

# SOUNDINGS

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



**THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 10**

Aug. 29 - Sept. 18, 2010

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug. 29  Summer Service, 10 am	30  Bell Choir, East Wing, ... 7:00 pm	31	Sept. 1  Chant & Meditation, Sanctuary ... 7:00 pm	2  Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Committee, Meeting Hse., ... 5:30 pm Special Projects Choir, ...8:00 pm	3	4  Circle of Care Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am
5  Summer Service: 10:00 am  UN Committee, Library, ... 12:45 pm	6	7  Microfinance, ... 7:30 pm  Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	8  Chant & Meditation, Sanctuary ... 7:00 pm	9  Youth Choir - 5 pm Bell Choir - 7 pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm	10  SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12:00 noon  REEL Justice Potluck, Fellow. Rm., 6 pm  REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ...7:30 pm	11
12  Homecoming Worship Service ... 10 am  RE Orientation, Sanct. 11:45 am  Classic Book Gr. Rhoda Burnham's home, 12:30 pm	13  RE Orientation, Sanctuary, ... 11:45 am  Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm  O&AF Rehearsal ... 7:45 pm	14  Social Justice Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm	15  SOUNDINGS Mailing... 9:30 am  Chant & Meditation, Sanct., ... 7:00 pm  Abolish Death Penalty, E.W., ... 7:30 pm  Men's Choir - 8pm	16  Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - E.W. ... 7:00 pm  Women's Choir, ... 7:45 pm	17  Shawl Ministry, Meeting Hse., ... 12:30 pm	18  Small Group Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am  Bell Choir Workshop, E.W., ... 10:00 am

## SERMONS:

- August 29 ... Summer Service, 10 am ..... **“Living in the Middle, the Endless Middle”** ..... David Connell  
*... a reflection on the unfolding of our life's paths, the continuity of that evolution between beginnings and endings, and the value of a contact with and awareness of the divine in our lives as we live our way into whatever is coming.*
- September 5 ... Summer Service, 10 am ..... **“The To-Be List”**..... Perry Montrose  
**(Please bring water from your summer travels for our water communion)**  
*As we move through endless to-do lists and responsibilities, how do we want to approach our work, personal, and congregational life? Who are we in what we do? Folk group Mad Agnes (www.madagnes.com) will be the musical guest at this service. This trio is well-known for their intelligent songwriting and intricate harmonies.*
- September 12 ... 10 am ... ..... **Homecoming Sunday** .....  
*We gather on the lawn, form a circle, rededicate ourselves to our purposes and principles, then process into our sanctuary together to be reminded, to be inspired and to begin...again.*
- September 19 ... 9 & 11 am ..... **The Three Big Questions** ..... Frank Hall  
*We'll celebrate the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by looking at the questions God puts to Adam, Eve and Cain, the 'first family.'*



## How many UU's does it take to create a mammoth tag sale and raise over \$7,500?

**65** volunteers helped to put on our tag sale on August 6 and 7. It was an event of fellowship and community as we unpacked, sorted and priced all of the many donations. The guiding committee of Linda Hudson, Nanc Van Clief, Felicity Medinger and Yvonne Serbell would like to thank all of the many volunteers and donors for their hard work, dedication to the task and their cheerfulness, despite the stifling heat, - without you the tag sale would have not been a success!

The sale was amazing on so many levels - the neighbors of the church who dropped by with donations and stayed for a chat; the fascinating clientele who came to shop and the diversity of languages spoken; the new member volunteers who bonded to the church through the shared activities of schlepping, sorting, selling or sweeping; the church members grateful for a chance to clean house and contribute that way. The donations were generous; the shoppers who lifted their heads from the laden tables to be awed by the architecture (some even took pictures); the young families grateful to find inexpensive beds or car seats or cribs; the invitations we extended to join us on Sunday - and surely some will; and the good will generated by volunteers who were cheerful and helpful ("you all are so nice!" was heard more than once).

**A special thanks to our amazing group of volunteers, especially:**

Ann Ford • Beth Skudder • Daisy Skudder • Ned Skudder • Lisa Skudder • John Mcweeney • Kate Lannaman • Carol Porter • Jordan Van Clief • Barb Thormahlen • Julia Wyant • Luke Wyant • Elaine Wienmann • Kathy Kurzatkowski • Lisa Mclinnis • Rob Everich • Jean Northup • Carol Goddard • Candy St. Onge • Carl Serbell • Liz Caplin • Tim Wilson • Rosemary Ratcliff • Sam Ratcliff • Tia Ratcliff • Ben Ratcliff • Denny Davidoff • Marjolijn de Jager • Jocelyn Keith • Hannah Keith • Diane Moller • Jessica Sinha • Paula Yonkers • Aimee Holstrom • Peggy Ullrich • Art Ullrich • Randy Burnham • Charis Lockwood • Kristen Borchetta • Joyce Overton • Marion Wertheim • Beth Shea • Ryan Shea • Cindy Potter • Arnela Tenmeer • Marie Pham • Ally Tamucci • Bob Perry • Ron Taylor • Jim Bridge • Marilyn Reed • Howard Aibel • Cornelia Fortier • Tisha Ferguson • Pam Klomberg • Chris Place • Diane Becker • Katherine Snook • Nola Van Alstine Landen • Sophie Barnes.

Only two items remain from the sale. There is an unassembled IKEA metal frame bunk bed set (retail \$159) and a large heavy natural wood executive desk. If you have a need for either they are yours for a small donation (you decide the amount) to the church. Bobby Santiago can show you the items and you can leave a check in the office.



August 21, 2010

Dear Friends,

We celebrated Sue's birthday over lobster at her beach house in Maine, and I was reminded of the insightful truth in Isaiah 11:16, '...and a child shall lead them.' I was thinking of all the ways parenting for these 47 years has 'led me.'

During Sue's first few years we had no religious affiliation; I had left the Congregational Church of my childhood and early adult years, somewhat reluctantly, but I realized I simply could not give my assent, explicit or implicit, to the creedal statements about Jesus—as God's 'only Son.'

I knew about the Unitarians, having visited a couple of churches, and I felt 'at home' in them, but felt no urge to become involved, at least not until my four-year old daughter asked one day, "Dad, what am I?" She explained that her friend Marie had announced that she was Catholic. Without missing a beat I replied, "You're a Unitarian."

That's when I got involved in the Wellesley Hills church where we were living and I was teaching, and before I knew it Sue was attending Sunday School and I was asked to be the advisor to the high school youth group.

I still hesitate to associate myself with creedal statements. Twenty six years ago, however, I introduced what quickly became our affirmation: 'love is the spirit of this church,' etc. It's not so much a statement of belief as it is an aspiration, stating what we aspire to be.

Recently our Board of Trustees asked Mary Money to do some work on the creation of a mission statement – Mary has done an excellent piece of work, enlisting the help of a large group of folks of all ages and backgrounds. She says, "The goal of the mission statement is to define our religious community for ourselves as well as our neighbors and the population to which we belong."

She says that the 'purpose of such a statement' is to offer 'a succinct statement for future directions and priorities, to foster connections, encourage membership and participation' in the congregation.

Our Mission Statement task force offers a three-word summary: inspire, connect and act.

They say, "We inspire and support individual spiritual growth; we connect through worship, music, learning and caring ministries and we act in the service of peace and social justice."

The group reminds us of the Seven Principles of our faith, which affirm: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations; the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Neither our so-called Seven Principles, nor our Mission Statement, is intended to be a creedal statement as a prerequisite for membership in our congregation.

It is, however, a sincere and carefully crafted summary of who we are, why we're here and where we hope to go in the days and years ahead.

Mary and her group are planning ways to both inform and involve all of us in the final version of the Mission Statement – they want it 'to represent the entire community,' including those who are supportive friends of the congregation but who do not choose to become official members.

Emerson said, "If I know your party I anticipate your argument."

Sometimes in our enthusiasm we imply a kind of 'party line,' suggesting that everyone should be in total agreement about current social issues and causes. That makes me nervous. It makes me want to say, "Wait a minute! Listen to what those who don't agree are saying."

On the other hand, it's important that we stand for something – that we're inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons; that we are a diverse congregation, welcoming all ages, races and faith traditions; that we affirm individual spiritual growth through our religious education and odyssey programs, our music program and our social justice efforts.

We've come a long way since 1949 when that small band of religious pilgrims gathered in living rooms with a mission in mind – a band that outgrew the living room meetings, and the Westport Women's Club space, and the Saugatuck School, and because of their vision and their commitment we have our exceptional facility on Lyons Plains Road.

The work that Mary Money and her Mission Statement task force has been doing is a powerful and timely reminder to me of why I became a Unitarian Universalist.

It is being presented to us as we begin a new church year, helping us to focus on the essential meaning of our service of rededication on Homecoming Sunday. What does it mean to 'dedicate and to re-dedicate' ourselves to this religious community?

I want to express appreciation to Mary and Company and encourage you to pay attention to what they will be presenting for your consideration.

Finally, I want to say that I'm eagerly and energetically looking forward to this new year. I've had a restful summer, inspired by our General Assembly in Minneapolis in late June, and a week at Chautauqua in July and time in Maine, lobster, waves and all!

I hope you are well and I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

## Perry's Ponderings ...

I was fortunate to attend an intense workshop with Julia Cameron, author of *The Artist's Way*, at the Omega Institute this summer. Julia led us through a series of writing exercises designed to help us remove subconscious obstacles and release our creativity. The process of discovery mixed with Julia's dry wit and commanding presence made for a dynamic workshop. The most amazing part about it was the sense of community that was formed in such a short time.

A key element was the way Julia had us break into small groups to share each piece we wrote. We were instructed to meet with different people each time. By expressing our unfiltered thoughts to others, we were able to process them and receive empowering feedback. It was the listening and sharing that stood out, just as it does in our faith community where we come together to share our dreams and struggles.

Julia had us reflect on interesting questions; "What do I need to know, do, accept, try, grieve, celebrate?" We looked at the effect of various people in our lives, both positive and negative. Michelle told a story of falling in love with a man who read her Ram Das' *The Only Dance There Is* on a romantic boat ride. She thought she had discovered her soul mate who appreciated the same philosophy she did. Michelle said, "It turned out he was just a good reader."

Joel shared that he was raised Jewish but explored Unitarian Universalism, only to come full circle and get involved in a stricter Jewish sect. Yet, he is still on the journey and eager to soak up conversation about spiritual matters. We promised to keep in touch and push each other to further exploration.

I look forward to hearing all of your summer stories and catching up on life events. Hearing our own stories reflected in the listening ear of another helps us gain perspective and discover the wisdom we have experienced. Knowing is not the accumulation of knowledge, but feeling what we have experienced.

I invite you to share a piece of that feeling in our water communion as part of the summer service I am leading on Sept. 5. That Sunday marks the end of the church summer, but just the beginning of an entire year of sharing our creativity in beloved community.

## RE CALENDAR

### Sun. Sept. 12

10am Homecoming Service  
11:45am RE Volunteer Orientation

### Tues. Sept. 14

7pm RE Volunteer Make-up  
Orientation

### Sun. Sept. 19

9 & 11am First day of RE

### Sun. Sept. 19

8th Gr. OWL Parent Orientation



Please register your children and youth for Religious Education online at [www.uuwestport.org/REReg/registration.php](http://www.uuwestport.org/REReg/registration.php)

All RE Volunteers must attend: Volunteer Orientation - Sunday, Sept. 12, 11:45am - 1pm pm Understand your role, meet your teaching partners, discuss Safe Congregations & Behavior Policy (if you absolutely cannot attend, there will be a make-up session on Tues., Sept. 14, 7- 8:15pm)

Adults, our children and youth would like to share their gifts with you and accept yours. Join us in RE for a day.

Questions?  
Contact Perry at [perry@uuwestport.org](mailto:perry@uuwestport.org) or 203 227-7205 x 15.

## UU WiffleBall

The Westport Wiffletarians made their official tournament debut in Stratford on August 7. Although it was a fun time, mercy was in order. No, not in the religious sense but because the Wiffletarians more than met their match in all three games and there was a 10-run "mercy rule".

The Wiffletarians may have ended their play on the hot day sooner, but with no less joy. Hopefully experience will bring improvement, but either way there is the chance to bond with your fellow UU's and have a good time. Join us. Contact Carl ([cserbell@yahoo.com](mailto:cserbell@yahoo.com)) or Perry at ([perry@uuwestport.org](mailto:perry@uuwestport.org))



Westport Wiffletarians Perry Montrose, Sarah Bell, and Carl Serbell after a long but fun day in Stratford.



Sarah Bell up at bat on the hot summer day.

# Back from Kenya!



*12 of us plus Ben*

How to describe two and a half weeks immersed in an agrarian society in Kenya? I can say that each of the 12 of us feel that we have experienced something profound. Thank you to Dan and Anna Iacovella who made the initial connection to Ben Museve who, with his entire family, welcomed and hosted us on his family's farm. From the moment we arrived at Nairobi airport to the day we left, Ben or a member of his extended family made sure that we got where we needed to be and were well taken care of. Each day we worked on one of our projects whether it was hauling rocks for the clean water projects, digging a trench for the beginning of the children's library, or teaching in the schools. Each of our 6 youth prepared lessons and taught for four days. The lessons were in Art History (Lena), Geography and Comparing Cultures (Ryan), Creating a Story Book (Leila), Physics (Erin) a dramatic reading of a Folk Tale (Connor), and US History (Dan). It is an understatement to say that the students LOVED our youth!



*Jan hauling rocks*

Joan Duncan, her daughter Lena and Joan's two graduate students have started an educational initiative which was launched last summer and she was pleased to know that the local educational committee has been meeting and planning all year. We each brought 20 pounds of donated books and teacher manuals in our luggage to support the teachers and the students. It is because of your generosity and support that we were able to finance three clean water projects. Your donations paid for a local engineer to supervise the project, a few hired workers, bags of cement and maybe some shovels. Other than that, the work was so basic and the materials were rocks we found nearby. Ben tells us that since Dan and Anna first started financing the water projects through their non profit organization, United With Kenya, the incidence of typhoid fever has gone down dramatically!



*Leila and Erin with school children*



*Joan working on the foundation*



*Lena with her students*

In addition to the physical work each day and the teaching, we ate well..lots of fresh fruit and vegetarian dishes, had beautiful weather, visited a local market, met so many wonderful people from the village, went to ceremonies, hosted a celebration, had a youth gathering, and even managed a drive through one of the best game parks in Kenya on our way home. We did without electricity, running water for showers, the internet and e-mail, newspapers, meat, tv or radio, and cell phones were used sparingly. Evenings were spent eating together on the porch overlooking the farm, journaling, reading and playing group games sometimes with Ben's family and friends. We travelled mostly in the back of a truck and navigating the huge ruts in the roads was the only part of the trip that made me anxious! Not the youth...they loved it. It was quite a sight with the white people standing in the back of the truck on the way to or from school or a work site with children running behind....we were the objects of much curiosity in the village!



*Conner with teachers*

I am especially proud of our youth Erin, Connor, Leila, Lena, Dan and Ryan who worked so hard on all of the projects, learned many Swahili words and greetings, were respectful to everyone they met and to the culture we were visiting. It was a privilege to experience this with them and my other travel partners Kristen, Jan, Joan, Naomi and Dan.



*Dan F sharing his drawings.*

*Jamie Forbes*

### UUSC, UUA Declare Support for Lower Manhattan Mosque

On Monday, August 9, UUSC and the UUA sent a joint letter to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg expressing strong support for the Cordoba Center, an Islamic mosque and community center proposed for Lower Manhattan. Below is an excerpt from that letter.

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As leaders of a religious movement with a significant presence in New York City and nationally, we are writing to express our strong support for the planned mosque and Islamic community center in Lower Manhattan. The unanimous vote of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and your own endorsement reaffirm values of religious tolerance and the promotion of interreligious understanding.

The shortsightedness of the center's critics is especially evident when one considers that, over the long run, the voices of moderate Islam hold the key to defeating extremism. These are the voices that represent the overwhelming majority of those within Islam, including the millions of Muslim American citizens, who disavow and repudiate violence. Accordingly, the mosque and community center near Ground Zero should be welcomed as an important effort by moderate Muslims to reach out to interfaith communities in New York and beyond. To demonize them is at odds with the geopolitical interest of the United States and our cherished — and constitutionally protected — tradition of religious freedom.

Because it is a noncreedal faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism has always been at the forefront of promoting intercultural understanding. This work assumed special significance after the Sept. 11 attacks. Unitarian Universalists have also worked to help defend Muslim Americans against some of the worst consequences of the erosion of civil liberties resulting from post-Sept. 11 security policies.

Over the past two years, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has joined with Unitarian Universalist congregations to conduct a series of workshops with Muslims in major U.S. cities in efforts to further promote interreligious understanding. The Lower Manhattan mosque and community center would represent a major endorsement of interfaith understanding and a symbol of support for the peaceful teachings of Islam.

### Torn Between Our Reality and Our Aspirations

*"There is a surprising, and painful, truth behind Unitarian Universalist efforts to become more diverse. This truth must begin with an honest look at who we are and why we are who we are, and it ends in a conundrum but not without hope. If Unitarian Universalists really want to change, accepting the truth is the only place to start.*

*Torn between our reality and our aspirations what are we to do?"* **Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed**

Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, UU Minister, recently retired, and author of *In Between*, and *Memoir of an Integration Baby*, will be leading a workshop here on diversity on December 4 and preaching both services on December 5. Interested in participating in planning our Diversity Weekend? Join Denny Davidoff, Catherine Onyemelukwe, and David Vita Wednesday, September 8.

Please contact Catherine (203.222.0630, conyemelukwe@gmail.com) for time and place.

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### More Children in Connecticut Are Struggling with Hunger

One in six children in Connecticut doesn't have enough to eat, according to a report released by Feeding America on July 1.

And YES WE CAN (or jar, box, package...) help. One of the easiest things that we all can do is bring a food item to church for the Connecticut Food Bank. Just leave it on the Social Justice table in the Church foyer any (every) Sunday.

The report, titled **Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2006-2008**, listed Connecticut among the Top 10 states with the highest increase in the rate of children under 18 who are food insecure. And the situation has only gotten worse since 2008.

Connecticut's numbers jumped 2.9 percent from the previously reported study released last year. Connecticut is the only state in the Northeast to see such a substantial increase.

"That's a Top 10 list that we don't want to be part of and it shows that we need to do better for our children in Connecticut," said Nancy L. Carrington, Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Food Bank. On July 6, the Food Bank started its Summer Suppers program, which provides late afternoon food to youngsters who have no access to school meals while school isn't in session.

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### Let Freedom Sing: How Music Inspired the Civil Rights Movement

We're back!

REEL Justice Film series begins the new church year on Friday, September 10 at 7:30 with Let Freedom Sing: How Music Inspired the Civil Rights Movement. This film powerfully retells one of the greatest stories in American history, the Civil Rights Movement, in a compelling way... through the singers and songwriters who fought for change through their music.

The richness of lyrics and songs are on full display as they helped move a generation during turbulent times, bringing change to our country.

Narrated by Louis Gosset Jr., interviews with Gladys Knight, Isaac Hayes, Chuck D, Andrew Young, Quincy Jones, Pete Seeger and more. Hear the music of Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gay, Aretha Franklin, Issac Hayes, The Blind Boys of Alabama, James Brown and...and...and.

Also features 29 performances, 10 top ten classic hits! Including Respect, Change Is Gonna Come, People Get Ready, Fight the Power and What's Going On.

The combination of authentic material (e.g. TV footage), interviews and commentary is absolutely fantastic!

## Business Matters

The Finance Committee and Church Treasurer are pleased to relay the following financial results and commentary for Fiscal Year 2010 which ended June 30, 2010. This will be part of the Annual Report and Meeting on September 26.

	FYE 6/30/10 Annual Budget	12 mo. Actual Jul'09 - Jun'10	\$ difference (unfavorable)	Actual as % of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge	\$618,100	\$657,042	\$38,942	106%
Voluntary Contributions	94,666	81,208	-13,458	86%
Facility Use	121,280	129,804	8,524	107%
Other	14,300	12,527	-1,773	88%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$848,346</b>	<b>\$880,581</b>	<b>\$32,235</b>	<b>104%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Compensation	\$605,231	\$613,327	-\$8,096	101%
Maint & Insurance	122,100	116,719	5,381	96%
Programs & Services	35,600	29,766	8,334	77%
Denominational	36,987	36,988	-1	100%
Other Expenses	44,789	55,041	-12,752	128%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$844,707</b>	<b>\$851,841</b>	<b>-\$7,134</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$3,639</b>	<b>\$28,740</b>	<b>\$25,101</b>	

Our FYE results were favorable with a net income of \$28,740. This came primarily from some unanticipated supplements to gifts and the staff doing a good job of managing our expenses. This positive result and turnaround is encouraging compared with our performance last year when we were \$152,300 in the RED. It will take us several years to recover from this.

### Sheila Lane

<b>Income</b>	
Rental Income	\$44,350
Interest Income	1,022
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$45,372</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Mortgage Interest	\$64,989
Property Taxes	10,354
Insurance	800
Other	2,170
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$78,313</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$(32,941)</b>

Our Sheila Lane property is not part of our operating budget and is considered a separate entity. As anticipated we had a loss of \$32,940. The BOT is studying various options on how we should proceed.

## SOUNDINGS

*Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Church in Westport*

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### Endorsed Community Minister

Rev. Debra Haffner ...[debra@uuwestport.org](mailto:debra@uuwestport.org)

### Board of Trustees

John Hooper .....	Chair
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Kristen Leddy	
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Sal Mollica	
Jane Sherman	
Lynn Whitton	

### SOUNDINGS Staff

Carol Porter .....

visit our website at  
[www.uuwestport.org](http://www.uuwestport.org)

*The next SOUNDINGS deadline is  
Friday, Sept. 10 at noon (or before).  
Please e-mail your copy to:  
[carpo@optonline.net](mailto:carpo@optonline.net)*

**ODYSSEY IS COMING!** Look for the upcoming Odyssey Fall 2010 brochure in your next issue of Soundings! Don't be the last on your block to sign up for a workshop!



**ATTENTION CHORAL SINGERS**  
Rehearsals will begin soon!

**YOUTH CHOIR:** Thursday, Sept. 2, 5:00 - 6:00

**TEEN CHOIR:** Thursday, Sept. 16, 6:00 to 7:00

**SPECIAL PROJECTS CHOIR**  
Thursday, Sept. 2 and Thursday, Sept. 9th,  
both at 8:00 pm.

**WOMEN'S CHOIR:** Thursday, September 16, 7:45

**MEN'S CHOIR:** Wednesday, September 15, 8:00

**ONCE & AGAIN FOLKSINGERS:**  
Monday, Sept. 13 at 7:45 and Monday, Sept. 20 at 7:45

If you are currently not a member of these choirs and are interested in singing, please contact Ed Thompson [etmusici@aol.com](mailto:etmusici@aol.com) or 203-227-7205 x18 or in person.

## Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

### Immigration Rights, Reform, and Policy

UUs have their own publishing company—Beacon Press. They are featuring titles on immigration rights, reform, and policy. Here is a sampling.

- *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexican Borderlands* by Margaret Regan "is a border reality check. It tells searing stories of those who've died crossing the Sonora/Arizona desert, of young people sent to prison in Tucson for the crime of working, and of the courageous people of conscience who stand up for the rights of migrants," says David Bacon.
- *"They Take Our Jobs!" And 20 Other Myths about Immigration* by Aviva Chomsky. "An indispensable guide to the current debate on immigration. [Chomsky] makes her points with clarity and uses unassailable evidence while offering constructive short-and long-term solutions," comments Howard Zinn.



For more info, go to [www.beacon.org/client/client\\_pages/immigration.cfm](http://www.beacon.org/client/client_pages/immigration.cfm).



### UUs Arrested in Protest Against SB 1070

On July 29th, Rev. Peter Morales, president of the UUA, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, minister of the UU Congregation of Phoenix, and 23 other UU clergy and laypeople were

arrested in downtown Phoenix, AZ, for blocking a public building.

The protest was part of the National Day of Non-Compliance against SB 1070 and was supported by the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) campaign (see insert). More than 200 SSL supporters joined Puente and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network in the Phoenix protests. In addition, UU congregations across the nation hosted vigils and participated in rallies in their hometowns.

During the public witness actions, the UU protesters were easily identified by their yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts; many appeared in international TV and print coverage of the demonstrations.

UUA President Peter Morales wrote an opinion piece on the need for immigration reform in the Washington Post's "On Faith" section: "We must continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. We helped to create this crisis. It is our job to fix the mess we have made." (Washington Post - 7.29.10)

Morales also wrote a piece for the Huffington Post explaining his decision to join the protests in Arizona: "I will be there to defend the America I believe in—a country that rewards hard work, protects privacy, and guarantees civil and human rights for all. We must act now before we betray our deepest American values and damage the soul of our nation." (Huffington Post - 7.28.10)

Harnessing love's power to stop oppression, Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) is an interfaith public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the UUA, promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person.



### Our Members Make the News

• **Rev. Debra Hafner**, our **Community Minister** has been selected as the first UU On Faith panelist for the Washington Post, which will allow her to be a regular Washington Post/Newsweek blogger.

• **Catherine Onyemelukwe** was elected by the board of the UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO) as their president.

Maybe it will tempt you to save next June 22-26 for a trip to Charlotte, NC, when we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the UUA!

## History and Purpose

At the request of the Board of Trustees, a large group of congregants worked together over the summer months to draft a mission statement for The Unitarian Church in Westport. We as a congregation, will be voting to adopt our proposed Mission Statement at our Annual Meeting on September 26th.

The goal of the mission statement is to define our religious community for ourselves as well as in relation to the neighborhoods, organizations, societies and populations to which we belong. The purpose of the mission statement is to provide a succinct statement for future directions and priorities, foster connections, help encourage membership and participation and establish priorities for a large and active congregation.

Those participating in the mission statement process included a variety of people of different ages and lengths of tenure as well as members and non-members. The group was led by a congregant who is also a professional facilitator. Mindful of its responsibility to represent the entire community, the group took its direction and inspiration from many different resources developed over the past decade. For example, the group embraced the inclusive spirit and thorough processes of the Vision 2028 initiative undertaken by the congregation in 2002-2003. The draft mission statement is a continuation of work products started by the Mission Vision Committee in 2007-2008. The heart of the draft mission statement comes from the thoughts and perceptions of 300+ congregants who participated in the Essence of Us events in 2009 and 2010. External resources included mission statements from over 50 Unitarian Universalist societies across the U.S.



## Proposed Mission Statement

The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community. We are free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

WE **INSPIRE** and support individual spiritual growth.

WE **CONNECT** through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries.

WE **ACT** in the service of peace and justice.

*Our congregation affirms the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association:*

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.