How to be a LGBTQ Ally
Do you know what the rainbow sign in front of our church means? If a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer person walked through our church doors, would you know how to make them feel welcome? If that thought makes you feel a little nervous or if you would like to learn how to be a better LGBTQ ally, come to the panel discussion on June 5th at 7PM in the Parish Hall. We will hear stories from some of Channing's own LGBTQ allies, featuring Bill and Nancy Peresta, Beth and Russ Milham, and Pam Goff. Learn how they became allies, how they express it, and some of the challenges and triumphs they've faced. All minority groups need the help of allies to create a more just and peaceful world. Come and see how you can be a part of that journey. Sponsored by Interweave, Channing's group for LGBTQ people and allies. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Rex LeBeau at interweave@channingchurch.org

Here's a fun way to express your support for LGBTQ people: march with Channing Church in the Illuminated Night Parade!!!! June 17th at 8PM through the streets of downtown Providence. Channing's Interweave group will have a marching contingent as well as a vehicle for those unable to walk. This is one of the most fun events of the year and it's very safe. Experience the cheering crowds, the costumes, the lights, the dancing, all part of this amazing Pride celebration. For more information, contact Rex LeBeau at interweave@channingchurch.org so we can organize carpools to Providence. You'll be glad you came.

June Worship Services
Sunday, June 4th
Coming of Age Bridging Service
The Coming of Age youth have been busy writing their Faith Statements, planning and carrying out their service project, and completing their Wilderness Retreat. All ages are invited to the June 4th service to learn more about their individual beliefs. This Sunday we will join the Unitarian congregation in Prague, and around the world to mark the 95th anniversary of the creation of the Flower Communion by Rev. Norbert Capek. Norbert founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia in 1941 and created this simple symbolic ritual to illustrate that though different from each other, people are beautiful when they come together in community. The ritual was introduced in the USA in 1940 by Maja Capek at Cambridge, Massachusetts. It has since grown to be celebrated in Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country. Everyone is invited to bring a flower which we will put in vases and each person will be invited to take home a different flower.

Sunday, June 11
But isn't Pride a Sin?
Guest Speaker: Rex LeBeau
One of the seven deadly in fact. How can it be a good thing? And why would a persecuted and marginalized group of people like the LGBTQ community embrace such a term? June is LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) Pride Month. Come learn about Pride, why it's important, and how our church features in its celebration.

Worship Services continued on page 2
FATHER’S DAY

Sunday, June 18
Happily Exhilarated and So Frightened: Being a Father
Members of Channing Memorial Church

New York Knicks coach and basketball player Derek Fisher once said “Fatherhood will put a man through a lot, but it’s a tremendous job, the best in the world - even better than playing basketball.” This Sunday several men from our congregation with different types of family situations will share their insight into the joys and challenges of being a father.

Sunday, June 25
Life, Death, and Choice in Between
Rev. Lark d’Helen

This Sunday Rev. D’Helen, with some musical assistance from Channing’s Music Director, Janet Grant will take a look at the necessity for us to make life choices big and small.

Rev. D-Helen is a Certified Thanatologist and Grief Recovery Method Specialist and has served 12 years as Newport Hospital’s Spiritual Resources liaison. In addition she is adjunct facility in the Thanatology Minor in the College of Nursing at URI and Director of Community Education for Memorial Funeral Homes.

FROM THE MINISTER

WOW, what a year this has been for us at Channing!

We have gone from a downcast and divided congregation to a congregation that is energetic and in high spirits. Among other things, during this year we talked about right relationships and explored ideas about church growth, held a very successful stewardship campaign, launched a family get together program, experimented with new rituals, had fun with a chocolate fest on Valentine Sunday, shared laughs at congregation game nights, continued with our very successful adult learning program and traditional congregation fellowship events. And we continued our practice of donating money and items to organizations and families through our various community support initiatives, as well as showing up at rallies and marches. All in all, I think it was a good year for us and a great foundation upon which to build next year.

As you probably read in my annual report, next church year I will be working to expand our family programming and our congregation outreach and promotion initiatives, add a faith development component to our Learning Center program, and experiment with alternative worship opportunities. Of course we will also have many fellowship events and our annual stewardship campaign. I look forward to another full and active year with everyone at Channing.

I will be away attending General Assembly from June 18 to about June 27 and on vacation and study leave from July 1 to August 15. I wish for everyone a great, fun-filled summer and then to see you on In-gathering Sunday, September 10.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

JUNE CHIMERS

June 4: Janna Pederson
June 11: Christine Ariel
June 18: Linda Beall
June 25: Jim Freess

You are invited to an Open House!!!
Saturday, June 10, 10AM - 12:30PM
Come and go as you please!!
Fruit and pancake Open House at 52 Catherine Street, Newport

A gathering of gratitude hosted by Barbara Russell Willett and Nickie Kates
Anyone and everyone who signed up to volunteer for the Channing Caregiving Congregation Program

WELCOME!
Plan is now complete and ready for our next steps. I’m pleased with the progress we’ve made. All in all I think it’s been a very good year!
In friendship,
Barbara Nowicki,
Co-president, Board of Trustees

PICTURES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING
Held Wednesday, May 24th

Outgoing Treasurer, Bill Hawkins, and Incoming Treasurer, Julia Herrick

Bob Janiesch receiving his Unsung UU Award

Sondra Gold receiving her Unsung UU Award

Rev. Bill Zelazny giving his Minister’s Report

Summer Church Office Hours
June
Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-1:00pm
Closed Mondays

July and August
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00am-1:00pm
Closed Mondays and Wednesdays
(Closed July 17-28 for Summer Break)

Co-Presidents
Barbara Nowicki and Chris Laudon

B O A R D  O F  T R U S T E E S
Religious Education class, for students of all ages, is held on Sundays just after the Message for All Ages in the Parish Hall and will be concluding this month. This year, the students have been learning about our 7 UU Principles through a story collection entitled “What If Nobody Forgave?” A heartfelt thank you to the students, Jessica and Todd Thomas, and the small group of volunteers who supported RE this year.

Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. It is open to students grades 6 and up and provides socialization and friendship for Channing Youths, as well service projects chosen by the Youth. Our Youth Group has been very active this year and continues to be during the month of June, see the calendar at the end of this article.

The Coming of Age group has been busy writing their Faith Statements, planning and carrying out their service project, and completing their Wilderness Retreat. All ages are invited to the June 4th service to learn more about their individual beliefs. This is a wonderful group of youth, and the service is not one to be missed. Thank you to the mentors: Rex LeBeau, Tom Beall, and Jennifer Kreft; the facilitators: Barbara Coppola, Barbara Russell-Willett, Russ Milham, Kathy Takata, and Sally Hanchett; and the Youth: Reilly Pfirrmann, Morgan Thomas, and Shannen Thomas, for participating in this wonderful program.

If you have not completed the very brief survey regarding your interest and your availability for the new Spiritual Parenting group, please do so at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P6DJVSM.

-Kathy Takata
Religious Education Committee

JUNE CALENDAR
Sunday, June 4th Coming of Age and Bridging Service - No RE Class, but childcare is available for young children
- At 11:30 am Channing Family Fun Group meets at Sweet Berry Farm for Strawberry Picking

Sunday, June 11th RE Class will prepare pancake breakfast to be served after the service
- 6:00 Youth Group Meets

Sunday, June 18th RE Class and Youth will prepare food for the Father's Day BBQ to be held after the service

Sunday, June 25th, at 6:00pm, Youth Group Meets

Pictures from the Coming of Age Retreat
**CAREGIVING UPDATE**

Thank you so much to Betsy Leerssen, Jamie Carlson, and Cynthia Skelton, who tag-teamed as Caregiving coordinators during May!

We have a few health updates to report. Maggie Bulmer recently suffered a mild stroke, but is home and doing well at the time of this writing. I know she appreciates all the visits, cards, and good wishes that were sent her way. Alicia Spinner underwent cancer surgery during the past couple of months and is recuperating at her home at Blenheim. Cards and notes are welcome; Alicia’s daughter Liz keeps us updated. Also, our best wishes go to Neil Leerssen, who is recovering at home after a spinal compression fracture.

Please keep Donna O’Neill, her husband Dan, and their family in your thoughts as Donna proceeds in her cancer treatments. She has had chemo recently and is scheduled for surgery in early June. Cards and notes of support are much appreciated.

Our condolences go out to Craig Gaspard and the Gaspard family upon the death of Craig’s father.

Congratulations to Bob Janiesch on his recent retirement from NUWC after more than 35 years of service! However, not being one to let any grass grow under his feet, Bob only took a couple of days off before starting a new job as a program manager with contracting company Mikel.

A reminder to all who have volunteered with the Caregiving program this year:

You are invited to an open house on Saturday, June 10th, at the Kates’ home, 52 Catherine Street in Newport. Feel free to stop by anytime between 10:00-12:30 for pancakes, fruit, and fellowship!

Caregiving coordinators for June are Nickie Kates and Barbara Russell Willett. Please call either of these individuals with any caregiving needs within our congregation.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

**JUNE SHARE THE PLATE**

This month we will “Share the Plate” with a high school student, preferably a Channing high school student, attending Activate Boston: Climate Justice, an August training of the UU College of Social Justice. Half of the financial donations received during our June services will contribute to a scholarship for the student. The purpose of the training is to activate the student’s interest in social justice and to demonstrate how he/she can more fully engage in social justice work. The training is held in Boston, a harbor city built primarily on a landfill and facing the threat of rising sea levels. This one week training is interactive: the student will work with local organizations engaged in climate justice, learn how UU values and practices can help the city’s future, and build collective power for social change. The training staff believes that it is our youth who lead today’s change – not just tomorrow’s. We can help send a student to this energizing and enriching experience.

Be as generous as you always are!

~Sheila McEntee for the Social Action Committee

**COMMUNITY MEAL**

Monday, June 19

3:30-6:15pm, Parish Hall

Thanks to everyone who helped at the May community meal. Joan Dermody provided another wonderful meal to our guests. Thanks to all who helped by serving, setting up, and cleaning up. We served 55 meals! Our next Community Meal will be Monday, June 19.

If you have any questions or wish to help please contact Meal Manager, Joy Benson.
GREEN CORNER
A Green April

Another Channing Earth Month has passed, with activities well supported by congregation and community. Our Mini-Film Festival ended with Facing the Surge, depicting increasingly frequent flooding in Norfolk, VA. The obvious parallels to Newport and the film’s advocacy for a carbon fee and dividend bill kicked off a lively discussion. Thanks again to TLC for its partnership and support.

Our Earth Day service was beautiful! Our speaker, Christine Muller, brought the Baha’i faith to life for us. Even as they differ, our faiths share many values, including an abiding respect for nature and the environment. Norm Moore and the choir offered perfectly tuned musical selections, including a choral setting of a Baha’i prayer. Maggie Bulmer and Quinnie Thayer were standouts in a Baha’i parable for the Message for All Ages. Thanks to the Green Congregation team members who participated in all aspects of the service, of and our locally sourced Fellowship Hour which featured brief presentations by representatives of three Share the Plate beneficiaries—the Teen Center in East Greenwich, RI Interfaith Power and Light and the Greenlove Foundation.

April saw two huge national marches, for science and for climate. Channing was well represented in DC, Boston and Providence for both of them. Many of us further supported our values by choosing public transportation.

Channing members are following up on the RI UU Legislative Ministry’s priorities, including environment and climate, by attending State hearings, contacting legislators and writing letters to the editor. Kudos to chair Al Benson for faithfully keeping us posted on the progress and hearing schedules of the prioritized bills.

~Beth Milham, Chair, Green Cong. Committee

ECO-BITS & TIPS
The People’s Climate Mobilization, April 29th

The DC Climate March, involving an estimated 200,000 people, was much more than a “feel good exercise” supporting the opinions of the vast majority of scientists and the public on human-caused climate change. In the works for two years, the march found added support from an environmental community shocked and angered by the new administration’s brazen challenge to the science of Anthropogenic Climate Change.

The President has openly defied the scientific consensus and has thrown the sustainability of our planet into question. He’s done so by appointing Scott Pruitt, an open critic of the EPA, to head it up, and by overtly threatening to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Accord, affecting our significant leadership and moral role, even as we remain the second largest greenhouse gas emitting country. He’s also done so by scuttling President Obama’s Clean Power Plan and Clean Stream Rule, and by reducing regulations on the highly destructive coal mining and power generating industries. This is all part of his reckless and impulsive political calculus, very much a part of his personality.

The Resistance that has formed involves proponents of public policy issues ranging from environmental protection and regulation to immigration, health care protections, freedom of the press, and even rule of law as it impacts the executive (presidential) branch of government. All are being openly challenged by an imperial president seeking a less responsible role for our country in the world. The potential impact of ducking our historic leadership role can produce unquestionably higher human and environmental costs, increased east-west tensions, rising inequality, more frequent and bloodier conflicts, and open challenges to all democratic institutions everywhere.

This country’s citizens of can play a critical role in influencing the policies of our government. Let’s consider what we can do, individually and collectively, in the near future.

~Craig Gaspard, for the Green Cong. Committee
THANK YOU to everyone who this April and May donated, and offered to donate, household furnishings for Maria's apartment. She appreciates "you do not know how much..." our bringing the household items and "thank you." Maria was staying at McKinney shelter in recent months, got a job locally, and now, together with a RI Housing rental voucher has an apartment in Providence. All the best to Maria setting up her home.

~Betsy Dees, for SAC

MISSING A DISH?? Due to the many activities that have recently taken place at Channing we have an abundance of serving platters etc. that have been left in the Parish Hall kitchen. Please retrieve any platters, containers or dishes that have been put in the "Lost and Found", located under the nametag table in the Parish Hall. Thank you!

PARKING FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES Summer is busy in Newport! To make Sunday parking easier there are yellow maps available on the Sanctuary back table (next to the exit) showing parking spaces within walking distance of church. These spaces are available during the Sunday worship services only. Don't forget to put your map on your dashboard where it is clearly visible to identify you as a Channing Parishioner. Please note that parking is no longer available behind the Savings Institute on Bellevue.

FLOWER COMMUNION & COMING OF AGE CELEBRATION We are inviting ALL MEMBERS of Channing to participate in a Global Flower Communion as part of the Worship service on Sunday, June 4th. Congregants should bring in a flower for the ceremony.

There will be a Special Coming of Age Celebration in the Parish Hall immediately following the service on Sunday, June 4th. Please bring a finger food to share

NO JUNE CIRCLE OF CONCERNS AND JOYS We will resume meeting on Saturday, July 15th!

FATHER'S DAY BBQ Don't forget to stop by the Annual Father's Day BBQ after the Service on Sunday, June 18th hosted by the Children and Youth of Channing.

THE BRITISH ARE COMING! A Celebration of English Choral Music from Tallis to Sullivan to Britten & Beyond Saturday, June 10, 7:30 p.m, United Congregational Church (Valley Road @Green End Avenue)

The Swanhurst Chorus will present a variety of English music, from full chorus to small groups, to solo voice. Featured works include highlights from H.M.S. Pinafore by Gilbert and Sullivan and Benjamin Britten's Hymn to St. Cecilia. Tickets are $15.00 and may be purchased online or text/call (401) 324-9820, from any chorus member (including Beth Milham,) or at the door. Ample parking is available in the main parking lot and the church's rear parking lot, via the John Clarke nursing home driveway.
2017-2018 Annual Pledge Drive Results
The annual pledge drive for 2017/2018 received pledges in the amount of $156,208, which surpassed the past two years and tied the total for 2014/2015. The Stewardship Team (Julie Herrick, Barbara Nowicki, Mary Alice Smith and Rev. Bill Zelazny) was assisted by John Burnham, Ruth Jernigan, Marcia Mallory, Marian Royer, Kathy Takata and Sue VanDerhoof. We are grateful to the Colburn/Carey family, the Doumatos, the Mallorys and the Richters for hosting four house parties.

Our sincere thanks to those listed below, all of whom made a financial contribution of record in support of Channing’s programs and operations since April 2016 and/or have pledged for the 2017/2018 church year.

Submitted by Julie Herrick, on behalf of the Stewardship Team.

Beth Adams & Scott McAllister
Robert Allott & Nancy DiMarzio
Christine Ariel
Michael & Joanne Armenia
Margaret Baker
Richard & Mary Lou Baker
Christine & Tom Bandoni
David & Stephanie Banister
Bruce Bates
Barbara Baum
Tom & Linda Beall
Joy Benson
Mary & Al Benson
Stephanie & Kevin Bongiovanni
Susan Booth
Nick & Wendy Bowen
Kathy Bowers
Maggie Bulmer
David Burnett
John Burnham & Rachel Balaban
Peter & Anita Butler
Judith Byrnes
Barbara Camadeco
Alice Campbell
Christopher & Katherine Carbone
Fred & Nancy Caswell
Lisa Colburn & Drew Carey
Thomas & Janet Cook
David Cooper & Cynthia Skelton
Barbara Coppola
Sis & Donald Courtsal
Tonia Croce
Arle Deeb
Betsy Dees
Kate Dempsey
Joan Dermody
George & Fatima Devine
Julie Dibari
Maryellen Doherty
Eleanor Doumatou
Lauren & Patrick Drain
Jim Egan
Devon Egge
Linda Everitt
Lissa & David Fernandez

Susan Fitzpatrick
Josephine Freedman
Jim Freess & Sondra Gold
Craig & Terry Gaspard
Terry Gavan & Diane Bonds
Christon Gibson
Ann Gillespie
Irene Glassie
Tom & Pam Goff
Andrew Going
Janet & John Grant
Beverly Green
Robert Grocott
Sally Hanchett
William Hawkins
Ron & Nan Heroux
Julie Herrick
Libby Houlihan
Thomas Howard
Sam & Ruth Jernigan
Milly Jessen
George & Nickie Kates
Ann Kellerman
Robert & Susan Kieronski
Kiwanis Club of Newport
Chris Laudon
Learning Center of Channing
Rex LeBeau
Neil & Betsy Leerssen
R. Lieser
Dave & Sheri Leers
Coles & Marcia Mallory
Bill & Bett Marshall
Candy Martin
Sheila McEntee
Finn McGowan
Christina Medici
Sarah & Jan Mermin
Constance Metcalf
Russ & Beth Milham
Norm & Mary Lou Moore
Marilyn Murphy
David Nava
Naomi Neville
Barbara Nowicki

Mary (Betty) Nowicki
Susan Ohama
Miki Ohlsen
Donna O’Neill
Bernice Oxley
Patrick & Piper Padilla
Courtney Parisi
Tom & Janna Pederson
David Pedrick
Allie Peralta
Nancy & Bill Peresta
John Prevedini
Calvin Pierce
Judith Porter
Potters of Newport County
Pam Rainey
Barbara Richter
Jan Rogers
Henry & Jo Ann Rosemont
Marian Royer
D. Sanchez
Heather Sheley
Tony Simonelli
Mary Alice Smith
Ginny Spaulding
Kari Star
Kathy Takata
Robert & Kristine Thorson
Todd Thomas
Susan VanDerhoof and
Robert Janiesch
Courtney Walker and
Kether Paradise
Joan Walker
Sherrill Warch
Judy Webb
Susan Whitney
Thomas Willett and
Barbara Russell-Willett
June Wing
Chris Yalanis
Rev. Bill Zelazny
To My Wonderful Church Family

With the passing of my husband, George three & half years ago I experienced what is meant by a "Church Family". The love and support that my family and I received during those dark days around the Christmas holiday will never be forgotten.

With the loss of my 21 year old grandson Alex on Nov.17th, 2016 I again found myself trying to compose my heartfelt feelings for all the love and support that was bestowed on Alex's mother Kathy, brother Adam and myself.

I would like to thank the following individuals that provided me the much needed love, support, guidance and friendship during this most difficult time. I want to thank my dear friend Beth Milham for all her love, support and guidance that she provided from the very beginning after I got that terrible call at midnight from the emergency room doctor. Also helping with the funeral arrangements and the reception. Rev. Lark D'Helen for her wonderful service and the extra care she showed my daughter Kathy, Adam and myself. Her thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Mike Armenia for the special friendship he and Alex had for each other and his wonderful eulogy about their friendship and being his mentor.

I am still overwhelmed with everything this wonderful church community provided to help make Alex's wake, memorial service and the reception afterwards so meaningful. I want to thank all the special groups (Caregiving, Fellowship, Social Justice, my WWW women's group II, Learning Center and Interweave) and the many unknown individuals who came together the night before Thanksgiving to provide an abundance of food and drinks. Thank-you all for taking the time away from your own family celebrations to help set-up a very loving and comfortable place to remember Alex.

I would like to share a statement many of Alex's friends told me afterwards. The young people told me that the church sure has some wonderful cooks! As you could tell they were really enjoying the wonderful food and your hospitality. As you could tell they really felt very comfortable at the reception especially when they made a very large circle with the "little" Sunday school chairs and sat there sharing stories about Alex and their adventures.

For everyone who knew Alex during his childhood at Channing I want you all to know he knew he was loved, accepted and cared about very much. This was the first & only church he ever attended and I am so grateful he was able to experience our beliefs. Alex believed in equal rights for all people. He wanted to help the less fortunate and as he got older he was looking into possibly joining the Peace Corp or Ameri Corp. I want to thank you all for helping build his foundation of life. I am so heart-broken that his life ended the way it did. He was so talented and had so much promise.

I would like to share a couple events in his childhood which are related to his relationship with the Channing Community. I remember him telling me when he would run into someone from church and they both would share greetings with each other. At that moment he said he felt so proud that another adult would remember him. After sharing his joy with me he then began to share his description of the person in the hopes that I would know who he met. I have to say I was so thankful for the church directory that had everyone's picture in it. Alex and I would go thru it until he found the right person. He especially liked it when he would run into his "Mystery Friend". Barbara thank-you for being there for him.
The other event was when he talked his grandfather into attending a Christmas Eve service many years ago. He wanted to show him the beautiful stain glass windows that he loved so much. I still laugh at Alex’s reaction when we all sat down and Alex started looking around for all those beautiful windows. I actually was surprised also until I realized because it was dark outside we couldn’t see the beauty of those very special windows. After Alex calmed down and said he understood he then told his grandfather that he would just have to come back to church in the daytime. That was the beginning of his grandfather’s attendance at church functions.

Last but not least I want to thank three more special people. Rev. Bill for being there by phone as he was traveling to his sister’s and Michele and Pat for all the hard work and efforts they put into making everything look so nice.

I would also like to thank two very special groups that have helped me define a special mission I am on. They are the Social Action Committee and the Learning Center. They organized a community forum which focused on preventing opioid addiction. It was called "Opioid Addiction in Our Local Communities- What Can We Do?" I was asked to present my story about Alex’s overdose and the effect on the family. I am so grateful for their faith in my ability to tell my story and all the support they gave me at the forum along with other Channing members. Also one more special new group at Channing the "Purely Girls" they knitted me a beautiful "Prayer Shawl" which was presented to me at a church service. I also wore it when I gave my speech. Thank-you all for your efforts in helping me have a purpose in life. If my story can save just one life maybe Alex’s death wouldn’t have been in vain.

My heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you for all your love, kindness and support you have bestowed on me, my specially chosen family!

~Sherrill Warch