

■ MARCH

■ 2009

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

1 | MARCH

A FEELING CALLED HOME

Jasmine Appleberry

Somewhere between the concrete, the people, the comfort, and the safety, a cherished notion of home is born, that we can stop to notice, and nurture, for ourselves and for others.

8 | MARCH

ENDLESS CYCLES

Rev. José Ballester

In recent years the penal system has become a growth industry; recidivism has increased and the composition of prison population is disproportionate to the general population. Prison reform has been a justice issue for Unitarian Universalists since the 1800s. We can and must make a difference.

15 | MARCH

CANVASS SUNDAY

Rev. José Ballester and the Governing Board

This year the annual Canvass begins with a bright vision of the future for Bell Street Chapel. Let us join together and keep alive the promise of the congregation.

22 | MARCH

LIVING BY HEART

Rev. Ben Hall

Many of us live by thinking our way carefully through each situation and each day. Thinking is very useful, but it may not be the surest guide to a fulfilling and generous life. The sometimes challenging route of integrating the heart more fully into the ordinary pieces of living can help cultivate peace within and without.

ON THE ROAD TO PROVIDENCE — ENDLESS LOVE

Admittedly I am a sucker for romance. My computer's music file is filled with romantic songs; iTunes keeps recommending countless love songs for purchase and Amazon.com has suggested every tear-jerker movie and novel in its catalogue. And as far as catalogues are concerned it is obvious retailers have my number and they trade information. The number of unsolicited "love and romance" mail-order catalogues is causing concern with my mail carrier. Yes, I am a romantic and I am not ashamed of it.

This particular proclivity has manifested in my approach to weddings. Every wedding I officiate is custom written for the individuals. Everyone for whom I officiate a wedding has gone through premarital counseling; has demonstrated to me that they understand the responsibilities of their union; has worked to fashion their wedding ceremony and most importantly has convinced me they are in love. I make no exceptions. As a result of this I have performed a large number of weddings and rejected a fair number of requests.

It should be noted that I have performed a few "Ceremonies of Union" for same-gender couples who have satisfied all my requirements but have been prevented from marrying due to archaic and repressive civil regulations.

29 | MARCH

ON A DUSTY ROAD

Rev. José Ballester

This will be a celebration of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The work, past, present and future, of this, our service branch will be featured.

While ministering in Texas, I would participate in Valentine's Day Union Services. One year I performed a service for a couple who had been together for 37 years. Both women were obviously a married couple. As an ordained minister I do not marry people; only the individual people can do that. Some individuals come to the ceremony already married and have been married for years. Others will become married shortly after the ceremony as they make real the words they utter. All I do is recognize what exists and will develop, and celebrate that fact with the individuals and their loved ones. Neither the state nor I make marriage real for individuals.

So it is curious that in Rhodes Island, as in many other states, I am not permitted to declare a same-gender couple as married. As a resident of neighboring Massachusetts, I am permitted to officiate such a marriage for Rhodes Island residents assuming the couple can obtain a marriage license from a Massachusetts municipality and we perform the ceremony within the state borders of Massachusetts. Such a situation might be funny, underscoring the ridiculousness of our laws, if it were not so tragic.

If we are to truly build loving families and good marriages, I call upon our civic and religious leaders to promote justice by recognizing all who seek to express their love in the commitment of marriage. I call upon our religious leaders to remember that we have been commanded to love each other. Let us to put an end to discrimination, misunderstanding and fear; let us all become a loving community. Let us work for marriage equality in Rhodes Island and throughout our land.

~ Rev. José Ballester

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

EDITOR, MEREDYTH WATERMAN

LAYOUT EDITOR, GENEVIEVE PERI

ORIGINAL DESIGN BY TERRY BARBOUNIS

BELL STREET BUSTING OUT

For the past few years, Bell Street Chapel has decidedly looked inward. We have examined our internal dynamics, our core beliefs and our internal communication through such programs as Safe Congregations and through our Ministerial Search Committee. Bell Street will continue to look inward with our Mission and Vision Workgroup.

However, this year, Bell Street has taken a decidedly different tone. Once again, we are stretching our arms outside the chapel doors, in all sorts of ways. In addition to sandwich making for Crossroads, our relationship with Daydream Theatre and our annual coat drive and biannual marsh cleanup, Bell Street is participating in the community in new and substantial ways. This year alone, Bell Street has developed relationships with several nonprofits. Books Through Bars uses the Parish House to store books and benefits from Bell Street volunteers. The Rhode Island Film Festival used Bell Street as one of its primary venues, again with the help of many Bell Street volunteers. Bell Street is a sponsor of monthly Gay Bingo, and is starting to develop strong relationships with Marriage Equality Rhode Island and Youth Pride. This January, our congregation took a public stand against the war in Iraq.

When we reach out to other organizations, we not only act on our beliefs, but we share them with the world. We are already seeing the benefits of this outward look, with new faces, larger attendance on Sundays and more congregational energy and vigor than has been seen in several years.

Our congregational goal this year is to be more welcoming to others. One way we can achieve that goal is to be more cognizant of the visitor, and to shape a positive experience for him or her at Bell Street. Another way is to reach out to the larger community, to let our example shine a light on our spiritual community. This year, we are doing just that.

In faith and love,

Dan Greco

At Large Governing Board member

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April edition of *Bell Street Columns* is Sunday, March. 22, at 8 p.m. Contrary to popular opinion, the deadline is not arbitrary. We are on a tight schedule the week that the newsletter is edited, assembled and printed, and it really makes our jobs difficult if we are forced to track down articles or service descriptions and clear up questions at or even after the deadline. You know this deadline all month, so please don't wait until the last minute. Please e-mail your submissions as a Word attachment to Meredyth Waterman at MeredythW@aol.com. Thanks!

~Meredyth Waterman

Columns Editor

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



REVISED IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION

At the midyear congregational meeting on Jan. 25, a revised resolution against the war in Iraq was approved by a majority of the congregation. The following is the approved resolution:

"Resolution for the Withdrawal of Personnel from Iraq

As Unitarian Universalists we hold to the goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. In following that belief, our congregation called on our national leaders in January of 2003, "...to use creative, peaceful means to resolve conflict with Iraq, to stand with other nations in the international community who are working for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, to support the international promotion of human rights and to cease advocating preemptive war." Unfortunately, our leaders chose a different path; one which has cost many thousands of lives, billions of dollars and created reason for the world to question our moral judgment. Six years later this war continues, without compelling justification and with no clear end in sight.

Therefore, the Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel calls on the President and Congress of the United States of America to:

Begin an immediate and full withdrawal of all U.S. military and contractor security forces from Iraq.

Request that the global community establish an international peacekeeping and stabilization force to insure Iraqi autonomy and the safety and well-being of the people of Iraq.

Encourage and support a plan for the reconstruction of Iraq, with the highest priority given to the humanitarian and social needs of the people of Iraq, including healthcare, education, jobs, clean water, and housing.

Use creative, peaceful means including proactive diplomacy to resolve both current and future conflicts throughout the world.

We strongly urge our recently elected government leadership to heed our call. Our country needs to stand with other nations in the international community who are working toward peace and addressing the threat of terrorism; to support the international promotion of human rights; and to reject policies of preemptive war. We support the members of our congregation who are taking public stands for peace and encourage them to witness for our religious community."

Since the passage, press releases of the resolution have gone to "UU World," "Legislative Advocacy," and the Unitarian Universalist Association's Washington office. There are plans to send press releases to local newspapers and copies of the resolution to Rhode Island's senators and congressmen.

Crossroads Lunches- We are still in need of people to either buy a case of large tuna cans each month or donate \$50 per/month which equals a case of tuna. Please contact Clara Hardy at clarapvd@gmail.com if you would like to donate.

WBNA yard sale- Last summer Bell Street participated in the annual West Broadway Neighborhood Association yard sale with all proceeds benefiting Bell Street. We would like to continue to collaborate with the neighborhood association by having another yard sale this year. Please consider looking through your stuff to see if there is anything you would like to sell. More details about the yard sale are forthcoming.

~Clara Hardy
Chairperson

Parish and Social Concerns Committee

CONVERSATION WITH THE BOARD

Conversation with the Board
Thursday, March 26

Many members have asked for an opportunity to meet with members of the Governing Board to talk informally about where we are and where we are going. As part of our efforts to ensure communication between the congregation and the Board, we have scheduled an informal "Conversation with the Board" for Thursday, March 26, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Our plan is for an informal discussion about issues, concerns, and goals for the future. We will not be focused on developing or voting on policy. Our goal is to talk about a topic (or topics) that are important to you. The group will select a theme for the evening, based on suggestions from members and friends of the congregation. If you have a theme you would like to suggest, you can speak with Don Laliberte, President, or contact him by e-mail at dlaliberte@gmail.com.

We look forward to a lively and engaging discussion that generates ideas for the future. We hope you will save the date, and participate in this important discussion on March 26.

*For the Governing Board,
Don Laliberte, President*

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

AMONG US

“Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content.”

~Helen Keller

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 (ccrowley8@cox.net).

Quite a few Bell Streeters celebrate March birthdays. Best wishes go to Carey Taylor-Noble (March 25), E. James Alston (March 28), Kate Gillis (March 30) and Jim Gillis (March 31). Isn't it a coincidence that our two Gillis members, who are unrelated, were born on consecutive days!

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, contact the president, Don Laliberte, at dlaliberte@gmail.com.

We will have voting delegates at Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly this year, since we are paying at least part of our “fair share” to the U.U.A. David Gleicher will be informing our congregation about the two U.U.A. presidential candidates, so we can guide our delegates in this important election. If you plan to attend the U.U.A. General Assembly in Salt Lake City (the last week of June) and would like to be considered for our delegation, please see Don Laliberte.

The Worship Committee chairperson, Audrey Greene, and member, Brian Kovacs, came to the

Don Laliberte and Richard Corso will celebrate their anniversary on March 22. Congratulations.

Mykl Friend is recovering well from foot surgery, but will be unable to attend church services for quite a while because he can't climb the stairs to the sanctuary. We hope it won't be too long before we have a chairlift to assist our members and friends who are temporarily or permanently unable to climb stairs. José, the Board and the House Committee are working on it!

Ellen Smith is also recovering from surgery. We miss seeing her in church, but are glad her husband, Stu, joins us at services.

Carl Freese came back to church in February for the first time since his heart transplant. Everyone has been remarking about how wonderful Carl looks and how great it is to see him. Our thoughts are with Carl's brother, also a transplant recipient,

who is having serious medical problems.

A small but vocal contingent from Bell Street attended the Rally for Marriage Equality at the State House on Feb. 12. We held our BSC banner as well as other signs proclaiming our support for marriage rights for same-sex couples. Our minister, José Ballester, spoke at the rally, and Richard Corso, our Membership Committee chairperson, participated in the press conference. It is inspiring and fun to participate in social activism together.

We will welcome spring on March 20. It has been a difficult winter in many ways – and it probably isn't over yet – but we do have some things to look forward to – warm breezes, flowers, longer hours of sunshine. Happy spring, Bell Streeters!

~The Membership and Caring Committee

Board meeting to discuss the work of that important committee, which ensures that we have a well-organized, inspiring service every Sunday. Their work has become especially challenging and important since we currently have a part-time minister who preaches only twice a month. BSC is fortunate to have terrific lay-led services, thanks to our Worship Committee.

The Board is planning an event at which we can express our appreciation to all committee chairs, committee members, and other dedicated BSC volunteers. Save the date – Saturday, May 9 – and look forward to a fun-filled evening.

Don mentioned that we are doing a good job of outreach to community organizations like Daydream Theatre, Books Through Bars, Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI), Youth Pride, Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education (RISE), etc., and we are forming mutually beneficial relationships with them. We should have written agreements with some of these organizations describing the responsibilities on both sides. Ray Perreault will develop

the guidelines for such agreements.

Greg Greco and his team of Finance Committee members are gearing up for our Annual Canvass.

The painting of Eddy Hall will begin soon and we can then hang five new bulletin boards that committees can use to keep our congregation and visitors informed about our activities.

We will start periodic “Conversations with the Board” in March.

That is a summary of the important work of your Board in February.

~Carol Crowley, Secretary



ETHICAL EATING

The Unitarian Universalist Association Study/
Action Issue for 2008-2012

STUDY: The first “Green Revolution” occurred in the mid-20th century as an answer to a food security crisis in the developing world. Norman Ernest Borlaug, father of the “Green Revolution,” won a Nobel Prize in 1970 for his work applying then new principles of seed hybridization, irrigation, pest control and land use to boost crop yields worldwide by 117 percent from 1962-1996, during which time the world population grew by 90 percent.

Many experts in food production and distribution are calling for a “New Green Revolution” to address our current global food shortages. Sixteen percent of the world’s population is undernourished and many more are insecure about their food supply. Most are in Africa or the Middle East. This is a moral disgrace in a world where many others overeat and waste food. It is also a potential security concern. As Josette Sheeran, execu-

tive director of the United Nations World Food Program, cautions, “A hungry man is an angry man.” People frustrated by their inability to feed themselves and their families have started revolutions and committed acts of terrorism and other violence.

Much debate has focused on the question of improving crop yields through the use of genetically modified (GM) crops, many of which can thrive with less water, more heat, or less space; yield several harvests a year; or provide more nutrition per serving; etc. But powerful opponents criticize genetic engineering on philosophical grounds or fear serious unintended consequences, some of which have already occurred.

It is unclear whether GM foods could be the panacea for world hunger that some claim, or whether they could cause the human and environmental disasters foreseen by others. What is clear is that food security, like climate change and the sustain-

ability of our environment, is a serious challenge for the international community.

ACTION: Curl up with a good book. Educate yourself about world hunger. Some suggestions include:

“Meals to Come: A History of the Future of Food” by Warren Belasco (2006)

“Hot, Flat, and Crowded” by Thomas Friedman (2008)

“Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power, and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System” by Ra Patel (2007)

My resource for this article was the 2009 Great Decisions curriculum book published by the Foreign Policy Association.

~Carol Crowley (ccrowley8@cox.net)

PROVISIONS UNITED’S SKATE FIGURE 8

ProVisions United will host another event in March to raise money for Bell Street Chapel and other organizations that feed the hungry. “Skate Figure 8” will take place March 1 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bank of America Skating Center in Providence. Free skating exhibitions, lessons from Johnson & Wales ice hockey team members, a VIP tent and much more will be available until 5 p.m.

The goal of Skate Figure 8 is to raise \$8,000 in a one-day, four-hour event. Proceeds from the event will benefit Crossroads Rhode Island, Bell Street Chapel, Providence Rescue Mission and Manna Relief. General skating prices are \$6 for

adults and \$3 for seniors and children under 12. Skate rentals are \$4. VIP tickets are \$35 per person or \$60 for two. VIP entrance includes cost to skate, rentals and admission to the tent with complimentary appetizers and drinks.

General skating tickets and skate rentals can be purchased at the rink on the day of the event. VIP tickets can be purchased online at www.provisionsunited.org or at the rink the day of the event.

Established in 2002, ProVisions United unites a coalition of professionals in the hospitality, market-

ing, 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.

Headquartered in Providence, ProVisions United provides a vital link between businesses and communities to create, support and maintain programs for providing food care to all people and encourage self-reliance. ProVisions United is a Rhode Island chartered nonprofit organization.

For more information about Skate Figure 8 or to donate, please visit www.provisionsunited.org.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

MARCH | 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
<p>1</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour 11:30 am sandwiches (EH) 2 pm G&S rehears. 4 pm Books Through Bars</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S) 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Worship Committee (PH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8 am Meditation Group (EH)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour 11:30 p.m. Cleaning Blitz (S) 4 pm Books Through Bars</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S) 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Finance Committee (PH)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:45 pm Governing Board (PH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7:30 G&S rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm Membership Committee (PH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8 am Meditation Group (EH) 10:30 a.m RISE tutoring (EH)</p>
<p>Canvass kickoff 15</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour 11:30 am Discussion group (PH) 2 pm G&S rehears. 4 pm Books Through Bars</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S) 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7:15 pm House Committee (PH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 Gay Bingo (OS)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8 am Meditation Group (EH)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11:30 RE Comm 4 pm Books Through Bars 8 pm newsletter deadline</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S) 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6 pm Parish & Social Concerns (EH) 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7:30 G&S rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm Evening with the Board (EH)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:30 a.m RISE tutoring (EH)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 am newsletter folding (EH) 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour 2 pm G&S rehears. 4 pm Books Through Bars</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6 p.m. Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>				

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Governing Board invited the Worship Committee to visit its last meeting and share its ideas. To prepare, I made a list of what the Worship Committee does in order to make each service the best it can be. I share this list and hope that each committee will post a column in the newsletter sharing its goals and procedures, so that we can get to know each a little better.

To put on a worship service, the Worship Committee performs the following:

- We create and coordinate a service schedule two months in advance with each Sunday having a speaker and a worship assistant (buddy). This schedule is created with consideration to the religious year according to most religions, Unitarian Universalist events, the political climate, Bell Street events, previous services and the “mood” of the congregation.
- We also look at the minister's schedule, the associate ministers' schedules, and the Religious Education schedule.
- We plan for children's participation.
- We coordinate music with Irina Tchantceva, our wonderful pianist and choir director.
- We arrive early on Sunday mornings to get the sanctuary ready. This can include cleaning, straightening pews and pew racks, putting up the hymn numbers, preparing the sound system, replacing the chalice candles and pruning the plants.
- We also order new candles and other pulpit needs when necessary.
- We support the minister during his service, usually with readings and sometimes by leading the announcements, the candles of joys and concerns and the offertory if needed.
- We support lay speakers during the weeks and days before their service by helping the creative process, and reminding about deadlines for the bulletin and the newsletter.
- We then assist the lay speaker on the day of their service, especially if they are a guest from outside the congregation and in need of a warm welcome and orientation.
- We solicit new lay speakers from within the congregation and without. We run worship-leading workshops at least once a year and also a summer worship idea meeting.
- We are responsible for all the summer services.
- The members of the worship committee lead many of the services.
- We handle unforeseen circumstances.
- We also keep a spare service in a red binder in the ready room (to the right of the pulpit) in case a speaker doesn't show.

We are a strong committee, bringing our unique perspectives and strengths to our work. We hope to make Sunday worship a reflection of the energy and spirit of Bell Street, a nurturing space for both the leader and the congregants. We welcome your participation!

~Audrey Greene, Chairperson of the Worship Committee

UU STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

As our state legislative advocacy enters its seventh year, the organization has made many changes to strengthen its efforts. Our new title replaces “Rhode Island Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice” (RIUUSJ). The new title is to more fully represent our mission and to rally support as an association/denomination across the state of Rhode Island. We seek to represent our spirituality more fully, as in the words articulated by Rev. William Murry of the Maryland Legislative Ministry:

“Religion is not about what one believes, it's about becoming truly and fully human, and what cause is greater than seeking a more just and equitable world. Injustice is institutionalized, and the value of advocacy is that it attempts to get to the roots of injustice and oppression. It attempts to change unjust laws and social structures that are the cause of suffering. It's not just aspirin – it's surgery. To do advocacy requires patience and persistence and hard work, but when it succeeds, the payoff is terrific!”

UULM- RI seeks similar victories in our state and we are organizing more effectively to attain those results. Rev. James I. Ford has joined our Board of Directors (which is the new title for former Steering Committee) to serve as liaison with all our ministers. We will shortly be requesting each of our Governing Boards to formally affiliate and support UULMRI. and rally congregation members to our cause. We are extending our education and orientation efforts. Between the receipt of this notice and our annual meeting on March 15, we expect to organize one or two legislative training sessions in each congregation. Keep aware of the dates as these are scheduled.

The UULM-RI annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 15, at First Unitarian Church in Providence from 2 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Please mark this date in you calendar now! It is important to recognize that the annual meeting determines our legislative priorities for the year. Your presence and insights are imperative. The state of Rhode Island faces huge obstacles. An informed Unitarian Universalist electorate can make a disproportionate impact by organizing effectively. For the commitment of two hours per month from March through June, you can significantly impact our state!

For more information, you can contact Bell Street's UULM-RI Board of Directors members, David Gleicher (david_gleicher@cox.net), Dan Greco (dgreco2760@yahoo.com) and Tom Lamora (tblamora@gmail.com).

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY-
RHODE ISLAND
7TH ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 15, 2 P.M.
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
1 BENEVOLENT ST.
PROVIDENCE**

~John Glasheen
UULM-RI

MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY MARCH 13, 6:30 P.M.

In an effort to live out our commitment as a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation, Bell Street Chapel sponsors a monthly movie night in Eddy Hall featuring films that examine gender-identity issues. Over the past several years, we have seen dramas and documentaries, comedies and heart breakers – all acclaimed and artistically significant films. Genevieve Peri seems to have an endless number of ideas for films in this category.

In March we will view a light-hearted mystery set in Barcelona. Our licensing agreement does not allow us to identify the film by name in public communi-

cations, but anyone who wants to know more may contact Carol Crowley at ccrowley8@cox.net.

As always, we will share a potluck dinner before the showing of the movie (shall we try for a Spanish-themed dinner? Don't worry about it!). We always follow up with a short discussion led by Genevieve Peri. So do join us on Friday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall. Bring a nonalcoholic beverage or some food to share – and bring your friends to Bell Street Chapel's Movie Night

~Carol Crowley

WOMENSPHERE: SPRING GATHERING

The Goddess and You
Exploring the Relevance of the Goddess for Women Today
Saturday, March 21
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
First Unitarian Church of Providence
1 Benevolent St., Providence

Womensphere organizes sacred circle gatherings for women of the Ballou Channing District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our spring gath-

ering will be a day spent celebrating the energizing power of the goddess. We will have time to share the impact of the goddess in our own lives. Then we'll cross the street to the Rhode Island School of Design museum and stand before Isis, Hathor, Maat, Kuan Yin and others. The cost is \$25 including lunch, plus admission to the museum, which is \$10 adults, \$7 for those 62 and over. A limited number of scholarships are available. To register or for more information, please contact Susan Emmer Schmidt, emmer-schmidt@verizon.net.



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.”**

