



THE CHALICE

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

February 2011

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 6 – Devi Herrsche: “A Crisis of Perception”

9:45 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

Devi invites us to compare the fragmentation she has experienced in her personal psyche with today’s escalating fragmentation of the American body politic.

February 13 – Rev. Kathy Duhon: “Love Is . . . Sunshine, Roses, and IV Drips”

9:45 Meditation: **Caroline Shifflett**

“Love is . . .” starts a famous line from a movie and a more famous Bible passage. Love is all kinds of things; simple, sweet, and challenging. Come share a special pre-Valentine’s Day service with your beloveds at UFR-VA.

February 20 – Rev. David Tetrault: “The Religious Body: Why Are You Reading This Right Now?”

9:45 Meditation: **Eva Abel**

What is it that raises our awareness toward the mystery of emerging life? We’ll be spending time exploring the tools that scholars and others use to “surf” their way through complex and competing landscapes. We’ll be looking for ways to see ourselves as spiritual beings having a human experience and not the other way around.

The potluck lunch will follow the service.

February 27 – MJ Anderson-Leichty: “Fumbling Towards Unitarianism”

9:45 Meditation: **Susan Johnson**

Enjoy a morning of music and stories reflecting MJ’s personal journey from religion to spirituality. Accompanying her will be Mark Favazza, Susan Johnson, and Troy Wolfrey.

President's Corner

Social Justice. Those words are bandied about in UU circles. Our denomination has a long history of making a difference by standing against oppression, human rights violations, and civil injustices. Some in our congregation have wondered what we are doing, here and now, to make a difference in the community, in the nation, and in the world.

The answer is, we have taken some steps, and with the support of our members, we are ready to do more.

The first step, as with most endeavors, starts with us. In January members of our congregation completed a series of workshops in which we examined our own feelings about discrimination toward our brothers and sisters who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. We found that we had more to learn than we knew, not about LGBT folks, but about ourselves. Soon, our congregation will be taking the next step to decide, by congregational vote, whether we are ready to take a stand and be certified as a UU Welcoming Congregation, accepting the entailed commitments.

The UU Association of Congregations (UUA) continues with denomination-wide efforts to address other social justice issues at a national and international level. Our Fellowship has not played our part in this process, but we are ready to start. The UUA takes on major issues that it asks its congregations to study and to contribute their ideas. Once the congregations approve taking a position, the UUA puts its weight behind that position to influence national and international actions.

Two such issues are underway now for us to educate ourselves on, weigh in with our opinions, and later to vote on whether the issue as it finally emerges becomes a UU "Statement of Conscience."

The current issues for us to consider are (1) the U.S. immigration problem and (2) various ethical aspects of the food industry. Jane Elkin is taking the lead in compiling our members' responses on these issues. Most of you have received an email from her explaining what members need to do and soliciting

your views. In order to be counted, our response to the food question was needed (and was sent) by February 1. Our response to the immigration issue is needed by March 1. Your response might include either disagreement or constructively critiquing the approach. But only by responding can you have an effect.

It is easy to sit back and ask why somebody doesn't do the right thing about such matters. But it comes down to all citizens educating themselves and making their stands known.

If you have not responded to Jane's email, or if you have lost it, contact Jane soon. Even here, in our own tranquil corner of the world, we can make a difference in issues of major concern.

Bob Weekley

Phood and Philosophy

Our monthly gathering of fine food and delicious conversation is on hiatus this month. Look for the return of Phood and Philosophy next month.

UUA Plans 50th Anniversary

UU World – by Donald E Skinner

A birthday party's coming!

The Unitarian Universalist Association turns 50 next year, and planning for that milestone is well underway. The anniversary of the consolidation of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association is actually May 15, 2011, but the real festivities start a month later at General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, N.C.

For more details, visit UU World at:
<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/174620.shtml>

Our Mission

by Bob Weekley

For any organization, informal or structured, from family to nation, an agreement on the purpose of the organization is essential.

In 2010 the Vision and Planning Committee took a careful look at the Mission Statement for our Fellowship and proposed a revised statement, obtained Board of Stewards acceptance, and presented it to the Fellowship prior to the annual membership meeting on December 12, where the members voted to accept it.

Our revised Mission Statement:

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock is to put Unitarian Universalist Principles into practice through programs that empower spiritual exploration, critical thinking, and social service, and provide a spiritual home for future generations.

Some of our members wanted to defer acceptance of the revised statement until additional discussion and alternatives had been considered. The majority, however, voted for acceptance as is.

The Board of Stewards discussed these concerns. There was special appreciation for those who expressed a high degree of interest and wanted to consider alternatives. Their voices were heard.

The consensus of the Board and the Vision and Planning Committee is that we should leave the revised statement in place for now. As a matter of good practice, we will review the Mission Statement periodically. The next time we do, we resolve to consult with all members more thoroughly.

Nutshell UU History: Whitney Young, Jr. 1921 – 1971

by Rev. Kathy Duhon

Whitney Young was an activist who worked for civil rights, social reform, and economic justice. He headed the National Urban League for 10 years, and was dean of the School of Social Work at Atlanta University. In 1969 he received the American Medal of Freedom. We celebrate this African-American UU.

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:

February 28: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

March 28: *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson

April 25: *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen

If you have a recommendation for a noteworthy book which could generate a lively discussion, please call Elaine Weekley.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

by Elaine Weekley

Many thanks to those members and friends who donated money to purchase three library lottery tickets! While UUF-VA didn't win any prize money this year, the Lancaster Community Library "won" and will be able to continue its many wonderful programs and services. Your contributions are yet another example of our Fellowship's generous giving to benefit an invaluable community organization.

Who's Who in UU: Paula Greenwood

by Eve Jordan



Remember last year's yard sale? Recall how Paula came into the building, knew what to keep, what to toss, how to organize and price and ... all the stuff that goes into a yard sale? Here is the reason: she is a "yard saler" par excellence. Since college, she has been a lover of yard sales, buying and selling; she is a thrift shop, yard sale, "what-can-I-do-with-that" kind of gal. For the last six and a half years she has had a table selling antiques at the Urbanna Flea Market at Cooks Corner, Routes 33 and 227 going into Urbanna.

Paula was born in Queens, New York, and raised in Northport, Long Island. As a child living on the north shore of Long Island, she spent her days outside, being dropped off at the beach in the summer and exploring the woods when the beach was out of season. Life was good. When she was in high school, her family acquired a small sailboat and Paula was hooked. The water has always been important to her, and she loves boats.

Paula went to the University of Maine in Orono, where she received a degree in history. After college, Paula went to work in New York City, which she loved, although she declares she was no Carrie Bradshaw. After New York, Paula began working at the Kennedy Space Center. The job allowed her to

be present at the launches of Apollo 7 through 14 – and she observed one of the launches from a boat. She was also present at the first moon launch. This was a very exciting time – both for her and for the country.

However, she found it difficult to base a career on a four-year degree in history, so Paula entered graduate school at Florida State University, pursuing a Masters Degree in Library Science. As a lifelong reader, this seemed a logical choice for her.

With degree in hand, Paula left for Virginia, where her sister was living, and eventually became chief librarian for AT&T in Richmond ... until the demise of AT&T, and with that, the elimination of the library. Because there were no other positions of interest to her, Paula found a job as director of two public libraries in Middlesex County. Here she was surrounded by water! With this new position, she moved to Urbanna. This area is reminiscent of her childhood home in Northport, Long Island, and best of all, she could walk to the water. She discovered the kayak and realized this was where she wanted to be.

After Urbanna, Paula moved to Kilmarnock, where she found work at Advantage Window and Door. Here, she learned bookkeeping, a great skill for semi-retirement. She did a bit of everything, and loved it. It was exciting to run the office. The owner was a people-person, and she was the office manager. When the business was sold, she decided to start a small accounting business from her home. In a bit of "Pay it Forward," a friend gave her a laptop, and the accountant from the Window store set up Quick Books for her. Paula currently has two small businesses as clients and enjoys working from her home.

As luck would have it, Kilmarnock was exactly what Paula had been looking for. She bought a charming house in town, and adopted a wonderful dog named Shelby Lynne, who is part Border Collie and part Jack Russell. There is enough activity in town to remain engaged, but not too much to be overwhelmed. Kilmarnock has lovely places to walk with shopping and coffee shops nearby – who could ask for more?

Well, ... a place for a spiritual life. Although Paula had been raised as a Lutheran, it did not seem to stick for her. When she discovered the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, she found what she had been looking for. Since she works at home much of the time, meeting new people can present a challenge. Finding UUFR-VA has been an opportunity to meet many new people, and an amazing range of interesting, engaging people.

Paula has a sister, Susan, a home health care nurse living in Tamasee, South Carolina, an hour northwest of Greenville. Susan had a real impact on her sister's life several years ago. Paula decided she wanted a kayak of her own. She told her sister about this desire, and Susan sent her a toy canoe (closest thing to a kayak she could find) and \$10 inside the canoe to start her kayak fund. It took a year to get enough together, but her kayak became a reality.

As a former librarian and a book lover, Paula is particularly interested in Native Americans. She has been to New Mexico several times, and admires their

philosophy and way of life. She has many examples of Native American pottery in her home. In a house filled with books, her preferred fiction reading is hard-boiled mysteries by writers like Harlen Coben, Joseph Wambaugh, Ed McBain, and Ian Rankin. She enjoys art and antiques, and in her home she has many examples of the sawgrass baskets found in South Carolina. They often show up at yard sales or flea markets. Lots of hard work and talent go into these charming baskets.

So if you happen to be on the way to Urbanna and see the flea market, stop by to visit Paula's table. And when you are shopping, if you happen to see something in teal blue, consider picking it up for her. That color absolutely changes the color of her eyes, and makes them seem to sparkle.

She is the Yard Sale Queen ... ready for consultation if needed ... always ready for a bargain. Thank you, Paula, for being one of the interesting, engaging people here at the UUFR-VA.

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Caroline Shifflett, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer

Kathy Duhon, Secretary

Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>

<http://www.uufr-va.org>

Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Tom Kinney, Past President
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Janet Hemming and Marge Rowden, Membership Co-Chairs

Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the month

Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)