

BELL STREET COLUMNS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF BELL STREET CHAPEL



WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10 A.M.

TODDLER CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AVAILABLE

5 | OCTOBER

SHAME AND FORGIVENESS

Genevieve Peri

With Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, as a starting point, we examine the role of forgiveness in personal growth and in overcoming the destructive power of shame.

12 | OCTOBER

SISTERS AND BROTHERS: ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

Rev. José Ballester

We are connected to thousands of other Unitarian Universalists in an interdependent web. We freely associate with each other for growth and to make the dreams of a better world a reality.

19 | OCTOBER

THE SPLENDIFEROUS ANIMALS

Mary Margaret Earl

Today we celebrate the animals in all their elegant, clever and wondrous diversity. Animal blessing to follow at 11:30 a.m.

26 | OCTOBER

VOTING OUR VALUES

*Parish and Social Concerns
Committee*

The upcoming 2008 election will be discussed and important issues will be explored.

WELCOME, BIENVENUE, IRASHAIMASU, MERHABA, WELKUMME

During our September meeting, the Governing Board decided the church needs to focus its work this year on becoming a more welcoming congregation. Rev. José Ballester announced it to the congregation with our first hymn, Welcome, Rejoice, and Come In, and we announce it on our walls with a "Welcoming Congregation" sign. As a community, we pride ourselves on our friendliness and our open spirit. But what can we do to become more welcoming and grow our community?

Certainly, one way we can be more welcoming is to introduce ourselves to new people. Another way is to make our building attractive and accessible. We can offer social justice opportunities and adult religious education that are religiously meaningful. We can offer religious education and intergenerational services that nurture the religious life of families. We can reach our hands of support and friendship outside the walls of our community. Every committee, congregant and friend can make Bell Street a more welcoming place.

While our community is doing many of these things already, we are not doing enough of them. Too often, when we think of our community, we think of the people who we see every week, and not the new faces who come through our door. We need to put ourselves in the shoes of newcomers, to think of their needs at Bell Street as much as we think of our own. When we do that, the specific tasks of becoming a more welcoming community will become clear to us.

At our leadership retreat in early September, Bell Street leaders were asked how we see the Bell Street Community. We see it as a "loving, quirky, extended family with deep commitments to social justice and different paths to spiritual growth." We all need to make sure that the picture of Bell Street Chapel we present to the outside world matches this community that we each love and celebrate.

*In faith and fellowship,
Dan Greco, Governing Board*

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

BELL STREET CHAPEL
5 BELL STREET
PROVIDENCE, RI 02909

CONTACT@BELLSTREETCHAPEL.ORG
WWW.BELLSTREETCHAPEL.ORG
(401) 273-5678

MINISTERS

REV. JOSÉ BALLESTER
CONSULTING MINISTER

Rev. Ballester's office hours are by appointment.
To schedule an appointment contact him at
joseballester@mac.com or at (401) 273-5678.

REV. MARY MARGARET EARL
COMMUNITY MINISTER

REV. BEN HALL
COMMUNITY MINISTER

CHURCH STAFF

HEIDI GILKENSON, OFFICE MANAGER
Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9 a.m. to noon
Tuesday and Thursday – by appointment only

IRINA TCHANTCEVA, MUSIC DIRECTOR
NED FOSTER, SEXTON
IRENE ZABEK, CHILDCARE MANAGER

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JENNIFER SHIMKUS, AT-LARGE

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LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, PEG BOYLE
MEMBERSHIP/CARING, RICHARD CORSO
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, KATE GILLIS
PARISH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS, CLARA HARDY
WORSHIP, AUDREY GREENE

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

EDITOR, MEREDYTH WATERMAN
LAYOUT EDITOR, GENEVIEVE PERI
ORIGINAL DESIGN BY TERRY BARBOUNIS

NEW DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

I would like to introduce myself as the new denominational affairs coordinator for Bell Street Chapel. In this capacity, I will be the primary liaison between the Bell Street laity and both the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Ballou Channing District. I will write a monthly column on denominational affairs, and publicize denominational activities for the Bell Street community. I look forward to help our community deepen our connections to the wider U.U. world!

Ballou Channing District Information:

325 W. Elm St.
Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 559-6650

District Executive, Bill Zelazny,

bzelazny@uua.org

Eva Marx, UUA Trustee, emarx@uua.org

Upcoming Events

The U.U. New England fall conference will take place on Oct. 17 and 18 at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Both the candidates for U.U.A. president, Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Laurel Hallman, will be there. More information can be found online at <http://www.bcduuu.org/fivers/UUNEC-081017-18.html>

There will be a stewardship conference on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven.

The U.U.A. social action issue of the month is Iran. Please support diplomatic solutions with Iran by going online to <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/irandiplomacy/37408.shtml> and writing a letter to your U.S. representative.

NEW UU CLASSES

Bell Street Chapel has had many visitors the past few months. If you have been visiting and would like to know more about Unitarian Universalism and Bell Street Chapel, the Membership and Caring Committee invites you to join us for the New U.U. classes, beginning Oct. 8. These classes are designed for individuals who are interested in becoming members of Bell Street. Participants join with current members of the chapel to learn about our Unitarian Universalist faith and the history and workings of Bell Street Chapel. Attending these classes is the first step toward becoming a member.

Classes run Wednesday nights in Oct. at 7 p.m., with the following schedule:

- Oct. 8 - Individual journeys toward Unitarian Universalism and Bell Street Chapel
- Oct. 15 - Unitarian Universalism History and the Seven Principles
- Oct. 22 - This class starts in the Chapel with a tour and discussion of Bell Street Chapel's history.
- Oct. 29 - Potluck Dinner - This is an opportunity for those who have decided to become members to enjoy good food and conversation what it means to be a member of Bell Street Chapel. We will also review what to expect during the New Member Ingathering, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 10.

A sign-up sheet is available in Eddy Hall for those who are interested. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with a greeter on Sunday morning or our Consulting Minister, José Ballester.

~Richard Corso
Membership Chairperson

In faith and fellowship,
Dan Greco

AFFAIRS



OCTOBER | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PH=PARISH HOUSE | S=SANTUARY | EH=EDDY HALL | MPL=MEET IN PARKING LOT | MO=MINISTER'S OFFICE | OS=OFFSITE | L=LIBRARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 pm Order of Service deadline	2 6 pm Books thru Bars (PH)	3	4 8 am Meditation (EH) 9:30 Womensphere retreat begins (OS) 7 pm ProVisions event (OS)
5 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11:30 am sandwiches (EH) 3:30 Womensphere ends (OS) 4 pm Books thru Bars (PH)	6 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)	7 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Worship Committee (PH) 7 pm Membership (PH) 7 pm Knitting	8 6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm New UU class (PH)	9 6 pm Books thru Bars (PH) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)	10 6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)	11 8 am Meditation (EH) 12:30 pm March for peace and justice (OS)
<i>Association Sunday</i> 12 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11:30 discussion group (PH) 12 pm Riverheart concert 4 pm Books thru Bars	<i>Columbus Day</i> 13 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Finance Committee (PH)	14 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:45 pm Governing Board (PH) 7 pm Knitting Group (PH)	15 6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm New UU class (PH)	16 6 pm Books thru Bars (PH) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Gay Bingo (OS)	17 6 pm New England UU conference begins, Worcester 6:30 pm RIIFF Movie Night (EH)	18 8 am Meditation (EH) 3:45 pm New England UU conference ends, Worcester
19 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11:30 pm Cleaning 8 pm newsletter deadline 4 pm Books thru Bars (PH)	20 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)	21 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Parish & Social Concerns (PH) 7:15 pm House Committee (PH)	22 6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm New UU class (PH)	23 6 pm Books thru Bars (PH) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)	24 7 pm International Film Fest (EH)	25 9:15 Stewardship Conference, Fairhaven 7 pm International Film Fest (EH)
26 9 am newsletter fold (EH) 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 4 pm Books thru Bars (PH) 7 pm International Film Fest	27 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)	28 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm Knitting Group (PH)	29 6 pm OOS deadline 6 pm Daydream 6:30 pm Lead. development (PH) 7 pm New UU potluck (OS)	30 6 pm Books thru Bars (PH) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)	<i>Halloween</i> 31	

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Bell Street Chapel will participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Association Sunday" on October 12. The U.U.A. is asking congregations to hold events on that date to recognize and support the Association's work.

The 2008 campaign is titled "Growth in Spirit." Funds will be used for lay theological education and for continuing education for ministers, grants for seminary students and to support ministers of color.

Please contribute to the second collection we hold on Association Sunday to support these programs aimed at nurturing the Unitarian Universalist denomination worldwide.

More than 600 congregations participated in the first Association Sunday, held last fall, which raised more than \$1.4 million. Funds went to a national advertising campaign, to support ministers of color and their congregations, and to provide growth grants for congregations.

A final report on last year's Association Sunday can be found at www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml.

~Meredyth Waterman,
with material from "Interconnections"

COUNCIL OF LEADERS

SATURDAY, NOV. 1, 10 A.M.

The Governing Board will be expanding our traditional fall Council of Chairs meeting, scheduled Saturday, Nov. 1, at 10 a.m. in Eddy Hall, to include not only chairpersons of committees and the board but also anyone else who wishes to be a part of leading our church through what we hope will be a period of welcoming and growth. We need to be unified in a clear vision of where we want to be in the near future, and in our mission of making our church more welcoming and engaging to visitors. This meeting will be about what we each can do in every committee and activity and as individuals to achieve those goals. Details will follow, but please set aside the morning for this important session.

~Meredyth Waterman

MEDITATION

The *Radiant Bell Sangha* meditation group meets at BSC on the first Saturday of every month: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and the second and third Saturday of every month: 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Joanne Friday, who is an ordained Dharma teacher in Thich Nhat Hanh's Tiep Hien Order (Order of Interbeing), agreed to be the guiding teacher of our group and is scheduled to meet with us on the first Saturday of every month.

On the first Saturday, we follow a traditional sitting/walking/sitting meditation format, followed by a Dharma talk and Dharma sharing. On the second and third Saturday of every month, we follow the same sitting/walking/sitting meditation format, starting with a reading of Thich Nhat Hanh and concluding with a prayer circle and Dharma sharing.

Radiant Bell Sangha is dedicated to creating a safe, welcoming and loving environment for anyone interested in joining a meditation community. All are welcome. Do not hesitate to contact me at rjrosa7@verizon.net for any questions.

~Robert Rosa

AMONG US

*A haze on the far horizon, the infinite tender sky,
The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high –
And all over upland and lowland the charm of the goldenrod,
Some of us call it Autumn, and others call it God.*

~William Herbert Carruth

In this column we celebrate milestones and other life events, request healing thoughts for those in need, and remember departed loved ones. If you have information you would like to share in this column, or if you know of anyone in need of assistance, please contact Carol Crowley.

Carl has a new heart! We are happy to report that Carl Freese underwent a heart transplant in September and is making a remarkably quick recovery from the surgery. Several Bell Streeters have already visited Carl, quite a few have had telephone conversations with him, and many have sent cards and e-mails. Carl and his family ask that we also keep the donor and his family in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks to all who contributed to Carl's care packages.

Happy Birthday to Arline Davis and Steve Kagan. Anniversary best wishes go to Wendy Schwartz and Steve Barretto, married 13 years; Joe and Renae Chaves, married for seven years; and Kathy Lannigan and Cindy Palmieri, who celebrated their wedding at Bell Street Chapel four years ago. Congratulations to all.

And love to Aerial Arthur and Beverly Hart.

Enjoy the lovely, cooler, but shorter days of autumn, Bell Streeters.

~The Membership and Caring Committee

& BEYOND

FROM THE MINISTER

I noticed that the terror threat level was orange at the airport. This was not unusual, and I blithely drove past the sign without really noting the warning. Suddenly a chilly sense of dread began to engulf my mood. The sign was unusual, it was not the seemingly ubiquitous temporary lighted signs dotting our highways with their flashing messages. This was a small, orange sign with black letters on a post by the side of the road. A permanent sign.

There is something wrong with a permanent sign informing us of the current changing condition of a threat level. I might not have found it disheartening had the threat level been blue or green, the two lowest levels. I might have found it uncomfortable had the threat level been yellow; but the threat level was orange, the second-highest. And the sign was a permanent sign.

Does this mean that this country is now in a permanent state of high alert? Second-highest terror threat; was that not the equivalent of DEFCON 2? And the highest that number had gone was DEFCON 3, and only three times: during the Cold War, during the Cuban missile crisis, and on 9/11. And yet there I was about to board an airplane at a time when the threat level was the highest it had ever been.

At the terminal I expected to find tanks and other war wagons lined up ready to defend the city, but there were none. Inside I was looking for the National Guards, dressed in combat gear with assault rifles slung at the ready. But again nothing, just the usual TSA security guards, checking IDs and instructing us as to which items to place on the conveyor belt for X-ray examination.

While waiting in line, the couple ahead of me kept making jokes about some TSA signs telling them what they could bring on board the airplane as long as it was in a Ziploc bag.

"Look, honey, we could have brought gravy and honey as well as salsa," exclaimed the

woman.

"Yes but they don't let us bring all the other ingredients nor any silverware," observed the man. These people were joking in line when the threat level was orange, surely they or their luggage would be treated as a threat to the facility.

But they were given no extra scrutiny, just told to place their shoes on the conveyor belt and to take out any laptop computer or other electronic devices out of their bags. I wondered if people had become so complacent that no one was taking the threat levels seriously. Or had people become so comfortable with living under constant threat that they no longer took the warnings seriously. Or, I told myself, security was not all that serious, after all the signs were permanent and yet the security seemed unchanged, maybe I was being too paranoid? At that moment the metal detector sounded because I had forgotten to remove my cell phone.

As I stood to the side, emptying my pockets I could see the other passengers looking at me and thinking "What's wrong with him? Doesn't he know we are under an orange alert?"

~Rev. José Ballester

WINTER COAT EXCHANGE

For the 10th consecutive year Bell Street Chapel will be participating in the Winter Coat Exchange. The premise is simple. Individuals and organizations collect winter coats which are no longer needed and they are then made available for those who do need them the day after Thanksgiving on the lawn of the State House.

This is really a remarkable grassroots effort, so please join in. Let your friends, family members and non-Bell Streeters know about the event. If they are thinning out their closets and have coats to donate, bring them in. We will have a clearly marked spot in Eddy Hall where they may be left. During the past 10 years we estimate that Bell Streeters and our resident Daydream Theatre group have contributed close to 700 coats. That's a lot of warmth, and a lot of love.

Please talk this up as much as possible. If your employer allows it, put up a notice at work that you will collect coats for this event. It will bring in more coats and may provide a solution for some folks who are

PARISH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

On Sept. 13, the Parish and Social Concerns Committee had its annual retreat to discuss current activities and plan for future events. Although the Crossroads lunch-making has been a huge success, it has been a struggle to get the donated tuna needed to make the 100 sandwiches needed monthly. Due to the fact that tuna is quite expensive (\$8.00 per/large can= \$50 a case at BJs), we would like to have different people commit to either buying a case of tuna or donating the money for tuna on their assigned month. That means we only need 12 people to donate tuna or the money for this cause.

The committee also voted to support Books Through Bars which donates paperback books to prisoners across the country and is located in our parish house and needs support packing books on Sunday evenings.

Also discussed at the retreat was to revisit the resolution passed against the start of the Iraq war and what our congregation can currently do to support peace and standby our resolution through action and possibly generating another resolution. Please refer to Joanne DeVoe's article in this edition for more details on how our congregation can take action against the war.

We are also planning to have a film series that will showcase films on social justice which will be in conjunction with the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

There is a lot to look forward to from the P. & S.C. Committee, including our worship service on Oct. 26 about the upcoming election.

~Clara Hardy

Parish and Social Concerns Chairperson

worried as to how they can provide winter coats for their kids. These are tough economic times; let's help each other as much as possible

~Tom and Betty Lamora

OUR CHURCH & BEYOND

MARSH CLEANUP

Our biannual marsh cleanup on Sept. 20 was a great success, with a record turnout of 21 volunteers, including about 10 enthusiastic Johnson and Wales University hospitality students, that enabled us to clean parts of the beach we've never touched before. We picked up dozens of bags full of all kinds of trash, from cigarette butts and tires to kitchen chairs and even a toilet bowl. Perhaps our most fascinating and gruesome find, however, was a three-foot long shark that appeared to have been killed by a gash, possibly from a boat propeller.

Because our fall cleanup is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, we cataloged every piece of litter we found. We were among 2,000 volunteers at 87 sites in Rhode Island participating in the event, and the information we collected will be used to develop programs to combat coastal litter, which kills birds, fish and other animals.

While the cleanup involves touching some unsavory objects (congrats to JWU students Deirdre and Jeanne for winning the biannual Bell Street Chapel Biohazard Contest) the mood is always light and it is very satisfying to see the marsh we've adopted on the Providence waterfront at Oxford Street getting cleaner each time.

To top it all off, we even made the Providence Journal! Reporter Randal Edgar used our site as an example in his story on the statewide effort, making mention of Bell Street Chapel and the Johnson and Wales students.

Much thanks to Eugenia Marks and July Lewis of the Audubon Society for providing assistance, materials and T-shirts for our cleanup; to Sandra Tremblay of Johnson and Wales, who arranged the participation of the students; and to all the Bell Streeters, friends and even one unrelated volunteer who helped the earth and helped make our day a success.

~Meredith Waterman

WAR AND PEACE WORKSHOP DISCUSSION SUNDAY, OCT. 26

Before the Iraq invasion, Bell Street Chapel passed a resolution against such an invasion. In the five years since then much has happened. The Parish and Social Concerns Committee thinks that Bell Street should consider whether or not another resolution about Iraq is needed. Also, we need to talk about what we can do to promote peace and justice.

A workshop to discuss the Iraq war situation has been scheduled by the Parish and Social Concerns Committee Sunday, Oct. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall. Let us talk and listen together on this vital matter.

~Joanne DeVoe

PROVISIONS

ProVisions United will host its 6th annual masquerade ball and fashion show fundraiser Oct. 4.

Purpose: To raise money to help support local and global food initiatives to feed people. Proceeds benefit the earmarked food programs of Bell Street Chapel, Providence Rescue Mission, Crossroads RI and Manna Relief.

Where: Hope Artiste Village, 1005 Main Street, Pawtucket

When: Oct. 4, VIP cocktail reception 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., 8 p.m. to midnight, general admission, fashion show, entertainment, music, dancing.

Cost: *General Admission* - Includes admission, fashion show, entertainment, music and dancing, \$50 per person if purchased before Oct. 1, \$65 per person if purchased Oct. 1 or later (including at the door). *VIP Admission* - Includes admission, private open bar reception to meet the models, appetizers, preferred runway seating during the fashion show, entertainment, music and dancing. \$100 per person if purchased before Oct. 1, \$125 per person if purchased Oct. 1 or later (including at the door). Fifty-percent discount for Bell Streeters who purchase

WAR PROTEST AND MARCH SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Want a chance to show resistance to the war in Iraq? Join members of the Parish and Social Concerns Committee on Oct. 11 as they march with the Bell Street banner.

Assemble and Rally, 12:30 p.m. at Dexter Training Ground, Cranston Street Armory.

March to Beneficent Church at Empire and Weybosset streets by 2:30 p.m.

Then march to Burnside Park, near Kennedy Plaza.

Rally 3:30 p.m. in Burnside Park.

The protest demands are:
Bring the troops home NOW!

No attack on Iran

Protect families and stop deportations

Defend civil liberties and our right to free speech

Money for housing and health care, not for war

For more information, see www.ristopwar.org or call (401) 521-3584.

~Joanne DeVoe

from Johnny Tarrats at (401) 383-8778.

Established in 2002 by Bell Street's own Johnny Tarrats, ProVisions United unites a coalition of professionals in the hospitality, marketing, special events, entertainment and tourism industries to organize fund-raising campaigns in support of charitable organizations that help feed all men, women and children at risk.

The event's theme, Earth, Wind, and Desire will inspire and lift creative and philanthropic spirits. This unique event emceed by Paul Mueller, anchor for ABC 6, will host audience participation in thematic masquerade and costumed fashions, a silent auction and giveaways as well as exciting entertainment, great food and dancing to raise money to support local and global food initiative programs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

ETHICAL EATING

The U.U.A. Study/Action Issue (S.A.I.) for 2008-2012

STUDY: As we educate ourselves, discuss the issues, and examine our consciences about our food choices, we will all come to different conclusions about just what "ethical eating" is. For some of us, ethical eating will mean becoming (or continuing to be) vegetarian or vegan. For writer Barbara Kingsolver and her family, it meant eating, with few exceptions, only foods grown or raised by themselves or their neighbors in rural southwestern Virginia. Barbara Kingsolver described her family's experiment in her recent bestseller, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life." Her environmental biologist husband and her teen-age daughter added their own perspectives to Kingsolver's eloquent descriptions of shelling peas, canning tomatoes, and "processing" turkeys. The latter will probably suffice to drive some to vegetarianism! But Kingsolver, in confronting complex choices, has decided that, for her, giving up bananas is a more ethical choice than eschewing locally raised, pasture-fed, and humanely treated livestock products. After all, Kingsolver reasons, bananas are grown at the sacrifice of rain forests and require a great deal of fossil fuel for transportation over thousands of miles. Hmm - food for thought, indeed!

ACTION: Meanwhile, here at Bell Street, Audrey Greene is organizing an art installation about food and eating behavior. Audrey reasons that art is a beautiful and nonjudgmental way to call attention to an issue that is both personal and political (see related article). Be sure to invite your artist friends to show their work here at BSC. In addition to being a way to introduce the Unitarian Universalist Association S.A.I., an art installation will attract members of other U.U. churches and the community at large and hopefully generate interest in and discussion about the issue of food choices.

~ Carol Crowley

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

A religious education class gives a child a chance to discuss important ideas. Children need to talk about their beliefs and values to help clarify how they will think and act. This fall Bell Street Chapel will be offering four religious education sessions for children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

The sessions will be held Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 30, and Dec. 14. The students will attend the first part of church with their families and listen to the story for all ages. Then they will go downstairs to their classroom with two teachers and discuss the story. They will focus on the Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes and the sources and how they relate to the

ETHICAL EATING ART SHOW

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Food, could there be a more loaded subject? Hunger, obesity, vegetarianism, hunting, locavores, omnivores, eating contests...The Unitarian Universalist Association has chosen Ethical Eating as its next four-year study/action issue. How can we start learning and talking and processing all the ways we humans relate to food? I'm hoping that we can start with art.

Art is a great way to think about emotional subjects without worrying about being right or wrong or normal or weird. Art allows us the freedom to just express. So I'd like to invite everyone, including kids, at Bell Street to start imagining what they could say about eating through art. And art could be anything of course, it could be sculpture, it could be performance, it could be song, it could be actual food, it could be a combination of all of the above or something else entirely. Art can also be a group project as well as a solitary pursuit. In the next few weeks we will offer inspiration through U.U.A. study materials. But I would urge folks, especially those of you who don't feel artistic, to let yourselves think, feel, brainstorm, imagine. My son, who has been drawing and making art since he could hold a pencil, says that art is everything that isn't necessary for existence, imagine that!

The Bell Street Ethical Eating Group will be mounting an Ethical Eating Art Exhibition on Dec. 13. We will be inviting artists from the Bell Street community as well as other area U.U. churches, local artists and neighborhood folks to submit art that explores what eating means to each of us. This will be a great opportunity to showcase Bell Street's unique gifts.

While we need artists, both professional and amateur, we also need anyone who can lend their skills to make this exhibition a great success. We can use people throughout the next weeks and also on the days before, during, and after the exhibition.

Because this is a short-term project, it's a great volunteer opportunity. If you can help, please contact Audrey Greene at audrevigreene@gmail.com.

~Audrey Greene

story. The children will prepare and hold a short worship service based on the theme of the story. Then they will come upstairs and join in the closing "Carry the Flame" circle with the congregation.

For more information, contact Kate Gillis at (401) 823-7929 or ksaillis@netzero.net.

~Kate Gillis

Religious Education Chairperson

8 CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



WOMENSPHERE FALL RETREAT

Global Sisterhood: Weaving the Interconnected Web

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, 9:30 a.m. through Sunday, Oct., 5, 2008, 3:30 p.m.

Senexet House, Woodstock, Conn.

Womensphere organizes sacred circle gatherings for women of the Ballou Channing District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Join us as we explore how our lives are woven together with others around the world. Each time we connect and join hands with one other woman, we weave a piece of the web of healing and justice. Each connection creates understanding, safety and support. As part of the Global Sisterhood, we are aware that our well-being is connected with the well-being of women everywhere. When we make that connection real by joining hands, we increase the possibility that all of us and future generations will live in a world of justice and

peace.

How can we develop partnerships with women around the world?

How can we be in right relationship with others who live in widely different circumstances?

What can we do to help improve the conditions of women?

What should women's groups be thinking about now?

The workshop leader for the weekend will be The Rev. Dr. Dorothy May Emerson who will facilitate a variety of activities. She is a Unitarian Universalist community minister with Rainbow Solutions, in Medford, Massachusetts, where she provides education on socially responsible investing and on the spiritual aspects of money and serves as a consultant to justice-making organizations, such as Promise the

Children. She is an affiliate minister with the U.U. Women's Federation and founder of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Heritage Society. She edited *Standing Before Us: Unitarian Universalist Women and Social Reform, 1776-1936* and *Glorious Women: Award-Winning Sermons about Women*, and has written feature articles for *UU World*, on micro-credit and community investing. She is National Networker for the first-ever International Convocation of UU Women (to be held in Houston February 2009, www.icuuw.com) and creator of the *Global Literacy Project: Weaving Our U.U. Global Village Network*.

Cost is \$122 including four meals. A limited number of scholarships are available. To register or for more information, please contact Kate Gillis at (401) 823-7929, ksgillis@netzero.net.

WOMENSPHERE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

9:30-10:30	Registration, Settle In
10:30-11:00	Opening – Mary Sellers and Kate Gillis
11:00-12:15	Dorothy Emerson – Presentation and Interactive Activities
12:30-2:00	Lunch/Free Time
2:00-4:00	Dorothy Emerson - continued
4:00-6:00	Free Time/Social Hour
6:00-7:30	Dinner/Free Time
7:30-9:00	Change of Pace Activity
9:00	An upbeat movie with an international theme and strong women TBD

WOMENSPHERE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

7:00-7:45	Heart Chakra Meditation CD – Donna Poland
8:00-9:30	Breakfast
9:30-10:15	Worship – Kate Gillis
10:30-12:00	Dorothy Emerson – continued
12:00-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	Wrap-Up Session/Closing Circle
3:00-3:30	Evaluation/Pack Up and Farewell

will unite with models from Rhode Island Modeling Agency and Park Ave Puppy's to create a spectacular fund-raising event that will be celebrated and hailed as one of the premier galas of the year. The delectable dishes, fabulous fashions and breathtaking décor provided by Party By Design will be a fest for the soul. Other sponsors that are helping to make this event possible are Amica Insurance and the Rhode Island chapter of the International Special Events Society.

PROVISIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Fifteen local area restaurants including Citron, Aspire, Bacaro, Hemenway's and Waterman Grille will unite with models from Rhode Island Modeling Agency and Park Ave Puppy's to create a spectacular fund-raising event that will be celebrated and hailed as one of the

For more information, event details, a complete list of participating restaurants and sponsors, or to purchase tickets please visit www.provisionsunited.org or call (401) 965-9292.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

FACEBOOK

Bell Street Chapel is now on the social networking Web site Facebook! If you are too, please search "Bell Street Chapel" and you will find our page and our group. Please join them both. You can post comments or pictures there, get information and reminders about events and communicate with others in the Bell Street community. While you're at it, become a fan of the the Unitarian Universalist Association's page, too. If you're not on Facebook, now is the perfect opportunity to give it a try. It's fun and it'll be another easy way for us to connect with each other and those who are looking for a spiritual home like ours.

BOARD BITS

In this monthly column we summarize the recent activities and decisions of the Governing Board of Bell Street Chapel. It is our goal to keep you as informed as possible about what we do at our meetings, as we represent and are answerable to you, the congregation. Also, we remind you that all our meetings are open. We would be happy if members of the congregation attended. If you would like to make suggestions for the agenda, speak to the president, Don Laliberte.

The major work for September was setting priorities for the many necessary renovations to the chapel and parish house. The board was joined by Frank Faltus, chairperson of the House Committee. We agreed that our highest priority must be the structural repairs and painting of the wooden parts of the exterior of the chapel. Our next priority would be painting the interior of the chapel – Eddy Hall, the stairways, the vestibule and the shell room. The child care room needs to be painted as well, but that could be done by volunteers from the congregation. The carpet of the child care needs to be removed and the wood floor refinished. And the heating pipes in the child care room need to be enclosed for safety reasons. The kitchen and pantry could also be painted by volunteers. Repairs and painting of the parish house were given the lowest priority, although we would love to see that work done soon, too. All this will be discussed at a meet-

ing with the Trustees on Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Robb and Connie Kok and Neva Hantover have resigned as inactive members of BSC.

New Unitarian Universalist classes will start in October and a New Member Sunday is scheduled for November.

José continues to suggest ways in which we can become more welcoming. He suggested redesigning our brochures. José is getting involved in the Rhode Island State Council of Churches.

A proposal to share the plate (donate half of the cash receipts each week to a local non-profit) will be discussed with the Finance Committee.

A leadership council meeting was scheduled for November 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. We will start the visioning process, defining where we want to be in five years. José and Don are planning this meeting.

Dan Greco volunteered to be the congregation's liaison with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Ballou Channing District, keeping us informed about events and decisions.

~Carol Crowley
Secretary

~Meredyth Waterman

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Bell Street Columns is completing its transition into the 21st century and will be e-mailed to Bell Street members and friends each month starting with this edition. If you currently receive our weekly announcements e-mail, you will get the newsletter e-mail too. It will be sent as a .pdf file viewable with free Adobe reader software that most computers have, and you will be able to print it on regular size paper if you would like a hard copy.

In an effort to reduce our environmental impact and save trees, we ask that you consider opting out of having a copy mailed to your home if you get the e-mail and would read it that way. To opt out, please contact our office administrator, Heidi Gilkenson, at contact@bellstreetchapel.org or (401) 273-5678 and ask her to remove you from the newsletter mailing list. You will not stop receiving other mail from Bell Street. Please also contact Heidi if you are not currently receiving e-mail from Bell Street and would like to do so. Thanks!

~Meredyth Waterman
Bell Street Columns editor

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, OCT. 19, 8 P.M.

The deadline for the November issue of *Bell Street Columns* is Sunday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. Please limit each submission to 500 words (and shorter is better – our newsletter has been packed lately, and that's good, but hard to lay out when stories are long) and e-mail as a Word attachment to newsletter editor Meredyth Waterman at MeredythW@aol.com. Our newsletter is a great way to get the word out to the Bell Street community, so please think of writing for it as you look toward November and beyond.

~Meredyth Waterman,
Bell Street Columns editor

THANK YOU

We received a card of thanks from the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church for our donation of \$181 to their relief fund for those affected by the attack by a gunman at their Knoxville, Tenn., church in July. The church, which lost two members and saw seven others wounded, was swift to send a handwritten thank-you card to us, and no doubt to many other U.U.s and others around the world who were moved to respond to the attack with contributions. The people of Tennessee Valley will remain in our hearts, and may our commitment to liberal values be strengthened as a response.

MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCT. 10, 6:30 P.M.,
EDDY HALL

Our 2008-2009 Bell Street Chapel Movie Night series started with our second annual showing of the cult classic, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." We had more than 20 participants, including visitors from Youth Pride. Hopefully by next year we will have the words to the songs and the steps to the Time Warp down pat.

Our next movie night will be on Fri-

day, Oct. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall. The film is a western directed by Maggie Greenwald. Although fictional, the lead character is based on real occurrences of women disguising themselves as men in day-to-day life in order to succeed in the Old West.

Bring some food or nonalcoholic beverages to share and bring your friends to Bell Street Chapel's October Movie Night!

~Carol Crowley

THE KNIT PROJECT

The knitting group is back after taking a brief hiatus during the summer. The group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Parish House to make knit scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, and socks for the needy. It's a fun time, with good conversation and often homemade cookies. Knitting lessons available for those who do not knit but would like to participate. Men and women welcome. Questions, call Richard Muto at (401) 944-4809.



The Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909
Phone (401) 273-5678 | contact@bellstreetchapel.org

**"Love is the spirit of our church
and service is its law.**

**This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another."**

