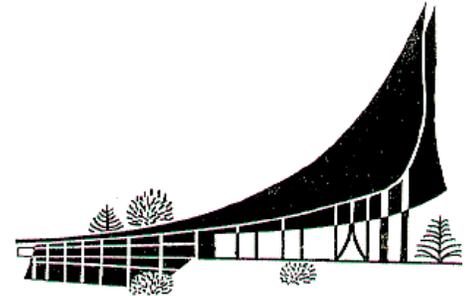


# SOUNDINGS

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



**THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

March 23 - April 19, 2014

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Mar. 23</b> Worship Service: 9am Concert Service: 11 am Parent's 8th Gr, intro to CoA, E.W. ...12:30 pm Environmental Action, Library, 12:30 pm Conversation on Hunger, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm	<b>24</b> Drum Circle, Chapel, ... 7:00 pm Stewardship, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:15 pm	<b>25</b> Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	<b>26</b> Chant & Meditation, M.H., ... 7:00 pm NVC Practice, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir, 7:45 pm	<b>28</b> Youth Group Rehearsal, & Social, Sanctuary, ... 6:30 pm Potluck YG & Parents "Raising Teens Talk" East Wing ... 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Youth Group Worship Services: 9 & 11 am	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b> Men's Choir, Chapel, ... 8:00 pm	<b>2</b> Chant & Meditation, M.H., ... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	<b>3</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	<b>4</b> Shawl Ministry, M.H. ... 12:30 pm <b>Curious Savage, Performance,</b> Sanctuary, 8:00 pm	<b>5</b> Newcomer Orient., E.W. ...9:00 am Interim Minister's Forum, M.H., ... 10:30 am UU Young Adults, Y.R. ... 12:00 pm <b>Curious Savage, Performance,</b> Sanctuary, 8:00 pm
<b>6</b> Worship Services: 9 & 11 am Voices Cafe Meeting, Library, ... 12:30 pm <b>Curious Savage, Performance,</b> Sanctuary, 3:00 pm	<b>7</b> Stewardship, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:15 pm O&AF Rehearsal, ... 7:45 pm	<b>8</b> Senior Luncheon, M.H., - 11:00 am RE Youth Circle, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm RE Council, Fellowship Rm., ... 8:00 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	<b>9</b> Chant & Meditation, M.H., ... 7:00 pm NVC Practice, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	<b>11</b> SOUNDINGS Deadline, 12 noon Qigong, East Wing, ... 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> Neighborhood Circles, Youth Rm., ... 10:00 am Pastoral Care Associates, Chapel, ... 1:00 pm <b>Voices Cafe,</b> 8:00 pm Doors open 7:30 pm
<b>13</b> Worship Services: 9 & 11 am No RE for K up, nursery care available <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Rainbow Task Force, Chapel - 12:30 pm	<b>14</b> Gun Safety Committee, E.W., ...7:30 pm Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SOUNDINGS Mailing - 1 pm Chant & Meditation, M.H., ... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	<b>17</b> Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Committee, Fellowship Rm., ... 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Men & Women's Choir - 8:00 pm	<b>18</b> Shawl Ministry, M.H., ... 12:30 pm	<b>19</b> Spring Clean-up, Outside, ... 9:00 am Small Group Facilitators, Y.R., ... 10:00 am <b>REEL Justice Film,</b> - 8:00 pm

*Sermon information on following page.*

## SERMONS for MARCH / APRIL

MARCH 23 ... 9 am ..... “All Creatures, Each In Their Own Way” ..... Rev. Roberta Finklestein

*At 11 am this Sunday the choir will be singing Benjamin Britten’s “Rejoice in the Lamb Festival Cantata”. At the early service Rev. Roberta’s sermon will explore the theology of the lyrics to this piece, which come from a poem written by Christopher Smart. Smart writes that all creatures worship, each in their own way. Perhaps he was a Universalist?*

**Music:** Soloists Jenna Jacobs-Dick and Anneliese Keaton.

11 am ..... **Spring Concert** ..... **Special Projects Choir**

*The Special Projects Choir will sing a major work of Benjamin Britten, Rejoice in the Lamb.*

MARCH 30 ... 9 & 11 am ..... “Bridging the Generation Gap”

*presented by the High School Youth Group at both services. They will explore: How do we talk to each other and build bridges between the generations? (Nursery/Pre-K in lower level but K and up are welcome in this service)*

**Music:** The Teen Choir will sing at both services

APRIL 6 ... 9 & 11 am ..... “It’s Only Change” ..... Rev. Craig Hirshberg

*Rev Craig Hirshberg, the ministerial settlement representative (MSR), will join us this Sunday to explain the dynamics of change within a congregation in transition and the process of searching for a new minister.*

*She will be available during coffee hour to answer your questions.*

**Music:** 9:00: Women’s Choir, 11:00: Men’s Choir.

APRIL 13 ... 9 & 11 am ..... “The “L” Word, Part 3: Covenant (vs. Creed) ..... Rev. Roberta Finkelstein

*Rev. Roberta concludes her three part sermon series on the foundational principles of liberal (the “L” word) religion by examining the place of covenant in congregational life.*

**Music:** 9:00: Men’s Choir, 11:00: Women’s Choir.

APRIL 20 ... 9 & 11 am ..... “From Passover to Easter” ..... Rev. Roberta Finklestein

*This year Easter and Passover coincide. Rev. Roberta will trace the shared Jewish and Christian story from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to Easter. After the children leave for their Easter activities, Rev. Roberta will consider the crucifixion and resurrection from a UU perspective. **Music:** Men’s and Women’s Choir combined for both services.*



## FROM THE BOARD

Dear Fellow Members of the Unitarian Church in Westport,

### ***We Move Forward!!!***

At our last meeting the Board voted for the Unitarian Church in Westport to go into search for a Settled Senior Minister for the first time in thirty years!

To begin this process Rev Craig Hirshberg, the ministerial settlement representative (MSR) will join us Sunday April 6th at both services.

Her sermon topic will be “**It’s Only Change**” She will explain the dynamics of change within a congregation in transition and the process of searching for a new minister.

She will be available after coffee hour to answer any questions.

I hope all members will be able to attend to find out about the search process.

In Faith and Fellowship,  
Randy Burnham, *Board Chair*

March 19, 2014

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## In The Interim

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As a minister, I try very hard to live in the present moment. I try to look for the positive in my surroundings and to be appreciative of all that the universe offers to me. So it is hard for me to confess that I am really, really sick of winter and I want spring to come. Now!

*in Just spring when the world is mudluscious  
the little lame balloonman whistles far and wee  
and eddieandbill come running from marbles and piracies  
and it's spring  
when the world is puddle-wonderful  
the queer old balloonman whistles far and wee  
and  
bettyandisbel come dancing from hop-scotch and jump-rope  
and it's spring  
and the goat-footed ballonMan whistles far and wee  
(ee cummings – poet and son of a Unitarian minister)*

For as long as human beings have put words to their thoughts and feelings, there have been poems and songs and dances and rituals to welcome the arrival of Spring. We may be tempted to make a distinction between the sacred and the secular in this regard, to say that some welcome Spring religiously (those that talk about resurrection and rebirth), and others secularly (those that talk about love and hopscotch and the balloonman). This is a false distinction. It is all religious. It is all secular. It is all spiritual. All of us live by the coming and going of the seasons, and all of us know that each season has a particular spiritual message. The spirituality of Spring beckons to us with its message of new life, hope, and the possibility of living in beauty.

Each month the local UU ministers gather for worship and fellowship. We talked at our March meeting about earth based spirituality, about how important it is for all of us to remember that the reliable rhythms of the seasons are part of our spiritual lives. That reliable rhythm means that on March 20th, the date of the Vernal Equinox when the hours of light and dark are approximately equal, spring will come no matter what the weather is like.

We all celebrate the arrival of spring in our own way. With words, with music, with dance, with ritual. We may need a good helping of imagination for this year's celebration since, as I write this, it is 19 degrees outside. But still we depend on the reliable rhythm of nature; we believe that spring is here. With that faith we recognize that in this season of new life there is much to enjoy, much to embrace, much to look forward to. I will let ee cummings have the last word on this subject.

*sweet spring is your time  
is my time is our time  
for springtime is lovetime  
and viva sweet love*

Yours In Faith,  
Rev. Roberta

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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).

# UU Westport

# SPRING

## Cleanup on April 19th



Please join the members  
of Small Group Ministry at the  
church's spring cleanup on Saturday,  
April 19th from 9-12:30,  
followed by lunch.

Please bring rakes, other gardening  
tools and work gloves.

We will also need people to help  
Mike set up for lunch.

Please e-mail Steven Rosenberg @  
[rosen323@aol.com](mailto:rosen323@aol.com)  
for more information.

**REPORT BACK FROM MARCH 4th Meeting- Plans for 2014-15 Programming**

RE Curriculum/Social Justice/ Youth Circles, with input from a cross section of our community, met to make decisions about certain curricula & the overview of programming for 2014-15. We spoke of incorporating more UUA.org Tapestry of Faith curricula (listed in italics below and available for your review on-line) for various age groups. Elementary Our Whole Lives Programming may be in the spring..

• **Pre-K** - We will use a basic template: Free play, Felt Chalice lighting, with a story & activity from Chalice Children by Kate Tweedie Erslev (a pre-school curriculum of UU identity) and end with Free play.

**K-3rd gr.** - Topic areas in 2014-15: 8 sessions UU identity, 4 session Social Justice Project, 4 sessions each from: Jewish, Christian, Hindu & Earth-Based religions. These are our UU Sources of Wisdom that we will find our UU Principles in. Worship & Activities will be drawn from a variety of curricula, and there will be time for whole group activities as well as some time to split into smaller groups of K-1st and 2-3rd graders for some of the time.

**4-5th grades** - Toolbox of Faith in 2014-15 (UU identity) & Sing To the Power in 2015-16 (Leadership development)

**6-7th grades** - Chose: Neighboring Faiths in 2014-15 (World Religions) and Heeding the Call 2015-16 (Leadership and how to be an ally to marginalized communities)

**8th grade** Our Whole Lives (sexuality & values) - Sept.-March, & Start Coming of Age in April-May (Boston Heritage trip, UU History, Camp Jewel).

**9th grade Chose:** Lessons from UUA Coming of Age Handbook Sept-Dec - a mix of overnights and Sunday Sessions & join Youth Group right before Christmas break.

**High School Youth Group** - Youth led activities, Service trip Youth Service Opportunity, Overnights on site & Camp Jewell, as well as the elements of Virtue & Ethics (pick readings, or questions or fun activities from it) and  
• Possible: 1 x month 10-12th grade Our Whole Lives either right after youth group or Sunday Evenings (if you have a preference let us know)

**NOTE: NEW FOR SPRING - Be on the look out for people to help you REGISTER your children & youth for these 2014-2015 classes & APPLY FOR being in a TEACHING TEAM - Parents expected, Other Adults & teens who have completed Coming of Age are welcome (choose Fall or Winter/Spring Semesters). Required Training - dates in early September.**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT BACK**



The Kindergarten-6th graders have been looking at immigration as a social justice topic on First Sundays for the past 3 months, and our last lesson will be on April 6th. As a project in March, some of the children made soft cozy blankets for the nursery at Mercy Learning Center (MLC). Many of the students at MLC are immigrants, with 51 countries represented by the student population (including the U.S.)

The 5th & 6th graders read poetry written by Chinese immigrants at Angel Island, though current immigrants came from different places but they have always come. They continue to hold a food drive for MLC, so please bring in what you can for the next few weeks.

**Look for the Mercy Learning Center Box** - food drive needs: Cereal, crackers, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Pasta & tomato sauce, BAGS of beans & rice (not boxes) Canned: tuna, soup, fruit, or GIFT CARDS: Stop & Shop, Walgreens, CVS, Kohls, Target

**March 23-**

Pre-K: Bodies are Different- Lower Level  
K-4th: Hindu – Holi – dress for mess - Chapel  
5-6th: Jesus' New Ideas- Mtg Hse Main Flr  
7th: Native American Intro – East Wing  
8th: Meet CoA leaders about Coming of Age program – Mtg Hse-3rd flr + 8th gr. Parents meet -East Wing 12:30-1:00pm  
9-12th: Youth Group – Prep for YG Service

**Fri. March 28th -**

Youth Group rehearsal 6:30 pm, family potluck  
7 pm, After dinner: youth socialize if done rehearsing, parent small groups & discuss "Raising Teens" with Barb Kezur

**March 29 - 30 -**

-9am Sat. to 8am, Sun. March 30 6-8th gr. Junior Youth Con. in NJ

**March 30th -**

Youth Group Service – Sanctuary  
Topic: Bridging the Generation Gap  
Pre-K- Everyone's Afraid Sometimes

**April 6th -**

Child Dedications today,  
K-6th gr. - START IN SANCTUARY  
Pre-K- We can be Angry without hurting others.  
K-6th - Social Action– topic: Immigration – Sanct. then Lower Level, 8th grade – CoA UU History session. 7th, and 9th –12th-Youth Gr. guests: Native American Pipe Ceremony -Mtg Hse-Ground Flr – outside.

**Tues. April 8th -**

7:00 pm Religious Education Youth Circle - Fellowship Rm.  
8:00 pm Religious Education COUNCIL - all are welcome- Fellowship Rm.

**April 13th -**

School Break - No Groups except: Nursery/Pre-K: We Need Rain.

**April 20th -**

Easter Sunday start in Service and K-4 leave after 1/2 hour for half hour of activities in Lower Level or outside Pre-K- Easter.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

by Mary Curtsmith  
Youth Program Director



My name is Douglas. I'm 15 and a sophomore at Weston High School. I enjoy skiing, video games, junk food, blogging, and social justice. I am an artist and I work on my art a lot, both digitally and traditionally. I currently have several art projects running.

I enjoy going to Youth Group each week because it functions as a place for me to relax and see my friends every week. It's often difficult to keep up with all my projects and schoolwork, and Youth Group is a needed break from school stress. It gives me the chance to unwind in between busy weeks, and the laid back atmosphere and friendly personalities I know will be there are calming. I also enjoy the trips we take, like the YSOP trip, because it provides an opportunity to travel to big cities and sightsee with my friends, while simultaneously working for a beneficial cause.



## An Update on the Phone System

You may have noticed that the church's main number, 203-227-7205, is now answered by an automated outgoing announcement. And although you hear the familiar voice of Jan Braunle in the recording, you need to enter her extension number – 10 – in order to speak with her, directly.

We know how pleasant and reassuring it is to have a genuine, living person answer the phone. It demonstrates the warmth and welcoming spirit that are the heart of this congregation. But in this time of limited resources, certain difficult choices are necessary. Like all non-profit religious organizations, we are learning to do more with less. Implementation of the automated announcement allows callers to independently select from a varied menu of options, including a directory of staff and extensions, current offerings in our religious education program, descriptions of special events, and more.

Freeing staff from the need to initially answer and route incoming calls means that more time and energy can be directed toward other important tasks. It also means that staff are not locked into an inflexible schedule ("tied to the phones"), but are able to adjust work hours to actual workflow needs.

To help make your communication with church staff as easy as possible, we are now including each person's phone extension number in the staff directory toward the back of each issue of Soundings.

If you have questions about staff communications, please contact Rev. Roberta (ext. 12) or Greg Jones, Interim Director of Operations (ext. 16).



## Flowers

**February 16**

In memory of Marie Rose Coviello  
Loving mother  
*Given by Joann Coviello*

**February 23**

In loving memory of Kathy Aibel  
*Given by Howard, Dave, Dan & Jon*

**March 2**

In celebration of 10 years of marriage to my beloved  
And amazing wife, Jenna Dick  
*Given by Chad Dick*

**March 9**

Given in loving memory of Pamela Watson Harrington

**March 16**

In loving memory of my dear wife  
Judy  
1926 - 2013  
*Given by Dick Constable*

In loving memory of Lynn Berg  
*Given by Myron Kerstetter*

**To order flowers for a Sunday service please call Jan in the church office (203) 227-7205 ex: 10 or sign up in the Flower Book in the foyer on Sundays. The cost is \$65. and we will take care of all the details.**

## The Jewelry Silent Auction raised \$1,668 for our church.

Thanks for your donations of jewelry and boxes and thanks for your support of the jewelry sale! Donations of jewelry of all sorts gratefully accepted for future sales.

Small boxes also welcomed. Tax slips available. Leave your donations with Barbara Thormahlen, Chris Place or Julie Fatherley.

The Mother's Day Jewelry Sale will take place in the East Wing on Sunday, May 4th.

**Save the date.**

Come shop for your special person!

## Once a Welcoming Congregation, Always a Welcoming Congregation?



This year we celebrate our 20th anniversary as a Welcoming Congregation and as we look back – we're interviewing people in the congregation who were part of the process – we're also looking forward. And that prompts the question, does welcoming ever stop? Once a Welcoming Congregation, always a Welcoming

Congregation? Okay, we've done that, check it off the list and move on to something else?

Well... actually... no. Becoming a Welcoming Congregation is merely the first step in radical hospitality that welcomes and values the diversity of sexual and affectional orientation, gender identity and expression, race and ethnicity, ability/disability (our vote to approve the lift), class and educational background, age, and citizenship status.

The UUA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Ministries recommends that congregations go through a Welcoming Congregation Program or refresher programming every five years. A lot of turnover and changes to congregational life can happen over the years, and the wider culture also changes quickly. Just look at the changes that have taken place since we became a Welcoming Congregation 20 years ago!

With that in mind, our Rainbow Task Force is laying the groundwork to facilitate a refresher program, sort of a Re-Welcome, a re-commitment to inclusivity.

Interested in finding out more? Please contact Arnela Ten Meer, [nelaya21@gmail.com](mailto:nelaya21@gmail.com) or David Vita (203.227.7205 x14).

## Area Congregations Come Together to Reduce Hunger

Hunger... in America... in Connecticut... in Fairfield County. It can seem overwhelming. What can we do about it? Is there anything that we can do? The answer is YES we can. But only if we want to. Only if we work together. Only if we mobilize enough people to make a difference.

The first step is Sunday, March 23 in our sanctuary from 4:00-5:30. The Westport-Weston Interfaith Council invites you to A Conversation with Michel Nischan about Hunger. Michel – award winning chef, author, and restaurateur – is the founder of Wholesome Wave, a national organization working to improve access to affordable fruits and vegetables for Americans struggling with poverty. He will ask the faith community to form a food justice coalition and explain why it is particularly needed now.



## Voices Café presents: Carolann Solebello & the No Fuss and Feathers Roadshow



No Fuss and Feathers Roadshow is an in-the-round, collaborative project that presents Carolann Solebello, Karyn Oliver, and The YaYas (Catherine Miles and Jay Mafale) sharing the Voices Cafe stage, playing on each other's songs, harmonizing, percussing, and generally having a great time!

Having a great time is what they do and what we will too. All four members of the No Fuss and Feathers Roadshow (NFFR) are veteran musicians- not pretentious or unnecessarily ornate - simply a group of highly regarded songwriters who have great respect for each other, both personally and professionally, coming together to share their work with an audience.

And their obvious friendship adds to the unabashedly fun and festive atmosphere of a NFFR show. Their audience can't help but feel part of the onstage camaraderie.

The four are also nationally touring performers that have charted at the top of major Folk and Americana radio lists, appeared on stage at some of the most respected festivals, been invited to formally showcase at Folk Alliance conferences across the country, and whose songwriting has been recognized by such highly regarded competitions as Kerrville New Folk, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Songwriter's Serenade, Susquehanna Music & Arts Songwriting Competition, and Mid-Atlantic Song Contest.

**Voices Café Saturday, April 12 at 8:00pm in the sanctuary.**  
**Tickets available Sundays after services and at <http://voicescafe.org/buy-tickets/>.**

## Checking Out and Checking In

Our Beardsley (Elementary) School Committee is looking for volunteers who will work for 2 hour increments at the circulation desk in the Beardsley Library Media Center. This involves checking books out to students, checking in their returned books, and putting books back on the shelves. We use an automated circulation system, so it is very easy to do. For more information or to volunteer please contact Anita Pfluger, [pflugerdunn@juno.com](mailto:pflugerdunn@juno.com), or 203.375.6412.

The committee is also looking for tutors for reading and basic math. Rewarding? Making a lasting impact? Changing someone's life – both yours and the students? That's what tutoring can achieve. Interested? Please contact Mary Beth Mollica, [mbmollica@gmail.com](mailto:mbmollica@gmail.com).



**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES AND  
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING VOICES CAFÉ!**

**October 15, 2011**

Pesky J. Nixon  
Tom Neilson  
Mikata  
Brother Sun  
Exit 43  
Peter Yarrow

**October 16, 2012**

Buskin & Batteau  
Vance Gilbert  
The Kennedys  
Martha Redbone  
The Nields  
Tannahill Weavers  
Chet Baker Tribute  
Aztec Two-Step

**October 12, 2013**

Brother Sun  
Michael Johnson and Friends  
Roosevelt dime and Poor Old Shine  
Goodnight Moonshine  
Remembering Ella & Billie

***AND COMING UP...***

***Saturday, April 12***

***Carolann Solebello's  
No Fuss and Feathers Roadshow***

***Saturday, May 10***

***Cheryl Wheeler***



## From Your Year-Round Stewardship Committee

Dear friends and fellow congregants,

Our annual budget drive is well underway. Did you get a call and visit from a visiting steward? Or are you one of the individuals or families we couldn't assign for a visit? Even with our wonderful forty-four visiting stewards, we can't reach everyone. Or did you attend the leadership event in early February and make your pledge there?

Wherever you fall, I hope this budget drive is helping you change the conversation about our commitment to this community and our shared need to support it. For 65 years, people have been supporting this church. That's why it is here for us today. Now it's our turn.

I know that some of our members and friends are facing financial hardships. The last few years have been difficult. If you cannot support the congregation as you would like because of your own situation, please know that others can and will – someone will pick up the slack for you, as you may do in the future and perhaps have done in the past.

It is my privilege to be leading our annual budget drive. I volunteered because I want to be part of helping our community strengthen programs, prepare for a ministerial search next year, and pay our staff fairly. I volunteered because I enjoy using the skills I have in support of a cause I believe in – our congregation and its mission. And I volunteered because several people from the Year Round Stewardship Committee, YRSC, offered to help.

Part of the fun of volunteering for me is getting to know people I would not otherwise meet. We have been getting together for planning and implementation of the budget drive since October. Kevin Leddy and Sam Khanna are my co-chairs. Mary-Jane Cross is our amazing organizational guru. John Mason is our excellent and efficient communications leader. Matt Petersen is very helpful with ideas and communications. We've been brilliantly aided by Barry Finkelstein, our in-house UUA stewardship consultant. I am very grateful to the team.

One of the results of our work is the beautiful video, produced by Sam Khanna and executed by John Simboli and Julia Wyant, who also did the creative work with the fabulous logo. If you haven't yet seen the video, please watch it here. You can also make your pledge online at the church website, [uuwestport.org](http://uuwestport.org).

I thank you for being part of this community with me, and helping to change the conversation.

Yours in gratitude,

Catherine Onyemelukwe, *Annual Budget Drive Chair*

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### April Minister's Forum to Focus on Easter

*"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king.*

*In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:37 (NIV)*

The April Minister's Forum will be titled **Bible for Liberals: The Passion Story in the Gospel of John**. In honor of Easter, we will delve into the Passion Story in John's Gospel. Rev. Roberta will give some historical and theological background about the Gospel of John, then we will read together John 18:1-19:42. There will be time for questions and discussion of personal responses to the story.

The Forum will be on April 5th from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Meeting House, bring a bible if you have one, others will be available. Please RSVP via the sign-up sheet in the foyer or by e-mail to [odyssey@uuwestport.org](mailto:odyssey@uuwestport.org). Making a reservation helps us set up the room correctly and start on time.

# Beyond Our Walls / Denominational Affairs –

Ted Yang. *Vice-Chair and Denominational Affairs Liason*

Our very own John Hooper has won the June Z. Gillespie Award which will be presented to him this coming May at the metro meeting in Morristown, N.J. John is the fourth Unitarian Church in Westport winner of the award, joining the illustrious: Lynda Bluestein, Denny Davidoff and Bob Lavender. The June Z. Gillespie Award, named to honor a former District UUA Trustee and District President, recognizes an individual who has encouraged congregational participation in denominational affairs at the District or national level.

**Delegates Still Wanted. If you've been shy and haven't yet reached out to let me know you'd like to be at our District Annual Meeting May 2-3 in Morristown, NJ email me at [ted@uuwestport.org](mailto:ted@uuwestport.org)!**

**UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales** announced on February 14 a new logo for the UUA. Said the Rev. Morales, "The dramatic shifts in today's religious landscape demanded that UUA leadership take an in-depth look at our strategic communications and how effectively our voice is breaking through the competing noise of our high-tech society . . . Today, I am excited to share with you one of the tools in an ongoing process of improved communication strategies, the UUA's new logo."

**The District is now accepting applications for the 2014 District Scholarship Awards.** Up to three awards of \$500 each will be presented at the 2014 District Annual Meeting May 2-3 in Morristown NJ. Encourage deserving youth to apply for a scholarship. The criteria for the scholarships are service through leadership or participation in a local congregation and/or the denomination, or through these to the local community, and scholarship as indicated by academic achievement. Goto: [http://uumetry.org/awards&scholarships/scholarship\\_application\\_2014.pdf](http://uumetry.org/awards&scholarships/scholarship_application_2014.pdf)

**The Rev. Barbara Fast, minister at the UU Congregation of Danbury** (CT), shared in [newstimes.com](http://newstimes.com) the powerful experience she had earlier this year when she joined the Living Legacy Pilgrimage through the Deep South visiting historic sites and meeting with veterans of the Civil Rights Movement.

**The MidAmerica Region has prepared 32 short (two-five minute) videos** explaining particular aspects of ministerial transitions. Topics include helping ministers decide when it's time to leave, telling the congregation, negotiating terminations, the interim process, creating a search committee, whittling down the lists, and searching for part-time ministers.

## *Coming Home* A new movie about the church

The Year-Round Stewardship Committee is pleased to offer a new 16-minute video about the church, which you can view on the church website ([www.uuwestport.org](http://www.uuwestport.org)).

Even if you think you know about the history of the Unitarian Church in Westport and all the wonderful programs it offers, this movie will give you new insights and inspire you afresh.

Thanks to Sam Khanna (producer), John Simboli and Julia Wyant (directors), and Scott Bryce (narrator) for this gift to our community.



Ken Lanouette being interviewed in *Coming Home*

# Camp Jewell

## Multigenerational Retreat

### May 9, 10, 11



Join your UU friends for a weekend of fun, worship, personal growth, and friendship. Meet new chums, reconnect with old ones, or deepen relationships with those you already have. This is a chance for you to get away from it all and have a great family weekend, just about an hour away!

There will be workshops for

adults, team building for our youth, and supervised Kids Camp for K-7th.

We have the following workshop offerings planned; Bible for Liberals:

The Book of Job, led by Reverend Roberta, Mary Collins will lead What Is Worship? Ed Thompson will reprise his "Share your Song" Workshop, be sure to bring a CD or your MP3 player with a song you'd like to share. Janet Luongo has offered to lead an Active Listening workshop as well. There are more workshops still to be determined. If you're interested in leading a workshop please contact me at [mcelroy.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:mcelroy.cathy@gmail.com) or call 203-394-1017.

Some past offerings have involved art, yoga, music, Exploring your Faith, Vision Quest, and more.

Our Youth Group will lead a service Friday night, and Mary Collins has arranged a worship workshop so that all attendees can create the service for Saturday night. Janet Luongo has graciously offered to lead the Sunday service on Chapel Island.

Additional activities include but are not limited to: boating, hiking, feeding the animals, rock climbing, whiffle ball, ga-ga ball, a multi-generational barn dance, ice cream social, and much more.

The price is \$165 per person (adult, Coming of Age, or Youth Group) Children up to 7th grade are \$150.

Our prices include lodging, all meals, all activities, ice cream social, barn dance, and KidsCamp run by the Camp Jewell staff so parents are able to attend adult workshops.

There is a Saturday only rate of \$85 per person, lodging is not included. Mothers' Day Alert!

One of the blessings of this weekend away is moms don't have to shop, cook, or clean up after any meals, they are free to enjoy their families and the activities offered.

You can always defer your breakfast in bed to the following weekend.

We are raising funds through soup sales. Please consider helping us serve in the kitchen during a soup sale.

Please contact Doug at [dflam@att.net](mailto:dflam@att.net) to schedule your soup service! We are also recruiting volunteers for small, miscellaneous tasks while at Camp Jewell, please contact Cathy or Doug if you are able to join our team. Registration forms will be available at the Camp Jewell information table in the lobby after services. We look forward to sharing the magic of this wonderful weekend with you, especially those who have never attended before. We're also excited to meet up with all the families that we only see sporadically throughout the year.

Let's have some fun and build community with other like-minded Unitarian Universalists!

Cathy McElroy [mcelroy.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:mcelroy.cathy@gmail.com)

# Transition Team News / Swapping Stories

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William McEvoy, *Transition Team*

For the last few weeks, we've been holding storytelling sessions after the Sunday services. We've heard some fascinating things, stories about Victor Lundy, how we ended up with seven choirs, and a wild bus trip that involved figuring out how many people could sit on Ken Lanouette's lap! I was surprised to learn the John Birch Society picketed our church in the early years, and that we used part of the building during construction, holding services in the fellowship room while the sanctuary was just an unwallled gravel bed. I love stories, it's a very human way to connect, and these sessions have made me feel like I'm now part of something stretching through the decades.

During the music storytelling session, there was a discussion of the conflict over the organ. You could tell by how people described it that it was a tense time (one person ended her telling with the conclusion "And so the "View People" won!"), but you could also tell that enough time had passed that the outcome had been accepted, if not necessarily approved of. In discussing the level of emotion at that time, Jane Sherman summed it up very well, saying "I've known Ken Lanouette for 38 years, and we're been friends for 37 of them." Everyone laughed, no one harder than Ken and Jane.

I think that's a great place to be with someone you've had a conflict with, especially in a covenantal organization like ours. If you're reading this, you've chosen to stay, despite the conflicts. I've been coming here for four years, and in that time, I think I've heard every side of every major conflict we've had here at the UCW. Two things have struck me about hearing these stories. First, I have no doubt that both sides sincerely and fully believed that what they were advocating or doing was in the best interests of the church. The other thought was "Geez, wouldn't it be great if these guys could be in the same room telling each other their story? They really need to hear this."

Hopefully, I'm getting that wish. On April 27th, after the service, we will hold our last storytelling session, titled **Tell Our Story, Hear Our Story: The Conflicts that Shaped Us**. We're not trying to figure out who was right or wrong. This will be a storytelling session, an oral history; think of it as a swapping of war stories from veterans of past battles. What it certainly won't be is a conflict resolution seminar or group psychotherapy!

We want to particularly invite newer members like myself to come and bear witness to these tales. Knowing the history of our troubled times will better equip us to deal with future challenges. And to those who participated and struggled during the organ, or the roof, or the departures of Ed Lane, Margie Allen or Frank Hall, won't you please come and tell your story? Maybe we can laugh about it like Jane and Ken did. Maybe not. Some of these issues may be too recent to expect a belly laugh, but I'm hoping we can start to smile and chuckle a little.

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## ***Back by Popular Demand – New Class from Odyssey!***

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The single most requested Odyssey Adult Education class is returning this Spring, and has been expanded to encompass four speakers! Not offered since the mid-1990's, on April 1st, at 7:00 p.m. Catherine Onyemelukwe will lead a 90-minute seminar on the proper pronunciation of the more difficult names here at TUCW. "I tell people if they just say it like it's written, it shouldn't be a problem, but you know how short attention spans are these days." said Catherine. Also on the night's bill will be Marjolijn de Jager. "It's all about pronouncing the J's as Y's" stated Marjolijn. "No one has a problem ordering Jagermeister at the bar, but for some reason they stumble over my name."

Filling out the bill will be David Smith and Meg Jones, who will be featured in the UCW play that weekend "The Curious Savage." "You would think Smith is an easy name to pronounce, but you'd be amazed how many people pronounce the I as a Y" said David. When asked what the problem was with how people were saying her name, Meg replied tersely "Jones is not two syllables." While not yet confirmed, organizers are hoping to get Barry and Roberta to appear briefly and sort out the whole "steen" vs. "stine" controversy.

Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Please e-mail us at [aprilfools@uuwestport.org](mailto:aprilfools@uuwestport.org) to reserve your seat!



**On the horizon.....**

there are three significant events that are coming up.

**March 23rd at the 11:00 service,**

the Special Projects Choir presents Rejoice in the Lamb, a work for choir, soloists and organ. Our guest organist will be David Connell. Britten wrote the dramatic work in 1943 as a commission from a parish church. Based on the poetry of Christopher Smart (1722-1771), Britten has written a work which explores the matter of an individual versus society/authority, and what happens to the individual who does not have freedom. The poetry also points to the sacredness of the entire creation and our relationship to it.

**May 4, at both of the morning services,**

the Youth Choir will present a musical called The Three Questions. Based on the original story of Tolstoy, the musical explores existential and religious questions about faith, compassion and wisdom.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**May 4 at 4:00 pm, the Music Committee presents baritone Peter Castaldi in a program of exciting vocal works.**

Mr. Castaldi has sung at the Metropolitan Opera, has a fabulous voice, and will sing a variety of pieces from the repertoire. We are fortunate to have him as a guest artist. Extensive details in the next issue of Soundings. For any questions in the meantime, please contact Ed Thompson or a member of the Music Committee (chaired by Debbie Handler).



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visit our website at [www.uuwestport.org](http://www.uuwestport.org)

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, April 11, at noon (or before). Please e-mail your copy to: [carpo@optonline.net](mailto:carpo@optonline.net)

"By the author of **Teahouse of the August Moon** and **The Hasty Heart**  
– a gentle and genteel comedy..." Harry Weber, The Riverfront Times, St Louis



# The Curious Savage

A play by  
John Patrick

**Friday, April 4 at 8 PM**  
**Saturday, April 5 at 8 PM**  
**Sunday, April 6 at 3 PM**

In Our Sanctuary!

Diana Bell  
Sarah Bell  
Candace Clinger  
Meg Jones  
William McEvoy  
Bob Perry  
Jack Raineault  
David Smith  
Arnela Ten Meer  
Jerusha Vogel  
Andy Wittenstein

Directed by Jim Luongo  
Call 222-7190 for reservations  
\$20 suggested donation