



# THE CHALICE

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

April 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

### April 1

**Bob Adriance:** “17th Century Women of the Chesapeake: A Paradise for Women?”

9:30 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

March was Women’s History Month, so while we are only a day late in celebrating women’s history, perhaps we can still fit this in. Several historians have suggested that the culture of the American colonies up into the 17th Century was a “Paradise for Women.” Considering only the status of women in the English colonies of North America, are they correct?

### April 8

**Rev. Kathy Duhon:** “Rising from the Dead: A Journey of Faith”

9:30 Meditation: **Bob Weekley**

We will explore the deep heart of this most important Christian celebration, Easter, through personal story and scriptural understanding. We begin with the suffering and death experience of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and end with the alleluia glories of an Easter faith that is for everyone. Come experience the joy of being raised up in the Spirit.

### April 15

**Hank Stupi:** “End-Of-Life Decisions and Conversations”

9:30 Meditation: **Eva Abel**

“What modern medicine is capable of doing is what 20 years ago was considered science fiction,” says Dr. David Muller, Dean of Medical Education at Mount Sinai. “You can keep their lungs breathing and keep their heart beating and keep their blood pressure up and keep their blood flowing ... [t]hat suspended animation can go on forever. So the decisions at the end of life have become much more complicated for everyone involved.” Hank will candidly share his own end-of-life decisions and his communication of those decisions with his loved ones.

*The Monthly Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.*

### April 22

**Rev. Alane Cameron Miles:** “Chapter Two”

9:30 Meditation: **Pamela Collins**

“The Characters” is the second chapter of a four-part series, “A Novel Idea.” The first chapter was “The Plot,” the third chapter will be “Crisis.” Rev. Miles, who has taken part in

National Novel Writing Month for two years, believes that if we understood our spiritual lives more as a novel, we would be better at it. Bring pen and paper.

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## April 29

### **Ruth Michlem: “In Search of Our Mother's Garden”**

9:30 Meditation: **Anna Pomaska**

Ruth's favorite author is Alice Walker ([The Color Purple](#), [Temple of My Familiar](#), [Possessing The Secret of Joy](#)). Ruth will share reflections on Ms. Walker's writings and how she came to understand, on her healing journey following the death of her mother in April of last year, why she is so drawn to the author.

### **Phood and Philosophy**

**Pirkko Graves** will host this month's Phood and Philosophy, our monthly potluck and discussion, in her home on **Saturday, April 7th, at 5:30 P.M.**

The topic will be **“Everyday Creativity”**. We tend to think of creativity as a special gift awarded to selected few. Not so! All of us have the sparkle of creativity, which finds its expression in our everyday activities: cooking, cleaning, gardening, etc. Think of your special acts of creativity and share your experience with the rest of us.

**Please contact Pirkko** for planning. Bring a dish and beverage to share for a lovely evening with a beautiful view and lively conversation.

### ***President's Corner***

#### **The Joys and Challenges of “Fellowship”**

Our founding members of the UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock chose to name their budding organization a “Fellowship.” My dictionary defines “fellowship” as: *noun: friendly association, esp. with people who share one's*

*interests*. Back then, the only people to have fellowship with were a close few – fewer than now serve on some of our committees.

What held the UUFR-VA together, and what fostered growth, was that more and more folks were finding the joy of association with people with whom they could be themselves; being with others with whom they could share their doubts about the spiritual journey; being with folks who think deeply about things that matter; being with others who truly care about their community and the world; being with people who want actively to be welcoming rather than exclusive.

Growth can have its challenges. Sometimes I mention a UUFR-VA member or UUFR-VA friend's name to someone and I see a blank stare – like who is that? Growth! We don't all know each other. Yet, every person in our congregation is especially unique and rewarding to know.

Fortunately, thanks to the initiatives of our congregants, we have many, and expanding, opportunities to deepen our fellowship with these wonderful people. In addition to our Sunday services, we gather for potluck lunches, book group, Sunday Morning Meditations, Phood and Philosophy evenings, Movie Nights, Women's Luncheons, Socrates Cafés, and special annual events like our summer picnics and our fall Congregational Retreats. Our committees and board constitute additional fellowship groups. We participate together in the larger community on service and outreach. Even working together on the care of our building and grounds helps us to better know and appreciate each other.

When we take the time and effort to avail ourselves of these many opportunities, we create new opportunities both for enrichment and to add to the vitality of this wonderful UU Fellowship. The rewards, both personal and to the larger Fellowship, are great.

***Bob Weekley***

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

**May 28:** *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka

**June 25:** *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

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

## Celebrate With Us!

by Eve Jordan

Would you like to celebrate your birthday with your friends and acquaintances at the UUFR-VA? We would LOVE to celebrate with you ... we know everyone has a birthday! We will have cake for you to share at our monthly potluck luncheon. Simply e-mail your name and birthday (date optional) to Eve Jordan and listen for your birthday song!

## Faith-In-Action Niche Meeting

by Shirley Kinney

Since UUFR-VA began, the members had the vision of making a lasting difference for the better in our community as one of our goals. That vision has been carried forward in our five-year plans. Our Fellowship has now achieved a sound, permanent foundation for itself and grown to a size where we can begin to address that specific goal.

The support among the membership for that segment of the UUFR-VA vision is strong, as demonstrated in the recent Skills and Interests Survey completed by the congregation. Of all the activities listed within UUFR-VA, more members checked "Community Service/Social Justice" than any other — in fact, nearly double the number expressing interest in any other area.

On **Sunday, April 22**, all members and friends interested in putting their "Faith In Action" will gather after a mini-potluck to consider what might be selected as our Fellowship's niche in helping our community to a better future. This will be the first, and maybe the most important, step in a careful and extensive study of how we move forward toward an eventual Fellowship-wide vote selecting our niche for long-term action that will have lasting results for our community. All areas will be open for discussion, including, for example, health, education, anti-racism, the environment, poverty, literacy, discrimination, and crime. Whether or not you checked Community Service/Social Justice on the survey, please come and share your passion.

## The Interfaith Warehouse

continues to need "gently used." Donations may be delivered to 1086 Harris Road, Kilmarnock, on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. For pickup of large items, call 804-435-6050.



## Who's Who in UU: Jane Elkin

by Eve Jordan

Sitting in Jane Elkin's kitchen, with a view of wetlands over the tidal creek, is to be in a place of complete serenity. Jane's husband, John, a land surveyor, bought this beautiful property in the late 1990's at a land auction. The property had not been sold because it was partly wetlands. John and Jane built their lovely Urbanna home on the elevated portion of this property in 2002. It is a beautiful spot, indeed, with a sandy beach at the mouth of LaGrange Creek for the kids to swim and for lots of wildlife in the tidal wetlands. Jane says her two sons, Jefferson, 9, and Jack, 15, assume that wherever they live, they will have a sandy beach.

Jane is a California-born lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Dad was a nuclear engineer for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the family settled in Potomac, Maryland. The oldest of six, Jane notes that as the "#1 Daughter," she held the family position that is driven and motivated. And, indeed, this seems to be so. Jane entered the University of Maryland intending to become a nurse, but, realizing there was a wider world, she majored

in zoology. At the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, she was a graduate assistant to the bacterial vaccine laboratory of Dr. Charles Brinton. Jane wrote her master's thesis on *Moraxella bovis pili*, a vaccine for pinkeye in cattle. While at Pitt, Jane met Timothy Post, a graduate student in cognitive psychology. It was the 1980's; both Jane and Timothy received stipends and free graduate tuition. They married in 1982, and after three years of marriage, Timothy was diagnosed with leukemia. They were both 30 years old and had been married for five years when Timothy died. Devastated, Jane resumed her work in New York City at a scientific abstract publishing company. Due to her husband's illness, she had become knowledgeable about biotechnology applications in cancer, and she was next hired as a biotechnology patent examiner with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Arlington. She began recovery by joining several social organizations, including the Washington Ski Club and the Potomac Peddlers Bicycle Club, where she met John Elkin. Timothy and Jane had not been able to have a family, so when she and John wed, they began procedures to adopt a Russian infant. After being unusually tired when she finished a Bike Virginia Century Ride, Jane learned she was pregnant with John Morton Elkin, III, born in 1987, now known as Jack. Jefferson followed five years later. John has two daughters from his previous marriage, and one has two children of her own — about the same ages as Jack and Jefferson. We have the makings of a modern family!

That wonderful cookbook, [Phood and Philosophy](#), was Jane's introduction to UUFR-VA. She became active in the Fellowship, serving as chair of the UUFR-VA Religious Education Committee, and teaching the UU RE curriculum on Bible stories, *Timeless Themes*. As a lifelong UU, Jane's priority as a UU religious educator is Cultural Literacy on World Religions. Several of her intergenerational stories appear on the

UU4Kids tab of the UUFR-VA website. We do not often see her on Sundays in the winter months; she and her family are frequently at their ski home at Massanutten.

As Jane says, she is beginning her third act: In 2008, she began an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies at J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond. She says she will be using a walker by the time she graduates! Meanwhile, she became a licensed real estate agent, working with Long and Foster, in White Stone. In fact, one of her listings is a small piece of property across the road from the UUFR-VA.

Jane will present the Flower Service in May, a lovely service not to be missed.

## **Nutshell UU History: Bret Harte (1836-1902)**

by Kathy Duhon

Does everyone remember an assignment in school to read The Luck of Roaring Camp by Bret Harte? Maybe you didn't study this renowned author of the frontier, but you probably ran into his colorful stories sometime. He was a gold prospector, an editor, a schoolmaster, and a poet. In later life, he became the U.S. Consul in Prussia, then Scotland.

Although he was better known for his stories, I want to remember Bret Harte especially in April, poetry month, as a poet. He wrote an ironic poem about the joy of a bullet flying free, finding its love with a kiss, and being surprised that the love went cold. It's a strange poem that makes war seem horribly stupid. Another one I read makes one remember why we value honesty so much. His poetry makes points in an easy to read way. Bret Harte was a Unitarian whose life's impact has been positive and enduring.

## **Make Your Wishes Known**

by Shirley Kinney

Wouldn't it be great to have someone qualified to give us some advice on reaching pesky but important life decisions? Well, on Saturday, **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, UUFR-VA can help.

We have invited Alice Coates, Director of Social Services at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, to lead a session on life decisions. The theme will be: "Who will make your hard choices; how to make sure your wishes are known and honored." Alice will cover Advance Directives — legal documents that state your wishes and name surrogate decision-makers — and she will provide copies for everyone to take home. She will also talk about some medical decisions to consider in advance of needing them.

The program is **April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1:00 P.M.**, right here at UUFR-VA. The public is also invited, so please bring friends who might be interested in this important life decision.

## **Keeping up Appearances**

Spring arrived early this year, and new life is sprouting in a ragged fashion from the UUFR-VA grounds. A little trim is in order. It's time to tidy up and make plans for the summer months. We all appreciate curb appeal on Sunday mornings, and this is your chance to help.

**Don Lowrey** is organizing our grounds-keeping crew for 2012. Members are being recruited for mowing, trimming, and trash pick-up. Tours of duty are two weeks at a time, and UUFR-VA has everything needed (except the warm bodies.)

Please give Don a call to volunteer. Let's make our UUFR-VA home even more beautiful in 2012.

## Vacation Plans?

The UU of Napa, California, proudly announced its sixth season of **Wine Country Excursions**. They offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining, and spectacular vistas. Napa and Sonoma Valleys offer wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploration of the natural beauty of hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails, or by car on highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco.

**Two choices are offered.** Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to three nights). You can choose a two-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by a UU member or lodging and self-guided touring. The Excursion provides guidance, and maps. UU ministers will be guided by Napa's minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Fees are well below the market rate for comparable services, and **all proceeds go to their small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or [2wilsons1dog@comcast.net](mailto:2wilsons1dog@comcast.net)

PRIVATE SHOWING FOR UUFR MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS  
**FRIDAY NIGHT @ THE MOVIES**



**AMERICAN BEAUTY**  
R RATED • 122 MINUTES • UUFR SANCTUARY  
FRIDAY, APR 20TH • DOORS CLOSE AT 7:15 P.M.

Struggling to endure his perfection-obsessed wife, an unfulfilling job and a sullen teenage daughter, suburbanite Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) falls deep into a mid-life crisis. Director Sam Mendes dazzles with this arresting and exquisitely written social satire/dark comedy which scooped up five Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

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366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA (804) 435-7577

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**Web Site**

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Bob Prescott, Webmaster

**Newsletter**

Deadline for articles: 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)