



# Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

April 2007

## Sermons

### A Still Small Voice

#### Apr. 1

In this last sermon on ministry, Jim turns to a consideration of the inspiration that makes all of our ministries possible.

#### Apr. 8, A Spring Festival of Readings and Songs

Once again, our spring festival will comprise readings and songs that welcome this most joyous season back into our hearts. Come join us in this special service! The choir sings today.

#### Apr. 15, Moving From Tolerance to Respect

We UUs often refer to ourselves as a tolerant people. But is it straining too much at gnats to ask whether we should not change from our tolerance to a quest instead for respect?

#### Apr. 22, Come Into the Circle of Love and Justice

The UUCA (Annapolis) Choir annually gifts us with a music service, the UUFE Choir joining in song. This year UUCA also brings Max Ochs, blues guitarist. The resonant Meeting House acoustics will be especially enjoyed on this occasion.

#### Apr. 29, A Celebration of Earth Day and Our Seventh Principle

Jim Bank will be away at the our district's spring conference. This service from the UUA "Worship Web" will be presented by Nancy Orr and Laura Winne, with participation from many readers.

### Have You Made Your Pledge?

A pledge to our operating fund is your best estimate of what financial support you can make to our Fellowship. It's not a binding contract; we recognize that some people's circumstances change during the year. However, your pledges are used to build our budget for the coming year. Financial planning is under way *but*, as of now, we have received only half of the pledges expected. For all missing pledges, we need to follow up, and that is time consuming and awkward.

If you are a member or friend whose pledge has not been made, we ask that you please return your pledge card to the office quickly. If you do not have a pledge form, please call Lois Greenburg (410-819-8810). She will see that you get one pronto and can give you information on what you pledged last year, if that will help.

Many, many thanks from your financial secretaries and budgeteers!

Edie Swallow,  
Lois Greenburg, and  
the Finance Committee

Sunday Service and  
School, 3:00 p.m.

Third Haven Friends  
Meeting House  
405 South Washington St.

### Annual UUFE Service Auction & Dessert Buffet

April 20, 7-9 p.m.

Third Haven Friends



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Read the weekly sermons and continue our after-sermon multilogues at <http://uife-dialogue.blogspot.com>

## Minister's Office Hours

Tues. & Wed., 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Mon., Thurs., Fri. by appt.  
410-822-8103 (Office)  
410-770-9772 (Home)  
410-253-8881 (Cell)  
jmbatmd@aol.com  
*Appointments encouraged.*

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### **The Joseph Priestley District of the UUA Presents:**



### **The ALL NEW Intergenerational Annual 2007 Spring Conference**

## Spreading the Faith

**April 27 – 29, 2007**

### **Harrisburg Hilton**

One North Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

#### **Featuring:**

#### **Keynote Speaker**

**Rev. Stefan Jonasson**

UUA Director for  
Large Congregations

#### **Online Registration Available:**

**[www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org)**

## Ministerial Thoughts

### **The Dating Game**

**M**y friend, Mitra Jafarzadeh, is talking with congregations about becoming their minister. Before she started these conversations, she was worried about whether anyone would want to ask her to be their candidate. But as the interviews and sermons have begun to unfold, Mitra is starting to realize that she may have a surfeit of interest. And what to do if this becomes the case?

“It’s almost like dating,” she told me. She said that there was an evening long ago when three suitors were all sitting in her living room and none was willing to leave as long as the other two were there. So finally she told the three that they’d have to work things out on their own while she went up to bed.

After that, all three suitors went away. But her husband was the one who came back. I told her that if I had been one of the suitors, I would have been back, too. And then what would have happened.

But in fact, I like Mitra’s husband. He’s the perfect spouse. And however she works through the dating game of precandidating for the ministry, I am sure she will find just the right congregation, and they will have a good time together. Any search for a minister is fraught with uncertainties, and every ministry has high points and low. But when people of faith accept and honor one another’s efforts—as we need to do in any relationship—the results will be of ongoing value.

So I wish my friend, Mitra, good luck in this amazing process and I trust in its outcome. See you at Third Haven on Sundays or at our offices in the Stewart Building downtown.

*Jim Bank*

## President's Corner

### **Spring Is in the Air**

**I**t’s exciting, it’s invigorating, and it’s busy! My thoughts as president of the congregation are all in a jumble. There is so much going on.

We had a very ambitious agenda for our last Board meeting, including Janet Pfeffer’s training of all of us to facilitate the cottage meetings for the canvass. always find Board news in the *Newsletter* with the short update by our Clerk, Peter Paul. You will see that March was a busy month (see p. 3).

Our canvass is in the wrap-up phase. We need to know your pledge of support so that we can make our budget for the upcoming year. Any comments captured at the cottage meetings will be reviewed and directed toward the appropriate committee for consideration. It’s always good to hear from friends and members on how UUFEB is meeting its needs and aspirations.

We hope to have a year of outstanding programming to go with our outstanding building. Along with the budget, the membership talents and interests survey will be useful as we work to refresh our committees and our thinking. Spring and a new home bring thoughts of new ideas and new activities. I hope you will find a niche where you can experience the joy of working with other kindred souls on a common cause.

*(Continued, p. 3)*

## Gatherings

**Men's Lunch Bunch, Apr. 4 & 18:** Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Café.

**Women's Lunch, Apr. 12, Noon:** We've enjoyed getting together in one another's home for a brown bag lunch. This month we'll meet at Nancy Orr's in Oxford. Just bring a sandwich or salad, and Nancy will provide beverages and a dessert. Ask Nancy for her written directions on a Sunday or, better yet, carpool with others. It is helpful if you let Nancy know if you can come (410-226-5426).

**Dinner and a Movie Night, Apr. 13, "Little Miss Sunshine" (R).** Convinced little Olive is beauty queen material, her parents and the rest of the family embark on a life-altering road trip to a pageant in this madcap comedy. Struggling motivational speaker Richard pushes Olive to win, while her silent brother, depressed uncle and nursing-home reject grandpa (played by Alan Arkin, in an Oscar-winning role) add their own quirks to the mix. Dinner is potluck. *Showtime:* 6:30 p.m. at Third Haven

**Book Discussion Group, Apr. 26, 11 a.m.:** Both women *and* men have gathered around the table at Joanne Baynard's house to talk about their recent reads. In April, we'll focus on *Zadie Smith, On Beauty*, but do come even if you haven't read the book. Joanie's home is 207 Wye Avenue in Easton (behind the hospital). Bring a sandwich and a title you think we might enjoy for a future group read. There will be coffee and hot water for tea.

**Fifth Sunday Potluck, Apr. 29:** Our "fourth" Sunday potluck gathering will be held on the *fifth* Sunday in April due to the large crowd expected on Apr. 22 for the Annapolis Choir service. As usual, the potluck will be held in the common room immediately following the worship service. Come with a dish of your choosing to share. If bringing an offering is not convenient, don't let that keep you away. There is always food to spare.

**Women's Spirituality Circle, May 1:** At 7 p.m., we will gather outside the new Fellowship building to celebrate May Day. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Beth Hansen (410-253-0214; sagefirebeth@yahoo.com).

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*(President's Corner, continued)*

Like you, I am eagerly anticipating the time when we can return to our home and to our more traditional Sunday morning time of worship and religious education. Right now, the builder is anticipating that we will be able to move back into our building during the month of May. This is a big job. But many hands will make light work. Let's join together for this joyous work!

Other things on the front burner are the search for an Children's Religious Education Coordinator, nominations for new Board members, and preparation for the Annual Meeting on May 20.

Thank you for your continued support as we move through these busy times at the Fellowship. Your help and participation are greatly valued.

In faith,  
Jean Rhian

## Calendar

**Men's Lunch Bunch**  
Wed., Apr. 4 & 18, 11:30 a.m.

**Women's Lunch**  
Thurs., Apr. 12, 12 p.m.

**Dinner and a Movie Night**  
Fri., Apr. 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Book Discussion Group**  
Thurs., Apr. 26, 11 a.m.

**Fifth Sunday Potluck**  
Sun., Apr. 29, after service

**Women's Spirituality Circle**  
Tues., May 1, 7 p.m.

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### Choir Calendar

**Thursday Rehearsals:** 7–8:30 p.m. on Apr. 5, 12, 18, and 29. Note: No rehearsal on Mar. 22.

**Sunday rehearsals** (and singing at service): 1:45 (4/8) and 1:30 (4/22)

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### Third Haven Friend's Carriage Sale

**Common Room Unavailable  
Week of May 14–19**

Our good friend, Ann Williams, tells us that the Common Room (which we are enjoying so much) will *not* be available the week of May 14 thru 19. The Friends are holding their annual Carriage (or Yard) Sale on Saturday, May 19, and will be storing and sorting throughout the week. Anyone interested in contributing items to the sale or helping with the preparations during the week should contact Ann (410-770-3237).

## Coordinator of Religious Education Update

Our Search Committee for a new Coordinator for Religious Education for Children and Youth has been hard at work. The process is almost complete, with just a couple little hoops to jump through left. The Search Committee is excited about the chosen candidate and is looking forward to having this staff position filled soon!

Keep your eyes and ears open for an announcement! We hope to have all the pieces fall into place within the next few days!

*Cherish Diversity and Celebrate Our Oneness With All Humanity*

### Annual Multicultural Festival

May 5, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Idlewild Park

This event is free and open to all! Enjoy games, Cultural music and activities, face painting, and ethnic foods and beverages. What a great way to come together with others in the community! Volunteers are needed for the committee, with various opportunities to help. For more information, call 410-820-5692.

### Video Presentation

#### The Secret

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.  
Stewart Building

This show is on loan from Thelma Geary, who recommends it highly. To learn more, go to [www.theseecret.tv/home.html](http://www.theseecret.tv/home.html).

## Thoughts for All Ages

### Bowling for Hollers...of Fun!

In March, 12 UFE children 10–14 years old and their friends met for bowling and pizza at the Easton Bowling Center. It was great to see *Ben and Austin Somers*, and their friends Charles and Spencer, *Ian and Eve Sindermann*, *Phillip Maher*, *Mairade Ronning*, *Chloe Streigel*, *Nathan Moore*, *Alden Rubin*, and *Cory Mansaray*, and to have *Gail Woodall* drop by and visit with parents who stayed to hang out. It was a hoot to watch the gang loosen up as they tried to keep track of turns and scores.

We're having scheduling conflicts in April for original plans but are still hoping to pull together at least something quick. Please call Eric or Patty Rubin (410-745-2000) if you're interested in joining us.

## Social Action

### Support for MD Bans

The Social Action Committee voted to write letters to state legislators, supporting the ban on smoking and the \$1 tax on cigarettes as well as the death penalty ban. Every year, 1,000 nonsmoking Marylanders die from diseases caused by secondhand smoke. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and brief exposure can have immediate harmful effects. According to the Maryland Smoke Free Coalition, every legitimate study ever done has shown no negative economic impact to restaurants and bars, and in a few cases, studies have shown a positive impact of smoke free ordinances. Only studies commissioned or supported by the tobacco industry have shown a negative impact. However, illnesses and deaths caused by secondhand smoke exposure costs the U.S. economy \$10 billion annually.

Although SB 211 to ban the death penalty in Maryland recently failed in a tie vote, the Maryland Citizens Against State Execution feel optimistic about a 2008 repeal.

## Adult Religious Education

### Speaking of Faith Number 4

#### Apr. 11

This series within our series is based on the weekly radio program hosted by Krista Tippet where she explores a wide range of issues regarding faith and values. Join John Turner to discuss a recent program. You can listen Sundays on WSDL (90.7) at 11 a.m. or go to <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org> and click on Archives. We will discuss the program aired on Apr. 1. If you cannot listen to the program in advance, join John in the UFE office at 6 p.m., and he will play the program before the Adult RE session at 7 p.m.

#### Apr. 18, "Oh God!"

We end our series our Theology of Film Series with a comedy starring George Burns as God, who holds humans responsible for making the world a better place. The

*(Continued on p. 5)*

*April 2007*

(Adult RE, continued)

Film takes pot shots at holier-than-thou people, and offers some provocative thoughts about faith. Leader: Gail Woodall

### Apr. 25, A Look at Buddhism

We have invited our friend David Mercier to join us this evening for a sharing of his experiences with Buddhism. Be sure to be a part of this special program.

## Music Notes

### JPD Music and Worship Arts Festival

John Turner and I attended the sixth annual JPD Music and Worship Arts Festival in late February at River Road Unitarian Church. More than 135 participants gathered for worship and workshops, lunch, and a plenary session with Nana Frimpong, drumming and kalimba master from Ghana. It was my first experience with drumming (thanks to Julie Streigel for use of one of her drums). Almost everyone had a drum or some other percussion instrument. Although the session was scheduled for 90 minutes, after about an hour, Nana sensed a slowing of energy and started to gather his things. Leaders called him back, however, for “at least another 15 minutes.” The physicality and concentration, and huge sound, were both energizing and exhausting. I salute UUFE’s Drumming Circle with new understanding!

John attended workshops on building strong music programs through strong music committees and on creating quality worship; I attended workshops on managing conflict in spiritual community and keeping voices “young,” that is, relaxed and flexible. If you are interested in hearing more on these topics, please let us know.

*Patty Rubin*

### Timecard for a Four-Minute Song

A dancer works hard to leap and land silently; a singer works hard to sing quietly. Art’s intended effect rarely reveals the effort entailed. But, as part of the appreciation of and support for those who work to share the music they love with the community they care for, following is a time accounting for one, somewhat more involved, song:

Title: “Holy Spirit”; text: S. Longfellow, Unitarian, 1864; music: M. A. Shaw, UU, 2003; presented for offertory (2/18/07) by UUFE choir, with soloist, recorder, and piano

Selection and preparation, prerehearsal, director, Jan–Feb ‘07	4 hrs
Preparation, prerehearsal, accompanist	1 hr
Preparation, prerehearsal, recorder	3 hrs
Preparation, prerehearsal, choir and soloist	?
Recorder rehearsals, with accompanist and director, combined	5 hrs
Choir rehearsals, 9 singers, director, accompanist, 3 @ 20 min.	11 hrs
Choir rehearsals with recorder, 3 @ 20 min.	12 hrs
Presentation in service, combined	48 min
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 hr, 48 min. +</b>

## WANTED Used Furniture for Our New Spaces

There is an immediate need for a small desk or two for our “shared, back office.” We will take most anything that might accommodate a computer and printer. Also a large table for spreading out our work. A desk chair would be nice, too, or even a file cabinet. Call Edie Swallow (410-745-5170) if you have something in mind.

## Route 50 Barbeque

Tom Anovick is looking for volunteers to staff an ongoing BBQ on Sundays after service at our new location. We have a very captive clientele parked out there on Rt. 50 for several hours, and providing food, kid games, stretch breaks, and potties could be a great way to raise money. Please contact Tom (410-463-1053; t\_anovick@hotmail.com).

## UUFE Yard Sale

**May 26  
@ Our New Building**

Time for some spring cleaning! Start thinking of things that you can donate to this wonderful and fun fundraiser. The building has several items left over from the construction that may make a few DIY’ers very happy. Perhaps you have a few things that you would like to move out of storage. This year we will have plenty of storage areas to accept things a week or so in advance. Please call Tom Anovick (410-463-1053) for large item pickup. Call the UUFE office for details about what and when things can be dropped off.

## Outdoor Club

I would like to start an Outdoor Club patterned after the one in Annapolis. Every month or two, we would get together to do something outdoors—hike, bike, kayak, and so forth. We would gather at 9 a.m. and finish in time for lunch. Some of the locations I would be interested in include Wye Island, Black Water Refuge, Tuckahoe Park, and the Cross Island Trail on Kent Island.

- What level of interest would you have? Every time, most times, or sometimes?
- What sites would you like and/or be familiar with?
- Would you prefer every month or every other month?

Drop me a line (410-739-1910; profjt@yahoo.com) so I can keep in touch with those who show interest. I'll also see that notices get into the *Newsletter* at the appropriate time.

*John Turner*

## Building Project Finance Meeting

**April 15  
After Service**

If you would like to know more about the Building Project finances, please attend this meeting. Peter Paul, the Building Oversight Committee chair, will facilitate this meeting. Don Barker, Jerry Fairbanks, Dick Doughty, and Jean Rhian also will be present to answer questions.

This is your opportunity to understand our finances to date and our best projections at this time.

## Member News

### Radical Hospitality

In a piece written by Rev. Dr. Richard Speck for a packet of handouts at our recent growth workshop, he draws from a book titled *Radical Hospitality* by Lonni Collins Pratt and Daniel Homan. Radical hospitality is asking the question, “May I know you better?” of the strangers that you meet. The authors describe this as not something that you do as much as it is someone you become. Dr. Speck believes that through practicing radical hospitality, a congregation will gain a reputation of being welcoming to gays and lesbians, to people of different ethnic origins, and to people who have been on the margins in other faith communities. I believe that the members of our congregation are well on the way to welcoming strangers in this way. As I look around during gatherings after the service, I am aware that I never see newcomers standing alone. They are always engaged in conversation with members or regularly attending “friends” of UUFE. I often have heard newcomers describe their first few experiences with us as “warm and welcoming.” I can only encourage each and every one of us to continue this practice as a way to strengthen and grow our congregation and share what sustains us with others in our community.

*Gail Woodall*

Chair, Membership Committee

## Board News

The overall progress of the building construction remains slightly ahead of schedule, with an anticipated completion sometime in May. The Board approved a new front sign designed by Jim Richardson. It will be at the same location but will have larger letters. There will be two lower changeable signs that will advise of our service times and other information. The first two interior coats of paint have been applied, the ceiling grid is being installed, and the old tile has been removed from the kitchen and bathrooms. Although we are right on budget with respect to our general contract, a subcommittee will be considering what authorization may be necessary with respect to our approximately \$18,000 overrun of direct costs.

The Board accepted with thanks the generous gift offer of Gail Woodall of \$875 toward the tuition of two attendees to the UUA Leadership conference in July. The Board will include the remaining cost of \$275 in next year's budget.

The Board decided not to contest the JPD's request for a \$2.00 increase to the fair share contribution that it receives from congregations in the District.

It is anticipated that a preliminary balanced budget will be presented by the Finance Chairman at the Board's April meeting in time for consideration by the congregation at the annual meeting scheduled for May 20.

The Board thanked Sandra Henry-Stocker for all her work as our Webmaster, including the formulation of a preliminary draft of a Web site policy. She also is designing a new format for the Web.

The Board adopted a Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior, which had been proposed by the Membership Committee.

The Board appointed Jean Rhian and David Manning as our delegates to the General Assembly, which will be held in Portland, Oregon.

# April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Service and RE, 3 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Social Action Mtg., 7 p.m.	<b>4</b> Men's Lunch, 11 a.m.	<b>5</b> Choir, 7-8:30 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Service and RE, 3 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Board Mtg., 6 p.m.	<b>11</b> Adult RE, 7 p.m.	<b>12</b> Women's Lunch, 12 p.m. Choir, 7-8:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> Dinner & Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Service and RE, 3 p.m. Bldg. Project Finance Mtg. After Service	<b>16</b> "The Secret" video presentation, 7 p.m.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Adult RE, 7 p.m.	<b>19</b> Choir, 7-8:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Service Auction, 7-9 p.m.	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Service and RE, 3 p.m. UUCA Choir sings	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Interfaith Lunches, 10 a.m. Membership Mtg., 3:30 p.m. Adult RE, 7 p.m.	<b>26</b> Book Discussion Grp., 11 a.m. Choir, 7-8:30 p.m.	<b>27</b> JPD Annual Conference, through 4/29	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Service and RE, 3 p.m. "Fifth" Sunday Potluck	<b>30</b>	May Day Celebration, 7 p.m.				Annual Multicultural Festival, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## UUFE Contacts

Minister	Rev. James Bank, 410-770-9772 or 410-822-8103
President	Jean Rhian, 410-822-5807
Music Director	Patty Rubin, 410-745-2000
Minister Emeritus	Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., DMin, 410-745-3462
Newsletter Editor	Amy Eutsey, 410-820-7971 <a href="mailto:uufenewsletter@hotmail.com">uufenewsletter@hotmail.com</a>

Many thanks to the Folding and Stamping Crew. *We can't get the Newsletter to you without them! :o)*

The deadline for the May Newsletter is April 15.



## Unitarian Universalist Principles

*Unitarian Universalism* is a faith for those who want the freedom to develop their own religious values and beliefs without being bound by creed or dogma. These are the principles that we share:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

### We Want To Hear From You!

UUFE is always interested in hearing from members and friends about new ideas for small group activities. Contact President Jean Rhian, and let' make your ideas a reality.