

# 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

### 3 | MAY HONORING PETE SEEGER ON HIS 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

*Tom Lamora*

In this service we explore the social justice works and music of one of the founding fathers of American political/folk music.

### 10 | MAY LESSONS OF MOTHERHOOD

Being a parent means being a good teacher and a good learner.

### 17 | MAY WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? *Rev. José Ballester*

From marriage equality to love thy neighbor, the core of our faith is love. In these days where harsh words are all around, we need to renew our commitment to love and strengthen our resolve.

### 24 | MAY LETTERS FROM THE FRONT *Revs. José Ballester and James Ford*

Joint Memorial Day Service with the First Unitarian Church of Providence  
Service will feature words from soldiers and families involved in United States wars over the years and reflections on Memorial Day.

### 31 | MAY GOOD NEWS *Rev. José Ballester*

Traditionally this is Whit Sunday or Pentecost, wherein we speak about the goodness of the church universal. Our Universalist forbearers used this occasion to preach proudly about the joy and love of their faith. This Sunday we will follow in the footsteps of de Benneville, Murray, Ballou and Skinner.

## FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD — LIVING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote the democratic process in our congregations and in society as a whole. On Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m., the congregation will live the democratic process at our annual meeting. We have a full agenda, which was mailed to members at the end of April. We will discuss and vote on a variety of issues that affect the future of the congregation, such as proposed revisions to our bylaws, adoption of a budget for next year and election of officers and committee chairs. We will also decide on a process for casting our votes in the election for president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. If you have not received an information packet, please speak with Don Laliberte, president.

As Unitarian Universalists and members of Bell Street Chapel, we have a stake in the future of our congregation and of the denomination as a whole. Informed participation is necessary for effective decision-making. Therefore, we encourage you to review the information packet which contains reports, proposed bylaws changes, a proposed budget and a nominating slate. Coming to the meeting prepared will allow for meaningful, efficient discussion. We look forward to seeing you on May 17.

*~For the Governing Board,  
Don Laliberte, President*

### President's Message

On a separate note, I would like to take a moment to thank the congregation for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for the past two years. During this time, I have seen the congregation deal with the departure of a settled minister, financial challenges and numerous other issues. Through it all, we have refused to give up. We have made difficult decisions, but we have done so in a thoughtful manner. I have been impressed over and over by the congregation's ability to discuss difficult issues with empathy and respect for differing opinions.

We have accomplished much in these past two years. We have continued to support each other's unique spiritual journeys. We have taken steps to be more welcoming to visitors and to reach out and share our gifts with the larger community. With the assistance of our consulting minister, we are beginning to explore who we are and what we want to be. Our hard work is beginning to show results with increased attendance at Sunday worship services and rebuilding of our children's religious education program. I am confident that we will continue to build on these accomplishments in the coming year.

I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your president for the past two years. The experience has been challenging but worthwhile. I have learned about myself, and have gotten to know others more deeply. The hard work of board members, professional ministers, committee chairs, and others in the congregation reflects the spirit of love that exists here. This is an exciting time for Bell Street Chapel. I am confident that Meredyth Waterman, our incoming president, will provide excellent leadership as we continue our spiritual journey together.

*~Don Laliberte, President*

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
ANNUAL MEETING,  
MAY 17, 11:30 A.M.**



# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

## BELL STREET CHAPEL

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PROVIDENCE, RI 02909  
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### 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 (781) 264-3511*

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

### GOVERNING BOARD

DON LALIBERTE, PRESIDENT

MEREDYTH WATERMAN, PRESIDENT-ELECT

JIM GILLIS, TREASURER

CAROL CROWLEY, SECRETARY

DAN GRECO, AT-LARGE

JENNIFER SHIMKUS, AT-LARGE

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EVENTS, ELLEN KELLNER

FINANCE, GREG GRECO

HOUSE, FRANK FALTUS

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

## ON THE ROAD TO PROVIDENCE — CHOOSE WISELY

It seems that the news media is enamored with stories of teenagers who have made major accomplishments. They gush all over 12-year-old Shaheen Jafagholi the singing sensation who has stolen the spotlight from Susan Boyle. Farrah Gray is a 24-year-old who became a millionaire at age 14. Billy Jinks is another 24-year-old who also became a millionaire 10 years ago at age 14. Then there are the stories of teenagers Eric Harris and Dylan Kleibold; they too made the news 10 years but not for their singing talents or their entrepreneurial acumen. Harris and Kleibold are remembered for having massacred 10 people in Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

There were signs of impending disaster that might have alerted officials if people had paid attention. On that day, April 20, 1999, I was studying a report from my ministerial intern in Denver, Colorado. The report told of the teen-on-teen violence and growing tension in Denver school system. School officials were responding by monitoring the activities of the minority students: Latino, African-American and Native-American. However no one was addressing the needs of the teen-agers or even listening to their suggestions. There was an appalling lack of communication between teens and adults.

Ten years later we have witnessed additional shootings in schools, in houses of worship and in workplaces. People of all ages are crying out in pain and in need; asking for someone to listen to their concerns before they become overwhelming. In our Unitarian Universalist faith community, we have several indications that not all is well. While I do not believe that these are signs of potential violence, I do believe they are signs of the potential loss of some of our community.

On the Unitarian Universalist Web site ([www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)) there are copies of two reports: the *Mosaic Project Report* and the *Youth Ministry Working Group Report*. Both of these reports are pivotal for the future of our youth. It is said that the youth are the future of our faith movement. However, if they are not part of our present faith, how can they be part of our future? The Mosaic Project is an assessment of the Unitarian Universalist ministry to youth and young adults of color and Latina/o and Hispanic and multiracial/multiethnic descent and makes crucial recommendations for improvements. The Youth Ministry report charts out various ways to widen and enhance youth participation in our association and in our congregations.

Both reports are essential documents for all Unitarian Universalists, especially for our leadership. If we cannot welcome the participation of our youth and young adults into our congregations and larger movement, then we have no right to reach out to anyone else. As a leader in Unitarian Universalism, I pledge to do what I can to increase opportunities for youth and young adult participation in our faith and invite all others to do the same. To quote "...we must be a part of the scaffolding that support Youth and Young Adults ...in their development of a healthy identity..."

~Rev. José Ballester

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



## CHALICE LIGHTERS PROGRAM

This year, Bell Street Chapel is asking for support from the Ballou Channing District Chalice Lighters program in order to raise funds for a wheelchair stair lift to improve our accessibility for the handicapped.

The purpose of the Ballou Channing District (BCD) Chalice Lighters program is to raise money for grants to assist congregations in developing and implementing plans to promote growth and membership retention. Projects might include support of professional ministerial or religious education staffing, renovation or expansion of facilities or funding of special programs for start-up and membership growth activities.

The greater Bell Street's participation in the Chalice Lighters program, the more likely it will be that Bell Street receives a grant. Participation in the Chalice Lighters program will not only help Bell Street Chapel to purchase a stair lift, but will also help other Ballou Channing congregations grow in important ways. If you would like to become a BCD Chalice Lighter, or would like more information, please feel free to call me at (401) 569-8843, e-mail me at [dgreco2760@yahoo.com](mailto:dgreco2760@yahoo.com), or track me down during coffee hour.

*~In faith,  
Dan Greco*

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE CHANGE

As everyone knows, Meredyth Waterman is moving from president-elect to president as of the annual meeting. As we also know, she has been faithfully editing our newsletter for two years. However, with her change in position within the church, she will no longer be able to edit the newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Meredyth for all the hard work and countless hours she has given to *Bell Street Columns*. Thanks also goes to Genevieve for her hard work on the layout.

Because Meredyth was so great at what she did, it is going to take not one, but two people to replace her. I will be taking over the editing, and Ellen Smith will be doing the proofing.

As this transition begins, we will need more time to complete the newsletter and beginning with next month's newsletter (June) we will be moving the deadline for articles up a week. Beginning next month the deadline will be the second Sunday of the month, May 10. All articles will now be sent via e-mail to Richard Corso at [RichardCorso@gmail.com](mailto:RichardCorso@gmail.com). We appreciate your flexibility with this new deadline.

Both Ellen and I look forward to putting out the newsletter starting in June.

*~Richard Corso*

## BY-LAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

At our congregation's annual meeting on May 17, the congregation will be asked to approve an amendment to our society's bylaws allowing future annual meetings to be held later in the year.

Currently, the annual meeting must be held by May 31, at which time the congregation approves the following year's budget. This date presents a problem because in recent years we've been unable to find out until just days before the meeting how much money we'll be getting for the church year from the James Eddy Trust.

The trust's investments moved to Washington Trust several years ago, and that firm's quarterly update schedule doesn't provide updated figures from the investments until mid to late April. Because our bylaws currently require that materials for the annual meeting (which is usually held at least a week before the deadline in case of emergency cancellation) be mailed to members three weeks in advance, the Finance Committee ends up with only about three days to a week between when it learns how much the trust will contribute and when it has to have a complete budget proposal to send to members in the annual meeting packets. The committee usually has to prepare a few different versions of the budget, and then must scramble to adjust the closest one when the information comes.

To allow a more reasonable time frame in which the Finance Committee can develop the budget, the Board recommends moving the deadline for the annual meeting to June 21 and reducing the three weeks' notice required for societal meeting agendas. An amendment has been drafted and was included in the annual meeting packets provided to members in late April.

*~Meredyth Waterman  
President-elect*

## COMMITTEE APPRECIATION DINNER

The Governing Board invites all members of every church committee to attend a committee appreciation dinner Saturday, May 9, at 6 p.m. in Eddy Hall.

The folks who serve on committees make sure there's someone to lead service each Sunday and that the building's walls don't crumble down upon us. They organize important social justice activities as well as fun social events. They do countless other important tasks that often go unrecognized, and the Governing Board would like to see to it this year that we say "thank you" on our congregation's behalf. Dinner and surprises (don't ask, or it won't be a surprise) will be provided by the members of the Governing Board.

If you serve as a member of any committee, you are welcome to attend this event, which we can assure you will be a fun time. We'll have a sign-up sheet in Eddy Hall so we know how many to expect. If you have any questions, please contact Meredyth Waterman at [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto:MeredythW@aol.com), Dan Greco at [dgreco2760@yahoo.com](mailto:dgreco2760@yahoo.com) or Carol Crowley at [ccrowley8@cox.net](mailto:ccrowley8@cox.net).

*~Meredyth Waterman*

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

	Actual 7/1-4/7	Budgeted 7/1-4/7	+/-
Total Income	110,774.73	98,475.02	+12,299.71
Total expenses	106,380.09	98,390.54	+7,989.55
Total +/-			+4,310.16
Pledge Income	39,878.00	36,996.44	+2,881.56

### Financial Outlook

Hello everyone. We are more than three-quarters of the way through the 2008-2009 year, and the good news is that we are still in the black! (That means we have taken in more money than we have spent). Our pledge income has been significantly ahead of what has been budgeted throughout the year, but that margin is now under \$3,000. We have generated more income from theater groups and rental income than we have expected. The combination of these events has given us more financial security than we have had in recent years. We have accumulated a surplus in our accounts this year. However, given that our pledge income is ahead of what we anticipated, it makes sense to evaluate this surplus in June before determining how we proceed with the surplus.

We have also completed our annual canvass. Although totals are not entirely in yet (If you have not done so, please pledge now!), the figure appears to be between \$45,000 and \$50,000, a small decrease from last year's total of \$55,000. Given this past year's economic crisis, the total is near what we anticipated. This month, our Finance Committee, Phil Smith, Jim Gillis, and I will be helping the Governing Board produce next year's budget to be voted on at this year's annual meeting. Hope you are all enjoying the wonderful spring weather.

*~In Peace, Love and Justice,  
Gregory Greco, Finance Committee chair*

## SHARE THE PLATE

In March we donated \$234.50 to Books Through Bars through our Share the Plate program, in which we split our non-pledge Sunday collections cash with organizations that share our values.

In April, we collected money for Youth Pride, Inc. In May, Share the Plate will benefit Marriage Equality RI (MERI).

## A SERVICE DOG FOR ELLEN

A nonprofit organization called NEADS is working to train and provide a service dog for Bell Streeter Ellen Smith, who suffers from two rare conditions and has had 17 surgeries (and counting). A service dog would greatly improve Ellen's independence and quality of life, as well as increasing her safety when she is alone.

The organization asks that Ellen help raise money to defray the costs of this dog, and she is trying to raise \$9,500. To make a tax-deductible donation to the cause or learn more, please visit [http://www.neads.org/about\\_us/client\\_view.php?id=169](http://www.neads.org/about_us/client_view.php?id=169).

Ellen and her husband Stu have been an inspiration to Bell Street, and have continued attending church when possible between her surgeries.

## UUA ELECTONS DISCUSSION

On May 7 at 7 p.m. in Eddy Hall we will have an informational discussion about the two candidates running for president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Bell Street chapel will be able to vote in this election, and at our annual meeting on May 17 we will be deciding as a congregation to whom we'll give our votes. So it's important that we get to know the candidates.

At the May 7 informational discussion, Kate Gillis and David Gleicher will present information on the two candidates, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman of First Unitarian Church in Dallas, Texas, and Rev. Peter Morales of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colo., respectively.

You can also check out their Web sites ([www.hallmanforuuapresident.com](http://www.hallmanforuuapresident.com) and [www.moralesforuuapresident.org](http://www.moralesforuuapresident.org))

The election will be held at the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City, June 24-28. The election is for one four-year term, which could be followed by a second four-year term.

For more information about the discussion, contact Dan Greco at [dgreco2760@yahoo.com](mailto:dgreco2760@yahoo.com) or (401) 569-8843.

## SUMMER SERVICES ROUNDUP MAY 3

The summer services at Bell Street, often held in Eddy Hall to avoid the steamy weather, are just a little looser than usual. We've celebrated Mr. Rogers, traveled to Taos, NM, and through Europe, done walking meditations and sung our hearts out. If you are interested in leading a summer service, we will have our sign-up calendar available at coffee hour on May 3. Please set aside a moment to reserve your Sunday. What's your passion?

*~The Worship Committee*

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



## AMONG US

“The highest form of wisdom is kindness.  
~*The Talmud*”

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](mailto:ccrowley8@cox.net)). A generous member of the congregation has offered to provide rides to doctor appointments for anyone in need; if you would like to take advantage of this kind offer, contact Carol, who will pass on the information.

Our annual Bell Street Chapel Passover Seder was a huge success with over 30 people in attendance. It was wonderful to see our old friends, Dan and Jean Callahan, as well as Wendy Schwartz's mom, Honey Schwartz. Our Seder is a traditional meal preceded by the reading of the Haggadah, but ours is even better. It includes a

unique reenactment of the Exodus directed by Peg Boyle, which makes Bell Street's Seder memorable – and so much fun!

Ellen Smith wrote a lovely note thanking the congregation for the gift cards to Whole Foods that we gave her after her most recent surgery. It is good to see Ellen and Stu back at church.

It is also great to see Gene Joy back at Sunday services after his recent hospitalizations. Gene is looking fit and healthy once again. Welcome back, Gene. Carl Freese is experiencing some complications following his heart transplant and has also had recent hospitalizations. Carl maintains his marvelous sense of humor and optimistic outlook. He is an admirable guy!

We wish a speedy recovery from shoulder surgery to Bell Street friend, Martha Smith.

Birthday wishes go to Stuart Smith (May 6), Shan-

non Gemma (May 8), and Beverly Hart (May 14). Anniversary wishes go to Joe and Arline Davis, married 37 years as of May 20, and to Mary Margaret Earl and Sunair Dumont, who were married May 22, 2005.

Both of our community ministers were installed during the month of May. Rev. Ben Hall came to Bell Street Chapel in 2003, and Rev. Mary Margaret Earl in 2005.

Last, but certainly not least, we extend the warm welcome of our entire community to Ren Christohall, daughter of Rev. Ben Hall and his wife, Stacy Christo. Ren was dedicated at Bell Street last month. It is a pleasure to welcome another child to our Bell Street family.

Enjoy the lovely month of May, Bell Streeters!

~*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 board authorized the spending of \$500 from the general funds for a new Dell computer for the office. Heidi has been working too long with an old computer that can no longer be fixed or updated.

We authorized Bell Street Chapel to serve as the fiscal agent for Providence Books Through Bars, an organization that uses space in our parish house to select and wrap donated books for inmates from all over the country who request them. Books Through Bars has applied for nonprofit status in the state, but until such time as that

status is granted, people may now make tax deductible donations to BTB through Bell Street Chapel.

We decided to schedule a meeting with the Trustees of Bell Street Chapel on April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the parish house. At that meeting we expect to learn how much money the trust can afford to contribute to our 2009-2010 church year budget.

We discussed an amendment to our bylaws that would allow us to schedule the annual congregational meeting at a later date than is currently allowed. We selected a time frame (“no later than June 21”) more appropriate for developing a budget based on information from the Trustees, who do not generally know how the trust fund has fared until late in April.

We scheduled and discussed the following upcoming events, the Committee Appreciation dinner (May 9, 6 p.m.), the Committee Chair Orientation meeting (June 13, 9 a.m. to noon), and the next Conversation with the Board.

Bell Street Chapel donated \$280 to McAuley Ministries from the Share the Plate program in February. We are developing a policy whereby members may suggest nonprofit organizations to become recipients of this program in the future.

That is a summary of the important work of your board in April.

~*Carol Crowley, Secretary*



## MAY | 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
					<b>1</b> 8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)	<b>2</b> 8am Meditation (EH) 8 pm Daydream "The Wire Game" (EH)
<b>3</b> 10 am Service (S) Religious ed. (RE) 11am sum. Services (EH) 11:30 am sand- wiches (EH) 4 pm Books/Bars	<b>4</b> 6 pm Empire Re- view rehearsal (S) 7 pm MERI/BSC book discussion (EH)	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Worship Committee (PH)	<b>6</b> 6 pm Order of Ser- vice deadline	<b>7</b> 7 pm UUA presidential candidates discussion (EH)	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)	<b>9</b> 8 am Meditation (EH) 10:30 am RISE tutoring (EH) 6 pm Committee appreciation din- ner (EH)
<b>10</b> 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour (EH) 11:30 cleaning blitz 4 pm Books Through Bars (PH)	<b>11</b> 6 pm Empire Re- view rehearsal (S) 6:30 pm Finance Committee (PH) 7 pm MERI/BSC book discussion (EH)	<b>12</b> 6:45 pm Govern- ing Board (PH)	<b>13</b> 6 pm Order of Ser- vice deadline	<b>14</b> 7 pm Membership Committee (PH)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8 am Marsh Cleanup (OS) 8 am Meditation (EH)
<b>17</b> 10 am Service (S) Religious ed. (RE) 11:30 annual meet- ing (EH) 4 pm Books (PH) 8 pm newsletter deadline	<b>18</b> 6 pm Empire Re- view rehearsal (S)	<b>19</b> 7:15 pm House Committee (PH)	<b>20</b> 6 pm Order of Ser- vice deadline	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Gay Bingo (OS)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:30 am RISE tutoring (EH)
<b>24/31</b> 5/31) 9 am newslet- ter fold (EH) 10 am Service (S) 5/24) 11:30 am Reli- gious Ed comm. (RE) 5/24) Discussion grp PH	<b>25</b> 6 pm Empire Re- view rehearsal (S)	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Parish & Social Concerns (PH)	<b>27</b> 6 pm Order of Ser- vice deadline	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm P&SC movie (EH)	<b>30</b>

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



## PARISH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

At the monthly meeting in March, it was decided that the name of the Parish and Social Concerns Committee should be changed to the Peace and Social Justice Committee (PSJ) in order to recognize the efforts of the committee to promote peace and social justice in our broader community and in the world. A bylaws change will be put forward at the annual meeting on May 17 asking church members to approve the change.

- Beginning in May, the committee will sponsor a film series highlighting films that bring awareness to social justice concerns. The first film, "Lost in Woonsocket," highlights the plight of the homeless and will be screened on Friday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall.
- At Pride Festival, on June 20, Bell Streeters will be managing a booth to provide information about Bell Street. Later in the evening, we will once again be marching in the parade. We will need volunteers to help at the booth. A sign-up sheet will be located in Eddy Hall. All are welcome to join in the fun.
- In May, the Share the Plate program will benefit the organization Marriage Equality RI (MERI).

## MARSH CLEANUP- MAY 16

Please join us for the spring cleanup of Bell Street Chapel's adopted marsh on the Providence waterfront on Saturday, May 16, at 8 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be available in Eddy Hall, or you can contact Meredyth Waterman at (401) 451-2322 or [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto:MeredythW@aol.com).

We clean up this marsh in collaboration with Save the Bay once in the fall and once in the summer, and we've found this event to be both fun and fulfilling. We've found some interesting stuff over the years (including a shark carcass last fall!), and we've noticed improvements in the forms of less trash and a comeback in plants and animals. Last time we were also joined by people outside our church who heard about the cleanup, including an enthusiastic group of Johnson and Wales University students.

We will all meet directly at the marsh (at the waterfront end of Oxford Street, Providence). If you need directions, contact Meredyth.

Please wear sturdy shoes or boots. Sunblock, hats and bottled water are also advised. You may want bring your own work gloves, especially if your hands are large. You should also bring rakes or shovels if you want them. Only if it rains very heavily will this event be rescheduled to the following Saturday, May 23. If people are interested, we can finish off our cleanup with breakfast across the street at the Seaplane Diner.

Once again, our cleanup will feature the popular Bell Street Biohazard Contest, which arguably makes otherwise unsavory discoveries a treat. Nonetheless, please do not bring small children to this event due to the dangerous nature of the rocks, the water and the items we find.

Join us for this fun morning of helping the earth!

~Meredyth Waterman

## ETHICAL EATING — BAKING BREAD

I've been making my own bread for the past two or three months. I started because I had a very hard time finding any bread that I liked at the regular supermarkets. The loaves all have the consistency of sofa cushions. Then I read that breads called "multigrain" can use that term even when there's just a few sunflower seeds thrown on each loaf. Often, the second ingredient in these breads is high fructose corn syrup or enriched flour, which is white flour. And further down the ingredient list are things like ammonium sulfate and polysorbate 80.

After giving up at the supermarkets, I tried Whole Foods. Sure, I could get an entirely whole grain bread, but the loaf was half the size of supermarket brands and cost around \$5. I eat a lot of bread. That's too expensive for me.

So one Saturday morning I looked up the old recipe I used to use in the Tassajara Bread Book. It's online if anyone wants to try it. Or I can make a copy of the recipe for you. It's very simple. I make it using whole wheat flour, any other interesting grain, like spelt, and usually some corn meal. The only other ingredients are yeast, oil, salt, and honey or molasses. You can add milk powder. I love the smell in the kitchen when the bread is rising.

I love kneading. Kneading is a whole body exercise for me. I put my back into it. The Tassajara recipe calls for 10-15 minutes, but I knead for 20. Kneading is a good time to think about things like bread and grain and farmers and food and the people all over the world who still make the bread they eat every day.

Bread is not for the time-crunched. I use fast-rising yeast and the recipe still takes around 3 hours to make two loaves (each loaf is very large and two last me for over two weeks). Of course there are recipes that take much less time, especially for unyeasted breads. An Indian friend taught me how to make roti, which is simply flour, salt, and water, mixed together quickly, kneaded for just a moment, and then fried in a skillet. It is wonderful.

I've tried to make sourdough bread. That requires creating a starter, which can be a multi-day process. The result was an exceptionally heavy brick. More like a cobblestone, and just as tasty. I'm going to try again.

Bread making is counter-cultural. It's making your own food instead of settling for what's offered. It's elemental. It requires some time and real energy. But it is a good reminder of what life is like for many people and how good the most basic food can be. A slice of warm homemade bread is worth all the waiting and work.

If you've never made bread and would like some pointers, or if you are a veteran bread maker with a favorite recipe, I'd love to hear from you.

~Audrey Greene

# MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY MAY 8, 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 heart breakers – all acclaimed and artistically significant films. Genevieve Peri seems to have an endless number of ideas for films in this category.

May Movie Night, our final one for the 2008-2009 season, will be on Friday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. The film is a classic 1959 film regarded by the American Film Institute as the “greatest American comedy film of all time.” It won many

awards and honors. Our licensing agreement does not allow us to identify the film by name in public communications, but anyone who hasn't guessed the title and wants to know more may contact Carol Crowley at [ccrowley8@cox.net](mailto: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, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall for a memorable end to our Movie Night season – and give us your ideas for films to be shown next season!

## THE PROVIDENCE STRING QUARTET

Bell Street Chapel is proud to present a concert by the performers of The Providence String Quartet, Sunday, June 7, at 4 p.m., \$15

The music will be by Dvorak and Brahms. Performers will be Jessie Montgomery, violin; Adrienne Taylor, cello; and Sakiko Mori, piano.

The concert will benefit Community Music Works' summer music program and Bell Street Chapel. For tickets, contact Tom Mack at [t.mack321@gmail.com](mailto:t.mack321@gmail.com), Jasmine Appleberry at [jazzberry@cox.net](mailto:jazzberry@cox.net) or (401) 225-2044, or Ellen Kellner at [odiebijou@cox.net](mailto:odiebijou@cox.net) or (401) 949-3128 .

~Tom Mack, Events Committee



## The Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909  
Phone (401) 273-5678 | [contact@bellstreetchapel.org](mailto: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.”**

