

March 2011

## Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

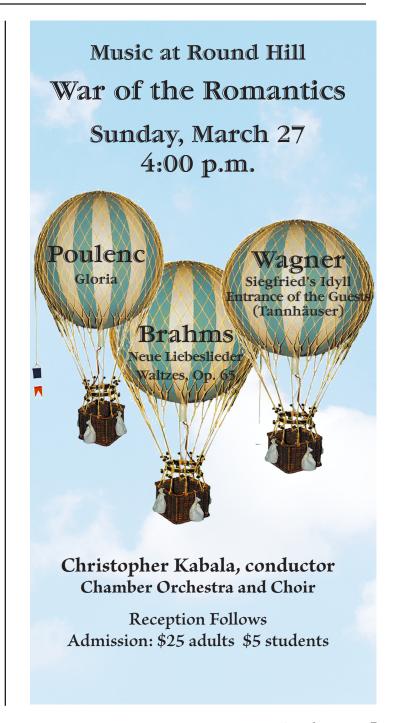


When I was a young boy I remember being fascinated by my Catholic friends' experiences with confession. I found it interesting that they were punished for their wrongdoing by having to recite prayers. "The priest told me to say ten Our Fathers

and five Hail Marys." While it may have sounded like punishment to me and seemed like punishment to them, the idea, of course, was to reorient the mind away from sinful desires and thoughtless actions and toward God.

Lent is a period set aside as a preparation for Easter. The word comes from the Anglo-Saxon "lencten," which refers to the lengthening of days as spring approaches. It began in the fourth century as a time of preparation for baptism for those who desired to become Christians. However, Lent soon developed into a period for all Christians to deepen their understanding of the faith so they could participate more fully in the events of Holy Week and Easter. It became a time for penance and repentance, a time to reorient ourselves toward the divine. That, by the way, was the reason Quakers were the first to call a prison a penitentiary. It was meant to be a place to contemplate one's life and to repent, or turn around.

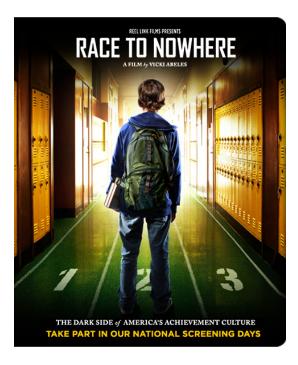
The forty days of Lent (not counting Sundays) extend from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, recalling the period during which Jesus was tempted in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. The temptations that he faced – to seek personal gain through the use of power and to deny his true calling by giving in to selfish desires – are known to us all, and our





## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Acclaimed Film: *Race to Nowhere* Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. RHCC Sanctuary



Race to Nowhere is a call to mobilize families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing, and leading citizens. It has been described as a "must see film" (New York Times) and "an education film that gets it" (Washington Post). This award-winning documentary has received accolades from educators nationwide and has been shown at numerous venues in our area to sell-out crowds.

The documentary was produced by Vicki Abeles, lawyer and mother turned filmmaker. She was driven to produce the film when one of her children experienced stress-induced illness due to pressures at school.

The film has been playing around the country, in churches, schools, and community centers, helping to initiate a conversation among parents, grandparents, and teachers about how to raise well-adjusted children at a time when there is tremendous pressure to succeed in a test-obsessed, advance placement, extracurricular-driven world. It explores the true meaning of success, and happiness, and the fact that

teenagers often struggle in isolation without telling their families.

I saw *Race to Nowhere* at the 92nd Street Y last fall, and was able to participate in a discussion moderated by Ms. Abeles following the film. My children are eleven and twelve, not quite the age of those in the documentary, but I can clearly see the tests, increasing levels of homework, academic and social pressures, and competition for college placement on the horizon . . . and it is scary. The film will give you much to think about, and may have you looking for ways to reprioritize. It's perfect for parents and grandparents of children of all ages. It is a great opportunity to bring friends and family members to see it with you. Following the film, RHCC will host a discussion on the key topics and questions.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, available at http://rtnroundhillcommunity.eventbrite.com, or can be purchased at the door for \$15.

- Clare DeNicola and Shannon White

## Sunday, March 13 Forum 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.



Rabbi Robert Orkand of Temple Israel in Westport, CT, speaks on the Middle East situation. Rabbi Orkand is President of the Association of Reform Zionists of America and is past Chair of the National Commission on Jewish Education for the

Reform Movement. He is co-chair of the Rabbinic Council of the Association of Reform Zionists of America/World Union for Progressive Judaism.

## Lenten Supper and Study Series with Dr. Lee Schlesinger

Join us during the season of Lent for some time of fellowship and study of the book of the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah. During the four Wednesday evening sessions, we welcome back (by popular demand) Dr. Lee Schlesinger, who will be discussing his research on the novel he wrote about this prophet as well as Biblical study of this book.



### CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

## March 16 An Introduction to Prophecy

Potluck Supper 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Study 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

An exploration of Prophecy—its historical context, literary character, and a comparison of the "call" experiences of the four major Biblical prophets – I Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and II Isaiah.

## March 23 An Overview of the Life and (Very) Hard Times of Jeremiah

Potluck Supper 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Study 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Reflections on the unusual detail of biographical material in his book.

#### March 30 Jeremiah's Definitive Poems

Potluck Supper 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Study 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A close look at Jeremiah's "teaching" or "message" through his definitive poems.

## April 6 A Jeremiah "Midrash"

Potluck Supper 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Study 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A discussion of Dr. Schlesinger's novelistic (completed, unpublished) treatment of the story of Jeremiah, with a few selections read and discussed.

Childcare is provided for all Wednesday evenings with a reservation.

Lee Schlesinger received his Ph.D in English from Yale University in 1973, and has taught Literature at Purchase College (SUNY) since 1975. His specialties are American Literature, American poetry, and modern American poetry, but he also teaches "The Bible" and occasionally Shakespeare or classical literature and creative writing. His poems are sparsely published and his novel about the Biblical prophet Jeremiah is searching for a publisher. He is an avid and experienced birder, and has traveled widely and a bit eccentrically. He has spoken to many audiences in many contexts on many subjects in Westchester and nearby Connecticut.

## Concert Preview Discussion with Christopher Kabala March 20, 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.



Christopher Kabala will lead us in a discussion about the music to be performed in the March 27 concert "War of the Romantics" featuring works of Wagner, Poulenc, and Brahms.

## Family Overnight Retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, March 25 - 26



Do you wonder sometimes if you are asking your children the right questions? Join Shannon and Peyton White in this retreat experience that will include discussions, activities, and games with groups of kids and adults together and separately to help you and your children communicate on a deep level.

The Center is located near Brewster, NY. For more information, please call the Church Office at 203-869-1091.

- Rev. Shannon White



### CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

## **Church School**



"A child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lit."

### Communion

Communion will take place on Sunday, March 13. Children who want to be a part of the service will be invited to join their families and will be dismissed early from Church School. Two weeks ago, Rev. Shannon White and Rev. Doug Miller led a special education session for parents and children interested in Communion. If you missed it, please contact Shannon for copies of the Communion Primer that was provided at that session.

## **Bible Sunday**

March 6 will be Bible Sunday. During worship, all children will be presented with Bibles for their own use at home or church. We have recently been using a new youth-oriented Bible that has been very popular with the children and they have been asking to take one home.

### **Church School Lessons for March**

## March 6 Jesus' Healing Ministry

A look at the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus and what that means to us today.

#### March 13 The Good Samaritan

What does it mean to help those in need? We'll take a look at this beloved Bible story and discuss it.

## March 20 The Prodigal Son

Jesus tells this memorable story of love and acceptance. We'll talk about why that matters to each of us, even today.

## March 27 Mary and Martha

One of these women sat and listened to Jesus, the other helped get things ready for their celebration together. Which one did the right thing? We'll talk about these two important women in Jesus' life.

- Clare DeNicola

Check the calendar on our website roundhillcommunitychurch.org for the most current information on events at RHCC. Click on Calendar.
Then click on an event for times and details.

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



## LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY



The impressive paintings of Patricia Gray Redline will be displayed at Les Beaux Arts Gallery during the month of March. Entitled "A Spiritual Journey," the show calls for a meditative experience and the viewer is transported into an ethereal world of mysticism. Redline relinquishes realism to reach an ideal pure emotion. Her paintings are larger than life; they have a cosmic sense, an intense spark, and a spontaneous vitality. She imbues her compositions with highly expressionistic light, creating a unique visionary experience.

The paintings are a small selection from a large body of work. The jewel paintings were inspired by the magnificent churches in Italy. Sky formations were the inspiration behind the pale blue series, and the sudden death of people close to the artist were responsible for the black and white exploration. The artist's technique includes color manipulation, brushes, mops, and sea sponges, pouring paint and scraping the surface. The work grows out of the formalist tradition and deviates where it reflects loose imagery.

Redline reflects on her work saying that "the making of art is a process in which the artist becomes unaware of time and of oneself. The artist is in another world . . . a place of freedom and possibility. This is a spiritual experience for me."

Redline studied painting and drawing at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and holds an MFA from Tufts University. She is an art professor and lecturer. She was artist in residence at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania and at Sussex County Community College in Newton, New Jersey. She has exhibited widely in universities and private galleries. She has received many honors, including the Who's Who among America's Teachers in 2004.

- Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



### MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

## Jazzy Bach Sunday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.

On the last Sunday before Lent, percussionist Larry Spivak will play cool Marimba transcriptions of the Bach Violin Concerto in A minor, as well as the Air from the D major Orchestral Suite and the Chorale Prelude Wachet auf during the 10:00 a.m. service.



He will also join the choir in presenting the catchy Swingle Singers arrangement of the Bach E Major Bourrée. Larry Spivak is a well-known Broadway conductor and composer. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he is principal percussionist for the Greenwich Symphony.

Purist Bach Sunday, March 13, 10:00 a.m.





The first Sunday in Lent will have a much more serious tone. Oboist Gerard Reuter will play from the Bach oboe sonatas during the Prelude and Postlude and join Soprano Risa Renae Harman in Bach's haunting aria from Cantata 21 "Seufer, Tranen, Kummer Not."

Gerard Reuter has enjoyed a varied and distinguished career as chamber musician and soloist, touring the United States, Europe, India, and Africa. He is a founding member of An Die Musik, of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and of Chelsea Chamber Ensemble, as well as being a member of the Dorian Wind Quintet.

### **Lenten Verdi Series**



The dramatic music of Giuseppe Verdi will be presented on four Sundays during Lent at the 10:00 a.m. service. Three Sundays will be devoted to his Requiem.

When in 1873 the Italian poet, novelist, and national hero Alessandro Manzoni died, Verdi, a

lifelong admirer, was deeply affected and decided to write a Requiem in his memory. Though it is Verdi's only large-scale work not intended for the stage, the Requiem is unashamedly theatrical in style, with passages of great tenderness and simplicity contrasting with intensely dramatic sections. Writing at the time, the eminent conductor and pianist Hans von Bülow aptly described it as "Verdi's latest opera, in church vestments."

## Sunday, March 13



Tenor Darren Anderson will sing "Ingemisco" (Requiem). He is currently singing lead tenor roles throughout the United States and Canada. As a leading tenor, he has appeared in the title roles of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and *Roméo et Juliette*, as Arrigo in Verdi's *I Vespri* 

Siciliani with Opera in Concert in Toronto, and Ferrando in Così fan tutte.

## Sunday, March 20

The prayerful Ave Maria from Verdi's opera *Otello* will be sung by soprano Jenna Hintz.

## Sunday, April 10

The RHCC Solo Quartet will sing a portion of Domine Jesu (Requiem).

## Palm Sunday, April 17

The choir and soloists will sing the dramatic Requiem Kyrie from the Requiem.

### MUSIC AT ROUND HILL

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## War of the Romantics Sunday, March 27 4:00 p.m.

The War of the Romantics is a term used by music historians to describe the aesthetic schism among prominent musicians in the second half of the 19th century. Musical structure, the limits of chromatic harmony, and program music versus absolute music were the principal areas of contention. The conservative circle, based in Berlin and Leipzig, centered around Johannes Brahms and Clara Schumann and the Leipzig Conservatoire, which had been founded by Felix Mendelssohn. Their opponents, the radical progressives in Weimar, were represented by Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner.

The "war" was carried out through compositions, words, and even with scenes such as staged catcalls at a concert to show dislike of the musical program or conductor. Musicians on one side saw the dispute as pitting Brahms's effective and economical sonata and classical forms against some of Liszt's works that appeared, in comparison, almost formless. Those others saw, on the Lisztian side, musical form best fitting musical content, pitted against works reusing old forms without any feeling for their growth and reason. Wagner poked fun at the conservative side in his essay "On Conducting," when he portrayed them as "a musical temperance society" awaiting a Messiah.

Composers from both sides looked back on Beethoven as their spiritual and artistic hero; the conservatives seeing him as an unsurpassable peak, the progressives as a new beginning in music. The French composer Francis Poulenc was a member of the group Les Six, six rebellious composers centered around Erik Satie, who disdained both conservative and radical forms of German romanticism as well as French impressionists. If you fear classical religious music as long, grim, and boring, don't worry – Poulenc charges constantly ahead through a dense but joyous kaleidoscopic journey. The fourth movement of his Gloris, lasting barely a minute, is woven from no fewer than a half dozen evanescent melodies. Like a well-structured pop song, it's over so fast you

just want to hear it again. There's nothing intense or prolonged here – in deference to modern attention spans, Poulenc effortlessly careens among moods of elation, wonder, and contentment.



A chamber orchestra will join the RHCC choir along with Eleni Calenos, soprano, as Risa Renae Harman will be away. In her young career, Greek soprano Eleni Calenos is capturing critics' and audiences' admiration for the clarity, warmth and beauty of her lyric

voice, and her dignified characterizations. Of her role as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with the Martina Arroyo Foundation, the *New York Times* said, "Eleni Calenos sang with a strong, clear soprano and was persuasive as a suffering yet haughty Donna Elvira."

- Christopher Kabala

## Chamber Players of the GSO at RHCC

Sunday, March 6, 4:00 p.m.

Haydn, String Quartet in F, Op. 74, No. 2

Mozart, Viola Quintet No. 4 in G minor, K. 516

Brahms, String Sextet No. 2 in G, Op. 36

Vincent Lionti, violist, and David Heiss, cellist, will be guest artists. Both are members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$5 for students (cash or check, please). The audience is invited to meet the musicians at a complimentary wine and cheese reception after the concert.

## Sunday, April 3, 4:00 p.m.

Saint-Saëns, Piano Quintet in A, Op.14 Janácek, String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters" Schumann, Piano Quintet in E-flat, Op. 44



### BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

Round Hill Community Church made a commitment to return one third of the income from the land lease revenues to the wider community in the form of grants to human services agencies in Greenwich. The first major grant was to the Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG) and went toward the purchase of a van, christened "Roundabout."



This year Benevolence and Outreach gave a grant to the Youth Services bureau here in town. The \$10,000 grant was to be used to support various programs. The Youth Services bureau is an outgrowth of the 2002 United Way Assessment of Human Service Needs for Greenwich, which indicated that the needs of young people were increasing both in quantity and complexity in spite of the fact that Greenwich has some of the finest community services. Further study made it apparent that high-quality youth services have limited effectiveness if they are not provided in a systematic and user-friendly way. To address this issue, the United Way proposed that the town create a Youth Services bureau.

The town and the United Way agreed to work together on creating this focal point for youth services. In a unique partnership the town, the state, and the United Way have hired a Youth Services Coordinator, Jenny Byxbee, who has been very successful in coordinating programs and creating collaborations between multiple organizations.

Some examples of the programs and services:

#### **Juvenile Review Board**

This is a three-year-old initiative and was created to offer a second chance to young people who make an unfortunate choice and end up arrested for a juvenile misdemeanor first-time offense. With the court's permission, the youth meets with the Board, agrees on a plan to make restitution, and receives whatever other type of assistance and/or services are indicated. Upon successful completion of the plan, all records of the arrest are expunged. To date, 34 Greenwich young people have been through the program with 98% successfully completing their plans.

The RHCC grant in part helped more fully provide for the case management needs of those who go through the Juvenile Review Board. There are times when a specific service or activity may be deemed particularly helpful to a young person and his or her family. The funds we have provided this year help to ensure that this type of help is provided for families who lack resources and do not receive free or subsidized services.

### **Empowering Parents**

For the past three years, Greenwich has offered parents an opportunity to participate in free training programs: Parent Leadership Training Institute, Parents Empowering Parents, and Seeking Educational Excellence. These programs essentially teach parents how to become appropriately engaged in community service and specifically how to become effective partners and advocates for their children's education. To date nearly 100 parents who represent populations that tend not to be very involved members of the community have completed the programs, with several of them now serving as trainers for other parents. One graduate has been elected to the Greenwich Board of Education!

The RHCC grant expanded the reach of the parent empowerment programs. Uncertainty about funding has been an annual problem, resulting in last-minute planning and limitations on the number of parents being served. The additional funding RHCC provided



### BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

ensured that all parents who requested to be part of the program could take part. It also helped cover program-related costs, including food, childcare, and material costs.

## **Reading Champions**

A volunteer-driven reading program was created two years ago to provide one-on-one reading assistance to 24 children thanks to seven trained tutors – just in one school. Now the program is being offered in seven schools and at three after-school centers, where 81 trained volunteers are working with 300 children. The success rate has been outstanding, with schools reporting that most children who participated last year no longer need extra help with reading skills.

The additional funding helped to provide some badly needed administrative support so that the leaders of the programs could broaden their vision and focus on maximizing its impact in the community. It also covered some material costs for the program as it expanded to serve over 300 children.

Helen and Hooker O'Malley, Nancy and Steve Fuzesi, Hadi Hajjar, Keri Ann Hofer, Louise Hoffman, Sandy Motland, Jenny Rye, Joan Warburg, Ron Wilson



Please remember to bring non-perishable food in to share with our many neighbors here in Greenwich who need help with food. Cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit, and dried beans are always needed. Medium sized cans work best. Leave them in the wagon in the Narthex. Many, many thanks!

### WOMEN'S SPIRIT RISING FEBRUARY GATHERING





## Flowers for Easter Sunday, April 24



Remember a loved one with commemorative flowers on Easter Sunday. To dedicate flowers, please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by Friday, April 15.

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



### PASTORAL MESSAGE

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collective responses to these temptations create the world we read about in the morning paper. Jesus' response to the tempter's challenge was to remember who he was and how he was related to God. He quoted the Hebrew scriptures, and during his trials "angels came and attended to him."

Lent is a time for Christians to intentionally deepen their spiritual lives by practicing disciplines that may have weakened or lapsed entirely over the course of the year. Many people use daily devotionals during Lent, and this year we are mailing a Lenten devotional to all of our members. Also included in the mailing will be a brochure listing all the events at the Church during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter Sunday, including a Lenten adult education series, a special Maundy Thursday dinner and worship, and the Lenten Sunday worship services. All of these offerings and other spiritual practices (service projects, daily prayer and meditation, and so forth) serve the same purpose as my young Catholic friends' recitation of familiar prayers, i.e., to place the attention on something outside ourselves. Paradoxically, it is by attending to that which is outside of us that we strengthen that which is within us.

- Douglas Miller

### **Lenten Prayer**

O God, whose love is like the light of the sun that gently warms the cold, hard earth, during this Lenten season we seek to open ourselves to you and see ourselves as we truly are. We know we are people whose values are confused, people who strive for things that are of little lasting value, people who have wandered off the path that leads to joy, discernment, and service. Teach us during these days the lessons of trust and the comfort of faith. Deepen our disciplines of prayer and meditation and open us to your Spirit of reconciliation and peace, for we ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

## Ash Wednesday Service and Dinner March 9, Meeting Room

We will be observing our traditional Ash Wednesday Service and Dinner on Wednesday, March 9, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

Following the service, we will adjourn to the Parlor where we will enjoy a simple but gracious meal provided by the Women's Spirit Rising group. We hope our members and friends will attend this special service and that our time together will provide a wondrous occasion to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, to enjoy one another's company as fellow pilgrims along the way, and to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Lenten journey this year.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the Parlor or contact the office so that we can provide sufficient seating for the dinner.

## ROUND HILL CRAFT STUDIO

The dedicated group of artisans in the Round Hill Craft Studio are looking for committed volunteers who would like to join a fun-loving group, learn new craft techniques, and help create beautiful items to sell at Christmas on Round Hill. The group meets every Wednesday afternoon, and they'd love to have you join them! For more information, call the Office at 203-869-1091.



Molly Cook, Alice O'Gorman, Janet Lockton, Jan Ziemba, Robin Browning, Marilyn Kinney

The News Letter
Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Road
Greenwich, CT 06831
(203) 869-1091

# 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.

MARCH 2011 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE		1	RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	4	9 a.m. Eating as a Spiritual Practice	
6 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 4 p.m. Chamber Players Concert	Ziluca Memorial Service, 1 p.m.  Board of Trustees Meeting 8 p.m.	Race to Nowhere, Film and discussion 6:30 p.m.	RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service/Supper, 7 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	11	12	
Worship, Communion. and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:20 Forum with Rabbi Orkand	14	15	16 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study series, 6:30-8 p.m. Benevolence Mtg. 8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	18	19	
Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:20, Music Forum with Christopher Kabala	21	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study series, 6:30-8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	25 Family Overnight Retreat	26 Family Overnight Retreat	
Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 4 p.m. Concert: War of the Romantics	Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	29	30 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study series, 6:30-8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	SPIRITUAI	ARTS GALLERY: L PAINTINGS GRAY REDLINE	