



THE CHALICE

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

January 2012

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 5

Kristi VanAudenhove: “Reflections on Being An Ally”

9:30 Meditation: **Eva Abel**

February has been recognized as “Black History Month” since the 1960’s, building on Negro History Week first observed in 1926. As communities reflect on the substantial contributions of African-Americans to the rich history of the United States, there is a unique opportunity for those of us who are white to also pause and reflect on our journey to become allies in the elimination of racism. As one white woman, I will share some of my personal reflections and tools that I use in the journey to promote justice, equity and compassion in race relations.

January 12

David Duhon: “Music, Meditation, Breathing and Motion”

9:30 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

David will be presenting the music of Bach for cello, and weaving in talk, while exploring breath, meditation and movement.

February 19

Rev. Jim Sanderson: “John Dietrich, Father of Religious Humanism”

9:30 Meditation: **Wyatt Portz**

Rev. Sanderson will look at Dietrich’s profound effect on our faith, moving us from a theistic to a humanistic stance. The service will include some participatory features.

The Monthly Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.

January 26

Margaret M. Sequeira, MTS: “Sweet Darkness”

9:30 Meditation: **Bob Weekley**

“When your vision has gone no part of the world can find you. Time to go into the dark where the night has eyes to recognize its own.” (“Sweet Darkness” by David Whyte)

Parker Palmer, Martin Luther King Jr., poets and mystics have all spoken of what they learned during the times in their lives when they lost their vision and entered into a time when the way was not clear. In moving through their own night of the soul, they came out with a clearer sense of themselves and their purpose; lessons that could only be ‘seen’ in the shadows. What might the darkness have to teach us?

President's Corner

Is UU Christian?

In our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we often hear discussions about Christianity, and what it means to be a Christian. On the Christian side of this discussion, the same questions are being asked.

We know that the Unitarian and Universalist denominations have a long history in the Christian faith. Over the years they became less tied to creed and more open to individuals finding their own spiritual path among the many philosophical alternatives, but not rejecting Christianity.

Many Christians now are asking the same kinds of questions that the UUs asked. A highly respected Christian theologian, Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, recently Dean of Washington National Cathedral, writes of this questioning:

For Christianity, ... *this is a time of reflection and experimentation. Some [Christians] see this as the moment to rewrite Christian beliefs and take away the strangeness and mystery Others believe it's the very oddness of the claim that God is at work in the cosmos and in our lives that makes Christianity so endlessly beguiling, even when its forms can seem haggard, anti-intellectual, even bullying. The world needs to see concrete examples of generous-spirited, intellectually alive, spiritually profound, interfaith sensitive, scientifically open, socially engaged Christianity.*

This sounds rather like UU to me. Rev. Lloyd goes on to conclude, "Christianity is being reinvented."

The term, "Christianity," embraces a wide range of beliefs today. Perhaps many Christians are closer to being UUs than they realize. Perhaps many UUs are closer to being Christians than they realize. Sara Mackey's recent talk on "Progressive Christianity" helped us see the spiritual value in being open to that idea.

Bob Weekley

Phood and Philosophy

Thea Marshall and Eva Abel are graciously hosting this month's Phood and Philosophy, our monthly potluck and discussion, in their home, on **the second Saturday in February, February 11th**, at **5:30 PM**.

The topic will be: A Children's book or story ... yours or a child's ... that had an impact or made a difference, however small, on your or a child's life ...

Please contact Thea or Eva, so that they can be sure to have enough chairs, etc. Plan to bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share for a lovely evening and lively conversation.

Someone to Watch Over You and Me ...

by Judi Caples

Do you live alone? Do you sometimes speak to no one all day? Or even several days?

Would you like to be a part of a Calling Circle? Let's talk about it after the service on February 5th.



UUFR-VA supports area Interfaith. Bob Weekley presents a UUFR-VA check to Jeannie Kling, President, at Interfaith Service Council Annual Meeting on January 19.

Community Services Announcement

The Interfaith Warehouse continues to need “gently used” items such as furniture, mattresses, bedsprings, bed frames, appliances, kitchen items, linens, and more. Donations may be delivered to 1086 Harris Road, Kilmarnock, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10 AM to 12 PM. For pick-up of large items, call 804-435-6050.

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 27: *The Wife of Martin Guerre* by Janet Lewis

March 26: *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht

April 23: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

May 28: *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

If you have a recommendation for a noteworthy book, please contact **Elaine Weekley**.

Nutshell UU History: African American UU History

by Kathy Duhon

Did you know that among the twelve founding members of the first Universalist Church in our country, the Independent Church of Christ in Gloucester, was an African American? Gloster Dalton thus became the first African American in Universalism, in 1779.

A Unitarian, Maria Baldwin, was the first African American woman principal, and the first woman to give the Washington's Birthday memorial address at Brooklyn Institute in 1897.

Louis Lattimer, the son of a runaway slave and a founding member of the Unitarian Church of Flushing, New York, was a poet, an engineer, a musician, and an inventor, among other pursuits. He worked on the electric light bulb with Thomas Edison and helped another Unitarian, Alexander Graham Bell, to secure a patent for the first telephone.

Florida Ruffin Ridley was a founder of the Second Unitarian Church in Brookline, and a teacher, a short story writer, and journalist. She helped found the Society for the collection of Negro Folklore in Boston and the first African American women's civic organization in Boston, called the Woman's Era Club. She died February 25, 1943.

These are just a few of the African American women and men who have made great contributions both to our religious tradition and to American life.

Calling for UUFV-VA Retreat Coordinators

by Bob Weekley

Last year, Devi Herrsche and I worked together to create our 2011 Fall Retreat — Choosing Joy Love and Freedom. We shared fun times and our relationship was enriched as a result of our work. We have kept files on the “behind the scene work” and are willing to share our resources, thoughts and learnings as we pass the torch to the 2012 Coordinators. Please consider volunteering to spearhead this amazing and very well received event. To all interested in saying “**yes**” to planning for next year retreat — please contact Diana Jamison.



Who's Who in UU

by Eve Jordan

Living in Urbanna, that wonderful historic port town, is a far cry from Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua where Lori Lowrey spent summers traveling, speaking fluent Spanish and getting to know the people on a personal level.

Lori's mother encouraged her to major in languages when she went to college, feeling that this would be helpful to her when she traveled. This is the same mother who was very active in civil rights in Ohio, and kept her grandsons while their mother 'went native,' eschewing the typical American style of sightseeing for second class buses with chickens and sometimes pigs, trains not known to tourists and, on occasion, when there were no formal roads, only paths — on horseback.

After leaving an unsatisfactory marriage with her two boys, Lori went into teaching high school Spanish. As a part of what made her an exceptional teacher, she brought the Spanish speaking countryside experience of her travels to her students. In the Yucatan, she slept in a hammock for \$2 a night, in Isles de Mujiheres, south of Cancun, she spent lots of time talking to people. It was so quiet there, she could sit near the water and count falling stars. Her goal was to see what was going on, to speak directly to the people who lived so differently than her students, to be with the really poor people and get a sense of their lives. There was no electricity, no running water, but people were unfailingly friendly. She spoke the language, and was welcomed.

Once, spending the night at a Rancho, in sleeping quarters with no light, she heard sounded like toe nails walking on the floor ... What is that!? She got scared ... will it bite? Next morning, there was no indication of what had made the noise. That was one of the few times Lori felt any fear. The Rancho was run like a feudal society; the workers lived poorly, the owner of the ranch hunted at night on horseback, but no one else was allowed to hunt. It was like living in the past. Another time she needed a bathroom, and looking around, there was nothing. She asked a native woman where she could go to the bathroom, and the reply was a sweeping hand gesture: "Señora, the world is the bathroom." Lori was in a huge field where people were crossing back and forth all the time ... what a silly question. Of course! No mention of privacy. This was what she came for — the lives of real people, unfiltered through the tourist lens. The lessons given by these people were simple and real. They have something to offer and they are intelligent with profound things to say. Once, in a café in Nicaragua she was at a table chatting with a friend when a mother and daughter came in selling their handicrafts. Patrons at another table, people who appeared to be upper class, looked at the mother and daughter as though they were beneath contempt and declared, "you are so ugly – get out!" Of course, Lori and her friend invited the two to join them for lunch, and bought their handicrafts. On another occasion, a grandmother, mother and young daughter were selling beautiful cloth. It took a few minutes to realize that the girl was acting as interpreter — mother and grandmother were uneducated and spoke only Mayan. The child had some education and therefore was able to speak Spanish. It was such a treat to see the ingenuity of the people that she met. She came back with lots of stories for her students, making the trips come alive again for her and the students. Had she been traveling as a tourist, her feeling was that the stories she came back with would not have had the same excitement nor have been as colorful — of barely maintained roads in high mountains, with poultry and pigs and vegetables being transported to market. Lori has no bad memories of those awesome days.

The boys were not interested in roughing it with Mom, so they happily stayed home with their grandmother. However, Lori did take them to Mexico City, where they stayed with considerably more luxury. A Diego Rivera mural on one wall in

the hotel was a point of pleasure for Lori; it was destroyed in an earthquake several years later. Their next trip was to the Bahamas. They were staying on an island that was accessible only by boat. Everyone on the island had the same last name, and fishermen did not use a line to catch fish. Rather, they went out in the boat, thumped on the side of the boat, said a few words, and **the fish came!** The boys were 8 or 9 and 11 or 12 at this time, and not particularly impressed, although Mom was!

These two boys are now men. Brett is a teacher in Anderson, S.C. Lori says he is the teacher she wanted to be: here is the guy who brings in dirt from all over the county, and asks his students to determine what would and what would not grow in the soil. Brett is a teacher that helps kids to achieve success. He is father to Lori's granddaughter and one grandson. Gavin, now living in Denver, is a supervising producer at Comcast Mountain West. This son told her at age 3 that he wanted to read; in 2-3 days he was on his way. At 5 he stated that he wanted to do sports on TV. He would memorize sports facts, and collected baseball cards. After college, he applied to ESPN where his interview consisted of the facts he had memorized as a child. Of course, he got the job. He has two sons and, needless to say, Granny adores all four grandchildren.

And when did she find time to meet and marry Don? At a Unitarian Universalist camp in Florida — a week long venture where UU's go to play. She had gone for two years and, when she met him, she knew he was a good guy because he had a picture of his dog in his wallet. Now, he still has a picture of his dog in his wallet, and he has a picture of Lori ... in a belly dance costume. There was a belly dance class at the UU camp, and there was only one gold bra ... which Lori wore, along with the requisite skirt. She usually wore sweats, but the costume got a lot more attention, and he took her picture. A year and a half later, they got married. Don lived in Richmond, and Lori moved to Virginia. They attended the Unitarian Universalist service in Richmond, but felt it was too big and impersonal. When Don suggested moving to the Northern Neck, she said her only requirement was a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship nearby where she could meet people for good conversation as well as shared values. They began coming to UUFRR-VA while the group was meeting at the Women's Club. Lori saw there was nothing on the walls to indicate the UU presence there. To remedy this oversight, she made the beautiful wall hanging that is just to the

right as you enter the sanctuary. No one knew she was working on this until it was complete and ready to be presented. Look closely ... there is a whale and a swimmer in the picture.

The two biographical hangings where there is a square for everyone who has contributed are squares of fabric that mean something to the people who are represented. Lori is working on a third hanging, and has seven squares completed. Anyone who wants to hang on the wall of the UUFRR-VA in fabric should contact Lori with their fabric and ideas. She needs two more participants, and is working creatively at her own pace. They are wonderfully creative and reflect Lori's gifts.

Travel did not end with Mexico and Central America. She and Don have traveled to England and France and, of course, they went off the beaten path. One of their adventures was hearing Benedictine monks singing in a Monastery in France by candle light. They traveled to Normandy and Brittany, renting a car when the train or boat would not get them to their destination. While she was in Mexico, Lori picked up a virus that has never gotten better, which has caused low blood pressure and impacted her energy to the extent that coming to the UU each week is her only adventure. We sure are happy that she chooses to spend her time with us.



A scene from the Ladies Luncheon at the Golden Eagle on January 9.

Hosts and/or Hostesses Needed!

This is a call for someone to host Phood and Philosophy in March and November. Please contact **Diana Jamison** if you would like to invite others into your home or to UUFRR-VA home.

Volunteers Needed

Do you want to help UUFR-VA grow? Do you like to work with children? The UU for Kids committee could use your help. As the Membership Committee begins work on ads for UUFR-VA, we want to be prepared in case visitors come with their children, expecting that there will be a place for them during the service. We would like to have "Lessons In a Box" prepared and volunteers to forgo the service and work with the children. Greeters would be responsible for identifying the need and finding someone from the volunteer list to take charge for the day.

If you would like to help with this program please contact **Sue Adriance**.



PRIVATE SHOWING FOR UUFR MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS
FRIDAY NIGHT @ THE MOVIES
All You Need is Love
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
PG-13 • 133 MINUTES • UUFR SANCTUARY
FRIDAY, FEB 21ST • DOORS CLOSE AT 7:15 P.M.

Musical based on The Beatles songbook. Set in the 60s England, America, and Vietnam. The love story of Lucy and Jude is intertwined with the anti-war movement and social protests of the 60s. Over 30 Beatles' songs are woven into the plot together with visual allusions to their timeless films: Help! (1965), A Hard Day's Night (1964), Magical Mystery Tour (1967) (TV), Yellow Submarine (1968) and Let it Be (1970).
Written by Steve Shelkhanov

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Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the month

Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@ufrappahannock.org)