



THE CHALICE

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

August 2010

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

August 1 – Dave Rowden: “Jefferson and Adams on Religion and Values”

Join us for a dramatic reading of selected letters between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on Religion, Philosophy and Values. Then engage in a question and answer session with the two readers on questions you may have about what Jefferson or Adams thought on any of these topics.

August 8 – Bob Weekley: “Religious Turbulence in America”

More than one-quarter of American adults have left the faith in which they were raised in favor of another religion — or no religion at all, according to the Pew Research Center. The number of unaffiliated adults has grown dramatically. But at the same time, people who define themselves as spiritual but not religious represent the fastest growing sector of the U.S. population. Bob will explore this question: What's going on?

August 15 – Rev. Kathy Duhon: “Surprised by the Joy of Reverence”

The word *reverence* usually brings a serious mindset, whereas we associate joy with *irreverence*! You may be surprised as we find joy in reverence. Albert

Schweitzer was joyful when he came up with his "reverence for life" theology during a surprising time. From humanists to mystics, we will examine some understandings of the importance of reverence.

A Potluck Luncheon following the service will precede the third of Sara Mackey's workshops on "Welcoming Congregations."

August 22 – Tom and Shirley Kinney: “GA Messes with Your Mind”

As nearly 4000 UUs gathered in Minneapolis, the enthusiasm, excitement, variety, and extremes contributed to the fun and enlightenment of UUA's annual General Assembly. The Kinneys will present how this gathering shares knowledge and wrestles with theology, governance, and social issues, to derive a hopeful path to a better future.

August 29 – Bob Duryea: “Kurt Vonnegut and UUFV-VA”

Bob Duryea poses the following: "What does author Kurt Vonnegut have to do with the member diversity of this Fellowship? Will UUFV-VA be capable of achieving diversity in membership significantly greater than at present?" Some suggestions for diverseness will be made.

President's Corner

Gifts of Lasting Value

At our July Phood and Philosophy gathering, the topic concerned *Gifts of Lasting Value* – but that is not how the topic was billed. I asked each person to think of someone, anyone, in his or her life who had been a hero or “shero” to them and to write the name on a blank sheet of paper. Then I asked them to turn the paper over and to describe what this hero or “shero” had given them that made the person so remembered and special. We then compiled a list of these gifts.

What were the special gifts that engendered lifelong memories? Grandmother's quilt or mother's silver? Funds for a college education? A car at graduation? No, the gifts remembered were the kind of personal gifts we all can give: Gifts of the heart. Here is a partial list of gifts that people listed.

- Permission to follow my own path.
 - A sense that I can choose for myself.
 - Choose your own path and don't miss what I missed.
 - An appreciation for members of the opposite sex.
 - Encouragement to realize my dream.
 - Helping me to understand the worth of every person.
 - Teaching me to learn to find the joy in common things.
 - Encouraging me to be a critical thinker.
 - Advising me of the importance of insisting on ethics in government.
 - Advising me to seek ways to benefit society as a whole (inventions, policies, ...)
 - Giving me an appreciation for how to learn. Making complex subjects meaningful.
 - Encouraging me to seek excellence in whatever I undertake.
 - Helping me believe that I can do anything that I put my mind to.
 - Permission to try new things (regardless of convention).
 - Giving me unqualified love.
- Giving me an appreciation for the presence of each moment.
 - Helping me summon the passion to follow my passion.
 - Giving me a love for the pursuit of knowledge.
 - Helping me to have a love of life under diverse circumstances – courage.
 - Teaching me the importance of tolerance and acceptance of differences.

These are gifts that we can give to those we love. May we be mindful of our opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others by offering the simple gifts of love, encouragement, and guidance toward paths that lead to a constructive and fulfilling life.

Bob Weekley

Phood and Philosophy

Larry and Pirkko Graves will host this month's Phood and Philosophy in their home, on **Saturday, August 7.**

The topic for the evening will be **“Global Warming Affecting our Personal Lives?”**

The past month was the hottest June on record, a fact often attributed to global warming. If such changes are indeed due to global warming, are we as individuals ready to modify our daily lives to reduce its dire effects? If so, how?

Everyone is invited. Bring a dish or two to share and your preferred drinks. Please let Larry or Pirkko know if you are coming, so they can prepare the space.

Adios, Amigos!

by Shirley Kinney

We are saying adios to our UFR-VA ESL (English as a Second Language) program. We have had two fairly successful seasons and now it is time to pass it along to someone else.

That someone else is Brooke Carillo, who is a Baptist minister, currently renting the Gravitt Building (across from Matt and Caroline Shifflett's office) in Kilmarnock. Brooke is in the process of setting up a community center/church for the Latino community in our area. She plans to hold church services in Spanish, offer ESL classes, citizenship classes, GED classes, provide transportation to health care facilities for Latinos, and operate a thrift store and Fair Trade store — all from the Gravitt Building.

Sue Adriance and Shirley Kinney met with Ms. Carillo, and found her to be a very caring woman who is committed to this cause. We have turned our teaching materials over to her and explained the process we used in our classes. It appears the Latino needs we were trying to meet through our ESL classes will be well handled by this group.

The Annual Picnic

by Elaine Weekley

Mark your calendar for some End-of-Summer Fun! On **Sunday, September 12th**, immediately following the service, the Annual Picnic will be held at the Failmezger property on the Rivah.

Please bring something to sit on, as well as a dish or two and drinks to share. In case you want to barbecue, a grill will be provided. Swimming is also an option. Much fun and fellowship at a spectacular waterfront site with lots of summer breezes will be the order of the day. Directions will be forthcoming. Members, friends, visitors, kids — all are welcome!

Yoga Class Break

Susan Johnson announced that there will be no InsideOut Yoga classes July 26 - August 11. Classes will resume Monday, August 16.

From time to time, Rev. Dubon will share some of her Nutshell UU Histories. What follows is the first of, hopefully, many.

Nutshell UU History: Horace Mann (1796 – 1859)

by Rev. Kathy Duhon

One should not try to summarize a person as remarkable as Horace Mann in a "nutshell", but it is good that we remember him, especially as we face the beginning of another school year.

More than anyone else, Horace Mann is responsible for the free public education system that we take for granted in this country. He founded the first public school in Lexington and served as Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education. He was a Congressman and the President of Antioch College.

Mann was a Unitarian, and early 19th century Unitarians were known for how much they valued reason and education — Mann simply wanted to extend that value to everyone. And, at a time when other educational institutions were known for their strict discipline, Horace Mann insisted that the schools he was part of treat their students with kindness.

I would never have guessed two other things that Horace Mann is known for — establishing a longer school year (!) and improving athletic facilities. All in all, he put his values into the service of humanity, and we can all be grateful that Horace Mann left his legacy in our educational system.

Who's Who in UU: Terry Smith

by Eve Jordan

Instead of meeting for an interview, Terry was given the typical questions asked and decided to respond via e-mail. The following is his somewhat modified reply.



I'm a Connecticut native, who moved to Virginia when my parents began facing health issues far younger than my grandparents, who in my family mostly lived to around 90.

I've never before been a formal member of any religious group other than private unincorporated associations of eclectic pagans. Over the last 25 years I've been active in a number of UU IA's (independent affiliates), and special interest groups associated with three specific UU fellowships. I've also visited a fair number of historic and modern UU churches, enjoying architectural and local style examples in a number of states, especially around Southern New England.

As a lead sound volunteer, I also helped make some Woodstock reunions possible on Yasgur's Farm. The events included many interesting people, such as Country Joe McDonald. The 30th anniversary was a political rally for the 'Wanna Party Party' (real, with an actual candidate.) We staged over 60 bands, along with Libertarian and Green Party candidates, despite thunder squalls.

I've been in secure areas of a nuclear power plant, and in one of AT&T's 4-6 story underground nuclear bunker telephone toll switching and cable/fiber

facilities. I've also assisted Verizon with serious switch and billing configuration errors affecting several Northern Neck counties, and have reconfigured interoffice circuits that, prior to my arrival, did not properly support dial modems.

Peripheral to my work as a broadcast engineering consultant, I had a minor role in changing a set of international treaties, working with FCC engineers and State Department lawyers to structure engineering evidence to support US positions in negotiations and develop modern standards for cross-border radio signal interference protections. As an activist, I've alternated between insider and arm's-length synergy or opposition roles, including as a board member of legal rights focus pagan organizations, and one group that changed laws and regulations to reshape Connecticut's telephone infrastructure and regulatory policies.

Since moving to Virginia, the state ACLU has handled two cases I championed before their Board and Legal Committee. Every federal regulatory application I've prepared has ultimately been granted or acted upon favorably.

Peripheral to broadcasting, I've worked with diverse groups, from strippers to Presidential candidates. I've taught some of today's network people their early industry lessons, and been involved in live broadcasts for more ethnic, musical, and religious groups than I can recall. One of the more interesting live talk shows that required unusual engineering was done from inside a maximum security prison. One can say I've been locked up in a maximum security prison three times, but people tend to make false assumptions if stated that way.

For most of my life I've been a left-libertarian activist. I've been an editor of two newspapers as a teen, one of which has history that contributed to friend Chris Hedges being a journalist POW in the first US Iraq invasion.

However, most memorably, I've been on the roof of the Empire State building and swung off the King Kong tower.

Sunday Morning Meditation Begins Soon

by Bob Weekley

Meditation is valued by many as a path to finding our calm center and refreshing our spirit. Many find value in meditating with others in a small group, rather than trying to maintain a practice alone. Like physical exercise with a group, the shared experience and positive feedback seems to help people stick with the practice.

We will initiate Morning Meditation at our Fellowship on September 5th, and continue every Sunday 45 minutes prior to the morning service. Everyone is welcome, whether experienced in meditation or just wanting to try it.

Meditation sessions will vary from week to week and will be led by different facilitators from the Fellowship. Some sessions may include guided (spoken) meditation by the facilitator, some sessions may be primarily a time of quietness together, some might include a labyrinth walk or a musical meditation. The facilitator for each week will be announced in advance in *The Chalice* and the Sunday morning bulletins.

Morning Meditation will be held every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:15. During that time we will ask others who have not come for the meditation period to remain in the foyer. After 10:15 the sanctuary will be opened to all in preparation for the 10:30 service – but we will continue the practice of asking those who enter to do so quietly in respect for those who have come to experience a quiet time before the service begins.

As we continue this series we will be mindful of the participants' feedback regarding the timing and the conduct of the sessions. If you have questions, or are interested in being one of the facilitators, contact Diana Jamison, Cliff Schelling, or me.

Hungry for Crabs?

Ken Kenley reminds everyone that The 4th Annual Mathews Crab Steam will be held on **August 14th** from **5:00 to 7:30 pm**. See Ken for details. He promises an outstanding time.

A Special Thank You

from Pam Collins

Each time I walk through the winding path to our “lighthouse,” I admire with delight the landscaping that has been achieved. I know that Bob and Sue Adriance and Audrey Brainard have spent much time and effort to accomplish this, and I'm sure there are others, too, who have helped in various ways.

Let us all let them know how much we appreciate the work they have done.



Elaine Weekley proudly displays our beautiful UU July 4th cake.

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:

August 23: *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai

September 27: *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann

October 25: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson

November 22: *The Great World* by David Malouf

If you have a recommendation for a good read, or if you have any questions, please call **Elaine Weekley**.

Who Did That?

by Bob Weekley

I'm sure you've noticed the continuing improvements in our long-awaited "Home of Our Own." And, no, we don't employ the elves of our forest to get things done. We are blessed, instead, with a quiet group of volunteers busily bettering our new home.

The excellent progress in the butterfly garden is thanks to Audrey and Ralph Brainard and the help they have hired. Great gains in the landscaping area are due to the effort and commitment of Sue and Bob Adriance. Watering and caring for those plants, and adding a few of his own, is the work of Larry Graves. The ongoing battle against the intrusion of poison ivy and labyrinth weeds is being won by our weed warrior, Terry Smith. Recall that old log pile next to the driveway? It was hauled away by Hank Stupi. Thanks to Tom Kinney, an astronomical timer turns the lighthouse and parking lot lights on at sunset and off around midnight. During that "on" time, if a motion detector "sees" you headed for the path, it turns the path lights on for your added safety, comfort, and security.

Others have contributed their efforts while gaining a sense of belonging and participation. If you would like to pitch in on your own schedule to make our place better for all of us, check with Don Lowrey, Bob and Sue Adriance, or me for some suggestions.

Board of Stewards

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