

## October 2018 Newsletter

### Common Pathways: A Year to Live

Some of us from our UU Meeting House and the larger island community have been meeting once a month for this past year to take on the premise that we have one year to live. It has been a daunting task that we have each grappled with in our ways, in our own time. The premise of the class was that when we can come to terms with death, we can make room for life to be more precious.

Many of the questions to we asked and worked to answer concerned our grief at leaving this precious life, our worries about remaining vital until we die, and our concerns about others and how they will cope after we die.

The question that came most clearly to me is this one: What is it that gives us the resilience to age well, to face our deaths with acceptance and strength? As we lose our capacity to be the persons we know ourselves to be in the world, from what well do we draw from to reconstruct another identity that feels meaningful?

Our culture does not train us well for aging. We are left without a sense of well-defined meaning or purpose as we age that makes aging with dignity and hope trying at best.

I think of our small island and how blessed we are here to be able to offer one another a sense of purpose and meaning by being credible witnesses in one another's lives. When we see and hear one another well, there is always a way to make room for another's way of making meaning, another's needs, another's changing identity. As we stop

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*Members of the year-long workshop "A Year to Live" at their Celebration of Life.*

Join us every Sunday

at 10:45 am

~

October 7\*\*

"Accountability  
and Mercy"

Rev. Linda Simmons

October 14

"Giving as Sacred Art"

Rev. Linda Simmons

October 21

Domestic Violence  
Awareness— Lay Led

October 28

"Living Revision"

Rev. Linda Simmons

\*\* October 7 will be our last service of  
the year in the Sanctuary

## Board of Trustees Report

This summer has been a busy one for the Board of Trustees.

At our June 19 meeting, we approved the following:

- The hiring of a temporary Religious Education teacher, Katie Ponce.
- Date of August 18 for the summer Goods and Services Auction, coordinated by Board member Alison Forsgren
- Set the dates and times for the three Mission Matters gatherings, which will allow members of the congregation to give input to our new Mission Statement
- Minister's Letter of Agreement for 2018

At our July 24 meeting, we approved the following:

- A draft Mission based on the input from 3 Mission Matters gatherings
- Disposition of the George Bradburn painting, returning it to Nantucket Historical Association
- Set time and details for the August 1 summer members' gathering at the home of Jim Sulzer and Barbara Elder
- Set agenda and motions to be voted on at the August 5 Congregational Meeting

At our August 21 meeting, we approved the following:

- The continuation of Barbara Elder's contract as Music Director through the end of May, 2019
- The purchase of more 4 more headsets for the hearing-impaired, and a new microphone to for the Sanctuary
- Initiation of Church Safety Plan step 1: invite members of the Police Department to make recommendations after reviewing the physical plant
- Supporting Rev. Linda in her effort to begin a Communications Plan, using funds from both the budgeted advertising fund and the Fund to support Rev. Linda. As a first step, some members of the Board and others will meet on October 2 with a strategic planner.
- Formation of both a Pledge Solicitation and a Pledge Appreciate Committee
- Rental space in the Meeting House will not be offered at any cost for political campaign events due to putting our non-profit status as a religious organization at risk

The Summer Congregational Meeting was held on August 5 after the service. In addition to receiving reports from Food Rescue, Make it Stop, and Immigration (3 initiatives of the 7th Principle Project), the Congregation voted to move \$20,000 from the 2017 budget surplus to the Parsonage Capital Maintenance Fund, and adopted our New Mission.

I would like to thank Vice President Susan Richards for taking over for me at the Congregational Meeting and for a couple of meetings, when I had to be off-island.

*Valerie Hall, President*



### Calendar of Events

#### **Monday, October 1st**

Immigration Resource Center  
5:30 pm, Activities Room

#### **Wednesday, October 3rd**

Building & Grounds Committee  
Meeting  
5 pm, Activities Room

#### **Saturday, October 6th**

Nantucket Community Music Center  
Annual Organ Crawl  
11:30 am, Sanctuary

#### **Monday, October 8th**

Columbus Day  
Meeting House & Office will be closed

#### **Tuesday, October 16th**

Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:15 pm, Activities room

#### **Thursday, October 25th**

Food Rescue Meeting  
11 am, Activities Room

#### **Sunday, October 28th**

Pledge Luncheon  
12 pm, Activities Room

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producing the fruits that stand for so much of what looks like value in our culture, how can we feel that the wisdom and experiences of aging and even illness are ones of value and worth unless we all affirm one another's value and worth at all the stages of life?

Creating a context for sharing and for meaning making in new ways is what our Meeting House community does well. How can we better see and hear the elders among us? How can we better learn from and support those among us who are despairing and grow weary of reaching out? As a UU congregation, we are accountable to the integrity with which we consider what it is to be another.

How much I learned about aging, about the grief and coming to terms with changing physical capacities, and the deep peace of acceptance as I walked this Year to Live path with so many of you. Thank you.

*Rev. Linda Simmons*

*Nantucket is full of common pathways, some known by many, others known only by a few. Our Meeting House brings us together, traveling over many pathways, some common, some not, as we learn to walk with each other even when the ways are unfamiliar and unmarked.*

*Join us for a  
Pledge Appreciation  
Luncheon  
Sunday, October 28th  
12 pm, after Service*

*Let us celebrate your generosity,  
hear people speak about what is  
most meaningful to them in the  
UU Meeting House community  
and enjoy great food and  
comradery!*



A Memorial Service  
for **Libby Oldham** will  
be held at 1 pm in the  
Sanctuary on **Sunday,  
October 14th**. All are  
welcome.

### **UU and Friends Crafting Group**

It's already time to start thinking about crafting items for our Christmas Stroll fair! The crafting group will begin meeting on **October 6th** and continue on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm in the Activities Room. Bring your own project or choose from several easy projects that will be provided. No experience necessary. This is a fun and relaxed way to meet and socialize with other members of the congregation and any interested friends that you bring. Contact Kat Robinson Grieder at 508-332-0818 or [tuckernuck-at@gmail.com](mailto:tuckernuck-at@gmail.com) with questions.

## UU Docent Report 2018

As with the summer of 2017, the gorgeous weather during this July and August was a major factor in the number of people visiting our sanctuary. It seemed as though every day was sunny, hot and very humid. Most people must have been out on the water or at the edge of it. There were not many rainy or cloudy days when we usually see more visitors.

The total for July 16-August 31 (plus 2 days in September) was 358. In 2017 we had nearly 900 visitors (484/408) over the two months, and even that number was down from 2016 because of great weather throughout most of last summer as well.

Our team this summer consisted of returning “veterans” Paul Stewart, Susan Richards and Peter Richards. We welcomed newcomers Jim Sulzer, Marion Martin, and Kathy Tyrer.

We wish to highlight and gratefully thank Libby Oldham, who passed away in late June. Libby kept us honest with our history and was part of the team for many years. We couldn't thank her enough with the help she provided and she will be forever missed by UUs and the island community as well.



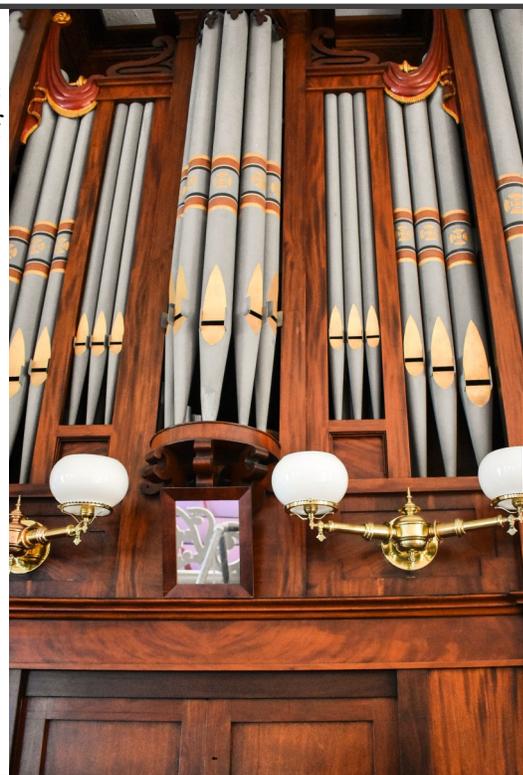
Won't you consider becoming a member? There's no need to memorize anything as notes are always available. It's so very satisfying to see the reaction of visitors when they enter our beautiful sanctuary.

*Peter Richards*

### Organ Crawl

Once again, our beautiful Goodrich Organ will be played for the annual Nantucket Community Music Center Organ Crawl, part of Nantucket Arts Council's Nantucket Arts Festival. The Organ crawl takes place on Saturday, October 6th and follows the schedule below:

- 9:15 am - St. Mary's Our Lady of the Isle, Carson Cooman  
3 Federal Street
- 10:00 am - First Congregational Church, Jeffrey Cutts  
62 N Centre Street
- 10:30 am - Old North Vestry, Jeffrey Cutts  
62 N Centre Street
- 11:00 am - United Methodist Church, Carson Cooman  
2 Centre Street
- 11:30 am - Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, Marcia Hempel  
11 Orange Street
- 12:00 pm - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brian Jones  
20 Fair Street



## Religious Exploration News

In September we welcomed some guest RE leaders and made the shift from Summer to Fall. During our September 23rd service Rowan and Eva announced the birth of our RE teacher Leyah's baby, Beaumont... Welcome baby Beau! We are looking forward to meeting you!

Guest Sunday RE leaders for the month were Delaney Churchwell, Michelle Whelan, and Susan Richards. Sherlly continues to be our very reliable RE assistant! During our September sessions we learned about the Jewish High Holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and also talked about the earth's most critically endangered animals and drew pictures of them that were blessed at our upcoming Animal Blessing service on September 30th.

In October and November, we will be exploring the theme of thankfulness - what are we thankful for and why? We hope to contribute our thoughts on thankfulness to our annual Thanksgiving service!

Let us know if you would like to be a guest RE teacher in October... and if you have any thoughts or questions about our Religious Exploration program, feel free to ask any member of the RE committee or Rev. Linda!

*The RE Committee - Susan Richards, Lora Stewart, and Michelle Whelan*

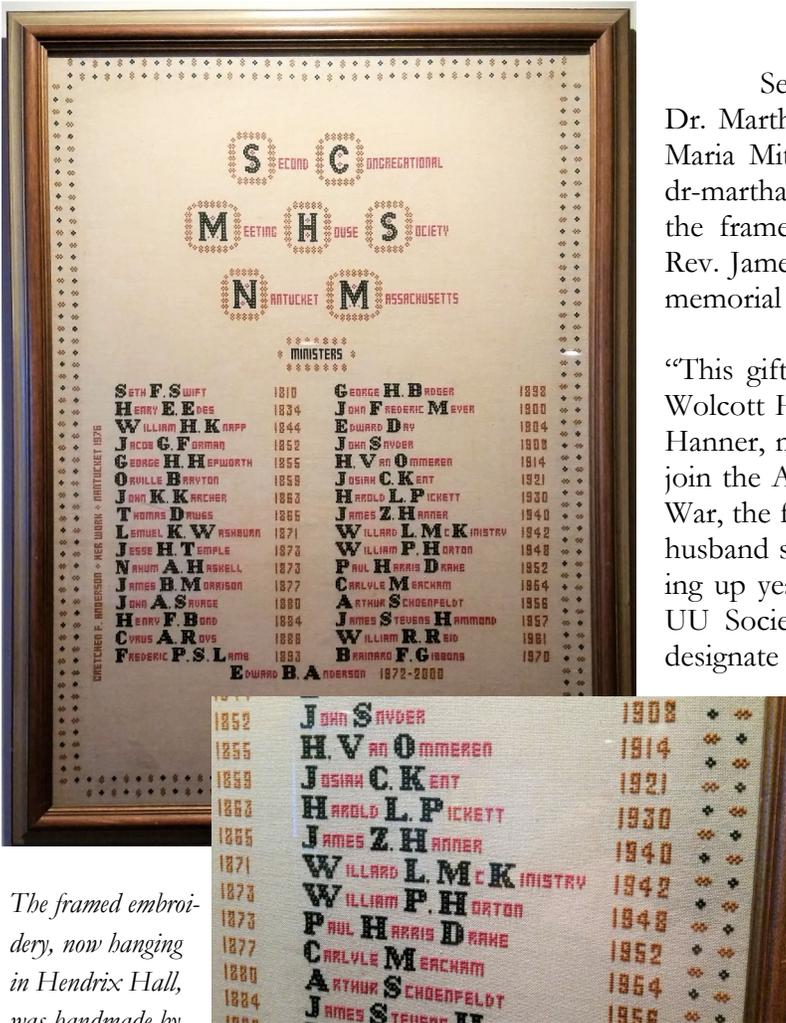
## A Generous Memorial Gift

Several weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Martha Hanner when she was a featured speaker at the Maria Mitchell Association ([mariamitchell.org/press-release-dr-martha-hanner-15146](http://mariamitchell.org/press-release-dr-martha-hanner-15146)). Dr. Hanner drew my attention to the framed embroidery in Hendrix Hall, and especially to Rev. James Z. Hanner, 1940. She has since made a generous memorial gift as detailed in her letter, which reads:

"This gift is in memory of my late husband, James Wolcott Hanner (Jim) son of the Reverend James Z. Hanner, minister from 1940 to 1942, when he left to join the Army as a Chaplain during WWII. After the War, the family bought a home on Fair Street and my husband spent many summers there during his growing up years. All his life, Jim loved music, loved the UU Society, and loved Nantucket. I would like to designate my gift for support of the music program at the Second Congregational Meeting House, including the organ, choir music, sponsoring special concerts, or other aspects of the music program."

We have received this gift and it's now available to support our Music Program as above. Our Music Director, Barbara Elder, will direct its use. You will see a new entry, 'Hanner Memorial Music,' on our quarterly Funds report, with a starting balance of \$5,214.

*Paul P. Stewart – Treasurer*



*The framed embroidery, now hanging in Hendrix Hall, was handmade by Gretchen Anderson in 1976 and features a list of all previous ministers of the Meeting House, including James Z. Hanner.*

## Sermons for October

**October 7**

### **Accountability and Mercy, Rev. Linda Simmons**

How do accountability and mercy relate to one another in today's world? Where are the lines drawn and how should they be drawn? What is mercy and what is accountability and how do we decide together? This sermon will explore these concepts and seek to offer some peace in today's fractured world.

**October 14**

### **Giving as Sacred Art, Rev. Linda Simmons**

When practiced consistently and intentionally, giving can become a spiritual discipline and a sacred art. When we practice giving regularly, we have the opportunity to radically transform our lives, the lives of others, even the life of an entire community. What is this sacred art and how might generosity make us all into artists?

**October 21**

### **Lay Led—Domestic Violence Awareness**

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, members of the staff of A Safe Place will present a service that will include acknowledging the deaths due to domestic violence in Massachusetts.

**October 28**

### **Living Revision, Rev. Linda Simmons**

The art of revising is a craft and spiritual work. As author Elizabeth Andrew from her book *Living Revision: A Writer's Craft as Spiritual Practice* writes, "Revision is the spiritual practice of transformation—of seeing text, and therefore the world, with new eyes. Done well, revision returns us to our original love." What is "original love" and how might the willingness to revise lead us there? **There will also be a new member ceremony during this service.**

## **Unitarian Universalist Meeting House**

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### Church Staff

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

**Barbara Elder, Music Director ~ Leyah Jensen, Religious Exploration Lead Teacher, Sherlly Morocoima, RE Assistant**

**Emma Young, Office Manager ~ Janelle Zapata de Morocoima, Sexton ~ Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper**

### Board of Trustees

Val Hall, *President*, Susan Richards, *Vice President*, Paul Stewart, *Treasurer*, Peter Richards, *Clerk*

Alison K. Forsgren, Kat Robinson Grieder, Nancy Mack, Joanne Polster, Rev. Linda Simmons

**Church Office Hours:** *Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 9am—12 pm; Wednesday & Thursday 12:30—3:30 pm*

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