David and we thank him for his thoughtful leadership during our successful two-year transition period. We wish him well in his new post.

## **Sunday, July 28 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Final Service:** Interim Minister Rev. David Horst and incoming Settled Minister Rev. Linda Simmons join together in leading this service of transition from Interim Minister to Settled Minister.

**Sunday, August 4 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Welcome Rev. Linda Simmons:** This Sunday Service marks the beginning of her ministry with us. We hope to see everyone at this important service.

## **August, T.B.A.**

**Seasonal members cocktail party:** An early evening gathering with Rev. Simmons hosted by the Board of Trustees.

## **Late Summer**

**Sunday Afternoon Concerts:** For the first of two special concerts, Hyannis Sound Acapella Group, will perform on August 11. The second concert is T.B.A. Check our website, <http://www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org/community/meeting-house-summer-concerts>, to keep current on Music at The Meeting House. These concerts are made possible by a grant from the M.S. Worthington Foundation.



UUA President Peter Morales and his wife Phyllis, shown here in the sanctuary during a visit to the Meeting House on May 4th.

**See you  
at the  
Auction  
June 15**

## **South Church Preservation Fund**

We are very pleased to announce that Gwen Richter has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the South Church Preservation Fund. Accounting Manager at Nantucket Island Resorts, Gwen serves on the Finance Committee of the congregation and now brings her managerial and financial skills to her new role on the board of SCPF. She previously served the Bedford UU church in several capacities including the Architectural Design Advisory Committee. She is a strong addition to our board.

In other news David Barham continues his research and design project centered on the fabrication of authentic sconces and chandelier to compliment the original lights still in place on the Goodrich organ.

Work also continues on the 2nd edition of the history of the Meeting House published by the Nantucket Preservation Trust. Michael May, David Barham and Libby Oldham are updating the book to include discoveries made during restoration and acknowledgement of donors.

And speaking of discoveries Craig Sperry found something interesting in the tower recently while removing a wall for Verizon. Be sure to speak with him about it.

SCPF meets June 17 at 5PM in the activities room. We welcome your attendance. Mary Beth Splaine, President SCPF



## **Live Streaming of General Assembly**

Would you like to watch the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA) events from Louisville, Kentucky online? Events in the Plenary Hall are streamed live and posted for viewing afterwards. You can watch from your home by keeping up with the schedule of streamed events. Live-streaming GA video will start on Wednesday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m. ET. Visit this link for more information: <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/30754.shtml>



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### Church Staff

**David M. Horst, Interim Minister - Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus**  
**Diane T. Lehman, Director of Music - Kaitlyn Burke, Office Assistant**  
**Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo, Sextons**

### Board of Trustees

Linda Sperry (President), Brian Girard (Vice President), Susan Richards (Clerk),  
Bob Hall (Treasurer), David Hall, John Rivera, Jim Sulzer, Marina Sutro, Jack Weinhold

### Church Office Hours

*Monday - Friday ~ 9:00 a.m. - Noon*

### Minister's Office Hours

*Tuesday (10 a.m. - noon) and Friday (noon - 2 p.m.)*