



*Round Hill
Community Church*

The News Letter

April 2009

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Experiencing Easter Again

In Ann Weems' poem "The Story and the Child" she writes this:

The child comes,
and we dye eggs
and make a cake
and decorate.
"Why are we doing this?" he asks.
"Because," I answer,
"Life is about to happen,
and on Sunday morning
we'll catch stars."
He looks at me,
quizzically at first,
and then grins.
It's then I ask him
to tell me the story.
The only way he'll learn
is to tell it himself.
The only way we'll learn
is to tell it again ...
and again ...
to a child.

Each year the coming of Easter causes within me a flood of special memories about those Easters I enjoyed as a young boy. Within our home we had a variety of traditions, ranging from hidden Easter baskets filled with jelly beans, marshmallow peeps, chocolate bunnies, and dyed/decorated eggs to an Easter ham dinner table with all the fixings at which we children all sat down in our new outfits.

Preceding all this, though, was the Easter Day service with countless aromatic lilies veritably hiding the pulpit, inspiring music that brought forth full-

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A Night of Comedy



Several members of RHCC are busy rehearsing for what promises to be a hilarious evening of memories, community spirit, good food, and a rip-roaring good time. We are so fortunate that our own Jane Condon has magnanimously passed up several "gigs" to serve as our mistress of ceremonies. You are not going to want to miss this momentous commemorative 25th celebration of worshiping in our beautiful church building.

Make you reservations early – the Community House holds only 160 people.

Saturday, May 9

6:00 p.m.

Round Hill Community House

\$35 per person

For reservations, please call the office at

869-1091 or email to

church@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

Checks may be made payable to RHCC.

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, April 12, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your Easter basket to collect eggs, jelly beans, and other surprises.

April Lessons

Our lessons will focus on Creation and the Environment on April 19 and 26. The Creation story is one that children in every religion are familiar with in some way. There are multiple ways to tell the story and multiple ways to hear it, but any way we look at it, this is *the* foundational story of humankind and the world in which we live. It is important that children learn the story, but it is equally important that we find ways to encourage them to imagine and wonder. We want them to know that we live in a magnificent, intricate world brought into existence by a loving Creator who has given us the responsibility to care for this wonderful creation. Our teaching teams for this unit are Michael and Heather Sandifer and Kerri Ann Hofer and Jenny Rye.

April Scripture Verses

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Matthew 19:14

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness . . ."

Summer School Teachers

As you make your plans for the summer, consider teaching one class for the Church School program. You select the topic and lesson. If you need assistance with a lesson, we will gladly work with you. Ask a friend to team teach with you. Classes meet for

45 to 60 minutes. The dates are:

June 14, 21, 28

July 12, 19, 26

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

To teach a Church School class, call Tom 869-1091, email tom@roundhillcommunitychurch.org, or sign up in the Church Parlor.

May/June Events

May 17 Bible Breakfast

May 24 Special Event

May 31 Children's Service

June 7 Church Picnic

Bible Bee Contest

We have received the following announcement.

Greetings,

As a fellow Christian from Westport, Connecticut, I would like to share with you some information about the student Bible Bee that I am hosting and invite your members to participate.

The first nationwide Bible Bee is being held this year to encourage youth to learn the Gospel and to be excited about their Christian faith.

Signups are until April 30, and the event will be September 12. The location for all of southwestern Connecticut is in Westport, and there will be over 400 local competitions around the country. This is a Bible memory competition for individual students from the ages of 7 to 18.

The National Finalist event will be November 5 to 6 in Washington, D.C., and there are prizes of \$25,000 to \$100,000 to be awarded, but everyone who participates and learns the Word of God receives a blessing even greater.

Feel free to call me with questions at (203) 571-8354 or email me at dpartlow@gmail.com or dpartlow@stanfieldcp.com.

– Daniel Partlow



RHCC ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will take place following the Worship Service on Sunday, April 19. The Finance Committee will report on the state of our budget and the Nominating Committee will present its proposal for Trustees and Officers of the Church for next year. Members are called on to vote for Trustees at this meeting. Please try to be there.

A NIGHT OF COMEDY

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25th Anniversary Committee

Helen Itin O'Malley, Chair

Joan Warburg

Win and Caroline Adkins

Annette Grueterich

Suzy Simpson

Hooker O'Malley

Laura Wack

Bob Culp

Shannon White

Invitation Design: Suzy Simpson, Nancy Mazzoli

Dinner: Julia Boyson, Debbie Lipner

Decoration: Annette Grueterich, Suzy Simpson

Historical Display: Arto Szabo, Mirella Hajar

Slide Show: Art Landi, Arto Szabo

Director: Lyn Kaufman

Choreography: Felicity Foote

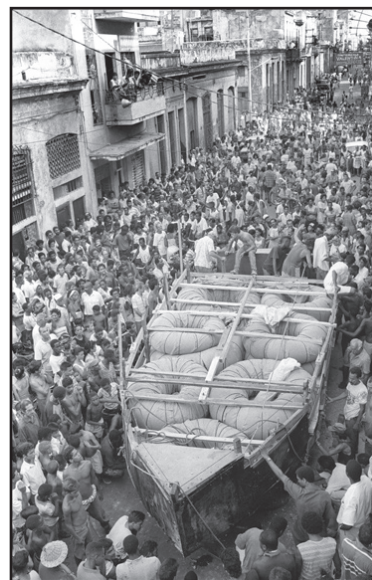
Celebratory Cake: Ella Szabo, Dee Lewis

Music: Win Adkins

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Photography has this uncanny ability to tell stories – some tragic, some sad, and some happy. The next exhibit at Les Beaux Arts Gallery is all about the power of photography, and it opens on Sunday, April 5, and remains on display until May 6, 2009.

Janis Lewin, a documentary photographer, is showing an amazing series of photographs from Cuba entitled "The Rafters of 1994, La Crisis de Los Balseiros." Since the early 1990s, Lewin had the privilege of witnessing and documenting the various social changes and events Cubans went through. This series of photographs concerns the poignant truth of Cubans' immigration into the United States. Rafts were often nothing more than



a truck inner tube or a hand-built vessel. The Clinton administration, in accordance with the Cuban authorities, sent ships to pick up the rafters and take them to Guantanamo before admitting them into the U.S.

Lewin's studies create an indelible historical vision about a community's struggle to survive and seek a better life, if not for them, at least for their children.

Lewin graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and studied at the International Center of Photography in New York City. She has widely exhibited in California and New York, and her work has been printed in numerous publications including *Aperture*, *Time Books*, and *The New York Times*. Special collections are at El Museo Del Barrio, New York City, Lehigh University art gallery, and Arizona State University Art Museum.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Bible Study: The Gospel of John Sunday, April 5

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Meeting Room

Rev. Fleming Rutledge returns for her final session on the Fourth Gospel. Rev. Rutledge is an Episcopal priest widely known as a teacher and scholar in the U.S. and Canada. She is the author of seven books.

Meditation with Joel Baehr Tuesday, April 14

7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room

Our monthly meeting is open to all within the Round Hill Community and beyond. This practice is great for beginners and those well acquainted with meditation. Joel leads us in a guided meditation for 30 minutes and then we join in discussion. Come try it!

Healing Touch Training Saturday, April 18, Meeting Room Sunday, April 19, Community House 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This is a fantastic entry into energy healing. Become a part of the Healing Touch Community. In this hands-on class you will learn numerous techniques that you can use to help yourself and others. Each student receives a workbook with all of the techniques plus additional background information.

There are program brochures on the table outside the office. For more information or to register, contact Beth Wright at (203) 561-4883 or bethwright.net.

Save the Date Thursday to Sunday, August 6 to 9 Summer Workcamp Experience

Many of us travel in and through New York City all the time, but do we really see all sides of the city that brings a vast array of people from all walks of life?

This summer, those going into high school through adult are invited to a four-day experience to see the underside of the Big Apple. We will stay in New York in a local church and participate in homeless ministries, feeding those who have AIDS, and

attending an open AA meeting and interesting worship services that serve those in need, as well as other activities.

The cost will be minimal but the experience unforgettable. Contact Shannon White for more information at Shannon@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

WOMEN'S GATHERING



Our final Gathering of the season will be a dinner on Friday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. Put the date on your calendar and do invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us.

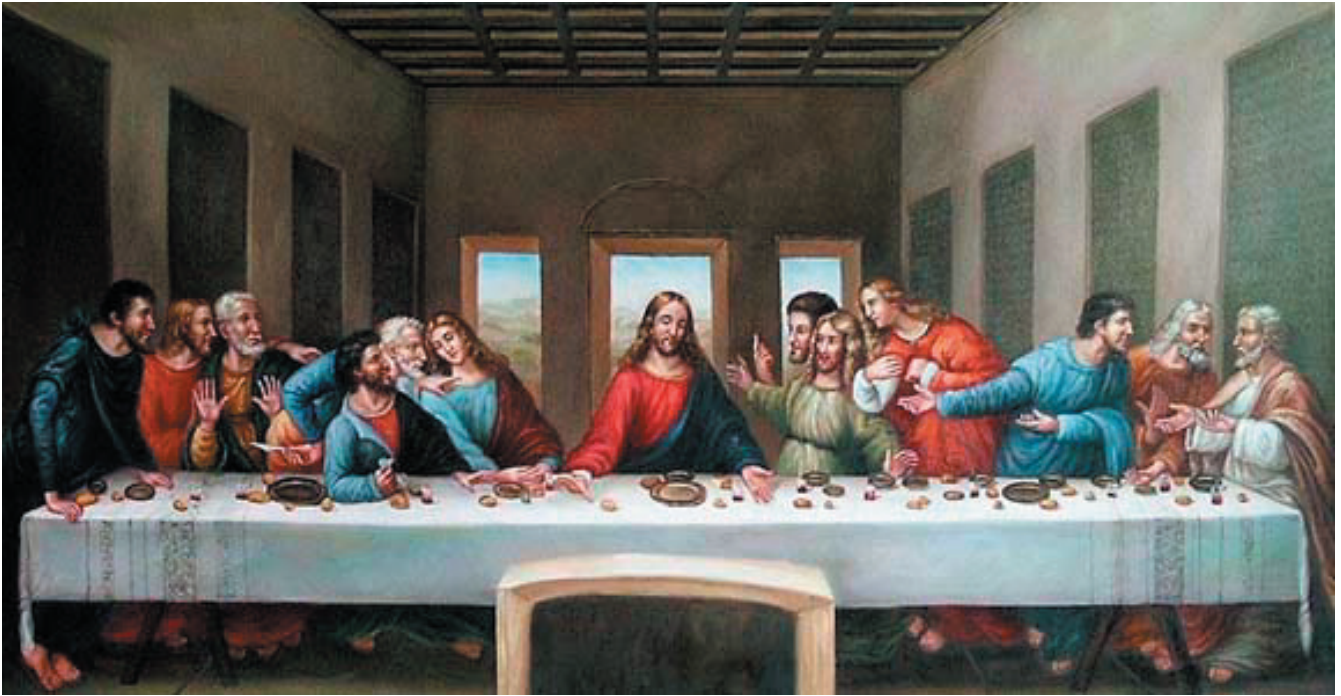
We look forward to gathering at Amy Minella's home as we did last year. After dinner our speaker will be Nancy Gray, who will talk about her journey and how she found a home at Round Hill Community Church.

There will be childcare at Amy's home, so we hope that women who would like to come will bring their children. Invitations will go out early in April and we look forward to seeing you all on Friday, May 1.

— Rhona Johnson, Chair



WORSHIP



Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service **Thursday, April 9** **7:00 p.m.**

We hope you will attend our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on April 9! And we need to hear from you as soon as possible so we may plan responsibly for this special service. Please let us know if you will be attending by email, by calling the Church Office, or by signing the sheet in the Parlor.

The Maundy Thursday service this year will take place on April 9 from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., and it will be based on an early Christian service called Tenebrae (a Latin word meaning “darkness” or “shadows”). After a brief homily by Bob Culp and the observance of the Lord’s Supper, a series of scripture readings will take place, read by members of the church. Such readings chronicle some of the major events of Jesus’ final hours before his crucifixion, and this scriptural narrative conveys something of the poignancy and

deep meaning of Jesus’ self-giving love for us. After each reading, a candle will be extinguished and the room will be darkened gradually until the only candle left lighted will be the Christ Candle, which will be removed briefly for a period of silent reflection within the enveloping darkness. The Christ Candle will be brought back into the darkened room, as a brief reading occurs, a final prayer is offered, and the peace of Christ is exchanged. It is one of the most meaningful of observances during Holy Week, and we hope members and friends will make every effort to attend this spiritual experience.

The service will be followed by a special meal in the Parlor, which will be prepared and served by the men of the church, led by Michael Sandifer. A modest donation of \$15 is suggested.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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throated praise from a full sanctuary accented by bonnets and colorful clothes, and a sermon my father preached that somehow filled my heart with a certain excitement in the face of a wondrous mystery and extraordinary story that gave meaning and hope to all who heard it.

Weems’ poem invites us to be the tellers of such a story ourselves, sharing the amazing good news of love’s triumph over darkness and death, and she suggests that as we tell this tale again and again to those who are a part of our lives, especially those who are tender in their years, we will learn it all over again. And the promise is that in the learning of it, we will begin to experience Easter’s life-changing truths once more.

My hope for you this Easter is that you will be found in the sanctuary of God, drinking in the celebratory sights and sounds, recalling the excitement of childhood days and tender memories, and being inspired by the message and music in such a fashion that you may be moved to tell the Easter story and thereby learn afresh its power and meaning in our time and for your lives . . . and “catch stars” once again.

– Bob Culp

APRIL SERVICES AND SERMONS

- April 5 Palm Sunday
Downward Mobility and Jesus’ Cross,
Bob Culp
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner
A Service of Light and Darkness
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
- April 12 Easter Day
The Fear and Joy of Easter, Bob Culp
- April 19 Guest Preacher – Rev. Lynne Kramer
- April 26 *On Knowing the Shepherd,* Bob Culp

MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

The Spirit of Tango

The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony return to Round Hill Community Church on Sunday, April 19, at 4:00 p.m. This will be a lively afternoon of Argentine music. The regular string players will be joined by the string quartet Cuartetango, plus bandoneonist Hector Del Curto and flutist Susan Rotholz. The concert will include composers Ginastera, Piazzolla, Consentino, Marconi, and others.

In honor of the occasion, the popular Greenwich winebar and restaurant, Barcelona, will contribute tempting “tapas” to the reception. Additionally, concertgoers will sample various wines from Argentina. Tickets are available at the door.

Essential to the tango is the bandoneon. It is considered part of the concertina category of instruments, as compared to the accordion family, though both are free reed instruments. Del Curto is an award-winning soloist and chamber musician, has made numerous recordings, and directed and conducted the Broadway show *Forever Tango*.

Flowers for Sunday Services

Remember a loved one with memorial/commemorative flowers.
To dedicate flowers, please complete this form and return to the Church Office.

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Donation: \$25 __ \$50 __ \$100 __ Other __

Message for Bulletin: _____

Make check payable to RHCC and mail to:
Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Road Greenwich, CT 06831



MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

World Premiere Anthem for 25th Anniversary

Easter Sunday, April 12

Prelude at 9:30 a.m.

The Music Committee has commissioned composer Alex Stein to write an anthem for choir, strings, and trumpet to be performed at the Easter Sunday Service as part of the Church's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Alex Stein (b.1983) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. He received his Master's Degree in composition from the Mannes College of Music, where he studied with David Loeb. He holds a B.A. in music with highest honors from U.C. Santa Cruz, where he studied composition with David Evan Jones and theory with David Cope. In addition, he has studied with Paul Moravec and Jennifer Higdon.

Stein was asked to set to music the E.E. Cummings poem "i am a little church (no great cathedral)." In May 1945 on VE Day, Cummings and his wife, Marion, were driving past a small white New England clapboard church as the pastor led an ongoing convocation as residents from Madison, N.H., and surrounding communities milled in and out to pray and offer thanks. The image so struck Cummings that he stopped the car and got out, standing in the shade of the tree-lined street to observe. Although Cummings had never been a churchgoing type – or much of a fan of organized religion – his writing often showed a deep reverence. Later that evening, he returned to his artist's loft and wrote one of his favorite, and perhaps least known, poems.

When Cummings appeared before more than 10,000 people at the Boston Arts Festival in 1957 – the largest public reading of his career – it was his snapshot of life in New England he chose to recite. For Cummings, "i am a little church" symbolized how something so outwardly ordinary could hold such importance for a community.

– Christopher Kabala

All Beethoven



Sunday, April 26
4:00 p.m.

Mass in C Major, Op. 86
Romance in F Major, Op. 50
Krystof Witek, *Violin*
Christopher Kabala, *Conductor*

Reception to follow
Admission: \$25 adults \$5 students

Round Hill Community Church

The News Letter is edited by Nancy Mazzoli,
Claire McKean, Lawrence Sterne, and Lynda Kinney

The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church
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Greenwich, CT 06831
(203) 869-1091

Bob Culp
Minister
Shannon White
Assistant Minister

Visit our website, roundhillcommunitychurch.org, to view more pictures, read past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

APRIL 2009 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHER JANIS LEWIN "THE RAFTERS OF 1994, LA CRISIS DE LOS BALEROS"			1 7:00 p.m. Living the Questions	2 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Mtg. 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	6 8:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	7	8 Women's Spirit Rising 12 noon	9 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service/Dinner 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10 GOOD FRIDAY Office Closed	11 9:00 a.m. Easter Choir Rehearsal
12 EASTER 9:30 a.m. Special Music Prelude 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children	13	14 7:00 p.m. Meditation with Joel Baehr	15	16 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	17	18 8:30 a.m. Healing Touch Training
19 8:30 a.m. Healing Touch Training 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. RHCC Annual Mtg. 4:00 p.m. GSO Chamber Players	20 Cooking for St. Luke's	21	22 9:00 a.m. Finance Mtg.	23 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	24 Newsletter Deadline	25
26 10:00 a.m. Worship 4:00 p.m. All Beethoven Concert with Orchestra and Choir	27 7:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Classroom	28 2:00 p.m. Fiction Writing Classroom	29	30 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		