September Worship Services

Sunday, September 2:
Eleanor Doumato
What Jeff Sessions and the Rev. Channing Can Teach Us About Islam
Everyone likes to prove a point by quoting Scripture, even when quoting nonsense. Our Rev. Channing will have none of it, and with a little help from Bob Kieronski he’s paying us a visit, just to make sure we [and people of other religious traditions] get it. Also visiting us is our friend and one-time Channing member Fredric Sirasky to play his ukulele and clarinet.
Eleanor Doumato is a retired professor of Middle East History who studies the religious underpinnings of the Islamic State.

Sunday, September 9:
Rev. Bill Zelazny
The Value of Religion
A Religious Landscape Study done in 2014 found that Americans, as a whole, have become somewhat less religious in recent years by traditional measures of religious. But, many people still are involved in religion. It is, therefore, logical to ask, why do people -- why do we -- come to church and participate in religion? What is the value of religion for people and for society? On this in-gathering Sunday, Bill will explore what religion can give us that science and other institutions cannot.

Water Ceremony
As part of our in-gathering, we will have our traditional water ceremony where we will mix together the waters brought by congregation members.

Continued on page 2
Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water from their home spigot as a symbol of bringing our home and secular lives into our church and religious life.

The annual congregation potluck picnic in Touro park will follow the service (See full announcement on page 7)

Sunday, September 16:
Rev. Bill Zelazny, Irene Glasser, Channing Memorial Members and Guest Musicians

The Ancient Jewish Tradition of Introspection

In the Jewish religious tradition, the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – the Day of Awe -- is the time for personal introspection. This Sunday, we will look at the Days of Awe, through personal stories, songs, traditional Hebrew music, prayers, and reflections.

Channing Community Fair

The Channing Church community fair, sponsored by the Program Council, will follow the 9/16 service. Stop by the committee tables to find out what the committees do and how you might incorporate your interests in with church activities and functions.

Sunday, September 23:
Rev. Bill Zelazny

It’s Not What Vision Is, but What Vision Does

Sometimes people focus on the wrong thing, like having a vision for a better life or a better world, and not on what is important, having their vision be a reality. Bill will reflect on how pursuing a vision is a way to live in harmony with one’s deeper intention.

Sunday, September 30:
TBA

- We will launch the new Family Ministry Program with a newly hired Family Life Coordinator (former known as the Religious Education Director). The program was renamed to note that, in addition to providing education and programming focused on children and youth faith development, we will be providing parenting support and family activities.
- We will begin a ministry focused on senior adults. In early fall we will start an activity for senior adults that will allow participants to explore the topic of growing older, including the intersection of aging and spirituality. The first program offering will be brown-bag weekday lunch. Other programs and classes may follow later in the year.
- I will present several new adult classes that will explore Unitarian Universalism, expressing personal beliefs, and Bible history.
- We will engage some new outreach initiatives, including life issues and faith development classes to acquaint Aquidneck Islanders with Channing Church.

- We will experiment with, and then if successful, broadcast portions of our services via social media.

Of course, there will probably be some other new activities that develop as the year progresses. Please be a part of the congregational life here at Channing.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at our Sunday services and fellowship activities.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE SONG?!!
Your Favorite Type of Music? Or Do You Prefer Silence, or Sounds of Nature?

Our Caregiving Program wants to know! Submit your preference to Barbara Russell-Willett and Nickie Kates via email (caregiving@channingchurch.org). Your one choice will be listed in our order of service (your names omitted) on Sunday, October 14th.

Your preferences will inform our service: “How Music, Nature and Silence Produce Wellness”

Please submit your choice by the October 1 deadline!!

FROM THE MINISTER

I hope “living was easy” during your summertime and you were able to catch up on some family time and some relaxation.

As we start our traditional church program year I want to use this forum to tell you about some of the new things that we will be doing at Channing this year.

- We will launch the new Family Ministry Program with a newly hired Family Life Coordinator (former known as the Religious Education Director). The program was renamed to note that, in addition to providing education and programming focused on children and youth faith development, we will be providing parenting support and family activities.
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~Rev. Bill Zelazny
FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

What a summer this has been! Despite the competition for things to do on Sunday mornings in Newport, our services have drawn good-sized audiences to hear inspiring talks by some of our favorite guest ministers and Channing members, and at every service we've had the pleasure of greeting out-of-town Unitarians visiting Newport. Guest musicians enlivened our services, adding their own special gifts of song and instrument to our usual repertoire: two original Unitarian hymns accompanied by the ukulele, show tunes and original compositions on the piano, the Newport String group, and never-heard-before displays of volume on the organ.

The Chautauqua series was a huge success, bringing music, learning, and visitors to Channing, and best of all bringing Channing people together over the summer. We extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Susan KieronSKI, TLC Chair, for being the organizer-in-chief for these events, and for her tireless pursuit of proper permissions from the city to sell and serve wine on the premises!

Channing in the News! On August 7, the Boston Globe published a story about Newport’s "Four Faiths Four Landmarks Walking Tour," which features tours of Touro Synagogue, Trinity Episcopal, Newport Congregational, and our own CMC. Chris Laudon, who heads up Channing’s participation in the tour, was interviewed in the Globe story. Every Monday, July through Labor Day, Chris, along with Beth and Russ Milham, Sondra Gold, Candy Martin, Barbara Russell-Willet and Sue VanDerhoof have been showing off the sanctuary’s windows and architecture to visitors while explaining UU beliefs and William Ellery Channing’s contributions to American Unitarianism. Our thanks and appreciation to all who participated.

Now it’s already September and we’re looking forward to a new church year. Work on the steeple began during the summer and will continue into September as masons clean off deposits that leached out of the mortar. While the scaffolding is up two more bells will be hung, which means more music choices for our bell-ringers!

Less visible but no less important is the introduction of Internet connectivity into the sanctuary, and upgrading Internet accessibility in the Parish Hall. Reliable Wi-Fi will mean a greater variety in programs we can offer, and more possibilities for enhancing our Sunday services. Our thanks to John Burnham and Russ Milham and the whole communications team, and also to our web engineer Jerry Pacheco, who bravely worked on the wiring in the dark of night when daytime heat and humidity were unbearable.

Rev. Bill will finish up the summer services and then have Labor Day Sunday off. He will begin the fall worship calendar on September 9 with the annual Ingathering service, and traditional water ceremony, followed by a potluck picnic across the street in Touro Park.

After the September 16 service we’ll have our Volunteer Fair, where you can sign up to join committees of your choice, as well as “Small Group Ministry” and other special interest groups.

We welcome JoAnne Richie to Channing as Family Life Coordinator and Youth Advisor. JoAnne comes to us with over 30 years of teaching experience, including special needs in the public schools, and religious education at Emmanuel Church. [JoAnne assures us she has always been a Unitarian at heart!]

On a final note, a most exciting project for the future of Channing properties is quietly underway. The Facilities and Financial Planning Task Force is methodically putting together scenarios that could lead to transforming the undercroft and repurposing the Parish Hall, beginning with flow charts that will lay out steps to be taken, and in what order. Those of you who attended Chris Laudon’s information sessions on the Master Plan last winter will have some idea of the complexity involved just with building the infrastructure, while securing funding for each step in the process is another challenge. We’re still a long way from a capital campaign, but by spring all the parts should be in place to get started. So let’s keep our eyes on the prize and imagine our church with meeting rooms, a lecture and event space, new kitchen and bathrooms all connected to the sanctuary-- with an elevator!

Send best wishes to all our Channing friends, Eleanor Doumato and Tom Howard, Channing Co-Presidents
The Family Ministry Task Force, formed to review our children and youth faith development program, is pleased to announce that we have engaged JoAnne Richie as our new Family Life Coordinator, formerly known as the Religious Education Director.

JoAnne was a teacher, now retired, in the Newport school system for over 30 years. During her career she taught in all age groups from elementary to high school, including children with special academic needs. She has been an active member of Emmanuel Church where she was the director of the Sunday School and served as the youth advisor as well as serving on the board and in many other committee positions. She is a resident of the 5th Ward where she currently operates a B & B. Although a member of Emmanuel Church she has attended Channing Church many times and expresses great comfort with Unitarian Universalist theology and practices.

JoAnne will be introduced to the congregation during our September 9th Ingathering service and will be at Fellowship hour during the month of September. Please introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome. Classes for children will be scheduled and announced in the coming weeks.

We will be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8th-10th graders, beginning in the fall. OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education class that incorporates accurate information about sexual health, reproduction, sexual identity, relationships, and values. If you have a teen that is entering 8th-10th grade in the fall, please speak with Kathy Takata, Sally Hanchett, or Jim Freess for more information about this life changing and affirming class. There will be a mandatory parent orientation class towards the end of September.

We are assessing the need/desire for a Kindergarten-1st grade OWL class that would begin after January 2019. The K-1 OWL class is designed specifically for young children. Topics covered include families, babies, bodies, and safety. If you have a child entering kindergarten or first grade, please speak with Kathy Takata or Rex LeBeau for more information on how this class may support your child and you.

Childcare during the Sunday service, for infants through ages 5 years-old, will resume September 9th, but children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during Sunday services.

The Dine and Donate charitable event created by the Youth Group was a huge success. Our youth group doubled the money they received from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors/Margit Baum Fund and were able to donate $2000.00 to Fab Newport and the Boys and Girls Club of Newport for camp scholarships. A very special thank you goes out to Eleanor and Gabe Doumato for hosting this wonderful event at their home. Despite a little rain, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal in a gorgeous location, while enjoying music by Smug Honey (pictured here). Many thanks to the youth and adult volunteers and a special thank you to Sally Hanchett, who masterfully coordinated this very special event.

Our next multigenerational event is the annual Fall Frolic on Sunday, October 14th, following the Sunday service. There will be games for children, pumpkin carving, Allie’s donuts, and 4-H style contests for all ages. Dust off your pie and pickled food recipes, so you can collect a blue ribbon.

-Kathy Takata
Family Ministry Team Chair
CAREGIVING UPDATE

September has arrived, with the usual busyness of back to school days, cooler weather, and the start of fall activities – including here at Channing Church. We hope you’ve all enjoyed some fun adventures this summer. Thank you so much to Kathy Takata and Mike Armenia, who served as Caregiving coordinators in July and August. Hearty congratulations to Rachel Balaban, who completed her 30th consecutive Save the Bay swim on Aug. 4. What an accomplishment!

Chris Ariel had not one but two surgeries over the summer and will be on the mend for some weeks to come. At the time of this writing, she is welcoming notes, visits, or calls to offer support. As a member of the chimer crew, I can say we miss Chris’s contributions to our Sunday morning music!

We extend our sympathies to Eleanor Howard on the death of her mother, Selena, in early July. Her beautiful obituary in the Newport Daily News was a celebration of a loving and accomplished woman.

A belated happy birthday to Marilyn Murphy, who celebrated a milestone birthday recently!

Mark October 14 on your calendars – it’s the annual Caregiving service here at Channing! Please watch the Catalyst and weekly announcements for more updates regarding the service.

For any Caregiving needs during September, please do not hesitate to contact Beth Milham, Caregiving coordinator from Sept. 1-15. As this is being written, we do not have a coordinator for the second half of the month, but will keep you updated via the weekly announcements.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As we return to our regular worship programming, Channing’s members and visitors over the summer have been treated to spiritually enriching services by congregants and guest ministers alike. The 11 services have been presented by 6 Church members, 4 familiar guest ministers and one by Rev. Bill to lead into the Ingathering service on September 9th. We’re especially thankful to Channing’s members who have enlightened us with their varied perspectives and experiences.

Rev. Bill has been developing ideas for more engaging services through some tweaks to the typical format and changes in the way that parts of it are presented. As we’ve seen of Rev. Bill, his enthusiasm to keep making improvements in the way things are done at Channing is rubbing off on all of us.

The Worship Committee would be strengthened by having a few new members who can add to the visioning of our services and assist in the details of presenting them. A little help would go a long way in two specific areas. One is to invite Worship Associates to assist in services, planning a couple of months ahead from an existing and growing roster of volunteers. Another is to help Russ Milham and George Devine recruit more volunteers to fill out the schedule for sound board operation – a simple thing to do while attending a service.

Your interest and willingness to help produce Channing’s services will add to your satisfaction of being in the pews, enjoying them. If you’re inspired to help us with long-range worship visioning and assisting in some of the regular tasks that make services happen, please speak with any member of the Worship Committee. We are: David Cooper, Eleanor Doumato, Judie Porter, Janet Grant, Rev. Bill, and yours truly.

David Pedrick
Worship Committee Chair

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday, September 17, 3:30-6:15pm, 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, Joy Benson.
**ECO-BITS & TIPS**

**Water Communion: Knowing a place**

As summer winds down, many of us remember our summer highlights. For our family, the September Water Communion service is a wonderful reminder of where we’ve traveled. It allows each “collector” to tell a brief story of the source of the water we contribute to the baptismal font.

Over the years I can remember many sources, from the faucets in at least a dozen towns and local reservoirs around Rhode Island. Without these, where would life be on this island?

I also remember mountain and glacial snow, on the other end of the spectrum, for those lucky enough to travel up north or out west. That “high elevation” water is likely cleaner, “purer,” perhaps bringing a special grace to the newly arrived.

Most common remaining sources, are ocean water and streams, rivers and lakes. The Gaspards have brought lake water from Great Pond in central Maine. This year, from last weekend’s travel to western Maine, we’re bringing Sunday River water. Yes, the river that provides the famous ski area’s moniker.

I can tell you that Sunday River has both stocked and native trout populations, and a covered bridge spans it. It begins in the Mahoosic Mountain range, just south of the Appalachian Trail, and we climbed its tallest peak, Old Speck, on Sunday. We look forward to hearing about “your” water!

All this reminds us that all water is sacred, and we are its stewards. Our oceans and global fresh water sources are now besieged by human behavior and weakening government protections. We’re responsible, both as individuals and as a society, for protecting it from being wasted and polluted.

~Craig Gaspard, Green Congregation Committee

**SEPTEMBER SHARE THE PLATE**

The East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) will create a small, flexible support fund with our September Share The Plate monies for its array of educational and career development programs. Those programs provide GED and ESL classes, workplace literacy classes, academic experiences, and computer & employment readiness skills training. The actual services provided to individual participants vary according to that individual’s needs and may include the mentioned programs as well as citizenship training, tutoring, internship placements, unsubsidized job placement or long-term occupational skill training.

Many of EBCAP’s students struggle financially and experience a wide range of personal challenges. Many are new to this country or area, have experienced traumatic events, and have very limited social supports systems.

Because of its programing in physical & mental health, and education & social services, EBCAP can assess and address many of an individual’s workforce requirements. What cannot be provided by the official programs are the unique, personal needs that participants may encounter, such as childcare expenses, a one-time household or vehicle repair bill, an uncovered medical expense, monies to pay for testing requirements, or the cost of a required uniform. Any one of those challenges can derail a participant’s plans to enter the workforce.

An EBCAP staff member will oversee the support fund and our September STP monies will help insure that individuals interested in acquiring the skills necessary for employment are able to progress in their skill development and to achieve their goal of employment.

Please be generous as you always are.

The SAC welcomes your suggestions for STP recipient organizations. If you would like to champion a STP recipient, please give your suggestion to Nan Heroux, the committee’s chair, or plan to attend the September SAC meeting when future recipients will be chosen. The meeting will be held at 11:15 AM in Channing House on Sunday, September 30, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila McEntee
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

VEGAN POTLUCK
Saturday, September 15, 6:00pm, Parish Hall
Interested in animal rights? Want to share a friendly potluck meal? Interested in vegan living? This potluck will be an informal time to share food, socialize and ask questions. Sponsored by the Green Committee and Seaside Rabbits, it will be a fun evening! Families with children welcome. Bring a vegan (plant) food to share: no meat, fish, shellfish, milk, cheese, eggs, butter, yogurt, or other dairy-based foods. Bring enough to serve 4, and a card listing all ingredients. To keep this event as green as possible, bring your own plate, bowl, cup, flatware (no paper or plastic please) and a bag for your dirty dishes - we’re going to try to stay out of the kitchen.
Free & Open to the Public. Please contact Derri Owen (islandseasiderabbits@gmail.com) or Beth Milham (greencongregation@channingchurch.org) with any questions.

INTERWEAVE MEETING & POTLUCK
Sunday, September 16, 5:30pm, Parish Hall
Guess who’s back again? And forget about back to school. It’s back to Interweave! We are having a very special meeting on Sunday, Sept 16, at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. We are working with NewportOUT to brainstorm ideas for the next Newport Pride and having a pizza party. Bring a salad or dessert if you like. Interweave will provide pizza. Bring your ideas for Pride and come meet new and old friends. All are welcome. See you there! For more information, contact Rex Le Beau at interweave@channingchurch.org. Interweave is Channing’s group for LGBTQ people and allies.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY BEGINS!
The Fall/Winter program of Small Group Ministry will begin on Tuesday, September 25 and will run through mid-December. If you have not experienced small groups in the past, this is the perfect time to check them out. It is a great way to meet new Channing friends and reconnect with those you haven’t been in touch with for awhile. Groups of 6-10 participants will be meeting every other Tuesday.
If you are interested or have questions please contact Milly Jessen, at smallgroups@channingchurch.org.

GREAT GUYS GROUP
Saturday, October 20 8:30-10:30am, Parish Hall
The Channing men’s breakfast group will restart in October. Men of all ages are invited to gather for a breakfast and conversation in the Parish Hall. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month. The group is open to Channing Church members and friends. More information in the October Catalyst.

-Milly Jessen for Small Group Ministry
TRASH MANAGEMENT - NO DUMPING!!!

Some dedicated Property Committee members have spent a lot of time this summer cleaning up the trash corral and disposing of trash that had been left there, cutting it into smaller pieces so it can go out as yard waste, be recycled in the barrels, or sent away with metal recyclers. Therefore we would like to set up new rules for trash disposal so we can keep the site clean.

Because as a church we are not technically residents we use trash barrels given the tenants, and must abide by the disposal rules of the City of Newport. That means recycling in a blue barrel, with nothing larger than can fit, trash in the dark barrels, and any yard waste cut to be less than 3’ long and set out on specific days in bins or tied up. Therefore we request that nothing be left on the site or in the trash corral that is larger than can be disposed of in the bins. If that is a problem please contact a Property Committee or Green Congregation Committee member in advance so we can try to find a spot to store a large item until we can hire a dumpster once we have accumulated to justify that expense. As Newport residents we have personal rights to take larger items to the dump periodically, so consider that as an option if a large item can fit in or on your car.

Thank you all for help with this problem.

Chris Laudon, co-chair, Property Committee

LEFTOVERS IN THE PARISH HALL

We ask that any committee or group that serves food in the Parish Hall please leave leftovers either in the refrigerator or in the blue bin (see picture) in the cupboard next to the refrigerator so we do not encourage critters or pests. Labels are located on the side of the refrigerator.

~Joy Benson, Community Meal Manager

If you see Barbara Richter, Candy Martin, Beth Milham, Russ Milham, Abby Adams, and Pat Padilla around thank them for their hard work.

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CHILD CARE NEWS!

We are looking forward to seeing our young children again soon! The Childcare Program, for infants - kindergarteners, with our wonderful providers, Miss Amy and Miss Morgan, will resume on September 9th. Please bring your little ones to play, have fun and be well cared for on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Pick-up after service/fellowship by 11:30. For questions about Childcare Program contact Barbara Russell-Willett: and Marilyn Murphy: by email at: childcare@channingchurch.org

SEPTEMBER CHIMERS

Sept. 2: Jim Freess
Sept. 9: Janna Pederson
Sept. 16: Cynthia Skelton
Sept. 23: Linda Beall
Sept. 30: Cynthia Skelton