



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

October 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

October 7

Rev. Alane Cameron Miles: “The Ending”

9:30 Meditation: No Leader-Sanctuary Will Be Open

This will be the fourth chapter in Rev. Alane Cameron Miles series of “Your Life as a Novel.” Usually, we look at how novels are like our lives. This past year, Rev. Miles led services which examined how our lives are like novels. We have our plots and subplots; our heroes, villains, and characters; our crises and conflicts. In this last service of the series, she will examine our endings — ending relationships, ending stages of life, ending bad habits, and the ending of the arc of our lives. Each unit in this sermon stands alone, so you need not have attended any of the others to come to this one.

October 14

Devi Herrsche: “Pregnancy and Infant Loss”

9:30 Meditation: **Bob Weekley**

October is “Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month,” as designated by Ronald Reagan in 1988. Devi Herrsche, and Dr. Ron Herrsche, will share what they have learned about this poignant subject in the year since their daughter, Mikela, lost her son midway through her pregnancy. Perinatal loss is a devastatingly common occurrence, and what’s worse is that mothers of unborn children are

rarely given sustained support while they move through layers of grief work, nor is it commonplace for us to celebrate the gift that the little lost one contributed to the woman who carried him or her in her womb.

Consequently, many women are left with stuffed-down feelings; harbored secrets of shame, guilt, and emptiness; and a haunting sense that her child was somehow only a surreal experience that she alone had had and that others barely acknowledged. The Herrsches are producing a 30-minute film intended to give voice to the silently suffering and to elucidate a topic given negligible notice at great societal cost.

October 21

Hank Stupi: “Musical Inspiration on a Spiritual Journey”

9:30 Meditation: No Leader-Sanctuary Will Be Open

Our music coordinator, Hank Stupi, will perform a selection of original songs strongly influenced by the exploration of his own spirituality since discovering Unitarian Universalism and joining our Fellowship just over three years ago.

The Monthly Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.

October 28

Bob Weekley: “Soap Box Sunday”

9:30 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

This is your opportunity to share your inspiration, your passion, your insight. What do you want to share with the congregation? Soap Box Sunday is back by popular demand. Volunteers will have 3 to 4 minutes to speak on a subject of their choosing. For ideas, you might choose to share a favorite reading or poem, an inspirational anecdote, a special pastime or joy, or a concern. Perhaps there is that inspirational piece that your grandmother kept in her cookbook or bible. You might find it helpful to jot down your presentation in advance. The important thing is your sharing what is in your heart.

Guidelines? The speaker's time will be controlled, and we ask that no one raise partisan political matters.

President's Corner

by **Bob Weekley**

Why We Need Effective Communications

Organizations can succeed or fail based on how well they communicate – not only among themselves, but also with their surrounding community. In a church led by a minister, the minister is the central figure in both internal and external communications. In a lay-led fellowship like ours, we must share communication responsibilities among various officers and committees.

Our Fellowship has established a number of ways we communicate with (and among) our congregation and with our external communities. For example, the Program Committee continues to seek feedback on our Sunday services; the Membership Committee, with its Caring Circles, provides a “two-way street” for sharing and receiving information from members and visitors; and all committee

chairs and board members strive to listen and learn from the members of the congregation so they can carry those views and ideas to the Board of Stewards. We want to hear what could be done better as well as what you like. If something bothers you, let us know. Maybe it bothers someone else as well.

We have both written and electronic information-sharing to try and keep everyone informed about what is happening in our UU Fellowship world as well as in our extended UU community – district and national. *The Chalice* monthly newsletter, the www.uufrappahannock.org web site, Sunday morning bulletins, newspaper announcements, verbal announcements in services, and occasional e-mail blasts help get the word out. (I am excited to hear visitors say that they checked out our web page and decided to visit.) We have an electronic on-line forum on Google Groups used sporadically for sharing ideas. All members receive the UU national publication, *UU World*. If you need more information about any of these, let me know.

For more personal communications, we have a team trained and experienced in lay pastoral counseling – people you can meet with if you have a concern you would like to share confidentially with a trained listener who can often help in resolving situations that challenge you. If you feel a need for this kind of counsel, contact Diana Jamison, Pirkko Graves, or Bob Duryea to make arrangements for a meeting. On our web site, you will find more on lay pastoral care under “UUFRA-VA Programs/Lay Pastoral Care.” And, as President of your board, I am readily available to listen and share.

One day, if we maintain a healthy growth in our Fellowship, we could have a minister helping us manage this crucial flow of information. For now, we do it as a team. Let me know if you have more ideas.

— *Bob Weekley*

Phood and Philosophy?

Phood and Philosophy, our monthly potluck and discussion event, will be on hiatus through the end of the year. We blame the drought and resultant bacon shortage. Perhaps there are other reasons.

If you'd like to host the event in 2013, please contact **Shirley Kinney**. It is always an enjoyable evening.

The Upcoming Socrates Café

On Thursday, October 25th, our next regularly scheduled meeting of the Socrates Café will be held at 7:00 P.M. Our topic this time will be: "So what do you really think about Global Warming?" This is your chance to say what you want—uninterrupted--about one of the most contentious issues at the intersection of Science and Politics. This is also your opportunity to listen to what others think about this issue with no interruptions, arguments, or debates. The Café format allows everyone to be heard and provides everyone an opportunity to listen carefully to opinions with which you may or may not disagree. We have all found this to be an enlightening experience, and we invite you to join us.

The Café's goal is to provide a forum where everyone participating is listened to respectfully and everyone's opinions are valid. We do not seek resolution or consensus on any of the questions we explore. We only seek to gain a better understanding of why we (and others who hold different points of view) think the way we think.

A better understanding is accomplished through use of a moderated question-and-answer format with a moderator asking questions employing a Socratic dialogue with each participant. This provides an opportunity for the participant to state their opinions on a topic and then clarify and expand the reasoning behind those opinions without arguments or debate. When we have a better understanding of opinions that are very different from our own, when we truly understand each other, then mutual respect, progress, and compromise are possible.

So join us for the next Socrates Café. The Cafés are open to the public; if you have any friends or acquaintances with viewpoints on the topic that are different from your own, please invite them to join us. The wider the range of opinions, the more we all learn and benefit. If anyone would like more information of the Socrates Café, please feel free to contact **Dave Rowden** or **Cliff Schelling**.

Retreat Assistance

Would you really like to go to the UUFV-VA Membership Retreat in Virginia Beach, but find your resources aren't quite up to the task? The Membership Committee has some budgeted scholarship money to help people fund their participation in the Retreat. We can offer gas money, some help with the motel, or help finding a car pool. Talk to **Janet Hemming** or **Marge Rowden** to find out more.

Nutshell UU History: John Haynes Holmes (1879 – 1964)

by Rev. Kathy Duhon

John Haynes Holmes was a Unitarian minister in New York who shaped society in strong ways. He had the ear of Presidents and other national and world leaders. Two of the groups he helped found were the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

When he came to New York in 1907 as the newly called minister of the Church of the Messiah, he found a few things to change, first of all, the name. While Holmes considered Jesus an important and unique religious prophet and leader, he did not believe in Jesus as the Son of God. With his congregation, they changed their name to Community Church, and they opened wide the doors. His preaching was extraordinary and prophetic, and the congregation grew immensely. Sometimes he was controversial, as when he remained pacifist through both World Wars. He loved peace and justice, and he worked to change society. He believed that the Bible contained the good news of social salvation, and he preached it and lived it.

Holmes is the one who introduced Gandhi to the United States. They were friends. Holmes wrote: "If I believed in the 'Second Coming,' as I do not, I should dare to assert that Gandhi was Jesus come back to earth ... He lives his life; he speaks his word; he suffers, strives, and will someday nobly die, for his kingdom upon earth." Much the same could be said of Holmes. He lived for the Kingdom of God, and he changed the world for the good.

UUFR-VA Announces Voter Identification Information Community Service Campaign

by Dave Rowden

As most of you are aware, there has been a concerted effort in a number of states to require presentation of identification at the polls when voting in elections. Twenty-seven states have passed Voter ID Laws. Some of these laws are very restrictive in the kinds of identification that can be used. Virginia is one of the states that have passed a Voter ID Law, but it is not nearly as restrictive as the laws passed in other states. To vote in Virginia you must present one of the following forms of identification at the polls:

- Virginia Voter Registration Card (All registered voters will be sent a new voter registration card after October 15, 2012—the deadline for registration for the upcoming election.)
- Valid Virginia driver's license
- Military ID
- Any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID
- Employer-issued photo ID card
- Concealed handgun permit
- Valid student ID from any institution of higher learning located in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or pay check indicating the name and address of the voter
- Social Security Card (There are certain restrictions on the use of a Social Security Card by first-time voters in Federal elections who registered by mail and did not provide a copy of a photo ID with their registration. These restrictions are in place because of the Federal "Help Americans Vote Act," not the new Virginia Law.)

The Virginia Law provides ample opportunity for providing a valid form of identification

when you vote. Moreover, Virginia's law is one of the few that has been approved by the Justice Department and is not facing a Federal challenge in the courts. Unfortunately, there is a lot of confusion about the new law because of all of the information that has been in the news about other states' voter ID laws.

One of our Unitarian Universalist Principles is: *"The right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."* To live this principle, the Board of Stewards has approved an information campaign on the new law as a community service to the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. A succinct listing of the ID requirements under the new law, and, most importantly, statements of what is not required under the new law have been developed. This information has been placed on single 6x4 cards that fold into a convenient 3x2 size that can be easily carried in a pocket, purse, or billfold. Five thousand of these cards have been printed. Those of you who attended the September 16 service received a sample of the card in your program.

Next steps are to promote the availability of the cards to the public. We already have commitments from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Burgess, and the Lancaster County Library to distribute the cards. We are in conversations with several other community service organizations. In addition, Kathy Duhon, Mike Knez, Lynn Langley, Lori Lowery, Bob and Elaine Weekley, Dave and Marge Rowden, Eve Jordan, and Laurie Morissette are reaching out to local organizations to encourage their participation. There also is a mailing planned to churches in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula soliciting their participation and support for this project. Follow-up e-mail contacts and phone calls will be made when possible or appropriate.

To promote participation by other organizations in the faith community and

elsewhere, the Voter ID Information cards are set up so that a participating organization can choose to have their name placed prominently on the cover or have it omitted. There is a small box at the bottom of the cards identifying the effort as a UUFR-VA "Community Service Project."

You can help with this important project. Talk to any organizations or persons you think might be interested in distributing this vital information. If they are interested, they can contact Dave or Marge Rowden and they will arrange for customizing the cards if this is desired, and will arrange for supplying as many cards as the person or organization wants. We urge all of you to make this a priority between now and November 6. This is a real opportunity for us to show the communities in which we live that we live our values. It is time more people know about us and what we offer. This community service project is a win-win opportunity.

Finally, we all owe Eve Jordan and Laurie Morissette a big vote of thanks for coming up with the idea for this project.

Interweave Connect

by Marge Rowden

We are very glad to tell everyone about the publication "Interweave Connect." This newsletter is published monthly by UUA and is devoted to the needs and issues of the LGBT community and their friends. It is informative and interesting to everyone. It is published on the UUA website and is accessible through our own website, uufrappahannock.org, with a link on our home page on the right hand side. Check it out!



Who's Who in UU: Fran Schelling

by Eve Jordan

A cute blue-eyed blonde, a red Mustang convertible, a vacation home in Florida, a birthday that is always a party ... what a life! Fran Schelling was born in Brooklyn, NY, on October 31st, and, as she has said, it has been a costume party every year. She and her family moved to Queens when she was six years old, and, at sixteen, she met Cliff Schelling in high school — her first and last boyfriend. He was the one! They married and had two lovely children, moved around a bit, traveled quite a lot, and, after their two children graduated college and were on their own, Fran and Cliff retired in the early '90's to Mill Creek. They found the property in Chesapeake Bay Magazine and built the home they so thoroughly enjoy while living on their boat.

Moving to the Northern Neck was a sea change in her life. Fran had worked for AT&T as a Human Resources Manager in charge of counseling employees. She loved it! She was also an EMT and captain of a first-aid squad. Once here, she became certified as a mediator helping folks settle serious disputes and as a mentor to young girls. But Fran decided that this was not what her retirement was supposed to look like. Fortunately for her, Sue Adriance, her neighbor, brought her

to the UUFR-VA, and, after one visit, she went home and told Cliff this was something he needed to attend. That was over ten years ago, and she has brought her many skills to the Fellowship. Fran served as Membership Chair, serves on the Vision and Planning Committee, and initiated the very popular UUFR-VA cookbook, *Phood and Philosophy*, which was reprinted by popular demand. She also created the Circle of Life and Lay Pastoral Care programs. Wow!

Fran's primary interest is her family, which includes her three grandchildren: Emma, 10, who lives in California and Sabrina, 9, and Peter, 6, who live in New Jersey. The family gathers at Halloween (of course!), Christmas, and the Fourth of July. At Christmas, it is the whole family — in-laws, their children, Cliff's siblings, and her brother who lives in New York. Quite a crowd! There are 40 plus in all (umpteens kids, says Fran), and what a good time they have, to hear the Schellings tell it. Christmas will be spent in Florida this year — with the red Mustang convertible.

In her spare time ... ahem ... Fran enjoys scrapbooking (and what wonderful memories she captures!) and making cards — intricate, clever, original cards filled with such joy. (She will be giving a class for *Imagine That!* in November if you are curious.) Temporarily, Fran has set aside her passion for beading, making jewelry that is original, colorful, and can be made to match your outfit. Her workshop is just a feast for the eyes.

Fran's life is ever-expanding, and this is one more chapter to be celebrated. Going from no spiritual practice to being so deeply involved with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock is our good luck. Maybe she will leave a breadcrumb trail to Del Ray Beach, and we can get a ride in the red **Mustang** convertible.

About The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

by Thea Marshall

“A church cannot be a place where we come together once a week and enjoy our doctrine and congratulate ourselves that we have a faith free from superstition ... We must do something for others, as well as for ourselves. And the more we have done for others, the more, in the end, we shall find we have done for ourselves.”

—Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane, born August 17, 1858, Unitarian minister, suffragist, civic reformer, and social gospel advocate.

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation will mark its fiftieth anniversary next year, but long before that, UU women have been on the front lines when it comes to social justice. And that's why I've volunteered to keep us all posted about some of their activities with these occasional notes.

First, you should know their “official” purpose, as proclaimed in all the UUWF writings:

- **“We affirm the inherent value of each woman within our community;**
- **We affirm the importance of women's voices in our religious quest;**
- **We link hearts and minds in service of women's truths;**
- **We pledge action against the religious roots of sexism;**
- **We pledge to support the diversity of religious feminisms;**
- **We work to raise consciousness of the linked nature of oppressions;**
- **We seek justice for all women in the struggle to transform institutions of oppression;**
- **We highlight and celebrate women's achievements – past, present, and future.”**

As you can expect from UU's, their most current funded projects reflect those sentiments. The following is just one of their major justice projects: “to have a direct, positive impact on the lives of immigrant and/or indigenous women and girls ...”

According to UUWF President, Rev. Marti Keller, “This is a good fit for all of us ... This could be a local congregation working in partnership with a reproductive health clinic serving the unique needs of these populations,” she said, “or with literacy or life skills projects serving immigrant women and girls.”

While many might say, “Oh, we've done that,” ... I would like to suggest that there is a new population of immigrants in our midst, and it indeed may be “a good fit.”

And then there is this: The newly elected UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2012-2016 is “Reproductive Justice.” For those who would like to learn more about this issue, go to the UUWF website: <http://www.uuwf.org/>.

According to the UUWF, “... social justice issues as they affect women emerged as a leading passion among UU women.”

So, if you are one of those women, perhaps these bits of information will help get your passion into gear.

An Invitation

The UU Fellowship of Fredericksburg is dedicating their new home on Sunday, October 14th, and they invite anyone who can attend to share their joy in this event. The service at 25 Chalice Circle, Fredericksburg, begins at 11:00 A.M. A reception will follow. For directions visit: www.uuffva.org.

What Do They Talk About?

by **Hank Stupi**

If you've ever wondered what is shared and discussed in the Circle of Life, have a look at the following topic list since the group formed in January 2010. We've countless ideas for our "from the heart" conversations for the future. Feel free to join us at our building from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of every month, starting November 6th. (The October 2nd meeting has been cancelled.) With regard to confidentiality, "What goes on in the Circle of Life stays in the Circle of Life," to borrow a phrase. Contact Fran Schelling or me for more information.

- Are You Being Served? (By Your Beliefs)
- Authenticity vs. Efficiency
- Authenticity II
- Blessings In Disguise
- Bucket List
- Confession
- Death
- Difficult People
- Divergent Paths
- Do Patterns Matter?
- Favorite Words To Live By
- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- How I Want To Be Remembered
- Is Aging A Disability?
- Is "Should" Ever A Good Word?
- It All Depends Upon ...
- Letting Go
- Loving What Is
- My Spiritual Journey
- New Year's Resolutions And Goals
- Our Parents
- Prayer And Meditation
- Right Brain/Left Brain
- Self-Reliance
- Seriously, Do We Take Ourselves Too Seriously?
- Seven Ways To Live In The Moment
- Siblings Or Lack Thereof

- Synchronicity
- The Game That Can Give You Ten Extra Years Of Life
- Too Much Stuff
- What Do You Love?
- What Has Become Most Important To You In The Second Half Of Life?
- What Is Your Religion?
- What Makes You Feel Alive?
- What Would Be An Ideal Life?

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:

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

November 26: *Swamplandia* by Karen Russell

December: No meeting

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

Giant Book Sale

Beginning Sunday, September 30th and continuing for three weeks, there will be hundreds of books for sale in our UUFR-VA foyer. Prices are unbelievably reasonable: \$1 for hardbacks, and fifty cents for paperbacks.

All proceeds will go to our UUFR-VA Endowment Fund, which helps to support the workings of our Fellowship. We have earned \$5450 over the years from book sales. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have donated books and supported our efforts. See **Shirley Kinney** for details.

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



ORDINARY PEOPLE

RATED R • 124 MINUTES • FROM 1980 • UUFV SANCTUARY
FRIDAY, OCT 19TH • DOORS CLOSE AT 7:15 P.M.

Teenager Conrad (Timothy Hutton) lives under a cloud of guilt after his brother drowns when their boat capsizes in Lake Michigan. Despite intensive therapy sessions with his psychiatrist (Judd Hirsch), Conrad can't shake the belief that he should have died instead of his brother, nor do his preoccupied parents (Donald Sutherland and Mary Tyler Moore) offer much in the way of solace. The boy is brought out of his doldrums through his romance with Jeannine (Elizabeth McGovern). Robert Redford's directorial debut wins Best Picture & 3 other Academy Awards.

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Newsletter

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