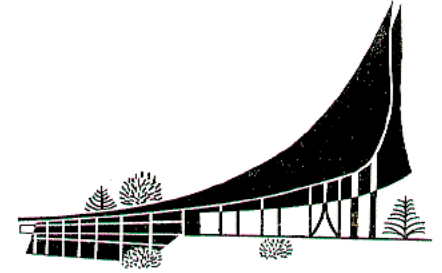


SOUNDINGS

The Unitarian Church in Westport
 10 Lyons Plains Road
 Westport, Connecticut 06880 / 203 227-7205
 Unitarianchurch@snet.net



**NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE
 IS FRIDAY, AUG. 26**

July 24 - Aug. 27, 2011

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 24 Summer Service ... 10:00 am “Our Sources” Perry Montrose	25	26 Constitution Revision Mtg., Sanctuary, ... 7 - 9:30 pm	27 Chant & Meditaton, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	28	29	30
31 Summer Service, ... 10:00 am “Spiritual Birth through Religious Death” Steve Gormely	Aug. 1	2	3 Tag Sale Drop Off Chant & Meditaton, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00	4 Tag Sale Drop Off Finance Committee, Meeting Hse., ... 5:30 pm	5 UU Tag Sale and set-up Sanctuary, Foyer & East Wing	6 UU Tag Sale and set-up Sanctuary, Foyer & East Wing
7 Summer Service, ... 10:00 am “The Courage to Speak Your Truth” Marianne Barber	8	9	10 Chant & Meditaton, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Summer Service, 10am “Lately, I’ve Been Reading” Denny Davidoff Constitution Revision Mtg.. 11:30 - 1 pm	15	16	17 Chant & Meditaton, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	18	19	20 Small Group Facilitators, M.H. ... 10 am
21 Summer Service, 10am “Fields of Consciousness” Shakti Durga <hr/> Shakti Durga & Musical Friends ... 2:00pm	22	23 Constitution Revision Mtg., Sanctuary, ... 7 - 9:30 pm	24 Chant & Meditaton, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	25	26 SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12 Noon	27

August 28, Summer Service ... 10 am ... Story Matters (and never let the facts get in the way) Lynda Shannon Bluestein
*We all love stories, but more than that we need them. If we don't cast our experiences into some kind of narrative structure, they are lost to our memories. This service is about stories and remembering.
 The musical theme is “every story tells a song.”*

Childcare Available at all Sunday Services

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

Answer to Hazy, Hot & Humid

Ok, so you missed both the NY Metro Annual Meeting (must have been boring anyway, right?) and GA (the General Assembly of UU congregations). But, you've heard that there were, really, some good events. And you were wondering if you actually missed something. But, oh, well, maybe next year.

Not to worry! View the best in homey coolness!

Best of the 2011 District Annual Meeting

For Peter Mayer's concert (think "Blue Boat Home"), the Saturday morning worship service led by the Rev.



Michael Tino (the minister of the church where Frances Sink is an intern), and the keynote address by Rev. Mark Harrison-Reed, go to:

www.youtube.com/playlist?p=PLCD067D515C7A8779

Best of GA

For a complete listing of videos and reports, go to: www.uua.org/ga/2011/index.shtml. Highlights are mentioned below.

Award Goes To... The UU Women's Federation (UUWF) presented its 2011 Ministry to Women Award to our own Rev. Debra Haffner for her outstanding contributions in the fields of sexual education, reproductive justice, and sexual abuse healing in support of women and girls. In case you aren't aware, Debra is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Religious Institute, a multi-faith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual



health, education, and justice in faith communities and society. For the presentation and her inspiring acceptance of the reward, go to: www.uua.org/ga/2011/index.shtml

The Service of the Living Tradition is the annual service where UUs honor past and future religious leaders. The Rev. Michael Schuler preached a wonderful sermon on "The Face of God or a Face in the Crowd?" Go to:

www.uua.org/ga/2011/184434.shtml



Ware Lecture: Karen Armstrong If you (like me) don't read much theology, you might not have heard of the dynamic Karen Armstrong. One of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author, whose books have been translated into 45 languages,

her latest book is *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. The lecture argued that compassion and the Golden Rule, central to all the major faiths, can and must be embraced. Go to: www.uua.org/ga/2011/184434.shtml

A Spark of Freedom in the Muslim World. Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf was a main force behind the Park51 community center, originally called Cordoba House, a proposed complex housing a Muslim community center and multi-faith worship space near Ground Zero in New York City. In a Q&A session at the end of the talk, a moving exchange occurred between a UU US Army Chaplain and the Imam. Go to:

www.uua.org/justice/issues/internationalpeace/ga/184959.shtml



MAHALO NUI LOA

is 'Thank You Very Much' in Hawaiian. Almost 260 attended our Lanouette Luauu-wow!

What a fun evening everyone had at our Lanouette Luauu last Friday.

Almost 260 people attended the function at Longshore and unofficially, we raised another couple thousand dollars towards new carpeting!

So nice to see so many familiar and new faces!

(see last page for photographs from this fun evening!)

July 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

One of the highlights of this year's General Assembly in Charlotte, NC was the Ware lecture by the well-known and highly regarded religious historian Karen Armstrong.

In addition to her widely acclaimed *A History of God: the 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, she has written a short history of Islam, a biography of Buddha, a *Short History of Myth* and an anthology of religious and poetic experience – twenty books, so far.

Her Ware lecture topic was, *The Challenge of Compassion*, in which she suggested that each of the major religions has at its core the common affirmation of compassion.

She talked about the universally-held Golden Rule: do not treat others as you would not wish to be treated, and its positive corollary, do unto others as you would done unto you.

She said that compassion "...is the test of spirituality." The bottom line for Armstrong, after a lifetime of studying the religions of the world, is that compassion "...takes us beyond the prison of ego and selfishness and greed and enables us to enter into our best selves, and to express what some call God, others Nirvana, Brahmin, or Tao."

She explained that the word compassion is not about pity, reminding me of a response to a recent sermon in which I said that 'it is compassion that makes us human.' A woman who I guessed was in her 70's said, "I hate the word compassion. I don't want people to pity me." She went on to explain that she recently went through a difficult time and hated the feeling of being pitied.

In her recent book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, Armstrong writes, "Our English word compassion is often confused with 'pity' and associated with an uncritical sentimental benevolence."

She explained: "When I gave a lecture in the Netherlands recently I emphatically made the point that compassion did *not* mean feeling sorry for people; nevertheless, the Dutch translation of my text in the newspaper *De Volkskrant* consistently rendered 'compassion' as 'pity.' But compassion derives from the Latin *patiri* and the Greek *pathein*, meaning, 'to suffer, undergo, or experience.' So 'compassion' means to endure (something) with another person, to put ourselves in someone else's shoes."

I was a bit surprised when she said that we 'don't often hear about compassion.' She said, "Often when religious leaders come together, they talk about a particular sexual ethic, or an abstruse doctrine, as though this, rather than compassion, was the test of spiritual life."

In conclusion she said, "To me it is quite clear that unless we learn to implement the Golden Rule globally, so that we treat all people, all nations, as we would wish to be treated ourselves, we're not going to have a viable world." It seems so obvious, but a necessary reminder, not only on a global scale, but close to home. I hope your summer is going well.

Yours, 

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

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.

.....

Every Day, *Caroline Joy Adams*

Every day
We are given a thousand waking moments
A thousand opportunities to learn, to grow, to choose
Thus, in as many of those moments as you can,
Choose Wisely.

Choose understanding and calmness rather than anger...
Gratitude rather than envy....
Compassion rather than judgment....
Awareness rather than denial....
Loving thoughts, words, and action
Over those that have the power to hurt...

And in this way,
Moment by Moment by Moment
We shall create harmony, healing and peace
Within ourselves...and for each other.

.....

Untitled, *Ruth Codier*

Some couldn't stand me.
You stood me.
It may be
because you stood me
I'm more standable.

.....

"Who does a good deed is instantly ennobled. Who does a mean deed is by the act
itself contracted...we are not punished for our sins but by them." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Perry's Ponderings ...

Before I left for UU General Assembly (GA), new UCW member Laura Obringer said, "Look for my Aunt Julie who is a great lady and a DRE in Michigan." At the Liberal Religious Educator's luncheon, Julie and I coincidentally found ourselves sitting next to each other. We talked about events we do for families, then as Julie left she said, "Take care of my niece." It was one of many nice connections at GA.

I also happened to meet two Susan's connected to our congregation. It was nice to get to know Joe and Marion Wertheim's daughter, Susan, who grew up at UCW and now lives in CA. I came across Marianne Barber's sister-in-law, Susan, in the exhibit hall where she was sharing information about her spiritual guru, yogi Sadhguru Vasudev. I shared the story with Marianne and we had a nice conversation about our upcoming summer services on *Sources and Courage*.

My UU friend Jill introduced me to Ginny Fox, the founder of the Peace Flags Project. We had just created Peace Flags with our children and youth this spring. When Ginny heard we were planning to make it an interfaith project in the fall, she offered to support us with a visit.

It was a joy to run into Lexi, an exuberant mature young adult who grew up in the New London congregation where I worked previously. Lexi is thinking about becoming a Religious Educator so we talked about that path. It is a path for me that, as Frank said, quoting the Frost poem, has "united avocation and vocation."

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Luau. Little Liza was such a cutie when she ran up to greet me by grabbing my leg and then wanting to be lifted upside down for endless amusement. It is so great that Liza has that comfort level in our community now.

I brought my almost two year-old nephew, Jacob, to church this past Sunday and he was feeling a little shy in the nursery. In no time, teen babysitter Kaitlyn had made a new friend of Jacob and scooped him up to play. Jacob got to know people and acted like he was right at home by the time we left. It is the people we appreciate that make a place home away from home.

YOUTH OUTREACH/ Jamie Forbes

The beneficiary of our Share the Plate this summer is the Bridgeport Land Trust. For the last three years, our youth have been helping out at the Community Gardens in Bridgeport which are part of this Land Trust. We have worked at 3 different gardens...Ogden Street, Hallet Street and last month, Clinton Avenue. All have their very unique personalities.

When we started working on Hallet Street only two beds were active although the students from Louis Marin School next door had just planted their bean plants in one of the new beds. The other two were being cared for by the closest neighbor, and designated garden captain, Hector and also a Vietnamese family. The rest was uncared for and I remember Austin, Jess, Lily, Emma and Charlotte spending time preparing new beds and clearing away lots of debris and overgrowth. Bob Halstead, who has run the land trust for 30 years and oversees all of the gardens told us that our work inspired more neighbors to take over beds and start planting!

Rebecca, Elise and I returned the next year to see that more neighbors were taking ownership of the garden and, instead of preparing beds, we helped with weeding. Bob tries to find a neighbor to be the captain of each garden which was easy at Ogden Street...Alice has been creating beautiful, colorful displays of flowers for 40 years and has watched the neighborhood go through many transitions including a dangerous period when the house between hers and the garden was set on fire. She reported to Elise, Tricia, Chelsea and I that the neighborhood was much safer



Simona and Elizabeth working at the Clinton St. garden

now and we met two young boys who visited her in the garden every day to learn about taking care of plants. Last month Elizabeth, Simona and I helped captain Jessica at the Clinton Street garden. She and Bob showed us around the garden... each bed is being cared for by a different family and ethnic group...there were lots of interesting vegetables that we could not identify! Since this garden was thriving, our help was to completely weed and plant two new beds near the road with an assortment of flowers. The flowers will be a beautiful invitation for neighbors to come and enjoy the fruits of their garden! Our soup fundraiser this spring helped Bob buy a new wheelbarrow and some tools for the gardens. Please give generously this summer to help these community gardens thrive!

Update on Avery's journey on the Appalachian Trail:

Avery is now over half way through her thru-hike! She got off of the trail in West Virginia for 10 days and then rejoined at Mt. Katahdin in Maine.

This time she is heading south and hopes to be at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia in late September having hiked all 2,180 miles of the

Appalachian trail. She will be hiking the White Mountains of New Hampshire this week and should be passing by Kent, CT around the end of August. I will send an exact date when she gets close enough to predict for those who want to picnic (and/or hike) with her that day!

Jamie



One Year Later and Help is Urgently Needed

Most of us are probably familiar with the saying: "It takes a village to raise a child". Over the past twelve months I've come to realize that it takes a community to save a mother.

Maybe you know Marjorie and Dorothy Partch and maybe you don't. It doesn't really matter. They're members of our congregation. Marjorie moved here 8 years ago to take care of her mother, Dorothy, and they both joined the church.

More than a year ago Marjorie brought her mother to Wilton Meadows Nursing Home in Wilton, Conn., for stroke rehabilitation. Marjorie did this using her legal authority as Dorothy's Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Representative, Attorney-in-Fact, and her pre-Designated "Conservator" should one be required.

Dorothy's wishes as expressed in a legal, notarized document were that Marjorie take care of her in all matters medical, legal, financial.

Just as Dorothy's 90 day Medicare coverage was about to end the nursing home sought the appointment of a Conservator to handle all of Dorothy's affairs as if Marjorie did not exist.

In its application to the Probate Court Wilton Meadows failed to disclose that Dorothy had appointed Marjorie Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Representative, Attorney-in-Fact, and her pre-Designated "Conservator" even though Marjorie constantly visited Dorothy at the nursing home, admitted her, signed numerous documents, and referred to herself as having Dorothy's Power of Attorney.

If there was any objection on the part of Wilton Meadows that Marjorie was incapable, unwilling, or unable to fulfill these obligations then the nursing home should have challenged Marjorie in court. It did not.

Wilton meadows either intentionally or erroneously failed to provide the Probate Court with this crucial information in determining whether or not a Conservator needed to be appointed for Dorothy.

As a result, Marjorie was not part of the proceedings in the appointment of the Conservator.

Following the appointment of the Conservator Marjorie was denied any visitation to her mother. Marjorie and Dorothy's funds were in joint checking accounts which were frozen depriving Marjorie of any money (and ability to hire a lawyer), and Marjorie was evicted from the family home where she had lived and cared for her mother.

For the past year Marjorie has been fighting an uphill battle for Dorothy's right to be taken care of by the person of her choosing – that person being Marjorie.

She has enlisted the State's Long-Term Care Ombudsman who intervened and forced the nursing home to grant Marjorie a one hour a week supervised visit with her mother. That has now been increased to 2 one hour visits. This woefully inadequate amount of time is neither in Dorothy or Marjorie's best interests. I have personally and painfully witnessed the positive effect that Marjorie's presence has on Dorothy.

Marjorie has taken complaints to the State Dept. of Public Health which has issued citations and fined Wilton Meadows for dislocating Dorothy's shoulder. And it is now conducting a new, second investigation, specifically about the question of Dorothy's medication and her Right to be treated by her own neurologist which has been denied.

And, she has hired a lawyer. The only place to correct these injustices is through the legal system. And that costs money.

For Marjorie every day presents the same questions: how do I buy food, save enough money for train fare to visit my mother, find a job, a place to live, and pay the lawyer?

Meanwhile, the Norwalk Probate Court has refused to re-examine the case which is now in Superior Court; Wilton Meadows Nursing Home is resisting Superior Court subpoenas for Dorothy's admission and medical records; and for an Accounting of the \$250,000+ already seized; and the Conservator (a real estate attorney) is attempting to sell the house that Marjorie would bring Dorothy home to, making that a moot point.

Yes, sometimes it takes a community to save a mother. To make sure that her rights are honored and respected. To fight for justice. We are that community.

I am confident that if we can continue, the Superior Court will do the right thing and reverse this injustice. Dorothy needs our help. Marjorie needs our help. Urgently.

The #1 need is for money to pay the lawyer. Money can be sent to Frank's Ministerial Discretionary Fund subject line: Marjorie.

• If there is any work that Marjorie could do or house sitting, that would also be extremely helpful. Not just about finances but also just getting her out of New York City and closer to her community and mother.

• Rides to and from the train station to visit her mother at the nursing home and to church on Sundays are always needed.

• Any other suggestions or questions? Please speak with David Vita.

Marjorie can be reached at 212.420.9187 or by e-mail at mapartch@yahoo.com

Would you like to help build a Habitat For Humanity House?

The Sound Coalition is looking for volunteers to join them in this new project on Pembroke Street in Bridgeport. The kick off is September 12 with a Habitat Blitz Week. The Coalition is made up of 4 area Churches and each church will work a predetermined Sat. The Blitz Build usually involves already having the foundation and flooring in place, and probably having the wall panels pre-built and ready to install. If you have experience or not, your talents and enthusiasm will be most welcome, and your efforts will be rewarded many times over.

Please contact Sherry Jagerson: sjagerson@mac.com, 203 227-7413.



Constitution Revision Sessions

Chair of the Task Force, Denny Davidoff, will be holding informational sessions open to all members of the congregation at the church to discuss the proposed changes.

Tuesday, July 26, 7 to 9:30 PM
Sunday, August 14 11:30 to 1:00
Tuesday, August 23, 7 to 9:30 PM
Tuesday, September 13, 7 to 9:30 PM

To see the constitution, with changes, go to [http://uuwestport.org/Docs/Draft_Constitution.lines\[1\]\[1\].pdf](http://uuwestport.org/Docs/Draft_Constitution.lines[1][1].pdf), or go to the home page of the church website, uuwestport.org, and click on 'Our Constitution is Being Revised'.

Going Away? Want peace of mind?

Reliable and experienced care for your pets and your home.
Just call Lynn @ 203.919.9075.

Management Matters

*Matchmaker, Matchmaker,
Make me a match,
Find me a find,
Catch me a catch*

I know I have sung this song to you before but it is worth repeating. More and more congregants are finding out that their employer's Gift Matching Program includes non-profit religious organizations! What a great way to booster your own pledge. Worth your while (and the church's) to check into it. Some may have restrictions but we can work with such. Have questions? Give me a call.

John Carroll
Business Manager



Shakti Durga & Musical Friends -
Sunday, August 21
at 2 pm

The inspirational leader of the Shanti Mission / Harmony Centers in Australia, Shakti Durga, will be conducting a Kirtan service (healing and music) as part of our Summer Service Program at 10 am on Sunday, August 21 and an afternoon workshop. This will be her first teaching trip to the United States. Shakti Durga will be joined by her Kirtan musicians Matreya and Parvati. The healing workshop will be given on a donation basis.

All are welcome to attend.



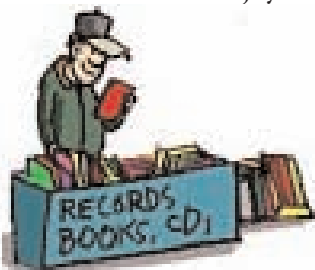
THE TAG SALE is nearly here

and there have been wonderful donations coming in. Thank you!

Chances are, your help is still needed to either pick up, set-up and price, sell, or help clean up, so if you haven't already been asked, contact Ann Lundberg to say you'll contribute your time to this major fundraiser (\$7,000 last year!) whether for 2 hours, or for 2 days.

Ann_lundberg@yahoo.com, 203-438-3494.

It's an enjoyable way to get to know some new people, and it's a way to give to the church when pledging may be a hardship.



Remember that your donations are tax deductible!

John Carroll, in the church office, can mail you a form, john@uuwestport.org.

Not sure what to give? There is a complete list on the church website on the home page under Announcements/Tag sale. It's also in the foyer on Sunday.

No-thank-you to skis & boots, large TVs, computers (unless you guarantee it works), odds & ends of electronic stuff,

anything dirty or broken, stuffed animals, building supplies, oversized upholstered furniture. Yes to small tables, dressers, bookcases, bicycles, good household items, gardening things, books, DVDs and CDs, good kids toys, children and women's clothing & shoes in excellent condition ready to hang.

If you need help moving something, call soon to arrange it.

Dick Moewe, rmoewe@aol.com,

259-1510, Bob Perry, perrybob66@gmail.com, 332-7200, or Dave Caplan
dcaplan5@optonline.net, 642-4130 have generously offered.

General questions, call Felicity at 924-9283, felicitymedinger@sbcglobal.net, or Linda, 226-5335, lhudson30@hotmail.com.





Jim Keenan, our MoF (Minister of Fun)



Carver, Bob Perry, was a busy man



1st Annual Lanouette Hawaiian Luau

Last Friday evening 260 people gathered at Longshore Park to help celebrate the 1st Annual Lanouette Luau. The dress was colorful, the food delicious, the entertainment upbeat and the weather superb!



... this little piggy went to Longshore



Bill Rother and friend Jose Feliciano



The line for corn was long ... but well worth the wait



Our honoree Ken Lanouette & friends