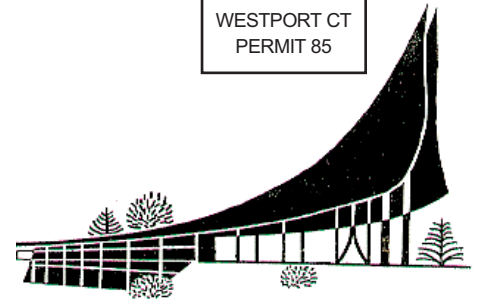


SOUNDINGS

The Unitarian Church in Westport
 10 Lyons Plains Road
 Westport, Connecticut 06880
 203 227-7205
 uuchurch@uuwestport.org
 www.uuwestport.org

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A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 22

April 17 - May 7, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 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 <i>Ody</i> : Everyone Can Improvise!, M.H., ... 7:30 pm Men & Women's Choir ... 8:00 pm	22 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm	23 Earth Day Church Grounds Beautification ... 9:00 am
24 Services: 9 & 11 am Egg Hunt - Outdoors BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office COA, Sanctuary - 12:15 pm Environmental Action, Chapel - 12:30 pm Women of the Bible, Library ... 4:00 pm	25 Health Care Task Force, E.W., ... 7:30 pm	26 NVC Practice, Chapel, ... 7:00 pm	27 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir ... 8:00 pm	28 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	29 COA depart for Boston, Parking lot. ... 8:30 am UU Movie Discussion, M.H., ... 7:30 pm	30 COA return from Boston. Parking lot, ... 5:00 pm
May 1 Earth Day Service: 9 & 11 am K-6 start in Sanctuary Special Friends Party, E.W. ... 10:00 am BOT Coffee Chat - 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, Jan's Office UN Com., Chapel ... 12:30 May Day Celebration Outside unless raining	2 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45pm	3 Microfinance, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	4 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	5 Read Aloud at Beardsley School- 9 am Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com. M.H., ... 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Women's Choir ... 7:45 pm	6 Metro NY District Mtg. Camp Jewell Weekend Retreat SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm	7 Metro NY District Mtg. Circle Facilitators, M.H. ... 10:00 am

SERMONS

April 17 ... 9 & 11 am..... **“Grief – a Spiritual Practice”**Frank Hall
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.
Music: Chamber Choir

April 24 ... 9 & 11 am: **“This is the Sun's Birthday”** Frank Hall
Cummings captured it well in his poem, ‘i thank You God for most this amazing day’ We’ll celebrate the essence of
Passover, Easter -- Spring.
Music: Women's/Men's Choir combine with Carl Serbell and Dave Walant (trumpets) for Easter

May 1... 9 & 11 am **Earth Day** Frank Hall
On becoming more responsible caretakers of our fragile little planet.
Music: 9:00 Men's Choir; 11:00 Women's Choir

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

New Pendants—Great Gifts!

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) the arrival of two NEW pendants! Go to www.clfuu.org, then click on CLF Shop.

To reach a real person, contact The Church of the Larger Fellowship e-mail: lfshop@clfu.org

617-948 6150. Celebrate your Green Sanctuary or Earth Day with a green pendant—only \$6! Celebrate your Welcoming Congregation with a rainbow pendant: \$6!



Mark D. Morrison-Reed's New Book: Darkening the Doorways

Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities

On one hand, *Darkening the Doorways* is a tale of systemic paternalism and prejudice-induced failure of vision, of squandered opportunities and good intentions turned into tragedy more often than triumph. On the other hand, it is a tale of idealism, courage, intrepid allies, dogged determination and steadfast loyalty in the face of rejection.



This exploration of the tainted reality behind UU's espoused liberalism is heart-wrenching, but leads to an important truth. The premise that liberal religion has not and cannot attract African Americans is false. These stories correct and re-cast the UU narrative with the hope that, from now on, when UUs describe who we are, African Americans will be intrinsic to that identity.

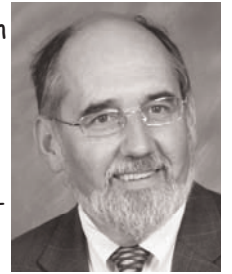
Go to the UUA Bookstore: www.uua.org/bookstore

Know More About UU History

Hot off the press is John Buehrens new book:

Universalists and Unitarians in America. A People's History

begins with the observation that "Religion is people." While previous accounts of UUism have focused on a few great men, this history shines a light on the contributions of many, both exalted and obscure, whose stories illustrate the texture of lived religion. Both faiths are chronicled in parallel development through their consolidation in 1961. Buehrens weaves a historical tapestry rich in color and meaning that will serve to deepen the faith of modern Unitarian Universalists. Go to the UUA Bookstore: www.uua.org/bookstore



UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund

Following the devastating earthquakes and tsunami in Japan, the UUA and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) established the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund. The fund will support our religious partners in Japan, including Rissho Kosei-kai (for more info on this organization, go to: <http://www.rk-world.org>), Tsubaki Grand Shrine, the Konko Church of Izu, the Tokyo Dojin Church, and the Japan Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom. Please join other UUs in contributing to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund; make a gift online at www.uua.kintera.org/japan or over the phone by calling UUA Stewardship and Development staff at (888) 792-5885.

Don't Forget to Register!

NY DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING will be held May 6-7, at the Morristown Hyatt. Register!

www.uumetrony.org/am11/registration.htm

GENERAL ASSEMBLY takes place June 22-26 in Charlotte NC. GA 2011 celebrates the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America at the opening ceremony. Register! www.uua.org/ga/



Several Shawl Ministry members: Eloise Peterson, Sheila Tishler, Lynn Brooks, (Avery Forbes) Susan Brady, Jan Braunle, Kristi Hardin and Martha Constable

Less than one week before embarking on her hike of the Appalachian Trail, Avery Forbes made a presentation to the members of the Shawl Ministry. She gave a very informative talk on the research and preparation she has spent months working on getting ready for this trip, which she expects will take about six months. In addition to accomplishing a personal quest, Avery is using the hike to raise money for Beardsley School and for Teach for America. The Shawl Ministry members will sponsor a donation 18 cents per mile (one cent/mile per member). To help fund this pledge we will be preparing and selling soup.

April 11, 2011

Dear Friends,

Thanks for responding so enthusiastically to the kick-off for our annual canvass last Sunday. While I'm not reluctant to talk openly about our financial needs I am *careful*; too much money talk can make you want to switch channels!

I'm convinced, however, that one of the reasons we have so many folks who give below the average needed to balance our budget is a simple lack of understanding of the needs.

Some give a small amount, but it's truly all they can afford – those on a fixed income, for example. No one tells you how much money you ought to give – we need to have an average pledge of about \$1,700 a year to keep the ship afloat. Fortunately there are some who are able to give more than that amount – some considerably more.

But we need those at the \$300 to \$500 level to double or triple their annual pledge – if they can afford to do so; and there are many who can.

That's why I asked the staff to stand at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday and to introduce themselves, saying what they do, how long they've been working here and how they feel about it. They stood in order of their longevity, beginning with our Minister of Music, Ed Thompson, who is in his 34th year. He's followed by Bobby Santiago, our sexton, who has been with us for almost 20 years. Next comes Jamie Forbes who started as Director of Religious Education more than ten years ago, and for the past few years has been Youth Outreach Coordinator.

For more than nine years Jan Braunle has worked in the office, as well as her work with the shawl ministry. For five years David Vita has served as our Director of Social Justice. Perry Montrose has been DRE for four years. Our Business Manager, John Carroll is completing four years. Lili Rappaport has been our Youth Program Director for two years. Nick Cundy joined the custodial staff this year to help things run smoothly on Sunday mornings. Debra Haffner, our Endorsed Community Minister serves without salary as one of the ways she lives out her commitment to congregational life as she heads up the Religious Institute she started ten years ago. She was recently given our UUA's Ministry to Women award.

About 80% of your annual financial pledge helps pay staff salaries, reason enough, I think, to be generous. Our Board of Trustees has taken on the task of doing the annual every-member canvass using the slogan: Called to Generosity.

The word generosity has a Latin root meaning 'of noble birth.' We're reminded of Emerson's assertion: "Who does a good deed is instantly ennobled. Who does a mean deed is by the act itself contracted." Generosity expands one's character. Generosity is generative – it has a spiritual quality. Because of the generosity of so many members and friends we've managed to navigate some rather treacherous financial waters. No matter what the amount, filling out your pledge card within the next few days is itself *an act of generosity* extended toward those who have taken on the task of keeping the ship afloat.

The staff joins me in extending our appreciation – thank you for your generosity.

Yours,


when faces called flowers float out of the ground
and breathing is wishing and wishing is having-
but keeping is downward and doubting and never
-it's april (yes, april; my darling it's spring!
yes the pretty birds frolic as spry as can fly
yes the little fish gambol as glad as can be
(yes the mountains are dancing together)

when every leaf opens without any sound
and wishing is having and having is giving-
but keeping is doting and nothing and nonsense
-alive; we're alive, dear: it's (kiss me now) spring!
now the pretty birds hover so she and so he
now the little fish quiver so you and so i
now the mountains are dancing, the mountains)

when more than was lost has been found has been found
and having is giving and giving is living-
but keeping is darkness and winter and cringing
-it's spring(all our night becomes day) o, it's spring!
all the pretty birds dive to the heart of the sky
all the little fish climb through the mind of the sea
all the mountains are dancing; are dancing)

E. E. Cummings

Have Compassion...

Have compassion for everyone you meet
even if they don't want it. What seems conceit,
bad manners, or cynicism is always a sign
of things no ears have heard, no eyes have seen.
You do not know what wars are going on
down there where the spirit meets the bone.

Miller Williams, from "*The Ways We Touch*"

“Do all the good that you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.” John Wesley

Perry's Ponderings ...

Life and the world around us send a great deal of information, messages, and happenings our way. There is much to process and figure out. There are many people and places that tell children and youth who to be and what to believe. In RE here they get to discover who they are and thoughtfully consider what they believe. They get to do that in a supportive loving community of peers and adults who get to do the same.

While moving through the curriculum *Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong*, the 5th-6th graders have had the opportunity to thoughtfully consider what they believe and how they want to be in the world. The goal of *Amazing Grace* is that "youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise." One of the activities in a session on *Doing Your Good Side* had the children build an ethics obstacle course. They named challenges that might prevent you from making good decisions such as Temptation Tightrope, Stupidity Sinkhole, Bully Blockade, Jealousy Jump, and Peer Pothole. The children talked about how they might overcome these obstacles.

The 5th-6th grade children were also able to develop their emotional awareness and interpersonal skills during a session on Non-violent Communication (NVC). In a specially created *Heart Talk* lesson the children listened to life scenarios like "your closest friend says he/she doesn't want to be friends with you anymore," then visited the "planet" with the feeling closest to their own. The Empathy Labyrinth gave the children an opportunity to get in touch with their own and others' feelings and needs while thinking about a personal situation. Olivia and Humza were brave enough to walk first in their groups to give an example, with expert NVC facilitator Judith helping them through.

When we do the offering during Children's Chapel worship, I always tell the children that if they do not have any money to put in the basket they can put in a wish. Last Sunday, two children decided to actually write a note. One wished, "That poor people get money." Josh wrote, "Unitarian is good," with a big smiley face. Josh's experience at church helps him feel good and share that with everyone around him. We are all part of his joy.

RE CALENDAR

Sun. April 17...

No RE, Childcare available

Sat. April 23...

Earth Day Clean-up COA

Sun. April 24...

9 & 11am Egg Hunt

Fri. April 29

8:30am COA to Boston

Sun. May 1 ...

9 & 11am K-6 Start Sanctuary

10am Special Friends Party

12:30pm May Day Celebration

Fri-Sun. May 6-8...

Camp Jewell

Sun May 8...

No RE, Childcare available

May Day Celebration - Sunday, May 1 - 12:30pm

*Dance with us around the
May Pole
Bring a picnic lunch or buy soup
and/or mac & cheese to
support Camp Jewell.*

*Weave the ribbons of the
May Pole...*



Weave yourself into our Community.

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR K-4!

April 24 at 9 & 11am

Join the fun.
Led by the
5th-6th graders.



YOUTH OUTREACH/ Jamie Forbes

On Saturday night, March 26, four of our youth were interviewed on the WPKN radio show 'Youth Radio CT' by the host, Richard Hill. Richard asked them about the Youth Outreach initiatives they have been involved in as well as at their high schools. The youth who participated were Emma Axthelm, Evan Field, Alex Nizet, and Elise Thomson all from different highschools. Elise even helped Richard interview Anna Lappe, author of *Food for a Hot Planet*, in anticipation of her visit to UCW last Sunday. I think that our youth did a wonderful job of representing the many ways that our youth put their beliefs into action to help others. If you would like to hear the interview, you can access the archives at WPKN by following the following directions. 1. go to www.wpkn.org. 2. Click the archive circle that says (GO) 3. Write in March 26, 2011 in the search bubble, and 4. Write in the date! Enjoy, *Jamie*

Youth Outreach Calendar

Sat., April 23 -

Earth Day/Beautification Day at our church, UCW.

Wed. April 27 - Sat. April 30 -

UU UNO Spring Seminar 2011 (Empower Women for a Better World) registration deadline April 15.

Sat. April 30 -

Rebuilding Together Annual Workday, 9am-1pm.

Sat. May 14 -

Creating an Edible Garden at Beardsley School, 9am-1pm

Transitions Group for High School Seniors (even if you have not been attending youth group!)

Facilitated by Barbara Kezur

Sunday, May 15 - 11-12:15

Sunday, May 22 - 11-12:15

Sunday, June 6 - 11am Bridging Sunday!

Please call or e-mail Jamie with questions (jamie@urwestport.org)

Transitions Group for Parents of High School Seniors-May date TBA

It Could Happen to Any One of Us

We are surrounded by injustices large and small and we can't take on every one of them. But sometimes there is one that's so egregious and so close to home that it cannot be ignored. So it is with Marjorie Partch, a member of our congregation, and her mother, Dorothy.

From the court documents that I have read and meetings with lawyers this is what I believe and understand to be the situation:

Dorothy is in Wilton Meadows Nursing Home due to a stroke a year ago.

In a notarized health care directive in 2005 Dorothy named Marjorie to be her health care agent and attorney-in-fact for health care decisions, granted her durable Power of Attorney, and designated Marjorie to be her Conservator if one was needed. There was also second person named, a back-up, if Marjorie was unwilling or unable to carry out Dorothy's wishes.

The Norwalk Probate court at the behest of Wilton Meadows Nursing Home appointed a Conservator for Dorothy. In a document submitted to the Court a representative of the nursing home wrote in "unknown" to the question of whether there was an existing Power of Attorney.

I can't imagine why "unknown" was hand-written. The form had a check box for "yes" and for "no", so presumably, unknown was not an anticipated response. A nursing home admission form would surely include that information. Why wasn't it checked? The nursing home knew Marjorie. Why wasn't she asked?

Instead, they went around Marjorie, ignored Dorothy's expressed wishes, and the court appointed a Conservator.

The Conservator denied Marjorie access to her mother (since rescinded), has refused to provide her a copy of the Admission Form, evicted her from the family home, seized all of the family possessions, and has frozen the co-mingled bank account. The home is now up for sale. The family assets are being liquidated. Marjorie does not have access to funds or even her own personal belongings that were in the house.

The nursing home will maintain that Marjorie is incapable of handling the duties. But Marjorie has never had her day in court. She has not been heard. She has not been allowed to present her information. And even if Marjorie was unwilling or unable, there was the back-up person. That person has never been contacted.

Without funds, Marjorie has begged and borrowed to raise money to hire a lawyer to fulfill her mother's wishes and to demand her day in court. Her lawyer requested a hearing. The Norwalk Probate court denied that request. The next step is to appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Marjorie needs our help. Now.

Her #1 need is for money to pay her lawyer to continue to fight for her rights.

Money can be sent to Frank's Ministerial Discretionary Fund for Marjorie.

- Σ Pro bono legal assistance
- Σ Provide her with a ride to and from the train station to visit her mother at the nursing home on Fridays and to church on Sundays.
- Σ Provide easily transportable food (soups, stews) which can be left with David Vita.
- Σ Any thoughts regarding a fundraiser.
- Σ Any other suggestions? Please speak with David Vita.

Call (212.420.9187), e-mail (mapartch@yahoo.com), write
516 East 11th Street
Apt 5B
New York, NY 10009

Marjorie needs our support.

MOTHER'S DAY, MICROFINANCE, & MORE!

As Mother's Day approaches, our KIVA/Microfinance Committee is putting the final touches on a series of Mother's Day cards crafted by our 5th and 6th grade RE class. The cards will be on sale at church on Sundays April 17, 24 and May 1.

The money raised will provide loans to female entrepreneurs around the world. By providing safe, affordable access to capital to these women we're helping them create better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Over the past two years our Microfinance Committee has provided \$7,250 in loans to 50 people in 36 different countries. With your help we can increase these numbers!

One of the early calls to celebrate Mother's Day in the United States was the "Mother's Day Proclamation" by Julia Ward Howe.

Written in 1870, it was a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War. The Proclamation was tied to Howe's feminist belief that women had a responsibility to shape their societies at the political level.



Howe was a Unitarian. Mourning the death of her father in 1839, and soon afterwards that of a brother and a sister-in-law, she turned to Calvinism, the religion of her upbringing, though her reading had exposed her to more liberal ideas. Later she wrote, "I studied my way out of all the mental agonies which Calvinism can engender and became a Unitarian."

**Save the Date: UU Read Aloud Day
at Beardley School.
Thursday, May 5.**

To The Editor

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant" Author Unknown

I think the above quotation may help explain the concern written in THE SOUNDING BOARD (last issue) about my feelings on making the church a Designated Historical Building and what I actually said. My question was how the process would proceed and at what point it would be presented to the Congregation. I have grave reservations about such a designation and want to make certain there is widespread congregational input.
Hazen Goddard

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 House. All are welcome!

Seeking volunteer assistance!

Writing & organizational skills needed. Time limited commitment. Need to organize existing documents into a working set of guidelines for our Neighborhood Circles of Care. If interested... contact Jim Francek at jimfrancek25@gmail.com or 203.513.2352

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.

Planning a vacation?

Have peace of mind. Experienced pet and house sitting. Refs. Lynn 203.227.7799.



Attention Newcomers!

Please join us on Thursday, April 14 from 7:00-9:30pm for Part I of our 3-part Newcomer Orientation series. All meetings will be held in the downstairs chapel —check the doors for signs directing you.

In Part I we welcome you, answer any questions you might have and suggest some ways to connect with others in the congregation as you continue to get to know us.

One or more ministers and staff members attend this session and join others in the group in sharing the stories of how we came to this church and to

Unitarian Universalism.

You'll receive a packet of information that identifies specific ways to get involved, as well as an informative DVD and other materials introducing you to Unitarian Universalism.

We will share some fruit and dessert as well! Part 2 will be on Thursday, April 21, and Part 3 will be on Thursday, April 28.

While there is no need to RSVP, contact Betty Rich at stoutfam@optonline.net if you have any questions.



Flowers for March

March 6

In loving memory of Ray Porter on his 75th birthday.
Given by Carol and John.

March 13

In loving memory of Katherine Webster Aibel. 3/14/1931 -- 2/22/2005
Given by Howard Aibel.

March 20

Hail Miller boys!
We miss you!
Given by Suzy Miller

March 27

In loving memory of Alexandra Raineault. 4/1/87 – 3/29/10
Given by Jack Raineault & Ruth Ahlers

Debra Haffner Honored

I was thrilled to receive a call today that I have been chosen to be the recipient of the 2011 UUA Women's Federation Ministry to Women Award. The award will be given at General Assembly.

Our Ministry to Women Award honors individuals or organizations that have ministered to women in an outstanding manner. The first of the award's distinguished list of recipients – selected by the Board of Trustees – was Ms. Magazine in 1974. Others honored include May Sarton, Marian Wright Edelman, Tillie Olsen, Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Dr. Jean Baker Miller.

I certainly hope that UCW delegates will come the reception!

Thank you all for all your support that makes my work in the world possible!
Debra



NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCLES OF CARE BY JIM FRANCEK

“WHEN THE ALCHEMY OF CONNECTION MEETS THE ALCHEMY OF COMPASSION CARE EMERGES ORGANICALLY TO CONNECT US AT THE LEVEL OF SOUL”

This past weekend saw a Spring resurgence of activity for our Neighborhood Circles, six of our 22 circles gathered to enjoy food, conversation, laughter and connection. Within the next few weeks more of our geographical circles will be gathering to extend the hand of welcome to each other. At our facilitators meeting last week Frank shared that “just being present to each other in a social gathering is an extension of care”. We care enough to get to know one another.

This past Sunday I attended two circles. A special thanks goes to Betsy Beach for extending herself in bringing together Circle 10. This group has not met in sometime, and through this coming together, we heard story of how a similar neighborhood effort existed within our congregation 42 years ago. In fact the couple who shared this information continues to relish the friendships that started back then. We also heard from a widow about her yearning for social interaction and willingness to share her energy and support with others. Couples, singles, children, all arrived to share a few hours together.

At another level, I am happy to report that our extension of care is emerging organically as life presents opportunities within our circles to visit sick, prepare a meal, make some phone calls, write a note of sympathy, give a ride, or just have a humorous interaction that provides laughter and a reframe on our journey. It is good to know that we are not alone on this walk.

This thought of Parker Palmer captures the essence of our work.

“The intentionality of a circle ...can transform the cramped sense of time that keeps us from taking community seriously. Belonging to a circle takes time. But when the hours we spend together have meaningful outcomes for our lives, time stops feeling scarce. Time and life itself becomes more abundant as we learn to live responsively to the wisdom of the soul”.

When an invite comes to you by email or phone, consider engaging with your UU neighbor.

Business Matters

EARTH DAY CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION

Come enjoy the solitude and beauty of the church campus on Saturday, April 23 from 9 am to noon for our annual beautification day. We are looking for a large turnout families, individuals, couples, all ages we have plenty of light work to be done. All the heavy work (leaf blowing and removal) will be done earlier in the week so on Saturday there will be no noisy equipment, just the sounds of nature, gentle breezes and beautiful skies (we hope). The bulbs are blooming and the leaves should be out on the many beautiful trees on the property. Come with rakes and gloves, wheel barrow (if you have one) and help out with one or more of the following projects:

- Rake and remove debris around Meeting House
- Rake church yard (perhaps the whiffle ministry can tackle this!)
- Rake and remove debris from memorial garden and court yard (the memorial committee will need help)
- Rake leaves from "meadows project" (help the church Green Team)
- Rake and remove debris from hillsides
- Spruce up the Buddhist Garden (Melanie Medinger and Erhin McWheeney may need help)
- Weed garden beds and spread mulch

- Shovel mud from parking lot
- Rake and remove debris in parking lot island
- Trim branches and shrubs that interfere with parking and the sidewalk
- Turn the front entrance island into a welcoming green space (lots of leaves and debris)
- Apply a coat of teak oil to the wooden benches
- Pick up trash along Lyons Plains road (inside the railing)
- Straighten the picket fence
- Come experience a special UWC community, one that cares about the earth and beauty of its grounds. Maybe we will see the red tailed hawk? Perhaps someone can bring a camera to capture the before and after results.

Refreshments and snacks available through out the morning plus hamburgers and hotdogs and more at noon.

Contact me if you would like to help. I will be there early Saturday morning with work pairings. If you would like work together in teams: Small Group Ministry Members, COA, Choir members, RE families, Shawl Ministry, Social Justice, Green Environment, Memorial Garden Committee.....etc., please discuss ahead of time and tell me who is coming and what you would like to do.

Thank you in advance for caring about your church and its grounds. John

Church Staff

- Frank Hall Senior Minister
frank@uuwestport.org
EdWard Thompson Minister of Music
ed@uuwestport.org
John Carroll..... Church Administrator/
Business Manager
john@uuwestport.org
Jan Braunle Administrative Associate
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Lily Rappaport Youth Program Dir.
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David Vita Social Justice Director
david@uuwestport.org
Robert Santiago Sexton
bobby@uuwestport.org

Endorsed Community Minister

Rev. Debra Haffner ...debra@uuwestport.org

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SOUNDINGS Staff

Carol Porter Editor/Design

visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is
Friday, April 22, 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.

Marcella Calabi Recital, “Love and Simplicity”

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.

Making Folk Music Happen at UCW

Would you like UUWestport to schedule some folk performances and start an on-going Coffee House series?



If so, you are not alone. A group of interested people have had a few meetings about that very thing, and you are invited to participate, make suggestions, and/or join a committee to make it happen. We are in the very early stages of envisioning a folk series and talking about what needs to be done and what resources we’ll need. We welcome anyone who would like to contribute to that effort. For more information:

David Vita, 203-227-7205 x14 or david@uuwestport.org.

SAVE THE DATE for Camp Jewell – May 6–8!



Camp Jewell, located in the Berkshire Mountains, is just a short 90 minute drive from Westport. This special weekend offers something for everyone: kids camp, adult workshops, worship services, field games, arts & crafts, coffee house, campfires, hiking, singing and much more! The cabins are clean, the showers hot and the food delicious! It's a chance for emotional, spiritual and physical renewal.

Rates: \$165–adults; \$100–children; \$75/person–Saturday only. \$100 –Youth Group; \$125– COA. Register in church lobby on April 17 & April 24. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website and sent to Michelle Garvey

Morning Workshops – 9am – 10:30am

“Exploring Your Faith” *Led by Frank Hall*

An open and interactive conversation with Frank and one another about the nature of belief and the evolution of your own belief system. We will make reference to Belief.net but it is not a requirement of participation in the workshop.

“Introduction to yoga – connect your body to your spirit”

Led by lifestyle coach and newly certified yoga teacher, Janet Luongo.

Introduction to yoga as it applied to UU principles of inherent self-worth, interconnectedness, and spiritual growth. Simple exercised for all ages – yoga postures, breathing and meditation. The philosophy of balance, opening energy in your body, mindfulness, relaxation through breath, awakening compassion and connecting to the divine.

Afternoon Workshops – 1:30pm – 3:00pm

“Love and Intimacy” *Led by Debra Haffner*

How do we keep love and intimacy alive in our romantic relationships? This workshop for participants over 21 will look at the different stages of romantic love, our different love languages, warning signs and their antidotes, and practical ways to rekindle love and intimacy. I promise you'll learn something new about yourself and your partner, and take home some easy strategies for improving your primary relationship. Singles and couples welcome.

“Vision Quest” *Led by Ed Thompson, Perry Montrose and Jamie Forbes*

(This is a special 2 1/2 hour workshop from 1:30 – 4:00pm)

While a real vision quest can last up to three days, Ed and Perry will give you a small taste of what it is like. The function of a quest is to ask oneself questions regarding the way in which we use our time and energy, and most importantly, our talents. A part of this process is to spend some alone time and interface with nature. We (Ed, Perry & Jamie) will be around to facilitate with questions and suggestions and processes. In the same way that Thoreau spent some alone time at Walden Pond, we can spend some time in the woods, in the safety of our community and guides, and ask ourselves some of the bigger questions. A great opportunity.