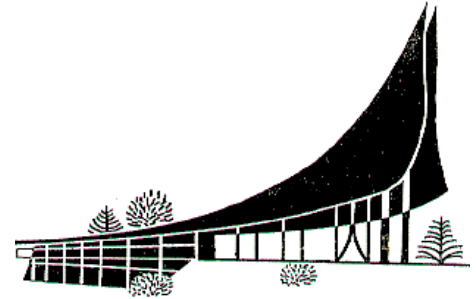


SOUNDINGS


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



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, DEC. 28

Dec. 23 - Jan. 12, 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec. 23 Worship Services: 9 & 11am No RE - <i>Nursery care available</i> Youth Reunion, M.H., ... 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal, ... 7:45 pm	24 Pageant Rehearsal, 2:00 pm Pageant Service, 4:00 pm Candlelight Service, 9:00 pm Candlelight Service,	25  Holiday Office Closed	26 Chant & Meditation, M.H. ... 7 pm	27	28 SOUNDINGS Deadline-12 noon Shawl Ministry, Meeting Hse.,12:30 pm UU Movie Discussion Group, M.H. ... 7:30 pm	29
30 Worship Services: 9 & 11 am No RE <i>Nursery care available</i> Environmental Action Group, East Wing, ... 12:30 pm Youth Group New Year Celebration, Y.R. ... 7:00 pm	31 New Year's Eve Celebration: Dance, Music & Sacred Chant, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm	Jan. 1  Holiday Office Closed	2 SOUNDINGS Mailing, 9:30 am Chant & Meditation, M.H., -7:30 pm Chamber Choir, ... 7:45 pm	3 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir, - 7:45 pm	4 Senior Bridging Orientation & Dinner, E.W., ... 7:00 pm	5 Jean Northup Memorial, ... 2:00 pm REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm
6 Worship Services: 9 & 11am K-6 start in Sanctuary OWL Parents Mtg., Library ... 12:30 pm Voices Cafe Mtg., E.W. ... 12:30 pm Circle 10 Potluck Lunch, M.H., ... 1:00 pm	7 Sacred Wisdom Circles, E. W., ... 7:00 pm O&AF Rehearsal, ... 7:45 pm	8 Senior Luncheon, East Wing, ... 11:00 am	9 Chant & Meditation, M.H.... 7:00 pm RE Curriculum, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:00 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	10 Youth Choir - 5 pm Finance Com. - 5:30 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45 pm Women's Choir - 7:45 pm	11 SOUNDINGS Deadline-12 noon Shawl Ministry, Meeting Hse.,12:30 pm Hoe Down Dance & Potluck for all ages ... 6:00pm	12 Neighborhood Circles, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am Voices Cafe, Martha Redbone, ... 7:30 pm

SERMONS:

December 23 ... 9 & 11 am..... **A Christmas Carol** read by Frank Hall

Music: The Teen Choir sings holiday pieces.

December 30 ... 9 & 11 am ... **The Moral Molecule: the Source of Love and Prosperity** Frank Hall

Paul Zak's recent book provides the sermon title. He's a neuroeconomist who has identified the chemical oxytocin as 'the moral molecule.' It makes for our happiness, contentment and sense of well being. We'll dip into it as a toast for the New Year.

Music: Guest singers Zernis, Armstrong and Taniguchi will offer some chants to bring in the new year.

January 6 ... 9 & 11 am **Learning to be Amazed** Frank Hall

Borrowing a line from Mary Oliver's poem Messenger...and tying it into the Feast of the Epiphany... we'll explore, as T.S. Eliot said: "Old men should be explorers."

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

Hark! The Herald Carolers Sing!

The Unitarian Church in Westport is now the proud owner of Guinness World Record. Friends and members of our church orchestrated a county wide effort to establish the record for caroling door to door on Weds. 12-12-12. Almost 600 gathered as One Voice to carol in the attempt. Thanks to those who participated but especially these volunteers: Doug Dempsey, Karen Thorsen, Erik Paul, Laura Steinbrecher, the Garrison family, Jim Cooper, Beth Kitchener, Steve Axthelm, Rainy Broomfield, Doug Jones, Tom Croarkin, Steve Grathwohl, The Peterson family, Beth Skudder, Charlie Brennan, David Smith, Eric Gribin, Rob Herman, David Vita, Nick Cundy, The Hesse family, Sari Bodi, Jocelyn Keith and the Keenan family! Happy holidays to all and to all it was a good night!



December 17, 2012

Dear Friends,

In Memoriam

Charlotte Bacon, **2/22/06**
Daniel Barden, **9/25/05**
Rachel Davino, **7/17/83**
Olivia Engel, **7/18/06**
Josephine Gay, **12/11/05**
Ana M. Marquez-Greene, **04/04/06**
Dylan Hockley, **3/8/06**
Dawn Hochsprung, **6/28/65**
Madeleine F. Hsu, **7/10/06**
Catherine V. Hubbard, **6/08/06**,
Chase Kowalski, **10/31/05**
Jesse Lewis, **6/30/06**
James Mattioli, **3/22/06**
Grace McDonnell, **12/04/05**
Anne Marie Murphy, **07/25/60**
Emilie Parker, **5/12/06**
Jack Pinto, **5/06/06**
Noah Pozner, **11/20/06**
Caroline Previdi, **9/07/06**
Jessica Rekos, **5/10/06**
Avielle Richman, **10/17/06**
Lauren Rousseau, **6/1982**
Mary Sherlach, **2/11/56**
Victoria Soto, **11/04/85**
Benjamin Wheeler, **9/12/06**
Allison N. Wyatt, **7/03/06**

May Sarton, Of Grief

There are some griefs so loud
They could bring down the sky,
And there are griefs so still
None knows how deep they lie,
Endured, never expended.
There are old griefs so proud
They never speak a word
They never can be mended
And these nourish the will
And keep it iron-hard.

When I Die, Merrit Malloy

When I die if you need to weep
Cry for your brother or sister
Walking the street beside you
And when you need me put your arms around anyone
And give them what you need to give me.
I want to leave you something
Something better than words or sounds.
Look for me in the people I've known or loved
And if you cannot give me away
At least let me live in your eyes and not on your mind.
You can love me most by letting hands touch hands
By letting bodies touch bodies
And by letting go of children who need to be free
Love doesn't die, people do
So that when all that's left of me is love – Give me away!

Had you been old I might be reconciled
To see you gathered to the silent wild,
Were your days darkened, weary, shattered, told,
Had life with disillusion been defiled,
And grief poured on your head in molten gold—
 Had you been old.
But you were young: your faith a fire unshaken,
Your hair bright tossed with wind, you breath swift taken
With dear delight of earth, with arms outflung
To joy. Just then, just then to be forsaken
Of breath! To leave the melody unsung,
When you were young.

Elizabeth Hollister Frost

Thoughts from your DRE

Mary B. Collins, Dir. Religious Education

New year:

Starting Jan. 6th there will be a slight change in the Workshop format for K-4 graders. Instead of having the Chapel Story & Workshop story/activities be different and the children rotate through the workshop, all will work on the same Workshop topic each week. The children will be divided after the worship for appropriate age-level activities designed for multiple intelligences. The goal is to integrate the Chapel with the workshop activities (and no repeating of the same workshop, with a cohesive theme to take home.

January 9th – Come talk to the Curriculum Circle.

The Religious Education Curriculum Circle will be meeting Weds., Jan. 9th. I invite adults interested in our Religious Education Ministry to join us. The Curriculum Circle will review programming from Jan-June and talk globally about 2013-14 programming. Parents, Youth tell us what you want to learn from participation in our Religious Education programming (ethics? An elevator speech? More social action? Events? etc).

Date: Jan 11th –Hoe-down Dance & Potluck for ALL Ages– 6 pm

Emma Converse is spearheading this Event – look for details to follow. (Youth Group Fundraiser for their Washington D.C. Service Trip).



Upcoming:

Note: the Drumming evening originally scheduled on the 11th **will be integrated as part of the Jan. 26th Worship & Potluck at 5:30 pm.** The evening will consist of a Drumming opportunity, a Family Worship, including a story: a poetic story where the drum beats the underlying heartbeat of the people and the earth – will offer us the opportunity to drum together. Following the whole group worship families may break out into small groups to make a family Social Justice plan...

RE CALENDAR

Sun, Dec.. 23 - No RE. – Nursery Care only –lower level

Sun, Dec.. 30 -

No RE. Nursery Care only – lower level

7 - 10 pm: Youth Group - New Year's Party- 7 -10 pm – Y.Rm.

Fri. Jan. 4 -

7 pm: 12th gr. - Bridging Orientation Potluck - East Wing

Sun. Jan. 6 -

K-6 - Start in the Sanctuary.

4 - Topic: A Creation Story &

Play: Fire & Ice - Chapel

5-6th: UU Faith – We Inherit & Create –lower level

7th gr. - Intro to Christianity -

11 am- East Wing

8th OWL – Slides - M.H. 3rd Fl.

9-12th – Decision Making-

11-12:30pm- Youth Room

8th OWL Parent Gr. -

12:30 –1pm - Library

Weds. Jan. 9th – Religious Ed.

7pm: Curriculum Circle Meeting, Fellowship Room

Fri. Jan. 11th -

6 pm - Hoe-down Dance &

Potluck- All ages – Sanctuary

Sun. Jan. 13-

K-4 topic: What is God? - Chapel

5-6th: Exploring Right & Wrong

–lower level.

7th gr. – TRIP – St. Francis of

Assisi, Weston – time TBD

8th OWL – More Slides -

Meeting House 3rd flr

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

by Mary Curtsmith
Youth Program Director

A wonderful end to 2012 has come in the Youth Group, we have had to opportunity to spend nearly four months together. To celebrate our time together, as well as our new beginnings to come this year, the Youth Group will be having a New Years Party on December 30, 2012 from 7PM to 10PM. There will be sharing of old memories, New Years Resolutions, and most of all an opportunity for the Youth to socialize and interact with one another.

Washington DC update: Thank you to the families who have submitted permission slips and payments for this trip. Everyone who is confirmed to attend will be notified by Felicia Keeton or Mary Curtsmith for further details.

Senior High Bridging Program: Are you a senior in High School? Do you have a senior in High School? If so please sign up for the Senior High Bridging Program! This is a great opportunity to explore the transition to adulthood, community, and any questions relating to starting the next chapter in life. Please contact Youth Program Director Mary Curtsmith at Mary.YPD@uuwestport.org to sign up by December 31, 2012. Senior High Bridging Orientation and Dinner – January 4th, 7-10PM for parents and youth, more information to come via email.

UUCW Members: Your supporting our Wreath Sale made a BIG difference! 90 wreaths sold, over \$1000 funds raised in record time.

Every time you admire your wreaths, feel confident in knowing that through your purchase a Youth will be involved in a service trip to Washington DC, and

proud to help serve our community.

We enjoyed the process and loved your smiling, generous visits. On behalf of the entire Youth Group, I want to tell you how important it was for us. Thank you Jim Cooper for lending your time and effort to such a great cause!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE UU WESTPORT YOUTH GROUP!

Where Does All the Money Go?



The other day someone asked me, "Where does all the money go from Voices Café?" In my head I heard the melody from Pete Seeger's song Where have All the Flowers Gone and started singing, "Where has all the money gone... from Voices Café? Where has all the money gone... from Voices Café."

Fortunately I exercised self control, kept Pete in my head, and responded, "Hmmm, good question I should write about it in Soundings." Joann Coviello is much better at song parody than I am so I'll leave that to her and just answer the question.

We have operating expenses, the largest one being paying the musicians. After that our number two expense is renting the Sanctuary. That's right: we rent the Sanctuary from the church. Next is the sound system. We borrowed money from the church to purchase the sound system so every performance has a loan payment built into our expenses. The rest of our expenses are small miscellaneous amounts for food, decorations, flyers, etc.

The revenue generated after expenses goes to: Voices Café's Operating Budget, the Church, and funding our Social Justice programs.

Voices Café established a self-funding Operating Budget so that there would be funds available if we needed to purchase additional equipment. Last year we purchased a laptop (we had been borrowing one) to run the sound system. That came out of our Operating Budget.

Half of the remaining money goes directly to the church and half goes to Social Justice programming.

Eight years ago our Social Justice Committees received \$2,400 from the church to fund our activities. While our programs have expanded the funding is now at \$1,500. The Beardsley School Committee alone spends about \$2,200 a year assisting the students and staff not to mention our other committees. So we raise funds and we're doing that through Voices Café which is why it comes under Social Justice.

Additional financial benefits for the church have included renting out the sound system and increased outside event rentals due to exposure to Voices Café.

When you come to Voices Café you're supporting the musicians, the church, and our social justice work. All of that and experiencing top-rate music, having fun, and sharing community.

So that's where the money goes. Glad you asked. Not a bad deal at all!

2012 marks 50 years of Unitarian Universalist (UU) international social justice work at the United Nations (UN). There was a gala event held in New York City on November 3 celebrating the UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO).

We have a UU-UNO Envoy Committee here at the church that has organized UN Sunday services for the past 8 consecutive years, contributed to the Every Child is Our Child program providing education to AIDS orphans in a village in Kenya, and encourages congregants to become members of the UU-UNO. For the past 4 years we've been honored at the UU General Assembly as one of a handful of "Blue Ribbon" congregations in the US and Canada.

We're now planning a 50th Anniversary event here at the church. Bruce Knotts, Director of the UU-UNO will be speaking and we'll be showing the just released film *UU-UNO The Movie: 50 years at the UN* narrated by two-time Emmy Award winning actor, Andre Braugher.

We're a few months away so we'll be letting you know more as the program develops. In the meantime, if you're interested in learning more about the work of our committee, the UU-UNO (there's much, much, more to talk about), or becoming involved with the 50th Anniversary event, please contact David Vita: david@uwestport.org 203.227.7205 x14.



Next up at Voices Café:

Martha Redbone

Saturday, January 12.

And a surprise emcee. Not to be missed!

"In a brilliant collision of cultures, the powerful blues and soul singer Martha Redbone has recorded an album called "The Garden of Love: Songs of William Blake," which was produced by John McEuen, of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. In it, the mystical, humanistic words of the eighteenth-century English poet are fused with the melodies, drones, and rhythms of the Appalachian string-band music that Redbone absorbed as a child from her grandparents, in Black Mountain, Kentucky." THE NEW YORKER

More about Martha in the next Soundings.

Woodstock Soapstone Stove:

Fireview Classic (Model #205) with catalytic combustor for \$400.
Peter Atkins 203-221-9067.

UU Movie Discussion Group Friday, December 28



The next UU Movie Discussion takes place on Friday, December 28. The films to be discussed are "*Lincoln*" and "*Life of Pi*". In the Meeting House. Potluck dessert at 7:30; Discussion at 8. All are welcome.

FROM THE BOARD

Please mark your calendar for an important presentation on interim ministry by **Rev. Debra Haffner**.
Sunday, February 3, 12:30 to 1:30
in the sanctuary.

Holiday Jewelry Sale

It is exciting to announce that we brought in a bit more than \$3000 from the Silent Auction and the Jewelry Sale held on December 9th.

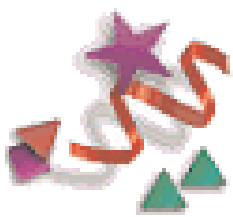
Thank you to all who helped with the efforts, who worked at the sale, who donated items and to our shoppers who supported the sale.

Our next event will be the Valentine Jewelry Sale on Sunday, February 3rd after both services.

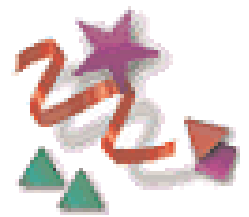
DONATIONS of jewelry gratefully accepted and can be given to Barbara Thormahlen, Julie Fatherley, Chris Place, or Penny Schneider.

There will be a Memorial Service for **Jean Northup** on Saturday, January 5th at 2 pm
Jean, and her late husband Walter, joined our church in 1990.
Jean has been a vibrant member of our congregation through her generosity and volunteer work.
Join her many friends and family in celebrating her life.
Reception will follow.

A Special New Year's Eve Invitation



As part of our commitment to inspirational live music and also as a way to enter into the New Year in a meaningful, meditative, and spiritual way, Voices Café is proud to sponsor a Special New Year's Eve Celebration at the Unitarian Church in Westport.



Come join Sita's Light for an evening of Kirtan (sacred chanting) along with sacred dancing, meditation and a special midnight peace circle.

For those unfamiliar with this form of communal music, Kirtan has been described this way:

"The words of these chants are called the divine names and they come from a place that's deeper than our hearts and our thoughts, deeper than the mind. And so as we sing them they turn us towards ourselves, into ourselves.

They bring us in, and as we offer ourselves into the experience, the experience changes us.

These chants have no meaning other than the experience that we have by doing them.

They come from the Hindu tradition, but it's not about being a Hindu, or believing anything in advance.

It's just about doing it, and experiencing. Nothing to join, you just sit down and sing." Traditional Kirtan is sung while seated on the floor but chairs will be provided for those who wish to use them. For those familiar with Kirtan, please bring your own mat, blanket or cushion. Light food and beverage will be served.

This is Sita's Light 4th Annual New Years Eve Celebration and will prove to be an evening of Peace and Renewal. Sita's Light is comprised of Miriam Zernis, Suan Armstrong, and Fumio Taniguchi who have been sharing their devotional music in the CT/NY area for the past 5 years.

For discounted TUCW member \$30 tickets contact David Vita.

Musical Opportunities in the New Year

There are three learning opportunities coming after the holidays.

SIGHT-SINGING

for whom: for any high school student who has auditions coming up or college auditions; also for any wanna be choir member who does not have music reading skills; for any current choir member who would like to improve his/her music reading skills.

Why: to acquire or improve music reading skills.

When: Six Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00
January 5, 12, 19, 16, February 2, 9

Where: in the sanctuary

Fee: free (however it is necessary to sign up!!)

How to sign up: email or call Ed Thompson etmusic@aol.com
or 203-227-7205 ext.18



HYMN WRITING

For whom: this class is for anyone above age 16

Why: to write new lyrics for existing tunes
(this class is not about writing music!)

When: Two Saturdays: January 12 and 19
both sessions from 11:00 to 12:00

Where: at church

Fee: free! (however it is necessary to sign up!!)

How to sign up: email or call Ed Thompson etmusic@aol.com
or 203-227-7205 ext.18

VOICE CLASSES WITH MARCELLA

The dates have not yet been determined.
Stay tuned for the winter session



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- Edward Thompson Minister of Music
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visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is
Friday, Dec. 28 at noon (or before).
Please e-mail your copy to:
carpo@optonline.net

NEW YEAR'S EVE

– ENTERING INTO ONENESS 2013 –

WITH

Sita's Light & Special Guests

December 31st, 2012, 7:30pm-12:30am



Sita's Light Photos: Steev Needham

You're invited to an uplifting New Year's Eve celebration in the spectacular sanctuary at the The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT.

Come experience sacred music, mantras, meditation,
Dances of Universal Peace and a unique Midnight Peace Circle!

Light food and tea will be provided. Please bring yoga mat, blankets and/or pillows to sit on. Chairs are also available.



The Unitarian Church

10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880

\$40 prepaid by December 28th/\$50 at door

SPECIAL PRICING FOR UU Members! \$30

Click Link to PREPAY

www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=XREE946VK5D22

FOR MORE INFO- CALL Miriam 203-894-1230 or Tim 203-482-5509

4th Annual New Year's Celebration with Sita's Light