

A Second Look

An Invitation to the Life and Work of Our Community of Faith and Fellowship

A S E C O N D L O O K

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

"The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion"

The cartographer explains his work:

*What I do is science. I show
the earth as it is, without bias.
I never fall in love. I never get involved
with the muddy affairs of land.*

But the Rastaman has his doubts:

...draw me a map of what you see

*then I will draw a map of what you
never see
and guess me whose map will be
bigger than whose?
Guess me whose map will tell the
larger truth?*

from "Augustown" by Jamaican writer Kei Miller

2 6 0 Y E A R S O F M I N I S T R Y

Nation Wide Search Leads to Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

The hard working members of the Music Search Committee: Susanna Nason, Chair, Elaine Steele, Susan Gordon Clark, Ken Threet and Leslie Merlin, ex officio, met weekly, for numerous hours, from January until June to bring you The Best! And here she is!!

Natasha Ulyanovsky has studied in Speyer Cathedral, West Germany; Moscow Conservatory; and Odessa Conservatory, USSR, where she earned the Master's Degree in organ and piano performance, choir conducting, and pedagogy.

Her professional career, and her adventuresome life, has taken her from Odessa Opera House, to Santa Marinella, Italy, to Hotchkiss



**Natasha Ulyanovsky, our new
Minister of Music**

School in Lakeville CT, as well as Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic Churches, and Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT. I'm skipping a lot. Her resume is stupendous.

My notes on her audition say, "Rondo. Gorgeous." After being bowled over by her playing, the Committee interviewed

Natasha. We were drawn to her energy, sincerity, versatility, and enthusiasm. After hearing her musically lead worship, and choir practice, we called her references who confirmed our impressions. Natasha embraced our offer with a wonderful spirit. She will begin in worship leadership July 9.

The Committee did not mean to make this a nation-wide search, it just worked out that way. People from Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee thought our job offering looked great! It took a long time to make this choice because there were an astonishing number of highly qualified candidates, most of whom expressed great eagerness to work with SPC.

We are fortunate indeed to have Natasha Ulyanovsky as our new Minister of Music.

Leslie Merlin

Second Presbyterian Church

Sanctuary: 6 West 96th Street / Office: 3 West 95th Street

212-749-1700 / www.secondpresbyteriannyc.org

Leslie Merlin, Pastor

Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Worship at 10:15 am Sundays

Seeking a better world together

Ready for New Life

I'm been thinking about death a lot these days. The recent deaths of my uncle, of Neal's father, and of our beloved Mary Salmon, Fiona's mom, have jolted me into grief and reflection. Are we ever prepared for these losses? Rationally we know they are inevitable but our hearts often loudly protest the possibility. A recent cartoon in the New Yorker got my funny bone on this: it was of a game of tag with the Grim Reaper stepping out from behind a tree, saying "Ready or not, here I come!".

As Christians we believe that death marks a transition of our souls from the corporeal to the non-corporeal and that we live sheltered in the loving hands of God throughout. We bear witness to our confidence in our eventual resurrection every bit as physical as was Jesus'. This is a fundamental of our faith.

Still, for those in mourning, it is hard not to feel a great chasm of loss when someone we love dies. I remember the disjunctive feeling of seeing the world unchanged and going about its business the day after my mother died and yet for me it was as if I were on a strange, new planet.

I've been through enough bereavements now that I've learned to expect unexpected regenerative moments in the aftermath of a death. A few months after my mother died I went back to the Middle East on a whim and reconnected with my great love of that region. I'd have never done that when my mother was still alive – the pattern of my life was set in caring for her as she aged. And besides, had I even thought about it I wouldn't have distressed her by going to a place already disintegrating into civil war. Yet here I am having just spent my fifth winter in Beirut!

I had another zing of regeneration after my uncle died and I called two of his surviving cousins, neither of whom I really knew. Both of them turned out to be lively and thoughtful elderly women who had much to tell me about our family and its history. I am now in regular contact with them and am so grateful, at long last, to get to know them.

Does accepting the gift of regeneration in any way deny the love we have for those whom we mourn? I think not. I believe that as created beings we have to accept, without fully understanding, the existence of paradoxes, that God can make a death a vehicle for new life. We should be ready to sing: *You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness. Psalm 30:11.*

Let's try to hold onto this paradoxical reality as we deal with our pastor's retirement and our congregation's deep sense of loss. God will send someone new even as we grieve. We will experience regeneration even as we miss Leslie terribly. In our new life we will be joyful *because* we have known loss and have come to appreciate our blessings all the more.

Elder Cecilia Blewer



Elder Mary Salmon with her husband, George, in the Carnegie Library a few years ago. Mary came to the U.S. from Scotland as a young doctor, planning on staying a year. She went first to Texas but quickly moved to NYC where she met her husband who was in NYC on temporary assignment for a British firm. It was love at first sight and the rest is history.

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

Summer Calendar 2017

Bram Lewis is worship co-ordinator for July & August

Sunday, July 2: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Ted Voelker preaching, Kathy Hart, musician

Tuesday, July 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Wednesday, July 5: Worship Committee Meeting, Pastor's Office, 5pm

Sunday, July 9: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Laura Jervis preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Tuesday, July 11: Leslie's mother's 100th Birthday!! Leslie in Niagara Falls, NY

Sunday, July 16: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Grace Bowen preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Monday, July 17: Session meeting, Pastor's Office, 6pm

Wednesday, July 19: Pastoral Care meeting/Bible Study, Pastor's Office, 6pm

Sunday, July 23: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Krystin Granberg preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Sunday, July 30: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Elder Elaine Song preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Sunday, August 6: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Stephen Phelps preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Sunday, August 13: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Grace Bowen preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Sunday, August 20: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Peter Surgenor preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Sunday, August 27: Morning Worship in Carnegie Library, 10:15am, Rev. Lindsay Borden preaching, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Minister of Music

Saturday through Monday, September 2-4: Labor Day Weekend. Worship at SPC suspended.

September 3: We worship in other places.

