



# THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFRA-VA)

P.O. Box 1266  
White Stone, VA 22578

March 2017

## 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 5

**Tara Wallace:** Help! I'm Possessed!  
When Our Material Possessions  
Overwhelm Us

Tara Wallace, a self-taught professional organizer, will share her personal experience and what she learned while coming to terms with material possessions.

Tara graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Studies. She has lived in the Northern Neck for nine years and is an aspiring writer. Her introduction to Unitarian Universalism took place at UUFRA-VA five years ago, and she gave her first talk to the fellowship last year. Tara's stand-up comedy and singing acts were big hits at the 2016 Butterfly Club Cabaret, as were her singing performances at the Fellowship Singers musical services for the last two years.

**UU Kids:** Kids of all ages will be together as the teens launch their "Building Bridges" curriculum lessons on Humanism through art work that expresses "Happy Humans." Be sure to stop by the kids' room to view the paintings and sculptures the kids create.

### March 12

**Rev. Alane Cameron-Miles:**  
Consciousness, Neuroscience, Self-Awareness, and Relating to Life's Big Problems

Part two of a three-part series about the big questions: The cosmos in our heads. Are we the captain, or are we the ship? What does science say? What does dying say? What would a religion that understood science, dying, compassion, and wonder have to say about the weight of everyday being?

Rev. Alane Cameron-Miles received a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and has served the UU Community Church in Glen Allen, VA, and the First UU Church of Richmond, VA. She works for Hospice of Virginia and is the host of Death Club Radio on Richmond Independent Radio, WRIR 97.3 ([www.wrir.org](http://www.wrir.org)), Thursdays at 12:30 P.M.

### March 19

**Sara Mackey:** Renewal

On the eve of the Spring Equinox, let us come together to remember and celebrate that even when the darkness is deep and discouraging, renewal is real and reliable and

part of the natural scheme of things. Renewal cannot be stopped.

Sara Mackey has been a friend of UUFRR-VA since her seminary days, when the fellowship was meeting in the Woman's Club down the road. She lives in Richmond and currently works at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where she earned her Master of Divinity. 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.

**UU Kids:** The teens will continue to explore Humanism via Star Trek. Many episodes of Star Trek were scripted to explore and share Humanist beliefs; we'll watch some excerpts and boldly go wherever that may take us.

The younger kids will be following their February "Lifecycle" lesson with another on "Decomposition." They will create Earthworm Wonderlands and dig into a dead log or two and see what decomposition looks like up close.

We've launched a closed Facebook UUFRR-VA family group for reminders, pictures, and messages. If you would like to be part of the group, just let me know.

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## March 26

### **Dave Dustin:** Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You

Dave will explore the roots of Humanism and how we, as a people, went from simply looking out for each other's general well-being to a formal "religion" with its very own Manifesto.

Dave Dustin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Maryland University and retired from Johns Hopkins University/Applied Physics Laboratory in 2012, after 38 years of service. During the years of 2000 to 2006, he worked as a cybersecurity consultant to the Federal Aviation Administration. He is currently serving on

the UUFRR-VA Board of Stewards as past-president and as a vice president for the Kids First Foundation. He also volunteers at the White Stone Baptist Church's Food Pantry and, along with his wife Terrie, does furniture pick-ups for the Interfaith Service Council.



### **Who's Who at UU: Gini Hill** by Eve Jordan

She described herself as "vanilla" when asked if she would be interviewed for this article. She was promised that the article could recreate her as a Strawberry Razzle if she wanted ... and, as it turned out, that was not necessary – not at all! Although, I hasten to add, that was not why she agreed to be interviewed.

Gini is a self-described free spirit (so much for vanilla!). She left home in Valley Cottage, a small village near the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York, after high school graduation, and moved to Richmond, VA, to be with her boyfriend, Barry. He was a senior at the University of Richmond, and they married at his graduation; he subsequently joined the Air Force. They had a wonderful time together, and he is the father of their two wonderful children. Eventually, they realized they were no longer compatible and subsequently divorced. With no education beyond high school, Gini took an unskilled job as a nurse's aide, which provided little income but opened

doors for her future. She began coursework to become a LPN. Tuition was free, so she was able to be at home with her children after her workday. The next step was to go back to school to become a registered nurse. At the time, she was associated with a hospital that would pay 50% of her tuition for each “A” she earned in her science classes. Of course, she got all A’s and subsequently spent her career as a psychiatric nurse. With determination, she went back to school 30 years later to complete her Bachelor of Science degree at Medical College of Virginia. Her intelligence and drive are pretty remarkable, and she attributes this in some measure to her grandmother, who went from a small town in New York State, crossing the prairie to the west coast, to attend college in Whittier, California. At the time it was unheard of for women to behave in this fashion.

Gini’s children are quite wonderful, despite having a working mother with erratic hours and a study schedule. Her daughter, lovingly nicknamed Poo, has a doctorate in linguistics, and is mother to two children, seven and nine years old. She has a wide circle of interesting friends and a very satisfying life as a wife and stay-at-home mother. Marc, her older child, is the father of two boys. He is a full bird colonel in the Army. He is listed in Who’s Who in American Sports and in American Colleges. He graduated from VMI and is a beautiful spirit, beautiful father and husband and, like his sister, has made his mama proud.

At her home in Matthews, Gini has a peaceful rural retreat. The view when you walk into her home is of a deck, boats, a floating dock, lots of trees, and beautiful water – a picture worthy of a travel brochure for paradise. The picture would not show the hot tub on the deck or the built-in swimming pool ... what comes to mind when looking at this is ‘a gracious plenty.’ She shares this with her husband Jack and Gracie, their black Lab mix that has the prime real estate in the living room. Jack is a great guy, a teacher of Tai Chi

and Chi Gong in Matthews and Richmond. Gini describes Jack as someone who is fun to be with, and surely he is most charming. He gave a demonstration of Tai Chi after a service at UUFR-VA, which was quite well received.

Gini is youthful, athletic, bright, and strong – open to new and unorthodox ideas. She has seen ghosts in several of the places she has lived – one was a trickster that left things on the living room floor to be discovered, and another ghost was given to hiding things. When she was about four years old, her deceased grandmother, the adventurer, came to her bedroom and sat on her bed. What a treasure! She is obviously very sensitive to the energy that is all around us.

Giving to the community is a very important part of her being. She volunteers at Kids First where she enjoys the children immensely. What a wonderful program, both for the kids, and the adults who serve. She is one of the Meals on Wheels ladies, and works in the Food Pantry production line. She has seen how important the donations the members of UUFR-VA make to this community project. Gini is a pacifist, believing that conflict is harmful to all. She had been attending Unity, where she met Jack Hill, and through the Rescue Squad, she met Lynn and Sharon, who introduced her to the UUFR-VA, where she has found a place to nourish her soul and practice her spiritual values. What a delight she is, and we are so pleased she is part of our UUFR-VA family.

## **Where Does Our Fellowship Stand On Political Activity?**

**by Bob Weekley**

**Acting Secretary of the Board of Stewards**

The question of a church’s role in political activity is often a matter of contention. With the sharp cultural and political divides in the U.S. these days, we look forward to the refuge of our own fellowship, where we find harmony, support of each other, and a

spiritual connection. The UUFRA-VA Board of Stewards recently discussed this matter and felt that it would be helpful to share its position.

Our national parent organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), long active in such social justice issues as civil rights, voter rights, environmental protections, and many other issues that fall under that heading, offers this guidance:

*At its worst, social justice work can divide a church. It can spark political battles, alienate members, and set a climate in which everyone is self-righteously pointing fingers at one another. At its best, social justice work can strengthen and enlarge a congregation. It can build community, nourish the spiritual life of members, and shape public opinion and policy.*

To uphold our UU principles means taking a stand for social justice. Standing for *the inherent worth and dignity of every person*, and standing for *justice, equity, and compassion in human relations* is an inherent part of our democratic political process when issues arise, like marriage equality, universal voting rights, and defense of the constitutional process that guarantees nondiscrimination on the basis of religion, race, or gender. UUs were on the front lines in Selma, and they rallied for the integration of schools and society, for supporting marriage equality, and many other issues.

However, as noted above, social justice work can be divisive – because not everyone agrees on every issue, nor on the remedies. Some even would prefer not to discuss such issues. We recognize and support that.

When churches engage in partisan politics, it harms the main mission of that church. In 1954 Congress passed the Johnson Amendment, a law that prohibits churches (and other nonprofit organizations) from endorsing or opposing political candidates as an “action” organization. An “action” organization is defined as:

*an organization that participates or intervenes, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.*

Our Board of Stewards firmly supports this restriction. We are not a political organization, although our principles do call us to stand and advocate for social justice issues. We choose to remain a nonpolitical organization, although the U.S. President vowed at the February 2, 2017, National Prayer Breakfast to “get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment ...” and encourage churches to be active in politics.

If any of our members and friends would like to share their views on this matter, please contact me, or our president, Ruth Micklem, in person or by email. Your comments will be shared with the Board of Stewards.

## **Take Time to Say “Thank You”**

Support for our fellowship is demonstrated in many ways. Only one of those ways is the financial support for our needs and dreams. The ongoing generosity of those we sit next to on Sunday mornings deserves a moment of your gratitude. Next Sunday, turn to your neighbor to say “thank you.” Through their efforts and yours, over this last decade, we have created this “Home of Our Own” with no ongoing financial encumbrances. Through their efforts and yours, over the last three years we have funded the Endowment to maintain our Pathways of Remembrance Memorial. Through their efforts and yours, over the last months we have received over \$40,000 to boost our building expansion account. And, through their efforts and yours, over \$400,000 has been donated to our fellowship’s Kids First Faith-In-Action Niche activity – with the goal of ending generational poverty in our community. And through their efforts and yours, our Servetus Endowment Fund may be able to begin providing community service grants this year. Yes, we

do great and meaningful things here that really do make a difference. Please remember next Sunday to turn to that person sitting next to you and say: “Thank you for helping the fellowship to be everything it can be.”

Your Finance Committee: *MJ Anderson, Paula Greenwood, Barbara Haynes, Janet Hemming, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, and Marge Rowden.*



St. Mark's Episcopal Church,  
301 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

## Stand Up for Justice in Washington DC

by UUs for a Just Economic Community

The recent UUA and UUSC Declaration of Conscience calls for all UUs to “affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity, and compassion.” The statement underlines that this is an “extraordinary time in our nation’s history,” and calls for UUs to “declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.”

The UUJEC [strongly endorses](#) this Declaration of Conscience. We believe that now more than ever the time has come to act. Progress in human rights, voting rights, access to healthcare, and economic justice is threatened. We seek a sustainable earth community committed to world peace and justice through equity and compassion in human relations, economic democracy, and respect for all beings.

In the spirit of the Declaration, the UUJEC and UUSJ [Reversing Inequality Conference](#) will allow us to “translate our values into action” by focusing on protecting affordable and accessible healthcare for all and fighting

against repeal of the Affordable Care Act. We will learn about the efforts to repeal and replace the ACA and talk to legislators on the front line of the debate.

Repeal of the ACA will put the health of many low-income Americans at risk and make healthcare for middle-income Americans much less accessible. In our current political environment, people of faith feel a sense of urgency to act, to protect each other, and to join in solidarity for what is true and good and just. Twenty million Americans, including ourselves, are counting on our strong collective resistance. **Join UUs Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, through Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 301 A Street SE, Washington, DC,** to fight for healthcare for all, defend the key elements of ACA, and bend the arc of history towards justice.

For more information about scholarships, lodging, or to register for one, two, or all three days of the conference, visit our website <http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality> or email [uujec@uujec.com](mailto:uujec@uujec.com).

Join a community of like-minded people making a difference by not only defending our gains for social and economic justice, but also to join people standing for a world that is more compassionate and just.

We’ve got great news about low-cost lodging options in DC. It’s quite a big city to navigate, in addition to planning your trip to get there and back. For all of your conference questions, we’re here to assist you. Our [webpage](#) lists a wide range of options from hostels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts. They are sorted by distance to the conference location at St. Mark’s.

There are also a range of housing options available nearby from [Washington Hotels](#), [Airbnb](#), and the UU Bed and Breakfast Directory called [UUreHome](#). For a \$10 registration fee, you’ll have access to UU home-sharing options across the country, with

many reasonable choices in the Washington, DC, metro area.

Please feel free to use our [Facebook event page](#) to reach out to others on room sharing, and email me at [uujec@uujec.com](mailto:uujec@uujec.com) or call 260-837-8938 with any questions you may have.

Join UUEC, UUSJ, Sister Simone Campbell, and Chuck Collins for a conference to engage, inspire, and motivate UU's to **Put Our Values Into Action**.

Contact: Rachel Bennett Steury, [uujec@uujec.com](mailto:uujec@uujec.com) at 260-837-8938. Conference flyer can be found [here](#).

## Go to Kids First

by Tom Kinney

To be the “go to” organization for our fellowship’s “niche” in the community played a part in our members’ desires and decision on where to invest our energies. It’s working! Many other churches, businesses, and service organizations have joined our effort to break the cycle of generational poverty through high-quality early preschool for at-risk three-year-olds.

The March Lancaster Kids First (KF) family dinner will be staffed by Calvary Baptist Church, featuring pediatrician Dr. Barbara Kahler. The March Middlesex Kids First family dinner will be staffed by the Catholic Church of the Visitation and feature YMCA’s Mark Favazza.

Lancaster KF is fully funded. Middlesex KF is at 85% of what is needed. Northumberland Public Schools is again discussing how to add Kids First. Mathews County schools are working through other challenges – with KF targeted for its future.

Members who serve on our Faith-In-Action’s Kids First Foundation Board are MJ Anderson, Judi Caples, Dave Dustin (Vice President), Tom Kinney (President), Dr. Vicki Kinsel, Lynn Langley (Treasurer), Celane Roden, Bob Weekley (Secretary). Directors

coming to Kids First from the community are Dr. Carolyn Hines, Myrtle Phillips, Dr. Karen Ransone (Middlesex -Mathews pediatrician), Dr. Holly Wargo (newly Northumberland Superintendent of Schools), and Bill Warren.

More hands-on activists are needed for the weekly nutritious snack program in Lancaster and Middlesex Counties. Please contact Dave Dustin, Terrie Dustin, or Hank Roden to treat yourself to a great experience of 20 minutes with "our" three-year-olds while doing your share of putting our faith into action. Be a part of changing the trajectory of those young lives. We promise immediate rewards to your soul.

## Something to Consider

by Hank Roden and Tom Kinney

When I get up in the morning,  
I think of doing good deeds,  
then I think of just enjoying myself.  
Sorta of makes it hard to plan my day!  
Why not just blend the two?

## Servetus Grants

by Tom Kinney

Our visionary donors to our fellowship’s community outreach endowment have made it possible for us to expand our Faith-In-Action activities within our four-county community. The endowment, called our “Servetus Fund” after the brilliant scientist/philosopher Michael Servetus martyred in 1553 for his Unitarian beliefs, has grown handsomely with the recent economic optimism and corresponding investment market surge. Once a satisfactory buffer against volatility is achieved, then grants become possible. Your elected Trustees are responsible for all the endowments of the fellowship.

The primary donors have established the criteria for programs both within and outside the fellowship eligible to receive Servetus Fund grants. The Fund will accept grant applications for programs for children from

difficult socio-economic conditions in the areas of health and development from prenatal through pre-kindergarten and post-secondary education through, but not limited to, scholarships and other Bachelor degree and post-graduate programs. The Fund will also support and promote local creative arts, to include but not limited to music, dance, drama, writing, fabric arts, and various fine crafts. The Fund should not support traditional arts, such as painting, drawing, and sculpture, that are otherwise well-supported in the community.

Please share your suggestions for programs and recipients with your Trustees: *Barbara Haynes, Janet Hemming, and Tom Kinney.*

## 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 27:** *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett

**April 24:** *The Little Red Chairs* by Edna O'Brien

**May 22:** *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Kevin and *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Bachman

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

## The Mid-Tidewater Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness is offering its *Family-to-Family Program*.

Family-to-Family consists of 12 classes for persons who care for or are related to individuals affected with Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Panic Disorder, Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder, Co-occurring Brain Disorders and Addictive Disorders, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Borderline Personality Disorder. For more information on NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, check out [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

Classes are structured to help family members understand and provide support while maintaining their own well-being.

Participants receive current information about mental illness, medications, and research on effective treatments; strategies for medication adherence; guidance on locating services within the community; and appropriate ways to deal with crises and relapse. Other topics will also be covered.

There is **No Charge** for this program.

Worldwide over 300,000 family members have attended this program and have found it informative and extremely helpful.

**When:** Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting March 21, from 6:00 P.M. To 8:00 P.M., for six weeks.

**Where:** Lancaster Community Library, 16 Town Centre Drive, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Registration is required for this **free** six-week Family-to-Family course.

To register, or for more information, please call: 804-684-1480 (*leave a message*) or email [namimidtidewater@gmail.com](mailto:namimidtidewater@gmail.com).

### UUFRR-VA Activities at a Glance

March 2017	
Mar 17	<b>Ladies' Luncheon - 12:00 P.M.</b> Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club
Mar 19	<b>UUFRR-VA Board Meeting - Following the Service</b>
Mar 27	<b>River Readers - 2:30 P.M.</b> Lancaster Community Library

Peny Gallogly; [Diana Jamison](#); [Vicki Kinsel](#)

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