Get to Know Your Board
By Barbara Nowicki, President, Board of Trustees

The Channing Board of Trustees sets church policy and oversees all congregational activities. We’re elected by you. Do you know who we are? There are 10 of us and we’re a pretty diverse and (I think) interesting group.

I’m Barbara Nowicki and I’m your President this year. I’m a retired marine research scientist from URI/Oceanography with a passion for gardening and quilting. I host quilt and sewing workshops at my home and maintain an acre of organic flower, fruit and vegetable gardens. Feel free to visit!

Ginny Spaulding is our Vice President. She’s a psychologist working with active duty military and in private practice. She hosts a couple of rooms on Air BnB where she loves meeting people from all over the world who are visiting Newport. She loves music and likes to sing. After a difficult medical spring and summer last year we’re delighted that she’s feeling great and back with us again.

Eleanor Doumato is our board Secretary. She’s an historian whose books and articles are about gender, society, and religion in the Persian Gulf region, though her secret passion today is trying to write historical fiction. She’s taught at Brown and URI and now has the pleasure of giving the occasional class at Salve’s Circle of Scholars.

Julie Herrick is our Treasurer. She retired from a 40 year career in hospital and medical school administration in New York City. Sailing has been her passion from childhood and she lived on a sailboat in Stamford CT for 30 years. She has been widowed twice and met both husbands through sailing. She and her second husband-to-be bought a house in Newport in 2010 and quickly made Channing their spiritual home.

September Worship Services
Sunday, September 3:
Rev. Tom Schade
Our Golden Calf
The mechanism of injustice in contemporary America.
Rev. Tom Schade returns to lead his third service at Channing. Rev. Schade retired in 2012 after serving for thirteen years as minister of First Unitarian Church of Worcester, and lives in Providence.

Sunday, September 10:
Rev. Bill Zelazny
Creating a “WE”
This is In-gathering Sunday and what better way is there than to take a look at whom we are in our faith tradition and congregations. We generally talk about Unitarian Universalism as the religious home for fiercely independent individuals who are free to explore and follow their individual spiritual paths. However, Unitarian Universalism is also all about community. Bill will discuss in this sermon the building and maintaining community, our “we”, while also honoring our belief in radical individualism in religious expression.

As part of this service we will conduct our traditional water ceremony. Everyone is invited to bring a small container of water from someplace this is important to you - home, vacation site, hiking trail – to blend with the water of other Channing members to represent the forming of our special community.

The annual congregation potluck picnic in Touro park will follow the service (See announcement on page 7)
**Sunday, September 17:**
**Rev. Bill Zelazny**

We Were That, But Now We are Different
This sermon continues Bill’s exploration of Unitarianism Universalism that started with his August 27 sermon. Unitarianism has experienced several theological paradigm shifts. Bill will look at the five major theological paradigms that guided Unitarianism during the past 200 years.

**FROM THE MINISTER**
I’m back at my desk in Channing House after a busy summer mostly spent doing work to get my new house ready for the September move. My new house is in North Kingstown, just off Route 4 on Route 102. All in all, it was a fun summer, but I am excited to be back and ready for our new church year.

With the increase in hours the congregation gave me, I will generally be in the office Tuesdays, some Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 to 2:00. Thursday and part of Saturday is generally sermon writing days at my home office. Of course, I am also available by arrangement to meet at other times. I will also be offering several classes during the year – the first will be will Building Your Own Theology, (Wednesday evenings, October 11 & 25 and November 8) and working with members of the congregation to initiate some new programs, such as a men’s group and a Sunday morning meditation circle. Watch for more detailed information in the weeks ahead.

This year I would like us to consider what we do here at Channing as “deepening our roots and expanding our branches.” In other words, working through our ministries and programs to strengthen our individual and family spiritual growth and connections (deepening our roots), and enhancing our presence in the community so that people get to know us and Unitarian Universalism better (expanding our branches). Along these lines, Jess Thomas, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and the Religious Education Committee will be bringing some new programs and initiatives to faith formation for children, youth and families to Channing as well as continuing some of our favorite activities.

We have a lot to experience this year as Unitarian Universalists at Channing Memorial. Let’s have a great and fun year.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

**Sunday, September 24:**
**Rev. Bill Zelazny & Irene Glasser**

Let us celebrate Rosh Shashona
Channing member Irene Glasser and Rev Bill will be leading the service in honor of Rosh Shashona, the Jewish New Year. Join us through music and words as we greet the year 5778 and wish for a sweet New Year for ourselves and for peace for the world.

Our fellowship following the service will feature some Jewish pastries that are traditional for Rosh Shashona.

**SAVE THE DATE!**
**Sunday, October 15th, Guest Speaker: Robert Thorson**
Looking ahead to October 15, Robert Thorson will be with us once again, giving a sermon that connects our UU principles today to Henry David Thoreau’s reasons for resigning from First Parish Unitarian Church in Concord back in 1841. In the words of the Rev. Howard Dana, today minister of that same church, “We have taken up his ideas. Because he would not come to us, we had to come to him.” Thor’s latest book is The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau’s River Years. [Harvard University Press, 2017]
The Channing board meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month and meetings are open to all. If you can’t make it to a board meeting, catch us at coffee hour on Sunday. We’d love to chat with you!

~Barbara Nowicki
Channing President

FAMILY SUNDAY IN THE SANCTUARY

One of the new initiatives of our Youth and Family Ministry program will be Family Sunday. It is important for families to share the Sunday church experience, and for children to see and be involved in the regular Sunday service so they grow up knowing what our religious services are like.

On Family Sunday -- the 2nd Sunday of the month, starting in October -- we are inviting, in fact, encouraging, children and youth to come to Channing with their family and attend the whole service. There will be no religious education classes, though child care will continue to be offered.

We are still working on all the operational details, but in general we plan to set up a quiet craft’s area in the back of the sanctuary for children who may find sitting in the pew for an hour to be a bit of a challenge, and recognizing the culture of the young, we’ll let our young attendees play games (silently) on their I-phones/Androids and DS’s as they absorb what is going on around them.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny
REcLIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY

Welcome!

Children and Youth are an integral part of our congregation and we welcome them into our Sanctuary, our worship, and our church community. In an effort to uphold our mission and help families raise children who will become caring, respectful, and fair individuals, who seek truth and stand up for what is right, we provide programming for children, youth, and families.

Children and Youth are invited to our multi-aged religious education class on the 1st and 4th Sunday of the month, a family friendly Sunday service in the Sanctuary with Reverend Bill on the second Sunday of the month, and service opportunity to bake for the community meal on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

*Holiday weekends may impact this schedule somewhat. Religious Education Classes and Events begin September 17th, the week after Ingathering. Children and Youth are also welcome to attend any Sunday service in the Sanctuary. Additionally, we provide a staffed, nurturing childcare room for infants and children up to age 4 during the Sunday service and during special events, including a Spiritual Parenting Group that will take place in the Parish Hall Ladies' Parlor at 11:30 on the 3rd Sunday of the month. On the 1st Sunday of the month at 11:30, we invite everyone in the congregation to attend the Family Fun Day, which may be on site or in the community (local farm, ice cream parlor, etc).

This is the year that Our Whole Lives, a developmental and comprehensive class on sexuality, occurs for 4-6 graders and 7-9 graders. The impact that this course makes on the lives of children, youth, and future adults cannot be overstated. We are seeking facilitators (over the age of 25, who do not have children who will be participating in the program). Training will be provided. We also need children/youth/families to participate in the program. Please see any member of the RE Committee (Kathy Takata, Barbara Russell-Willett, Sally Hanchett) or Jessica Thomas, Director of Family Ministry, if you want to learn more about facilitating this program or having your child/children participate.

Channing’s Youth Group for tweens and teens grades 6-12 will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM. The group focuses on friendship, fun, and social action activities that impact the local community.

The religious education committee meets the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 in the Channing House library; this month’s meeting is on 9/6/17. We need new participants and welcome those with and without children to participate. *If it’s difficult to be present in person, consider participating virtually.

We look forward to welcoming all families and invite them to participate in the many activities and programs that the Channing community offers.

~Kathy Takata,
Chair, RE Committee
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Welcome back to all who have been away this summer! Hope your season has been full of adventures and enjoyable times with family and friends. Thank you so much to Mike Armenia, who took on Caregiving coordinator duties during August.

Sadly, this summer we’ve experienced the deaths of two beloved members of our congregation. Henry Rosemont passed away on July 2 after a long illness. He was a dedicated and brilliant educator and scholar, and we are grateful to him and his wife JoAnn for their generosity in so many ways to Channing Church. Many of us will remember with fondness and appreciation the numerous lively seminars and one-time classes Henry conducted on behalf of the Learning Center. A celebration service will be held at Channing on Sept. 23 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to come and share memories commemorating Henry’s life and work. A hosted reception open to all will be held afterwards. From an e-mail sent to Channing members by JoAnn: “We have created a website, www.henryrosemontjr.com and a Facebook page, ‘Henry Rosemont Jr,’ where we will be posting details of the event. We send our condolences to JoAnn and the entire Rosemont family – Henry will be deeply missed.

And we were all profoundly saddened by the death of our long-time friend and church member Fred Caswell, who died of renal failure on August 5. Fred had just celebrated his 90th birthday in style with a big party at the end of May, and no one who ever knew Fred will forget his smile, his hugs, his love for his family and friends, and his joy in living. He was a man who was constantly learning new things, and was forever young at heart. We send Nancy and the rest of Fred’s family our love and sympathy.

A ceremony to distribute Fred’s ashes into the sea will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 16 in Jamestown, with a service of remembrance to follow here at Channing at 2 p.m. that day. A reception at the Elk’s Lodge will be held after the service. In the Honor Room (the front room bordered by the porch). There will be some parking available in the Elks Club parking lot, on a first-come/first-serve basis. If you would like to bring a finger food to share at the reception, it would be appreciated. Please drop off at the long tables in the entry hall of the Elks Club anytime after 9:00 AM that day. Thank you very much.

On a much happier note, congratulations go out to Max Willett and his new fiancée Laura! They became engaged over the summer, and are planning their wedding for Labor Day 2018 in Newport.

During September, please contact either Nickie Kates or Barbara Russell-Willett with any Caregiving concerns among our congregation members and friends. You may also contact either one if you’d like to volunteer. Thank you!

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday, September 18, 3:30-6:15 pm, 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 our meal manager, Joy Benson, at communitymeal@channingchurch.org
**SOCIAL ACTION**

**GREEN CORNER**

*Revving up for fall and winding down from summer*

Save the date! On Wednesday, October 18, Emmanuel Church’s Environmental Committee and Channing’s Green Congregation will present *From the Ashes*, a National Geographic film about the impact of coal on our country. Watch for more information in the October Catalyst. Emmanuel has committed to holding an environmental action/event each month, and Green Congregation looks forward to building on our long collaborative relationship.

In September, the Social Action Committee and Green Congregation launches its renewed relationship which will strengthen both groups, especially in the realm of environmental justice. This is an area of crucial importance to the Green Sanctuary movement and in our nation’s current political climate. SAC generally meets the second Sunday of each month after church, but for updated meeting announcements, contact us at greencongregation@channimgchurch.org. Look for us at the Channing Community Fair after church on September 17, too!

The Milhams’ UU summer was as action packed as anticipated, starting with G.A. in New Orleans, an ending with the WhaleCoast Alaska All-Alaska Tour in July. G.A.’s prevailing theme was the need to recognize and eradicate white privilege from our UUA ranks on all levels. We’ve seen how failure to do so in society at large has played out this summer, but even the most enlightened among us must examine how we benefit from this assumption of privilege.

From our Alaska tour we acquired a renewed appreciation of nature’s bounty and the threats it faces from human civilization and climate change. And we met some wonderful people, and learned a lot about how small congregations survive, thrive and extend hospitality well beyond the call.

We look forward to sharing all this experience in the coming months. Ask us!

~Beth Milham, Chair, Green Cong. Committee

**ECO-BITS & TIPS**

**“Gaspard Harvest”**

It’s mid-August here on Cherokee Drive and a pretty good bounty thus far except for those darned Eastern Cottontails and their affinity for young, tender shoots. So I replanted and closed off a few more holes in the fence.

Anyway, I think I’ve put up about 30 mostly half-pints of fruit preserves and went back to peaches for the first time in a few years. Might be my best batch thus far. Tomorrow or Monday will be my first batch of salsa, and like last year, I will try smoking the hot and green pepper ingredients because I liked how that turned out flavor wise.

Some pleasant surprises for me thus far are yellow onions I grew from seed and the tomato bounty. Garlic, as always, came through. I know Russia’s been in the news “big time”, but for all the wrong reasons. On the other hand, Russian Red and Red Chesnok, two strains from the Central Asia part of the old Russian Federation - Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – are my most productive and healthy strains, by far. I read that my other strains may have viruses infecting them. Time for new seed perhaps. So, Russia garlic good, but everything else, not so much. I am planning to put up some grape jelly and some applesauce and hopefully, several kinds of pickles, and a bit of sauerkraut. And last but not least, fresh lettuce, kale and leeks to take us through until Thanksgiving or possibly Christmas. I don’t know about you, but I need a distraction from the horror show going on in the White House, and veggie and herb gardening seem to fit the bill for this year. Happy distracting!

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**Annual Interfaith Conference on Climate Change**

**Transforming Prayers into Passionate Action**

Featuring Tim DeChristopher, a prominent leader in the Climate Justice movement

Monday, October 16, 2017 5:30-9:00

Providence College

Save $10 with Early Bird Registration! Available through 9/16: ow.ly/eQgR30ezhij
SEPTEMBER SHARE THE PLATE

In September half of our cash offerings and checks with the memo “Share the Plate” will go to Lucy’s Hearth. Channing members know and support Lucy’s Hearth, a 24-hour emergency shelter for mothers and their children, located in Middletown and primarily serving Newport County residents. Lucy’s Hearth provides transitional housing and helps residents gain life skills necessary to prevent future homelessness. It continues to support its residents through a permanent apartment program and aftercare program.

September’s Share the Plate dollars will fund items directly from the wish list of Lucy’s Hearth’s residents. Your contributions could provide a resident with funds for a trip to a water park, or a movie night, or a bedroom set, or bathroom necessities, or comfy pajamas and slippers. The wishes are endless and the impact immense.

Please be generous like you always are.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McEntee

SEPTEMBER CHIMERS

Sept. 3: Jim Freess
Sept. 10: Cynthia Skelton
Sept. 17: Janna Pederson
Sept. 24: Linda Beall

WELCOME BACK PICNIC
Sunday, September 10th

Reconnect with friends at our annual Welcome Back Potluck Picnic following the Ingathering Service on September 10th. Help make it a sumptuous feast by bringing your best dish to share. Don’t forget to bring a chair too! The picnic is sponsored by the Membership Committee and we are guaranteeing sunny weather (but just in case, it will be held in the Parish Hall if it rains). We will be setting up at 9:30 am on the 10th and would appreciate any help and also with cleaning up after the picnic. We are looking forward to seeing you all and hearing about your summer adventures.

ANNUAL SOCIAL ACTION POTLUCK PICNIC
Sunday, September 24, 1:00pm, King’s Park, Npt.

The Social Action Committee is hosting our annual pot luck picnic Sunday September 24th. The event will be at King’s Park, on Wellington Ave., in Newport. Bring an item to grill and a dish to share. We will enjoy a lovely day outdoors overlooking the water. We hope you will also bring your ideas for social action this year. Where should we as a congregation invest our time and energy? What issues are important to you?

INTERWEAVE POTLUCK
Sunday, September 17, 5:30pm, Parish Hall

What a crazy summer we had! Vigils and rallies and special elections, oh my! Lots of marginalized groups need our attention right now. Help support the LGBTQ community by coming to Interweave’s meeting on Sunday, September 17th at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. We will discuss our focus and plan our programming for the upcoming church year. But first, we eat. Bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner and bring your ideas for the meeting. See you then!

For more information, contact Rex LeBeau at interweave@channingchurch.org. Interweave is Channing’s group for LGBTQ people and allies.
IN MEMORY OF DR. HENRY ROSEMONT, JR.
FROM THE LEARNING CENTER

Henry, our late friend, was a most active and generous participant in the intellectual life of the Channing congregation. He was Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts Emeritus at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and more recently, Visiting Professor and Scholar of Religious Studies at Brown.

Henry either wrote or translated fourteen books, several of which formed the basis for his programs at Channing.

Here, listed, are the diverse and engaging courses which Henry Rosemont offered through The Learning Center, from 2011 to 2017, with the most recent first:

- “On Noam Chomsky”
- “The Sacred and the Profane” (Mircea Eliade)
- Reading Walden; Touring Walden and Concord (tour By Prof. Robert Thorson)
- “Are We ‘Charlie?’ Really?” (with Capt. Tom Beall)
- “Is There a Universal Grammar of Religion?”
- “Re-Linking The Divine Spirit With The Human: How Theists, Agnostics and Atheists Can All Lead an Authentic Religious Life”
- “Against Individualism”: A Confucian Rethinking of The Foundations of Morality, Politics, Family, and Religion”
- “China: Competition or Cooperation?”
- “Bhagavad-Gita”
- “How Communities Can Regain Democratic Control of Their Commercial and Natural Environments,” (organized by Henry)
- Seminar in Asian Sacred Texts
- Seminar on Buddhist Scriptures of The Three Major Sects, plus trip to Yale Art Gallery

How fortunate we all were that Henry’s passion for teaching, and for lively discussion, continued until the end of his life. His openness to the opinions of others and the generosity he and JoAnn shared in inviting all of us to their home for fireside seminars, embodied a true generosity of spirit. Henry filled a special place in our Channing community, and his loss is deeply felt.