FROM THE LEARNING CENTER
COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

ARTICULATING OUR UU FAITH, with Rev. Bill Zelazny, will continue for a second session on Wed., Nov. 7, from 6:30 – 8:30, in the Parish Hall. This course is for new(er) UUs and everyone else who struggles to describe our religion to others. Please feel free to join us, even if you were not able to attend the first session – Rev. Bill can send some materials to you to help you catch up. You can contact Susan Kieronski., TLC, to get on the emailing list: skierons@msn.com. Refreshments will be served, and a $5 donation for the course will be welcome, payable at the door, to help us defray costs.

DON’T KILL THE MESSENGER with Paola Prado
The Role Of The Press In Preserving Democracy
A conversation about the historical relationship between the U.S. presidency and the press, that examines the role of the Fourth Estate in exposing threats to our democracy. Dr. Prado, a former member of the Washington press corps, currently teaches journalism and First Amendment Law at Roger Williams University in Bristol. Join us in the Parish Hall on Wed., Nov. 14, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Wine and cheese will be served; $5 donation appreciated.

IS LIFE WORTH LIVING? with John Kaag
John Kaag is author of “American Philosophy: a Love Story”, chosen NPR best book of the year in 2016 and NYT Editor Choice. He is Chair of the Philosophy Dept at University of Lowell; a popular lecturer; and a member of First UU Church, Concord, MA. His newest book, “Hiking with Nietzsche”, published with Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, has been positively reviewed in The Atlantic and in The New Yorker.

This promises to be a big event, and one that will be of interest to folks outside the Channing community. Audience participation will be encouraged. We hope that you will come and bring a friend! In the Parish Hall on Sat., Nov. 17, at 4:00 PM; Wine and cheese reception to follow. $5.00 donation requested.

Worship Services
Sunday, November 4:
Rev. Bill Zelazny
You Belong Here: Building a Beloved Community

Not feeling apart of a group costs us something, whether as an individual or a cultural group. It takes a toll on our mental and emotional well-being. We all hope to someday find a home in a beloved community. A Beloved Community is a place where everyone is welcome (though not every behavior is welcome) and a place that can be a prophetic witness against larger systemic injustices. Bill will discuss the concept of building a beloved community as part of the notion of creating sanctuary.

Sunday, November 11
Professor Robert M. Thorson
Down Time –A Spiritual Practice
For equipment, “down time” is a period of inactivity, perhaps for maintenance and repair. For society, it's time set aside for relaxation and unwinding, perhaps a vacation without the travel. For me, "down time" is the spiritual practice of getting down to the basics of all things, the stripping away of superficial complexity to reveal the bedrock simplicity beneath our lives. Caring for my new grandson has given me new insights about this lifelong practice.
The Intersection of Faith and Land

In a few days we will be celebrating the bounties of the land. We should this time to remember that the land and the food stuff it produces connects all of human kind. But as we celebrate on the one hand the gifts of the land that sustain us, on the other we abuse the land in many ways. However, faith can inform decisions about caring for the land and managing and consuming our food. This Sunday before Thanksgiving Bill will discuss how land and faith converge

This Sunday we will conduct our traditional bread sharing ceremony. Members and friends of Channing are invited to bring some kind of bread that represents their ethnic heritage or in some way represents them or their family. [We hope that some gluten free bread will also be brought so that everyone may share in the Bread Communion.] We will cut the bread into pieces and distribute it so that we may share the ancient custom of breaking bread together to give thanks for this faith community.

The children and youth children will go directly to the Parish Hall at 10:00 for their community meal baking activity but will join us later in the service for the bread ceremony.

Sunday, November 25: TBA
No Channing Chalice Children Class/ No Childcare

FROM THE MINISTER

The other day I read an essay by Kat Lu, a Quest staff person [Quest is the Church of the Larger Fellowship monthly journal.] She wrote about our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors which got me thinking about how the important they were for us.

This month when we institutionalize gratitude, it’s appropriate to give thanks to them. It is because of their fortitude in the face of ridicule, their inspired approach to expressing faith, their push to make a New England religious perspective nation-wide, their tradition breaking endeavors in ministry and religious education, their promotion of the idea that truth can be found in all religions and so much more, that Unitarian Universalism is what it is today.

Consider, William Ellery Channing gave public voice to a theology that freed people from Calvinism. Ralph Waldo Emerson, through his essay “The Oversoul,” got people thinking about Unitarianism as more than just anti-trinitarian Christianity. Henry Bellows, helped found the National Conference of Unitarian Churches which was the “great grandparent” of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Olympia Brown forced open the doors of ministry to the ordination of women.

Because of our ancestors we are here today. Let us be thankful for them and what they did for as a French proverb says “Gratitude is the memory of the heart.”

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

Transgender Day of Remembrance Service

Following the regular Sunday worship service on November 18, Channing Interweave will host a Transgender Day of Remembrance service in the Sanctuary, to memorialize transgender people around the world who were killed this year. A moving service of music and readings along with the reading of the names of the victims. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by Interweave.

For more information contact Rex LeBeau at interweave@channingmemorial.com
 visioning was a strategic plan detailing specific goals and steps to achieve them, laid out in a document entitled “Growing Together: Channing Memorial Church Strategic Plan 2008-2018.”

We invite everyone to review this document here at: http://channingchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CMC-Strategic-Plan-2008-2018.pdf (paper copies are available in the church office) and judge for him or herself the areas in which we as a church community have succeeded or could have put in more effort. Here we'll note just one of the seven strategic objectives: “Provide good stewardship of our property.”

In these ten years we've restored the steeple and tuned the bells, added two new bells that are now only waiting to be hung, restored most of the major windows in the sanctuary and have won a grant to restore the last; the apartments in Channing House and Parish Hall have been reconstructed to become a major source of income, the collapsing floor of the Parish Hall has been shored up, and grants are in the works to restore the porch of Channing House. Another grant allowed us to hire a consulting firm to provide a plan for reconfiguring the location of our utilities, with the grand and glorious goal of developing the undercroft to create restrooms and fellowship, classroom, and meeting spaces, with elevator access, and also beautiful landscaping around our buildings.

We think no one can say Channing community members have not been good stewards of their property! And today we are taking that commitment to the next level. A Facilities and Financial Planning Task Force, created at the beginning of this year, aims to find the financial resources necessary to improve Channing buildings to accommodate an expanding membership and growing programs while preserving the buildings’ historic character. Members of the Task Force represent the Board, the Property, Finance and Endowment committees, and include the Minister. The Task Force is focused on two objectives: creating development options for the congregation to consider, and options for fundraising to pay for it.

We hope the whole of our congregation will get involved in the planning process. We hope everyone will come to the first of our community-wide forums taking place after the holidays, and speak up! Put “Channing Community Retreat” on your calendar, Saturday at 9:00am, January 19.

With our good wishes to all our Channing friends, Eleanor and Tom
The Channing Chalice Children Class (CCCC)
I am pleased to announce that the Religious Education program for the younger children is now underway with great success! We have designed a cooperative program in which parents are rotating into the class to assist me in the lessons each week. Additionally, people are signing up to help with the baking for monthly Community Meal.

The program is being called The Channing Chalice Children Class (CCCC). We have 7 children from the ages of 4 to 8 registered and 4 parents assigned to assisting. We will be spending the year learning about the Unitarian Universalist Church. Our lessons will be based on the 7 UU principles and the Chalice Children Curriculum.

In September and October, we talked about being a Unitarian Universalist, baked for the Community Meal, learned about the Chalice as a symbol for UUs, and chose and created our own individual chalices (pictured at the top of this page). In November, we will be learning about community and community activities and responsibilities. A special thanks to Kathy Takata for assisting in the class and Mary Benson and Rev. Bill for assisting at the brownie baking for the October Community Meal.

We are also looking to provide classes for children 4th grade and older. Let me know if you have a child in that age group.

If anyone wants to join us or just learn more about CCCC, please visit me in the Chalice Children classroom in the Parish Hall each Sunday before or after the service.

YOUTH GROUP
Calling all young adults!! At this time, the youth group programming is waiting for some young adults to come forward. If you know of any young adults who may be interested in being part of a group which would meet twice a month for fellowship and fun, please ask them to call me. The new program will be designed by the young adults, based on the 7 UU principles, with a focus on the interests of the group.

OWL
The Our Whole Lives program, or as it is called, OWL, is a program for young people to learn about themselves. This year, the program, which will be run by Sally Hanchett and Jim Freess, is geared towards 8th, 9th, and 10th graders. The classes are just getting underway. It is not too late to contact Sally or Jim about it.

Family Sunday
Family Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. The children remain in Sanctuary for the worship service with their parents. There is an activity table in the back of the Sanctuary for restless children to play quietly. We asked that parents stay with their children for their safety.

~JoAnne Ritchie,
Family Life Coordinator
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Many thanks to our October Caregiving coordinators Joy Benson, Jo Freedman, and Janna Pederson for keeping us updated on the goings-on in our congregation.

George and Nickie Kates celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a wonderful safari at a Zambia nature preserve and wildlife camp in September! Both were thrilled to be able to spend time in the wild seeing the animal life up close. Ask them to tell you about their adventures!

Bill and Nancy Peresta and Norm and Mary Lou Moore traveled together on a cruise recently, along the New England coast and the Canadian Maritimes and then up the St. Lawrence River to Montreal. From the looks of their photos on Facebook, it was a beautiful trip. Bill has had a particularly busy couple of months, since he also celebrated a milestone birthday and then had a knee replacement after the trip! He is now recovering at home and progressing with physical therapy.

I was asked by Nickie Kates to extend another invitation to all to assist with the Caregiving program! We are grateful to those who have already volunteered, but still have more open slots available, especially for monthly coordinators – you can volunteer to cover an entire month or just a part, and if you’d like to team up with a partner, that’s great. If you’d rather volunteer just to do a specific task (such as providing a meal or rides as needed), we’d love to hear from you as well. Please contact either Nickie Kates or Barbara Russell-Willett.

Our November Caregiving coordinator will be Betsy Leeressen from Nov. 1-15, and we are still looking for a volunteer (or two!) to cover the second half of the month. In the absence of a volunteer, the contacts will be Nickie or Barbara. Please contact any of these individuals with any caregiving needs among our congregation members.

All of us involved with Channing Caregiving wish you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving with your loved ones!

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

SHARE THE PLATE

If you do not have access to an automobile, traveling around this island and the state is difficult. If in addition, you cannot afford to pay for a bus ride, you may simply not be able to get to doctor’s appointments, to housing opportunities, to job interviews and trainings, to family gatherings, to the grocery store or the food pantry, to pick up your children, or to a myriad of other destinations that are further away than your feet can take you.

With STP funds collected in November, Channing will buy Rhode Island Public Transit Authority bus passes and work with local organization to distribute them. The passes cost $2.00 each and there is an additional charge of $1.00 for a two hour transfer. The funds will come from two sources:

Half the cash offerings and checks with the memo “Share the Plate” donated during our November’s Sunday services, and

Monies raised through our annual “Brunch for the Bus” fundraiser.

The purchased passes will be given to local organizations serving the homeless and others in need of access to transportation, such as McKinney Shelter, Lucy’s Hearth, Turning Around Ministries, and the Housing Hotline. Staff at those organizations carefully distribute the bus passes to those with transportation needs.

Please be generous during the Sunday offertory and please be sure to join us for the Annual Brunch for the Bus on Sunday, November 4th, immediately after services in the Parish Hall. Those are the funds that purchase the passes. Be assured, the homeless need many of them!!

The Channing congregation has received a thank-you letter from the Chair of the Rogers High School Math Department Lisa Canole. She will use the July STP funds to purchase necessary calculators for students in advanced math classes. Ms. Canole reports the students will be very appreciative. The congregation also received a letter from Derri Owens of Seaside Rabbits, reporting that the funds received from August’s STP have been placed into a

Continued on page 6
Share The Plate Continued

segregated account to exclusively pay veterinary bills. Ms. Owens is extremely grateful to the congregation for its generosity. The veterinary services for the rescued animals are so necessary but also so very expensive.

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 or Sheila McEntee, the committee’s co-chairs, or attend the next SAC meeting on Sunday, November 11 at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McEntee

ECO-BITS & TIPS

Water: When We Do Not Have Enough

Last month I began by writing about the importance of water, from being a major component of our body, to what water contributes to life on earth. For this piece, I would like to look at what happens when earth’s inhabitants do not have enough water.

Water is not evenly distributed around the earth. From Death Valley, California, a region that gets practically no rain, to the jungles of the western Hawaiian Islands where rainfall is measured in feet: roughly 39. And, the most curious thing about these incredibly wet places is that the rain (or snow) is seasonal. That means that water storage is necessary for things like power generation to production of irrigated food to drinking water. So even in abundance, a system of storage is necessary.

So areas with abundance depend on storage capacity, like reservoirs behind dams in the western US, what California has to assist agriculture and generate electricity. In the developing world, societies depend on snow and glacial melt: this would be most of South Asia. With climate change, already happening now, the monsoon rains are producing less snow, resulting in less storage for warm, growing season conditions. And with rice, the predominant food crop necessary to feed almost 2 Billion residents, water during the growing season is critical.

California is a microcosm of the extremes of water availability: from dry Mediterranean climate and high desert, both climates are dependent on surface or (now) ground water to satisfy food production needs. And as it is done elsewhere, water is moved from areas of abundance to areas in need. So a series of reservoirs, from the coast range and the High Sierra bring the water to thirsty cities and Central Valley farmers, where much of the fruit and vegetables for the entire US are grown. In fact, water from as far away as the Upper Colorado River is sent west, to satisfy growing demand. California, in a way, is lucky to be so close to at least current water abundance. But, there are problems on the horizon.

In search of ever more water, California has explored many options: desalinization - removing the salt from seawater; going ever farther afield, to neighboring states like Oregon; and now, drawing down ancient aquifers at rates where replenishment is not possible in our or our children’s lifetime. Some of these radical ideas have been deemed too costly (energy intensive). But drilling ever deeper wells did not suffer that fate. Shortsighted?

Where do we go from here? Hoping that ever grander scale projects can bail humankind out, or, learn to live in sustainable ways, within our means? Stay tuned.

~Craig Gaspard, Green Congregation Committee

BRUNCH FOR THE BUS

Once again the SAC committee will be sponsoring Brunch for the Bus on Sunday November 4th after church. There will be a collection jar out to accept your donations to help us buy additional bus tickets for those in our community who are homeless or struggling. Bus tickets are distributed to Lucy’s Hearth, McKinney Shelter, the Housing Hotline and TAM. They help individuals get to employment trainings, housing applications, job interviews, medical appointments, family visits etc. In considering your donation consider how much you would pay for breakfast out at a local restaurant, with home made baked goods, scrumptious entrees, fresh fruit and no extra charge for coffee. WOW!

Hope you will join us on the 4th.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

A KICK-OFF TO SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Tuesday, Nov. 13 (new date), Noon in the Parish Hall
The Channing Senior Adult Ministry will launch in November on Tuesday, November 13 (NOTE New Date) at noon in the Parish Hall with a brown bag lunch discussion group. Bring your own lunch, coffee will be provided. CMC members are welcome to invite friends to the lunch.

Participants will decide on what day, what time and how often the group will meet, and future programming. The BBLG could meet to read and discuss books/articles about aging issues and/or spirituality in senior years, or hear presentations on topics of interest to seniors, or have open discussions led by participants. Join Rev. Zelazny for lunch and conversation.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

NEW UU CLASS
Orientation Class for People Considering Joining Channing Church

A class will be presented on Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. by the Membership Committee with Rev. Zelazny for people who are considering becoming members of Channing Memorial Church. This class is designed to orient newcomers to Unitarian Universalism and Channing Memorial Church. It will cover UU history and theology, religious practices, and the church organization, governance and financial support. There will also be time for participants to ask questions and get acquainted with each other.

To ensure there will be enough materials for participants, please contact Michele in the Church Office – office@channingchurch.org to let us know you will be attending.

GREAT GUYS GROUP MEETING

Saturday, November 17, 8:30am, Parish Hall
CMC men have resumed meeting for breakfast and conversation with the Great Guys Group on the 3rd Saturday of each month. New men of all ages are welcome to come for the informal comradery of other men over breakfast. Group members take turn making or bringing in breakfast fixin’s. Conversations will be topic-focused or just general talk (no politics). The group wraps up at 10:30. No registration is needed -- just come to the Parish Hall, pour a cup of coffee and enjoy some male time together.

FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, November 9, 5:30-7:00pm, Channing House
The first of a Channing Church Family Ministry monthly family night will be held on November 9 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in Channing House. The evening is being hosted by Sondra Gold and Rev. Zelazny. The event will begin with a spaghetti dinner, provided by the Family Ministry Team, followed by a facilitated discussion for the adults and a supervised child-appropriate movie for the children. This month’s discussion topic will be “How to Talk to Your Children About Bullying.” The program is designed for parents and grandparents. A free-will donation is requested to cover the cost of the food. Families planning to attend are asked to let the church office (office@channingchurch.org/401-846-0643) know by Wednesday, November 7

NOVEMBER CHIMERS
November 4: Linda Beall
Nov. 11: Janna Pederson
November 18: Jim Freess
November 25: TDB
ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERWEAVE MEETING & POTLUCK
Sunday, November 11, 5:30pm, Parish Hall
The nights are longer and it's getting colder. Warm up with a cozy evening with Interweave! Join us for a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, followed by the movie, Man in an Orange Shirt (BBC, TV14, 60min). We’ll watch the first part of this touching film. All are welcome. Free. Bring a dish to share and see you there! Interweave is Channing’s group for LGBTQ people and allies. For more information contact Rex LeBeau at interweave@channingmemorial.com

VEGAN POTLUCK
Saturday, November 10, 6:00pm, Parish Hall
All are invited to a Thanksgiving themed Vegan Potluck sponsored by the Green Committee and Seaside Rabbits.
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. Free & Open to the Public. Please contact Derri Owen (islandseasiderabbits@gmail.com) with any questions.

PFLAG SUPPORT MEETINGS
PFLAG (Parents, Families, Friends, Allies & Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Gender-Non-Conforming Community) of Greater Providence will begin offering satellite support meetings at Channing. The first meeting will take place Thursday, Nov. 15, 7 - 8 pm in the Parish Hall. Folks can begin to arrive at 6:45 for Q & A, to pick up resources or just to introduce themselves and get oriented. We’ll try to leave a few min. after meetings for any additional Q & A or follow-up. For details you can contact Doreen LePage at led1pflagnewport@gmail.com or call our Hotline at 401.307.1802. Meetings are set up in a peer-to-peer discussion format and completely confidential. Light refreshments served.

COMMUNITY MEAL
Monday, November 19, 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.

RI’S YOUNG VOICES VIDEOS ASK: ISN’T IT TIME FOR COMMON-SENSE GUN LAWS?
Please watch these four youth videos on promoting gun safety legislation!
https://www.ricagv.org/featured/young-voices-videos-ask-isnt-it-time-for-common-sense-gun-laws/

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