

Join us for the **"Best Of" 2008 Soiree** Starring the 2008 "Best Of" Newport County Winner

Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 7p.m. Rosecliff Mansion

Entertainment Fabulous Food Delicious Drinks

Star your calendar TODAY!

For more information Call 401.841.0200



Online Saturday, April 19, 2008

**RE/MAX OF NEWPORT**  
**Mary Moniz**  
 Office: (401) 846-6702  
 Cellular: (401) 835-0288  
 Mary@NewportRIProperty.com

# The Newport Daily News

(401) 849-3300

**Century 21**  
 Access America  
 "We Know Our Business"

Newport, Rhode Island - America's First Resort

- HOME
- LOCAL NEWS
- SPORTS
- CLASSIFIEDS
- OBITUARIES
- EDITORIAL
- ARCHIVES
- PHOTO GALLERY
- POLLS
- ABOUT US/FORMS
- SUBSCRIBER SERVICES
- BACK ISSUES
- LOCATOR MAP
- PLACE AN AD

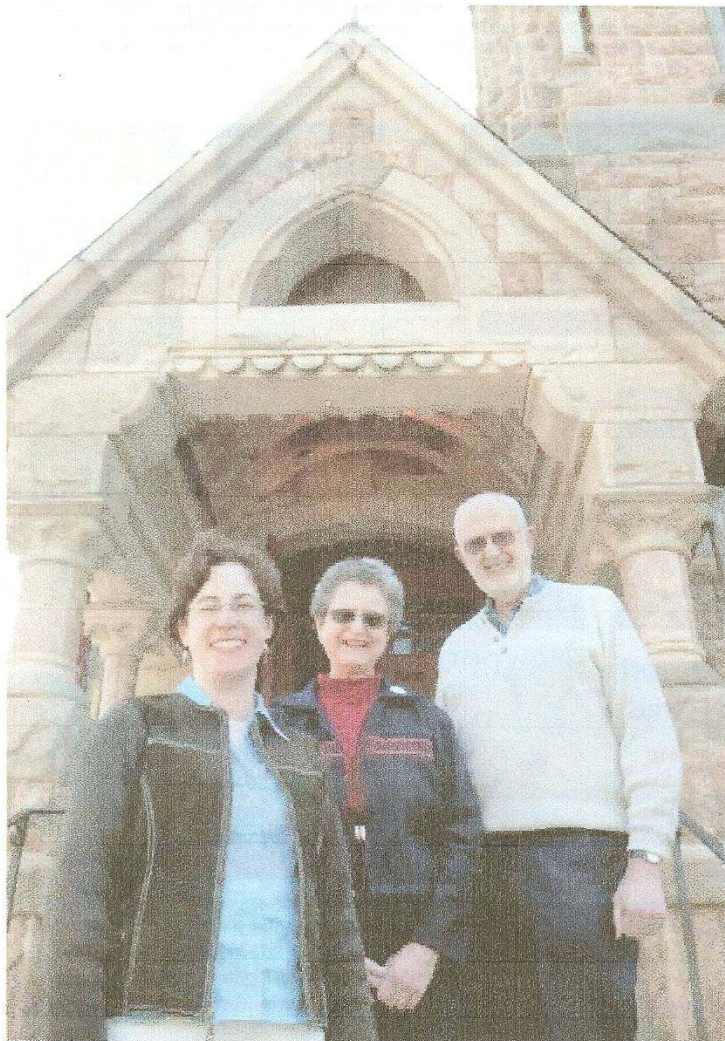
**NUNES REALTY**  
**Carol Hale**  
 401-842-0845  
 401-847-4800

**RE/MAX**  
**PAT & WENDY WATKINS**  
 35 Broad St., Newport, RI  
 www.patandwendy.com  
 (401) 845-6761

**Barry's**  
**Newport Middletown Auto Group**



**Aquidneck Aquarium & Pet Deli**  
 Specializing in Aquariums Ponds Pets & Pet Nutrition  
 957 West Main Rd  
 Middletown RI  
 847-3361



The Rev. Amy Bowden, left, Beth Milham and Don Mallinson are the prime movers behind bringing Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light to Channing Memorial Church in Newport. The church may join the environmental group next month. (Jacqueline Marque/Daily News staff)

**Local Headlines**

**PRINTER PROS!**  
 Local Printer Services  
**ATTENTION BUSINESSES**  
 CHECK OUT OUR SPECIALS

**SEBONA** FITNESS FOR WOMEN  
 841-8877  
 876 W Main Rd Middletown

**Newport Glass**  
 Auto • Commercial • Residential

**BRIDGE LIQUORS**

2008 Newport Daily News Community Service Awards Banquet  
 CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS

**mercury**  
**I HAD A BLAST!**

Posted: *Saturday, April 19, 2008 12:27 AM EDT*

GOING GREEN: Local houses of worship out to save the planet

Part of an occasional series

By Sean Flynn  
Daily News staff

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light is gaining momentum on Aquidneck Island.

St. Lucy's Parish in Middletown jumped aboard in November, the governing board of Channing Memorial Church in Newport is expected to vote on joining next month and Temple Shalom in Middletown is likely to follow soon afterward.

"It's a growing movement," said Lorraine Going, chairwoman of St. Lucy's Community Action Committee. "It reaches out to all religions and is a grass-roots movement."

St. Lucy's congregants are Catholic, Channing Memorial's are Unitarian Universalists and Temple Shalom's are Jewish, but they are united in the Interfaith Power & Light campaign. They have become part of a national religious response to global warming while promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation.

The movement is gaining strength on Aquidneck Island and in the state — church-by-church, temple-by-temple and mosque-by-mosque, according to religious leaders.

United Methodist Bishop C. Dale White of Newport works closely with St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Newport, Calvary United Methodist Church in Middletown and Portsmouth United Methodist Church.

"All three churches are unofficial members of Interfaith Power & Light," he said. "We'll take care of the red tape soon and become official members."

"I think it's an important perspective," said Beth Milham of Newport, a member of Channing Memorial Church and individually a member of Interfaith Power & Light. "More and more religious groups realize we are not here just to take what we can from the earth. We have a moral responsibility to be true stewards of the earth. This is about getting the faith communities together so we can move together in doing the right thing. The more different perspectives we come at global

#### Also ABOUT THIS SERIES

Today, The Daily News launches an occasional series of articles about local businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals who are 'Going Green.' The series, and many of the topics it will explore, grew out of a public forum with the same name, co-sponsored by the Newport County Fund of The Rhode Island Foundation and The Daily News on Feb. 26. More than 160 people attended the event to learn about local success stories and share their own.

We want to hear from you, too. What kinds of efforts are you making, whether a minor lifestyle change or a life-

warming from, the more likely we will be able to make advances on the policy level.”

The movement started in California in 1998 with the formation of Episcopal Power & Light, an organization that co-founded the California Interfaith Power & Light in 2001 and embraced all faiths, according to the national organization behind the campaign, The Regeneration Project. The goal of the nonprofit organization is to establish chapters in every state. There now are chapters in 25 states.

changing decision, to be more environmentally friendly? Your ideas may help to shape future stories, and useful resources may be shared with other readers as well. Send e-mail to Executive Editor Sheila Mullowney at [Editor@NewportRI.com](mailto:Editor@NewportRI.com).

Before there was a Rhode Island chapter, in October 2006, Don Mallinson, chairman of the Social Justice Committee at Channing Memorial Church, said he made his first contact with the national Interfaith Power & Light campaign when he requested a DVD copy of the Al Gore documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth,” from the organization.

“We showed it at Channing Memorial Church and it was standing room only,” he said.

About a month and a half later, Howie Brown of North Kingstown called. He wanted to discuss the organization of a statewide chapter of Interfaith Power & Light with Mallinson. It was a successful start-up.

“I give Howie all the credit for establishing an official chapter here in Rhode Island,” Mallinson said.

A steering committee was formed in January 2007 and in January of this year the organization incorporated as a statewide agency. The early members organized their first statewide conference on Jan. 10 at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick.

“We expected 50 people; we got more than 150 people,” Mallinson said.

Brown now serves as director and Mallinson is on the board of directors. The Rev. Harry Dix, who is affiliated with the Open Table of Christ United Methodist Church in Providence, is chairman of the board.

Mallinson said members of all faiths are able to reach a consensus on the need to reduce carbon emissions and cut global warming.

“We all agree that Earth is God’s creation and we have a responsibility to protect it,” he said. “All of life is interconnected and we can’t destroy that fabric. This crosses theological boundaries.”

For some though, this might seem to be a change in the emphasis of religion.

“The religious perspective can get focused on another world, and

what happens on this earth can get minimized," Milham said.

However, she and others note that churches and synagogues have been socially active in other campaigns, such as the civil rights movement.

Brown and Dix said an early focus of their efforts has been to motivate churches and their members to reduce their energy use by exchanging all their incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Compact fluorescent bulbs last eight to 10 years. They use 25 percent of the energy of regular incandescent bulbs. A 13-watt compact fluorescent light bulb over a 10-year lifetime, compared to the use of a 60-watt incandescent light bulb, will save \$70 and 600 pounds of carbon emissions.

"That calculation is based on current electric rates, which are unlikely to go down," Brown said.

To expand awareness of the crisis facing the planet, churches in the state are being encouraged to show videos that focus on environmental problems. This is a continuation of the campaign by the national Interfaith Power & Light to show Gore's documentary to as many people as possible when it came out on DVD.

By a September 2006 deadline, more than 4,000 congregations had signed up for a DVD, which led to more than 500,000 people seeing the film in churches and synagogues that month, according to the national organization's Web site.

Bishop White said there is a big-screen projector at the Portsmouth United Methodist Church and congregants from all three United Methodist churches on the island have been meeting Wednesdays at noon to view global warming-related documentaries. He said eight have been shown so far.

Milham, of Channing Memorial Church, and Kelly Kittel, active with the Portsmouth United Methodist Church, also are co-founders of Step It Up Aquidneck Island. They now are showing environmental documentaries at Empire Tea & Coffee, 27 Broadway, Newport, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer of Temple Shalom is president of the Aquidneck Island Clergy Association. He credits Interfaith Power & Light for raising awareness of global warming among clergy and lay people, and for showing them what they and churches can do specifically to cut carbon emissions.

"We are all concerned with sacred space," Jagolinzer said. "Our ecology and environment is all sacred space. We are charged with making it more in tune with God's world."

"I think it is a positive thing that religious communities are coming together so we can live in greater harmony with our world," said the Rev. Amy Bowden Freedman, pastor of Channing Memorial Church. "People really want to make better choices. People of conscience realize this is something we have to do together."

Interfaith Power & Light is active on different fronts, including lobbying at the Statehouse, Brown said.

"The thing getting a lot of our attention now is legislation at the state level," he said. The Global Warming Solutions Act was introduced in both the House and Senate this month.

Under that bill, Brown said, the state Department of Environmental Management would require large users of energy to report their emissions.

"We are looking for ways to get to the goal of a 20 percent reduction in emissions from 1990 levels by 2020 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050," Brown said. "We can't use fossil fuels to get to those numbers.

"It would mean turning around the way things work. It would mean a tremendous reduction in energy use and a tremendous change in our energy sources."

Members of Interfaith Power & Light say global warming is more than a political issue, though.

"This is a moral issue," Mallinson said. "We have the technology and solutions to combat global warming, but we lack the will to implement those solutions."

Send reporter Sean Flynn e-mail at [Flynn@NewportRI.com](mailto:Flynn@NewportRI.com).