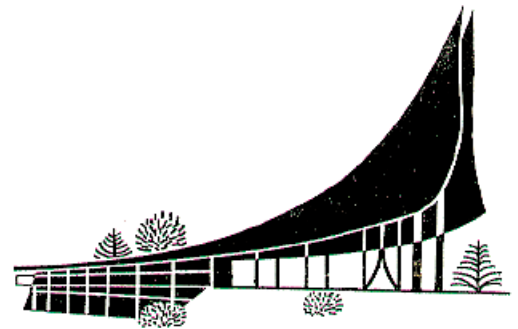


SOUNDINGS






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



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS
 FRIDAY, JULY 15**

June 26 - July 23, 2011

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---------|--|--|--|--|
| June 26  Summer Service ... 10:00 am | 27 | 28 | 29 Bell Choir, EW...6:45 pm Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm | 30 | July 1 | 2 |
| 3  Summer Service, 10:00 am | 4  HOLIDAY Office Closed | 5 | 6 Bell Choir EW...6:45 pm Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm | 7 Finance Committee, Meeting Hse., ... 5:30 pm | 8 | 9 |
| 10  Summer Service, 10:00 am | 11 Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm | 12 | 13 Bell Choir, EW...6:45 pm Chant & Meditation Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm | 14 | 15 SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12:00 noon | 16 Small Group Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ...10:00 am |
| 17  Summer Service, 10:00 am | 18 | 19 | 20 SOUNDINGS Mailing, 9:30 am Bell Choir, EW...6:45 pm Chant & Med., MH...7:00 pm, | 21 | 22 | 23 |

June 26... Summer Service - 10 am ... **The Quaker Experience** led by Pamela Hovland & Matt Leonard
Quakerism and Unitarians and Universalists have co-mingled over the centuries and share many values. Pamela and Matt will provide us some of that history as well as define the core testimonies of Quakerism.

July 3 ... Summer Service, 10am **This I Believe: Our Veterans Speak**
The military and Unitarian Universalist values are sometimes an uncomfortable mix for us. Through the stories and belief statements of veterans and those touched by war, we can perhaps find new value in each.

July 10 ... Summer Service, 10am **The Golden Rule revisited** Rev. Debra Haffner
Almost every religion has a version of the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. But what if the other person wants to be treated differently than you do? A sermon on diversity, inclusiveness, and curiosity.

July 17... Summer Service, 10am **Humanistic Religious Naturalism as a UU Life Stance** John Hooper
In defending human freedom and drawing on the revelations of science, both religious humanists and religious naturalists seek to continuously improve our objective understanding of the universe and to celebrate our place in it.

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

View the Best of GA!

Live-Streaming, On-Demand Video, and More!
As General Assembly progresses, coverage will include streaming video, on-demand video and transcripts for major events, and handouts or other presentation materials for workshops.

For live streaming, go to: www.livestream.com/uuaga

- Live-streaming video is best viewed with high-speed Internet; we recommend 1.5Mbps or greater download speed. All GA videos require Flash Player version 9.0.115.0 or higher (a free download from Adobe).

- Be sure your browser allows pop-up windows and Javascript from our site.

- Clicking on the screen of a live-streaming event can cause the Flash Player to pause and not re-start. Close the video window and re-open it to re-start the live stream.

On-demand video will be posted several hours after each live-streamed event (as quickly as UUA/GA volunteers and staff can process them). For Bloggers, go to: <http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga/>. For Twitters, go to UU World's twitter site: <http://twitter.com/#!/uuworld>

Highly Recommended Events

If you were attending GA in person, you would not want to miss any of the events listed below. There are other events covered live, however. Go to: www.uua.org/ga/2011/index.shtml .

Wednesday, June 22

Opening Celebration - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Join in opening our 50th UU GA with joyful worship! We'll reflect on the path we've traveled since we first gathered as UUs in one strong body, and renew our aspirations and commitments. Includes newly commissioned music and voices of past, present and rising leaders.

Thursday, June 23

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)

Worship Service 2:45 - 4:00 PM

Celebrate the installation of the CLF's new Senior Minister, Meg Riley and an inspiring worship service with Laurel Hallman, Bill Sinkford, Peter Morales, more!

Service of the Living Tradition - 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Join us for our annual service where we honor fellowshipped and credentialed religious leaders, remember those who have died, recognize those who have completed active service, and welcome those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year.

The Rev. Michael Schuler will preach "The Face of God or a Face in the Crowd?" Rev. Schuler has served the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI, a UUA "Breakthrough" congregation, for 23 years. He is the author of "Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living" (Berrett-Koehle, 2009).



Saturday, June 25

Ware Lecture: Karen Armstrong 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Karen Armstrong is 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 will argue that compassion and the Golden Rule have been central to all the major faiths, will explore the reasons for this, and argue that an ideology that does not restore compassion to the centre of the spiritual, religious and ethical life fails the test of our time.

Sunday, June 26

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 - 10:15 AM

The Revs Scott Tayler and Kaaren Anderson will preach "Living Outside the Box." Amber Fetner, Music Director, UU Fellowship of Athens, GA conducts the 2011 GA choir.

Closing Celebration 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Celebrate our time together, reflect on the history we have shared, and dream about the possibilities that lie ahead. This service will be filled with song led by GA Music Coordinator, Kellie Walker, GA Choir Director, Amber Fetner and the GA Choir.



SALE

Tag Sale on August 5/6

will be a major fundraiser for the church. The key to a good sale is lots of hand-on help; during the week before to sort and price, and during the sale to assist shoppers, be cashiers, baggers and to keep things moving. Strong bodies for handling furniture are needed. Spanish speaking is a plus, as many young families come from Bridgeport and Norwalk. Add your name to the sheets on the bulletin board in the foyer and we'll get in touch about specific scheduling. Linda Hudson, lhudson30@hotmail.com, 203 226-5335. Donations can be left in the East Wing any time now.

June 20, 2011

Dear Friends,

Carlyn's father, Bruce, was swimming at a friend's summer-home pond in Worcester, MA when something happened – we don't know exactly what – to cause him to go under. A young man in a kayak paddled to him and dove in to rescue him – on his second try he pulled Bruce up, and with the help of others got him out of the water.

Emergency help arrived quickly – after about ten minutes they got a pulse. Bruce was rushed to St. Vincent's hospital where he was put on life support. As soon as we got the call Carlyn, Lory and I drove to the hospital – the prognosis was grim, but not impossible.

We drove home and Carlyn and Lory returned and stayed for six days, waiting, listening to the word from the medical team. When they finally removed life support Bruce breathed on his own for twenty minutes, then the breathing stopped and his life ended.

Carlyn is devastated, of course.

The night before Bruce's funeral I got a call from my daughter Susan to tell me that her father-in-law died, ending his battle with cancer. Chip's dad, Norm, was a gentle man with a warm smile. He and I shared grandchildren, Alex and Hannah – he was grandpa and I was papa.

On July 15 we'll celebrate Norm's life at the Plymouth Plantation, in Plymouth, Mass. where his daughter, Victoria, was married nineteen years ago. I officiated at that happy occasion.

So our summer plans are being altered, but Lory and I will be in Chautauqua most of the second week in July. It's our twelfth year – we've always stayed in the Minister's Union, but this year we'll get to stay at the new Unitarian House.

The first week in August we'll visit Carlyn at the Banff Summer Music Program with opportunities to see and hear her perform, and we'll do some hiking in the Canadian Rockies

Maine is, of course, on the summer list – no reservations required, it's catch as catch can.

I'll be 'on call' for church emergencies most of July and Ed will be on call for most of August. You'll be able to reach us through the office. If you call on off hours you can leave a message on the answering machine. It's extremely important to leave your name and number twice, and to speak very slowly.

Finally a word about our annual every-member canvass: the good news is that we received pledges to cover 95% of what we need for a basic budget. We hope and trust that the other 5% will come from members and friends who have not yet pledged and from others who will increase their pledge. I want to offer a heartfelt thank you for your generosity.

Thanks, too, to folks who have planned summer services, which I encourage you to attend. Have a great summer.

Yours,


A Tear and a Smile, *Kahlil Gibran*

I would not exchange the sorrows of my heart
for the joys of the multitude.

And I would not have the tears that sadness makes
to flow from my every part turn into laughter.
I would that my life remain a tear and a smile.

A tear to purify my heart and give me understanding
of life's secrets and hidden things.

A smile to draw me nigh to the sons of my kind and
to be a symbol of my glorification of the gods.

A tear to unite me with those of broken heart;
a smile to be a sign of my joy in existence.

I would rather that I died in yearning and longing than
that I live weary and despairing.

I want the hunger for love and beauty to be in the
depths of my spirit, for I have seen those who are
satisfied the most wretched of people.

I have heard the sigh of those in yearning and longing,
and it is sweeter than the sweetest melody.

With evening's coming the flower folds her petals
and sleeps, embracing her longing.

At morning's approach she opens her lips to meet
the sun's kiss.

The life of a flower is longing and fulfillment.
A tear and a smile.

The waters of the sea become vapor and rise and come
together and are a cloud.

And the cloud floats above the hills and valleys
until it meets the gentle breeze, then falls weeping
to the fields and joins with brooks and rivers to return
to the sea, its home.

The life of clouds is a parting and a meeting.
A tear and a smile.

Perry's Ponderings ...

A year ago a mother turkey and her baby showed up at church. They heard we were a welcoming congregation and took it to heart. When they came into the foyer Ed let them know that turkey worship was in the courtyard. They showed up regularly and we watched the little one grow up quickly. One day a male joined them and soon there was another poult. This mixed family knew they were safe and embraced here through all the changes of life.

Sadly, at our Youth Group Alumni Reunion last Saturday we found one of the turkeys dead. With "a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words" (from *A Prayer for Animals* by Albert Schweitzer) we honored our fellow life traveler with a ceremonial burial next to Barnaby the squirrel who was laid to rest last fall. In a year's time we witnessed the cycle of life that is a constant part of our congregational life. We are there for each other through it all.

At a cousins' 50th anniversary party, the cake said, "And they said it wouldn't last." With their humor and perseverance this loving couple has illustrated the true meaning of commitment and family. 2nd grader Lillian expressed her appreciation of the commitment of family when she lit a candle upstairs on Father's Day saying, "I'm thankful for my dad for showing me right from wrong, protecting me from danger, and that you would do anything for me." Lillian is loved and safe in her religious home to be able to express her feelings and move her father to tears.

As she graduates and moves onto college, downstairs we honored Stephanie Martinenas's care and protection of our children in the nursery. With cake, party hats, balloons, and noisemakers our youngest children thanked Stephanie for her presence each Sunday.

When I received your uncomfortably long standing ovation at RE Sunday, I was moved beyond words. I was a little embarrassed because the celebration is about the children, youth, parents, volunteers, and growing we do together. I realized that your appreciation of my presence is representative of the connection we have made in our authentic journey. I am so grateful for our place in each other's hearts and lives. As Frank said in his words to new members, "We can do together what we cannot do alone."

RE CALENDAR

Childcare is available during summer services at 10 am.

Our UCW turkey mother and child resting outside the Meeting House a year ago.



Youth Group alumni honoring the deceased turkey with a candlelit service and burial.



Dennis made a decorative turkey grave marker with slate and chalk. asa



Celebrating Stephanie's last Sunday doing childcare. We'll miss you!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

Lily Rappaport, Youth Program Dir.

Worship is an important and sacred part of the youth group community. Our sessions together usually end with a closing ritual in which each person has an opportunity to light a candle for love, joy, anxiety or sorrow that they experienced during the week.

Topics for worship are usually chosen by youth leaders who volunteer to lead the group. In the past months, Erica and Lisa guided us in an ancient Buddhist meditation for compassion. Ally introduced us to a cosmic world of astrology from different cultures. Evan led a provocative discussion about destiny and fate. Maxx shared elements of Wiccan and the Occult. Michael brought his Tarot cards and led us in a special hands-on magic ritual.

We have many occasions to plan engaging worships. However, sometimes worship happens spontaneously and unexpectedly. On Saturday night, Alumni from youth group arranged to meet for a special reunion. As each of us walked up the path to the Meeting House, we encountered a shocking sight. Lying in front of the youth room door was the lifeless form of a wild turkey. We made the best of the unfortunate and upsetting incident by turning it into an opportunity for meaningful connection.

Heilyn and Perry dug a hole for the burial, Amrita gathered leaves to cover its body. Zulaikha read a touching passage to honor the turkey's passing. Dennis designed a headstone. Following the Jewish custom, we each took a turn shoveling newly dug soil into the grave as a sign of respect for the deceased.

Together we stood in the dark of the night, finding peace and comfort. The event was a beautiful opportunity to honor the sacredness of death and life.

UCW alums gather in the youth room for our 2nd UU Alumni Reunion.



Please Call Governor Malloy

Give yourself a pat on the back... AND, please make one more phone call—to the Governor!

Your phone calls and e-mails to our Representatives just helped pass a law in Connecticut to hold health insurance companies accountable for out-of-control rate hikes!

The bill is now heading to the Governor and the insurance industry has not given up trying to stop this reasonable, modest bit of consumer protection. Getting this law passed was a tough fight, so please take a moment to tell Governor Malloy to sign it into law. The new law will require a public hearing for rate increases larger than 10% and give you, the policyholder, an advocate at that hearing so your interests are represented.

For too long, rate increases have been approved with little or no public input and no one to take on the industry's claims. We the people, who pay the bills, need a strong advocate to make sure companies are not asking for far more than they need. Sure, medical costs are going up, but insurance rates are going up more-- sometimes much, much, more. Remember Anthem's rate increase request of up to 47 percent for some health policies last year?

Every time rates go up, people can't afford to pay anymore and have to drop their coverage. We all pay when uninsured Connecticut residents have to seek their care from the Emergency Room!

Last week the Legislature passed by wide margins (36-0 in the Senate, 131-14 in the House) a new law requiring health insurers to be more accountable to the public when they want rate increases. If (WHEN!) SB 11 becomes law it will:

- Increase transparency for consumers, and finally define the terms "excessive" and "unfairly discriminatory" with regards to evaluating rate increase requests.
- Allow the Attorney General or Office of Healthcare Advocacy to call for a symposium (hearing) on a rate that looks excessive or unfair (on small group, individual, or long term care plans).
- Give individuals and small business owners a voice at the department.
- Allow the Attorney General and Healthcare Advocate to request documents, call expert witnesses, testify themselves and offer closing arguments on behalf of consumers.
- Force the Commissioner to "consider any oral or written comments made or submitted at each symposium and written comments submitted directly to the department" before making a decision on the rate increase request.

Take a moment right now to ask Governor Malloy to sign SB 11 into law today!

Please take a minute to help stand get health costs under control.

**Urge Governor Malloy to sign SB 11.
Call TODAY: 860-566-4840**

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

No, hunger doesn't take the summer off. While we tend to think about making food donations in the winter and around the holidays, the summer is a particularly difficult time for the hungry. Food donations drop off as people and organizations are in "summer mode" (we're a good example of that!) and there's no free school breakfast or lunch programs for children at risk.

"There are some things that should not go hand in hand. Seeing infant strollers in soup kitchens is one of them. It's such a conflicting image that brings out conflicting emotions," said Nancy L. Carrington, Executive Director of Connecticut Food Bank.

In Connecticut the average rate of food insecure children rose from 11.62 percent to 13 percent, with more youngsters under the age of 18 living on the brink of hunger.

These are disturbing numbers, but the good thing is that we have the power to do something about it.

Imagine what it would be like if everyone who attended Sunday service brought just 1 food item. Of course you wouldn't be turned away if you brought more, but what if everyone just brought one. Can you imagine the stack of food we could supply? I can.

We collect food for the Connecticut Food Bank every Sunday. Thank you in advance!

And While We're on the Subject of Food...

Since fewer people attend summer services than during the September to June "church year" the Share the Plate offering collected is also smaller. To compensate for that we have one summer recipient. This summer it's Community Gardens in Bridgeport.

Community Gardens in Bridgeport is literally changing the landscape one garden at a time. Right now they're building gardens, supplying families and with produce, and training people in gardening.

The next step is larger gardens, even farms, in Bridgeport and selling the excess produce at a farm stand with the income used to hire people who are unemployed to work the land. "Green" jobs don't get any greener than that!

We're already connected—Jamie Forbes and our youth have been working on the gardens. You can too!

No experience necessary. Just bring some work gloves, your enthusiasm, and a desire to work with our Bridgeport neighbors and our youth to help make fresh, healthy produce and green jobs in Bridgeport a reality.

Let me know if you'd like to get your hands dirty! David Vita at 203.227.7205 x14 or david@uuwestport.org



ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Social Justice Council is seeking new members.

The Council meets monthly at the church and helps to support and set the priorities for all of the Unitarian Church of Westport's very exciting Social Justice Programs. Check out the Church website to see what's going on with our Social Action Committees. Work with a highly dedicated group of UCW volunteers to make a difference!

Interested? Let's talk! Contact David Vita at 203.227.7205 x14 or (david@uuwestport.org).

Looking for a housemate ...

Looking for 1 person to share my cozy Westport home. Great neighborhood, walk to town. 5 minutes to beach, I-95. Private yard with walk-out deck. Your space would be master suite & bath, living room w/fireplace, garage. We share kitchen, dining room, guest bedroom, laundry & basement. Available Sept. 1st or earlier if needed. Unfurnished or furnished. \$1600/mo. Includes all utilities. Contact: Tess 203-856-1160.

Projector Needed ...

I would like to borrow or buy a Bell and Howell movie projector...regular 8 or super 8. Please call Bill Rother 203-227-3850

Looking for driver

to help elder get to and from Dr.'s appointments / shopping. Anywhere from 2 to 7 days / week. If you're interested on either a voluntary or paid basis, please use the contact Beth Dobsevae, L.Ac.,L.M.T. Mobile: 718-219-1648

UU Movie Discussion Group Friday, June 24

The UU Movie Discussion Group will meet on Friday, June 24, to discuss two films: They are "Midnight in Paris" and because "Everything Must Go" has left our area, we are adding the film "Super 8". Dessert poluck at 7:30, discussion at 8. At the Meeting House. All are welcome!

Travel Toiletries!



While you are traveling this summer please gather up those travel-size toiletries from the hotels and drop them off at church....youth group will be making toiletry kits for the shelters again in the fall. Thank you!!

Business Matters

Like Clockwork

At one time Connecticut was the clock manufacturing center of the United States. Most companies, sadly, are long gone from the state and as a brand but at one time our state was home to companies such as; The Ansonia Clock, Waterbury Clock, New Have Clock, Seth Thomas, Sessions Clock and others. The great depression and World War II contributed to their demise.

They may be gone but time goes on, particularly when paying ones pledge! More and more church households are paying their pledge via credit card or through automated bank checks. They go through like "clockwork!" You set it up and never have to worry (well, you do have to let the office know when you have a new credit card number!). Sure makes life easier and I don't have to send out reminders of moneys due.

Give it some thought and contact me for more information.

Have a great summer!

John Carroll
Business Manager/



Flowers for June

June 5

For Perry Jamie, Lily and all the outstanding volunteers in Religious Education. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our precious children this year!

June 12

In loving memory of Wallace A. Ross
From Jill, Valerie & Hal

June 19

In loving memory of
Roseanne George
Given by Frank George

QIGONG Returns this Summer!

Once again, Darryl Manning will be offering a series of classes in Qigong, a non-competitive, self paced, mind-body practice that promotes wellness and relaxation.

Reduce STRESS, Improve BALANCE,
Enhance MENTAL ACUITY,
Tone MUSCLES,
Increase FLEXIBILITY and learn to RELAX while bringing ener-qi into your life!

The gentle movements can be easily adapted, even for the physically challenged, and can be practiced by all age groups. It can be done sitting, standing or lying down. No experience, special equipment or clothing is required-just an open mind.

Tuesdays - July 5th – August 30th
7 – 8 p.m.

At the Meeting House Tuesdays - July 5th – August 30th
7 – 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Darryl Manning @ darrylmanning@gmail.com



Summer Schedule for SOUNDINGS

There will be 2 issues of SOUNDINGS during the summer:
July 15 (deadline) covers dates July 24 thru August 27 followed by August 26 (deadline), covering the period of Aug. 28 through Sept. 17

Please send copy to carpo@optonline.net on or before above deadlines.



SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Church in Westport

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- Steve Axthelm
- Lyn Hamilton
- Sherry Jagerson
- Kristen Leddy
- John Mason
- Sal Mollica
- Jane Sherman

SOUNDINGS Staff

Carol PorterEditor/Design

visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, July 15, at noon (or before). Please e-mail your copy to: carpo@optonline.net

It has been a rich, varied and wonderful musical year. Let's take a moment to remember some of the highlights.

- The Special Projects Choir sang for the Homecoming service;
- seasonal music for the Jewish High Holidays;
- music for the annual congregational meeting;
- special music for the Kenya service;
- music for the Neighborhood circles service;
- the annual United Nations service;
- the annual Coming of Age services;
- the annual family Thanksgiving service with the Youth and Teen Choirs;
- guest trombonist Keith Johnston;
- the service with Mark Morrison-Reed with the Once & Again Folksingers;
- the annual Christmas concert/service;
- the Christmas Pageant and Candlelight services with holiday music;
- Association Sunday;
- Martin Luther King Sunday with Exit 43;
- the Youth service;
- "The Sea of Faith" spring service/concert with the Special Projects Choir and guests;
- Earth Day;
- Easter Sunday;
- RE Sunday;
- Annual summer solstice service.

This is only a small part of what happened.

In a sense every Sunday is a special Sunday because of the people who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to be in one of the choirs. The Chamber Choir continues to develop; the Special Projects Choir continues to work on new repertoire; the Men's Choir and Women's Choir meet weekly and sing often; the Once & Again Folksingers has grown to twice the size that it began; the Youth and Teen Choirs are both capable of leading services in a way that makes good worship happen. We are blessed!!

We also need a summer break! My wish for each of these singers is time to relax and recharge their batteries. A hearty congratulations to each and every one of you! Job well done! THANKYOU for providing such a valuable and inspirational service for your community.





Constitution Revision

Objectives

- (1) Update the Constitution to conform to current practices and best practices in large UU congregations.
- (2) Preserve as much of the current document as possible, re-ordering for clarity and flow, adding new provisions based on best practices and feedback from leaders and members our Congregation

What are the major changes being proposed and how do they impact me?

- **NEW** - added our Mission Statement and a non-discrimination policy.
- Made explicit the relationship of our congregation to the UUA including annual "Fair Share" commitment of support to the Association.
- Changed "church" to "congregation" throughout the document for inclusivity and agreement/conformance with UUA Bylaws.
- **NEW** - added a Committee on Ministries responsible for ensuring that the Board, the Congregation, and its lay and professional religious leaders (ministers) fulfill our Mission and Vision through guidance and assessment of all of the ministries in our Congregation.
- Added language related to membership to include the obligation to participate in congregational life (time and involvement) and also make and full pledges of financial support. Clarified that the right to vote will be afforded only to those who have made and fulfilled a pledge (no dollar amount specified) in the previous twelve months.
- Modified the length of Board of Trustees' service from three two-year terms to two three-year terms. This is in line with congregational and not-for-profit organizations' best practices. Three-year terms give Board members time to learn and mature in board roles before deciding on second terms.
- Formalized the current practice of having an Executive Committee of the Board (Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk & Treasurer) empowered to act on behalf of the Board between meetings.
- Formalized and defined the role of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee to explicitly recognize its function in developing leaders in our Congregation.
- Changed the date of the Annual Meeting to the second Sunday in June. This is in-line with our fiscal year end of June 30. This new date for the Annual Meeting gives elected leaders (board and committees) the summer months to work on transition, retreats, visioning and planning. This timing also gives the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee more time to develop its slate of candidates for elected committees of the congregation. (See Calendar section on the reverse of this page.)
- Clarified the process for proposing candidates for election to the congregation as well as the process for running for an elected committee or the Board by petition.
- **NEW** - established a provision and process for absentee voting for elections only.
- **NEW** – allows for electronic communications.
- **NEW** - proposes placing limits on the ability of the endowment committee to approve expenditures or encumbrances greater than 10% of the value of the endowment without congregational approval.

What is the new calendar for elections?

For Annual Meeting elections the calendar is:

- Slate of candidates as selected by the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee is announced April 1 (*Soundings*/web)• Biographical information for slate and *any additional petitions* to due to the Clerk May 1
- All information will be distributed to congregation by May 15

As Senior Minister, how has Frank been involved in this process?

Frank has reviewed with members of the Task Force our proposed changes and is broadly in agreement with them and believes that these changes will be fundamental for us in the future. We are continuing to work with Frank and the Board on minor revisions.

How can I learn more about these proposed revisions?

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 at the following times:

Tuesday, June 28, 7 to 9:30 PM
Tuesday, July 26, 7 to 9:30 PM
Sunday, August 14 11:30 to 1:00 (after service)
Tuesday, August 23, 7 to 9:30 PM
Tuesday, September 13, 7 to 9:30 PM

The Task Force will also be sending out information in *Soundings*, to members who are on our e-mail distribution lists, and posting complete information and all documents referred to on our website, www.uuwestport.org

How does our Constitution actually get changed?

The proposed Constitution will be put to a vote at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2011. If passed at the Annual Meeting, provisions in our constitution require a second vote. A special meeting would be called one month following the approval at the Annual Meeting to ratify the Constitution as passed (without changes). If passed as intended, the next Annual Meeting will held on Sunday, June 10, 2012.

What if I still have questions or concerns about this process?

The best place to learn more is to attend on the of the sessions on the dates above. You may also contact Denny Davidoff or any member of the Task Force.

*Denny Davidoff davidoffdenise@yahoo.com - Lynda Shannon Bluestein Blueslyn@gmail.com -
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Sal Mollica smollica2@gmail.com - Ted Yang Ted_yang@yahoo.com*

Task Force Members

Denny Davidoff, Chair

*Lynda Shannon Bluestein, Randy Burnham, Carolyn Lavender, John Mason, Sal Mollica and Ted Yang
Chuck Colletti, ex-officio*

Source Materials Used

- (1) Constitution of TUCW rev.2001 (latest version);
- (2) *A Guide to Effective Writing and Revising of Your Congregation's Bylaws (UUA)*;
- (3) *Current By-Laws Provisions & Commentary from First Parish UU of Arlington (3/28/10)*;
- (4) *Consultation on Staff Patterns at TUCW* by Nancy Bowen (4/11/05);
- (5) *Annual Giving Assessment and Consultation at TUCW* by Larry Wheeler (2/4/08); and
- (6) A proposal on changing voting provisions submitted and signed by 5 members.





FROM THE BOARD

Subject: Unitarian Church – Pledge Drive Falls Short

Dear Members and Friends,

This weekend your Board of Trustees wraps up our Annual Pledge Drive for the fiscal year, beginning July 1. How did we do as a congregation? Did we successfully fund our next twelve months of everything we love about our Church – the worship, ministry, music, social justice, religious education and youth programs?

Here's our report.

A total of 185 households, or nearly half of all households who pledged last year and pledged again this year, answered our call to increase your pledge. We thank you. We also thank the 43 who pledged for the first time, and all of you who pledged as generously as you could, whatever the amount.

Unfortunately, these successes aren't enough to offset the fact that the congregation's overall participation in the pledge drive is insufficient. About 33% of all households have not yet pledged. While we appreciate that some are experiencing economic hardship, the bottom line is that we have not raised enough money to support our church at its current level of staffing and programming. We need to raise another \$30,000 to minimally fund our budget – and that does not include our full Fair Share to the UUA, giving our staff a modest raise after four years, and contributing sufficiently to our maintenance fund, all things that are necessary for our budget to be truly sustainable. And hiring an Assistant Minister is impossible.

The reality is that without additional funds, we will be forced to lay off one or more of our dedicated staff. The Board is now wrestling with this painful decision.

We're telling you this because we believe you deserve to know. We're all in this together. The entire congregation must own the responsibility for funding our Church. If not, we are not the Church we think we are, and we must downsize to a level that we can realistically maintain.

You can pledge, or increase your pledge, by emailing John Carroll [john@uuwestport.org] or online at www.uuwestport.org

Respectfully,

Chuck Colletti and the Board of Trustees

| FISCAL YEAR 2012 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN RESULTS & ANALYSIS (as of 6/17/2011) | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|-----------|------------------|---|----------|
| Households That Pledged | | | | | | |
| Households Pledging | | Pledge Amount | | | | |
| # | % | Pledge | FY 11 | FY 12 | Difference | % Change |
| 142 | 34.1% | Same | \$266,088 | \$266,088 | \$0 | 0% |
| 185 | 44.5% | Increase | \$277,856 | \$341,452 | \$63,596 | 23% |
| 46 | 11.1% | Decrease | \$93,548 | \$64,875 | -\$28,673 | -31% |
| 43 | 10.3% | New Pledges | \$0 | \$26,240 | \$26,240 | N/A |
| 416 | 100% | Total | | \$698,655 | | |
| | | | | \$736,000 | Needed for "status quo" No "wish list" items | |
| Households That Did Not Pledge For FY 12 | | | | | | |
| 40 | Responded with hardship or other reason | | | | | |
| 53 | Pledged in FY 11 but no response for FY 12 | | | | | |
| 30 | Member households that did not pledge in FY 11 nor respond for FY 12 | | | | | |
| 59 | Non-Member households that did not pledge in FY 11 nor respond for FY 12 | | | | | |
| 15 | First Year RE Parents in FY 11 expected to pledge instead of pay RE fee | | | | | |
| 197 | Total Households Not Pledging | | | | | |
| 613 | Total Households In Church | | | | | |

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Lanouette's Luau-wow!

On Friday, July 15th

From 6-9 PM at Long Shore in Westport

Some may remember, UCW's long time member Ken Lanouette used to run a mid-summer clam bake for the church at the beach. It was a both a fund raiser and a way for the congregation to gather over the summer.

It's in that same spirit, we've created a "Luau (yes, two U's for UU) - Wow" and named Ken honorary chairman in recognition for his long time service to our congregation!

So get out your Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts (the coconut bra's are reserved for the men who will be selling exotic drinks) and plan to join in on the fun.

Adults are \$25, Kids 12-18 just \$10 and kids under 12 are FREE.

Price includes a decadent feast: Pig Roast w/pineapple vegetable skewers, roasted corn, potatoes and salads.

Bring your own chair, beverages (don't forget we'll be selling tropical cocktails) and friends! Plus we'll have a wiffle ball tourney!

Please RSVP by July 7th by emailing Jim Keenan at jjkeenan@optonline.net.

You don't want to miss the fun!



SUMMER SERVICES



June 26 – September 4, 2011. All services at 10:00 am

On "Share the Plate Sundays", half of the collection plates will go to Community Gardens in Bridgeport.

Non-perishable foods will be collected for the Connecticut Food Bank each Sunday in the foyer.

Childcare is Available at All Services

June 26

Led by Pamela Hovland and Matt Leonard **The Quaker Experience** Trustee: Lynn Whitton

Quakerism and Unitarians and Universalists have co-mingled over the centuries and share many values. Pamela and Matt will provide us some of that history as well as define the core testimonies of Quakerism -- for example, the strong adherent to peaceful conflict resolution and equality for all. They will then guide us into an experience of a silent Quaker 'Meeting.'

Both Pamela and Matt have ties to the Religious Society of Friends. Pamela and her family have been long time attenders of the Meeting in Wilton. Matt is a 'birthright Quaker,' meaning he was raised in the Quaker faith and attended Meetings in several communities.

July 3

This I Believe: Our Veterans speak Trustee: Stephen Axthelm

The military and Unitarian Universalist values are sometimes an uncomfortable mix for us. Through the stories and belief statements of veterans and those touched by war, we can perhaps find new value in each.

With Ken Lanouette, Sam Brody, Melinda McMillan, John McWeeney, Bill Rother, Vidal Clay.

July 10

Rev. Debra W. Haffner **The Golden Rule revisited** Trustee: Randy Burnham

Almost every religion has a version of the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. But what if the other person wants to be treated differently than you do? A sermon on diversity, inclusiveness, and curiosity.

The Rev. Dr. Debra W. Haffner is our endorsed community minister and has been a member of UCW since 1989.

July 17

John Hooper **Humanistic Religious Naturalism as a UU Life Stance** Trustee: Jane Sherman

In defending human freedom and drawing on the revelations of science (without resorting to supernatural hypotheses), both religious humanists and religious naturalists seek to continuously improve our objective understanding of the universe and to celebrate our place in it.

John is a former Chair of the Board of Trustees at UCW, and is very involved with the UUA, having been president of the Unitarian Universalist Religious Naturalists (UURN) and was recently elected president of the Association of Unitarian Universalist Humanists.

July 24

Perry Montrose **Our Sources** Trustee: Denny Davidoff

Where do you find inspiration? What are your sources of spiritual growth, wisdom, and connection? In addition to our seven Principles, Unitarian Universalism has six "official" sources from which we draw. In this worship journey we will experientially discover those six and reflect on the rich springs that feed us personally.

Perry Montrose has spent eight years as a Unitarian Universalist Director of Religious Education, half of them in this wonderful community in Westport to which he feels deeply connected. He is appreciative of each person's unique presence and offers companionship to people of all ages on the spiritual journey.

July 31

Steve Gormley **Spiritual Birth through Religious Death:** A Unitarian Universalists' Journey through the formal renunciation of and defection from the Catholic ChurchTrustee: Kristen Leddy

Steve shares the emotionally complex journey of his thoughtfully considered break with the Catholic church on spiritual, moral and political grounds. He and his wife Alex are raising their 4 children in this congregation, and have been members for 5 years.

Aug. 7

Marianne Barber **"Inspirations"** Trustee: Chuck Colletti

Marianne has been on the Inspiration Committee for the Small Group Ministry for many years, creating thoughtful, challenging programs for the group to discuss each month. She'll choose one of her favorite programs to share with us.

Marianne has been an active member of our congregation since 2005 with her son, Lucas, and her husband Schuyler Warner.

Aug. 14

Denny Davidoff **"Lately, I've Been Reading ..."** Trustee: Lyn Hamilton

I keep on saving things to read with friends in the congregation. Here's my opportunity to share and reflect. Serving 8 years as the former moderator of the UUA, Denny is a Trustee at the UCW and continues to serve the UUA and world religious community in myriad ways, doing development for Meadville Lombard Theological School, for one.

Aug. 21

Shakti Durga **Modern Guru** Trustee: Elaine McMillan

Shakti Durga used to be a left brained analytical lawyer with no time for 'fuzzy' spiritual stuff. A series of epiphanies changed her life. She is now clairvoyant, clairsentient, telepathic and leads a rapidly growing multifaith spiritual charity in Australia called Shanti Mission. From seeing the chakras of litigants, judges and other lawyers wobbling around in court, to blessing disciples and awakening their kundalini, Shakti Durga has had a fascinating journey. She will share a little, facilitate a guided meditation and sacred music with two of her spiritually empowered, beloved disciples, Parvati Ma and Maitreya. Shakti Durga teaches intuitively through energetic transfer.

Aug. 28

Lynda Shannon **Story Matters** (and never let the facts get in the way of a good one!) ... Trustee: Sherry Jagerson

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."

Lynda and Paul have been members of this church going on 20 years and have collaborated on many summer services. Lynda does the preaching and Paul does the music with a lot of help from his friends.

Sept. 4

David Connell **"Future More or Less Vivid"** Trustee: Kristin Leddy

The title comes from a paragraph in Wheelock's Latin Grammar on one of the verb forms in classical Latin. I am interested in looking at the future -- hope, intentionality, resignation as meaningful ways for spiritual persons to engage with the idea of futurity.

David is a life-long church musician who studied at Yale Divinity School and served on their Chapel staff for 5 years. As the director of Norfield Congregational Church's Wholeness Ministries, he nurtures healing, health and wellness in the congregation.