Notice to Members of
Channing Memorial Church

A Congregational Meeting will be held to vote on the terms and conditions of the Minister’s re-employment on

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

11:30 am in the Parish Hall

*Fellowship – 11:00 am-11:30 am
Membership Meeting begins at 11:30 am
Childcare will be provided*

**AGENDA**

- Welcome & Call to Order
- Verify Quorum
- Background Information and Board of Trustees Recommendation
- Discussion
- Vote

Background information will be emailed to members prior to the congregational meeting, and an informational meeting will be held in the Parish Hall during Fellowship on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Members who have questions regarding the proposal may email or talk with Chris Laudon, Ginny Spaulding, or Margaret Polski.

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**Worship Services**

**Sunday, January 5:**
*Rev. Bill Zelazny*

**A Question Basket**

Research has shown that by asking questions we improve our emotional intelligence, as well as our intellectual intelligence. So, let’s perhaps improve both and have some fun with an open question basket service where you get to guide what we talk about during the sermon time. Been itching to ask that questions about Unitarian Universalism, the UUA, human existence, Bill’s favorite soup? (Please no political questions). This is the Sunday to ask and Bill will try to answer them and if he does not have the answer, he will try to research an answer. Everyone will be given a card when they come in on which to write their question. They will be collected right after the opening hymn. Bill will answer as many questions as he can within the allotted sermon time.

**Sunday, January 12:**
*Virginia Spaulding, PhD*

**Joy through Generosity**

*Path to Enlightened Stewardship*

“Living is giving. We live life best as we give our strengths, gifts, and competencies … We are called to serve, not survive. Our giving makes a difference in our families, our community, and our faith.” —(from Kennon L. Callahan). Stewardship is more than just giving money. This Sunday we will examine the broader meaning and implications of stewardship for our lives.

Ginny Spaulding is a member of the Channing Board of Trustees and has a private counseling practice in Newport.
Sunday, January 19:
Rev. Bill Zelazny
In the Midst of it:
Southern Unitarians and Universalists in the Civil Rights Era
Unitarians and Universalists in Southern cities were in the midst of the fight against segregation, often engaging in heroic efforts to confront this social evil, sometimes at the risk of attack to their person and their churches. On this Martin Luther King Sunday Bill will recall for us some of the episodes of U and U churches doing what they could to combat segregationist attitudes and practices.

Sunday, January 26:
Rodney Davis
Taking a Stand Does Not Mean Standing Still
What does it mean to take a stand? Why should I? What does it require for me to really do? These questions often run through our minds when we are approached to get involved with some issue or cause. Yet we are seeing more and more people standing on the sidelines and not engaged in the fight. Long-time community leader and activist, Rodney Davis will address this issue with the sermon: His talk will address some of the challenges that we face and how we can be courageous in these critical times.

Newport native, Rodney Davis, has worked with the educational reform organization, Big Picture Learning, the group that created the Met School and a network of 200 schools around the globe. In 2019, he was selected as a Diversity Leadership Scholar with College Unbound and is pursuing a degree in Organizational Leadership and Change. He served as president of Rhode Island Pride for 20 years and president of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. He continues to be actively involved in community advocacy and education. He lives in Coventry RI with his partner Brian Mills.

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS
We are still looking for a new chairperson for the Family Ministry Program. Kathy Takata and Rex LeBeau would like to offer the OWL program (Our Whole Lives) to our younger children, if parents are interested. Please talk to Rex at Fellowship or contact them at interweave@channingchurch.org for more information.

The Autumn/Thanksgiving season rolled right into the wintery holiday season quicker than usual. The Annual Cookie Contest took place on December 22nd, after the January newsletter was printed. The winners will be announced in the weekly order of service on January 5th. The proceeds from selling the cookies went to purchasing Christmas presents for teenagers in need. Special thanks go to Sally Hanchett for keeping this tradition going!

COMING IN JANUARY
(December 29 and )
January 5 Family Service: The children will stay in the service with their families.
Children 5 YEARS OLD AND UNDER ONLY are welcome to stay in the Child Care Room with Ms Amy and Ms Morgan.

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For the older children, the Children’s QUIET Corner in the back of the church will be available for your child (accompanied by the parent), or your child may bring materials from the corner back to your pew.

For the rest of the Chalice Children’s classes in January, we will be tackling the 3rd and 4th UU principles:

**WE ARE FREE TO LEARN TOGETHER AND SEARCH FOR WHAT IS TRUE!**

We will be looking at different religions and cultures and families to examine why it is okay to have different beliefs and traditions, and that it is important to acknowledge the differences and embrace the similarities. We are NEVER too young to respect, and not fear, customs and ideas that are foreign to our way of thinking.

~JoAnne Ritchie, Family Life Coordinator

FamilyMinistry@channingchurch.org

Thank you so much to Betty Maloof and Tom Beall, who served as Caregiving coordinators in December.

We are so sorry to hear of losses of loved ones experienced by our members during the holiday season. Katherine Carbone’s mother, Evelyn Spiratos, died in early December, and we send our condolences to Katherine, Christopher, and the rest of Katherine’s family.

Our sympathies also go to Cynthia Skelton and David Cooper on the death of Cynthia’s mother in November, and to Bob Janiesch and Sue VanDerhoof after Bob’s mother, Nancy Janiesch, passed away on December 14 after a long illness.

Welcome to our new Caregiving co-leaders, Sally Hanchett and JoAnn Rosemont! The Caregiving coordinators for January are Margaret Baker from Jan. 1-19, and Ruth Jernigan from Jan. 19-31. Please contact them with any caregiving needs within our congregation.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

Happy New Year to all! Our Caregiving community wishes you and your families a healthy and safe new year. Please remember that no matter what time of year, our caregivers are ready to support you in whatever ways we can, and we hope you won’t hesitate to call upon us for help if needed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, JEFF THOMAS AND CHRISTINE STEVENSON!

Jeff Thomas and Christine Stevenson signed the membership book during the New Member Ceremony on December 15th. Here are a few words about Jeff:

**Jeff lives in Tiverton with his wife, Kristin. His daughter, Olivia, attends Salve Regina University. Jeff grew-up on Aquidneck Island and also in Florida.**

**His hobby is videography where he enjoys creating content from fun to thoughtful. You can view his videos on the Facebook pages, “Model People Productions” and “The Discussion Group”**.

**Jeff says he is happy to be a member at Channing Church and appreciates the warmth & welcome from everyone.**
ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY CHIMERS
Jan. 5: Cynthia Skelton
Jan. 12: Janna Pederson
Jan. 19: Christine Ariel
Jan. 26: Linda Beall

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE DRIVE
January will be Guest at Your Table month at Channing Church. Guest at Your Table is the UU Service Committee’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about human rights issues. Channing Church has been participating in this program for many years. Pick up a GAYT envelope or box and information brochure in the rear of the Sanctuary any Sunday in January and return it during the offertory with your donation (preferably a check made out to UUSC” with “GAYT” on the memo line.)

OPEN-MIC AT CHANNING COFFEE HOUSE
Saturday, January 11, 7:00pm, Parish Hall
Join us for an open-mic coffeehouse that includes both special guests and long-time favorites. Coffee and tea are served, and you’re invited to bring a dessert to share or a donation ($5 or more suggested) to support the church. Musicians interested in performing, contact John Burnham at coffeehouse@channingchurch.org in advance. The following month’s coffeehouse will feature originals (or mostly originals) and take place on February 22nd.

MONTHLY PFLAG MEETINGS
Monday, January 13, 6:45pm, Parish Hall
PFLAG holds monthly support meetings the second Monday of every month from 6:45 - 8pm. For more information contact Doreen LePage at: led1pflagnewport@gmail.com

GREAT GUYS GROUP (GGG)
Saturday, January 18, 8:30-10am, Parish Hall
The Channing GGG is an informal church association for men and holds its monthly breakfast gathering the third Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall. It is open to men of all ages, Channing members/friends as well as men from the larger community. Its purpose is to provide camaraderie, conversation, learning, spiritual exploration. Group participants take turns making or bringing breakfast. Coffee/tea is provided.

WINTER STORM CLOSINGS
In the case of bad weather Sunday Worship Service may be cancelled. Cancellations are announced via TV Channels 10 & 12, radio stations WJAR, WHJJ, WPRI, WWBB, and WSNE, and on ribroadcasters.com. The church phone message will also contain information if the worship service is cancelled: 401-846-0643. If the service is not canceled, congregation members should make the decision to travel and find parking that is best for them and their mobility and health condition. We cannot guarantee that all walkways on the church property will be free of ice/snow.

ROUND ROBIN DINNERS
Sondra Gold will begin sign-ups during fellowship in January for the Round Robin potluck dinners. We hope you will join in. Potluck dinners will take place in people’s homes at 6:00 pm on 3 Saturdays: February 1 and 29, and April 4.

LIVE AND WORK ON AN ISLAND THIS SUMMER
Star Island, a seasonal religious and educational conference center with historic UU roots, off the New Hampshire coast will be hiring approximately 100 people youth and adults (18 or older) to work from mid-June to mid-September. Working on Star offers a unique employment opportunity in a beautiful location. Join a team of interesting, talented individuals. For information: www.starisland.org
SOCIAL ACTION

ECO-BITS & TIPS
The Environment in the 21st Century

This series of articles, beginning in September, was my attempt to identify where America’s concern for the environment, beginning in the early 19th Century, formed, beginning with a group of science explorers. Because human impact on our planet is so significant and so potentially damaging, a small group of men and women identified the impacts: animal extinctions; habitat changes and pollution that killed not only wildlife, but humans too.

Following is a brief overview of commonly cited human impacts: the Love Canal’s EPA Superfund site near Buffalo, NY, created by Hooker Chemical; the 1,343 (including five in Rhode Island such as The Central Landfill in Johnston) other sites nationwide, (and 48 additional sites currently being studied for inclusion to the program); mercury and lead poisoning on a global scale that resulted in over 10,000 Mercury poisoning victims including over 1000 deaths around Minamata Bay in Japan (1950’s and 60’s); lead poisoning, especially detrimental to children, from use in paint, gasoline and other products, leading to neurological damage up to and including death of an estimated 500,000 humans yearly, worldwide; extinction of over 150 bird species and 80 mammals since 1500 A.D., a generally agreed upon approximation when human impact moved from regional to a more global impact; acid rain, turning lakes and rivers across much of the eastern US into biological deserts killing everything from invertebrates to trout; and, immeasurable impact of habitat loss, in some cases irreparable, of tropical and temperate forests, that reduces oxygen production and carbon uptake. Space issues determine that I stop here.

You’ll notice that this short list identified problems that produced legislation, on a national (and international) level, attention and then funding (albeit less than adequate levels some argue). Identification of a problem is the first step at solving a problem. This is true for states and countries, in much the same way it works for people. In this 21st century, global problems require global commitments and solutions. But it’s not as if humans haven’t cooperated before on solving a global pollution problem.

Deterioration of earth’s ozone layer was identified in the early 1980’s as a serious problem that began to cause an increase in melanomas and eye cataracts for instance. It’s cause was largely traced to the use of unstable chlorine-based chemicals like freon gas in refrigerants and solvents. The “ozone hole” was expanding yearly and putting humans at risk as the ozone protects us from the sun’s ultraviolet radiation. The United Nations, though the Montreal Protocol’s implementation in 1989, produced enforceable commitments that has reduced the ozone hole. If the reduction rate continues, it’s estimated the hole will be reduced to pre-1980 levels by about 2075.

The obvious next environmental problem is global climate change. While identified as a risk to humanity since the 1970’s, it has become politicized by an increasingly smaller partisan lobby that now includes our current president, even though all scientific bodies and over 97% of scientists have identities this as a real global threat. I will conclude this topic in our next installment.

~Craig Gaspard, (solely responsible for the content of this article), for the Green Congregation Committee

INTERWEAVE MEETING & POTLUCK
Sunday, January 19, 5:30pm, Parish Hall

A new year.... hold on to your pants! Start something new, like checking out Interweave. Or reconnect with the familiar, like a solid UU potluck. You can do both at Interweave’s next potluck dinner and meeting in the Parish Hall. Bring a dish to share and see you there! Interweave is Channing’s group for LGBTQ people and allies.

*For more information about Interweave, contact Rex LeBeau at interweave@channingchurch.org
WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISGENDER SOMEONE

Have you ever misgendered someone or been witness to it happening? It's an awkward situation for sure. Maybe you just want to look the other way and pretend it never happened, but don’t do that. apologize. It’s normal to feel embarrassed for yourself and the other person. The truth is there are things we can do and strategies we can learn and it's really not that hard at all. Educating yourself is the key.

Here are a few simple strategies that can be easily learned:
- Never assume anyone’s gender.
- When meeting a new person simply ask which pronouns they prefer.
- Correct someone who misgenders another person.
- Get in the habit of using they/them pronouns for everyone and practice using unfamiliar
  pronouns at home.

It's all about trying your best and being respectful of everyone.

Check out this article from Out magazine to learn more:

~Mary Benson

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

The fourth Sunday of the month is “Share the Plate Sunday”. All of the cash offerings and checks marked “STP” will be donated to the chosen recipient of the month.

This month, the start of a new year, Channing’s Social Action Committee focuses on our own Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for Share the Plate in January. UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaborations worldwide.

Guest at Your Table

Probably the best known UUSC program is Guest at Your Table! This year, donations are helping advance women-led human rights initiatives from strengthening women’s farming cooperatives in Nicaragua to helping girls and women attend leadership trainings in Burma and supporting legal aid for mothers with young children seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. Guest at Your Table gifts of $125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar.

Making Our Voice Heard to Our Elected Officials

UUSC members asked Congress to renew protections for foreign nationals unable to safely return home due to violence, war, and natural disasters. The delegation requested assurance that Congress will use their authority to support immigration, denying funds for uses that are dangerous and counter to human rights, while ensuring that refugee-related accounts are fully funded. UUSC has launched an action that allows people to sign and send a message to Congress in support of these values. Go to the link: https://www.uusc.org for more information.

Answering the Call for Solidarity in Honduras

In 2018, UUSC members joined delegations to Honduras to shine a spotlight on the human rights struggle and amplify the voices of those being silenced.

“We were repeatedly told, throughout our time in Honduras, that the only reason beatings, arrests, and even live ammunition had not been used against the demonstrations we witnessed was because of our presence and the assurance that international attention would prove too costly to the government” (Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Feb. 2018)

Opposing the Legislative Push to Silence Climate Activism

In October of this year, Ana Maria De La Rosa, a UUSC member, wrote: “It is a critical time to defend our First Amendment rights and religious freedoms by halting the momentum of those who seek to criminalize our activism. Since November 2016, 16 states have passed legislation that turn peaceful protests and nonviolent direct actions into criminal offenses, with similar bills pending in many other states.”

UU activists face potentially dire consequences for their justice work and financial stability if such legislation becomes law. As these laws gain acceptance and proliferate across the country, it is ever more urgent that we respond to this wake-up call to act.

The UU General Assembly will be held in Providence this June and we hope you are planning to attend! If you are not able, please consider putting a little extra in the collection plate on the fourth Sunday, January 26 for the UUSC.

~Nan Heroux, Chair

Social Action Committee
“QUEER HISTORY of RHODE ISLAND”
Co-Sponsored by Interweave

Featuring speakers Brian Kovacs, Kate Monteiro, Rodney Davis, and Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Howard

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 PM
In the Parish Hall
Refreshments will be served.
Open to the public; donations welcome

This panel presentation on the history of Rhode Island’s LGBTQ community is a part of Channing Memorial Church’s renewal of our dedication to being a Welcoming Congregation. Come and support our renewal commitment!

Save the dates!
By now, you’ve probably noticed the dark and stylish movie posters in our Parish Hall...presenting:

“SATURDAY NIGHTS AT THE MOVIES: FILM NOIR”
with Sam Jernigan, film aficionado

Saturdays Feb. 8 and 15, each at 7:00 PM,
In the Parish Hall
popcorn will be served. BYOB.
Further details can be seen in emails and OOS