

SOUNDINGS

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



THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAR. 25

March 20 - April 9, 2011

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar. 20 Service: 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Abolish Death Penalty, E.W., ... 12:15 pm OWL Parent Group, Library ... 12:30 pm	21 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	22 <i>Odyssey:</i> When & Where to Retire, Chapel - ... 7:00 pm	23 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm Self Acceptance, E.W., ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody:</i> Congregational Comm.Organizing, Chapel ... 7:30 pm Men's Choir - 8 pm	24 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm <i>Ody:</i> Everyone Can Improve, M.H., ... 7:30 pm Women's Choir, ... 7:45 pm	25 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm UU Movie Discussion , Meeting Hse., ... 7:30 pm	26 <i>Odyssey:</i> Creating Worship, Chapel, ... 9:30 am
27 Services: 9 & 11 am OWL Closing Ceremony, E.W., ...11 am - 2 pm BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office Environmental Action, Chapel ... 12:30 pm <i>Ody:</i> Organic Veg. Garden ing, M.H., ...12:30 pm Women of the Bible, Library ... 4:00 pm	28 Health Care Task Force, Library, ... 7:30 pm	29 <i>Odyssey:</i> When & Where to Retire, Chapel - 7 pm	30 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody:</i> Self Acceptance, E.W., ... 7:00 pm NVC Practice, Chapel ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody:</i> The Ride Book Discussion, 7:30 pm Men's Choir -8:00 pm	31 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm <i>Odyssey:</i> Everyone Can Improve, M.H., ... 7:30 pm Women's Choir - 8pm	April 1 Small Group Ministries Annual Potluck, Sanctuary, ... 6:30 pm	2 Circle Facilitators, M.H., ... 10:00 am Jeanne Kimball Memorial, ... 2:00 pm RE Volunteer Potluck at Leddy's home ... 6:00 pm Speaker Sean Faircloth , Sanct. ... 7:30 pm
3 Services:9 & 11 am K-6 Start in Sanctuary BOT Coffee Chat, 10:15 am & 12:15 pm- Jan's Office COA Parent/Youth Orient. M.H ... 12:15 pm UN Committee, Chapel, ... 12:30 pm Speaker Anna Lappe, Sanct. ... 1:00 pm	4 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	5 Microfinance, Fellow. Rm., ... 7:30 pm Chamber Choir, Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	6 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody:</i> Self Acceptance, E.W., ... 7:00 pm <i>Ody:</i> Deism & UU Fellow. Rm.- 7:30 <i>Ody:</i> The Ride Book Discussion, 7:30 pm Men's Choir - 8pm	7 Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com. M.H., ... 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm <i>Ody:</i> Everyone Can Improve, M.H., ... 7:30 pm Women's Choir, ... 7:45 pm	8 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., 12:30 pm	9 Martha Brigman Memorial Service, Sanct., ... 1:00 pm KEYs Benefit Concert, Sanctuary, ... 7:00 pm

SERMONS

March 20 ... 9 am "A Gift From the Sea"Frank Hall 11 am Spring Concert/Service Special Projects Choir <i>The Special Projects Choir presents their annual Spring Concert/Service with music of Bach, Barber, and Mozart, with special guest musicians. Frank Hall offers reflections on the poetry/lyrics.</i>
March 27 ... 9 & 11 am: Rainbow Task Force Service: "Celebrating Our Success and Working For More" Frank Hall <i>We've been designated a Welcoming Congregation for many years, working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender equality. There has been much progress, and there's more work to do. Music: Men's Choir & Women's Choir.</i>
April 3... 9 & 11 am "Between the Pulpit and the Pew" Frank Hall <i>What's a good sermon? Who decides? What's the point of this tradition? Music: Once & Again Folksingers.</i>

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

Register Now...

* NY DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

will be held May 6-7, at the Morristown Hyatt. Mark Morrison-Reed a prominent African-American scholar and author of *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* will be the keynote speaker. Friday night Peter Mayer, composer of "Blue Boat Home" will entertain us. AND, you can attend Frances Sink's workshop, "Covenanting with Our Justice Seeking Values." Register!

www.uumetrony.org/am11/registration.htm

• **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** takes place June 22-26 in Charlotte NC. GA 2011 celebrates the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America at the opening ceremony. Other anniversary events include: a lecture on the past and future of UUism, a panel discussion on UU social jus-



tice history, and a "New Epiphany Revival Show," led by UU song leader, composer, writer, and performer Nick Page. The Ware Lecture will be given by Karen Armstrong, one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author. Register!

www.uua.org/ga/

Chalice Jewelry 20% Off!

The CLF is having a jewelry sale through Ma. 20% discount offered on pewter pendants, pewter lapel pins, and enamel lapel pins. These make great gifts for Coming of Age students, Mother's Day & Father's



Day! Go to:

<http://clf.uua.org/catalog/>.

At checkout, write "CLF Spring Bling!" in the Add Comments field.



Neighborhood Circles: WE CONNECT!

Greetings fellow travelers on the UU journey! I wanted to report to you that our neighborhood circle activities continue to move forward. It has been almost a year since we actively engaged in gathering groups from identified geographical sectors of our congregation. We have been able to hold one to three gatherings in almost every circle. Reports from our circle facilitators tell us that we are using a wide range of venues and formats to bring us together. All those that have gathered express a real appreciation for the opportunity to meet, to get to know one another at a more personal level and to exchange a rich stimulating level of discussion.

A central purpose of our circles is to first **make connection**. This happens to be the first statement of our congregation's mission statement. And so with spring coming, our circles are in a "refresh" mode. Spring is about new life sprouting forward. With the Spring Equinox (March 20th) just around the corner we are undertaking an activity to reach out to all those located within each neighborhood circle. Between now and April 15th you will be receiving a call from a member of your circle to just check-in with you. We hope you will welcome this call and respond with interest. Our intention is to simply let you know we are interested in you and will invite you to connect with others. We do not expect this will entail more than a few minutes of your time but would like to "make connection" with you.



Jean Sturges and Miki Lasher

At our Circle Facilitator meeting on March 5th we heard great news that Circle 4 facilitated by Sonia Skindrud held its first meeting on February 15th in Ted & Christine Yang's home in New Canaan. A inter-generational group gathered with young and old voices blending into an enjoyable experience. A few participants sent comments to Sonia that captured their reactions: "We had a great time connecting with people from the church. It really gave us a wonderful sense of community." Another said: "These gatherings will allow us to get to know each other's interests and lead to interest-related outings."

March 14, 2011

Dear Friends,

Spring is the season of youth. Newness. Regeneration. The world must have been created in Spring! We look forward to this season of renewal in proportion to the severity of the winter we've had, so *this* Spring is especially appreciated.

Robert Browning put it nicely in his spring poem that concludes with the familiar line: God's in His heaven - All's right with the world! It's easy to imagine the Garden of Eden in spring, and only spring, full of lush green – who could imagine snow in Eden, or brown leaves covering the ground?

At the bottom of the stairs outside my office this morning I saw a crocus, and I smiled out loud, and imagined how proud she felt in her purple outfit, eager to announce her season, knowing full well how much her arrival would be welcomed.

Speaking of the youthful season, our youth-led service on March 3 was a spring-like, inspiring celebration of Life, appreciated for the colorful music, the youth-group's story for the children and their personal sharing, and the report from those who attended the recent Washington, D. C. trip to work with the homeless. There were carefully crafted statements by Max Sandler and Leila Fletcher.

Max wrote in the form of a play: SCENE 1 – TAKE 2. Interior of a run-down church basement at night. In this scene Max has a conversation with a homeless veteran whom he calls John, and when Max responds to John's situation by saying, 'Sorry,' John says, "*Don't apologize! I'm not sad about my life, why should you be? I may be homeless now, but if I dwell on that I'll never get on with my life. I've found that if you think about a positive future, you're more likely to have a positive present.*" Max responds, "Wow!"

Leila wrote about her youth group experience with a 'Power Shuffle,' which she explained as done in the dark with the group following directions of a leader who asks questions to the group as they all stand on one side of the candle-lit room. She says, "The first questions are easy, for example, 'Are you a girl?' If your answer is yes, you move across the room. The questions get harder and require more courage and vulnerability to respond to honestly.

"The most important rule of the Power Shuffle is that no one can talk except the leader asking questions. This means that no one can judge you, but no one can support you either. The only sound in the room is the sound of feet shuffling across the floor."

She then says, "For me, the Power Shuffle was one of the most powerful experiences of my life. There was one time when I heard all the feet depart from me and I stood alone...it was the most terrifying experience of my life...when I (finally) looked up I saw that the faces staring at me were not angry or judgmental...some faces were even crying silently."

In my brief remarks I acknowledged that it takes a lot of courage to be a person at any age.

Yours,


From Two Tramps in Mud Time *by Robert Frost*

Out of the mud two strangers came
And caught me splitting wood in the yard,
And one of them put me off my aim
By hailing cheerily "Hit them hard!"
I knew pretty well why he dropped behind
And let the other go on a way.
I knew pretty well what he had in mind:
He wanted to take my job for pay.
Good blocks of beech it was I split,
As large around as the chopping block;
And every piece I squarely hit
Fell splinterless as a cloven rock.
The blows that a life of self-control
Spares to strike for the common good
That day, giving a loose to my soul,
I spent on the unimportant wood.
The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March...
Nothing on either side was said.
They knew they had but to stay their stay
And all their logic would fill my head:
As that I had no right to play
With what was another man's work for gain.
My right might be love but theirs was need.
And where the two exist in twain
Theirs was the better right -- agreed.
But yield who will to their separation,
My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.
Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For heaven and the future's sakes.

Perry's Ponderings ...

John Carroll shared that the minister at his Congregationalist church blessed each member on Ash Wednesday by saying, "You are not alone." John thought about what his minister's message might mean to Unitarian Universalists without the Christian theological connotations. We embrace that same message with our web of connection and strong sense of supportive community.

Neighborhood Circles are helping us to weave the fabric of our UCW community. This month, facilitators and other volunteers will be reaching out by phone to all the people in their Circle. These check-in calls will create more contact to make sure everyone is heard and knows they are not alone.

Our high school Youth Group found connection with another youth group from Massachusetts that visited us for an overnight lock-in after a service trip in NYC. The youth got along seamlessly, sharing stories and playing games long into the night. After introductions the youth shared service project stories. They agreed that the best experiences were ones where they were able to interact with the people they were helping and make a connection.

At the Youth Led Worship Service, Maxx shared such an encounter in the form of a screen play he wrote about the D.C. service trip. Maxx spoke with a homeless man who insisted Maxx shouldn't feel sorry for him because he found that keeping a positive attitude about the future created a more positive present. Maxx had a moment of "wow."

During her worship reflection, Leila spoke about a Youth Group experience called a power shuffle, where youth in the dark candlelit sanctuary are asked personal questions and must walk the length of the aisle if the answer for him or her is yes. Leila remembered the frightening feeling of being the only person to remain behind after one question. However, when she looked into the eyes at the other end of the room she saw that she was not alone although she was standing by herself. Leila revealed, "I saw that the faces staring at me were not angry or judgmental. They were the faces of people playing the same game that I was." Leila received acceptance and the realization that as a UU she could have the space to be herself but not feel alone. May we all feel that in our time together.

RE CALENDAR

Sun Mar 20

12:30pm OWL Parent Group -Lib.

Sun Mar 27

11am-2pm OWL Closing Celebration - East Wing

Sat Apr 2

6pm RE Volunteer Potluck - Leddy's Home

Sun Apr 3

K-6 Start in Sanctuary

Sun Apr 3

11am COA class begins - M.H.
12:15pm COA Orientation - M.H.



Logan creates his Peace Flag as part of the K-4 Workshop Rotation closing session on Voice & Peace.

Youth Outreach Calendar

Sat., Mar. 19 - Westbridge Coalition

Sun., Mar. 20 - Soup fundraiser for Camp Jewell

Sat., Mar. 26 - Westbridge Coalition

Sun., Mar. 27 - Soup fundraiser for Rainbow Task Force

April 27-30 - UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar (topic-Women's Rights)

Mr Shepherd's apt. was so cluttered and dirty that he was at risk of being kicked out by management



YOUTH OUTREACH/ Jamie Forbes

I hope that many of you were able to come to the youth service last week to hear our youth reflect on our service trip to DC. It is always interesting to hear from them about what image stays with them when they are back into their lives in Connecticut.

I just wrote to all of our soupmakers who helped finance this trip (as well as all of you who have purchased soup in the last few months!) I told them about the last night when one of the youth told me that this trip was life-changing for her in that she wants to dedicate more of her life to helping others. I tell people that with this job I get to see youth at their best. They are confronted with the real world of people in need and they can't do enough for them. They treat these people with the utmost respect whether it is serving them dinner or cleaning their apartment.

I depend on the adults who accompany us on these trips for help with chaperoning duties. This year it was Yvonne and Carl Serbell, Mary Money and Matt Leonard and what they bring to the trip goes way beyond basic chaperoning duties. They, too, are inspirational to the youth because they are ready, themselves, to let the experiences of the week wash over them and to be changed and inspired. Thank you for the privilege of spending time with youth and adults who are putting their beliefs into action!

Our downtime was spent enjoying the sites and museums of DC



After hours of cleaning and organizing our crew poses with Mr. Shepherd!



CT HEALTH INSURANCE RATE REVIEWS

A bill that will make the insurance rate review process more transparent, give the public a voice in the process, and allow the Health Care Advocate and Attorney General to act on behalf of the people of

CT will be introduced in our General Assembly this year.

In the next few weeks I will be asking you to weigh in on your legislators to pass this bill.

Similar legislation was passed in 2009 but was vetoed by Governor Rell.

This is the story

Connecticut is a “prior approval” state for all health insurance policies sold directly to private citizens (individual plans), and for many policies sold to businesses by HMOs for employee coverage (group plans). This means that before insurers can increase the pricing on these kinds of plans, they must file a request with the state Insurance Department. The department--headed by the Insurance Commissioner (appointed by the Governor)--reviews requests to make sure they are not “excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory.” (The current law does not specify what these terms mean.)

The department can choose to approve, reject, or modify (decrease or increase) the new rate request. For individual policy rate increase requests, if the Insurance Department takes no action within 30 days the increase is automatically approved.

From 2006 to 2010, rate increases from CT’s largest insurance companies were approved in 22 out of 26 cases; in the other 4, only small reductions were sought.

Former Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and former Health Care Advocate (current Comptroller) Kevin Lembo have raised serious concerns about whether companies are adequately justifying requests for high increases, and the lack of transparency in the review process. The Insurance Commissioner has the power to call a public hearing on rate increase requests, but is not required to do so--and only two such hearings have been held in 14 years.

Former Insurance Commissioner Thomas Sullivan--a one time insurance company executive--approved a 47% rate increase on certain policies by Anthem in September 2010 without allowing a public hearing. The strong public outcry forced Sullivan to resign.

In 2010, the Connecticut General Assembly’s Real Estate and Insurance committee introduced a bill, Senate Bill 194 (SB194), requiring that:

- customers be notified when their insurance company files for a rate increase
- a public hearing to be held for increases of over 10%, if requested by the CT Health Care Advocate and the Attorney General
- allowing these two officials an official role in public hearings.

This year, over a dozen bills were submitted to the Real Estate and Insurance Committee to try again at making CT’s rate review process more balanced and public for state health care consumers. A final bill coming out of the committee may look a lot like SB194.

Stay tuned for the next step!



*The Unitarian Universalist
United Nations Office (UU-UNO)
invites you to the 2011
Intergenerational Spring Seminar.*

EMPOWER WOMEN FOR A BETTER WORLD

Every April, youth and adults from all over North America and Canada travel to New York City to attend the UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar.

The Spring Seminar provides a valuable opportunity for participants to gain a deep understanding on a topic of global concern in a fun intergenerational environment. At this year's seminar "**Empower Women for A Better World**" taking place **April 28-30th** participants will engage with crucial issues affecting women throughout the globe. High School aged youth and their advisors arrive the evening of the 27th and are housed at the 4th Universalist congregation.

If you receive Soundings electronically please click here to view the full SEMINAR SCHEDULE and here to REGISTER (Early Bird Registration available until April 1st).

If you receive Soundings by mail please copy go to the UU-UNO website <http://www.uu-uno.org/> and click on 2011 Intergenerational Seminar.

ABOLITION SUNDAY – MARCH 20

Before and after services on Sunday, March 20 our Committee to Abolish the Death Penalty is asking you to write a letter to your Connecticut representative to end the death penalty in Connecticut and replace it with life without parole.

Information, sample letters, pens and paper will all be in the East Wing.
All we need is YOU.

While the votes in the Connecticut House are safe and the Governor is opposed to the death penalty, the vote in the Senate will be close.
Your letter is important.

HELP! HOUSING NEEDED

Nanc Van Clief is in prison. It’s a very long complicated story (as these things can be) involving her ex-husband. She could be early-released in late April if she can find a place to live for up to 3 months. If you would like to discuss this, please contact David Vita, 203.227.7205 x14 or david@uuwestport.org. Thank you

UU Women's Discussion Group.
Wed. Mar. 23, 7:30-9:30 pm

Home of Catherine Onyemelukwe:
1 Mansfield Place, Westport, CT

Topic: A Creative Approach to Getting Older. *What role does creativity play in your life?*

Desserts are welcome.

Please RSVP to Gail Harris at gailharris@prudentialct.com. Please come and enjoy great company and conversation!

UU Movie Discussion Group
Friday, Mar. 25



The UU Movie Discussion Group will meet on Friday, March 25 to discuss two films: "Another Year" and "The Adjustment Bureau". Dessert poluck at 7:30, discussion at 8. At the Meeting Hse. All are welcome!

You are invited to join Small Group Ministry

Small groups meet monthly to discuss a common topic. The mission of Small Group Ministry is to facilitate spiritual growth through personal connection. Theology is grounded in autobiography and how we live our lives.

The 17 groups currently meeting offer an opportunity to make new friends, explore spiritual topics, and experience personal growth. A perfect entry point for newcomers. Current openings: Shelton, Stamford, and Redding (near intersection of Routes 7 and 107).

For more information, contact Chris Place, 203-966-1821, cplace4ici@optionline.net or pick up a brochure at church.

Business Matters

Spring Clean Up - April 23
Save the Date
Save the Church Money!

We all know what a beautiful campus we have here. The grounds, the trees, shrubs, bulbs, ground cover, etc. are spectacular in the spring.

It, however, takes a lot of work raking the leaves left over from Fall, picking up the waste from Winter and spreading the mulch around for a crisp spring look. The task is made easier when we have a lot of volunteers. Whether you can come for the entire morning, a few hours, loan some tools, or drop by with snacks and beverages, it makes a difference!

I grew up in a church (and still attend one) where stewardship is more than just giving of one's *treasures* (money) but also one's *talents* (skills and knowledge) and *time* (volunteering). Saturday morning, April 23rd is an opportunity to volunteer. Come join the many others who come out every year to spruce up the property. Truly an intergenerational event. Details to follow in the next *Soundings* as well as in the weekly events emails.

Thank you in advance for setting aside that day.

John Carroll, Business Manager

Annual Intergenerational Pot-Luck Seder



Saturday Night April 16, 2011
5:30 PM

We mix, we mingle
We munch on matzoh.
We dip our herbs twice and we lean to the left
as we learn the story of Passover - a celebration of freedom
We read from the Haggadah, the book of blessings, rituals, story and song.

Family fun - the children participate in many ways and finding the Afikoman always makes their day.
Join us and bring something to share.

We need....
Matzoh ball soup, vegetable dishes, charoset, Seder plates, desserts, grape juice, kosher wine.
Main dish provided.
\$5 per adult; \$3 per child (11 years old & up)

Help with set up, cooking, and clean up also appreciated.

The biggest preparation time is on Friday afternoon/evening.

Please let us know if you can help.
RSVP to ucwevents@gmail.com or 227-7205 ext. 20

Camp Jewell –
On Sunday, March 20th,



please participate in our Mac 'n Cheese lunch to benefit Camp Jewell Scholarships.

Also, every Sunday in April you can register and purchase a Camp Jewell retreat baseball cap. Camp Jewell will be held May 6-8.

SAVE THE DATE:

Calling all Members of the Small Group Ministry!

Friday, April 1st

is the Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Celebration.

Gathering at the Church starts at 6:30, with dinner at 7:00

THIS IS A CELEBRATION OF OUR MINISTRY.
IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW OTHER GROUPS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS MINISTRY.

ALL MEMBERS OF ALL SMALL GROUPS ARE INVITED.

Your group facilitator will be in contact regarding further details, including what to bring.



Church Staff

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- EdWard Thompson *Minister of Music*
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- John Carroll..... *Church Administrator/
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- David Vita *Social Justice Director*
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- Rev. Debra Haffner ...debra@uuwestport.org

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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*

***The Special Projects Choir will present their annual
spring concert/service on March 20, at the 11:00 service.***

The theme of this service is called "Sea of Faith" and will feature a combination of eighteenth- and twentieth-century pieces: Barber's "Dover Beach"; Bach's Cantata #150; Bach's Cantata #192, Mozart's "Veni Sancte Spiritus"; Handel's " Das Zitternde Glanzen"; Barber's "To Be Sung on the Water"; and Handel's "Amen" (Messiah).

Our soloists for this occasion will be Marcella Calabi, soprano and Michael Costantino, baritone. They will be joined by a string quartet for this special event.

This presentation is built around Matthew Arnold's poem "Dover Beach", which contains images of the sea and how they relate to his concerns about humanity, and the resulting elements of doubt and faith. Arnold wrote this poem in 1867 while he and his bride were on their honeymoon near Dover Beach. In his poem he compares the sea to faith and notes how it appears to retreat. Yet, he says "Love, let us be true to one another! For the world.hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light, nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain." The images of confusion, struggle, flight and ignorant armies clashing in the night were true for Arnold in 1867, they were true for Sophocles in ancient Greece and they remain true for us today. It is up to us to shape our responses. It is up to us to build a world where there is more love, certitude, light, peace and healing. The other pieces, also containing images of water and focusing on faith, will provide a source for thought and inspiration.

MORE VOICE CLASSES WITH MARCELLA

I am happy to say that Marcella, voice teacher extraordinaire, will be teaching more classes this spring. The reason that I am happy is that these classes have been very helpful, at a minimum, and life-changing for some. It is a rare opportunity to study in a supportive group context with an encouraging teacher.

The new dates are these: MARCH 19, 26 and APRIL 3, 9, 16.

*For more information, please contact Marcella at
mc@marcellacalabi.com or speak with Ed Thompson.*

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

Slow down, re-center and reconnect with family and friends for the entire weekend, or just on Saturday. If you want to know more, check out information from our 2007 retreat here: <http://uuwestport.org/jewell2007.html>. Details and rates about our 2011 retreat will be announced soon, and registration begins in April.

Religious favoritism? Hear about it April 2nd & 3rd

How is governmental favoritism of religious fundamentalists hurting the rest of us? What can be done?

Hear Sean Faircloth, Executive Director of the Secular Coalition for America, the first organization representing secular Americans to engage in a formal briefing with White House officials.

Sean will give us the latest scoop on the privileging of fundamentalist religious groups in matters of government funding, proselytizing in public schools, exemption from child welfare laws, even matters of sex and morality, how it affects us, and what we can do about it. There'll be plenty of opportunity for Q & A.

All events are free and open to the public

Saturday, April 2, 2011 - 7:30 p.m.
The Unitarian Church in Westport
10 Lyons Plains Road; Westport, CT 06880
Contact: David Vita, 203-227-7205 x14, david@uuwestport.org
"Sex, Morality, and the Law."

Sunday, April 3, 2011 - 9:30 a.m. Refreshments: 9:30 a.m. Program: 10 a.m.
Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County, Connecticut
at Bedford School; 88 North Ave; Westport, CT 06880
Contact: Cary Shaw, caryshaw@optonline.net, (203)505-3180
"Our Secular Decade: A Strategic Plan for Secular Government"

Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 2 p.m.
at Yale University; Lindsey-Chittenden Hall, Room 102;
63 High Street; New Haven, CT 06511
Hosted by the Secular Student Alliance at Yale University
Contact: Vlad Chituc, (607)857-4166, vladimir.chituc@yale.edu
"Our Secular Decade: A Strategic Plan for Secular Government"

Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 5 p.m.
Hosted by the Humanist Association of Connecticut
at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike; Hamden, CT 06517
Contact: David Schafer, (203)281-6232, deschafer@comcast.net
"Our Secular Decade: A Strategic Plan for Secular Government"

Only about five years old, the Secular Coalition for America is an organization of organizations, working on their behalf to increase visibility and respect for nontheistic viewpoints in the United States and to protect and strengthen the secular character of the U.S. government. The Coalition advocates that American politics espouse the complete separation of church and state as established by The Constitution.

The Coalition holds reason and science as its guiding tenets for public policy.

To get a feel for Sean Faircloth, you may want to see one of many YouTube shorts, such as

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BZewZQfCoA>

(or if you don't want to type that, google Faircloth YouTube Corporal)

The view of SCA is that freedom of conscience must extend to people of all faiths and of none.

www.secular.org is their website.

Sean Faircloth was hired as the Secular Coalition for America's Executive Director in June of 2009.

He served a decade in the Maine State Legislature and in his last term was elected Majority Whip by his colleagues. Faircloth was an accomplished legislator, successfully spearheading over thirty pieces of legislation.

So, if you care about religious freedom of conscience, come to the meetings and find out what's happening.

RE Volunteer Celebration Potluck



Host: RE Volunteer Support Circle

Location: The Leddy's House
25 Sturges Ridge Road, Wilton, CT

When: Saturday, April 2, 6:00pm
(postponed from original date of March 19)

RSVP: stef324@charter.net
203-685-6271 Stef Dennis

Come Celebrate with fellow RE volunteers!

(spouses, significant others, & friends welcome)

Please bring a **hearty dish** to share with a crowd

Childcare available upon request

Let us know number and ages of children

Let us know if you're able to help with set up or clean up
when you reply

Questions and RSVP contact Stef Dennis

stef324@charter.net 203 685 6271

Parking notes: the Leddy's mailbox is opposite from their driveway. If you have heavy dishes, come up the driveway to drop them off. There is plenty of parking on the grass along the same side of the street as the mailbox. To contact the Leddys, please call (203) 834-2716.