

THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

March 2013

Fellowship Services

Fellowship services are held each **Sunday** at **10:30 A.M.** at 366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA.

Meditation is held each Sunday from 9:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. in the sanctuary.

All are welcome. Coffee and conversation follow the service.

Sunday Programs

March 3

Ruth Micklem: Guns and Violence: Changing the Conversation

In light of the tragedy in Newtown—and in Aurora, Tucson, Fort Hood, VA Tech, Columbine, Oak Creek, and so many more—how do we actively and respectfully engage in the efforts to end gun violence? How can we as individuals and as a congregation play a role in changing the conversation around guns in America?

*** UU For Kids ***

March 10

Rev. Jennifer Ryu: Our Black History Stories

Rev. Ryu, a minister from the Williamsburg UU congregation, posits: “We Unitarians have a Black History that is as much a part of our religious legacy as the history of Channing, Fahs, and Adams.” She will help us to bring these stories to life.

March 17

Caroline Shifflett: Parental Guidance

Caroline Shifflett will discuss how the Unitarian Universalist principles guide her parenting adventure.

March 24

Margaret Sequeira: Building Up and Tearing Down

Margaret Sequeira, a candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministry, says: “Today in the Christian calendar is Palm Sunday, marking the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He enters the city as a hero, and the story tells us that in one week he will be executed by the Roman government and abandoned by many of his friends. We hear many stories of people held up as heroes and heroines only to be brought down because they are truly fallible human beings who could not possibly live up to the pedestals they were placed on. Let us explore together the ways we lift up and tear down our heroes.”

March 31

Diana Jamison: The Artist

The brush, paint, palette, and canvas are the instruments of the trade. Courage, resiliency, persistence, willingness to wrestle with self-doubt, and vulnerability are the instruments of the magic. Join Diana as she weaves vignettes of her personal psychology, passion for creativity, and spiritual practices into her story of becoming an artist.

President's Corner

by Bob Weekley

Grounds for Blessing

Daffodils and crocuses were popping up on James Wharf Road, even before the last brief snow flurries. When you read this, there will be more.

These harbingers of spring remind me of how our congregation, long before we had a building or even a piece of land, expressed the vision that we would create a place of natural beauty. As we gathered to discuss our individual and collective visions, a setting in nature for our UU Fellowship was a high priority. People spoke of their dream for wooded pathways, plenty of trees, a labyrinth, butterfly garden, and creative landscaping. Steadily the members and friends of our Fellowship actually have created a reality of those dreams.

As spring arrives, take a few moments to bask in this web of existence—the natural beauty that surrounds us. Our grounds are designated as a Certified Nature Habitat. Have you explored the nature trail designated by the beautiful sign just to the west of our sanctuary? You will notice the occasional plaques that Bill Gimpel installed describing some of the interesting Virginia flora. Have you walked the labyrinth and experienced the tranquility it confers? Have you wandered through the Pathways of Remembrance, the memorial grove where our departed members are now honored? As spring comes, watch the varieties of lepidoptera fluttering in our butterfly garden under the mimosa tree that is in remembrance of our dear Lynda Weber.

I have found that one of the best ways to absorb the beauty and tranquility is to spend some time working in it. This is not the privilege of a few—all are welcome to help us continue the development and maintenance of our habitat. Bob and Sue Adriance, creators of much of our landscaping around

the building, need your helping hands to meet the seasonal needs. Ask them. Our labyrinth needs tending. There are many ways to help and to feel a part of the beauty. Spending a quiet morning in nature is the best medicine one can take. Perhaps you'd like your own project like hanging and tending bird feeders or a nectar station for hummingbirds. Just do it!

Dave Dustin has stepped up to help us coordinate our building and grounds efforts. If you have an idea for a project, let him know. Spending time in nature is, in itself, a spiritual exercise.

— *Bob*

Phood and Philosophy

Diana Jamison and Charles VanDenburgh will host Phood and Philosophy, our monthly potluck and discussion, in our UU Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, March 16th, at 5:30 P.M.**

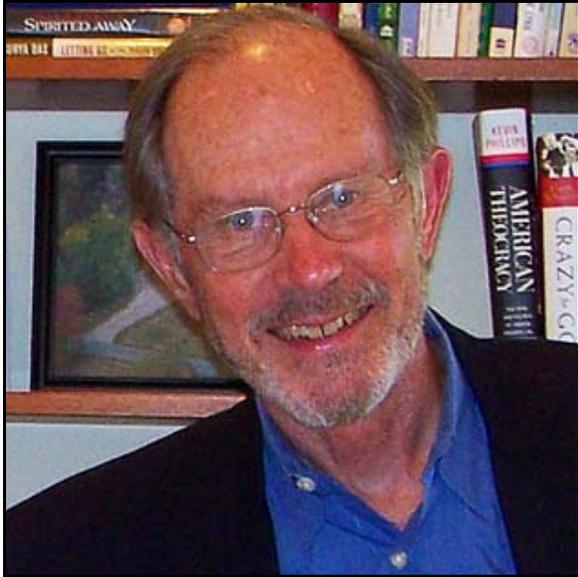
All are invited for an evening of food, friendship, and finding answers to life's great questions. Just bring a dish to share, your preferred beverage, and openness to sharing what you have learned in life—so far.

The evening will commence with a viewing of Ang Lee's Oscar-winning, "The Life of Pi." Following the movie, viewers are encouraged to share their interpretations of the film as they relate to the "interdependent web of all existence." This promises to be a visually appealing and thought-provoking evening.

Please contact **Diana** so that we can be sure to set up enough tables and chairs.

Eagle Watching?

Eve Jordan and Pam Collins are interested in going to Caledon State Park to see eagles. Details TBD, but there would be some hiking involved. Anyone interested in joining, please contact **Pam Collins**.



Who's Who in UU:
Bob Weekley
by Eve Jordan

We all know Bob Weekley as part of the glue that holds the UUFR-VA together. And he is so much more than that. We know that he is a long-distance bicyclist, a retired Army officer with an illustrious career, the husband of Elaine, and a world traveler.

Bob is also the son of hardy Western Colorado stock; he is the 3rd generation of Colorado pioneers on his mother's side. When they lost their farm in Iowa after a bank depression, her parents homesteaded in the wilderness, building their log home and starting again from nothing. His grandmother rode a pony across the mountain and taught at a one-room schoolhouse; she also wrote wonderful poetry. This remarkable woman was self-taught and had been orphaned at an early age. *The Artist and the Poet* was a service Bob gave at the UUFR several years ago where he shared stories of his poet grandmother: her ability to see beauty in everything despite grinding poverty, her love of life, and always looking on the bright side of things and finding something good to say. Interspersed with his talk, Bob read her poetry, and shared with the congregation that

although this remarkable woman never talked a lot about God, He was clearly very much a part of her life. Bob's brother is an educator, a retired California Teacher of the Year, whose avocation is poetry. He reads his poetry publicly and has written several books of poetry.

Bob's father's people were farmers who migrated farther west to Florence, Colorado. His grandfather opened a saloon in this rough mining town, near Cripple Creek, where gold was mined, and then taken to Florence for milling. Florence is one of the oldest towns in the state. Bob's grandparents met in the eastern edge of the state, Granada, where Bat Masterson and Calamity Jane lived ... in the real Wild West. Bob's paternal grandmother came from the California mountains, where her father led posses against outlaws and was killed in the process. Bob has the West in his blood! He has developed a recent interest in and is enjoying discovering the family history.

As a youngster in a small Western town, Bob was captivated when he went to see the movie, "The Long Gray Line," with Tyrone Power, about West Point. Although his mother would have liked to see her son become a minister, he was inspired! He found out that to get into West Point he had to have a Congressional appointment—so he looked in the phone book and called the office of his Congressman. The staffer told him about the competitive exam, which he took at the post office. His parents were unaware of his plans, and when a telegram came for him while he was at his after-school job, his Mom called, opened the telegram, and read the news: He had been accepted at West Point! His family did not have the financial means to send him to a first-rate college, and although his mother cried, and asked "What can we do with him?," his father was enormously proud. That summer Bob boarded a train for New York, knowing that the first year would be exceedingly difficult, but determined to see it through, no matter what. And difficult it was indeed! In the beginning he was in danger of

failing, but by the time he completed his program, Bob graduated in the top 5th of his class.

The Army was indeed what was best for him. His training was as a foreign area specialist, and he received a graduate degree in International Relations at American University. Through the course of his military career he had many different roles, including being a successful unit commander in both tours in Viet Nam; teacher at the United States Military Academy; staff officer for NATO; arms control negotiator in Geneva, Switzerland; and diplomat. He learned to be mentally tough and to lead people in combat and keep them safe. After 30 years in the military, he learned that although he had been a straight arrow, the civilian world required a bend in the arrow. He knew he might not be a natural at some things, but he could apply himself and learn to do whatever he needed to do to be successful.

Bob stays in shape with yoga and is a dedicated bicyclist. His first serious bicycle trip was when he rode to West Point for his 50th class reunion in 2009, pedaling in April for 618 miles over 11 days. And he was also raising money for the Kilmarnock Boys and Girls Club. He rides a modified Fuji road bike—it has 30 gears! In the spring he will join the Adventure Cycling Association on a 7-day trip in Maine, where Elaine will join him later. In keeping with his enjoyment of life and leisure, Bob recently purchased a white BMW convertible ... a lovely automobile that has a most amazing top. It is like a transformer, folding in three places and then sliding into the open trunk—it is awesome!

And so we have a man of many talents and interests, who acts as facilitator and speaker for Sunday services, as President of the Board of Trustees, and as friend. He is a pretty amazing fellow.



Thea Marshall's March Report

This past weekend, Eva Abel and her boyfriend Adam Ginsberg (yes — Adam and Eva) went to Staunton to celebrate her birthday. Adam had gotten tickets for one of the plays at the BlackFriars Theatre, home of the American Shakespeare Company. At the end of the performance, Adam was called up on stage ... Eva was bewildered, and thought: “Oh, no more birthday announcements.” And then, she too was called up on stage. When she got onstage, Adam dropped to one knee ... and *proposed* — to the cheers of approval from the audience!

Circle of Life - Starting in March, the Circle of Life will meet the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. in our building. The topic for March 13th is: “And what about that fortune cookie that said: ‘What would you attempt to do if you knew that you could not fail?’” Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, contact **Hank Stupi or Fran Schelling**.

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:

March 25: *Greenlanders* by Jane Smiley

April 22: *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* by Kate Atkinson

May 27: *Troubles* by J.G. Farrell

June 24: *36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction* by Rebecca Goldstein

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



A special musical service was provided on February 10th by David Duhon, Margie Sabo, and our own Hank Stupi.

“Sing Out” Returns March 24th

Back by popular demand! Sing Outs will be hosted at UUFR-VA on the fourth Sundays of the month from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Bring your family, friends, favorite songs, voices, ears, and instruments to this jamming event. For anyone who needs to touch base, contact **Diana Jamison**.

Opening a Child’s Eyes

On April 12, 2013, over 100 Lancaster Primary School third-grade students will, once again, travel to Washington, D.C. This will be the thirteenth year students will be boarding chartered buses and spend a full day touring our nation's capital. For some students this will be their first and only opportunity to visit our nation's capital. The students will visit the National Zoo, tour the monuments and memorials, see the White House, the United States Capitol, and museums. The trip is provided by the Lancaster Education Foundation (LCVEF).

LCVEF is a 501C(3) organization whose mission is to enhance and advocate educational excellence and expand learning opportunities for students in the Lancaster County Public Schools. Donations are welcome. For additional information about this worthy cause, view the LCVEF website at: <http://www.LCVEF.com>

Save the Date – Plan to Attend UU Tidewater Cluster

by **Bob Weekley**

The Tidewater Cluster of UU Congregations is holding the second annual cluster gathering at the Williamsburg UU on Saturday, March 23rd, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. UUs from across the region will gather for an exciting time. Bill Gimpel and I attended last year’s event and can report that it was well-planned and worthwhile.

Rev. Jake Morrill of the Oak Ridge UU Church will be the main speaker. In addition to the worship meeting, attendees will be offered a wide selection of workshops relevant to our UUFR-VA initiatives:

- Membership: How to grow your congregation
- President’s Round Table
- LFD/RE—Support for Parents and Friends

- Finance and Fund-Raising, including automatic payments
- Circles and Covenant Groups
- Social Justice—Congregational and Possible Cluster Initiatives
- Music and Worship—Multi-generational music programs; incorporating different musical styles into worship
- Legislative Focus Workshop: State Legislative Advocacy for Virginia UUs
- Using Social Media for Faith Development
- Leadership Training — Using the UUA Curricula Tapestry/Harvest the

Power

- YUuth: Programs for Grades 9–12 in Congregations and Cluster

There is a \$15 fee that covers a nice lunch, snacks, and materials. Register in advance at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3DW85MK>

The Tidewater UU churches represented include: Williamsburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond, Fredericksburg, and, of course, **White Stone**. It would be great to have a good turnout from UUFR-VA for this. Let's organize some car pools. (Our minivan will hold seven.)

“POWER OF THE CLUSTER”

**FOR LEADERSHIP, LEARNING,
& LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY**

When: Saturday, March 23, 2013
9:00 am -- 3:30 pm

Where: Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists
3051 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, VA

Cost: \$15 per person

Child care: Provided if registered by March 7

Please register at
www.seduua.org
or
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3DW85MK>

The Tidewater Cluster of Unitarian Universalists
<http://tidewateruu.org>

UU Fellowship of Fredericksburg
UU Community Church of Glen Allen
Unitarian Church of Norfolk
UU Fellowship of the Peninsula
UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock
First UU Church of Richmond
Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



**TIDEWATER CLUSTER
GATHERING**
MARCH 23, 2013
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

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Bill Gimpel, Vice President
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Caroline Shifflett, Past President
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Judi Caples, Membership Chair

Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>
<http://www.uufr-va.org>
Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Newsletter

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