Our guest preachers in January

Rev. Kathleen A. Green preaches on Jan. 10 on “This I Believe.” She is a Unitarian Universalist minister and doctoral candidate in multi faith studies at New York Theological Seminary. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago, and has served congregations in Illinois, Wisconsin, California, and New Jersey. Rev. Green worked with the UU legislative ministries of both California and New Jersey, and is a member of the Faith and Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC.

Preaching Jan. 31, on “No Selfie Control,” is Sean Neil-Barron, who was recently graduated from Harvard Divinity School and is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. He is Ministerial Intern at the New England Region of the UUA. He’s currently exploring opportunities for ministry. Born on Treaty 7 land in Calgary, Alberta, he struggles to be in solidarity with the indigenous people of Turtle Island. He works with the UUA Wellspring Curriculum for spiritual deepening.

UU's join interfaith act of solidarity with Muslims

Channing's Rev Dr Jay Deacon, with Rev Charlie Ortman (First Unitarian, Providence) and Rev. Margaret Weis (Bell Street Chapel, Providence) represented UUs at the R.I. Islamic Center Dec. 15. At the lecture is Imam Farid Ansari. Far left: Episcopal Bishop Nicholas Knisely; far right: Rev Don Anderson, Executive Director of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches.
As I write, it’s Christmas season; as you read, Christmas has just passed. But it’s worth asking: What is Christmas, and what was this Jesus?

I grew up in an evangelical Presbyterian home, and my form of teenage revolt was to go full fundamentalist. So I took this Christmas stuff awfully seriously. And then I noticed a bit of a contradiction. The occasion was a grade-school trip to New York, a couple of weeks before Christmas. I noticed these paid choruses singing outside department stores and banks. Wait wait, I thought. What is Christmas about, really? And who?

Since then, I’ve rethought and rethought again. There came a point when I began to ask, “Is it possible to be a follower of Jesus, and a Christian, at the same time?” No, it seemed to me, it wasn’t. In the intervening years I have come to know numerous Christians who are indeed followers of Jesus. And many more who are not.

The education at a fundamentalist college and an evangelical seminary meant reading the Hebrew Bible in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, noting the serious problems. If this came from God, how come he/she/it couldn’t manage to preserve the pure text intact? How come God seems to screw up so many historical details? What’s with all these contradictions? The Gospels were written 35-65 years after Jesus’ death by people who never knew him. My fundamentalism collapsed of its own weight.

I began to understand that by applying critical scholarship to these biblical documents, we could do fairly well at distinguishing the myth from the remaining traces of the actual Jesus. That critical scholarship began in Emerson’s day and he read the latest scholarship in German, but has advanced dramatically in the last thirty years. In part, that’s because whereas biblical scholars once mostly worked for religious institutions, now they work in universities and other settings where they’re free to follow their own thinking to its obvious conclusion, while rubbing elbows with other academics who understand the realities of, say, ancient Galilee.

What have we learned? Well, if you want to know a lot more about that, register for my course “Jesus Without Christianity” when the dates are announced, probably in the Spring.

But here’s a bit of what matters at Christmas. Which, for me, is indeed a religious holy day, honoring somebody who managed to make a sizable dent in the universe, lifting human consciousness and culture in a big way. So I want to remember just whose birth Christmas is supposed to be about. Not the Christmas of those perfectly nice choral groups standing in front of banks and department stores that day signifying no particular meaning besides profit.

And not a saccharine feel-good festival of froth.

And as much as I admire happy, healthy families, that’s not what it’s about, either. We now well understand that Jesus, and his family, were the poorest of the poor, from a class lower than peasants, in a society dominated by a powerful few kings, rulers, and governors, and their priests. Between these and everyone else lay an abysmal gulf.

And some holy family! Even the synoptic Gospels retain the story (Mark 3:19-21; 31-35) where Jesus is teaching near the family home and people say he’s beside himself, so the family goes out to seize him. He’s told his mother and brothers are looking for him, and he replies, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” To the crowd he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

So when we lay the stress on perfect families, I know that for many who walk through our doors, that’s not reality, and glorifying the perfect family only rubs the wrong way—though we can all be grateful that such families do exist.

He says foxes have their dens and birds have their nests but the child of humankind has no place to lay his head and rest. His audience—that those who, like him, are poor and illiterate, are the poor and the destitute, who would easily recognize themselves as the human beings in question. You might have noticed, too—there’s no mention of his father after the birth stories.

We recognize him now as a proponent of a new civilization, which he called “the kingdom of God.” He came not as a king, ruler or governor (these accounted for their one percent of the populace). He certainly didn’t come as “king of Israel,” a theme invented by later, antisemitic Christianity (and perpetrated by too many hymns) or savior to be worshipped—but as a powerful voice against inequality and social exclusion, proposing a “kingdom” or divine commonwealth that would not come with force. That’s important because very many would-be messiahs had already promised deliverance for those suffering a cruel Roman occupation in Judaea and Jesus’ own Galilee—by violent means, perhaps promising divine intervention that would never in fact come. Jesus’ “kingdom” was a state one could enter at once, and have their being there as Jesus already did. It stands open night and day before every person. It invites us still now.

He was an extraordinarily wise and effective street-philosopher, this sage of Galilee. And his message of a just society governed by love cost him personally. It’s quite clear that Jesus didn’t die a natural death. Jesus always confronted people with hard choices.

It’s not quite the story I grew up with, but it resonates as far more real, and it’s a ground for great joy for me. It must not be trivialized.

So I revere him. And I’m determined to give him his due, without saccharine sentimentality, which I, personally. Christmas is, for us, many things. But let’s make sure it remains a tribute to this great human being.
FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Happy New Year!

The Board has decided to contract with a consultant who will work with us to help the congregation discuss our history and our vision for the future. During a January weekend she will come and we plan to schedule meetings with individuals, committees, and groups to strengthen our church connections. Check the weekly announcements for updates and details as they are decided.

Since the tenant in the Parish Hall apartment left in November the Property Committee has been working hard to renovate the apartment for a new rental in January. It had been a long time since any work was done on that space so the project will be very extensive and involve repair of roof, windows, doors, refinishing floors, painting, and renovating the kitchen and bathrooms. The cost is covered with current budget funds and the immediate increase in rental income will be positive. I am very appreciative of the enormous amount of work done by members on both the construction and rental management aspects of this project, so please join me in applauding them. Their efforts help keep this church financially afloat.

The first half of the church year is now complete. We have had small groups meeting regularly, active youth group and RE activities, a hardworking worship committee that has organized a variety of weekly services, wonderful Ingathering and Thanksgiving celebrations, great music from our membership as well as outside concerts, and productive work by several committees including Interweave and Social Justice. We have a new safety policy and a membership policy, a stable financial status, and have made several property improvements. The Learning Center has continued to offer exciting and interesting programs. We have received a grant to develop a Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan so that we can hire professional help to work with us to produce a plan that will help direct our work for the next decade and beyond. Forgive me for the inevitable omissions in this list - there are so many activities! A very special thank you to our extraordinary hardworking staff and the many, many volunteers who make it all work.

Onward to 2016!

~Chris Laudon, President
Board of Trustees

Email Addresses for Church Committee Chairs
Congregation President:
Christine Laudon
Email: president@cbanningchurchb.org
Program Coordinator: Eleanor Doumato
Email: programs@cbanningchurchb.org
Treasurer: Bill Hawkins
Email: treasurer@cbanningchurchb.org
Finance Secretary: Bob Janiesch
Email: Financialsecretary@cbanningchurchb.org
Stewardship: John Burnham
Email: stewardship@cbanningchurchb.org
Green Congregation Committee:
Beth Milham
Email: green@cbanningchurchb.org
Social Action Committee:
Joanne Armenia
Email: sac@cbanningchurchb.org
Membership Committee:
Calvin Pierce
Email: membership@cbanningchurchb.org
Property Committee:
Todd Thomas & Abigail Adams
Email: property@cbanningchurchb.org
Committee on Ministry
Email: COM@cbanningchurchb.org
Worship Committee: David Pedrick
Email: worship@cbanningchurchb.org
Caregiving Coordinators: Nickie Kates & Barbara Russell-Willett
Email: caregiving@cbanningchurchb.org

The Learning Center Coordinators:
Susan Kieronski & Tom Howard
Email: learningcenter@cbanningchurchb.org
Small Groups Ministry:
Milly Jessen
Email: smallgroups@cbanningchurchb.org
We hope that everyone enjoyed the Winter Holidays. During December the children and Youth at Channing were busy making merry in many ways. In addition to their regular RE classes, they participated in a service highlighting the pagan holiday known as Yule, celebrating light. They also sang Christmas carols at Forrest Farm Nursing Center and the Community Meal. The Youth Group set up the giving Tree and shopped for gifts for local teens in need. Channing Youth (pictured here) and children also ran the Holiday Cookie Contest. Congratulations to First Place Winner, Sally Hanchett; Second Place winner, Barbara Russell-Willett; and 3rd place winner, the Thomas Family. Thank you to everyone who entered and provided cookies for this fundraiser. Thank you also to Barbara Richter for providing greens and teaching the RE class how to make wreaths & swags.

Coming in January: The Hunger Banquet on Saturday, January 30th at 6:00, in the Parish Hall. Please participate in this meaningful event hosted by the Social Action Committee and the Youth Group. Come eat and learn about the disparity of wealth globally and locally and how it impacts hunger and nutrition. More details to follow.

-Kathy Takata, RE Committee

A BIG thank you for the generous support of our Giving Tree for teens and families. The gifts were greatly appreciated and made the holidays more joyful. Our community meal guests also appreciated the toiletry gifts bags and warm clothing items distributed at the December dinner. Finally, thanks for shopping and donating at our fair trade shop and regifting sale.

Sun., January 3: RE classes (10am) and 7-9th grade OWL Parent Orientation (6pm, Youth Room)
Sun., January 10: RE classes (10am) and Youth Group (6pm)
Sun., January 17: RE Baking for Community Meal (10am) and OWL class (6pm)
Sun., January 24: RE classes (10am) and Youth Group (6pm)

Saturday, January 30th
Hunger Banquet and OWL class (6:00 PM)

Sun., January 31: RE Classes

Channing provides Childcare for infants and children through age 4, during our Sunday morning services. Two childcare providers will be caring for your little ones in the Parish Hall during the service. We are looking forward to meeting you and your children. January’s assistants to our paid provider, Kristin, will be:

January 3: Kathy Takata
January 10: Barbara Russell-Willett
January 17: Chris Laudon
January 24: Jo Freedman
January 31: Diane Jackson
Happy New Year from Channing Caregiving! We hope you all had a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Thank you so much to Chris Laudon, who was kept very busy during her stint as Caregiving Coordinator in December! Many thanks also to all of the volunteers who have continued to provide rides for the Thomas family while Jessica is still recovering from her Achilles tendon injury and cannot drive. She is getting around better by the day, which is great news! If you would like to volunteer but are not on the current e-mail list for ride scheduling, please contact either of this month’s coordinators, or Barbara Russell-Willett or Nickie Kates.

Happy belated birthday to Betsy Dees, who celebrated her 80th in December with friends and family at a lovely tea hosted by her daughters. Those who were at fellowship hour after the following Sunday’s church service also got to partake of the delicious goodies that were left over! Happy birthday also to Craig Gaspard, who celebrated a birthday in December.

Charlie Beckers is still at the Grand Islander recovering from his stroke at the time of this writing, and we hope he’ll be discharged home soon. He is hoping Channing friends will visit him at the nursing home, and encouraging cards are also welcome.

Alicia Spinner, one of our original Caregiving Committee members many years ago, now resides at Blenheim and enjoys visits from Channing friends. If you have questions about best times to visit, etc, you can contact Betsy Dees or one of the Caregiving coordinators.

We are keeping Kim Shute and Gabe Shute-Osborne in our thoughts, and many have reached out to them with love and care. Anyone interested in preparing food or a meal for them can contact Jessica Thomas, who is coordinating the offerings.

Available soon: Terry Gaspard and her daughter’s book on divorce. Keep your eyes and ears open for their upcoming local book signing events!

Thus far we have escaped the snow and ice of last winter, and here’s hoping that this winter will be a little more forgiving in that respect! If you or another Channing member or friend you know needs some Caregiving support during January, please contact either of this month’s coordinators, Barbara Richter (847-8115; robrichter@cox.net) and Marcia Mallory (849-5659; mmallory56@cox.net).

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

Circles of Concerns and Joys
Saturday, Jan. 16, 9:00am
Channing House Library
Circles of Concerns and Joys” provide an opportunity to gather in a supportive setting to share joys and concerns, outside of the weekly service. Each session includes brief readings, sharing, shared silence, and candle-lighting, and lasts about an hour. All are welcome, we meet the third Saturday of each month at 9:00am in the Library.

If possible, let Maryellen know ahead of time if you’re planning to come or have any questions (maryellen7@cox.net or 845-0273.) Plan to arrive a few minutes early to get settled before we begin at 9:00.

Community Meal
Monday, January 18
3:30-6:15pm, Parish Hall
The Channing Memorial Church Community Meal is the third Monday of every month in the Parish Hall. To volunteer contact Community Meal Manager Diane Jackson at: communitymeal@channingchurch.org

Winter Storm Updates
In the case of extremely bad weather Sunday Service may be cancelled. A cancellation decision will be made by 7AM on Sunday morning and conveyed to media outlets, TV Channels 10 & 12, and radio stations WJAR, WHJj, WPRI, WWBB, and WSNE. If there is a parking ban there will be no RE Classes, but the Worship Service may still take place. The church phone message will also contain information if the worship service is cancelled: 401-846-0643
JANUARY SHARE

THE PLATE

The Share-the-Plate for January 2016 will go to the RI State Council of Churches. This is in a ministry that attends to the relationships among people of faith, to seek out merciful conversation: to initiate it, to broker it, or to be the convener of it. The Council is leading the effort in Rhode Island to understand Islamic tradition and values in the context of the turmoil surrounding the refugee crisis in the Middle East and radicals of all faiths who hide behind religion as their defense for violence. The Council meets regularly with RI faith leaders including our own Minister, Rev. Deacon. Issues addressed: marriage equality, our environment, mass incarceration and pay-day lending, responsible gun legislation, non-violent solutions and ethical government, providing for the homeless, the hungry, the stricken, the addicted and “the least of these” and the hungry, the stricken, the addicted and “the least of these” and the spiritual and pastoral issues involved in end-of-life and palliative care. See the website: http://councilofchurchesri.org/ to learn more about this dynamic organization, its board. members and partners.

~Joanne Armenia,
Social Action Co-Chair
sac@channingchurch.org

GREEN CORNER

Finally! Hope for a future!
The world has finally witnessed a successful international climate conference! Almost 200 nations set carbon emission targets to reach a goal of a less-than-two degree C temperature rise. While not legally bound, nations agreed to show their progress every five years and reassess their goals and plans. Even the major developing nations have bought into the plan to some extent, removing at least one U.S. excuse for withdrawing. Now it’s our job to prevent obstructive forces in this country from sabotaging our Paris commitment.

Locally, we’re participating in 350.org’s Power Through Paris, a September 2015 to April 2016 campaign to show public support for the conference and to gear up for the work that was just beginning when the conference ended. In November, we staged a small but enthusiastic walk from Washington Square to Salvation Cafe, carrying our “turn off/turn on” signs, and chanting "Keep the oil in the soil! Keep the coal in the hole! Gas? Pass!" After that, we hosted a well attended showing of Merchants of Doubt. We followed up with a December workshop on writing letters to the editor, guided by Amanda Babson of Citizens’ Climate Lobby RI. So far, four of us have had letters published in various print and online news outlets, and more letters are coming. Watch for plans for our April event!

~Beth Milham,
Green Congregation Committee

ECO BITS & TIPS

Post-holiday decluttering

Much as we love the holiday’s festive decorations, most of us can’t wait to pack them up and return to our normal household clutter.

If, however, you’re aiming for a higher level of decluttering, I have a few tips (most of which I probably won’t be practicing myself.)

In her Trash Tutorial column, Providence Journal, 12/12/15, Sarah Kite-Reeves suggests St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, Nevada (www.stjudesranch.org, "about us") as a home for retired greeting cards. Their teen program recycles them into new ones, and sells them to support the ranch’s programs.

Steve Rosen’s Kids & Money column, Providence Journal, 12/13/15, features www.kidstrade.com, which is "like a Craigs List or EBay for kids", where they can trade toys with their friends, or sell them, with the oversight of their parents.

A fun web-based decluttering resource is www.flylady.com. Watch out, though. She can really clutter your email inbox. In print, there’s Rightsizing Your Life, by Ciji Ware. But if you’re ready for the ultimate brutality, read The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up, by Marie Condo. This lady is ruthless! But she guarantees no relapsing. I’m not ready for her yet.

Big Sisters/Big Brothers and Planet Aid both have donation centers on the island, as well as many collection boxes. They both take clothes, shoes, small household items and rags.

For recycling beyond what goes into your cart, check out your town’s public works department, and watch for the Easton’s Beach expanded recycling events in April and September. RIRRC in Johnston also has a drive-in recycling area, which now includes Styrofoam collection.

Happy tidying! For me? Maybe next year....

~Beth Milham, Guest Columnist
JANUARY EVENTS

ROUND ROBIN DINNERS = FOOD, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

This winter Channing will be sponsoring 4 rounds for dinners. We hope you will join in. Here is how it works:

- **Sign up!** Hopefully you can be part of all 4 dinners, but even if you can only do one, please sign up. We want to get to know you.
- **Potluck dinners** will take place in people’s homes at 6:00 pm on 4 Saturdays: January 23rd, February 20th, March 19th, and April 16th.
- **Please consider hosting a dinner.** The host does not cook. Instead the host provides the setting, the set up, coffee and tea. The host determines the number of guests that can fit comfortably at their dinner.
- **Each guest will be assigned each month to a host and to a part of the dinner.** If you sign up as a single – 1 dish. If you sign up as a couple – 2 dishes. Or, for non-cooks, you can bring bread, a bakery dessert or beverages.
- **Multiple dinners will be going on at the same time in different homes each month.** The following month everything will be changed up: new host, new dinner partners, new dishes.

By the end of the series of dinners you will have gotten to share with many old and many new friends.

Let us know if you need a ride, can host, or if you have any food requests (such as vegan, vegetarian, food allergies, etc.).

Sign up in the Parish Hall on Sundays, or contact Sondra Gold, phone: 846-5603 or: sondrahgo@gmail.com

Hope to dine with you!

CHANNING COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, January 9, 7:30pm, in the Parish Hall.

You’re invited to the first of the 2016 Coffeehouse events, featuring Glass Bottom Boat!

Glass Bottom Boat is an alternative folk trio consisting of Becca Fayan Guilfoyle, Kelly Cleveland, and Ken Taylor. Formed in 2014, the group has been working since then to create a still-growing repertoire of evocative originals and covers, which have been thoughtfully curated and arranged. The trio enjoys utilizing intriguing instrumentation and rich, often haunting three-part harmonies in their work.

The featured act will be preceded by open mic performers from 7:30 – 8:30pm. If interested in open mic, contact johnsburnham@gmail.com in advance. Suggested donation is $5 to support both featured performers and Channing Memorial Church.

Additional coffeehouse events will be held Feb. 6, featuring Johnstone & Walcoff, & March 12, featuring Katherine Quinn.

THE LEARNING CENTER AT CHANNING

First on the schedule for Spring Semester will be:

**Advocacy for Safer Gun Legislation**

Featuring Linda Finn and Nan Heroux of the Coalition against Gun Violence.

Tuesday, January 19, at 7 PM in the Parish Hall

Nan and Linda will update us on the current political landscape of gun control legislation in Rhode Island. They’ll discuss the status of bills in the legislature and positions of our local reps, with a view toward encouraging activist support. As always, there will be time at the end for Q & A. Dessert and decaf will be served.

Registration is $5; please register in advance through the Channing Office (office@channingchurch.org or 846-0643) or at the TLC registration table during Fellowship most Sundays.

From The Learning Center:

Thanks to everyone for your support of our programs for fall semester! Other courses are in the works. Keep an eye out for Michele’s weekly emails and the OOS on Sundays for details. Included will be:

- The Rev. Jay Deacon’s 5-evening series on “Jesus Without Christianity”; dates TBA.
- Another engaging film series by Sam Jernigan – “High Heels on Wet Pavement: Film Noir and Femmes Fatales.” on four rainy evenings in April, dates TBA.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

100 QUESTIONS ABOUT UU~ISMS
Sunday, January 3, 11:30am, 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 behind the church!

EMPTY BOWLS HUNGET BANQUET
Saturday, Jan. 30, 6:00pm
In the Parish Hall
Join the Social Action Committee and Channing Youth Group for a empty bowls hunger banquet on Saturday, Jan. 30th at 6:00 in the Parish Hall. Learn first hand about hunger as it is faced by so many in the world. The refugee crisis has put a big strain on the organizations trying to feed individuals fleeing violence and genocide in their home countries. Others travel in search of better food and water supplies as they are already feeling the draught effects of global warming. Participants will learn about hunger distribution in the world and will have the opportunity to take home a ceramic bowl filled with good karma for their donation to this important cause.

INTERWEAVE POTLUCK
Sunday, January 17
5:30-9:00pm, Parish Hall
Interweave’s next potluck and discussion on helping local high schools form GSAs (Gay Straight Alliance) will be Sunday, January 17th at 5:30PM in the Parish Hall. Join us for fun, food, and friends. Bring a dish to share and see you there!

All are welcome to attend. Contact Rex LeBeau, at 401 595 9068, or interweave@channingchurch.org for more info. Interweave is Channing’s group for LGBTQ and straight allies, and focuses on education, support, and outreach.

JANUARY CAREGIVING COORDINATORS
Barbara Richter (847-8115)
Or Marcia Mallory (849-5659)
Please contact them with any Care-giving needs among our members and friends.

LOCKING UP AFTER CHANNING EVENTS
If you are locking up after a Channing Event, please take a minute and check to make sure that all lights are off and the doors are securely locked. Many Thanks!

MANY THANKS TO JANUARY’S CHIMERS!
- January 3: Linda Beall
- January 10: Janna Pederson
- January 17: Jim Freess
- January 24: Cynthia Skelton
- January 31: Christine Ariel

INTERWEAVE POTLUCK
Sunday, January 17
5:30-9:00pm, Parish Hall
Interweave's next potluck and discussion on helping local high schools form GSAs (Gay Straight Alliance) will be Sunday, January 17th at 5:30PM in the Parish Hall. Join us for fun, food, and friends. Bring a dish to share and see you there!

All are welcome to attend. Contact Rex LeBeau, at 401 595 9068, or interweave@channingchurch.org for more info. Interweave is Channing's group for LGBTQ and straight allies, and focuses on education, support, and outreach.

JANUARY CAREGIVING COORDINATORS
Barbara Richter (847-8115)
Or Marcia Mallory (849-5659)
Please contact them with any Care-giving needs among our members and friends.

LOCKING UP AFTER CHANNING EVENTS
If you are locking up after a Channing Event, please take a minute and check to make sure that all lights are off and the doors are securely locked. Many Thanks!

MANY THANKS TO JANUARY’S CHIMERS!
- January 3: Linda Beall
- January 10: Janna Pederson
- January 17: Jim Freess
- January 24: Cynthia Skelton
- January 31: Christine Ariel

EMPTY BOWLS HUNGET BANQUET
Saturday, Jan. 30, 6:00pm
In the Parish Hall
Join the Social Action Committee and Channing Youth Group for a empty bowls hunger banquet on Saturday, Jan. 30th at 6:00 in the Parish Hall. Learn first hand about hunger as it is faced by so many in the world. The refugee crisis has put a big strain on the organizations trying to feed individuals fleeing violence and genocide in their home countries. Others travel in search of better food and water supplies as they are already feeling the draught effects of global warming. Participants will learn about hunger distribution in the world and will have the opportunity to take home a ceramic bowl filled with good karma for their donation to this important cause.