Summer Worship at Channing

An engaging series of summer services will be led by guest ministers and a few of our members, beginning July 3rd by interfaith minister Jeannette Bessinger – Judie Porter’s daughter – and finishing on September 4th with returning guest minister Rev. Ed Hardy. An example of our lay-led services is on poetry, by Renee Soto on July 31st. Music will be provided at every service by Janet Grant and occasional guests. Please make time on your summer Sundays to be inspired by our Worship Leaders and the company of fellow congregants.

The children and youth of Channing’s RE program contributed big-time to our June services. In 3 Sundays in a row, our young people, led by DRE Jessica Thomas, provided an Intergen service, a Bridging Ceremony for 3 high school graduates and an all-out barbecue after the Father’s Day service. Congratulations to our children and youth for your spiritual growth during the year and your strong finish. Have a fun summer.

The Worship Committee is beginning to arrange for guest- and member-led worship during the fall, awaiting word about the status of a part-time hired minister for next year. The Ministerial Selection Committee has had an enthusiastic and productive month since being formed at the time of the Annual Meeting in May. However the selection process may evolve, the Worship Committee will assure a schedule of enjoyable services beginning with the Ingathering Service on September 11th.

Have a happy summer. We hope to see many of you in Sunday services from time to time.

~David Pedrick, Worship Committee Chair
July 24
The Secret Life of Mushrooms
Mandy Beall, preaching
Eleanor Doumato, Assisting
In recent years, scientists have discovered new information about how plants communicate with each other using an underground fungal network. Apparently, this network is used for passing information and even trading key nutrients between plants that were previously thought to have no connection. What can we learn from this so-called “wood wide web?”

Mandy Beal is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry and a recent graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. She is currently serving as the Ministerial Intern at the First Parish in Lincoln (MA). Mandy gets irrationally excited talking about theology, social justice, and almost anything church-related.

July 31 Myster9es and Miracles, Part II: The Capacity of Metaphor to Help
Renee Soto, preaching
Susan VanDerhoof, Assisting
Louise Gluck’s book, The Wild Iris serves as the source material for a talk on the ways metaphor can help articulate our spiritual struggles and experiences.

Renee Soto is a dedicated friend of Channing Memorial Church. Last summer, she led a service, “Mysteries and Miracles: Imagination as a Requisite for Faith.”

August 14 A Parent-Child Exploration of Personal Spirituality
Jeanette Bessinger, preaching
Judi Porter, Assisting
Arising out of years of conversations, mother and son Jeannette and Julian Bessinger will share their intergenerational thoughts about practical, personal spirituality and how it has been directly shaped for them by the tender, challenging work of growing up together, Father and son Jeff and Caellum Kerr, on the brink of Caellum’s departure for college, will perform a selection of musical duets.

Jeanette Bessinger, ordained interfaith minister, CHHC, is the Clean Food Coach, an award-winning educator, and author of multiple books books supporting healthy lifestyle change. Julian Bessinger, her son, is a current student of New York University and burgeoning fiction author. Having just returned from a journalism program in Ghana, Africa, his fourth international trip and third continent in two years, Julian is considering adventuring as a lifestyle choice.

August 21
A Pair of Lenses
Andrea Greenwood, preaching
Even though our expectations can have a lot to do with how we experience and see the world, some things happen to us because of the positions we occupy in society. What do we get out of church, and what do we believe the “religious life” to be in this American society? “

Andrea is Affiliate Minister at First Parish of Watertown, MA. In addition to her experience in worship, lifespan religious education, pastoral care and stewardship, she’s an advocate for people with disabilities. This is her second visit to Channing.

Purpose of the Time of Sharing
A reminder from the Worship Committee
Congregation members: Please find comfort in the Time of Sharing through heartfelt expressions of your joys, concerns and sorrows. This time is reserved for the purpose of expressing significantly personal feelings as a part of our overall religious service, with focused comments. It helps if you compose your thoughts before speaking from the lectern, and (re-)introduce yourself. Bear in mind that you are sharing intervals of time with others who are waiting for their turns to speak, and be appropriately brief, not exceeding one minute per person. Please, it is not a time for announcements or advocacy. It is meant as a moment for sharing joys and concerns with the congregation for us to listen, to care and be touched.
FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Why A Master Plan is Important

As you may have heard, Channing has received a grant from the vanBeuren Charitable Foundation to fund a Master Plan. We have now found the professionals to hire and with the committee we have gathered are ready to begin the process. There will likely be two meetings with the congregation in coming months, so watch for notices of those meetings if you are interested in participating.

There are several reasons why this process is so important and valuable.

A professional Master Plan will provide the basic information about our buildings and site that is vital in order to understand what we need to do to maintain and repair our property and to define what our options are for future development. The On-Site Insight plan done in 2004 will be updated, the existing conditions of buildings, utilities, and systems will be documented, and options for future development will be explored. No decisions will be made as part of the process but a range of options will be developed for the congregation to discuss in the future.

Experience shows that because our property has been managed by volunteer committee members there is an inherent discontinuity in our work. It takes a year or two to become fully acquainted with the complex systems in our buildings. As time goes on and we rotate on and off the committee our accumulated knowledge is lost, so we rely on individual memory and often must reconstruct information that has been misplaced. Having a Master Plan provides a structure for volunteers to follow for years.

We have architecturally important historic buildings that require regular expensive restoration and preservation work. We are stewards for an institution that has a unique place in our city neighborhood as well as in UU history. Charitable foundations have been generous supporters of our work in the past, and having a Master Plan in place presents a coherent plan for us to follow that is respected by those donors. We can plan for grant requests and Capital Campaigns in coming decades with a comprehensive analysis available to guide us.

This is exciting work. I am very grateful to the vanBeuren Charitable Foundation for providing this wonderful opportunity for Channing.

~Christine Laudon,
Co-President, Board of Trustees

Embracing Change at Channing

Change is difficult. Most of us naturally find comfort in remaining stolidly un-changed, sticking with familiar routines, habits, people and places. But times of change are also opportunities to re-assess where we are in our lives and to re-align our expenditures of time, energy and resources with what we value most. As we transition to welcome a new minister to Channing Church we have an opportunity to stop and reflect on how we “do church” at Channing. What have we come to love here? What needs to be changed? Let’s brainstorm some fresh ideas to grapple with tough yet familiar problems. How do we welcome and keep new members and make our ministry more attractive to young adults and families? How do we provide sensible and responsible stewardship for our lovely but aging buildings? And, for heaven’s sake, how do we re-envision Fellowship at Channing so that someone will be willing to serve as Fellowship Committee Chair? What fresh, new, even radical ideas can we generate for attacking old problems (our buildings) and even easy new ones (coffee!). Over the years at Channing our congregation has always faced challenging times of change and transition with creativity and passion. The results have been positive and even amazing. As always, some things won’t change at Channing, the most important being our shared vision together. As we explore various options for Channing’s future we won’t forget that we come together to effect “positive change within our community and the world” and that we are committed to “creating a wellspring of caring and compassion within a vital and inspirational community of all ages that values individuals throughout their lives”. Let’s roll up our sleeves and continue working together.

In friendship and peace,
Barbara Nowicki
Co-President, Board of Trustees
**CAREGIVING UPDATE**

We hope you are all enjoying the summer weather and the events of summer in Newport!

There are many events and people to celebrate this month. Congratulations to the Fernandez family as they add a new member. Alex Fernandez married Brittany Kosboski on June 26. The wedding took place at Ochre Court on the Salve Regina campus.

Irene and Morty Glasser welcomed a new grandchild, Elise Glasser Skog. They will be visiting their Swedish family later this summer.

Congratulations to Kaleigh Bailey Pfirrmann, Catie Gaspard, and Ben Lanowy, our congregation’s high school graduates this spring! We wish them the best as they all journey on to college and beyond. Kudos also to Rex LeBeau, who just completed a certification in natural science illustration through RISD’s continuing education program.

A group of Channing members participated in the Providence Pride Parade on June 18. We are proud to champion diversity and advocacy for all, regardless of race, gender identity, or who we choose to love. Our thoughts, with deepest sadness, are with those who recently lost their lives in the Orlando shootings, and with their families and friends who mourn.

Thank you to all of the Caregiving volunteers who have been helping Ginny Spaulding during her current illness, both with transportation to her cancer treatments and with kitty litter patrol at her home!

Alicia Spinner is residing at Blenheim and would enjoy seeing old Channing friends. Lila Neidich is living at the Grand Islander and also welcomes visitors. As you may remember, her husband Dick died suddenly in January of this year; his memorial service was held June 20 here at Channing. They are remembered fondly by many long-time church members.

Charlie Beckers, who had been residing in a local nursing home for rehab after a stroke, is now home with his wife Susan, and visitors are welcome. If you’d like to stop by and see Charlie, please contact Beth Milham, who is helping to coordinate visits.

Fred Caswell celebrated his 89th birthday in late May. Fred is a treasure to many of us, and we wish him many more years of health and happiness!

Our sympathies go out to Sherrill Warch, whose brother died of colon cancer in June. After attending his funeral service in Baltimore, Sherrill then left on another trip, this time for a joyful reason – to visit her son and his family in Alaska. This was her first meeting with her three grandchildren, the oldest aged 7.

Jamie Carlson is on the mend after hip replacement surgery. Joanne Armena will soon undergo a similar hip replacement procedure. We wish both of you the best for a speedy recovery!

Thank you to June Wing for letting us know that long-time Channing member and former RE chair Christine Rosa, who has lived in Florida for many years, is mourning the death of her second husband Terrance Silvermail, who died in May. Anyone who remembers Chris and would like to express condolences can write to her at 14043 Brenton Reef Way, Ft. Myers, FL 33919.

Many thanks to Beth Milham and Mary Lou Baker, who served as Caregiving coordinators during June! Though there is less activity around church in the summer, please know that Caregiving help is always just a phone call away. Our coordinators for the next two months are as follows:

- **July 1-7** – Barbara Russell-Willett
- **July 7-15** – Nickie Kates
- **July 15-31** – Mary Benson
- **Aug. 1-15** – Susan Booth
- **Aug. 15-31** – Milly Jessen
- **Sept. 1-15** – Marian Royer

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

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**JULY & AUGUST SHARE THE PLATE**

**July Share the Plate:** Partners in Health serving the poor world wide in health care. PiH establishes long-term relationships with sister organizations in USA, Liberia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Mexico, Guatemala (to name a few) serving poverty stricken settings. PiH brings modern medical science to people most in need. "We go. We make house calls. We build health systems. We stay." For more information visit website PiH.org.

**August Share the Plate:** Is for the Rogers High School Student Fund. Specifically Channing wants to fund math calculators to be used by underprivileged students. (Students are expected to supply these and some other critical academic items.) The proceeds from this collection will be a check to the "RHS Student Fund", attention Newport Superintendent of Schools whose staff will designate the students with the most need.
A few good things happening

As I write, the RI General Assembly has just closed its session. Legislatively, except for the Ethics Bill, not much good happened with the bills backed by the RI UU Legislative Ministry. A bill to give Burrillville voters some say in the siting of a gas power plant sailed through the House, then died in a Senate committee. Incredibly, in spite of Orlando, anti-gun violence bills didn't pass, and some existing laws were even weakened!

But here on the island there's some good stuff in the news. In Portsmouth, the replacement wind turbine has finally grown to full height. In Middletown, sustainable techniques are being studied to control beach erosion, including further protecting and fortifying the sand dunes.

In Newport, serious attention is finally being paid to the effects of sea level rise on the downtown and Point sections. The Open Space Partnership has also completed a series of well-attended public meetings as it puts together a comprehensive plan giving due consideration to "green" infrastructure, alternative transportation and permanent protection of significant open spaces. In addition, the City Council is also seeking a grant for a "Hillside Avenue Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project to control storm water run-off, and has approved inclusion of solar power in the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant. Finally, the Council has requested the drafting of an ordinance to ban single-use plastic shopping bags, a scourge to aquatic life--an important move for a seaside community. There's reason to be hopeful, at least locally.

Have a beautiful summer, and keep "living green." (Check out Craig's column for suggestions.)

~Beth Milham,
Chair Green Congregation Committee

Lifestyle and Our Choices

By now, readers of EcoBits likely believe that they, as individuals, CAN make a difference in improving our world. One way is through lifestyle choices: buying produce at a farmer's market, becoming a member of a CSA, or growing food in our backyard. "Eco-choices" include clothing, personal care products and food. The last is perhaps the easiest, with options from "organic" and locally-grown produce to free range or grass-fed meat. Not only are certified organic veggies or pasta critical in reducing the impact of chemical fertilizers and pesticides/herbicides in our environment, they also "reward" stewardship by reducing fish- and wildlife-killing runoff. Nutrient enrichment from runoff caused by our country's reliance on industrial agriculture creates "dead zones" in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana and in western Lake Erie. Manure lagoons from massive feedlots in the southeastern and mid-western US do the same. Convenience has a cost.

Clothing choices also offer consumer options to shrink our footprint. "Organic" clothiers like Patagonia buy hemp and high plains cotton, less impacted by the infamous Boll Weevil, and turn them into clothing. Other manufactures are matching Patagonia, using recycled food grade plastic to make waterproof outdoor clothing, in a rapidly evolving clothing market where environmental impact matters. Finally, personal care products, especially skin care, soaps and toothpaste, that are “home-made” and reduce their impact on the environment, are more available now. While costs are often 20-30% higher than their mass produced equivalents, I would counter that craftspeople, who make small batches, are more likely to value higher quality and also support local commerce. They're also more apt to research and better understand how to care for your skin than global conglomerates who are only interested in keeping wholesale and retail costs low and competitive.

Continue to exercise these important lifestyle choices!

~Craig Gaspard,
Green Congregation Committee

ECO-BITS & TIPS

COMMUNITY MEAL

Mondays, July 18 & August 15, 3:30-6:15pm, in the Parish Hall
The Channing Memorial Church Community Meal is the third Monday of every month in the Parish Hall. To see when volunteers are needed contact meal manager, Sally Hanchett
**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 there is no longer parking available behind the Savings Institute Savings & Trust (old Newport Federal).

**SUMMER CHIMERS**

- July 3 – Chris Ariel
- July 10 – Cynthia Skelton
- July 17 – Linda Beall
- July 24 – Jim Freess
- July 31 – Linda Beall
- August 7 – Janna Pederson
- August 14 – Cynthia Skelton
- August 21 – Jim Freess
- August 28 – Linda Beall

"Why Meditate"  
With Ken Gaus
Tuesday Evenings
July 12, July 19, & July 26
7:00–8:30pm, Parish Hall
Registration $5 per session, or $10 for all three.
Refreshments will be served
Ken’s seminar will be based on the book **Why Meditate** by Matthieu Ricard, a Frenchman who became a Buddhist monk over 40 years ago. Sessions will include an overview of ideas in the book, participation in guided meditation, guidance in individual meditation, and an introduction to the concept of listening to your “inner voice”. Ken is a friend of Channing, with much success in the business sector and a strong and intensive interest in spiritual growth.

Questions? see TLC folks at our registration table at Fellowship, most Sundays.

**“MEALS FOR NICARAGUA” UPDATE**

In February many of you enjoyed a Meal for Nicaragua and listened to Erica Sinni who was preparing for a medical mission trip there in March. Many of you generously donated to her effort. Just a few weeks ago she received her nursing degree from Northeastern University and now, done with exams, projects, practicums and finals, she had a chance to reflect on her experience there.

Thank you to everyone who helped me fulfill my dream of a nursing medical mission trip to Nicaragua in March of this year. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience! My time in Nicaragua has forever changed my view of healthcare.

The team I went with consisted of a physician, nurse practitioners, nurse practitioner students, nurses and nursing students. While we were in Nicaragua, we had five full days where we set up clinics and saw over one hundred patients per day. Each clinic was set up in a local church. We charged a small fee to enter the clinic and donated what we had collected to the pastor at the end of the day. We also saw those who could not pay the fee.

In order to prepare for each clinic day, we would spend hours counting, sorting and packing medication into 30, 60 or 90 day doses and labeling them appropriately. We also sorted clothes, shoes, toys and toiletries by gender and age as these were also distributed at each clinic. We would then pack the truck and top of the van with everything we would need for the clinic including tables, chairs, scales and suitcases full of donated items and medications. We would wake up at 5 am and be on the bus by 6am. Depending on the village we were going to serve that day the bus ride was anywhere from 20 minutes to 2 hours. Keep in mind that these were not paved roads. All volunteers rode in the van while the founder of Corner of Love drove the truck full of supplies. Upon arrival to the village, we would unload the truck and setup the clinic in 100°F and 50% humidity. Then we were ready to see patients.

Our day ended when all the patients had been seen by a provider, gone to the donation table and picked up their prescriptions. This varied between 4pm and 8pm depending on the day. Then we would pack everything back onto the truck and top of the van and start our journey back to the Cantina. We would eat dinner and start all over again preparing for the next day. I was exhausted by the end of each day, but I was also proud of the difference I had made in that one village.