

SOUNDINGS

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



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 20

May 15 - June 4, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 15 Worship Service 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, Jan's Office H.S. Seniors Transition, Library ... 11:00 am Great Authors Book Group, Chapel, ... 12:30 pm	16 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	17 Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	18 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm Abolish Death Penalty, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	19 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	20 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm Family Worship, Chapel. ... 7:00 pm	21 Small Goup Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am
22 Service: 9 & 11 am H.S. Transitions Library ... 11:00 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Ramon Zetina Maya Rainforest, M.H., ... 12:15 pm Environmental Action, Chapel - 12:30 pm	23 Health Care Task Force, Fellowship Rm ... 7:30 pm	24	25 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm NVC Practice Chapel, ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir ... 8:00 pm	26 Youth Choir - 5 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm	27 UU Movie Discussion Group, Meeting Hse., ... 7:30 pm	28
29 Worship Service 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office	30	31	June 1 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm	2 Youth Choir - 5 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir, ... 8:00 pm	3 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm	4 Circle of Care Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm

SERMONS

- May 15... 9 & 11 am..... **Finding God in the Silence**Frank Hall
"God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. Mother Teresa
Music: 9:00 O&AF; 11:00 the Teen Choir
- May 22 ... 9 & 11 am: **Religious Maturity** Frank Hall
James Fowler studied the 'stages of religious development,' which is a life-long process. What stage are you?
Music: The Talmadge Hill Choir, directed by Rob Silvan, will be visiting us.
- May 29... 9 & 11 am **Pulpit Guest, Rabbi Bob Orkand**
Rabbi Orkand, Sr. Rabbi at Temple Israel, and a long-time friend, will be our guest. He has been quoted from the pulpit almost as often as Emerson, so it's time to hear him directly.
Music: Men's Choir & Women's Choir

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

A MUST Read Book!

If you have never spoken with or heard Rev. Jane Rzepka, you have missed hearing someone who speaks from the glow within, forged in fires of experience. To make up for that, I strongly recommend you get her latest book: *From Zip Lines to Hosaphones: Dispatches from the Search for Truth and Meaning*.

Jane Rzepka's stories are about life as a UU, and what the world looks like from a deeply UU perspective. Her whimsical and poignant reflections span amusement parks, Tibetans, Jesus, time capsules, history, zip lines, gods, dinette sets, Passover and silence. Her latest book reminds us, delightfully, of the depth and breadth of UUism. Available at the UUA Bookstore:



www.uua.org/bookstore

Chaos, Wonder and the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting is a collection of essays from bestselling authors Barbara Kingsolver, Anne Lamott, Barry Lopez, Scott Russell Sanders and others. It reflects on how parenting challenges, enriches, and magnifies our spiritual selves. You will find moments of joyful recognition and compassionate understanding for the unique spiritual adventure of raising children. Available at the UUA Bookstore: www.uua.org/bookstore

Star Island LGBTQ Family Conference: Transitions and Transformations

A week of recreation, learning, spirituality, and community for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members and their friends will be held Sat., Aug. 27 to Fri., Sept. 2 at the Star Island Conference Center.

The week includes workshops and discussion groups on important issues for children, youth, and adults. Climbing on the rocks, rocking on the porch, or talking with new friends can be your choice of activity or you might wish to join in every offering possible.

Star Island is a rustic conference center on a peaceful, ruggedly beautiful island 10 miles off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, owned and operated by the Star Island Corp.—originally formed by UUs and members of the United Church of Christ, 2 religious denominations with long histories of actively supporting LGBTQ rights. People of every religious background and those who do not subscribe to any religion are all welcomed and may participate or not in chapel services.

Rev. Nate Walker, Minister of the Week, is the settled minister at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. Nate came out of the closet as a 15-year-old in Northern Nevada. His grandmother responded by saying, "There's a lesbian at the UU Fellowship." And off they went to meet the lesbian! He's been a part of the welcoming and affirming embrace of UUism ever since.



Michele Angello, Theme Speaker, works with gender variant youth and adults. She has presented internationally on her work with trans youth and with children of transitioning parents. Dr. Angello is often called on to speak as an expert on transgender issues to universities, corporations, and the media. She also developed the first graduate course in the U.S. that focused on clinical issues in transgender communities.

Learn more: visit www.starisland.org/conferences/2011-listings/lgbtq/. To register, call Star Island Corp. at (603) 430-6272.

Step up to the plate and participate in our 2nd Annual Cooperstown Golf Classic

Last year, this unique baseball themed golf tournament raised \$1,000 for clean water for Kenya. This year, we're raising money for new carpeting for the church. The tournament is being held Thursday June 9th at the Fairchild Wheeler GC in Fairfield CT with a 9AM shotgun start. It's \$125 for the carpeting but we're throwing in the golf, cart, gift pack, awards luncheon, beer etc. in for FREE. Golfers of all abilities and gender are welcome. We're also looking for sponsors for our website. Again, all net proceeds go towards new carpeting!

To find out more, register or to become a sponsor, please go on-line at www.cooperstownclassic.org. Deadline to sign up is **May 26th**.

The 2nd Annual Cooperstown Golf Classic



Thursday June 9th – Fairchild Wheeler GC – FFLD CT

May 9, 2011

Dear Friends,

We call it ‘the Boston trip.’ It’s a rite of passage for our eighth-grade Coming of Age class, a kind Hajj, the pilgrimage a Muslim is required to take to Mecca at least once. Nineteen pilgrims took a bus to Boston two weeks ago, on Friday morning, arriving at the Boston Public Garden – the oldest public garden in the country – to have a picnic lunch and watch the Swan Boats, feed squirrels and see the tulips blossoming at their peek.

The roots tour begins at the statue of William Ellery Channing which stands just outside the Public Garden, directly across from Arlington Street Church (formerly the Federal Street Church) which Channing served for 39 years, from 1803 – 1842. Indeed, Channing faces the front doors, which, when opened, allows him to stare directly into the pulpit, keeping a watchful eye on its occupant.

At the statue I always read a few passages from his famous sermon, Unitarian Christianity, which he delivered in 1819 as the spokesperson for a growing group of Congregational clergy who could no longer, in good conscience, profess to believe in the doctrine of the Trinity. Channing said, *We object to the doctrine of the Trinity, that, whilst acknowledging in words, it subverts in effect, the unity of God...it makes God into three persons... God is One.*”

Since I re-visit Channing’s famous sermon every year I always discover something new, a passage that has taken on a new meaning or a new twist. This year a particular passage struck me:

We are particularly accused of making an unwarrantable use of reason in the interpretation of Scripture. We are said to exalt reason above revelation, to prefer our own wisdom to God’s.”

I smiled, to myself, wondering what he would say today, in light of the latest insights into the human mind – the brain. We have to be careful not to allow the use of reason alone to dominate our lives, leaving no room for the spiritual dimension – the humility that acknowledges that we don’t know everything, and the comfort that comes from that acknowledgment.

Once inside Arlington Street Church the Coming of Age participants climb the high pulpit and read a passage from Channing, and they climb to the organ loft where they are introduced to it by the music director, then they climb to the bell tower where they get a chance to ring the bells. When not climbing they get to look at the world’s largest collection of beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows.

The tour continues by foot across the Public Gardens, through Boston Common, up Beacon Hill to our Unitarian Universalist headquarters. We cross Beacon Hill to view the monument to Unitarian Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts all-black Civil War regiment. Shaw was killed in a failed attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina.

We go to King’s Chapel, the first church in America to declare itself Unitarian, and a living reminder of our Christian roots. We walk from there to the Holocaust Memorial, then to Faneuil Hall, built in 1742 where Sam Adams and other protested ‘taxation without representation.’

Since 1742 the area around Faneuil Hall has been used as an open-air market which still operates today. The pilgrims have a couple of hours on their own to do some exploring at Quincy Market and to have supper together in small groups.

We meet the bus and drive to the Espousal Retreat Center in Waltham where we review the day, talk about our Unitarian heritage and do some psychodrama, using the Parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, which they have a rowdy time acting the various parts and then discuss what it felt like to *be* those characters. The fatted calf gets to complain out loud – real loud!

On Saturday we drive to Follen Church in Lexington where I began my ministry on April 1, 1970, serving as assistant to Herb Adams during my last two and a half years of seminary at Boston University. It's always filled with nostalgia, but this year, so soon after Herb's passing, it was especially poignant.

We introduce Charles Follen who designed the unusual, octagon-shaped sanctuary where the pews are turned 'so congregants can see one another,' as Follen put it. As it turned out Follen served as an interim minister at a New York City church while the building was being constructed. On his way to the dedication of the new church, scheduled for January 15, 1840, while crossing Long Island Sound in the steamer *Lexington*, with 159 aboard, the ship caught fire and Follen was one of the 155 to lose his life; only four survived.

Ralph Waldo Emerson stepped in and preached the dedication sermon, saying, "*Know then that your church is not built when the last stone, the last rafter and clapboard is laid, not when we have assembled, not when we have adhered to the customary rite, but then first is it a church when the consciousness of his union with the Supreme Soul dawns on the lowly heart of the worshipper – when the church becomes nothing and the clergyman nothing, for all places are sacred and all persons; when he sees that virtue goes out from him and hallows the ground whereon he stands – then instantly the humble church is made alive...it is a point of civilization, of culture, of poetry, of knowledge by which the whole community is educated.*"

My favorite time comes at Follen Church when I introduce the group to Emerson, using his famous address to the Harvard Divinity School class of 1838. I locate the essence of that sermon in this passage: "*Religion is an intuition. It cannot be received at second hand. Truly speaking it is not instruction, but provocation that I can receive from another soul | What he announces I must find true in me, or wholly reject; and on his word, or as his second, be he who he may, I can accept nothing. On the contrary, the absence of this primary faith is the presence of degradation.*"

"*This sentiment lies at the foundation of society, and successively creates all forms of worship. This thought dwelled always deepest in the minds of men (sic) in the devout and contemplative East,*" he said, referring to his appreciation of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Follen Church is on Mass Ave., Paul Revere's famous route, which we then take to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord where we visit the graves of Thoreau and Emerson, with each participant reading a quote from one of them. We drive past Emerson's house on the way to Thoreau's famous cabin at Walden Pond. Standing in the replica of the cabin he built and lived in alone for 2 years I read from his famous book, *Walden*: "*I went to the woods because I wish to live deliberately to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.*" Our pilgrimage is then complete.

Yours,


Perry's Ponderings ...

"You should write about this turkey story," 5th grader Duncan told me as we stood at the Camp Jewell farm. The children had an amazing experience with all the pigs, sheep, llamas, and ducks that came running to greet them. However, the friendly turkey Carlita made the biggest impression because no one had ever met a turkey that liked to be petted. We all bonded during the Camp Jewell experience that included games, walks, workshops, and worship.

The 8th grade Coming of Agers had a special experience together on the Boston UU heritage trip. Frank led the group to Arlington Street Church where William Ellery Channing was minister, UUA headquarters, the historical Christian UU King's Chapel, the Holocaust Memorial, Follen Church where Emerson preached, Author's Ridge where famous Unitarians are buried, and Walden Pond to see the replica and original location of Thoreau's cabin.

The youth's favorite moments included ringing the bells at Arlington, seeing the incredible Tiffany stained glass windows, standing in the enormous raised pulpit, descending into the crypt at King's Chapel, and feeling the impact of the 6 million numbers etched on the Holocaust Memorial. Reece's face lit up when he had a "dream come true" by playing one note on the Arlington Street Church organ with 3,640 pipes. One youth summarized all of the experiences when he expressed that his favorite part was being there with all of us and feeling really comfortable.

The adults felt most moved when Frank reminisced about special relationships with the members at Follen Church where he had his first ministry. In the deepest emotions of his ministerial journey, we experienced the reality of Emerson's statement, "Truly speaking, it is not instruction, but provocation, that I can receive from another soul."

During the vision quest in the woods at Camp Jewell, a group of children walked by and 3rd grader Sanjay asked, "Why are you doing this?" Pondering our life purpose, considering our next steps, and thinking about the influential people in our lives framed our meditation in nature. As we sat in a circle sharing the soulfulness of the quest afterward, Sue said that as Sanjay walked past he stated, "That's Sue. She's living with us while we're here." Sanjay answered his own question. We are doing all of this because we are living the experience together while we are here.

RE CALENDAR

Sat., May 14...

9am Beardsley Garden Project

Sun., May 15...

11am Sr. Transitions - Library

Fri., May 20...

7pm Family Worship - Chapel

Sun., May 22...

11am Sr. Transitions - Library

Family Worship (with pizza)

Fri., May 20, 7-8pm

- Pizza & social time 7-7:30pm
- Worship together in the Chapel 7:30-8pm

*Join us for connection
through eating, sharing, a
story, candlelighting, and
singing*

Please RSVP to
ucwevents@gmail.com
or 227-7205 x20



(above) Sara and Elise at the UN panel on
Legislative Issues that Impact Women.
(below) Westbridge Coalition Workday in Fairfield



YOUTH OUTREACH/ Jamie Forbes

On Thursday, April 27, I joined Elise Thomson and Sara Banbury at the UU-UNO Spring Seminar in NYC. The topic was Empowering Women for a Better World and the two panel discussions I attended were 'Global Legislative Issues that Impact Women' and 'Education and Health Care'. The caliber of panelist is always impressive...people whose life work centers on these issues. I especially like that this is an intergenerational conference with equal participation of youth and adults. Elise and Sara were there for the entire conference (youth stay together at Fourth UU in Manhattan). They helped create the seminar statement at the end of the conference which will be presented to the UN.

Senior Transitions: Date and Time Change! Barb Kezur will meet with high school seniors to help process all of the changes going on in their lives. The group will meet in Frank's office on Sunday, May 22, from 10:30-1.

Parents of H. S. Seniors- Transitions: Thursday, May 26, 7pm-9. Please e-mail Jamie (Jamie@uuwestport.org) if you can attend.

On Saturday, April 30, (left) Evan Field, Rebecca Bregman, Helena Low and I joined Westbridge Coalition for a workday at the home of a Betty, a woman living in a small rental in Fairfield without the funds to maintain it. We helped our Westbridge carpenters by priming and painting trim and trimming overgrown shrubs and bushes. Our reward was a delicious lunch made by Betty and a friend!

Update on Avery: I recently joined her on the trail in Tennessee for 5 days and she is doing great...strong and blister-free! As of today she has walked 400 miles and, at \$3.80 a mile, earned \$1,520.00 for Beardsley School and Teach for America! You can follow her hike at www.averyforbes.com. You will see two blogs...one has activities for Beardsley School and her students at American Horse School on the Pineridge Indian Reservation and the other for the Fairfield online newspaper. She sends her greetings and thanks and hopes to see you when she passes through Connecticut (a UCW picnic at Kent falls?).

Our “Adopted” Elementary School takes Top Awards at Inspiration Ceremony!

May 3, 2011 was an exciting day for Beardsley Elementary School. In a festive celebration at the Bridgeport Downtown Cabaret Theater, the Bridgeport Public Education Fund and the Fairfield County Community Foundation presented our Grade 6 teacher Dawn Schirrizzo and Principal Amy Marshall their highest awards; Teacher of the Year and the George Bellinger Leadership Award (or, Principal of the Year).



Many of you have become familiar with Grade 6 teacher Dawn Schirrizzo because as a congregation, you have made generous donations to her college field trips to SCSU via the Angel Tree, as recently as this past month. You have

also likely heard Amy Marshall address our congregation in appreciation for all that you do for Beardsley.

The George Bellinger Leadership Award was established in 2004 to honor the memory of BPEF Board Member George Bellinger. This annual award is presented to a Principal in the Bridgeport Public School who best replicates the ability of George Bellinger to foster and recognize good leadership.

“Ms. Amy Marshall has been Principal of Beardsley School since 2003. She brought new vision and stability to a school that had consistently poor student achievement. In 2008, Beardsley was recognized by the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition for making significant academic gains, and in 2010, Beardsley was recognized by ConnCAN as one of the ten CT middle school success stories. Ms. Marshall has created an educational environment that is innovative, creative, motivating, and conducive for all students. She is well respected and loved by the parents, staff and especially the students at Beardsley School.”

Thank you, congregants of the Unitarian Church in Westport, for all you have done these last 10 years to contribute to Amy’s success.



Interested in Going to the United Nations?

Our UU United Nations Committee is organizing a trip to the UN on Thursday, May 26. We’ll attend a briefing on UN Peacekeepers and visit the UU United Nations Office. Leave in the morning, lunch in the Delegates Cafeteria, home in the afternoon. Join us. It will be informative and fun!

Contact David Vita: david@uuwestport.org or 203.227.7205.

A Voice from the Maya Rainforest

In Guatemala’s Petén region, where deforestation is destroying some 45,000 hectares of rainforest each year, a transformation is taking place. A community that once relied on slash-and-burn agriculture now works as highly skilled carpenters. When working as farmers each village member used, on average, five hectares of forest per year for what, in the end, only generated a very low income. Now, community members use just one tree per year, earn a better income, conserve vital forestland and protect local biodiversity.

Meet Ramon Zetina. Ramon is currently managing the environmental education program in Petin for the RainForest Alliance

Sunday, May 22 at 12:30 in the Meeting House

Sponsored by Creative Connections, Inc. and the Environmental Action Group. For more information please contact David Vita at 227.7205 x14 or david@uuwestport.org

Come and get your hands dirty! Help Bring an Edible Garden to the Beardsley School on Saturday, May 14

On Saturday, May 14th, from 9 -12 we’ll be helping to put in an Edible Garden at the Beardsley Elementary School! The garden will be constructed next to the school playground. If you would like to help on this workday, please contact Carol Seiple: carol_seiple@yahoo.com.



Thank You FROM MICROFINANCE COMMITTEE

Our 2nd Annual Mothers day card sale raised \$1,800 which will be loaned through KIVA Microfinance to women entrepreneurs all over the world. The impact of \$1,800 is immeasurable when you consider that the money is loaned, repaid and loaned out again and again and again. *Thank you!*

UU Movie Discussion Group Friday, May 27



The UU Movie Discussion Group will meet on Friday, May 27. to discuss three films: They are "Win Win", currently playing at the Garden Cinema in Norwalk, "Water for Elephants" at the Royale 6 in Norwalk and "Atlas Shrugged" at Fairfield Cinema in Fairfield. Dessert poluck at 7:30, discussion at 8. At the Meeting House. All are welcome!

Scooter for sale ...

Little Rascal "Stow and Go" Mobility Scooter for sale. Cost \$2995 will take \$600 or best offer. Needs new battery. Otherwise runs fine. Sophie Barnes, 203-293-4375.

Offer:Spring cleanup

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

The family of Shirley Whetstone

would like to extend their heartfelt thank you to the Shawl Ministry and the Circle of Care Group 19.

In December the Shawl Ministry wrapped their loving arms around Shirley with their gift of a beautiful blue shawl. Shirley found great comfort in this gift of love. As she would sit in her chair or lie in her bed she would wrap herself in this blanket of love.

In March when Shirley decided that it was time for her to hospice, Jean Sturges helped to coordinate the members of the Circle of Care Group 19, to provide weekly delicious home cooked meals, helping Shirley and Irv get through this difficult time. For eight weeks loving members of this group dropped off their delicious meals and offered kind words of support. Shirley found this very touching and wants all of you who helped them in their time of need to know she found you to be a "True Circle of Care".

Much Appreciation,
Paul and Barbara Whetstone

Business Matters

Let's Don't Shirk Our Responsibilities

Prior to coming to TUCW one my endeavors was public speaking (you wouldn't have guessed so, would you!). A favorite topic of mine was Games Played ... Lessons Learned dealing with the simple outdoor games we, baby boomers and older, played and the life lessons we learned from them. Two such games were "hot potato" and "kick the can". Well those generations are still playing those games today but not in the back yard but in congress. For years representatives and senators, on both sides of the aisle, have been avoiding issues too hot to handle and choosing the kick the can down the road for a future generation to solve.

Well, one thing I have come to admire about your church is that you don't shy from searing issues nor do you kick the can down the road. You address them head on. Whether it be Social Justice, RE, Youth Outreach, Environment, etc. you address it. These particular three arenas deal with nurturing, exposing and preparing youth for when they become adults so they don't shy from the "hot potato" or "kick the can down the road". So they care.

For sure, pledge money goes to maintain a high standard of spirituality, music and sense of community in Sunday's worship services, for pastoral care, and for maintaining a beautiful campus. But those are efforts dealing with today. What about tomorrow? Sunday's RE activities, OWL, COA, Youth Group and Outreach may not seem an important reason to pledge, perhaps because you have no children involved in them. Do you leave it to others who have children and youth to fund those programs? No. Because Unitarians do not kick the can down the road. The future is today. That is why I pledge every year to my church and why many of you do the same at TUCW. Don't leave it for others. Let us have 100% participation and see how you can really change the future. Please respond to the **Called to Generosity** campaign.

John Carroll

Business Manager/ Church Administrator



Flowers for April

April 3

In memory of Jeanne Kimball
Given by her daughters
Joy, Faith and Holly

April 10

In memory of our daughter Diane
Given by Edgar and
Inge Van Gelder

April 17

In memory of Stanley Bleifeld

April 24

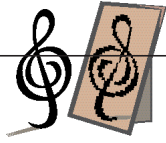
In celebration of Easter
Given by John Carroll

Short term volunteer opportunity!

The summer worship committee is looking for a coordinator of the weekly post-service refreshments, provided by members, during the summer. We look forward to these treats. the coordinator would create the schedule and send reminders once people have signed up to bring drinks or snacks. Contact Joann Coviello, HYPERLINK ["mailto:coviellojc@yahoo.com"](mailto:mailto:coviellojc@yahoo.com)

Interment for Shirley Whetstone

will be held in the
Memorial Garden after 11:00
services on
Sunday, May 22nd.
The family of Shirley Whetstone
would like to invite those in the
congregation to join them in the
Memorial Garden.



SOUNDINGS

*Newsletter of the
Unitarian Church in Westport*

Phone: (203) 227-7205

Fax: (203) 221-7979

E-mail: uuchurch@uuwestport.org

Church Staff

Frank Hall Senior Minister
frank@uuwestport.org
EdWard Thompson Minister of Music
ed@uuwestport.org
John Carroll..... Church Administrator/
Business Manager
john@uuwestport.org
Jan Braunle Administrative Associate
jan@uuwestport.org
Perry Montrose..... RE Director
perry@uuwestport.org
Jamie Forbes Youth Outreach Dir.
jamie@uuwestport.org
Lily Rappaport Youth Program Dir.
lily@uuwestport.org
David Vita Social Justice Director
david@uuwestport.org
Robert Santiago Sexton
bobby@uuwestport.org

Endorsed Community Minister

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

Board of Trustees

Chuck Colletti Chair
Randy Burnham Vice Chair
Ken Vogel Treasurer
Denny Davidoff Clerk
Steve Axthelm
Lyn Hamilton
Sherry Jagerson
Kristen Leddy
John Mason
Sal Mollica
Jane Sherman

SOUNDINGS Staff

Carol Porter Editor/Design

visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is
Friday, May 20, at noon (or before).
Please e-mail your copy to:
carpo@optonline.net

NOT FORGOTTEN

It happened at Camp Jewell. Seventeen people participated in the Vision Quest that Perry and I were facilitating. We were in the woods and each individual had found a spot to sequester himself/herself. I was walking up and down a long path occasionally checking up on people. At one point, I encountered about a dozen of our children who were stopped while the camp guides were organizing something. I recognized several of them because they are in the Youth Choir. We exchanged a cheerful greeting. Then one of them started to sing one of the pieces that we sing on Thursdays: "Al Shlosha d'varim", a beautiful song from the Jewish Tradition. Before I knew it the rest of the Youth Choir children were also singing. I was touched. There in the middle of the Berkshire woods there was singing as natural as any of the birdsongs we were listening to.

I was reminded that they will carry it with them for a long time to come. It is song about the world being sustained by three things: truth, justice, and peace. What better to carry around? It was a gift to me and a gift to the world.

May we all have a song that we carry with us. In fact, may we have many songs we carry with us ... and may they be sung!

You will be able to hear that song, and many more on RE Sunday when the Youth Choir will be THE choir. I hope you can be with us to hear them on June 5th at 10:00.

Tag Sale

Last year our tag sale attracted many young families from surrounding towns, eager for bargains in furniture, household items, bedding and baby equipment. Keep them in mind as you update or clean out this spring!

We're taking good children's clothes and shoes this year.

Old electronics* are not wanted, nor are skis. Please check and label that items are in working condition. Drop off at the church starts in mid-June.

Questions about appropriateness? Contact Linda Hudson,

LHudson30@hotmail.com LHudson30@hotmail.com

LHudson30@hotmail.com or Felicity McWheeney, felicitymedinger@yahoo.com

Keep watching for updated info and your chance to help. Got a pick-up truck?

Let us know now.

**Do you have computers and peripherals you'd like to get rid of? John Carroll refers us to Computers for Guatemala, which provides computers for the education of Maya children.*

Contact David Livingston, 203-655-2362, livy5300@aol.com. See his website at www.computersforguatemala.org