



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

August 2016

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

August 7

Lee Anne Washington: A United Call to Action – A Report from the 2016 UUA General Assembly

Lee Anne will discuss experiences that she found inspiring as a first time attendee at a UUA General Assembly (GA). She will focus on the main themes and resolutions of the GA, but will also discuss some of the workshops that were offered this year, along with her personal experiences. Lee Anne's daughter, Lucy, was so impressed and inspired by her experience that she wants to present a workshop on Vegetarianism/Veganism next year.

Lee Anne Washington has been an attorney, author, and educator for more than 25 years. She is a graduate of the College of William & Mary in Virginia and the University of Virginia Law School. She was raised in the United Methodist Church, lived ten years as a Modern Orthodox Jewess, and became a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock earlier this year. Lee Anne is currently in her second year of seminary, attending Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, in pursuit of a Masters in Divinity and ordination as a Unitarian Universalist minister. She is the

author of "The Human Life Equation, a Biblical Case for Choice".

UU Kids: Celebrating summer vacation.

August 14

Sara Mackey: Think of Me

An old bookmark found on the floor of a library carries a tender message from the past: "Think of Me." Join Sara Mackey, and us, as we imagine, together, the power that we have to slowly change the world – by the way we think of people.

Sara Mackey has been a friend of UUFV-VA since her seminary days, when the fellowship was meeting in the Women's Club down the road. She lives in Richmond and currently works at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where she earned her M.Div. She has served Williamsburg UU as Director of Faith Development, and she has volunteered in many capacities over the years at UU Community Church in Glen Allen.

August 21

Rev. Laura Jackson: Matters of the Heart

It is said that everything begins with the heart. What does that really mean? From the physical heart, with a complex intrinsic network of neurons, to the energetic heart, with an enormous electromagnetic field, the heart has become known as the ‘little brain’. Learn how heart-focused positive feeling states can bring your brain into entrainment with your heart – and what it means for you and the people around you.

Rev. Laura Jackson is a speaker, author, coach and musician. While Rev. Laura is emerging as a nationally-recognized speaker on Earth Changes, she speaks on many topics, bridging Edgar Cayce's readings and ancient prophecies with modern science and quantum physics.

August 28

Hank and Nancy Stupi: What Do I Say After I Say I'm a UU?

According to UU Rev. Amanda L. Aikman, “By saying you are a UU, you commit yourself to being able to talk intelligently about your faith. And why would you want to be able to do that? We all need to be able to convey the truth of our faith in a personal way – to talk about our own experiences. – but we also need to talk about our faith as a faith.” Join Hank, Nancy, and the Not-Ready-for-Evangelism Players who will participate in several short sketches designed to motivate and better enable you to explain your faith to others.

Hank is the music coordinator for Sunday services at the UUFR-VA. Nancy is the UUFR-VA Program Committee Chair. They moved to Middlesex County from Gaithersburg, Maryland in 2006.

Farewell

by Jan Mosher

Hello to all of UUFR-VA. We miss each and every one of you.

Being members of UUFR-VA has been an enriching experience, one that we will hold in our hearts. Our only regret is that we didn't do it years sooner. Thank you for opening the doors and your friendships to us. I have never seen a greater outreach in a community, including the unbiased acceptance of the differences among us. We were short-timers, but learned so much from all of you.

We will not have a UU fellowship in Homer, which is a shame. But, we hope to find like-minded individuals to share thoughts with.

Remember the annual offering of a great tour from the UU's throughout Alaska. We will be thrilled to have visitors. Yes, we are excited about this newest adventure, and also the birth this week of our second grandchild up there.

With sincere best wishes and great fondness,
-Norm and Jan Mosher



It's Us!

“Who is behind the Kids First program?” some in our community have wondered. We know it's **us**, our fellowship. And more and more people in our four county community are learning that as well. Recall that when we kicked off our primary ‘Faith In Action’ activity (now Kids First) a few years ago, we

decided to shy away from touting that UUFR-VA was the driving force behind the program – at least until we had developed a wide partnership and had considerable success.

We now have financial and volunteer support of eight other churches in Lancaster County, with four more in the offing. The Kids First team is making connections with Middlesex churches and others to expand our network there as well. And the three-year-olds in the Lancaster program have done superbly as they have advanced to 4preK, Kindergarten, and first grade.

So now that we do have something to ‘tout,’ you might have noticed the change in our press releases. The July 21st Rappahannock Record, in reporting the \$50,000 Jessie Ball duPont Fund grant to Kids First, featured a sub-headline that said, “Kids First, an initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock ...” The same week the same words appeared in the Southside Sentinel article. There will be more.

It’s not that we were being secretive, since an article demonstrated our connection more than a year ago with the headline, “Unitarians Support Kids First Foundation”. The caption under the photo read, “Bob Weekley (as Secretary of Kids First) thanks Shirley Kinney of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock for a commitment to provide Kids First with office and meeting space, mail and phone service, and a cash donation to Kids First Foundation.”

Don't be hesitant to tell friends and neighbors that Kids First is the primary ‘Faith In Action’ program of our fellowship. The Kids First team now makes mention in our presentations and discussions of the study work done by UUFR-VA to learn what works and then taking the steps to better the program. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to help. It is really all about the children that need our help toward eliminating generational poverty in our community. But it is good, too, that the community recognizes it’s *us*.

Clothing Optional

by Shirley Kinney

Don’t forget your shirt!

It's not too late to order your UUFR-VA shirt and hat. We have tees, and golf shirts, fleeces and sweatshirts and hats ... all with the ‘UUFR’ name and chalice. For more details, please refer to the poster in the foyer of the building. It shows styles and colors. There are also order forms for you to fill in. Just give your order form plus check to either Lynn or me, to be included in this year’s order. These are good quality shirts, so you can wear them with pride to all those community events you are involved in. Let the world (or, at least the Northern Neck) know how proud we all are of our fellowship and the good things we are doing. Sale ends mid-August, so act now!

UUWomenspirit Fall Retreat October 19-23, 2016

UUWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Our retreats emphasize and celebrate the Divine Feminine in her many forms. Our next retreat will be held on October 19-23, 2016 at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC.

Our theme for this event is Moon Energy: Rhythm, Mystery, Illumination. During this event, we will explore the six phases of the moon and how the moon’s influence has an impact on us, in both overt and subtle ways. We will also experience moon rituals and share ideas on how you can work with the moon’s energy to enhance your connection to the Divine Feminine.

For more information about UUWomenspirit, please visit our website, www.uuwomenspirit.org. Information about The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center can be found at www.themountainrlc.org.

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 22: *To be Sung Under Water* by Tom McNeal

September 26: *The Little Bride* by Anna Solomon

October 19: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel
"Big Book" only - Dinner and Discussion at ICYCC

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

Fall Cleaning Help

Been busy cleaning out your bookshelves? Great! UFR-VA has just the spot for them. Donate your no-longer-wanted books to UFR-VA to sell and help raise funds for our

Kids First Foundation. To date, you have turned cluttered bookshelves into over \$8200 in cash. But don't stop now.

Keep the books coming! Just drop them off on a Sunday and see that **Shirley Kinney** knows they're available to sell.

UFR-VA Activities at a Glance

Please let the Calendar Girls know of any up-and-coming UFR-VA events.

June 2016	
Aug 14	UFR-VA Board Meeting Following the Service
Aug 19	UU Ladies' Luncheon Tide's Inn 11:30 A.M.
Aug 22	River Readers Lancaster Community Library 2:30 P.M.
On Hiatus	Sing Out
Future Events	
Oct 15	Cabaret
Dec 18	Christmas Party @ the Kinneys'

Board of Stewards

Ruth Micklem, President
Bill Gimpel, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Shirley Kinney, Secretary

Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>

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

Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Dave Dustin, Past President
Nancy Stupi, Program Chair
Janet Hemming, Membership Chair

Newsletter

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

A Report of Major Actions Taken at the 2016 UUA General Assembly

“Heartland, Where Faiths Connect” was the theme of this year’s UUA General Assembly (GA). Many of the workshops and presentations were focused on the multi-faith nature of the UUA and how people from such diverse traditions can come together in peace and unity to live out our Seven Principles.

Lucy and I were so blessed to attend the 2016 UUA General Assembly. We made new friends, had new experiences, and gained new understandings. It was evident that the Spirit of Life and Love and Truth is alive and well in the Unitarian Universalist Association, and that it is made manifest in the many diverse faces, bodies, ethnicities, and traditions reflected in the one body of believers – whether that belief is in a creator, a universal and natural spirit, or in the beauty, integrity, and kindness of the human spirit. I will share some of my personal experiences and observations in my presentation on **Sunday, August 7, 2016**.

In the meantime, I wanted to share with you the most significant results of the UUA’s business at the GA: the three actions of immediate witness (AIW) and the one congregational study/action issue (CSAI) that were adopted by the 2016 UUA GA. An action of immediate witness is an expression of our faith and values. It is how the UUA takes positions on relevant social issues. It expresses the conscience and carries the authority of the delegates at the GA at which the AIW is passed. There is a demanding process that a proponent of an AIW has to go through in order to get their AIW considered. Once passed, the AIW becomes the authority by which the UUA signs onto letters and amicus briefs. A CSAI is an invitation for congregations and districts to take the identified issue and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it, and take action on it in their own way.

Finally, I have provided the text of the Youth Caucus’s demand that the UUA be held accountable for its actions, or lack thereof, in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. Should the UUFRR-VA take any actions supportive of the Black Lives Matter movement or the issues addressed by the movement, we should report them to our district as our contribution toward enacting the UUA’s commitment to the movement.

Below are the texts of each of the items I have identified. Please feel free to bring them to the service on August 7, 2016, if you would like to discuss any of them after my presentation.

Blessings,

Lee Anne Washington

UUA General Assembly 2016: Action of Immediate Witness (Muslims)

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalist Association’s Principles call us as member congregations to affirm and promote “The inherent worth and dignity of every person” and “The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all”;

WHEREAS, our living tradition draws from many sources, including “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life” and “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves”;

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is founded in part on the freedom of religious belief and practice;

WHEREAS, the histories of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism affirm the importance and centrality of freedom of religious belief and practice in this country;

WHEREAS, Muslims and others perceived as Muslims in the United States have faced increased levels of discrimination and hate crimes since 9/11;

WHEREAS, an additional layer of fear, prejudice and xenophobia have arisen following the Paris and San Bernardino terrorist attacks in 2015 and the Belgium and Orlando attacks in 2016; and some politicians have called for a ban on immigration and increased (unnecessary) surveillance for all Muslims following these events;

WHEREAS, the refugee crisis in Syria has become a target of this fear, prejudice and xenophobia;

WHEREAS, Muslim leaders have reached out to Unitarian Universalists asking for our partnership to combat Islamophobia, and congregations have responded with support;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2016 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its love, respect and support for Muslims in our communities and encourages its member congregations to:

- build bridges of partnership with Muslim neighbors in our local areas;
- increase understanding of Islam within and beyond our local congregations especially in this political moment;
- learn more about and act on the realities of religious discrimination and the various refugee crises and offer support to refugees (Syrian and other) within our communities;
- challenge acts and words of Islamophobia in solidarity and coordination with Muslims;
- advocate in opposition to Islamophobic bills and actions in our local and national governments, paying particular attention to increased surveillance and anti-immigration efforts; and
- work in this election cycle to foster greater inclusion of all peoples, regardless of their religious, ethnic, national, or racial identity(ies).

UUA General Assembly 2016: Action of Immediate Witness (Guns)

As the United States engages in a national discussion on ending gun violence, tragedy continues. The recent attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, which took the lives of 49 people and injured 53 more, highlights an epidemic that claims 89 lives a day across the nation. While some aspects of gun violence are complex and systemic, we can take immediate action.

We can ensure responsible gun ownership with laws that keep **some guns** out of the hands of all people, and **all guns** out of the hands of some people.

First, we, the delegates of the 2016 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, call upon state and federal legislators to make it a crime for civilians to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, retrofit or transfer a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device. Private citizens have no reason to have access to weapons like the MCX Carbine firearm used to murder 49 people in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016. These weapons have immense destructive power and do not belong in civilian hands. Specifically, we call on legislators to follow the lead of the seven states – California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey and New York – that already ban assault weapons for any purpose other than law enforcement or military and to join those seven states, plus Colorado, in prohibiting large capacity ammunition feeding devices that hold over 10 rounds.

Second, we call upon the states and the federal government to implement comprehensive, universal background checks. Legal access to guns is still too easy – and this recent tragedy is only the latest in a long line of examples. We call on states to require that all parties (private or licensed) conduct a background check of the proposed purchaser before selling any firearm. All states that do not currently do so should ensure that all relevant records are provided to the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS).

Policies such as expanding background checks to cover all gun sales would help keep guns out of the hands of those already deemed illegal purchasers. Ninety (90) percent of Americans, including the vast majority of gun owners, support background checks because they make us all safer. Since 1994, the Brady law has blocked over 2.4 million purchases.

These actions will not finish the task of building the world we dream of, but they will keep innumerable people safe as we continue to address broader issues of hate rhetoric, cultural violence, suicide, and access to mental health care.

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the worth and dignity of all people, and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. This General Assembly calls on Unitarian Universalists to work together and in collaboration with others to ensure that the states and federal government create safe and responsible gun ownership legislation and a more just and compassionate world.

UUA General Assembly 2016: Action of Immediate Witness (LGBTQ)

BECAUSE — “Injustice at Every Turn,” a 2011 nationwide survey of transgender and gender non-conforming people, detailed overwhelming discrimination across multiple major areas of their lives: education, employment, health, family life, housing, and public accommodations;

BECAUSE — Equality in all these areas is a fundamental human right;

BECAUSE — Transgender and gender non-conforming people are routinely mistreated while in law enforcement custody;

BECAUSE — Transgender and gender non-conforming people face obstruction, harassment, and abuse in attempting to obtain identity documents in their true gender, which serves to increase the social isolation transgender and gender non-conforming people experience and diminishes their ability to participate fully in society;

BECAUSE — Transgender and gender non-conforming people are frequently isolated socially as a result of hate and discrimination, which leads to a general lack of understanding in our society concerning transgender and gender non-conforming people;

BECAUSE — Hate and discrimination lead to transgender and gender non-conforming persons being at substantially increased risk of violent attack;

BECAUSE — All of the discrimination, harassment and increased risk of physical, sexual and psychological violence that transgender and gender non-conforming people suffer contribute to a shockingly high rate of attempted suicide - a rate ten times higher than the average for the general population; and

WHEREAS, is in keeping with our First Principle - The inherent worth and dignity of every person; our Second Principle—Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and our Sixth Principle - The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; the following actions are immediately needed to improve the life situations and safety of transgender and gender non-conforming persons

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, we, the Delegates of the 2016 UUA General Assembly, call on Unitarian Universalists to:

1. Strongly condemn the anti-transgender legislation recently passed in North Carolina, known as HB-2, in Tennessee as HB-1840, and in Mississippi as HB-1523, and call for their immediate and full repeal;
2. Make a strong statement against the passage of any further bills targeting transgender and gender non-conforming persons in other states where they are pending;
3. Support passage of The Fairness Act (see footnote 1) and similar federal anti-discrimination legislation so that transgender and gender non-conforming persons might have their ability to fully participate in society affirmed and protected;
4. Pledge to educate ourselves and our faith and civic communities to provide ever safer, more inclusive, and potentially healing spaces for transgender and gender non-conforming people;
5. Pledge to educate social workers and educators about transgender and gender non-conforming people's needs;
6. Pledge to educate health care professionals and law enforcement officers about transgender and gender non-conforming people's needs;
7. Pledge to educate legislators and other government officials about the need for transgender and gender non-conforming people's need for proper identification documents; and
8. Pledge to educate employers, agencies, and institutions about the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming people who might be employees, students, clients and customers, and encourage these employers, agencies and institutions to adopt affirming policies.

Footnote 1: The Fairness Act amends existing state or local civil rights laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Typically, this will prohibit discrimination in employments, public accommodations, education, credit or lending, and housing; create a private right of action for aggrieved individuals and provide for enforcement through a government agency.

UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2016-2020

Delegates at the 2016 General Assembly in Columbus, OH, selected “The Corruption of Our Democracy” to be the 2016-2020 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations.

The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it take action—each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement—it is a question.

Issue: As corporations use “corporate personhood” and “money as speech” for their interests rather than the people’s needs, can a constitutional amendment be passed to protect us? Could this further Unitarian Universalist work for social and environmental justice and help protect the health and safety of the people and the planet?

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism: Our Seven Principles give us spiritual grounding to put our faith into action. Our General Assembly considered CSAI proposals in 2010 and 2014 on “Revitalizing Democracy” and passed AIWs in 2011 and 2013 on amending the constitution. It is time for a full study of a possible 28th amendment.

Topics for Congregational Study

- Unitarian Universalists have identified escalating inequality, racial justice, voting rights, immigration, reproductive justice, marriage equality and more as major moral concerns. Now, climate change looms large. Could passing an amendment establishing that only human beings, not corporations, unions, and other artificial entities, have constitutional rights, and money is not free speech, benefit these important issues?
- What does “corporate personhood” mean and why is it important to address that in addition to “money as speech” in a proposed constitutional amendment?
- How have Supreme Court decisions over the past two hundred years created this “legal fiction”?
- How does treating corporations and other artificial entities as persons violate our Unitarian Universalist principles?
- Is a moral political revolution needed to address voting rights, gerrymandering, voting methods, and the possibility of public financing of campaigns?

Possible Congregational/District Actions

- Hold forums in your congregation on the various proposals to overturn Citizens United v. FEC and other Supreme Court decisions giving moneyed interests sway in this country.
- Show the 30-minute film “Legalize Democracy” and discuss how this supports our Seven Principles and affects all ages.
- Encourage your congregation to pass a resolution for [Move to Amend](#) and endorse it.
- Encourage your City Council and County Commission to pass a resolution for Move to Amend, and work to place a ballot initiative or non-binding referendum on your city or county ballot, so all voters can speak out on this important issue. Invite youth to participate in this effort.
- Educate your congregation about the Interfaith Caucus of Move to Amend. Use the issue of climate change to reach out to other faiths.
- Join your UU State Action Network, or start one if your state does not yet have one, and encourage them to include climate change as a core issue and the amendment movement to help address it.

2016 Responsive Resolution In Support of Black Lives Matter

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalist congregations and individuals covenant in our first and sixth principles to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person as well as work toward a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association lists as part of its primary purpose “to . . . extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles”;

WHEREAS, in our UUA Bylaws and Statement of Inclusion, we pledge to “replace widening barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect as well as striving to be an association of congregations that truly welcomes all persons and are committed to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone’s participation”;

WHEREAS, the Action of Immediate Witness, “*Support the Black Lives Matter Movement*,” was passed by the General Assembly in 2015;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter AIW has been frequently referenced as satisfactory proof of our progress towards racial justice;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association, in their 2016 report to the Assembly, called upon the Association to “find the will and the way to do a better job” in the fight for racial justice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we hold ourselves accountable to less witness and more action;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees shall issue a multi-year report on the board, staff, congregational, and denominational responses to Black Lives Matter, and particularly examine the year-to-year growth in these responses, at General Assembly 2017, 2018, and 2019.