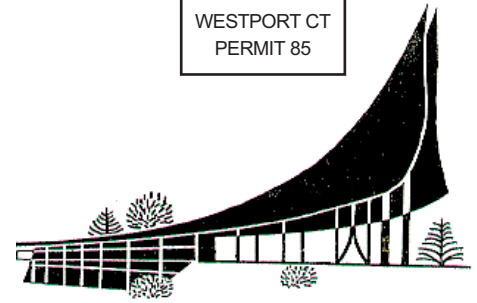


SOUNDINGS

The Unitarian Church in Westport
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 Westport, Connecticut 06880
 203 227-7205
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 www.uuwestport.org

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A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 8

April 3 - April 17

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 3 Services: 9 & 11 am K-6 Start in Sanctuary BOT Coffee Chat, 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office COA Parent/Youth Orient. M.H. ... 12:15 pm UN Committee, Chapel, ... 12:30 pm Speaker Anna Lappe, Sanct. ... 1:00 pm	4 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	5 Microfinance, Fellow. Rm., ... 7:30 pm Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	6 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody: Self Acceptance,</i> E.W., ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody: Deism & UU</i> Fellow. Rm.- 7:30pm <i>Ody: The Ride Book</i> Discussion, 7:30 pm Men's Choir - 8pm	7 Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com. M.H., ... 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm <i>Ody: Everyone Can</i> Improvise, M.H., ... 7:30 pm Women's Choir, ... 7:45 pm	8 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm	9 Martha Brighton Memorial Service, Sanct., ... 1:00 pm REEL Justice film Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm
10 Services: 9 & 11 am <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Classic Book Group, Library, 12:30 pm Rainbow Task Force, Chapel ... 12:45 pm Circle 10 Social, M.H., ... 4:30 pm	11 Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	12 Senior Luncheon, E.W., ... 11:00 am Social Justice Council, E.W., ... 7:30 pm	13 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm NVC Practice, Chapel ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody: Deism & UU,</i> Fellow. Rm.. - 7:30 pm Men's Choir ... 8:00 pm	14 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Newcomer Orientation, Chapel ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody: Everyone Can</i> Improvise, M.H., ... 7:30 pm Women's Choir - 7:45pm	15 Friday Night Forum, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm	16 Small Group Facilitators, M.H., ... 10:00 am Seder Potluck, Sanctuary, ... 5:30 pm
17 Worship Service: 9 & 11 am No RE. Childcare Available BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am - 12:15 pm Jan's Office Recital: Marcella Calabi ... 4:00 pm	18 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	19 Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	20 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm Abolish Death Penalty, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	21 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Newcomer Orientation, Chapel ... 7:00 pm Men's & Women's Choir ... 8:00 pm	22 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm	23 Spring Clean-Up, Church Grounds,

SERMONS

April 3... 9 & 11 am "Between the Pulpit and the Pew" Frank Hall <i>What's a good sermon? Who decides? What's the point of this tradition? Music: Once & Again Folksingers.</i>
April 10 ... 9 & 11 am: "Generosity as a Spiritual Practice" Frank Hall <i>Our canvass kick-off Sunday includes the sermon on the amount, with greetings from each of the staff.</i> <i>Music: Once & Again Folksingers</i>
April 17 ... 9 & 11 am..... "Grief – a Spiritual Practice" Frank Hall <i>Grief is a natural response to a loss. There is no 'right way' to go through it. Some of the work must be done alone and some help comes from other's good listening ears and caring presence without the need to fix it. Some grieve by writing about it.</i> <i>Music: Chamber Choir</i>



FROM THE BOARD

The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community, free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

*We **INSPIRE** and support individual spiritual growth.*

*We **CONNECT** through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries.*

*We **ACT** in the service of peace and justice.*

Called to Generosity

Dear Members and Friends,

There is a fundamental truth at the core of our Mission: our Church exists to change lives. Whether it be the nurturing of our spirits, the connections we form, the care we receive from a loving community, or the joy of helping others, the Church connects us, and gives our lives meaning and purpose.

Your financial support of the Church is a spiritual practice, too. It offers you the chance to open your heart to your fellow congregants, fulfilling the covenant to “help one another.” The more generously you give, the more you will feel a deeper connection. Giving generously will feed your soul – you will feel the joy of knowing that you are contributing to building a better world.

What better way to experience the joys of giving than to help fulfill our plan for this year’s pledge drive – to move the Church from a barely adequate funding level to one where we can live life more fully and pursue our mission more effectively – something we can all feel good about. Our goal: a budget of \$1 million. Of that, \$850,000 must come from pledges, which is about \$150,000 more than last year. Here’s how we plan to use that increase in funds:

- Σ • \$15,000 – give our hard-working staff a well-deserved raise – they haven’t had one in four years.
- Σ • \$10,000 – pay our full “Fair Share” to the UUA – something we are covenanted to do to support the wider UU movement – it is the right thing to do.
- Σ • \$25,000 – contribute a responsible yearly amount to our maintenance fund, for the long term upkeep of the building and grounds.
- Σ • \$85,000 – hire an Assistant Minister to help Frank and the staff – a person our Congregation currently lacks and most of us feel we need – who could also act as membership and stewardship coordinator – a function that is greatly needed.
- Σ • \$15,000 – if we can raise this last amount, we will replace the worn carpeting with new carpet – our building will feel more welcoming to visitors and to all of us.

To meet these goals, we are issuing an invitation and a challenge. **We are asking you to increase your pledge by 20% this year.** If you pledged \$2,000 last year, please consider pledging \$2,400 this year. If you pledged \$500 last year, please try to pledge at least \$600 this year, or more if you can.

This may seem a daunting request, but together, we can meet these goals, if we set our minds to it. We just have to all pull together. Each and every one of us must participate as generously as we can. We understand some of you are financially challenged for a variety of reasons. Please know that when you step up and participate as generously as you can, this community will value, honor, and appreciate your contribution.

We invite you to think deeply about your pledge to the Church. Your pledge should have deep meaning for you. Giving generously can transform your life. And in the process, we will build and grow our beloved community, and sustain it into the future.

Please make your 2011-2012 pledge as soon as you can.

With care for our community and with thanks for your generosity,

Your Board of Trustees and Stewardship Volunteers

March 28, 2011

Dear Friends,

While stopped at a traffic light on his way home on Friday, March 18, my dear friend, mentor and colleague, Herb Adams, suddenly died. He was one month shy of his 79th birthday.

At our staff meeting following Herb's death, Lily took her turn at doing an opening reading – she hadn't yet heard of Herb's passing. The reading, by John Morgan, is titled A Big Thing. He says:

“Look, a big thing has happened. A big thing, a strange thing. Everybody look for a moment: my friend has died. My friend is not here -- was here, and now is not, and I think somehow you should all turn and understand this and then think about us.”

It's a big thing, a strange thing that the mind refuses to acknowledge, refuses to believe, and certainly refuses to accept. To accept it feels like implicit agreement with it, but I don't agree. Indeed, I strongly and adamantly disagree.

A world without my friend Herb seems unacceptable. Something in me refuses to look directly into the eyes of this reality – something else takes in the information the way a computer takes in words typed on the keyboard.

Herb and I met by chance forty-one years ago in late February 1970. We sat across from one another at a dinner for the Mass Bay District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Before dinner we were asked to pause for a moment of silence in honor of the life of Bill Rice, my mentor, who had died from a fall on the ice two weeks before – the day after he sat in the Wellesley Hills church when I delivered my first sermon! Bill had strongly encouraged me to leave teaching and go into ministry. I was mourning the loss.

Herb initiated a conversation in which I reluctantly engaged. He said that he had heard about me and wanted to meet. Before dessert was served he offered me a job as his assistant at Follen Church in Lexington. Within a few days I met with him and the Follen Board of Trustees and began my ministry on April 1, as Herb's assistant.

Herb became my mentor in ministry and my closest friend and confidant. We officiated at one another's marriages, spoke at one another's installations at the start of new ministries, went fishing together at his pond in Maine, golfed, walked, talked and ate lots of meals together and through it all we did a lot of active listening with one another.

There are gifts from Herb I'll cherish for the remainder of my days. His love was graciously given unconditionally, his insights and wisdom permeated our time together, and I expect to continue to discover more as I carry and reflect on the precious memories.

When he was minister at Follen Church Herb's newsletter column always began with the salutation Dear Friends. Shortly after I began my first senior ministry in Attleboro in 1972, I adopted the same. This one is in honor of and appreciation of him.

With love,



The Teacher *by Billy Collins*

There is that part of us that believes
We will never die – otherwise,
How could we watch so much television,
and there is the part that believes
when we die, all life will come to an end.
This is the part that storms within us
dragging its robes across the marble floor.

But what I like to believe
is that the minute I die,
the world will change into a map of the world

which I will roll up into a tube
and carry with me wherever I am going.

It could be an antique map with pictures
of sea serpents in the corners
or a huge Mercator projection,
but when I finally get where I am going
(and I have a feeling it will take days),

I will spread out the map on something flat,
and there I will study the patterns
of shorelines and boundaries,
maybe reminisce about a country I once visited
or a strait where a navel battle once took place.

I also like to believe
that there will be other beings there
who will gather around this picture of earth
so I can explain to them what it was like –

how the cold mountains rose above valleys,
how this was called geography,
how the people from this pale blue area
crossed into the light green area to the south
and killed whoever they found there
and how this was known as history

and as they listen, mild-eyed and silent,
others will arrive to join the circle
like ripples moving toward the center instead of away.

Perry's Ponderings ...

When I moved in the middle of first grade, Miss Moore's welcoming presence made an awkward transition feel positive. Frank asked us to think about the people who had an impact on our lives, as part of the Building Your Own Theology class. Remembering Miss Moore indirectly led me to an appreciation of the opportunity to support children and youth in Religious Education.

Miss Moore had difficulty dealing with struggling children like my friend Matt. One day I overheard Miss Moore muttering that Matt was a "bad child" and I thought to myself, "No, he's not 'bad.' He has a good heart but doesn't do everything 'right'." Matt did not get the loving guidance he needed.

Matt and I lost touch in high school but ran into each other a couple of years after graduation when he shared that he was entering the military. Matt stated, "The only thing I'm really good at is killing people." It was a shocking statement but I understood that it was coming from a place of feeling not good enough in so many ways.

As a marine, Matt served in the Gulf War and returned to become a police officer. At our high school reunion four years ago, when he talked about his daughter and the quiet moments on their small farm his heart lit up his eyes. Unfortunately, Matt's ex-wife took their daughter away to Australia. There is no way to know the depth of a person's angst and what brings someone to the lowest point, but three years ago Matt Morelli killed himself.

The trail of thoughts to the heartbreaking end to Matt's life reminded me about the special opportunity we have to empower children and youth. After accidentally hitting another child with a ball, a boy in RE said, "It's because I'm a no good kid." I assured him that he was a wonderful special kid who just made a mistake. I suggested he turn the situation around by getting some ice for his classmate and apologizing. He felt better about himself and their interaction.

Throughout their time in RE children are encouraged to discover their best selves and appreciate the gifts they have to offer at times when it can be hard to see through the difficulties. Many young adults have come back to say, "Being at church saved my life."

RE CALENDAR

Sat Apr 2

6pm RE Volunteer Potluck -
Leddy's House

Sun Apr 3

K-6 Start in Sanctuary
12:15pm COA Parent/Youth
Orientation - Meeting House

Wed Apr 13

7:30pm RE Council

Sat Apr 16

5:30 pm Seder Potluck - Sanct.

Sun Apr 17

No RE, Childcare Available



Keanan and Aren stand in front of "Ganesha" after witnessing the ritual bathing with milk and fruit juice on the 7th grade Neighboring Faiths trip to the Hindu temple.

New mothers...



If you would like to be part of a support group for mothers with infants, please contact Anna at 292-9412.

A great opportunity to connect, share, and care for one another.



Youth from Sudbury, MA, standing on the side of love with our youth after a lockin.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

Lily Rappaport, Youth Program Dir.

Last week I attended the UUA's Diversity of Ministry Team annual retreat held near Washington D.C. The retreat, "Finding Our Way Home," was an event for ministers, ministerial candidates and religious educators who identify as "of African descent, Caribbean, Native/American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Multiracial and Multiethnic Unitarian Universalists."

The purpose of the gathering was to provide a safe space for networking and professional development for people who, by virtue of their race or ethnicity, comprise a form of diversity termed "people of color." We were a supportive community of colleagues who came together to explore our identities, biases, and privileges and to be empowered to promote unity and tolerance. Distinguished attendees included UUA President, Peter Morales.

The retreat was an energizing, revitalizing gathering where we worshipped, shared stories and bonded through our experiences and struggles. We divided into groups to form caucuses for shared identities and interests. One of the groups I joined was the Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus (A/PIC), facilitated by Leslie Takahashi-Morris, a minister at Mt. Diablo UU Church in California. Leslie co-authored the book, *The Arc of the Universe is Long*, a compilation of voices from a diverse spectrum of racial groups, detailing the history of UU anti-racism.

In addition, I befriended a spunky Chinese-American named Karen Tse, who came all the way from Geneva, Switzerland. Karen, an attorney and UU minister, is an award-winning human rights defender. In 2000 she founded International Bridges for Justice (IBJ), an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization that strives to protect due process and basic legal rights for ordinary citizens in developing countries. IBJ promotes systemic global change in criminal justice and has implemented groundbreaking measures in judicial reform with the Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian governments. The organization is expanding its fight for reform in Rwanda, Burundi and Zimbabwe.

Karen's efforts have demonstrated that one person can make a difference by standing up to fight injustice. Her work with the IBJ is proof that someone dedicated to a cause, with a clear vision, can achieve success against all odds. For more information go to www.IBJ.org

Beardsley School Field Trips at Risk Again This Year

Budget cuts in the Bridgeport Public School system have made planning field trips for our adopted Beardsley children even more daunting this year. Teachers Dawn Schirrizo (Grade 6) and Laurie Giff (Grade 3) need bus money for their trips to Southern Connecticut State University and Mystic Aquarium.

You may remember Dawn's exploratory trip to view a college four or five years ago. When Dawn raised the subject in her classroom, most of her students couldn't even name one college. So she decided to take them to SCSU and show them everything from the cafeteria and classroom to the sports facilities. It was a remarkable success and provided a much-needed burst of motivation and information for the children prior to their graduation from Beardsley School.

The Mystic Aquarium has become a "rite of passage" for the 3rd grade and the children look forward to it even before they enter 3rd Grade. A rise in the price of gas has made the cost of transportation to the aquarium substantially more expensive this year.

If you would like to help our teachers again this year, please go to the Angel Tree at the Social Justice table where you will see envelopes for both events. Checks should be written to "Beardsley School" with a notation on the memo line indicating "Field Trips 2011". You may leave them in the box at the Angel Tree or send them directly to Mary Beth Mollica, 3 Riverfield Drive, Westport, CT 06880. Thank you for your continuing support for our adopted school!

MICROLOANS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



On November 16th, 2009, KIVA/Microfinance Committee made a \$100 loan to Mary, a sixty-two-year-old woman in Ghana. A widow with six children, she needed a loan of \$425 to prepare and sell pastries at bus stops in her community. Within six

months, Mary repaid the loan in full.

Recently, a KIVA volunteer reached out to Mary to find out how she's doing. Using the loan, Mary bought bags of flour, sugar, margarine, and other ingredients to make pastries. She says her business is progressing well. She saves and spends the profits she makes to buy more goods and educate her grandchildren. Mary hopes to get another loan so she can buy goods in bulk.

Our KIVA/Microfinance Committee has made loans totaling \$7,250 to 150 people. For information about the committee please contact co-chairs Michael Cadden (michael.cadden@livingabroad.com), Julie Kennedy (medicnews@aol.com) or David Vita (david@uuwestport.org, 203.227.7205 x14). Thank you.

Reading this update about Mary reminded me of a "Mary" in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Squatting next to her home-made charcoal fire early in the morning in her multi-colored pagne (traditional clothing) cooking the best beignets I have ever (sorry Café Du Monde, New Orleans) eaten! I can just picture her as one of the 128 million poor families around the world busy taking out microfinance loans. David Vita



April REEL Justice Film: SWEET CRUDE Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 pm

A multiple award-winning documentary, Sweet Crude examines the humanitarian, environmental and economic devastation caused by 50 years of oil extraction in Nigeria's Niger Delta. Filmmaker Sandy Cioffi, who was imprisoned by the Nigerian military during the making of this film and released only after an international outcry (as well as pressure from key members of the US government), uncovers an international web of oil politics, big business and media manipulation.

The people of the Delta are suffering as they have for half a century. Billions of dollars of crude oil are pumped out from beneath their feet, while they live in desperate poverty – without means of livelihood in a decimated environment.

The Niger Delta is a powder keg.

Oil spills, dredging and acid rain from gas flaring have destroyed habitats, killed the fish population, fouled the soil and poisoned the villagers. Their villages lack potable water, sanitation, infrastructure, healthcare and schools. Job prospects are bleak and people die young.

There is a long legacy of non-violent protest in the Delta. But it has consistently been met by the Nigerian government with violence – not only against individuals who spoke out, but against entire communities.

In the summer of 2008, militants from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) declared an "oil war" in Nigeria. They began kidnapping oil workers to bring international attention to the crisis and in the years since, the region has become increasingly unstable. Yet they have repeatedly stated their desire to negotiate. In this moment, there is an opportunity to tip the scales toward peace.



Be My GA Roommate!

Join me at General Assembly in Charlotte, NC, Wed., June 22 through Mon., June 27. I have booked a room with 2 Queen beds at the Hilton Garden Inn. The flat rate is about \$138 (tax included!), so with 4 folks in the room, the total cost to you for all five nights will be \$183!

The hotel is two blocks from the convention center door and has a fitness center, pool, and wireless internet service. Our room has a refrigerator and microwave, reducing meal costs. I have requested a non-smoking room. I already have one roommate. Join us and meet other UU women in an intimate setting! I have done this for 4 years now and it has been great. Contact Elaine McMillan, phone 384-1786; email mcmillane@yahoo.com

Needed

Unlined London Fog men's raincoat mistakenly taken from coat rack on Sunday, March 13. Please return to church office, 203- 227-7205, ext 10. Thank You.

Offer:Spring cleanup

(indoor or out), lawn care, mowing, garden and/or flower bed creation and care, odd jobs. UU college student, Eagle Scout. Contact Ehrin McWeeney, 203 923-3664 or ehrinmcweeney@yahoo.com.

UU Movie Discussion Group Friday, April 29



The UU Movie Discussion Group will meet on Friday, April 29 to discuss two films: They are "Jane Eyre" and "Of Gods and Men" Dessert poluck at 7:30, discussion at 8. At the Meeting Hse. All are welcome!

Tag Sale

Yes! We're having another in August, so save your stuff. Our new goal -\$10,000. We can do it! We're looking for a dry storage space – garage, empty store, barn –the more we can collect over the next months, the better, especially furniture. Contact Linda Hudson, LHudson30@hotmail.com or Felicity McWheeney, felicitymedinger@yahoo.com

Business Matters

Some Potpourri from the Business Office:

No Pets Please - Recently the Board asked the staff to discuss and recommend common sense guidelines regarding pets in the building. The consensus was that, from a safe congregation standpoint (allergies, hygiene, fear of animals, noise, etc) the building should be pet free. Please observe this request when visiting the church or attending meetings.

Spruce up for Spring - Saturday April 23rd has been reserved for a congregation wide church grounds clean up day: blow and rake leaves, put mulch in garden beds, pick up trash and debris from a hard winter, prune shrubs and trees, stain benches, paint railings, etc. A great opportunity to make a difference in the property's appearance (just in time for the Easter Egg Hunt), gather with and meet new friends, and feel good! Details and sign up sheets will be out soon. Come in the morning, come in the afternoon, spend a few hours, spend the day, bring your family, bring a smile, whatever, just come! It is another element of stewardship at UCW.

Giving Statements - I took a break from printing statements the last two months. Nothing worse than receiving monthly reminders from your Business Manager! Quarterly statements will be out after March 31. Call me if questions or requests. We're headed down the home stretch with this fiscal year. Your pledges drive the church's year around ministries, worship, and programs. Thank you for this support.

Good Energy News - When the Board authorized, last year, replacing the oil boiler with energy efficient natural gas units, they and the Buildings/Grounds committee knew that the major expense would be eventually recouped through lower heating bills. While the sanctuary is still heated electrically (whew...really expensive) the rest of the building heat and kitchen stove/oven (was propane) are on gas. So far, the gas bills for this fiscal year are 50% of the oil and propane bills for the same period last year! It will take but five to seven years to have a 100% payback on our investment.

Parking Lot Paving and Pothole Repairs - We share (rent) our parking lot during the week with Bridgewater Associates. They park their two NYC commuter busses and overflow car parking (run a shuttle bus between the church and their offices). The income helps the church and we also benefit from their concern for our pavement. Last fall Bridgewater arranged for the paving of the main entrance/exit. Last week they sent over a crew to hot patch the numerous potholes. Nice to have a partner like Bridgewater.

Our Fine Feathered Friends - The grounds continue to be a gathering place for many breeds of birds. Two of the most beautiful and spectacular visitors are a flicker (large woodpecker with bright reddish orange head) and a red tailed hawk. Recently David Vita looked out his office window and there, right in front of him on a nearby tree branch was the hawk. Amazing bird up-close.

John Carroll, Business Manager/Church Administrator

WALKING IN NATURE

Spring fever?

Join us in our first Nature Walk of the season. April 10th.

Destination to be determined by weather. Back no later than 3:00. Meet at church parking lot at bottom of ramp. Carpool leaves at 12:30. Led by Shari Brennan.

Join us as we share our knowledge, delight and love of Nature. Each walk will begin with the reading of a short poem or story connected with the season. As we walk, we will enjoy conversation as well as time in silence; becoming aware of what we see, hear, smell, feel as we connect with each other in the spirituality of nature. Bring a brown bag lunch.

For questions and info contact Shari at 203-846-0199 or gardenbee@optonline.net If you wish to bring your pet, please call to confirm if "pet friendly" destination.

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

Why Be a Delegate?

So, you're toying with going to the NY Metro District meeting, or maybe toying with going to GA (General Assembly)—or maybe both. And then you hear someone talking about delegates. What's that all about???

Being a delegate at GA means you get to vote on the business items that come up at the plenary sessions presided over by Moderator Gini Courter (amazing to see in action!). This is in addition to worship, workshops, lectures, programs, exhibit hall wanderings, deep talks and sociable meals that are part of GA. Obviously it's a big time commitment, but for me, it's one of the most important aspects of GA.



On the floor, the process is truly remarkable. You see democracy in action. You have a voice in the important business of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association). Among other items, including by-law changes, this year there will be a debate and vote on adopting the Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice Statement of Conscience.

Not able to attend GA this year but still interested in being a delegate remotely? Let us know!

To be a delegate for either event, please contact Chuck Colletti, Denny Davidoff, or Elaine McMillan. BTW, if you are a delegate, ALL of your expenses are tax deductible as charitable donations.

All delegates must be voting members of the congregation.

THE SOUNDING BOARD

For this session, several of our Lay Leaders made short presentations on the topics in which they are involved:

Rainy Broomfield is the Coordinator of Volunteer Services. She is developing a questionnaire or profile of interests to be filled out (possibly at Circles of Care meetings). Its purpose will be to collect profiles of as many people in the congregation as possible so that she can understand what people are interested in. She will then be able to offer them opportunities to get involved in groups, committees or projects that will mesh with their interests. She is also organizing a Committee Fair to be held in conjunction with the September tailgating event.

Charles Klein, our Webmaster, talked about the fact that our web site is being completely overhauled as a content management system. Department heads will be able to independently update information relevant to their areas. Charles would like us to review the 'Welcome Visitors' and 'About Us' sections and give him feedback on how they work, how they are organized and whether they should be merged. He is looking for someone to hold congregation wide educational sessions on the new web site, or perhaps run an Odyssey class.

Charles would like to get the Board minutes earlier. They need a month for approval before they can be published. Will we use Facebook and Twitter as a congregation? Our new database can act as its own Facebook, and can be connected to the commercial Facebook.

Shaun Pritchard spoke about the merging of our staff databases through the creation of a CRM or Content Resource Management system. The new web site will be a portal to this database. Committees will be able to communicate with each other through the creation of forums. We will be able to post photos and create spreadsheets. Sensitive information will only be accessible through levels of permission to those sites.

Congregation comments and Responses

Hazen Goddard is interested in making the church a Designated Historical Building. A presentation has been made to the Board, and it will go to the congregation for a vote.

Rick Fierberg feels that the word "church" in our name seems closed, and is overly orientated towards Christianity. "It is a barrier to entry" for this denomination. A committee needs to be formed, and suggestions presented to the Board.

Jim Perry reminded us that Charles Reed donated lots of money to update the computer system years ago, with the main focus to be that congregants could communicate with each other. He suggested that we "not get captured by technology" and lose sight of the human aspect.

The next Sounding Board will be held on May 22nd.

Annual Intergenerational Pot-Luck Seder



**Saturday Night April 16, 2011
5:30 PM**

*We mix, we mingle
We munch on matzoh.
We dip our herbs twice and we lean
to the left
as we learn the story of Passover -
a celebration of freedom
We read from the Haggadah, the book
of blessings, rituals, story and song.
Family fun - the children participate in
many ways and finding the Afikoman
always makes their day.
Join us and bring something to share.*

*We need...
Matzoh ball soup, vegetable dishes,
charoset, Seder plates, desserts, grape
juice, kosher wine.
Main dish provided.
\$5 per adult; \$3 per child
(11 years old & up)*

*Help with set up, cooking, and clean up also
appreciated.*

*The biggest preparation time is on Friday
afternoon/evening.*

*Please let us know if you can help.
RSVP to ucwevents@gmail.com or
227-7205 ext. 20*

Friday Forum returns! April 15.

Come one, come all to a potluck supper and forum on Friday, April 15, featuring Suzanne Sheridan and Rosanne Gates telling their Australia Story: Making Dreams Come True, with words and images and song. Nibbles and dinner at 6:30, program at 7:30. A-F dessert, G-M main dish, N-Z, side dish or appetizer. \$3 includes beverages, vino or other.

Two important events coming up this weekend

SEX, MORALITY, AND THE LAW

Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

How does government playing religious favorites hurt us? What can be done? Hear Sean Faircloth, Executive Director of the Secular Coalition for America, the first organization representing secular Americans to engage in a formal briefing with White House officials.



He will give us the latest scoop on the privileging of fundamentalist religious groups in matters of government funding, proselytizing in public schools, exemption from child welfare laws, even matters of sex and morality, how it affects us, and what we can do about it. There'll be plenty of opportunity for Q & A.

ANNA LAPPE:

The Climate Crisis at the End of Your Fork
Sunday, April 3 at 1:00
in the Sanctuary

Come and hear national best-selling author, television host and public speaker Anna Lappe discuss the links between today's global food



system and climate change from her latest book, Diet for a Hot Planet: The Climate Crisis at the End of Your Fork and What You Can Do About It.

The program will also include participation from several local organic farmers, "farm-to-table" chefs, and other local food movement pioneers. A book signing will be held at the end of the program.

Complementary refreshments and desserts, all locally made, will be served after the program



SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Church in Westport

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The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, April 8, at noon (or before). Please e-mail your copy to: carpo@optonline.net

In the course of the last three years, Marcella Calabi has become increasingly known and admired by this community. She is a singer (soprano) and a wonderful voice teacher. In case you are not aware of it, Marcella has advanced degrees from Harvard, Columbia and Stony Brook, and these degrees are in voice, psychology and pedagogy. She has agreed to sing a recital entitled “Love & Simplicity”, which includes some of her favorite pieces.

When: Sunday, April 17, 4:00 pm
Where: in the sanctuary (Unitarian Church)
Why: to help with choral scholarships
Suggested donation: \$15

First, a few words about the concert. The program, “Love and Simplicity” features the music of Brahms, Schuman, Casella, Tosti, and Granados . The translations, which will be provided, will bring listeners into the heart of the texts. However, it is the music itself that carries the well-crafted melodies, the moving and surprising harmonies, and a variety of moods that express the feelings that we have when we explore relationships with each other. Some of the songs are simple, some are thought-provoking, some are (to borrow a 70s expression) far out, some are elegant, some are entertaining. Altogether, an experience in music that is captivating. At a reception following the concert, she will be available for conversation.

Second, what is a choral scholarship? It is simply a small stipend to help those interested in taking one of Marcella’s voice classes. It is meant primarily for choir members who do not have the means to do so and for whom these classes would be a valuable resource.

We are one of the few churches in town who does not hire a paid vocal quartet. Our singers do not depend on a paid professional to lead their section. So, the better able each individual is able to sing, the better the choir will sound.

I hope that you will be able to join us for a wonderful afternoon of song, right here at church. No need to travel into New York.

Save the date for Camp Jewell May 6-8!

Slow down, re-center and reconnect with family and friends for the entire weekend, or just on Saturday. Registration begins in April.

Rates: \$165-adults; \$100-children; \$75/person-Saturday only.
 COA and Youth group will have separate pricing TBD.

Saturday morning workshops:

- “Vision Quest” with Ed Thompson & Perry Montrose.
- “Conversation about Spirituality & Religion” with Frank Hall.
- “12 Step Spoken Here” with Rick F.

Afternoon workshops:

- Workshop with Margie Allen
- Workshop with David Emberling • Yoga with Sarah Bell