David Pedrick honored as “unsung UU”

Channing’s May 25 annual meeting saw David Pedrick named the year’s “Unsung UU.” David is a born leader, and a master at organizational skills. He successfully tackled some of the dull institutional chores that most of us find excuses not to do, such as leading the process of rewriting our by-laws, and getting us started on writing policies for social media. While serving on the Finance Committee and on the Board, David was also instrumental in the decision to renovate the Channing House apartments, and contributed to the Master Plan proposals for all three of our properties. This year he took on the Herculean task of leading the Worship Committee with its new responsibilities to organize and find speakers for more than half of our worship services, a challenge that will continue into the summer and fall, and at the same time he’s been assisting with the reconstitution of the Committee on Ministry. Everyone who’s had the opportunity to work with David would agree that his contributions to Channing deserve to be sung, and sung loudly!

Newport Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano speaks to a youthful crowd at Channing’s April 29 Born This Way Prom.

June Services

June 5  Common Ground
Have you ever been worlds apart with another person? No matter how different our point of view there is always some place for Common Ground. Please join Channing Children and Youth for a moving, multi-sensory exploration of how to come closer together.

Presented by the Channing Children and Youth, Jessica Thomas, assisting

June 12  Afraid of the Journey
Life is a journey from a past that can be no more, to a future that is not yet and remains invisible. What is it that draws us onward in this arduous and unending quest? Jay’s final sermon at Channing.

Rev Dr F. Jay Deacon, preaching
Maryellen Doherty and Linda Beall, assisting

June 19  In Celebration of Father’s Day
Our idea of “father” usually runs first to biology, but “fatherhood,” that’s something different. It brings us to contemplate the many ways father-figures enter our lives, affecting who we become, and who they become, whether as step-fathers, adoptive fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers or family friends, or as women who have had to be both father and mother to their children. At this service, speakers from our congregation will celebrate and share their experiences of fatherhood.

Led by Eleanor Doumato and Sue Vanderhoof, with additional readers

June 26  Behind the Mask of Justice
This sermon explores the issue of justice, why we thirst for it, and how we can be misled by things having “the shape of justice.”

John Prevedini, preaching

Sunday services are held at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Children are welcome in our services!
Arriving at my office one May day, I found the door festooned with warm greetings and random expressions of kindness—the work of the Youth Group! I'll let that door speak for the warmth and kindness so many of you have expressed in these days. I won't pretend not to be disappointed with so many words, deeds, and attitudes that have made it impossible for me to remain here. I've sought always to bring heart, and soul, and integrity to this work.

But through it all, I have felt warm support, appreciation, and a deep sense of a shared journey, a shared stewardship of a vital mission. You'll find ways to continue, and so will I. I'll be heartened, always, to recall the shared wonder of a spiritual journey, and the profound engagement with the vital work of our time. Earlier, this day as I write, I spoke on a panel at the Pickens Theater on America's almost mystical devotion to guns—but I knew I was there only because of members like Nan Hereux who tireless work on the issue gave her a voice in the makeup of the panel. I'll be part of the graduation at Portsmouth's progressive Pennfield School, but only because Piper Padilla teaches there day after day. My spirits are lifted by the Born This Way Prom, and I wonder how very different my life could have been had I had the experience of the affirmation and human solidarity those kids find there—but only because Channing's Interweave team, led by Pam Goff, had the guts to make it happen seven years ago.

The joy of sharing the magnificent story of our own Transcendentalist movement's radically evolutionary spirituality, and their heroic role in social transformation—or to share what recent scholarship has come to understand about the spiritual brilliance and vision of the historical Jesus—not the Jesus of churchly doctrine and moralisms—means so much to me because here, there are those who care, and want to know, and expand their consciousness.

And I count it a high privilege that when I have led worship and spoken from the innermost depths of myself, there were those who heard, and reflected, and drew sustenance and challenge from what they heard.

For all of that, any many wonderful conversations and adventures, I offer my thanksgiving.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer

Now that summer is almost here and we prepare to wind down for a while, reconsider. Engage. The Worship Committee has planned a full summer for us, with both lay leaders and guest speakers. We will have music all Sundays this summer. If you have guests visiting bring them along. At a worship workshop a while ago I met with some UUs from Nantucket, who said that summer is their big season since they have more people coming to church services as visitors and summer residents join the winter population. We have similar potential growth, as many of us travel during other seasons and are home with visitors in the summer. Perhaps we can reconsider our own schedules and engage regularly in summer services.

The Ministerial Selection Committee is already underway and will be keeping us informed of their progress. They are responsible for reading through the submissions of the candidates, meeting, interviewing, and deciding who to recommend to the Board. The developmental goals for the contract minister to focus on will be taken from the results of our consultant’s report. Once a candidate is determined to be a good fit for us we will invite him/her to meet with the congregation. The Board will then be responsible for signing a contract with the candidate.

The Master Plan committee is beginning work with our consultants. There will be phases to this work, beginning with an analysis of existing conditions. The committee will provide what in the design world is called “programming” information, a clear definition of needs and wants with specific criteria. There will be meetings with the membership scheduled, with ideas welcome, so watch for notices of brainstorming sessions to be held in the next few weeks.

Please remember to express your thanks to our two Board members completing their terms, Sue VanDerhoof and Ginny Spaulding, our Unsung UU David Pedrick, and the many volunteers who keep Channing running all year. I continue to be inspired by the tireless work of so many of you. Enjoy the summer and fellowship at the many dinners, outings, and parties as those of you who supported the fundraiser get together. We still have some openings, so don’t feel left out!

~Christine Laudon, President, Board of Trustees

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As the end of our regular Church year approaches, our services over the summer will maintain a similar level of spiritual and musical enrichment as we’ve enjoyed throughout the year. The Worship Committee has been arranging for services by guest ministers, speakers and Congregation members throughout July and August. Janet or an occasional guest musician will provide music every Sunday, although the choir will be taking a break. We encourage Congregation members to appreciate summer Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, while we also put our best foot forward for visitors who might try us out during this time.

This has been a year of change in Channing’s Worship practices. Within our planning of services with a reduced Sunday schedule for Jay, we’ve had the opportunity to hear from many different voices and perspectives. During the year, Jay continued to put his heart into his services, stimulating our thinking about how we can learn from and contribute to the world around us. He asked very little from the Worship Committee in so doing, while assisting in our outreach to guest ministers and the extra planning that they require.

Our worship practices are about to change again with Jay’s departure from Channing. As he returns to the Berkshires, we wish him every enjoyment and personal enrichment among friends and the spiritual voices of his beloved mountains.

~David Pedrick, Worship Committee Chair

JUNE CHIMERS
June 6, Janna Pederson
June 12, Jim Freess
June 19, Linda Beall
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Our Sunday Religious Education classes will be concluding this month as will our 7-9 grade OWL class. We will officially acknowledge and thank our teachers and volunteers on June 12th. We would especially like to thank our OWL facilitators, Christine Bandoni and Jim Frees, for providing this important program once again. Thank you also to our new Channing member, Jen Pierce, for providing a thought-provoking session on Science and Religion in May to our RE students.

The theme of our multi-generational service on June 5th will be “Finding Common Ground” and will include our annual bridging ceremony to honor graduating seniors from our Channing community. Please attend this service to congratulate and learn about the upcoming plans of this year’s honorees from the class of 2016: Catie Gaspard, Ka-leigh Pfirrmann, and Ben Lanoway.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will continue to officially meet through the end of the month. Please stop by Channing House and see the beautifully decorated door to Jay’s office that the Youth Group embellished as their way of saying good-bye to Jay and wishing him well. Be sure to read the notes that are attached and if you’d like to leave one of your own, please do so. There is a basket with supplies on the mantle of the fireplace in the nearby fireplace room.

To offer your support and/or participation in RE programs for children and youth, please contact Jessica Thomas at dre@channing.org. We always need volunteers and we make it easy. We also welcome any members or friends to join us on the RE Committee.

-Kathy Takata
Religious Education Committee

JUNE RE CALENDAR

Sunday, June 5, 10am in the Sanctuary: Bridging Service to Acknowledge Graduating Seniors
*Multi-generational
• 6:00 OWL Class Meets

Sunday, June 12, 10am, Last RE Class/ Teacher & Volunteer Appreciation
• Youth Group meets 6-8pm

Sunday, June 26
• Youth Group meets 6-8pm

SUMMER CHILDCARE UPDATE

Childcare in the Parish Hall, with two adult Childcare providers, as has been provided during the RE school year, will not be offered from June 19th - September 4th. The results of an email survey of the families with young children indicated that only two families, might occasionally, attend during the Summer. We therefore propose that families that wish to attend during this time bring their children to service where they can play quietly in the rear of the Sanctuary with their parents supervision. Busy bags will be provided. Or...We would also like to be able to offer another possibility for parents and kids - to go into the Childcare Room in the Parish Hall and watch the service being streamed live via the internet on a monitor. A parent has already donated a monitor with speakers. We still need a computer with a Windows 8 or later, operating system to be donated in order to be able to provide this service. Please let anyone on the Childcare team know if you have one to donate. And a HUGE Thank you to all the Volunteers that made this a successful program this past year.

Marilyn Murphy
Leigh Briggs
Barbara Russell-Willett
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Welcome to another summer! We hope you have many relaxing and fun events planned with family and friends this season.

Congratulations to all of our Channing graduates as they begin new journeys! Sophie Burnham graduated from Syracuse University in May, and we wish her well in her future artistic endeavors. Catie Gaspard will be heading off to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY at the end of the summer. Kaleigh Pfirrmann just graduated from Rogers High School and will attend Roger Williams University in the fall, and Ben Lanowy is now a graduate of Prout. Ben has been accepted into the 6 year Physical Therapy Program at Springfield College where he will be attending in the fall.

Marilyn Murphy’s husband Jack, who had a stroke in February, is still recovering at home, and we are keeping him in our thoughts.

Tonia Croce had neck surgery in late April and is now home and recovering well with the help of physical therapy services. She is able to drive again, so we wish you all the best as your routine returns to normal, Tonia!

Miki Ohlsen has been busy with some spectacular events with her Island Moving Company dancers! IMC performed at the VETS Auditorium in Providence for the first time on April 24. The next day, they all flew to Kazakhstan for a two week, three city tour as guests of the U.S. Embassy. Photos on the company’s Facebook page documented some of their performances in exquisite concert halls – truly an unforgettable time for all involved.

If you served in any capacity as a Caregiving volunteer during this past year (Sept. 2015-Sept. 2016), please join us for a gathering at Nickie Kates’ home, 52 Catherine Street in Newport, on Saturday, June 18 at 2 p.m. Nickie and Barbara Russell-Willett will host the event to honor all of our volunteers, and we hope you’ll all be able to attend. Finger foods from attendees are welcome, but not required – there will be plenty of refreshments and good cheer!

Thank you so much to the intrepid Barbara Nowicki, who was kept busy as our lone Caregiving coordinator during May! 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 summer months are as follows:

June 1-15 – Beth Milham
June 15-30 – Mary Lou Baker
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

Finally, I would just like to say a special thank you to Jay Deacon as he prepares to leave our Channing community at the end of this month. During the three years I served as Caregiving facilitator prior to this year, Jay was always gladly responsive to any Caregiving requests or needs I brought to his attention, and I am most appreciative of his caring and assistance.

~Linda Beall,
for Channing Caregiving

JUNE

SHARE THE PLATE

Our June Offerings will be split with the Ten Men Project. The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s Ten Men Project aims to prevent intimate partner violence in our state. Ten Men engages Rhode Island men who are community leaders to elevate the importance of men’s roles in preventing intimate partner violence. Through engaging RI men to become more knowledgeable, visible, and mobilized, we aim to change social norms — that is the harmful gender norms - that perpetuate men’s violence against women and girls. Ten Men members have a common vision — a world without domestic violence. While most men DO NOT and would never use violence in their relationships, many men remain silent in the face of other men’s violence because they don’t know what to do or how to help. Ten Men is committed to breaking that silence.

For more information about Ten Men and their June public awareness campaign visit www.ricadv.org/tenmen
Interdependence is the foundation of our UU Seventh Principle. We are all part of the universal web of existence, and pulling a thread in that web has effects far afield from the pulling point, even threatening complete unraveling. A case in point is the TLC program we offered in May. On the surface, the film "Citizen Koch," and the Citizens United Supreme Court decision don't relate to environmental issues, but the consequences of that ruling are truly far reaching. With Corporations having avenues to pour unlimited unaccountable funds into elections at all levels of government, they can call the shots on who gets elected. And their candidates are deeply beholden to them.

Now more than ever, we need top level government commitment to fighting global warming. But the issue is anathema to big corporate funders, and they are helping elect "leaders" who won't even recognize the problem, or the human role in it.

We plan to continue this discussion in the fall, by offering the curriculum for "Escalating Inequality," the UUA Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) chosen at GA in 2014. We'll examine, discuss and act on a whole range of issues, including the proposed 28th Amendment: "Corporations Are Not People, And Money Is Not Speech." Please consider joining us. Get a head start by scanning the CSAI study guide at http://uujec.com/UUAstudyguide.

The Milhams have racked up a second straight "0" electric bill, thanks to solar!

~Beth Milham,
Chair Green Cong. Committee

ECO-BITS & TIPS
Ecological Lifestyle: What That Means
Can one person have an impact on our world? A fair question, to be sure, and one I wrestle with. As UUs, our faith is rooted in community attributes: empowerment, inclusion, social and environmental justice. These and other philosophical "themes" point toward group activism and action. So naturally, Channing Church is similarly oriented with "Social Action" and "Green Congregation" groups. However, I'd likewise advance the need for UUs of faith to take "individual responsibility" for our creation to use a biblical term. This wonderful, inspiring and beautiful, yet wounded, suffering and damaged planet we all share. Getting back to an ecological lifestyle and whether living it as individuals matters as much as collective action. Without hesitation, I say "YES!" Here's why. While groups like the “Green Congregation" are made up of inspired and inspiring individuals, and group action like helping families make efficiency upgrades to their homes to save money and reduce their carbon dioxide footprint, the Green Congregation participants never would have taken that step to help others if it weren't for the Vision and Commitment that come from individual members. And the synergy that comes from individuals leads to a result: reducing our carbon impact in our homes; through our transportation choices; eating locally grown food; or supporting Bill McKibben's 350.org's effort to organize and demonstrate for policies supporting green energy at the state and regional and national level.

Next time, I do want to look at those "individual choices" that affect our lifestyle and weigh them for practicality or overall impact.

~Craig Gaspard,
Green Congregation Committee

COMMUNITY MEAL
Monday, June 20, 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
HARK!
CAREGIVING PROGRAM
FELLOWSHIP
GATHERING!
Mark the date!
Saturday June 18, 2PM!
Barbara Russell-Willet and Nickie Kates invite all who signed up as coordinators or volunteers for Channing Caregiving from 9/2015 - 9/2016. We’ll gather in gratitude at the Kates’ home: 52 Catherine Street in Newport. Rain or shine, we embrace you with libations, nibbles, and fellowship. Should you choose to bring finger food to share or just your caring selves, we welcome your presence!!!

PRIDEFEST 2016
Do you like having fun? Then join Interweave at the biggest party in all of Rhode Island! Saturday, June 18th is PrideFest, where South Water Street in Providence explodes with LGBTQ pride. Come enjoy the music, vendors, and food while experiencing the wide variety of people. All ages welcome. Festivities begin at noon. Interweave will have a booth. If that wasn’t enough, you are also welcome to march with Interweave in the illuminated night parade that evening. Thousands of cheering people line the streets as we pass. The parade begins at 8pm. All ages welcome. For more information on PrideFest and the parade, visit prideri.com and contact Rex LeBeau. Hope you can make it!

FROM THE LEARNING CENTER
Mircea Eliade’s The Sacred and the Profane
A Seminar with Prof. Henry Rosemont
At the Rosemonts' home; limited to 10 participants
Registration fee for four sessions: $20, which includes a paperback copy of the book. Participants will be invited to take turns in bringing liquid refreshment and in assisting with setup. Registration will open at Fellowship, or through the Channing Office.
Eliade was one of the most famous historians of world religions (especially ancient religions) of the 20th Century, and this is his most well-known and popular book. As the Channing congregation is trying to determine our future direction, Henry’s program will provide some opportunity for thoughtful reflection. We hope to offer another session in the fall.

A Visit to Mt. Auburn Cemetery; Cambridge
With Jo Freedman
Sat. June 11 (rescheduled from May 7) Registration $5; your lunch and suggested gas contribution will be additional. Please contact the Channing Office to confirm your participation, even if you were signed up for May 7. The group will be limited to 10 people.
Join us for fellowship and adventure as we travel to this most beautiful garden cemetery, burial place of historic and notable UU’s, and hear Jo Freedman’s engaging narration. We’ll carpool from Newport, leaving at 8:30 AM, and returning to Newport by 4 PM. We’ll enjoy a lunch break together at a little restaurant that Jo knows, and return to finish the tour. We’ll expect to head home by about 2.

"Why Meditate"
With Ken Gaus
Tues. 7/12, 7/19, and 7/26
7 – 8:30 PM in the Parish Hall
Registration $5 per session, or $10 for all three.
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 new member, with much success in the business sector and a strong and intensive interest in spiritual growth. Come and experience his first class with the Learning Center.
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<td>Chris Laudon</td>
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**Standing Committee Chairs**

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<td>Cal Pierce</td>
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<td>Property</td>
<td>Todd Thomas &amp; Abby Adams</td>
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<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>Susan Whitney</td>
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<td>Social Action</td>
<td>Joanne Armenia</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
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**Autonomous Committees / Positions**

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<td>Financial Secretary</td>
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<td>Endowment</td>
<td>George Kates (chair)</td>
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<td>Margit Baum Fund</td>
<td>Baby Lussier, Mary Alice Smith</td>
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<td>Tom Howard</td>
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<td>Beth Milham</td>
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**Autonomous Committees**

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<td>Judie Porter, Bill Hawkins, David Pedrick</td>
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**Ministerial Selection Committee**

- Eleanor Doumato (Board Representative)
- David Cooper (Worship Representative)
- Sue VanDerhoof (COM Representative)
- Kathy Takata (RE Representative)
- Lisa Colburn (member at large)
- Sondra Gold (member at large)
- Milly Jessen (member at large)
- Susan Kieronski (member at large)
- Betsy Leerssen (member at large)

**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 (Old Newport Fed).

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Starting June 1st the Church Office will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10am-1pm. Please note one change! The office will be open Wednesday, June 8 and closed Friday June 10.