

# The Catalyst

**Channing** MEMORIAL CHURCH

135 PELHAM STREET  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

MAY 2016

## - 2016 Annual Meeting Notice -

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 6:00pm, Parish Hall

Dessert Potluck: 6:00-6:30pm,

Annual Meeting starts at 6:30pm

**Notice is hereby given to the members of Channing Memorial Church that the Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 25, in the Parish Hall.**

*The meeting will also be a Dessert Potluck, so bring something delicious to share!*

### AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes
2. Reports from Minister, Officers & Committee Chairs
3. Election of:  
Officers & Members of the Board of Trustees  
Committee Chairs & Committee Members as required in By-Laws
4. Presentation & approval of the  
FY 2016-17 budget
5. Recognitions & Appreciation
6. Presentation of the Unsung UU Award

**Childcare will be provided.**

## Our guest preachers in May

**Cantor Richard Wolberg** was Cantor and Spiritual Leader Temple Beth El, Fall River, for 36 years, retiring in 2012.

He is Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Cantors Assembly, an International Organization.

He is a graduate of University of Hartford. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He served on the Institutional Review Board of Miriam Hospital, Providence, for 13 years and trained

in Medical Ethics.

He served as Chair of the Clinical Trials Review Committee of SSTAR (Stanley Street Treatment and Rehabilitation Center) of Fall River for four years.

Presently he is Chaplain of the Fall River Police Department (Third Chaplain in the United States to have graduated a Police Academy). He is Police Chaplain of the Massachusetts Coalition of Police comprised of numerous Police Departments all over the State.

## MAY SERVICES

MAY 1

### YOU'RE IN THE PEPSI GENERATION

(PEPSI: an acronym for: P.eople E.xpect S.atisfaction I.nstantly!) Cantor Wolberg comes to us with his sermon's challenge of life's experience of immediacy in today's world. A world of instant gratification and buzz.

Cantor Richard Wolberg, preaching  
Joan Dermody, assisting

MAY 7

### DON'T FORGET THE SOIL

We will join together in honoring those who have cared for us throughout our lives and will examine our role as caregiver, teacher, mentor, and friend to the young ones in our community. Come to contemplate and celebrate!

Rev Kathleen Green, preaching  
Eleanor Doumato, assisting

MAY 15

### CHOIR SUNDAY

Channing Choir's annual service of beautiful music and inspirational thoughts. The Channing Choir provides the entire program for the service. This year the Choir celebrates the Seven Principles. 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.

MAY 22

### GATHER

We gather in richer company that is immediately apparent. What kind of gathering is this? Who is here, and what? What difference does it make?

Rev Dr F. Jay Deacon, preaching  
Lark d'Helen, assisting

MAY 29

### MEMORIAL DAY

A meditation that sets this day in the biggest of contexts, from the first proclamation of Memorial Day in 1858 to the French Resistance to gigantic leather-winged birds flying across strange skies that no human eye ever saw — consider the splendor and heroism of lives, and of life, that went before us.

Rev Dr F. Jay Deacon, preaching  
Maryellen Doherty, assisting

SUNDAY SERVICES  
ARE HELD AT 10 A.M.  
IN THE SANCTUARY.  
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN  
OUR SERVICES!

## FROM THE MINISTER

As you are probably by now aware, continuing disagreements between me and the Board have not been resolved. So it's become impossible for me to continue here. Under an agreement signed last May, I'm resigning effective June 30.

My final service will be June 12. I wish that I could have reached everybody with the evolutionary spirituality I preach and teach. I wish that my pastoral presence were welcomed by the everyone. That's not the case. The last couple of years haven't been easy for anybody. If I've disappointed you, I am sorry.

If my ministry has been meaningful and sustaining for you, I am honored. It's a rare privilege to have shared the life-struggles, hopes and fears,

triumphs and turns of so many of you for these four years. There are some spectacular people in this congregation, doing vital work. I've loved the classes, the worship experiences, the outreach efforts bearing witness to high values in our community. I hope our paths will cross again (it looks like I will be lurking in western Massachusetts).

In my view, what Channing Memorial Church needs more than anything now is for its members to speak deeply and candidly about their hopes and dreams, and to listen deeply to each other until a common vision emerges. I don't mean a few ideas about this project or that. I mean a compelling vision of why you are here and what is supremely important to you.



## Worship Committee Notes

A request was made of congregation members in last month's Catalyst to provide feedback about this year's worship services. We would like to hear your views about both the overall sharing of the pulpit by Jay, guest ministers, speakers, and congregation members; as well as your comments about any specific services or worship leaders. For the latter, refer to the worship calendar at the back of the April Catalyst to help jog your memory. Your responses will be helpful in guiding the planning of next year's worship services. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you liked or didn't like about any individual services, and of the overall program. (e-mail to [worship@channingchurch.org](mailto:worship@channingchurch.org))

—DAVID PEDRICK



Channing's 2016 Seder also raised funds for the restoration of Temple Shalom, heavily damaged by a February burst pipe.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have had a rich and varied group of Sunday services in April, with Rev. Andrea Greenwood preaching about the Open Book, Rev. Deacon's sermon on a spiritual outlook on life, Matt Weinstein's talk about Passover, and a wonderful Earth Day service with Loren Spears sharing her reverence for the Earth. Kudos to the Worship Committee and our choir for another month of enlightening services that touch the mind and heart.

Many of us attended the meeting of the congregation with our Ministerial Consultant on April 9th. The results of that survey have been distributed to the membership and show a clear path for our work in the next few weeks and months as we make our future vision real. In the list of agree/disagree statements many had high levels of agreement but the one that received a 100% vote in "Agreement" was "You believe attention will need to be paid to financial stability, new energy and new ideas." Kudos to unanimous agreement in a UU congregation!

By the time this Catalyst is printed Interweave will have held the 7th Annual "Born This Way" Prom, and stewardship our Count Me In Fundraiser Concert. During the month we have had a third Round Robin Dinner, Pancake Breakfast, Interweave Potluck, Passover Seder, Rev. Deacon's Wednesday classes on Jesus, Film Noir nights, and our regular calendar of RE, OWL, Small Group Ministry, WWW groups, caregiving, social action

projects, and committee meetings. Kudos to all the volunteers who work to make our church a center for both our members and our wider community.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th, and I ask all of you to come and hear reports of all the work church committees have accomplished this year. We have a budget to pass and decisions about our future to explore. The Board is researching options to bring to the membership in the next few weeks so expect to hear from us regularly. We will be working with you through the spring and summer as we discuss and decide our next steps, with new energy and new ideas.

~Christine Laudon,  
President, Board of Trustees



## UUA WORKSHOP

**Sat., May 7, 10:00am-3:00pm,  
Westminster Unitarian  
Church, East Greenwich, RI**

A UUA workshop titled "Churches at the Turning Point: Choosing Your Future Faithfully" will be held on **May 7 in East Greenwich**. We have a team of Board members going from Channing and any congregation members can **come as part of the team by calling (617-948-6415) to register - the cost will be at the \$25 reduced rate by mentioning you are on the Channing team**. The presenters are Karen Bellavance-Grace and Kim Sweeney.

**From the email about this workshop:** All congregations are on a path to the future. But only some paths are illuminated by the light of intentionality. Leaders can be reluctant to face disheartening facts about declining enrollments and declining endowments. But facing facts, exploring options and setting a course can be liberating, energizing, and as it turns out, your best chance for having a faithful future. Do you or others in your congregation:

- *Worry the end of your congregation might be approaching?*
- *Wish for the right minister, the right strategy or the right budget to secure your future?*
- *Express frustration that no one seems to have the answers you need?*

**Come Join the Congregations Choosing Faithful Futures. We invite you to come explore:**

- *What you need to know about your congregation to "face the facts" faithfully*
- *What creative options are available for moving into the future*
- *Strategies to inspire congregation-wide dialogue and faithful choices*
- *Partnerships to help your congregation assess all possibilities*

**Bring your own bag lunch. Morning refreshments, drinks and snacks will be provided.**



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

By all accounts, the Youth Group Breakfast Fundraiser in April was a success. The group raised money for programming, the food was delicious, and the company during fellowship was wonderful. Thank you to all who attended, contributed, cooked, served, and cleaned. Thank you also to Barbara Richter for donating flowers to the Social Action and Green Congregation Committee's raffle to support Channing Youth Scholarships to the UU College of Social Justice's Climate Justice program in Boston this summer.

As our Religious Education year comes to a close alongside the traditional school year, we are thrilled to have welcomed several new families into the program. Please take a minute during fellowship to welcome new faces, both adults and children, into our larger Channing family.

Channing's religious education committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00. All are welcome to attend.



As we plan programming for the 2016-2017 church-year, we are **in immediate need of both male and female Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitators** for 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Comprehensive training for facilitators will be funded by Channing and the class runs for approximately 7 weeks. OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education program that provides accurate information to understand the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants explore values, communication and decision making, as well as physical health and development. Please speak with Jessica Thomas or any member of the RE Committee if your child will be in 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2016-2017 school-year and are interested in attending OWL.

To offer your support, please see Jessica Thomas after a service or contact her at [dre@channingchurch.org](mailto:dre@channingchurch.org).

~Kathy Takata  
RE Committee

### May RE Calendar:

**Sunday, May 1st:** RE Classes

**Sunday, May 8th:**

Mother's Day Service,  
Children & Youth hand out  
Flowers. No RE Classes,  
Outdoor Play instead

**Sunday, May 15th:**

Choir Sunday

- *OWL & Youth Group meet at 6:00pm*

**Sunday, May 22nd:** RE Classes

**Sunday, May 29th:** RE Classes

- *Youth Group meets at 6:00pm*

### MAY CHILDCARE



Channing provides Childcare for infants and children through age 4, during our Sunday morning services. Two childcare providers will be caring for your little ones in the Parish Hall during the service. We are looking forward to meeting you and your children. The assistants to our paid provider, Kristin, will be:

**May 1st:** Betsy Dees

**May 8th:** Rex Lebeau

**May 15th:** Marilyn Murphy

**May 22nd:** Lissa Fernandez

**May 29th:** Kathy Takata

# SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY



## CAREGIVING UPDATE

Many thanks to Julie Herrick and Ruth Jernigan, who served as Caregiving coordinators during April!

We bid a very fond farewell to Diane Jackson, who has moved back to Florida to enjoy spending more time with her family and friends there. Her phone number is still the same as that in the church directory; her new address is 4070 Timber Trail Court, Melbourne, FL 32904. We'll all miss her sunny smile and her energy and commitment to the Channing community!

Rachel Balaban has been doing some fun and fulfilling traveling recently. She spent time with her daughter Olivia in England, and also attended the International Conference on Arts and the Health Humanities at the Cleveland Clinic along with her Brown University ASAP students.

For those of us who share our lives with pets, we know how they become integral parts of our families and how we grieve their passing. We send condolences to Judie Porter, whose 13-year-old cat Brambles recently died. Russ and Beth Milham also lost their beloved cat Henry to illness.

The Caregiving program is seeking 8 people to share coordinator duties during upcoming months. We are in need of two volunteers each month for June, July, August, and September.

Please call either Nickie Kates or Barbara Russell-Willett to volunteer for a two-week slot. Even though the weather gets warm and many Channing members will be vacationing elsewhere and not attending church regularly, Channing Caregiving is still on alert for congregant needs, so give us a call! Summer is usually a fairly quiet time for Caregiving, and Barbara and Nickie will be available to offer support and assistance as needed.

Nickie also asked me to announce an **upcoming Caregiving celebration for all volunteers and coordinators** who signed up at Ingathering last year to help out. Even if you were never called upon to serve, you are welcome and we hope you will attend! **Save the date of Saturday, June 18.** Details will follow in the June Catalyst.

**The Caregiving coordinator for the entire month of May is Barbara Nowicki.** If you or another Channing member or friend you know needs some Caregiving support during the month, please contact Barbara.

~Linda Beall,  
for Channing Caregiving



## SHARE THE PLATE

The Share the Plate recipient for May is for Operation Stand Down Rhode Island. This organization with a local office in Newport helps homeless and at risk vets secure stable housing and services

Combining the resources of OSDRI's fifty units of permanent and transitional housing for homeless disabled veterans, the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program and the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), OSDRI implements the "whole veteran" approach focusing on removing barriers to employment.

It's Employment and Training Program provides homeless and at-risk veterans the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, referral to medical and substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided. Feel free to ask Channing vets Mike Armenia or Russ Milham for more information.

~Joanne Armenia,  
Social Action Chair  
*Email: SAC@channingchurch.org*



## MAY CHIMERS

May 1, Cynthia Skelton  
May 8, Linda Beall  
May 15, Janna Pederson  
May 22, Christine Ariel  
May 29, Jim Freess



## GREEN CORNER

### *Recent past and immediate future*

I attended the Hearing for the proposed Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville on March 31. Several hundred people got into the auditorium and at least twice as many had to remain outside. All expressed their opinions noisily, whether at the podium or in the audience, about this huge natural gas project and its pro and con effects on this tiny rural town. After four hours, many people still hadn't been heard, but most townspeople spoke in opposition. Their state representatives have also expressed opposition, but Gov. Raimondo and her administration still strongly support the project.

Any natural gas development would take us 180 degrees from our state, national and international commitments to reducing greenhouse gases. Hydraulically fractured gas is methane, a greenhouse gas whose impact and escape incidence are greatly underestimated.

Additional hearings are scheduled for May 10 at Burrillville Middle School, and May 23 at Burrillville High School. Those not heard in March will get first priority. A rally for opponents will be held on the Burrillville Green on May 7. Watch for more details and carpooling options.

Channing was well represented at The RI UU Legislative Ministry's annual meeting, April 10. Environmental legislation was

one of the three issues chosen for this year.

Beth represented Channing at the RI Interfaith Power & Light annual meeting on April 18, and reported on our impressive list of activities for the past year.

Our raffle for Channing attendees to the UU College of Justice youth environmental conference this summer earned \$--- to supplement our Share the Plate proceeds. Thank you!

The Milhams report their first "0" electric bill since installing their solar panels!

~Beth Milham,  
Chair Green Cong. Committee



## ECO-BITS & TIPS

### *Doing Spring responsibly*

Spring has sprung, and hearts, minds, and bodies are turning to warm weather activities: yard care, gardening, boating, swimming, and celebrating. The drought in California should alert us all to conserve Earth's precious water. Yes, we can! Below, excerpted from National Geographic:

*Nearly 60% of a household's water can go toward lawn and garden maintenance. Consider rain barrels, soaker hoses, permeable patios, rain gardens. The average pool takes 22,000 gallons of water to fill, and evaporation sucks up hundreds of gallons per month. Who needs it?*

*An easy way to cut down is to eat*

*less meat and dairy. Or choose grass-fed, since grain feeding takes lots of water. The average vegan diet (no meat or dairy) indirectly uses nearly 600 gallons of water daily less than the conventional American diet per person.*

*Food transportation has a water cost. Buy local to cut back.*

*A cup of coffee takes 55 gallons of water to make, mostly to grow the beans. At least, buy Fair Trade coffee from Sally at Channing.*

*Laundry uses nearly 22% of indoor home water. Launder full loads less often. Front loading machines use less.*

*Car washing uses about 150 gallons of water, so why not hose it less frequently? (Two buckets of rain water use almost none!)*

*Growing and processing a pound of cotton takes about 100 gallons of water, and the average American uses about 35 pounds of new fabric a year. I buy recycled clothing, and recycle it when I'm done with it. Win, win, win.*

**Happy Spring!**

~June Wing,  
Green Congregation Committee

## GREEN

### CONGREGATION INK RECYCLING PROGRAM



Bring your **empty inkjet and toner cartridges** to Channing, and we'll get them credited to Channing's rewards account, lowering the cost of our office supplies. **Look for the collection box by the Social Action table in the Parish Hall.**

**VISIT TO MT. AUBURN  
CEMETARY**

**Saturday, May 7th**



The Learning Center at Channing is planning a trip to Mt. Auburn Cemetery\* in Cambridge on Saturday, May 7 (rain date May 14). Jo Freedman, who has led tours of this unique place for her church in Waltham, will be our guide. The group will carpool from Newport, leaving around 9 AM. We'll take a lunch break part way through the tour. (We expect to be back in Newport around 4 PM) The cost of the course will be \$5; your lunch and suggested gas contribution will be additional. **The group will be limited to 10 people; your \$5 fee holds your place. Registration is through the Channing Office (846-0643 or [office@channingchurch.org](mailto:office@channingchurch.org) We will keep a waiting list after the initial 10 are signed up.** We hope you can join us!

\*Mt. Auburn, founded in 1831, is the nation's first garden cemetery, and was the first to use the term cemetery, from the Greek for "place of sleep". Mount Auburn was the first large-scale, designed landscape of any kind open to the public in North American. It has 500 trees and tens of thousands of plants and shrubs, many of which will be in bloom at the time of our visit. Mt. Auburn is also a birder's paradise.

Among the famous Unitarians buried there are Hosea Ballou, William Ellery Channing, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Amy Lowell, Dorothea Dix, and Barnabas Bates (the 'father of cheap postage' commemorated in our La Farge stained glass window).

**TRANS 101**

**Sunday, May 15, 7:00pm  
Parish Hall**

How much do you know about being transgender? Maybe you have seen the recent news stories about North Carolina's anti-transgender bill or Cumberland, RI school district's new policy that protects transgender students. Maybe a relative of yours just came out as transgender. Maybe Caitlyn Jenner confuses you. Come learn about gender, gender identity and expression, the transgender umbrella, etiquette, and how to be an ally from some of Channing's own transgender members. In conjunction with Interweave, Channing's group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and allies, and the Learning Center, join us in the **Parish Hall on Sunday, May 15th at 7PM. Tea, decaf coffee, and dessert will be served. Interweave will have a potluck dinner preceding the program at 5:30PM. All are welcome, but feel free to come only for the program at 7PM.**



**SCREENING OF THE  
FILM "CITIZEN KOCH"**

**Tuesday, May 17, 7:00PM  
Parish Hall**

**with discussion to follow, led by  
Eleanor Doumato**

**Dessert and Decaf**

**\$5 Registration, please register  
with the church office: 846-0643  
or [office@channingchurch.org](mailto:office@channingchurch.org)**

With the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling opening the floodgates for unlimited political spending, it's now easier than ever

to buy an election. But what happens when the voters realize that the billionaires and corporations doing the buying do not have the people's best interests at heart? This question is at the core of CITIZEN KOCH, the documentary from the Academy Award®-nominated directors of Trouble the Water, Carl Deal and Tia Lessin.

Thanks to Beth Milham for the loan of the dvd and for her support in developing this program.

**READING  
CONTEMPORARY  
AMERICAN POETRY**

**Thursday, May 26 , 6:30 PM  
Parish Hall**

**With Renee Soto**

**Dessert and Decaf**

**\$5 Registration, please register  
with the church office: 846-0643  
or [office@channingchurch.org](mailto:office@channingchurch.org)**



The warm and dynamic Renee, a well-known friend at CMC, is Associate Professor of Creative Writing

at Roger Williams University. She'll conduct a hands-on crash course in reading contemporary American poetry, her area of special interest and expertise.

Renee notes that "despite a certain level of artifice, there is nothing really 'hidden' or 'gimmicky' or 'secret' or even 'difficult' about reading a poem—everything a reader needs to access and 'get' the poem both narratively and emotionally is in plain sight, if the poet has done her job, that job being to listen to the poem and do most right by it in terms of the tools of our language..."

CHOIR SUNDAY  
IS MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
*Channing's Sanctuary  
Will be filled with  
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!*

If you are new to Channing, on Choir Sunday, the Channing Choir provides the entire program for the service. It is a service filled with beautiful music and inspiring readings. A much-loved service and always well received with many warm compliments, this year the Choir's theme for the service is "The 7 Principles of Unitarianism in music and words".

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. Accumulating the donations for several years allowed the Choir to send Janet to the UU Musician's Network conference last summer and have a vocal workshop for the Choir last fall. Many thanks for your continued support!

Be sure to attend!!

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

135 Pelham Street, Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Phone: 846-0643

Email: [office@channingchurch.org](mailto:office@channingchurch.org)

[www.channingchurch.org](http://www.channingchurch.org)

***Summer Office Hours Start June 1st!!***

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

9:00am-12:00pm

*Closed Mondays and Wednesdays*

