

The Catalyst

Channing Memorial Church Monthly Newsletter

Channing Memorial Church

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135 Pelham Street, Newport, Rhode Island

June 2022

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH 2022-23 SLATE OF OFFICERS

Board of Trustees

President: Ginny Spaulding (1st year of 2nd term)

Vice-President: Margaret Polski (1st year of 2nd term)

Program Coordinator: JoAnn Rosemont (new)

Treasurer: Terry Gavan (2nd year of 1st term)

Secretary: Norm Moore (new)

Finance: Chris Laudon (returning)

Member at Large, even year: Sondra Gold (1st year of 1st term)

Member at Large, even year: Candy Martin (1st year of 2nd term)

Member at Large, odd year: Betsy Leerssen (2nd year of 1st term)

Member at Large, odd year: Susan Kieronski (2nd year of 2nd term)

Standing Committee Chairs

Finance (Board position): Chris Laudon (returning)

Membership: Marian Royer (new)

Property: Abby Adams (returning)

Family Ministry Liaison: Vacant (JoAnne Ritchie acting)

Social Action: Sally Hanchett (new)

Autonomous Committees/Positions

Financial Secretary: TBD

Endowment: Chris Yalanis (chair returning), Bob Janiesch (returning), Milly Jessen (returning)

Margit Baum Fund: Sally Hanchett (chair), Jo Freedman, Judie Porter, Susan Booth, Joy Benson, Linda Beall, Lissa Fernandez, Maryellen Doherty

Nominating: Julie Herrick (returning, chosen by the committee), Lisa Colburn (returning, chosen by board), Tom Howard (new, chosen by committee), Cal Pierce (new, chosen by board)

UNSUNG UU AWARD

Candy Martin and Milly Jessen received the Unsung UU Award during the 2022 Annual Meeting in appreciation for their generous service & devoted commitment to Channing Memorial Church

Click Here for the : [2022 CMC Annual Report](#)

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:00AM IN THE SANCTUARY

The service is also live streamed on the [CHANNING YOU TUBE CHANNEL](#) and available for viewing afterwards.

Sunday, June 5 The Good Enough Samaritan

Rev. Dan Hotchkiss



Most of us try to be good people. We engage in acts of kindness and we do our best to be constructive citizens. But the more fully we face up to the scope of our world's challenges, the more exhausting being good can be. How can we live well enough?

The Rev. Dan Hotchkiss is a UU minister and author of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* and a consultant. He served as interim minister at Channing in 1999–2000. Over the last 20 years, Dan has consulted with Christian, Jewish, and Islamic leaders in more than 33 faith traditions. Before coming to Channing, Dan managed ministerial placement for the UUA and served parishes in New Haven and Boca Raton. Dan has two adult sons and is active in the Middleboro UU church, where his wife Susan serves as music director.



Classical guitarist Victor Main will be performing before and during the service. The special music starts at 9:30am.



Sunday, June 12

What's at the Core -- The Challenge of Unitarian Universalist Theology

Rev. Bill Zelazny

Launching from an essay by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, author and past-President at Starr King School for the Ministry, Bill will look at the question is there or not a center of Unitarian Universalism theology. If not, then what is there? What might be the value or hinderance of theological pluralism within our faith.

This week is our 2nd Sunday Nonperishable Foods Collection to be brought to local food pantries.

Sunday, June 19
Do You Have a Question for Me?

Rev. Bill Zelazny



This Sunday will be a service of spontaneity, creativity and collaboration.

It's our annual "question box" sermon when we will have a Q & A conversation focusing on questions that come from congregation about some aspect of Unitarian Universalism, U and U history, faith, spiritual journey, religion, or whatever, but no political questions, please. Bill will try to answer them and if he does not have the answer, he'll make one up. Actually, he will do some research to get an answer. As is often said, there is no such thing as a stupid question. If we do not know something, then a question is in order. Come to see what develops this Sunday.

CHANNING CHURCH
CHALICE CHILDREN

May was another crazy month for Chalice Children!!!! One week, we had no teachers, most weeks we had 2 kiddos, another week 4 different kiddos. The Choir Sunday, we went to the service. Memorial Day weekend, we did not have class. Actually, I would say that is how the whole year, partly due to COVID. Let's hope next year COVID is behind us, and we can rejuvenate our program with more participants and no more long stretches of health-cautious cancellations!!!!

We have two more weeks of Chalice Children's class for the year. June 5, we will wrap up our year in review. June 12 we will do a small presentation about what we learned about the 7 (and 8th) principles, and we will wow everyone with our rendition of a Native American drum poem. Following the service, we will have an Ice Cream Social!!!!

As many of you already know, I will not be returning as the Family Ministry Coordinator and Chalice Children teacher next year. I will, however, be organizing curriculum so that whoever takes over will be able to choose from several prepackaged lessons throughout the year. I will also be available to train and consult with the new teachers.

Thank you all for your support and you WILL be seeing me at Channing next year!!!

~JoAnne Ritchie, Family Ministry Coordinator



Summer Worship Service Break

June 26 – July 31

Summer recess – no Sunday services. Services will resume Sunday, August 7th with four interesting and unique services, both outdoors and indoors. Watch for information in the Summer July/August Catalyst!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Summer is really on its way. As I was thinking about what to write this month, I googled the question "What events are celebrated in June?" It just so happens that Woman's Day Magazine had an article all about that! So if you want to know, just google womansday.com and you will be amazed to find that each day has a plethora of events that are celebrated! Of course, the most known reasons for celebration are Father's Day, Flag Day and Juneteenth and June is Pride Month. It is also the month that school is out for the summer break and camps for kids of all ages gear up and commence.

For us at Channing it is the last month of our Church year where we tie up loose ends and begin to think about taking a little time off to relax and enjoy some summer travels and time off. It has been a busy year! At our annual meeting on May 25th, we shared our reports of important events of the past year, and elected Board and committee members. We identified some appreciations, concerns, and goals for the future. We also gave thanks for the good fortune we have enjoyed with the reopening of in person services and events in which we were able to personally connect and share our time, talent, and treasure with each other and with the larger communities of those in need. We have been a truly caregiving community.

I am continuously aware of and impressed with the ever-present acts of caregiving that happen in this Channing community. Whether its giving care to a personal loved one, or to a community member, or to those in need in the larger world, Channing members and friends are truly generous. So this month I would like to remember and honor all who take on this challenge of caregiving. These words of meditation by **Sara Goodman** are an offering in recognition of the work you do in each day for the wellbeing of others:

"Join me in the spirit of prayer and meditation. Find a comfortable place for your body. Breathe as deeply as you are able.

Hold in your mind the image of all things, all beings, coming from the same tree, roots stretched in limitless tangles of connection and sustenance. Interconnected and interlaced in a web of living and dying that is so beautifully designed, and most times, invisible.

Join me in breathing.

Breathe in for our lives touched by ancestors known and unknown. Breathe out for living lives that will touch our descendants.

Breathe in for folks held in loving arms as they were raised up. Breathe out for folks who had to make their own way too early in their lives.

Breathe in for beloveds who we hold close in our hearts every day. Breathe out for beloveds we sometimes have trouble reaching out to.

Breathe in for loving, Breathe out for losing.

Breathe in for parents doing the best that they can, Breathe out for the impossible decisions they've had to make.

Breathe in for those living with addictions, mental illness, and grief. Breathe out for those living with and caring for folks living with addiction, mental illness and grief.

Breathe in for caregivers of all kinds who give of themselves to make other people's lives better, more whole.

Breathe out to honor this holy work.

Let's take a moment of silence together."

Have a great summer ...

With gratitude ...Ginny

UKRAINE DINNER FOR RAISES \$1830 FOR REFUGEES!



From Betsy Leerssen: Thank you all so much for your generous donations to the World Central

Kitchen! Our Pot luck was great fun and I sent WCK checks totally \$1,830! Our contributions will support their efforts to feed the refugees from Ukraine.

My Special thanks go to those helping at the dinner: JoAnn Rosemont, Joy Benson, Ginny Spaulding, Katie and Laura Yalanis. I couldn't have done it without you!

JUNE OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 10:00am-3:00pm
Closed Monday & Wednesday

CAREGIVING UPDATE



Many thanks to Diane Bonds and Barbara Russell-Willett, who did a great job keeping up with congregational news while serving as Caregiving coordinators for May!

We have all been frequently reminded over the past few months that the Covid pandemic is not yet behind us. Several of our members and friends have tested positive for the virus recently – as far as we know, everyone has been either asymptomatic or only had mild symptoms.

Please keep Robert Allott in your thoughts as he deals with some orthopedic issues. After having a left hip replacement last December, he will now undergo the same procedure on the right hip in early June. Robert is now retired, but still playing music regularly. We wish you a quick and complete recovery, Robert!

Terry and Craig Gaspard are thrilled to announce the birth of their second grandchild, Patrick Thomas, on May 2. Patrick is the son of the Gaspards' daughter Tracy and her husband Austin.

Congratulations to two members of the Todd and Jessica Thomas family who are new graduates! Collin graduated from the Met School and will attend IYRS in Newport. Morgan recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire. We wish both of you the best, wherever your roads take you!

Please remember that the Channing Caregiving team is always available to offer support to anyone who is feeling isolated or needs a bit of cheer. If you know of anyone who could use a friendly phone call, a meal offering, a ride to an appointment, or some other assistance, we welcome hearing from you.



The June coordinators are Sally Hanchett and JoAnn Rosemont, with help from Kate Dempsey. You may contact one of these individuals, or the other Caregiving program co-leader, Lindsay Cassidy

~Linda Beall,

for Channing Caregiving

THE SHARING LOCKER



Our June collection for the Sharing Locker is in honor of the men in our lives for Father's Day. We would appreciate **shaving cream, lotion and after shave, though any toiletries and cleaning supplies are appreciated.** Also as a special Sharing locker collection we want to remember and support our veterans.

Starting Memorial Day weekend, we will kick off a special collection for the veteran's home in Bristol. We have been advised they would especially appreciate **sunglasses, ball caps, tissues and sweat pants in size med and large.**

TWO "JOYS" FROM THE GASPARDS!

1. Terry and Craig Gaspard are happy to announce the birth of their second grandson this year (this time to their daughter Tracy). Patrick Thomas Martin was born on May 2, 2022 at Newport Hospital.

2. Terry's new book "The Remarriage Manual: How to Make Everything Better the Second Time Around" was just awarded the The Independent Publisher's 2022 Gold award for Self-help. Previously, it was the winner of American Book Fest's 2020 Best Book Award in "Self-Help: Relationships."

CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF JOE ALAIMO & ALICIA SPINNER Wednesday, June 15, 1:00pm, Sanctuary

From Alicia's son David Tarpy:

We would like to invite you to a celebration of Joseph Alaimo and Alicia Spinner, two long-time Rhode Island residents and loyal members of the Channing Memorial Church. Joe was a Professor of American Studies at Roger Williams University, and Alicia was (among many other things) a pre-K and elementary school teacher. Both were avid travelers and enthusiasts of the area's lighthouses and rich local history. Joe was a gifted artist, writer, and classic movie enthusiast with a kind heart, and Alicia was a gentle soul who enriched the lives of many. Please join us in sharing the stories and memories of two lives well-lived.



ECO BITS & TIPS

Summer 2022: Full of Crises and Opportunities

It is discouraging to see all the crises around us seeming to be getting more severe. Higher costs of living (fuel, food) and resource shortages, mainly water shortages here in the American southwest have expanded to include many food producing areas of the world. War, economic and climate change pressures are the main drivers of forced immigration. It's fair to ask where all this is taking us. Could there be opportunities amidst all of these crises?

But the opportunities are there if we look. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has refocused continental Europe to press ahead with a less intensive carbon energy future free of Russia's oil, their main source of support for their invasion. Even nuclear power plants in Europe and the US are being considered for refurbishment and continued use rather than decommissioning. Germany, Europe's largest economy, has cut ten years from its original 2045 carbon-neutral goals that are now only 13 years away in 2035.

The transition from a fossil fuel-based energy economic to a no carbon future has become more earnest, but it will not be smooth and without some pain

just like we are experiencing at the gas pump now. We all know the options short of buying hybrids or full electric vehicles, still a significant investment for many of us. Carpooling, consolidating car trips outside the home and even looking for entertainment and exercise like walking and bicycling from our house. And that just covers transportation. One or two Channing members have done this already, but Terry and I decided to install a 3.8 Kw photovoltaic system.

I am happy to announce that due to several favorable factors, Our PV system costs us nothing, will likely reduce out electric bill also to nothing. While we will not profit financially due to the program we chose, it will likely eliminate our electricity costs most months. I will be giving updates and can show members with the phone app from Solar Edge that I have on my phone.

One new resource I would like to share with Channing members is The Carbon Removal Show. It's a podcast, where the hosts interview scientists and entrepreneurs of all forms of carbon capture. From tree planting to Direct Air Capture (known as DAC). I personally have come to realize that technology will necessarily need to play a role as we attempt to slow and reverse the growth of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the main culprit in 'global warming/climate change.'

Lastly, support for The Islanders, our family entry into the Climate Ride and our weekend fundraiser called Green Fondo, Western New York is ongoing.

We have individual pages on the website: Climateride.org. We will likely hold a cookout for contributors and those considering this. Like last year, It will be held at our home on Cherokee Drive in Portsmouth. The date we are eyeing is Saturday, August 27th at 2 pm (rain date Sunday the 28th). Hope to see you there. Check with me at 401-418-2982 in early August.

Have a great summer everyone!

~Craig Gaspard, for SAC

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates

In 2022, you will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! **Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon. For more info go to: <https://www.uua.org/ga>**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC AT CHANNING JUNE 5 *Something new at Channing!*

On June 5, classical guitarist Victor Main will be performing before and during the service. Victor is an award-winning classical guitarist, composer and educator. He is president of the Rhode Island Guitar Guild. He has performed at many notable venues including the Oneata Guitar Festival, the University of Rhode Island International Guitar Festival, the New York Guitar Seminar, the Aspen Music Festival and Carnegie Hall.

The special music starts at 9:30am. Be sure to attend!

ELKS' PARKING FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Channing Members may park in the Elks' parking lot from **9:00am-12:00pm on Sunday mornings** while attending Sunday Services. **Please place the bright orange parking permit on your dashboard where it is clearly visible.** Permits are located on the table to the right as you enter the church.



SUNDAY CHIMING

June 5 (9am): Linda Beall
June 12: Jim Freess
June 19 : Janna Pederson
June 26: Christine Ariel

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? *Use Amazon Smile!*



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If you have to shop online at Amazon you can put a silver lining on that cloud by using Amazon's Smile program. **Smile.Amazon.com** allows consumers to choose a charity of their choice and each time they shop, that charity receives a .05% of the sale. Channing Church is listed as a charity on their list.

Next time you are forced to use Amazon, please specifically go to www.smile.amazon.com (instead of 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. 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."

It is a nominal amount, but it adds up, and it is a few less pennies in Bezos' 132.8 billion dollar pockets!



Channing Yard Sale!!

Saturday, June 11, 9:00am-1:00pm & Sunday June 12 after church until noon

Come one, come all to our Channing Yard Sale on Saturday, June 11th from 9am until 1pm. The sale will be inside and outside the Parish Hall (weather permitting) with a 'leftovers' sale on Sunday, June 12th after church until noon.

Please help us by donating your good, usable items, which we will be receiving on Sunday, June 5th, from 9 am until after church. We will also be accepting items from 9am until 3 pm on Friday, June 10th.

The sale is being sponsored by Margit Baum Committee. If you have questions, please call any member: Sally Hanchett, Joy Benson, Judith Porter, Jo Freedman, Lissa Fernandez, Susan Booth, or Maryellen Dougherty.

Thank you in advance for your participation in helping to raise money for Channing Church.