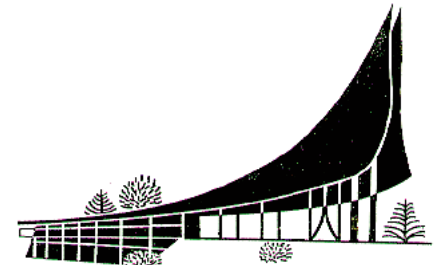


# SOUNDINGS

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



**THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, SEPT. 26**

Sept. 7 - Oct. 4, 2014

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Sept. 7</b> Homecoming Worship Service 10:00am <i>BBQ, Courtyard,</i> 11:00 pm CPR/AED Training: Sanctuary ... 12:00 pm	<b>8</b> Search Committee, E.W. ... 7:30 pm O&AF Rehearsal ... 7:45 pm	<b>9</b> Search Committee Focus Group, Sanct. ... 9:45 am Gala Auction Planning, E.W., ... 6:30 pm Membership Committee, Lib., ... 7:15 pm Men's Choir, M.H. ... 8 pm	<b>10</b> Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7:00 pm Search Focus Group, Sanct. ... 7:00 pm NLDC, Library, ... 7:00 pm	<b>11</b> Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	<b>12</b> Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm Youth Group Kick-Off, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> Neighborhood Circles, Youth RM., ... 10:00 am PCA, M.H., ... 1:00 pm Voices Cafe, Meeting Hse., 8 pm (Doors open: 7:30)
<b>14</b> Worship Services: 9 & 11 am <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Search Focus Group, Library ... 10:15 am RE Parent Orientation, E.W., ... 10:15 am & 12:15 pm 8th Gr. OWL, M.H. ... 12:15 pm Prevention Gun Violence, Sanct. ... 12:30 pm Rainbow Task Force, Ch. 12:30 A Year to Live, M.H., top floor, ... 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> Voting Rights, E.W. ... 7:00 pm Board of Trustees, F.R., ... 7:30 pm Search Committee, M.H. ... 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Database Task Force, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	<b>17</b> Chant & Meditation, MH... 7:00 pm Search Focus Group, E.W., ... 7:30 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	<b>18</b> Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> COA Overnight, Meeting Hse., starting at 10:15 am Committee Chair Training, E.W., ... 1:00 pm
<b>21</b> Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Peoples Climate March, NYC, ... 11:00 am Grade 8 Parent Mtng., Chapel ... 12:30pm	<b>22</b> Search Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm O&A Folksingers, ... 7:45 pm	<b>23</b> Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	<b>24</b> Food Justice Coalition, Chapel, ... 7:00 pm Chant & Meditation, M.H., ... 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	<b>26</b> SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12:00 pm Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm UU Movie Discussion Group, M.H., ... 7:30 pm	<b>27</b> REEL Justice, Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm
<b>28</b> Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Grade 8 Parent meeting, Chapel ... 12:30pm Environmental Action, East Wing, ... 12:30 pm	<b>29</b> Search Committee, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm	<b>30</b> Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	<b>Oct. 1</b> SOUNDINGS Mailing, 1 pm Chant & Meditation, Meeting Hse., ... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	<b>2</b> Youth Choir -5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir, 7:45 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

*Sermon information on following page.*

## SERMONS for SEPTEMBER

**SEPTEMBER 7...10 AM .....HOMECOMING: Make New Friends and Keep the Old..... Rev. Roberta Finklestein**

*At the start of a new 'church' year all of us will, in the words of the old camp song, make new friends and keep the old. That is what Homecoming is about. The old friends will be there: beginning the service on the lawn, processing into the sanctuary, reciting the names of those now departed. The new will include the formal introduction of several new staff members, a Reflection For All Ages, and a number of mini-homilies about what this community of faith is looking forward to in the year ahead.*

**Music:** The Special Projects Choir

ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 WE BEGIN TWO SERVICES AT 9 AM AND 11 AM. WE ALSO BEGIN TO WELCOME OUR CHILDREN IN THE SANCTUARY WEEKLY FOR A REFLECTION FOR ALL AGES BEFORE SENDING THEM OFF TO THEIR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

**SEPTEMBER 14 ... 9 & 11 AM ..... A Faithful Response to Gun Violence ..... Rev. Roberta Finklestein**

*A Faithful Response to Gun Violence – Rev. Roberta will offer her thoughts on the theological basis for the scourge of gun violence in our nation as well as providing some concrete actions you can take to address the situation.*

**Reflection For All Ages:** Blessing of Backpacks

**Worship Associate:** Marti Bishop

**Music:** 9am, Women's Choir. 11am, Men's Choir.

**SEPTEMBER 21 ... 9 & 11 AM 10 am ..... Covenant ..... Rev. Roberta Finklestein**

*As the Jewish High Holy Days come to an end Rev. Roberta will examine the meaning of covenant both for Jews and for Unitarian Universalists. We will begin a process of creating a congregational covenant of right relations. This service will also include a skit on how to tell a friend about Unitarian Universalism.*

**Reflection For All Ages:** Promises.

**Worship Associate:** Ellie Grosso.

**Music:** 9am, Men's Choir. 11am, Women's Choir

**SEPTEMBER 28 ... 9 & 11 AM ..... (Un) Connected Dots ..... Rev. Dr. Lee Barker**

*The world of religion is changing rapidly and it may be the best thing that ever happened to us.*

**Music:** Once & Again Folksingers at both services



Dr. Lee Barker has served as president and professor of ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School since 2003. Prior to his appointment he served twenty five years in the Unitarian Universalist parish ministry. A graduate of the University of Chicago and Meadville Lombard, President Barker has led the School through its creation of an innovative program of ministerial formation that infuses practical experience in parish and community settings with academic coursework. Along with his wife Kris, a landscape architect, and their daughter Ava, a seventh grader, he makes his home in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago.

## Calling all worker bees ...

The auction committee is looking for eager volunteers!! This "little project that could" needs manpower and womanpower to make it go. The great news is that we have all the systems in place and a good amount of exciting auction items.

**BUT we still need 'worker bees' to make it go!**

This is a great way to be a part of something BIG and do something great for the church. The "jobs" can be done during the day, after school, at night or on weekends. We have something for everyone.

We want you to "bee" on the team! Go to sign up genius to sign up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44a5a72b0-tucw>

Or email the committee: [TUCWauction@gmail.com](mailto:TUCWauction@gmail.com)



September 4, 2014

---

## In The Interim

---

“Anything that exists effectively in history must have form,” wrote UU theologian James Luther Adams. “And the creation of a form requires power. It requires not only the power of thought but the power of organization and the organization of power.” Adams reminded us that the strengths of liberal religion, when effectively arrayed, could bring justice and peace to a troubled world, but only when we are willing to embrace the organization of power and the power of organization.

We joke about being a disorganized rather than an organized religion. We make excuses: we are too small (in spite of the fact that in survey after survey people indicate that they would like to belong to a church just like the UU church, in only they knew that such a place existed!), too poor (in spite of the fact that Unitarian Universalists have among the highest per capita income of any religious group in the United States), and too modest to mold ourselves into a lean, un-mean religious machine.

Adams would have none of that. He urged us to get serious about our faith, to become an effective force for good in our communities. He said, in effect, “Don’t be afraid of power. Don’t shy away from organization. Don’t fall for the nonsense about structure equating with unnecessary bureaucracy. Leverage your strength!”

And that is what I am hoping you will do here at The Unitarian Church in Westport. I’m hoping you will flex your organizational muscles as you grow towards the next chapter in your storied history, that you will embrace and nurture the structures that will best support your ministries, that you will clarify, document, meet, talk, listen, vote, implement.

How can we do that? Glad you asked. Start by attending the workshop on The Power of Organization and the Organization of Power on Saturday September 20th, 2014 @ 1 pm in the East Wing. Join me and members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee for this half-day event focusing on leadership in our congregation. Whether you are a committee chair who has been here for decades or a brand new member looking for your particular place in the life of this community, you are welcome and will benefit. The workshop will be a lively and interactive experience that combines practical information with philosophical exploration. Best of all, snacks will be provided. Please pre-register ([roberta@uuwestport.org](mailto:roberta@uuwestport.org) or 203-227-7205 ext. 12).

Come with an open mind and you will leave with a greater sense of how to exercise the power of organization and the organization of power.

See you at the workshop or in worship.  
Rev. Roberta

If you are going through a challenging time or know somebody in the congregation who needs support from our Pastoral Care Associates call the office (203-227-7205) or send an email to [PCA@uuwestport.org](mailto:PCA@uuwestport.org).

# The Unexpected Gifts

---

---

When I first read the invitation to become a Pastoral Care Associate (PCA) in our UU community, I sensed a quiet voice within urging me to raise my hand. Though not understanding all that goes into being a PCA, I believed this would be one way to give back to the UU community as a whole for all the goodness and inspiration I've received over the handful of years I've been a member here. I also had been in search of an opportunity to serve in some way, and this seemed like a good path to take to do just that.

It has been almost a year since I, along with 17 other UU members, started along this path to becoming a PCA. And here's the surprise: The unexpected gift for me is that I am the one receiving so much. Whereas I started out thinking that being a PCA was a great opportunity to give, I now experience this role as a call to "sacred work" and an opportunity filled with wonderful blessings. The blessings have come in a number of ways. One that has meant a lot to me is a deep connection to a loving, compassionate group of UU members who went through the training with me. The PCA Leadership Team comprised of Rev. Roberta Finkelstein, Alex Horsky, Jim Francek, Suzan Converse and Tom Hearne did an excellent job in guiding us toward what it means to be a PCA. We practiced skills in deep listening and came to understand even more what compassionate care and true presence are. We also learned about our own limitations and what a PCA can and cannot do. We built community as we learned together and shared our own lives and concerns with one another.

Then came the greatest gift of all. The time came when, as a PCA, I was asked to serve, to connect with one of our UU church members who had requested a PCA. I so appreciate the opportunity of spending time with this person whom I visit on a monthly basis. While this person appears to enjoy our visits and always greets me with a wonderful smile, I know that I am once again on not only the giving side, but on the receiving side as well. As I listen to her, I can't help but be touched by her courage, her resilience and her spirit. I feel privileged that I am allowed to be present to another person in such a soulful way. And, yes, while there are joys and sorrows spoken out loud, there is also laughter and light-heartedness in this mix. I think one of the most important acts we do in being truly present to one another as a PCA or simply as one human being to another is to listen deeply, from the heart as well as the head. Mark Nepo says it so well when he writes:

*"But why listen at all? Because listening stitches the world together. Because listening is the doorway to everything that matters. It enlivens the heart the way breathing enlivens the lungs. We listen to awaken our heart. We do this to stay vital and alive. This is the work of reverence: to stay vital and alive by listening deeply. Ultimately, a devotion to deep listening remains the simple and sacred work of being here."*

I'll end by way of saying what I have found--that being a PCA is a blessing and a gift; it is "the simple and sacred work of being here." And I am so grateful to our UU church for this opportunity.

Appreciatively,  
Patricia Francek

CONNECTION, LEADERSHIP, REACH IN, REACH OUT



This year in our Lifespan Faith Development we are hoping to encourage you to do THREE things:

**1. Make Connections** during the week with other TUCW people!

If you don't have children, ask a family to join you on that hike, or go to a soccer game with them. If you do - It builds connections that will enrich our Sunday experiences together and you personally as well!

Families with children in the same grade, take a moment after services with others. Find out what places and activities each of you are ALREADY involved in. What could you do together? Get each other's "best way to contact me" info!

Make new friends and keep the old" with people who share your values and encourage you to be your best self!

- Invite others to join your family board game or movie night, or at your favorite restaurant or for your favorite meal.
- Plant bulbs at each other's home or in the community and share the joy in spring.
- \* Go to a museum, sporting event, other family friendly event (maybe get a group discount for a whole group to go?) and wear "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts or bags or caps.
- Work at the Soup Kitchen or your favorite service in the greater community – "walk your talk" together!

Contact Nancy Seligson, RE Council Connections Chair - Tell her what you are doing and so she can help spread the word! nancy@nancyseligion.com

**2. Develop Leadership** - Our children will learn about leadership in stories on Sundays and by opportunities to serve, but it would be even better if they see you involved and hear from you! Talk to our children & Youth about your experiences being a leader. "I had a great experience once..." or "when I was faced with that, I ..."

- Celebrate and ask about our youth leaders: Nicole Khanna has stepped up to facilitate communication & organization with our Youth Program Director, Cal Wacker. Amy Dimon & Fiona McElroy will share their experience with district wide "Goldmine Leader =ship Training" this past summer. Anneliese Keeton and others have come to RE COUNCIL and Youth Circle Meetings . Our goal is to support Youth leaders and see what they are passionate about!

**3. Reach in and Reach out –**

- No matter your age, keep searching and finding tools & experiences to look inside. Who are you today? (Reach in by attending services/classes & make time for reflect). Who are your neighbors? (Reach out in the greater community)

**Revival of Adult Ed - FRIDAY FAITH FORMATION–**

There is work in progress for a comprehensive Adult program (spiritual, social action, special topics). First offering: "Parents As Resident Theologians" - a class for all adults in a relationship with a child starts in October.

Come to the Parent Orientations, or Council meetings to hear what we have planned for 2014-2015 (see calendar for dates) There's something for ALL Ag

**K-3rd gr. Starts The Chalice Project**



Thanks to **Betsy Beach** and **Monica Garrison** our UU Explorers (K-3rd graders) will participate in the Chalice Project. This project will give UU Explorers the opportunity to make their own kiln fired Chalices to take home.

**Sign up for a pair of dates either:** 9/21 and 10/5, or 9/28 and 10/12 to give us time to fire chalices made on 9/28. before painting the glaze on.

We expect to be done with the firing process by the end of October for both groups. We ask that you commit to coming two dates so that your child will be able to complete their Chalice.

- **K-3rd parents** - Please go to the sign up to reserve your spot <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea8a923a02-k3rd>

**Fri. Sept 5th –**

6-12 gr. Teacher's Potluck (6 pm), Info & Team Meetings (7pm)MH.-

**Sat. Sept. 6th –**

Pre-K to 5th gr. Teacher's Potluck (6pm), Info & Team Meetings (7pm) Mtg Hse

**Sun. Sept.7th –**

Homecoming service for all ages – 10am BBQ follows – see link in ad to RSVP Wiffle Ball by Sam Khanna & Company - children, youth & Waiting Adults Safety Training –Sanctuary – 12-3pm RSVP <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea8a923a02-safety>

**Fri. Sept. 12 –**

7pm - YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF

**Sat. Sept.13-14 –**

6-8th gr. Metro NY District Retreat (9 am Sat.to 8 am Sun.)

**Sun. Sept. 14 -**

All start in Sanctuary -Bless Backpacks + Teacher Commissioning, 9:15ish: Pre-K and K-3rd go to Lower Lev. 11:15ish: Pre-K through 7th to Low. Lev. 9th gr. Coming of Age (CoA) & Youth Group -Meeting House After Services: General Parent Orientation (1/2 hr)- East Wing 12:20-1:45 pm -REQUIRED 8th OWL Parent's Orientation –Mtg Hse (Wiffle ball with 8th graders & 9th graders, youth group possible)

**Sat. Sept. 20-21 -**

9th gr.CoA Overnight (Sat.10:30am-Sun.12:30 pm)

**Sun. Sept. 21–**

8th gr.OWL Begins - 11-1pm 3rd Flr MH 8th gr. Parent's Group 12:30 -1 pm East wing or Chapel 6-7th gr. to Social Action Climate Change March NYC- time TBD

**Sun. Sept. 28 –**

9th CoA – Service work day #1

**Weds. Oct. 1 -**

7-8:15 pm –REQUIRED 8th OWL PARENTS view visuals - E.W.

**Sun, Oct. 5th –**

Harvest eventfor Bring-A-Friend Sunday

**Tues. Oct 7th** - Youth Circle - learn about middle & High school plans

# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

by Cal Wacker, Youth Program Director

Hi.

To those of you who know me, and those of you who don't, my name is Cal Wacker. I am your new Youth Program Director, and I want to start off my time with you saying something I believe to be profoundly important.

Thank you for this opportunity to return to the congregation that helped raise me. Thank you for trusting my years of personal and professional experience and choosing to hire me. Thank you for working with me as a student, a parent, an advisor, or member of this wonderful and welcoming congregational home we've all worked hard to make. I hope you are as excited as I am about this coming fall and spring, because we've got a lot of excitement ahead of us.

## **Sun. Sept.7: Homecoming at 10:00 am**

BBQ sponsored by RE Council followed by a voluntary Safety training for anyone 14 and up.

## **Friday, Sept. 12,: 6:00pm Parents and Youth Potluck, 7:00-9:00pm Meeting**

This is first time we'll be meeting this year as parents and youth, laying out the schedule and our goals for the year. Chance to talk to parents about volunteer needs, and getting any stragglers who have not signed registrations to do so. We'll also be broaching the topic of Senior High OWL classes: Yay or Nay.

## **Sunday, Sept. 14, is the first day of 9:00 and 11:00 am services!**

Youth Group meets officially starting at 11am on this day! Our own homecoming and opening of our time together.

## **RSVP HERE:**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea8a923a02-fall>

## **Sunday Sept. 21, Manhattan, NYC- People's Climate Change March.**

This is a pretty cool event that it turns out will be happening in our own neck of the woods. As part of a call to show support in global awareness and action concerning the environment, Sunday will have a march starting at Columbus Circle and ending down at the United Nations Building. Currently the NY metro district UU community is organizing to be a presence there. David Vita is organizing members of UU Westport to be there. I would like to have our youth be a part of this and travel to march that Sunday. Feasibility, interest, and logistics can be talked out with parents at the September 12th potluck.

Thanks for all your time, and I look forward to seeing you on Friday. It's gonna be a great year!

Best wishes,

Cal

## Ministerial Search Focus Group Update

Two of the planned search related focus group sessions are over! Thirty one congregants have expressed their ideas about our future ministry including programming, preaching style, administrative skills, community involvement and personality traits. With ten people in each group, it takes an hour for everyone to be able to express themselves fully. The search committee will use this data for three things:

- To create a portrait of our congregation that prospective candidates will read
- To help us perfect the survey you'll be filling out in September
- To guide us in finding the right minister for all of us

Here are the dates of the remaining focus groups:

- **Thursday 9/4 2pm**
- **Saturday 9/6 Noon**
- **Tuesday 9/9 10am**
- **Tuesday 9/9 11:30 – Seniors**
- **Wednesday 9/10 7:30pm**
- **Sunday 9/14 10:30am**
- **Wednesday 9/17 7:30pm**
- **Sunday 9/21 12:30pm**

The Search process won't be over until May but right now is the time for you to give us your ideas. We hope to see you all soon at one of these important information gathering sessions. Sign up on our website or on the triangular bulletin board in the Fellowship room or write to [ministersearch@uuwestport.org](mailto:ministersearch@uuwestport.org).

*Jim Cooper, Charles Harrington, Linda Hudson, Kristen Leddy, John Mason, Carrie McEvoy, Catherine Onjemelukwe, Anita Pfluger and Kathy Roberts – your search committee*

## Feel like going to the movies?

Enjoy going to the movies? Ever wish there was someone to talk about them with? Consider joining the UU Movie Discussion Group! We meet on the last Friday of the month at the Meeting House.

Here's how it works: each month we choose two films to be discussed the following month. We rate them on a 1 to 10 scale and then the fun begins. Discussions are lively ... sometimes we all agree, but more often than not we don't. It's a great chance to gain insights into a film that you didn't originally perceive.

And – best of all – the discussion is preceded with a potluck dessert, so you get to share some goodies and chat a bit with others.

Drop in some Friday and share your movie experience! Films are announced monthly in SOUNDINGS.

*UU Movie Discussion Group*

*Led by Lorna Donnelly & Carol Goddard*

*7:30: Potluck Dessert, 8:00: Discussion Begins*

*Next meeting: Friday, Sept. 26 at 7:30. at the Meeting Hse. Films to be discussed are "Boyshood" and "Calvary".*

## September 21 – A Day Not to be Missed!

We're beginning to gear up for the People's Climate Change March on Sunday, September 21. This will be a family-friendly event. The tone and tenor will be dignified, fun, impactful and empowering. It will be permitted, peaceful, and safe for all who come.

The march will be at a leisurely pace, and easy to jump in or out of - so even with mobility issues, you should be able to join.

Members of the Youth Group, Religious Education, and adult members of the congregation will all be attending. We will travel by train as a group arriving in time for the 11:30 march. Going by train eliminates dealing with cars or a bus on what will be a very crowded New York City. Individuals will also be able to leave at their own convenience. There will be 12 train cars leaving New Haven specifically for the march. They will stop in Westport and we will be on one of those trains.

Right now we need to start building a list of who will be coming. Please contact David Vita: david@uuwestport.org or 203.227.7205 x14. We will be sending out more information as we approach the 21st.



### New York: The Power and the People & Intimate Apparel

Once again we're collaborating with the Westport Country Playhouse and TEAM Westport, this time bringing together Ric Burn's documentary film *New York: The Power and the People* and the Playhouse's production of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Intimate Apparel".

The film sets the historical backdrop—New York City around the turn of the 20th century, immigration, labor unrest, the garment industry, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, the Flatiron Building went up, and the subway went down. It's a fascinating look at the city during the years when "Intimate Apparel" takes place.

"Intimate Apparel"—the time is 1905, the place New York City, where Esther, a black seamstress, lives in a boarding house for women and sews intimate apparel for clients who range from wealthy white patrons to prostitutes. The play offers poignant commentary on an era when the cut and color of one's dress—and of course, skin—determined whom one could and could not marry, sleep with, even talk to in public.

Chad Kinsman, Artistic and Management Coordinator for the Playhouse, will lead a post-film discussion and we will be organizing a group to see the play together in October.

This is part of our REEL Justice Film series: Saturday, September 27 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary.



### Beardsley School Volunteer Meeting on September 9th

On September 9th at 10:00am there will be an informational meeting at the Beardsley School in the library for new and existing volunteers. This is a chance to meet the principal, Sharon Pivrotto, see the school and learn more about volunteering at Beardsley. If you are interested in volunteering at our adopted school, please contact Carol Seiple at carol@theseiples.com or call 203-682-4584. Tutors for reading and library volunteers are needed.



## FROM THE BOARD

### **Promises**

Who am I so speak on this subject? I could dwell the night on the broken ones. I think of one of my favorite modern day poets, Jackson Browne in "These Days":

*These days I sit on corner stones  
And count the time in quarter tones to ten, my friend  
Don't confront me with my failures  
I had not forgotten them*

I have not forgotten them. But I do want my promises to mean something and I think I've improved and will continue to try. I think I'm a UU because I want truth and honesty – I want to do what I've said I'll do.

*Promise: noun - a declaration that something will or will not be done*

This subject came up at the last Board Meeting. As do most non-profit's we assume that we'll collect almost all of pledged funds, allowing for some folks who may have had a change in financial circumstances – the practical part of relying on our membership's generosity to pay our bills. This year's fulfillment is considerably less than normal. Some may be feeling like "wait and see" where TUCW goes next, who leads? Others may simply be unaware they have overlooked this...

*Pledge: noun - a solemn promise or agreement to do or refrain from doing something*

I may have over-pledged this coming year. Starting with an inspirational meeting at Catherine Onyemenlukwe's house and the hosannas ; ) I went up 10% (you must see the video Julia Wyatt and John Simboli made about our amazing congregation (add link and put on website)) then the Board dug deeper to set an example, followed by UGNO arm-twisting with beer. I'll figure it out somehow. I've also been dropping checks with "pledge" in the memo the last few weeks as I saw I was at 95%ish of last years pledge and needed them to count.

The church makes promises of its own, to staff, programming and our treasured building and grounds. So, what does it take? If you can fulfill your promise please do so. If you cannot or will not, then consider why and make this the year to reset for the future. Contact the business office and change it, this one time, to what you can or want to do. Then do it. For you may not pass this way again.

And Frost:

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.*

Steve Axthelm, Board Member

## Homecoming BBQ

for Homecoming Sunday Sept. 7 after the 10am service & before  
the Safety training

Please RSVP at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea8a923a02-homecoming>



At the RSVP site you can sign up to bring a hearty salad or help us gather other items as well.  
We need your help to make this fun event happen. Any questions you can contact  
RE Council Co-chair Jerusha Vogel [jerushav@gmail.com](mailto:jerushav@gmail.com)



# Transition Team News / A New Year

---

The Transition Team met in August to plan the work we will undertake in the second year of our transition with Rev. Roberta. Our three main jobs in the coming months will be:

- organizing and running our second annual UUA Book Fair;
- working with church committees to help them write Committee Charters; and
- working with the congregation to develop our own Congregational Covenant.

## Why these tasks?

**1. The book fair** was a good fund raiser for our church last year, and people told us that they appreciated the opportunity to browse, and to buy some great books. We also think the book fair is a great way of continuing to strengthen our connections with the UUA. The book fair will take place the first two Sundays in November in the East Wing. This year we hope to offer books that have been personally recommended by our staff and members. If there is a Beacon Press or Skinner House publication that you would like to recommend to others in the congregation please let one of us know.

**2. Our website** currently shows more than 40 church committees. What are their goals? Who fills roles within each committee? What are the committees' responsibilities? Transition team members will work with committee members to answer these questions and more, resulting in a simple but effective Committee Charter for each church committee. It will be like a job description for each committee! This work should be completed by December.

**3. Finally, in the early part of 2015** we will be asking each of you to tell us what you think should be included in our congregational covenant. There won't be meetings to attend to be part of this, we will simply ask you to consider a couple of questions about what you need from others in the congregation, and what you are willing to offer. The resulting document will be a written promise to each other, stating how we will be together as a congregation. Many of us are familiar with making covenants within church groups, teams, or committees. This will be a covenant for the whole congregation, which we will be able to share with new members. More information on this subject will follow.

We are refreshed from our summer vacations and look forward to working with you. Please contact any of us to ask questions or to share your thoughts.

**The Transition Team is made up of:** *Bob Perry, Connie Rockman, William McEvoy, Andrew Graham, and Lorna Donnelly.* Our first year of transition has been busy, just the way Rev. Roberta and the Transition Team wanted it to be. This year our whole congregation has had the opportunity to attend ten scheduled events and participate in other mor

---



## Wiffleball

**Sept. 7th** Sam Khanna will organize a Wiffleball Tournament after we eat our BBQ, so those who wish to can play while other are in the safety training. On this date we need teens or adults (the village!) to supervise the playground so staff can get training – please do & contact [mary.dre@uuwestport.org](mailto:mary.dre@uuwestport.org)

**Sept. 14th** - Youth Group may play the 8th grader & 9th graders following the 11:00 am service (and while 8th grade Parents are in OWL parent orientation. - if your youth will be there Contact Nicole Khanna

[16khannan@gmail.com](mailto:16khannan@gmail.com)

*You are invited to attend the*  
***Holiday Jewelry***  
***Sale***

*to be held on*  
*Sunday, December 7th*

*Donations Gratefully Accepted By*  
*Chris Place,*  
*Julie Fatherley & Marilynn Reed*

---

## Beardsley School Volunteer Meeting on September 9th

On September 9th at 10am there will be an informational meeting at Beardsley School in the library for new and existing volunteers. This is a chance to meet the principal, Sharon Pivrotto, see the school and learn more about volunteering at Beardsley.

If you are interested in volunteering at our adopted school, please contact Carol Seiple at [carol@theseiples.com](mailto:carol@theseiples.com) or call 203-682-4584. Tutors for reading and library volunteers are needed.ewelry sale

## SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Church in Westport

Phone: (203) 227-7205

Fax: (203) 221-7979

E-mail: [uuchurch@uuwestport.org](mailto:uuchurch@uuwestport.org)

### Church Staff

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein.....*Interim  
Senior Minister*

*Ext. 12; [roberta@uuwestport.org](mailto:roberta@uuwestport.org)*

Edward Thompson ..... *Minister of Music*

*Ext. 18; [ed@uuwestport.org](mailto:ed@uuwestport.org)*

Dorothy Adams..... *Director of Operations*

*Ext. 16; [dorothy@uuwestport.org](mailto:dorothy@uuwestport.org)*

Jan Braunle ..... *Administrative Associate*

*Ext. 10; [jan@uuwestport.org](mailto:jan@uuwestport.org)*

Mary B. Collins ..... *RE Director*

*Ext. 15; [mary.dre@uuwestport.org](mailto:mary.dre@uuwestport.org)*

Cal Wacker ..... *Youth Program Dir.*

*Ext. 17; .....[cal@uuwestport.org](mailto:cal@uuwestport.org)*

Hayden Parker ..... *RE Assistant*

*Ext. 17; [REAssist@uuwestport.org](mailto:REAssist@uuwestport.org)*

David Vita ..... *Social Justice Director*

*Membership Director*

*Ext. 14; [david@uuwestport.org](mailto:david@uuwestport.org)*

Mike Roman ..... *Sexton*

*Ext. 11; [mike@uuwestport.org](mailto:mike@uuwestport.org)*

Rev. Frank Hall ..... *Minister Emeritus*

Rev. Debra Haffner ..... *Endorsed*

*zz Community Minister  
[debra@uuwestport.org](mailto: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](http://www.uuwestport.org)

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is  
Friday, Sept. 26, at noon. Please e-mail  
your copy to: [carpo@optonline.net](mailto:carpo@optonline.net)

### Are YOU open to possibility?...

Over the years we have, with much work, built a music program that is dynamic and wonderful. It is one of the largest and most diversified in the entire denomination! We have much to be proud of. To be sure, music is one of the strong ministries here because we can explore, grow and nurture our spirituality through music. We are so lucky to be blessed with this variety!

This situation happens because of the work of many dedicated people. Of course, the past successes are no guarantee of future success. Why not?

Life happens. People move. Sometimes there are health issues. Sometimes people change priorities or commitments. The list goes on, as you can imagine.

At the beginning of the year there is a time for each person to make a decision about commitment and dedication. Again. One of the reasons there are multiple choirs is that each has a different skill set, a different time commitment, and a different repertoire. We have something for everyone. And let's not forget that many a friendship has been grown and nurtured by being a part of the musical 'network'. Sometimes it is not just about the music itself.

For those of you who may be thinking about joining, I whole-heartedly invite YOU to be in touch with me so we can talk about the best way for you to get involved. It is a unique opportunity that is a win-win for you and for the congregation, and it is a nice way for you to give back to your community. How great would it be to walk away from here with a song in YOUR heart and a tune from YOUR voice! A great opportunity awaits YOU.

For all questions, concerns, schedules and possibilities, please be in touch: 203-227-7205 ext. 18 or [ed@uuwestport.org](mailto:ed@uuwestport.org) or see me in person.



### Blessing of the Backpacks

Rev. Roberta will be blessing all students' backpacks, setting us up to carry our UU Principles out into the world. Parents, please help your child remember to bring his or her backpack on September 14th to services!

Put a donation for the CT Food Bank inside



# BRING A FRIEND DAY

O C T O B E R 5 T H 2 0 1 4

Dear Friend,

Unitarian Universalists account for 0.3% of American adults — just three-tenths of one percent! Is it any wonder that our faith is one of the least understood among the general public? On October 5th TUCW will take a step to increase awareness of our faith and our congregation by hosting **Bring a Friend Day** at the 9am and 11am services. The goal of **Bring a Friend Day** is to raise awareness of our unique faith by bringing our friends to church for an hour of music, reflection, and community. Rev. Roberta's sermon will include an explanation of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, and brunch will follow the service.

Allison and I are excited about **Bring a Friend Day** for three reasons. First, we want our friends to understand what we're doing when we go to church every week. Second, it's a reason to invite friends who have expressed an interest in visiting but haven't quite gotten around to it. Third, we have benefited so much from being a part of this spiritual community that we feel inspired to share it with others.

Please join us in bringing a friend or family member to the 9am or 11am service on October 5th. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [rlw14@yahoo.com](mailto:rlw14@yahoo.com), call me at 203-919-2057, or speak to anyone at the Welcome Table in the foyer during coffee hour.

Warmly,  
Bob Welsh  
Membership Committee Chair

# *Voices Café - Season #4*

**Opening our 4<sup>th</sup> season with Tony Denikos on Saturday, September 13 in the Meeting House.**



Modern Americana with deep roots; Tony's music is witty, cutting, purposeful and reflective. His authentic voice will drive the stories straight to your heart. Tony Denikos' songwriting is filled with emotion and romanticism, moving from social commentary to small portraits of American life.... A good example of modern Americana and songwriting of noble birth.

**And then welcome back Vance Gilbert for a return engagement on Saturday, October 11 in the Sanctuary. If you missed him last time don't make the same mistake again!**

Vance 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 Gilbert took audiences across North America by storm. He plays "With the voice of an angel, the wit of a devil, and the guitar playing of a god" wrote the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



**All performances are at 8:00pm. Doors open at 7:30**

**Tickets are available at <http://voicescafe.org/buy-tickets/>**

**Visit our website: <http://voicescafe.org/> and Like us on Facebook!**