

Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

June 2008

Sermons

A Theology of Sailing?

June 1

Is there a relationship between theology and sailing? Rev. Dan Higgins will explore that question in today's sermon.

June 8, Religious Education Sunday

Liz Hausburg will review this past year's church school, give us a preview of next year's curriculum and talk about children and spirituality. Liz will also recognize the services of those who worked with our children this year.

June 15, How to Want What You Have

Our lives are often filled with longing for more than we have - more secure finances, more fashionable clothes, a faster, more up-to-date computer or cell phone or TV. We have non-material longings as well - be it for thinner thighs, better behaved kids, or more time. Whatever we have, we can always want something more, something better. The Rev. Melora Lynngood, who led a service for us last December, will give us insight into how to stop that cycle, in a sermon based on a book of the same title.

June 22, Doors

Doors play a big part in our lives. We shut doors to shut others out (or to shut ourselves in?) If we have an Open Door policy, we invite others in. Many of life's passages involve the opening and shutting of doors. John Turner explores these passages (along with his current passage) to see how to know which doors to shut and which doors to open.

June 29, The Gospel According To Peanuts

Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, taught an adult Sunday School class for years in his home church. He wrote "Humor which does not say anything is worthless humor." Rev. Dan Higgins leads today's service.

Annual Meeting Held on May 18, 2008

A quorum of 50% of eligible voting members was present and warm appreciation was expressed to all Board members and Committee Chairs who served during the year. In **Official Business**, several actions were approved unanimously:

- The proposed budget for FY 2008-2009 - totaling \$145,100
- By-laws changes to Article III, regarding Membership
- The slate of Officers, Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee

(continued p.3)

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

Meet Paula! On Page 4



Rev. Paula A. Maiorano
UUFU Interim Minister

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Daniel's Docket:

There are two experiences that bring people together, a common danger and a common devotion. A common danger forces people together. A common devotion draws people together.

We are members and friends of our religious community by choice. Nobody forced or forces us. The one thing that we have in common, or ought to have in common, is that we are drawn by a willingness and a desire to seek and to share meaning and purpose for our lives.

When we hold that in common we transcend our differences. It aids us in realizing that our differences contribute to our search for meaning. Understanding that means that we handle our differences and points of view creatively. I recall a remark that Red Skelton made years ago. "If two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary." Our differences are the grist from which we grind the meal of meaning. They contribute to our insights and our growth.

Each Sunday that we assemble for worship, attend various meetings, and gather for educational and social functions we witness a common devotion that validates our approach to religion and life.

Shalom.
dgh

(Editor's note: Be sure to see Dan's Annual Ministerial Report on page 5)



JPD Chalice Lighters – A Wonderful Opportunity!

Our Fellowship has been fortunate to receive four Joseph Priestley District Chalice Lighter grants in recent years to support the hiring of office staff and a full time minister, to help us pay for the building renovation, and to offset the increased cost of our building mortgage. This form of assistance from fellow UUs is encouraging and motivating to those who want to make Unitarian Universalism grow and be more visible in our communities.

The JPD Chalice Lighters program allows individuals to contribute small amounts to collectively make a significant investment in the growth and vitality of Unitarian Universalism. The JPD Growth and Extension Committee administers grants and concentrates its efforts on congregations, regardless of size, who have demonstrated an intention to grow and have a realistic long range plan in place.

A JPD Chalice Lighter pledges to respond with a contribution when the request letter, or "Call" arrives, three times a year. The Call announces that it is time to "Light the Chalice" somewhere in our district. Common grant requests include the need to call professional staff, acquire land or buildings, organize a new congregation and implement innovative growth efforts. Although individual contributions may be only \$20 per Call, when thousands contribute, the total is significant. Since 1987, JPD Chalice Lighters has awarded over \$1,500,000 in grants. Last year, \$20,000 grants were awarded to seven congregations. One hundred percent of a contribution is given to congregations to fund their expansion needs. The JPD Extension Committee budget covers any administrative expenses.

Using funds received from the latest Call, grants were awarded to two growing congregations: 1) A \$20,000 grant to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Southern Delaware in Lewes over three years for a part time music director. 2) A second grant of \$20,000 lump sum to the Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware to call a half-time minister in the fall of this year. A dedicated group plans to hold their first public worship and launch their Children's RE program.

About 40% of UUFE members have joined the Chalice Lighters program. If you would like to participate and add your voice to the chorus of UUs who support the growth of our liberal faith, an on-line application is available on the JPD webpage at <http://www.jpduua.org/pages/chalice-lighter-enrollment.php>.

Dick Doughty

Easton Pandemic Flu Disaster Drill June 18

Volunteers are needed to transport patients, serve food and drink, field telephones and act as hosts. If you can help, contact Gary Poole at 410-822-1000, Ext 5619 or email him at gpool@shorehealth.org.

Religious Education



Calendar Events

ES: Elementary school age children

MS: Upper elementary/middle-school age children

June 1	ES:	Continuing with the <i>Peace Quilt</i>
	MS:	Earth Awareness & Earth Interdependence
June 8	ES:	<i>From Wishing to Doing</i>
	MS:	This is RE Sunday. No class for the older children; they're involved in the service.
June 15		All classes celebrate our church school year together!
June 22		TBA

June Religious Education Donation Needs

There are no needs at this time. If you have items you wish to donate please contact Liz Hausburg, Nancy Dimond or Colleen Ronning.

A few Words from Religious Education

The elementary group will start the month by completing unit five with the Peace Quilt. The next week they will work on Unit Six, Acting for Peace and Fairness, and the one lesson that is in that unit titled "From Wishing to Doing". The children will mark the end of their program for the year and express wishes for peace and fairness with actions in their own lives.

The upper elementary/middle school age group will continue in unit 4, Peace and Justice with Our Earth. The children will discuss, discover, and appreciate the amazing variety that exists in the natural world. There is also a focus on the connections among living things on the planet and the concept of the interdependence of all life.

June 8th RE Sunday, we will show our appreciation of our teachers this school year. The upper elementary/middle school age children will be a part of this service. Classes for this age group will not be held.

June 15th we will have a celebration with a scavenger hunt and activities related to our studies this year. I cannot wait to see all the children on this fun action packed day!

REMINDER FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE - HELP NEEDED!

Beginning June 22nd and through August 17th the RE Committee will look for members of the congregation to volunteer to work with our children. Since summer enrollment is usually lower, we will have just one classroom. Those who volunteer will be responsible for creating a stand-alone activity that the children can learn something new....examples would include: outdoor cooperative/team building games, board games, nature walks, painting, drawing, clay sculpting, acting (plays), puppet shows, homemade bird feeders, etc. I think the children would enjoy any idea that draws on the unique creative ideas of our Fellowship and the children. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be on the RE bulletin board.

Thanks in advance for your help. See Liz Hausburg if you have any questions.

*Liz Hausburg
CRE*

Board News

May Meeting Minutes

1. The Board approved a contract with the Reverend Paula A. Maiorano to serve as our fulltime Interim Minister starting on or near August 1, 2008 and ending when a Called Minister begins service to the Fellowship. Reverend Maiorano's contract will not exceed 24 months. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Interim Minister Search Committee and their Chair Nancy Dimond, for the successful and timely completion of their mission.

2. The Board approved an official Newsletter Policy, proposed by Frank Greenburg, Newsletter editor.

3. Upon the request of Jean Rhian, member of the Ministerial Search Committee, the Board named Liz McGory and Peter Paul to serve on the Called Minister Negotiating Team.

4. The Board also endorsed the development of a foyer Display Plan. A schematic was presented to the Board, which will be further developed by Maggie Garey. The objective is to maintain displays in the Entry Foyer that are current, attractive, eye catching, and convey a sense of vitality regarding UUFE programs and activities.

Jane Terebey, Board Clerk

(Annual Meeting, continued)

The **Resolution in Opposition to Legalizing Slot Machines in Maryland** passed by a majority vote, with 8 votes opposed and 5 abstentions.

Member Input To Board. Jean Rhian requested that the Board increase their efforts and funding for music in the Worship Service.

Awards were presented

To **Nancy Orr** - The Chief Sage of Tastefulness and Spirituality
To **Sue Loweree** - The Queen Bee of Landscape and Flowers
To **Colleen Ronning** - The Supreme Energizer of Youth & Pecuniary Resources
To **Joanne Baynard** - The Organizer and Celebrant Extraordinaire

Jane Terebey

Member Services

The next meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

New Members

Seven new members have joined our congregation. In April, Dian and Bob Post signed our Membership book.

In May, Shari McCord, Elizabeth Benitz, Larry Sowa, Kirsten Schindler and Jamie Roveti joined us.

Dian and Bob's biographies are in this newsletter on page 7. The biographies of others will be in later Newsletter editions. We are happy to have all of you with us and look forward to introducing ourselves and getting to know you better.

Gail Woodall

New Member Ann Davis Cares

Driving members to medical appointments, cooking and delivering meals in times of crisis, providing emergency childcare, dog walking, house sitting, or just listening – these are some of the activities the members of a UUFE Caring Team have performed in the past.

The organization of these valuable services has been reformulated under the direction of one of our newest members, Ann Davis. Ann has graciously taken responsibility for organizing six geographical groups called "Caring Circles". Caring Circle Captains, designated by geographic areas, are:

Easton A – Joanie Baynard and George McManus

Easton B – Ellie Spurry

Bay 100-A – Sally Woodall and Ann Davis

Bay 100-B – Jim Richardson and Martha Hamlyn

Caroline and Queen Anne Counties – Rita Barker

Dorchester County – Ann Davis.

A training session for Captains will be held this summer to organize resources. With the help of Congregational surveys each Captain will know the names of UUFE members willing and able to minister to members having special needs.

Ann Davis

Social Action

The Social Action Committee has voted to participate in two Social Action Coalition projects.

1. Donating food for local distribution - The Maryland Food Bank has seen greater needs this year but has received fewer donations. Our donations of non-perishable food will be given to the local Neighborhood Services Center which depends, for the most part, on the Food Bank for distribution. The Committee has set a goal of 1,000 lbs. of food to be donated and will keep us informed of our progress.

2. Donating items for the Migrant Workers project - The summer Migrant Workers Project is in immediate need of the following items: toiletries (especially eye wash, shampoo and soap); size m/l long-sleeved shirts and tee shirts; size s/m sweat pants; shoes and boots, size 6-10; socks; straw hats; work gloves; towels, baby items; basketballs and soccer balls.

Marked boxes will be available in the church for both projects; placement of the boxes will be determined and announced at a later time.

In other news:

The Social Action Coalition has suspended the film series for the summer and will resume showing films on Friday, September 19.

Effective July 1, Sandra Henry-Stocker and Jim Richardson will Co-Chair the Social Action Committee.

Mary Young

Meet Paula

Our New Interim Minister

The Interim Ministerial Search Committee is pleased to announce that Rev. Paula A. Maiorano has agreed to serve as our interim minister starting August 1 this year.

Paula received her Master of Divinity degree from the Lancaster Theological Seminary in May 1996 and was ordained the same year. She has served as a half-time minister in Pottstown, PA, as a chaplain at the Unitarian Universalist House (an assisted living / long term care facility) and as a Joseph Priestley District New Congregation Organizer for the emerging UU congregation in Dover, DE. Earlier in her career, Paula started her own travel business and in 2006 created the non-profit *A Center for Relational Living*.

The Committee was impressed with Paula for a number of reasons: she has wonderful organizational skills, she's enthusiastic and she said she was looking for a congregation with a spirit of humor. We expect she will be a real asset to our congregation as we work through the process of calling a settled minister in the upcoming year.

If you have any questions, you may contact any of the following committee members: Nancy Dimond, Maggie Garey, Sue Loweree, Dave Manning, or Jim Richardson.

Nancy Dimond

Annual Ministerial Report

Since September of 2007 when Jim Bank resigned because of illness, I have been the part-time minister. I have viewed my ministry as keeping this liberal ship of Unitarian Universalism afloat until an interim minister arrives to assist the congregation in the calling of a settled minister.

My ministry has included the preparation and conducting of worship services, meetings with the Board of Trustees and committees, attending church functions, representing the congregation at various community activities, and being available for conversations and counseling. In July 2008 I will retire to the pews (folding chairs) and take my place as a member of the congregation. After the interim minister arrives I will be less visible so she will have the space needed to perform the important task of assisting the congregation in their search for a settled minister.

This is the second time that I have been the minister of this congregation. From 1987 to 1997 I was its first settled minister, also part-time. In the days, months, and years that lie ahead I wish us well as the UUFE ministry engages the mid-shore community with its message of hope here in the moral vineyard of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

After General MacArthur was relieved of command by President Harry Truman he addressed the joint session of Congress. He concluded his speech by citing a West Point ballad, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away." Maybe the same can be said of old preachers.

Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., D. Min.
Interim Minister



Clothing for the Hospital Bazaar Shop Needed

The cupboard is bare and it's time to clean out your closets! I will be happy to accept items on any Sunday or anytime at my home, 207 Wye Ave. Donate any clothing you no longer wear or want. I will also store winter items at my house to sell to the Bazaar in the Fall.

Joanie Baynard 410 770-8277

UUFE Photo Directory

If you have not been contacted yet to have your picture taken for the new Photo Directory, please sign the sheet in the foyer or contact Rita Barker at 410 634-2399 or rita78@comcast.net.

Or, if you are feeling photogenic Sunday during coffee hour, just grab Rita Barker or Emily Cranwell, or line up at the room off the foyer where the photos are being taken. If you prefer NOT having your photo in the directory, sign the "Camera Shy" sheet, also in the foyer.

Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesday, June 4 and 18. Breakfast orders at the Airport Cafe before 11:30, lunch orders after 11:30. Good food and conversation.

Easton Meditation Group, Wednesday June 4 and 18. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Beginners are welcome. The third Wednesday of each month includes a short dharma discourse or talk about meditation practice. There is no cost.

Women's Lunch, Thursday June 12, Noon

It's summer time! So we'll return to our favorite waterside venue at the Masthead, Pier Street restaurant in Oxford. It's a casual place and there is no need for reservations so just come as you can, informal, with sunglasses suggested. Call Edie Swallow at 410-745-5170 if you have questions or would like a ride.

Summer Solstice Dance Party June 21.

At the Swing Dance lesson you told us you wanted to do it again, so here's your opportunity. Come dance away the shortest night of the year at the Fellowship. A dance lesson will begin at 7 pm and the dancing will continue as long as you keep dancing. Bring your favorite dance CDs and some light refreshments to share. A \$5 donation to UUFE is requested but not required. For more information call Beth Hansen at 410-253-0214

The Book Group, Thursday, June 26. 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. A particular book has not been chosen for June. Please bring the book you are currently reading to share. **We will not meet in July or August but will resume meeting on September 25.**

The Friday Night Film gathering will resume in September.

Search Committee Update



The UUFE is embarking on a year-long process to seek and—we hope—find a new full-time minister to serve our Fellowship.

The process, developed and facilitated by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), is designed to help UU congregations and clergy find the best

ministerial fit possible, which is why the process is so drawn out and deliberate.

Spearheading the effort for our Fellowship is a Search Committee recently elected by congregational vote: Jean Rhian and Gail Woodall (Co-chairs), Tom Anovick (Treasurer/Budget), Laura Winne (Secretary), Nancy Orr, Juliet Smith, and Dwayne Eutsey.

In the short time since the committee first convened a couple months ago, we have accomplished quite a bit of preliminary work. For example, we met with a Ministerial Settlement Representative assigned from the Joseph Priestley District who will help guide the committee throughout the search process. Most recently, in May, we went on an overnight retreat together at Camp Pemcometh in Chestertown.

This team-building exercise introduced committee members to Judith Bauer, a wonderful UUA facilitator. We began the important tasks of developing a group identity, assigning roles, and exploring more deeply the extensive ministerial search process.

A crucial first step in the search process will be to gather information from the congregation to help develop a clear picture of who we are and what we're hoping for in ministerial leadership. Ultimately, the committee will use this information to introduce and promote the UUFE to prospective candidates.

The Search Committee looks forward to working closely with everyone in the Fellowship during this exciting phase for our community in the months ahead.

Dwayne Eutsey

Extended Capital Campaign Status as of May 14, 2008

Total Amount Pledged	\$237,000
Total amount yet to be received (16% of total pledges)	36,800
Note: The Campaign ends on April 2, 2009	
Capital checking account balance	<u>5,400</u>
Total	\$42,200
Talbot Bank line of credit balance	30,900
Member loan	45,000

When the remaining pledges are paid, we expect to have completely paid off the line of credit with Talbot Bank, and have a remaining balance on the member loan. The Finance Committee will be looking into options to deal with that remaining balance.

Jerry Fairbanks

UUFE Considers Starting Small Group Ministry

As our congregation continues to grow, it may become difficult for new and even longtime members to maintain a deep, personal connection to the fellowship's ministry. To help foster that connection among our members, the Board is considering implementing a Small Group Ministry (SGM) program at UUFE.

SGMs are designed to encourage spiritual growth in congregations and help develop relationships of substance and depth among participants. As the name implies, small groups of six to 10 people, led by trained lay facilitators, gather twice a month for serious listening and conversation. This group would also agree to work together as volunteers for a church or community project.

After attending a day-long SGM conference in March at Main Line Unitarian Church in Pennsylvania, Lisa Menditch, Debbie Easterling, and Dwayne Eutsey told the UUFE Board that they felt our Fellowship could benefit greatly by establishing an SGM program here in Easton.

However, we were cautioned that it will take a lot of time and commitment to begin such a program. The Board recommended that Lisa, Debbie, and Dwayne work with the Adult Education Committee and develop a survey that will help determine the level of interest among the congregation for an SGM program. Stay tuned for more details in future issues of the newsletter. To learn more about SGMs, visit the UU Small Group Ministry Network at www.smallgroupministry.net.

Dwayne Eutsey

Welcome!



New Member Biographies

Bob and Dian Post

An interesting convergence of forces led Bob and Dian to our Fellowship. Tom Anovik, George McManus, and Gail Woodall all played a part. Tom was doing work for them. George met Dian as she was volunteering at the Talbot County Free Library. Later, when Gail Woodall and her dog Keely were walking, she met the Posts and their basset hound, Arthur. After Bob and Dian attended a few services, they felt very comfortable and welcome. They were impressed with the number of young people in the congregation. In addition, they found they could identify with the expression of our beliefs. They were particularly struck by Dan Higgins's account of his personal Odyssey in one of his recent sermons. Not long afterwards, they signed the membership book.

In 1971 Bob and Dian moved to the Washington, D.C., area from California when Bob received a fellowship from the Smithsonian Institution to finish his doctoral dissertation. Later Bob became a curator at the National Museum of American History and editor of the quarterly journal *Technology and Culture*. Among the permanent exhibits for which he was responsible were *American Maritime Enterprise*, which opened in 1978, and *A Material World*, which opened in 1988.

In the early 1980s, Bob and Dian moved to East Boothbay, Maine. Bob kept up his contacts in Washington, and continued his writing and editing; Dian established her own company, *Post Scripts*, which produced monographs, academic journals as well as the publications for the Maine Maritime Museum. She also led aerobic exercise classes at the YMCA, bred bassets, and helped restore their 1879 sea-captain's house on the Damariscotta River.

They moved to Easton seven years ago. Dian enjoys working at the circulation desk of the library and Bob has discovered the joys of gardening. His fifteenth book, *Urban Mass Transit*, was published last year. They have a condo in Washington which serves as a base for summertime visits to the city's various attractions.

We are delighted to welcome the Posts into our membership and know they will find not only new friends among us, but also new paths to explore.

Jean Griffith



Save the Dates...

...For all these exciting Murray Grove programs coming up soon!

Seasons of Sage-ing, May 15-18 and November 6-9, 2008 – led by Rev. Patricia Hoertdoerfer
Explore the paradoxes of the seasons as reflected in the challenges and blessings of aging – celebrate the poetic beauty of your *one wild and precious life!*

Ways to the Spirit, July 11-13, 2008 – led by Rev. Karen Foley and Rev. Craig Hirshberg
A Weekend of Spiritual Practice for Unitarian Universalists:
prayer • meditation • art • music • movement • yoga • t'ai chi • labyrinth walking • silence • spiritual direction

1st Annual Community Drum Festival! August 15-17, 2008 – led by Tom Brown, Skip Leib, Amy Schindler and Maire Tashjian (ViRAGO), Lara Gonzalez and Yael Schacham (Marafanyi)
Join us for an exciting full-moon weekend filled with opportunities to express yourself creatively and spiritually through the magic of drumming and dance: ancient practices with roots in ritual, religion and celebration!

Homecoming 2008: A Mid-Atlantic Celebration, September 27, 2008, 10:00-4:00
A regional UU gathering to celebrate our roots, spirit and future.

Murray Grove is also available for congregational and family gatherings, pool parties, family reunions, etc.

Call 609-693-5558 or go to murraygrove.org for more information.

UUFE Contacts

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The deadline for the July/August *Newsletter* is June 15



www.ufeaston.org

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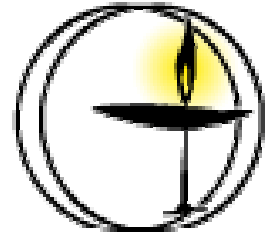
June 2008

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



June 2008



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	2 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Ministerial Search Committee Meeting	3	4 11:30 Men's Lunch 5:30 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Meditation Group	5 5:00-5:30pm Peace Vigil at Courthouse	6	7
8 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE 11:30 am Social Action Committee	9 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Ministerial Search Committee	10 3:00 pm Member Services Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting	11 5:30 pm Yoga	12 12:00 Women's Lunch 5:00-5:30pm Peace Vigil	13	14
15 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	16 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Ministerial Search Committee Meeting	17	18 11:30 Men's Lunch 5:30 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Meditation Group	19 5:00-5:30pm Peace Vigil	20	21 7:00 pm Summer Solstice Ritual and Dance Party
22 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	23 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Ministerial Search Committee Meeting	24	25 10:00 am Hunger Coali- tion Lunches 5:30 pm Yoga	26 11:00 am Book Group 5:00-5:30pm Peace Vigil 7:00 pm Women's Spirituality Circle	27	28
29 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	30 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Ministerial Search Committee Meeting					