

THE CHALICE

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

April 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

April 3

Jane Elkin and Bill Gimpel: “Star Island”

9:45 Meditation: **Pam Collins**

Jane and Bill will share recollections of, and discuss the purpose of, Star Island, which is a rustic and beautiful 35 acres—10 miles off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire—and has been the site of UU religious and educational conferences on arts, natural history, world affairs, science, and spirituality since 1915.

Religious and political activity and institutions have intertwined throughout history, sometimes together, sometimes in opposition.

The monthly potluck lunch will follow the service.

April 10

Rev. Andrew Millard: TBA

9:45 Meditation: **Eve Jordan**

April 17

Rev. Jim Sanderson: “A Dangerous Hosanna”

9:45 Meditation: **Diana Jamsion**

Using the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as a jumping-off point, let's take a look at the interplay of politics/governance and religion. Was Jesus making a political or a religious statement when he rode in on his donkey? Was there a difference?

April 24

Adrian Vyner-Brooks: “Rumi: The Silence of Love”

9:45 Meditation: **Bob Weekley**

The service will focus on the poetry of Rumi, with a brief talk about his life and work. However, it is the poetry itself, not its background, that is the change agent. Rumi was a third-generation Sufi mystic who lived in the Persian empire of the 13th century. Even in his own time he became known as the “King of Mystics,” and today his is the most popular poetry in the USA. Rumi said:

We long for what our heart knows to be real, for love's union which is hidden beneath the surface of our lives.

This message flies beyond the confines of any religion, and few hearts are not touched by it. Speaking not only for myself, but also for many of those that I have performed for in the last four years: To drink in his poetry is to be changed.

President's Corner

How Do We Connect?

Sometimes the question arises: Why do I need a church or fellowship? To learn deeply about spiritual matters and the religions of the world, one can sit at home and turn to books, videos, CDs, and even the Internet. What is it that is so enriching to our spirits about connecting with other people who are attuned to our questions and doubts?

Whatever it is, and it likely differs from person to person, spiritual searching and deepening is an experience best shared. People of like mind who relate to your searching and your questions can feel closer than a blood relative who doesn't.

Our small fellowship has developed many ways to connect. At Sunday morning services we sing together, reflect together, share our stories, and grip each other's hands. We join together on committees to share the work of the Fellowship. We connect with each other in small groups of committed people: covenant groups, Sunday morning meditation together, potluck and discussion groups, singing duos, gardening together, working together on community projects, and even grounds maintenance brings us together.

Whether sitting silently in meditation with others from our congregation, or working on a project, I have often sensed a joining of spirits, an unspoken bond.

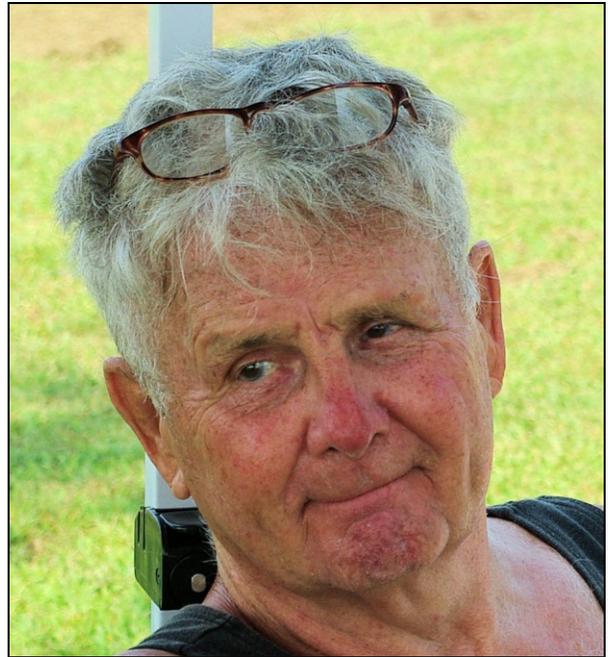
Let us be mindful of this joy of connection.

Bob Weekley

Spring Prep

We're well into spring now, and **Sue Adriance** is putting out the word: **Help!** This was one tough winter, and we need to give our fledgling landscape a spring boost. So, there will be a spring landscape clean-up on Friday, April 1st, at 9:30 A.M. Helpers should bring gloves, rakes and pruners, if they have them, and lots of enthusiasm. The rain date will be Saturday.

Thanks to all.



A Sad Note

Long-time member of the Fellowship, Larry Graves, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, March 22nd. We grieve with his wife Pirkko over the loss of this brilliant and unique man.

Memorial services for Larry will be announced at a later date.

Growing a Community Garden

In cooperation with the Northern Neck Food Bank, Kirsten Halverson and Carolyn Alsup are starting up a community garden at the Bay Center for Spiritual Development. They are in desperate need of ideas, volunteers, donations, and enthusiasm!

Kirsten and Carolyn will also have a table at the "Gardening in the Northern Neck" Seminar on April 2nd. On April 9th at 10:00 A.M., they will be having a workday to prep the garden site. Then, on April 23rd at 10 A.M., another workday will get the planting done!

Contact Kirsten Halverson or Carolyn Alsup for more information.

Phood and Philosophy

Marge and Dave Rowden will host this month's Phood and Philosophy in their home in Heathsville, on **Saturday, April 2, at 5:30 P.M.**

This month's Phood and Philosophy will explore "A Faith for a Few?—Class in Unitarian Universalism History." This was the lead article in The Spring 2011 issue of *UU World*. The article explored the often-voiced criticism that Unitarian Universalism is a religion for a liberal educated few. This article also explored the differences between Unitarianism and Universalism with respect to membership and socio-economic class of members of both branches of UU.

We hope to have wide-ranging discussion of exactly who we think we are, with respect to our roots in both Unitarianism and Universalism. Are we a religion that only appeals to educated liberals? What does history tell us about our roots in both Unitarianism and Universalism? What do you know about the contributions of Universalism to the foundation for UU beliefs? Do we shortchange Universalism at our own expense? If we incorporated more of a Universalist philosophy into our own personal philosophies or theologies, would we benefit? Would we appeal to a wider range of people? What has been your own personal experience with Universalism? What do you think about it? These are a few of the questions that we will be exploring. We strongly urge that every one attending make an honest effort to read the above-referenced lead article in *UU World*. It will provide a solid and provocative foundation for our discussion.

Join us for what will be a very interesting evening. Please bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice.

Please let the Rowdens know if you plan to attend. We hope to see many of you there.

April is Poetry Month

by Rev. Kathy Duhon

Carl Sandburg: "Definitions of Poetry"

1. *Poetry is a projection across silence of cadences arranged to break that silence with definite intentions of echoes, syllables, wave lengths.*
2. *Poetry is the harnessing of the paradox of earth cradling life and then entombing it*
3. *Poetry is a series of explanations of life, fading off into horizons too swift for explanations.*
4. *Poetry is a sky dark with a wild-duck migration.*
5. *Poetry is a search for syllables to shoot at the barriers of the unknown and the unknowable.*
6. *Poetry is a packsack of invisible keepsakes.*
7. *Poetry is a phantom script telling how rainbows are made and why they go away.*
8. *Poetry is the achievement of the synthesis of hyacinths and biscuits.*
9. *Poetry is the capture of a picture, a song, or a flair, in a deliberate prism of words.*

Carl Sandburg, a Universalist, lived from 1878-1967.

Project Funding Report

Lynn Langley reports that, due to the generosity of our members, there is only one project currently in need of funding. The Parking Lot Addition project, which has raised \$1,351, will need an additional \$4,543 to satisfy our needs.

Thanks for your help.

UU For Kids Adding Programs and Teacher

by Bob Weekley

Our Fellowship continues to encourage family participation and enrichment. Starting on April 17th, we will offer a class to children in the 6 to 12 age range and, if it is supported, it will continue to be held on the third Sunday of each month. The teacher, Jonathan Frith, a college senior, has been working with children of various ages under the auspices of the YMCA and Camp Kekoka. The curriculum will follow the excellent UU "Tapestry of Faith" for children of that age range. Children will attend the opening part of the Sunday morning service, then depart to the classroom. We welcome Jonathan.

At the same time, we continue the program for the younger children on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, led by Wendy Mataya and Lydia King Failmezger. This month on Easter, April 24, they are planning an Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children on the Fellowship grounds.

Spread the word and bring the kids!

Out With the Old

by Shirley Kinney

Time for spring cleaning—at least for your bookshelves! Do you have books you no longer intend to reread? Aren't you longing for more shelf space for all those books you want to get? There is a solution to your problem...

Donate your books to UUFR-VA and let us turn them into money for our Fellowship. For the past several years we have maintained an Amazon.com account where we sell donated books. Just bring them to me and I'll list them on Amazon and ship them out to the buyers. We have earned over \$4,200 so far for the Fellowship.

The best sellers are non-fiction, although all books are welcome. If we can't make money on the books on

Amazon because there are so many being offered for so little, then we will try to sell them at our annual UUFR-VA book sale in the spring. Any books that don't sell here are donated to the local library book sale.

So, bring in your books and help your bookshelves and your Fellowship.

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:

April 25: *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson

May 23: *A Woman in Jerusalem* by A.B. Yehoshua

June 27: *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen

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

Night at the Casbah

On Saturday, April 16th at 1:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m., come to The **Casbah** at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula (UUFP) in Newport News, Virginia. The Casbah is a fund-raising event with the cast, crew and story coming from UUFP members and friends. The Casbah includes a delightful melodrama, belly dancing, a desert feast, music, and much more.

Tickets will go on sale Sunday, March 27, and are expected to sell out. To purchase tickets, go to http://www.uufp.org/temp/Casbah_2011.htm For any other inquiries or questions about The Casbah, write to casbah@uufp.org.



Woman of the Year

Audrey Brainard, a charter member of our Fellowship, was named “*Woman of the Year*” by the Woman’s Club of Northumberland County. She was chosen for her outstanding contributions to the community in the areas of recycling and conservation. She will be honored at their annual fashion show and luncheon at 11:00 A.M. on April 12 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. Her recognition is well-deserved.

Congratulations, Audrey!

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Vacant, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Kathy Duhon, Secretary

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

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)