

# Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

December 2008

## Sermons

### A Community of Hope

#### Dec. 7

A Zen parable on heaven and hell, and thoughts on compassion, peace, and justice, will open this Advent season of expectancy and hope for our community. Our newest members will be welcomed into the Fellowship this morning with a special brunch for them following the service. Rev. Paula Maiorano

#### Dec.14, Heroes, Heroines, and Saviors All

We live in such critical times that expectations once reserved for the special few are now required of us all. Are we ready? Holiday Potluck follows the service. Rev. Paula Maiorano

Read exciting details about Our Annual Holiday Potluck on this day in Member Services, page 3 of this Newsletter.

#### Dec. 21, Radical Hospitality

We'll make "room at the inn" as we consider the spirituality of inclusivity and celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and Solstice. The UUFE Choir will sing this Morning. Rev. Paula Maiorano

#### Dec. 24, 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service for All Ages: Living the Sacred Every Day

Stories, caroling, birth miracles, and the mystery and wonder of love bring us together on the eve of Christmas. Bring cookies to share after service. Rev. Paula Maiorano.

#### Dec. 28, A Child's Christmas in Wales

We'll close the year with the telling of this vivid and poetic story by Dylan Thomas, with singing, and with reflections about time and memory. Service leader: Nancy Orr.

**ANNOUNCING AN ADULT ENRICHMENT CLUSTER!**

UUFE has a new structure to include Small Group Ministry, Adult Development Groups, and Adult Interest groups, such as Yoga and Book Club. We are seeking a chair or co-chairs for the overall cluster, and chairs/co-chairs for two of the sub-committees. Lisa Menditch has volunteered to chair and coordinate Small Group Ministry. These four to six volunteers will support one another by becoming the Adult Enrichment Cluster. Remember the old adage? "Many hands, make little work?" That's what we're doing, sharing the work and responsibility, making little work and much fun. Contact Dick Doughty or Paula if you want one of these wonderful new leadership positions.

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

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The calendar, current and past UUFE Newsletters, can be viewed and printed from our web site [www.uufeaston.org](http://www.uufeaston.org).



**ADULT DEVELOPMENT GROUPS CURRENTLY PLANNED**

Storycatcher - January 21 - March 25. See ad on page 5. Sign up in the Fellowship foyer, or call the office.

World Religions - Early Spring 2008, contact Nancy Dimond

Building Your Own Theology - Facilitators still needed.

from Paula's Pen

December Gifts

The natural world has so much to offer during the late Fall and early Winter. The light of the winter sky, so clear and brilliant when the deciduous trees are resting, penetrates and brightens our hearts. The beauty of the evergreens is a source of color and cheer, both outdoors and indoors decorating our homes. On the days when the clouds move low and darken the landscape, we light candles and fires to warm our bodies and brighten our spirits. We choose rest or festivities. Company abounds. We seek feelings of closeness and connections, and reach out with compassion and caring. In the stillness of winter, a meditative and reflective time may permeate those who enjoy time to think. Grief may settle into acceptance, or a quiet sadness.

Winter is a time of beauty, of grace, of life.  
May your winter be blessed,  
Your holidays holy,  
Your Christmas merry,  
And your life enriched.

And in the words of Julian of Norwich,  
"May all things be well.  
May all manner of things be well."

In peace, with hopes for peace,

Paula



Cups and silverware have been accumulating in the UUFE kitchen sink throughout the week. Please place them in the dishwasher. If the dishwasher is full, you can empty it, or wash the dishes you've used.

Thanks for Your Cooperation!

Religious Education

Calendar Events

- December 7 Islam (brief history) & Eid-Al-Adha "Feast of the Sacrifice"
December 14 Islam: Muharram (New Year)
December 21 Holiday Celebrations: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa
December 28 Happy New Year! Goal setting and Reflection

Religious Education Donation Needs of the Month:

Drink boxes

Our Religious Education

In November, we completed our study of Native American culture and traditions and also gave thanks for all we have received and enjoyed!

First Half of December: We will study Islam, a major world religion based on the teachings of a man named Muhammad. One who practices Islam is called a Muslim. The Muslim population is estimated at more than 1 billion people and is most common in Africa, the Middle East, and section of Asia and Europe. There are 6 million Muslims in the United States.

Monotheism is the central theme of Islam - a belief in only one God, Allah, who is omnipotent. According to Islam, God has four fundamental functions: creation, sustenance, guidance, and judgment. The overall purpose of humanity is to serve Allah, to worship him alone and to construct a moral lifestyle.

The sacred text of Islam is the Koran (Qu'ran), the written revelations from Allah to Muhammad. The Koran declares that making the earth a better place is every human's job in this world.

Second Half of December: We will celebrate the holidays that December brings: Hanukkah (beginning the 21st), Christmas (25th), and Kwanzaa (beginning the 26th). We will also begin our reflection on the year gone by and what we will do this coming year to make ourselves and the world around us better.

Happy Holidays!

Something to Think About

Today we tell our children, "Don't say no - go with the flow."

We agree to do the following things with them:

- Find the game in at least one task,
Reduce the effort it takes to accomplish something important,
Look for ways Nature has helped us.

- from the The Seven Spiritual Laws for Parents by Deepak Chopra.

See you on Sunday!

Liz Hausburg. CRE

## Member Services

**T**he next meeting of the Member Services Committee is Wednesday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

### Three New Members

Diane Bell and Deirdre Casey have been committed friends of the Fellowship for quite some time. Diane's son, Aidan, is an old hand by now in the RE program. Watch for their biographies in a future newsletter.

Jane Hawkey has been attending services for about 6 months. She has a keen interest in social justice issues and has been participating in some of our Social Action Committee activities. Jane's biography is on page 5 of this month's Newsletter.

### Welcome Service for New Members

On Sunday December 7 we will formally welcome the new members who have signed the Membership Book since June. This will be an opportunity for the congregation to formally meet and greet them. Following the service, the Member Services Committee will celebrate with them by having a brunch in their honor in the Archer Shee room.

### Our Annual Holiday Potluck December 14

Start thinking now! What favorite Christmas or Hanukkah dish will you bring to our annual holiday potluck immediately following the worship service? No need to sign up. Just be there, ready to enjoy yourself! Following the meal, there will be music and caroling under the direction of Dave Moore, Sandra Henry-Stocker, Amy McNabb and Sue Loweree. This event has always been a perfect respite in the midst of holiday preparations.

Questions?? - Call the UUFE office at 410-822-8103.

#### Check it Out!

Many thanks to Barbara Doughty and Rev. Paula for helping organize the library space in the Office. The shelves have been labeled so that, hopefully, books will be easier for you to locate and make it easier to return books to their proper place. (We have a Christian Bible, a Muslim Koran, and would appreciate a gift of a Jewish Torah.)

Marian, the librarian

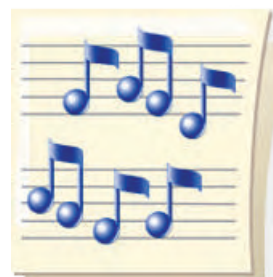
## Social Action

**U**UFE's Environmental Task Force hit the ground running with a special presentation by Dr. Jackson Harper on November 16th. Jack Harper, UU Ministry of Earth Coordinator for JPD, and winner of the 2008 Environmental Justice Award, presented "Greening Your Congregation" -- an introduction to the Green Sanctuary program. The task force will work with other groups and committees in the coming months to chart UUFE's path toward becoming a Green Sanctuary Congregation after it has had a chance to review the Green Sanctuary certification requirements.

If you would like to know more about this program and what we are planning, please talk to Sandra Henry-Stocker or attend a task force meeting.

## President's Corner

### MUSICAL HIGH NOTES *by M.Garey*



**T**he goal of the Music Committee is to provide high quality music for our worship services. Music enrichment has been gathering

momentum this year. We appreciate how well our Interim Minister, Paula Maiorano has been coordinating the music with John Turner, our choir director, and the Worship Committee to create thematic consistency for the worship services. Twice a month, Abby Cureton, a professional accompanist, has delighted and inspired all of us with her keyboard talents. Our own John Turner and the choir perform once a month. Dick Doughty, our President, has also generously offered his considerable musical abilities. The result of these combined efforts: enjoyment of quality musical at every service.

We wish to thank our children, the RE leaders, and all those who worked so diligently to make the "Lion King" intergenerational service such a thrilling success.

In an effort to reach out to all our musical resources we have e-mailed congregants a survey seeking to identify potential soloists and other interested participants for choir or small ensembles. We appreciate the responses we have received to date, and encourage anyone who enjoys performing to step forward and make their interests known. Contact Maggie Garey, at [mgarey@goeaston.net](mailto:mgarey@goeaston.net).

Let me share two of our exciting new goals for next year and beyond:

1 - John Turner hopes to perform with the choir once every three weeks.

2 - Music Director: We are exploring the possibility of hiring a new part time paid professional music director for the Fellowship. If we are able to secure a Chalice Lighters Grant for two years, and then augment it with our own funding, this may be achievable by fiscal year 2009-2010.

*Maggie Garey, UUFE Music Committee  
Chairman*



## Search Committee Report

The Committee is proud to announce the completion of the UUF Easton Congregational Record (CR). This document provides a summary of UUF Easton's church life, governance, membership, history, and operating budgets. In addition to survey answers and statistics, it includes two 500 word essays, one describing our congregation and the other describing the type of minister we desire for UUF Easton. Information was gathered from both the surveys and small group discussions. At the beginning of November the CR was posted on the UUA website and has already attracted the attention of several ministers. The committee's next task is to review prospective candidates' Ministerial Records and getting to know these candidates better.

The committee has also completed the Congregational Packet and wants to thank member Dwayne Eutsey and his wife Amy for their writing and artistic talents that were so instrumental in creating this beautiful document. This packet, presented in a three-ring binder, provides a comprehensive overview of who we are. It contains letters of support, sample sermons, an in-depth history of UUF Easton, our local outreach programs, committee activities, information about our worship services and the beautiful Eastern Shore, and pictures of our lovely sanctuary, surrounding grounds, and our members.

If you are interested in reviewing this packet, it will be available on a table in the back of the sanctuary after each Sunday's service. Also, feel free to ask any of the search committee members (Jean Rhian, Gail Woodall, Tom Anovick, Dwayne Eutsey, Laura Winne, Nancy Orr, or Juliet Smith) about the committee's work.

*Juliet Smith*



## Gatherings

**Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 17 and 31:** Meet friends at the Airport Cafe for lunch (breakfast before 11:30) on the first, third and fifth Wednesday's of each month.

**First Friday Youth Night, Dec. 5 :** All kids (and friends) 6th grade & up are welcome to join us for an evening of dinner and fun from 7:00pm - 9:00 pm. "Make your own tacos" is on the menu and Miss Liz has planned activities based on your suggestions last month. Contact Colleen Ronning (410 770-3843) [colleendr13@yahoo.com](mailto:colleendr13@yahoo.com) for questions and to give us a head count.

**Sue Performs! Sunday, Dec. 7:** See page 6 for details of this "Must See" performance at 7:00 pm.

**Women's Lunch, Thursday, Dec. 11, Noon:** A good time was had by the 10 or 12 who lunched at Denton's Lily Pad in November; there were many stories and good food. In December, we hope to have even a larger group. Nancy Orr has invited us to a "brown bag" at her home in Oxford so pack yourself a sandwich or a salad and join the party. Our hostess will supply dessert and beverage. Her address is 4759 Bachelor Point Road but it would be best to call her at 410-226-5426 if you need directions.

**Family Decorating Party, Saturday, Dec. 13:** At 4:30 pm an Intergenerational Ornament Making & Tree Lighting gathering will meet to string lights on the Fellowship tree and make ornaments to 'sell' at service on Sunday, December 14. Proceeds will benefit *Heifer International*.

**Book Club:** The Book Club will not meet in December. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 22 when we discuss *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski.

## Board News

As part of our efforts to improve the functionality and aesthetics of the foyer, the Board approved the purchase of a **wall-mounted acrylic display module**. This new unit will facilitate the dissemination of information from various committees to the Congregation. Funds for this purchase will come from the Capital Campaign Fund. Further enhancements continue to be discussed

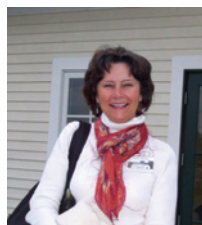
The name of the Adult Education Committee has been changed to **Adult Enrichment Committee** with Rev Paula Maiorano assisting in the development of three subcommittees: Adult Religious Education, Small Group Ministry, and Small Group Interest Groups.

The Board approved the request of the Social Concerns Committee to support efforts of the **Voice of the Homeless** organization in providing a cold weather shelter for the coming winter. Specifically, the Board approved the use of our Fellowship building as a host site for two weeks this winter, contingent on the approval of our insurance company and any other relevant legal issues. Lisa Menditch will represent UUF Easton and as the project develops, will provide more information regarding how we can assist with meals, materials, and services.

*Jane Terebey*

## NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHY – Jane Hawkey

Jane's passion for marine science has taken her on some interesting detours and transported her to far-flung places, e.g. Saudi Arabia, Florida, and the San Francisco Bay area where she managed the Memorex Corporation credit union. The premature death of her father was a life-transforming event for Jane and provoked the realization that a banking career did not match her aspirations. Then she moved to Seattle and for several summers traveled to the Peruvian Amazon where she met her future husband who was a tourist on one of her trips as an interpretive guide for an adventure travel agency. Her husband-to-be owned a house in Talbot County, and they returned to Maryland for their wedding. Seeking a non-traditional marriage service, they contacted Dan Higgins who performed the ceremony. This was Jane's first exposure to the Unitarian Universalist faith.



Her husband also owned a home in St. Croix, USVI where they spent their early married life, sailing and exploring the many Caribbean islands. Jane continued her marine science activities by doing graphic design for the St. Croix Environmental Association and working at a local print shop.

After moving back to Maryland, Jane became an administrative assistant to a professor at Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge, thus beginning a 14-year career with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). For the first several years she participated in research studies on nitrogen cycling, algae blooms and zooplankton distribution. Currently, she works with the Integration and Application Network at UMCES, a group of scientists striving to solve, not just study environmental problems. Jane's position as a Science Communicator allows her to travel to distant lands such as Portugal, Hawaii and India, while furthering her knowledge and experience in environmental science.

Jane enjoys traveling, hiking, sailing, bird watching, gardening, and is active in local and national politics. Feeling a need to fill the spiritual void in her life Jane recently sought out the Fellowship and we are delighted to welcome her.

*Jean Griffith*

### About Our Sanctuary Wall Hanging

Shortly after our new sanctuary was completed the Aesthetics Committee started talking about creating a focal point behind the pulpit.

Sue Loweree, Nancy Orr, Margaret Garey, and I shared ideas and decided that whatever we did should be colorful and have an abstract design. We also decided that the first project would be a quilted wall hanging. Then we chose a design and shopped for fabric.

Nancy Orr, Margaret Garey, and I worked together at the Fellowship cutting and sewing (saving Sue for another time) We imagined the very bright side with the allover print being used for festive occasions and the side with waves of color used for all the other Sundays.

In the future we would like to have other art work available to be changed according to the season.

We welcome your opinion of the wall hanging and your ideas for the future.

*Jean Rhian*

### Important News about our Newsletter Distribution

The mailing of well over a hundred Newsletters each month has proven increasingly costly and labor intensive. The hope that members would pick up their copies following Sunday services didn't seem to work, leaving many Newsletters to be mailed.

Starting with the January issue, we will mail the Newsletter to recent visitors, members without e-mail addresses, and those of you who specifically ask that it be mailed. To have future Newsletters mailed to your home, notify Edie Swallow by sending an e-mail to her attention at [uufe@verizon.net](mailto:uufe@verizon.net) or by calling the office at 410 822-8103.

If you have an e-mail address, you will receive an e-mail near the end of each month advising you when the Newsletter is posted to our web site as "Next Month's Newsletter". The URL [www.uufeaston.org](http://www.uufeaston.org) will appear in the text of the e-mail. Click on it to go to our web site, download the Newsletter, print it if you prefer, and hang it on the 'fridge'.

Because the **monthly calendar** is now on-line, it is no longer included as a page of the on-line Newsletter, so remember that the calendar must be accessed, viewed and/or printed separately. If you have any difficulty with the process, please contact Edie Swallow at 410 745-5170 or leave a message at the office.

*Edie Swallow*



**A NEW ADULT GROUP BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS STARTING JANUARY 21**

**STORYCATCHING, back by popular demand!**

Convener: Paula Maiorano

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays at the Fellowship**

**Watch for details in the January Newsletter.**

## **In Bob's Memory**

Three plays concerning women and minority aviation pioneers will premiere Saturday evening, December 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Historical Society Auditorium in Easton. The plays have been written by Carlton Spitzer and the performance will be dedicated to Bob Woodall's memory.

The plays are based on the lives of Bessie Coleman, the first black woman to earn a pilot's license in the United States who had to go to France for her training because of her color; Neal Loving, who lost his legs in a glider crash as a young man and became a famous aircraft designer, builder, and pilot, and in his later years authored *Loving's Love: A Black American's Experience In Aviation*; and finally, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who overcame shyness and her fear of flying to become an expert pilot, navigator and partner with her famous husband in charting air routes around the world. The three plays are performed in one hour.

Admission is free. *Gail Woodall*

## **FLYING HIGH**

Three One Act Plays  
Honoring Aviation Pioneers

Historical Society Auditorium  
Saturday Evening, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

Bessie Coleman played by Teejay Ford  
Anne Morrow Lindbergh played by Erica Tecce  
Neal Loving played by Rondell Johnson



Bessie Coleman



Anne Morrow Lindbergh



Rondell Johnson



Bob Woodall and his VariEze

With special tribute to the memory of pilot Bob Woodall

FREE ADMISSION  
Presented By

AVIATION THEATRE  
Playwright: Carlton E. Spitzer

Directed by Anita Tecce, professor of theatre at Chesapeake College, and written by Carlton E. Spitzer, the Dec. 13 performances inaugurate a new program, Aviation Theatre, founded by Mr. Spitzer to recognize women and minority aviation pioneers whose achievements have often been marginalized or even ignored.

Aviation Theatre, sponsored by Easton Aviation, LLC, Easton Bank & Trust, Bartlett Griffin & Vermilye, William Griffin, Sr., and Liz Freedlander, hopes to perform the plays in school settings and neighborhood centers in 2009 to encourage young people to overcome personal challenges and follow their dreams.

The Dec. 13 performances are presented free of charge as a public service, but donations to Aviation Theatre are welcome at the door, or to Aviation Theatre, Easton Bank & Trust.

## UUFÉ Contacts

Interim Minister	Rev. Paula Maiorano, 410 822-8103
President	Dick Doughty, 410 673-7580
Coordinator of Religious Education	Elizabeth Hausburg, 410 476-4774
Minister Emeritus	Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., D.Min, 410 745-3462
UUFÉ Office	410 822-8103
Newsletter Editor	Frank Greenburg, 410 819-8810

(Deadline for the January UUFÉ Newsletter is December 15)

### A "MUST SEE"!

*Messe de Minuit pour Noel* - Midnight Mass for Christmas by Charpentier will be performed at Easton High School on Sunday, December 7 at 5:00. The seventy-six voice choir accompanied by a renaissance ensemble including viola de gamba and alto recorder played by Sue Loweree, will be directed by Chris Noyes. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students. Nothing gets the season off to a great start like beautiful music!

## 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. There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- 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.

