



THE CHALICE

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

August 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

August 5

Annette Marquis: “The Future of Church”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

A recent blog post asked the question, "Will churches go the way of bookstores?" Church attendance is down; more and more people identify their religious affiliation as "none"; twice as many people call themselves Unitarian Universalist as are members of our congregations. What do these trends mean for the future of Unitarian Universalism? Will we go the way of bookstores or can we re-invent ourselves to be relevant in the 21st century? If we do, what will that look like? In this service, we'll explore the options ahead of us and forge a path into the future

August 12

Tom Kinney: “Einstein’s God”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

Nobel laureate physicist Albert Einstein is recognized as perhaps the deepest thinker of the 20th Century on the universe and the theology it inspires. This Jewish Bavarian Catholic has been quoted by Biblical literalists and atheists alike, both seeing support for their perspectives. You may share parts of his special sort of spirituality or, at least, be challenged by Einstein's definition of God.

August 19

Shirley Kinney: “The Best Medicine”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

Laughter is a vital ingredient for each day's well-being. Shirley will add some laughter to your day and discuss some of the reasons we joke about religion.

The Monthly Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.

August 26

Bob Weekley: “Maintenance as a Spiritual Practice?”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

If there is one universal truth that is obvious to all, it is that everything runs down, breaks down, wears out, or simply deteriorates. This truth applies to stars, humans, refrigerators, and everything else, and it can lead to frustration or even depression. We hold our own against the forces of chaos only by preventive maintenance and repair. Robert Pirsig, in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, explored this human reaction to the need for a rational approach to the problem of maintenance — reconciling the romantic impulse (living “in the moment”) and the practical necessities of our lives. Perhaps understanding that maintenance is an integral part of life might enable greater clarity, mindfulness, acceptance, and peace of mind.

President's Corner

by Guest Writer **Kathy Duhon**

Frederick Buechner wrote that your calling is “the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” In August, at UUFR-VA, we will gather to work on finding that community service/justice place which calls us into gladness while tending the needs of our neighbors.

Tom Kinney has been guiding us toward finding our special niche in this regard, and his good leadership has made an important assumption that congregations often miss: this is all of our work — not the province of a single committee, though there may be one eventually, nor the following of one particular person’s passion for an issue, no matter how worthy, nor the haphazard way we often drift from one need to the next, hardly knowing what is really needed. When we do the research and search our hearts and minds for the best fit of the needs out there and our abilities and calling, this will be the whole congregation’s mission and faith in action.

My previous congregation did not have such a careful and studied process, but we did eventually hone toward one area in particular and did many different things in that area — housing for those in need. Not everyone could paint the shelter or fly to Honduras with our Habitat for Humanity team or “Walk for the Homeless” each fall, but everyone participated in some way. Sometimes folks just listened, learned, spread the word, kept the faith and energy alive, and I believe our entire congregation felt part of the service.

Just one example: Since we had already been doing local and international housing work of many kinds for years — including advocacy — we were ready to go when Katrina victims needed help. We became the go-to place in our town — raising funds that went to a variety of immediate help projects, including mailing relief supplies from other local groups. A year later, we organized a team to

go down to New Orleans to do the opposite of building — gutting! — the first step in rebuilding. We partnered with Rotary and a local youth group, and it seemed that everyone in our congregation felt that they went along with us to New Orleans.

We didn’t just make a difference for that week; we learned the depth of the problem and made sure that the region where we lived was well informed when we came back. While it wasn’t our work alone that inspired others, multiple teams with dozens, maybe hundreds of people made multiple relief trips from Massachusetts to Louisiana over several years, raising awareness and bringing hope as we went. Our congregation’s team was the first from our area, and the ripple effect was huge.

— *Kathy Duhon*

Nutshell UU History: Dr. Jean Mayer (1920 – 1993)

by **Kathy Duhon**

I am especially pleased to present this modern day UU and scientist, since I had a course with him in 1975 on nutrition. He was a gentle man with a beautiful French accent and a brilliant mind. That was his last year at Harvard, as he became President of Tufts.

Jean Mayer was sought out as an advisor on many issues related to food. He advised three presidents, the UN, and the World Health Organization. He helped define starvation as a human rights violation.

While at Tufts, he founded schools of veterinary medicine, nutrition, environmental studies and others. He established a universal chaplaincy, which was staffed by a famous UU chaplain: Rev. Scotty McLennan – a/k/a Rev. Scot Sloan from the Doonesbury comic, drawn by his college roommate.

Jean Mayer's faith as a Unitarian Universalist informed his life's work, and he made a difference for the health of people everywhere.

Phood and Philosophy

Fran and Cliff Schelling will host Phood and Philosophy, our monthly potluck and discussion, in their home on **Saturday, August 4th, at 5:30 P.M.**

Fran and Cliff promise a fun and colorful evening, which will better help us know and appreciate each other.

Attendees are encouraged to park on the bocce court side of the driveway

Please RSVP to Fran and Cliff. Bring a dish and beverage to share.

Coming Together with Niche Info – August 26

Following the service on Sunday, August 26th, all those who have expressed an interest in Social Justice/ Community Service will meet. The group will help to define UUFR-VA's CS/SJ niche, where we can make a permanent, lasting change for the better in the community. About fifteen of us brainstormed possible niches in April and listed ten candidates for change. All of us have been learning more about one or more of these ten problem areas over the intervening months through our reading, talking to experts, and gathering data. How serious are these issues here, and what are the consequences, the impact upon our community?

The August 26th gathering is a sharing meeting to exchange information on what we have learned about these ten possible niches for UUFR-VA. The accumulation of this research will contribute to our presentation to the congregation on Sunday, November 11th, from which the membership will select the top three as we move on to the next step.

All those interested in Community Service/ Social Justice, please mark your calendar for August 26th. If you missed the brainstorming session in April, this is a good chance to get caught up on the UUFR-VA niche decision activity and help move the process forward to select UUFR-VA's Community Service/ Social Justice focus.

Social Justice: Eve Jordan and Thea Marshall

Community Service: Lorie Lowrey

Vision and Planning: Tom Kinney.



Who's Who in UU: Marge Rowden

by Eve Jordan

We all know Marge Rowden as a hard working member of our congregation. Since joining the UUFR-VA in 2008, she has had many hats, and is currently Caring Circle Chairperson, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, and one of the Trustees for the Endowment, which automatically puts her on the Financial Committee. And this is her retirement! Many of her fine qualities and her work ethic come from her parents. Her father was a minister, and her mother had the challenging role as the wife of the minister. So, in this loving and strong family, her character was developed. Born in North Carolina, the family moved to Indianapolis when Marge was 13 months old. At 18, and a freshman at Texas Christian University, she was home for Christmas break when her younger brother was killed in a drowning accident. She was ready to stay home with her grieving parents, but they insisted that she return to college and continue with her life. He was her only sibling.

At Texas Christian, Marge met Dave. They married on December 29, 1966 UUFR-VA; she was in her senior year. After her graduation, they lived in several cities before settling in Reston, Virginia. While there, and as sailors,

they had a small week-end place in Bay Quarter Shores. Moving here permanently, they bought a home on Cod Creek — a bit of Northern Neck paradise. Sitting on the screened porch with a huge cherry tree in the sweeping yard, it is easy to see why they moved to this particular spot. When they exchanged their sailboat for a trawler with a diesel engine, Marge wanted to learn how to repair it in case of emergency. She took a class in diesel engine repair, and crosses her fingers that she will not be called to this duty.

Spiritual life for them was the Northern Neck week-ends; they had been part of a Unitarian Universalist fellowship while in Lexington, Kentucky 30 years prior, but did not feel drawn to a formal spiritual practice. They found the listing for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock in the newspaper while the UUFR-VA was still in the Women's Club. Marge brought her years of experience as office manager for a boutique law firm in the heart of Washington, D.C., and we have certainly benefited. Retirement brought the foreign travel that Dave and Marge had not done before, and did they ever do it right! They cruised on a Holland America line for 62 days in the Southern Hemisphere, going from very cold weather — Antarctica — to warm weather in Panama and Columbia — and many ports in between. It was a lovely and memorable trip; Marge is now ready to travel to Europe, with a desire to see St. Petersburg, Istanbul and take a river trip on the Rhine, or the Seine or a trip that would follow the trail of the Vikings. Relocating permanently to the Northern Neck was quite a shift, to be sure, and the UUFR-VA proved to be a blessing. She especially enjoys *Phood and Philosophy*, *Imagine That!*, the *UU Ladies Lunch* and of course the wonderful people who make up this extraordinary congregation. The UUFR-VA would be quite a different place without her energy and commitment.

PRIVATE SHOWING FOR UUFR MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS

FRIDAY NIGHT @ THE MOVIES



CITY ISLAND

PG-13 • 104 MINUTES • FROM 2009 • UUFR SANCTUARY
FRIDAY, AUG 17TH • DOORS CLOSE AT 7:15 P.M.

The Rizzos, a family who doesn't share their habits, aspirations, and careers with one another, find their delicate web of lies disturbed by the arrival of a young ex-con brought home by Vince (Andy Garcia), the patriarch of the family, who is a corrections officer in real life, and a hopeful actor in private.

BYO SNACK & DRINK
FREE* DONATIONS APPLIED
TOWARD THE FUNDING &
FACILITATION OF FUTURE
UUFR MULTIMEDIA EVENTS

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

Foyer Flow

by Janet Hemming

The Membership Committee recently looked to see if there was a better way to arrange the foyer to eliminate congestion. We were not able to come up with a better design, given the limited space. So we are asking for your help in keeping the foyer traffic flowing during busy times before and after service.

Before service, it is important that the pathway from the front door to the membership table is clear. Greeters need to be able to guide guests to the table to sign the visitors' book and make name tags. After service, the refreshments table is the "hot spot." Please help us by getting your refreshments and moving to another part of the foyer to eat, drink and be merry. This will allow everyone easy access to the refreshments.

There is another way that you can help. Your contributions to the "gathering deck" project will help provide additional space that can be used when the weather is nice. Thanks for your support.

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:

August 27: *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

September 2UUFRR-VA: *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean

October 22: *The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje

This year's "Big Book" choice is *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor. Details about our evening dinner and discussion will be forthcoming.

We're always looking for noteworthy books to discuss, so if you have a recommendation, please call **Elaine Weekley**.

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Bill Gimpel, 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
Shirley Kinney, Program Chair
Janet Hemming and Marge Rowden,
Membership Co-Chairs

Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the month
Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)