

Round Hill  
Community Church

## *The News Letter*

October 2010

### *Catching the Spirit of Round Hill*

#### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

There is a new book by Nicholas Carr entitled *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*. It is both fascinating and disturbing. Carr believes that the Internet is a medium based on interruption – and it is changing the way people read and process information. He started the research for the book after he noticed a change in his own ability to concentrate. His research was aided by the recent technological advances that allow scientists to watch the brain at work through imaging the neural pathways as a subject goes about ordinary tasks. What neuroscientists and psychologists have discovered is that the brain is very malleable, even in adults. Carr notes that “the brain adapts at the cellular level to whatever we happen to be doing. And so the more time we spend surfing the Net, skimming articles and scanning websites, the more adept we become at that mode of thinking.” And this happens at the expense of reflective, considered thinking, what Carr calls “deep thinking.” We have come to associate the acquisition of wisdom with deep reading and solitary concentration, and there’s not much of that to be found online. Carr says that research shows that as people get better at multitasking, they “become less creative in their thinking.”

This is very much a spiritual matter. Diana Eck, the Christian theologian and Harvard professor of comparative religion, in her book *Encountering God*, makes this astounding claim: “Just being awake, alert, attentive is no easy matter. I think it is the greatest spiritual challenge we face. Finally, I think, it is the only one.” Eck speaks out of a depth of personal experience with Christian practices as well as spiritual practices of other religions. Her experience has shown that we encounter God most personally not

*continued on page 6*

## *Harvest Supper*

*Wednesday, October 27*

*6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*



Neighbors in the Round Hill area have been gathering at the Community House since the 1920s for this celebration of the harvest. The tradition continues today as a testament to the importance of a community giving thanks with good food and good friends.

Join us for a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings. We appreciate your contribution of a dessert for everyone to enjoy. The dinner is open to all members of the local community as well as RHCC.

**\$35 adults \$15 children**

**For information and reservations  
call 203-869-1091**

---

*We don't have a Soul. We are Souls that  
happen to have a body. – C.S. Lewis*

---



## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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



We're back in full swing with our fall programs. There is lots of great energy as we welcome back familiar faces and new ones as well! But hold on tight, because we've got lots in store at the Church School this year.

Our Rally Day picnic was filled with community building games, and we even managed to get some of the adults playing Bingo!



### **Samuel: The Boy Who Listened to God** **September 19, October 3, 10**

Our first lesson unit is focused on the life of the Prophet Samuel. Samuel's mother, Hannah, waited a long time to have a child and when her prayer was answered, she fulfilled her promise to dedicate him to God. Samuel was called by God, literally, in the night and Samuel answered, **"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."** (1 Samuel 3:10 is this month's memory verse.) Thus began his ministry from childhood through adulthood.

In this lesson series, we learn that God calls each of us by name; we learn what our names mean; and in this month we'll look at different ways people of all ages have been called by God and learn about what it takes to listen to the "still small voice" or the booming thunderous voice of God.

### **What Is Worship? Belonging before Believing** **October 17, 24, 31**

What *is* worship? Why do we gather every week as people of faith to learn about God? And what is worship at Round Hill Community Church like? In this three-week unit, we'll learn or review the Lord's Prayer, look at the elements of worship and participate in some of our own, and explore the importance of worship as a community. We'll also prepare for leading the Children's Sabbath worship service in the Sanctuary on November 7. Our memory verse: **"Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing."** (Psalm 100:2)

We're looking forward to a wonderful year of growing together!  
Be well.

– Shannon White  
and the Church School Parents' Committee



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



---

## NEW MEMBERS

---



**Sharon Sun**

Sharon comes from Beijing and has been in Greenwich for twelve years. The women's book club enjoyed hearing about her life under Mao. She works in the credit department at Semptra in Stamford. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis and visiting museums. She volunteers at the Flinn gallery in the Greenwich Library.



**Kristina and Alf Aanonsen  
and Jaden**

Kristina and Alf Aanonsen have joined our church to embrace their faith in God and to share the joy of life. Alf is president of Ocean Frontier Chartering, Inc., and Kristina owns Brown Saddle Films. Jaden is in third grade at Parkway School. Their family enjoys nature, water life, and animals.

---

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

---





## CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

October is a full month at the Center. We have opportunities both weekdays and weekends for you to deepen your faith.

**Sunday, October 3**

**Forum: "Animals, Religion and Ethics"**

**11:20, Sanctuary**



We welcome Dr. Paul Waldeau back to RHCC for the second year to discuss animal ethics. Dr. Waldeau is president of the Religion and Animals Institute and former director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University School of Medicine and teaches animal ethics at Harvard Law School.

**Wednesday, October 6, 13, 20**

**Evening Supper and Bible Study**

**Rev. Douglas Miller**

**6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room**



We will gather for a light supper at 6:30 p.m. and then study from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Come and get to know our new Interim Minister as he leads us into an exploration of the scriptures.

**Sunday, October 10, 24, November 14**

**Sunday Bible Study**

**Rev. Susan DeGeorge**

**11:20, Meeting Room**



Back by popular demand, Rev. Susan DeGeorge will lead us in a study of the book of Psalms.

**Tuesday, October 19**

**"Adventures on the Indian Subcontinent"**

**Christopher Kabala**

**7:30 p.m., Meeting Room**



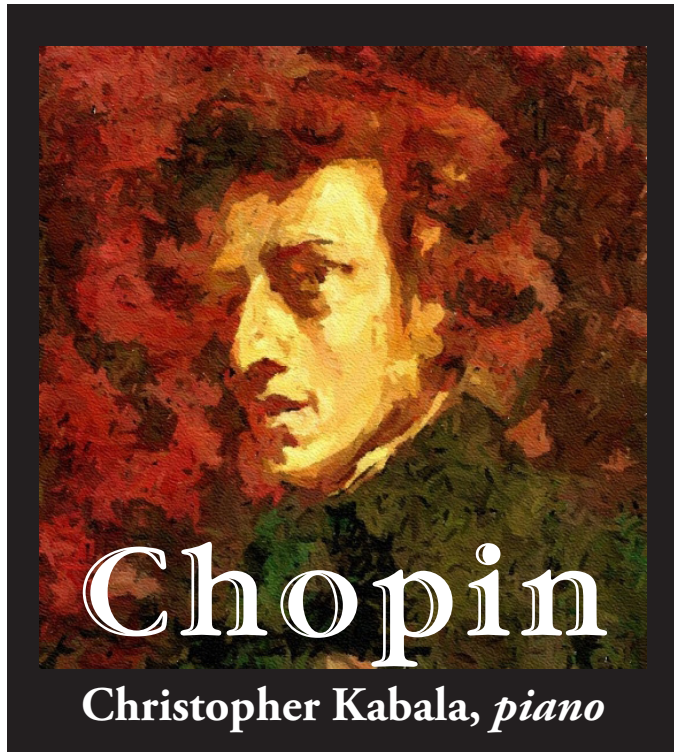
Come follow Christopher Kabala's travels to Everest Base Camp, skiing in Kashmir, and an audience with the Lali Baba. This event is being sponsored by The Men's Group and there will be a wine and cheese reception. All are welcome at what promises to be a highly entertaining and educational evening with Chris.



The Round Hill Association invites you to a special two-part meeting in our Parlor, on Wednesday, October 20. Beginning at 5:00 p.m., there will be wine and cheese followed by a Red Cross presentation on how to prepare for the next storm. At 6:30 p.m., First Selectman Peter Tesei will lead a dialogue discussing traffic, noise, crime, litter, and the quality of daily life in the Round Hill area.



## MUSIC ON ROUND HILL



**Friday, November 5**

**8:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

**Reception in the Parlor following the recital**

In this piano concert Christopher Kabala celebrates and explores the music of Frédéric Chopin, honoring the 200th anniversary of his birth in Poland.

The great majority of Chopin's compositions were written for the piano as solo instrument. They are technically demanding and emphasize nuance and expressive depth. Chopin invented musical forms such as the instrumental ballade and made major innovations to the piano sonata, mazurka, waltz, nocturne, polonaise, impromptu, and prelude.

In designing the concert's program, Kabala set out to explore both musical themes and challenges. Chopin's Ballade No. 4 in F Minor is the first piece he will perform. Chopin developed his four ballades from the form of medieval love songs. Although Chopin's compositions never had thematic titles, they were often inspired by emotional and sensual experiences in his own life. He wanted the listener to be free to paint their own pictures. Chopin was one of the great masters of Romantic music, which, even though highly structured, allows for greater expression of emotion.

The fourth ballade, written in 1842, is considered the greatest of the four and generally the epitome of Romantic music. The ballade captures a whole range of musical ideas and human expressions with just the piano and presents many challenges for the pianist.

The next piece on the program is Variation in F Minor by Franz Josef Haydn composed in 1842. Here Haydn takes as one of his themes a modified version of a phrase from the final aria "Perduto un'altra volta," the aria in which the inconsolable Orpheus, having lost his Eurydice, yearns for death. The piece evolves around a set of variations on themes alternating between Orpheus's theme in F Minor and a consoling theme in F Major. The piece builds to a heartrending coda that eventually collapses into a quiet leave-taking at the end.

The next piece is Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B Minor. Composed in 1844, this is his last sonata for solo piano. The four movements are painted in subtle shades and are full of counterpoint. It carefully balances classicism and romanticism.

Following an intermission the concert continues with Scarlatti's Sonata K 380 in E Major. Chopin wrote, Scarlatti's "music contains finger-exercises aplenty and more than a touch of the most elevated spirituality." This sonata opens with a start-and-stop playfulness that builds to a festive dance theme.

Two etudes by Chopin follow: Etude No. 3 in E Major Op.10 and Etude No. 8 in F Major Op.10. These pieces, published in 1833, are the first conclusive evidence of the depth of Chopin's creative talent. The "exercises" are as much for a pianist's ears as hands.

There was a close connection between Robert Schumann and Chopin both personally and musically. Schumann's Impromptu No. 3 in F Sharp Major follows the etudes on the program and provides a tonal transition to Chopin's Etude in G Flat Major No. 5 Op. 10. Following this will be Franz Liszt's song transcription of Schumann's Widmung.

The program concludes with Chopin's Polonaise in A Flat Major Op. 53 (Heroique). This is one of Chopin's most famous pieces and requires exceptional pianistic skills. It has been said that Chopin composed the piece with a free and powerful Poland in mind.



---

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

---

*continued from page 1*

as an idea in mind but as an experience in life, in the lived moment . . . now. In order to do that, we have to be in the moment, awake, alert, and attentive.

So what are we to do? Stop using the Internet? That's not going to happen. Computers and the Internet have become integral parts of our lives. I'm using a computer to write this article. Ten minutes ago I checked my email and sent off a few notes to friends. Computers and the Internet save time for other things. And that is the key, I think . . . the time for other things. Deep thinking, reflective thinking, takes time and effort, it takes practice. The reality – especially for young people – is that online time is “crowding out” the time that might otherwise be spent in prolonged, focused concentration. “We’re seeing this medium, the medium of the Web, in effect replace the time that we used to spend in different modes of thinking,” Carr says.

What we can do, however, is intentionally spend time each day practicing other modes of thinking, strengthening the neural pathways that allow us to be fully present, fully awake, fully attentive. The spiritual practice that is most helpful in this is meditation. It leads to what has been called “mindfulness,” receiving life as it is given, one moment at a time, attentive to what is going on around and within us. It is called a spiritual “practice” because it doesn’t come automatically; it takes time to develop and strengthen this ability. Building the appropriate neural pathways in the brain that allow for deep thinking, discrimination, and the acquisition of wisdom is like building muscles. It takes continual effort over a sustained period of time. To maintain any gains that are made, the effort must continue. It is a life-long process. The proper measure is a half hour of meditation in the morning and a half hour in the evening.

Meditation is best learned and practiced with the help of a teacher and a group. Workshops and lectures on meditation are regularly offered in the Southbury/Woodbury area. In New York City there are many opportunities available. The best book on the subject is by Jon Kabat-Zinn, the director of the Stress Reduction Clinic at the University of Massachusetts, entitled *Coming to Our Senses: Healing Ourselves and the World through Mindfulness*.

There is no better practice available to the spiritual seeker than meditation. And even if one is not interested in the things of the spirit, meditation has lasting effects on the health of our bodies and our ability to operate in the world effectively and efficiently. I used to wonder where I would find the time to meditate regularly. Now I wonder how I could get along without it.

One other book recommendation I have is a book by Paul Knitter, theology professor at Union Theological Seminary, entitled *Without Buddha, I Couldn't Be a Christian*. In it he describes how his study of Buddhism opened for him new ways of understanding Christianity. It is a magnificent book, one that I was drawn to because my daughter-in-law is a Buddhist, a fact that will undoubtedly influence my granddaughter's and grandson's choices in religious matters. The title Buddha means “the Awakened One.” And being awake is no easy matter. We seem to prefer sleepwalking through life, ignoring the beauty around us, what Walt Whitman termed the miracles in our midst. All of which is captured in this prayer/poem by Robert Francis:

### Summons

Keep me from going to sleep too soon  
Or if I go to sleep too soon  
Come wake me up. Come any hour  
Of night. Come whistling up the road.  
Stomp on the porch. Bang on the door.  
Make me get out of bed and come  
Let you in and light a light.  
Tell me the northern lights are on  
And make me look. Or tell me the clouds  
Are doing something to the moon  
They never did before, and show me.  
See that I see. Talk to me till  
I'm half as wide awake as you  
And start to dress wondering why  
I ever went to bed at all.  
Tell me the walking is superb.  
Not only tell me but persuade me.  
You know I'm not too hard persuaded.

– Douglas Miller

---

## CHRISTMAS ON ROUND HILL

---



### **Preview Party: Friday, December 3** **Christmas Fair: Saturday, December 4**

#### **Treasure Trove**

The Treasure Trove needs items that will be saleable in the short time period we have to sell. They cannot include old appliances, electronics, or clothing unless it is in mint condition and designer quality. Fur coats are all right. Quality items only, i.e., silver, crystal, china, jewelry, rugs, fine linens, and furniture (limited to special pieces, for we do not have much room), special books, paintings, prints, sculpture, antiques, etc. . . . not yard sale or tag sale items. By now, most of you know what we can handle. Items need to be left with name and a general list with a value.

Contact the office if we are not available, and things can be left in the Church cellar. If items are small and valuable they can be left in classroom A in the Community House. See Steve for access.

Thank you and come join us to help set up and sell.

– Jean Bergstresser, Leigh Grant, and Alice Fisher

#### **Fabulous Frozen Food**

Do you like to cook? Do you like not to cook? Either way, you're in luck. Once again, RHCC members are home-making their special soups, sauces, and casseroles for the benefit of Christmas on Round Hill. If you would like to help with this cooking, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Parlor. We'll fill you in on all the details. The complete menu of frozen dishes will be posted at Church by mid-October and circulated at Fellowship Hour. All purchases must be pre-ordered by November 7 and will be available on November 21, just in time for Thanksgiving and the busy holiday season. To order from the menu, call Lynda in the office.

– Julia Boysen

---

## MUSIC ON ROUND HILL

---

### **The Chamber Players Return!**

Celebrate fall on October 17 at 4:00 p.m. with the first concert of The Chamber Players' 2010-2011 season. Now in their 39th year, they will host a program featuring winds, viola, and piano. Works to be performed include those by Schumann, Shostakovich, Reinecke, and Villa Lobos. Also, a highlight will be "Summer Music for Woodwind Quintet" by Samuel Barber.

A wine and cheese reception follows in the Parlor and offers the opportunity to visit with the musicians and your friends. Season subscriptions are available at a discount to regular ticket prices. See the flyer on the Music Bulletin Board or call Carrie Finlayson at 203-869-4661. Also, tickets are available at the door.

---

## BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

---

### **Family ReEntry Honors the Round Hill Community Church Congregation**

The Elizabeth Bush Volunteerism Award was presented to our congregation in honor of our extraordinary support of Family ReEntry and their mission to develop, implement, and share cost-effective solutions for the unprecedented numbers of people in the criminal justice system.

Our Benevolence and Outreach Committee has consistently supported Family ReEntry with grant awards and volunteer efforts to supplement programs that provide employment and training opportunities to former offenders reentering our community or by mentoring to children with a family member incarcerated. Yale research has shown promising results of up to a 54% reduction in recidivism for participants in Family ReEntry's program.

The Bush Award was presented September 26.

---

## SEASONAL FLU SHOT CLINIC

---

### **Thursday, October 22** **5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Parlor**

Free with Medicare B. All others, \$25.00.

## The News Letter

Round Hill Community Church

395 Round Hill Road

Greenwich, CT 06831

(203) 869-1091

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.

OCTOBER 2010 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p><b>World Communion Stewardship Sunday</b> Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Forum, 11:15 a.m. Paul Waldeau</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Trustee Meeting 8 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>COLUMBUS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Flu Shot Clinic, 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>WORLD FOOD DAY</b></p>
<p>17</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Chamber Players 4 p.m., Sanctuary</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Cooking for St. Lukes, 3 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Adventures on the Indian Subcontinent, 7:30 p.m., Meeting Rm.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>5 p.m. RH Assoc. Meeting, Parlor</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m.</p> <p><b>HARVEST SUPPER 6:30 p.m. Community House</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Worship and Church School, 10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE</b></p> <p><b>LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: FRED MASON PORTRAITS</b></p>					