



Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

January



Sermons

The Star of the Magi, Then and Now

Jan. 4

Member and Children's R.E. Coordinator, Liz Hausburg retells the Epiphany story of the Magi, as a metaphor for her own life and story, with its unexpected and fulfilling directions.

Jan. 11, Our Ministry of Care

As we prepare to begin our outreach to the homeless with the new Talbot Inter-faith Shelter, Rev. Paula Maiorano, Ann Davis, and members of the Caring Committee focus on the spirituality of pastoral care for all our members and the ways UUFE is now organized to provide care.

Jan. 18, Problems Worthy of Attack

A look at how we all participate in a racist system, through the lens of a quote by Piet Hein "Problems worthy of attack, prove their might by fighting back." Rev. Paula Maiorano.

Jan. 25, How Were You Genderized?

Each of us learned to play a role in life with our gender as one of the casting directors. How does this impact on life experiences and our spirituality? Rev. Paula Maiorano explains.

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

Inside

Lifethemes	2
Religious Education	2
Search Committee Update	2
President's Corner	3
Member Services.....	3
Board News.....	4
Gatherings	4
Social Action	5
UUFE Contacts	6
Calendar	insert

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! AN ADULT GROUP STARTING JANUARY 21

STORYCATCHING

Convener: Paula Maiorano

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

Story is the narrative thread of life experience—not what literally happens but what we create from what happens. Create better lives by telling better stories – not changing past events, but changing the meaning of events into a supportive foundation for who we are now.

Required reading: *Storycatcher, Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story* by Christina Baldwin

Jan 21 How Story Connects Us	Feb 25 Creating a Story of the Self
Jan 28 The Art of Storycatching	Mar 4 How Story Heals Family Heritage
Feb 4 Why We Make Story	Mar 11 The Power of Story in Organizations
Feb 11 Story Wakes Up	Mar 18 How Story Shapes Our Lives
Feb 18 The Map of a Story-Based Life	Mar 25 Taking Our Places in the Order of Things

To sign up, call or e-mail the church office or complete the form in the office and place it in Paula's folder in the gray crate. Two free books are available - call Paula.

MISCELLANY

The calendar plus current and past UUFE Newsletters, can be viewed and printed from our web site www.uufeaston.org.

Several recent sermons are also posted at the UUFE Multilog blog <http://uufe-dialogue.blogspot.com>. Scroll down to read Paula Maiorano's December 14 sermon and other recent sermons of Rita Barker and Sue Lowery.

If you wish to have a copy of the UUFE Newsletter mailed to you, be sure to advise Edie Swallow. Her reminder explaining the reasons for this new procedure is at the bottom of page 5 of this Newsletter.

From Paula's Pen

Turn, Turn, Turn

Ecclasiastes tells us that there is a time for every season under the sun. January is the season of the sun's return, or more accurately of the turn of the earth's Northern Hemisphere towards the sun.

The Greek god, Janus, for whom the month January is named, is depicted with two faces, one turned back and the other forward.

The American Shaker tune "Tis A Gift to be Simple" concludes that "to turn, turn will be our delight, 'till by turning, turning we come 'round right."

The word turn has thirty-one definitions in the American Heritage Dictionary! Many relate to the idea of a new direction or focus, some about shaping and forming, others about changing and transforming.

My hope for all of us is that January 2009 be the season that we take a clear and careful look at what we want to change in our lifestyles for our personal well being, for our neighbors' well being, and for the well being of the earth.

May we be part of a new look forward to an earth transformed by our care.

May change begin with renewed care of self: body, mind, and spirit.

May we turn our backs on non-sustainable ways of life.

And may our sense of wholeness radiate a feeling of right and delight.

In peace, and with wishes for a happy and blessedly turning New Year,

Paula



Religious Education

Calendar Events

- January 4 Islam: Ashura
- January 11 Islam: Mauled al-Nabi (Mohammed's Birthday)
- January 18 Islam: Ramadan
- January 25 Chinese/Japanese Celebrations: Chinese New Year

Religious Education Donation Needs this Month: Drink boxes. **Youth First Friday** has been postponed until February 6.

Our Religious Education

In January we will complete our work with Islam with the study of three celebrations. The first is Ashura which celebrates two events: the day Nuh (Noah) left the ark for dry land and the day Musa (Moses) was saved from the Egyptians by Allah (God). Mauled al-Nabi (Mohammed's birthday celebration) marks the birth of the prophet who is considered the founder of Islam. We will end our study with Ramadan, a thirty day fast in which every adult Muslim forgoes food, water, and other edibles between sunrise and sunset. Each Sunday we will learn more about each celebration.

Our study of Chinese and Japanese worship practices begins on January 25 with the Chinese New Year. (The Chinese New Year actually begins on Monday January 26, so we'll get a head start!)

Something to Think About

Today we tell our children, "Every time you wish or want, you plant a seed."

We agree to do the following things with them:

- List clearly all our desires for the week,
- Release our desires for Nature to fulfill, and
- Be alert in the present moment, where all fulfillment occurs.

— from *The Seven Spiritual Laws for Parents* by Deepak Chopra.

See you on Sunday!

Liz Hausburg CRE



Search Committee Update

This past month, the Search Committee thoroughly reviewed ministerial records, carefully checked references, and conducted in-depth phone interviews with prospective ministers. We are pleased to have ministers interested in our congregation and who look interesting to us as well.

Over the next couple of months we will meet several of these ministers in person, hear them preach, and continue to explore whether there is a "match" of their ministry to our congregation. We look forward to learning more about each pre-candidate and ultimately selecting a final candidate to present to the congregation sometime this spring. We feel very good about the UUA process for calling a settled minister that we have followed for six months, are proud to be on schedule, and feel positive about the eventual outcome. As always, 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.

President's Corner

One important duty of the UUFE Board is to establish and promulgate policy to keep the Fellowship running smoothly. The Board attempts to periodically review and update existing policies and to define new policies when required. Copies of existing policies are stored in a notebook on the bookcase in the Administrative Office .

At the November Board meeting a new policy on External Signage was adopted:

External Signage on UUFE Grounds

The Board of Trustees and the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton would like to take advantage of its highly visible location along highway U.S. 50 to promote the principles and values of Unitarian Universalism.

The consensus of the Board is that signs placed for public view would be interpreted as the expression of the views of the UUFE as an entity. Further, any benefits or any adverse consequences and costs which arise could affect the UUFE as a whole.

In view of the foregoing, the following shall be the procedure for obtaining approval for external signs:

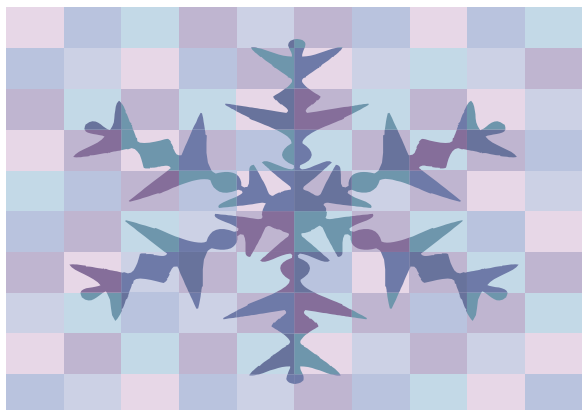
1. External signs which relate to (a) the principles or values of Unitarian Universalism, (b) social issues, or (c) which are proposed to be hung under our front yard identification sign, shall either be proposed by the Social Action Committee or referred to it for its consideration.

2. External signs approved by the Social Action Committee shall be referred to the Board, which shall approve the same unless it determines that they relate to a controversial social issue, in which case the Board shall refer their approval to the Congregation.

3. External signs which the Board has determined relate to controversial issues shall not be displayed in advance of the approval by the Congregation, either at its annual meeting or at a special meeting.

4. All external signs not covered by section 1 above must be approved by the Board.

Dick Doughty



Member Services

The next meeting of the committee is Wednesday, January 14 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Paul and Peggy Sharp as our newest members. They are well known to many of us because they have been attending since last February when they first discovered us at our Masquerade Ball. If you haven't already met Peggy and Paul I hope you will be able to do so soon. Their biography will be in a future newsletter.

Former Member

The estates of our former member Mary (Polly) Thompson and her brother Bill recently left a generous bequest to the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. On November 25, 2008 The Star Democrat reported that most of the bequest will go toward ESLC's Stewardship Endowment, which helps ESLC continue to ensure that conservation easement protections placed on land remain in place forever. Some of the funds will be matching funds that can be used to leverage County and Federal dollars to protect more farmland.

At the time of her death in May 2008, Polly also left a generous amount to UUFE. Many of us remember her and her interest in a large variety of causes that were dear to her heart.

Gail Woodall

Caring Circle News

As part of the Member Services team, Caring Circles is in the process of developing a directory of support services. This directory will be available for our minister, the Caring Circle Captains, and any member who is seeking a particular form of support. We hope to include information about social service agencies, referrals for physicians (pediatrics, internists, and specialists), psychological services, drug and alcohol treatment centers, etc. Our goal is to address all potential needs. Please submit information pertinent to this directory to Ann Davis. Thank you in advance.

Board News

1. **Rita Barker** has been appointed to the Nominating Committee, replacing Joanne Baynard, Vice-President of the Fellowship. UUFE By-Laws disallow Board members' participation on this Committee.

2. Peter Paul is looking at a **different insurance policy** for the Fellowship which will provide higher general coverage for our building and grounds. It will also include an endorsement that allows us to shelter the homeless as part of the Talbot Interfaith Shelter project this winter. Both of these benefits come with a comparable price to what we are currently paying.

3. The **Adult Enrichment Committee** will be chaired by Peggy and Paul Sharp. Work is progressing on the recruitment of sub-committee chairs.

4. An **Intent to Apply Form** for a Chalice Lighter's Grant to obtain funds for a half time Music Director has been submitted to the Director of Growth of the Joseph Priestly District. Completed applications are due February 1, 2009.

Jane Terebey

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Host travelers in your home to meet new friends and earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers 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. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit www.UUreHome.com or write to info@uurehome.com



Gatherings

First Friday Youth Night, Jan. has been cancelled due to the school vacation. We will resume on Friday Feb. 6.

Talbot Interfaith Shelter Training, Jan. 4: Volunteers will gather at 11:30 a.m. *See the article under Social Action on page 5 of this Newsletter for details.*

Women's Spirituality Circle, Tuesday, Jan. 6: Please note: The date of our regular 7 p.m. meeting has been changed to the **1st Tuesday** of each month. Tonight we will celebrate the return of the light!

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, Jan. 7 and 21: Join the Men's Lunch Group at the Airport Café at 11:30 for lunch on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of each month. No preparation or study is required and all men in our Fellowship and their friends are invited. It's been rumored that even Rev. Paula Maiorano may attend a lunch soon.

Women's Lunch, Thursday Jan. 8:

In December, 14 of us gathered at Suzanne Clarke's beautiful new home in St. Michaels, surrounded by water and marsh. We formed a circle, shared our plans for the holidays and agreed this was much better than a crowded restaurant.

In January we will meet at Ann Davis' house which is on the other side of the same cove but reached less directly. Directions: Upon entering St Michaels from Easton, take a right just past Graul's Market, onto Madison, then a quick left on Jefferson, and another quick right on Cleveland. Follow to Tenant Circle and go right around to Cove Rd. which will be on your right. Ann is at #606, second house from the river. Pack a sandwich or salad and our hostess will supply dessert and beverage. Please call Ann at 410 745-2461 if you plan to attend.

Friday Night Movies Resume! Jan 16: We'll begin the year with something different. *Marjane*, an animated film from France, nominated for an Academy Award in 2007. The young heroine just wants to be an ordinary kid, not easy to do in 1978 Iran. This profound film follows Marjane's childhood in a repressive society, her adolescence in France and return to Tehran as an adult. Based on the autobiographical novel of Marjane Satrapi, this film also features the vocal talents of Catherine Deneuve and Simon Abkarian. This month we'll meet on the **third Friday**, the Pot luck at 6:30 and movie at 7.

Book Group, Thursday, Jan. 22: We will resume our meetings at 11:30 am in the Archer Shee Room and will review *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. We will also select the books to read for the next 6 months. Please bring suggestions with you. Questions? Contact Joanie Baynard at 410-770-8277.

Dance Lessons, Saturday, Jan.31: Lessons will be offered from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. for a \$15 charge per person with light refreshments included. Come Saturday, Feb 21 and you'll be all ready and in shape for the Masquerade Ball!

For Gatherings out of town, check out Murray Grove's programs at www.murraygrove.org. A few.....

- Self-Care: The Language of the Soul, with Rev Nate Walker, February 27-March 1.
- Murray Grove Drum and Dance Retreat Weekend, July 14-16
- Homecoming 2009, September 26, 10-4,
- Or call 609-693-5558 for more information and literature.

Social Action

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS)

The holiday season is a time when our congregation comes together to give back to our community and those in need.

This is the first year that local faith-based communities in our county have joined together to provide temporary shelter for those without adequate housing. Six congregations will host the shelter in their buildings for one or two weeks in January and February, the two coldest months of the year. UUFE is scheduled to host up to five homeless individuals from January 11 through January 17. Lisa Menditch spearheaded UUFE's participation in the shelter project and continues to play a vital role in making this project a success.

Todd and Emily Cranwell have volunteered to be site coordinators to make sure that everything runs smoothly that week.

Thanks to all of you who have agreed to help. However, we need more volunteers to help as evening, overnight, and breakfast supervisors. A training session will be held on January 4th at 11:30 a.m. for all volunteers to review TIS policies and procedures for our week of hosting.

Please contact either of us if you are able to help.

Todd Cranwell (410) 490-1617 toddcranwell@hotmail.com
Emily Cranwell (518) 470-8609 emilycranwell@hotmail.com

Other Social Action News

Food Donation Opportunity

The primary food pantry at the Easton Neighborhood Service Center continues to need donations. In the past year, the growing number of families served each week by the pantry has doubled to 150. Several faith communities in Easton regularly collect non-perishables for this pantry. The box in our Fellowship entryway has a list of needed items. Please leave your donations in that box.

UUFE Volunteers

On Thanksgiving morning, for the second year, the Talbot Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger and the Eastern Star Masonic Lodge joined forces at Asbury United Methodist Church to provide dinners to more than 100 people. A total of nine faith groups participated. Volunteers from UUFE were Mary Young, Lisa Menditch, George McManus, Dan Higgins and Mike Dann (who was ably assisted by his grandchildren).

Interim Committee on Ministry Formed

Soon after Rev. Paula Moraisano was called to UUFE, an Interim Committee on Ministry was formed to assist in her transition to the ministerial duties of our fellowship. Now that Paula is settled in, the committee will "track the heartbeat of ministry" within our congregation. Committee members Nancy Dimond (Chair), Sue Loweree, Don Barker, and Rev. Moraisano meet regularly to discuss and assess how the professional ministry is meeting the needs of our members, how members take care of each other, and how our minister's goals and activities support the work of UUFE committees, and vice versa.

The Interim Committee on Ministry considers the work of all UUFE committees and special groups as focused ministries. It will seek to improve how they work together with our professional minister to fulfill the needs of our members and the larger community. The Committee will also study the work of Committees on Ministry in other congregations and submit proposals to the UUFE Board on how a permanent Committee might operate once a new minister is settled.

We welcome your ideas and feedback on how we might accomplish this.

Don Barker



Important Newsletter Delivery Reminder

If you have an e-mail address, you will receive a notice at the end of each month announcing when the Newsletter is available on our website www.uufeaston.org. We hope you will download it, print it, and hang it by the phone - maybe even read it! (Regarding the UUFE calendar, remember it must be downloaded separately.)

Newsletters will continue to be mailed to newcomers and those members and friends who do not have e-mail access. For those of you who do have e-mail access, but prefer to have a mailed copy please call the office and let us know.

Current copies will also be available in the foyer of the Fellowship for pick up.

We are following in the footsteps of the Friend's Meeting who have used this procedure for some time, quite successfully.

If you have any difficulty accessing the Newsletter on our web site, feel free to ask Edie Swallow, Frank Greenburg, or anyone in our office for assistance - or ask to have a copy mailed to you each month.

Edie Swallow

UUFE 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
UUFE Office	410 822-8103
Newsletter Editor	Frank Greenburg, 410 819-8810

(Deadline for the February UUFE Newsletter is January 15)

MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR NOW!

INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

If you are new to us, or are just curious and would like to know more about our UU Fellowship, please join us for the next Introduction to Unitarian Universalism class on Sunday, February 15 after service from 11:30 to 3:30.

To register, call the church office at 410 822-8103 or Rita Barker at 410 634-2399.

Lunch and childcare will be provided.

Look for a reminder in next month's newsletter.



www.ufeaston.org

6

January 2009

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

