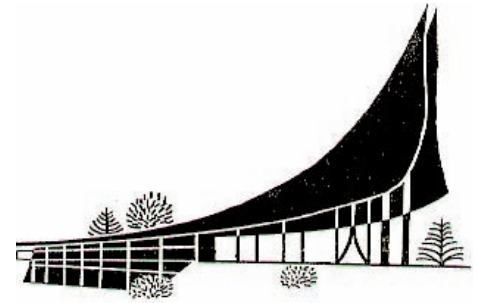


SOUNDINGS

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, JUNE 17

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

June 12 - July 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 12 Worship Service 10 am Rainbow Task Force, Chapel ... 11:30 am	13 Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	14 Senior Luncheon, East Wing, ... 11:00 am Social Justice, Council, E.W., ... 7:30 pm	15 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm Abolish Death Penalty, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	16 Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir, ... 8:00 pm	17 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., ...12:30 pm Cabaret Rehearsal, .. 7:30 pm	18 Small Group Facilitators, Meeting Hse., 10:00 am CABARET, ... 7:30 pm
19 Worship Service: ... 10:00 am Great Authors Book Group, Chapel, ... 11:30 am Sundae Social, Sanctuary ... 6:00 pm	20	21	22 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	23 Community Organizing, East Wing, . 7:30 pm	24 UU Movie Discussion Group, M.H., .. 7:30 pm	25
26 Summer Service, . 10:00 am Environmental Action, Chapel, .. 11:30 am	27 Health Care Task Force, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm	28	29 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm	30	July 1	2

SERMONS

June 12 ... 10 am.....**The Challenge of 2011 Commencement Speeches**.....Frank Hall
T. S. Eliot reminds us that, "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." What would you say to this year's graduates?
Music: *The Once & Again Folk Singers*

June 19... 10 am **"Images of Summer"** Special Projects Choir
he Special Projects Choir will be offering several selections, that features music of Dvorak, Fine, Ives, Copland, Walker, and others. A part of this service will be dedicated to the recognition and welcoming of new members who have joined during the last year.

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.

THE SOUNDING BOARD

*The last Congregational "Talk Back" meeting for the church year took place on May 22nd.
Following are notes from this session.*

Ken Vogel on the budget:

The current year's budget is on track, expenses are on target. We had a tough winter because of all the snow, but a congregant stepped up and paid for all the snow removal. Our driveway was fixed by Bridgewater, the company that rents bus parking space from us. Bridgewater is also renting out 50 parking spaces during the week. The pre-school is experiencing low enrollment and we will be lowering their monthly rent next year. This Budget is not sustainable in that we have no second minister, and we haven't paid for some specific items over the past several years. These items are: raises for the staff, payment of our fair share to the UUA, and funding for the maintenance reserve.

Staff Issues:

Marie Clair Bue understands the issue of staff raises, but thinks that this is not a budget priority. She, along with many other people is having financial issues with lowered pay, no bonuses, and increased health care costs. *Ron Taylor* doesn't think we can afford to cut any staff because the more we improve the programs that are already in place, the more our congregants will increase their giving.

A second minister:

John Austin suggests that our top budget priority should be to have enough for a second minister. If we had one, it would encourage Frank to stay longer. We discussed the difference between an Associate and an Assistant minister. The former is called by the congregation and works more independently, though in partnership with Frank. The latter would take all direction from Frank and is hired by the Board. *Ron Taylor* wants to know what benefits a second minister would provide. What would Frank want this person to do? If we have a job description now, people will see future benefit for them and may be more generous. *Marie Claire Bue* thinks the second minister should help with Small Group Ministry

Fundraising:

Harriet Hiller would like to participate in a fundraising committee that would create cultural events featuring music or guest speakers that would be geared toward all age groups. We suggested she contact Jim Keenan who is already planning several events. *Carol Porter* added that we are having another Tag Sale in August.

Sheila Lane:

John McWeeney is interested in what is happening with Sheila Lane. The group talked about the work of the Space Cadets committee, who need more time to get a proper presentation together that would explain current space needs and possible solutions. For more information, contact Sal Mollica. *John Austin* believes that in order to view the possible space changes adequately, we should have a 3-D table top model made.

Frank:

Marie Claire Bue is interested in the time frame for Frank's retirement. She is concerned that the nature of his illness might make it difficult for him to tell when it is the proper time.

Legacy Planning:

Ron Taylor wants to know more about this subject. We suggested he get in touch with John Hooper. *Marie Claire Bue* works in the field of trusts and estates, and therefore is a knowledgeable resource.

Next year the Board will continue to be available for conversation after each service. We will also hold two all congregational talks, one in October and the second in March.

June 6, 2011

Dear Friends,

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy, fish are jumpin’ and the cotton is high.”

Some of my happiest childhood memories are connected to summer. It seems we spent nearly every waking moment outside. There was no air conditioning to lure us indoors, and no television.

There was a park a ten-minute walk from our house with a swing set with a slide and a child-powered rotating platform with handles to which we could hold on ‘for dear life’ while other kids pushed with all their might. The park had a baseball field for the bigger kids, and a softball field for those of us who were younger. There was a brook that ran through the middle of the park.

We made good use of all of it, riding the swings as high as we could, sometimes standing up and bringing the swing above the center bar, or standing face-to-face with another kid pushing as hard as we could, or somehow managing to get three or even four kids on one swing.

A little sand on the slide made for a faster ride, especially when you went down standing up and taking off your sneakers, going down in stocking feet, which we stopped doing after Jimmy Rawson fell backwards when he landed and split his head open on the bottom edge of the slide. He got seven stitches. We always counted the stitches kids got from a variety of accidents.

There was never any supervision. No parents hovered over us like nervous helicopters, and certainly no playground supervisors with a fun-killing set of rules and regulations. It was a neighborhood park to which we all walked and we made up our own rules, often arguing about what was allowed on the swing, slide and carousel, and whether or not a batter was safe at first. We participated in a democratic process – the biggest kids had the biggest influence on rules.

When we played softball we didn’t call balls and strikes. We tried that one time – Bobby McCarthy was calling the pitches behind home plate and before the first inning was over he got in a fist fight with a batter who he called out on strikes. We never tried that again.

Many a softball game ended with a broken bat because there was only one bat, and I remembered one game that ended when the only ball we had got lost in the tall grass beyond the outfield.

The brook that ran through the middle of the park provided plenty of opportunity for jumping competitions. There were narrow sections where the jumping was easy, and there were wide sections, one in particular with mud on the grassy banks on each side which we named ‘suicide alley.’ Even if you made it across the water you were bound to slide and fall onto the mud.

We moved away from that town when I was in the middle of fourth grade, and though there was no neighborhood park there were plenty of places to play – a pond for swimming and fishing, and a sand pit with water clean enough to drink as well as to swim without bathing suits, hoping no adult would come along and discover and kick us out.

Summer’s easy livin’ soon turned to opportunities to work on McCue’s farm, planting pansies, picking string beans, watering and weeding for 35 cents an hour. I’m glad I grew up when I did.

Enjoy, 

Child Development, Billy Collins

As sure as prehistoric fish grew legs
and sauntered off the beaches into forests
working up some irregular verbs for their
first conversation, so three-year-old children
enter the phase of name-calling.

Every day a new one arrives and is added
to the repertoire. You Dumb Goopyhead,
You Big Sewerface, You Poop-on-the-Floor
(a kind of Navaho ring to that one)
they yell from knee level, their little mugs
flushed with challenge.
Nothing Samuel Johnson would bother tossing out
in a pub, but then the toddlers are not trying
to devastate some fatuous Enlightenment hack.

They are just tormenting their fellow squirts
or going after the attention of the giants
way up there with their cocktails and bad breath
talking baritone nonsense to other giants,
waiting to call them names after thanking
them for the lovely party and hearing the door close.

The mature save their hothead invective
for things: an errant hammer, tire chains,
or receding trains missed by seconds,
though they know in their adult hearts,
even as they threaten to banish Timmy to bed
for his appalling behavior,
that their bosses are Big Fatty Stupids,
their wives are Dopey Dopeheads
and that they themselves are Mr. Sillypants.

.....

love is a place
& through this place of
love move
(with brightness of peace)
all places

yes is a world
& in this world of
yes live
(skillfully curled)
all worlds

E. E. Cummings

Perry's Ponderings ...

"Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit," said Frank Borman. Our Religious Education ministry is an exploration by children, youth, and adults into the essence of their human spirits and sharing all of those discoveries. At the RE Sunday worship we celebrated that journey and everyone was a part of the spirit.

Someone recently anonymously gave me an amazing heart-shaped rock (Thank you!). This is a perfect representation of our intention to give children, youth, and adults a strong foundation on which to stand and feel their own hearts. In responses about what they learned this year, children said, "I am who I want to be, not who somebody tells me to be" and "you should like yourself." They are thankful for "a place to be accepted."

Four of our graduating seniors eloquently shared the meaning of their journeys through Religious Education. They showed the maturity that comes from being free to discover yourself in a supportive, loving, guiding community. Emma Axthelm shared her poem about the journey from childhood to young adulthood and expressed the feeling we hope each youth carries with him or her. Here is Emma's poem:

*I was a fetus, we all were
I didn't know who I was
but I didn't have anything to stop what I
could be*

*I was a toddler, we all were
I didn't have any enemies, manners or
non-sticky fingers
I drew with chalk, Only I knew what the
pictures I drew were
but I didn't have anything from stopping
what my talents could be*

*I was a 'tween, we all were
I didn't always like how I looked, what my
hair did, or doing my homework
I made a close group of friends, decided
not to eat meat and played cello
but there were people who tried to stop
the direction I was moving in*

*I am a teenager, some of us still are
I don't drink, I don't smoke and I don't
plan on dying anytime soon
I try to draw everyday
I try to use my imagination everyday
I try to open my heart to everyone
but I realize I am living the life I love so
go ahead and try and stop me cuz you
can't change who I am and who I will be*

RE CALENDAR

Sunday, June 12

Games & Childcare Available

Sunday, June 19

Games & Childcare Available

Sunday, June 26

1st Summer Service, Childcare Available



Your presence is requested...
To laugh and learn with our youngest members

Teach 1x /month, other roles available

Contact Perry for more info at perry@uuwestport.org or 227-7205 x15



RE Sunday worship began with a banner parade for all ages. (photo by Chris Jobson)



Seniors after bridging putting hand prints on the ceiling in the Youth Room.

YOUTH OUTREACH/ Jamie Forbes

Sunday Soup: We had 20 Soup Sundays this year raising funds for Youth Outreach service trip to DC, Rainbow Task Force, Community Gardens in Bridgeport, Bell Choir, Choir Scholarships and Camp Jewell Scholarships!! Thank you to all who made delicious soup this year and those who helped serve and clean up. Now that we have established ourselves as an important (and delicious) part of our fellowship on Sunday mornings, I would love to work with a small group to help plan out the calendar and schedule soupmakers. If you are interested in being a part of this, please e-mail back this summer (Jamie@uuwestport.org).

Do you want to participate in one of our intergenerational Service Trips this coming year? If so, let's meet on Sunday, June 12, to review past trips (New Orleans, Washington DC and Kenya) and brainstorm options for next year!

Intergenerational Service Trip 2012 brainstorming session
Sunday, June 12, 11:15 in the library

Youth Outreach calendar-June

Saturday, June 11,

9-12 Community Gardens in Bridgeport

Saturday, June 18,

9-12 Community Gardens in Bridgeport

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!!

Legislative Update for CT General Assembly Junkies



Every year as the Connecticut General Assembly winds down I become addicted to watching the House and Senate sessions live stream. For countless hours it occupies a small corner of my computer monitor as I follow the

machinations of government at work (and sometimes seemingly not at work) on pieces of legislation that we have been advocating for, some times for a matter of years. I become a Connecticut General Assembly Junky!

By the time you read this the session will probably be over. It's scheduled to end on June 8. So here's an update.

This year we have been working on the following bills:

1. SustiNet
2. Paid Sick Days
3. Replacing the Death Penalty with life without parole
4. In-state tuition for children of undocumented parents
5. Review of large insurance rate increases

SustiNet

The House passed HB 6308, pooling legislation that keeps SustiNet on track and clears the way for a nonprofit health insurance option. The bill includes:

- An Office of Health Reform and Innovation to implement state and federal health reform efforts
- A SustiNet Healthcare Cabinet, led by the lieutenant governor, to develop an integrated health care system to control costs and improve health care delivery
- A consumer advisory board
- Development of a business plan to analyze the feasibility of expanding coverage through a nonprofit health coverage alternative
- Development of a transparent and publicly accountable system to guide reforms
- Opening the state employee health care plan to municipalities this year and qualified nonprofits in 2012.

Help?

Exciting, stimulating, important social justice work. Flexible time. Well, all right it's not exciting or stimulating but it is important and when I say flexible time I mean anytime you have either here at the church or at home.

We need to update and add on to addresses on the Social Justice e-mail list--looking up street addresses and zip codes and typing them into an Excel spreadsheet.

It's important because that information is the foundation of our advocacy work. Without it we don't know who is in which representative's district and can't contact them about legislation.

Please let me know if you're interested: david@uwestport.org or 203.227.7205 x14.

We're waiting on the Senate vote which looks good. The Governor will presumably sign the bill since he has been responsible for negotiating it into the present form. We've been working on SustiNet and the Pooling bill for over 3 years. This is about a quarter of what the original bill looked like so we'll be at this for years to come.

Paid Sick Days

Passed the Senate and, as I write this, is being debated in the House. The votes appear to be there but there are hours of grandstanding, motions, and amendments only meant to stall the inevitable before the vote finally takes place. If the opposition had the votes to defeat it the vote would not have been called. Since the vote has been called, the votes are there for passage but the opponents will drag it out for hours. We've been part of the Everybody Benefits Coalition for Paid Sick Days which initiated this legislation for 2 years. The Governor will sign this when it reaches his desk. Requires employers of 50 or more service workers to provide a maximum of 5 paid sick days per year. Connecticut will be the first state to pass such legislation.

Death Penalty

As I wrote in the previous issue of Soundings the Democrats caucused and saw that, in the Senate, the votes for replacing the death penalty with life without parole just weren't there. Two Senators who were previously for the legislation switched due to the Cheshire case and what would have been a close vote became a lost cause...for this session. The votes were there in the House and the Governor was onboard.

IN-State Tuition for Children of Undocumented Immigrants

The Senate gave final passage to a bill that will allow children of undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates at Connecticut colleges and universities. The bill requires the successful completion of four years of high school in Connecticut. The Governor has committed to signing. This is the first year that we have been involved with this bill which was initially proposed, passed, and vetoed by then Governor Rell.

Large Insurance Rate Review

This is our first year working on this. Right now it's a toss-up. The bill might not even make it to the floor and we might run out of time in this session. The bill would establish procedures for a hearing for large health insurance rate increases for certain insurance policies, and authorize the Healthcare Advocate or the Attorney General, or both, to be a party to any such hearing.

Update from the following day

After 11 hours of Republican filibustering (I didn't watch it all) that included questions of hang nails, if a medical note written by a faith healer would count as a medical excuse, and whether candlestick makers were covered by the bill, the Paid Sick Day bill passed.

The Governor has withdrawn his support of the Insurance Rate Review bill so that is unlikely to move forward.

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 "Everything Must Go" both currently playing at the Garden Cinema in Norwalk, Dessert poluck at 7:30, discussion at 8.
At the Meeting House.
All are welcome!

Nanny Wanted ...

Looking for a mature, nurturing woman to help us part-time with infant baby care, housecleaning, errands, general support and ideally help with meal prep. Hours are flexible. If interested, please contact Anna or Dan at 203-292-9412.

Business Matters

*June is bustin' out all over -
-Oscar Hammerstein*

June is a transition month: the current fiscal year comes to an end and a new one begins July 1st.

If you owe on your pledge you will be receiving a statement. If you need to make special payment arrangements, call the business office. If not, thank you in advance for completing your pledge.

Have an enjoyable summer and looking forward to your returning in September.

Your Business Manager,
John Carroll



Flowers for May

May 1

Happy Birthday John, my love.
Given by Gail Pesyna

May 8

In memory of Dorothy Sherman
*With love from
Jane, Susan, Michael, Jim & Trevor*

May 22

In loving memory of Shirley
Whetstone



First two Summer Services

Sunday, June 26 - 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 -- 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.

Sunday, July 3 - 10 am 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. With Bob Jones, Sam Brody, Melinda McMillan, John McWeeny, Bill Rother, Vidal Clay.

Summer Schedule for SOUNDINGS

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is June 17 and will cover all dates and events from June 26 - July 23.

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 August 28 through Sept. 17

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

Sunday, June 19th is
ice cream Sundae

Treat your Dad, Grandpa and the whole family to a cone or a sundae and kick off the start of summer!

**6 pm - 8 pm - \$5,
proceeds benefit new church carpeting.**

Bring a lawn chair!



Summer Bell Choir



The 10 best reasons to join the Summer Bell Choir:

- 1) *it is better than mowing the lawn*
- 2) *you get to meet your musical friends*
- 3) *you can play pieces of real music – music you do not hear on the radio*
- 4) *your social life may be enhanced – through music*
- 5) *your musical skills will be improved*
- 6) *it is a great opportunity to watch a conductor*
- 7) *you will be a part of an organization where every part counts – and every player counts*
- 8) *the ethereal sound of the bells will have a significant impact on your emotional state*
- 9) *it will improve your listening skills*
- 10) *it is fun*

Seriously, the Bell Choir will be having rehearsals throughout the summer and we warmly invite anyone interested in learning to ring bells to join us. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 8:00 beginning June 22nd.

The first half hour will be devoted to the basics of bell ringing along with some basics of music as well. A melody is not played by one individual but requires cooperation and careful listening between ringers so that the melody sounds connected. It takes multiple ringers playing together to make the music sound as one. Come connect with us!

Please contact Ed Thompson at ETmusic1@aol.com (203) 227-7205 ext. 18 or
Debbie Handler @ Debbie.handler@trafigura.com (203) 550 - 9193



Come enjoy the music, COME TO THE CABARET!

Please join us on **Saturday, June 18th at 7:30**

for a fun evening of live musical performances. The June Cabaret will feature jazz, folk, and popular classics performed by your fellow U UW congregants as well as some invited professional musicians. Beverages and munchies will be provided and you're also welcome to bring your own. Come join the fun, invite your friends, and kick off your summer with a relaxed and enjoyable evening of entertainment. For more information: PatriceFitzgerald@gmail.com.

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, June 17, at noon (or before).
Please e-mail your copy to:
carpo@optonline.net