



SERVICES IN MAY

Sunday, May 2 A Report from Sabbatical

10:30a Cathy Seggel, DRE

Our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel, has had many adventures. She will share them with us.

There will be child dedications during this Sunday's service.

Young people in grades pre-K-7 begin in the Meeting House, then go to their classes.

Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.

Sunday, May 9 Stand for Peace: A Multigenerational Reflection

10:30a Rev. James Ishmael Ford and Cathy Seggel, DRE

Join us as we celebrate mothers and recognize our teachers from the congregation's Spiritual Pathways program.

Young people in grades pre-K-7 worship in the Meeting House.

Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.

Reminder: No parking at the Hope Club today!

Sunday, May 16 What Is Just, Anyway?

10:30a Rev. James Ishmael Ford

We in this congregation have a strong sense that part of who we are as a people of faith is to take a stance in favor of justice. So, in the spirit of defining terms, James wants to look at the whole idea of justice and what it might mean to people who, for the most part, do not believe God has made a commandment about it.

Our newest members will be recognized during this service.

Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, May 23 Coming of Age - An Intergenerational Service

10:30a The Coming of Age Class, Mentors, and Teachers with Cathy Seggel, DRE and Rev. James Ishmael Ford

Join us for this annual recognition of our Coming of Age youth, this year including both eighth- and ninth-graders. With their mentors by their sides, the youth share reflections about their individual beliefs, and the congregation celebrates the next stage of their lifelong faith development.

Young people in grades pre-K-7 worship in the Meeting House.

Origins and Play Circle rooms are open.

Sunday, May 30 A Memorial Day Celebration at Bell Street Chapel

10:00a (please note the earlier start time for this service)

We will celebrate Memorial Day with the congregation at Bell Street Chapel (while Brown University holds its graduation exercises in and around the campus).

No Sunday School.

Bell Street Chapel is at 5 Bell Street in Providence, off Broadway near the Route 10 overpass. Parking is available in the onsite parking lot behind the Chapel; on both sides of Ridge Street (adjacent to the Chapel lot); on Broadway; and on Bainbridge Avenue (perpendicular to Broadway and directly opposite to Bell Street).

NOTE: Please keep personal items in non-visible locations. Bell Street Chapel suggests these parking options and accepts no responsibility for damage to or loss of personal property.

Sunday, June 6 Theft: A Love Story

10:30a Rev. James Ishmael Ford

James saw the title of a novel and loved it so much, he stole it for today's sermon.

Last Sunday School Chapel Service and Classroom Celebrations

Annual Congregational Financial Meeting follows at 12:00p.

The Monthly Newsletter for

The First Unitarian Church of Providence

Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets

M A Y 2 0 1 0

ALL PARISH EVENTS

All-Parish Supper Friday, May 14



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S T A F F

- Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
- Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
- Frederick Jodry, Music Director
- Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, Community Minister
- Posey Kooris, Administrator
- Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
- Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator
- Jaime Durango, Building Manager
- Paul Webber, Evening Security
- Henry Colpa, Evening Security
- Pedro Vasquez, Sunday Building Manager

N E W S L E T T E R

- Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
- Susan Fisher, Editor
- Carol Pentleton, Designer

Deacons' Corner

People sometimes ask us, "What do deacons do?" The answer is: a little bit of everything. We do some common tasks, such as ushering monthly and greeting weekly, but we are involved in many other aspects of church life.

One of our main tasks is calling every voting member and contributing friend. These calls enable a dialogue between the Deacons and the congregation about any problems or suggestions people may have. Each Deacon is assigned a specific group of members and friends to contact annually to make the calls more personal as the years go by.

A traditional responsibility of the Deacons is to assist at Communion services held during the year, as well as Maundy Thursday. These non-creedal services in the liberal tradition emphasize themes of remembrance, reconciliation, thanksgiving, and interdependence.

Deacons also assist the Path to Membership classes, answering questions, preparing a brunch for the participants and providing refreshments. Also this year, a cloth napkin drive resulted in more than 100 cloth napkins for our Friday night suppers.

We give special thanks to Robert O. Jones for his work on the Deacons' Corner, as well as the Communion services, and to our retiring Senior Deacons, Richard Boober and Nancy Weiss-Fried; and we welcome Robert O. Jones and Janet Downing Taylor as our incoming Senior Deacons.

Richard Boober, Nancy Weiss-Fried
Senior Deacons;

Robert O. Jones, Janet Downing Taylor,
Judy Bowden, Mary Finger,
David Bridgehouse, Russell Gifford,
Mary Frappier, David Spremulli



Wheel of Life

Speedy recovery to Sally Johnson, who broke her hip

Joy to Alma Sanderson on her 97th birthday



Hats Off

To our Coffee Hour providers: Betty Finn, Mary Frappier, Roberta Groch, Steve McCloy, Angela Semonelli, Lynne Fazzi, Mary Kollar, Kristin King, Holly Dobbs, John Moran, Anne Connor, Melissa Bailey, Karen Holleron, Nancy Weiss-Fried, Jen Pedro, Christy Chase, Elsie Bufum, Janet Noble, and all who brought something to surprise us. Many thanks also to Betty Finn, Tom Getz, and Mary Frappier who filled in as Coffee Hour Coordinators during March.



Monkey Mind

I write this column on Adolf Hitler's 121st birthday. It triggers in my mind that telling and unsettling remark from Bertrand Russell: "The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts."

There should be little doubt about one thing. We live in perilous times. Our republic is sharply divided. Those unhappy with the current administration are waving signs with messages like "This time we're coming without our guns." Except, of course, for those who do bring weapons to their demonstrations. People like the former governor of Alaska and several of television's talking heads pander to this sense of mortal combat, fanning flames of fear and hatred, often centering on the person of the President, emphasizing his alien-ness, his otherness.

For those of us who have yearned for a lifetime for our country to have some form of national healthcare, the small step of guaranteeing everyone access to health insurance seems a rather small compromise with the status quo. That in response to this, signs appear with pictures of the President sporting Hitler's mustache, with the words *fascism*, *socialism*, and *communism* being bandied about with no regard for even the most tenuous connection to truth, but obviously meant only to fan those flames of fear and hatred, is, to my mind, frightening.

And my concern for many of us is that we, too, might fall into the warm embrace of certainties. Feeling the sting of unjust accusations, it can be very easy to simply dismiss, to marginalize in our own ways, to forget the power of doubt, the necessity of conversation. At least, the necessity if we wish to be true to our principles. But, we do that and we end up in the company of the fools and fanatics.

Now, as I write this I am uncomfortably aware how it can seem I'm assuming those who read this are all on the left side of the American political spectrum. It would be disingenuous not to acknowledge most of us, in fact, are. But, not all - and not by a long shot. Here, within our own community, we need most of all to be open, to allow the conversation to go forward, to be respectful and challenging. We need to let the ways of love unfold among us.

And I know we're up to it. Don't let the fools and fanatics win the day. Don't become them. Embrace openness and doubt, and the arts of listening deeply. Eschew the easy retort like "tea bag" for "tea party." Don't dismiss everyone who is opposed to what seems obviously right and true. After all, few things are completely right and true. That's why wiser people are so full of doubts. I genuinely believe that if we do this and keep open hearts and minds, even in these hard times, we may lose a battle or two; but in the end, we'll win the war. The real war, the war of the heart, where everything ultimately is settled and where the real decisions of how we shall live are made.

Two cents on a spring morning.

See you in the Meeting House,

Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,
9:00a -12:00p Appointments are recommended.

min@firstunitarianprov.org

Lay Ministry and Care Crew News

Each month, one of the Lay Ministers is "on call" to respond to referrals or requests for our services that come in to the church office. The On-Call Lay Minister for the month of May is Rick Richards.

First Unitarian's Lay Ministry Team is made up of Mary Frappier, Mary Frey, Martha Manno, Kate Menard, Janet Noble, Rick Richards, and Bill Twaddell. Care Crew Volunteers are called upon by the on-call Lay Minister to call, send notes, cook meals, provide transportation, and respond to the emergency needs of our church family.

Please note that Mary Frappier has not retired from the Lay Ministry. She remains a very active member of our Team. (*Ed. Note: Our apologies for incorrectly reporting that Mary had left the Lay Ministry.*)



Spiritual Pathways

A Busy and Successful Year

It has been a busy year for the RE Committee. The fall was filled with planning for Cathy's sabbatical leave, and the spring was busy with keeping things running while Cathy was away. During Cathy's leave, the RE Committee members were fully engaged in the planning, support, and coordination of the ongoing activities of the RE program. The committee worked well together to implement planned activities as well as new initiatives.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of our teachers, my fellow committee members, DRE Cathy Seggel, RE assistants Dana Guterman and Amy Webb, and interim Chapel leaders Judy Bowden and Marcia Taylor for their hard work and commitment to our children and youth, and to our program. The enthusiasm, commitment, and creativity of this group have made working with them a pleasure.

Tricia Wilhelm
Chair, Religious Education Committee for Children and Youth

Refreshed and Grateful

I write this mini-column with five pre-reentry days before returning from sabbatical time to the church office. I am filled with gratitude for the past three months of review and reflection. I am looking forward to being with the congregation as we celebrate spring rites of passage and services of recognition. I am ready to find my way back into church life in Providence after actual and virtual winter journeys.

I thank all of the people who worked to keep our Spiritual Pathways faith development program strong and vital during my absence. In particular, deep appreciation to the Religious Education Committee for Children and Youth, Rev. James Ford, the office staff, Judy Bowden, and DRE Assistants Amy Webb and Dana Guterman. I wore my bracelet gift to remind me of your support and used my compass as a guide, all the way.

Living the non-sabbatical life is my next great adventure.
See you there,

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
401.421.7970
dre@firstunitarianprov.org

Coming Up in the RE Program

The April showers that brought flooded basements as well as May flowers have ended—thankfully. We are celebrating spring and the coming end of our Church School year with a number of culminating services:

- April 25: The Youth Group Service and Graduating Senior Recognition
- May 9: Teacher Recognition
- May 23: The Coming of Age Service

We are also celebrating the return from sabbatical of our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel, with a special service lead by Cathy on May 2. Lots to celebrate!

The RE program has been lucky to have some of our senior youth helping in the Church School classrooms. Three of these youth will be graduating and heading off to college: Katherine Wilhelm, Erin Capra, and Emily Sasse. We thank them for their caring and commitment, and for the energy they have shared in the classroom for the past two years. We wish you well—and remember, "Here you will find the hands of friends."

It's not too late to consider participating in our RE program next year. If you have an interest in teaching, mentoring, or serving on the RE committee, let us know!

Coming of Age Service - May 23

Our annual Coming of Age and Recognition Ceremony with our eighth- and ninth-graders will be the centerpiece of our Sunday, May 23 worship service.

With their mentors by their sides, the Coming of Age class will share reflections about their individual beliefs. And the congregation will celebrate the beginning of the next stage of their lifelong faith development.

Mentees

LJ Bento
Amelia Berg
Flannery Brown
Ian Buffum
Rosemary Dean
Nova Drewes
Crystal Evans
Julia Evans
Victoria Ezikovich
Samantha Goldman
Ian O'Malley
Andres Solanot
Fiona Verdon
Michael Verrecchia
Jacob Zinno

Mentors

John Wilhelm
Kate Menard
Judy Bowden
Ryk McIntrye
Erica Napolitano
Heidi Koelz
Betty Finn
Sally Barker
Melissa Guillot
Rosemary Milburn
George Voutes
Stephen Koelz
Marilyn Meardon
Bruce Boucek
Len Cabral



Membership News

Welcoming New Members

On Thursday, April 15, we held the final Path to Membership class of this church year and amid the baguettes, brownies, and blackberries welcomed nine new members. During the May 16 worship service, the congregation will be recognizing this new group of members with warm words of welcome and gifts. Photos are up on the Membership bulletin board to help you get to know them. Read these names carefully – there may be one or two surprises:

Linda Barron
Caitlin Frumerie
Raffaele Gianfrancesco
Jon George
Tobia Imbier
Kelby Maher
Cliff Odle
Dawna Perkins
Sheena Tompkins

Paths to Membership

The next Path to Membership class will be in October. If you would like to become a member and don't want to wait until October, please let me know. People often sign the membership book on Sundays after the worship service, and I'll be happy to arrange something for you. To contact me about this or anything else, call the office at 401.421.7970 or email me at mem@firstunitarianprov.org.

–Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator

On a Sound Financial Footing

Endowment: The three endowment funds total \$3,901,847, the highest it's been since June of 2008. Result: The endowment will provide \$195,071 of our operating budget in the coming fiscal year, \$1,000 more than I had been anticipating (a pleasant surprise).

Current operations: Congregational support is more than \$15,000 ahead of where it was last year at this time. Pledges received – the major portion of congregational support – are \$17,000 ahead of last year.

Miscellaneous income: Rentals of the Meeting House, Parish House, and parking lot are \$4,000 ahead of last year. But because we budgeted more income from this area than we did last year, we may not reach our budgeted amount.

Operating expenses for March, and for the fiscal year to date, are comfortably within the budgeted amount.

–Tony Allen, Treasurer



Sight Lines

I write this column in mid-April after the service revealing the draft Covenant language, followed by the Congregational Conversation about it, and the meeting of the Scriveners to amend the language based on input from the congregation. This process resulted in words I hope will stand the test of time:

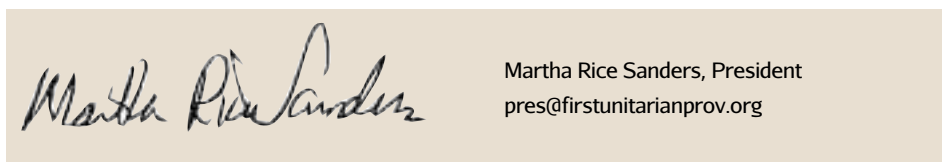
We, the members of the First Unitarian Church of Providence, with respect for the worth and dignity of each person, with wonder at the light we know by many names, and with gratitude for our deep connection to each other and to the larger web of existence, covenant to walk together in our search for truth, seeking the paths of wisdom, compassion, and justice.

But I also write before the Annual Meeting, where we will have determined whether or not to adopt this language as the preamble to our bylaws. So I'm still in suspense about the outcome of this year of examining what promises we wish to make to one another within our community of faith.

I am acutely aware my year as your president is winding down, that we accomplished great things together, and, as must always happen, that we left some tasks incomplete for another time. The Covenant process, whether or not we have adopted the new language, allowed us to think deeply together. Thanks to the work led by David Brown, our buildings now use less energy. Art Lusignan is leading a process that will, I hope, conclude with the instillation of a new heating system for the old Parish House, which will make us less dependent on fossil fuels, as well. We are closer now than at any time I've been part of this community to having a five-year plan. The canvass is on target to be our best ever, as we become more generous and less dependent on our predecessors' generosity. I hope that the budget presented by the Budget Committee to the Prudential Committee will be one that increases funding for our programs and ministries.

Our membership increased this year, due to the hard work of James Ford, Katy Killilea, and the Membership Committee, and we are getting more diverse. I hope that those trends continue. Indeed, they must. Our message of hope – articulated in our seven principles, our mission, and the new Covenant language – is one for which the world hungers. Let's continue to work together to bring that message to our greater community.

See you in church!



Martha Rice Sanders, President
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

A Bouquet of \$100-Dollar Bills

Did you see it? It was big and green and each flower was made from copies of \$100 bills. In case you missed it, on Sunday, April 18, Stewardship Committee Chair John Simmonds handed off a bouquet of \$100 flowers to Budget Committee Chair Tony Allen, along with the congregation's total pledge commitment of \$320,500.

The brief ceremony marked the end of this year's pledge drive and the final leg of the Budget Committee's work to create a balanced budget for the next church year based on our pledge commitments.

Ultimately, the pledge drive has raised \$323,351 from 317 households (that includes almost \$3,000 in pledges that came in between the Sunday service and the Budget Committee's meeting on the following Tuesday). It was an amazing feat given these uncertain economic times, and we did it with the help of each of you who pledged and a host of volunteers. Each of you made a difference.

Although this year's pledge drive has officially ended, you can still make a make a pledge—and make a difference. Pledges are always welcome and are accepted throughout the year. To make a pledge, email Walter Sotelo at assist@firstunitarianprov.org, or call the church office at 401.421.7970.

Stewardship Committee: John Simmonds, chair; Neil Bartholomew, Susan Fisher, Rev. James Ford, Herb Fried, Graham Nye, Cy O'Neil



Social Justice

Call for Proposals for Community Collections

For the past several years First Unitarian has been giving away the Sunday offering once a month to a variety of worthy causes. There is now a policy in place to decide who the recipients will be. Any church committee or three church members may request a collection for a cause, charity, or project worthy of support. A simple form is available online or in the church office for those interested in requesting a Community Collection. The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2010. Decisions will be made by the end of June by the Community Collections Committee, whose members are Marida Hollos, Sharon Kernan, and Julie Meyers. We look forward to reading your proposals!

The special offering for Bal Kendra taken on April 11 totaled \$1,838.93. On Sunday, May 9, the special offering will be for the Village Bank.

Online form: http://firstunitarianprov.org/FirstU_CommunityCollection_2010-2011.pdf

SSL Offers Mother's Day Cards

Don't buy your Mother's Day cards until you check out our cards at the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour.

News from the Food Pantry

May is canned soup month! Bring your donations on Sundays, during the week, or to the Parish Supper.

One of our great volunteers, Bruce Goodwin, is moving. We thank Bruce for his years of service to this program and we will truly miss him . . . and his big red van! We would love help from anyone who has access to a van, or large vehicle, and has some free time the third Monday of each month. We always appreciate a new face and new hands to help out. Join the biggest social justice program at First Unitarian! Here are opportunities to help:

- Volunteer to shop at the Food Pantry once a month (requires a strong back and large vehicle).
- Pick up produce and bread on Distribution Day (requires the same as above).
- Come for a shift on Distribution Day, May 17, for set up, distribution, or clean up.

Contact: Elesa Amand (elesa2@verizon.net), Amy Webb (amy.webb7@verizon.net), or Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net)

Neighborhood Social Justice Committee

Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 12:15p to 1:30p

In January, the Neighborhood Social Justice Committee (NSJC) kicked off a Book Drive to benefit the RI Institute of Mental Health. Drop off any of these (new or used) during Coffee Hour in the Atrium: soft-cover books that do not focus on violence, criminal activity, or sexual content; magazines (gift subscriptions are ideal); DVD movies; music CDs (especially Spanish); arts and craft supplies or board games. So far, we've filled and delivered six boxes of books. On April 12, several boxes of materials were delivered to the Pinal building for distribution. Thanks to all; please keep them coming.

The NSJC provides the congregation with opportunities to share social justice passions, expertise, and beliefs. If you have a cause that you feel needs attention, let the NSJC know.

Contact: David St. Germain (401.536.0715) or Joe Salvatore (401.270.6053).

General Assembly 2010: Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 23-27

General Assembly is the way that our faith does business. Actions of social witness are passed at GA, elements that make up future policies are discussed, and YOU have a voice in the discussion.

Experience wonderful and uplifting worship services, hear terrific speakers, and choose from hundreds of entertaining programs and informative workshops.

See: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

Contact: generalassembly@uua.org.

The Wholly Rollers Ride Again!

The Wholly Rollers is an informal group that meets on the weekends for bike rides. Some members participate in the yearly fund-raising bike rallies sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. It's fun, it's good for you, and it promotes good works. This year two of our members are participating in the MS Ride: Paul Hossfield (<http://tinyurl.com/yjpurq4>) and Peter Cook (<http://tinyurl.com/y7rdhou>).

Contact: Paul Hossfield (401.338.3087 or aus.robustus@gmail.com)

Standing on the Side of Love Committee

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the SSL program is dedicated to standing up against identity-based violence and injustice. SSL welcomes participation from all faith communities, creating a community-wide coalition working against racism, homophobia, and targeting of immigrants.

You can join in! Come to our meetings, join us at events we sponsor, enjoy a BGLT-friendly flick at Movie Night, march with us in the June Pride Parade, check out our welcoming ad in *Options* newsmagazine, wear the colorful SSL pin!

See: www.StandingOnTheSideOfLove.org

Calling All Artists and Quilters for Peace!

The Peace Flag Project (PFP) and the Peace Art Partnership are sponsoring a major art exhibit promoting peace and expanding awareness of the UN International Day of Peace on September 21. Ginny Fox will be organizing an event in downtown Providence. As part of a community-wide venture from September 1 to 30, anchored by an exhibit at the downtown URI Gallery. First Unitarian will host an exhibit of peace quilts in our Atrium. Quilters in our congregation are invited to participate in this event.

Contact: Ginny Fox (info@thepeaceflagproject.org or 401.453.8281) or Chiara Romano Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net).

For information about the URI Gallery exhibit, contact the gallery director, Steven Pennell (401.277.5206 or spennell@etal.uri.edu).



An Upscale Yard Sale

Saturday, June 5, 8:00a-1:00p
in the church parking lot

The Women's Alliance is sponsoring an upscale yard sale! We welcome good items you no longer use. All donated items need to be marked with a suggested price and will be used by the Alliance to support its programs.

To donate items: Bring your donated goods (already labeled with the price) to the church beginning Tuesday, June 1 (storage space is not available before June 1).

To rent a table: If you wish to sell items yourself, you can rent a table for \$25.

Contact: Nancy Libby Fisher at 401.751.4298

Art in the Atrium

In May, Amy Webb and Sally Barker will join together for the last show of the season, sharing drawings and mixed media.

A summer exhibit slot is still open if somebody would like to show his/her work over the summer. The two principal rules for exhibiting: work must be evaluated for content by the Art in the Atrium Committee and it cannot be for sale. We are open to comments or suggestions to improve this venue.

Contact: Chiara R. Van Erp
(romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)

Looking Ahead to June ... and Summer

**June All-Parish Supper on Friday, June 11,
End of the Year Picnic on June 13th and
Saturday Social Supper on June 26**

On June 13 after coffee hour, bring a picnic lunch and join your church community for lawn games and good times at India Point Park. The after-dinner program for the Parish Supper will be announced in the next newsletter.

Come to a Lazy Summer Day Party!

Saturdays, July 10 or August 14 at 3:00p

Imagine sitting on the edge of a pristine lake, far from the madding crowd, your every whim catered to, pleasant company around you, food at your fingertips. Well, you can have all that this summer at the fifth annual five-course gourmet meal. You can feast like royalty (some special diets can be accommodated) and contribute to needed work around the Parish House. Choose one of two sunny summer dates - July 10 or August 14 - each limited to 18 people.

Reservations and payments (\$55 per person) through the church office (401.421.7970 or admin@firstunitarianprov.org)



Community Life and Heritage

The May All-Parish Supper

Friday, May 14

The monthly All-Parish Suppers are for everyone - young and old and in-between. Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested.

5:45p Social Hour: Bring hors d'oeuvres to share and/or wine for your own party if you wish.

6:15p Potluck Dinner: Bring a dish to share that serves at least eight people. You can bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert.

7:30p Program in the Auditorium: An Evening with U.S. Senator Jack Reed



Our guest will be Senator Jack Reed, a native Rhode Islander and a dynamic speaker. Senator Reed grew up in Cranston and graduated from West Point and from Harvard Law School. He has represented our state in the U.S. Senate since 1997, and currently serves on the Appropriations, Armed Services, Banking and Urban Affairs, and Health Education and Labor Committees. Senator Reed was very involved in the crafting and the passage of the health care bill and is now involved in legislation that would regulate Wall Street. He recently returned from a trip to Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. He will share his thoughts about the current

political scene and the main issues that confront our nation.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for us to hear and to ask questions of our senior senator in our own public forum. Don't miss this special event!

To reserve your space, please fill out the sign-up form in the *Meeting House Times*, see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour, or call the church office at 401.421.7970. Childcare for infants and young children under 10 will be available if requested in advance; call Jim Estey at 401.351.1748 to sign up.

May Saturday Social Suppers

Saturday, May 29; Social hour 6:00p; Dinner 7:00p

These Saturday evening potluck suppers are for adults, except where noted. Newcomers, old-timers, and in-betweeners who would like to meet new friends in the congregation are all welcome to participate. However, space is limited and reservations are required.

In the East Bay:

Host: Ruth Arellana
100 Estrell Drive
Riverside, Rhode Island

In the West Bay:

Hosts: George Beshers and Cindy Bapties
34 Rushton Drive
Cranston, Rhode Island

For reservations, menu planning, and directions for both dinners, contact Carol Adams at 401.433.4365 or email carol.adams6@cox.net. Please bring your own beverage.

The Women's Alliance

Monday, May 3; Business meeting at 10:30a; Program at 11:00a

This month's speaker, Nan Hansen, introduces her talk with the following statement: "To argue is human. Often our arguments are framed as liberal against conservative. I propose to discuss our transformation from Bay Colony Puritans into members of the First Unitarian Church of Providence in this light. Perhaps we will discover, as I did while a member of the Church History Committee, that liberalism isn't as straightforward and timeless as we thought."

A catered luncheon (\$9.00) follows the program at 12:00p. The program and luncheon are open to everyone.

Important Parking Notice

Mother's Day, May 9

On Sunday, May 9, the Hope Club parking lot will not be available for church use. If you usually park there, please leave extra time to find parking elsewhere that day.

May 2010

"Born again?! No, I'm not. Excuse me for getting it right the first time." -Dennis Miller

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
|  | |  | |  | |  |
| <u>2</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Mentor Mentee 12:00p Membership 12:00p Five Wishes 12:15p NSJC 12:15p BUUUG 7:00p | <u>3</u> Women's Alliance Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p | <u>4</u> Knitters 7:00p | <u>5</u> Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation Workshop 7:00p | <u>6</u> Deacons 6:00p Gaia's Hearth 7:00p Stewardship 7:00p | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> |
| <u>9</u> Sunday Service 10:30a BUUUG 7:00p UU Men 7:00p | <u>10</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p | <u>11</u> Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p | <u>12</u> Meditation Workshop 7:00p | <u>13</u> Worship Committee 7:00p | <u>14</u> Parish Supper 5:45p | <u>15</u> |
| <u>16</u> Sunday Service 10:30a New Member Brunch 12:00 BUUUG 7:00p | <u>17</u> Food Pantry 4:00p Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p | <u>18</u> Knitters 7:00p | <u>19</u> PruComm Budget 7:00p Meditation Workshop 7:00p | <u>20</u> Stewardship 7:00p | <u>21</u> | <u>22</u> Coming of Age Rehearsal 10:00a-12:00p |
| <u>23</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Ministries Council 12:00 NSJC 12:15p <u>30</u> Sunday Service at Bell St. Chapel | <u>24</u> Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p <u>31</u> Memorial Day Church Office Closed Benevolent St. Zendo 7:00p | <u>25</u> Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p | <u>26</u> Executive Committee 7:00p Meditation Workshop 7:00p | <u>27</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>29</u> Saturday Social Supper |

First Unitarian Church of Providence
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We are a
Welcoming Congregation.

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The Five Wishes Program

Sunday, May 2 at 12:15p

Many of us have living wills and medical powers-of-attorney. But most of us have not thoroughly thought through exactly what we want, especially not with other family members. Nor do we have all that information in one document.

The Five Wishes document helps you express how you want to be treated if you are seriously ill and unable to speak for yourself. It is unique among all other living will and health agent forms because it looks to all of a person's needs: medical, personal, emotional, and spiritual. *Five Wishes* is published by Aging With Dignity, a private nonprofit organization. This program will be led by Paul Brule and Ruth Arellana. Registration is requested.

Contact: Ruth Arellana (rkarellana@yahoo.com)

Gaia's Hearth CUUPS

(Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

First Thursday, May 6, 7:00p-8:30p

Meetings are open. No registration is required.

Contact: Artemis Ezikovich (nimuix@cox.net)

Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday at 7:00p

Boundless Way is an interfaith Zen community, and everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available to those who come at 6:45p.

Leaders: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford
(benevolentstreetzendo@gmail.com)

UUMeN

Second Sunday, May 9, 7:00p-9:00p

Topic: Gay-Straight Dialogue

What are the barriers gay and straight men feel in talking and in being with one another? Where do the barriers come from? What is their purpose? Do we still need them? How do these barriers keep us from being friends? Please join us for this important dialogue. All interested men welcome.

This month's facilitators:

Stacy Allen (401.488.6235)

Steve McCloy (401.244.5321)

Spiritual Cinema

Will not meet in May

Reimagining Religion

Second and fourth Tuesdays,

May 11 and 25, 7:00p

We continue our examination of Ecclesiastes, seeking insights from a recent translation by Lloyd Geering and from the introduction to his forthcoming book on his favorite Wisdom sage.

Contact: Tom Hall (tw2nd@aol.com) to request texts for downloading

Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Wednesdays at 7:00p

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths, to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves within our relationships, service and social action.

To register, contact Ken Bent

(kenbent@cox.net)

