



THE CHALICE

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

November 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

November 7 – Cliff Schelling and Diana Jamison: “Wise Heart”
9:45 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

Cliff and Diana will provide a guide to Buddhist Psychology, which they use in their coaching and therapy practices.

November 14 – Barbara Martin: “Making the Creative Connection”
9:45 Meditation: **Pamela Collins**



Barbara returns to the UUFR-VA, and explores how to connect to life not only in music, but in one’s everyday life. She will talk about her experiences with songwriting, improvising in blues and jazz and how it has connected her to her inner self, to others and to her community. She’ll be performing several of her award-winning original songs and inviting the audience to join her in musical improvisation.

November 21 – Rev. David Tetrault:
“Reflections on the Religious Body”
9:45 Meditation: **Eva Abel**

“Who told you that you were naked?” asked the Voice in the mythical Garden of Eden? Why does that and other questions make a difference when we claim to be religious/spiritual people? Join us for Rev. Tetrault’s examination of the topic.

A Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.

November 28 – Dave Rowden: “A Bread Communion”
9:45 Meditation: **Eve Jordan**

UUs often celebrate the Harvest Season with a sharing ritual of bread. For our UUFR-VA bread communion ritual, please bring the bread of your choice or culture—round, braided, yeast, quick, nut, or sculptured, preferably baked by you. Each member will share a few words about his or her bread contribution. The topic for our Bread Communion Sunday will be “Is Ethical Eating Possible in the Modern World.” Also, please bring a cutting board and your favorite spread for our final sharing of the loaves after the service.

President's Corner

If I headlined this article, "UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock Finances," some would skip the rest of the article. Well, it *is* about finances. But, please stay with me. I have good things to write, and we all need to be informed about the financial glue that holds our Fellowship together.

Our financial history is an interesting one. Before we acquired property and a building, our finances were pretty simple: rent, guest speakers, supplies, and community service. We did establish several practices early on: saving for an eventual "Home of Our Own," not spending funds until we had those funds, and the corollary of that – not taking on debt. We maintain those principles today.

When the congregation decided on the goal of a "Home of Our Own," there were some who said it couldn't be done with our small congregation. But enough members had the vision of a permanent UU home established on the Northern Neck that we were able to buy our property and build a building that actually exceeded what we thought we could do. Remembering all that people gave, and their many other gifts to the Fellowship, fills me with admiration and pride for all who made it happen. Look around. All that you see was the result of donations, from the kitchen stove to the land our building sits on. And we borrowed no money!

As you know, we have never had annual pledge campaigns like most churches. Our only pledge campaign was for the actual construction costs of our building. We haven't conducted annual pledge campaigns because our members show their appreciation for the Fellowship and give generously toward our monthly operating expenses. (I'm not saying it is our policy never to pledge. Future needs could require it. But for now, your Board of Stewards does not feel it is necessary.)

In addition to individual giving, various groups within the Fellowship have raised significant funds to support our needs. The "Imagine That!" Art Guild, the Cookbook Committee, the Great UU Yard Sale last spring, the sale of books on Amazon.com, and other projects have provided many enhancements

such as our artistic Chalice and a soon-to-come lectern/pulpit arrangement.

Beyond the operating budget, we have project-specific funds for important needs. These are "buckets" to which donors can earmark their gifts. Once we have the funds we can move forward with the project. Examples of these include the needed parking lot addition, construction of our memorial area, more chairs for the sanctuary, and more hymnals. On the table in the foyer you can see a list updated from week to week showing the funds that have quietly appeared to bring these closer to completion.

Looking at the longer term, we already experience the need for more building space, especially for the ability to have simultaneous children's programs of different age groups. Also, we may have the opportunity soon to purchase an adjoining piece of property that would enhance the future flexibility of our Fellowship.

You are an amazing and dedicated group. Thank you, everyone, for your love of this Fellowship as demonstrated by your financial generosity and your volunteerism.

Bob Weekley



Bob stands next to the new sign he and Tom Kinney erected on Route 3. Obtaining permission to post the sign was a long and drawn out process but the Fellowship now has a full agreement with the property's gracious owner.

Phood and Philosophy

Fran and Cliff Schelling will host this month's Phood and Philosophy in their home on **Saturday, November 6**, beginning at **5:30 p.m.**

Who hasn't, at one time or another, joked about, analyzed, or celebrated gender differences? Even at UUFRR-VA, members have been dismayed by the behaviors of those different others. Are men and women really different? Do men and women speak the same language? If they don't "get it", what should they get? So what's happening between men and women? Come prepared to tell us about **your** experiences, not about the research or the latest book you have read.

Attendees are encouraged to park on the bocce court side of the driveway

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

Nutshell UU History: Olympia Brown (1835-1926)

by Rev. Kathy Duhon

How can I possibly write only a few words about Olympia Brown? I have been delighted to read an entire book about this remarkable Universalist, the first woman ordained by a national denomination, in 1863, and an important suffragette.

When Olympia was 82 years old in 1917, she was out protesting in front of the White House. Although she'd worked for decades on women's rights, they still did not have the vote. The women were carrying signs when men started to grab and break the signs and push women down. The police, after watching the men wreak havoc, picked up the women to arrest them, by orders of President Wilson. Shocked, Olympia stayed all day in the sleet, and kept at it for years more.

Finally, on Nov. 2, 1920, 90 years ago, Olympia Brown was able to cast her first ballot, at the age of 85. We can thank Olympia for a fuller democracy.

Bread and Stone Soup

by Diana Jamison

Susan Brooke is hosting a fund-raising event for The Bay Center For Spiritual Development on **November 7** from 3 to 6 p.m. She will be presenting a class on **How To Make Bread**. What better preparation for Dave Rowden's service on the 28th?

The class will be held in the kitchen of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. If you will bring vegetables from your garden, or some that you have canned or frozen over the season, she will make stone soup to serve with her freshly baked bread at the end of the class.

If joining me for this wonderful occasion is of interest to you, please let me know. I have tickets that you may purchase for \$50 a participant. Donations benefit the work of The Bay Center.

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 22: *The Great World* by David Malouf

December: No meeting

January 24: *Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell

The group is always on the lookout for excellent books which lend themselves to lively discussions. If you have a suggestion, please call **Elaine Weekley**.

Ding-a-ling

by Shirley Kinney

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Or, it soon will. And that means it's time to contribute to our adopt-a-family fund. Just as she did last year, Lynn Langley will be ringing her silent bell in the foyer on Sundays, to remind you to drop in a check or cash to provide a good Christmas for needy families in the Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland counties.

The Social Services in the area will be giving us names for a family in each area whose children will not have a Christmas if we don't help. We'll collect your donations and then buy clothes and toys and books and food for the family.

We'll need willing shoppers who know how to make the money stretch, and present wrappers and Santas who will deliver the packages to the families. If you are looking for a fun project to participate in, here's your chance. Talk to the Community Service Committee—that's Lorie Lowrey, Lynn Langley, and Shirley Kinney—if you can help.

Save the Date - Multiculturalism Workshop with Rev. Paul Rasor

January 14, 15 and 16, 2011

Hosted by Williamsburg UUs

The Rev. Dr. **Paul Rasor**, director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College, will lead a consideration of "Unitarian Universalism - A Religion for Our Time."

Rasor has said, "We face a major turning point in Unitarian Universalism, and our decision whether to stand or move will shape the identity and set the course of our religious movement for the twenty-first century. In a word, our turning point can be summed up in the term **multiculturalism**."

Those Wonderful Volunteers

Sue Adriance extends a heartfelt thank you for all of our hard working landscape volunteers. October 22nd was a beautiful day to work outside and those who volunteered accomplished a lot. Evidence of their clean-up can be seen in the new burn pile in the auxiliary parking lot. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Our October 22nd Landscape Volunteers were captured making UUFR-VA more attractive.

Thanks to Everyone

by Caroline Shifflett

It is one thing to bare your soul to others. It is quite another to have that experience and feel like you've been wrapped in a big fuzzy hug. That is a gift like no other. **Thank You!**

Thank you to all of you who came to listen to my talk "Further Along My Spiritual Journey: Souvenirs From An Unexpected Detour" in September! I felt extremely loved and supported by the congregation on this detour. Thank you for being there to be my sounding board. Thank you for being loving, accepting and most of all forgiving! Thank you for being my family. Thank you for telling me about the parts that touched you. There is hardly a better feeling than to give other members of the congregation cause to laugh, to cry and/or to think. From the reactions I saw that day and the comments people made to me after, I luckily got to experience all of those. Thank you for that too. And a *super* thank you to those of you who have had cause to, and reminded me of, the things I said. We all need a helpful reminder of the important things every once in a while! As I said that day in September, it is important that the people who love you love you. I think we here at UUFR-VA have an *important* role in each other's lives. Very Good, Very Good, YAY!

Yoga Successes

by Bob Weekley



Not only members of our Fellowship, but also others from the community, are now enjoying the yoga classes held every Monday and Wednesday morning.

For the UUFR-VA, this is a real win-win-win situation. Members receive a discount on the classes, the Fellowship receives income from the classes, and professional yoga instructor Susan is one of the best anywhere, according to her students.

Many attendees from the community have remarked on the beauty of our building and grounds and some have visited our services. New students can begin at any time, so if you are interested check out the details at <http://www.insideoutyoga.org> or pick up a brochure in the foyer. (By the way, men, as well as women, are attending these yoga classes.)

We'd Like to Hear from You

One of the best parts of UUFR-VA is attending the wonderful Sunday services and enjoying the wide variety of quality speakers. We have heard from the community, as well, that they are noticing from the newspapers what interesting speakers we have.

Part of that quality comes from the outside speakers we bring in. But, we're always looking for new ideas. Do you know of a speaker in the area that might have something to offer our congregation? Let the Program Committee know.

However, the most important part of our quality services comes from us. Half of our programs are put on by our members and friends—that's you. As a lay-lead fellowship, we must draw from the depth and experience of ourselves. Through the years, our own speakers have grown in the quality of services presented, and have found that the experience of preparing and delivering a service is truly rewarding.

The Program Committee is currently preparing the calendar of speakers for 2011. We will be contacting members of our congregation to do their share in the Sunday experience. If you are not contacted, it's not because we don't want to hear from you, it's just that we have only 26 slots to fill. If you would like to present a Sunday service, either alone or with others, and have a topic that educates, entertains, and inspires, please don't hesitate to contact the Program Committee. We'd love to hear from you!

Committee Members: Shirley Kinney, Caroline Shifflett, Bob Weekley, Pam Collins, Devi Herrsche, Jane Elkin

Helping Hands at Work

by Lorie Lowrey

Within this past year, thanks to the generosity and energy of the Cryer family, a much needed new facility opened in Middlesex County. The Cryer Center, located near Harmony Grove Baptist Church on Route 33, provides office and working space for Hands Across Middlesex, Middlesex Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank, a Social Services satellite office, the Red Cross, and others. These organizations are always in need of volunteers, and thus far UUFV-VA has contributed several hours to Hands, helping them move into the facility and taking in and organizing donations.

Hands has an indoor yard sale the second Saturday of every month between the hours of 7:00 and 11:00 a.m., and can use your help setting up and working at those sales.

A Food Bank delivery truck has to be unloaded the second Tuesday of every month, and that food is distributed the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month between 9:00 a.m. and noon. They could use help with those activities.

And, most recently, Hands and the Central Virginia Food Bank have launched the local chapter of the Backpack Buddy Club to provide the weekend food for needy children who receive food at school during the week, but have nothing for the weekends. They need help loading these packs on Thursday afternoons. A cash donation of \$200 will sponsor a child for the full year.

Do you have a few hours a month to help with these worthy activities? If so, please contact me.



A Musical interlude during Thea and Eva's October Phood and Phrolic. (photo: Fran Schelling)

What is an "All Committee Night?"

by Bob Weekley

You might have wondered about the announcement in the Chalice that **All Committee Night** will be held on **Wednesday, November 10**, 7 PM, at our Fellowship. Who should attend? What is the purpose?

All Committee Night is for everyone who is interested in the workings of the Fellowship, and in its future. It is not just for members of committees but also for all members and friends. And it is not just a chance to listen but also to share any ideas or suggestions with the various committees.

At All Committee Night, each of our committees will make a short presentation on the purposes and functions of that committee, their current projects, activities and interests, and on their plans for future projects and efforts. Then, others present will have the opportunity to ask questions or offer suggestions to that committee.

I hope you will plan to attend. It promises to be a good time of fellowship and I bet you will learn something you never knew about our Fellowship, its people, and its workings.

Who's Who in UU: Brown Mobley

by Eve Jordan



Charming Brown Mobley, the epitome of Southern gentility, has had more close calls and intense foreign adventure than most of us can imagine. Brown grew up in Blackstone, Virginia, where she attended the Baptist Church. She graduated from William and Mary, and harbored an intense desire to see the world. She was working at the Richmond Chamber of Commerce as a statistical analyst when she received a telephone call from the Department of State offering a job as a Code Clerk at a location to be determined after she completed the required training.

In the meantime she had met Ed Mobley, a young man from Portsmouth who had served in Japan as a paratrooper during the occupation, before attending LSU and the University of Virginia. They decided to marry; he was to accept the job his company was offering in Iceland and she would accept the State Department job. They had faith that within six months or so they would marry and be on their way to a life of adventure. It happened. On that Christmas Eve they were married by the Mayor of the 17th Arrondissement in Paris, and on December 26th they exchanged vows at St Joseph's Catholic Church. (The Irish priest who married them, Father Paddy Byrne, had given Brown instruction in the Catholic faith but had concluded that although God had not 'seen fit to give her the gift of faith', they could remain friends. And that they did.)

There followed over four years working in Rota, Spain on the construction of the Naval Base, Ed working for the prime contractor and Brown heading up the Navy's Administration Department. Their daughter Anne Shelton was born in Gibraltar during this time. Next followed a year where Ed worked as a consultant in Ruislip, England and daughter Taylor Lee was born.

The next chapter occurred in East Hampton, Long Island, where Ed had accepted a temporary job with a friend. By the time this ended, they had decided to stay a while; Ed started a construction company, built a California-style house for the family and third daughter, Lucy Wright, appeared. (One of the more interesting aspects of the East Hampton chapter was assisting William deKooning with the design and construction of his studio, and living next door to Fernando Botero).

Inevitably the itchy-foot syndrome reared its head and they were off to Bogota, Columbia for a brief job, followed by four years in Thailand. During this period both Mobleys worked – Ed for a U.S. Government contractor and later consulting on hotel construction. Brown worked for the U.S. Government on a couple of projects. Then it was off to Singapore, where Ed and a friend formed a partnership to do hotel consulting. Ed and Brown were active with a group that sought to create activities for young people that would help counter the drug problem that was just beginning. Brown, encouraged by her boss, Colonel Lew Millette and ex-paratrooper Ed, took up skydiving and was the only women member of Mitrepob. (This organization was formed by Thai and American officers to sponsor fee-producing skydives to build schools in remote areas of Thailand.)

From Singapore they moved to Tehran, Iran, where Ed and another friend started a consulting group. Brown went to work as an administrative assistant with the U.S. Navy at the Iranian Technical Directorate. Life was good. Eldest daughter had graduated from high school in Singapore and second daughter was about to finish in Tehran. They left together to start college in Virginia. Lucy was doing well at the International school.

Then Brown went off to Afghanistan with a small group of Americans. Returning from a trip to Bamain (of destroyed Buddha fame) the group found tanks and armed men on every corner, and just as MIG's roared overhead dropping lethal objects they sought shelter in a small unoccupied building. After a night spent in fearful suspense, there came a radio message telling the Afgans that King Daoud and his family had been killed by a rival and the government was being reorganized. There was also a request to the Afgans to refrain from harming any foreigners. The next morning the group was emboldened to take taxis back to their hotel. After a few days the airport opened and they flew back to Tehran.

This excitement at the end of April 1978, was followed by the fall of the Shah, and the return of Khomeini to Iran. There had been rumblings for months that something was afoot, but the official American position was that the Shah would prevail. Things came to a head on November 6. From the Navy office one could see smoke rising. Personnel were told to go home. Terrified, Brown's driver found himself behind a police car being attacked, and the bus just ahead had been set on fire by a mob. After being deposited at home Brown went up to the roof of the apartment building to observe the street below and watched as mobs, hosed down by the police time after time, attacked two banks across the street. As it got dark, one could hear all over the city people calling out 'Allahu Akbar!' or 'God is great'. Ed arrived from a trip to Turkey later that evening to Brown's great relief. On the ride from the airport the driver was stopped at every cross-street by a rifle in his face, but was then waved on.

The next day, they discovered that the eleven-story office building housing Ed's office had been completely destroyed. Bown and Ed got the message. After giving Brown's office a month's notice (they had to abide by the official U.S. position in support of the Shah and would remain another couple of months), they left for the United States.

It was good to be home for a while. The next job was in Irvine, California. That lasted a few months, and then off to Yanbu, Saudi Arabia for three years. No revolution or coup d'état marred that stay, but Brown had leave for Athens every three months to renew

her visa. Although the women were not allowed to work, Brown and two friends established a library with books they cadged from friends who had finished them or were leaving. They even obtained a World Book Encyclopedia from the company for the children's section. And Brown flew to Rwanda to meet daughter Taylor, who was serving in the Peace Corps in Zaire.

A couple of years in Virginia ensued and then a call asking Ed to go to Egypt. There were five wonderful years there, first in Cairo and thereafter in Alexandria. They traveled from one end of that extraordinary country to the other several times, making many friends of every religious persuasion, and traveled to Israel, Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, Yemen and Turkey.

Next, Ed was asked to go to Yerevan, Armenia to be in charge of transforming an old ministry building into an American Embassy. The USSR had disintegrated and the U.S. had to quickly establish ties with the individual countries. Brown found that Armenia was a lovely country and the people are intelligent and cultured. At that time – the 1990's – they lived in a state of great hardship. Electricity, for instance, would come on, if at all, for a couple of hours every night or so, and the wives would spring out of bed to do whatever cooking was necessary before the electricity was gone again.

In 1997 while visiting friends in Kilmarnock, Ed and Brown made the decision to buy a small house for weekend getaways from their retirement home in Blackstone. The weekends grew longer and longer as they applied themselves to renovating and upgrading their little house, and they were more and more reluctant to leave. During this period a notice in the Rappahannock Record led them to join a small group of Unitarians meeting in the library. What a fortunate day that was. Seeing the fellowship grow and develop has been a life-changing experience for Brown.

After Ed's final illness, Brown decided to make this community a full-time home, and Ed's ashes are deposited in Bell's Creek (as well as in numerous countries and bodies of water around the world.)

The light in the tower is a fitting memorial to him.

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
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Lynn Langley, Treasurer
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Tom Kinney , Past President
Shirley Kinney, 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)