The Catalyst
Channing Memorial Church Monthly Newsletter

Channing Memorial Church
Phone: 401-846-0643/ Email: office@channingchurch.org
135 Pelham Street, Newport, Rhode Island
March 2020
Sunday Service is held at 10:00am in the Sanctuary
Childcare available in the Parish Hall

Pledge Drive Kickoff Dinner!

Pledge Month and begins March 7th with the Pledge kickoff dinner for all Church members and friends.
This year’s theme is filling Channing’s treasure chest to support our “Treasured church ship” and her programs.

So mates ... Let us all gather together for a fun night of Pirating antics. Just bring yourselves and your treasure ...
Dinner and Beverages, Music and Talent will be provided!!

Date: March 7, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: Channing Parish Hall

An invitation will be sent through Evite from Virginia “Ginny” Spaulding’s email, Please R.S.V.P. when it arrives.

Till then ... fair winds and following seas mates!

Worship Services
Sunday, March 1:
Rev. Bill Zelazny
Revisiting Feminist Theology

In the later part of the 20th century a new theological perspective began to emerge in Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, and New Thought, that reconsidered the traditions, practices, scriptures, and theologies from a feminist perspective. In the second sermon in his series on(types of theology, to honor women's history month Bill will revisit feminist theology, and look at its development over the past fifty years.

Sunday, March 8:
John Prevedini
Modern Grace

What does “grace” mean in modern life? How do we achieve it? And what place does it have in a world thirsting for justice?
John Dante Prevedini is a Unitarian Universalist contemporary classical composer, educator, and public speaker. Drawing upon a variety of fields of knowledge, including linguistics, the fine arts, the physical sciences, religion, and philosophy, Dr. Prevedini’s overall work aims to examine unconventional facets of everyday life through a multidisciplinary lens.

A Celebration at Channing!!

Rev. Bill’s installation as our settled minister will be on Sunday, June 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Channing Church.
More information to come in the next few weeks!
Sunday, March 15:
Rev. Bill Zelazny
Wisdom: Knowing what to control and what to let go
A wise person once said, “Don’t worry about things you can’t control because you can’t change them, and don’t worry about things you can control because you can change them.” This idea expresses an aspect of ancient Stoicism. This Sunday Bill will have us look at the wisdom of the ancient stoics and see how it might have a place in our rush-about, demand to be “concerned about everything” modern world.

Sunday, March 22:
Jeff Thomas
Finding Zen
Zen is simply everyday life lived with awareness. It is a practical and spiritual method of living that can bring simplicity, balance of nature, and clarity into our daily lives. This Sunday, Jeff will share what he has learned about Zen philosophy & practices. Additionally, Jeff will talk about how Zen can provide guidance in working through strong emotions, such as fear or anger, to reach a sense of tranquility.

Jeff Thomas is a new member of Channing Memorial Church. He was attracted to the principles of Unitarian Universalism and the compassionate and caring spirit that the U.U. community fosters. Jeff grew up between Aquidneck Island and Florida. He studied Communications at St. Petersburg College. One of his favorite hobbies is moderating and producing an internet-based talk show where panelists engage in thoughtful discussion on a variety of topics such as music, climate change, and Zen.

Sunday, March 29:
Captain Thomas R. Beall, U.S. Navy (Retired)
What are your core values? Do you live by them?
In a time when even our political leaders seem to lack honesty and a moral compass, our individual core values may be the only thing we have to ground ourselves and live morally upright lives. We will explore this idea during this service.

Captain Beall commanded U.S. Navy sailors at Guantanamo, an experience that taught him a lot about the fundamental importance of core values.

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS
We are still looking for a Family Ministry Committee Chair…

MYSTERY FRIENDS REVEALED!
After two weeks of special gifts and messages, the children were introduced to their Adult Mystery Friends. Thanks to all who participated!!!

This year’s PAJAMA DRIVE is NOT a Pajama Drive! The Newport Family & Child Opportunity Zone at Newport Public Schools is asking for stretchy sweat pants (mostly for boys), backpacks, and underwear. And, as always, gift cards are always welcome for the staff to use for specific and/or emergency needs. We are extending the drop off time to the IDES of March. Please drop your donations in the clearly marked collection boxes, either in the Sanctuary or in the Parish Hall.

CHANNING CHALICE CHILDREN
The Chalice Children were very busy in February. We continued to work on our books about the 7 UU Principles. We made more pudding pies for the Community Meal. And we participated as pirates during the stewardship drive (pictured above). For the month of March, we will be looking more deeply into UU Principle# 6—WORK FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD.

MARCH CALENDAR
This month, there will be Chalice Children Class EVERY Sunday. The children will begin in the sanctuary and recess to the Parish Hall after the Message for All Ages. Child Care will be available during all the services.

~JoAnne Ritchie, Family Life Coordinator (and occasional pirate)
Email: FamilyMinistry@channingchurch.org


**CAREGIVING UPDATE**

Many thanks to February Caregiving coordinators, Nancy Caswell and Lindsay Cassidy, for helping keep track of care needs in our congregation during the past month.

Quite a number of our members have been hospitalized for various periods in the past couple of months, but we are happy to say that all are home and doing well, among them June Wing, Diane Bonds, Bill Peresta, Cynthia Skelton, Ruth Jernigan, and Bill Campion. At the time of this writing, Janet Cook has just had shoulder surgery, and we wish her well as she recovers and undergoes therapy.

We received the following note from Fatima and George Devine that they asked me to pass along to the Channing community: “We would like to thank the Channing Caregiving Committee for the cards, phone calls, support, and offers of assistance during George’s recent hospitalization. The expressions of concern we received meant a great deal to us during this difficult time. A special thanks to Nancy Caswell for her phone calls and emotional support.”

Our Office Administrator, Michele Dubuc, also wanted to include this message: “I want to say thank you to the Channing congregation. I am so grateful for the support, cards, and donations to Seamen’s Church Institute after Michael’s sudden passing. Being surrounded by such a caring community has been a comfort and a blessing to me during this extremely difficult time.”

Sally Hanchett asked me to remind everyone that there is a new box located at the back of the sanctuary where you may leave a written note for Caregiving if you have a concern or request for help that you prefer not to share during the Joys & Concerns portion of the Sunday service. Someone will check the box regularly and will respond to any issues as needed.

**The Caregiving coordinators for March are**

Sally Hanchett from March 1-15, and JoAnn Rosemont from March 16-31. Please contact them with any caregiving needs within our congregation.

We just got word that Tom Howard has undergone surgery for a fractured femur. At the time of this writing, he is still at Newport Hospital, but by the time you read this will probably be into his rehab stage. He welcomes phone calls and notes and we wish him all the best in his therapy and recovery!

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

**BLACK HISTORY ASSEMBLY**

The 49th Annual Rev Robert L Williams National Black History Month Assembly was held at Rogers High School on Friday February 14th. The assembly is sponsored by Channing Memorial Church and Community Baptist Church.

Monique A Allen was awarded the Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Award and Scholarship for her outstanding achievements at Rogers High School and her ability to set goals and fulfill them. She came to the USA from Jamaica when she was in 6th grade, having to learn English after starting school here.

Monique is a cadet lieutenant colonel in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp and the battalion commander at the high school. She has been accepted at the University of Rhode Island and Georgia State University and is waiting to hear about admission from other universities. She plans to study pre-med.

Rev Zelazny presented Monique with her award and scholarship.

Rev Lauri Smalls, Community Baptist Church, presented the George Downing award to State Representative Marvin L Abney for his extraordinary careers and his service to the community.

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of this assembly which Channing Church members initiated in 1972. Special recognition of this event is being planning by committee members which include Rev Bill Zelazny, Judith Porter and Sally Hanchett.

~Judith Porter

**MARCH CHIMERS**

March 1: Jim Freess  
March 8: Linda Beall  
March 15: Christine Ariel  
March 22: Janna Pederson  
March 29: Cynthia Skelton

~Judith Porter
Human Caused Climate Change: The Time to Act is Now

So is a pledge to “Plant a Trillion Trees” by our president and other world leaders going to get us there? Would converting all personal transportation vehicles from internal combustion engines (only) to hybrids or even rechargeable electric vehicles be a major contributor? How about completely halting all oil sands development in Alberta, and, the use of that product anywhere in the world economy? If your answer is ‘no’ to each idea individually, you’re correct. Actually, even to all of those ideas, and more, it would also be ‘no’. But add these to the following, and perhaps we can start to halt the addition of the most impactful global warming gases, carbon dioxide and methane, to our atmosphere.

Here are things we can do as individuals:
Buy “green electricity” through your current provider to increase available sources of alternative fuels to consumers, or, invest in PV for your own home, to reduce your carbon footprint;
Participate in National Grid’s energy efficiency programs to reduce electricity consumption and compare yourself to your neighbor’s energy usage (where we always fall in the top 5% of efficiency);
Consider outside and indoor line clothes drying, of which electric and gas-powered dryers contribute roughly 3.3% of all residential carbon emissions in the US, not only because of energy savings, but also to extend the life of your clothing;
Ride bicycles and use public transportation like RIPTA to Providence/Newport, Peter Pan Bus to Boston and Amtrak from Providence, Warwick and Kingston and everywhere there is a station; subways in Boston and New York City are generally convenient and always less expensive than cars; air travel is always more carbon intensive than land-based travel by several times.
Consider buying “carbon offsets” to “pay down” carbon contributions to air travel;
Share cars, use a ride hailing service such as Uber, or buy a hybrid or electric car “used”, where the investment in creating the car was already made;
Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in underutilized parts or your yard to store carbon.

Here are what municipalities can do:
Encourage them to invest in alternative electricity generation, like at Portsmouth High School, and the most efficient heating and cooling systems feasible when replacing or upgrading;
Advocate when new municipal vehicles need to be replaced, at the end of their life, that hybrid or electric vehicles be leased or purchased when practical;
Promote tree planting on all municipal property considering landscaping factors, current and future land use, and sticking with native and disease resistant stock.
And finally, what can state and federal governments do to slow down and stop climate warming gases from accumulating in our atmosphere:
Identify and back candidates for state house, senate and statewide office who acknowledge human-caused climate change, and against those that deny climate change;
Support policies and plans that reduce or sequester carbon in a number of ways: carbon taxes with partial rebates; subsidies or programs that lead to improving battery storage capacity in transportation and building sectors; technology to improve direct carbon sequestration to high efficiency; ongoing rebates/subsidies (even small), direct or through financing, to support efficiency, and all alternative energy generators including nuclear, small hydropower as well and wind and photovoltaic.

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

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILLS INTRODUCED AT STATEHOUSE

The Rhode Island legislative session is well underway and this year the Governor and Attorney General have introduced a package of gun safety bills, which will address continuing violence in our state. The package includes:

Straw Purchasers: makes it a crime to purchase a firearm on behalf of another person who the purchasers knows or suspects would be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a gun (bill numbers TBD).

Safe Schools: prevents people with concealed carry permits from carrying weapons on school grounds. This legislation includes exceptions for active and retired law enforcement (bill numbers TBD).

Safe Storage: requires that all firearms be stored locked and unloaded unless under the control of the firearm owner or another authorized user (bill numbers TBD).

Rifles and Shotguns on Public Roads: prohibits loaded rifles and shotguns from being carried on public rights of way in Rhode Island, either within or outside a vehicle. This legislation includes exceptions for law enforcement and hunters engaged in lawful hunting activity (bill numbers TBD).

Four other bills have been introduced and one has already gotten a floor vote in both the Senate and House.

3D/Ghost Gun Ban, H7102/S2004: Both passed with amendments and a reconciled bill was proposed in the Senate on February 21. The hearing for the substitute bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee was February 25. If the substitute bill is approved in committee it will go to the Senate floor for a full vote. If this bill matches the bill passed by the House and it is passed in the Senate, the legislation will go to the Governor’s desk to be signed into law. Stay tuned for updates!

Assault Weapons Ban, H7263/S2131: Bans all semi-automatic rifles, shotguns and pistols that can hold a detachable magazine or more than a certain number of rounds without a magazine; and contains at least one of the other features associated with assault weapons specified in the law. Both bills have been referred to the Judiciary Committees for a hearing yet to be scheduled. Check the Legislative website status.rilin.state.ri.us for information on the status of the bills.

High-Capacity Magazine Ban, H7264/S2130: Limits all firearms magazines to 10 rounds. People in possession of magazines holding more than 10 rounds would have 180 days to sell, modify or dispose of them. The bill contains limited exceptions for law enforcement and active duty military. Both bills have been referred to Judiciary Committees for hearings (check status.rilin.state.ri.us for updates).

Background Check Loophole Closure, H7103/S2154/S2261: Provides that applications to purchase firearms be sent by the seller to the police department in the city or town where the purchaser lives. This would ensure local police have input ensuring anyone with knowledge of reasons to prohibit the sale is able to give that information. S2154 was scheduled for a hearing on 2/25/20. H7103 was passed with amendment (Sub A) in the House on 2/6/20. S2261 has not been heard in Committee (status.rilin.state.ri.us).

All these bills and many more addressing the issues which the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Rhode Island (UULMRI) is following will be discussed at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 5, 2020 at Westminster Unitarian Church 119 Kenyon Avenue in East Greenwich at 2 PM. There will be speakers on each issue, a keynote speaker and all members will have a chance to vote on the priorities for UUs to support during this legislative session. Please plan to attend.

For more information and/or ride sharing, please contact Nan Heroux.

~Nan Heroux, Chair
Social Action Committee
socialaction@channingchurch.org
SHARE THE PLATE

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.

The recipient of the March collection for Share the Plate is Baby Steps, one of the components of East Bay Community Action Program.

Baby Steps is a program for parents/caregivers of children from birth to 3 years of age. It is designed to help parents/caregivers gain a better understanding of child development as well as acquire the skills to raise happy, healthy children. Modeled after the “Baby College® of Harlem,” Baby Steps was established in 2009 through a consortium of educational and social service agencies in Newport. It includes educational sessions on child behavior and positive parenting; communication and language development; developmentally appropriate learning and cognitive development.

The goal of Baby Steps is to ensure that each child, by the age of 3, develops a full and vibrant vocabulary along with social skills that will effectively prepare him/her for pre-K or kindergarten. Another goal of the program is to ensure that parents/caregivers receive the education and support they need during the pivotal first three years of their children’s lives.

Who We Serve: Baby Steps serves families with children from birth to 3 years of age, as well as expectant parents. Families throughout Newport County are welcome to join our program. Older siblings, 3 to 10 years of age, are also welcomed.

Key Features: Baby Steps helps parents/caregivers understand how their children learn, communicate, and develop. Monthly sessions include:

- Child development instruction that helps parents develop skills to be successful first teachers to their children and to understand how their children learn
- Reading and music sessions
- Fun arts and crafts activities for the whole family to enjoy
- Free books and diapers
- Social services and health care referrals
- Transportation to and from each session

For information on enrollment/registration, contact Baby Steps Coordinator, Mishana Boyark, at 401-533-1160 or mboyark@ebcap.org.

Don’t forget the fourth Sunday is our Share the Plate collection. Please be as generous as you can on March 22 to support this worthy Newport County program.

~Nan Heroux, Chair
Social Action Committee

BORN THIS WAY PROM

Friday, April 24, 6:00pm, 1st Beach Rotunda

Greetings, friends, just thought it would be fun to remember that we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the PROM last April 2019 as we are now planning for our eleventh year of the “BORN THIS WAY PROM”. Looking back to 2009 we approached the Middletown Fraternal Order of Police to use their hall for this event. I expect that it is fair to say we were not sure what to expect. My personal feeling was that it was a blast, but I did not expect the reactions I felt from individuals who never expected to attend a Prom, and to them this was their Prom. After a few more years at the FOP we became too big and with a lot of help we moved to the Easton’s Beach Rotunda. At the Rotunda we are attracting people from all over southern New England. We should say thank you to the few who do heavy planning and organizing, and then the rest of us arrive and help. There are also businesses that donate food and supplies and individuals who help with funding. April 24, 2020 is the date for this year’s PROM. If you have never been, you should come by just to see what I cannot explain to you. Also, there is always a need for help.

~Russ Milham
GREEN CORNER

Spring Cleaning?
Indie Cycle, LLC, a woman-owned family business that recycles, reuses or refurbishes electronics responsibly was at the “Growers Market” on Saturday, Feb 8th, where I dropped off an old monitor and some lithium batteries. Indie Cycle will be back to the First Beach Rotunda Farmers’ Market on Saturday, March 7 from 9AM to 12:30PM. They also will be at other sites around the State. Check their website for when and where and what they take at Indiecycle.blogspot.com
~Russ Milham

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS????
About Unitarian Universalism or Channing Church?
After the service on March 15th come to Fellowship and join Rev. Zelazny and representatives from the Membership Committee for 100 Questions. Everyone is welcome.

COMMUNITY MEAL
Monday, March 16, 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 Joy Benson at communitymeal@channingchurch.org

SENIOR BROWN BAG LUNCH
Tuesday, March 10, 12:00pm, Parish Hall
The Senior Adult Brown Bag lunch will be the third in the series of Aging and Spirituality discussions lead by Rev. Zelazny. The Brown Bag lunch is open to senior adults in the greater Newport community, so Channing members are invited to bring friends and neighbors. We meet the second Tuesday of the month. Bring your lunch and join the discussion. Coffee, and tea, water provided.

CHANNING COFFEE HOUSE
Saturday, March 14, 7:00pm, Parish Hall
Join us for our third of three in a series of open-mic coffeehouses with 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 the facilitator, John Burnham, at coffeehouse@channingchurch.org in advance.

GREAT GUYS GROUP (GGG)
Saturday, March 21, 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.

VEGAN POTLUCK
Saturday, March 21, 6:00pm, Parish Hall
All are invited to a Vegan Potluck in the Parish Hall. Participants should bring a vegan dish for 4 to share, as well as plates and flatware to eat with. Please no paper or plastic. For more information contact Derri Owen at islandseiderabbits@gmail.com Sponsored by the Social Action Comm.

Unleash Your Inner Barista!
Do you love coffee? Come enjoy the smell of freshly brewed coffee while setting up for Sunday Fellowship! Fellowship requires two people to make the coffee, put out snacks, and clean up afterwards. There is an easy to follow set up sheet on the side of the refrigerator to make it super easy. This is a fun way to help out and get involved. There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall. No cappuccino or espresso experience necessary!

Join us on March 18th at 7pm in Parish Hall. Wine and cheese will be served; a $5.00 donation is suggested to help defray costs.

Coming up in April!

“SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD” with Channing member Craig Gaspard, who will show the Patagonia documentary, “Artifishal”, about the environmentally damaging salmon farming industry. Craig is working on bringing in some special guests, so the best date is still to be decided. Participants will leave with a better sense of choices that they can make which will contribute to a more sustainable situation in Narragansett Bay. Refreshments will be served.
2019 Holiday Appeal raises over $5000!

Every year at holiday time our congregation has a special appeal to support a project. The 2019 project was some much-needed improvements to the classroom/meeting room wing of the Parish Hall. This small renovation project included removing old carpet and refinishing the floors, repainting the walls, installing new ceiling insulation and tiles and improving air circulation. A roof repair to prevent leaks will be done soon. Many thanks to all that contributed to this vital project!

- Michael and Joanne Armenia
- Richard and Mary Lou Baker
- Charles Beckers
- Susan Booth
- Peter and Anita Butler
- Christopher and Katherine Carbone
- Nancy Caswell
- John Brereton
- Kevin Jernigan
- Frank Barbosa
- Lisa Colburn and Drew Carey
- Joan Dermody
- Maryellen Doherty
- Eleanor Doumato
- David and Lissa Fernandez
- Jim Freess and Sondra Gold
- Janet Grant
- Sally Hanchett
- William Hawkins
- Julie Herrick
- Milly Jessen
- George and Nickie Kates
- Chris Laudon
- Candy Martin
- Marilyn Murphy
- Bill and Nancy Peresta
- Tim Phelps
- Margaret Polski
- Marian Royer
- Bill and Elizabeth Saunders
- Heather Shely
- Thomas Willett and Barbara Russell-Willett
- June Wing
- Rev. William Zelazny
- Ron and Nan Heroux
- Gerald and Doreen LePage
- Bob and Susan Kieronski
- Tom Howard