



# THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)  
P.O. Box 1266  
White Stone VA 22578

**FEBRUARY 2009**

## 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

**February 1** – David Tetrault : “The Food of Love: Music in Life and Worship”

Poets extol the powers of music. It hath charms, Congreve says, to soothe the savage breast. It is the food of love. Why does it make a difference?

**RE:** Copernicus & Galileo: A Time When People Didn't Know

---

**February 8** – Bob Weekley : “How Religion Defines the Path of History: Reflections on a Recent Visit to Egypt and Jordan ”

Bob Weekley and his wife Elaine spent three weeks in December and January traveling in Jordan and Egypt. One striking aspect of travel in this area was a renewed recognition of the powerful role religion has played in shaping the history of those countries. We still reap the effects of those ancient ideas.

Bob will present some of his observations from the contemporary cultures of the Middle East and how they shape our world today.

**RE:** Osiris and the Underworld

**February 15** – Barbara Haynes: “The Native Peoples of the Americas: An Enduring Spiritual Story”

The Native Americans of North, Central, and South America had finely-developed philosophies and beliefs that, in many instances, were totally disregarded by the Europeans who came to settle their lands beginning in the 16th century. These ancient traditions still endure today and have much to teach us about life, love, and the sanctity of nature.

**RE:** Native Americans

Chief Seattle: To Native American people, every creature and part of the earth was sacred.

---

**February 22** – Rev. Preston Moore: “Taming the ‘R’ Word.”

Is religion one of those Alice-in-Wonderland words that means whatever each of us says it means? NO. With all of our varied religious origins as UUs, can we really have a common conversation about the “R” word? YES!

**RE:** "What is a Religion?"/child-friendly answers to questions on religion

The Three Questions:

When is the best time to do things?

Who is the most important one?

What is the right thing to do?

## *President's Corner*

*"We are a lay led fellowship which means that the members of this congregation do all the business of the fellowship, as well as plan and lead 2 of our Sunday services each month."*

We've all heard those words said on a Sunday morning as a way to let people know how our fellowship functions. Well, they are not just pretty words to pass the time. They are a statement of our rights and responsibilities. We enjoy the freedom to do what we please with our policies and our services and we have a responsibility to help with the work of all that we enjoy. We don't have a staff or minister providing for our needs.

Some of the business we do involves questions like how do we attract new members, how many new members do we want to attract, who is putting the flowers out this week, who is making the coffee today, where can we hang our coats, when is the next potluck, should we buy this chair or that chair for the sanctuary, should we call it a sanctuary, who is going to run the service or committee that will decide if we should call it a sanctuary and so very much more.

Hopefully, you noticed that some of the things listed above were small tasks and some were big picture questions. We have a wide range of responsibilities and we need a wide range of talents and time. We need each other. So please join your Board of Stewards and Committee Chairs this month on **Tuesday, February 3rd at 5:30** for an All Committee Night! We will have a potluck dinner beforehand and then start our meeting in a Town Hall type format before we divide up into the separate committees. As Bob Weekly will report to you later in this newsletter, there are several positions to be filled at this time. You might think about joining the Membership Committee, Grounds Committee, Building Committee, Program Committee, Social Justice or Community Service.

*Caroline*

## **Phood and Philosophy**

**Eve Jordan & Brown Mobley** will host the February Phood and Philosophy in Brown's home on **Saturday, February 7th at 5:30 pm.**

All members and friends of UUFR-VA are welcome for an evening of stimulating food for the body and mind. Please bring:

- ⇒ A dish or two to share
- ⇒ Your favorite drink and some to share
- ⇒ Thoughts you'd like to contribute.

Participants will be asked to share words of wisdom, either serious or humorous, from readings or personal influences, which have influenced their lives.

**Please call in advance** to let Brown know you are coming. We don't want to be short of chairs!

## **Hung Up Hang-ups**

**by Shirley Kinney**

It's a wonderful feeling to watch as many of you share your treasures and creations to add to our building's décor. It's good that our building feels like your spiritual home. Thank you, one and all.

A small glitch in all that happiness may sometimes arise, however. On occasion, what you spontaneously add to our building may conflict with what has been planned. For example, the nice window arrangements that Leila has so graciously added to our Fellowship Hall will be, in part, covered by the proposed indirect lighting valances that will someday soon adorn that space. (Sorry, Leila!) To ease any possible problems in that area, President Caroline Shifflett has asked Lorie Lowrey and me to serve as coordinators for the decorations in our new home. If you have an idea or something you would like to add, please talk to either Lorie or me to make sure your ideas match what has been planned for that area.



Ann Kelsey leads a discussion on early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian religious thinking during a January service.

## Board of Stewards Meeting (1/18/09)

Submitted by Bob Weekley

Your UUFR-VA Board of Stewards' regular monthly meeting covered the following topics. Questions and feedback are always welcome.

\* Lorie Lowrey presented a concept and initial guidelines provided by the newly formed Interior Furnishings Committee. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate and harmonize the furnishings, decorations, and artwork that will be used and displayed in our new building. The Board approved the concept and guidelines.

\* Caroline Shifflett reported that the Meals on Wheels project has not been well-supported so far by the congregation. We need to encourage more people to volunteer to help out. They should contact Bob and Jane Duryea.

\* The Bay Center for Spiritual Development proposed inviting UUFR-VA Board Members to a dinner on **March 20** to discuss ways we can work together in mutual support.

\* New Board members Dave Rowden (VP Membership) and Mary Anne Robbins (Secretary) have individually decided for personal reasons that they will not be able to serve on the Board at this time. The Board discussed filling those vacancies but no final action was taken.

\* An "All Committee" night will be held at the church on **February 3 at 5 PM**. Members of all committees and the Board will have an opportunity to meet as committees and to summarize their work with the whole group. There are several open committee positions such as Grounds Committee, Library, Community Service, and Social Justice. All members are welcome to come and sit in with one of the existing committees or to volunteer for one of these new positions.

\* Barbara Haynes, Treasurer, provided the year-end financial report and CME fund report.

\* The list of congregational ideas for the "Path Ahead" provided by those who attended the December 14 Sunday service was consolidated by Bob Weekley. The Board approved the draft which has been circulated to the congregation by email. Printed copies will be made available on the sharing table.

\* Sue Adriance reported on RE activities and noted that a publication -- "Our UU Story" will be available for an adult RE series coming up.

## 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 are:

**February 23:** *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* by Kiran Desai

**March 23:** *The Gathering* by Anne Enright

**April 27:** *The Short History of a Prince* by Jane Hamilton

**May 25:** *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev

Please call **Elaine Weekley** for more information.

## Don't Forget the Water!

by Shirley Kinney

As you travel around the country and the world these next few months, please remember to collect some water from a stream or ocean or lake or other special site that has been important in some way to you. We will use that water to mix with waters from last year's Water Communion Ceremony when we celebrate the occasion again in the fall of 2009. We hope to make this lovely ritual a permanent part of UUFR-VA's traditions.

## Obama attends Memorial Service at UU church

by Sonja L. Cohen (UUA.org)

[On Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2008,] President-elect **Barack Obama** and his family [attended a memorial service](#) for his maternal grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, ... at the **First Unitarian Church of Honolulu**. The hour-long service was [followed by a private ceremony](#) to scatter Dunham's ashes. (CNN.com - 12.24.08, Chicago Tribune - 12.24.08)

## The Good Neighbor Pool

by Tom Kinney

Dominion Power is a good neighbor. When we needed a pole for our parking lot light, Dominion Power, in Lively, let us rummage through their used poles that weren't reusable. They loaded the one we picked onto a borrowed boat trailer, and, once we hauled it to our parking lot and had its location staked, they sent a crew down to set it for us.

Roberta Dorman and other Dominion supervisors OK'd the use of the pole setting truck. A Dominion crew donated their time to do the work. Dominion deposited a chit in the good neighbor pool and we withdrew one. Now, let's watch for an opportunity to repay the good neighbor pool with a contribution of time and effort by helping some others who need a hand (or two).

## RE Notes

by Jane Elkin

Although the Elkin family is taking a break from RE during the ski season, the RE class during the winter months is being taught by Leela Norris. She is leading a review of the Old Testament and the class is creating a "Bible Timeline."

Upon return from his South American adventure, Dave Rowden will lead a book discussion group on "Ye Will Say I Am No Christian": The Thomas Jefferson/John Adams Correspondence on Religion, Morals, and Values by Bruce Braden. According to Publisher's Weekly, "America's founding fathers have long been revered or reviled for their praise or rejection of religion. The letters range over the usual questions for which these men have already become known: the human/divine nature of Jesus, the afterlife, moral philosophy, the place of religion in the state."

Adult RE classes being considered include: Building Your Own Theology, taught previously by Cliff Shelling, Green Sanctuary, recommended by Kathleen Brooks, and a class for new UUFR-VA members, recommended by Marj Bradwick and available at the UU bookstore: Our Unitarian Universalist Story.

Next year, our four middle schoolers will enter a Coming of Age program, a means for congregations to mark the Middle School passage and keep youth engaged. The class may involve the young teenagers mentoring with members of our UU community and writing and sharing a personal theology statement.

In December, we received a generous donation from the Kenley family in support of RE books and curricula. The chairs in the RE room were acquired by Marj Bradwick from the Middlesex Women's Club. Sue Adriance is acquiring a used bookshelf for the room.

The skiing is beautiful in Western Virginia and West Virginia. Phrases the kids use frequently are: "Mom, you can do this one!" "Edges, Mom!" And "Mom, what took you so long?"

## **The Interior Furnishings Committee**

by Lorie Lowrey

The purpose of the Interior Furnishings Committee is to preserve and continue to improve the inspirational and artistic ambience of our new building . Many members have offered donations of art and furnishings - more than can be accommodated at one time. To keep our space uncluttered, harmonious, and inspirational, it was decided that some control was needed. Present members of the Interior Furnishings Committee are Shirley Kinney and Lorie Lowrey. They solicit ideas and solutions from all members and are enthusiastic about seeing the art that you have created yourself or an acquisition that you would like to share with the Fellowship. The committee has initiated some guidelines as follows:

1. All member art, furnishings, and anything to be hung on the walls must be pre-approved by the Interior Furnishings Committee.
2. The back wall of the hallway is the designated member art gallery.
3. Each piece of art may be displayed up to six weeks. This allows others the opportunity to share creative offerings with members and visitors of UUFR-VA.
4. The removal or addition of any furnishings in the foyer or sanctuary must also be approved by the committee.

## **Thanks for Taking a Chance!**

by Elaine Weekley

Many, many thanks to all of you who participated in the purchase of tickets for the Lancaster Community Library's Annual Lottery. UUFR-VA had three tickets in the basket this year. While we didn't win any of the prizes, we did contribute to the Library's ability to continue to provide valuable services to our community and can feel good about that.

## **Preparing for Earth Day**

by Jane Elkin

Since the first Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 1969, which began the modern environmental movement, UU churches have used the date to celebrate our Seventh Principal. Intergenerational events often include trash pickups, tree plantings, and other environmental actions. With the unique focus of UUFR-VA on the Rappahannock and the Chesapeake Bay, we will celebrate Earth Day on **Sunday, April 26** with a service on the Chesapeake Bay.

If you would like to contribute to the planning of the Earth Day Intergenerational Service, please contact me.

## **Join the Rowdens**

by Don and Lorie Lowrey

Dave and Marge Rowden are circumnavigating the continent of South America, including stops at the Falklands, South Georgia Island, and a touch onto Antarctica, and several other wonderful stops-- in the lap of luxury of a cruise ship. They have a blog which includes a map of their itinerary and narrative and photos. We've checked it out; it is quite interesting. Here is the URL:

<http://Home.earthlink.net/~mwr2003>.

**Board of Stewards**

Caroline Shifflett, President  
Barbara Haynes, Treasurer  
Vacant, Secretary  
Shirley Kinney, Past President

Bob Weekley, President Elect  
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs  
Vacant, Vice President for Membership

**Web Site**

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

**Newsletter**

Deadline for articles: 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month  
Bob Prescott, Editor ([editor@uufrappahannock.org](mailto:editor@uufrappahannock.org))