

Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

July/August 2007

Sermons

Freedom Stories

July 1

Jim Richardson, Sandra Henry-Stocker, and Harry Shaw will share personal tales on various aspects of freedom. Lay leader: Janet Pfeffer

July 8, The Elevator Challenge. After entering an elevator in the Empire State Building, you strike up a conversation with another passenger and mention that you are a Unitarian Universalist. The passenger responds, "I have never heard of that religion. What exactly is it?" What do you say next? Dan Higgins, our Minister Emeritus, will address this challenge.

July 15, Blessings. The concept of a blessing is almost part of our culture, but it can cause problems for some UUs. John Turner will examine different aspects of the concept of "blessing" and how we can fit it into our everyday lives.

July 22, The Lord's Supper. Emerson rejected it, some denominations exclude people from it, while advocates like lesbian author Sara Miles claim that it can radically transform lives. Lay leader Dwayne Eutsey invites us to reconsider—and reexperience—the significance of communion in our lives.

July 29, Inspired by Portland. Jean Rhian, Jerry Fairbanks, and Dave Manning will share experiences and ideas from their attendance at the UUA's General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. The theme for this stimulating continental gathering is Choices That Matter, focusing on our mission as a faith community.

August 5, Other People's Children: Why Should We Care? Many of us have finished raising our own children. Why should we get involved with other people's kids? Who wants to be a nosy neighbor or an evil stepmother anyhow? But what does our spiritual commitment to community require? Beth Hansen will speak on these questions.

(Continued on Page 2)

Read the weekly sermons and continue our after-sermon multilogues at <http://uufe-dialogue.blogspot.com>

Service and Sunday School at our NEW Fellowship Building !

Swallows Annual Summer Picnic

Chan and Edie invite you and your guests for an afternoon of boating, games, eating, and just sitting in the shade taking in the sights of the harbor. Bring the family and a dish to share, maybe something to grill, and a lawn chair if you can. We'll provide drinks and utensils. See the bottom of page 2 for directions to 605 Radcliffe Ave., St. Michaels.

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Minister's Office Hours

Jim Bank is in the church office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from about 9:00 a.m. until noon. On Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays he is in the office or working from home. Because some meetings take him away from the office, it is best to call ahead and make an appointment. His cell phone is 410-253-8881 and you may call him any day. His email address is jmbatmd@aol.com.

Lend me your ear.



Sermons

Continued from Page 1

August 12, Off With Their Heads!

In gardening, "dead heading" refers to the act of pinching off dead blooms from the plant, allowing it to direct its energy toward making new flowers. The need to "dead head" in human life takes courage, wisdom, and sacrifice. Sue Loweree will explore the complexities and power of letting go.

August 19, A Summer Story. Jim Bank continues his tradition of presenting a story for one of our summer sermon times. Whether a story of his own or one he borrows, this sharing has been a special part of our summer programs.

August 26, A Summer Sermon from History. Jim Bank will use this Sunday to deliver a significant sermon from our Unitarian Universalist past.

Ministerial Thoughts

Woodpecker:

Some years ago as I was walking my dog Ludo, I crossed paths with a pileated woodpecker. Smaller than the ivory billed that seems to have returned from extinction recently, the pileated woodpecker is a close cousin in looks. About the only major differences beside size are its black wings when resting and the amount of whiteness when in flight. - that and the fact that the ivory billed female doesn't have a red crest and the pileated bill isn't quite as white. There was the pileated picking its way through some rotting wood in front of the home where Dana and Mary Lou Keller used to live.

I stopped and watched a moment as the bird flitted from place to place. I'd never expected to see it in my lifetime, but there it was. Ludo was cooperative - possibly because he didn't see what I was looking at. Whatever. He settled beside me and let me look.

And then the moment was over. The bird flew, and we went on our way "around the block."

That was two or three years ago. Though I've seen plenty of its smaller cousins, I haven't seen the bird again. But whenever I hear the throb of a beak, digging into deadwood near my home, I always try to locate the source point and scan the area in hopes of seeing that big bird once more.

Perhaps one day before our house sells and I move on, it will return to view. Perhaps it won't.

Nevertheless I am of mixed mind, content at having seen a pileated woodpecker at least once while scanning the trees in hopes of seeing another.

Have a good summer - whether or not you spend it looking for birds !

See you at the Fellowship on Sunday Mornings or here and there about town !

Jim Bank



Directions to Swallow's Annual Summer Picnic

On entering St. Michaels from Easton, turn right onto E. Chew and go to the far end. We sit diagonally on your left at the T with Radcliffe. Please carpool when practical and park well off the edge of the road. Call us for information (410-745-5170). Sorry, no rain date.

President's Corner

The Future Is in *Our* Hands!

I am honored to have been elected President of the Fellowship and will do everything within my power to help us reenergize after a year of disruption due to the building project. Despite this disruption, our membership continues to be dedicated to our mission as well as supportive of one another. It sure was a good feeling to see everyone back together in our new meeting room in June!

It has been our dream for a number of years to increase membership. We now are well positioned with adequate facilities to make this dream come true. New members will ease the financial burden of the enlarged building and will provide additional persons to lead and serve on our active committees that provide the essential programs that we all value. This summer, the Board of Trustees and committee leaders will exchange ideas about how we can invigorate our programs and mission not only in the Fellowship, but also within the nearby community.

One thing that has really impressed me about UUFE is the degree of dedication that members exhibit when it comes to the Fellowship. Many are willing to share freely of their personal talents year after year. This makes for a strong and lasting organization. This year especially we are in need of more volunteers to staff and lead our committees. These assignments typically last for 1 year, and there is no pressure if you wish to make a change. If you would like to explore opportunities to serve, feel free to contact me or any of the committee chairs.

It often has been said that Unitarian Universalists could be more effective in publicizing what our religion offers. I share this opinion and believe that we should make a special effort to share what we value in our Fellowship. Lack of any specific dogma and a caring community top my list of valued characteristics.

I am excited about the possibilities for our Fellowship during the next 12 months. We can be very proud of what we have accomplished in the past few years. It is our turn to blossom and grow. Let's make the most of it!

Dick Doughty

Open House and Dessert Buffet **July 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

As a thank you to the B'nai Israel Congregation and the Third Haven Friends Meeting, who shared their facilities with us during this past year, we will be hosting an Open House for members of these congregations to visit our new facility and enjoy dessert.

All UUFE members are also invited. If you plan to attend, please bring a treat for the dessert buffet table.

If you have questions or would like to help out, please call Liz McGrory (410-924-6245).

We look forward to seeing you!

Jean Rhian
and *Liz McGrory*
Hostesses

Many Hands Make Light Work

A big THANK YOU! to the following individuals who contributed in various ways to the success of our move back home:

Tom Anovick · Dick Doughty · Liz McGrory · Jake Jacobs · Peter Paul · Eric Heath · Jerry Fairbanks · Jim Bank · Jack Dempsey · Nancy Orr · Barbara Doughty · Edie Swallow · Jean Rhian · Gail Woodall · Patty Rubin · Sandra Henry-Stocker · Colleen Ronning · Liz Hausburg · Nancy Dimond · Amy Eutsey · Jim Richardson · Don Barker · Mary Young · Lois Greenburg · Frank Greenburg · Beth Hansen · Eric Stocker · George McManus

Special thanks to Ann Williams, Arnold and Karen Smith, John and Martha Merz, and Edie Swallow who donated furniture for our lovely new space.

We apologize to anyone whose name we have failed to include here. If we forgot you, please contact Frank Greenburg (410 819-8810 so that we can say "Thanks!" to you in the next *Newsletter*.

Thoughts for All Ages

Let Us Show You How To Teach Our Kids!

The Children's Religious Education Committee is sponsoring a teacher training for anyone interested in being a teacher for the fall, winter, and spring sessions at the UUFE. The training will be *Friday, August 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.* Liz Hausburg, Coordinator of Religious Education, will be the facilitator. The agenda for the training is tentatively set as follows:

- Curriculum
- Expectations in and out of the classroom
- Activities (how to determine what is age appropriate)
- Lesson template
- Fall, winter, and spring schedules

Please feel free to contact Liz Hausburg (ehausburg@yahoo.com) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

HELP WANTED

A fulfilling UUFE service

We will be serving BBQ with Rick's BBQ on wheels on Joy 1, with BBQ and behind on Joy 15: more dates to follow. We need at least 6 people to help for 3 to 4 hours. Immediately after the service. Please email Tom Anogick at f_anovicick@hotmail.com or call 410 46301053 (cell) or 410 822-4980. An EOE

Pay-none
Benefits - heavenly

Gatherings

Men's Lunch Bunch, Wednesday, July 4 & 18, Aug. 1, 15, & 29: Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Café.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, July 12 & Aug. 9, Noon: We'll return to the Masthead at Pier Street in Oxford. It's a casual place right out on the water. No need for reservations, so just come as you can, informal please. Call Edie Swallow (410-745-5170) if you have questions.

Book Discussion Group, Thursday, July 26 & Aug. 23: Bring a brown bag lunch to the Fellowship at 11 a.m. and share these very informal discussions of our summer readings. We'll have cold drinks and cookies available. Then in September we will gather to discuss *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, the new book by Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*. (You might be able to borrow a copy at one of the meetings.) Call Joanne Baynard (410-770-8277) for more information.

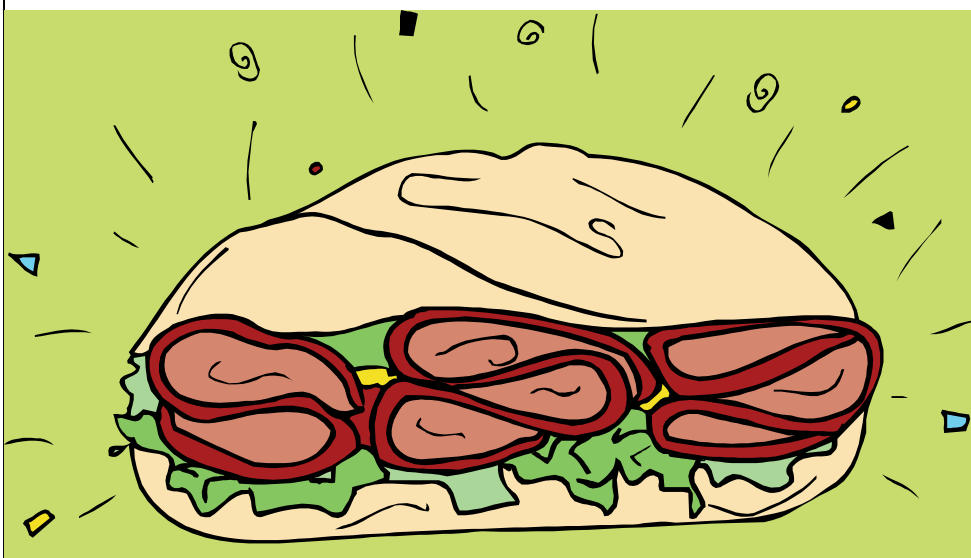
Dinner & Movie Night

Friday, July 13, "Bobby" (R): The lives of 22 strangers intersect at Los Angeles's Ambassador Hotel on June 6, 1968, a day that culminated in the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy (Dave Fraunces). The impressive ensemble cast includes Helen Hunt, Anthony Hopkins, Demi Moore, Sharon Stone, William H. Macy, Martin Sheen, Harry Belafonte, Helen Hunt, Elijah Wood, Lindsay Lohan, Joshua Jackson and Christian Slater. Emilio Estevez writes, directs, and co-stars.

Friday, August 10, "Freedom Writers" (PG13): Hilary Swank stars as a young teacher who inspires her at-risk students in this moving drama based on true events. Erin Gruwell (Swank) assigns her class an ambitious project: While studying such works as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the kids keep journals about their troubled lives, applying history's lessons to break the cycle of violence and despair that threatens their futures. Scott Glenn, Imelda Staunton, and Patrick Dempsey co-star.

Dinner is potluck; showtime is 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship.

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Gatherings

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Drumming Circle, Friday, July 20 & Aug. 24: Come gather around the fire circle behind the Fellowship building at 7 p.m. for an evening of creating rhythm. No experience is necessary, all are welcome. Bring your own drum or use one of ours.

Women's Spirituality Circle, Thursday, July 26 & Aug. 23: All women are invited to come together at 7 p.m. to honor the female divinity in this monthly circle at the Fellowship.

Fourth Friday Potluck, July 27: Join us at 6 p.m. for this intergenerational no fuss casual event. Bring a dish, your kids, and a friend or two. We will have board games and a child-friendly video available if the kids become tired of adult conversation. If you can't make it by 6 p.m., come later. We always have an abundance of food. *Note:* We will not hold our Fourth Friday potluck in August in deference to the annual picnic at the Swallow's home in St. Michaels. This event has become a favorite over the years. See page 1 for more information about Swallow's picnic.

Member News

Welcoming Our Community to UUFE

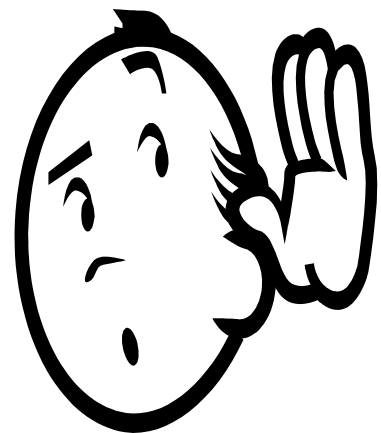
Now that we are in our beautiful and spacious new building and have moved to a morning worship service, we are seeing many of our members and friends returning for services. We hope that you also will invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers to come and experience our new space. Invite them to a Sunday morning service or to one of our many planned weekday and weeknight activities. All of our activities and educational offerings are open to anyone who is interested. Read through the *Newsletter* for program dates, times, and descriptions and check the calendar insert. If you have any questions, please call the church office (410-822-8103) or the contact person listed for the event. If you are looking for an activity or interest group and do not see anything that matches your need, contact the Board President, Dick Doughty, and offer your suggestion.

Gail Woodall
Chair, Membership Committee

Music Notes

Meeting Room Acoustic Evaluation

At the June Board meeting, approval was given to proceed with an acoustic evaluation of the new meeting room. The meeting room has some sound reverberation that can be annoying to some people. Neil Thompson Shade, an acoustician with 22 years experience as a consultant and a Johns Hopkins faculty member, has been contacted for assistance. Neil plans to complete a computer acoustical simulation of the room to determine what corrective actions may be taken. Cost will be a major factor in deciding what specific action to take. Several months may be required to complete the evaluation and make a decision about the corrective action.



Social Action

Gifts From the Garden

Please remember the needy in our community this summer by bringing in extra produce from your garden or fresh produce that you purchase at the market. There is a box under the Social Action table in the entry hall for this purpose. Your donations brought in on Sundays will be delivered the next day to the Neighborhood Service Center for distribution.

Fair Trade Coffee Is Back

The Social Action Committee will be selling Fair Trade coffee, beginning in July. Coffee will be on the Social Action table in the entry hall. Cost is \$7 per package, and a box will be placed on the table for payment. Any profit will go toward community social action programs.

Recent Allocations

The Social Action Committee has voted to donate \$250 to Talbot Habitat for Humanity and \$250 to the UU Service Committee.

Collection of Items for Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

As you travel this summer, save the sample personal care items (e.g., shampoo, lotions) that you find in your hotel rooms for our collection to be given to the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence. Used cell phones also would be appreciated. Place any items in the plastic box labeled "Mid-Shore Council" that you will find under the Social Action table on the left side of the foyer.

Board News

Building Oversight Committee Disbanded

The Building Oversight Committee met for a final time on June 4. It reported feeling very pleased with our architect Bruce Harrington's work. During the final meeting, Nancy Orr was authorized to purchase 20 more folding chairs to augment our present supply of 95. She still has \$2,900 in her capital budget account for furnishings. Dick Doughty was authorized to retain \$5,000 from our last payment to our contractor for 20 minor punch list items and to withhold \$2,000 from the capital account for possible new direct-cost items, one of which was the \$1,000 cost of employing an acoustical consultant, Neil Thompson Shade, to conduct a preliminary computer study of the worship room to determine how reverberations might be reduced. The Board considered various items in connection with our moving in, including the need for members of the congregation to be "closers" for the purpose of locking the building after functions.

Dessert Party

The Board decided to invite the members of the B'nai Israel Temple and Third Haven Friends congregations to a dessert party to be held between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. on Monday, July 16, in appreciation for their accommodating us during the construction of our building.

Guest Speaker for Building Dedication

UUA Moderator Ginny Coulter has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the formal dedication of our new building, which will be held on October 7, 2007.

Power Church Software Upgrade

The Board gratefully accepted Dick Doughty's gift of \$145 for the purchase of new Power Church software.

In Honor of Past Presidents

The Board authorized the purchase of a plaque that will show the names and service dates of all of our past presidents.

Furnishing Our New Home

We are discovering what many new homeowners know, that it takes awhile to put everything in order and see how it all fits. Then the wish list begins to grow, along with the realization that the budget will not stretch to cover everything our hearts desire. Decisions on furnishings are being made in partnership with those responsible for the various programs and functions of the Fellowship: Membership, Office, Religious Education, Social Concerns, Worship, Finance, Board, and so forth. We hope that our many voices and choices are creating welcoming, harmonious, and functional spaces.

Our most striking addition is the new birch and cherry pulpit, designed and created just for our space as a generous gift from its maker, Dr. John Roberts. Dr. Roberts is an old friend of Jean Rhian and Jerry Fairbanks from the UU Church in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Thanks to Jean and Jerry who carried it back from Michigan in a large borrowed van.

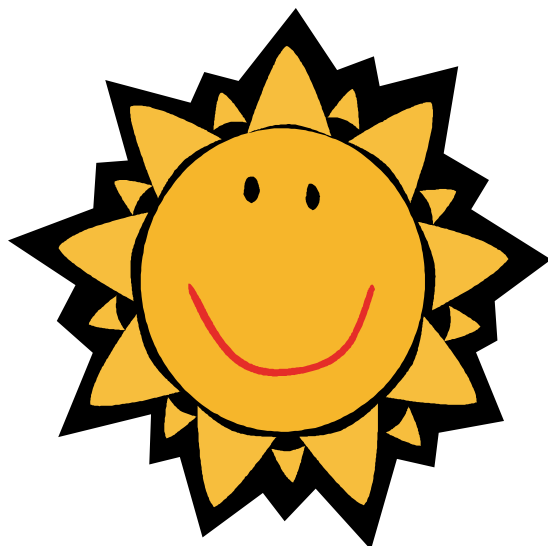
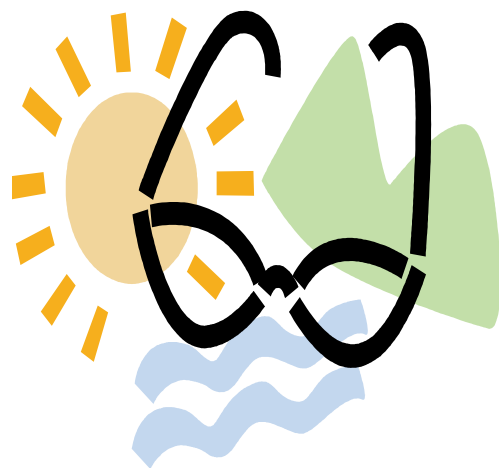
Among our purchases, admire the spiffy new bookcases in our administrative and minister's offices. The handsome vertical window blinds in the Archer-Shee Room provide a necessary screen from the western sun. New bathroom vanities and a cabinet absorbed a bit more of our furnishings budget. Funds are set aside for our Religious Education spaces, and those needs currently are being investigated by our RE Coordinator and Committee. We also are researching attractive and affordable solutions for display space throughout the building, with cork strips or bulletin boards. More folding chairs are being purchased to increase our seating capacity. We hope to have all of these purchases in place by fall, or sooner.

Thanks to all who answered the call and donated office furniture and to the Merzes for a lovely Membership table in the foyer. As things fall into place, we continue to work on the finishing touches, rearranging, hanging pictures, discovering what we have forgotten, such as an umbrella stand. Auction or yard sale find, anyone?

Nancy Orr
Chair, Aesthetics and Furnishings Committee

Entry to Our New Building

The office will be staffed from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on weekdays throughout the summer, and you can enter through the office door. If you need entry at other times, you must use the lockbox on the front door. A list of those with necessary access is kept by the office staff. Call the Fellowship office (410-822-8103) to get your name on the list of people allowed access to the lockbox.



UUFE Contacts

Minister Rev. James Bank, 410-770-9772
President Dick Doughty, 410-673-7580
R E Coordinator Elizabeth Hausburg, 410-476-4774
Minister Emeritus Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., DMin, 410-745-3462
Newsletter Editor Frank Greenburg, 410-819-8810
frankg@goeaston.net

Many thanks to the Folding and Stamping Crew. We can't get the Newsletter to you without them!

The deadline for the September *Newsletter* is August 15.

We Want To Hear From You!

UUFE is always interested in hearing from members and friends about new ideas for small group activities. Contact President Dick Doughty, and let's make your ideas a reality!

Unitarian Universalist Principles

U*nitarian 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. These are the principles that we share.

- 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