2018 Annual Meeting Notice
Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 6:00pm,
In the Parish Hall

Dessert Potluck: 6:00-6:30pm,
Annual Meeting will begin at 6:30pm
Notice is hereby given to the members of Channing Memorial Church that the Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 6:00pm, in the Parish Hall.
The meeting will also be a Dessert Potluck, so bring something delicious to share!

AGENDA
1. Welcome & call to order, verify quorum
2. Reading and approval of minutes
3. Wheel of Life
4. Reports from Minister, Officers & Committee Chairs
5. Presentation & approval of the FY 2018-19 budget
6. Proposed changes to the By-Laws
(current by-laws are available on the church website: Channing Memorial Church By-Laws )
7. Election of:
   Officers & Members of the Board of Trustees
   Committee Chairs & Committee Members as required in By-Laws
8. Recognitions & Appreciation
9. Presentation of the Unsung UU Award

Childcare will be provided.

*Committee Chairs are reminded to submit (via email) their Annual Report to the church office (office@channingchurch.org ) no later than Monday, May 14th!

May Worship Services
Sunday, May 6
Reflecting on What’s Right With the World
Rev. Bill Zelazny
Bad news is everywhere you look – on our televisions, on our radios, on the internet news and Facepost posts. It can be overwhelming sometimes. We can feel frustrated that we cannot do more to help the world. But there is much that is right with the world. Today Bill will help us pause to look at what is right all around us, perhaps helping us relieve some angst.

This Sunday we will celebrate something very right at Channing with a child dedication ceremony. We will also hold our annual Flower Ceremony to enjoy what April showers have brought the world. Everyone is invited to bring a flower and at the end of the service take a different flower home.

There will be a Child Dedication during this worship service. Please let Jessica Thomas know if you would like your child to participate.

Sunday, May 13
Mothering: A Gift to the World
Rev. Bill Zelazny
There is an “ideal” mother image floating around that warps how we view motherhood. We need remember that every mother is first and foremost a unique human being. And some mothers are not women. Men “mother” too.
On this Mother’s Day Sunday Bill will look the notion of mothering, and all the love and angst that we project onto the concept.

Continued on pg. 2
Worship Services Continued
Sunday, May 20
Choir Sunday!
Channing Choir’s annual service of beautiful music and inspirational readings. This year the Choir celebrates music inspired by great thoughts and words.

Sunday, May 27
What We All Share
Rev. Thomas Schade
On Memorial Day, we look to what we all share as residents of the USA, and as human beings. Where shall we find reconciliation and common ground in a polarized world?

FLOWER CEREMONY
Sunday, May 6
The Flower Ceremony, sometimes referred to as Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community – some of the things that are right with the world.

Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert’s widow.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to bring a flower which we will put in vases near the front entrance doors. (Please bring a flower with a stem) The vases will be brought to the front of the sanctuary. At the end of the service everyone is invited to take home a different flower than the one they brought.

FROM THE MINISTER
Over the past few weeks I’ve been working with the Board, Finance Committee, Stewardship Team, Congregation President and Treasurer to prepare the 2018-19 budget on which we will vote at the Annual Meeting. It is a complex project. We are trying to be sure that what is funded will further the good of Channing Church.

Our discussions got me thinking about the question, what is the purpose of church? I want to share in this column some of my reflections on this question.

First, my belief of what a church is not. It is not a social club, though we may engage in fellowship and social activities. It is not a social service agency, though we may engage in activities to help segments of society. It is not a progressive-learning political action group, though some of our members may actively support certain programs or positions.

So, what is a church? Using the words of church consultants, Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger, church is a place that builds lives. That is what church is all about. A church builds lives of individuals who are searching to make meaning to living with the rush and frenzy of everyday life, find that “something more” in living that is not the material things our culture tells us we need to be fulfilled.

A church is the engine for spiritual (writ large) growth. Its ministries and programs should produce life change - to move people to greater levels of commitment and relationships. The goal of a church is to guide people to become more compassionate, more loving, and more joyful.

If a church’s ministries and programs do not move people some where other from who they were when they came through the doors last week, last year or decades ago it is not doing its job. If church programs and ministries do not do that they are simply ends in themselves satisfying individuals pet interests.

In her article, our congregation President asks us to look at our ministries and programs to determine which ones further the grow and development of Channing Church and individuals.

As we begin our new budget year on July 1 let’s be intentional about what we do so that Channing Memorial Church can better build lives.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

MAY CHIMERS
May 6: Janna Pederson
May 13: Cynthia Skelton
May 20: Linda Beall
May 27: Jim Freess
BOARD NEWS
Are We Too Busy at Channing?

A wonderful quality of our Channing congregation is the tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm we share. Our group constantly bubbles with new ideas for activities and programs, with suggestions for improvements to our church experience, and with new ways to do things. But every once in a while I wonder whether we aren’t trying to do too much? While it’s wonderful to be presented with such a smorgasbord of activities to choose from, the sheer volume of things that we try to do as a congregation can cause stiff competition between committees for volunteers, competition for limited funding, and frequent calendar conflicts.

As we begin planning for next year, I’m very excited about the prospect of launching a new senior ministry. But as we add potential senior ministry discussion groups to our calendar, how do we do so without compromising the success of our Small Group Ministry, our WWW and Great Guys groups, and the Learning Center presentations that we all love? And how do we smoothly mesh these programs with the activities of Family Ministry, Interweave, and Social Action? Will there be enough volunteers for crucial church functions like worship, caregiving and fellowship (we can’t survive without coffee!)? What determines priority on our church calendar? What goals do we have for next year? What activities should we keep and why? Are there new kinds of activities that we should consider? I propose that we answer these questions (and more) together. The Board of Trustees has invited committee chairpersons to a planning meeting on June 9th where I hope we can discuss these issues and approach planning for next year as a collaborative team. If you have ideas to share, be sure to get them to me or to your committee chair.

~In Friendship,
Barbara Nowicki,
Channing President

BALLOU CHANNING DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
Sat., May 5, 9:00am-12:30pm, at Murray Unitarian Universalist Church, Attleboro, MA.

The BCD Board invites you to the Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting and Gathering on Come worship, deliberate, learn and network with your fellow UUs. Featured speaker Nadiya Brock of Essential Partners (https://whatisessential.org/) will lead a workshop on the challenge and art of having difficult conversations. Continental breakfast and abundant snacks will be provided. See the BCD website at https://www.uua.org/new-england/districts/ballou-channing-district for the Call to Meeting and other information.

MAKE IT SIMPLE.
MAKE A BEQUEST.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
Include Us in Your Will and Help Shape the Future YOU CAN

Without much effort, you can make a long-lasting impact on the future of Channing and Unitarian Universalism.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
An unrestricted direct bequest in your will or trust of a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate or a particular asset will help to ensure a secure future for the spiritual community that you value.

LEAVE A LEGACY
Two seminars to help you plan for the new tax laws and to make wise arrangements through your will and estate plans have been offered by attorneys Holly Janney and Joe Marion.

The Endowment Committee welcomes requests for future programs as we highlight the advantages of thoughtful financial planning. Please contact Mary Alice Smith, Chair of the Endowment Committee, at endowment@channingchurch.org with ideas or suggestions.
FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Happenings: Although the weather doesn't quite feel like it, Spring is here! Our RE Calendar is winding down and our Celebration season is beginning. Please join the Channing Community for a Child Dedication Ceremony during the service on May 6th. This service also happens to be the Flower Communion, so bring a flower, store-bought or from your garden, to create a bouquet as a symbol of our beloved community. There will also be a Pancake Breakfast following the service in the Parish Hall hosted by the Youth Group. We encourage all Channing members and friends to join us for these two events. The following Sunday, May 13th is Mother’s Day, and May 20th is Choir Sunday. Children and Youth are invited to attend and participate in these services. For the most up to date information, visit the Channing Memorial website: ChanningChurch.org and Channing RE’s Facebook page: Channing Memorial UU Religious Education

LOOKING AHEAD

On Sunday, June 3rd there will be a Bridging Ceremony during the worship service for graduating high school seniors. ALL are invited to join us on Sunday, June 17, at 11:30am, for a Father’s Day Barbeque sponsored by the Youth Group on Channing Grounds.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who completed the RE Survey that was sent out via survey monkey. If you haven’t already done so, please complete the survey (www.surveymonkey.com/r/DL9JH9N) or speak directly to any of the RE transition task force members: Sondra Gold, Ginny Spaulding, Joan Dermody, Kathy Takata, and/or Reverend Bill Zelazny. Your input into the future Family Ministry program is greatly appreciated.

-Kathy Takata
RE Committee

VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in helping with classes, youth group, or special events please let Jessica Thomas know - we have many different ways that you can become involved.

CHILD CARE

Childcare is offered for children 4 and under during Worship on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall. Our childcare providers, Miss Morgan and Ms. Amy, will take care of your little ones while you are in church and at coffee hour. No need to preregister.

May RE CALENDAR

- 11:30am OWL Class
- 6:00pm Youth Group

Sunday, May 13: Mother’s Day, No RE Class, Children are invited to attend the worship service.

Sunday, May 20: Choir Sunday, No RE Class, Children are invited to attend the worship service.
- 11:30am OWL Class
- 11:30am-1:00pm Spiritual Parenting in the Ladies’ Parlor- Childcare provided
- 6:00pm Youth Group

Sunday, May 27: RE Class
**CAREGIVING UPDATE**

Thank you, Mary Alice Smith and Janna Pederson, for serving as Caregiving coordinators during April!

We were saddened to hear of the death of Ann Gillespie’s son, Ian. Ann spoke movingly during Joys & Concerns one Sunday about Ian and his life, and she expressed appreciation for the support received from the congregation. Our thoughts are with Ann, Peter, and their family at this difficult time.

We also send condolences to Piper Padillia and her extended family after the passing of Piper’s older sister Pamela. Piper has been taking a break from church activities due to other commitments, but we look forward to having her back with us soon.

I think I speak for many when I say that Dave Burnett and Larry Bacon will be much missed in our church community after their move back to Maine. We wish you both the very best always, and we hope to see you if you travel back down this way!

Congratulations to Tom and Pam Goff, who celebrated their 40th anniversary in April. They were married in Channing Church in 1978, and they shared a few pictures of the occasion on Facebook!

Happy milestone birthday to Rachel Balaban. Rachel had an unforgettable birthday, being surprised by all three of her daughters for a reunion when she visited in California!

A few months ago, we learned that Catie Gaspard unfortunately had a laptop stolen while she was at college in NY State—some important school projects had been stored on the computer, and the loss was traumatic. Happily, we’ve learned from Catie’s mom Terry that the laptop has been returned and found to be in good working condition. Congratulations are in order for Catie, since she has landed a paid architectural internship in Rhode Island for this summer, so she’ll be close to home!

For any Caregiving needs during May, please do not hesitate to contact Bett or Bill Marshall from May 1-15, or Abby Adams from May 16-31.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

**SHARE THE PLATE**

Channing will contribute to two different organizations during the month of May.

The Share the Plate donations from the first Sunday of May will be awarded to the Sanctuary Committee of First Unitarian Church of Providence. The Committee has created a living space to shelter a person or persons facing deportation BUT the space lacks necessary plumbing and a shower. Without those additions, the space cannot be approved as habitable. The church is facing a deadline in early May to provide the needed improvements.

N.E.H.O.V. championed New Englander Helping Our Veterans (N.E.H.O.V., http://www.nehov.org/) and that organization will be awarded the Share The Plate donation from the remaining 3 Sundays of May. N.E.H.O.V. is a small organization and its mission is to assist New England veterans directly, respectfully, and personally. To receive a grant, veterans simply apply in writing and provide proof of serving their country. There are no specific criteria for receiving an N.E.H.O.V. grant other than the veteran’s stated need. N.E.H.O.V. has assisted veterans with small cash infusion to buy heating oil or groceries, to get a car repaired, to pay medical or rent bills, or to cover some other necessary, but unfunded, expense. N.E.H.O.V. collects furniture and household items for homeless vets, provides holiday gifts and celebrations, and is available for emotional support when needed. Also, N.E.H.O.V. works with Providence VA Medical Center Voluntary Services to provide assistance to veterans identified as needing help.

N.E.H.O.V. will transform our STP monies into a new start, an appreciated boost, a bridge to a better place, or just a kindness for a surprising number of veterans. We will be as grateful for N.E.H.O.V.’s efforts as the receiving vets are.

Please be generous, as you always are.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila McEntee for the Social Action Committee

Continued on Page 7
Access is on the forefront of fighting and preventing marine litter. Sailors for the Sea works with sail boaters and sailing races to prevent pollution. And Internationally, Susan Adie is fighting marine litter by mobilizing companies, industries (especially the cruise ship industry, in which she works) and governments to mitigate and prevent litter pollution.

As the Lorax said in Dr. Seuss' book said, "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

~Beth Milham, Chair, Green Congregation Committee

**ECO-BITS & TIPS**

**Soils and Fertility: Part one**

For anyone who cares about the seeds and plants, a minimal understanding of soils is helpful. Considerations including soil structure, fertility, and amendments to modify both, if needed.

Structure involves how the soil holds together, its water holding capacity and its fertility. All soils have percentages of sand, silt and clay, and humus or organic matter. Better soils have a balance of these.

“Heavy” soils have more silts (predominantly) and clays and less sand, and are the most common close to the ocean. Some plants, such as bulbs, onions, garlic, celery and herbs, can thrive in these soils, if there is no “standing water”, but many can’t. Under drying conditions, such as high summer, the soil surface can “crust over” impeding new seedling and plant growth.

Loam soils are balanced, have more available fertility, are more easily fertilized, are generally less acidic, and allow better, more uniform growth. Even in drouth conditions, these soils can hold moisture, especially if organic matter like compost and even leaves are added.

At the other extreme are sandy soils. When given adequate, even moisture throughout the growing season, certain plants can thrive in them. Asparagus and perennials from softwood trees to drought loving plants and herbs like sage do very well, but need up to 2 inches of extra water per week--more in hot, windy conditions.

Supplements for heavy soils include sand, finely ground shells, including oyster shells that contribute calcium, and some fine compost, to improve aeration and drainage and reduce acidity. For sandy soils, rock amendments like granite dust and lots of organic matter are the best amendments for increasing water holding capacity and reducing aeration.

Next month I'll write about soil fertility.

~Craig Gaspard, Green Cong. Committee

(Editor’s note: Craig is a master gardener. He may offer a workshop on soils and testing this month. Watch for details in the weekly announcements.)
Social Action & Announcements

Share the Plate Continued:
The Social Action Committee (SAC) welcomes your suggestions for Share the Plate recipient organizations. If you would like to champion a STP recipient, please attend the next SAC meeting on Sunday, May 6, at 11:30, in the Channing House Library, and present your suggestion to the committee. If you cannot attend, please give your suggestion to Nan Heroux or Sally Hanchett. STP recipients for the next few months will be chosen at the May meeting.

The Poor People’s Campaign
A National Call for Moral Revival

A National Call for Moral Revival, which was one of the topics of the Social Action Committee’s worship service in January, will be launching its forty days of actions on May 14, the day after Mother’s Day. Actions in Rhode Island will be taking place each Monday at 1 PM until the summer solstice in June. The first will be held at Gloria Dei Church, 15 Hayes St., Providence (near the State House.)

The topic will be “Somebody is Hurting our People and it’s Gone on Far Too Long.” “Our People” include women, youth, the differently-abled, children in poverty, and the right to education.

In the following weeks, the topics will cover the four pillars of the campaign: poverty, systemic racism, the war economy and environmental devastation. The first three were the pillars of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s original Poor People’s Campaign fifty years ago. The fourth has been added for this campaign.

Interested in helping? The next training session will be on May 3, 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Register at Rhode Island Poor People’s Campaign page on Facebook. Registrants will receive word on location. See Beth Milham for more information.

Join the Margit Baum Committee!
The Margit Baum Committee currently has five members. According to the by-laws we can have up to six members, so we would like to extend a welcome to anyone who would like to join our committee. We meet on the first Saturday morning of each month to talk about distribution of funds from the Margit Baum endowment. If you are interested in this committee, please speak to any of the members: Sally Hanchett, Ruth Jernigan, Joy Benson, Judith Porter, or Susan Booth.

Yoga & Meditation Service
Sunday May 6, 8:45am, Parish Hall

All are invited to join us for a Yoga & Meditation Service, Sunday May 6, at 8:45 am in the Parish Hall. No experience necessary! No fee, please bring your own mat. (see Rachel Balaban or Barbara Nowicki with questions).

Choir Sunday is May 20th!

Channing’s Sanctuary will be filled with BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!

On Choir Sunday, the Channing Choir provides the entire program for the service. It is a service filled with beautiful music and inspiring readings. Choir Sunday is a much-loved service and is always well received with many warm compliments. This year the Choir will sing music inspired by great words and thoughts and will include music from the classics, romantics, gospel, pop and chant.

At the service, there will be a special offering for the benefit of the Choir. This annual collection provides the Choir with money for music related expenses that exceed the yearly budget. Past years’ donations allowed the Choir to send Janet to UU Musician’s Network conferences, have vocal workshops for the Choir, purchase additional music and much more. Many thanks for your continued support! Be sure to attend!!
A NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE?
Wed., May 2, 6:30 PM, Newport Public Library
With Dr. David Cooper
Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Less than a decade ago, then President Barack Obama launched a serious effort to put the world on a nuclear-free path. That initiative collapsed long before President Obama left office. Today it appears increasingly doubtful that we will even be able to maintain the post-Cold War status quo. The various treaties that we have relied on for decades are all imperiled as Russia and other countries flex their nuclear muscles. Are we heading into a new era of nuclear arms racing among the great powers? This talk suggests that unfortunately the answer is probably yes.

Dr. David Cooper is The James V. Forrestal Professor of National Security Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College. He previously served for nearly two decades as a career Defense Department official working extensively on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament issues including as Director of Strategic Arms Control Policy and Director of Nonproliferation Policy. He has served as a member of numerous U.S. negotiating delegations.

HUNTING FOR SUNKEN TREASURE:
AN EXERCISE IN HISTORICAL DETECTIVE WORK
Wednesday, May 16, 7:00pm, Channing Parish Hall

One of the most elusive treasures was that carried by the Spanish galleon San Jose, sunk by a British Navy squadron near Cartagena, Colombia in 1708. Recently discovered, the Columbian government used many resources to locate San Jose’s wreck including the results of research leading to an estimate of the wreck’s position, published in 2008 by Professor Carla Rahn Phillips of the University of Minnesota, Professor John Hattendorf of the Naval War College and Channing member Tom Beall. Tom will offer a presentation on their research methodology and findings, concluding with an assessment of how close their estimate is to the wreck’s actual position. The abstract of their published article can be found at this link: https://snr.org.uk/the-sinking-of-the-galleon-san-jose-on-8-june-1708-an-exercise-in-historical-detective-work/

Captain Tom Beall is a retired U. S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer. Among his many assignments during a 25-year career, Tom commanded U.S.S. Rentz (FFG-46) and the Navy Element of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Tom collaborated in this research while serving as Lead Instructor for Navigation, Seamanship, and Shiphandling at the Navy’s Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport, RI.

A note of thanks: Some of us who recently participated in the TLC Sachuest walk with Prof. Robert Thorson (“Darwin’s ‘Tangled Bank’ at Carson’s Edge of the Sea”) had the rare opportunity for advance purchase of Thor’s newly published “The Guide to Walden Pond: An Exploration of the History, Nature, Landscape, and Literature of one of America’s Most Iconic Places”. Thor generously donated the $100 of proceeds above his base cost, through TLC, to Channing Church. We encourage folks to support your local book seller by purchasing this excellent guide. (TLC is hoping that Thor will be available this coming Fall for a field trip to Concord.)
**Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of R.I. (UULMRI)**

**Annual Meeting Update**

This signature UULMRI event was held at the Westminster UU Church in East Greenwich on March 18th, 2018. Forty-five UUs and friends attended this event sponsored by the UULMRI Steering Committee. This committee meets monthly and is composed of representatives from four of the R.I. UU churches—First Unitarian (Providence), Channing Memorial (Newport), South County UU (South Kingstown) and Westminster (East Greenwich). Thirteen of the annual meeting attendees were members of Channing Church. During the past few months the steering committee choose five issues to be voted on at this annual meeting; they were:

- Affordable Housing/Homelessness: Presenter-Caitlin Frumerie, Exec. Dir. R.I. Coalition for the Homeless
- Woman's Reproductive Rights: Presenter- R.I. State Representative Edith Ajello
- Gun Violence Crisis: Presenter-Nan Heroux, Channing Church, Social Action Committee
- Protecting the Environmental: Presenter-Abel Collins, UU South County Church
- Sanctuary Church/Immigration*: Presenter-Katherine Ahlquist, First Unitarian Church
- Advanced Nuclear Power*: Presenter-Robert Kieronski, Channing Church

The keynote speaker was Rev. Ebony Grisom. Rev. Grisom described the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, and asked us to join this campaign. See [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org) for more information.

Members of the steering committee and area experts presented the background and justification for each of the five issues. Each attendee was given four votes and could use these votes to vote for four separate issues or cast all four votes for one issue or any other combination. The first place issue with 41 votes was the Women’s Reproductive Rights issue. The Gun Violence issue was second place with 34 votes. Protecting the Environment came in third with 33 votes and the Homelessness issue received 30 votes. The Line Item Veto issue garnered 11 votes. The Sanctuary Church and Advanced Nuclear issues were presented for information only. First Unitarian is the first UU in R.I. church to provide a safe area for immigrants. The Advanced Nuclear issue is a campaign to develop safe, zero carbon reactors which generate electricity by burning thorium rather than uranium.

As a follow on to this event, the attendees were instructed on how they can testify at the R.I. State House when legislative bills, associated with these issues, are heard by the various legislative committees at the statehouse. They were also provided with web site addresses for finding the contact information for their particular state senator and representative as well as the House Speaker and the Senate President. We don't all have to testify personally when bills are scheduled for a committee hearing. We can also call the legislators, email them and for the real ambitious—mail them letters explaining why you favor or oppose a particular issue/bill.

All the attendees were encouraged to sign up for any of the seven issues they would like to continue to support during the rest of the year. Copies of these issues can be found on the Social Action table in the Channing Parish Hall. A special thanks to the Westminster Church for hosting this event. For more information on the UULMRI, contact the steering committee chair, Al Benson. If anyone is interested in joining the UULMRI Steering Committee contact a member of the Channing Social Action Committee.

~Submitted by Al Benson

*These issues were presented for information only.*