



THE CHALICE

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

May 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

May 1

Sara Mackey: “Flower Communion”

9:45 Meditation: Diana Jamison

Join us for this cherished Unitarian Universalist ritual of unity and caring, which was created in 1923 by Dr. Norbert Capek, founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. Please bring a flower to share (several, if you're able) and join us in this celebration of our individuality within community.

May 8

Shirley Kinney: “Looking Back”

9:45 Meditation: Bob Weekley

Celebrate, with us, the congregation's twelfth year in the Northern Neck by looking back at the path that's been taken in the journey, from a tiny group meeting in member homes to our present congregation. This Charter Sunday service will look at the people in UUFV-VA in whose footsteps we walk—those members and friends who are no longer with us, but who have left legacies and memories for us to celebrate.

May 15

Barbara Haynes: “The Revolution of Belief—the Founding Fathers, Deists, Unitarians, and Orthodox Christians in 18th Century America”

9:45 Meditation: Eve Jordan

Since there was no national church in America during the 18th century, religious culture operated regionally and locally. During this period, individual religious beliefs often went through a creative transformation. Ideas introduced as part of the first Great Awakening and the Age of Enlightenment greatly influenced people's approach to religion which, in turn, caused individuals and institutions to be in an active state of process. Join us in looking back at the spiritual landscape our Founders experienced, their religious convictions, and the unique legal framework they created.

The monthly potluck lunch will follow the service.

May 22

Tom Kinney: “Beliefs ... and Your Own Wonderful World of Reality”

9:45 Meditation: Diana Jamison

Over the years we've talked about hunting God tracks, the wonders of each of our senses, and why

the belief in a Supreme Being is so important to many people and possibly to society as a whole. Let's now draw each of these themes together on how and why we construct our various beliefs and choose to defend or change them in relation to what is our own reality.

May 29

Rev. Karen Woodruff: "All Politics is Local ... All Immigration is Personal."

9:45 Meditation: Bob Weekley

The familiar quote from Speaker Tip O'Neill refers to his 1935 campaign for city council in Cambridge, MA. It was the only race he ever lost. He received overwhelming support from other sections of the city, but didn't work hard enough in his own neighborhood.

We will explore some of the personal aspects of immigration using our own stories and "The Nation and the Common Good: Reflections on Immigration Reform." This is "A Theological Resource on Migration and Immigration" from the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church meeting in September 2010.

President's Corner

"A Home of Our Own"

When our Fellowship undertook the visionary challenge of buying land and constructing a building, the campaign slogan became *Building a Home of Our Own*. Members and friends of the Fellowship rallied around this vision, provided funding, gifts, and their own labor. Together we achieved an outcome that was even beyond original expectations. Now, eight years later, it is becoming ever more apparent to me what this means to the mission and health of our Fellowship.

Sunday morning, March 27, with snow lightly falling, it struck me so clearly what it means to see the culmination of mission and vision and its effect on the vitality of the Fellowship. That day, in our Home of Our Own, people came together in sharing their grief and love as we remembered our longtime friend and member, Larry Graves. Tears were combined with healing laughter. The hall was filled with song – "...Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter

snow, lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose."

After gripping hands in our closing circle and extinguishing the chalice, the mood transitioned as decorations were hung above the windows and the tables were spread, and we celebrated the coming birth of a new one among us. The somber words of the morning were replaced by sounds of delight and laughter. The kitchen, so lovingly planned and constructed, was a hub of action.

As we left the building in the afternoon, it was reconfigured for the yoga classes that follow during the week – sharing our beautiful space with admiring members of the community. We have kept Our Home busy with Covenant Group meetings on cold evenings, committee meetings, UU for Kids on Sundays, Phood and Philosophy potluck dinners, morning times of meditation, and even a concert for the community.

On May 8, our Fellowship will celebrate Charter Sunday, the twelfth anniversary of our official recognition by and our being welcomed into the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Think of what has been accomplished in twelve years!

Several people told me after that cold March morning service that they had never felt so touched in a church service. What a change from the days when we had no "home!" What a blessing that the congregation united on a vision and achieved it to build the first Unitarian Universalist home on the Northern Neck of Virginia.

Bob Weekley

What Do You Have to Say?

by Bob Weekley

Elsewhere in this month's Chalice you will see an invitation to our Fellowship's new electronic forum, titled "Can We Talk?" This is an initiative of your Vision and Planning Committee to encourage thoughtful discussion within the Fellowship. I hope you will read it with care.

The electronic forum initiative, as explained in the article, has great possibilities. The Board of Stewards has unanimously approved of this project and welcomes everyone's participation.

Looking forward to our discussions ...

Phood and Philosophy

Shirley and Tom Kinney will host this month's Phood and Philosophy in their home on **Saturday, May 7th, at 5:30 P.M.**

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo (a couple days late) at the Kinneys' to philosophize on *immigration*, the primary study topic of UUA between now and 2014. This issue is multi-sided and emotional with many voices bemoaning the concerns and challenges associated with the topic. Let's imagine ourselves responsible for a solution for our country. Let's attempt to build a positive program, an action plan for the U.S., to meet the challenges with our principles at the forefront.

Watch your email for an article or two to help us along *and* consider, if you wish, to have your potluck dish reflect the Cinco de Mayo mood. Ole!

Please contact Shirley or Tom so we can be sure to have enough chairs, etc. Plan to bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share.

Our Beautiful Grounds

by Sue Adriance

The Landscape Committee is scheduling a workday on Thursday, May 12 (rain date: Thursday, May 19), to complete spring clean-up and do general maintenance. No previous experience is necessary — just bring pruners, gloves, and any other preferred garden tools, along with a smile, at 9:30 A.M.

Foodbank Updates

If there is anyone who does not receive Pam Collins' weekly update regarding the Northern Neck Foodbank and would like to be put on the list, please send your name and email address to Pam.

Larry's Memorial Service

The memorial service for Larry Graves, our friend and longtime member of UUFR-VA, will be celebrated in the Fellowship Home on **Saturday, May 21st, at 3:00 P.M.**

And Then There Was One ...

Our newest members may not know that UUFR-VA's financial structure includes a Growth and Opportunities (G&O) fund that is dedicated to building and grounds projects, as well as funding special programs. This is one of the ways your Board confirms your support of their recommendations. You vote ... with your checkbook. This approach successfully built our Home of Our Own. And, over the last 24 months, has completed funding for 14 projects.

Now there is only one project left.

You may have noticed our Sunday parking is continuing to flow dangerously close to the street. The need to expand our parking lot has progressed from advisable to mandatory. We are waiting for your checkbook vote of support. Some have given already, but your UUFR-VA Finance Committee estimates an additional need of \$5300. Please put your checks marked "parking lot" in the Sunday offering or mail them directly to our Treasurer, Lynn Langley. Please help. We really need to do this.

Be sure to continue to send your ideas and desires for future UUFR-VA needs, projects, and programs to a Board member.

Your Finance Committee: Barbara Haynes, Tom Foster, Paula Greenwood, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, Melinda Maddox, and Marge Rowden

UUFR-VA Yard Sale

The UUFR-VA Yard Sale is being planned for Saturday, September 24. We are hoping for lots of donated items, so please keep this in mind as you clean out your basements, garages, and attics. Many volunteers will be needed for all sorts of tasks — such as, sorting and pricing donated items, early A.M. set-up prior to sale, bake sale items, and clean-up and disposal of unsold items, just to name a few. More details to follow. For additional information, please contact either Paula Greenwood or Hank Stupi.

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:

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

June 27: *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen

July 25: *The Imperfectionists* by Tom Rachman

August 22: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

We're always on the lookout for a noteworthy book which would generate a lively discussion. If you have a recommendation, please call or email **Elaine Weekley**.

LGBTQ Family Conference

by Jane Elkin

The 2011 Star Island LGBTQ Family Conference, "Transitions and Transformations," will run from **Saturday, August 27, to Friday, September 2.**

The event offers a week of recreation, learning, spirituality, and community with other LGBTQ families and their friends on a scenic island off the New Hampshire coast.

Find more info at: <http://starisland.org/lgbtq>

Can We Talk?

The Vision and Planning Committee has created an Electronic Forum to ensure everyone in the Fellowship has an opportunity to influence our future.

Ancient forums were places where people would meet to discuss questions like "How can we live well together?" An electronic forum is a meeting place in cyber space where members of the Fellowship can ask and answer similar questions.

"No wind favors a ship without a destined port." Our 'fellowship' needs to chart a course that reflects the needs and dreams of those on board. All are invited to participate in this process, which emphasizes the "inherent worth," "democratic process," and "free and responsible search" principles of Unitarian Universalism.

This is a closed forum for your use only, which will be monitored to ensure there is no ranting, raving, preaching, or criticizing others. Any of our members who wish to do so can sign up for this forum and participate at the level that is most comfortable for them. Participation will provide you the opportunity to respond to ideas posted from other members, as well as post your own ideas on what we should be doing, and where we should be going. Each of you with a current email address will receive an email from Dave Rowden providing you with information on how to sign up. If you do not use the web or have email but want to participate in the process, please talk to Dave Rowden or Cliff Schelling to explore other options.

In addition to the Electronic Forum, the Vision and Planning Committee will offer a Socrates Café, which will be a small group discussion about key topics related to our shared future. Both the Electronic Forum and the Socrates Café will lead to a Vision and Planning Retreat in the fall, which will celebrate our past, identify common ground, and produce goals and objectives that support our mission.

Information about the Socrates Café and the Retreat will be announced in future articles of The Chalice. In the meantime, please go to the UUFR-VA website for Frequently Asked Questions about the Electronic Forum.

Dave Rowden, Cliff Schelling, Fran Schelling, Caroline Shifflett



Donald Miller and the UU

by Eve Jordan

Donald Lane Miller has had a most remarkable life. He has been a reporter, a public relations executive, the founder of several important charities, and a presence on the world stage. He knew Imelda Marcos well enough to have her pick up the telephone and bequeath large sums of money for his Philippine charity. He kissed Elizabeth Taylor, kissed the hand of Jacqueline Kennedy, advised President Eisenhower after Stalin's death, and was a classmate of Robert Lowell at Kenyon College. He uncovered two German spies while a cub reporter for the Sun-Telegraph in Pittsburgh and was present at the dedication of a statue of a once-enslaved Ukrainian poet. He co-founded a publishing company, was in the import/export business, was knighted by the Vatican, and has written books, pamphlets, and articles of national interest. He is currently working on a definitive biography of John Smith. Donald met Thea Marshall, wooed her, and won her. He changed the face of Kilmarnock, remodeled a book store, helped start the Storymobile at the Lancaster Library, and got historical markers erected.

When he was a small boy, Donald's mother told him that if you see something that needs to be done, and nobody else is doing it, then: You do it! He describes his mother as an Irish work of art. Once, when his mother was having an event at a settlement house in Pittsburgh, where she was a large part of social change, Donald contacted the city editor of the Hearst newspaper about writing a story covering the event. The story was good enough that he was

offered a job as a reporter. His first day on the job, he had no idea about what to do. So, drawing on what he had learned in the movies, Donald put his hat on backwards, sat down, and began writing. At this newspaper, he wrote a story about two German spies that he had uncovered while reading a local German newspaper. After WW II broke out, Donald joined the Navy, and this event led to his becoming an intelligence analyst. Somehow he ended up on Majuro Island in the far, far Pacific. With six other naval officers and fifty sailors at the mouth of Majuro Harbor, he protected the Seventh Fleet from the Japanese. Donald was there for two years, and describes this experience as being akin to McHale's Navy. He retired from active duty after the Korean conflict, but remained in the Naval Reserves. He went into public relations and became involved in the National Captive Nations Committee, which was designed to commit the President and Congress to pass a law that would declare a Captive Nations Week every year to keep the idea of the disintegration of the Soviet Union as part of American policy at the highest level.

Around this time, Donald met and married Norma Reno. After six months of marriage, he was ordered back to active duty and assigned to Washington. He was at the Russian desk of Naval Intelligence, where one of his duties was to brief President Eisenhower on the previous night's events. After Stalin died, there was much tension about what would happen next; Donald didn't expect any change because he knew Stalin had not written any of his speeches for years, and he knew that Malinkov, followed by Krushchev, would take the reins of power. Donald was correct.

Donald left the Navy and opened a public relations office, Associated Public Relations Consultants, on Connecticut Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C. One of his clients was the South Korean Ambassador. Through this friendship, Donald began his work with charities. He founded Children's Aid International (CAI), now AngelCare, when he became aware of the serious need for help and resources for children in Southeast Asia. With Donald's many contacts, CAI was able to bring health care and nutrition to the children of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and, to some degree, South Korea. Referrals to medical doctors were made. Health care workers taught mothers about nutrition and primary health care. Teachers were brought in to give special

training for parents, helping them create a better life for their children and for themselves.

While working with CAI, Donald was also busy with his public relations business, as was Norma, who had her own public relations firm. Several times a year they would go to the Tides Inn to relax, unwind, and do as little as possible. At a gift shop, the Mustard Seed, they bought a copy of a cookbook compiled by the White Stone Women's Club, with recipes from around the world! At this point, they realized there must be more to the Northern Neck than double-wides and pine trees. Since they were ready to leave the big city behind, they contacted a realtor and found eight acres on the Great Wicomico River, which was located at Mila and Remo Roads. They were Miller and Reno and concluded that this was destiny. They built an Acorn house to Norma's specifications and lived in their lovely home for not quite a year before Norma's death. They had had thirty-three very exciting years together.

After Donald sold this home, he moved to Kilmarnock. He bought the Book Nook and transformed it, creating the Chesapeake Corner and bringing in two model sailboats for display. This was a boy's dream. With the Book Nook, he sponsored the GED program at the Kilmarnock jail and had the pleasure of presenting graduates their diplomas. Donald's father told him that he had two choices in life: to be happy or to be unhappy. Donald chose to be happy.

Now for the best part: Donald meets Thea. Although their offices were only three blocks apart, and they were both in public relations, they had not met until they came here. Thea was an established writer, producer, and interviewer in the Northern Neck when Donald arrived. She interviewed Donald for a production she was doing with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, which was to be performed in Kilmarnock. Interviews were interspersed with music; Donald was quite impressed with her work. He wrote a note suggesting they continue their

conversation. They went to the Tides Inn and then to the Sandpiper for champagne and dinner, continuing the dialogue. They have been in conversation ever since.

Among Donald's contributions to the community was the Storymobile at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock, which provides a story session once a week for children in day care centers. He was part of the Chamber of Commerce Committee that placed trees in the median on Main Street (subsequently removed because they obscured store fronts). He also founded the Community Forum newsletter, intended to have people engage with each other about topics of concern to the community. It had a successful several years and can now be found in the Rappahannock Record.

Donald has had many accolades, awards, and plaques to commemorate his willingness and strong desire to make a difference in the world. His service to others is a tribute to his parents, who taught him well. At Thea's suggestion, he joined the UUFV-VA. Thank you, Thea!

Happy May 14th Birthday, Donald

Leonard?

by Tom Kinney

No, the mower donated by Cliff and Janet Hemming, now housed in our new shed, is not named "Leonard" — as displayed over the door. If you know someone needing a quality shed, Leonard Inc. of Mt. Airy, NC, does a good job of backing up its sales people located on George Washington Highway in Yorktown.

If you see our little Sunday school artists decorate the mower with eyes, nose, and mouth, the shed may indeed become the home of "Leonard."

Welcoming Congregation Ballot

UUFR-VA has completed our seven-month series of workshops designed to make us knowledgeable on and sensitive to the issues regarding individuals of all sexual orientations. We have opened our Sunday services to guest speakers who have further informed us on personal stories of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transsexual people.

Now, it is time for our Fellowship to vote on whether UUA should recognize UUFR-VA as a Welcoming Congregation, UUA's term for designating churches that have completed such programs.

If we vote YES, we will receive recognition from UUA proclaiming UUFR-VA a Welcoming Congregation. This recognition registers our commitment to treat *all* people respectfully, no matter whom they love, and gives us the option of indicating that status in our literature, website, and road signs.

Please indicate your vote and return your ballot to the voting box in our foyer.

_____ YES,
I would like our congregation to be designated by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation.

_____ NO,
I would not like our congregation to be designated by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation.

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)