



Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

April 2008



Sunday Service and School
10:00 a.m.
7401 Ocean Gateway

Sermons

A Measure of Grace

Apr. 6

The Britannica World Dictionary lists nine definitions of grace. Dan Higgins' sermon will focus on grace as "unmerited favor or kindness."

April 13, Poet, and don't know it?

You are invited to read your or your favorite author's poetry or prose. By keeping the subject matter roughly grouped around the morphing from one season to the next, the beauty of spring, letting go, the process of evolving, change or re-birth, Sue Loweree will help us focus our collective consciousness in a seasonally satisfying direction, inspiring each of us. If you have a reading or poem to share, call Sue at 410 822-5909.

Apr. 20, Dreams: Then and Now

As we finish our Stewardship Campaign and look forward to our annual meeting, Dan invites you to share your dreams in the discussion that follows the sermon.

Apr. 27, Religion and Illness: A Dialogue Between Scripture and Poetry

Brian Childs, Director of Ethics and Spiritual Care for Shore Health Systems, will present a dialogue between portions of Hebrew Scripture, the New Testament, and contemporary poetry as they pertain to health, illness, and dying.

Catch Up Cottage Meeting Sunday, March 30 at 12:15 p.m.

Members who were not able to attend a Cottage Meeting are invited for lunch at Gail Woodall's home. Please call Gail at 410 820-8541 to RSVP.

And on the same day, Sunday, March 30

Please stay for a short meeting immediately following the morning worship service to elect members nominated to serve on the Search Committee for the new Called Minister.

In Memoriam

**Chan Swallow
1922—2008**

**Member, Good Friend,
Sailor,
and Clerk of the Works, who
was
passionate about his beliefs
and about the future of our
Fellowship**



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Daniel's Docket:

R. D. Laing's poem "Tell Me" is a reminder of our need to converse, share, and continue the dialogue about our hopes and dreams for our religious community.

There is something I don't know
that I am supposed to know.
I don't know what it is I don't know.
And I feel I look stupid if I seem
both to know it and not know what
it is I don't know.

Therefore I pretend I know it.
This is nerve-racking since
I don't know what I must
pretend to know.

Therefore, I pretend I know every-
thing.

I feel you know what I am supposed
to know but you can't tell me what
it is because you don't know that
I don't know what it is.

You know what I don't know,
but not that I don't know it,
and I can't tell you.
So, you have to tell me everything.

Keep the conversations going. *dgh*

Social Action

Fair Trade Coffee is now being placed in the room adjacent to the Archer-Shee room. Jim Richardson can provide additional information regarding Fair Trade Coffee.

Our UUFE community is invited to attend an Oxfam *Hunger Banquet* on April 6 at 11:00 at Third Haven Friends Meeting. Information regarding this banquet and world hunger is available on the table with the coffee. For information, or to participate, please call Susan Claggett at 410-822-0293.

The Interfaith Social Action Coalition will present the film "No End in Sight", the

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Nonprofit Political Guidelines

UUFE is a non-profit religious corporation in the State of Maryland. As such, it must comply with IRS guidelines in order to qualify for tax exempt status. At this time of heightened political activity in our country, we need to be concerned about the separation of church and state and how we may legally and ethically take part in the political process. The Washington Office for Advocacy of the UUA summarizes IRS regulations on the political activities of congregations as a list of DO's and DON'Ts:

Dick Doughty

DO ...Take Action on Issues

Publicly comment and educate the general public and elected officials on moral and political issues.

Advocate for or against specific public policies by speaking out on decisions by government agencies, executives, or courts.

Call, write, and meet with elected officials to support or oppose specific pieces of legislation.

Sponsor and distribute the results of "nonpartisan analysis, study or research" concerning specific legislation or ballot measures, such as referenda, state constitutional amendments, city charter amendments, etc. Careful attention should be paid to being objective and nonpartisan.

DO ...Be Active During Elections

Conduct nonpartisan voter registration drives. Register and encourage members of your congregation and others in the community to vote.

Hold candidate forums. You must invite all legally qualified candidates for office and discuss a large variety of topics.

Distribute questionnaires to all candidates. They must cover a broad range of topics and be presented in an unbiased way.

The purpose of the questionnaires must be education and not advocacy.

Make efforts to educate candidates on the issues important to your congregation and encourage them to adopt a sympathetic position.

DO NOT ...Engage in Partisan Activities

Do not endorse or oppose candidates for public office as a congregation. Religious groups may not advise members of the congregation or the public at large, directly or indirectly, to vote for or against specific candidates or political parties.

Do not make financial contributions to candidates. Religious groups may not collect money on behalf of, or provide in-kind services to a candidate. This includes creating a political action committee.

Do not distribute or display partisan campaign literature or voter guides.



Religious Education

Calendar Events

(ES: Elementary school age children)

(MS: Upper elementary/middle school age children)

- Apr. 6 ES: Friendship with People Different than You
MS: Respecting Others, Valuing Diversity
- Apr. 13 ES: From Enemies to Friends
MS: Creative Conflict Resolution, Part 1
- Apr. 20 ES: Appreciation of Nature
MS: Creative Conflict Resolution, Part 2
- Apr. 27 ES: Feelings about Nature
MS: Cooperation

Reminders for adults interested in being involved with our children:

1. The Religious Education Committee is looking for adults (you do not have to be a parent with a child in RE classes) to supervise our children during the time when RE classes end 11:15 until 11:45. Our teachers would like time to talk with parents about our program as well as enjoy a part of coffee hour. We are not looking for one or two adults to volunteer for this role but several who are willing to take one or two Sundays over the next few months to talk with and enjoy snack time with our children. Slots are filling up so if you are interested please see Liz Hausburg for more details!

2. "Mystery Friends" Sunday March 30th!

- Our "Mystery Friend" program is about getting our children and adults in our congregation better acquainted. It begins March 30 and ends April 27 at the potluck.
- Each Sunday your "Mystery Friend" child will receive a letter about you and your experiences. This letter can relate to similar items on the child's information sheet that he/she filled out for you. You can also include what school was like for you and what games you enjoyed when you were their age.
- On the final Sunday you may give your child a small gift that costs no more than \$10.00, if you so choose. Please see the sign-up sheet on the front table or contact Liz Hausburg.

A Few Words from Religious Education

This month our elementary group will continue Unit 3: Exploring Friends and Enemies and will begin Unit 4: Partners with Nature. Unit 3 engages children in the concepts of friend and enemy and builds a greater awareness of the value of friendship and cooperation. Unit 4 begins a focus of the children's relationship to the natural world. The intent is to engage the children in exploring how the concepts of fairness and peace can be applied, not only to our interactions with other people, but also to our relationship with the whole natural world.

Our upper elementary/middle school group will spend the next two months in Unit 3: Peace and Justice with Others. This unit introduces the concept of, and develops the skills for creative conflict resolution – resolving conflicts nonviolently while still meeting the goals of those in conflict to a degree acceptable to all involved. The components of creative conflict resolution that we will address are: affirmation, effective communication, creative problem-solving, and cooperation. *Liz Hausburg, CRE*

Uufe Volunteers Help Monitor Maryland's Streams

Ever wonder how Maryland's Department of Natural Resources surveys streams to determine how healthy they are? Well, two members of Uufe recently found out. On March 1st, I (Sandra Henry-Stocker) and my husband, Eric Stocker, were trained to be volunteer "stream waders" for Maryland's DNR. We have agreed to monitor six critical watersheds in the Salisbury area.

The stream monitoring process involves collecting aquatic macro-invertebrate samples and delivering them to DNR for assessment. In other words, Eric and I put on hip waders (boots that go up to our hips), wade into streams, and select 20 spots in a 100 foot stretch of stream to sample. We then disturb the stream bottom in such a way as to collect in our nets such things as mayfly, dragonfly and beetle larvae, aquatic worms and leeches. While we are not required to identify what we have collected, I have to admit that we can't resist trying.

Depending on the types of invertebrates collected and the ratio of pollution-tolerant to pollution-intolerant species in each stream sample, DNR will be able to make an assessment of each stream's condition. Healthy streams provide habitat for a variety of invertebrates. Polluted streams will be home to only the more pollution-tolerant invertebrates or to none at all.

Stream wading must be done in the months of March and April, while the invertebrates are large enough to identify, but before many of them will otherwise mature and leave the water.

Want to help? Eric and I welcome the participation of interested Uufe members, particularly some of the older kids, in conducting this important environmental work. Email bugfarm@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Sandra Henry-Stocker

April 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm BYOT 7:00 pm Meditation Group	3 5:00 to 5:30 Silent Peace Vigil in front of the Courthouse every Thursday	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	7	8 3:00 pm Member Services Committee 6:30 pm Board Meeting	9 7:00 pm Adult RE Film	10 12:00 pm Women's Lunch 6:30 pm Circle Scouts 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 11:30 am Social Action Committee Meeting	14	15	16 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm BYOT 7:00 pm Meditation Group	17 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 pm UUFE Service Auction & Dessert Buffett 7:00 pm Social Action Coalition Film	19
20 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 11:30 am Climate Change Group	21	22	23 10:30 am Soup Kitchen at Asbury UMC	24 11:00 am Book Group 7:00 pm Women's Spirituality Circle	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	28	29	30 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm BYOT		Notice of Cancelled April Events Friday Night Movie Fellowship Friday	

Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesday, Apr. 2, 16, and 30. Breakfast orders at the Airport Cafe before 11:30, lunch orders after 11:30

Building Your Own Theology, Wednesday Apr. 2, 16, and 30. Sessions 6, 7, and 8 start at 7 p.m.

Meditation Group, Wednesday, Apr. 2 & 16. A dharma lesson discussion will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. For the next few months lessons will be about the Four Noble Truths. On April 16 the lesson will be the second of the Four Noble Truths. Beginners are welcome! For more information, please contact Laura Winne.

Adult RE, Wednesday, Apr. 9 Film as Theological Text, a discussion series for adult and senior youth. *Murder on a Sunday Morning*, not rated, shows at 7:00 p.m. This Academy Award-winning documentary follows a Jacksonville, Florida murder case from the crime to the arrest of a 15 year old black male and on through the trial. All is not what it seems as the suspect's very capable attorneys discover troubling information about how the case was handled by the police. This is a "must see" for anyone interested in our justice system.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, Apr. 10. Nancy Orr has opened her house to us for this luncheon. Hopefully, the sun will be warm and we can enjoy her glassed-in porch. Bring a sandwich or a salad and Nancy will provide drinks and dessert. Call her at 410 226-5426 if you plan to come and to get directions. She lives in Oxford, on the water, on Bachelor's Point Road. Her signpost is "Oarlock."

Circle Scouts, Thursday, Apr. 10 Circle Scouts, a coven for children, will meet at 6:30 pm so that pagan and like-minded children may come together to celebrate the Goddess and the cycles of the Mother Earth. link: www.circlescouts.weebly.com

Gatherings, continued→

Board News

Tuesday, Mar. 11

- A Recognition Plaque for Chan Swallow's role as "Clerk of the Works" during the original renovation of our building in 1992 was approved. The Board approved a Dedicated Gift from Dan Higgins for its purchase.
- Two items were approved for inclusion in the agenda of the Fellowship's Annual Meeting, May 18. The first relates to Bylaws regarding Membership. Full details will be forthcoming in the May UUFE Newsletter. The second item approved for presentation to the membership is a Resolution in Opposition to Legalizing Slot Machines in Maryland.
- The Board reviewed and made revisions to an existing policy on petitions. The following wording was approved:

Policy for the Presentation of Petitions to Members of the Congregation for Signature

This policy applies to the presentation of a petition to members of the congregation for signature while they are on UUFE property (hereinafter referred to as "such a petition").

1. Permission to present such a petition must first be obtained by the Social Action Committee, or if that Committee decides to refer the matter to the Board, then by the Board, provided however, that in extraordinary circumstances when such consideration is not feasible because of time constraints, then the President, after consultation with other officers and/or other members, may grant such permission.
2. Any person who decides to present such a petition must provide the Social Action Committee or the President with a written statement which sets forth the manner and the time(s) it will be presented, the need for expeditious approval, if any, and the reasons for its presentation if the same are not contained in the petition itself.
3. In general, the decision to approve or disapprove the presentation of such a petition should depend on how well it relates to the principles and mission of the UUFE and the probable interest of the members of the congregation in the issue(s) involved.

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winner for Special Jury Prize Documentary at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. This film chronicles the reasons behind the Iraqi descent into guerilla war, warlord rule, criminality and anarchy, and provides a candid retelling of the events following the fall of Baghdad in 2003. The film will be shown Friday, April 18 at 7:00 at Third Haven Common Room. Come at 6:00 for brown bag supper and discussion.

The Book Group, Thursday, Apr. 24 We meet at the Fellowship at 11 a.m. in the Archer-Shee room, and invite all to bring a brown bag lunch. Tea and cookies will be available. Even if you haven't read the book of the month, please come and share a book you have enjoyed. Our discussions are informal and we welcome all. This month we will review *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* written by Anne Fadiman. If you have any questions, call Joanne Baynard at 410-770-8277.

UUFÉ Contacts

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UUFÉ Service Auction & Dessert Buffet

Friday, April 18, 2008

7:00 p.m. Silent Auction

7:30 p.m. Live Auction

Look for the **Service Auction Catalog** at the Fellowship on April 6, or on-line and in the mail shortly thereafter.

You can STILL donate items and make requests – contact Janet Pfeffer at jpfeffer@goeaston.net or 410-770-9540.

Come to the auction to laugh and enjoy the desserts, and bring your checkbook just in case. If you cannot attend, you may place advance bids with Janet.

We're also on the Web!

www.ufeaston.org

www.ufeaston.org

