

The Catalyst

Channing Memorial Church Monthly Newsletter

Channing Memorial Church

135 Pelham Street, Newport, Rhode Island

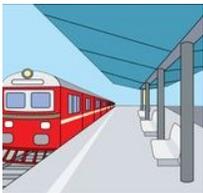
Phone: 401-846-0643/ Email: office@channingchurch.org

March 2019

Sunday Service is held at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.



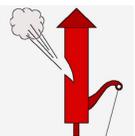
2019 Stewardship Drive



Train "M" is scheduled to leave Channing Station for new places to explore and new lines to be built through the 2019/2020 pledge drive, kicking off on March 17, 2019. Your tickets will be printed and ready for this new journey to support station property



maintenance, and continued improvements to our program and community outreach tracks. And of course, your tickets as always, fund the Station Minister and Staff without whom our Station would not continue to be as awesome as it already is! So look for upcoming announcements through weekly train schedule and email blasts about feeder station parties, March 22, 24, 29, and 31, where you can pick up and fill out your pledge ticket in support of our grand new adventures.



All Aboard Train "M" for Channing Station. Let's have a grrrrrrreat trip!

Your Conductor,
Ginny Spaulding,
Stewardship Committee Chair



March

Worship Services

Sunday, March 3:

A Force with which to be Reckoned: Women of Transcendentalism

Rev. William Zelazny

The Unitarian women of the Transcendentalist Movement were strong individuals, with keen minds and strong political ideas. To mark Women's History Month, Bill will reintroduce us to these women and how they helped launch the 19th century American movement for women's rights.



Sunday, March 10:

Professor Robert Thorson To Build or Not to Build...

... a wall at the U.S. border with Mexico. That is the proverbial question.

This fault line in American politics nudged me find out what the late poet Mary Oliver thought about the subject of walls in general. Reading her poem *Knife* offered critical insights that nudged me back to America's most famous poem about walls, *Mending Wall* by Robert Frost. This service will include resonant readings of the full text of both poems in male and female voices, followed by commentary about what they say about the barriers between souls, whether a individuals or collectives.

Sunday, March 17:
Rev. William Zelazny
Is it Getting Away, a
Setting Out, or a Coming
Home?



When you reflect on your religious or spiritual journey, do you see discovering

U n i t a r i a n Universalism and Channing Memorial Church as an escape from an old religion, a coming home to the right place, or a safe place to setting off on a new journey of exploration. On this Annual Stewardship Sunday kick off Bill with help us think about the role CMC had/has for us in our religious life.

Sunday, March 24:
Lee Hardgrove
The Military Chaplaincy:
Serving the Needs of
Many Faiths

This message will try to cover very briefly: History of Military Chaplaincy, court case challenge to the chaplaincy, requirements to become a chaplain and the most important: the mission of the Chaplaincy to all faiths.

Lee Hardgrove is a retired Lt. Col. of the US Army and a retired United Methodist pastor. He served several churches in the New York area and spent 25 years in the army reserve. He spent three years on active duty at the end of his career including a tour in Afghanistan . He also spent time at Ground Zero in NY City after 9-11. Lee is graduate of American University, Yale University, the Army Command and General Staff College and Rhode Island College.

Sunday, March 31:
Mr. Charles Roberts
Driving While Black

“Driving while Black” means more than just literally being behind the steering wheel of a car. In his sermon, Charles will talk about the experience of an African American male confronting being looked at as “the Other” and how this relates to all of us as a family of human beings.

FROM THE MINISTER



This month we start our annual Stewardship Campaign where we are asked to come aboard to support the ministries and programs of our church. So, let’s take a look at what are our ministries and programs.

Our ministries and programs are rooted in what we have said is our vision and mission -- to use our diverse gifts in shared ministry to be a catalyst for:

- ◇ Spiritual growth and intellectual exchange;
- ◇ Caring and compassion;
- ◇ Peace, justice, and working for positive changes within our community and the world;
- ◇ Stewardship of our historic sacred spaces.

From this springs our ministries and programs:

- ◇ Worship, which provides a place and way for people to use words, music, silence, and rituals to look within themselves and to look outside of themselves to find connection with what can be called the holy.

- ◇ Music which heightens human senses as an alternative to didactic words to explore emotional and spiritual dimensions to living.
- ◇ Faith development and intellectual growth classes, retreats, seminars.
- ◇ Fellowship opportunities for members and friends to connect with each other socially
- ◇ Social justice work to mitigate the negative economic and cultural fallout caused by societal behaviors.

More specifically the things we do at Channing include: Sunday services; choir; children and youth religious classes and social programming; social and support groups for parents, senior adults, women, men, LGBTQ individuals, along with a knitting group and the Circle of Concerns and Joys; provide space for community groups such as AA, Geezer, PFLAG; adult education and personal development classes and seminars; Sunday fellowship and church community events such as the Thanksgiving and Seder dinners; Community meal.

Our facilities are the vessels that hold these religious activities; our staff and committees organize and operate the ministries and program.

To do all of this it is essential to have adequate funds. I am asking you to make a generous pledge of financial support for our next church year.

~Rev. William Zelazny

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is there any unused talent in the house?

Some of you may remember Erma Bombeck, journalist, TV personality in the 1980s, humorist and author ["The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank."] These days, when I read my emails from Channing committees and our weekly what's-going-on announcements, I find one of Bombeck's well-known quotes coming back to me. It goes like this:

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left in me and can say, 'I used up everything You gave me.'"

At Channing, so much is happening that's useful, creative, generous, and spiritually fulfilling, there's no doubt our church is blessed with a pool of talent that's no where near being used up, not even close. So while on my Florida get-away, I'm doing a bit of comparison shopping among UU congregations, looking for new ideas that might sop up some of that excess talent [I'm kidding of course -- volunteer overload seems more the order of the day].

But it's still fun to learn what other churches are up to. Standard fare for UUs seems to be music groups, speakers and discussion series, a bit of social action, exhibits of members' art work, book groups, and lots and lots of social events.

At Channing, we have all that, in spades, and I'm proud to say we have much more. In particular, we excel with small groups, and I

say this recognizing that the distinctions among "committee" and "small group" and "ministry" are not always clear. But whatever you call it-- let's say "affinity groups"-- seem to be a catalyst for an explosion of activity generated by the synergy that arises when like-minded people get together to figure out what matters and what's to be done about it. I'm speaking of groups that not only build community within the church but also integrate the church into the larger Newport community, and I'm not naming names for fear of inadvertent omission.

So have I learned of anything worth bringing back to Channing? Here's one: a "talking about the news" session that reminds me of a junior version of the "Hot Topic" evenings we had at Channing during the Gulf War years. The news session is popular: I've counted as many as 55 people attending at First UU of the Palm Beaches, where the sessions take place an hour before church on Sunday mornings. These sessions are led by a retired poly sci professor who reads from a prepared list of topics, while individuals offer comments and ask questions. The discussions I've attended remained civil even when disagreements arose, and participants trundle off to church together afterwards. However, I suggest a news session with trepidation, because in all honesty, you never know when introducing political topics what smoldering fires you may be about to ignite.

Still, it's easy to do. All that's necessary is someone to organize the topics and show up on Sundays at 9.

Oh yeah, and space to meet. Undercroft, anyone?

See you all in March.

~Eleanor

MONEY MATTERS
Make Money for Channing
While You Shop!

Do you shop online at Amazon? If so, you can easily make money for Channing Church. Amazon's program **Smile.Amazon.com** allows consumers to choose a charity of their choice and each time they shop, that charity receives a percentage of the sale. Channing Church is now listed as a charity on their list!

Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and choose Channing Memorial Church from the list of possible charities. Then each time you shop be sure to go to Smile.Amazon.com instead of amazon.com. If you forget, Amazon may remind you that you are not on the Smile site so can be redirected. If you are on the Smile site it should say in the upper left-hand corner "Supporting: Channing Memorial Church." After you have made a purchase or two you can put your cursor over that and it will show you how much income you have generated for the church. Since this is new for Channing, we don't know yet how, or how often, we will receive a check. We will let you know when we find out.

Money Matters continued on page 8

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY



The Channing Chalice Children

We have been learning about the 7 principles. Here is our song, sung to the tune of Do-a-Deer and it goes like this:

ONE--EACH PERSON IS IMPORTANT!

TWO--BE KIND IN ALL YOU DO!



THREE--WE'RE FREE TO LEARN TOGETHER!

FOUR—AND SEARCH FOR WHAT IS TRUE!

FIVE--ALL PEOPLE HAVE A SAY!

SIX--WORK FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD!



SEVEN—CARE FOR THE EARTH EACH DAY AND THAT BRINGS US HERE TO CHANNING CHURCH!

Mystery Friends



The Mystery Friends were revealed. The young people and their mystery friends met and chatted during Fellowship. There were lots of smiles and friendly chatter going on, with cupcakes and juice as a treat. Thanks to all you caring adults who participated. I know you got as much out of this experience as the children!

Pajama/Movie Night



On Saturday, February 9 at 6:00, we had a PJ Movie Party in the Parish Hall.

We collected PJ's (and backpacks and coats) for students at Pell Elementary School.

Some of us wore our PJ and lounged around while watching *the original Mary Poppins!!!*



We collected quite a few clothing items that night and the weeks that followed. Thank you to everyone who donated, and a special thank you to Kathy Takata and Priscilla Smyth for keeping this wonderful tradition going!!!

Our Whole Lives

At this time, we have 2 OWL programs going on. Jim Frees and Sally Hanchett are leading the teenage group and Rex LeBeau and Kathy Takata are leading the K-1 group. If you want more info about OWL or when the next sessions will happen, just asked one of the presenters.

~JoAnne Ritchie
Family Life Coordinator



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.

MARCH

PROGRAMMING

Ellen Harcum, the Chalice Children and I will continue our Intro to the 7 Principles journey this month.

Sunday, March 3

Family Sunday: Children stay with their parents for the worship service.

- 11:15am-K-1 OWL meets in the Youth Room

Sunday, March 10

Children come to the worship service with their families, and leave for CCC class in the Parish Hall with JoAnne after the Message for All Ages.

- 11:15am-K-1 OWL meets in the Youth Room/Parent Discussion Group in the Channing House Library

Sunday, March 17

Children come to the worship service with their families, and leave for CCC class in the Parish Hall with JoAnne after the Message for All Ages.

Sunday, March 24

Children come to the worship service with their families, and leave for CCC class in the Parish Hall with Ellen after the Message for All Ages. This is the day of the Protein Food drive. Our Chalice Children will learn about foods with protein and why protein is important for everyone.

Sunday, March 31

Children come to the worship service with their families, and leave for CCC class in the Parish Hall with JoAnne after the Message for All Ages.

- 11:15am-K-1 OWL meets in the Youth Room

CAREGIVING UPDATE



It has been a strange winter weather-wise. Will spring arrive on time this year? Stay tuned! Thank

you so much to caregiving coordinators Rachel Balaban, John Burnham, and Barbara Russell-Willett, who kept up with all the news of our congregation in February.

Christine Ariel is home and recovering from her third (and last!) hip surgery, after suffering infections and complications from previous procedures. She is deeply grateful for all of the visits and supportive messages she has received, and loves hearing from everyone during this time when she hasn't been able to attend church.

Charlie Beckers has been moved to a nursing home in East Greenwich and would enjoy cards and/or visits from his Channing friends. His address is St. Elizabeth Home, Room 213A, One St. Elizabeth Way, East Greenwich, RI 02878.

We are glad to hear that Judy Byrnes is doing well after having an emergency procedure on Christmas Eve to insert three cardiac stents. She is currently undergoing cardiac rehab. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Judy!

Channing Caregiving is still looking for a few good volunteers! We are primarily in need of biweekly or monthly coordinators for June 1-15, July 16-31, and all of August, but

would also love to have more volunteers for general caregiving tasks throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Barbara Russell-Willett at: caregiving@channingchurch.org to add your name to the list. Many thanks for your kind help!



Our **March coordinators are Marcia Mallory and Barbara Richter**. Please contact either of these individuals with any caregiving needs among our congregation members or friends.

~Linda Beall,
for Channing Caregiving



MARCH FOR PROTEIN

Sunday, March 24, in the Parish Hall during Fellowship
The Margit Baum Committee is sponsoring a non-perishable protein food drive for the Florence Grey Center to support their food bank.

In the past two years we have gathered fresh protein, but the center can no longer accept fresh protein. Therefore, our new project is to have a non-perishable protein drive. We are requesting any type of non perishable protein. **Suggestions include beans (dried or canned), tuna, peanut butter, canned stews, etc.** Be creative. Take a look at the grocery shelves and

bring something to help fill the food bank.

If you have questions, contact any of the committee members: Sally Hanchett, Ruth Jernigan, Susan Booth, Joy Benson, or Judith Porter. **We will be receiving the contributions in the Parish Hall after church on March 24th.** Thank you in advance for your support.



SHARE THE PLATE

During the month of March, Channing will share the funds collected during Sunday Services with the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion project (RISHM), a statewide public awareness program determined to educate people about this state's connections to the transatlantic slave trade. Slavery was a global economic engine prior to its abolition and Rhode Island's role was significant. By marking sites throughout the state that are connected to the slave industry, the project hopes to make that history accessible and to demonstrate the slave trade's impact on the culture and economic development of the state. The first medallion is scheduled to be placed at the John Steven's Stone Carving Shop and other Newport sites are being considered.

On March 20th, RISHM Board Member Dr. Fred Zilian will present a TLC lecture on Slavery in Colonial Newport. It will be the RISHM project's first outreach. Continued on page 7



ECO-BITS & TIPS

Sustainable Living: Where to Start

Sustainability is a trendy catch word now, used to define a lifestyle of living within limits ecological or planetary limits. It can also be used to sell products, from clothing and personal care products to electricity. Sustainably grown, unlike USDA Organic, is nebulously defined with purveyors hoping the catchword will help to sell their product, “good feelings and all.”

My own belief is that it must come with clear definition and meaning, depending on the product: Clothing is made with 100% USDA/country of origin organic cotton without aquifer irrigation water. If made with plastic, it should be recycled plastic in a certain percentage, verified by an independent third party licensing entity. Soaps must be made with some percentage organically grown herbs and some percentage of locally harvested products. You get my point.

I also believe that while sustainable may not mean locally produced, that it should mean there is overlap, and perhaps, locally produced without the use of pesticides or herbicides but with the use of some chemical fertilizers may be the equal of a

sustainable produced product from Australia or New Zealand. We all can identify with supporting a local artisan, weaver or relish maker or a health store. My point here is that frequently, there are choices that jump of the page. But since we all cannot make everything we use, we have to make decisions about cost, what the product supports (e.g. immigrants or probationers looking to support themselves, or, indigenous people making handicrafts that look beautiful and are handmade.

Sustainable has an environmental aspect to it: energy usage to make, or that is saved using it; local versus distant production; industrial scale organic versus market garden grown and raised using sound crop rotations, green manures but also some 10-10-10 inorganic fertilizer was used, mainly because it takes little planning. Eliminating pollution from runoff, use of minimal and recyclable packaging and reducing the distance involving in bringing to market to encourage adapting to eating from our local environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from long transport supply chains also supports sustainability.

But sustainability must also have a social aspect to it. Business co-ops involving artisans like woolen hat and sweater makers encourage small business development that share the profits roughly equally. In a world with ever growing income and asset

inequality that also encourages pollution of faraway places, like electronic recycling in India or China, sustainability must involve both the social and environmental.

Next month, I would like to write about actual purchasing decisions and using an unofficial decision tree.

~Craig Gaspard, Green
Congregation Committee

GREEN CORNER

GREEN Congregation Re-Boot

The meeting on Sunday, Feb. 18th while eating green salad was a great re-start for CMC’s Green Congregation. A lot of great ideas were voiced and we’ll move forward as we get more people involved. The one activity that I know everyone “loves” is doing a survey, but it was decided that it would be a good idea. So please humor us and help identify what will be really helpful to invest some of our extra time to make our Church, homes, community a healthier place to be in. **Interested in helping please contact us via email at GreenCongregation@channingchurch.org.**

So, what’s on the table: Green Congregation re-certification, new things education, ethical eating, Earth Day (or month), make the Church more environmentally friendly, etc. and oh yes that survey thing.

Stay Tuned, Russ Milham
Green Congregation
Committee

Share the plate continued from page 5: 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 March 3 at 11:30 when the next recipient will be chosen.

Please be generous as you always are. Thank you!

~Sheila McEntee, for the Social Action Committee

LOCAL GREEN EVENTS:

Learn about Healthy Soil, Healthy Seas RI (HSHSRI) project sponsored by Clean Ocean Access at Newport Green Drinks on March 7 @ 5:30 to 7:30 PM at The Sail Newport Center 72 Fort Adams Dr. in the 11th Great Hall meeting room (also info on backyard composting)

Middletown residents e-recycling @ 2nd Beach March 30th 8AM to 1PM for electronics



BEAUTIFUL DAY GRANOLA!!

The Social Action Committee is extending its sale of Beautiful Day Granola through the month of March. As many of you now know, Beautiful Day's Granola is

delicious, fresh, and as good for breakfast as it is for a delightful-anytime snack.

Beautiful Day's Director of Strategic Partnerships **Rebecca Garland** will join Channing folks during Fellowship on Sunday, March 10 to further introduce the company, its product and its importance. At 11:45, Rebecca will speak about the impact the non-profit Providence company has already had and its importance to the refugee community. She will explain Beautiful Day's work, its mission, and will answer any questions. Rebecca will also advocate for a kinder response to the refugees among us.

Stop by the SAC table during Fellowship and purchase a bag of granola on any March Sunday and be sure to join Rebecca at 11:45 on Sunday, March 10th to learn more about the product, the people, and the impact.

In the meantime, you can visit <https://www.beautifuldayri.org> and learn more.

~Sheila McEntee, for the Social Action Committee

BLACK HISTORY ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Two Newporters were honored at the 48th Annual Robert L. Williams National Black History Assembly event at Rogers High School on Friday, February 15, 2019. This event is sponsored by Channing Memorial Church and Community Baptist Church.

The student recipient of the Dr. Marcus Wheatland Award and Scholarship went to Ezra Monteiro, son of Angela and Allison McCalla. Ezra is a 4.6 GPA student and captain of Roger's football and track teams. He is a musician, playing three instruments. His volunteer services include working with both young people and senior citizens in the Newport community.

This year the George T. Downing Award for community service and the spirit of integration went to Ruth Thumtzen. Ruth is a retired Newport teacher and community liaison for Salve Regina. Ruth is well known for her volunteer work in the community. A scholarship was also presented to moderator Keanna McCants. Both scholarships are contributed equally from Channing Church and Community Baptist Church. The assembly included a musical selection by the RHS students Jayda Richardson and Lorenzo Olsen-Sherman performed on cello and piano. The assembly was followed by a breakfast reception in the Colonial Dining Room.

~Judith Porter



From left, Rev Lauri Smalls, Community Baptist Church transitional pastor, Ruth Thumtzen, George Downing Award winner, Rev Bill, and Ezra Monteiro, Wheatland Award winner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Money Matters Continued from page 3: So, no one has to chair a fundraiser or sell tickets for raffle items. All you have to do is shop! It's that easy. The next time you shop at Amazon, please remember Channing Church. Thank you to Julie Herrick for setting this up.

~Susan VanDerhoof

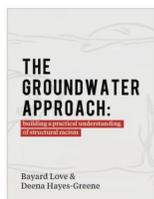
Stop and Shop gift card update

So far the Stop and Shop gift card sale has raised over \$450 for Channing! Cards are for sale in the Parish Hall after every Sunday service. Denominations are \$100 and \$50, payable with cash or check made out to Channing. The church receives \$5 for every \$100 card you buy. If you'd like to take advantage of this fund-raiser but aren't at the Sunday service (or are at the service but forget your checkbook) contact Julie Herrick at: treasurer@channingchurch.org to arrange for as many cards as you want. As Sue says, "no one has to chair a fundraiser or sell tickets for raffle items. All you have to do is shop! It's that easy."

~Julie Herrick



MARCH CHIMERS
March 3: Cynthia Skelton
March 10: Linda Beall
March 17: Cynthia Skelton
March 24: Janna Pederson
March 31: Jim Freess



“ To show **that** there is inequity, but not **why** there is inequity leaves too much open to interpretation. The reality is that we live in a racially structured society. **That** is what causes inequity. ”

READ THE FULL REPORT
groundwaterapproach.net

REI
racialequityinstitute, llc

GROUNDWATER TRAINING *by The Racial Equity Institute (REI) of Greensboro, North Carolina*

**Tuesday, April 2, 12:45 to
4:00pm, Bazarsky Lecture
Hall, O'Hare Academic
Building, Salve Regina
University**

**Free and Open to all
Community Members**

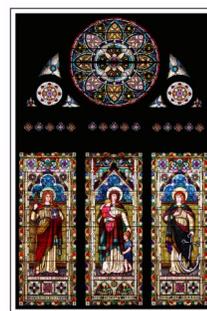
The Groundwater Training is an important opportunity to examine the racially biased world we live in. The REI presenters will use stories and data to demonstrate that racism is fundamentally structural in nature. The presentation will introduce you to an analysis of modern racial inequality. The experience is lively, mind expanding and participatory.

The Groundwater metaphor is designed to help participants understand that we live in a racially structured society and that it is the structure itself that causes and perpetuates racial inequality.

**You can get a preview of the
experience at [https://
www.racialequityinstitute.co
m/groundwaterapproach](https://www.racialequityinstitute.com/groundwaterapproach)**

Please plan to attend.

~Sheila McEntee, for the Social
Action Committee



SHAW WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT

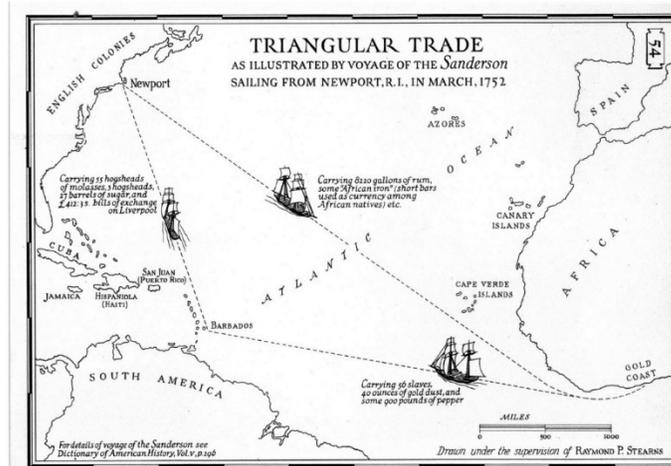
The restoration of the Shaw window in the east transept is now scheduled to begin during the first week of April. We have received generous grants from the Champlin Foundation and the Prince Charitable Trust to support this work. Because the inner (colored glass) and outer windows are connected the Bovard Company doing the work will install the new clear protective layer at that time to keep the church weatherproof while the stained glass layer is being restored.



FREE BOOKS!

Looking for a good book to read? Stop by the Channing House Library and have a look! We are making room for a "Senior Ministry" themed section in the bookcase closest to the fireplace. There are many wonderful books available, classics, self-help, religious, and spiritual. Take one home today!

FROM THE LEARNING CENTER



SLAVERY IN COLONIAL NEWPORT

With Fred Zilian, PhD

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 PM

Parish Hall, Channing Memorial Church

Refreshments will be served, \$10 suggested donation, to benefit Rhode Island Slave History Medallions and The Learning Center at Channing Church

In this talk, the first outreach presentation for Rhode Island Slave History Medallions, Dr. Zilian, a board member, will describe the beginnings and growth of slavery in the colony of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island's key role in the Atlantic trading system. He'll examine the business, demographics and personal lives of people involved in slavery in colonial Newport, and will offer suggestions on the relevance of Newport's slave history to our present day.

Dr. Zilian holds a PhD in international relations/strategic studies from Johns Hopkins University. He is an Adjunct Professor at Salve Regina University, where he teaches history and politics. His articles and reviews have been published widely, from the *Wall Street Journal* to the *Newport Daily News*. He has performed as an Abe Lincoln interpreter for 20 years.

**CO-SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE AND
LEARNING CENTER AT CHANNING**

To Friends of The Learning Center: Would you be willing to arrive a half hour early for a program or two to help set up? Email me! Susan Kieronski

Email: learningcenter@channingchurch.org

April 17, Save the Date: James Tackach's "Lincoln and the Natural Environment." We look forward to presenting this unique perspective for Earth Month!