



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)
P.O. Box 1244
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

OCTOBER 2008

Fellowship Services

Fellowship services are held each **Sunday** at **10:30 A.M.** at 366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA
All are welcome. Coffee and conversation follow the presentation.

Sunday Programs

October 5 – Dr. Ken Rose: “A Post-Postmodern Spirituality”

Ken often says when speaking that he is not an atheist; he just doesn't believe in God. This is a sufficiently paradoxical statement that it leaves both orthodox atheists and orthodox theists confused or speechless and wondering if he believes anything.

Is he just skirting the issue of the existence of God, like an agnostic, without the courage to come down either for God or against God? Is he confused? Or is he just being true to the radical implications of the classical theological approaches in which he has been trained and which, he will argue today, leads directly to the disappearance of God and the awakening of a post-religious way of approaching whatever it is that people call by various names such as God, Brahman, Emptiness, and so on, ad infinitum.

RE Topics: Communication - “The Tower of Babel” and Lew Latimer, the son of escaped slaves who became a pioneer in electrical lightning

October 12 – Caroline Shifflett: “Laughter Yoga: A Spiritual Pursuit”

Yoga means union. Experience how laughter helps to unite you with your higher self or spirit.

RE Topic: All Church Sunday

October 19 – Tom Kinney: “The Struggle to Divide”

Tom will reflect upon UU's seventh principle, that we are all part of the interdependent web of existence, and perspectives regarding resistance to those who would emphasize our differences vs. our sameness.

RE Topics: Jewish Holidays, “Jonah & the Whale,” and The UU Six Sources

NOTE: A Potluck Brunch will follow the Service. Please Bring a Dish to Share.

October 26 – David Tetrault: “Jewish Faith and Practice: Celebrating the Mystery of Life”

David will explore the mystical roots of religious faith and how we learn to care for the soul. The Service will focus on Jewish mysticism, especially on Kabbalah, and how our Christian religious systems tend to ignore the importance of Jewish thought and practice.

RE Topics: Israel: God's Chosen Holy Family; and Ralph Waldo Emerson, a Unitarian minister and world-famous writer and thinker.

President's Corner

Thank you to those who responded to the call in my last president's corner to discuss the meaning of our new home. Because many of you do want to discuss this in an open forum, I have agreed to schedule an entire service around this issue. Be sure to come to the November 2nd service entitled "Home Sweet What?" Be prepared to share what a home, church, sanctuary, or hall means to you and which of those or other names feels closest to the way you feel about our new home.

Speaking of our new home, it is so good to see our congregation or group or beloved community (another hot button naming issue) enjoying our new building. So far, we've experienced several meetings, many services, and a potluck luncheon. Most things are running quite smoothly. Of course, we have our quirks. From *where does this item get stored to will the children stay or go to their classroom today*, UUFR committees are working with the board to sort out all the nitty-gritty. Sometimes we are learning just as much about what doesn't work as we are about what does work. What new experience is not like that? But we are a community working together. In the meantime, roll up your sleeves and lend a hand when you can, and when you can't—sit back and trust in our group of committed individuals. The pieces will come together.

Speaking of quirks, there is one quirk about being president of which you may be unaware. There are so many different pieces of our UUFR puzzle to fit together that there is always business to be done. So most Sundays, when I arrive, there is an onslaught of questions, comments or requests for the president or the board. So I would like to respectfully request that the time before the service be reserved as a *No Business Time*. This will allow everyone to come in to greet and be greeted by the people we come to fellowship with on Sunday. And after the service, in which hopefully we have been nourished in some way, we can attend to the business of the fellowship in a more focused frame of mind.

Thank you,
Caroline

Phood and Philosophy

Shirley and Tom Kinney will host this month's Phood and Philosophy on **Saturday, October 4, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.**

Dr. Ken Rose spoke recently about "shopping" for a religion. Do some religions do a better "sales" job than others? That "sales" job can be measured two ways: number of adherents, and the commitment level of its members. Counting heads is easy. Anna Olson talked last week about "The Fire of Commitment." Commitment is more philosophical.

What are the measures of commitment level? Loyalty? Participation? Financial? Other?

What is there philosophically or otherwise about certain religions within the U.S. that inspire loyalty, participation, and commitment over others? Is there a common characteristic that permeates the most committed? Consider: Mormons, Quakers, Baptists, Catholics, Scientologists, Muslims, Evangelicals, Jews, Episcopalians, and Unitarian Universalists.

Please call Shirley or Tom so we can be sure to have enough chairs, etc. Plan to bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share.

RE Notes

by Jane Elkin

The syllabus for the 2008-2009 Religious Education year includes stories from the Judeo-Christian Heritage, from a UU curriculum titled "Timeless Themes." Other topics this year will be UUism, and famous UUs. Holidays will be highlighted using the well-known UU curriculum titled "Holidays and Holy Days."

The focus for the 2009-2010 RE year will probably be Religions of the World: Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Christianity, Judaism, etc.

While Ken Rose discussed Creationists on September 14, we were reading the Creation Story. (Knowing the Creation Story will be useful in this political climate, don't you think?)

We read What Do You Say When Someone Asks? and we heard it again from the congregational dramatic reading. (Repetition is a good teacher!) We've noticed our church doesn't have any crosses, anywhere, but we have a chalice. We made chalice banners, and learned the story of Hans Deutsch, the WWI refugee who designed the UU symbol. We light and extinguish the chalice every week and we are becoming familiar with the UU principles. We used a kit from Amazon to dig for fossils and made fossils from plaster of Paris. We read stories about dinosaurs, fossils and the beginning of the earth.

The Kids' Book of Awesome Stuff, by Charlene Brotman, was donated "In Memory of Our First Sunday School Class, August 24, 2008, on Fossils" from Liberty Rose Lehr, Age 6, New York (granddaughter of Ann and Andrew Kelsey)

We gave up on the healthy snacks, because we know that the yummy food at the end of the service is better and more fun. We try to join the group for the closing circle but, if we are really into the art projects, we don't always make it.

A Single Minded Pursuit

by Diana Jamison

Mingle with Singles in the Northern Neck while exploring the concept of living in the now and awakening to your life's purpose.

Plan early to attend a review of Eckhart Tolle's book: A New Earth - Awakening to Your Life's Purpose.

Spread the word and plan to join in at:

The Bay Center for Spiritual Development
31 Noblett Lane
Kilmarnock, VA
November 18 at 7:00 PM

The agenda and future meeting times will be set up at this organizational meeting. RSVP Diana Jamison.

Paths Forward

Contact: Bob Weekley

UUFR-VA's five-year plan outlines paths forward in Sunday services, music, religious exploration programs, community interaction, social justice, professional support, and in enhanced enrichment experiences. The Board continues to weigh member comments and desires as it sets priorities and allocates funds for each of these paths.

The completion of our building is also a major path forward. Members have asked, "What will happen next?" Reflecting your comments, the Board has established the following items as near term priorities for building completion:

- the interior trim,
- the lantern room (lighthouse top), and
- the gathering deck in back.

The timing of these activities will depend upon the availability of additional funding.

In response to many members, in the longer term we will be exploring whether to seek the engagement of a part-time minister.

Call for Photos

Bob Weekley is creating a slide show for the Building Dedication showing the work, progress, and volunteers on our building. If possible the show will be ready to preview at the Fall Retreat. If you have digital photos that you think would be interesting for inclusion, please email them to Bob Weekley. Deadline: 20 October.

Cash Flow Update

by **Tom Kinney, Finance Committee Chair**

A recently received newsletter from a neighboring church included a surprise-- a bi-monthly report of income vs. expenses. UUFR-VA's Board monitors our cash flow continually but presents the status only once per year at the annual meeting in December. Your generosity keeps us on track, which minimizes the need for monthly newsletter reminders that we *do* have expenses.

However, this month there is a special request—not for more funds (which is always nice) but for earlier funds.

Book sales, gifts, lots of volunteer labor made the parking lot affordable. Your Board has decided to “make it so.” No sloshing through mud or pushing stuck cars this winter! Yeah!

Pledge checks come in toward the end of the year but efficient construction needs to happen now, before the heavy fall rains muddy the ground. This leaves us short of funds in hand to pay the contractor. Normally we could tap into the Operating Budget to tide us over, but weekly giving in that area is a wee bit behind normal this year due to all the traveling amongst our members. Weekly giving surges at year end also.

Here's how you can help: If possible, please drop part or all of your 2008 pledge check in the offering plate now instead of waiting until year's end. An early boost in weekly giving will also help solve this cash flow problem. Thanks.

UU Leadership Conference and Growth Summit

by **Bob Weekley**

The Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA will hold a Leadership Conference and Growth Summit in Richmond at the First UU Church from October 31–November 1. Although the details of the agenda have not been published yet, if you would like to learn more about what is going on in UU and meet interesting UU people from the region, this might be just what you are looking for.

Last year Shirley Kinney and I attended the regional annual conference and found it to be both inspirational and packed with good ideas. Usually they have inspirational speakers combined with interesting workshops. Attendance is open to anyone who would like to attend. If you are interested, let someone on the Board of Stewards know. We will be sure you get the additional information and we can arrange a UUFR carpool.

River Readers

The book discussion group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:00 P.M. at the Lancaster Community Library. Everyone is welcome. Please read the book and join us. The upcoming selections follow. Please note that that the order of selections has changed.

October: 27: *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi

November 24: *Cosmicomics* by Italo Calvino

December: No Meeting

The “Big Book” selection is Virgil's *The Aeneid*, newly translated by Robert Fagles. We will have our dinner and discussion of the book at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club sometime in next month. Please call **Elaine Weekley** for information.

Cyndi Simpson Update

by Bob Weekley

Cyndi Simpson, who has spoken often at UUFR-VA, is now in her internship ministry at First Unitarian in Denver and finds it to be a warm and welcoming experience so far. The church is thriving. The minister, Rev. Mike Morran, goes on Sabbatical on November 1, so Cyndi will be *the* minister for five months. Cyndi follows UUFR-VA closely via our newsletter and feels a special relationship to our group.

Extending A UUFR Thank You

by Caroline Shifflett

Thanks so much to Stephanie Reeves and Harvey Hill of Harvey's Tree Service for the wonderful job they have done for us. The trees that stood so close to the front of the building and the large branches from a dead tree in the back have been safely removed!

Many have commented on the quality of the work done. If you haven't looked at the trunk of the dead tree that was left in the back, please do so. Many of your friends love the arts look of it. If you ever need any tree service, please call on *Harvey's Tree Service* at 804-695-4897 or 804-436-6555. And if you need a massage after cleaning up the yard, please call on Stephanie who runs *A Tyme for Me Massage* at 804-436-6555.

Website Changes

by Bob Prescott

After several months of cogitating and procrastinating, this month's edition of *The Chalice* will return to the UUFR-VA website. The presentation will be somewhat sanitized to address privacy concerns. Personal phone numbers and email addresses will be omitted, along with directions to the P&P host's home. Much appreciation to Caroline and the Board in supporting the change. Let's see how it works out.

Another change you may notice in the newsletter is the abbreviation: UUFR-VA. Since its inception, the website has used the abbreviation in deference to the existing web presence of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh (<http://www.uufr.org>.) Googling 'UUFR' will bring up both congregations' sites, but the designation helps to differentiate each.

We have licensed the domain:

<http://www.uufr-va.org>, and retain the original site: <http://www.uufrappahannock.org>. Either address will access the site.

Two other items are new to the site. A new tab was added to the navigation bar, entitled: Observations. It is intended to house musings from members of the congregation. Jim Kenley has started the process with a reflection on turning 80.

The second addition to the site is a 'Contact Us' tab. Initially this tab will simply generate an email message to me, which I will forward as appropriate. Eventually, the tab will link to a page allowing members to submit message to individual Board members and administrative contacts. It's a work in progress. It's a start.

UUFR-VA Fall Retreat

by Fran Schelling

On **Saturday, October 25th**, UUFR-VA will have its Fall Retreat at our new building. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. There will be entertainment, food, fun, games and prizes. Wow! What a retreat!

This is an opportunity to learn more about UU and you. Between 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. there will be a wine and cheese party. All that we ask is that you bring a pot luck dish for lunch. Let us know by **October 12th** if you will be attending. You can email or call any of us.

Your retreat team:

Fran, Cliff, Dave, Marge

Board of Stewards

Caroline Shifflett, President
Barbara Haynes, Treasurer
Pirkko Graves, Secretary
Shirley Kinney, Past President

Bob Weekley, President Elect
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs
Kathleen Brooks, Vice President for Membership

Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>
<http://www.uufr-va.org>
Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the month
Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)