



# The Carriage Stone

May 2017

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY. *The English Church*



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of  
**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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## **El Proyecto Faro—The Lighthouse Project**

Imagine that you have left your home, your family, your community, in order to reach safety from a Civil War, or religious persecution, or persecution because of your sexual orientation or ethnic background. Now imagine that you reach what you believe to be a safe haven in the greatest nation in the world, the US. You find that the welcome you expected is not forthcoming. You can't go back home, yet it is very difficult to get permission to stay here

In late February, I received an invitation from Rick Ufford-Chase, co-director of the Stony Point Center, to join with other Presbyterian Clergy and lay folk in a project to support the Immigrant Community in Rockland County. Two months later, we are happy to report that The Lighthouse Project is up and running. We are a support group for a community organizer. Our purpose is to be in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers. Our flyer states the following:

**We are documented and undocumented people committed to travel together from the shadows into the light. We have the faith and the certainty that we can make sure the rights of all matter.**

The PC, USA, with Stony Point acting as financial agent, has hired Charo Ureña as coordinator for this project. Charo became invaluable to the Ba-Mar community, in Stony Point, after hurricane Sandy. She brings a love of God and a love for people to a part time (15 hours per week) job whose main goal is to let immigrants to the county know that they matter to God, to us, and that there is support for them. The goals of Charo's outreach are:

- To receive community organizer training
- To develop and run legal clinics, such as “know your rights” workshops
- To develop a core leadership which is immigrant led
- To explore the terrain in Rockland—where are the lawyers and paralegals who can assist the immigrant community?



At its March meeting, New Hempstead's Session voted to support Charo's 4-month contract with a \$500 contribution. Other Presbyterian Churches in Rockland County have come up with a combined total of \$2500. A grant from Hudson River Presbytery makes up the other \$2500.

No one in the US (with, of course, the exception of the Native peoples) can claim not to have heritage originating in another country. Some came willingly. Some were stolen from their homes and sold as slaves. We are a nation of immigrants and refugees. Indeed, our Lord Jesus was a refugee—read Matthew 2: 13–15. As Christians we are called to extend hospitality to the stranger.

I am excited to report that Charo Ureña will be speaking to us (through a translator) on June 11 at the Worship service. Mark your calendars, and come and welcome Charo. Bring any questions you have!

Blessings,



## **Spring Appeal from Helping Hands**

Dear friends at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church,

On January 20, Helping Hands “celebrated” twelve years of Safe Haven at All Souls Church in Suffern, where our homeless guests enjoyed a nutritious meal and safe shelter for the night. Over the years, the Safe Haven has remained a constant – often the only alternative to the streets for homeless men and women in Rockland.

### ***But much has changed since then:***

- Our first Safe Haven season lasted 59 nights, with an average of 12 guests. Now we provide shelter for six months, with the census often exceeding 40.
- In September 2009, we opened the Thomas A. McCabe Outreach Center and hired our first case manager to work with our guests. We steadily expanded our services, adding a shower, laundry, donated clothing closet, and a bank of computers so that our guests can write resumes and conduct job searches.
- In September of last year, we took on the management of the Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program, where every weekday morning volunteers serve a hot breakfast to 60 to 70 hungry people or more.

- In February, Helping Hands leased our first apartment for a (now formerly) homeless guest, using funds from a “Rapid Rehousing” grant from HUD. Our hope is to house at least eight people through this program.

### ***However, some things have not changed at all since 2005:***

- Rockland County still has no shelter for single adults, even on freezing nights (in violation of the governor’s order).
- Helping Hands still depends on the faith community in dozens of houses of worship and on hundreds of volunteers to do most of the Safe Haven work and to provide almost all of the food for our guests.
- And we still rely on the generosity of private citizens, local businesses, private foundations, civic organizations and denominational funds for over 83% of the operating budget for the Safe Haven and Outreach Center.

The last snow of this season is vanishing as I write, but the end of winter does not mean the end of homelessness in our neighborhoods. If you believe, as we do, that our community is a better place when everybody has a roof over their head, please give generously. We depend on you.

Wishing you a peaceful and abundant spring,

Raoul Cansino, Founder and President

## Spring Tag Sale

From Barbara Zacheis

Our Annual Spring Tag Sale will be held on June 3, from 9 AM til 2 PM! Now's the time to do your spring cleaning so you can feel free to drop off unwanted items for the tag sale on Saturday mornings or Sundays after church throughout the month of May.

We'll also need lots of volunteers to help run this successfully, so see Barbara Zacheis or sign up to help on the sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room. You will have our church t-shirts before that, so remember to wear yours for this event!

We'll also need help the evening before getting things organized, so please put these two dates on your calendars. Thanks in advance for participating!

## Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok,  
Talented Congregant

For the month of May, we have one listing. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at [janesebok20@gmail.com](mailto:janesebok20@gmail.com), or during coffee hour.



Here is the listing for May:

**May 21, 4 PM – Barbara Zacheis –**  
Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble,  
Kusel Auditorium,  
Sleepy Hollow High School,  
Sleepy Hollow, NY.

Call (914) 332-6223 or contact  
[Msprague@tufsd.org](mailto:Msprague@tufsd.org) for more information.

## May Church Care Day

Saturday, May 6 is Church Care Day. We will be meeting at 9 AM and working around the church until around noon. Coffee and bagels will be provided. You are urged to bring gardening gloves, etc. depending on which tasks you wish to tackle.



## Education

Socrates — 436–338 BC  
Contributed by Sylvia L. Esser

Whom, then, do I call educated?...

First, those who manage well the circumstances which they encounter day by day, who possess a judgement which is accurate in meeting occasions as they arise, and rarely misses the expedient course of action;...

Next, those who are decent and honorable in their intercourse with all men, bearing easily and good naturedly what is unpleasant or offensive in others, and being themselves as agreeable and reasonable as it is humanly possible to be;...

Furthermore, those who hold their pleasures under control and are not unduly overcome by their misfortunes, bearing up under them bravely, and in a manner worthy of our common nature;...

Finally, and most important of all, those who are not spoiled by their successes, who do not desert their true selves, but hold their ground steadfastly as wise and sober-minded men, rejoicing no more in the good things which have come to them through chance than in those which through their own nature and intelligence are theirs since birth. Those who have a character which is in accord, not with one of these things, but with all of them, these I maintain are educated and whole men, possessed of all the virtues of a man.