The Catalyst

Channing Memorial Church
135 Pelham Street
Newport, Rhode Island
January 2018
Sunday Service is held at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.
Childcare available

Exciting News from our Board of Trustees!
Last year Channing completed a grant-funded Facilities Master Plan with the goal of creating a campus and buildings that are safe and attractive, meet our programmatic needs, preserve the historic nature of our site, and integrate aesthetically with our immediate neighborhood. We are thrilled to announce that we have received additional funding in a grant from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation to begin engineering plans for relocation of our utilities in support of this Master Plan.

At our December meeting, the Channing Board approved the creation of a new Facility and Financial Planning Task Force. This task force will be specifically charged with evaluating the new Facility Master Plan in the context of our current (and near-future) financial standing. Task force members will carefully examine all of our financial needs. They will be asked to recommend plans for using existing financial resources and will identify potential new sources of funding as we move forward to develop a strategy and timeline for accomplishing the goals of our Master Plan.

In other news, the Board has decided to use our annual Holiday Appeal to initiate a fundraising campaign to add two additional bells (generously donated by Beth and Russ Milham) to the chimes in our steeple. The two additional bells will double the repertoire that our chimers can play. This is a project that we’ve hoped to accomplish for some time now, but is complicated by the fact that a large (and fairly expensive) crane is required to lift the bells to the height of the steeple and then insert them through the louvers into the belfry. Professional “ChimeMasters“ will need to install the bells and connect them to the bell stand. Our bells have been specially tuned to be musically compatible with each other, thus they produce lovely tones together as they ring out each Sunday over Newport. It’s not too late to make a contribution to this effort!

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year,

~Barbara Nowicki,
Channing President

January Worship Services
Sunday, January 7:
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras
Imperfectionism
We are surrounded by messages telling us what success looks like and how to achieve it - perfection is an ideal toward which we are to strive. Yet all of us are also imperfect, vulnerable, and human. How do we cultivate an appreciation for our unique and irreplaceable selves in this often unforgiving world?

Rev. Ellen Quaadgras is currently in her 6th year at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, RI. Before that she served with the First Unitarian Church in Dallas as their Social Justice Resident. Ellen is a graduate of the Andover Newton Theological School. Rev. Quaadgrass and Rev. Bill are exchanging pulpits this Sunday.

Sunday, January 14:
Lisa Colburn & Rev. Bill Zelazny
The Perks of Being White
White people enjoy some “privilege” from our society just because of skin color. This is not something that white people necessarily do, create or enjoy on purpose. Unlike overt or even covert racism, white privilege is a transparent preference for whiteness that saturates our society. On this Martin Luther King Sunday Lisa Colburn and Rev. Bill will take a look at this social phenomenon and what we might do to try to counter it when and where we can.
Sunday, January 21:  
Rev. Bill Zelazny  
**Life can be like bamboo**  
Author Jodi Picoult, once wrote, “The human capacity for burden is like bamboo—far more flexible than you’d ever believe at first glance.” This Sunday Bill will explore that ineffable quality of resilience that allows some people to carry a huge burden or even be knocked down by life and come back, sometimes even stronger than ever.

Sunday, January 28:  
**Social Action at Channing Past, Present & Future**  
*Presented by the Social Action Group*

![JANUARY CHIMERS](image)

Jan. 7: Cynthia Skelton  
Jan. 10: Janna Pederson  
Jan. 21: Jim Freess  
Jan. 28: Jim Freess

**January Caregivers**  
January 1-15: Sally Hanchett  
January 16-31: Chris Laudon  
Please call with any personal needs and/or needs among our church community

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**FROM THE MINISTER**

As I was cleaning out some files a little while ago I came across an article that had been sent to me by a friend, I assume with tongue in cheek, entitled, “An Eschatological Laundry List: A Partial Register of the 927 (or was it 928) Eternal Truths” by Sheldon Kopp. Kopp is the author of *If you Meet the Buddha on the Road Kill Him*. Reading over the list got me to pause for some reflection. Here are the ones that most affected me from Kopp’s list. Perhaps you may find them useful ideas about living as we go into a new year.

- This is it! There is no hidden meaning.
- Nothing lasts.
- There is no way of getting all you want.
- There is no particular reason why you lost out on some things.
- The world is not necessarily just. Being good often does not pay off and there is no compensation for misfortune. You have a responsibility to do your best nonetheless.
- You really don’t control anything.
- No one is any stronger or weaker than anyone else. Everyone is, in his or her own way, vulnerable.
- Evil can be displaced, but never eradicated, as all solutions breed new problems. Yet it is necessary to keep on struggling toward solution.
- The most important things, each person must do for themselves.
- We have only ourselves, and one another. That may not be much, but that’s all there is.
- It is important to run out of scapegoats. We are responsible for everything we do; no excuses will be accepted.
- All of you is worth something, if you will only own it.
- Learn to forgive yourself, again and again and again and again…

~Rev. Bill Zelazny
A CHARITABLE BEQUEST

A GIFT YOU PLAN NOW, MAKE LATER

Rare is the person who regrets having been truly generous or thoughtful. Yet, how can you give away property, securities or real estate now if you do not know whether you or your family will need those assets later? One solution is to make gifts to our congregation by means of a bequest—a gift in your will.

Some of the advantages of bequests are:

Easy. A few sentences in your will complete the gift.

Revocable. Until your will goes into effect, you are free to alter your plans.

Versatile. You can bequeath a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage or remainder of your estate.

Tax-wise. Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for gifts to qualified charitable organizations.

How to Remember Channing in Your Will

Creating a bequest is as easy as adding a sentence or two to your will or trust or with a codicil. A charitable bequest can be for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or what remains after other bequests— including those to family members— are made.

When you draft your will, simply direct that a specific amount or percentage of money, property, or other holdings be transferred to Channing. Below is suggested language you can use. Channing's federal tax ID number is 05-0280998.

SPECIFIC BEQUEST
I give _______ ($_________ or a specific asset, or _______ % of my estate) to Channing Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist congregation located in Newport, RI for its unrestricted use.

RESIDUARY BEQUEST
I give all or ____ % percent of my remaining assets to Channing Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist congregation located in Newport, RI for its unrestricted use.

CONTINGENT BEQUEST
If (my primary beneficiary) does not survive me, then I hereby give _______ (description of property) to Channing Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist congregation located in Newport, RI for its unrestricted use.

RESTRICTED BEQUEST
I give to Channing Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist congregation located in Newport, RI, [______% percent of my estate or the sum of $_________] to be used for [stated purpose]. If at any time in the judgment of the Channing board of trustees it is deemed impossible or impracticable to carry out the above purpose, said trustees shall determine a purpose as near as possible to that description above.

Please consult your professional advisor to be sure you have a properly drafted legal document. This information provided by Channing’s Endowment Committee.

~Submitted by Mary Alice Smith

WHALECOAST ALASKA 2018

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2018 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships— our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime.

For complete information go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY

Many Thanks!
The RE Committee sends out a big THANK YOU to all who participated in the Pell School pajama drive, as well as everyone who donated a gift through the Giving Tree. Thank you also to our carolers at the Community meal.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners of the annual Holiday Cookie Contest.

Don’t Miss It! Mystery Friends

A cherished tradition at Channing that helps the generations get to know each other is happening soon. If you’ve never done it, give it a try. It simply involves contacting a youth or child over the course of 2 weeks (mail, phone, or email) and leaving small gifts or treats on the fireplace mantle for them in the Parish Hall on a few Sundays. Long lasting connections have been forged. Sign-ups will take place beginning on January 21st.

Spiral Parenting
Sunday, January 21, 11:30am-1:00pm, in the Ladies’ Parlor.
Join other Channing members and friends to receive and/or give support to those on the journey of parenting. Childcare is provided. All are invited.

Youth Group
Youth Group for 6th-12th graders meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Our Whole Lives
-Our Whole Lives (OWL) class on Sexuality for 4-6 graders begins after the first of the year. See Jessica Thomas to sign up your child. OWL facilitators, Rex Lebeau and Kathy Takata are happy to share information about this valuable program.

~Kathy Takata, Chair, RE Committee

JANUARY RE CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7
Religious Ed (RE) Class. Yoga with Rachel Balaban - All ages (even adults) are welcome. Start the year off with some positive energy.

Sunday, January 14
All Families are invited to attend the Church Worship service. NO Re Class.

Sunday, January 21
Baking for the Community Meal
• Sign up for Mystery Friends

Sunday, January 28
RE Class, Resolutions
• Mystery Friends program begins
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Happy New Year! We hope that 2018 will bring good health and many joys to you all.

Nickie Kates asked me to note that almost twice as many requests for Christmas flowers were received last month as compared with 2016! The sanctuary was extra beautiful and festive with almost 30 poinsettias.

We extend our sympathies to Nancy and Bill Peresta on the death of Nancy’s father Robert Wright on Dec. 2. Bob stayed healthy and active until nearly the end of his life, when he had a fall just before Thanksgiving. He was 95 and is survived by his five daughters, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara Baum is scheduled to have her last chemo treatment soon, after which she will undergo PET scans to determine if further treatment is needed. Happily, she is able to get out more these days, and at the time of this writing was planning a Christmas celebration at her home with family and friends.

Joanne Armenia has been at the Royal Middletown (formerly Forest Farm) recovering from an infection in the knee that she had replaced several months ago. Hopefully by the time you read this, she will be back home after receiving therapy and antibiotic treatments.

Dave Burnett is feeling much better. He is thankful for the wonderful care he received at Newport Hospital. The best news is that at his last appointment, his doctor said he does not need to see him again for three months!

Jed Malise is at home recovering from having foot surgery in Boston. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Jeromy and Cynthia Foberg are happy to report that Jeromy has a new full-time job as a property manager for a real estate firm.

We were sorry to learn that Christine Ariel’s stepmother, Charlene Mae Woj, died in December at age 85. “Charle” and Chris’s late father had built a home and lived on a large ranch in Cherokee County, Texas for decades; she worked as a bank executive until retiring only five years ago and kept up the ranch by herself until the end of her life.

Krystal Bobbe and her husband Shane have moved to Australia. Shane is in the U.S. Navy and will be stationed in Australia for the next three years. We will miss them, as well as miss having Oliver in daycare on Sunday mornings.

Many thanks to Mary Benson, Fatima Devine, and Joy Benson for serving as Caregiving coordinators in the busy month of December. It was Fatima’s first stint as a coordinator – your volunteering is much appreciated, Fatima! For any caregiving needs among our congregation members and friends during January, please contact Sally Hanchett, from Jan. 1-15, from Jan. 16-31 please contact Chris Laudon.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

JANUARY SHARE THE PLATE

Usually we share our Sunday offerings with a small, local organization, struggling to provide a needed service on our island. As 2018 begins, we will share the plate with a global, well-established organization that is very much a part of our Channing experience, our own Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The UUSC advances human rights, challenges injustice, and helps those in need, whether the crisis has been caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts, genocide, forced migration, or systematic injustice. You can visit https://www.uusc.org/our-work/ to understand just how thoughtful and successful its programs are and just what your contribution will help accomplish.

During January, a portion of the monies donated during our Sunday services will help the UUSC continue “walking the talk” of our UU principals. Please be generous, as you always are.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McEntee
S O C I A L  A C T I O N

GREEN CORNER
The late lamented winter doldrums

Remember when January and February were the "winter doldrums?" After the busy-ness of the holidays, there was once a period of blissful relaxation (or jolting boredom, depending on your personality type.) Those days are long gone, as people try to fill our free hours, or launch us into projects unavoidably postponed by holiday busy-ness.

Well, if you have an unguarded free moment, let me fill it for you. Some RI based environmental groups would appreciate your help. Here's a sampling, with web sites to browse during that free moment:

Really local:

Clean Ocean Access (assuring shore access, cleaning our shorelines, testing our waters, fighting ocean litter.) www.cleanoceanaccess.org.

The Greenlove Foundation (Installing water bottle refilling stations, funding environmental scholarships and camp experiences.) www.greenlovefoundation.org.

Bike Newport (Everything biking: education, safety, bike trails, bike friendly roads, accessibility to bikes.) www.bikenewportri.org.

Norman Bird Sanctuary (An island institution, conserving nature and educating us about it) www.normanbirdsanctuary.org

Aquidneck Land Trust (Conserving open space, especially in our watersheds.) www.ailt.org.

Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge (Protecting wildlife, educating humans.) www.fws.gov/refuge/sachuest_point

Some of my favorite statewide groups:

tactoRI (Stay informed: online intelligent RI and MA environmental news, reports and analysis.) www.ecori.org.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (RI Chapter of the international organization working for clean energy through carbon fee and dividend legislation.) https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/RI_Providence/

Clean Water Action (working for clean energy and green infrastructure, fighting climate change and toxic chemicals.) www.cleanwateraction.org/states/rhode-island.


Environmental Justice League of RI (working for climate justice and healthy communities. Opposing liquefied natural gas at Fields Point, Providence.) www.ejlri.org

~Beth Milham, Chair, Green Cong. Committee

ECO-BITS & TIPS
2017 - Year in Review

As I look back on 2017 and human's relationship to the environment, my honest appraisal would be depressing. Losses include Trump's approval of the Dakota Access pipeline, losses in acreage to several National Monuments in the west, both due to fossil fuel industry concerns of “locking up potential natural gas resources”, and the “biggy”, our withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accords. With California wildfires (again) burning uncontrollably and vast chunks of the Antarctic ice sheet breaking away unleashing yet more ice melt, what’s a rational person to do to slow climate change?

Allow me to propose several uplifting ideas for next year, committing to two:

- Write “letters to the editor” (Newport Daily News, assorted blogs, comment sections for any federal anti-conservation proposals) to supply reasoned arguments against them. One example is increased catch limits for commercial fishing.

- Offer to meet with local House or Senate members on various bills. The Environment Council of RI is a great resource www.environmentcouncilri.org.

- Continue to replace inefficient appliances in your home or office, or turn them off when not in use, or don’t replace appliances if you don’t need them; Replace your aging conventional car with a new (or used) hybrid. Used is better, if previous owners were also conscientious. A new car requires vastly more resources to build.

Continued on page 7
I’ll end with a plug for rotating, four-sided solar clothes dryers, also known as clothes lines. With planning, clothes dry in the winter. Electric clothes dryers use over a third of the electricity in a conventional home!! Get with the program! You’ll be glad you did.

I wish us all a better 2018. Who knows, with luck, we may be able to turn this around by Election Day 2018.

~Craig Gaspard, Green Cong.Committee

FILL THE FREEZER FOR FLORENCE
The Margit Baum Committee would like to invite the Channing Memorial Church congregation to participate in our 2nd annual drive to collect protein (hamburger, chicken, hot dogs, cheese, etc.) for the Florence Gray Center. Your donations will go into their food pantry freezer to help provide food for the north end community.

Last year we had an amazing amount of generous contributions. The Florence Gray Center was so excited to see how much we helped fill their freezer.

This 2nd annual event is scheduled for January 28th. Please bring your contributions to the parish house between 9:30 am and noon. We will have coolers there to be filled. The meat should be fresh, as it will be going into a freezer and they don’t want to deal with refreezing.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Margit Baum Committee (Sally Hanchett, Ruth Jernigan, Joy Benson, Judith Porter, or Susan Booth).

In the event of a snowstorm and church cancellation, we will have the drive the following Sunday—February 4th, so please watch the weather forecast!

Thank you in advance for your continued support of this event.

Save the Dates
ROUND ROBIN DINNERS = FOOD, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
This winter Channing will be sponsoring 3 rounds of potluck dinners in people’s homes. We hope you will join in. Here is how it works:

Sign up! Hopefully you can be part of all 3 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 3 Saturdays: February 3rd, March 10th and April 7th.

Please consider hosting a dinner. The host does not cook. Instead the host provides the setting, the set up, and beverages. 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 help with 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 beginning in January, or contact Sondra Gold. Hope to dine with you!

COMMUNITY MEAL
Monday, January 15
3:30-6:15pm, in the Parish Hall
Thanks to all who made our Holiday Community Meal a success. Our usual "staff" set up and served and there were gifts for all thanks to your generous donations! Joan, with the help of Margaret Baker, served a wonderful meal and RE and the Youth Group provided delicious pies! Special thanks to the Friday night AA group who donated much of the holiday meal. If you would like to help in January please call Joy Benson.
Announcements

FROM THE LEARNING CENTER

Digital Currency - The “New Money”
Thursday, February 1, 7:00PM, Parish Hall
With Christopher P. Yalanis, CFP
Chris is Senior Vice President, Branch Manager of The Yalanis/Lash Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

Digital currency, blockchain, Bitcoin: if you haven’t heard these terms, then you’ve been on vacation for 2 months straight! Massive returns on investment have caught the attention of the US Government, futures markets, the Underworld, and investors. Your neighbors recently doubled their investments. Do you want to know more? Chris will lead an interactive discussion on the subject.

Suggested $5 registration donation; refreshments will be served

Projector Update
TLC purchased a projector a few years ago, which all committees have been welcome to use. Sadly, it seems that someone did not treat the projector with care; it was apparently dropped, and the light engine was knocked out of alignment, a problem that cannot be repaired. Because the projector is important to ongoing programs, we have paid $400 out of Learning Center funds for a replacement.

We are glad to continue to make this sensitive piece of equipment available to others, but users are asked to be in touch in advance with Bob or Susan Kieronski to make arrangements.

Building a Personal Theology of Ethics
Wednesdays, February 7, 21, and March 7; 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall
With Rev. Bill Zelazny

Please remember to wipe down the counters when using the kitchen in the Parish Hall, many thanks!

Songwriters’ Originals at Channing’s Coffee House
Saturday, January 13, 7:00pm, Parish Hall
We’re switching up our standard coffee house format in January to feature performances by local songwriting musicians. Join us for a night of originals! Coffee and tea are served, and you’re invited to bring a dessert to share or a donation ($5 or more suggested) to support the church.

Musicians interested in performing, contact John Burnham at: coffeehouse@channingchurch.org in advance.