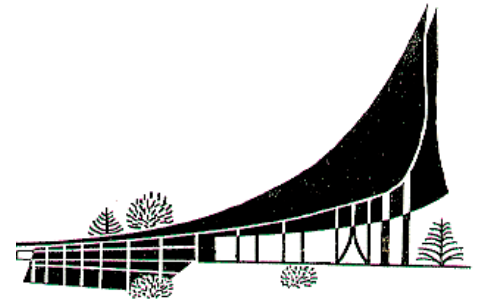


# SOUNDINGS

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



**THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAR. 11**

March 6 - March 26, 2011

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Mar. 6</b> Service: 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Nominating Committee, East Wing ... 12:15 pm UN Com. Chapel, 12:30pm UN Committee, Chapel ... 12:30 pm	<b>7</b> O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	<b>8</b> Senior Luncheon, East Wing., ... 11:00 am Social Justice Council, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm Congregational Community Organizing, Chapel ... 7:30 pm <i>In Between:</i> Odyssey... Library ... 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com. M.H., ... 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Improv.,M.H., - 7:30 pm Special Projects Choir ... 8:00 pm	<b>11</b> SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm	<b>12</b> Circle 18 Social Event, M.H. ... 9:00 am Creating Worship, Chapel, ... 9:30 am Youth Group Lock-in, Meeting Hse.,
<b>13</b> Worship Service: 9 & 11 am OWL Parent Gr., Library, ... 12:30 pm Rainbow Task Force, Chapel ... 12:45 pm Congregational Feedback, Sanctuary ... 1:00 pm	<b>14</b> Board of Trustees , Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	<b>15</b> When & Where to Retire, Chapel - 7 pm Chamber Choir, Sanct. - 7:45 pm	<b>16</b> SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm Self Acceptance, E.W., ... 7:00 pm NVC Practice, Chapel ... 7:00 pm Abolish Death Penalty, Fellow. Rm., 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Improv. M.H., ... 7:30 PM Special Projects- 8pm RE Council, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Concert Dress Rehearsal, Sanct. ...10:00 am Small Group Facilitators, M.H., ... 10:00 am Circle 9 Event, M.H., ...6:00pm
<b>20</b> Worship Services: 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat, 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Abolish Death Penalty, E.W., ... 12:15 pm OWL Parent Group, Library ... 12:30 pm	<b>21</b> O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	<b>22</b> When & Where to Retire, Chapel - ... 7:00 pm Environmental Action, E.W., ... 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm Self Acceptance, E.W., ... 7:00 pm <i>In Between:</i> Library ... 7:30 pm Congregational Comm.Organizing, Chapel ... 7:30 pm Men's Choir - 8pm	<b>24</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Improv. M.H., ... 7:30 pm Women's Choir, ... 7:45 pm	<b>25</b> SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm UU Movie Discussion , Meeting Hse., ... 7:30 pm	<b>26</b> Creating Worship, Chapel, ... 9:30 am

## SERMONS

March 6... 9 & 11 am ..... **"In the Spirit of Love"** .....  
*This Youth-Led service is titled "In the Spirit of Love". Join us as we stand together on the side of love and reflect on how we can promote world peace through love and compassion. Frank will participate, offering a (brief) sermon--in the spirit of love.*

March 13 ... 9 & 11 am ..... **Tea and Flowers** ..... The Rev. Lee Barker  
*We're pleased to welcome Lee Barker to our pulpit. He is president and professor of ministry at Meadville Lombard (UU) Theological School in Chicago, a position he has held since 2003. Prior to his presidency, he served 25 years in the parish ministry.*

March 20 ... 9 am ..... **"A Gift From the Sea"** ..... Frank Hall  
 11 am ..... **Spring Concert/Service** ..... Special Projects Choir  
*The Special Projects Choir presents their annual Spring Concert/Service with music of Bach, Barber, and Mozart, with special guest musicians. Frank Hall offers reflections on the poetry/lyrics.*

# Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

## GA's Affordable... So, GO Already!

You've heard that thousands of UUs from across the US journey to GA (General Assembly). You've learned that GA is the way that UUs do business. Actions of social justice are passed at GA, and you have a voice in the discussion. You'll experience wonderful, uplifting worship services—morning and night—led by some of our best worship leaders, with glorious music & inspiring messages. But how can you afford it????

GA does not have to break your budget.

Expense	Cost
Registration: Register before May 1, when it goes to \$360. Pay in March/April	\$315.
Transportation: Book now! And check your	\$10 - \$201
Hotel: 5 night total, if you share with others. Pay in June/July.	\$170
Total	\$495 - \$686

## Got eBooks?

The UUA Bookstore now offers many new and classic book titles from Skinner House and Beacon Press (UUA affiliated publishing houses) as eBooks. For a list of titles currently available as well as information on how to download eBooks, go to

[www.uuabookstore.org/client/client\\_pages/eBooks.cfm](http://www.uuabookstore.org/client/client_pages/eBooks.cfm)

The site includes a link to their electronic newsletter—sign up to learn about new eBook titles right away.

## Amazing Lineup at District Gathering

Two of the most dynamic UUs will be inspiring all who attend the 2011 District Annual Meeting May 6-7, at the Morristown Hyatt.

- Mark Morrison-Reed will be the keynote speaker. Frank Hall, reflecting on Morrison-Reed's recent weekend at UCW said, "The word that comes readily to mind is 'moving'. He stirred our emotions, challenged our thinking, and encouraged us in our work." Rev. Morrison-Reed is a prominent African-American scholar and author of *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*.

- Friday night Peter Mayer, singer-songwriter, will entertain us. Peter writes songs about interconnectedness, the human journey, and about the beauty and mystery of the world. Whimsical, humorous, and profound, one of Peter's most beloved songs is "Blue Boat Home." To hear samples of his songs, go to [www.petermayer.net/music/](http://www.petermayer.net/music/)



AND, you can attend Frances Sink's workshop, "Covenanting with Our Justice Seeking Values."

Register! Go to:

[www.uumetrony.org/am11/registration.htm](http://www.uumetrony.org/am11/registration.htm)

*On March 12th, the church will once again be the location for the*

## Fairfield County Festival of Women Composers.

Performing will be members Patrice Fitzgerald and Richard Leslie, along with a number of Fairfield County residents. This exciting and varied evening of classical works by women, an offshoot of the 11-year-old Hartford Festival.

Featured will be Suzanne Corey-Sahlin, principal Violist of the Ridgefield Symphony and the Norwalk Symphony, playing the premiere of a viola solo recently composed by Loretta Lazaris. Also featured will be Yaroslav Kargin, who has been a solo violist with numerous orchestras throughout the world and has taught at Yale, playing Grazina Bacewicz's "Caprice."

Join us for this wonderful celebration of music composed by women throughout the ages. In addition, a quartet of women — Kate Humphrey, Jackie Steiner, Marsha Cerulli, and Sylvia Corrigan -- will be performing an Amy Beach song for four female voices with text by Shakespeare.

Tickets: \$15/\$10 for students. Tickets will be available at the door.

**Date: Saturday, March 12th, 2011**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Venue: Unitarian Church in Westport**

**Address: 10 Lyons Plains Rd., Westport CT**

February 28, 2011

Dear Friends,

For the past twelve years Randy Cohen has written a column in the New York Times Sunday Magazine called The Ethicist.

Last Sunday he wrote his 614th piece to say Goodbye. I was sorry to read that he will no longer be responding to the moral dilemmas presented to him by folks from all walks of life. It was a one-page piece, usually there were two situations presented. He offered serious, thoughtful responses, with a light touch. He had a well-balanced sense of humor.

He wrote, “I came to see that what readers often sought was not a ruling on what to do – they seemed to know – but an argument for why to do it.” He said that his approach to the column and in his personal life was ‘resolutely secular,’ not religious. I found it secular humanistic, which gives it a religious flavor, at least in the generic sense of what religion really is.

His column had a down-to-earth touch with questions like, “May you move to high-priced unoccupied seats at a ball game; must you warn an observant Jewish in-law that, contrary to what he supposes, the soup he’s about to eat is not kosher? May you pocket lots of motel soap and donate it to the homeless?”

“Modest problems, perhaps, but when dissected they revealed much about power, money, race, class, gender, the mutual obligations and unspoken assumptions that connect us.”

He says, “I wasn’t hired to personify virtue, to be a role model for the kids, but to write about virtue in a way readers might find engaging.” He adds, “What spending my workday thinking about ethics did do was make me acutely conscious of my own transgressions, of the times I fell short.” See what I mean about bridging the gap between a religious confession and a simple, matter-of-fact secular comment?

The column itself, aside from what he might say, offered a reminder that we make decisions every day and whether we’re conscious of it or not we are guided in the decision-making process by an underlying sense of morality, which is at once highly personal and at the same time part of a larger social structure.

I hope the Times will keep the column, but after twelve years it wasn’t simply another column but it was uniquely him. Sure, someone else can do it – and I hope they will – but I’ll miss his special touch – his private brand of humor and willingness to be vulnerable.

I was glad to learn that he’s working on a new program for public radio, “A Question of Ethics.” We’ll be hearing, rather than reading him. For me his departure will leave an empty space in my Sunday Times magazine.

Now I invite you to turn this page over and read a couple of old, familiar poems that contain little hints about our ethical lives, about the decision-making process and what’s behind those little, day-to-day decisions – the expressed or implied promises we’ve made and are determined to keep, as best we can.

Yours,



**The Road Not Taken** - *Robert Frost*

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

.....  
**Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening** - *Robert Frost*

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

## Perry's Ponderings ...

Sometimes in our lives we endeavor to conquer an enormous challenge because we are compelled to do so in our spirit. This is what Avery Forbes, Jamie's daughter, is doing at the end of March when she begins her attempt to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. Avery is embarking on this unbelievable journey for the unique life experience and raising money for children in the process.

Avery spent time this past Sunday sharing her upcoming adventure with our K-4th graders. We started the lesson with *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*, a story in which Henry David Thoreau, portrayed as a bear, decides to walk the 30 miles to Fitchburg while his friend chooses to work to earn money in order to take the train. His friend does get there first, but Henry definitely has the more interesting journey and responds to being told the train is faster with, "I know. I stopped for blackberries."

While Henry's 30 mile hike is the distance from church to New Haven, Avery's hike spans the 2,181 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine. Thoreau climbed Katahdin and wrote about it in *The Maine Woods*. Carl Serbell made the trek up Katahdin this past summer; ask Carl about his adventure.

Avery had the children brainstorm what she would need on her long trip. They were creatively thorough, even suggesting a messenger pigeon for communication. Then Avery showed the children her amazing gear that combines functionality with very little weight, including a two-inch stove and a raincoat that can also be a tent.

After the presentation the children went on their own virtual Appalachian Trail hike. Each child had a gear list to use when they came across obstacles like "dirty river" or "bear" and learned more about the trip.

When 5th grader Olivia heard what the session was about, her eyes widened. Hiking the Appalachian Trail is on Olivia's "life plan," so she sees Avery making that dream a reality. Avery is also helping dreams come true by raising money for Teach for America and the Beardsley School. If you would like to contribute a per mile pledge to Avery's cause, please contact her at [avery.forbes@gmail.com](mailto:avery.forbes@gmail.com). You can also follow her progress on her website – [www.averyforbes.com](http://www.averyforbes.com). Avery will have our supportive energy for each of her 5 million steps over the next 6 months.

## RE CALENDAR

### Sun Mar 6

9am & 11am Youth Led  
Worship - Sanctuary

### Sat Mar 12

Youth Group Lock-In

### Sun Mar 13

12:30pm OWL Parent Group  
- Library

### Thur Mar 17

7:30pm RE Council - Fell. Rm

### Sat-Sun Mar 19-20

Jr.High Con - Stony Brook, LI

Sun Mar 20 12:30pm OWL Parent  
Group - Library



Avery Forbes shows the K-4 children the map of the Appalachian Trail before her upcoming 2,181 mile hike.



Avery demonstrates to the children her raincoat/tent for her hike.

coverage the murder got, so awareness is apparently not the issue here. The real issues are comprehension and courage.

I want to help people understand that (to reference a great children's author) a person's a person, no matter how queer. I also want to help LGBT children, teens, and



The Rainbow Task Force

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

Lily Rappaport, Youth Program

*The Laramie Project* screening brought in over 80 teenagers and adults and raised \$630 to sponsor Fairfield County youth to attend the True Colors Conference in March at the University of Connecticut. True Colors is the largest LGBT Youth Conference in the country.

An integral part of the evening's success can be attributed to the dedicated work of the Rainbow Task Force, and in particular from its enthusiastic youth members. One member, Jeanette Hamilton, wrote the following reflection:

After the church's screening of *The Laramie Project*, Robin McHaelen, Director of the True Colors Conference, led an engaging discussion. She asked us to think of a word to describe the movie and our reaction to it. People used words such as, "powerful," "anger," and "sad." Although I did not contribute a word at the time, I believe if I had, my word would have been "inspirational." True Colors is the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Youth Conference in the country.

As a high school student, I have often been asked what I want to do with my life. After watching *The Laramie Project*, I realized that I want to educate.

However, I don't want to teach in a classroom, nor do I want to teach just one age group. I want to teach everyone about compassion and understanding. I love to write, and I aim to be an author, so I can utilize those skills. In *The Laramie Project*, there is a big focus on how much press

coverage the murder got, so awareness is apparently not the issue here. The real issues are comprehension and courage. I want to help people understand that (to reference a great children's author) a person's a person, no matter how queer. I also want to help LGBT children, teens, and adults find the courage to come out as being so, and help non-LGBT people to stand up for what they know is right when they see someone being physically or verbally assaulted for being LGBT. The Laramie Project has inspired me to work towards equal human rights for everyone. I will, one day, contribute to the fact that Matthew Shepard's death was not in vain.

## JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL JUSTICE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND AND ACTION!

*Sign-up sheets on Sunday in the Church Foyer*

### **"IN BETWEEN: MEMOIR OF AN INTEGRATION BABY"**

*Sponsored by the Racial Justice Committee*

*Led by Cheryl Paul -*

*3 Wednesdays, March 9, 23 in Library.*

*April 6 in Chapel. 7:30 - 9:00 pm*

Join a lively discussion on Mark Morrison-Reed's book, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*. An ordained UU Minister, Morrison-Reed gives voice to the unspoken story of those Afro-Americans who were among the first to bring racial diversity to their neighborhoods, schools, churches, and workplaces. Denny Davidoff says, "... Mark's family stories, in their complexity, history, accomplishment and influence are more fascinating than most."

*Cheryl Paul has been a member of the church since 1995, and serves as the chair of the Partner Church committee and as co-coordinator of the Summer Services. She is also on the Racial Justice Committee, and found Mark Morrison-Reed's workshop exciting and surprising. The course will revolve around questions created by the author to discuss his book. David Vita has copies of the book available for purchase in his office.*

### **"THE RIDE"**

*Sponsored by the*

*COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY*

*Led by Howard Aibel and Perry Montrose*

*2 Wednesdays, March 30 and April 6, 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Library*

Join us in a discussion about the moral and political issues surrounding the death penalty. *The Ride: A Shocking Murder*

and a Bereaved Father's Journey From Rage to Redemption, by Brain MacQuarrie, provides a "compelling and deeply moving" catalyst to our sharing. The riveting true story of Bob Curley's transformation from actively supporting the death penalty after his son's murder, to speaking out against it, will help us get in touch with our own emotional reactions and move to a deeper understanding. This is a timely discussion, as a bill to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment without parole will be voted on in the CT General Assembly this year.

*Starting on February 1st, copies of the book will be held at the Westport Library circulation desk under "The Unitarian Church."*

*UCW member Howard Aibel is a retired business lawyer who has had a continuing interest in civil rights and the legality of the death penalty under our Constitution. Perry Montrose is in his fourth year as Director of Religious Education in the congregation, appreciating the journey we are on together and taking a personal interest in a meaningful discussion of this topic.*

### **CONGREGATION BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

*Led by Pat Speer and David Vita*

*2 Wednesdays, March 9 and 23, 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Chapel*

What is it, why are so many UU congregations involved, and what's happening in Bridgeport? Congregation Based Community Organizing (CBCO) is a model of community organizing, of social activism, that fits our UU faith's belief in the pursuit of social, economic, and racial justice to create a better world to live in. Part of our UU mission is to move beyond our walls and join in building bridges across the class, religious, and racial barriers that divide us. Congregation based community organizing does that. It's also a clear recognition that what we can achieve in working together is much greater than what we can achieve by working alone. Reading handouts will be provided

*Pat Speer is the organizer for the Connecticut Sponsoring Committee, a CBCO, working in Fairfield and New Haven*

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## **DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE!**

*From Egypt to Madison, Wisconsin to Bridgeport, the words of singer, song writer, poet, labor organizer Joe Hill are as appropriate today as they were a century ago.*

JOIN US FOR THE REEL JUSTICE FILM



## **The Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky & His Legacy**

Saturday, March 5 at 7:30

**With Special Guest: Pat Speer**

*Organizer for the Connecticut Sponsoring Committee, an Alinsky-model Congregation Based Community Organizing (CBCO) effort now organizing in Fairfield and New Haven Counties.*

The Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky & His Legacy, narrated by actor Alec Baldwin, examines the life and legacy of the controversial community organizer Alinsky and his modern-day legacy. The first half of the program chronicles the Chicago-based organizer Saul Alinsky and three key Alinsky organizations to show how his techniques developed over time including The Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council, in Chicago's blighted stockyards in the 1930's. By forming an unprecedented coalition between the Catholic Church and the Meatpackers Union, Alinsky was able to force several landmark concessions from the meatpacking industry. These three organizations show how Alinsky's ideas, in turn, influenced the civil rights movement, the farm workers struggle and many Vietnam era political protests. The second half of the program jumps forward to the late 1990's and examines two contemporary 'peoples organizations' that are part of the Industrial Areas Foundation-a national network.

## Computer Needs...

Would appreciate someone to come in to assist with computer needs: gmail, archiving, loading talks to ipod, photos etc.. Pay negotiable. Ph: 203-966-2527, email ninacara2@hotmail.com

## Our Sunday Bagels ...

Our many thanks to Darran (prioritier) for his donation of bagels each week and to Myra who always has them ready for us to pick up. Let us show our appreciation by choosing Village Bagels in Norwalk for bagels and their wonderful catering service.



VILLAGE BAGELS  
415 Westport Avenue  
Norwalk, CT  
Tel. # 203-847-3383

## UU Movie Discussion Group Friday, Mar. 25



The UU Movie Discussion Group will meet on Friday, March 25 to discuss the film "Another Year". If a second film does not recommend itself we will view a DVD about the film director William Wyler. Potluck dessert at 7:30, discussion at 8. At the Meeting House. All are welcome!

*Congratulations to Peg Ullrich on winning our Annual Academy Awards Contest!*

## **The Vision Process for our Congregation is getting started!**

**Please hold the date of  
April 30th  
for a full-day Vision event.**

## **The "Vision of Us" (VOU)**

*Please contact  
Mary Money at  
mary.money@hotmail.com  
if you are interested in  
helping out in any part  
of the process.*

## Business Matters

### *It Is The Thought That Gifts!*

We all, well most all people here, step up to the plate with an annual pledge commitment. The aggregate amount enables the church to deliver a year around ministry to the congregation, local community and people in need. Programs, worship services, youth group, RE, events, SGMS, neighborhood circles, music programs, concerts, pastoral care, upkeep of the grounds, buildings, utilities, staff, etc. Pledging makes me think about the exercise of putting a colored dye (environmentally safe, of course!) in a stream to see where it goes. After a while it is indistinguishable and everything looks the same. Pledging is sort of like that. We know not where our moneys specifically go (other than looking at the over all budget).

Periodically some one from the congregation will approach a staff member and say, "I would like to do something special, above and beyond my pledge, for the church." Normally they have something specific in mind and other times they welcome suggestions. The result, however, is that gifts, small and large, are made to: do plantings, landscaping, buy materials and supplies, computers, books and videos, honor a deceased member, cover catering for a special event, or to pay for an unbudgeted expense. It is the thought that gifts! People wanting to make a difference.

After I published (and sang at the Cabaret) the "Stop the Snow, Stop the Snow, Stop the Snow" song, the church received donations, some small and some very generous, to apply to the cost of snow removal. They knew the church would be way over budget on its snow removal costs and wanted to help. Again, it is the thought that gifts!

Hopefully the snow is behind us yet there is always something else that pops up unexpectedly. Give that some thought!

Can't wait to see green.

*John Carroll*



## Flowers for February

### February 6

In memory of Jacqui Smith-Taylor  
Somewhere over the rainbow

We celebrate the lives of my father,  
Louis; mother, Frances;  
brother, Ken; and son, David.  
We are blessed to have such  
beautiful and loving angels watching  
over us.

*Given by Alice Rago*

### February 13

Given in loving memory of  
Anita W. Dore  
by her children, grandchildren  
and great grandchildren.  
Anita was a long time member  
of the congregation who died on  
November 6, 2010  
at the age of 95.

### February 20

In memory of our son Peter who  
took his spirit walk on 2/18/01.  
A man who lived in the present with  
passion and humor.  
*Given by Jim & Pat Francek*

In loving memory of Marie Coviello  
Forever in my heart  
*Given by her daughter,  
Joann Coviello*

### February 27

In celebration of my 80th birthday  
which is today!  
*Given by Eloise Peterson*

*To order service flowers  
contact Jan Braunle in the  
church office at 203 227-7205  
or jan@uuwestport.com*



## FROM THE BOARD

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Your Board of Trustees has appointed a Task Force to do a full review of our congregation's Constitution.

"Why?" you might ask, "is this *the right time* or the *right thing* to do?"

There are many reasons why this is both the right time and the right thing to do.

Below are a few incidents that led to the Board's call for a review:

At last year's Annual Meeting questions from the floor about the Slate of Nominees presented for election brought out how confusing the roadmap for the Nominating Committee is - as described in our current Constitution.

The dates for certain governance processes that are set down in our Constitution don't work well in the life of the congregation - such as an Annual Meeting in September and election of Board and Committee members.

And there are other reasons too. We now have a Mission Statement that probably needs to be included in our Constitution.

We have not amended our Constitution since 2004 and a best practice for congregation is to have a review every five years to make sure the roadmap for governance is a good one and agrees with the needs and challenges of the changing environment in congregational life.

So - a Task Force was appointed and charged to 1) review our Constitution for a) clarity in language b) clarity in interpretation and c) conformance to best practices for a congregation of our size; 2) interview leaders of elected committees in TUCW to see how the bylaws work (or not) and to do focused research into the bylaws and constitutions of other UU congregations to identify sources and examples for us to use in proposing changes to our own Constitution; and, 3) prepare recommendations proposing changes for congregational review and study by May of 2011.

After the Board has reviewed the proposed changes, a number of congregational forums will be scheduled between May and our next Annual Meeting, Sunday September 25, 2011.

This timeframe will give the congregation ample time to become familiar with and debate the proposed changes the Task Force has identified, and perhaps add others.

At the annual meeting the proposed revisions will be considered, debated and voted upon.

Our present Constitution mandates us to vote on proposed changes twice once at the meeting and again 21 days later so there is ample time to be thoughtful about any changes.

The Constitution Review Task Force welcomes your input, concerns and suggestions. The committee members are Denny Davidoff (chair), Sal Mollica, John Mason, Ted Yang, Lynda Shannon Bluestein, Carolyn Lavender, Randy Burnham, and Chuck Colletti. Please contact any of us with your thoughts, input and ideas.

Respectfully,

Chuck Colletti

*Chair, Board of Trustees*

One of the requirements for a degree in music is a course called Music History. I remember being introduced to dozens of names, faces and their respective compositions. While studying the Classical period, (Mozart, Beethoven, et al.) I remember coming across the name of Louis Spohr (1784-1859) and then never hearing about him again.....until I was driving on the Merritt the other day and WSHU happened to play a piece of his titled the "Fourth Clarinet Concerto". It is a wonderful piece of music. In the early nineteenth-century, Spohr was a very well known figure in music circles. He was a virtuoso on the violin, as well as a composer and conductor. He composed operas, concerti, solo works for instruments and voice.

One of his close friends was Ludwig van Beethoven, who would frequently invite Spohr to his house to hear and critique a new work before Beethoven performed it in public. Now that is saying something! In his time Spohr was as widely known as Beethoven. And that is saying something! As it turns out, by writing good quality music for the clarinet, both Mozart and Spohr were influential figures in terms of making the clarinet an accepted and acceptable instrument. So what happened? Where's he been this whole time?

Times change, styles change, life happens. With the changes come new personalities, new ideals, new pieces. When I heard the Concerto the other day, I realized that whether it is in the area of music, education, civil rights, sports, medicine or whatever, there are people who we may never have heard of, whose work was influential. And without these individuals, the world would not be the same. And that, of course, includes us. Who is to say what small gesture, what words spoken in a timely fashion, what cause we promote, might change the way we live or our friends live. It is not really about whether someone will remember us two hundred years from now. The now is all we have.

According to the biographers, Spohr was a vivacious and lively character who performed with much passion. So may we 'play our parts' likewise. Viva Spohr!

## Save the Date for Camp Jewell May 6-8!

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

If you want to know more, check out information from our 2007 retreat here: <http://uuwestport.org/jewell2007.html>.

Details and rates about our 2011 retreat will be announced soon, and registration begins in April.



## SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the  
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Please e-mail your copy to:  
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# GREEN COVENANT:

Living in Right Relationship with Earth



**SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH**

**9:00-4:00 PM**

**COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS**

## Keynote Address:

**GREENFAITH, GREEN COVENANT**



**Rev. Fletcher Harper,**

*Executive Director of GreenFaith,  
award-winning spiritual writer  
and nationally-recognized preacher  
on the environment,  
Rev. Harper teaches and speaks  
at houses of worship nationwide about  
the moral, spiritual basis for  
environmental stewardship and justice.*

## Workshops:

*Garbage + Composting: There Is No "AWAY"*  
*Food and Racial Justice*  
*Transition Towns: An Introduction to What's Next*  
*Our Environment Exposed*  
*Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience*  
*Becoming a Religious Environmental Leader*  
*Teaching Stewardship*  
*Natural Gas Drilling + Hydrofracing*  
*Climate Change: More than the Basics*  
*Creating a Green Sanctuary*

## REGISTRATION:

[HTTPS://WWW.FORMDESK.COM/UIFORMS/  
GREEN](https://www.formdesk.com/uiforms/green)

**ADMISSION IS \$25**



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