



## Sunday, September 12

### HOME COMING SUNDAY

Rev. Jan K. Nielsen, preaching  
Services at 9 & 11 AM  
Church School Classes Begin

Please bring a small amount of water either from your summer travels or some place that is special to you as we observe our **Water Communion ceremony**.

Do you bake a good pie...or know of a great bakery? Please bring a pie to share during fellowship hour



## Sunday, September 19

Rev. Sarah K. Person, preaching  
Services at 9 & 11 AM

## Sunday, September 26

Services at 9 & 11 AM

## Highlights!

- CONNECTIONS SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR SANCHEZ SCHOOL
- RUMMAGE SALE PLUS
- FALL MUM SALE!
- THERESA NYGREN AT THE CHEYENNE RIVER RESERVATION
- UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Ministers' Meditations . . .*

Dear Friends,

Though our days are still warm, all around us there are signs that autumn is coming. Kids and their teachers are back in the classroom, the sun sets a little earlier each evening and, here at our church, we are preparing for Homecoming Sunday, that day when we all gather again for a special service of celebration, prayer and song to mark the beginning of another year together as The Universalist Church.

Life has reminded us over these summer weeks that we need one another more than ever. We are mourning the loss of our beloved Minister Emerita, **Reverend Jean Cook Brown**, who died in August. We will gather on **September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 o'clock** in the afternoon to honor and to celebrate Jean's life and to give thanks for the many blessings she has brought, and continues to bring, to so many people whose lives she touched. It will be both a day of mourning and also a day of thanksgiving for Jean's life.

We know that we here at the Universalist Church stand by one another whatever life brings. Several of our families have lost loved ones over these past weeks and many of us are facing new challenges in our lives. Life also has brought joyful blessings into our lives – babies born, lives joined in marriage, young people making their way in the world, the quiet wisdom and contentment that can come with the passing years.

I will be leading an **Elders' Writing Group** in October. We will gather with our pens and notebooks and first share writing time and then read our work to one another. Watch for news about dates and sign ups. Join us on **Homecoming Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** when we will celebrate the beginning of our 190<sup>th</sup> year as a community of faith and join together in thanksgiving for the gift of life. We'll hold two services, at 9 and 11 a.m., the choir will sing and we will share conversation and homemade pie at each of the Fellowship Hours following our worship services. Don't forget to bring a pie to share and also some water from your summer journeys (even if your journey kept you close to home) for our **Water Communion** ceremony.

I hope you had a chance to read **The Elegance of the Hedgehog** over the summer. Madame Michel and Paloma may speak to us through my sermon on Homecoming Sunday. When did their words make you laugh? Did they remind you of someone you know, or of yourself? What passages spoke wisdom to you? It will be good to be together again.

Love and blessings,

Rev. Jan

# Church School News

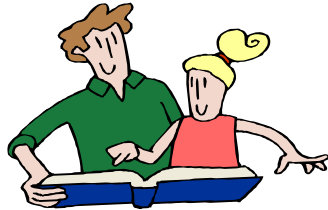
To contact Sally: [soxman@westhartforduu.org](mailto:soxman@westhartforduu.org)  
or 233-3669, Ext. 111

## First Day of Church School, September 12

If you have not already done so, please register your children for Nursery-Grade 8.

## Parent-Teacher Meet and Greet, September 26

This is a great chance for parents to speak with our new teaching teams after each service in the Program Center.



## Senior High Youth Group

The Senior High Group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on Sunday evenings, beginning September 12. Registration forms will be available at the September meetings and registration will continue until the lock-in scheduled for Friday evening, October 1; the lock-in ends on Saturday morning, October 2.

## Connections School Supply Drive For Sanchez School

When you go shopping for school supplies, please purchase a little extra for the children at Sanchez School in Hartford. We are collecting **only** the following **new** items: single subject spiral notebooks, 2 pocket folders, #2 pencils, watercolor markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, and stickers (all kinds). Deadline for bringing in supplies is Sunday, September 26.

## Religious Education Teams

Thank you to everyone who signed up for a team for the coming year. For those parents who have not yet signed up for a team, it's not too late – the list is a work in progress. If you see an error on the list, please call or email Sally as soon as possible.

## Leadership Team (RE Advisory Team)

Sara Conner, Robin Levitt, Felicia Morgan, Susan Schoenberger, Julia Shaw

## Connections Team

Laurie Brown, Sara Conner, Darrell Cookman, Elise Falkin, Jenn Gallaway, Robin Grant-Hall, Steve Kahn, Dorothy Meggie, Linda Miron, Susan Schoenberger, Amy Stephens Cabbage

## Church School Support Team

Deb Cohen, Ken and Amy Distel, Diane Higgins, Ann Hovey, Colleen Masse, Janet Poriello, Gordon and Lynn Ringer, Tricia Sobraske, Clare Taylor, Tracy Youngberg, Mike Zanta

## Teaching Teams

### 9:00 AM

Nursery	Ben Oksanen, Teen: Tucker Wright
Preschool	Jason Gallaway, Amy Kirschbaum, Dave Larkin, Teen: Brendon Hull
K/1	Sara Hanna, Scott Kaslusky, Geoff and Kelly Nevins, Catherine Sager
2	Deb Hawkins, Katy Perry, Craig Campbell
3/4	Kristen Durham, Roxane Wright, <b>TEACHER NEEDED</b>
5/6	Herb Emanuelson, Vicki Sklar, Katherine Wilson

### 11:00AM

Nursery	Piper Faulkner (2 <sup>nd</sup> sem.), Teens: Hallie Becker-St. Germain, Jake Binder, Emma Briggs, Andrew Krebsbach, Celeste Kurz, Melanie Newton
Preschool	Bianca Giolitto, Tessa Ridell, Laura Winslow
K-2	Marilyn Cardone, Jody Gray-Linden, Amanda Theriault, Paul Tulikangas, Teens: Brian Bertini, Michael Turro, Zac Zaccardi
3/4	Rob Bergland, Debbie Kleinrock, Chris Sesta, Amy Yarbrough, Teen: Andrew Bertini
5/6	Rick Baker, Laurie Brown, Jen Palczewski
5/6	Paul Konigsberg, Lisa Patnoe, Jessica Assard-Wu
7/8	Sue Giniso, Tom Oxman, Sam Lanza, Teen: Julia Eddy
OWL	Patrick Igo, Mona Sullivan

# Rummage Sale Plus!



**Friday, November 13**  
6:30PM to 8:30PM

**Saturday, November 14**  
9:00AM to 12:30PM

*We are now accepting items for donation.* Please leave donations in the portico, Monday through Friday (before 3:00PM), and on Sunday mornings. We are looking for clothing in good condition without rips, tears or stains. Also books, CDs, movies, household items, working electronics, linens, toys, decorative items, collectables, and jewelry. **Please, no baby car seats, cribs, carriers or high chairs.** Large items need to be dropped off the week of the sale.

The Rummage Sale activities are a good opportunity for inter-generational fellowship. Our Boy Scouts have volunteered for many years when it is time to move the donations to the sales areas downstairs. We'd love to have some more youths to help Doug Howard. He is a long-time member of our community and coordinates many vital aspects of the sale. He would especially like the youths to help "clean up" after the sale in November on Saturday.

We are sorting Monday mornings from 9:00AM until noon. We have already begun the process as of Monday, August 23rd and will be continuing with that activity until the sale in November.

Maria Sgamboti is in charge of volunteer recruiting. We don't mind if you just "walk in" as we always have something to get done! Call Maria whenever you think you'd like to volunteer, stop by in the Multi-purpose Room downstairs, or feel free to call any of the leaders to see if there is an opportunity to volunteer. Any length of time you can give to volunteerism will be greatly appreciated. Many hands make "light" work!

**We are looking for a volunteer to schedule pick up of left over rummage.** Please contact Maria Sgamboti for details.

Here is a little history about our Leadership Team for the Rummage Sale. **RoseAnne Austin**, our Veteran Leader, has been doing "rummage" for a very long time. She is a great resource for any questions! **Dee Newton** is another seasoned leader. She also is a fount of information concerning all aspects of the Rummage Sale. **Orlene Spinney**, a 20-year member of our faith community, is Library Collections Manager. She is in charge of all the wonderful books we all share in our love of reading. When she "took over" the management of the books four years ago, the other Leaders were so grateful of getting the books out of their "Rummage Room". She is the newest member of the Team.

Our contact information:

**RoseAnne Austin**  
roseanne\_austin@comcast.net  
860-236-4492

**Dee Newton**  
dee.newton@sbcglobal.net  
860-561-5645

**Maria Sgamboti**  
sgamboti@comcast.net  
860-217-1580

**Orlene M. Spinney**  
msorlene@gmail.com  
860-719-8433

# Our Caring Church

We are deeply saddened by the death of **Rev. Jean Cook Brown** on Tuesday, August 17, 2010. Our hearts go out to her husband, **Jim**, and their children **Bettina, Roger and Chris**. We are grateful for the loving care that Jean received, especially from Bettina, and for the efforts of so many in our congregation to support Jean and Jim that were coordinated by **Edie Thompson** and our Care Team Ministry. A service in celebration of the life of Rev. Jean will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, September 18, at 1PM with Rev. Jan Nielsen and Rev. Sarah Person officiating. We will gather in Fiske Hall afterward for a reception.

We are also saddened to announce the passing of long-time church member **Raymond E. Petersen**, who died on Saturday, August 21, 2010. A funeral service was held here in our sanctuary on Wednesday, August 25, at 11 AM with Rev. Jan officiating. We hold in our prayers his children **Ray and Cindy** and their families and the many friends of the Petersen family.

**Rev. Sarah Person** lost two members of her family this summer; her dear father-in-law, **Louis G. Melchior** on July 25 and her beloved mother, **Christina F. Person** on August 9. She is grateful for the support of this congregation, the comfort of the wonderful staff of this church, and her colleagues who pitched in to help out with her professional responsibilities.

We grieve with **Martha Winslow**, our **Member Services Coordinator**, and her husband **Howard** and their children **Laura and David** on the death of Howie's father **Richard** on Saturday, August 14. Richard leaves behind his wife, **Marjorie**, as well as two other sons and a daughter and their families.

We give thanks for the blessing of life. **Doris and David Lester** are the proud grandparents of **Aidyn Chon**, born to their daughter, **Kristin** and her husband **John Chon** on August 13. As Doris says, he "couldn't wait until his due date in November. Born in Boston August 13, the day after his Dad's birthday, he is beautiful and feisty, doing as well as can be. He will have many hurdles to jump in the next few days but got over the first few hurdles OK." Our thoughts and prayers are with Aidyn and his family during his steady progress and long sojourn at the hospital.

## Creative Hands/Knitting Ministry...

Will start up again on Wednesday, September 8, from 10AM-12 PM.

# Membership Matters

To contact Martha: [mwinslow@westhartforduu.org](mailto:mwinslow@westhartforduu.org)  
233-3669, Ext. 109

The cicadas whir in my backyard; we purchased the back-to-school assortment of notebooks, folders and pens for my two children; the sun sets a little earlier each day, and my flower garden has that late-summer tatty-leaf look. It's time to return to church. I so look forward to catching up with you, our members, and getting to know you, our newcomers, to take part in this community that feels like home. We hope to see you on Homecoming Sunday on September 12 at 9:00 or 11:00 AM.

**Here are a few highlights of some of the activities planned for this year. Stay tuned to the Weekly Notes for more details as the dates approach, or contact me, Martha Winslow, for more information:**

**Minister's Q & A Oct 3, Nov 14, Dec 5**—a chance for newcomers to meet with one of our ministers and ask questions.

**Volunteer Fair Sept. 19**—talk to representatives of the different groups active at our church at coffee hour and learn about opportunities to get involved and be part of something larger than yourself.

**New UU Classes Oct 17, 24, 31**—a series of three classes for newcomers and new members to learn more about our faith and our church. Sign up now.

**Men's Group**—a variety of activities planned, including group discussions, hikes, and hands-on activities. Contact **Jon Wheeler** [jpwheeler24@aol.com](mailto:jpwheeler24@aol.com) for information about the group, or me to add your name to the email list.

**Women's Group**—a variety of activities planned, including collecting women's stories, group discussions, and a **Women's Retreat**, which will take place in February.

**Classes**—a new writing class for elders with our senior minister, **Jan Nielsen**; yoga with **Cynthia Wolcott**, writing with **Pat Hale**, as well as others.

Martha

## HEADLINES FROM THE POLICY BOARD:



## From the Policy Board

As we all return to the start of another church year, we know that following the updates on the health of our beloved **Jean Brown** was also a part of our lives this summer. We will all need some time to grieve together, which is a necessary part of the circle of life. It gives us all the ability to move forward with acceptance and keep Jean's memory in our lives.

Our hearts go out to Jim and the Brown family. Part of our gift to Jean's memory is to keep the things she loved best about our church alive and well. Many of her joys will surely be noted at **Jean's Memorial Service on Saturday, September 18 at 1:00PM**. It will be our opportunity to remember Jean and all she contributed to our church over the many years of her life as a member, Director of Religious Education, Minister of Religious Education, Minister for Pastoral Care and as our Minister Emerita.

Our thanks go out to many people in our congregation for all of the support and love that was given to Jean, Jim and her family. Our thanks also to **Rev. Jan** and **Rev. Sarah** for their ministering and caring for Jean. Many countless hours were spent with Jean, giving her comfort and helping her plan for her memorial service.

And, finally, take comfort that the planned memorial to Jean and in honor of Jim, the restoration of the Good Shepherd window, is something that Rev. Jan shared with a smiling Jean Brown.

### Policy Board Members:

David Arnott	Scott Kaslusky
Mary Fournier	Scott MacCloy
Ray Giolitto, Moderator	Jan Nielsen (ex-officio)
Peggy Gray	Kent Smith

# Social Action

## Fall Mum Sale!

Field hardy mums in 8-inch pots, in four beautiful colors (pink, white, yellow and burgundy) will be sold on **Sunday, September 12** in the parking lot. The price is only \$8:00/pot. Advance orders may be placed on-line at [jenkevaw@gmail.com](mailto:jenkevaw@gmail.com) or by calling 860-682-5589. All proceeds will benefit HopeWorks. They are an interfaith community organization providing hope and health to young people and their families for over 37 years through counseling, education and community outreach. Each year over 20 local communities of faith join together to demonstrate their collective support for this worthy organization.



## Theresa Nygren at the Cheyenne River Reservation

My husband Bill and I incorporated a volunteer week at Cheyenne River Reservation into a month long cross-country trip. We arrived at Dupree, South Dakota on Monday, June 27 to begin our week of disaster relief. As we made our way down Dupree's Main Street, the clean-up efforts from the June 16th tornado were underway. Large trucks were hauling away huge pieces of debris so residents could once again resume street travel. The area seemed surreal; it was a hot, windy summer day yet the remains of the destructive storm were everywhere. Blown off rooftops, flattened mobile homes, parts of buildings splintered from the devastation were scattered about.

Our first stop was the United Church of Christ in Dupree. Reverend Pauline Webb and some volunteer women warmly greeted us and quickly put us to work. We assisted in sorting and packaging household and personal items for community members who lost everything in the tornado. It was extremely moving to see how the church people thoroughly dedicated themselves to this recovery effort. That was one of things I was most impressed with on this trip. Although there seems to be great dysfunction in the overall infrastructure on the reservation, the church and YMCA and other community centers provided real relief to people in such need. It was so apparent that the need far outweighed what could reasonably be provided. Reverend Pauline was scrambling to find adequate housing for a number of families who had no where to go. She paid \$18,000 out of her own money last year to feed those in the area. Talk about putting your faith into action.

Our group of nine spent our days at the reservation doing what we could to provide support and assistance. My husband repaired a roof at the Bear Creek Community building. A retired kindergarten teacher, Laura Fraser and I did a few art therapy programs for children in two communities. A group of us spent hours playing and paying attention to the children of Bear Creek. These youngsters' hearts were so open to give and receive love. As they saw our caravan of vehicles make its way down the windy dusty reservation road, they would run out to greet us. Two sisters, TT, age 5 and Joey, age 6, wouldn't let me out of their sight. This was in stark contrast to the older children who were much more reserved and held back. Living with such poverty, uncertainty and historical trauma, has a clear impact on the tribe members.

As the time on the reservation drew to an end, I was so appreciative of Rochelle Ripley's promise to her Lakota grandmother many years ago. She vowed to return to the reservation and help them in ways she could. It was such a privilege to be part of the hawkwing group. I'm proud that our church has been and will continue to be supportive to such a wonderful endeavor. I can attest firsthand to the good works that hawkwing brings to the Lakota people.

## Life Long Learning

### Tuesday Evening Book Group

The Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Group will meet in the church parlor on **Tuesday, September 7**, at 7:00PM. The book is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. It is a book which dog lovers would enjoy. The owner is a philosopher and the dog accompanies him.

Hope you all had a wonderful summertime! Please come and join our lively discussions, even if you haven't had time to read the book but are interested in the subject matter. If you have any questions, you may call Orlene Spinney at 860-719-8433 or e-mail at [msorlene@gmail.com](mailto:msorlene@gmail.com)

# Change

## The acceptance of No More Lye and No More Lies

I have made a decision ...To give myself permission to BE.

I am going to allow myself to define who/what/how I am .....

And.....

I am giving myself permission to love and accept all the facets I discover.

The physical representation of this decision is my hair. The now reality for me is ...no more tortuous nights of hot combs wrenched in sizzling grease pulling through my hair beating each tightly winding curl into someone else's submission...no more pouring pounds of lye upon my head, searing my scalp and filling my head with lies of who I could become

If I would be and how much more of the American dream I could live

If my hair flowed more like silk.

No more extensions that scream, "since she does not have enough and is not enough

Let me extend her a helping hand into more than she could possibly be with me"...

No more wigs made from someone else's hair cause beauty has been defined by

Standards that have very little to do with who I really am....Who am I?

That's what I've given myself permission to find out- By no longer choosing to brutally force my hair to be what it is not

I can then allow myself to form itself as it was fashioned to Be-come.

Locked within the matrix of the shafts of my hair is ancestral memory.

Keys to spiritual connections that my fore parents shared...

Powerful revelations of the universe were secretly stored within the crowns of the living coils that covered their heads...

Coils connecting one thought to another-one spirit to each other -

All energy fused to shine brightly on knowledge and wisdom stored and waiting...

And so now I wait...sometimes patiently...

Sometimes anxiously waiting for the flowering bud to appear

Signaling that the matrix has come and like pollinated stamen my locks will coil and spring forth wildly excited to finally BE

Free

Reality has called my name

Never again to be the same

Right now .....right here....Free

Hearts locked in

Tuned in.....Wisdom spirit .....Ancestral knowledge

Living coils.....Connected eternally

I am we ...We are free....Beauty and the blackness of me

-Zelphia, 2000

The **Diversity Task Force** will be meeting Sunday, September 19th, at 10:00AM in the Parlor. Meetings are always open! For more information, please contact [diversitytaskforce@westhartforduu.org](mailto:diversitytaskforce@westhartforduu.org)



*The Universalist*, the newsletter of the Universalist Church, provides parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community. Please send changes to any of your contact information to: Martha Winslow, Member Services Coordinator, The Universalist Church, 433 Fern Street, West Hartford, CT 06107 [mwinslow@westhartforduu.org](mailto:mwinslow@westhartforduu.org)

<b>Next Newsletter</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Mailing Date</b>
September 15	September 24

Email newsletter items, as an attachment, to Julia Giolitto at [giolitto@giolitto.net](mailto:giolitto@giolitto.net)

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Return Service Requested

**DATED MATERIAL – DELIVER BEFORE 09/06/10**

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 Jackie Majerus-Collins, Youth-Mentor Coordinator  
 Linda Scacco, Coming of Age Parent Consultant  
 Julia Giolitto, Newsletter Editor  
 Orlene Spinney, Library Collections Manager

## THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

### 2010-2011 NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Publication (Friday)	Submission Deadline <sup>1</sup> (Wednesdays)
Sept 24	Sept 15
Oct 22	Oct 13
Nov 19	Nov 10
Dec 17	Dec 8
Jan 21, 2010	Jan 12, 2011
Feb 18	Feb 9
Mar 25	Mar 16
Apr 22	Apr 13
May 20	May 11
Jun 24	Jun 15
July 22	July 13
Aug 26	Aug 17

<sup>1</sup> **Please adhere to the submission deadlines** (10:00 AM on the Wednesday before publication). Submissions made after the deadline require a great deal of extra effort to fit them in, literally. Layouts need to be changed, articles moved, and, in general, much good work is thrown away and redone.

**Please make your submissions in electronic format as an attachment to Julia Giolitto at [giolitto@giolitto.net](mailto:giolitto@giolitto.net).** Just about any format will do. We want to avoid having the Newsletter Editor type it in from scratch...a process that is many times more labor intensive (and more error-prone) than Copy-and-Paste.

Last Updated 8/30/10