

Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

May 2007

Sermons

Things We Cannot Tolerate

May 6

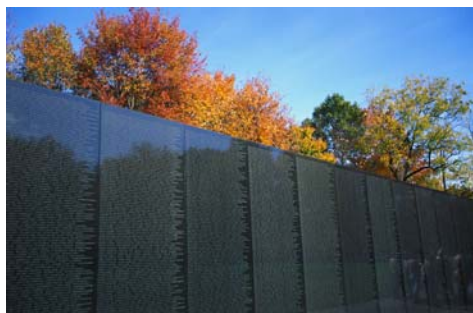
Last month during the multilogue on moving from tolerance to respect, the issue of things we cannot even tolerate was raised. This morning's sermon deals with the subject.

May 13, I Remember Her

On Mothers' Day, all of us have the opportunity to ponder our maternal origins and what they have meant to us individually and collectively. Come join in this special day.

May 20, This Sacred Ground

This Sunday is surely the day of our Annual Meeting when we set our plans for the coming year. But watch for a card in the mail, for it may well be our first Sunday in our refurbished building. If there is a delay, the sermon topic will probably change, too. The UUFE choir will perform this Sunday. Choir alumni are invited to join in the benediction, "Deep Peace."



All Come, All Come

Annual May Day Celebration

May 1, 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to gather in the yard of our very own building to dance around the Maypole and leap over the bonfire. We will use the same ritual celebration that we have used for the past 5 years.

In the words of a song by Gaia Consort:

Come all ye young maidens, come
all ye old sods/Bring your pimply
faced boyfriends and glowering
Dads/Bring your brothers and
sisters and grandparents too/
Your lunatic Aunty and drunk
Uncle Lou/There'll be bonfires
from Kalaloch to Portland tonight
To celebrate summer and sing out
the light/All come all come—all
come along

May 27, Much to Remember

Every year on Memorial Day we have much to remember, and this year is no different from any other. Come join with us on this important day.

Sunday Service and School, 3:00 p.m.

Third Haven Friends Meeting House

405 South Washington St.

Annual UUFE Meeting

May 20, After Service
Location TBA

Please make room in your schedule to attend.
A quorum is needed for important votes.

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

Minister's Office Hours

Tues. & Wed., 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.
Mon., Thurs., Fri. by appt.
410-822-8103 (Office)
410-770-9772 (Home)
410-253-8881 (Cell)
jmbatmd@aol.com
Appointments encouraged.

It's Been Worth It

It's been worth it. We may have a few difficult years financially, but it's been worth doing. People are going to start giving directions from his building. You know, "Go past the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and turn left a the next corner." People will just be drawn to the building itself.

Eric Stocker

Annual Uufe Service Auction a Smash!

We raised more than \$3,800 at our Tenth Annual Service Auction held on April 22 at the Friends Meeting House. Thanks to the *donors*, the *purchasers*, and the *dessert providers* and to *Patty Joiner* for dessert coordination, *Eric Stocker* for coffee and cleanup, and *Ann Williams* for opening the door. Special thanks to *Tom Anovick*, auctioneer extraordinaire, who kept us laughing as he manipulated the bids higher and higher!



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Ministerial Thoughts

Lights

Our Chalice has been returned to the front of our building—now placed above the entry way—and in the evenings, a timer turns on the lamps that light the building's front. They are lantern shaped and have a warm, welcoming glow to them. At dusk or later, when I am on my way home from this meeting or that, I pass our Fellowship and want to turn in simply because of the invitation made to all by these lights and our redesigned building.

I used to joke about how many cul-de-sac churches and fellowships there are in Unitarian Universalism—congregations that have built their edifices in out-of-the-way places that no one could easily find without a map. I remember going to preach in one of them, leaving home with time to spare but getting nervous before I got there because I had missed one of the four or five turns required to find the grounds. No one will have that problem here in Easton. Our Fellowship is positioned perfectly and calls out to everyone that we are here, a beacon of liberal faith in our community.

Eric Stocker was at there the other day, and as I've done with so many others, we went in and walked around together. The ceiling guys were putting in the tiles in the office area and the hallways. Kitchen gear was moving toward its final destination, where Tom Anovick is trimming up the counters and placing the sink and shelves and all the rest. Eric and I came back out and paused to look up at the structure once more, and Eric said, "It's been worth it. People will just be drawn to the building itself." That will be especially true in the evening with the lights that are a mark of beauty in their own right—the lights that beckon us and all to wonderful times of challenge and inspiration that will make us who we want to be.

See you at Third Haven on Sundays or at our offices in the Stewart Building downtown.

Jim Bank

President's Corner

Spring Is in the Air

Wow! What a busy time. We are hard at work on our budget for the upcoming year, the return to our building is imminent, and spring is busting out all over!

Our Annual Meeting is on May 20 this year. It will be immediately following our service. At this writing, I don't know where or when that service will be. It's possible that we will have returned to Rt. 50 and our beautiful land, or we could still be at the Friends. We will keep you posted for sure! Remember that we are a democratic Fellowship, and the Annual Meeting is our decision-making forum. Stay informed and come to vote!

An important lesson for me from my time as President of the Fellowship is seeing just how many people are needed to keep our community thriving. It's interesting. Even though our Fellowship is relatively small, the same variety of talents is necessary as in a larger organization. We need organizational skills,

physical labor, the artist's eye and hand, musicians of all sorts, builders, and typists, cooks, and cleaners. We need money, intellect, and just plain heart. You may say, "I'm out of time and energy." But another thing that I have learned is working together for a common cause gives back. We receive music, space, beauty, support, challenge, help, and love as we grow this community together.

And what do we as a community mean to the greater world? We make a difference in our own mid-Shore communities as we speak out for respect for all people, for understanding and tolerance, and for social justice. We speak for the right of people to define their own sublime philosophy and while doing so to be cherished with company and comfort along life's journey.

And so as we reach the end of "our time in the desert," and the end of this church calendar year, I hope that you will participate fully in our beloved community and give what you can with a glad heart. Share your time, money, talent, and love, knowing that the world will be a better place and that you will receive in kind.

Thank you for your love and support,
Jean Rhian

Gatherings

Men's Lunch Bunch, May 2, 16, & 30: Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Café.

Women's Lunch, May 10, Noon: We've enjoyed getting together in one another's home for a brown bag lunch. In May we'll meet on Jean Rhian's porch. She lives in the Easton Club, at 7607 Easton Club Drive. Just bring a sandwich or salad, and Jean will provide beverages and a dessert. Ask her for directions on a Sunday or simply turn into Clubhouse Drive, the first right off the Oxford Rd. from the Parkway, then left on Easton Club Drive. Her home is on the left, about 1/3 of a mile along. It is very helpful if you will let Jean know whether you can come (410-822-5807).

Dinner and a Movie Night, May 11, "The Painted Veil" (PG13). Shunned by a husband (Edward Norton) who's more interested in his research, the simpleminded Kitty Fane (Naomi Watts) embarks on a quest for life fulfillment. Along the way, she ignites a passionate affair with a dashing womanizer (Liev Schreiber) and travels with her husband to the Far East, where she turns her attention to fighting the cholera epidemic. Diana Rigg costars in this period drama based on the novel by W. Somerset Maugham. Dinner is potluck. *Showtime:* 6:30 p.m. at Third Haven

Book Discussion Group, May 24, 11 a.m.: Both women *and men* have gathered around the table at Joanne Baynard's house to talk about their recent reads. Joanie's home is 207 Wye Avenue, Easton (behind the hospital). We'll start our discussion at 11:00 and continue through lunch, so bring a sandwich. There will be coffee and hot water for tea. And do bring a title you think we might enjoy for a future group read.

Fourth Sunday Potluck, Cancelled. Due to the uncertainty surrounding our move back into our renovated space, we will not have a potluck gathering for the month of May. Stay tuned for information about the rescheduling of our popular monthly potlucks.

Calendar

Men's Lunch Bunch

Wed., May 2, 16, & 30, 11:30 a.m.

Women's Lunch

Thurs., Apr. 12, 12 p.m.

Dinner and a Movie Night

Fri., May 11, 6:30 p.m.

Book Discussion Group

Thurs., May 24, 11 a.m.

Fourth Sunday Potluck

Cancelled for May.

Women's Spirituality Circle

Tues., May 1, 7 p.m.

Choir Calendar

Thursday Rehearsals: 7–8:30 p.m. on May 3 & 10 at Third Haven; May 17 TBA.

Sunday rehearsal (and singing at service): May 20, 1 hour and 15 minutes before service.

UUFEE Yard Sale

May 26 Our New Building

Time for some spring cleaning! Start thinking of things that you can donate to this wonderful and fun fundraiser. The building has several items left over from the construction that may make a few DIY'ers very happy. Perhaps you have a few things that you would like to move out of storage. This year we will have plenty of storage areas to accept things a week or so in advance. Please call Tom Anovick (410-463-1053) for large item pickup. Call the UUFEE office for details about what and when things can be dropped off.

*Cherish Diversity and Celebrate
Our Oneness With All Humanity*

Annual Multicultural Festival

May 5, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Idlewild Park

This event is free and open to all! Enjoy games, cultural music and activities, face painting, and ethnic foods and beverages. What a great way to come together with others in the community! Volunteers are needed for the committee, with various opportunities to help. For more information, call 410-820-5692.

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

Personal Care Items Drive

Once again, the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence is accepting personal care items as donations to be used by women and children in their “safe houses.” Usually, leaving an abusive environment is done abruptly. Women arriving for shelter have seldom had the luxury of being able to bring all the necessities of daily life. Once we get settled into our new space and find an appropriate location for a collection box, we will restart our regular delivery to the Mid-Shore Council’s Easton office. In the meantime, as you travel this spring and summer please bring home the small samples of shampoo, hand lotion, and so forth that you find in most hotel rooms. Check the June or July/August *Newsletter* for information about where to deposit your items.

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Mid-Age Children’s Gathering

Friday, May 4

The UUFE mid-age children’s gathering will be meeting the evening of Friday, May 4, for either swimming at the Talbot County YMCA or movies in Easton. Details are the same: The event is open to UUFE children and their friends, ages 10 to 15, as well as UUFE folk who enjoy young company. Siblings younger than 10 are welcome with a parent. Cost is \$5/age-range participant for the activity and light supper; cost for others will depend on the activity, but is usually in the \$7–10 range. Please contact Eric or Patty Rubin with questions or interest.

Social Action

Crop Walk Needs Local New Coordinator

The UUFE has helped with the annual Crop Walk for the past several years. Jody Gunn, minister at the Church of the Brethren, has been coordinating this project but is no longer able to serve in this role. She has requested that members of the Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger ask their respective congregations for a volunteer who would be willing to take on this responsibility. If interested, please contact Terry Stackpole (410-770-5742).

Drivers Needed

There is still a need for volunteers to provide transportation for people who need help with getting to medical appointments, grocery stores, food pantries, and so forth. Anyone interested in helping should call Catherine Murphy at Christ Church Episcopal Church.

Fair Trade Coffee Update

Mary Young will no longer take individual orders for Fair Trade coffee. After our return to our building, the Committee hopes to provide a table with the coffee available for sale.

Peace to Darfur Now

The Social Action Committee is sending a letter from the Committee to the President and the United Nations Secretary General regarding the need for action to bring peace to the people of Darfur.

Adult Religious Education

May Day Celebration

May 1

Join us behind our newly refurbished building as we draw a holy circle, jump the fire, and dance around the May pole. Bring the kids and celebrate this high religious holiday for our earth-centered followers. Leader: Beth Hansen

Gratitude

After 7 years of much musical fun and work, I am stepping back from directing the UUFE choir and administering the music program after my contracts end in mid-June. It has been a privilege to begin a program that encourages congregational, choral, and instrumental musical participation as an integral part of worship, of building community, and of reaching out to others. It has been an exhilarating opportunity to use so much of myself—mind and body, song and laughter, heart and soul—and to have it echoed back, amplified by your resonant selves. I am so very grateful for your thoughtful and heartfelt responses and support over the years. I fervently hope for the continued growth of music's special ministry at UUFE, even in the face of challenging allocation of congregational resources. Please make your needs and hopes known to Fellowship leaders! If you weren't able to attend the April 22 meeting on future directions for the UUFE music program, please contact Sandra Henry-Stocker or Jean Rhian.

Patty Rubin

Deep Peace

The choir's last singing in this program year will be May 20. It has become a tradition to sing for this last gathering, as benediction, "Deep Peace," Bill Douglas's arrangement of the Gaelic blessing. All choirfolk who have sung this piece in the past are invited to join us in singing this beautiful song. Please join us for a short rehearsal 30 minutes before start of service, whenever and wherever service happens to be.

Thanks!

UUFE has been blessed with the musical gifts of many in this past year:

- Pianist and accompanist Dorothy Lewis: It has been a joy to UU-baptize you and to have been graced with your lovely and varied music. You have made possible our first year of no recorded music. We ever so reluctantly yield you back to Christ Church who has prior claims on your Sunday mornings.
- The UUFE choir stalwarts, guests, and when-they-cans: *Denise Stahre, Dave Moore, Debra Hathaway, Eric Rubin, Frances Forster, Eric Heath, Leah Sindermann, Anne Johnsen, Rene Bond, Sandra Henry-Stocker, Steve Strobeck, Nina Wahl, Eric Stocker, John Turner, Jean Rhian and sister Gail, Melanie Hampton, and Juliet Smith.* Specially thanks to *Mary Young* for being our music librarian and security detail (she's wicked with a pound of organic coffee). There is so much to say about this gang...later!

(Continued, p. 6)



Outdoor Club

Bay Bridge Walk Sunday, May 6, 8 a.m.

The first outing of the UUFE Outdoor Club will be to the Bay Bridge Walk. (We will be done in plenty of time to get to church at 3 p.m.). Please meet at the L. L. Bean outlet in Queens-town promptly at 8 a.m., so we can carpool to the bridge. For those who wish, we can have lunch together after the walk. There are some restrictions concerning the walk: See the Web page at www.emdot.com/News/2007/March%202007/Bay%20Bridge%20Walk.htm.

John Turner

Route 50 Barbeque

Tom Anovick is looking for volunteers to staff an ongoing BBQ on Sundays after service at our new location. We have a very captive clientele parked out there on Rt. 50 for several hours, and providing food, kid games, stretch breaks, and potties could be a great way to raise money. Please contact Tom (410-463-1053; t_anovick@hotmail.com).

WANTED Used Furniture for Our New Spaces

There is an immediate need for a small desk or two for our "shared, back office." We will take most anything that might accommodate a computer and printer. Also a large table for spreading out our work. A desk chair would be nice, too, or even a file cabinet. Call Edie Swallow (410-745-5170) if you have something in mind.

Capital Growth Fund

I would like to thank everyone who has completely paid their pledge to the Capital Campaign. If you have seen our beautiful building lately, you are undoubtedly happy and proud for our new facility. The end of this month will be the end of our Capital Campaign. If you have not completed your pledge, please do so before the end of this month so we can close out our records and move on. We will need every dollar of the money pledged for this building project to be successful.

Jerry Fairbanks
Capital Fund Director

(Music Notes, continued)

- Guest accompanists: *John Turner*, volunteer, and *Sharon Wright* (and all those graciously answering the coming-soon call to play this summer).
- More musical guests: From the UUCR (Chestertown), UUPS (Salisbury), and UUCA (Annapolis) choirs. Thanks also for *Sue Loweree's* recorder contribution and the guitar and vocal stylings of *Tom Egbert!*
- Roadies: The keyboard et al. set-up chief, *Dave Moore*, and crew regulars *Dwayne Eutsey* and *Jack Dempsey*.
- Support: From the UUFE music committee, *Sandra Henry-Stocker* (Chair) and *Dave Moore* and from *Betsy Jo Angebrannt*, music director at UUCA, and retired UUMN mentor.

Member News

Welcoming Our Community to UUFE

Last month, I wrote about the concept of *radical hospitality*. As we prepare to move back into our refurbished building, we are increasingly aware that we will soon have a beautiful physical space to which we can invite our friends, family, and acquaintances. But we also know that a building alone does not create the warmth that will draw people to explore what we might have to offer them religiously and theologically. It will continue to be the members and friends of UUFE who communicate openness to diversity and the genuine interest in knowing “the stranger among us” that will swell our ranks with new and stimulating seekers. I continue to observe each Sunday what it truly means to be a “Welcoming Congregation”—in the broadest sense of those words.

Gail Woodall
Chair, Membership Committee

Board Highlights

Building Progress Ahead of Schedule

The overall progress of the building construction is still ahead of schedule, with an anticipated completion sometime in May. Finished last month were the ceiling grid, the electrical work, the door hardware installation, and the air conditioning. The final landscaping work is under way. We presently have an \$19,560 overrun of direct costs, principally because of increased fire alarm requirements, an upgraded sound system, increased heating costs, and the prepayment of our mortgage recording and title charges. We also encountered a serious problem with respect to our northern egress onto Rt. 50. The state requires a culvert that is 4 in. above the level of the road, which is not how it is presently. Although the state has agreed that this unauthorized condition can be remedied by lowering the culvert, the solution also involves removing the existing ditch and replacing it with a new concrete one. The Board authorized the expenditure of an additional \$25,000 over our direct cost budget and a like sum over our contract budget to complete the building expansion. (*Note: After the meeting Dick Doughty obtained a bid quote of \$13,750 to fix the problem.*) *(Continued, p. 8)*

Committee on Ministry

Our UUFE Committee on Ministry has the challenging purpose of monitoring and helping to strengthen the effectiveness of the congregation's ministry. Understanding this rather ambiguous role requires an understanding of ministry as the broad work of the entire congregation—all that we do collectively in pursuit of our religious mission to our own membership and the wider community.

The role of this committee is not to be an “ombudsperson” or a go-between for sensitive information between members of the congregation and the minister, nor is it to supervise the minister. There is a unique covenant between a minister and a congregation that differs greatly from models of governance in other nonprofit or-

For All You Do, Thank You!

It's thank-you time again to some of the many people who pitch in with time and talents to keep UUFE the growing and thriving religious community that it is. Following are some of the folks who deserve a big thank-you for the work they have done recently:

- ❖ Tom Anovick for stepping in to cover for Dick while he was on vacation and for his work on the kitchen
- ❖ Sue Loweree for continued landscaping work
- ❖ Edie Swallow and Lois Greenburg for continued work as Financial Secretaries during this very busy time
- ❖ Jerry Fairbanks, Frank Greenburg, and Dick Doughty for wiring at the Fellowship
- ❖ Jim Richardson for our new sign on Route 50
- ❖ Don Barker for much work on the Budget
- ❖ Janet Pfeffer, Tom Anovick, and the Fund-Raising Committee for the fun Service Auction on April 20.

I'm sure I've missed some folks, and I apologize. There are so many contributions of time and talent. Check in again next month as we thank more of our special volunteers.



ganizations. A good definition of this difference is found in the UUA guide, *Assessing Our Leadership*, as follows: "A non-profit hires employees to do its bidding.... By contrast, a congregation calls a minister to be in a covenanted relationship with it, not to complete a list of specified tasks....Most of the minister's work is unseen and mysterious to most of the congregation. The priorities are anything but clear. Indeed, managing the complex priorities of ministry is one of the main professional challenges of a minister....Further, it is essential to congregational vitality that ministers be empowered to lead and challenge, rather than act as 'hirelings.'"

At UUFE, this relationship is defined in an annually reviewed "Letter of Agreement Regarding Ministry" and put into practice as the minister works with the Board, committees, and staff in setting goals and assessing progress. This same letter of agreement charges the Committee on Ministry with "conducting an overall assessment of the congregation and its ministry" every 3 to 5 years.

The Committee on Ministry currently is involved in refining survey questions for this assessment, closely following UUA recommendations. Conducting this congregational assessment next year, as we settle into our enlarged space, should help us to evaluate what we are doing and to become more aware of where we need to focus our attention. A good assessment process can be a very helpful tool for growth and give focus for our continued work together in our shared ministry.

Members of this committee are Frank Greenburg and Nancy Shaw (Co-Chairs) and Liz Hausburg, Dave Moore, and Nancy Orr. Call any member if you have questions.

Thoughts for All Ages

The Name Game

In April's Newsletter, I talked about reasons to name one of our rooms. This idea comes from an architectural consultant who we employed at our previous UU church. Here is a reprint of some of last month's article.

Spaces in our new building are noted on the architect's drawings with strictly functional designations, such as RE#1, administration, and so forth. In most cases, this has seemed sufficient in our discussions, but there is at least one notable exception to that. It is for the space identified today as RE#5. This space is unique, and it will not function as an ordinary classroom. It is the large room at the front of the Fellowship with the high ceiling. We will hold many activities in this space, and some of those will be for the larger community. Therefore, it seems a good idea to give this space a unique name that will be used in announcements and so forth.

I had two responses from that article, one suggesting using only a widely known UU name and the other suggesting the name of "Committee Room." After talking with that person, she withdrew that name as a consideration.

Upon further reflection, we determined that naming the room through the auction was not the best course.

Therefore, I am asking that anyone with a suggested name for what is now RE#5 on the blueprints, send it to the office by May 7. Please give your reason for suggesting that name. Either e-mail or U.S. mail is fine. We will compile a list of suggested names and reasons and then vote on the our favorites at the Annual Meeting.

Jean Rhian

UUFE Contacts

Minister	Rev. James Bank, 410-770-9772 or 410-822-8103
President	Jean Rhian, 410-822-5807
Music Director	Patty Rubin, 410-745-2000
Minister Emeritus	Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., DMin, 410-745-3462
Newsletter Editor	Amy Eutsey, 410-820-7971 uufenewsletter@hotmail.com

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

The deadline for the June Newsletter is May 15.

(Board Highlights, continued)

Eddie Swallow reported that as of April 10 we had received pledges, totaling \$79,159 from 44 of our 68 pledge units. The Board thanked Eddie for all the work she has been doing for us.

The Board reviewed Don Barker's preliminary draft of a FY 2008 operating budget. There will be a special meeting about this budget for all those concerned after the service on Sunday, April 29.

Jim Bank announced that he plans to retire in 2010 (or roughly in 3 1/2 years).

Unitarian Universalist Principles

Unitarian 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.

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 Jean Rhian, and let' make your ideas a reality.

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 May Day Celebration, 7 p.m.	2 Men's Lunch, 11 a.m.	3 Choir, 7–8:30 p.m.	4 Mid-Age Children's Gathering	5 Multicultural Festival, 10–3
6 Outdoor Club Bay Bridge Walk, 8 a.m. Service and RE, 3 p.m.	7	8 Social Action Mtg., 7 p.m.	9	10 Women's Lunch, 12 p.m. Choir, 7–8:30 p.m.	11 Dinner & Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.	12
13 Service and RE, 3 p.m.	14	15 Board Mtg., 6 p.m.	16 Men's Lunch, 11 a.m.	17 Choir, 7–8:30 p.m.	18	19
20 Service and RE, 3 p.m. Annual Meeting, after service	21	22	23 Interfaith Lunches, 10 a.m. Membership Mtg., 3:30 p.m.	24 Book Discussion Grp., 11 a.m.	25	26 UUFE Yard Sale
27 Service and RE, 3 p.m.	28	29	30 Men's Lunch, 11 a.m.	31		