

# THE CHALICE

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

November 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

### November 4

**Dr. Pirkko Graves:** “The Might of Word and Song”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

In the old folk poetry, later collected in the Finnish national epic KALEVALA, the heroes were mighty singers and spiritual leaders, whose power lay in incantations and ancient knowledge. They made journeys to the land of the dead to increase their knowledge or sought help from the sun and the moon to save others. In contrast to heroes of other epics, they rarely battled with swords or other weapons to exert order over chaos, to assert control over their fate. Pirkko believes that their message is still very much alive and applicable to our lives.

### November 11

**Tom Kinney and Friends:** “Changing the Future”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

UUFRA-VA has sought a Social Justice / Community Service niche in our four-county community where our members can make a permanent change for the better. Tom Kinney, Eve Jordan, Dave Dustin, Shirley Kinney, and Pirkko Graves will present options being proposed and will provide members the opportunity to vote as to which options garner their support.

### November 18

**Sara Mackey:** “Trinity: the Power of Triangles in Our Lives”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

The earliest Unitarian Christians were defined by their rejection of the concept of the trinity: God as father, son, and holy spirit all in one. Although this conviction is still central to our UU identity, the presence of triangles and their influence is powerful in our lives. Join us as Sara Mackey poses questions about the triangles that shape us.

*The Monthly Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.*

### November 25

**Dave Rowden:** “TBA”

9:30 Meditation: **TBA**

TBA

## *President's Corner*

by Bob Weekley

### **UUs Play Well Together**

Have you seen the smiling faces from our UUFR-VA retreat on the picture board in the foyer? It is true – UUs play well together. UUs also interact well in exploring matters that touch on spirituality, living mindfully, exploring our own emotions, and learning about (and from) each other. That is what seemed to stick with me after returning from our Virginia Beach two-day retreat.

Every year, I hear the retreat attendees exclaim, “This was the best one, ever!” Well, I guess each one *is* better. But it does depend on what each person puts into it.

In the week-to-week activities of our Fellowship – and we have several now – we get to know each other to a degree. Spending quality time together on a relaxing retreat away from the everyday routine, one really discovers a deeper appreciation of the amazing members and friends of our Fellowship.

The agenda, and the events that kept us so happily occupied, were planned and led by Shirley Kinney, Thea Marshall, Pirkko Graves and Terrie Dustin. Bill Gimpel coordinated logistics and accommodations. Thank you!

The assembled group decided that our Fellowship should do it again, same time, same place, next year. The Board of Stewards agreed, so it will be **Virginia Beach on Columbus Day weekend, October 13-15, 2013**. Cost of accommodations is modest. Our hotel is right on the beach and has its own character.

You may want to put it on your calendar now, so you can join in the fun.

— *Bob Weekley*

## **Mongolian Tour Anyone?**

Last summer Bob and Elaine Weekley toured the endless Mongolian grasslands, the Gobi Desert, and the forested north that extends into Siberia. Bob and Elaine will present a slide show and talk about this exotic region and its people at the UU Fellowship on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Please note that this program also will be presented at the Lancaster Community Library as part of the “Sundays At Two” series on January 20, 2013.

## **Niche Progress**

by Tom Kinney for the Community Service / Social Justice Team.

The member-supported vision of UUFR-VA's future and UUFR-VA's last two five-year plans have dreamed of finding a Community Service / Social Justice niche upon which our church could focus for the long term. The Sunday service, **November 11<sup>th</sup>**, will present six options that are the product of a brainstorming session last spring and subsequent studies and culling. These six are areas that contribute greatly to the human inequities and tragedies we find that surround us in our four-county area. The Congregation will be asked which potential changes — for the better — in our community they feel should be our focus as UUFR-VA's niche, thus providing a basis for a more intensive study of the member-favored options leading to a proposed action plan.

Please join us November 11 to take part in laying a path to a better future.

## **Book Sale Results**

by Shirley Kinney

For three weeks in October, UUFR-VA had a huge book sale — books you all have donated over the past year. A large percentage of the donated books are listed for sale on Amazon.com, however, any books that cannot be sold online for more than \$4 are stored away for our annual book sale here at UUFR-VA.

This year you purchased nearly 100 books from our sale, bringing in a total of \$98.50, and, in the process, ended up adding to your own library some amazing books in great condition. Such a deal!

But there's more! Keep going through your bookshelves to find those books you no longer intend to read and donate them to our ongoing Amazon sale. I will be happy to take any books, any time, and try to sell them. All profits go to our UUFR-VA Endowment Fund, which helps meet the needs of our annual operating budget. We've been selling books since 2008 and have earned over \$5900.

All books we are unable to sell, either on Amazon or at our book sales are donated to the Lancaster Public Library to help them raise much-needed funds.

## **Imagine That!**

by Shirley Kinney

We have a congregation of very talented people. You all know that. But on Sunday, November 18, you will be able to see just how talented a few of them are. Imagine That!

Yes, the UUFR-VA art group, Imagine That! would like to share with you some of their work. Maybe we'll get you interested enough to join us. Maybe we'll get you interested enough to buy some of our art.

There will be gorgeous boxes, sets of holiday houses, apple gourds, jewelry, and much more. Come admire our work. Come stock up on Christmas presents. Come join us.

## **Need a Helping Hand?**

The Membership Committee has recently received approval from the Board of Stewards to implement a Crisis/Helping Hand Fund. This fund would be utilized whenever a member has an emergency and is in need of temporary assistance. This fund is intended for UUFR-VA members only. The need might include money for transportation, medications, food, utilities, or other assistance. The UUFR-VA President will administer the fund and will serve as the point of contact for any member requesting assistance. All requests will be confidential.

We hope to have an initial fund balance of \$1000. You will see this new financial request on the project board in the foyer. Please help us provide for our fellow members when they are in need.

## **What's on Your Mind?**

by Shirley Kinney

It's that time of year when we begin filling our calendar for next year's Sunday speakers. So, that means that it's the time of year for you to think about what subject you would like to share with us.

Here are some suggestions:

—Have you read a wonderful book that you think we would like to hear about? Review it! Read some excerpts; tell us why it moved you.

—Are you involved in an activity or an organization that is doing great work? Why does it speak to you? Do you want others to get involved as well? Tell us about it.

—Which of the UU Seven Principles really touch your heart? Why is that? Give us examples of that Principle in action in your experience.

—What is your spiritual journey? What brought you to UUism? What does it mean to you?

—Join with someone else and present a dramatic reading or enactment.

---Find out more about a famous (or not so famous) UU person and tell us about her/him.

—Go to the UU website and read about their issues of Social Justice and Action. Find one that speaks to you and educate us about it. Why should we be concerned as well?

Have I got you interested? I know you're nervous about speaking and think you have nothing to say, but that's not a reason for letting the rest do all the talking. We think you are fascinating — what you have to say is definitely worth a listen. If you're nervous, we'll overlook it. If you fumble, we'll help you recover. We are a lay-lead congregation. We value that quality about us. We *all* need to participate. When the Program Committee comes to you and asks you to speak some Sunday next year, please say "Yes!"

## 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:

**November 26:** *Swamplandia* by Karen Russell

**December:** No meeting

**January 28:** *Scorched Earth* by David L. Robbins

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

## Current Project Update

by **Barbara Haynes**

Our thanks to all who have supported the projects currently on the project list (see status poster in the foyer). The Pathways of Remembrance and acoustics projects have been completed. Funding is still needed for Walkway Railing and the Art Gallery. Funding is also needed for a large and very important project, the 500-sq. ft. Gathering Deck. The deck is part of our original design and will add room for many uses, including open-air potlucks. This space will serve to ease the crowding in the foyer that sometimes occurs, as well as provide a gathering space for both adults and youngsters.

### Discussion of Proposed 2013 Budget

The Finance Committee will be available to discuss the proposed budget for 2013 with members of the congregation on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**, immediately after services.

## UU Children's Program

by **Sue Adriance**

In an attempt to meet the needs of younger families interested in attending UUFR-VA, we are offering a children's program once a month. At present, the class is geared to young children up to the age of seven and we hope to extend it as the need arises and volunteer teachers step forward. Classes were held during the regular 10:30 time slot on Sept. 9 and Oct. 7 with Nov. 4 being our next session followed by Dec. 9. Chris Gimpel, Terrie Dustin and Sue Adriance are alternating teaching with the assistance of Aline Johnson and the plan is to continue the program on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact Sue Adriance.



## Who's Who in UU: Shirley Kinney

By Eve Jordan

Imagine That! creator and gift to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Shirley Kinney, started life as a twin, always having a best friend. As a young adult, she was a teacher of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and took very seriously the notion that children should enjoy school. She wanted them to wonder *why?* And, judging by what she has done for this congregation with her creativity and talents, we know she was quite good with those kids. However, after six years, she decided that was enough (we can only guess why ...) An ad in the paper for the Birmingham, Michigan Art Association, offering beginning drawing classes started a true love for Shirley, tapping into her enormous creative potential. She had loved drawing figures, and began taking pottery classes. She didn't think she was too good at it, but it *felt* good. Her sister thought Shirley should make dolls for every member of the family for Christmas one year, and provided her twin with fabric ... she moved closer toward her calling: *creativity*. She loved fabric and the colors but did not like using a pattern; the cloth dolls were not alive! Shirley moved on to clay, which allowed for lots of facial expression. Her whimsical creations are priceless, funny, charming and unique, as though each one could almost talk

or walk or dance or sing. She would ultimately like to see robotic clay figures – not too far-fetched, as Tom's brother-in-law is a robotic engineer. Watch out! Perhaps she will begin with puppets on a string ...

Science Fiction is a great love of Shirley's, where anything is possible. What if ... current Science Fiction is not satisfying as it is full of end of time, not future promise. She has memorized the final sentence from the last Star Trek series: "The goal of the Starship Enterprise should not be to go where no one has gone before ... rather it should be to explore the limitless possibilities of existence."

This idea of endless possibilities is expressed in her unique ability to invite women into her home for an opportunity to create in a space where there is no fault, and everyone is creative. Thus, Imagine That! Using cigar boxes, pieces of tin, feathers, seed pods ... Shirley's workshop is a cornucopia of interesting things, a feast for the eyes and imagination. This began about six years ago with Linda Weber, Audrey Brainard and Fran Schelling — they wanted the UUFR-VA to complete a tree for the annual Festival of the Trees at the YMCA. That was the year of the seed pods and gourds, and everyone loved doing it. The goal evolved into exploring new ideas and materials, and watching people change and own their creative aspect. With a donation of \$150 — seed money for materials — the transformation began. Sales have been in the foyer of the UUFR-VA, at the Northumberland Studio Tour, and at the Irvington Farmers Market. Shirley takes her own creations to the UU art gallery in Richmond.

Shirley and husband, Tom, have been together since age thirteen. They were in the same Civics class. Tom began walking her home every day. They were married, and soon after began making plans to retire at age 45. Tom was an engineer with General Motors. Together Tom and Shirley designed and built houses to get to the big dream.

Shirley later went back to school to become a paralegal, which led to a position as administrator for a law school – an intense, stressful environment where her challenge was to make things go smoothly. She met the challenge, and loved doing it. She worked in that position for five years – and then it was time to move on to the **Big Dream**. That was 1990. They came to Ottoman and lived on their boat for a year, designing the house that is Coventry. They worked and planned and picked out what they could afford and, with Tom working in DC, Shirley worked at Yankee Point Marina and taught GED classes to get the money they needed to complete and furnish their dream home. It was a do-it ourselves project. An ad in the local paper brought them to the Unitarian Fellowship – the second meeting at the White Stone Women`s Club.

Shirley remembers Frank Elliott playing the guitar and leading the singing, and someone was needed to play the piano so he would only have to sing. Shirley was terrified to play publicly, but UUFRA-VA seemed a safe and forgiving environment to try. (She *knows* there is someone at the UUFRA-VA who can play the piano but is too unsure to step up. Well, now is your chance!)

The beauty of the UUFRA-VA: the place lets you be you. Indeed. Need we note the many contributions Shirley has made to our environment? Do we have the space to note her contributions? Don`t ask her, she will never tell. But, you are welcome to step up and join her in any number of activities. Shirley is truly someone special, and a lot of fun!

## A Musical Invitation

You are invited to a **Joyous Sing Out** on Sunday evening, November 11, 2012, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at UUFRA-VA. Bring your voices, your spouses, your partners and friends (and *their* voices). If you play an instrument, bring that too, along with your favorite drink and snack. Music and lyrics will

be provided. Or, you can bring your own. RSVP to Diana Jamison.



## You Missed The Retreat?

by Shirley Kinney

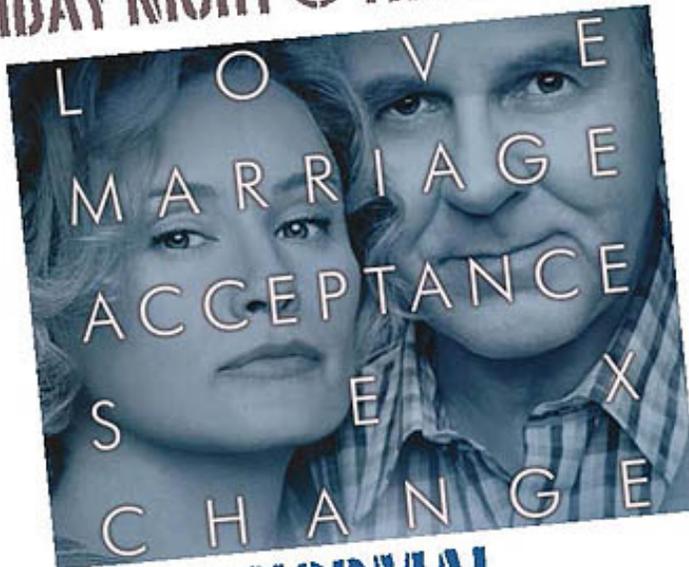
You missed a wonderful weekend with the most *amazing* people! Our annual UUFRA-VA Retreat was a smashing success — just ask any of the people who attended. We gathered at Virginia Beach for three days of conversation, relaxation, and friendship.

The family-run hotel was welcoming and small, perfect for a cozy getaway in a relaxed casual style. There were plenty of restaurants we walked to, beaches explored, the occasional downpour, and lots of laughter to share. Thea Marshall led us in two mesmerizing meditations. You should have seen thirteen people lying across two beds and covering the floor of her room. Terrie created a wonderful craft activity that turned our names into Rorschach Tests.

Mark your calendars for next year— Columbus Day weekend in October. This UUFRA-VA tradition is a great way to get to know each other. If the cost is what`s keeping you from joining us, contact the Membership Committee for possible scholarship assistance. Or, better yet, if you know of someone who would like to come but is hesitating because of cost, book a room for two and invite them to share the room as your treat.

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A midwestern factory worker stuns his wife of 25 years by telling her he wants to undergo gender transition and sex reassignment surgery.

This film was praised by critics and nominated for several Emmys.

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#### Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>

<http://www.uufr-va.org>

Bob Prescott, Webmaster

#### Newsletter

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