



THE CHALICE

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

November 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

November 1 – Shirley Kinney: “Water Communion”

Unitarian Universalists around the world celebrate a Water Communion annually, in recognition of the importance water plays in all our lives as human beings and also the role it plays in our emotional lives. Shirley Kinney will lead our annual Water Communion by evoking a special body of water--built from our own personal memories of important times spent near the water.

RE Topic: All Souls Day: “Annie and the Old One”

November 8 – Bob Weekley: “There Are Pantheists Among Us. Might You Be One?”

There are probably more grass-roots pantheists than Protestants or theists, according to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Who are they? Prominent philosophers, theologians, writers, and artists from ancient Greece to the present have espoused a world-view that is best described as pantheism: the belief that the universe, with all its existing laws and properties, is an interconnected whole that we can rightly consider sacred. Bob Weekley will explore this history which, in the light of modern science, has taken on new relevance and attracted a new generation.

RE Topic: Guest at Your Table

November 15 – Rev. Jim Sanderson: “The King, the Bishop, and Me”

Rev. Sanderson looks at a brief moment in time when a Unitarian king reigned in Central Europe and, working with a remarkable Unitarian bishop, expanded religious toleration in his realm.

RE Topic: Asperger Kids: “What It Is To Be Me”

A Potluck Luncheon will follow the Service.

November 22 – Sara Mackey: “Getting Accredited”

Colleges and universities, in order to be accredited, enter into a voluntary process of comprehensive self-study and examination by representatives of other accredited universities. Imagine UU churches engaging in the same sort of activity...what would it look like to be an “accredited church?”

RE Topic: Celebrate the Harvest

November 29 – Jane Elkin and Caroline Shifflett: “Thanksgiving”

Jane Elkin and Caroline Shifflett will lead a Thanksgiving service.

RE Topic: Uncle Bobby’s Wedding

President's Corner

Do you ever wonder if other Unitarian Universalist churches experience the same challenges, issues, and joys that we do? What lessons have they learned about building a dynamic congregation? In September, I sat down with twenty-four board presidents of other UU churches from our district for a day of conversation and workshops in Charlotte, NC. I want to share a few ideas and impressions from that event.

Right off, I was struck by the abundance of joy and enthusiasm exhibited for our shared faith. Unlike some organizations, the UUs don't have to be coaxed or cajoled into volunteer service. It is such a joy to work for a movement that we can believe in.

Some of the small UU churches in our area have experienced rapid growth, and we all wanted to know to what they attributed their success. Some of the answers were: leadership training, acquiring a part-time minister, excellent governance, nurturing new members spiritually, welcoming visitors, attracting children, getting members involved in the work of the church— including community outreach and social justice issues. Most importantly, dynamic churches stayed focused on their mission.

As we got into the day, the presidents were asked to discuss challenges facing their fellowships. Issues raised included financial stewardship, developing a strategy for growth, leadership fatigue, developing a broader base of leadership, and internal disagreement about the nature of the worship services. For every issue that was raised, one or more of the other churches was able to relate how they had overcome that hurdle.

I have shared this and more with our own Board of Stewards. Our own board is enthusiastic, talented, dedicated, and thoughtful and already generates great ideas for moving forward. Still, we are happy to benefit from others' experiences, and this leadership conference was a great opportunity to do just that.

Bob Weekley

Phood and Philosophy

Melinda Maddox and John Walter will host this month's Phood and Philosophy in their home on **Saturday, November 7th, at 5:30 P.M.**

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 with some to share, and thoughts you'd like to contribute.

The evening's discussion will address: **If your children, friends, or relatives were looking in your attic, what would you hope they would find?**

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

Covenant Groups

by Fran Schelling

The Membership Committee warmly invites you to participate in a Covenant Group at UUFR-VA, which we are now forming.

A Covenant Group, which will consist of six to ten people, will meet twice a month for two hours, starting in January and ending in May. This unique group provides an opportunity to participate in a supportive, nurturing group setting that facilitates spiritual growth and mutual caring. Each Covenant Group creates their own covenant, which contains the ground rules for the group's relationships and interaction. It is a safe place for people to connect and to share thoughts and experiences on life's big questions.

It is not a therapy group, social group, debate society, or worship service. It is a great way to develop friendships and a deeper understanding of yourself and others.

If you are interested and/or have questions, please contact Diana, Cliff, or me.

Thanksgiving Giving

Halloween is behind us, and we are moving into the Thanksgiving and Christmas/Hanukkah gift-giving segment of our church year—and tax planning season. Two of the ways for giving thanks for what UUFR-VA does, and investing in our future, are an IRA transfer and a bequest. Plus, when you direct either gift to our Endowment, that gift continues to give in perpetuity.

Anyone can remember UUFR-VA in their will. And, if you need a hand with the proper legal words, we can help. Contact any member of the Finance Committee: **Tom Foster, Barbara Haynes, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, or Melinda Maddox** for more information.

Anyone can transfer funds to UUFR-VA from their IRA; however, if you are 70½ or older, you can do it this year and gain big special tax advantages—but you would have to act now as this special opportunity expires the end of 2009. If you need another copy of our June letter that explained the details, including the required directive form, we can help there too.

Our congregation has been very appreciative of UUFR-VA not pursuing an annual pledging program like most churches do. Your generosity through special gifts such of these have made that possible.

Especially Satisfying Lesson

by Shirley Kinney

That's what our first ESL (English as a Second Language) class was. The small group of Latinos that joined the teachers in our building on October 17 helped set up the tables and chairs before we joined together in the RE room for an introductory session led by our Spanish-speaking President, Bob Weekley. Once the preliminaries were over, each teacher paired off with a student, and we began our first class. Chris Gimpel commandeered the two children—an adorable three-year-old boy (a self-proclaimed future President of the United States, no less!) and his pretty six-year-old sister who speaks English like a native.

Some of the students understand English to some extent, but are hesitant speakers. Some struggle in understanding and in speaking. But either way, the UUFR-VA teachers enjoyed themselves immensely. It was fun teaching someone who wanted so sincerely to learn.

We'll be continuing with the classes through November 21st. Then, in the Spring, we will begin the sessions again. If you would like to be a part of this exciting project, contact me. You don't need to be available for every session—although you'll want to be!

Racial Justice

By Fran Schelling

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Church has invited us to participate in their pilot program starting in November: "Building the World We Dream About." It is a six-month program that meets once a month using the UUA curriculum.

If you are interested in taking the training, please let me know ASAP. WUU training programs fill up quickly. It is a great opportunity for those of us who are interested in "Racial Justice."

River Readers

The book discussion group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:30 P.M. at the Lancaster Community Library. Everyone is welcome. Please read the book and join us. The upcoming selections are:

November 23: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barberry and Alison Anderson

December: No meeting

January 25: *The Mistress of Spices* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

February 22: *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad

We're always looking for acclaimed books which lend themselves to discussion, and we actually need several more to complete next year's list. If you have a recommendation for a future read, please let **Shirley Kinney** know. Call **Elaine Weekley** if you have any questions.

Does "Governance" Excite You?

By Bob Weekley

Many of us regard governance in organizations about the same way we regard the dentist – necessary, but "a pain!" However, we have to admit that organizations that excel, whether companies, clubs, governmental organizations, or churches, conscientiously practice good governance.

Our own UUFR-VA has grown from a back-porch meeting to a thriving Fellowship with its own land, building, membership, and all of the responsibilities and challenges these entail. As we have expanded we have needed to become more attuned to the principles of good governance.

Our Fellowship is fortunate that we have a talented Board of Stewards and committees that have taken the challenge of governance seriously. Our bylaws, records, and procedures are under systematic review, and we have adapted the best from other churches.

One result of our review is a necessary update of the UUFR-VA Bylaws. Our Finance/Legal Committee has taken the lead in this update. Under recent changes in Virginia law regarding the structure of churches, we find that the UUFR-VA now is best served by reorganizing as a non-profit corporation. Corporate organization provides advantages for ensuring the health and long life of the organization; it also generates some additional governance requirements. Your board has reviewed each bylaw segment at a series of board meetings resulting in the proposed new bylaws that will be sent to each member this month, with the board's recommendation for adoption by vote of the membership at the UUFR-VA annual congregational meeting on December 13.

I would like everyone to know how hard and conscientiously our volunteers have worked to formulate revised bylaws that will serve us and keep us responsibly governed as we move into our future together. Yes, governance can be exciting!

The Upcoming Election

By Tom Kinney

Each year UUFR-VA elects its leadership at the annual congregational meeting in December. Terms are for two years and are staggered to assure we have good continuity on our Board of Stewards. This year we elect a Vice President, Treasurer, and Program Chairperson.

If you have an interest in supporting UUFR-VA in one of those capacities, please speak with a member of the Nominating Committee: Lynn Langley, Caroline Shifflett, or me. Nominees will be reported to the Secretary and the Board on November 8 and will appear on the ballot the Secretary sends to each member shortly thereafter. So please don't delay.

Blessed Wheelbarrows

by Tom Kinney

Ten UUFR-VA wheelbarrows gathered last Friday morning for a brief and fun ceremony. A blessing for a long, productive, and safe life, spiced with ample lubrication, was given to each. Cliff did the honors as resident wizard with my assistance as "altar man." A light sprinkling of 10W30 oil on each wheelbarrow from the tractor tire thurible concluded the ceremony. All were filled with joy...and then filled with wood chips as thirteen owner/drivers hauled and spread about three dump truck loads of chips for the base of our labyrinth.

Much energy, good will, and busy hay forks and rakes prevailed thanks to Sue and Bob Adriaance, Kathleen Brooks, Diana Jamison, Shirley and me, Don Lowrey, Melinda Maddox, Brown Mobley, Cliff Schelling, Hank Stupi, and Elaine and Bob Weekley. All the willing hands made for short work.



The Blessing of the Wheelbarrows begins in earnest with oddly effective incantations.

Remembering Andy Kelsey

by Bob Weekley

Some UUFR-VA members and friends who have been unable to attend Sunday services recently may not be aware of the passing of our cherished founding member, Andy Kelsey. Andy was the first President of UUFR-VA and, with his wife Ann, has been a strong supporter in every way. Andy was abundantly imbued with the Unitarian Universalist spirit of questioning, skepticism, and responsible study that characterized his spiritual journey.

Andy and Ann helped inspire our first fellowship retreat at the Peaks of Otter, as well as the leadership retreat that resulted in a commitment to the vision of building a "Home of Our Own." They supported that vision in a major way.

One of Andy's special interests for the church grounds was the building of a labyrinth. That project is in progress and will soon be complete. (A future, more permanent version is envisioned as a second phase.) In view of Andy's deep interest, a commemorative sign will signify Andy's inspiration for our UUFR-VA labyrinth. As we walk the labyrinth for quiet meditation our thoughts will often turn to Andy, whose eclectic spirit will remain a part of us.

I know you will join with me in the support of Ann and her family in this time of loss. I have included, below, the published obituary.

Andrew Samuel Kelsey

(August 13, 1926 - September 25, 2009)

KELSEY, Andrew Samuel, 83, of White Stone died Friday, September 25, 2009. He was a retired U. S. Foreign Service officer with 24 years of service and a U. S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II. Mr. Kelsey was born in San Francisco, California, and was a graduate of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock and a member of Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Ann Dyer Rickenbaugh Kelsey; two daughters, Kira Ann Kelsey of Hyannis, Mass. And Robin Kelsey Lehr and husband Michael of New York, N.Y.; a son, Andrew L. Kelsey of Waimea, Hawaii; a granddaughter, Liberty Lehr; a sister, Andrea Calfee of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Services will be private.

Memorials may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock, P. O. Box 1266, White Stone, VA 22578.

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Caroline Shifflett, Vice President
Barbara Haynes, Treasurer
Diana Jamison, Secretary
Shirley Kinney, Past President

Vacant, President Elect
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs
Fran Schelling, 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)