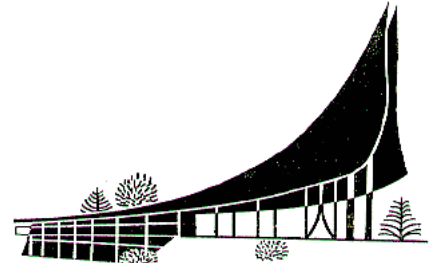


SOUNDINGS

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



THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Oct. 5 - Nov. 1, 2014

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct. 5 Bring a Friend Sunday 9 & 11 am Hot Cider Sale, Courtyard Bring a Friend Event, E.W. ... 10:15 am & 12:15 pm Grade 8 Parents, Chapel ... 12:30 pm Voices Cafe Mtg., Library, ... 12:30 pm	6 Search Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm O&AF Sanctuary, ... 7:45 pm	7 Gala Auction Planning, E.W., ... 6:30 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	8 Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	9 Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	10 Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm	11 COA Overnight, Meeting Hse. SPC Rehearsal. ... 9:00 am Neighborhood Circles, M.H., ... 10:00 am Pastoral Care Assoc., M.H. ... 1:00 pm Voices Cafe, Sanct., ... 8:00 pm
12 Worship Services: 9 & 11 am <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Auction Item Drop Off, E.W., 9 am - 12:00 pm Grade 8 Parents, Chapel, ... 12:30 pm	13 Holiday - <u>Columbus Day</u> Office Closed RE Youth Circle Mtg., Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm Search Committee, E.W., ... 7:30 pm	14 Membership Committee, Library - ... 7:15 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	15 Chant & Meditation, MH.... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	16 Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	17	18 Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, Sanctuary, ... 9:00 am Small Group Facilitators, M.H., ... 9:00 am
19 Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Auction Item Drop Off, E.W., 9 am - 12:00 pm Grade 8 Parents, Chapel ... 12:30pm	20 Auction Item Drop Off, E.W., 9 am - 4:00 pm Search Com., M.H.... 7:30 pm Board of Trustees, Fell.R. ...7:30pm O&AF - 7:45 pm	21 Auction Item Drop Off, E.W., 9 am - 4:00 pm Gala Auction Planning, E.W. ... 6:30 pm Database Task Force, Fellow.Rm., ...7:00 pm Men's Choir, 8 pm	22 Auction Item Drop Off, E.W., 9 am - 4:pm Chant & Meditation,M.H. ... 7:00pm Food Justice Coalition, Fell.R ... 7:00 pm	23 Final Auction Item Drop Off, E.W., 9 am -4:pm Youth Choir -5pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 Women's Choir - 7:45 pm Gala Auction Planning, Fell.Rm ... 6:30 pm	24 SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12:00 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm UU Movie Discussion Group, M.H. ... 7:30 pm	25 GALA AUCTION FUNDRAISER Sanctuary, 7:00 PM
26 Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Grade 8 Parents, Chapel ... 12:30pm Environmental Action, Library ... 12:30 pm	27 Search Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm	28 Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	29 SOUNDINGS Mailing, 1 pm Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	30 Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir, 7:45 pm	31 	Nov. 1 SPC Rehearsal, ... 9 am Youth Group Overnight, Meeting Hse., ... 5:00 pm REEL Justice Film, Sanct., - 7:30 pm

Sermon information on following page.

SERMONS for OCTOBER

OCTOBER 5 ... 9 & 11 AM "Bring A Friend" Rev. Roberta Finklestein

In honor of all the friends and guests we will have with us on this special Sunday Rev. Roberta will preach a seekers sermon; a sermon that communicates the essence of Unitarian Universalism to both first time visitors and longtime members. This is the first sermon in a six part series on the sources of our faith. The first source: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

Reflection For All Ages: Mary Collins.

Worship Service: Lucia Scott

Music: Chamber Choir at both services

OCTOBER 12 ... 9 & 11 AM "A universalist With a Small 'u'" Rev. Roberta Finklestein

Long before there was a formal Universalist religion (Universalist with a capital U) there was an idea (universalist with a small u). Rev. Roberta traces the history of the idea of an all-powerful and all loving God back through several millennia of human.

Reflection For All Ages: Connie Rockman.

Worship Associate: Cheryl Dixon Paul.

Music: Guest Soprano Culver Cheffer at both services.

OCTOBER 19 ... 9 & 11 AM "Beyond Categorical Thinking: Don't Think of a Minister" Rev. Keith Kron

As the congregation engages in the ministerial search process, people already have ideas about what their next minister will be like. Yet not all ministers look and act alike. What biases might we hold about who the next minister is? Do issues of oppression cause congregations to exclude looking at potential ministers? Even in Unitarian Universalism, our biases can get in the way. We'll look at how bias affects our choices and contemplate how we can best live our UU principle of justice, equity, and compassion.

Rev. Keith Kron is the Transitions Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association

Reflection For All Ages: Rev. Kron

Worship Associate: Linda Hudson

Music: Guest saxophonist Ben Howell with the Men's & Women's Choirs.

OCTOBER 26 ... 9 & 11 AM Peace of Wild Things Rev. Debra W. Hafner

Wendell Berry writes, "I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief." We'll explore how together we can cope with the changes, transitions, and stresses in our lives and rest "in the grace of the world."

Reflection For All Ages: Mary Collins

Worship Associate: Michael Field

Music: Once & Again Folksingers at both services.

Transition Team News / Chart(er)ing Our Future

In our first year, the Transition Team spent most of our efforts on looking back at TUCW's past, our history, our conflicts and of course, our successes. This year we're excited to be looking forward, towards our future. As Lorna Donnelly outlined in last month's Soundings, our project for the fall is to help our many committees craft written charters. A good charter will specify the mission statement, the structure for how the committee is run (including succession plans!) and a process for establishing short and long term goals.

Let's be honest, this is not nearly as exciting a job as putting together a glamorous evening of auction fundraising, or as urgent as organizing a lobbying effort to go up to Hartford. But you policy geeks out there (and I know you're out there), you can appreciate how valuable a clearly written charter can be to the day-to-day running of our church and the positive impact it can have on our long-term success. As Reverend Roberta likes to say, having a mission statement not only lets you know what you're expected to do, but will let you know what tasks to say "no" to. Having these clearly written charters will also help new members figure out where they want to put their contributions of time and effort – and what committee doesn't wish they had more volunteers? Finally, having a method to assess your achievements from time to time can help focus the group as well as give members a chance to appreciate their successes. If there's one thing I learned in delving into our history, we don't take enough time to do that.

Our goal is to have all the committees' charters written and up on the website by the new year. If you run a committee or are on one, you'll be hearing from us soon. We look forward to working with you over the next couple of months!

William McEvoy: of the Transition Team

October 1, 2014

In The Interim

After preparing the sermon on covenant recently, I had the opportunity to enliven one of the covenants I practice this ministry by. I had lunch with your Emeritus Minister Frank Hall. We meet every so often to talk about how things are going for him, and for my work, and for the congregation as a whole. When Frank shared with me his new and positive perspective on retirement, I said, "Frank, the congregation needs to hear that from you!" So in place of my usual In the Interim column, a letter to all of you from your Emeritus Minister follows.

Rev. Roberta

Dear Friends,

It's time to check in and do a little catching up, or I should say a lot of catching up. I won't try to cover all the bases, but I want to let you know that things are going fine for me, now. Whew! The first year of retirement was difficult, to say the least. I got a new take on those lines from Whitman: "Now understand me well; it is provided in the essence of things that from any fruition of success comes forth something to make even greater struggle necessary."

The transition to retirement was a challenge – I felt like I had lost my identity. Then I was invited to preach in several pulpits, which I a-preach-iated. (Sorry—couldn't resist.) I conducted several weddings, one of which was for my grandson Alex and his bride, Ingrid. Sadly, I officiated at a funeral service for my oldest nephew, Chet, who died suddenly at age 59. It was the third service for a child of my siblings.,

The second year of this retirement challenge is much better. I have things on my calendar. My identity is intact. The lifeguards at Compo have a 'quote of the day,' which I look forward to reading summer mornings. A recent quote said, "When you can't change the direction of the wind, adjust your sails." I made the adjustments.

Lory continues her work with Vitas Hospice, doing more supervisory work, but she still visits patients and families. Carlyn is in her second year of grad school at Cleveland Institute of Music, becoming a very accomplished cellist. My daughter Sue is living full time in Maine following her divorce and she's doing well. My son Jonathan and his wife Rosie are in Norwalk and doing fine.

My daily routine begins with morning exercise, including my two-plus mile walk at Compo and later taking our labradoodle puppy Parker for his morning walk and run--especially run! at Winslow dog park. Parker has been a great companion and teacher – you learn a lot from a dog!

Part of my first-year task was to stay out of the way as the congregation transitions from a long-term ministry. I've appreciated Roberta's help in that transition – she's been helpful to me, personally, and her leadership has helped the church to do what's needed to move forward.

In that regard, she invited me to write this letter and she suggested that I join her in the pulpit later in this church year. I look forward to that, and I'm glad to feel back in touch with you. I hope you are adjusting your sails as you move through life's inevitable changes, challenges and the little surprising rewards.

Warmly,



**Top 10 Reasons to Bring a Friend
to Bring A Friend Day ~ Sunday Services, October 5th**



- 10.** So that more people can mispronounce Alsoboldogfalva.
- 9.** Because we need more members since 7 choirs aren't enough.
- 8.** So that we can have more different opinions about... everything.
- 7.** To set the Guinness World record for Priuses in the parking lot.
- 6.** So that your friend's children can attend OWL and their parents won't have to have that awkward "birds & the bees" conversation.
- 5.** To share with your friends a faith where dogmatism is absolutely forbidden and freedom of belief is rigidly enforced.
- 4.** So that your friends of differing political persuasions can come together and agree or respectfully disagree and share common values.
- 3.** Because... send your reasons to: david@uuwestport.org.
- 2.** So that your friend's "I'm a gay, atheist, vegetarian, environmentalist, and I'm here to take your guns" bumper sticker won't stand out.
- 1.** So that your friends will know that you REALLY don't belong to the Unification Church.

K-3rd Petal Chalices were created the last two Sundays in September, thanks to the guidance of Betsy Beach, Monica & Kareen Garrison. The children took a similar petal structure and made their unique chalice from it. The project will continue the first two weekends in October set aside of opportunities to glaze before firing.



K-3rd graders creating chalices Sept. 21st (glazing on Oct 5 & 12)

In the Family email we sent some optional Chalice Lighting words to use the chalices at home when they are fired. We estimate all will be completed and on-site for pick up Oct. 26th.

- **Link to a nice variety for all ages for “At home” chalice lightings, Prayers, Grace, Meditations:** <http://www.danielharper.org/medgrace.htm#chalice>

Coming of Age Note –CoA group overnight – start time change –

The overnight scheduled for Oct. 11th will begin at 7:00pm and run through Sunday class time at 12:30 pm. Please eat dinner before – there will be light snacks & breakfast the following morning. Thanks to Patty Dimon who bought food for the September overnight!

ADULT EDUCATION – Those attending the general Parent Orientations on Sept. 14th said that Friday evenings would not be a good time.

Overwhelmingly, there is interest for a class, but for it to be on-line.

- **If you have experience with doing webinars, or on-line meetings for up to 20 people - please contact Mary.dre@uuwestport.org to help launch the following Adult Education class.**
- Participants will be asked to have discussion in groups of two to five people - talking together over small group discussion topics (for 15-30 minutes) a few days prior to the online whole group session.

I plan to offer a six session class called **Parents As Resident Theologians for Unitarian Universalist Parents and Other Adults** (UUA curriculum) Dates to be determined, but in general, once a month. We need minimum 8 people, maximum 20 people for this class to run. Contact REAssist@uuwestport.org if you are interested in this Adult Ed opportunity. Grandparents and people without children of their own, but who have a child(ren) they love, are also welcome.

- **October - Session 1 “Theology is the symbolization of personal experience.”** - James Fowler, Ph.D – We begin sharing our own personal journeys, how we relate to the world, & focus on what is important to us.

- **November - Session 2 “Religion, as its Latin root suggests, is what binds things together.”** –Harvey Cox. – Talk about religious language, and our associations with it, define religion as you see it today, Translating that in ways children or youth we care about can understand.

Other session descriptions to follow

Sun. Oct. 5 -

“Bring a Friend” Sunday – K-7 start in Sanctuary
Nursery/ Pre-K –Old & New Friends
K -3rd gr- Biblical figure: Jacob
At 11 only: 4-5th - Integrity
6-7th – Judaism Intro
8th gr. Our Whole Lives (OWL)
9th gr. Coming of Age
10- 12th Youth Group –Cider Sales for Beardsley School begin

Sat. Oct 11 -

9th CoA overnight start 7 pm –Sun. 12:30 pm

Sun. Oct. 12 (Columbus Day Wkd)

K-7 start in Sanctuary
Nursery/ Pre-K – Fall Planting of bulbs
K -3rd gr-Biblical Figure: Joseph
At 11 only: 4-5th – Geocaching Faith in Action
6-7th - Responding to Climate Change
8th gr. Our Whole Lives (OWL)
9th gr. Coming of Age
10-12th Ministerial Search poll plus YG

Mon. Oct. 13th -

YOUTH CIRCLE of the RE Council meets 7pm

Fri. Oct 17th -

6-7th gr. Judaism visit to Temple Israel, Westport -6pm

Sun. Oct. 19 -

K-7 start in Sanctuary
Nursery/ Pre-K – Helping others
K -3rd gr-Everyday Women in Islam
At 11 only: 4-5th – Flexibility
6-7th – Judaism Closing
8th gr. Our Whole Lives (OWL)
9th gr. CoA Explore Ritual/Worship
10- 12th Youth Group

Sun. Oct. 26 -

K-7 start in Sanctuary
Nursery/ Pre-K –Halloween!
K -3rd gr- Jataka Tale -Buddhist
At 11 only: 4-5th -Guest from TUCW leadership
6-7th –Intro to Christianity
8th gr. Our Whole Lives (OWL)
9th gr.CoA-What’s Leadership look like?
10- 12th Youth Group

Sat. Nov. 1st -

Youth Group Lock- 5pm

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

by Cal Wacker, Youth Program Director

What. A. Month!

Truly, September has been a mad dash full new friends and old. A lot of ground has been covered in the last few weeks, and I want to take a moment to offer highlights for the greater TUCW community at large, and to remind the youth (who I asked if I could refer to in gender-neutral-plural as 'Peeps') of everything they've accomplished as well. Hi Peeps. You've done a lot already!

First, September kicked off with our community homecoming, where the new Youth Group Membership Book was carried in to our Sanctuary as a reminder to our congregation that we too have a part of this greater community. Next, our own Youth Group Homecoming had us reaffirming our own covenant and copying it into the new Membership book. A dozen of us participated in the People's Climate March, adding our number to the 300,000 who mobilized for a leaner greener Earth. Finally, the last weekend in September has Amy Dimon and Fiona McElroy reporting on their time at the UUA's Goldmine Leadership School. A full week of leadership development with UU Youth and we got to have some of our own there!

With September so packed, you would think we'd slow down in October. As it turns out, we've got plenty for us to dive into. The first weekend of October is Bring a Friend Sunday for our whole community. I've met a number of UU's now who were introduced to our faith by a friend bringing them to a service. This is our chance to share with people what we get from our faith community. That Sunday the Youth Group will also be running a Donation-Based cider and bake sale. All proceeds will go to the Beardsley Elementary School in Bridgeport CT. Enjoy time with your friends you brought while having cider, candy corn, and other baked treats.

October 12th the Ministerial Search Committee will be stopping by Youth Group to have a 15-30 minute talk about what youth would want in a new minister. Peeps, this is your chance to help direct the next decade of the church. Come on time and let your voice be heard.

Final note: Halloween Weekend will now be host to our first official Youth Group Lock In! It starts at 5pm on Saturday Nov. 1 in the Meeting House. We'll want to start divvying up responsibilities and brainstorming what we want to do with our time!



FAITH in ACTION \ David Vita

Mercy Learning Center Has to Turn Students Away? What We Can Do!

by Jane Ferreira, President and CEO of Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport, Inc.

In Bridgeport, Mercy Learning Center is enrolling 850 low-income women each year in free programs that teach literacy and life skills and help students work toward earning a high school diploma. Over the years, we have seen thousands of women who were previously shackled by their illiteracy transform into confident, productive, and connected women, mothers and employees. One student recently wrote, "Now I am independent and feel confident to be able to do everything on my own. I can also do more for my family. Knowing English is a great victory!"

According to an October, 2010 National Institute of Health report, "a mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income".

In Bridgeport, an estimated 37,000 women are functionally illiterate, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

In September, Mercy Learning Center turned away women who are ready and willing to get an education, due to limited program capacity.

In the future, we hope to be able to serve every woman who comes through our doors asking for this basic human right. It is incumbent upon all of us to attend to the educations of the women and mothers in our midst. Just as much as our schools and teachers, they hold the key to better futures for our community's children.



Mercy Learning Center: What We Can Do!

Become a volunteer tutor and make a big difference in the life of a woman and her family.

As a volunteer tutor, you will be paired with one or more of Mercy Learning Center's adult female students. No experience is necessary! All volunteer receive training. Ongoing support and professional development are available throughout the year.

Tutors volunteer four hours per week, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. All tutoring is done at Mercy Learning Center, with all of our support staff and educational resources at hand.

To learn more and sign up, please contact Lynn Gabriel, Tutor Coordinator, at 203-334-6699 or

lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org.

Please e-mail Sharon Poole Bittenbende(sharonlpoole@gmail.com), chairperson of our Mercy Learning Center Social Action Committee.

What Was it Like to be at The People's Climate March?

Comments from youth and adult members of our community.

"It was history in the making" said **Terri Laug**. "To march alongside my teenage sons was thrilling. This is the defining moment of my generation. Will we leave our children with this climate mess or follow our words with positive and sustainable actions?"



"I went to the Climate March because I am a big environmentalist and I love seeing people come together to support a cause. To me, that was the most exciting part of the march - aside from meeting new people. Another highlight of mine was singing and chanting with strangers - it was a thrilling experience."
Anneliese Keeton

Debra Haffner said, "It is easy to feel discouraged about climate change. Participating in the march with hundreds of thousands of people, and the huge faith contingent, let us "show up" to make a difference. It was wonderful to be there with so many of our congregants and so many UU's from all over the U.S. We were standing on the side of love -- and our planet."

For **Janet Luongo**, "It was very emotional marching for climate action in NYC with tens or hundreds of thousands of people, from kids to grandparents, Unitarian- Universalists & other people of faith, youth, families, indigenous - we are all in this together. Other demos were going on in 166 other countries the same day. We need our leaders to listen to the science!"

And for **Cornelia Fortier**, "The Climate March was only a particle of payback for all the things the Earth has done for me and it was inspiring and uplifting to be in the company of so many passionate people. Now, I'm even more committed to making small, day-to-day lifestyle changes that can help as well as to supporting other initiatives."

Lindy Hennessy had to be there, "When I heard about this march I knew I had to go because I'm an American and I care about our planet and all the inhabitants and I think it's important to make it known that there are very many people who do care and want to do their part. When I found out that a contingent from our church was going I was happy to join. What impressed me most was how so many people showed up and joined together in a common cause to help all people now and in the future and to protect our Mother Earth."

Allison Waggener, "felt glad to be alive and connected to a huge network of people with a similar vision. If politicians aren't acting because they don't feel there is the political will, I had to be there! I have no idea what will come out of it politically, but what we marchers do have control over is what we get out of it: I felt empowered by seeing all of the people who are willing to take a stand for the earth."

One highlight for Allison was teaching a song to passengers on the train. "People were eager to learn. I moved from one section to the next, asking anyone who looked receptive, and "Do you want to learn the song we were singing down there"? Meanwhile, my friend Orion taught the song to his busload of people on the way from Boston, and he reported that it was a huge hit!"

And she was inspired to think about life-style changes. "Climate change is one of the most challenging problems I can think of because our entire economy is based on carbon -- and that requires changing the way we do everything. I have thought a lot in the past week about lifestyle, and suddenly LEED certified cohousing sounds a lot more appealing than a single family house in Weston. It challenged me to face my values. As I sang with my Jewish friends from Eden Village environmental camp, and joined the chants and drumming of the pagan protesters, I was inspired to spread that vibrant cultural richness into our community. Only when we build up a strong flow of goodwill and community will we have the momentum to make all the changes we need to make. People of the Earth Tribe, rise up!!"



Will UU commit2respond?

Commit2respond is a brand new campaign of UUs for Climate Justice. It's an opportunity to be part of something within our congregation and connected to something much larger -- with UUs and other faiths across the country. By signing up to commit2respond you're saying that when called upon you will (to the best of your ability) take action. It might be sending an e-mail, it might be attending a march, it might be a vigil on the Ruth Steinkraus Cohen Memorial Bridge that's part of nation-wide vigils on the same day, it might be speaking with our legislators. Right now the specific action is not important, only that you are willing to commit2respond when the time comes. I commit 2 respond. Will you join me? Contact David Vita: david@uuwestport.org or 203.227.7205 x14.



FROM THE BOARD

Dear Fellow Members,

One of the most important things we can do as members is care for one another. It's in our Statement of Affirmation, right!!!! We care for one another when we listen with intention to the candle lighting during services...when we notice someone standing alone after services and engage them in conversation....when we thank someone for their service to this community...and so on.

We also do this when we notice that someone has been absent from our community for a while. That empty seat next to you might have been filled by someone who was an integral part of this community, served it in numerous ways, and has somehow drifted away.

It was with this thought in mind that the Board recently conducted an outreach campaign to 130 "missing" members of our community. We called it the "We Want You Back" campaign and sent personalized emails to these missing members with the following as its core message:

As you know, the Unitarian Church in Westport is on the verge of making the most important choice in the next chapter of the life of our congregation...the selection of a new Senior Minister. We would love for you to be a part of this process! Frankly, we need your help!!

We have noticed your absence. You have been missed! But the very reasons that have caused you to drift away from the Unitarian Church in Westport are things that the Ministerial Search Committee needs to hear.

We are hoping you would like to have some input into what traits our new Senior Minister should have.

We are hoping that you are willing to share your unique opinions about where the Unitarian Church in Westport has succeeded and failed.

We are hoping that you will want to make your voice heard in describing where we want our congregation to go in the short and long term.

We are hoping that you will give the Unitarian Church in Westport another chance and that the opportunity to have a direct role in shaping our future might be enough of an enticement to bring you back.

The response to the campaign has been very positive. A number of members are coming back and others vowed to give us another try in the Spring. Others had experienced a personal crisis or had moved away or had found another spiritual home. All were pleased that we noticed their absence.

Our position on the Board is that it is unacceptable for us to let members of our community walk away without us noticing and reaching out to them. We plan future We Want You Back campaigns. You can help by trying to remember who used to fill that empty seat next to you...and letting us know.

Thanks for listening!

Tom Croarkin
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Book Sale!

*Books from the UUA
Bookstore – Inspiration,
Theology, Music, Social
Justice and of course...
Children's Books!*

When: November 2nd & 9th
after each service

Where: East Wing

*“Books are the quietest and
most constant of friends;
they are the most accessible
and wisest of counselors,
and the most patient of
teachers.”*

– Charles William Elliot



The Ministerial Search Congregational Survey is now open.

As you know, we are searching for a new minister (to be called in Spring 2015 and to start working with our congregation in Fall 2015). Your Ministerial Search Committee is hard at work on the information-gathering stage of its search.

We really enjoyed learning about your hopes and dreams for The Unitarian Church in Westport during the focus group sessions. Now we need more specific input from you. We've created a survey for the entire congregation to fill out. It's on the church website now.

The survey fine-tunes input we received from the focus groups, and also gathers further information about our congregation that is required for the Congregational Record, the document that attracts potential candidates to TUCW. Your input is critical. We hope that everyone will participate. High participation will send a message to ministers that we're a committed congregation!

The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Please go to the church website at www.uuwestport.org and click on the link to the ministerial search survey.

Laptop computers will be available in the East Wing after services on Sunday, October 5. Although we prefer that you fill out the survey online, if you would rather complete a print version, hard copies will be available in the foyer on that Sunday. If you would like a hard copy mailed directly to you, please email your address to the search committee: ministersearch@uuwestport.org, or call Carrie McEvoy: 360-333-7499.

Please complete the survey as soon as possible. The survey will be open through October 6th.

Hold the date!

On October 18 and 19, Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UUA Transitions Office, will be here to present a program called Beyond Categorical Thinking.

Are we open to any kind of candidate who may apply to be our minister? Or do we perhaps have subtle prejudices that we may not even be aware of? This program has been designed by the UUA Department of Faith in Action to promote inclusive thinking and to help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. Keith Kron will lead a workshop in the sanctuary on Saturday morning, October 18, from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, that will help participants examine their own ableism, ageism, heterosexism, racism, and sexism. On Sunday morning, he will continue speaking about this subject through his sermons. We hope you'll be able to participate in this important weekend.

Your Ministerial Search Committee

Jim Cooper, Charles Harrington, Linda Hudson, Kristen Leddy, John Mason, Carrie McEvoy, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Anita Pfluger, Kathy Robert

Get your tickets ... Skyline Lounge is the place to be!

Saturday, October 25 is the date of our fabulous Auction Gala, being held right here in the church. The theme is Skyline Lounge, and it will be an amazing evening of music, wonderful food, specialty cocktails, OPEN beer and wine bar, and the opportunity to support our church community by bidding on truly unique items that you will not want to miss.

There are auction items at ALL price points so everyone can get in on the fun. Tickets can be purchased on the uuwestport.org website for only \$50 (\$65 at the door). Availability is limited so purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

Please come to the auction and bid for our church! Invite your friends to come, too!

Make your donation!

We are asking all church members to participate with a donation. Please make your household donation by completing a Donor Form by October 3, 2014. If you are stumped on what to donate, check out the auction ideas in the foyer or contact the committee at tucwauction@gmail.com Bring your donated item in during the scheduled drop off dates.

Auction Item Drop Off Dates (in the East Wing):

Sunday 10/12 9am - noon

Sunday 10/19 9am - noon

Monday, 10/20 - Wednesday 10/22 9am - 4pm

Thursday, 10/23 12:30 pm - 4 pm

10/23 all items for auction must be delivered by this date!



SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Church in Westport

Phone: (203) 227-7205
Fax: (203) 221-7979
E-mail: uuchurch@uuwestport.org

Church Staff

- Rev. Roberta Finkelstein... Interim Senior Minister
Ext. 12; roberta@uuwestport.org
Edward Thompson... Minister of Music
Ext. 18; ed@uuwestport.org
Dorothy Adams... Director of Operations
Ext. 16; dorothy@uuwestport.org
Jan Braunle... Administrative Associate
Ext. 10; jan@uuwestport.org
Mary B. Collins... RE Director
Ext. 15; mary.dre@uuwestport.org
Cal Wacker... Youth Program Dir.
Ext. 17; cal@uuwestport.org
Hayden Parker... RE Assistant
Ext. 17; REAssist@uuwestport.org
David Vita... Social Justice Director
Membership Director
Ext. 14; david@uuwestport.org
Mike Roman... Sexton
Ext. 11; mike@uuwestport.org
Rev. Frank Hall... Minister Emeritus
Rev. Debra Haffner... Endorsed Community Minister
debra@uuwestport.org

Board of Trustees

- Michele Garvey... Chair
Tom Croarkin... Vice Chair
Anne Khanna... Treasurer
Denny Davidoff... Clerk
Steve Axthelm
Chuck Colletti
Mary Jane Cross
Lyn Hamilton
Bobbie Herman
Matthew Peterson
Ted Yang

Carol Porter... Editor/Design
Charles Klein... Webmaster

visit our website at www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, Oct. 24, at noon. Please e-mail your copy to: carpo@optonline.net

Just before Dr. Lee Barker spoke about the church of the future and the need for institutions that will embrace the individual, no matter what, the Once & Again Folksingers sang Steve Axthelm's song: "A Little Closer". He used other words to articulate the same thought. Steve wrote both lyrics and music. It is a song that he wrote a few years ago about the need to move forward in life and the quality of relationships that we have. It is so easy to get distracted or to tell less than the whole truth. He says, in part,

"of all the thoughts and words that we have left as yet unspoken, let's cast aside the times we'd bide with small and hollow tokens... release the captive eagle, set it free."

It is a place where one can be real together.

And what is that eagle? It is our spirit. It soars when it is not busy hiding or pretending. That is a part of the reason why we find ourselves in a place like the Unitarian Church in Westport. It is a place where we can explore parts of ourselves surrounded by safety and support. It is a place where the 'eagle' can be set free. And we do it through the relationships that we create.

Later in the song, the choir comes in and sings:

"A little closer than we are, a little farther than the stars, we will get there when we open up our hearts. A little wiser than our years, a little stronger than our fears, we will get there when we open up our hearts."

Steve Axthelm is suggesting that when we risk relationships, we can become closer by allowing our heart to open. It is a message that is found in Buddhism, various forms of philosophy, Christianity, Judaism, Islam and you name it.

And so, may this spiritual home be one that will let your 'captive eagle free'. And may your heart know the joy of it.

UU Movie Discussion Group, Friday, October 24.



The next UU Movie Discussion takes place on Friday, October 24. The films to be discussed are "The Two Faces of January", "The Skeleton Twins" and "The Drop". Potluck dessert at 7:30; Discussion at 8. In the Meeting House. All are welcome.

With sadness we note the passing of Myron Kerstetter. Myron joined the church in 2000 and was a member of various choirs, contributing his talents to many Cabarets and was a member of the Worship Associates.

If you missed him last time...don't make the same mistake again!

VANCE GILBERT RETURNS TO VOICES CAFÉ

Saturday, October 11 at 8:00pm

Gilbert burst onto the singer/songwriter scene in the early 90's when the buzz spread through the folk clubs of the Northeast about an ex-multicultural arts teacher who was knocking them dead at open mics.

Word got out and Vance took audiences across North America by storm.

Tickets available at:

<http://voicescafe.org/buy-tickets/> or call 203.227.7205 x14

Visit Vance at:

<http://www.vancegilbert.com/>

"...the voice of an angel, the wit of a devil, and the guitar playing of a god..."

— Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"Gilbert took the stage, accompanied only by an acoustic guitar, a whimsical sense of humor, and an astonishingly smooth, pure tenor voice. But that proved to be more than enough."

— Chicago Tribune

"Astonishing...mind blowing...phenomenal... My jaw was literally hanging open by the end."

— Port Washington, NY Patch

"An incredibly witty and wry stage presence, the soulful guitarist-singer is considered one of folk-pop's most incisive and insightful songwriters."

— Philadelphia Courier Post