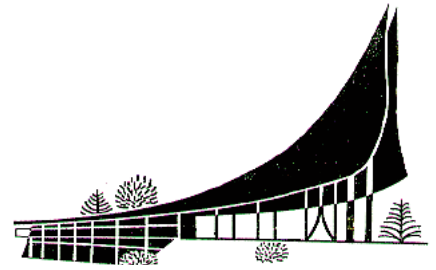


SOUNDINGS

The Unitarian Church in Westport
 10Lyons Plains Road
 Westport, CT 06880
 203 227-7205
 www.uuwestport.org



THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, NOV. 21

Nov. 2 - Nov. 29, 2014

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Nov. 2</p> <p>Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Book Fair, E.W. after each service Grade 8 Parents, Chapel ... 12:30 pm Immigration Social Action, Sanctuary ...12:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Search Committee, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm O&AF Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>RE Whole Council Meeting, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Neighborhood Circles, M.H., ... 10:00 am Pastoral Care Assoc., M.H. ... 1:00 pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship Services: 9 & 11 am <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Book Fair, E.W. after each service Grade 8 Parents, M.H., ... 12:30 pm Rainbow Task Force, Chapel ... 12:30 pm A Year to Live, M.H. (top fl.)...7:00 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Gun Violence Prevention, Chapel ... 7:30 pm Search Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Holiday Veteran's Day Office Closed Membership Committee, Library - ... 7:15 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse. ...7:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>COA Overnight Meeting Hse., SPC Rehearsal ... 9:00 am Small Group Facilitators, M.H. ... 10:00 am</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Grade 8 Parents, Chapel ... 12:30pm Voices Cafe Committee E.W., ... 12:30 pm Allison Waggener Concert 4:00 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Search Com., Fellowship Rm. ...7:30 pm O&AF - ... 7:45 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Database Task Force, Fellow.Rm., ...7:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chant & Meditation,M.H. ... 7:00pm Food Justice Coalition, E.W., ... 7:30 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Youth Choir -5pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 Special Projects Choir - 8 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12 noon Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Voices Cafe, Doors open 7:30 pm, Performance at 8:00 pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Town Hall Meeting, E.W., ...10:15 am Town Hall Meeting, Sanctuary .. 12:15 pm Environmental Action, Library... 12:30 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Stewardship, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:15 pm Search Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>SOUNDINGS Mailing, 1 pm Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Holiday Thanksgiving Day church office closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Holiday: Office Closed UU Movie Discussion Group, M.H. ... 7:30 pm</p>	<p>29</p>

Sermon information on following page.

SERMONS for NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2 ... 9 & 11 AMOur Second Source: Words and Deeds of Prophetic Women & Men

This is the second sermon in the series Rev. Roberta is offering on the sources of our faith, as articulated in the UU Statement of Principles and Purposes.

Reflection For All Ages: Child Dedication (Mary Collins and Rev. Roberta)

Worship Associate: Marti Bishop

Music: 9:00: Men's Choir. 11:00: Women's Choir

NOVEMBER 9 ... 9 & 11 AM Our Third Source: Wisdom From the Worlds Religions

Rev. Roberta continues the sermon series on the sources of our faith. We will also welcome new members into our congregation.

Reflection For All Ages: Mary Collins

Worship Associate: Linda Hudson

Music: Chamber Choir sings at both services

NOVEMBER 16 ... 9 & 11 AM "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Improv Class" William McEvoy

Actors in improvised theater have an agreed-upon set of rules and practices they use to create active and engaging scenes and plays. We can apply those same principles to our everyday lives, because despite our fondest hopes, life is not scripted.

William McEvoy is the Transition Team Chair

Reflection For All Ages: William and Ellie

Worship Associate: Ellie Grosso

Music: 9:00: Women's Choir. 11:00, Men's Choir

NOVEMBER 23 ... 9 & 11 AM Setting the Table: A Multi-generational Thanksgiving Service

As we prepare to gather for our various family Thanksgiving celebrations, we will create together a table-setting ritual that acknowledges all of the various peoples who have arrived at our shores seeking freedom and justice.

This service will also include the annual Cornbread and Cider Communion.

Music: 9:00: Youth Choir. 11:00: Teen Choir

NOVEMBER 30 ... 9 & 11 AM "I Know the Fire's Gone Out But the Smoke Ain't Cleared" Rev. Roberta Finklestein

Based on the title to a song that Rev. Roberta heard just once (long ago), this sermon will trace the progress of racial justice in our community.

Reflection For All Ages: Rev. Roberta

Worship Associate: Martha Constable

Music: O&AF sings at both services

From The Year Round Stewardship Committee (YRSC)

Founding YRSC Chair, David Smith, has officially been succeeded by Deborah Quinn. As Deborah assumes leadership, it seems like a good time to review our Mission and Charge from the Board of Trustees so that members and friends of the congregation can know what we are about.

MISSION

The Year Round Stewardship Committee's mission is to create a sense of ownership and mutual responsibility, and foster a culture of caring and generosity in The Unitarian Church in Westport community.

CHARGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Direct and oversee all aspects of stewardship, including communication and education about stewardship to help members grow into a deeper understanding of the meaning of their commitment.
2. Direct and oversee the annual giving or pledge drive (aka the 'canvass'), and planned giving.

If you read this and think "I'd like to consider joining the YRSC", we would be pleased to have you attend a meeting and check us out. Deborah Quinn can be reached at dquinn@fusion-cg.com.

A partial list of current YRSC members includes Bob Perry, Candace Clinger, Mary Money, Scott Singer, Matt Peterson, David Smith, Mary Jane Cross, Kevin Leddy, and Denny Davidoff.

In The Interim

Q: So, Rev. Professional Change Agent, what's with all the changes around here?

A: Oh, you mean the different way we are doing worship on Sunday morning? Well, we are trying to become a more truly multi-generational community. If we want our children to grow up and embrace this faith as we have, we need to include them in the full life of the congregation. We need to make sure they are comfortable 'upstairs' so that when they age out of Religious Education they want to join us. If we want to grow this congregation then we need to welcome families of all sizes and shapes. They need to know that they can come to our services and find a welcome, an inclusive worship program, a place to be together. So we are now including children in the Sunday service for the first 15 minutes or so every week. We are blessed with a very talented Director of Religious Education who knows how to incorporate children into worship. She is a wonderful story-teller; in fact she recently offered a training session for Worship Associates on that very topic. By using the same chalice lighting words every week, we give our children (and adults) an opportunity to learn words by heart; these are words that give shape to the service every Sunday.

*Challenge to children and youth: learn the chalice lighting words by heart. Come and recite them to any staff member and you get to put your name on the Chalice Honor Roll.
(Grown-ups, if you want your name up there, we will accommodate you too.)*

Q: OK, but why did you move the Announcements?

A: Because the long period of announcements at the beginning was not a good way to encourage the children to engage. (Announcements are booooring to children.) To make it easier for our children and their parents to participate in the service, we moved them to the end. However, the very end just wasn't working. We heard from many of you about how much you missed the splendid Postlude as the punctuation mark at the end of the service. So we moved Announcements again. We'll keep experimenting until we find the best ways of including all ages and stages in Sunday worship.

Q: Anything else you want to tell us about Sunday morning?

A: Yes, thanks for asking. I believe that worship is shared experience. The worship leaders (whether staff or volunteers) need to plan carefully and execute professionally. But worship really works best when everybody wants it to work, when everybody is engaged, when everybody arrives with an open mind and, more importantly, a big and open heart. There may be parts of the service that you love better than others. Some dislike the organ, some dislike silence, some dislike the Reflection For All Ages. Believe it or not, some dislike the Candle Lighting and sharing of joys and sorrows. I would like to suggest that all of you practice the spiritual discipline of accepting all aspects of worship; the part that you barely tolerate may be the most important part for the person sitting next to you. In that way you give each other a gift; the gift of an hour of worship that contains a kernel of inspiration for everybody. All ages and all stages.

Q: So what else is new?

A: Be sure to read elsewhere in this newsletter about the new administrative staff configuration! We worked hard on the plan, and believe it will work better for everybody.

Q: Anything else?

A: This Professional Change Agent thinks that is enough change for this month!

See you at church,

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein,
Interim Senior Minister (AKA Professional Change Agent)

THANK YOU!

We asked the congregation to invite a friend to “Bring a Friend Day” on October 5, and you did! So many friends attended that there was a minor traffic jam on Lyons Plains Road before the 11am service, and few empty seats in the sanctuary.

The Membership Committee thanks everyone in the congregation who invited a friend - in person, by e-mail, via facebook, or by snail mail. Your enthusiasm for sharing The Unitarian Church in Westport (TUCW) with people you care about was an inspiration to all of us. Many commented that there was a special energy at TUCW on October 5, and we are deeply grateful to all who helped make it possible.

Let’s continue to share this great place with our friends. Many of you had friends who expressed an interested in visiting TUCW, but could not attend on October 5. We hope you’ll invite those friends to join you at a future service. Visit the Welcome Table where it would be our pleasure to greet you and your friend.

Bring a Friend Day demonstrated the power of what can happen when the congregation commits to a common goal. Let’s now commit ourselves as a congregation to making all first-time visitors feel welcomed, and making every Sunday a Bring a Friend Day.

Sincerely,
The Membership Committee

*Rainy Broomfield
Christina Frei
Mr. Gorilla*

*Bobbie Herman
Dale Kutnick
Angela McCann*

*Nancy McKeever
Mary Money
Eileen O’Reilly*

*Scott Singer
David Vita
Bob Welsh*



We’re not sure which member of UGNO this is, but we’re grateful for all the friends he brought on October 5th.

See someone you don’t recognize?

Five to ten first-time visitors attend Sunday services every week. Please help welcome them! When you’re through chatting, connect them with David Vita or the Membership volunteers at the Welcome table.

Holiday Party – “Happy Everything”

I understand for many years there has been a party in early December for people of all ages. I have one new-to-the-congregation interested in helping this event, but I need some people, both new and seasoned (have experienced the event), to talk to each other and divide up the tasks

(Family activities, set up for Potluck, publicity) If you can help make this Holiday Happening, please RSVP to Mary.dre@uuwestport.org at the latest by Nov. 6th.

This year it is scheduled to be **Sat. Dec. 6, 2014**

- **5 pm - Family Friendly Activities** (gingerbread house making? Or perhaps Dreidel or Reindeer games? Take your baby picture and make an ornament (because every night a child is born is a holy night)? Or other creative ideas out there?)
- **6 pm - Potluck**
- **7 pm - Holiday Song - Sing-A-Long**



Religious Ed. Leadership Circles - Youth & Teacher Support met in October –

We are thinking about ways to support Religious Education teachers using technology and other low tech ways! Please feel free to contact any of the following people if you have questions, or ideas.

- **Mary Ellen Keenan**, Teacher Support & Appreciation Circle Chair, mek1297park@optonline.net & staff:
- Hayden Parker, RE Assist@uuwestport.org
- Mary Collins, Director of Religious Education



4-5th grade group session on “Integrity” – Teachers Julie Gottlieb & Deb Garskof sent me the photos and told me it made their day “... the red strip says ‘Thank You for teaching me.’”

- As of this issue of SOUNDINGS, we still are looking for a Boston Heritage trip organizer. If your youth went, or you enjoyed and learned from going to the Boston Heritage Trip, consider giving back to our incoming 8th graders. We hoped to have the trip Friday, March 20 to Saturday, March 21s 2015. We need to secure housing soon to not break our over 30 year record of sending Coming of Age youth (and adults) to Boston area to learn about how integrated UU ideas were to the founding and forward thinking people in this country. It’s something to be proud of and to experience!

Contact Felicia Keeton, Youth Circle Chair, feliciakeeton@sbcglobal.net or Mary.dre@uuwestport.org if interested in this rewarding experience.

Report back on Adult Education Webinar...

I did some reviewing of platforms and ways to hold Webinars, but I would be grateful for any wisdom in the community to help me finalize and get a system going for a “Parent’s As Resident Theologians” web based class. Contact Mary.dre@uuwestport.org if you are

1. **Interested to take such a class.**
2. **Determine the best time for those interested in taking it.** (Course Description in October Soundings) At this point, it looks like start up in the new year).

RE CALENDAR

Sat. Nov. 1st -

Youth Group Lock-In - 5pm

Sun. Nov. 2 - (Clocks Fall Back)

K-7 start in Sanctuary

Nursery/ Pre-K -People Puzzle

K -3rd gr.- Voting Principle # 5 (1965 Voter Registration)

At 11 only: 4-5th - Democratic Process (UU Olympia Brown)

6-7th -OFF-SITE Visit -11 am at

St. Francis of Assisi, Weston

8th - Our Whole Lives (OWL) meets

9th gr. CoA- Credo Writing

10- 12th Youth Group

Tues. Nov. 4 -

R.E. Council Meeting – Charter review

Sun. Nov. 9 -

K-7 start in Sanctuary

Nursery/ Pre-K -Make Snacks for visitors

K -3rd gr.- Sermon on the Mount /

Beatitudes (Christianity)

At 11 only: 4-5th - Tool box tool: Level -

Atonement -UU Racial Reconciliation

6-7th -OFF-SITE Visit -10:30 am at Our

Savior Lutheran Church, Fairfield

8th - Our Whole Lives (OWL) meets

9th gr. CoA- Credo Writing

10- 12th Youth Group

Sat. Nov. 15th

CoA Last Weekend Starts OFF-Site:

Food Collection Project : 12-3 @ Stop

& Shop in Wilton Center. Movie at

Wilton Cinema, Wilton Center

3:30 or 4pm start (movie TBD)

Dinner @ Tom e Toes in Wilton Center:

5:30 - 6:30pm likely pizza

Transport to TUCW for 7:00 pm

programming & overnight

Sun. Nov. 16 -

K-7 start in Sanctuary

Nursery/ Pre-K - Feeling Sad?

K -3 gr.-Zen Idea / Giving & Receiving

At 11 only: 4-5th -Tool: Mirror -

Reflection Elijah & the still, small voice

6-7th - Roman Cath./ Lutheran Closing

8th - Our Whole Lives (OWL) meets

9th gr. CoA- Credo Writing

10- 12th Youth Group

Sun. Nov. 23 -

K-12th start and STAY in Sanctuary-

Multigenerational Thanksgiving Service,

no other classes except Nursery/ Pre-K.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

by Cal Wacker, Youth Program Director

By the time you read this, October will be all but over, and the Youth Group will be likely two days away from our Fall Overnight and Potluck Dinner on November 1st. If you're reading this after November 1st, then the youth and advisors who participated are all likely somewhat sleep deprived and very satisfied from having spent twenty-four-or-so hours together playing, worshipping, and deepening our community.

So let's get down to Brass Tacks. I've been hearing from a number of people in the congregation the same question: Just what goes on over there? I've been trying to add recaps of what the Youth Group has done, and this October, we actually had a lot of interaction with the congregation as a whole. Perhaps you noticed us after the 11am service out in the courtyard. We ran a Cider and Donut Donation Bake Sale for the Beardsley School and raised close to \$300 that will be used to help pay for Beardsley's Student of the Month celebration and prize. My thanks to each one of you who participated by volunteering, or enjoying some cider and donuts. We also had our own focus group meeting with both Chuck Harrington and Kristen Leddy of the Ministerial Search Committee. Yes, part of our new ministerial search process did involve our youth, and teasing out what would and would not be wanted with any new seated senior minister. If you haven't talked about this with your Youth, COAer, or child involved in any of our RE programs, I highly urge you to do so. This minister will affect your child's spiritual development, and therefore your child deserves a voice.

Now then, what's coming up?

Well in November, aside from the Overnight, there is a metro district wide event held at UU Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY on November 15th. It is an all day all ages leadership training. If you're interested, contact me and I can fill you in on the details.



wreaths are always hot sellers for 20+ years now, and I should know!

Final note, mark your calendars now for May 22-May 25th 2015. Youth Group is planning a massive camping retreat for ourselves that Memorial Day weekend. Parents and youth, get that on the calendar now!saer

New Faces in the Pulpit: Worship Associates

Many of you have noticed, and some of you have asked about, those people called "Worship Associates" that have been standing up front and taking part in our services for the past few months. Who ARE they, anyway? And why are they there?

Worship Associates are a part of many UU congregations – the program is only new to ours. They are a form of shared ministry, helping to co-create and facilitate worship services in various ways, including:



- Working with the minister to develop a cohesive worship calendar for the year
- Participating in services as readers, assisting at candle lighting, or other tasks
- Making sure all details of services run smoothly when we have guest speakers or other members of the congregation leading services

And very importantly, *Worship Associates serve as a liason with the congregation about worship needs.* In this way, they can help identify worship practices that are most meaningful and sustaining to the participants, so that worship can be a responsive and evolving experience.

Any Worship Associate would tell you that this has been an incredibly rewarding way to contribute to the TUCW community. For myself, I've enjoyed being able to delve deeply into what "worship" means in a UU context. I've learned so much by listening to the perspectives of my fellow Associates, and other members of the congregation, so that I appreciate all over again how diverse our community is. It's made me a lot more flexible in my ideas, and excited by the possibilities ahead as we get ready to call a new senior minister.

Please talk to any of us about your worship service ideas or concerns. (You can even tell us what's going RIGHT!) Current members are: *Marti Bishop, Martha Constable, Cheryl Dixon, Michael Field, Ellie Grosso, Linda Hudson, Maria Mendoza-Smith, Anita Pfluger, Sudha Sankar, and Lucia Scott.*

Martha Constable, Member of Worship Associates

Holiday Jewelry Sale

December 7th

(in the East Wing after each service)

Donate and buy back more!!

Bring us your tired, your used, your funky, your fine, your silver, your gold.

Buy back some clean, some new, some choice, some fun, some gorgeous, some chic!

Support the JEWELRY SALE

Donations to Chris Place,

Julie Fatherley or Marilynn Reed

On The Border

I've just returned (18 hours ago as I am writing this) from 6 days along the Arizona/Mexico border with 22 Unitarian Universalists (primarily clergy) on a UU College of Social Justice Border Trip. The trip was organized partnering with Borderlinks. My experiences are all still very fresh and I have a lot of personal processing yet to do.

Borderlinks began during the Sanctuary movement in the mid 1980's. *Its mission is: Through dynamic educational experiences, BorderLinks connects divided communities, raises awareness about the impact of border and immigration policies, and inspires action for social transformation.*

We spent time in the Sonoran Desert, a day in Nogales, Mexico, observed the "theater" (that's what it seemed like) of the Operation Streamline deportation hearings in the Federal Courthouse, met with organizations providing services to migrants, those fighting for migrant rights, interfaith organizers, and representatives of the New Sanctuary Movement.

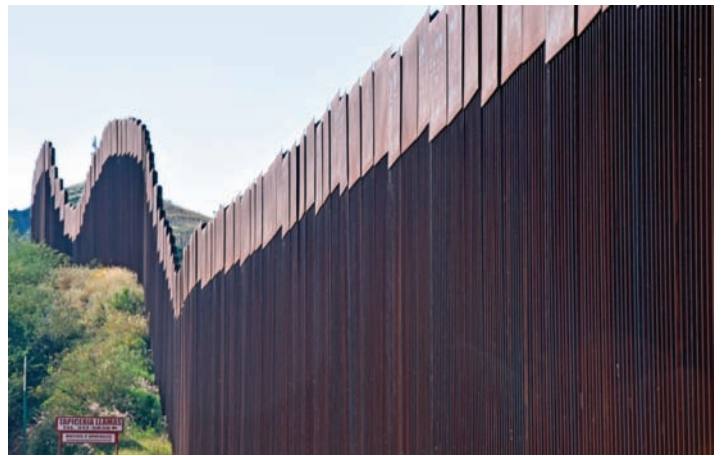
The day of my arrival The First Unitarian Society of Denver became the first UU congregation in the New Sanctuary Movement, providing sanctuary to Arturo Hernandez Garcia in the church basement to prevent his deportation.



A shrine in the Sonora desert not far from where the body of a dead woman was found

The Desert

The Sonoran desert is hot, there is no shade, the footing treacherous even in my sturdy hiking shoes, there is no water. For a person in tip-top shape, with good shoes, with good directions, ample supplies, and taking the most direct route the trip across the Sonoran from Mexico is 8 days. You can't physically carry enough water for 8 days. And the people crossing don't have the shoes, directions, supplies nor travel a direct route. That kind of crossing could be 15 days.



The Border Wall separating Mexico from the US

Fifteen days of blistering heat and blistering feet, of hiding during the day and travelling by night. Of dehydration and hunger. Of threats from the drug cartels, gangs of robbers, dishonest "coyotes" who take your money, promise to lead you across the desert, and then abandon you there.

A sprained ankle, feet so badly blistered that you can't keep up and you're left behind. On your own. People die in the desert.

They know the risks beforehand and yet they come. And they come. And they come. And they send their children.

Why would someone attempt this trek? Place their children in the hands of strangers to travel across the desert? Are they crazy? Are they suicidal?

No, they're desperate. A desperation that we can only imagine. Or maybe we can't even imagine.

When the drug cartel burns down your house, you leave. When your son is kidnapped and a piece of his finger is sent to you, you somehow come up with the money and you leave. When you finish your shift at your \$9 a day factory job and your "taxed" (extortion) by the gangs, you leave. These are the stories that I heard. The question isn't why so many people are heading north, it's why are there so few?



Members of No More Deaths have been charged with "Littering" for leaving plastic gallon containers of water on the trails that migrants travel.

Our Immigration Social Action Committee will be holding its first meeting on Sunday, November 2 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. If you can't attend this meeting but would like to be notified of future meetings please contact David Vita: david@uuwestport.org or 203.227.7205 x14.



SAVE THE DATE



A benefit concert for the Unitarian Church in Westport Allison Waggener, one of our newest members, is an opera singer! She has generously offered her time, energy and talent to present a concert that is dramatic and engaging. The music that she has chosen is by American composers who work in either the

Classical or the Musical Theater arena. Here is what Allison has to say about the music:

“There is a theme in many of these songs of wanting to live passionately, with total freedom, and have transcendent, ecstatic experiences. I relate to that – I realized I should be a singer while living in a tent in the northwoods of Wisconsin as part of a year-long wilderness guide program. At the same time, being a singer has required moving to New York City, dealing with money, following lots of rules, and having restrictions on my behavior and time. So some of the songs address that side of life too – the experience of constriction, practicalities, and being isolated or misunderstood. Nonetheless, music is a place for freedom, no matter what goes on in the rest of our lives.

You don’t need to quit your job to experience freedom and ecstasy through music. Hence the title of the concert – Flight.

Classical and musical theater songs by American composers with sources in Christianity, Judaism, and Islaam. Poetry by e.e. cummings and Hafiz. Songs by newcomer Marisa Michelson, and selections from “Tamar and the River”, her musical that premiered in 2013 and was called “exquisite” by the New York Times. Songs by Duke Ellington and Sondheim, and 2014 Pulitzer prize winner John Luther Adams. Craig Carnelia’s moving “Flight” which inspired the concert title. These selections draw on Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions, as well as transcendentalist poetry.”

I hope that you will be able to hear this very unique program that Allison has crafted. It is filled with amazing moments of music and all proceeds from this concert will benefit the church!

Sunday, November 16, at 4:00pm
10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880
Admission \$20

UU Movie Discussion Group,
Friday, November 28



The next UU Movie Discussion takes place on Friday, November 28. The films to be discussed are “The Judge” and “Birdman”. Potluck dessert at 7:30; Discussion at 8. In the Meeting House. All are welcome.

Phone: (203) 227-7205
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visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, Nov. 21, at noon. Please e-mail your copy to: soundings@uuwestport.org

From the Head of Staff:

Seems like we are doing a lot of tinkering around here these days! We are tinkering with the order of service, and now we are tinkering with the configuration of administrative staff. Our challenge is to make the best use of the people we have on staff and to keep the personnel budget in line. What follows is a Frequently Asked Questions document that should make it easy for all of you to work with the new system so that your committees and programs are well supported. Highlights of the changes are:

- The administrative office will now be fully staffed Tuesday through Friday
- Tasks have been redistributed so that each staff member's workload is cohesive and makes sense
- We have set up new email addresses to make it easier to submit items for Soundings, the eblast, and the order of service.

Please read the FAQ sheet carefully, and keep it somewhere handy. It will also live on the website so you can always access the information. If you have any questions, just be in touch.



Frequently asked questions for the office at UU Westport

The church office is open for calls and appointments Tuesday through Friday from 9:30AM to 4:00PM.

I would like to schedule a committee or church group meeting?

Please contact Jan on Tuesdays through Fridays and well in advance of your anticipated meeting dates. We are heavily booked on some days so the further in advance, preferably more than 1 week, that you contact her about your needs, the better. Jan's email is jan@uuwestport.org and her extension is 10. Please reconfirm any standing meeting time with Jan each fall as the new church year starts.

I have a great idea for a fundraiser. What do I do?

There is a form on the web site for Fundraising Event Planning & Approval Form. Download that and start to plan out what the event would look like. Make sure you submit the plan to the business office (either Jan or Dorothy) four or more weeks in advance, in order to schedule the right date and get all the necessary approvals done.

I would like to rent space for an event I am planning?

Contact Jan at the office. She will discuss with you your plans, address timing and what will fit and what won't and also tell you the fees that the church will need to receive. Jan's email is jan@uuwestport.org and her phone extension is 10. We are heavily booked for some days so we recommend you contact us 4 weeks in advance of when you would like to hold your event. If your event needs a sexton (which depends on size and a few other parameters), Jan will let you know who that is so you can send him/her your details on setup for the event.

How do I arrange for an announcement to be printed in the Order of Service?

Submit your announcement to oos@uuwestport.org by Wednesday at noon of the week you want it printed in the Order of Service. We can only print announcements that are short as space in the Order of Service is limited.

How do I arrange for the Board to make an announcement on Sunday morning?

Send the announcement to board@uuwestport.org. For a board announcement, the Board and worship leaders reserve the right to limit the number of spoken announcements. Somebody will let you know if we are unable to accommodate your request.

I have lost an item at church?

The large item Lost & Found is the coat rack in the Fellowship Room and small item Lost & Found is the square basket on Jan's desk in the church office. Feel free to come by and check these spots.

... continued

My address/contact information has changed, who should I get that information to?

Please email your new contact information in to David Vita at david@uuwestport.org. He will initiate the change process, but please allow for some time to get it all the way through to the different communication channels.

I have questions about my pledge payments and/or the credit card that I am using to pay my pledge?

Please contact Dorothy at the office either by email – dorothy@uuwestport.org, or by phone on extension 16. She or Sue, our Accountant, will look into it and get back to you as soon as possible.

I am no longer getting the emails that I was before, how do I get back on the list?

Please email David or Jan. If you hit unsubscribe on the bottom of any emails, you will be unsubscribed to all the church email newsletters. Due to the nature of the contact system, you will have to resubscribe yourself by going to <http://uuwestport.org/email.html>. If you have difficulty with the link, then contact Jan or David.

I have something that needs to get into the weekly church email blast. Who do I contact?

For the weekly email blast, email that content to Charles Klein at eblast@uuwestport.org. He can help you with size, formatting, word choice and all other details to make your message work. Make sure you get it to him no later than Thursday late afternoon for the Friday email blast. Requests for separate email blasts outside of the weekly email blast need to be approved by Roberta.

I would like to put something on the Church website. Who do I contact?

All website content needs to be approved by a program staff person so Ed (Music- ed@uuwestport.org), Mary (RE- mary@uuwestport.org), David (Social Justice and Membership- david@uuwestport.org) and Roberta (Worship and all other- roberta@uuwestport.org). Then, reach out to our volunteer Web Master, Charles Klein at webmaster@uuwestport.org. He can help you with size, formatting, word choice and all other details to make it work on a page in the site. Think ahead and contact them well in advance of the timeframe that is needed.

I have something that needs to get in Soundings newsletter. How does that work?

If you are on a committee, please find out who the person is on the committee who is the designated Communications contact. If that is you, then reach out to our team that do Soundings which can be reached at soundings@uuwestport.org. Our volunteer, Carol Porter, can help you with size, formatting, word choice and all the other details to make your message work in the space required. Think ahead and contact her more than a week in advance of the timeframe that it is needed; the deadline is listed on Soundings itself (see also the copy posted on the website). Social Action Committees are to send their copy to David Vita the Wednesday before the Soundings deadline: david@uuwestport.org

I would like to have a postal mailing go out to some/all of the congregation. How do I do that?

Depending on the set of people you would like to reach out to this could take some time to prepare the list for you and get labels prepared. Please contact Jan at least 4 weeks in advance of when you would like the mailing to go out, longer if graphic design and printing work has to be arranged for through the office.

For all questions on the Memorial Garden, please contact either Neil Coleman at neilcoleman@optonline.net or David Thompson at davidthompson@optonline.net of the Memorial Garden Committee. There is a policy that the Memorial Garden Committee has developed that will help you in starting or reinitiating any needs in/for the Memorial Garden.

News from the Transition Team

The Transition Team has been a little less visible this year, but we're still busy! We've been working with the various committees at the church to help them put together their committee charters. These charters outline the mission of the committee, explain how it is run and led, and will often have short term goals. It's a tool not only for helping the committee's members to stay focused, (mission creep happens a lot!) but also to help attract new volunteers by clearly stating what the committee does. Once we have them all assembled, they'll be placed on our website for easy access for everyone.

Book Sale

After its popular debut last year, the Transition Team is again holding a book sale of titles available from the UUA Bookstore. Staff favorites will be marked, and the latest titles from Beacon and Skinner Presses will be available. And we'll be taking credit cards, so you can get your early holiday shopping done! See us in the East Wing on November 2nd and 9th after both services.

News From Your Ministerial Search Committee

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop: Highlights

Rev. Keith Kron, the UUA Transitions Director, facilitated a great discussion at the Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop on Saturday, October 18th. He talked about how people naturally try to categorize people when they first meet them. Is the person tall or short? Is the person male or female? What's their skin color? How old are they? Are they in a wheelchair? But if we don't see beyond these categories – if we make assumptions about that person based on stereotypes of categories we've placed them in, and don't notice the many other qualities of that person that have nothing to do with the categories we've assigned to them – we fail to see the person as the individual that person is. When we rely less on categories to learn about each other, we see the whole person, and we live by our first UU principle: we respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

We, the members of your search committee, will take the lessons from the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop to heart as we review potential candidates. Our goal is to look for a person who has the skills and qualities we seek; who is comfortable with our culture; who fits in well and will guide our congregation in the direction we want to go. As long as we focus on these qualities, rather than skin color, gender, sexual orientation, etc., we'll be living our UU principles.

Rev. Kron also charged us all to continue the conversations that were started in the workshop, with each other, and with others who weren't in the workshop. Here are some resources if you're interested in learning more.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk entitled "The Danger of a Single Story":

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story

UUA's website addressing Multicultural issues

<http://www.uua.org/directory/staff/multiculturalgrowth/multiculturalgrowth/index.php>

Thank You!

The Ministerial Search Committee is so grateful for all for your input over the last few months. Over 150 people attended the Focus Groups, over 300 surveys were completed, and 30 people joined us for the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, with more attending Keith Kron's service the following day. We've been listening to you, and are using all of the input we've collected to create TUCW's profile that potential ministerial candidates will review. Now it's time for the search committee to go "heads down" to finish polishing our congregational profile, then starting in January, review applications from potential ministers. Survey results will be presented after services on Sunday, December 7th. Keep watching Soundings and the weekly e-blasts for updates on the Search Committee's progress. And feel free to email us if you have any questions or concerns: ministersearch@uuwestport.org.

Members of the Search Committee: *Jim Cooper, Charles Harrington, Linda Hudson, Kristen Leddy, Carrie McEvoy, John Mason, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Anita Pfluger and Kathy Roberts*



Flowers for September & October

September 7

Given by Jean, Neil and Todd Coleman

September 14

In loving memory of Dee Hershman

Given by the Blau family

October 5

Given in thanks to the guys of UGNO

October 12

In celebration of our marriage

Given by Dee & Stephen Shea

October 19

In loving memory of

Pamela Harrington

August 9, 1946 – October 14, 2013

October 26

In celebration of the 13th anniversary
of my ordination here
with ongoing gratitude, Peggy Block.

Endorsed Community Minister,

UU Danbury

Happy 57th anniversary

Mary & Larry Kastriner –

love, Cathy, Sue, Marianne and their



CALLING ALL ELVES

Each year, our church "elves" answer letters to Santa from Beardsley School children to help make their families' Christmas a bit brighter. These children are pre-selected by the school, so we know there is a definite need.

We have a great time working together (all via email, no meetings), and shopping.

If you would like to join us or want more information please contact Felicity at

felicitymedinger@sbcglobal.net, or 203 923-3664. It will end up being one of the best memories of your holidays! Lives copy



Flight

songs to uplift

Mezzo Soprano **ALLISON WAGGENER**

Pianist **ED THOMPSON**

Classical and musical theater songs by American composers, including Duke Ellington, W.A. Mathieu, Marisa Michelson, and Stephen Sondheim. Poetry by E.E. Cummings. Songs about nature, ecstasy, and freedom.

Sunday, November 16th, 4:00pm

Admission: \$20 Proceeds benefit The Unitarian Church in Westport
Reservations and Questions: flightsongs@gmail.com

The Unitarian Church in Westport
10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport CT 06880