COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
OPEN FORUM
Sunday, October 28th
11:30AM (following the Sunday service)
In the Parish Hall

The Committee on Ministry (COM) held its first meeting of the new church year a couple of weeks ago. I, along with current members Sondra Gold and Chris Laudon, welcomed new members, Tom Beall and Cynthia Skelton. We got to work right away and adapted a document that serves to clarify the committee’s roles and responsibilities.

The committee also determined what our focus should be for the coming year. Working in coordination with the assessments that the Property and Finance Committees are doing during the coming year, the COM will also be conducting an assessment of the ministry of the church as well. Ministry does not pertain to just the Minister, but all of the programs here at Channing. The result of that assessment will give us a clearer idea of the health of our congregation and where we should be headed, as well as set some priorities for the coming few years.

Our first step in that process is holding an Open Forum and we invite you all to attend. The forum will include an overview of the COM’s roles and responsibilities and a chance for you to tell us your thoughts and ideas on how things are going and what you’d like to see happen in the coming year or two. We will be meeting in the Parish Hall so grab some coffee and a snack and sit down and join us.

~Susan VanDerhoof
Chair of the Committee on Ministry
FROM THE MINISTER

Several years ago, a UUA president commented that we do not need to work to bring people into our churches, they come by themselves...we need to work to keep more from not returning. In other words, we have lots of opportunities to grow our churches, we just need to keep more of the people who already come.

I've noticed that we have several new people coming through our doors each Sunday. That is good. And many seem to be returning. Our job is to keep more people coming back and that is all our responsibilities.

So perhaps a few things for us to think about -- and act upon -- to do our part in growing Channing Church:

What can we do individually to let people know about the good things we do at Channing that changes people’s lives?

What can the groups/committees to which we belong here at Channing do better to help new people become involved in the life of the church?

How could we, individually and collectively, do the best and most radical kind of welcoming when a new person or family visits our church for the first time?

Let’s make this church year the year of radical hospitality.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November Events

Senior Adult Ministry to Launch in November

The Channing Senior Adult Ministry will launch in November with the start of a brown bag lunch discussion group. (bring your own lunch, coffee will be provided) The first lunch-time gathering will be on Tuesday, November 6 at 12:00 noon in the Parish Hall. Participants will decide on what day, what time and how often the discussion group will meet, and whether it will be a based on reading and discussing books/articles about aging issues or topics suggested by participants. The first gathering will be hosted by Rev. Zelazny. Watch for more information in the November Catalyst.

New UU Class November 18

Considering joining Channing Church? Set on your calendar, Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. to come to the New UU Class hosted by the Membership Committee with Rev. Zelazny. This class is designed to welcome and orient newcomers into Channing Memorial Church and Unitarian Universalism. We will cover UU roots, philosophy and religious practices, church polity, governance and financial support as well as have time for participants to get acquainted with each other. More information in the November Catalyst.

Parenting Discussion Evening

Plans are being developed by the Family Ministry Team for an evening family dinner followed by time a facilitated discussion for the parents and a movie or games for the children. This will be the first of a series of discussion evenings with the theme “How to Talk to Your Children About...” Date and time TBD. Watch for more information to come in mid-October.
The second reminder of Channing’s historical importance came from a Learning Center-sponsored slide presentation by Channing friend Jim Egan, entitled “Inspirations: Roots of Channing Memorial Church,” which explored the history of Unitarianism in Newport and the people, ideas, and architectural models that inspired the building of the church in 1880. Jim is the founder and head of the Newport Tower Museum, and has written numerous books on local and regional history. One of his books, Elizabethan America, offers a case for the origins of the Touro Park tower in the late 16th century as a “token of [English] occupation.” In his slide presentation, all your nagging questions about our sanctuary were answered—Why was it built on the park facing the tower, who were the Unitarian elites behind its construction, and who is that man with the comb-over and neck beard on the back wall of the church? Why is there a door to nowhere behind the chancel and windows around the back that are blocked off on the inside? How come the two pillars on either side of the chancel don’t match? If you are among the unfortunate few who missed Jim’s slide show you can view it online at https://vimeo.com/281355378, or you can view the stretch version at https://vimeo.com/280641830.

Many hands make Channing an exciting community to be part of. Our annual Welcome Back potluck picnic in Touro Park followed the Ingathering service on the second Sunday in September, and on the 16th, the Volunteer Fair turned out to be an especially joyous event, outdoors, under bright sunshine, with lots of enthusiasm, new faces, old friends, and young families with children.

Looking forward to more happy times for all at Channing.

~Eleanor and Tom, Channing Co-Presidents

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS
This month we’ve had the good fortune to be twice reminded of our church’s historical importance: first, for its architecture, and second, for the liberating theology that gave rise to its construction. We continue to draw foundation support for restorations as we have in the past, such as restoration of our steeple and stained glass windows, as well as support for the engineering site plan to move and bury utilities, with the goal of landscaping our property and developing the undercroft. The news this month is that we’ve received notice of a grant award from the Prince Charitable Trusts to help with the restoration of the Shaw windows (pictured above)—the "faith, hope, and charity" windows on the left side of the sanctuary. At the same time, we're keeping our fingers crossed for a second grant that would bring us closer to the full cost of restoring the windows, and we also hope for a grant to help with restoring the porch of Victorian-era Channing House. Wonder why we need it? Take a good look at the porch next time you happen to go over to the church office, and hang on to the railing!

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FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Our Family Ministry/Religious Education program is off and running. A warm welcome to new families and to our new Family Life Coordinator, JoAnne Ritchie. Welcome back to those already familiar with our programs. Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Family Ministry table to volunteer and/or register your children and youth for the religious education programs. Congratulations to Lily, who won the Volunteer Fair raffle.

The first Sunday of each month will be a family friendly service. All ages are encouraged to attend and be part of our Channing community. If children become restless, we invite parents to bring their children to the activity table set up in the back of the Sanctuary. We kindly ask that children be supervised while visiting the table for their safety.

Childcare for infants and children through age 5 is available every Sunday during the service until 11:30. Our caring and skilled childcare workers, Amy and Morgan will care for your little ones while you attend the service and enjoy conversation at fellowship.

Our cooperative religious education program for children in preK-primary grades is meeting 2-3 times per month on the 2nd and 4th (and occasional 5th) Sunday. Programming will also be available to children and youth above third grade on these Sundays.

Back by popular demand, the third (sometimes second) Sunday of the month is dedicated to preparing desserts for Channing's Community Meal. Children and youth of all ages work together baking pies or decorating treats for a great cause. If you are wondering how you can support children and families at Channing, sign up to help us bake. It is a very short, but fun and rewarding volunteer option. All supplies are provided. See JoAnne Ritchie, Kathy Takata, Sally Hanchett, or Barbara Russell-Willet to volunteer.

Our Youth Group for students in 6th-12th grade will begin meeting twice per month in October. Their annual Haunted Happenings Halloween party is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th. All members and Friends are invited to attend. Costumes are a plus at this potluck event held in the Parish Hall.

A big thank you goes out to Sally Hanchett and Jim Freess for facilitating Our Whole Lives (OWL) class for 8th-10th graders this year. Thank you as well to the families who committed to having their teens attend this very important class.

IT’S FALL FROLIC TIME! Channing members and friends are invited to attend our annual Fall Frolic on October 14th after the 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. Sign up for contests in the Parish Hall.

-Kathy Takata
Family Ministry Team Chair

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun., October 7 10:00am:
Family Service in Sanctuary

Sun., October 14 10:10am:
Baking for the Community Meal, after the Message for All Ages in the Sanctuary
• 11:00am: Fall Frolic!

Sun., October 21 10:10am:
Religious Education Class, after the Message for All Ages in the Sanctuary

Saturday, October 27 6:00PM: Haunted Happenings Halloween Party

Sun., October 28 10:10am:
Religious Education Class, after the Message for All Ages in the Sanctuary
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Welcome to autumn! Writing this month’s column was a happy experience, since there is a lot of good news to report this month.

Congratulations to Max Willett and his new bride, Laura Maita, who married on Sept. 3 here in Portsmouth. It was a beautiful wedding and “basically a four-day party!” according to proud mother of the groom, Barbara. Max, Laura, and her two sons, Ziah and Tai, have returned to their home in Tampa.

Also, best wishes for a wonderful life together go out to Isabel Burnham and Sebastian Kandell, who were married Sept. 2 on Fisher’s Island. The Rev. Claire Bamberg, a familiar name to many here at Channing, officiated the ceremony. It was especially meaningful because she had also married Isabel’s parents, John and Rachel, at this same location on this same weekend 32 years ago!

There were several anniversaries celebrated in our congregation during the past month – Craig and Terry Gaspard, Jim Freess and Sondra Gold (40th), Beth and Russ Milham (54th), and Robert Allott and Nancy DiMarzio. I’m sorry if I missed anyone!

Many thanks to Beth Milham and Sally Hanchett, who so ably handled caregiving coordinator duties during September. Our October caregiving coordinators will be Joy Benson and Jo Freedman from Oct. 1-15, and Janna Pederson Oct. 16-31. Please contact any of these individuals with any caregiving needs among our congregation members.

We hope to see you all at the annual Caregiving worship service on Oct. 14!

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

SHARE THE PLATE

Your cash offerings and checks with the memo “Share the Plate” donated during October Sunday services will provide protein rich foods to the patrons of the Florence Gray Food Pantry.

The pantry is strategically located in the Newport Heights neighborhood, thereby avoiding the transportation barriers which can prevent people from accessing pantries. At Florence Gray, residents can walk to the pantry and return home with food supplies.

Pauline Perkins Moye, who manages the pantry, notes that while protein is essential to a healthy diet, the high cost of protein rich foods limits their availability to pantry patrons. Florence Gray’s patrons will appreciate additional access to foods such as meats, eggs, fish, and nut butters, which your STP donations will provide.

October’s STP donations will immediately contribute to healthier meals for local citizens. 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 next SAC meeting on September 30, 2018, at 11:15 when future recipients will be chosen.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McEntee
SOCIAL ACTION

ECO-BITS & TIPS

Water: Our Real Lifeblood

My piece last month, on our faith’s embrace of Water Communion broached a wonderful topic close to me, and many in our community. Shout out here to Beth who perceptively thought the topic of water deserved attention. So, for the next few months, I hope to prompt more thinking about water, which next to oxygen, is the most important and basic of substances on earth without question.

Life could not exist without water. It is the main constituent of the food we eat, from tofu, to steak, tomatoes to cooked rice, and bread to eggs. Even more basic, it is the predominant component of living life including our own bodies, where it makes up 50% or so in adult women up to nearly 80% in newborns. From transporting nutrients and oxygen for energy, to waste byproducts, water in fact brings life through our blood (and hence my title).

While human life and most terrestrial life depend on “fresh water”, we cannot overlook the importance of “salt water”. From supporting marine life, including invertebrates such as those wonderful crustaceans - lobsters and shrimp come to mind – to stripers and tuna, salt water is to only place where these animals can live. Even plankton, the basis for ocean life, is not only food, but its photosynthesis makes more oxygen than all the trees on earth.

In future months, I would like to expand on the topic of water, hoping to raise my and your awareness of why there is much to lose or gain, based on the availability and quality of our water.

~Craig Gaspard, Green Congregation Committee

THINK WHAT YOU DRINK

Channing Church sponsors the sale of Equal Exchange products at coffee hour each week. Proceeds from the sale of coffee supports fellowship at Channing and allows us to serve fair trade coffee for fellowship.

Why Fair trade? It is better for our planet. Farmers who work with Equal Exchange care for their land and use diversified crop planting to promote bio diversity and improve the health of their soil. Shade farming preserves the forest cover and protects important habitats for birds and wild life. The products we carry are certified organic and are produced without toxic pesticides. The small scale farmers they work with own their own businesses and land. They work together in co-ops with other farmers to share training and support. This allows them to invest in education, health programs and social services for their communities.

That coffee you see for a cheaper price at the grocery comes with a high environmental and human price tag. See Sally Hanchett to brew up a cup of justice at home.

~Submitted by Sally Hanchett

SEEDS OF SCIENCE

A new book by Mark Lynas

Have you ever wondered whether GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) food is safe? Mark Lynas gives an intriguing, balanced answer to this question. In the process he outlines the underpinnings of social activism and how that has affected our view of the problem. This is a book that every Unitarian should read because it delves into the core values of our beliefs and perceptions. The book is not just about GMOs but touches on a range of issues that Channing has been actively involved with.

~Submitted by Bob Janiesch

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday, October 15, 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.
MONEY FOR CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
And you can help CMC get it!
Money is still available through the Unitarian Universalist Association Wake Now Our Vision Campaign, which is making cash grants to congregations that receive new legacy gifts. New legacy gifts are bequests in wills, life insurance and IRA/retirement accounts beneficiary designation, and charitable gift annuities and other life income gifts made between now and June 30, 2020 (as long as matching funds remain, so making the legacy designation sooner than later is better) OR CMC has been unaware of the intended gift. Also, any increase in a legacy intention about which CMC had been informed will be considered new.

The legacy gift will result in Channing receiving an unrestricted cash grant in 2019 or 2020 of 10% of the legacy gift value or $1000 for gifts whose cash value cannot be established at this time.

What to you have to do for CMC to obtain the legacy support gift from the UUA?
1) Put CMC in your will or name it as a beneficiary or increase a prior legacy gift
2) Tell the Endowment Committee about the legacy gift. Contact Mary Alice Smith
3) Complete a Legacy Challenge form and submit it along with and supporting documentation to the to qualify for the Legacy Challenge. Go to www.wakenowourvision.org. Contact Mary Alice Smith, for more information.

[Other organizations able to receive legacy support gifts from the campaign: Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Starr King School for the Ministry, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and the Church of the Larger Fellowship.]

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

PARKING FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
Traffic 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 (ESPECIALLY AT THE ART MUSEUM!). 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 not allowed to us by the Elk's lodge!

OCTOBER CHIMERS
October 7: Linda Beall
October 14: Janna Pederson
October 21: Linda Beall
October 28: Jim Freess

DO YOU LIKE ART?
Channing’s Creative Connections Gallery is looking for a volunteer to coordinate and display paintings and/or drawings by local artists in the Parish Hall. If you are interested please contact Susan Kieronski or Marian Royer.

“GUYS... WANT SOME COFFEE AND...”
...breakfast and conversation?” Join other men on the 3rd Saturday of each month, starting October 20, in the Great Guys Group. Open to men of all ages who would like the informal camaraderie of other men over breakfast. Group members take turn making or bringing in breakfast fixin’s. Conversations can be topic focused or just general talk about like (no politics). The group wraps up at 10:30. No registration is needed. Just come to the Parish Hall, at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 20th, pour a cup of coffee and talk together. Rev. Bill will host the first gathering. Come and bring a friend.
Rev. Bill will be offering several new adult classes through TLC. Throughout the year, he'll present an exploration of Unitarian Universalism; lead us in developing our expression of personal beliefs; speak on the history of the Old and New Testaments; and more. At many of these sessions, the public will be strongly encouraged to join us as part of Channing Church’s overall outreach effort.

The first of these programs, “ARTICULATING OUR UU FAITH”, will be held in two sessions - on Wed. Oct. 24 and on Wed. Nov. 7, from 6:30 – 8:30pm, in the Parish Hall. In this course, we'll learn more about Unitarian Universalism and practice how and what to say in various settings in which we might be called upon to talk about our UU faith, and our own perspectives on it. Among the topics to be covered is a perspective on the Principles, U & U and UU history, and polishing our “elevator speech”. This course is for new(er) UUs and everyone else who struggles to describe our religion adequately to others. Refreshments will be served, and a $5 donation for the course will be welcome, to help us defray costs.

Other tasty ideas are in the works – notably a program with a RWU professor of Journalism who is interested in the possibility of giving a Learning Center talk on freedom of the press, the first amendment, and the current presidency. Watch the Channing weekly emails for updates!

PLEASE NOTE:

Jim Egan’s Sept. 19 program on the Inspirations for Channing Church was full of detail and energy, wasn’t it? If you are among the unfortunate few who missed Jim’s slide show you can view it online at https://vimeo.com/281355378, or you can view the stretch version at https://vimeo.com/280641830.

Robert Thorson will conduct a public hike around Walden Pond, starting at 9 AM on Sat., Oct. 20. From 3:00 – 4:30 PM the same day, he’ll lecture at First Church UU in Concord. Additional information may be found at: www.thoreausociety.org. This is not officially a Learning Center event, so we encourage interested folks to make their own travel arrangements.

As always, please contact Susan Kieronski (learningcenter@channingchurch.org), or see her after church most Sundays, with your brainstorms about topics or speakers – thanks!