

# The Catalyst May 2012

**Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist**  
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## Special Congregation Meeting

**Sunday, May 6th, 11:00am, Sanctuary**

**On the Agenda: Vote on calling the  
Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon to be our new minister.**

**Note:** Please use the following procedure for absentee voting: Absentee voting shall be permitted in the election of Trustees, selection or termination of a Minister, or amendment of the Bylaws; and only if the Voting Member shall be absent on Church related business or is incapacitated from attending. Any absentee ballot shall be in writing and signed by the Member, and received by the Secretary in advance of the meeting. Such absentee ballot shall not be counted for quorum purposes, but shall be counted as a Voting Member present for deciding any measure that does not differ from the measure noticed. The Board shall establish and publish the procedure for absentee voting in the notice for the meeting (**Article V, Sec. 4 of the Bylaws**).

## Annual Meeting Notice

**Wednesday, May 16th, 6:00pm, Parish Hall**

Notice is hereby given to the members of Channing Memorial Church that the Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16, in the Parish Hall. **The meeting will also be a Dessert Potluck, so bring something delicious to share!**



### AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes
2. Reports from Minister, Officers & Committee Chairs
3. Election of:
  - a. Officers of the Board of Trustees
  - b. Members at Large of the Board of Trustees
  - c. Chairs of Standing Committees
  - d. Financial Secretary
  - e. Members of the Nominating Committee
  - f. Member of the Endowment Committee
  - g. Election of other Committee Chairs
4. Presentation & approval of the FY 2012-2013 budget
5. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
6. Presentation of the Unsung UU Award

*Childcare will be provided.*

Committee Chairs are reminded to submit their written reports to the church office by Tuesday, May 8th.

## Finding Common Ground



The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that Sunday worship services at Channing Memorial Church during July 2012 will focus on a single theme - a search for common ground where opposing ideas collide.

In art, religion, science, philosophy and society, we often discover differences and opposing ideas that need to be reconciled within us and among us in order to carry on together with common understandings. We will examine and try to resolve seemingly antithetical theological, spiritual, historical, sociological, or philosophical points of view that at first blush truly inhibit us from living or working together well but that on closer examination can be understood to co-exist.

We expect a wide range of topics may be addressed, and will ask each speaker to explore finding a middle way, a common ground.

Please contact Christine Ariel, John Burnham, or Pat Fairchild with your interest, or email [worship@channingchurch.org](mailto:worship@channingchurch.org). Thank you.

## CROP Walk to End Hunger

**May 19, 2012**

Join or support the 2012  
Channing CROP Walk Team

[www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org), or 847-7637

(See "Green Corner" inside for more details)

## May 20th is Choir Sunday!



"The best Choir Sunday ever!" "One of my favorite services of the year!" "I always feel so uplifted after Choir Sunday!" "So much beautiful music!" These are just a few of the comments the Choir always hears after each Choir Sunday service.

If you are new to Channing, this is the Sunday that the Channing Choir provides the entire program for the church service. It is a service filled with beautiful music and inspiring readings.

There will be a special offering for the benefit of the Choir. The purpose of this offering is to provide the Choir with money for music related expenses that exceed the yearly budget.. **Be sure to attend!**

# Ministry Together

## In The Interim

This seems to be a good time to remind you of the sermon I preached last year on "Your Next Minister." Here are the salient points.

1. You will not find the perfect minister for Channing. The minister who perfectly fits the image you may have does not exist.
2. If you have a hope of finding the "perfect" minister you will be attuned to whatever detracts from your image of perfection. It might be better to focus on the candidate's strengths.
3. Remember this candidate or any candidate is not here to provide you with everything you ever wanted in the way of inspiration encouragement and solace. Your congregation must do the rest.
4. Give your candidate a chance to relax with you and be himself. It will go a lot better for everyone.

*In keeping with the protocols that govern my profession I will be absent during candidating week. However in emergencies I can be reached at home 508 358 2425, through Michele or by email at [uujhnicols@aol.com](mailto:uujhnicols@aol.com).*

~Rev. John H. Nichols

## From The Ministerial Search Team

As you all probably know by the time this is published, our ministerial candidate, the Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon, is here at Channing Church this week! He conducted the April 29 Sunday service and will be here all week meeting with church leaders, committee members, and the congregation at large before finishing his week here by preaching next Sunday's service. We hope that you all will take the opportunity to say hello to Jay and chat with him further. *A schedule of events and meetings for the week has been advertised via the e-mail announcements and is also available on the Channing website (click on "Calendar").*

***If you are a church member, please attend the special Congregational Meeting to be held in the sanctuary after the service this Sunday, May 6. At that time, we'll vote by secret ballot on whether to call Jay as our next minister. Your vote is vitally important as we map our church's future.***

From the Search Team's perspective, we found that Jay stands out as a true UU visionary, a man with a powerful, prophetic voice who has inspired and even transformed the lives of many in the congregations he has served.

Jay Deacon entered fellowship with the UUA in 1989 and for more than 20 years has led congregations (both as a Parish and Interim Minister) in Bangor, ME; Oak Park, IL; Northampton, MA; North Easton, MA; Orlando, FL; and Manchester, NH.

Early in his ministry, Jay served the UUA as Acting Information Director, and from 1986-1989 was the UUA's Director of GLBT Concerns, during which time he developed,

proposed, and gained General Assembly adoption of the Welcoming Congregation program. He is highly regarded both for his preaching skills and his social advocacy work. He is passionate about our Transcendentalist tradition, has a special interest in adult religious education, and recently completed a book entitled *Magnificent Journey: Religion as Lock on the Past or Engine of Evolution*.

In the area of Social Justice, Jay has a special sympathy for environmental and other "green" issues and is a strong advocate for GLBTQ concerns. Reports from a previous church Jay served note that he helped raise the profile of the church as a voice for liberal thought and action in the community, as well as being responsible for significant growth, both in the congregation as a whole as well as in the RE program.

During our interviews with people from other congregations who have known Jay over the years, the Search Committee received a number of heartfelt and extremely enthusiastic testimonials. Here are a few of their comments:

- *He is a quiet leader.*
- *Jay deals with strong personalities and conflicts by listening and guiding.*
- *He is very approachable and engaging one on one.*
- *He is very involved with the music programs.*
- *Jay supported board meetings, worship and music committees, and attended Strategic Planning Committee meetings.*
- *Many mentioned Jay's love of teaching, particularly Adult Education courses or workshops.*
- *He is an outspoken supporter of gay marriage; and Jay treasures UU history.*

After deep consideration of the 17 ministerial applications we received, we narrowed the field to the candidate with the most promising fit. Our search team reached consensus that Jay Deacon is uniquely suited to partner with Channing Memorial Church to take us to the next level of shared ministry for serving our congregation, the Newport community, and the world.

Thank you all for your input into the search process and for taking the time to share your hopes and dreams for our next exciting phase at Channing Church!

~ The Search Committee,

Bill Peresta, Mary Alice Smith, Dave Lussier, Norm Moore, Nicole Robinson, Linda Beall, and Barbara Nowicki



## May Caregiving Coordinators

Eleanor Doumato and  
Barbara Nowicki

*Please call with any personal needs and/or needs among our community.*

## *From The Governing Board*

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### **From the President:**

In just a short time we will all get to meet our ministerial candidate, Jay Deacon. It's hard to believe that we have arrived (hopefully) at the end of our almost 2-year-long journey to call a new settled minister. Everyone I talk to is excited, and with good reason. Between April 29 and May 6, there will be numerous opportunities to meet and converse with Jay, hear him preach, and hear his views on ministry. PLEASE take advantage of these opportunities, whether it be a meeting with your committee, a reception, a pot-luck dinner, or a Sunday service (Jay will do two). **MOST IMPORTANT, be sure to come to church on Sunday, May 6 for the Congregational Meeting**, where all members will have the opportunity for discussion about whether to approve Jay as our next minister, and to cast their vote. Think of this as the closest thing UUs have to a Holy Day of Obligation.

On a more somber note, it pains me to say that we are still about \$12,500 short of our goal for the Annual Pledge drive. Unless we make up much of this deficit in the next two weeks, some important things will have to fall to the budget ax. Having just come from the Board meeting, I can tell you that some of the budget decisions we are looking at having to make are distressing. Please ask yourself, "Is it possible for me to do just a little more?" With your help, we can still make our goal, and fund our programs and our people at the level they need, and deserve. If each member increased their contribution by an average of just \$100, we could surpass our goal. 'nuff said.

Next, let me say a word about next year's officers and committee chairs. At the Board meeting last night, the Nominating Committee presented the tentative slate of officers, Board members, and committee heads, and it is a very impressive group. The Nominating Committee has done an outstanding job. There are a couple vacancies, though, that still need to be filled. If you feel that you would like to "step up" and be considered for a leadership position, or even a non-leadership position on a committee, please contact me or Deb Wyman from the Nominating Committee. No obligation for calling; we will happily just give you information.

What I really want to talk about today, however, is my appreciation during the past 2 years for the wonderful job John Nichols has done as our interim minister. In the excitement over getting a new minister, I don't want us to overlook the person who was instrumental in getting us to this point in such good shape. I know for me, personally, having John here was really a blessing. His experience, advice, and caring support were invaluable. And his sermons were the best. It would be just like John to slip out the back door in order to let all the attention fall on our new minister. Let's not let that happen. There will be what we used to call in the Navy, a Hale and Farewell, **a farewell reception and celebration for John after his last Sunday service on June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please come and express your appreciation to John, and wish him well as he prepares to set off on yet another interim mission.

May you find only "Fair winds and following seas" in the years to come, John. You will always be part of our collective memory. Thank you again.

~Best wishes, Jim Freess

### **Annual Pledge Drive Update**

At this time (April 24) the Annual Stewardship Fund Drive has reached a total of \$169, 502 from 134 donations and pledges of payment during the fiscal year 2012-2013. Our committee feels that thanks to the generous support of members and friends, we have been able to conduct a very successful fund drive at a time of a weak economy and ministry transition. We have 6 fewer pledges than last year and are still hopeful that we'll gain that many more, but even so, we are gratified by the enthusiasm for and commitment to Channing expressed in your gifts.

We would like to send our thanks to all of you. To the long-time members who have pledged consistently and as generously as they can. To newer members who have stepped up their support as their commitment to Channing has deepened. To all those members and friends who have continued to support the church despite circumstances that might have made it easier to pass on pledging. And to the many friends and members who recognize Channing's importance even though they may not be able to attend as frequently as they'd like.

You all make a difference. In fact, without your collective commitment, Channing wouldn't exist. Our campaign theme this year, It's a Wonderful Life, derives from exactly that fact. The Newport landscape, particularly around Touro Park, would look very different if you were to stop participating

Mixing metaphors, a bit, I'd like to point out that this campaign also counted heavily on the idea that to get things done right, it takes a village! So many of you responded positively to joining the Stewardship Committee and extended team of volunteers, that in the process of asking you as members or friends to consider a pledge, we were also able to connect with many of you and get to know you better. Because of this, the campaign became an engaging and enjoyable task. Sure it was a significant effort, but out of it we were able to deliver dozens of comments and suggestions to the church leadership, and we had fun in the process. Our sincere thanks to the entire team for all of your efforts!

We'd like to close on a broader note of gratitude. Thanks to all of you, after two years of transition, we are able to welcome Rev. Jay Deacon to a sound financial organization. Certainly the Board and Finance Committee are sharpening their pencils to present a fair and balanced budget at the Annual Meeting in May, and everyone has aspirations for a stronger financial future for the church in partnership with Rev. Deacon, but we should stop for one moment and take collective pride in what we've accomplished to date. It really is a wonderful life.

~Thank you, Rachel Balaban  
Vice President & Stewardship Committee Chair

## Happy May to All!

We are especially excited this May, as it brings changes in the congregation. Excited can mean happy with energy and sometimes it can also mean that we are anxious, too. That is all part of living. Living with the paradox of being happy and sad, looking forward to something and also nervous about the future. Living with paradox is a large part of our personal faith development. By the time you are reading this article, we are smack dab in Candidating Week, getting to know our ministerial candidate, coming to social events like the Pancake Breakfast and committee meetings, listening to Sunday services. I hope that while we are "inspecting" our candidate we are also turning that magnifying glass inward and seeing what is vital to us about our congregation and our community. Before asking questions, discern what is most important to you about Channing Memorial Church.

This is also the time of year that we feel pulled by living in this church year while planning for the next. Several important precious events are still to come this spring, RE events, Choir Sunday, our Bridging service and the beginning of the Summer program. Also we have opened registration for next Fall. paper forms are available in Paris Hall or online forms on the RE blog: [www.cmcre.wordpress.com](http://www.cmcre.wordpress.com) . Next year's classes and curricula are deep and fun, offering themes of peacemaking, social justice, elementary level Our Whole Lives, and Unitarian Universalist identity. I have sent a letter to all the parents describing the curricula. If you did not receive one or want a paper copy of either the letter or registration form, there will be some in Parish Hall this month.

Another moment of paradox is when we go through one of life's milestones. Our children grow and become independent, but they also rely heavily on our support. This is one reason we hold a Bridging Ritual at Channing. Bridging will be slightly different this year. Held on June 3rd, we will honor the transition of our high school seniors, Alex Bandoni and Alex Jenkins into young adulthood, and in a separate ceremony, we will honor the transition of our eighth graders into the high school youth group. I am very excited to mark this special time and growth of our youth program! I sincerely hope you will come support our youth on their journeys!

I hope this month brings you many joys and times of reflection!

~In Joy and Gratitude, Halcyon

## We Flip for Our Channing Folks!



ALL families and volunteers in RE are invited to come to a **Pancake Breakfast on May 6th before service**. This is also an opportunity to meet our ministerial candidate, Rev. F. Jay Deacon. We'll serve pancakes, fruit salad and frittata. Come appreciate our terrific volunteers and grow in community together!

## Looking Back- Looking Forward

Our Religious Education classes ended in April. WOW-so early! There were so many special events happening in May and June, we decided to end regular classes, but that means we are getting into some serious FUN! Check the announcements and calendar to see what's happening. We are tremendously grateful to the Spring teachers! Julie DiBari, Heather Bartee, Susan Mythen, Joy Benson, Mary Benson, Joanne Armenia, Ellen Bliss, Kim Shute, Emma Hutchison, Leigh Briggs, Nicole Robinson, Mary Alice Smith, and Andrew Going. THANK YOU!! The whole church relies on your efforts and generous kindness!



**On May 13th** the RE Event is Flower Celebration. Children and Youth begin in Parish Hall at 10 am, then later join the service in the Sanctuary for our Flower Celebration ritual.

### **Remember to bring a flower!**

Barbara Coppola will be finishing our anti-bullying series with an RE Faith in Action event on May 27th. Come share your vision of a bully free world!

## Upcoming Junior Youth Group Events

**Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 6th in the Youth Room from 11:30-1:30 after church.** Youth Group Coordinator, Alli Jean, will provide lunch. Come with lots of energy since we will be doing games and team-building exercises.

**CON-May 12th, 2012:** Several members of our Junior Youth Group will travel to Duxbury, MA on May 12 to join other youth at a conference. This is an exciting opportunity, not only for our youth to travel and bond as a group, but meet other UU youth. Hope to see everyone there!

## May RE Calendar



### Sunday, May 6:

**RE Pancake Breakfast, 8:30am, Parish Hall**  
**Tails to Teach Event, 10:00am, Parish Hall**

### Sunday, May 13, 10am:

Special Mothers Day Event : **Flower Celebration** Children and Youth begin in Parish Hall at 10 am, then later join the service in the Sanctuary for our Flower Celebration ritual. **Remember to bring a flower!**

### Sunday, May 20, 10am:

**Choir Sunday;** Multi-generational Service

### Sunday, May 27, 10am:

Faith in Action Event, in the Parish Hall

### Sunday, June 3, 10am:

Multi-generational Service & Bridging Ceremony

# Spirit of Community

## Caregiving Update

Thank you so much to Anna Smith and Kim Shute, who tackled caregiving coordinator duties with such energy in April!

The Chapman family has experienced some difficult traumas over the past two months, and they have expressed deep thanks for the many messages of support received from the congregation. We were especially glad to see Meredith back in church and healthy after being hospitalized for a severe case of hyponatremia (lack of sodium in the bloodstream), and we hope that their family will continue to heal during the upcoming days and months.

It also is a joy to see Bob Kieronksi back at Sunday services and Channing activities feeling healthy and happy after his recent medical crises. Welcome back, Bob!

On a sad note, Mary Alice Smith announced during a recent Sunday service that the Rev. Bob Thayer of the UU church in Fairhaven, MA has passed away. Various Channing members were acquainted with Rev. Thayer, and he was a great supporter of the UUA and a mentor to many.

Channing members were delighted to learn of Beth Milham's selection as one of the two recipients of the 2012 Newport Daily News Community Service Award. As everyone here in our church knows, Beth has been an inexhaustible long-time activist for many causes, and it's hard to think who could deserve this award more! At the time of this writing, the honorees are scheduled to be feted at a dinner April 24 at the Atlantic Beach Club.

Congratulations also to Helen Westall, whose team came in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall out of 18 teams at the recent Rhode Island Science Olympiad! She also won a gold medal in forestry.

Eleanor and Gabe Doumato are thrilled to announce the birth of a new grandson, Sebastian, who was born on March 31. Terry Gaspard also is most happy to announce the upcoming marriage of her son Sean. And a belated happy birthday to twins Shannen and Morgan Thomas, who recently turned 12!

We're looking forward to hearing and seeing more about Matthew Cohen's soon-to-be-opening photography gallery at 160 Spring Street (just behind Trinity Church). Matthew's beautiful photos are known to many of us, and several can be seen on our church website, so we're very happy to see Matthew realize his dream.

Congratulations to Pam Goff, Evan Gallo, Leigh Briggs, Joan Dermody, and everyone else involved with Interweave, who once again made the front page of the Newport Daily News as they celebrated their third annual Prom! This year's prom was extremely successful, with more than 100 attendees, and has become an eagerly anticipated event.

Evan Gallo also was one of four Salve Regina students chosen to attend the 2012 Clinton Global Initiative University. The others, Breanna Grimes, Erika McKeon, and Corinne Winter, have also been involved with Channing Church activities.

Each person chosen to attend had to have a clear vision of global service as well as an individual or group commitment to action. The four Salve students, all social work majors, share a commitment to create a queer alliance within the LGBTQ organizations in RI which will strengthen and empower this community. They hope this resource will grow into a lobbying force for a socially conscious and progressive RI legislature. Evan reports that one of the highlights of the event was being able to meet and brainstorm with "some of the most inspiring of minds" such as Madeline Albright, Jon Stewart, Kristin Bell, Chelsea Clinton, Rye Barcott, Vandana Shiva, and others. The week-long conference ended with the participants working on service projects either for Rebuilding Together (doing yard work and house restoration) or making care packages for the USO to send to U.S. troops stationed overseas.

A new bench will soon be installed in Touro Park near the statue of William Ellery Channing to memorialize Richard Webb, our late friend and member of Channing Church who died last summer. His presence among us is greatly missed. Richard's family and friends will soon be able to sit on this bench, enjoy the beautiful park, and remember him fondly.

**Eleanor Doumato and Barbara Nowicki are the caregiving coordinators during the month of May. Please call either of them with any caregiving needs among our Channing members and friends.**

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

## For Everything There Is A Season...



June 30, 2012 will be my last day serving as facilitator for our Channing Caregiving Congregation. I know I am ready for some new opportunities; I also know I will miss my "job" at Channing. It's been a blessing and a privilege to have developed our caregiving program and I'm amazed 15 years have passed since its inception.

The program won't skip a beat though, as Linda Beall has felt the call to serve. We can all be confident that in Linda's capable and caring hands, Caregiving will continue to be a valued and successful part of our shared ministry mission. The best way to support Linda as she assumes her Channing Caregiving Congregation duties is to welcome her with enthusiastic offers to volunteer!

My deepest gratitude to our lay leaders the year we were on our own; to Melora, Amy and John; to the founding committee who embraced and served my passion; and to every single one of you who have served as coordinators and volunteers over these many years. We are an awesome community!

~Blessings to us all, Nickie Kates

# Social Action

## Here's To Beth!

Beth Milham was recognized by the Newport Daily News on April 24 for her outstanding work in the community as an advocate since the 80s! Congratulations! We sure are proud of you, Beth! For years, and currently, working on behalf of Environmental issues: our Green Congregation Committee and the Newport Energy Commission, organic farming, transportation; LGBT individuals and community, the AIDS Quilt project, the list goes on.....What persistence and energy and commitment even when public opinion differs. Let's pick up the fire from Beth and run with it!

~Social Action Committee, on behalf of us All at Channing

## Margit Baum Fund Update

The Margit Baum Committee is pleased to announce the creation of a new scholarship for Rogers high school seniors. There will be two \$1,500 scholarships offered to Rogers students with financial need who also demonstrate academic promise and community service.

The committee also approved a grant to the organization, Rebuilding Together for Greater Newport. This group consists of committed volunteers who complete home repair and maintenance projects for low income recipients, that enables them to remain in their homes. Funds provided are going to support a woman residing on Burnside Ave in Newport.

The Margit Baum Fund was created from a bequest to Channing Church that specified all disbursements be made for the "assistance, care, and relief of poor and needy persons in said city of Newport." Applications for funds are available on the website, at the Channing office or through one of the committee members (Ruth Jernigan, Judie Porter, David Banister, and Sally Hanchett)

~Sally Hanchett, for the Margit Baum Committee

## May CROP Walk Breakfast

**Saturday, May 19, 9:00am -11:30 am, in the Parish Hall**



Come join members of the Wednesday night small group for a CROP Walk celebration breakfast. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast will be available free to all those who have participated in the CROP Walk. Others who are unable to walk but would still like to make a contribution, or who have made a pledge, can stop by and join us for a delicious breakfast buffet. The annual CROP Walk raises funds to address hunger in our own community and throughout the world. We hope you will join us to show your support. Contact Sally Hanchett if you would like more information or are able to bring additional food.

## May Share The Plate Will Support CROP Walk

May 27th is *Share The Plate Sunday*. Half of all cash donations and any checks with a memo line Share the Plate will be split equally with the church & the CROP Walk for Hunger. Other checks written to Channing will be applied to a person's pledge per usual. The CROP Walk raises funds to address hunger issues both in our own community and around the world.

## Eco Bits & Tips

### ***Fresh food is coming back!***



It's close to that time, again, when our local farmers and Growers markets are revving up. And some never stopped! There's a year-round farmer's market at the Hope Artiste Village Pawtucket. If you want to shop closer to home, though, hang in until June 2, when the Aquidneck Growers' market reopens in Middletown, and June 6 for their Newport location. Learn more at [www.aquidneckgrowersmarket.org/](http://www.aquidneckgrowersmarket.org/). There will also be a series of markets based at the Elks' Lodge this season.

The options continue to grow, for both varieties of foods and ways to participate. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a great way to get the freshest food, while helping local farmers thrive. The closest participant is Simmons Farm in Middletown. For more information, see <http://simmonsorganicfarmri.com/csa/>. There also is Community Supported Seafood, find out more about it at <http://oceanstatefresh.com/>. For everything you wanted to know, and more, about fresh grown food in RI, you can't beat the Farm Fresh RI web site: <http://www.farmfreshri.org/>

Supporting these local efforts is good for you and your family, good for our island's environment and economy, and good for the planet. Talk about a win-win-win!

~Beth Milham, Green Congregation Committee

## Green Corner

### ***CROP Walk to End Hunger—May 19th***



As Rev. Murphy highlighted at our April 1 Earth Day service, social justice and environmental justice must go hand in hand.

In that spirit, the Social Action and Green Congregation Committees have teamed up to sponsor the 2012 Channing CROP Walk Team, in memory of Denise Mitchell. You can walk "in person," or "in spirit." If you join the team, we'll get you all the supplies you need.

Whether you choose to be a team member or a donor-supporter, it's easy to do online. Go to [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org), plug in your zip code, then click on Aquidneck Island CROP Hunger Walk 2012. When you're there, click on either "sign up" or "donate," and to a partner organization (such as UUSC.) Or you can split your donation. If you're not into computers, team members will find you during Fellowship, or you can call Beth Milham.

The Wednesday Night Small Group Ministry is hosting a thank you brunch after the walk, in the Parish Hall for all walkers and donors. Show your support, then come and be "tastefully" thanked.

~Beth Milham, Green Congregation Committee Chair

## Welcome New Members!

We at Channing would like to welcome Kate and David Sparks, who have recently signed our membership book. They live in Middletown.

## Interweave Prom Update

### Was Interweave's 'Born This Way' Prom a Success?



Here are some quotes from face book entries, you be the judge. One entry is from a 14 yr. old who started a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) at his Middle School in New Bedford.

*"I had such an amazing time!!! I met so many kind & accepting people. This was truly the best night of my life!"*

*"THANK YOU to everyone who planned tonight & crowned me QUEEN! I had literally the best night of my life at the Prom tonight."*

*"Thank you for making this night one that will remain in my heart & mind eternally!"*

*"I swear to God!! Freaking Fabulous night! I loved every second of it. Life will never be the same. I love you all!"*

A special shout-out to the following for LONG hours. of planning, decorating, food, clean up & open hearts:

Joan Dermody, Leigh Briggs, Evan Gallo, Kaitlyn Boisvert, Rex Lebeau, Bill & Nancy Peresta, Russ & Beth Milham, Diane Jackson, DJ Butch Taylor, Marc at Pleasant Surprise, Jim Gillis , Barbara Richter & Tom Goff. You were all "Freaking Fabulous!"

~Pam Goff, Interweave Co-Chair

## Channing Website Makeover Planned

### Give Us Your Thoughts!



As Channing prepares for its next chapter of ministry in the coming church year, attention has turned to modernizing and updating the Channing website to make it more attractive and useful to visitors, friends and members. A new Web Team is forming and we are asking for your suggestions and inputs - and also your participation on the Team if you are interested.

How often do you log on to the Channing website and how do you use it? What do you like about our site? How could it be improved? Do you log on from a Mac or a PC? What browser do you use? Do you ever log on from a mobile device - if so, what kind? Would you be interested in being part of the re-design of the Channing website? Would you like to help keep it maintained and up to date? What do you think visitors, who are new to Channing, would LIKE to see or do on our site?

Please contact [webteam@channingchurch.org](mailto:webteam@channingchurch.org) with your thoughts. Thanks.

~Bill Peresta for the Channing Web Team

## What do you Care about?

### Make your voice Heard—by Email or Phone



Corporate money corrupting our democracy? Challenges to access to birth control and women's right to choose? Affordable housing? Fair taxation?

How can you to keep up with state legislation on things you care about, much less have a say in them? Here's how: The UU Legislative Ministry of RI (UULMRI) has chosen these four areas to work on during the 2012 General Assembly session. Channing is a member, and our own Al Benson is offering a valuable service to help us help the UULM. He's sending out weekly updates on the status of the bills, hearings and sponsors, with email links and phone numbers to allow you to tell your reps and senators how you feel about the issues.

*If you're interested in receiving the updates, email Al.*

## Social Action Dates To Remember

### Social Action Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00pm, Channing House Library

### Newport County Citizens to End Homelessness.

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00pm, in the Parish Hall  
Steve Ostiguy, director of the Church Community Housing Corporation, will speak about the steps and many sources of funding used to develop Affordable Housing. All interested are invited to this community meeting open to the public. Refreshments.

### Crop Walk leaves MLK Center

Saturday, May 19, Time: TBD.

Join us for a Breakfast afterwards in the Parish Hall, provided by the Wednesday Night Small Group Ministry.

## May Soup Kitchen

**Monday, May 21, 3:30-6:15pm, Parish Hall**



The Channing Church Soup Kitchen is the third Monday of every month in the Parish Hall. To see when volunteers are needed please call Libby Houlihan.

## All Church Potluck Picnic

**Sunday, June 10, in Touro Park**

**Following the Worship Service**



June 10 is the last service when Rev. John Nichols will be preaching here at Channing. Please join us in thanking John for his two years of leadership of our congregation.

**Bring your favorite dish to share as well as your own eating utensils and lawn chairs.**

**Drinks will be provided.**



Channing Memorial Church  
 135 Pelham Street  
 Newport, RI 02840

May 2012

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sunday Services are held at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary,  
 Childcare Available Every Sunday in the Parish Hall for Children 3 & Younger

Sunday, May 6, **A Higher “We” — The Farthest Reaches of Possibility for Congregational Life**, Rev. Jay Deacon  
*The culture in which we live is the context in which both we ourselves and the world’s future will be created. In a spiritual community — just what kind of culture will we create?*

Lay Leader: Linda Beall; Greeter: Irene Glasser; Ushers: Diane Jackson & Joan Dermody; Chimer: Jim Freess  
**RE Pancake Breakfast, 8:30am in the Parish Hall; Tails to Teach Event at 10:00am, in the Parish Hall.**

\*The Congregational Meeting (AGENDA: Vote on calling the Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon to be our new minister) will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the service. All Members are requested to attend.

Sunday, May 13, **The More Things Change**, Rev. John Nichols; Lay Leader: John Burnham  
 Greeter: Joan Dermody; Ushers: Sally Hanchett & Pat Fairchild; Chimer: Chris Ariel

**Children and Youth begin in Parish Hall at 10 am, then later join the service in the Sanctuary for our Flower Celebration ritual. Remember to bring a flower!**



On the Second Sunday of every month, donations of food are collected during the service. Your generous gift of non-perishable items is appreciated!

Sunday, May 20, **Choir Sunday**, Presented by The Channing Choir

Greeter: Leigh Briggs; Ushers: Cynthia Skelton & David Cooper; Chimer: Janna Pederson  
**Multigenerational Service, 10 a.m. Childcare for children under 5 years old.**



Sunday, May 27, **Living With Losses**, Rev. John Nichols; Lay Leader: TBD

Greeter: Leigh Briggs; Ushers: Loie Kessler and Heather Bartee; Chimer: Linda Beall  
**Faith in Action Event, 10:00am, in the Parish Hall**

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm**

## Announcements

### **BDC Spring Conference & Annual Meeting**

Saturday, May 5, 8:30am – 2:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, MA

For full details, online registration and mail-in registration visit: [bcduaa.2012spring.eventbrite.com](http://bcduaa.2012spring.eventbrite.com)



Channing Memorial Church is a part of the Ballou Channing District (BCD), which covers southeast Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket Island, and Rhode Island. At our Spring Conference & Annual Meeting participants will have the opportunity to explore some important topics :

- *Writing a spiritual autobiography* - Rev. Ken Read-Brown
- *Engaging a congregation with hot topics* - Rev. Amy Freedman
- *Exploring Peter Morales's "Congregations and Beyond"* - Peter Bowden
- *Lessons from experience of engaging in missional work* – Rev. Ron Robinson
- *UUA "Gathered Here"* - Janet Richardi & Eva Marx

There will also be Worship, the Annual Meeting, Picnic Lunch and the UU Network Mall. **Channing Members attending the BCD Annual Meeting as Delegates must bring a certification card, contact Michele in the church office for more information: 846-0643**

### **100 Questions about Unitarian Universalism**

Sunday, May 13, 11:15am, Ladies' Parlor

Here is an informal chance to address those questions you have always wondered about! How do you join the congregation? What is Channing's connection to our church? Do UU's believe in an afterlife? Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the Ladies' Parlor in the Parish Hall, located just behind the church.

### **After Worship Discussion Group**

Every Sunday, 11:30am, Fireplace Room

**No Discussion Group on May 6, so all may attend the Special Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary**

Each Sunday after the service, the Learning Center will host a loosely structured discussion on the topic being addressed that morning, usually on the theme of the sermon. The immediate purpose is to share with others whatever thoughts were inspired by service, or simply to listen to what others have to say on the topic. The more fundamental purpose is to strengthen community by deepening the content. Discussion facilitators rotate. **Drop-in as you like.**

### **Zen Meditation**

Every Monday, 7:00-8:30pm, Parish Hall

This practice teaches us to clear our mind, understand our true self and live with clarity and compassion. No experience necessary. Please bring cushions and/or a blanket.

\*For more information, contact Jamie Caster: 619-0791, [hosoi71@yahoo.com](mailto:hosoi71@yahoo.com)

### **The Pachamama Alliance**

#### **"Awakening the Dreamer" Symposium**

Saturday, May 12th, 1:00-5:00pm,

Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Ave.

East Greenwich, RI

#### ***Where on Earth are we going?***

Discover Your Power to Create a Thriving, Just, and Sustainable World. Through video, lecture and participant interaction we will look at the present condition of our planet, how we got here and what is being done to assure we leave a thriving earth for future generations.

**Pre-registration is necessary.** The symposium is open to the public. Registration suggested donation \$5.00. (The cost is being subsidized for this event). To register go to: [www.awakeningthedreamer.org](http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org) and select "find an event near you". \*Channing Member, Sarah Mermin, will be Co-facilitating. For more info contact Sarah at: [SarahMermin@yahoo.com](mailto:SarahMermin@yahoo.com), or contact Donna Schmader at [awakeninginri@yahoo.com](mailto:awakeninginri@yahoo.com); phone: 401-248-5448.



### **Tom Rush Concert**

**Common Fence Music at Channing Church**

Thursday, May 17, 8:00pm, Sanctuary

\$35 advance / \$35 day of show

For tickets: 683-5085; [www.commonfencemusic.org](http://www.commonfencemusic.org)

### **Swiss Village Foundation Visitors Day**

Saturday, June 2, 9:00am-3:00pm, **Free Admission**

The SVF Foundation's mission is the cryopreservation of endangered breeds of livestock. Every June for one day the public is invited to meet with our staff, veterinarians and scientific advisors at the historic Swiss Village. No parking available on site at SVF. Free parking available at Fort Adams State Park. Free trolleys will shuttle between parking area and SVF.

\*For more information call 848-7229, or by email: [info@svffoundation.org](mailto:info@svffoundation.org)

### **UUA General Assembly**

June 20-24, 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona



General Assembly (GA) 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. **Channing Members attending the UUA Annual Meeting as Delegates must bring a certification card, contact Michele in the church office for more information: 846-0643**

\*For more information go to: [www.uua.org/ga/2012](http://www.uua.org/ga/2012)