



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFRA-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

December 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

December 4

Thea Marshall: “Forever” ... A Promise or a Threat (?)

Thea has lived in the Northern Neck since 1987. Before moving here with her late husband, Alex Abel, and granddaughter, Eva, she was based in Washington, DC, and lived in McLean, VA. Her communications firm produced award-winning public affairs radio, TV, and films for a wide variety of clients. She is an actor, journalist, a published author, a broadcaster, an NPR commentator, and a contributing writer for various magazines. She is most proud of 1) her granddaughter, Dr. Eva Abel; 2) her involvement with helping to start the Free Health Clinic; and 3) her involvement in the battle for civil rights beginning in the 1960's.

UU Kids: The UU Kids will be celebrating the “Joy in Nature,” specifically the joy that is found in animal play! We'll link the antics of animals to the spiritual importance of human play as a source of joy. We will try out yoga laughter. And we will wrap up the session by making toys for dogs and cats that can be donated to the Animal Welfare League.

The Teens will continue their exploration of world religions by learning about the Baha'i Faith. Second only to Christianity in spread across the world, Baha'i is a multicultural,

multiracial faith, with a strong devotion to peace in the world. We will explore core beliefs, music, and holidays and consider what we might learn from Baha'i practices to expand our spiritual journeys.

December 11

Ruth Micklem: The State of the Fellowship or “As the Chalice Burns”

Ruth will lead a discussion about our own UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock. Where we have been? Where are we today? What lies in our future? Ruth will discuss her reflections on her first year as President of the UUFRA-VA Board of Stewards, her attempts to stay true to UU principles while engaging in UU business, share her enthusiasm about the current activities of the fellowship, and discuss her perception of the challenges of the years ahead. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Business Meeting which will be held immediately following the service.

Ruth Micklem is employed with The Haven Shelter and Services in Warsaw, VA, as the Program Director, where she oversees all of their direct service and prevention programs. In addition to overseeing programming, she works in five rural counties to coordinate the Community Response to Sexual and

Domestic Violence. Ruth makes her home in White Stone, VA, with her partner of 27 years, Kristi, and their four dogs, three cats, two goats, and nine chickens. Ruth spends most of her free time with her five beautiful grandchildren and four grown children.

December 18



The Fellowship Singers: Music Brings Us Together

For the sixth year, Hank Stupi, our music coordinator, will again be joined by the Fellowship Singers, all eager to perform some of their favorite songs – guaranteed to warm your heart or perhaps even tickle your funny bone. Please join us and allow the music to bring us together that day.

This will be a special Family Sunday. A holiday musical program is being planned and children of all ages are invited to attend with their parents to participate and enjoy the music. (We won't have a separate children's program on this Sunday.)

The **Annual Holiday Party** will be held at the home of Tom and Shirley Kinney following the service.

December 25

Margaret Sequeira: A Jewish Family Story: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus

On this Christmas Day and the start of Hanukkah, let us reflect on the complex relationship of Christianity and Judaism. As we consider the nativity stories and their meaning for us today, let us take a different perspective and see the stories as Jewish midrash. How might that view inspire us to see the stories in new ways and see meaning in them for our lives?

Margaret M. Sequeira, MTS, is an Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy at Bryant & Stratton College and the 8th Grade Religious School Teacher for Congregation Or Ami. In addition to her teaching, she continues to search for a full-time position. She is once again writing regularly on her blog scatteredrevelations.net/. Margaret lives in Richmond, with her spouse, Donna, and their daughter, Mollie.

President's Corner

by Ruth Micklem

When All the People

When all the people of the world love,
Then the strong will not overpower the
weak,

The many will not oppress the few,
The wealthy will not mock the poor,
The honored will not disdain the humble,
The cunning will not deceive the simple.

MO-TSE

When Donald Trump became the President-Elect of the United States, our country and our world changed. On November 12th alone, the Southern Poverty Law Center counted over 200 episodes of election-related intimidation and harassment across the country. Hate crimes, verbal harassment, and anti-immigration sentiment have risen sharply over the past few weeks. People of color, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, women,

people with disabilities, and many others are worried about their personal safety, their families, and the possibility of losing long accepted and more recently acquired rights and freedoms. Many are feeling a sense of fear and hopelessness and even rage. These are not concerns to be dismissed.

There has not been a time in recent history when those of us who believe in UU principles have been more called upon to act. Now more than ever, we are called upon to speak out about the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the use of a democratic process; the goal of world and community peace, liberty, and justice for all; and deep respect for the interdependent web of all existence. Now is a time to come together and provide love and sustenance for those who are hurting, to reach out to them and listen to their stories. Now is the time to learn and think together, to grow in our understanding of how we came to be where we are today. Now is the time to act – to speak out – to give of ourselves and to be brave.

We can do this in so many ways. First, we must listen to each other. Our UU fellowship has tremendous diversity. We can learn from one another if we create opportunities to come together and create safe space for those whose stories differ from our own. We can reach a deeper understanding of one another's lives and learn to let go of assumptions we make out of our misunderstandings. We can change and risk our own discomfort to widen the circle of acceptance and engagement for those who seek a community where they feel safe, valued, and appreciated.

We can deepen our relationships with one another and with those in our community, especially those whom we perceive as different from ourselves. This is a time to engage with community, to reach out and

offer shelter to those in need, and to provide a voice to those who can't find their own. It's a time to speak out even when we're afraid and to proclaim our UU values for all those who need to hear and to know that all is not lost. This is a time when being a Unitarian Universalist matters. This is a time to show up for justice, to speak for justice, and to fully live the values of our faith. This is a time for courage and now, more than ever, is the time to love.

-Ruth

Home for the Holidays

You are all most cordially invited to be a part of our Annual Holiday Party on **Sunday, December 18th**, immediately following the service. Bring a dish to pass and a bottle of wine to guzzle. No need to RSVP – we know you'll want to be there. It's at the home of **Tom and Shirley Kinney**. The decorations this year reflect the spirit of *Home for the Holidays*. You can help with cleanup by taking home the table decorations, which are handmade houses – perhaps you can use them to decorate your home for the holidays. All your UU friends will be there, so make it a special day by being there as well.

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:

December: No meeting

January 23: *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman

February 27: *The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue

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

Person-to-Person

As time goes by, more and more of our members find themselves living alone. It is quite possible that days go by without seeing or talking to another person.

The Membership Committee is again offering a way to feel safe and in-touch: The Person-to-Person Program.

With the Person-to-Person Program, we can make contact with a partner for safety and companionship.

To participate in the program:

- Sign up with the committee leader.
- Select a partner from the list of participants.
- Decide with your partner how often you will communicate.
- Decide how and when you will communicate – phone call, phone message, or email.
- Decide what you will do if you are unable to reach your partner – call a designated person, the local law representative, etc.

- Share with the committee leader how the project is working for you.

Contact **Judi Caples** to participate.

Feeling Taxed?

December is tax action month, when our fellowship provides members multiple opportunities to reduce taxes by encouraging tax-deductible donations.

If you are a believer in putting your Faith In Action, our Servetus Community Outreach Endowment is one opportunity where your funds will give in perpetuity. Another endowment maintains our Pathways of Remembrance, honoring the memory of our deceased members. A third endowment that deserves your attention is one which will help the ongoing expenses of having a minister.

If you are a believer in doing your part to enhance our facilities and growth, we have long had a “checkbook voting” system in place. We count votes, independent of dollar amount, to help our Board establish priorities. Current candidates for your checkbook votes include the building addition (to add children’s classroom space and a multi-purpose room), the efforts leading toward a part-time minister, and the children’s playground – which Mike Knez has underway, with protective fencing in place and the ground prepared. These projects are an opportunity for our newer members – who enjoy what was done for them – to do their part for those in the future. Of course, the Food Bank is always in need of support.

A check, either mailed or in the offering, with a notation of your choice is all Treasurer Lynn needs for you to reduce those taxes. Thanks from your Finance Committee: **MJ Anderson, Barbara Haynes, Janet Hemming, Paula Greenwood, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, and Marge Rowden.**

A Minister for UUFR-VA: What is the Status?

by Bob Weekley

In December 2015, members were reminded that the congregational desire to have professional ministry is an ongoing project. Members were asked about what priorities they would like assigned to a part-time minister, bearing in mind that a part-time minister would not be expected to perform all the roles of a full-time minister.

According to the results of the survey, UUFR-VA members would like to see a part-time minister lead the Sunday service at least once per month, perform rites of passage (memorials, marriages, coming of age, etc.), encourage spiritual development by providing counseling and adult religious education, and represent UUFR-VA as our pastor in the wider community.

During the past year the UUFR-VA Ministerial Study Committee has taken these suggestions and completed work on how we should proceed to find a part-time minister that would meet the needs of the congregation. The committee has prepared a job description and a solicitation package to get the word out in ministerial circles that we are looking for such a part-time minister.

It may take some time to find the person who would accept the challenge and who would win the approval of the congregation. But the process is beginning. As all fishermen know, you don't know what you will catch until you get your hook and line out there.

When we receive expressions of interest, we will explore the applicants' qualifications and desirability. If there is further interest, we would invite the candidate to visit, to meet with members, and to speak at a Sunday service. Should a candidate be well-received, the UUFR-VA board would explore terms of a possible contract. Finally, if all the terms and conditions are agreeable, the congregation

would be asked to vote their approval of the candidate.

Clearly, professional ministerial support is an important step for our future as we continue to build a healthy congregation, seek more young families, and grow into a vibrant future. The ongoing project to expand our building is in step with this initiative. The Ministerial Study Committee welcomes comments from UUFR-VA members and friends as this process moves forward.

Bob Weekley, Lynn Langley, Ruth Micklem, Fran Schelling, and Kristi VanAudenhove

Kids First Works

by Tom Kinney

The test results are in for the first Kids First class at Lancaster Primary School (LCPS.) The program, targeting high-quality early preschool for at-risk three-year-old children, aims to close the school preparation gap between impoverished children and their more fortunate peers. That first class has now completed first grade. The average child's Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) score shows that these children have not only closed the gap, but they out-performed their more fortunate peers by almost 15%. LCPS Superintendent Steve Parker presented "What Works – Early Intervention for Literacy Achievement" to the Virginia School Board Convention in Williamsburg in late November, which included more detailed results. His statistical analysis of the subgroups within the PALS testing program confirmed that the critical gap related to reading skills has indeed been closed. UUFR-VA played a supporting role in the program by presenting how our fellowship researched generational poverty to identify what works and then set up and executed the Kids First Program. Hopefully, some seeds were planted for other school districts around the Commonwealth to help more children of poverty to succeed.

Negotiations continue in the attempt to prompt a university longitudinal study to add to the national database of what works. Dr. Amy Colley, Executive Director of the School University Research Network at the College of William and Mary, is pursuing that objective with the Dean of the School of Education.

The November Kids First dinners, in Lancaster and Middlesex Counties, continued the successful series lead by Dave and Terrie Dustin. This month's theme was strengthening family bonds. Photographer Charles Lawson, of The Highlander Studios in Kilmarnock, took family portraits of all families attending. The framed photos given to the families illustrate the "box" of responsibility for each child's future.

Our fellowship's used book sale teamed with the Middlesex Rotary Club to add a play kitchen to the "tools" the teachers use to teach nutrition and motor skills. Bookseller, Shirley Kinney, is always open to receiving more of your used books to fund the programs of the fellowship.

More volunteers are needed for the weekly nutritious snack program in both Lancaster and Middlesex Counties. Please contact Dave Dustin or Hank Roden to share a great experience with "our" three-year-olds, while doing your share of putting your Faith into Action. Be a part of changing the trajectory of these young lives.

UUFRR-VA Library

by Chris Gimpel, Volunteer Library Worker

News of the Shelves:

There are a number of intriguing books and CDs available to all. I am very slowly organizing them into broad subjects and adding some temporary sticky labels to the shelves. There is a place for materials newly returned, as well as a spot for new acquisitions.

Never mind the checkout cards and card pockets in the books – just sign the clipboard with your name, date, and title. Check off your name when you return an item. And if you just happen to have materials in your possession that are not signed out, please add the titles to the clipboard. There may be someone waiting for what you have. There are no time limits or fines, thank goodness, so read away.

Maybe sometime there will be an inventory. No promises though!

UU Art Appreciation

by Shirley Kinney

UUFRR-VA is home to many gifted artists. You've no doubt noticed some of that art hanging on the walls in our building's hallway. Diana Jamison has shared her paintings with us, and currently Hank Roden is displaying his photography.

Please take a few moments to enjoy the art, and to let the artist know if you'd like to purchase it. Artists donate 20% of all sales of UUFRR-VA hung art to the congregation. So, all you painters, you jewelers, you photographers, you sculptors, let us know how talented you are by displaying your art for sale on our hallway walls. Just contact Lorie Lowrey or me to ask about hanging your artwork.

A Time to Engage

by your UUJEC Board of Trustees

The Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) has fought for over 25 years against the dominant root causes of inequality. Our core work is [centered](#) on the intersection of economic inequality and our Seven UU Principles. We observe that the escalation of economic inequality over the last 30 years has created widespread insecurity and a fertile breeding ground for racism, sexism, and religious/ethnic intolerance.

This current distress leads to a nostalgic yearning for an imagined time in history when

things were "better." However, current and many proposed policies result in **better** only for the already privileged, not for the disenfranchised. The conscience of our nation continues to be compromised and our political process exacerbates this dilemma.

What can our progressive religious community do to help heal the soul of America?

For the UUJEC, now more than ever we need to come together and organize against those elements of our society that encourage intolerance and inequality to grow. We need to continue building the foundation of an open, multicultural, multiracial, and equitable society. Moving towards a kind and compassionate environment in times of stress is difficult to achieve but even more necessary to strive for. Tough times create abundant opportunities: opportunities to broaden coalitions, to listen and share with a full and open heart, and to envision and work toward a just community.

- Ø Become a [member](#) of UUJEC to live your UU values.
- Ø Participate in this discussion on our [blog](#). Please [register](#) on our site to do so.
- Ø Share materials with your congregation on the root causes for [intolerance and inequality](#).
- Ø Attend our upcoming conference in Washington, DC. on [Reversing Inequality](#).

Join a community that stands for love and justice.

UUFRR-VA Activities at a Glance

December 2016	
Dec 16	UU Ladies' Luncheon 11:30 A.M. Kilmarnock Inn
Dec 18	Christmas Party @ the Kinneys'



To Drive the Cold Winter Away

An Irish Celebration of the Returning Light


Friday December 9 at 7:00 pm

Saturday December 10 at 7:00 pm

Experience the magic of the ancient mystical Druids.
Journey with Irish immigrants fleeing across the ocean.
Celebrate the holidays in an Irish-American pub.

Our Music and Arts Ministry presents a full-scale winter extravaganza complete with costumes, adult choir, children's choir, handbells, brass, dancers, drums - and much more!

Together, let's revel in the resilience of the human spirit!

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
 11105 Cauthorne Road, Glen Allen, VA 23059

For persons over the age of 12, a \$10.00 love gift is requested.
 All monetary donations will support the UUCC General Operating Fund.
 For more information, please visit uuccglenallen.org/winter-celebration-2016/

Board of Stewards

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

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