

Happy New Year ! Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton



Sermons

Anticipating the Future

Jan. 6

The UU poet May Sarton wrote "Small joys keep life alive." Every New Year brings with it newness and sameness. As we face the newness and the sameness, may we keep the small joys alive. Rev. Dan Higgins

Jan. 13 , The Gospel According to the Hitman and the Dude. Many popular movies are criticized for their sexuality and violence. Nevertheless, these films seem to resonate with audiences. Are critics missing the deeper spiritual insights of these films? Lay leader and film buff, Dwayne Eutsey will explore cinematic spirituality in today's sermon.

Jan. 20 , To Tell The Truth

The Rev. George Merrill, Episcopal priest and frequent contributor to the *Star Democrat*, will be our guest preacher with a message honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jan. 27, Our Great Work

Stopping Hitler has been described as the "Great Work" of one generation. Today we're up against something that calls for the best effort, intelligence, and creativity each of us can muster. Saving the planet falls to us. It must be our Great Work, whether we want it or not. Rev. Terence Ellen, Executive Director of UUs for Social Justice of the Baltimore/Washington area, will preach on this planetary emergency and our response.

Adult Religious Education

Last Call for Buildin' Y'all's Theology

Starting Wednesday, January 9, the Adult Religious Education Committee will offer a 10 session class called "Building Your Own Theology." Persons attending this group will reflect on their religious experiences and create their own credos. The 10 sessions will be held every other week, January 9 through May 14, meeting 7-9 p.m. at the Fellowship. Please call or email Nancy Dimond (one of the group leaders) at 410-745-0401 or ndimo@dmv.com if you wish to attend. We already have eight individuals signed up and would love to have more. We hope you'll join us for this spiritual group experience.

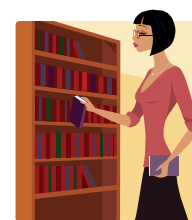


Sunday Service and
School

10:00 a.m.

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UUFE LIBRARY NEWS

For those who are not aware of our library, we do have a small lending library located in the UUFE Office. Beginning in January 2008, we will start tracking borrowed and returned books. There will be a basket with a form to fill in when you borrow and/or return a book to the basket. Questions ? --- Call Marian, the Librarian @ 410 819-8810

Religious Education

Our Calendar

Jan. 6

UU Principle 6 – Working it out

Jan 13

UU Principle 7 - Who Owns the Earth?

Jan 20

UU Principle 7 – Web of Nature

Jan 27

Review of UU Principles: "Time of Celebration

RE Donation Needs this month:

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

A Few Words from Religious Education

In January we will finish our study of Unitarian Universalist principle six. The holiday time and celebrations have caused us to rearrange our schedule! Nevertheless, we are very flexible in RE so the change will not diminish our study of Principle six. Then we will begin our study of the last UU principle – principle seven. Principle seven is the belief in caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things. Our January discussions will focus on being a conservationist - someone who works to save nature and its plants and animals. We will also look at the ways all living things, including people, are connected by a kind of interdependent web. Look for our wonderful nature poems and our crazy animal stick puppets!

On a personal note -- I want to say how thrilled I am for 2008! This past year has been a bit rocky for Laura and me (medically speaking) but we have come through it very positively and even more important - healthy. Please take time to count the blessings of 2007 and begin looking forward to new beginnings and new memories as you ring in 2008!

Happy New Year!

Liz Hausburg, CRE

Ministerial Thoughts

Daniel's Docket:

The 19th century Anglican, Frances Havergal wrote of a new year as "another year of mercies, another year of service, another year of gladness, another year of proving."

A New Year is all of these. It compels us to think of what has been and brings us face to face with possibilities that are unknown and unknowable. Yet, in the midst of the unknown there is continuity. There will be a great deal of the sameness in 2008 as there was in 2007, like the same hobbies and habits. There will be the same circle of friends and hopefully new ones added.

Yet 2008 will not be the same as 2007. Each year, like each day, brings with it a sense of newness; new opportunities, new expectations, new visions, new hopes.

James Whitcomb Riley wrote,

"One song to thee, New Year,
One universal prayer;
Teach us all other teachings far above
To hide dark hate beneath the wings of love;
To slay all hatred, strife,
And live the larger life!
To bind the wounds that bleed,
To lift the fallen, lead the blind
As only love can lead -
To live for all mankind."

May we be open to the possibilities that 2008 will bring for our world, for our nation, for our state, and for our religious community.

Shalom,
dgh

President's Corner

Prospects for the New Year

I hope you all had a joyous holiday and New Year's celebration.

We have a lot to be thankful for as we look forward to this spring. All Fall our committees worked hard to produce excellent worship services, religious education, and social and community service opportunities for members and friends. The choir is currently singing one Sunday a month. Attendance on Sunday mornings for both adults and children has been increasing. A significant number of newcomers have signed the membership book. We expect this trend to continue.

Our finances are sound. We are operating well within our annual budget and real progress has been made in paying down our line of credit with Talbot Bank. Building rental income is increasing. The furnishing of rooms in the new building is mostly completed. Acoustics in the Meeting Room has been improved by installation of sound deadening material. Overall we have adjusted well to our changed environment!

(continued p.3)

(President's Corner, continued)

What is in store for this spring? We can expect more inspirational sermons from Dan Higgins, guest preachers, and members. Children's RE, with the help of Liz Hausburg, will continue to provide educational activities for all age groups. Adult RE is sponsoring a special 10 session class on Building Your Own Theology. Choir practices have been scheduled through April. Volunteer accompanists will continue to provide a variety of music on Sunday mornings. And, a variety of other activities are being held throughout each week.

A UFE Committee Coordination Meeting will be held on January 26th to allow for exchange of information between committees and to foster better coordination of activities.

The Interim Ministerial Search Committee plans to start work this month. The first phase of the process for selecting a called minister called Direction-Finding will begin in February. The Annual Stewardship Canvass is scheduled to be held early in March.

Dick Doughty

Memorial Garden Plans

The building master plan adopted several years ago called for the construction of a memorial garden on the south side of the new sanctuary. The memorial garden design called for the construction of a brick wall with spaces for individual plaques in memory of deceased loved ones. Ashes would be buried in the ground in the garden surrounding the brick wall. The memorial garden was deferred along with the new sanctuary due to high cost.

Landscaping around our new building has been completed - thanks to the leadership of Sue Loweree! This makes possible the construction of the memorial garden at this time, probably in a different location than originally anticipated. If you have a personal interest in this project and would be willing to serve on a committee to design the proposed memorial garden, please contact me at 410-673-7580

Dick Doughty

Member Services

The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, January 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

Collection for Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

Sally Woodall contacted the Mid-Shore Council and has obtained a list of items that they need. The collection box is under the Social Action table on the left side of the foyer and its cover is labeled with these needed items:

Regular sizes of the following personal care products: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Travel size personal care items

Additional miscellaneous items including towels, wash cloths, sheets (single and double), pillows, pillow cases, curtains

Non-perishable foods such as soup, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, pasta, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, etc.

Our donations will help women and their children who have left violent relationships and are staying in a safe, undisclosed location. They often leave hurriedly and are not able to bring the things they need to sustain themselves and their children while they await job interviews, court dates, etc.

Gail Woodall

OPPORTUNITY FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity has opportunities for people to help build homes and also help in their Aurora Street office.

Habitat is starting a new project on Clay Street which when completed will provide ten homes in five duplexes.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Eleanor at their office at 350 N. Aurora Street, phone number, 410 820-6186. Eleanor will have an orientation and information class for all volunteers at 8:30 AM on the second Monday of each month. If you cannot attend at that time she will schedule another time for you. If you have questions, contact Eleanor at the above phone number or me, Jerry Fairbanks, at 410 822-5807 or at rhibanks@goeaston.net.

RECYCLE YOUR GARMENTS

Joanie Baynard is accepting outdated or outworn clothing, in excellent condition, to donate to Memorial Hospital Bazaar. She will prepare the clothing according to their guidelines, prepare the proper forms for delivery, schedule an appointment for drop-off and deliver the items. UFE will receive 50% of the asking price of the item when it is sold. You may leave your items at the Fellowship in the back office to the right of the "wheel chair-friendly" restroom - or drop them off at Joanie's house, 207 Wye Ave. For directions, call Joanie at 410 770-8277



Social Action

The Social Action Coalition film for Friday, January 18 is "Hotel Rwanda". It is the story of tribal fighting in Rwanda where hundreds of thousands of men, women and children were savagely killed. One ordinary man, portrayed by Don Cheadle) musters the courage to save more than 1,000 helpless refugees by sheltering them in the hotel he manages. Sophie Okonedo, Nick Nolte and Joaquin Phoenix co-star in this powerful film directed by Terry George." The film is rated PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and brief strong language. If you would like, bring a bag supper at 6:00 for social hour. The film will be shown at 7:00.

The Social Action Committee voted to make the following contributions:

- \$100 to PEACE towards gang prevention training
- \$300 to TACL's Good Samaritan Fund
- \$300 to Habitat for Humanity for the ongoing Clay Street project
- \$150 to the Brighter Christmas Fund - A donor previously offered to give \$2500 to the fund if matched by the community.

From January through April, the Coalition Against Hunger will help Asbury UMC in their soup kitchen on Wednesdays. UUFE's date in January is the 23rd at 10:30; we provide fruit and desserts and deliver lunches to regular recipients. We need help in delivering to 48 people, all of whom live in the eastern part of Easton.

If we have two more volunteers, delivery time would be less than an hour. If you are able to help, please contact Mary Young, George McManus or Dan Higgins.



Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesday, Jan. 2nd and Jan. 16th

Gather at 11:30 at the Airport Café to solve the world's problems or just eat, celebrate the New Year and have a good time.

Building your own Theology, Wednesday, Jan. 9 and also Jan. 23

The first two sessions start this month at 7 p.m. See the "Religious Education" notice at the bottom of page 1 of this newsletter for details.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, Jan. 10

It was so pleasant meeting at Barbara Doughty's home in December -- plenty of opportunity to move about, speak to one another and, in this case, share snake stories (!) over our brown bags. Now Jean Rhian has offered to host us in January, on the 10th at noon. Bring your sandwich or salad and she'll provide drinks and cookies. She lives at 7607 Easton Club Drive. (After entering Easton Club take the first left and follow it about ½ mile to #7607 on the left. Jean's number is 410 822-5807.)

Friday Night Movie, Jan. 11

The Twins. This compelling drama from the Netherlands follows twins Anna and Lotte, who are suddenly orphaned and torn apart in 1920s Germany. Sent to live with two different relatives -- Anna on her uncle's farm in Germany, Lotte with her rich aunt in Holland -- the sisters must struggle to reconcile the differences of their youth when they meet as adults during World War II and again in their old age. Based on the best-seller by Tessa de Loo. Our host is David Stevens. Bring 'n Share pot luck at 6:30, movie at 7:00.

Book Group, Thursday, Jan. 24

We meet at the Fellowship at 11:00 a.m. in the Archer-Shee room, and invite everyone to bring a brown bag lunch and share in our very informal discussions. Even if you haven't read the book, you are welcome. We enjoy hearing about a book you have recently read. In January, we will read and review 2 Jhumpa Lahiri books: -- *The Namesake* and *Interpreter of Maladies*. The tea kettle will be on and coffee brewed. If you have questions, contact Joanne Baynard at 410 770-8277.

Women's Circle, Thursday, Jan. 24

At 7:00 p.m. all women are invited to honor the divine feminine, the seasons of the earth, and the cycles of the moon.

Board News

- The Board was pleased to hear the Treasurer's Report which indicated that current expenses are being met.
- The Board approved a Dedicated Gift from Dick Doughty for the purchase of a Presidents Plaque which will honor all the Presidents and Co-Presidents of UUFE. The names of Presidents will be engraved on small metal tabs and will allow for additional names to be added in the future.
- Recommendations were made in the hopes of addressing congestion and high decibel levels during coffee hour after Sunday service. The Board encouraged experimentation regarding the placement of the refreshment table and coffee pots. Perhaps moving to the room adjacent to the foyer for conversation would help resolve this concern.

Jane Tereby, Board Secretary

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Debbie Easterling and Doug Levin

Debbie and Doug have lived on the Eastern Shore for seven years and feel they have found the best of all possible worlds here. They have a fleet of kayaks at their home on a creek that flows into the Choptank River near Dover Bridge. They are close enough to “metropolitan” Easton to enjoy its cultural attractions and to partake in activities at Evergreen Cove where Debbie has taught yoga and is working on her 500-hour advanced training. Also, they have found a dynamic, new Unitarian Universalist home in Easton where they can spread their wings.

Debbie and Doug met as graduate students at Louisiana State University. They were married in Baton Rouge by a Unitarian minister in a ceremony that incorporated some of Doug’s Jewish traditions. Debbie came from a Methodist background. At LSU, Doug received his PhD. in Marine Geology, and Debbie received her PhD. in Business Administration.

Presently, Debbie is Associate Dean of the Business School at Salisbury University. She hopes to return to the teaching faculty in a few years. She is also beginning a Masters program in Theology and hopes to create a program for business students that would make their careers more gratifying and meaningful, rather than simply concentrating on the bottom line. As a single mother raising three children, Debbie pursued a career in business in order to make enough money to support her children, but she found this field lacking in qualities to make it fulfilling.

Doug works for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) doing outreach geology, underwater mapping and educating teachers. He is affiliated with the Oxford Lab but spends a lot of time on the road in his outreach capacity integrating NOAA science into everyday life and championing underwater robots.

Before Debbie met Doug, she lived on a sailboat in the Caribbean for two years and home-schooled her three children. After their marriage, they adopted two foster children, a boy and a girl, aged five and six. One of their adopted children is now a nursing student at Salisbury University while the other is in the Air Force, a choice that was entirely his. Two of their other children reside in Charleston, S.C., where they grew up, and one is in D.C. They now proudly claim four grandchildren.

Spare time is a precious commodity in their home, but Debbie pursues her yoga, spiritual reading and squeezes in time to go kayaking with Doug. Doug loves to play baseball and is a member of the Fair Play Base Ball Team, sponsored by the Talbot County Historical Society. Characterizing himself as a “tinkerer”, he enjoys working with model trains, building underwater robots and doing wood-working in their garage.

After receiving their PhD’s, they joined the Franklin Unitarian Universalist Church in Massachusetts where Debbie taught Religious Education. The minister there, Carole Rosine, remains close to their hearts. They both believe the spirit of acceptance and the diversity in our Unitarian Universalist faith add to its strength in today’s world. They look forward to being more involved in our Fellowship, and we know they will find just the right niche for their considerable talents. We extend a very warm welcome to Debbie and Doug!

Jean Griffith

Climate Change Discussion Group

Interested in joining a discussion group to investigate the science and politics behind the biggest issue to be debated in decades? We will watch videos, review books and learn the facts and fictions of science change.

And, like true Unitarian Universalists, we will do so from the solid perspective of seeking only the truth.

We anticipate meeting once a month whether after service or on some particular week night. Our first meeting will be Sunday, January 13th, from noon to 2 PM.

Please let Sandra Henry-Stocker know if you are interested by emailing bugfarm@gmail.com.



Capital Campaign Update

In December we made a \$10,000 payment on the principle of our Capital Campaign line of credit at Talbot Bank. The current balance on our line of credit is \$63,000. We paid \$452 in interest for the month of December, which is almost half of what the interest payment was for October. The faster we satisfy this loan, the less interest we will pay to the bank. Thank you for your strong support for our Capital Campaigns.

Jerry Fairbanks

About our web site www.ufeaston.org

The vertical column on the right side of this page is a facsimile of the home page "index" of our web site. To see it, launch your internet browser, then enter www.ufeaston.org.

- Can't find your newsletter? See it in color and print it if you wish.
- Lost the recent UFE Calendar?
- Wonder what was going on in April 2003? Or any month?
- Details of our new UFE Climate Change Discussion Group
- Amazon Fundraiser
Do you buy books, electronics, tools, clothing or other merchandise from Amazon? If so, would you be willing to do your purchasing by following this link on UFE's web site? If so, we can earn a percentage (4% or better) of the money you spend. Some UU churches and fellowships have raised a considerable amount of dollars simply by putting this link on one of the pages of their web sites.
- That was a great sermon! But I missed a bit of it or don't recall some of it. I'd like to read it and perhaps print a copy.
- Here are direct links to UFE Related Organizations.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

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8475 visits



UUA



Int'l Council



UU Buddhists



UU Christians



UU Pagans

Just click on the symbol to see their web page.



Whatsoever You Do (Information on Talbot County's humanitarian groups)

FIGHT HATE AND PROMOTE TOLERANCE **TOLERANCE.ORG**

a web project of the southern poverty law center



Editor's Note: A complete revision of our Web Site is currently in progress by our webmaster Sandra Henry-Stockner, but the links shown above will still be available. Look for announcements in future newsletters. If you would like to have help accessing our UFE Web Site from your computer, please don't hesitate to call Frank Greenburg 410 819-8810 or Sandra Henry-Stockner 410 943-1264 or call our office 410 822-8103. We'll find someone who will be glad to assist you.

January 2008



Calendar of Events - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm Easton Meditation group	3 5:00 to 5:30 Silent Peace Vigil in front of the Courthouse each Thurs- day of the month	4 7:00 pm First Friday Youth Night	5
6 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	7	8 3:00 pm Member Services Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting	9 7:00 pm First session of "Building Your Own Theology" (Also meets on Wednesday the 23rd)	10 12:00 pm Women's Lunch	11 6:30 pm Friday Night Movie <i>The Twins</i>	12
13 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 12:00 pm Climate Change Dis- cussion	14 5:30 pm Religious Education Committee Meeting	15 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting	16 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm Easton Meditation group	17	18 7:00 pm Social Action Film at Third Haven	19 7:30 pm Swing Dance Lesson Night
20 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	21	22	23 10:30 am Social Action - Soup Kitchen at Asbury UMC 7:00 pm Social Action Committee Meeting	24 11:00 am Book Discussion Group 7:00 pm Women's Circle	25	26 9:00 to 11:30 Committee Coordination Meeting
27 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	28	29	30	31		

UUFE Contacts

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

President Dick Doughty,
410-673-7580

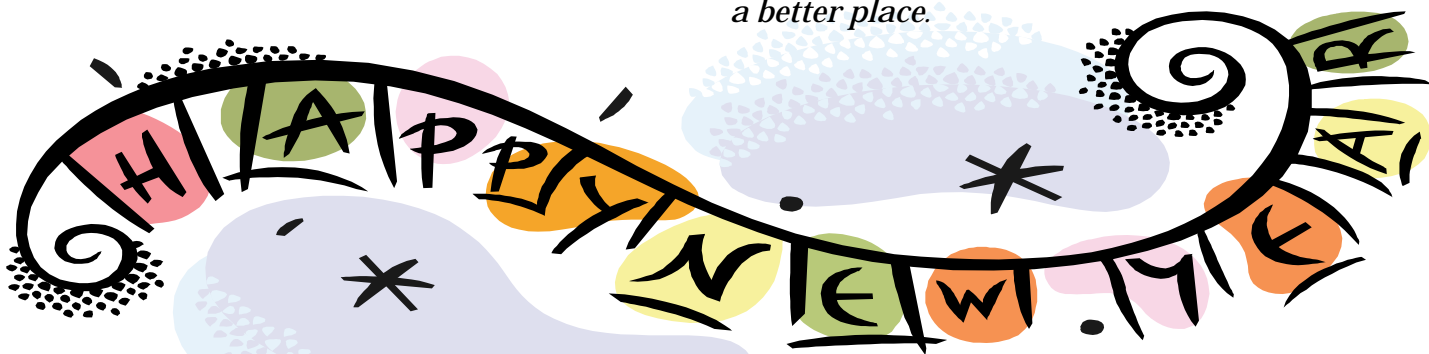
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Welcome !

If you're searching for a religious home that is guided by a quest for truth and meaning, not by a set creed or dogma, we invite you to discover Unitarian Universalism. We are a caring, open-minded religious community that encourages you to seek your own spiritual path.

Unitarian Universalist congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our communities—and the world—a better place.



www.uufeaston.org

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January 2008

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP AT
EASTON, MARYLAND
PO BOX 1162
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

