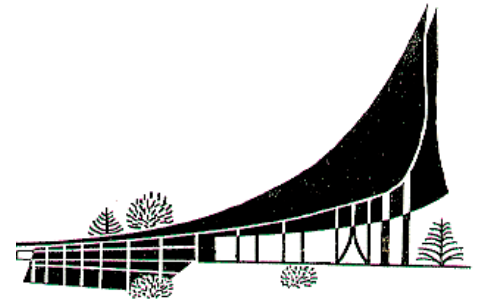


SOUNDINGS

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 6

May 1 - May 21, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 1 Earth Day Service: 9 & 11 am K-6 start in Sanctuary Special Friends Party, E.W. ... 10:00 am BOT Coffee Chat -10:15 am - 12:15 pm, Jan's Office UN Com., Chapel ... 12:30 May Day Celebration Outside unless raining	2 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	3 K-4 RE - LC Fellowship Rm., ...11:30 am Microfinance, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	4 Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	5 Read Aloud at Beardsley School- 9 am Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com. M.H., ... 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Women's Choir ...7:45 pm	6 Metro NY District Meeting Camp Jewell Retreat Weekend SOUNDINGS Deadline 12 Noon Shawl Ministry M.H. 12:30 pm	7 Circle Facilitators, M.H ... 10:00 am
8 Worship Service 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Rainbow Task Force, Chapel... 12:45 pm	9 Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	10 Senior Luncheon, E.W.,...11:00 am NVC Practice, Chapel, ... 7:00 pm RE Council, Fellowship Rm. ... 7:30 pm Social Justice Council, E.W., ... 7:30 pm	11 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir ... 8:00 pm	12 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	13 REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm	14 Edible Garden Day at Beardsley. ... 9:00 am
15 Worship Service 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, Jan's Office Great Authors Book Group, 12:30 pm, Chapel	16 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45pm	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 Concert: Marcella Calabi Sanctuary, 8:00 pm

SERMONS

- May 1... 9 & 11 am **Earth Day** Frank Hall
On becoming more responsible caretakers of our fragile little planet.
Music: 9:00 Men's Choir; 11:00 Women's Choir
- May 8 ... 9 & 11 am: **Wrestling With Your Demons** Frank Hall
"Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness. Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing." August Wilson
Music: Men's Choir and Women's Choir
- 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



FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members and Friends,

To all of you that have answered our **Call to Generosity** an pledged...THANKS!

Our Annual Canvass is in its third week and your Board is trying to move our Church from a barely adequate funding level to one where we can live life more fully and pursue our mission more effectively – something we can all feel good about. Our goal: a budget of \$1 million. Of that, \$850,000 must come from pledges, which is about \$150,000 more than last year.

As Frank has written, "...we need to have an average pledge of about \$1,700 a year to keep the ship afloat. Fortunately there are some who are able to give more than that amount – some considerably more.

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

Here's how we are doing as of Friday, April 22nd...\$314,682, from 160 pledges, an average of \$1,967 per household.

What a wonderful beginning but a long way until we reach our goal of \$850,000. Pledge cards were mailed to each household so if you haven't received it, please pick one up at Church on Sunday in the foyer or let John Carroll know (203-227-7205 x16). Please pledge early and join our **Call to Generosity** and add your name to our honor roll.

Respectfully,

Chuck Colletti, *Chair, Board of Trustees*

Called to Generosity Honor Roll

Atkins, Peter & Patricia	Dimon, Lee & Patty	Keeton, Felicia & David	Porter, Carol
Aibel, Howard	Eckert, Judith	Keith, Jocelyn	Potter, Cynthia and David Schmeir
Aiello, Avitus	Egan, Harold	Keller, Vaughn	Pucci, Joseph & Dara Lieberson
Arnold, Ron & Lisa	Emberling, Dave & Stapley	Kerstetter, Myron	Pugliese, Susan
Axthelm, Laura & Stephen	Erlanger, Mary	Khanna, Sam and Anne	Rabut, Peg
Beach, Betsy	Eugley, Alan	Kleid, Bob	Rockman, Connie & Joe Witkavitch
Beck, Jackie	Ferguson, Trish	Klemmer, Carl & Abby	Romano, Mary Jo & Scott Singer
Becker, Diane	Ficalora, Barbara	Klomborg, Jeffrey & Pam	Ross, Michael & Janet
Bell, Diana	Field, Michael & Lenora Harris-Field	Krausman-Klomborg	Rother, William & Bonnie
Bell, Sarah	Fierberg, Rick	Konstantin, Anatole & Rosaria	Russell, Berta & Tom Hearne
Bettauer, Arthur	Fitzgerald, Ed & Diane	Kutnick, Dale & Laura	Sbriglio, Catherine & Bob
Bittenbender, Sharon & Mike	Fontana, Michael & Muriel	Lannamann, Kate Scheffler	Schneider, Penny & Walter
Blake, Isabella	Forbes, Jamie & Glenn	Lanouette, Ken & Midge	Schreck, Mim
Block, Peggy	Fowle, Andy & Stacy	Lasher, Brian & Miki	Senie, Susan
Borchetta, Barry & Kristen	Francek, Jim & Pat	Lehr, Michael	Sherman, Alden
Bothwell, Joan	Franzese, Mindi	Levin, Virginia	Sherman, Jane
Brady, Susan	Galvan-Henkin, Anita & Ron Henkin	Loomis, Henry & Joan	Smith, David & Maria Mendoza
Brandt, Deborah Barnett & Robert	Garrison, Monica & Lon	Lundberg, Jeff & Ann Johnson-	Smith
Brenner, Doris	Glimcher, Sumner	Lundberg	Smith, Robert & Tanya
Brooks, Lynne	Goddard, Hazen & Carol	Luongo, Janet & Jim	Snook, Don & Katherine
Bruce, Henry	Gorman, Mary Sloan	Macdonald, Tim & Karen	Spiller, Bertram
Bue, David & Marie Claire	Graham, Andrew	Manning, Gerry & Darryl	St. Onge, Steve & Candy
Burnham, Randy & Linda Hudson	Grathwohl, Steve	Martinek, Charlie & Winnie	Stout, John & Betty Rich
Campbell, Lynda	Graves, Royal	Mason, John & Barbara Kezur	Sullivan, Ted & Faith Taylor
Caplan, Dave & Liz	Groell, Catherine & Paul	Mathews, Peter	Tamucci, Alison
Caridad, Carlos & Rosanna	Hall, Frank & Lory Nurenberg	McEvoy, Carrie & William	Tartaglione, Ralph
Chamberlin, Anna	Halloran, Stephen & Genevieve	McMillan, Elaine	Taylor, Ron
Clay, Vidal	Hamilton, Lyn	McWeeney, John & Felicity	Ten Meer, Arnela
Cleary, Brian & Suzanne	Hardin, Bob & Kristi	Medinger	Terpening, Marshall
Coleman, Neil & Jean	Hargraves, Nancy	Miller, Susan	Thompson, Edward
Colletti, Charles & Rosemarie	Harnett, Joan	Minor, Cecil	Thomsen, Susan & Norman
Comer, Thomas	Harrison, Bill & Elise	Mollica, Sal & Mary Beth	Trepner
Coogan, Lois	Hawley, Joe and Susan	Nicolas, Ed & Jan Freddino	Thormahlen, Hal & Barbara
Corcoran, Mark	Henry, David & Cheryl Menzies	Nimkoff, Sian & Robert	VanGelder, Edgar & Inge
Coviello, Joann	Herman, Bobbie & Paul Cohen	Northup, Jean	Vita, David & Marjolijn de
Cundy, Nick	Hill Jr., Maury	Obringer, Laura	Jager
Davidoff, Denny	Hutter, Stephanie	O'Hara, Chris	Vogel, Ken & Jerusha
De Stefano, Charles &	Jagerson, Sherry	Park, Janice	Wertheim, Joseph & Marion
Liv Myhre	Jobson, Joan	Paul, Cheryl & Erik	Wolfson, Andrew
Deaver, Gail	Jones, Meg & Doug	Pellegrino, Jessica & Michael Jr	Wong, Trina & Michael
Decker, Malcolm	Kastriner, Larry & Mary	Pflugler, Anita	Costantino
DeSalvo, Jeanne	Keenan, Jim & Maryellen	Place, Chris & Harvey	Zuckerman, Ben

April 25, 2011

Dear Friends,

Thanks for your thoughtful expression of condolence in response to my very dear friend, Herb Adams' sudden passing on the 18th of March.

Lory and I drove to Maine last Friday with my son Jonathan and his wife Rosie. We stayed at my daughter Sue's summer home in Saco and went to dinner together before Sue's husband Chip was able to join us. Over the dinner table we remembered and honored Herb, recalling anecdotes that captured his spirit, his sense of loyalty, his ability to be honest without being hurtful, and so forth.

On Saturday morning we made the final hour and a half drive to Norway, Maine, for the memorial service at the First Universalist Church, the oldest UU church in Maine, organized in 1799. Herb was minister there from 1991 – 1994. Herb held a warm spot for it in his heart.

I told the folks who filled every pew about the comment Herb made to me, mentor fashion, when I was planning the memorial service for Christopher Reeve several years ago: "Keep your self out of it," he advised. I said that it was good advice then, and it had application for this service in honor of Herb. It was, indeed, a very special celebration of *his* life.

Herb's sister spoke, then his four children spoke, lovingly, revealing four (or more) sides of their father – as seen close up. His wife Mary's sons spoke – they were young men when Herb and Mary married 34 years ago, so they felt like he was a second father to them. Then several of Herb's twelve grandchildren spoke, revealing even more aspects of him as grandfather.

His son Lee found a wonderful piece Herb composed twenty years ago, describing in detail the one of the annual ice-fishing derbies held on his beloved Heald Pond in Lovell, Maine.

I wanted to be sure that everyone who had planned to speak – eleven or twelve of them – had indeed spoken. I was sitting in a front pew beside our mutual dear friend Jack Mendelsohn, a very highly regarded Unitarian Universalist minister, now in his 90's, so I had to get up from my seat and walk over to Lee to ask my question.

"Is anyone else planning to speak?" Lee said, "No," and a man sitting nearby heard my question and raised his hand. I didn't know who he was, but I invited him to go up to the pulpit, which he was glad to. He reached into his jacket pocket and took out a copy of a letter he had sent to Mary a few days after Herb's death.

During the planning we had agreed that we would not invite others to talk about Herb, since there would already have been a dozen speakers, but as he read his letter we all realized how appropriate it was, since he had spent precious time with Herb on the morning of March 18, Herb's last day.

After explaining his fifty five year relationship with Herb, he told us about their conversation over lunch that fateful day, and how Herb accidentally knocked over his bowl of soup, which brought conversations in that small Maine restaurant to a halt, and out of the embarrassed silence Herb said for all to hear, "That's what happens when you get old!" It captured Herb's quick wit and it was good to end with a laugh. I'll hold memories of our deep friendship in my heart forever.

Yours,


The Pasture, Robert Frost

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):
I shan't be gone long. -- You come too.

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother. It's so young
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.
I shan't be gone long. -- You come too.

Southern Pacific, Carl Sandburg

Huntington sleeps in a house six feet long.
Huntington dreams of railroads he built and owned.
Huntington dreams of ten thousand men saying: Yes, sir.

Blithery sleeps in a house six feet long.
Blithery dreams of rails and ties he laid.
Blithery dreams of saying to Huntington: Yes, sir.

Huntington,
Blithery, sleep in houses six feet long.

Edward Estlin Cummings 1894 -1962

maggie and milly and molly and may
went down to the beach(to play one day)
and Maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and

milly befriended a stranded star
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways blowing bubbles; and

may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose(like a you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in the sea.

Perry's Ponderings ...

"That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth...in the ocean, and in the mountains, everywhere, and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past, nor the shadow of the future." This passage from *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse inspired Julie Roneson's answer to 7th grader Anneliese's question during the Buddhism unit, "What if you cannot face change?" During this season of change, we celebrate the power it offers us in renewal and embracing the present moment.

We enjoyed the moment of the holiday season together at our annual Passover Seder with Andy, Rainy, and Bruce preparing a traditional feast, Rev. Debra leading the ritual "order" (meaning of the word "Seder") of the service, and Ed bringing our voices together in song. It was our joy to celebrate Passover's message of freedom, its response to suffering, and its hope for renewed life.

On Easter Sunday, the K-4 children were engrossed in Eric Carle's story *The Tiny Seed*. Many of the seeds blown by the strong wind do not survive, but the tiny seed does and becomes a giant flower. When autumn returns, the wind shakes open the flower's seed pod and many tiny seeds sail away on the wind. The children summarized, "It's a circle story." We connected it to Easter and they gave their own examples of renewal.

In candlelighting the children shared their concerns for a friend with a medical problem, a stray cat and a pet dog that cross a dangerous road, and relatives who are missed. We lit a final candle for member Roseanne George who passed away and placed it in the sand of the chalice she sculpted. Roseanne left us with the beauty of the chalice that symbolizes UU freedom and holds our joys and concerns each Sunday.

We extinguished the candles together and freed ourselves to enjoy the Easter activities of bingo and the egg hunt. The 5th-6th graders led the Easter egg hunt and then each one chose a younger child as a partner to assist in the spring scavenger hunt that asked them to find "a leaf from last year, a seed, a bud, something beautiful." Together they rolled away the stone to find something hidden, something new. They discovered the present moment with each other amid the perennial change of spring

RE CALENDAR

Sunday, May 1 ...

K-6 Start in Sanctuary
10 am Special Friends Party - East Wing.
12:30pm May Day Celebration

Fri-Sun May 6-8

Camp Jewell Retreat

Sunday, May 8...

No RE, childcare available

Saturday, May 14

9am Beardsley Garden Project

Friday, May 20 ...

7pm Family Worship - Chapel

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

Bring a picnic lunch or buy soup and/or mac & cheese to support Camp Jewell, then...



*Dance with us around the
May Pole*

Camp Jewell Retreat For All Ages - MAY 6, 7 & 8

Slow down and connect for the entire weekend, or just on Saturday.

Adults \$165, Children & Youth Group \$100, COA \$125, or \$75 per person Saturday only. Please contact

Felicia Keeton -
feliciakeeton@sbcglobal.net

Help Needed

Join us in the Beardsley Garden
Construction Project
See the Social Justice page for
details

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

Lily Rappaport, Youth Program Dir.

Unitarian Universalists often find it challenging to describe our religion. Youth grouper Lisa Moran, a junior at the Wooster School in Danbury and lifelong UU, recently described her faith at a service in her high school.

I find that describing one's faith can often be like trying to describe the taste of salt... and it's taken me this long to even start to form ideas that make sense in my own mind.

When I was in lower school, friends would ask me about my religion. My answer was usually, "Unitarian Universalists believe in everything!" This is not exactly true. However, it seemed easy enough to ease the questioning minds of my fellow second graders at the time.

In Sunday school, we studied different religions and their practices to understand their interpretations of God, prayer, life, death, love. I was fascinated by these different ideas, and somewhere inside I hoped I would be especially fascinated by one of them. I felt as though these other religions - Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism - whatever it was we were studying that week - were more organized, and more real. What I ended up realizing, and only in the last couple years, was that this search for what I might consider a real religion and for a place that felt personal and meaningful to me was, in fact, where I had been all along; That was Unitarian Universalism.

I learned that UUs were more concerned with our actions than our thoughts; that the act of discovering and questioning what we do, why we're here, where we're headed, and who we really are was much more important than whatever answer we reached. This is something that took a long time to realize; it is something that ended up being a huge part of my definition of my religion.

Being a part of a community where everyone is working on his or her own faith journey—no matter how old he or she is or what his or her background is—offers as much support as I could ask for while I'm trying to figure out all these things for myself.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Gun Control and the Death Penalty

Connecticut has had a ban on certain types of assault weapons for more than 15 years. The National Rifle Association (NRA) is once again trying to change the definition of assault weapon to make these extremely dangerous and powerful weapons legal for possession and sale.

This is SB #547 An Act Modifying the Definition of Assault weapons.

Our assault weapons legislation bans possession in Connecticut of "any selective-fire firearm capable of fully automatic, semi-automatic, or burst fire at the option of the user." SB 547 seeks to eliminate that language from the statute.

The Ruger AC 556 assault rifle (pictured here) can fire 30 rounds with a single press of the trigger.

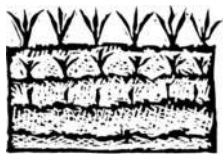


When the time comes for our legislators to vote on this bill I will be asking you to contact your representatives.

The bill to Abolish Connecticut's Death Penalty and replace it with life without parole was voted favorably out of the Joint Judiciary Committee (27-12). It will next go to the State Senate, the chamber of origin, for what is expected to be a close vote. If it passes the Senate, it will then be voted on in the House.

Help Bring an Edible Garden to the Beardsley School

Thanks to the efforts of the Green Village Initiative (GVI) the Beardsley School will soon have an Edible Garden! The school community will share in the upkeep of the garden as well as the vegetables it produces. On Saturday, May 14th, from 9-12 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.



Gardening is regaining popularity as a pastime for all types of people across the world, with gardens popping up in the most unexpected places. While the traditional image of a garden may not exactly fit into the reality of most urban environments, the fact is you can grow your own food whether you live on a rural farm or in a tiny Manhattan apartment. Urban gardening is all about using space wisely to regain a closer connection with your food and beautify your home or neighborhood.

Almost anyone can grow enough food to save a considerable amount of money and enjoy the freshest, healthiest produce possible.

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

Marjorie Partch – NEXT STEP

The Norwalk Probate Court was petitioned to examine Marjorie's case and it has refused to do so. Since this is the court that initially set the gears in motion for the appointment of the Conservator, it might not be so bad that it will not be reviewing itself.

The next step is to bring the case to Superior Court in Stamford. This will be happening in the next week. Since the article in the previous issue of Soundings a number of people have stepped forward and have asked me for more information about the case and to provide assistance. Thank you so much. Without resources the case will not move forward and all will be lost.

HOW TO HELP

We continue to need funds to pay the lawyer. He's reduced his fee in half but when you don't have any money, half of anything is still alot. ANY amount of money will help. Checks can be sent to Frank made out to: Ministerial Discretionary Fund with Marjorie's name in the subject line.

Rides are also needed. Marjorie no longer has a car and is living in New York City. She needs rides from any of the local train stations to the nursing home (in Wilton) on Fridays to visit her mother and to church on Sundays. Being here on Sunday is very important for her.

Please contact David Vita if you would be interested in participating in any fundraiser efforts. And of course, your support- call (212.420.9187), e-mail (mapartch@yahoo.com), write to Marjorie.

516 East 11th Street
Apt 5B
New York, NY 10009
THANK YOU.

BUDGET REPORT AS OF 3/31/11

Church	FYE 6/30/2011 Annual Budget	9 mos. Actual Total \$	9 mos. Act. \$ as % of AB
Income			
Pledge	\$ 662,217	\$ 537,583	81%
Voluntary Contributions	\$ 44,100	\$ 29,445	67%
Facility Use	\$ 133,640	\$ 82,105	61%
Other	\$ 18,310	\$ 22,364	122%
Total Income	\$ 858,267	\$ 671,496	78%
Expenses			
Compensation	\$ 615,472	\$ 467,412	76%
Maint & Insurance	\$ 123,850	\$ 106,359	86%
Programs & Services	\$ 36,670	\$ 16,899	46%
Denominational	\$ 33,490	\$ 25,725	77%
Other Expenses	\$ 42,980	\$ 36,540	85%
Total Expenses	\$ 852,462	\$ 652,935	77%
Net Income	\$ 5,805	\$ 18,562	
Sheila Lane			
Income			
Rental Income	\$ 37,200	\$ 27,900	75%
Interest Income	\$ 1,200	\$ 845	70%
Total Income	\$ 38,400	\$ 28,745	75%
Expenses			
Mortgage Interest	\$ 64,989	\$ 48,742	75%
Property Taxes	\$ 10,354	\$ 10,474	101%
Insurance	\$ 800	\$ 600	75%
Other	\$ 7,120	\$ 1,154	16%
Total Expenses	\$ 83,263	\$ 60,969	73%
Net Income	\$ (44,863)	\$ (32,224)	
Church & Sheila Lane Consolidated			
Income	\$ 896,667	\$ 700,241	78%
Expenses	\$ 935,725	\$ 713,904	76%
Net Income	\$ (39,058)	(13,663)	

After completing 3 Quarters of our FY ending 6/30/11, our financial results from a budget perspective are still favorable and on target. Of some concern are 135 pledges that were \$62,000 in arrears on March 31.

Business Matters

Matchmaker Matchmaker Make Me a Match

Corporate Matching Funds Programs.

Does your employer have one?

A little known fact is that they may match your all or part of your pledge.

The Unitarian Church in Westport is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the IRS code just like charities are. Our IRS identification number is 06-0766361. Check with your employer. This is an excellent vehicle to go above and beyond your pledge. We have several members who do this and it makes such a difference.

Have questions? Employer needs more information?

Contact me.

John Carroll

*Business Manager/
Church Administrator*

Are you a veteran?

The Summer Worship Committee is exploring a service around the theme of the military and UU values, and also to honor those who have served. If interested in being part of this worship, or have ideas or names to suggest, contact Linda Hudson, lhudson30@hotmail.com or Bobbie Rich, brcooks@gmail.com.

Baby Equipment Needed

Jill Ross Beres, a long time church member, is in need of an infant car seat and baby carriage (a pram, not a stroller, if possible) for a 6-month old great-niece who will arrive May 14. Can anyone lend her one for a month? Contact jill-wrb@gmail.com, or call Linda Hudson, 203 226-5335.

Room with a View

To rent: Large room with large closets in condo on water's edge in Norwalk. Kitchen privileges. For professional, mature woman. No smoking or pets. \$700. with one month deposit. Available after May 15. Call Joan, 203 854-4561. (please leave call back info).



Camp Jewell Retreat For All Ages - MAY 6, 7 & 8

Slow down and connect for the entire weekend, or just on Saturday. Adults \$165, Children & Youth Group \$100, COA \$125, or \$75 per person Saturday only. Please contact Felicia Keeton - feliciakeeton@sbcglobal.net



I was in the sanctuary quietly practicing when a young couple walked in and wanted to know about the church because they were making wedding plans. When I asked their names, the bride-to-be said Phoebe Westwood. So I replied: does the name Arnold Westwood mean anything to you? She replied: He was my grandfather!! So we then had a lengthy and wonderful conversation about various topics, including their wedding plans.

Arnold Westwood was this church's first called minister. Last weekend, Victor Lundy (the architect who designed the building and worked with Arnold in the 60's) was here to pay us a visit. Isn't it interesting how those large circles come round. Sometimes those circles take a matter of minutes, some takes weeks, sometimes years, but they are always magical moments.

As a composer, one of the issues that I face, as does any composer, is when to repeat material. One of my teachers describes the process as a unity versus variety strategy. We need to have repetitive elements within a piece in order to have a sense of unity. It allows various parts of the piece to 'hang together'. However, if a piece is mono-thematic, the piece ends up being short because there is no room for development or contrast. Too much of the same leads to boredom. On the other hand, without any repetition, there would only be contrast and parts would not relate to the hold. Chaos would become the norm and nothing would 'hang together'.

So it is with life. We have plenty of changes, be they earth, political, emotional, social, etc. But we also need the repeating elements. So, I hope that all of those Passover Seders and Easter dinners will bring you some sense of recapitulation because we all need it! It takes the term 'hanging together' to a new level.

Spring Cleaning?



Don't forget the Tag Sale this summer!

We're looking for good household items – kitchen, linens, un-upholstered furniture, lamps, children's clothing, baby equipment, plus books, cds, tools, gardening – you get the picture. Hold onto everything for now; drop off at church will start toward the end of June. Can't wait? Call Linda, 226-5335, LHudson30@hotmail.com to see what we can work out.

Watch Soundings and the bulletin board for more info, and for how you can help. There are many ways!

SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Church in Westport

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Carol Porter Editor/Design

visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, Mar. 25, at noon (or before). Please e-mail your copy to: carpo@optonline.net