



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2008 #7

March 26, 2008

Editor: Renée Bucklin

SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:00 AM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT 9:00 AM
Preschool through 8th Grade
Nursery Care Available

MARCH 30

“Spirit of Life Come Unto Us”
The Women of Westminster
Annual Worship Service

APRIL 6

"Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing,"
Rev. Debra W. Haffner

Rev. Haffner is a UU clergyperson and Director of the Religious Institute for Sexual Morality, Justice and Healing. Rev. Haffner eloquently illuminates the connection between sexuality, religion, and spirituality, and the need for sexual justice in our faith communities and society. Most recently Rev. Haffner testified at a congressional briefing in the U.S. House of Representatives on religious support for sexuality education.

Rev. Barbara will be leading worship with Rev. Haffner, is delighted to have her dear friend in our pulpit and encourages you to attend.

APRIL 13

Earth Day Service
Benefits of locally grown food

Children start in Sanctuary then return to Fellowship Hall to start tomato and marigold plants.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Dear Members and Friends,

Even though the air was chilly, signs of Spring seemed to pop up everywhere Easter morning - from the snow drops in bloom by the church walkway to the deer racing across our back yard. We've come through another winter or nearly.

This coming Sunday and the first Sunday in April, Board members will be available to discuss the Parish House report that Brent Narkowicz prepared. Renee Bucklin also took the time to tally up Brent's approximate figures on a spreadsheet. A copy of this will be sent by email to those of you who routinely communicate by computer. Copies of both documents will be available on Sundays. If you have not seen either report, please call me at 885-5073 or the church office and request that they be mailed to you.

A word of caution regarding any renovation of the Parish House: as you read and digest this document, remember that labor costs are not attached to every item, space will be lost with some renovations, and the potential for uncovering costly unknown problems is high. In a discussion this morning with the Fire Marshall, I was explicitly reminded that if we spend more than 50% of the appraised value of the Parish House, we MUST adhere to current fire code guidelines, EVEN if we spread the cost over several years. That means a full and complete fire alarm system, emergency lighting, fully enclosed stairways, heat and smoke detectors, pull stations, horn system and much more. Lastly, what will our future needs be and will the current structure satisfy them, no matter what renovations we undertake. Please come to the property chats Sunday and/or the following Sunday prepared to share your ideas and suggestions.



Warren and Abby Addington-May have generously donated and agreed to deliver and install some additional playground equipment for our children. Please thank them when you see them in church.

Faithfully,

Jan Searles

Dear Friends

March 24, 2003

This morning, like every morning, the sun rose all over this earth.

Peace also rises as an eternal human hope for this earth, but how far we are from achieving peace. We read of the many lies that manipulated fears in order to achieve this war in Iraq. We now look on the loss of over four thousand American military lives and uncountable thousands of Iraqis. We have created so much devastation. We are striving to find ways to restore that land, if restoration is achievable.

Last week's events in the US presidential campaign reveal how far we have come in our unfinished journey towards racial justice and how far we still must travel to achieve the founding vision of a national community where every human being, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation, is entitled to life, liberty and justice.

It was during a March inauguration 138 years ago; Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words about a bloody war to end the grave injustice of slavery and establish this nation's future obligations to achieve a just and lasting peace.

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves and with all nations.”

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass called it, “*a sacred effort.*”

It is too easy to be unfaithful to peace. It is easier to foster fear, insecurity and anger, those emotions that feed the diabolical monster *malice*. Fear can overwhelm our sacred impulses of *charity and care*. There are so many wounds this nation needs to *bind up*. I think about the devastations of war: the *wounds, widows and orphans*. We are not caring for those who have *borne the battle*.

When I was a girl, the religious message I received was that true peace was not possible on earth. I *might* be *at peace* after I died if I was acceptable to heaven. As a youth, I thought that peace was a goal to be achieved between people and nations. I marched, canvassed, wrote letters, and protested for peace. Some days I worked so hard I felt no inner peace in its pursuit.

As I studied world religions, I hoped that when I perfected inner peace, everything would change. Now, peace is something to be practiced everyday. It is being, it is process, and it is goal. True and lasting peace, in your heart, home, town, nation or in our world, requires that we practice living with *malice toward none and charity for all*. Now, I practice peace, imperfectly.

All efforts made to *achieve a just and lasting peace*, are sacred efforts. Peace be with you.

Love.

Barbara

APRIL'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH NATURE CONSERVANCY OF RI

Westminster shares unrestricted cash placed in our collection basket 50/50 with a different charity each month. With approval from our minister and Board of Directors, the Share the Plate Committee selected *Nature Conservancy of RI* for the month of April, in celebration of Earth Day.



In particular, we will be supporting TNCRI's "coastal mapping project". In Rhode Island, our coastal ponds, bays and estuaries are productive nursery habitat and feeding grounds for a multitude of fish, plants and sea mammals. Our beautiful shores also provide people much needed peace to nourish the soul. The Nature Conservancy and its partners (including the RI Coastal Resources Management Council) are assessing the impacts of sea level rising along Rhode Island's south shore, mapping the South County coast (including Narragansett Bay, Block Island Sound and the Atlantic coast) to determine where marshes can migrate in the face of climate change, and developing an action plan to research different adaptive management techniques in Rhode Island's coastal ponds. As the world changes, The Nature Conservancy is working to ensure that our natural communities are able to adapt to those changes.

Guidelines for Donations

- Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster.
- If you wish to contribute directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check to the charity. Your contribution is tax deductible.
- Unrestricted Cash will be split 50/50 between Westminster and the Charity.

For questions about sharing the plate, please contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee, Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, or Wendy Schwartz.

To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in Fellowship Hall.

HELP FOR CROSSROADS RHODE ISLAND

The RI State Council of Churches is currently reaching out to the community for help in the collection of Personal Care items to be distributed to people in need daily: Toothpaste, Tooth brushes, Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo, Lotion, Feminine hygiene products, Conditioner, Combs/brushes, Shaving creams/disposable razors. We are grateful for your ongoing generosity and commitment as we work together to alleviate homelessness in Rhode Island. Donations can be brought or sent attention Sara Perry, Volunteer Coordinator, Crossroads Rhode Island, 160 Broad Street, Providence, RI. For more information, please call Sara Perry, at 401-521-2255 ext. 325.



HEARTFELT THANKS

How deeply moved we were to hear your words of praise and gratitude at our Sunday Service on Caring. Our joy and satisfaction comes from knowing we're able to be of service or comfort during your time of need.

With your help, we'll continue to expand our services and offer workshops on subjects related to care-giving, both to others and yourself. Knowing we're able to help each of you when you need us is the greatest thanks we hope to receive.

Our sincere thank you to each of you who are not officially part of our Caring Circle for reaching out to help another in need. Your kindness does not go unnoticed.

Thank you...Thank you... Thank you!

Your Caring circle

WOMENSPHERE SPRING GATHERING

Aging with Grace and Spirit

Saturday, April 19, 2008

9:30am-3pm

First Universalist Society in Franklin

262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA

Womensphere organizes sacred circle gatherings for women of the Ballou Channing District of the



Unitarian Universalist Association. Our spring gathering will be a day spent celebrating the wonderful journey that aging can be. Our panelists are six wise and spirited women in their 70's, 80's and 90's. Cost is \$27 including lunch. A limited number of scholarships are available. To register or for more information, please contact Kate Gillis. See your printed [Chimes](#).

WANT TO GO TO GA?

Funding is available through the General Assembly Planning Committee Matching Grant Program to help congregations support a member who wants to attend GA in Ft. Lauderdale this coming June. Applications are available online at uua.org/documents/gaoffice/scholarship.

The Matching Grant Program will pay recipient's registration and match up to \$250 in congregational support.

Deadline for application is March 31st.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION AND HOUSING RESERVATION IS NOW OPEN

Go to www.uua.org/ga to register. Adult registration is \$290 until April 30 and \$335 after. There are other rates for one-day, youth, retired ministers and their spouses and Aspirant and candidate ministers.

To make your housing reservation go to:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/registration/housing/housing/index.shtml>. There are 9 hotels, 4 immediately adjacent to the convention center and 5 more distant. Rates are for \$89 to \$149 per night. Close-in hotels fill up fast so the sooner reservations can be made the better.

UUCSC AUCTION AT KINNEY BUNGALOW

An evening at the Kinney Bungalow at beautiful Sunset Farm in Narragansett is being planned by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County for their 14th Annual Auction on Saturday, April 26th, 2008. This event will take place from 6 to 9 PM at the unique, historic Kinney Bungalow located at 505 Point Judith Road in Narragansett. Silent and live auction items will be offered. Auctioneer Mike Glemboski of Red Shoes Auctions promises to entertain with his lively style and colorful personality. Nick and Ligia Smith from South Kingstown will provide music. There will be a cash bar of beer and wine and free hors d'oeuvres will be served. Entrance fee is \$20 for adults, \$12 for students 12 and older, and \$5.00 for children. Cash and checks only will be accepted at the event. The evening, the primary fundraiser for the UUCSC, is sure to be fun.

CLOTHING SALE

Clean out those closets! Why? The spring clothing sale is coming in April. The dates are April 25 and 26. If you can help us, we would appreciate it.



BOOK SALE



Westminster annual Book Sale is fast approaching.

Dates for the sale are March 28th and 29th. Set up is Thursday March 27th.

If you can help any of these days, please call Pam Bazar . See your printed Chimes.

WATER JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION

An Experiential Event

Sponsored by Ballou-Channing District
Congregations & The Unitarian Universalist
Service Committee

“Clean Accessible Water is a Justice Issue”

April 5th: 10a.m. – 2p.m.
(9:30a.m. – Networking, Coffee, Marketplace)

Location: Duxbury First Parish Church
842 Tremont St. (Rt. 3, Exit 10; North on 3A)

Taize Worship: chants, readings, contemplative
stations

Workshops: Water Justice, Global & Local
Advocacy, Water Colors – a creative workshop,
The Green Sanctuary & Environmental Justice,
Watersheds and the Spirit of Life

Stone Soup Luncheon: A living model of global
awareness

Packets: Water Justice information, SGM social
justice units, creative worship ideas, Life-Span
resources for adults and children

Marketplace: information on Environmental
Justice issues and action groups, items to purchase,
networking opportunities, UUSC, UUMass Action,
Watershed Alliances

Ages 12 – Adult invited to fully participate (Care for
younger children available but registration by April
1 required.)

For more information, contact Nancy Landgren at
781-934-6006

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Green Sanctuary Task Force has compiled a list
of some local Earth Day activities:

Saturday, April 12, 10:30 am to 1
pm – The Sierra Club of RI is
doing a "Walk for Energy
Independence" in Providence and
Newport (locations to be
announced). These are
community walks. For more
information please see the Sierra Club web
site (<http://www.sierraclub.org/>).

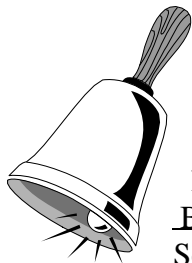


Conservation week, April 14-18, and Earth Day,
April 20 – Roger Williams Park Zoo. Head to the
Zoo during school vacation week for a conservation
celebration for our "Party for the Planet!" Offering
fun for families during school vacation week,
this year's Conservation Week will feature
environmentally themed education stations,
environmental artists and entertainers, animal
encounters and much more! The culmination of the
Party for the Planet is Earth Day, featuring an
environmental fair with representatives from eco-
conscious organizations from around the state. Have
fun while finding out more about everything from
conserving natural habitats nationwide to
composting in our own backyard.

Tuesday, April 22, 2 pm to 4 pm – RI IPL (Rhode
Island Interfaith Power & Light) is urging all
Rhode Island congregations to send a representative
to the State House for a lobby for RI Global
Warming. More information can be found on their
web site: (<http://www.riipl.org/>).

Saturday, April 26, 9 am to 3 pm – The West
Warwick Jaycees chapter in Kent County will
conduct Earth Day activities at their Jaycee Corridor
and Arboretum and the Senator Donald Roch
Riverwalk located at Riverpoint Community Park in
West Warwick (Rt. 115 W and Rt. 33). Also, the
Jaycees will coordinate sites at Arctic Village
District and West Bay Bike Path (The Greenway).
Refreshments will be available; garden gloves and
biodegradable bags will be provided.

Religious Education News



Lauren Kalian

Religious Education Coordinator
401-884-5933 (W)

I would like to thank everyone who helped perform Old Turtle and the Broken Truth at our last Intergenerational Service. Thank you to Tom Townsend, Rosie Pavlow, and Courtney Cousineau for all of their hard work and wonderful performances! Thank you to all the children and adults who performed the roles of the animals and humans at a moment's notice. Thank you to Nonetta for wonderful musical sound effects and to Laura Evans for sewing the adorable animal hoods. Lastly, I want to thank everyone who came to the service and played the role of "The People." You all did a great job, and made the service extra special!

Please note the schedule for RE:

March 30: All RE students will be in Fellowship Hall.

April 6: All RE students will be in Fellowship Hall.

April 13: All RE students start in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service. They will then go to Fellowship Hall.

PICK UP STICKS: The Parsonage needs the yard cleaned up, and Cecile Mark has asked the children and Youth Groups for their help.

We will be having a "Pick Up Sticks" yard party on March 30, 10:30-12:00 to clean up the yard of the Parsonage. Please consider helping. It's a great community service project, and the children can have a direct impact on their own church community! Whatever time you can spare would be a HUGE help! If it rains, we will have the party the following weekend, April 6th. Thank you!

If you are planning on helping that day, please remember that it is tick season, and that everyone needs to be dressed appropriately. Also, please remember to check everyone after you have finished. Thank you!

Blessed Be & Happy Spring!

Lauren

LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY TO SPEND YOUR VACATION?

Whether you are part of a family or on your own, take a look at Star Island - a beautiful island off the coast of New Hampshire that offers week long and weekend conferences and retreats from June to September. Star Island offers many interesting conferences on a range of subjects like nature and natural history, art, matters of the spirit, yoga and more. And because Star Island has historic connections to Unitarian Universalism and the United Church of Christ, it has a liberal spiritual quality that is renewing and uplifting. It's a great place to make new friends, connect with your family and friends or spend quiet time by yourself - a beautiful place to play or just unwind. Some people like to go to Star Island for a special conference and others think of it as a quiet and reflective place for retreat with natural beauty and great people.

If you go onto the Star Island website at www.starisland.org/tour, you'll find a tour of Star and all of its offerings including the conferences and weekend retreats.

Ask Matt Tisser, Carolyn Marshall, Rose Pavlow or Rev. Barbara about their times on Star.



WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER & FRIENDS

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

We meet every Thursday evening.

Setup/Meeting: 7:00 to 7:15 PM
Announcements: 7:15 to 7:30 PM
Program: 7:30 to 8:45 PM
Place: Fellowship Hall

Our Mission/Statement of Purpose is to enhance and encourage:

- * Spirituality
- * Support of each other
- * Social Justice
- * Personal Empowerment

Mar. 27 – Practice for Lay Service

Mar. 30 (Sunday) – WOW Lay Service

Apr. 3 – Cakes for the Queen of Heaven – Session 1 (Kate)

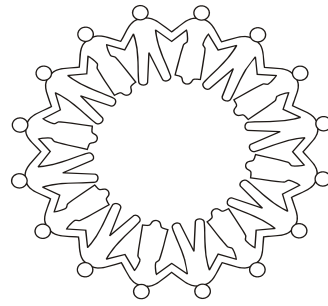
April 10 – Healing (Terri Mrozak)

April 17 – Read Across RI Book: **Water for Elephants** by Sara Gruen (Kate)

RAFFLE OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ITEMS

Westminster's Green Sanctuary Task Force is raffling off some items supplied by The Nature Conservancy of RI. We have two T-shirts, two sets of a scarf and a hat, two tote bags and some plush Karner Blue butterflies. The raffle will start on Sunday, April 6, and conclude on Sunday, April 13, following our annual Earth Day services. Please stop by our Nature Conservancy table during coffee hour for raffle tickets and information about The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island and project to study effects of sea level rising on the Rhode Island coast.

AMONG OURSELVES



Paola Mangiacapra's painting "Sirkeci Terminal" was accepted into the Rhode Island Watercolor Society's "Winter Around the World" show and won Third Place. Her painting entitled "The Gardener" (Dan Laliberte's portrait) was accepted into the Newport Art Museum's Annual Members' show and earned an Honorable Mention. The show hangs in the Cushing Gallery through May 11th. She also had paintings accepted into shows in Jan. and February at Gallery 297 in Bristol.

Condolences go out to **Walt Dickman** on the death of his daughter last week in Arizona.

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN ART SHOW

Margaret Townsend's group, known as "FACE – Fiber Artists on the Cutting Edge," will be exhibiting at the Courthouse Center for the arts, located at 3481 Kingstown Road (Rt. 138) in West Kingston, near the railroad station and across from the Post Office. The CCA phone number is 401-782-1018.

Their opening reception is Friday, April 11 from 5-7pm. The exhibition will continue through May 8 from 10am - 4pm every day except Mondays. Margaret will be gallery-sitting on Saturdays, April 12 and 26.

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

3/27	7:00 PM	Men's Group (H)
3/27	7:00 PM	Women of Westminster (FH)
3/28	4-8 PM	Book Sale
3/29	9-12 PM	Book Sale
3/30	9/11 AM	Worship
3/30	9:00 AM	RE
4/1	7:00 PM	Program Council (W)
4/2	5:30 PM	Caring Circle (W)
4/2	7:00 PM	Choir (CH)
4/2	7:00 PM	Membership Committee (H)
4/3	5:30 PM	Worship Committee (W)
4/3	7:00 PM	Women of Westminster (FH)
4/6	9/11 AM	Worship
4/6	9:00 AM	RE
4/6	1:00 PM	Sexually Healthy Cong. (FH)
4/7	7:00 PM	Youth Group (FH)
4/8	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees (H)
4/9	6:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation (FH)
4/9	7:00 PM	Choir (CH)
4/10	6:00 PM	New UU History (H)
4/10	6:30 PM	RIUUSJ (W)
4/10	7:00 PM	Men's Group (W)
4/10	7:00 PM	Women of Westminster (FH)

WESTMINSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Westminster Unitarian Church welcomes all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge, sexual orientation, age, or national origin.

Church Office: 401-884-5933
Fax Number: 401-885-2710
Minister: Barbara Fast
Religious Ed Coordinator: Lauren Kalian
Music Director: Nonetta Shatakhtsian
Office Administrator: Judy Brown
E-mail: westminsteruu@verizon.net
Website: www.westminsteruu.org
Office Hours 9-1 Monday - Friday

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

March 30

Ushers: 9:00 AM Don & Sylvia Hampton
11:00 AM **Volunteer needed**
Flowers: Don & Sylvia Hampton
Coffee: 9:00 AM **Volunteer needed**
11:00 AM Self Service

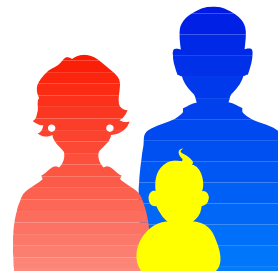
April 6

Ushers 9:00 AM Jerry Tisser
11:00 AM Mary Paolino
Flowers: Donna Poland
Coffee: 9:00 AM **Volunteer needed**
11:00 AM Self Service

April 13

Ushers: 9:00 AM Deb Lasalle
11:00 AM Isabelle Conrad
Flowers: Ruth McIntosh
Coffee: 9:00 AM **Volunteer needed**
11:00 AM Self Service

To volunteer, write your name on the schedule in Fellowship Hall, or contact Judy Brown, the Office Administrator.



CHIMES DEADLINES



DEADLINE: April 3rd

MAILING: April 9th