



Round Hill  
Community Church

## *The News Letter*

May 2011

### *Catching the Spirit of Round Hill*

#### PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Rabbi Robert Orkand of Temple Israel in Westport is preaching at Round Hill on Mother's Day, May 8. He is a good friend of mine. On Fridays for the past 22 years I have had lunch with Bob, a Unitarian minister, and another UCC minister. It is my weekly

therapy session, and more. As you might imagine, a lot has happened in our lives during that time . . . deaths of parents and friends, divorce and remarriage, professional challenges, children growing up and moving away, illness, the birth of grandchildren. One of my greatest blessings is to have these men as close friends and confidants. They have been there for me when I needed someone to listen, simply listen. At other times they have offered advice or encouragement when that was just what I needed.

Many years ago, when my son was about to go off to college, I mentioned that Jackie and I were lamenting the fact that there were only a few weeks remaining before his departure. All three of my colleagues understood how I felt for they, too, had had similar experiences with their sons. The Unitarian minister sent me the following poem after one of our Friday meetings. It's by Dorothy Parker, entitled *A Lovely Leave*. It speaks about a young woman spending precious time with her soldier on a day's pass during World War II:

Twenty-four hours with him.  
After all, that is no short while you know,

that is, if you do not think of it as a  
thin little row of hours  
dropping off like beads from a broken string.  
She was so filled with the desperate consciousness  
of the hours sliding away –

Only twelve more

Only five more

O dear God, only one left –  
that she had no room for gaiety and ease.  
She had spent the golden time in grudging its going.

To appreciate time together with a child who is about to go off on his or her own for the first time, to give it the attention it deserves and to enjoy it without a desperate sense of clinging to something that inevitably and naturally must pass, is no easy task. We want our love to be supportive, not smothering. We want to savor every moment with trying to save them so we can let our children go into a new world, a new life, with joy. And what is true for our children is also true for our parents, and close friends who are moving away; or for life in general. The spiritual disciplines that have been practiced by men and women of faith from the beginning are designed, in part, to help us live life as it is given to us, one moment at a time, and perhaps with the help of poets, appreciate what one of the church fathers meant when he said: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive."

– Douglas Miller



## CHURCH SCHOOL

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*“A child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lit.”*

During this month we will look at life in the early church. What did those first followers of Jesus deal with and how can we learn from them? What challenges do faithful followers encounter today?

We will have our next Family Service on June 12, which is Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. That’s when the Holy Spirit came to empower people of every age, culture, and race. It’s the perfect Sunday to have an intergenerational service showing the power of the Holy Spirit among us here at RHCC!

### **May 1: The Road to Emmaus**

Jesus appeared to his disciples in very human ways. In what ways do we feel God’s presence among us today? Randi Mason will lead this session.

### **May 8: The Holy Spirit**

We’ll begin preparations for our family service on June 12 by talking about the power of the Holy Spirit among us as a church community. Shannon White will lead this session.

### **May 15: Confirmation Sunday**

Children grades three and up will be invited to stay in worship as our confirmands officially join the Church. Children in second grade and younger will have a lesson about the early church believers.

### **May 22: Family Service Preparation and Pool Party**

We will engage in a continuing discussion of life in the Church. Shannon White will lead this session. Then, Church School families are invited to a pool party at the home of Nancy Gray and Thomas Lynch, located at 201 West Old Mill Road. If you plan to attend, please bring your favorite salad or dessert, and don’t forget your swimsuit!

### **May 29: Lydia**

Lydia was a faithful member of the early church. Why was her story included in the scriptures?

### **June 5: Final Preparation for Family Service**

This will be our last Sunday together before the Family Service. Then, join us for fun, games, and great food right after worship at the **Church Picnic**.

### **June 12: Family Intergenerational Service**

Children of all ages are welcome. In addition, Communion will be served during the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Shannon.



## THE CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Five and a half years ago, our congregation formed the Center for Faith Development at Round Hill Community Church as a result of the desires expressed through our long-range planning process. The mandate was to continue the spiritually rich and engaging adult educational program at RHCC.

Wilma Jordan Green and Brook Calkin led the committee for several years, and then Wilma continued on for several more. They worked diligently with our strong group of volunteer members to ensure that the adult educational offerings here at the Church are varied, theologically diverse, and sound, as well as interesting and relevant.

Past events have included Bible Study series with scholars Susan DeGeorge, Fleming Rutledge, and our own pastors Ralph Ahlberg and Douglas Miller; Living the Questions series; meditation with Joel Baehr; local interfaith trips, including a visit to a Sufi Mosque; Sunday morning forums on topics as diverse as animal ethics, holistic health and healing, literature and spirituality, and parenting issues; movie nights; music forums; retreats; and a marriage enrichment series.

As we look to the next year, it is time to pass the baton to another leader. Michael Sandifer has agreed to take the helm. As that transition happens, let us give a huge thank-you to Wilma and to Brook for having served with such passion and dedication over the years.

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**If you have any suggestions for programs, speakers, or studies you would like to see here, please let one of the committee members know as soon as possible.**

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The Center Committee will meet on May 15 to begin discussions for the 2011-2012 program year. We want to bring programs that will continue to promote spiritual growth and theological inquiry and that will spur people to action, so we need your input!

If you have any suggestions for programs, speakers, or studies you would like to see here, please let one of the committee members know as soon as possible.

Don't forget – our final Sunday forum for the year is on June 12. We have rescheduled Dot Maver, President of the National Peace Academy, since weather prevented her from coming last winter.

Blessings to all,

Shannon White

Committee Members: Michael Sandifer, Chair,  
Wilma Jordan Green, Brook Calkin, Lyn Harmon,  
Grada Herrick, Xenia Hodza, Anita Keire,  
Harold Kuplesky, Charles Lee, Sandy Motland

**Sunday, May 8**

**Guest Preacher Rabbi Robert Orkand**  
**“Is Being a Mother a Laughing Matter?”**

**10:00 a.m.**



Rabbi Robert Orkand of Temple Israel in Westport, Connecticut, will be back with us to preach on May 8. Rabbi Orkand led a discussion of the situation in the Middle East at a forum on March 13. He is the President of the Association of Reform Zionists of America and a past Chair of the National Commission on Jewish Education for the Reform Movement, and also co-chair of the Rabbinic Council of the Association of Reform Zionists of America/World Union for Progressive Judaism.



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## BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

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Neighbor to Neighbor is in urgent need of:

**Cereal**

**Canned Fruit**

**Pasta**

**Peanut Butter (regular size jar)**

**Jelly**

Please reach out to help others in the Greenwich community. You can drop items off in the boxes located in the RHCC Narthex, or deliver them to Neighbor to Neighbor in the Christ Church Annex at 248 East Putnam Avenue. Many, many thanks!



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## LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

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### Liana Moonie: “For the Love of Nature”



To celebrate the coming of spring, nothing is more engaging than the next exhibit at Les Beaux Arts Gallery opening on Sunday, May 15, and running through June 28. Liana Moonie will show a selection of her abstract paintings, which are inspired by her great love of nature.

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**“In expressing my impressions in abstract form I am consciously freeing form and color from nature to focus on the essential order of things as I see and feel them.”**

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As an artist, Moonie prefers to express herself in abstract forms, yet her compositions are organic and her colors harmonious. She talks about her work in these terms: “My paintings spring from a love and appreciation of nature, filtered through a meld of ever-changing life experiences. When I look at one of the wondrous natural scenes which surround us, I

feel the need to portray the emotional impact of the scene more than the objects themselves. In expressing my impressions in abstract form I am consciously freeing form and color from nature to focus on the essential order of things as I see and feel them.”

Moonie was born in Trieste, Italy. She emigrated to the United States in 1947, where she studied art with Robert Brackman, Edgar Whitney, and other prominent artists. She has exhibited in twenty solo shows and numerous juried and invitational exhibits including the National Academy of Design in New York City. Her paintings are in many private collections, including PepsiCo, Coral Spring Museum of Art in Florida, Greenberg, New York Public Library, and others. She has won many prizes and awards and is a member and past president of the National Association of Women Artists. She is listed in the Who’s Who in American Art and is represented in the Library of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator





## WORSHIP

### The Road to Easter Sunday

In various meaningful ways, our ministers and lay leaders thoughtfully guided us through this year's "40 days of wandering" during Lent in preparation for the miracle of Easter Sunday.



*The Ash Wednesday service in the Meeting Room*

#### Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent)

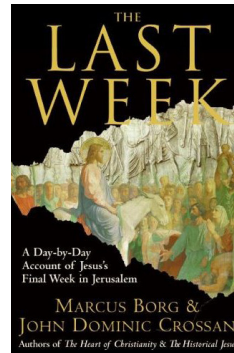
Doug and Shannon led us in a repentant, introspective service in the Meeting Room, reconfigured for the occasion as an intimate chapel. As in the past, the Women's Spirit Rising group provided a simple, quiet meal afterward, with purple flowers and linens setting the mood with the Lenten color of royalty.

#### Four Wednesday Evenings (during Lent)

Lee Schlesinger, Purchase College Professor of Bible and Poetry courses, brought us into the raw and challenging world of the prophet Jeremiah. We revisited the unique and dramatic "call" experience of Jeremiah (as well as those of other major prophets, Isaiah and Ezekiel), and Dr. Schlesinger shared with us his own very dramatic and poetic translations from the Book of Jeremiah. These gatherings included eclectic and fun pot luck "meals" consisting of whatever attendees decided to bring.

### Reading and Discussion of *The Last Week*

by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan



Many of us in the congregation read and attended one of two discussions, led by Shannon White, of *The Last Week*, written by Biblical scholars, Drs. Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. This book was a thought-provoking, detailed account and analysis, day by day (and at some points, hour by hour) of Jesus' ministry from Palm Sunday (when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey opposite the annual military, imperial procession coming from the other side of the city) through Easter Sunday. If you didn't read the book but plan to, be sure to ask the office for Shannon's very helpful outline of the main points of the book.

#### Maundy Thursday (during Easter Week)

This year's Maundy Thursday service was newly conceived and extraordinarily interesting. It was less a celebratory Passover Seder than a contemplative, increasingly dark experience of the evening of the Last Supper. The meal itself was literally soup (made by Doug Miller), bread, and water. The eighth grade confirmands each read, in turn, the Biblical texts describing the events of that night, after which each doused a candle until we were in relative darkness. Our choir soloists provided contemplative, stunning music. Doug and Shannon provided intimate context, communion, and prayer. We were asked to imagine the people closest to us warmly supping with us, then suddenly abandoning us in our last moments in this life.

Several of those people who attended this year's Maundy Thursday service contacted the ministers or worship committee afterward to express how deeply they had been moved by the experience.



## WORSHIP

### Easter Sunday

Wow! What an astonishing Easter service. From the gorgeous, flower-filled sanctuary to the angelic music and heart-felt sermons, it was an experience to remember.



In addition to the always glorious gifts of the choir and soloists, there were three beautiful violins, two flutes, one viola, one cello, a bass, and . . . the cembalo (i.e., harpsichord) played masterfully by our organist and music director, Christopher Kabala.

And finally, after our 40 days of variously wandering, we are left with a new and even deeper appreciation for the meaning of Easter lilies and the comforting words of the scriptures, “Woman, why are you weeping?” . . . “He is risen, indeed!”

– The Worship Committee

**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.**

## CHURCH PICNIC



### Sunday, June 5

**11:00 a.m.**

Following the church service on June 5 we will have our annual Church Picnic. Please plan to attend. As usual, there will be a delicious assortment of foods for all, and fun-filled activities for the children.

Donations of non-mayonnaise salads will be appreciated; there will be sign-up sheets in the Church Parlor. Thank you.

– Ron Wilson  
Co-chair, Activities Committee

*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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Visit our website, [roundhillcommunitychurch.org](http://roundhillcommunitychurch.org), to view more pictures, read past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

MAY 2011 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	2	3	4 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	5 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	6 Women's Gathering Dinner 6:30 p.m.	7
8 Mother's Day Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Rabbi Robert Orkand preaching	9 Board of Trustees Meeting 8 p.m.	10	11 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m. Benevolence Mtg. 8 p.m.	12 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	13	14 Confirmation Retreat and Dinner
15 Confirmation Sunday Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	16	17	18 Staff Calendar Planning, 1 p.m. RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	19 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	20	21
22 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching 11:15 a.m., Church School Pool Party	23 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> Cooking for St. Luke's, 3 p.m.	24	25 RH Craft Studio 2:00-4:30 p.m.	26 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	27	28
29 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Doug Miller preaching	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31	<b>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</b> <b>LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: "FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE" ABSTRACT PAINTINGS BY LIANA MOONIE</b>			