Notice to Members of Channing Memorial Church
The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 6:00pm
In the Parish Hall

Dessert Potluck -- 6:00-6:30 pm
Annual Meeting begins at 6:30 pm

AGENDA
- Welcome & call to order, verify quorum
- Reading and approval of minutes
  - Wheel of Life
- Vote on the motion to direct the current and future Board of Trustees to begin forthwith work on Vision 2025: Campus Development Plan for Channing Memorial Church
- Reports from Minister, Officers & Committee Chairs
- Presentation & approval of the FY 2019-20 budget
- Election of Officers & Members of the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs & Committee Members as required in By-Laws
- Recognitions & Appreciation
- Presentation of the Unsung UU Award

Childcare will be provided

Committee Chairs are reminded to submit their Annual Report to the church office (office@channingchurch.org) no later than Monday, May 13th!

Worship Services
Sunday, May 5
Lessons of Ramadan for Non-Muslims (and Muslims too)
Rev. William Zelazny

Observance by Muslims of the holy month of Ramadan will begin this evening. Ramadan is so central to Islam that it is considered one of the “five pillars” of the faith. While non-Muslims tend to only see this religious observance as a requirement for strict fasting, as with all great religions this Islamic ritual has lessons for all people. Bill invites us to learn about Ramadan this Sunday.

Sunday, May 12
Open to Changing
Rev. William Zelazny

When a person decides to take on the task of mothering they must be willing to be curious and change. Many parents have told Bill that they really had no idea how much their life would change. “It wasn’t curiosity itself that killed the proverbial cat. What really got him in trouble was his inability to deal with the new situation. And when it comes to learning about new environments, curiosity is key,” says Kate Berardo, strategic development coach. On this Mother’s Day Bill will look at curiosity and change, not only for mothers (and fathers) but everyone.

Continued
the service. At the end of the service everyone will be invited to take a different flower as a symbol of our sharing of the beauty of this congregation.

**Sunday, May 19**
**Choir Sunday**
May 19 is CHOIR SUNDAY!! This is Channing Choir’s annual service of beautiful music and inspirational thoughts. Always a favorite service, be sure to attend!

**Memorial Day**

**Sunday, May 26**
**Reflections on Memorial Day**
*Members of Channing Church*
Each year the country honors its military veterans on this weekend. This Sunday several members of our congregation will share short reflections on how their military service shaped their lives.

**MAY CHIMERS**
May 5: Janna Pederson
May 12: Jim Freess
May 19: Linda Beall
May 26: Cynthia Skelton

**FROM THE MINISTER**

**Happy 200th Anniversary, Baltimore Sermon**

May 5 is the 200th anniversary of William Ellery Channing’s Baltimore sermon, a very significant moment in our faith’s history. With this sermon, the highly respected Channing took the derogatory term “unitarian” (used like the word “heretic” is used today,) which was being thrown at liberal Congregationalist by the conservative Calvinists, and owned it, setting the stage for the development of a new religious movement.

Since the original settlement of America, Protestant religion was basically owned by the Puritan/Calvinists – hell-fire and damnation Trinitarian Christians. But, by the close of the 18th century many churches, especially, but not exclusively, in eastern Massachusetts, had become markedly liberal in theology. They rejected the Calvinist doctrines of predestination, original sin, total depravity, and the trinity. They adopted positive doctrines of the nature of humanity and the belief that reason needed to be used to understand scripture. This led to a schism in the Standing Order (Congregational Church), which became known as the Unitarian Controversy.

In a sermon delivered at the ordination of Jared Sparks in 1819 in Baltimore, Maryland, Channing decided to snatch the label of unitarian from those who would degrade it and to claim it proudly as his own. His address, "Unitarian Christianity," stands as a hallmark of Unitarian history. As David Parke writes: “The "Baltimore sermon" gave the those holding Unitarian beliefs a platform and a spokesman. It placed them for the first time on the offensive in relation to the orthodox. It was very probably the most important Unitarian sermon ever preached anywhere.”

The Unitarian Controversy continued for the next quarter century splitting New England's churches along theological lines, and by the 1830s one-quarter of Congregational Churches had become Unitarian. There were other voices in the movement, but Channing’s Baltimore Sermon can be seen as the key turning point in the development of Unitarianism.

To learn more about this significant event in our faith’s history check out:

- [http://uudb.org/articles/unitariancontroversy.html](http://uudb.org/articles/unitariancontroversy.html)
- [http://transcendentalism-legacy.tamu.edu/authors/wechanning/channingunitarian.html](http://transcendentalism-legacy.tamu.edu/authors/wechanning/channingunitarian.html)
- [http://people.wku.edu/jan.garrett/channsht.htm](http://people.wku.edu/jan.garrett/channsht.htm) (an abridged version of the sermon)

~Rev. William Zelazny
SHAW STAINED-GLASS WINDOW
RESTORATION
Submitted by Mary Alice Smith
Photos: Peter Silvia Photography

The Shaw window, the last major stained glass window in our Sanctuary in dire need of repair, is on its way to Iowa for restoration by Bovard Stained Glass Studios. Bovard craftsmen will disassemble, clean and reassemble the window with new lead came. Bovard will also design and install a new protective covering when they reinstall the window in late summer/early fall.

Age, weather and moisture took a toll on the Shaw window over the last 139 years. The window was buckling, and significant bowing had occurred due to the softness of the lead and the heaviness of the glass. It has been in grave danger of shattering in high winds or hurricanes. Because of its eastern exposure and old leaded glass protective covering, it was particularly vulnerable during Nor’easterers.

Prince Charitable Trusts and The Champlin Foundation provided grant support for the $90,000 cost of restoring the Shaw window. Donations from members provided the balance.

Given as a memorial to Ann Checkley Shaw, it features the theme “Faith, Hope and Charity” and represents a traditional English painted style of stained glass. Its white glass and soft colors light up the sanctuary on sunny days.

Channing’s Sanctuary features late 19th century stained-glass masterpieces in all styles representative of the era from Gothic Revival to American Opalescent. Scholars and students often visit Channing to view its windows.

“The church contains the most important selection of late nineteenth-century pictorial stained-glass windows in Newport,” states Dr. James L. Yarnall, architectural historian, in Newport Through Its Architecture.

Our windows were designed and constructed by the leading stained-glass artists of the time. The church contains the first pictorial stained-glass windows by the great opalescent glass innovator John La Farge. Another important opalescent piece is “The Sower” by Donald MacDonald, an early collaborator of La Farge. Other notable works by Samuel West and Stephen P. Belcher were done in the style of the English Aesthetic Movement.

The large Shaw window, fabricated by the Belcher Glass Company, “...represents more traditional English painted styles of stained glass,” according to Dr. Yarnall. Its white glass and soft colors will once again light up the sanctuary on sunny days after its return.

The national significance of the art and architecture of Channing Church was affirmed in 2009 by the award of a Save America’s Treasures grant of $440,000 for the restoration of its steeple and rare nine-bell chime. The church received a Doris Duke Historic Preservation Award in 2010 for this same project. The Duke citation noted Channing for its “well-thought out planning process, which included the foresight to fully understand and document the process, plan for a reasonable timeframe, the ability to garner major funding and the selection of appropriate expert contractors.”
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY

The Channing Chalice Children Classes (CCCC)
The children, Ellen and I have been continuing on our 7 UU Principles journey. We have covered 6 of the 7 principles. We had a very spirited discussion about EVERYONE having the right to be heard. On April 14th, we participated in a mini-Seder, thanks to Irene Glasser, who came to class with stories, food, and games from this Passover Event. On Easter Sunday we had an Easter Egg Hunt!!! Each child went home with a pretty pail filled with goodies.

MAY PROGRAMMING
The CCCC focus will be on the 7th Principle, CARE FOR THE EARTH EACH DAY

Sunday, May 5
Ellen Harcum’s Last Day. The CCCC will say goodbye to Ellen with a Cupcake Icing Party. The children will start the service with their families in the Sanctuary. After the Message for All Ages, which will be the CCCC presentation of the 7 Principles, they will recess to the Parish Hall to bid adieu to Ellen.

Sunday, May 12
Children begin the service in the Sanctuary with their families. After the Message for All Ages they recess to the Parish Hall for a CCC program about Caring for the Earth.

Sunday, May 19
Children begin the service in the Sanctuary with their families. After the Message for All Ages they recess to the Parish Hall for a CCC program about Caring for the Earth.

Sunday, May 26
No CCC Class, childcare will be available.

Child Care with Ms. Amy and Ms. Morgan is available in the Parish Hall every Sunday during the worship service (9:45am - 11:30am) for children 4 years of age and under.

FLOWER CEREMONY
On May 12, Mother’s Day, we will hold our annual Flower Ceremony. This ceremony, called a Flower Communion by its creator Rev. Norbert Capek, a Unitarian minister in Czechoslovakia, was first observed in 1923. This symbolic ritual illustrates that though each person is different from another, like flowers, all people are beautiful. It was introduced in the USA in 1940 by Norbert’s wife, at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Everyone is invited to bring a flower and each person will be invited to take pick a different flower at the end of the service to take home with them.

MARCH FOR PROTEIN
The Margit Baum Committee would like to thank everyone who brought canned and packaged items for our protein food drive for the Florence Grey Center in Newport. Thanks to your help we collected over 200 items to give to the Center’s food pantry.

While we were there to unload the items, we got a glimpse of the food pantry. It had cases of vegetables and beans, but very little else. Our protein ideas (which were creative and included a good variety) will definitely enhance what they can now offer to families.

We appreciate your help in this project.

COMMUNITY MEAL
Monday, May 20, in the Parish Hall
Channing serves a Community Meal for those less fortunate the third Monday of the month. Many thanks to Joan Dermody for making delicious Quiche and Green Salad for our guests last month! If you would like to help please contact Joy Benson (communitymeal@channingchurch.org) .
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Many thanks to Margaret Baker and Tom Beall, who served as Caregiving coordinators in April. I believe they were both first-time volunteers in this capacity, and we especially appreciate it when new people offer their help!

Our community is grieving the loss of another of its members, Mary Lou Moore, who died on March 30 after a long illness. A lovely celebration of her life was held here at Channing on April 7, with many memories shared about Mary Lou’s artistic talents and her love of travel, books, and especially her family and friends. Our deepest condolences go out to Norm and the rest of the Moore family.

We were also so sorry to hear that former Channing members Herschel and Denise Poe’s son, Brad, passed away in March. We extend our sympathies to the Poes and to Brad’s wife Fatima. If you’d like to send a note, the Poes’ address is 145 Hambly Road, Tiverton, RI 02878.

Beth Milham recently had minor surgery and is doing well. We wish you a speedy recovery, Beth!

Congratulations to Catie Gaspard, who will be attending a workshop/internship called “Island Design Assembly” on Hurricane Island, Maine this summer. This workshop will provide credits towards obtaining her architectural license after she graduates from RPI.

The coordinators for May are Pam Goff from May 1-15 and Abby Adams from May 16-31. Please contact either of these individuals with any caregiving needs among our congregation members or friends.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

MOTHER’S DAY FIDDLING CONCERT
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2:00PM, SANCTUARY

The Newport String Quartet will be joined by special guests Rachel Panitch (fiddle) and Mike Sokolovsky (guitar) in putting on a special Mother’s Day concert. Celebrate mom with an afternoon of folk and fiddle inspired music, with all proceeds going towards the music education and youth mentoring programs of Newport String Project. In addition, Newport String Project has paired with La Forge Casino Restaurant on Bellevue; one pre-purchased ticket for the concert grants 10% off a Mother’s Day meal at La Forge! Get Tickets at: www.mothersdaywithnewp ortstring.eventbrite.com

$10 in advance through Eventbrite/ $15 at door

SHARE THE PLATE

Channing will share donations made during May Sunday services with the Veterans’ Program of Sail to Prevail

Newport's Sail to Prevail, founded in 1992, was the first sailing program for individuals with disabilities in the United States. Its mission is to help individuals improve their lives through therapeutic sailing on its uniquely adapted fleet of 20-foot sailboats docked at piers of Fort Adams.

Each summer, disabled veterans from all branches of the Armed Services are invited to participate in sailing weekends. Veterans with any type of disability, including paraplegics, quadriplegics and amputees, are encouraged to sail.

Channing’s May Share the Plate donation will provide additional funding for an open registration weekend in June which is free to participating veterans. Sail to Prevail, in collaboration with Paralyzed Veterans of America, supplies the boats, the staff, and the needed equipment. Sail to Prevail raises additional monies for food and other needed supports for the disabled vets’ sailing experience. It has indicated our contribution will be greatly appreciated and immediately used.

The vets will steer the boats, grind the winches, trim the sails, Continued
and enjoy the ride. In the past, measurable outcomes demonstrate that the sailing experience increases the veterans’ self-confidence, leadership and team building skills, and provides much needed camaraderie. For additional information see https://sailtoprevail.org/newport/veterans-programs/

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 plan to attend the next SAC meeting on Sunday, May 5, when future recipients will be chosen. Please be generous, as you always are.

~Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McEntee, for the Social Action Committee

GREEN CORNER
April 16, 2019 - News Release

Isn't it fun to drive around and notice, and maybe thin about, those plastic bags blowing in the wind? Maybe even take note of the fact they are breaking into smaller pieces? We have also seen pictures of massive floating plastic islands in our oceans. We have heard that there are “microplastics” in our waters being consumed by sea birds and the fish we eat.

Well, as a gift after Tax Day, we were told that the winds are carrying those microplastics around over our heads. Yes, they have actually collected microplastic particles on the top of the pristine Pyrenees Mountain chain. These particles are falling there at the same rate as they are falling in our major cities. So as of today, microplastic particles are a “new pollutant” identified in the air we are breathing.

Now we can enjoy ourselves as we are swimming, drinking, eating and breathing microplastics. Oh well maybe now we should take a stand in the State of Rhode Island’s legislative discussion of “single use plastic”?

~Russ Milham, Green Congregation Committee

ECO-BITS & TIPS

Year Beginning, Not Year End

Channing’s summer break is upon us. Earth Day is in a couple days, and even though I haven’t caught my first trout of the fishing season yet, I’m getting there with a few lure and strategy tips from my 22-year old nephew. Phillip and I taught our fish at least 15 years ago. So, it is in the spirit of giving to and learning from the next generation, that this Year Beginning column …is written.

Much ground was covered in Ecobits since last September. Sustainability, the general theme for the last nine months, includes everything from an individual scale up to a societal and worldwide scale. Individuals make “personal choices.” And, families include a blend of individual choices, and so on. With scale goes increasing complexity on a decision-making continuum. Today’s youth are the key to turning poor choices around.

Most young people I know cannot understand our lack of global response to widespread poverty, the climate change catastrophe that’s upon us, why war and aggression, albeit on a smaller scale (for now anyway) remains so influential. Further, why immigration has become a critical issue between “developed” and “developing” countries. I certainly have no answers, but let’s start with theories, or perhaps opinions.

The Baby Boom Generation, covering the roughly 16 years post World War II, started or lived through many revolutionary changes here and around the English-speaking world and beyond: civil rights; environmental awareness; nuclear disarmament; and the spread of democracy. These changes, our generation experienced first-hand, started and supported all of this work. And while there have been noticeable successes, I believe “we” are in danger of losing much of this progress. But why, it made so much sense in the 60’s and 70’s.

At the risk of oversimplification, I owe this backsliding to fear and complacency. How so you say? Fear is the easiest to explain. It’s how the “right” has challenged “hope”, the cornerstone of us baby boomers. For instance, fear of difference (e.g. immigrants, LGBTQ Rights, etc.) fear of change, even for the greater good. Complacency is also a
contributor to going backwards, to the need to “make America great again” as if we need to reverse time. We baby boomers, and those who had children, or who started their work lives during this time, I believe, didn’t finish the important work started in the 1960’s.

It is critical for this new generation to remain hopeful and to embrace change and difference. These are obvious UU principals that our members support. For the summer recess, let’s renew our efforts and recommit to this. Young members are critical to carrying this out.

~Craig Gaspard, Green Congregation Committee

MAY COLLECTION FOR THE RI VETERANS HOME

During the month of May, the Social Action Committee with collect items needed by vets housed in the Veterans Home Community Living Center in Bristol. The Center provides quality nursing and residential care to vets including social, medical, nursing and rehabilitative services. Some vets arrive at the Center from hospitals or were previously homeless and do not have personal items.

The Vets need:
- Toiletries
- DVD’s
- Board Games and Puzzles (new or gently used)
- Puzzle Books – like Crosswords, Word Search Books, Brain Workouts, or Mazes
- Bedsheets and towels (new)
- White t-shirts – any size (new)
- Sweat pants – any size (new)

There will be a basket for the collection in the Parish Hall during May. Look for the American Flags! Sunday Fellowship will be a great time to drop off your donations.

The Center also needs additional volunteers to work with the vets. If you are interested, call Alysa Boyle at the main Center Number 401-253-8000 – then ask for Alysa in Activities. Thanks!

~Submitted by Sheila McEntee, for SAC

MONTHLY MEETINGS

PFLAG Support Meetings
Monday, May 13, 6:45pm, Parish Hall
PFLAG holds monthly support meetings the second Monday of every month from 6:45 - 8pm.

Senior Ministry
Brown Bag Lunch
Tuesday, May 14, 12:00pm, Parish Hall
Join with other members and friends of CMC for a congenial and stimulating lunch time conversation on a topic of interest to senior adults. Bring your lunch, coffee will be provided.

Great Guys Group
Saturday, May 18, 8:30am, Parish Hall
The Great Guys Group is here for – to provide companionship and support for the men of Channing Church. It’s done over breakfast and conversation on the third Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall from 8:30–10:00am, join us!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Greetings to all from your Stewardship Conductor. I again want to thank all passengers who have purchased their tickets on the Channing Express, which is bound for destinations familiar and unknown. We have a total of 82 members and friends who so far have spent $138,850, which puts us at about 77% of our goal of $180,000. According to our roster, there are still about 39 passengers who bought tickets last year who have not responded so far this year. Some of the engineers will be calling on you if we have not heard from you, so please let them know your intentions. Please be mindful that without your support cuts may need to be made to the existing schedules, as we will not be able to adequately staff the various outbound trains.

So please remember why you love Channing Station and what it takes to keep our bustling tracks open to all destinations old and new. And … the Conductor and Crew of the Channing Express welcome any ideas from passengers, old and new, for how we might raise further funds in support of our station. So …All aboard!!

With gratitude for your generosity, Conductor Ginny

stewardship@channingchurch.org
 ANNOUNCEMENTS

$4.5 M UUA LEGACY CHALLENGE MET

The $4.5 million challenge to raise new legacy gifts for UUA congregations and organizations has been met! The Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge inspired more than $92 million in new legacy gift intentions across the UU world.

The Rev. Laura R. Randall, Legacy Campaign Director, informed Rev. Bill that legacy gifts made by our members qualify Channing to receive $15,100 in matching funds in 2020. The UU Congregation at Shelter Rock is providing the matching funds.

A legacy gift is one we plan now through our will, trust, beneficiary designations or estate that will be received in the future. By remembering Channing in our wills or estate plans, we can have a significant impact on our spiritual community long past our lifetimes.

The Channing Board has created The Heritage Society to recognize and thank the generous people who have made a legacy gift. Those who inform Channing of their intentions will be invited to become members of The Heritage Society. Our names will be listed in the Annual Report, unless we wish to remain anonymous.

We also want to recognize those who’ve already given through a bequest or other legacy gift in the past. We’ve identified the following: Mrs. Roger Braman, Loie Kessler, Annette S. Peterson, Bob Barry, Jacqueline McCue and Arthur Barrows. Please help us identify these people so they can be recognized as Emeritus Members of The Heritage Society.

Almost everyone has the ability to create a legacy gift. If you would like more information, please ask Rev. Bill or Endowment Committee members Terry Gavan, Chris Yalanis and Mary Alice Smith. We are happy to discuss how you can help Channing in this way.

---Mary Alice Smith
Endowment Committee Chair

VISION 2025 PRESENTATION
Sunday, May 5, 11:30,
Parish Hall

All are invited to join us to hear more about “Vision 2025,” an exciting restoration and development plan for our sanctuary building. Find out what needs to be done, what our church will gain, and how we'll pay for it. Ask your questions and get some answers. Here is the link to the report: Vision 2025: Campus Development Plan for Channing Memorial Church

If you have time, please read it, and if you don’t, check out the FAQs at the end. We'll begin right after fellowship, so come, hang onto your coffee mug and take a seat. We look forward to seeing you there!

~Tom and Eleanor, Co-Presidents, Channing Memorial Church

CHOIR SUNDAY is May 19 and Channing’s Sanctuary will be filled with beautiful music!

If you are new to Channing, On Choir Sunday, the Choir provides the entire program for the service. It is a service filled with beautiful music and inspiring readings. “My favorite service of the year.” “I always feel so uplifted.” “So much joy!” These are just a few of the comments the Choir hears each year after this special Sunday service.

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 have allowed the Choir to send Janet to some music conferences, have vocal workshops for the choir, purchase additional music and much more. Many thanks for your continued support! Be sure to attend the service!!
FROM THE LEARNING CENTER AT CHANNING

TLC Presents: The Stone Walls of Newport’s Southern End
A Field Trip with Prof. Robert Thorson

Saturday, May 11, 2:00 PM (We’ll meet at Brenton Point Parking Lot to carpool to several locations) Please register in advance with TLC at Fellowship

Enrollment limited to 20; $10 suggested donation

Please wear walking shoes, and bring binoculars. Other useful items to have along include a walking stick, tick spray, and water.

THE CONCLUDING EVENT IN THE RACISM SERIES, CO-SPONSORED BY THE CHANNING SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE AND THE LEARNING CENTER

The community conversation continues:

Racial Justice Training
Wednesday, May 15, 1:30 – 4 PM, Channing Parish Hall

Conducted by Aimee Davidson, Racial Justice Facilitator, from YWCA RI

Your suggested donation of $10 will help to cover program costs. We ask that you preregister with the Channing Office (846-0643) by May 8.

We'll begin with the film, "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible." Aimee will then facilitate a group discussion, in which we’ll work to understand issues of bias, privilege, and micro-aggression. We will conclude by discussing ways in which we might leverage our own privilege to advance the cause of justice and equity. Please join us, and invite a friend!
**MEET CHANNING’S NEWEST MEMBERS!**

**Don Peebles**

I was born in NY but raised later in the Chicago area. When in my teens and approaching draft age, at the time of the war in Vietnam, I inadvertently discovered the UU church in Evanston IL. The progressive, logical and non dogmatic approach to faith and community resonated with me. At other times I ventured into other places of faith but none felt as real as the Unitarian community for me. A visiting friend remarked that she attended a UU church in Nantucket and pointed out Channing. Being new to the area I decided to venture in to meet members of the community and learn about involvement in Newport. Thank you all for being so welcoming.

My professional life and journey consisted of initially studying music at Berklee in Boston. I gave a try to the life of music in NY (fortunately had the sense to see it would not be an ideal vocation) which led me to a silicon valley technology company (Digidesign/Avid) focused on the digital transformation of audio production. It was a very fortunate experience that provided me with insights into the world of business and finance that have served me well to this day. I then moved into Feature Film Post production and was working on A Beautiful Mind when 9/11 tragically occurred which stopped Film work on a dime for several years. As it turned out at that moment I was recruited by an old “Frenemy” (a competitive colleague from another software company) to join another technology company working in Field Engineering (let’s just call it the Fruit company ;)) focused on Film and Video technology. I was also recently divorced and living on a farm in the Western Catskills of NY so the flexibility worked well.

Eventually I had an epiphany around not wanting “stuff” which led me to downsizing and sailing. It turned out there was a long history on my mothers side in Norway of life with the sea, if you have trouble sleeping I am glad to share it….;-) Sailing brought me to Newport and IYRS. I currently reside here and work as a Marine Electrician at Newport Shipyard and have investment properties that I am working on as well. I like to laugh (at myself most of the time), learn, and experience new places and ideas. Travel and agility are important variables for me. I am flawed and fall short much of the time, but I feel that trying is important for growth, to go where it is uncomfortable and unknown. Not all surprises are pleasant, but those that are, make the journey worthwhile.

**Fran and Steve Booth**

Steve and Fran have been married 42 years and raised 3 children in Andover, MA. Steve retired from a career in high tech sales management. Steve’s mother, Henrietta Alt, grew-up on Prospect Hill Street and attended Channing Memorial. His parents were married at Channing. Steve’s sister, Sue, is an active Channing member. Steve’s interests include golf, pickleball, real estate, travel, and dining. He enjoys gatherings with friends and family and being a grandfather. They moved to Newport 4 years ago and are building a new community.

Fran is a clinical social worker, mom of 3, and grandma of two one-year old cousins. She works in Andover, MA where she sees clients 3 days a week. For fun she travels nationally and internationally training mental health professionals. Newport is home base. Her spiritual journey has been influenced by Catholicism, Buddhism, Shamanism, humanism, and feels at home with UU beliefs. She left behind original sin and embraces the divine within each of us. She loves to sing, dance, laugh, cycle, sail, run, wine, dine, read, travel, and attend theater. With her husband, Steve, she looks forward to meeting new friends at Channing.
Submitted by Al Benson, UULMRI Steering Committee Chair

This signature UULMRI event was held at the Westminster UU Church in East Greenwich on April 7th, 2018. Thirty-seven 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). Eleven of the annual meeting attendees were members of Channing Church. During the past few months the steering committees choose six issues to be voted on at this annual meeting; they were:

- Woman’s Reproductive Rights: Presenter- R.I. Representative Justine Caldwell
- Reforming Redistricting: Presenter- R.I. Senator Bridget Valverde
- Gun Violence Crisis: Presenter- Linda Finn, RIAGV Executive Director
- Protecting the Environment: Presenter- R.I. Representative Lauren Carson
- Sanctuary Church/Immigration*: Presenter-Katherine Ahlquist, First Unitarian Church
- Advanced Nuclear Power*: Presenter-Robert Kieronski, Channing Church

*non-voting issues

The keynote speaker was Doctor Michael Fine. He said the United States spends more than three trillion dollars per year on health care, “three to four times as much as countries with the best public health in the world.” Our public health rank is no better than forty-third in the world. Why? One reason is the fact that in the U.S. two-thirds of the doctors are specialists and only one third are primary care physicians. In other countries it is just the opposite. Another reason is that we simply don’t have a health care system in the U.S., we have a health care market. No one entity is responsible for health care in the U.S. Instead we have the CDC, FDA, Medicare, Medicaid and the list goes on and on. In the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services there are “four agencies concerned with medical services and disease control: and each has a different purpose.” Dr. Fine says we need a health care system where the first line of care is provided by a community primary care center for every 10,000 people. Every ten primary care centers would be supported by a multi-clinic with specialist and every ten multi-clinics would in turn be affiliated with a community hospital. Every ten community hospitals would be supported by a regional hospital tied into a network of national specialty hospitals dedicated to research and treatment of specific diseases. A community primary care center has been established in Central Falls, Rhode Island and Dr. Fine was instrumental in making it happen. Read Dr. Fine’s book—Health Care Revolt—for more information on this critical subject.

Members of the steering committee and area experts presented the background and justification for each of the four voting issues. Each attendee was given three votes (stickers) and could use these votes to vote for three separate issues or cast all three votes for one issue or any other combination. The first place issue with 32 votes was the Protecting the Environment issue. The Gun Violence issue was second place with 29 votes, and the Reforming Redistricting issue was third with 26 votes. Redistricting is the process of creating voting districts for state legislators and Rhode Island members of Congress after the U.S. Census is completed every ten years. Rhode Island has a long history of gerrymandering. This occurs when the voting districts are deliberately drawn to favor or disfavor a political candidate. 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 six 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.