

Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

February 2008

Sermons

An Odyssey

Feb. 3

Odyssey is defined as "a long wandering journey." Since February is Black History Month, Dan Higgins will share an aspect of his journey that took place during the Black Power controversy of the 60's in the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Feb. 10, Getting Along With One Another

Our pulpit guest Rev. Russ Savage, currently Minister of Congregational Life at the River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda, brings to his topic long experience in two careers; as Executive Director of Personnel and Public Relations at Bell Labs, and after Harvard Divinity School, serving Unitarian churches in Barnstable, Ma. and Schenectady, N.Y.

Feb. 17, Charting Our Path to Ministry

Following a brief worship service, Ellen Cotts, the UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Joseph Priestley District, will speak to us about the steps in the ministry search process. This is an important time for our congregation to ask questions and understand all that is required as we move into the process of searching for a new "called" minister. Everyone is urged to attend.

Feb. 24, Sin and Forgiveness

Our earliest exposure to the notion of sin probably came from the Ten Commandments (or Ten Suggestions, as we like to call them.) Is the notion of sin out-dated? What, if any, meaning does the notion of sin have for our lives? And, if there is no sin, can there be forgiveness? It would be a sin to miss this sermon, but if you must, I'll forgive you! John Turner

Sunday Service and School

10:00 a.m.
7401 Ocean Gateway

Inside....

Religious Education.....	2
Ministerial Thoughts	2
Board News	2
President's Corner	3
Member Services	3
Social Action.....	4
Gatherings	4
New Member Biography	5
Adult R.E.	5
All In The Family.....	5
New Member Biography ...	6
Calendar	7
UUFE Contacts.....	8

Valentine Thoughts

Grow old with me, the best is yet to be. ~ Robert Browning

To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance. ~ Oscar Wilde

What the world really needs is more love and less paperwork. ~ Pearl Bailey

I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon. ~ Author Unknown

No matter whom you love, remind them every day. ~ a UU



Masquerade Ball
Let's Party and Dance on Feb. 23 at the Fellowship!
See Gatherings on page 4 for details.

Religious Education

Our Calendar

Feb. 1, 7:30

Youth Night at UUF

Feb. 3, 1:30

Youth Bowling (grades 5 and up) – Cost-\$9 bowling & pizza

Mar. 7, 7:30

Youth Night at UUF

RE Donation Needs this month:

Juice Boxes and Elmer's Glue
(please no glue sticks)

If you have an item to donate from the list or other items you wish to donate please see Liz Hausburg, Nancy Dimond, or Colleen Ronning.

A Few Words from Religious Education

I am pleased to announce two new teachers for this semester. Diane Bell and Colleen Ronning will teach the elementary class beginning in February. Welcome to you both!

Our elementary class will begin the curriculum titled *In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program*, a program of affirmation. It affirms the inherent worth and beauty of self, family, community, and human diversity. It is also an anti-bias curriculum that focuses on racial and ethnic prejudice. The first unit will address valuing both the group and individual, working from being affirmed to self-affirmation, and listening, talking and sharing. This group of young people will also begin the second unit discussing fair and unfair experiences.

The upper elementary/middle school group will also use *In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program*. This curriculum is in 4 units: Concepts of Peace and Justice, Peace and Justice within Oneself, with Others, and with Our Earth. (continued p.3)

Ministerial Thoughts

Daniel's Docket:

Hatred, which could destroy so much, never failed to destroy the man who hated, and this was an immutable law. I imagine that one of the reasons that people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, that they will be forced to deal with the pain."

~James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*

"It cannot be denied that too often the weight of the Christian movement has been on the side of the strong and the powerful and against the weak and oppressed - this despite the gospel."

~Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*

"To be a poor man is hard, but to be a poor race in a land of dollars is the very bottom of hardship."

~W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

"If it's wrong for 13-year-old-inner city girls to have babies without the benefit of marriage, it's wrong for rich celebrities, and we ought to stop putting them on the cover of People magazine."

~Marian Wright Edelman, *Lanterns*

"Never before has the seductive market way of life held such sway in nearly every sphere of American life. The marketing way of life promotes addictions to stimulation and obsessions with comfort and convenience. The common denominator is a rugged and ragged individualism."

~Cornell West, *Race Matters*

"Any god I ever felt in church I brought with me. And I think that all the other folks did too."

~Alice Walker. *The Color Purple*

"The differences between black folk and white folk are not blood and color. The ties that bind us are deeper than those that separate us. The common road of hope which we all traveled has brought us into a stronger kinship than any words, laws, or legal claims."

~Richard Wright, *12 Million Black Voices*

"Lord, prop me up on my leanin' side."

~anonymous black minister

dgh

Board News

The Board was pleased to learn that the December 23rd special collection for the Good Samaritan Fund totaled \$545. As a result, the Fund did meet the challenge grant of an additional \$2,500 to continue its inter-faith, good works in the community. Ann Williams, Treasurer of the Good Samaritan Fund, has expressed appreciation for our participation.

Rev. Dan Higgins reported that attendance at Sunday Services the 2nd quarter of the Fellowship year was higher for adults, children and visitors.

A request from the Worship Committee to purchase 10 more hymnals was approved. (continued p.3)

President's Corner

What Does JPD Stand For?

There are many benefits of our Fellowship's membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). One important benefit is the services provided by the Joseph Priestley District, otherwise known as JPD. The district was named after Joseph Priestley, who was a Unitarian minister, a noted scientist, and the discoverer of oxygen.

JPD is the district of UUA which includes 65 certified congregations in Delaware, Maryland, Southern New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia and Washington D.C.

The mission of the Joseph Priestley District is to develop and strengthen a community of healthy congregations and affiliates, striving for diversity of theology and culture, deepening our sense of mutual accountability to each other and the movement.

District staff and leadership include:

- District Executive – Rev. Dr. Richard Speck
- Director for Lifespan Faith Development – Rev. Lyn Cox
- Director for Young Adult & Campus Ministry – Christopher Sims
- Coordinator for Youth Activities – Kathy Smith
- Director of Growth & Extension – Pat Infante
- Development Director – Joan Priest

The JPD staff serves as a valuable source of information for Board Members and Committee Chairs. JPD sponsors useful training events and spiritual retreats each year. For example, last month they held a weekend workshop on *Planning for Growth & Vitality* for congregations with 150-350 members. The JPD Spring conference on *Voices of Justice, Hands of Change* will be held in Bethesda, MD on March 28-30, 2008.

The Chalice Lighter's Grant which has recently benefited our Fellowship is administered by the JPD Growth and Extension Committee. Grants are provided to support new staff positions, land purchase, increased building space, innovative growth projects, and organization of a new congregation. Individuals are encouraged to contribute to the Chalice Lighter's fund to promote growth and insure the future of Unitarian Universalism.

If you would like to learn more, check out the JPD website at www.jpduua.org.

Many thanks to David Stevens for constructing an addition to the new lectern that has helped speakers look up when they are speaking instead of burying their heads in their notes. He built a raised platform for speaker's notes out of solid cherry wood that matches the rest of the lectern. The platform sits on top of the existing lectern and can be removed when necessary. This change has made it easier to hear speakers using the lectern.

David, all of us appreciate this improvement. Thank you!

Dick Doughty

(Religious Education, continued)

On a Final Note: The RE Committee needs adults (you do not have to be a parent with a child in RE classes) to supervise our children Sundays from 11:15 until 11:45. This will give our teachers an opportunity to talk with parents and enjoy a part of coffee hour. We need several adults willing to volunteer for one or two Sundays the next few months to talk with and enjoy snack time with our children. Please see Liz Hausburg for more details or to sign up!

Liz Hausburg CRE

(Board News, continued)

Gail Woodall, Chair of the Membership Committee, updated the Board on planned activities. Based on information from the Committee, the number of members to be reported to UUA and the Joseph Priestley District for annual dues purposes will be 93, our membership number as of June 30, 2007. Dues of approximately \$100 per member are paid each year.

Member Services

Our Newest Members

The newest members of our congregation are Lisa Menditch and Phillip Sawyer. Lisa signed the Membership Book in December and Phillip in January. Lisa's biography is on page 6 of this Newsletter. Watch for Phillip's biography in the near future. We hope to get to know each of them better during coffee hour or at other activities.

The next meeting of the committee is Tuesday, February 12, 3:00 p.m.

PlanAhead



Friday, Apr 18. UUFE annual Service Auction
Sunday, May 18. Annual congregational meeting follows the worship service. **Mark your calendars now!**

Social Action

The Social Action Coalition film for February is "Children of Men" and will be shown at Third Haven on Friday, February, 20 at 7:00 p.m. with social hour at 6:00. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón, this film version of P.D. James's classic dystopian novel (and 2006 Oscar nominee for Best Adapted Screenplay) is a futuristic drama set in a world in which humans have lost the ability to reproduce and subsequently face certain extinction. Things change when a single woman mysteriously becomes pregnant, prompting a conflicted government bureaucrat (Clive Owen) and his ex-wife (Julianne Moore) to join forces to protect her. Michael Caine co-stars. Rated R for violence, language, some drug use and brief nudity.

The Social Action Committee has a new meeting time—second Sundays following the service and coffee hour. The February meeting will be on the 10th.

The committee voted to contribute \$300 to the Rebuilding Together Caroline County project.

(Gatherings, continued)

Men's Lunch, Wednesday, Feb. 6 and Feb. 20

Gather at 11:30 at the Airport Café, no later than 11:29 to order breakfast.

Friday Night Movie, Feb. 8

The movie *Venus* is a dark, romantic comedy starring Peter O'Toole as veteran actor Maurice, whose quiet golden years turn topsy-turvy when he falls for a very young and brash nude model. Director Roger Michell's poignant May-December romance is an uplifting tale of love, lust and the endless pursuit of vitality and youth by a man whose life is drawing to a close. Film legend O'Toole infuses his aging character with his own timeless exuberance and charisma, earning him an Oscar nomination in 2006. The pot luck begins at 6:30. *David Stevens*

Adult RE film, Feb. 13

See the Adult RE column on page 5 for a synopsis of the movie *A Time To Kill*, showing at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, Feb. 14, Noon

Joanne Baynard invites us to her home at 207 Wye Ave. Bring your sandwich or salad and she'll provide drinks and cookies. You can access Wye Avenue from Washington Street by going through at either the South or North end of the hospital. If you plan to attend, please call her at 410 770-8277.

Climate Discussion Group, Sunday Feb. 17

From 11:30 to 1:30 we will discuss "Global Warming: Points of Contention" and take a closer look at why people are still arguing about climate change, what we know, what we don't know and what's up for debate.

Fellowship Friday, Feb. 22

The Potluck begins at 6 p.m. followed by various activities for all ages. Come join the fun and choose from various activities. Call Jean Rhian 410 822-5807 or Rita Barker 410 634-2399 for more information.

Masquerade Ball, Saturday, Feb. 23

Our Third Annual Masquerade Ball starts at 7 p.m. This year, the Ball will be at the Fellowship and will feature the live music of our own Del Joiner in the band, 'Gary & the Pacemakers'. At intermission a collection will be taken to assist the First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans (www.firstuuno.org) with their continued rebuilding efforts since Hurricane Katrina. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served; a cash bar will be available. Admission is \$25. Contact Beth Hansen for tickets at 410 253-0214.

Adult RE film, Feb. 27

See the Adult RE column on page 5 for a synopsis of the movie *Dead Man Walking*, showing at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Book Group, Thursday, Feb. 28

We meet at the Fellowship at 11:00 a.m. in the Archer-Shee room and invite all to bring a brown bag lunch and share in our very informal discussions. Even if you haven't read the book, you are welcome to join us. We would enjoy hearing about a book you have recently read. This month we will review *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. For information, call Joanne Baynard at 410 770-8277.

Women's Circle, Thursday Feb. 28

The Women's Spirituality Circle will meet at 7:00 pm to honor the Goddess and her creation. All women are welcome.

Gatherings

Youth Bowling, Sunday, Feb. 3

UUFE will host the Delmarva RE groups here in Easton. Youth (grades 5 & up) of UU Chester River, UU Southern Delaware (Dover) and UU Central Delaware (Lewes) will join us for an afternoon of bowling and pizza at the Bowling Center, 103 Marlboro Avenue, starting at 1:30pm.

Call Colleen Ronning at 410 770-3843 to reserve a space.

Building Your Own Theology, Wednesday, Feb. 6 and Feb. 20

Sessions continue at 7 p.m.

(Gatherings continued, next column)

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Meet Emily Cranwell

Emily leads a busy life of carefully chosen activities and pursuits and we are so glad that being a new member of UUFE is one of them.

Her roots are in a small Massachusetts town, not far from Clark University where she obtained a BA in Psychology. Following graduation, Emily worked in child-care at Club Med in Florida, where she met her husband, Todd. (We weren't kidding about "carefully chosen activities".) The newly married couple moved to the Albany, NY area where they stayed for several years while Emily taught school and Todd managed a B&B. During this time, Emily earned her MS in early childhood education at the nearby College of St. Rose. Then one day Todd received an enticing offer to be the caretaker of a 35 acre estate in Easton, MD. Presented with the prospect of a nice change, they settled into the quiet of an estate on Dixon Creek in the summer of 2006 .

Emily found employment in Dorchester County as a first grade teacher. However, after receiving scant support from the administration and parents as she grappled with the multiple issues the children had, she decided to look for work elsewhere. She found it at the Country School in Easton, where she teaches 2nd grade and enjoys a significantly improved work environment.

Raised as an Episcopalian, Emily had drifted away from that faith when she became a teenager and began to question many of its teachings. She was introduced to Unitarian Universalism by Todd, who had attended a UU church as an adult. Emily watched our building's reconstruction and began attending UUFE services soon after its completion. Pleased by the casual friendliness here and fond of the service format, Emily took less than three months to sign our membership book. She has chosen social action as her focus at UUFE.

In Easton, Emily has found a friendly community reminiscent of her hometown, yet one that offers a wider variety of opportunities. As time permits, Emily pursues her interests in photography, cooking, quilting, and crafts, including scrap booking. Both she and her husband enjoy walking on the estate with their two large dogs.

We extend a warm welcome to Emily and look forward to seeing Todd now and then when he joins her here.

Liz McGrory

(Another new member's biography on pg6)

Adult RE

Film as Theological Text: a discussion series for adult and senior youth. February films examine the criminal justice system in the United States.

Wed., Feb. 13, 7 pm
A Time to Kill, rated R

Based on a book by the same title by John Grisham, attorney and novelist. Explore the themes of race and class, evil and retribution that are highlighted in this film about a father who takes justice into his own hands when his ten-year-old daughter is brutally attacked by two racist thugs.

Wed., Feb. 27, 7 pm
Dead Man Walking, rated R

Political activists often cite *Dead Man Walking* as a film about capital punishment or the story of one religious person's commitment to end the death penalty. But beyond politics or ideology, *Dead Man Walking* is a film about the redemptive power of love as *agape*, divine or universal love.

Carol Smith

The "Guest at our Table" collection boxes we received added up to a generous total of \$343.21. That amount has been sent on to the UU Service Committee for their distribution. Good for us!

All In The Family

In Memoriam: Ann Johnsen passed away in December and her funeral was held on Staten Island Dec. 22. A memorial service for Ann was arranged by her Easton friends and her children attended. Ann was a good friend of our Fellowship and graced our choir with her beautiful soprano voice.

On December 7th Caitlin Higgins, granddaughter of Jean and Dan Higgins, was inducted into the National Honor Society. Caitlin is in the 11th grade at St. Michaels High School.

Dan Higgins received word from Philip Foster, President of the Talbot County Council, that he has been nominated for the "2007 Maryland You Are Beautiful Volunteer Awards Program". A reception will be held at the Talbot County Historical Society Auditorium (17 South Washington Street) on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Editor's note: If you have an event of special note to share with UUFE members and friends, please send it to the editor at frankg@goeaston.net for insertion in the next newsletter. Births, Weddings, and significant happenings are welcome, if space permits. New kittens, puppies, new cars, or honor role student announcements might not make it.

Vacation Advertisement



Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill that dream. For 28 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, or at 828 281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. A paper edition is published every year in April. If you are interested in additional information, click on "become a member" and send us your e-mail address. For a copy of the 2008 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member". Pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

(New Member Biographies continued)

Meet Lisa Menditch

Lisa describes her love of travel as "a state of mind and easy for me." She and Frank, her husband, logged over thirty trips last year, and may equal that record this year. This January they journeyed to Boston to settle one of their daughters in college and then to Indiana to visit friends. Their next trip is a Hawaiian vacation.

Lisa and Frank met when Lisa was Executive Director of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, a trade association in Washington, D.C., and Frank had a heating and air conditioning company. When they married, their combined family had six children, 2 girls and a boy from former marriages on each side.

Among their children is an African American daughter who came into Lisa's life as a 2 year old foster child and then adopted when she was six. Although this child had a severe language problem at an early age, she is now in a doctoral program in Chicago, and Lisa says she is a "gift." Lisa and Frank are expecting their second grandchild momentarily.

In Montgomery County Lisa served on the Board of the hospice as a volunteer for eight years. Both she and Frank worked weekly at a soup kitchen and homeless shelter in Silver Spring.

Until the age of sixteen, Lisa attended a Methodist church, but felt no connection there. Frank, who grew up in Montgomery County, is of the Jewish faith.

As they traveled back and forth from their current home in Trappe to St. Michaels, where they are building a house, they spotted our sign and renovated building. After investigating our web site, they stopped in and checked us out. Impressed with the friendly reception and stimulating services, Lisa felt an immediate connection and became our 99th member. She has attended the Ladies' Luncheon, helped at the Soup Kitchen, and is attending the "Building Your Own Theology" course. As the tempo of her life eases a bit, she would like to become more involved in the Social Action Committee.

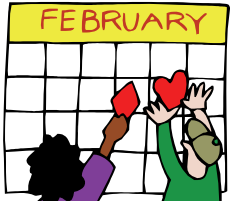
We are delighted that Lisa has joined us. We know her outgoing personality and enthusiasm will lend added vitality to our Fellowship.

Jean Griffith

Second Sunday Scavenge

On Feb. 10 and on the second Sunday of every month, scavenge your closets and bring donated clothing items to the Fellowship. Joanie Baynard will prepare them to be sold at the hospital commission shop, The Bazaar, on Federal Street. Our Fellowship receives 50% of the sale price of each item. We've already received our first check!





February 2008

Calendar of Events - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				5:00 to 5:30 Silent Peace Vigil in front of the Courthouse every Thursday	1 7:00 pm First Friday Youth Night	2
3 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 1:30 pm Youth Bowling	4	5	6 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm Build Your Own Theology	7	8 6:30 Potluck and Friday Night Movie <i>Venus</i>	9
10 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 11:30 am Social Action Committee	11 5:30 RE Committee Meeting	12 3:00 pm Member Services Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting	13 7:00 pm Adult RE	14  12:00 Women's Lunch 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 11:30 am Climate Change Discussion Group	18	19	20 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm Social Action Film-3rd Hav'n 7:00 pm Build Your Own Theology	21 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	22 6:00 pm Fellowship Friday	23 7 pm-10 pm Masquerade Ball 
24 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	25	26	27 10:30 Soup Kitchen at Asbury UMC 7:00 pm Adult RE Film	28 11:00 am Book Group 7:00 pm Women's Circle	29	

UUFE Contacts

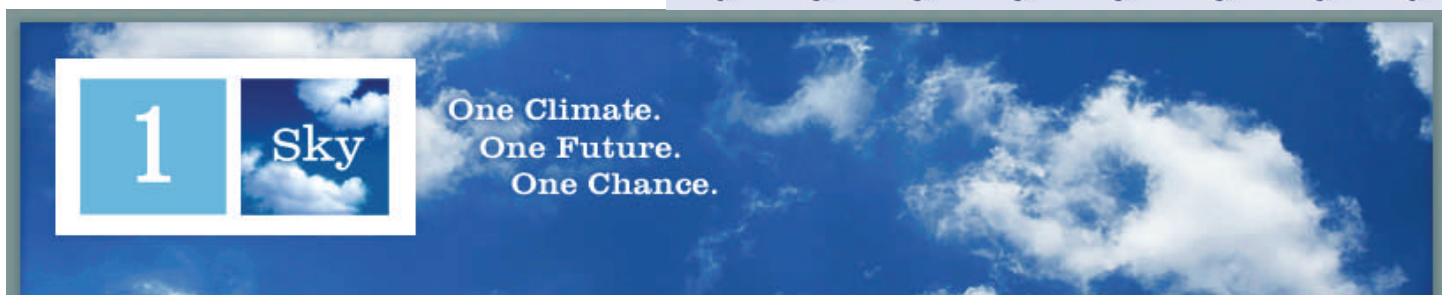
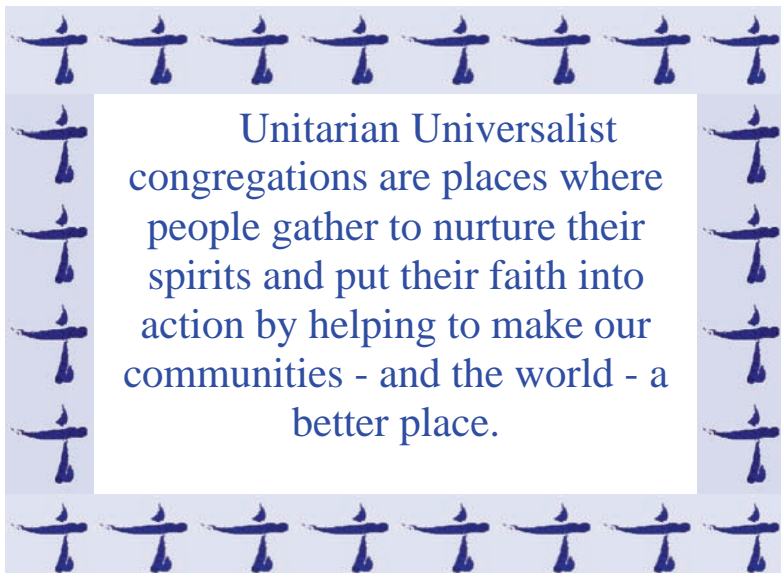
Minister Emeritus and
Interim Minister Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., D.Min,
410 745-3462

President Dick Doughty,
410 673-7580

Coordinator of
Religious Education Elizabeth Hausburg,
410 476-4774

UUFE Office 410 822-8103

Newsletter Editor Frank Greenburg,
410 819-8810
frankg@goeaston.net



www.ufeaston.org

8

February 2008

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP AT
EASTON, MARYLAND
PO BOX 1162
EASTON, MD 21601**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

