

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 | APRIL

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL-GAME

Richard Corso

In what has now become an annual tradition at Bell Street Chapel, Richard Corso will explore the spiritual aspects of baseball and the connections made while rooting for the Red Sox.

12 | APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

Rev. José Ballester

For some, this is a celebration of springtime, or the feast of Ęastre, or the pascal celebration of Jesus of Nazareth or the observance of Pass-over. This is a time of reflection and renewal. This Sunday we shake off the doldrums of the past and chart our future.

19 | APRIL

EARTH, A CELEBRATION

The Worship Committee

We will be observing Earth Day in readings and songs.

26 | APRIL

WHO ARE WE, ANYWAY?

Martha Yager, American Friends Service Committee

South East New England

Immigration: The complex story and what it says about us.

ON THE ROAD TO PROVIDENCE — IMAGINATION AND REALITY

For some time, my commute took me past a curious wall. It was 25 feet high, made of concrete and running from one street corner to another in a zigzag pattern. Rising behind the wall was a thicket of trees. In the evening the area behind the wall glowed with a soft yellowish light reminiscent of torchlight. Nothing else was visible behind the wall and there were no signs indicating what it protected. I tried to imagine what lay behind that wall: a patch of forest protected for historical reasons or a neighborhood park or even a cloistered community with monks, scholars or magicians.

Curiously I checked the local maps and computer programs to discover the history, nature of this mysterious place. However they did not indicate anything unusual, just some small roads with tree names (Aspen, Hemlock, Oak etc.) and indications of a few but not many buildings. Obviously this confirmed my speculation that the wall protected some form of cloistered community. I checked the maps and saw the place where the roads from the cloistered community intersected the street. This must be the guarded entrance I surmised and imagined the rustic gate a little way in from the concrete wall. One evening, determined to introduce myself to the leadership of this cloistered community, I took the exit from the highway and drove to where the map showed the only entrance.

My first shock was when I realized the concrete wall ended at the street corner; it did not

wrap-around the cloistered/forested community. From the concrete wall to the rustic gate there was only shrubs and wooden fences; hardly adequate protection for the monks/scholars/mystics. There was no rustic gate, not even speed bumps, just a driveway leading into what appeared to be homes from the 1950s. The torchlight was from old yellowish street lamps circa 1950. The trees were not an ancient forest, just a line of trees planted in the 1950s to act as a sound and light barrier from the nearby highway. When the trees grew too tall to be an effective barrier, the community erected the concrete wall. There where no monks, no scholars, no mystics, no ivy-covered cloisters, just a somewhat forlorn middle-class planned community.

It was my imagination that had created this magical place. It was my desire for something special and mysterious that had caused me not to suspend my disbelief, but to suppress logic and dismiss all rational explanation. It was a common phenomenon employed by sideshow magicians and illusionists: provide enough information that the audience will see and believe whatever the entertainer wants them to see and believe. It is also used for unscrupulous reasons by charlatans, corrupt politicians and cult leaders to gain our trust in order for use to do what they want. While I will always encourage good imagination and dreams that reach beyond the ordinary, I also advocate for a healthy dose of skepticism so as not to be deceived.

~ Rev. José Ballester

WORSHIP LEADING WORKSHOP — APRIL 4

Come to the Worship Leading Workshop on Saturday April 4, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Parish House and learn the basics for preparing a service. Everyone who comes to Bell Street is in-

invited. One of the wonderful aspects of worshipping in a community such as Bell Street Chapel is the sharing of ideas. We have many Sundays during the year when the services are lay-led. That means that one or more people who are not pro-

fessional ministers prepare and present the Sunday morning service.

Contact Worship Committee Chairperson Audrey Greene at audreygreene@gmail.com for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

FROM THE BOARD — UPLIFTING NEWS

Yes, the pun in this headline is fully intended. There's some exciting news from the Board this month: We believe we can afford to get a stair lift that will assist members who cannot climb the stairs to the sanctuary and Eddy Hall!

In March the Board voted to pursue the installation of a stair lift on the stairs to Eddy Hall, as well as a series of three stair lifts that would take a rider up and down the stairs to the sanctuary. (Because those stairs turn two corners, three separate lifts would be necessary.) While we have previously received quotes upwards of \$100,000 for a handicapped accessible elevator, we have received estimates for 350-pound-capacity stair lifts that total only about \$12,000. The Board believes that figure is one that we can handle, between previous funds raised and other funds that we believe we can raise for this worthy cause. And unlike major renovations, stair lifts can be installed in as little as a single day.

While stair lifts, which are motorized chairs attached to tracks that run up the stairs, would not make us fully compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards (we would need an elevator and a handicapped accessible bathroom, and likely other improvements), they would be a vast improvement for a number of members and friends who would like to join us but can't climb our steep stairs. It would also mean that our chapel would be a more attractive venue for events like concerts, shows, community meetings and weddings, which could generate funds from rentals and help Bell Street better support our community.

For years we've been bemoaning our lack of handicapped accessibility and the fact that many members of our community have been unable to join us for services or events because of it. We've held fund-raisers and accepted donations, but were stymied by financial struggles and the overwhelming costs of an elevator or handicapped accessible bathrooms. While full handicapped accessibility is still a dream that we have for Bell Street, the Board feels that stair lifts are a very achievable and worthy improvement and we are very optimistic that Bell Street can do this soon.

Much thanks go from the Board to Rev. Josè Ballester, who has pursued estimates for the lifts, and to Joe Davis, who has also been active in our handicapped accessibility efforts, as well as everyone who has donated or organized fund-raisers for our previous efforts. While we aren't yet at the point where we can set a time frame, we can do this soon, and the Board is very excited about being able to welcome more of the people who want to be a part of our wonderful community.

*In hope and excitement,
Meredyth Waterman
President-elect*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the May edition of *Bell Street Columns* is Sunday, April. 19, 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 separate Word attachments to Meredyth Waterman at MeredythW@aol.com. Thanks!

*~Meredyth Waterman
Columns Editor*

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CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people, as well as justice, equity and compassion in human relations. In 2005, Bell Street Chapel became one of the first religious organizations in Rhode Island to publicly support equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. We see marriage equality as an expression of our religious values. Therefore, over the years, we have advocated for marriage equality in a variety of ways.

Last month, my partner Richard Corso and I had the opportunity to put our faith into action by participating in a press conference and rally for marriage equality at the State House and were interviewed by two local radio stations. We also testified in favor of marriage equality legislation at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. The experience was energizing for both of us, and it has been a privilege for me to represent Bell Street Chapel on this very important justice issue.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I also believe in the transformative power of love. The love that Richard and I share has transformed us both individually and as a couple. For the past nine years, Richard and I have built a life together. We have supported each other through the good times and the difficult times, and shared each other's joys and sorrows. Together, we have celebrated the birth of a several new nieces in the family and mourned the loss of loved ones. If something happens to one of us, such as illness or accident, we take care of it together. When something good happens, we celebrate it together.

Love has the power to transform not only individuals, but society as a whole. By putting our faith into action and working for justice, we can touch people's hearts and change people's minds. We must continue to speak out, as individuals and as a congregation, in favor of equal marriage rights for everyone. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated that "The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice." Let us all continue to work together, acting on our values and principles to make the world a more just place for all.

~Don Laliberte, President



WHAT IS MARRIAGE FOR? BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP MAY 4 AND 11

Bell Street Chapel and Marriage Equality Rhode Island will host a two-week discussion group based on the book "What is Marriage for?: The Strange Social History of our Most Intimate Institution," by E.J. Graff. In this book, Graff describes marriage as "a kind of Jerusalem, an archaeological site on which the present is constantly building over the past, letting history's many layers twist and tilt into today's walls and floors." Indeed, the institution of marriage has changed dramatically over the centuries to reflect evolving understandings of family, money, sex, love and power. Graff traces Western marriage customs and rules of law from their emergence in ancient times to the present.

This program will allow participants to share ideas about evolving notions of marriage. The objectives of this program are:

- To investigate historical beliefs and practices with regard to marriage;
- To explore modern marriage customs and laws, and the belief system inherent in them;

- To examine attitudes toward marriage of same-sex couples against current beliefs about the purpose of marriage; and

- To develop a personal definition of marriage (both what it is and why we do it).

During the discussion sessions, participants will examine laws and customs of bygone eras to better understand underlying beliefs and assumptions. They will also explore current practices to determine the extent to which these practices reflect modern values and assumptions about marriage. Finally, they will consider how a faith community can honor each individual spirit as we "live up to the rigorous demands of love."

The group will meet for two consecutive Mondays, May 4 and 11, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants are asked to read "What is Marriage For?" prior to the first session. A sign-up sheet is available in Eddy Hall. The book can be purchased for \$16 from Beacon Press at www.beacon.org, or through major online book retailers such as Amazon.com.

~Donald Laliberte

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

NEW U.U. CLASSES

We are thrilled to see so many new faces – individuals, couples, and families – on Sunday mornings. Many of you have expressed an interest in learning more about Bell Street Chapel and Unitarian Universalism in general, and about the process of becoming members of the Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel. In order to answer your questions, the Membership and Caring Committee has scheduled New U.U. classes for Sunday, April 26 and Sunday, May 3. Previously, this program has been offered as a series of four classes, but we have condensed it into two to make it easier for those interested.

New U.U. classes are designed for people who are new to Bell Street Chapel and are considering becoming members. These classes help us get to know each other by exploring our individual spiritual journeys. We will also discuss the history of Unitarian Universalism and Bell Street Chapel and explore what it means to be a member of Bell Street. Classes begin at 11:30 a.m. and run for approximately 90 minutes. Child care will be available. A sign-up sheet will be available in Eddy Hall. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Richard Corso at (401) 383-7470 or by e-mail at richard-corso@gmail.com.

~Richard Corso
Membership Committee Chairperson

AMONG US

*"With the calm patience of the woods I wait
for leaf and blossom when God gives us
Spring!"*

~John Greenleaf Whittier

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 were born in the lovely month of April. Happy birthday to Joe Wolfe (April 11), Ellen Smith (April 11), Kathy Lannigan (April 18), Phil Smith (April 19), Joanne DeVoe (April 20), Joe Davis (April 25) and Linda Skibski (April 29).

Anniversary wishes to Shelagh and Richard Goulis, married eight years this month, and Carol and Jim Crowley, who were married 41 years ago.

Our thoughts are with Aerial Arthur, Bev Hart, Mykl Friend, Ellen Smith and Carl Freese who have not been able to attend Sunday services lately be-

cause of health or mobility issues. Special wishes for a rapid return to good health go to Gene Joy, who was hospitalized twice recently. We hope you are feeling much better, Gene.

Ellen and Stu Smith participated in the 2009 Arthritis Summit in Washington, D.C., last month – although they arrived a day late and without their luggage because of our most recent snowstorm. They met with our congressional delegation, lobbying for the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act, which will provide more money for research as well as incentives for physicians to enter the field. During the summit, Ellen received an award for the work she has done locally as an advocate for people with arthritis and other chronic, painful conditions. We admire Ellen and Stu for continuing to assist others even as they deal with Ellen's own health problems.

Let us keep in mind all those struggling during these difficult economic times. At least the heating bills will ease up for a while with the coming of better weather!

~From the Membership and Caring Committee

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 childcare room has been painted a bright and cheerful color. The painting of Eddy Hall will begin soon. The chandelier that fell down recently has been fixed and replaced; the other chandeliers in the sanctuary have been checked to ensure that they are secure.

We are hoping to do some final fund-raising so we can install a stair lift for handicapped accessibility soon.

The April Board meeting will be rescheduled to April 7 so that Board members may attend the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) presidential candidates' forum on April 14. Any Bell Streeters who would like to attend this forum and hear the candidates for the presidency of the UUA can speak to Don Laliberte.

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

~ Carol Crowley, Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

UUA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will hold elections for a new president at the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City, June 24-28, 2009. There are two candidates for the four-year term (which could be followed by a second four-year term): Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman of First Unitarian Church in Dallas, Texas, and Rev. Peter Morales of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colo.

Bell Street chapel will be able to vote in this election, so it's important that we get to know the candidates. You can check out their Web sites (www.hallmanforuuapresident.com and www.moralesforuuapresident.org, respectively) There will also be a candidates' forum on Tuesday, April 14, at First Unitarian Church, 1 Benevolent St., Providence. You are invited to attend. Bell Street's Governing Board has rescheduled its meeting, which would normally be that evening, so Board members can attend, and the Board would love your company. More information about the candidates' forum will be announced soon.

REFLECTIONS ON MEMBERSHIP — WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME TO BE A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST AT BELL STREET CHAPEL?

It means many different things. I can think on my own rather than following a creed. The Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association guide me:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

I began attending Bell Street Chapel services in 1997 or 1998. I came when I was in the mood. Now I would have to have a reason not to attend the service.

For me the service allows me to mark my week and to center myself. It affords me a chance to meditate with others and to combine energy with them.

I pray daily and I meditate daily along with various other Eastern practices. Bell Street Chapel and its members and friends allow me to be me more and to filter out the world at large and its continuous bombardment of noise.

I am aware of the happenings around me and in the world at large but I am able to focus for a

brief period of time on Sunday morning on me and becoming more whole.

I have become at times extremely involved with governance, such as when I was on the Governing Board and served on the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Ministry. At other time it has been luxurious to attend as a congregant, sans title.

Many wonderful people have contributed to my experiences here and to my growth. In interacting with people of different ages, religious traditions, genders, generations, backgrounds, and so on, I have added exponentially to who I am.

I have found it most interesting learning from several different ministers. Each has gifted to me unique prisms of awareness.

The ideas found in the principles and traditions have opened my mind to various new experiences that mean a lot in my journey towards wholeness. As a naturally caring guy, it has also enabled me to better channel some of this energy.

I hope to wake up tomorrow and many more days going forward knowing that as a Unitarian Universalist, I can manage the day and the days ahead.

Bell Street is home to me even when I am not in attendance. I am grateful to you all for your love and affection and support.

~Steve Kagan

OUR CHURCH AND BEYOND

DAYDREAM THEATRE PRESENTS 'THE WIRE GAME'

Bell Street Chapel is proud to host Daydream Theatre Company's production of "The Wire Game," written and directed by Lenny Schwartz. Designed by James Belanger and featuring original music by Jessica Cowan, "The Wire Game" is a play about how the Internet and social networks have been integrated into our daily lives. It depicts how addicted the characters become and how they use and abuse this form of communication. As things spiral out of control, the characters do horrifying things to each other trying to gain

their balance. The play shows where we are as a culture and where we sadly may be going.

Performances will be on April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30 and May 1 and 2. All shows start at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for students and seniors. A \$1 discount will be given to anyone who brings a nonperishable food item to support the Community Food Pantry at Youth Pride, Inc. Tickets can be ordered by calling (401) 290-7865.

FOOD PANTRY AT YOUTH PRIDE, INC.

Throughout the month of April, Bell Street Chapel will be collecting nonperishable food items to support the community food pantry at Youth Pride Inc. (YPI). YPI is a nonprofit organization committed to building a strong and vocal community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth and their allies to ensure that they are heard and accepted as members and leaders in our community. YPI offers a variety of services to LGBTQQ youth, including a drop-in center, support groups, tutoring and other activities..

YPI's community food pantry has been in operation for nine years, and provides food to anyone in need in the greater Providence area. The food pantry distributes more than 1,300 pounds of food per week, and serves over 1,200 individuals per year. The food pantry is typically in need of the following items:

Canned meat or fish	Soup, stew and chili
Peanut butter and jelly	Canned fruit
Canned beans	Condiments
Pasta and pasta sauce	Baking supplies
Cereal	Feminine hygiene products
Powdered, canned or boxed milk	Soap, shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste
Rice	

Nonperishable food items and personal hygiene items will be collected before and after Sunday worship services from April 5 through April 26. You can leave donations in the box in the main lobby in the chapel. With your support, we can help YPI feed people in need.



THE TOPSY TURVY WORLD OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

Bell Street Chapel is proud to host the premiere of "The Topsy Turvy World of Gilbert and Sullivan" on Saturday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. The newly formed Flickers G&S Ensemble will celebrate the works of Gilbert and Sullivan in an original semistaged concert revue dedicated to the memories of Scott Withrow, Ted Tuttle and the Ocean State Light Opera.

Flickers G&S Ensemble, under the artistic directorship of Eric R. Bronner, features original Ocean State Light Opera cast members including Bronner; Mary Beth Kim, soprano/co-director; Roberta Janelle, mezzo-soprano; Gabriel Alfieri, baritone; Edgar Edwards, patter baritone; and Melissa Jacobson, piano/musical director. The revue includes music from "Pirates of Penzance," "H.M.S. Pinafore," "The Mikado," "Patience," "The Yeomen of the Guard," "Iolanthe," "Ruddigore" and "The Gondoliers."

This special night is produced by Flickers Arts Collaborative, founders and producers of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF). Money raised by this program will support high school and college students studying film and media arts.

Tickets are \$20 with discounts for seniors, students and RIIFF members. Tickets are on sale at the RIIFF website (<http://www.film-festival.org/G&SEnsemble.php>) or by calling (401) 861-4445. Tickets will also be sold at the door the night of the performance.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

ETHICAL EATING

In the early 1960s, along with the birth of fast food, Iowa Beef Packers (IBP) opened its first slaughterhouse, using assembly-line principles that eliminated skilled workers. Each worker stood in along the line, making the same knife cut thousands of times during each shift. Once skilled laborers, meat packers became like the cheap and powerless workforce in the fast-food industry. The new plants paid wages sometimes half of those of union workers in Chicago.

Eventually, ConAgra became the biggest meat-packer in the world. Today it is the largest food service supplier in North America, selling food under brand names including Hunts, Armour, La Choy, Peter Pan, Hebrew National and Healthy Choice. It has been found guilty of systematically cheating chicken growers, price-fixing, wire fraud, misgrading crops and adding water to grain before sale. The largest ConAgra beef plant has an annual employee turnover rate of about 400 percent. Health insurance is offered after six months, but the average worker quits or is fired after three.

The injury rate in a slaughterhouse is about three

times higher than the rate in a typical American factory. Every year more than a quarter of the meatpacking workers in the United States (roughly 40,000 men and women) suffer an injury or work-related illness that requires medical attention, most commonly lacerations, since many workers make a slice every two or three seconds. About six animals a minute are carved by workers desperate not to fall behind. The pressure to keep up has encouraged widespread methamphetamine use. Women are sometimes fondled on the line, and a number of companies have lost sexual harassment suits. Workers are under tremendous pressure not to report injuries and two sets of injury logs were regularly kept at IBP: actual injuries and injuries reported to OSHA.

The most dangerous jobs are performed by cleaning crews, a workforce of largely illegal aliens who earn about one-third less than regular employees. They lose body parts in the machinery they clean, get sickened by chemical cleaning fumes and suffer headaches and vomiting on the job while climbing into bloody muck. They have been beheaded, crushed and torn apart. Some have died in blood collection tanks, overcome by hydrogen sulfide

fumes. OSHA fined National Beef for its negligence in one such case. The fine was \$480 for each man's death.

But what can we do? One answer is don't eat at fast food restaurants, the biggest purchasers of beef from these plants. Or don't eat meat, period. Carrying wholesome food with you so you aren't tempted to stop for a burger is a good idea. Also, buy grass-fed beef or free-range chickens. Yes, it's more expensive, but you aren't buying into ConAgra and the corporate proliferation of human (an animal) suffering. Or how about boycotting ConAgra foods, and letting it know why? The CEO is: Gary M. Rodkin, 1 ConAgra Drive, Omaha, NE 68102. Its Web site (www.conagrafoods.com) has a list of its products. Or better still, go to the Organic Consumer Association (www.organicconsumers.org) and click on "Take Action." It's a terrific Web site with lots of ideas for things you can do to make a difference.

~Carol Wiseman

BELL STREET SUPPORTS COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

This summer, Bell Street Chapel will provide space to Big Train Farm for its community supported agriculture (CSA) program. Big Train Farm is a small tenant vegetable farm managed by John Kenny. It is a subsidiary of Urban Edge Farm, a 50-acre farm managed cooperatively by seven farm/garden businesses that independently and cooperatively sell to restaurants, at farmers' markets, and through CSA programs in the Providence area. The land is managed in collaboration with the farmers and South Side Community Land Trust, which leases the land directly from the state.

Big Train Farm is offering a large CSA program in 2009 to Providence and Providence-area residents. The program consists of members making an investment in the farm in the spring and then receiving produce on a weekly basis from spring

until fall. With CSA investments, farmers are able to maximize their productivity in the spring, starting off the year on the right foot before any of the farmers' markets have started or any other income is flowing in. In return, CSA members receive the highest quality produce from the grower and, in a good year, members can expect to receive above and beyond the cost of their initial investment.

The benefits to the community when there is a strongly supported agricultural base are many. Communities have access to the freshest products, preserved landscapes, and a secure food source. When grower-to-consumer relations are intimate, as they are in a CSA program, the customer has influence over not only what the farmer grows, but how they grow it. This brings about more sustainable practices, such as or-

ganic and naturally grown systems of agriculture and practices that preserve water, soil and our community landscape. CSA members benefit from receiving the freshest produce available, but also know that they are taking part in preserving part of our regional heritage, our precious land.

A total of 22 or 23 pick-ups will be held at the chapel on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., beginning either the last week of May or the first week of June and run until early November. A full share costs \$525 and is sufficient for 3-6 people. Half-shares are also available for \$275 and feed 1-3 people. You can join the CSA by sending a check to Big Train Farm at 151 Melrose St., Providence, RI, 02907. For more information or to arrange a payment plan, contact John Kenny, farm manager, at BigTrain_Farm@yahoo.com.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

APRIL | 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>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7:30 G&S rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm Membership (PH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 pm Groundwexx movie (EH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am Meditation (EH) 8:30 am Worship leading workshop 7:30 p.m. Gilbert and Sullivan (EH)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10 am Service (S) Religious ed. (RE) 11 Canvass party</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6 pm Empire Re-</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 pm Seder (EH)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8 am Meditation (EH) 10:30 am RISE</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour (EH) 4 pm Books Through Bars (PH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S) 6:30 pm Finance Committee (PH)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm UUA presidential candidates' forum (OS)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 pm Gay Bingo (OS) 8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8 am Meditation (EH) 8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10 am Service (S) Religious ed. (RE) 11:30 cleaning 11:30 discussion 4 pm Books (PH) 8 pm newsletter deadline</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:15 pm House Committee (PH)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 am RISE tutoring (EH) 8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9 am newsletter fold (EH) 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11:30 am Religious Ed comm. (RE) 4 pm Books thru Bars (PH)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm Parish & Social Concerns (PH)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)</p>	

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

EVENTS

Bell Street's Seder is being planned by Wendy Schwartz, Carol Crowley, Peg Boyle and the Events Committee for Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. The service prior to the feast is a lot of fun and would be a good way for newcomers to get to know others. You will find the food sign-up sheet in Eddy Hall.

The Events Committee is working on bringing a concert to our acoustically near-perfect chapel in May. As of the newsletter deadline, we were still working on securing an artist and nailing down the date, but expect an announcement soon. The Events Committee has a dream – a dream that we will sell out the concert with a combination of advance ticket sales, enthusiastic support from our parishioners and good publicity. You can make this happen and show your appreciation for the Events Committee's sustained labor of love over the last three years. This year we are the ones who brought you Jesse Holstein, River Heart, and arranged all the sign-ups, set-ups, and clean-ups for all our regular potluck events (Thanksgiving, semi-annual meetings and canvass brunch). You can thank us and treat your family and friends to the concert, or sell tickets to your family and friends who love classical music, but the best idea of all would be to purchase tickets to give your mother on Mother's Day, May 10. This is a present that is not only unique and musically uplifting, but would not require the care of the traditional potted plant.

We know the arts are suffering in our sad economy, making it all the more important to dream with us of selling this concert out. You will be not only support the gifted artist, but you will also help us raise \$1,000 or more for the Bell Street general fund. Together we can. Yes, we can.

~Ellen Kellner
Events Committee Chairperson



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

In order to conserve resources, as well as to reduce costs, Bell Street Chapel will no longer send paper copies of *Bell Street Columns* by mail to non-members unless you specifically request us to do so. An electronic version of the newsletter is sent to members and friends by e-mail monthly as an attachment to the Bell Street weekly announcements. Remember that you can also read the entire newsletter on our Web site at www.bellstreetchapel.org. If you're a friend of Bell Street and want to

GAY BINGO!

Bell Street Chapel is a sponsor for Gay Bingo for the 2008-2009 season. Gay Bingo is bingo spiced up with drag queens, music, crazy themes, etc. When? The third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., Sept. - May. This month, it's April 16, and the theme is "hat parade," so wear your favorite goofy hat. It's also "you pick the themes" night, so if you have an idea for a theme for a Gay Bingo night next year, wear a costume demonstrating that theme and you'll get an extra chance to win \$1,000!

Admission is \$15 which gets you cards for nine games with \$100 cash prizes. (Sometimes they give out free special cards to those willing to prove they're wearing green undies.) You can buy special game cards for prize packages plus there's a blackout jackpot for up to \$1,000! The \$15 goes to support people living with HIV/AIDS in RI. It's fun, and you'll be helping people with HIV/AIDS. For questions, contact Clara Hardy of the Parish and Social Concerns Committee, at clarapvd@gmail.com.

CLEANING BLITZ RESCHEDULED

We do our own cleaning here at Bell Street Chapel, mostly to save money, but also because it brings you closer to your faith when you personally vacuum the gravel off your church floor. Seriously, cleaning can be both spiritual and fun when practiced in moderation, and for that reason and several others, we do all our cleaning together once a month after service. That usually occurs the second Sunday of the month, but since that's Easter this month, April's monthly cleaning blitz will be celebrated on April 19. Please join us and help bring out the shine (or at least remove any scum) in our dear old building.

~Meredyth Waterman,
Cleaning Czarina

continue to receive paper copies of the newsletter by mail, please send an e-mail to Richard Corso at richardcorso@gmail.com or contact the church office at (401) 273-5678.

~Richard Corso

MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 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 featuring films that examine gender identity issues. Over the past several years, we have seen dramas and documentaries, comedies and heartbreakers – all acclaimed and artistically significant films. Genevieve Peri seems to have an endless number of ideas for films in this category.

In April we will view a drama concerning an Iranian woman who is a refugee in Germany and living as a man there. Our licensing agreement does not

allow us to identify the film by name in public communications, 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. We always follow up with a short discussion led by Genevieve Peri. So do join us on Friday, April 10, 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



The Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel

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**“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.”**

