

SOUNDINGS

The Unitarian Church in Westport
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A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 3

May 29 - June 18, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 29 Worship Service 9 & 11 am BOT Coffee Chat 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, Jan's Office	30	31	June 1 Chant & Meditation M.H. ... 7:00 pm	2 Youth Choir - 5 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir, ... 8:00 pm	3 SOUNDINGS Deadline - 12 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., ...12:30 pm	4 Circle of Care Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm
5 Worship Service: ... 10 am RE Sunday (Cookout after service) UN Committee, Chapel ... 12:30 pm	6 O&AF Rehearsal, Sanctuary ... 7:45 pm	7 Microfinance, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	8 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	9 Golf Fundraising Event, ... 9:00 am Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com., M.H. ...5:30pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir, ... 8:00 pm	10	11
12 Worship Service 10 am Rainbow Task Force, Chapel ... 12:45 pm	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

SERMONS

May 29... 9 & 11 am Pulpit Guest, Rabbi Bob Orkand <i>Rabbi Orkand, Sr. Rabbi at Temple Israel, and a long-time friend, will be our guest. He has been quoted from the pulpit almost as often as Emerson, so it's time to hear him directly. Music: Men's Choir & Women's Choir</i>
June 5 ... 10 am RE Sunday <i>Join us in a worship experience that expresses the meaning and joy of our Religious Education ministry. The journey will be told through music by the Youth Choir, sharing of experiences, sending off our seniors in ceremony and feeling gratitude. There will be a cook-out after the service. Music: The Youth Choir</i>
June 12 ... 10 am..... The Challenge of 2011 Commencement SpeechesFrank Hall <i>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</i>



FROM THE BOARD

Important Reading

Called To Generosity – Update on Our Pledge Drive - May 20, 2011

596 – 367 – 138 - 91

Dear Members and Friends,

No those digits aren't an international telephone number or something out of the Da Vinci Code. They are important church statistics. Let me explain.

Six weeks ago we launched the annual operating pledge campaign. With a goal of \$850,000 we stand right now at \$650,437. A remarkable result in such a short time! Out of 596 households (families, couples, partners and individuals) on the church rolls 367 have responded. There are another 138 households who pledged last year but have not yet done so this year. They will be receiving reminder calls (hint, hint!).

If you do the math, that leaves 91 households who are silent. A few of these households, while still on the rolls, are probably inactive, have moved away or joined another church, but haven't informed us. And to be fair, some of the 91 may put checks or currency in the offering plate. However, that is not the same as making an ongoing financial commitment to the church.

According to Perry, David, Jamie, Lily, Jan, Ed and Frank, the majority of the 91 households participate in Sunday worship services or have children enrolled in RE classes or have teens in youth group, outreach and COA or are involved in social justice initiatives or are members of a small group ministry or people who sing or play in one or more of the choirs or receive spiritual counseling, etc. In other words, they are involved in one way or another in the church but do not pledge. It just doesn't make sense.

Recently a completed pledge form came in the mail with a 20% increase in the amount over last year. The person wrote in the Hopes and Dreams space, "My hopes and dreams for this congregation are that everyone who benefits from the church will accept responsibility as well." This person is "spot on" with the challenge the church faces and in challenging all to accept personal responsibility for the welfare and future of our church.

I urge all of you who have not yet responded to the Called To Generosity campaign to do so right away. Let's all do our part in funding this wonderful church and its programs. If you can't at this time let us know. Regardless, we need to hear from you ASAP!

Chuck Colletti
Chair, Board of Trustees

TAG



We hope you're packing up good, clean, working household items and furniture for the sale in early August.

Please hang onto your donations until the week of the sale on August 5/6; if you cannot, let us know and we'll see what we can work out.

Our Biggest Need:

a space to store some furniture between now and then. As people are moving this spring, we're getting offers of great stuff, but need a place to store it. _ a garage will do, an empty store, a dry shed, your spare bedroom (hey, mine's full already).

Second Big Need:

Do you have a large van or truck which we could either borrow or put you to work picking up a donation or two? Please get in touch.

Join us!

Ways you can help (call or see sign-ups on the bulletin board):
Sort and price the week of the sale.
Sales person/cashier the day of.
Many hands needed, Spanish speaking a plus!
Handle newspaper and on-line publicity.
Put out or pick up signs the week of the sale.
Solicit your friends for quality donations.

Linda at LHudson30@hotmail.com,
Felicity at
Felicitymedinger@yahoo.com, or
John Carroll, john@uuwestport.org,
227-7205, about storage or a van.

May 23, 2011

Dear Friends,

It seems like a couple of years ago that my infant grandson, Alex, had a Service of Dedication of Parents and Children here, officiated by Herb Adams. It was actually twenty two years ago.

On Saturday Lory and I drove to Hampshire College to watch him receive his college diploma, Bachelor of Science in Organic Chemistry. It was one of those special moments in the life of a grandparent – one of those moments hard to describe, but for which description is probably not necessary.

The Commencement speaker was Winona LaDuke, environmental activist and former Green Party vice presidential candidate recognized for her work on issues of climate change, sustainable development, renewable energy and for environmental justice in Native America. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota.

While I appreciated LaDuke's talk to the graduates and their families I was most impressed with and moved by a talk from Hampshire's long-term cafeteria cashier, Roberta Tudryn. During her 33 years in that job she raised five children and welcomed 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren into the world, as well as inviting five foster children into her home. She spoke personally and lovingly to the graduates with many of whom she had developed a warm, caring relationship.

I appreciated what Ms. Tudryn had to say, and how she said it, but I was especially impressed by the fact that she was on the speaker's platform – how often have you seen a cafeteria cashier give a talk at a college commencement ceremony?

Alex's sister, my granddaughter Hannah, is going into her senior year at Hampshire, where she is majoring in dance. Her Service of Dedication was officiated here twenty years ago by my friend and colleague Dick Drinon.

Herb and Dick are gone, but far, far from forgotten. The next generation takes center stage – and so it is, and so it has always been, and so it will be.

On the day of Alex's graduation we got a call from Jerusalem, where Carlyn is touring with a group of Jewish college students, sponsored by a foundation, Taglit-Birthright Israel, which provides the gift of first time, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26 in order to strengthen their sense of Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish people.

Carlyn said that the group was asked who among them had not had a bar/bat Mitzvah – she was one of three young women – they were invited to have their bat Mitzvah there, and each of them accepted.

Carlyn went to Hebrew school at Temple Israel for several years but decided not to do her Bat Mitzvah when she completed those classes. Last Saturday, in Jerusalem, she welcomed the opportunity to become a Bat Mitzvah, making it a very special trip which she'll never forget. Memories endure and live in us to enrich our lives. It's as simple as that.

To Life, 

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life, *Melody Beattie*

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.
It turns denial into acceptance,
Chaos into order,
Confusion to clarity.
It can turn a meal into a feast,
A house into a home,
A stranger into a friend.
Gratitude makes sense of our past,
Brings peace for today,
And creates vision for tomorrow.

I'm Nobody! Who are you? *Emily Dickinson*

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you — Nobody — too?
Then there's a pair of us!
Don't tell! they'd advertise — you know!

How dreary — to be — somebody!
How public — like a Frog —
To tell one's name — the livelong June —
To an admiring Bog!

Summons, *Robert Francis*

Keep me from going to sleep too soon
Or if I go to sleep too soon
Come wake me up. Come any hour
Of night. Come whistling up the road.
Stomp on the porch. Bang on the door.
Make me get out of bed and come
And let you in and light a light.
Tell me the northern lights are on
And make me look. Or tell me clouds
Are doing something to the moon
They never did before, and show me.
See that I see. Talk to me till
I'm half as wide awake as you
And start to dress wondering why
I ever went to bed at all.
Tell me the walking is superb.
Not only tell me but persuade me.
You know I'm not too hard persuaded

“The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao;
the name that can be named is not the eternal name.” *Tao Te Ching*

Perry's Ponderings ...

After eating together around the fellowship table, we sang ourselves down to the Chapel with *Come, Come, Whoever You Are* at the evening Family Worship. Children and adults sat in a candlelit circle around the chalice. After reading about a wonderful nature collection in *Anna's Table*, each of us shared our special object from nature. Through the stories of our objects we wove a deeper web of connection.

The 5th-6th graders reflected on their connection to water through a Taize ritual (http://www.uusc.org/files/water_justice_tai_ze_ritual.pdf). In pairs, the children took turns performing simple rituals relating to purification, thirst, caring, and anointing. The group discussed what water means in our lives and issues that prevent people from having access to clean water, including fracking (see the *Gasland* trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZe1AeH0Qz8>). After hearing about our water project trip to Kenya, the children began their Cool Drops paper mache project. Each child decorated a balloon size water drop to represent the meaning of water and will display it on RE Sunday.

The 7th grade class had rituals with fire during their Native American sweat lodge experience at Someday Farm and in the closing session when Linda Shreve led a smudging, fire ceremony, and morning prayer in the meditation garden. Each youth will share a favorite moment from all of their trips at the RE Sunday service.

The K-4th grade made banners for the RE Sunday parade after a quiz game reviewing the year's activities. The three teams amazed us with the wealth of information and experiences they recalled from their time together discovering the meaning of our Principle words – Respect, Kindness, Spirit, Truth, Voice, Peace, and Nature.

The nature objects laid on the altar at the Family Worship included special shells, a large rock reminding a father and son of a dog and a grandmother, bamboo helping to touch a father recently passed, and a maple tree branch reminding a family of the friends they will miss as they move away. My object was a rock that appeared in my car long ago and reminds me of wonderful passengers. Duncan responded, "So this rock that was just a rock now connects to all these people and has become meaningful." Each one of those objects will remind us of the deeper connection we now share. Join us for meaningful sharing in worship on RE Sunday.

RE CALENDAR

Sunday, May 29 ...

9 & 11am Regular RE (No COA)

Sunday, June 5 ...

10am RE Sunday Worship Service
(Cookout after service)

Sunday, June 12 ...

10am No RE (Games & Childcare)



RE Sunday Service - June 5 at 10 am

- Meaningful Joyous worship service for all ages
- Banner parade for all ages
 - Youth Choir Sings
- Shared experiences from Neighboring Faiths trips
- Bridging ceremony for HS seniors
 - Cookout afterwards



Ravi Sankar ignites a spark with a Diwali celebration.



Carlita, the turkey, making UU friends at Camp Jewell.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

Lily Rappaport, Youth Program Dir.

There are local, national and global opportunities for youth to be involved in social justice, leadership and governance. Our youth groupers are making a difference in these various areas:

GLOBALLY: The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) has launched the Youth Envoy Pilot Project. We are one of six congregations within the Metro NY District to participate. This Program is a critical communication link between the UU-UNO and UU congregations. Elise Thomson and Sara Banbury will serve as liaisons between the UU-UNO and the Westport Youth Group and will provide information about UN activities and UU opportunities in the global community. UU-UNO promotes the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter.

NATIONALLY: Every year prior to General Assembly (GA), the Youth Observer (YO) to the UU Association Board of Trustees is elected. The YO is a national leadership position appointed by UU youth in a national election. This year there is a new election process. Previously, candidates were nominated from GA Youth Caucus and only GA youth attendees could vote in the election. Now, this process has moved out into congregations. All youth who are active in a congregation are eligible to vote for a candidate they would best like to represent their interests on the Board. In YG we will discuss and debate about the candidate and then cast our votes.

LOCALLY: Allyson English, a junior at Joel Barlow HS, is helping to organize a fundraising event called Mikey's Way. Mikey is a former student of Joel Barlow who died of a rare aggressive form of cancer in October 2008. The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted his wish to help children in the hospital cope with their cancer. The game between the Blue Fish and JB High School will be on June 11th at 7:30 pm at the Ballpark at Harbor Yard, 500 Main Street, Bridgeport. Tickets are \$15, a third of the price is donated to Mikey's Way. For more information go to www.mikeysway.org or email Ally at allyson.english@gmail.com.

The Votes Just Weren't There

The votes just weren't there. That's how Senate President Pro Tem Don Williams described a meeting of the Democratic Caucus about the bill to abolish the death penalty.

When Senator Edith Prague (D) switched to opposing the bill after meeting with Dr. William Petit (Cheshire case), his sister, and the family lawyer in the Cheshire home what appeared to be an 18-18 tie that would have been split by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman became a lost cause.

Senator Prague was convinced that the second man accused of the triple homicide would be exempt from the death penalty if the bill was passed.

So the struggle continues. Maybe this was not to be the year because of the emotions generated by the Cheshire case.

In a 2011 Connecticut poll asking in favor of or opposed to the death penalty 67% favored the death penalty while 28% were opposed, a new high. Support for the death penalty has been rising since the Cheshire murder in 2007 – it was 65% to 23% in 2010, and 59% to 31% in 2005 (before Cheshire).

When the question was posed death penalty versus life without parole the 2005 survey favored life without parole 49% to 37%. In 2011 these numbers reversed with 48% favoring the death penalty and 43% life without parole.

So what does this mean for our work? As we expected all along, Cheshire had a major impact and turned the tide for abolition. And yet, despite Cheshire, we were only one vote shy in the Senate. We had the votes in the House and the Governor. Disappointed? Yes. Ready to mount an even more effective campaign and pick-up that one vote next time? Absolutely!

Thank you for your letters and e-mails to our representatives. We will end the death penalty in Connecticut. To be continued.

Unitarian Read Aloud Day at the Beardsley School, May 5, 2011



OSCAR AWARD WINNING EXPLANATION OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

"**Inside Job**" won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2010 Oscars. It's easy to see why. This is a big budget, polished, finger pointing, slickly made documentary that almost anyone can appreciate.

Definitely riveting...and troubling. Even distressing and disturbing for those of us (and who hasn't?) suffered as a result of the financial collapse. It's also informative, scathing and, most importantly, fair!

It's the best explanation of the financial crisis of 2008 that you'll get in one hour and 48 minutes. Equal time is given to accusers and accused and that in itself is devastating.

The film focuses on changes in the financial industry in the decade leading up to the crisis, the political movement toward deregulation, and how the development of complex trading such as the derivatives market allowed for large increases in risk taking that circumvented older regulations that were intended to control systemic risk. In describing the crisis as it unfolded, the film also looks at conflicts of interest in the financial sector, many of which it suggests are not properly disclosed.

See it **Saturday, June 4 at 7:30 in our Sanctuary.**

Presented by of our REEL Justice Film series. *See you at the movies!*

In-State College Tuition for all of CT's Students

There is legislation now before the Connecticut General Assembly, H.B. 6390, An Act Concerning Access to Postsecondary Education that would allow children of immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, to pay in-state college tuition rates.

For immigrant students without documents brought here at a young age by their parents and through no fault of their own Connecticut is their home. For some, the only home that they have known. They want to continue their studies and give back to their state.

Forced to pay out-of-state tuition in order to attend college here and unable to afford it, they often don't attend at all. This means a less educated workforce in Connecticut.

The proposed bill would allow children who attend high school for four years in Connecticut and graduate from a Connecticut high school to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities.

Immigrant students without documents don't have access to state or federal financial aid and nothing in this bill would change that. And enacting in-state tuition legislation doesn't take anything away from other students.

Quite the contrary. Empty college classroom seats in our state system (and they exist) would be filled by qualified paying students who would otherwise not be able to attend college.

Dr. Louise Feroe of the Connecticut State University System (Including Southern, Central, Western, Eastern, and the community colleges) testified in favor of the bill at the public hearing and does not believe that the bill will negatively affect the budget. She also does not believe that students affected by the bill will take the spots of other students.

The State's Office of Fiscal Analysis' (OFA) Fiscal Note of April 4, 2011 found that "extending in-state tuition status to people without legal immigration status who reside in Connecticut and meet certain criteria is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the constituent units of higher education." That's fiscal-speak for it won't cost the state.

This bill is win-win all around: for the students, our state education system, and for Connecticut's future workforce.

I hope that Connecticut will join the 10 other state that have passed similar legislation.

Debra Haffner is now Rev. Dr. Haffner!

On May 14th, our community minister, Rev. Debra Haffner, was awarded the Doctor of Public Service, H.C. at Widener University in Chester, PA for her lifetime of work in sexuality education and more recently her work in creating a national dialog on sexuality and religion. She was also honored to be their Commencement Speaker. You can see a photo of the "hooding" and read her Commencement speech at her blog, <http://debrahaffner.blogspot.com>
Congratulations from UCW,
Rev. Dr. Debra!

Wheelchair to give away FREE

to anyone who wants/needs one. It's a sturdy chair that folds up. Anyone interested can either email me at darrylmanning@gmail.com or call 203-856-8837.

Needed: A Place to Stay ...

I am remodeling my 3,000 sq. ft. home in Westport and I need a place to stay beginning June 1 or earlier for 1- 2 months.

My requirements are:

- Lower Fairfield County (Westport -- Greenwich) • A Private bath • A Comfort-able bed (or I can bring a Tempurpedic)
- A Non-smoking environment
- Parking for one car • (A private entrance would be a big plus)

My budget is up to ~\$1,500./month

Please email or call me:

Robert Boyar - 203-246-6164 mobile.

Short term volunteer opportunity!

The summer worship committee is looking for a coordinator of the weekly post-service refreshments, provided by members, during the summer. We look forward to these treats. the coordinator would create the schedule and send reminders once people have signed up to bring drinks or snacks. Contact Joann Coviello, HYPERLINK "mailto:coviellojc@yahoo.com" coviellojc@yahoo.com, 203-762-3903.

QIGONG Returns This Summer!

Once again, Darryl Manning will be offering a series of classes in Qigong, a non-competitive, self paced, mind-body practice that promotes wellness and relaxation.

Reduce STRESS, Improve BALANCE,
Enhance MENTAL ACUITY,
Tone MUSCLES,
Increase FLEXIBILITY and learn to
RELAX while bringing ener-qi
into your life!

The gentle movements can be easily adapted, even for the physically challenged, and can be practiced by all age groups. It can be done sitting, standing or lying down. No experience, special equipment or clothing is required--just an open mind.

Tuesdays - July 5th – August 30th
7 – 8 p.m.

At the Meeting House

\$90 for 9 sessions - \$15 for a drop-in
(a percentage of the fee will benefit
the church)

For more information, contact Darryl
Manning @ darrylmanning@gmail.com
or call 203-846-8837

Interested in obtaining a hymnal

(Singing the Living Tradition) for home use, or to add to the current collection (some are getting worn out), please contact Ed Thompson at the church. The cost is \$30 each. You will be able to dedicate it to whomever you like and it is a great way to hold a loved one in memory.

ODYSSEY,

the church's

Adult Education program,
is filling out its Fall schedule
of classes. Is there a class
you'd like to teach,
knowledge you'd like to
share, maybe a skill or
hobby you'd like to pass on?

Please contact

William McEvoy at
wmcnyc@yahoo.com or
917-701-4548 to discuss it!

Business Matters

Mixing Business and Spirituality

Rental income is an important element of the total church budget. There are other byproducts of renting out church space, such as the sanctuary.

We are serving the greater community with a place to gather and to learn about Unitarian Universalism. Parents attending recitals for their children learn, from the information in the foyer, about the RE programs and music activities. Every time someone is here for a Social Justice event, they see what is going on here.

One obscure rental recently produced a new church goer and RE children! Hopkins School pays the church to allow its buses to daily pick up and drop off students from this area. Parents wait in the afternoon for their children. One parent who arrived early, wandered into the church building and was surprised at the warm greeting she received from an unknown person (it was Perry Montrose!). As a result, she and her family are returning, not to wait for a bus, but to worship and attend RE classes.

Perry, Jan Brauple, Ed Thompson, Bobby Santiago, Jamie Forbes, Lilly Rappaport, David Vita and I are "Church Ambassadors."
So are you!

Take time to introduce yourself and the church when you see a new face walking around.

One never knows!

John Carroll

*Business Manager/
Church Administrator*

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).

James Fowler has suggested that there are six stages of religious development. It is an interesting concept and one that can help us to catch a glimpse into our own spiritual feelings, depending on our age and our experience. It is interesting to look at music from the historical perspective and see how it has developed over the centuries.



Most of us are familiar with Gregorian chant. In the Western world, it was a starting point, and has a unique sound. In the fourteenth through the seventeenth centuries there was a development of polyphony. It has a unique sound. One grew out of the other. In the eighteenth through nineteenth centuries composers invested huge amounts of energy in instrumental forms, i.e. large structures of sound that contained a myriad of feelings and moods. Needless to say, it is a unique expression. The twentieth century produced the evolution of jazz and gospel music that gave a unique expression to religious feelings. In more recent times musicians talk about and use 'world music', i.e. music from various cultures around the world.

Truly, we are at a unique point in history. We have access to it all. We mix, match, fuse, blend, expose, re-compose because of influences so vast and varied that it would have 'blown the mind' of any classical master.

What interests me the most is that each of them has something unique to offer that relates to spirituality, the body, the mind, and to the emotions.

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Endorsed Community Minister

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visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

*The next SOUNDINGS deadline is
Friday, June 3, at noon (or before).
Please e-mail your copy to:
carpo@optonline.net*

SAVE THE DATE

AND COME ENJOY THE MUSIC!

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. Keep your eyes open for the list of performers in future SOUNDINGS announcements.

For more information: PatriceFitzgerald@gmail.com