

# Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

October 2006

## Sermons

### Simple Truths

#### Oct. 1

It's easy to be seduced by the argument that we live in a complex world and that there isn't any room for the simple truths of the past. But what about the old saying from scripture that our yes should be yes and our no be no? Let's talk.

#### Oct. 8, Where Are We Going?

There are times and places in life where we lose our way and times and places where we find it. As we kick off the second part of our capital fund drive—looking toward our new building—it's good for us to ask ourselves where we are going.

#### Oct. 15, The Theory of God

The anti-evolution forces have tried to cast doubt on evolution by painting it as "just a theory." But theories are useful things. John Turner of Chester River will examine different views of God from the point of view of being theories to give us a new way to evaluate and appreciate these different views.

#### Oct. 22, Sharing Our Stories

Continuing our tradition of hearing members speak of their life journeys and the people and events that have shaped their beliefs, Nancy Dimond, Eric Rubin, and Sandra Henry-Stocker will share some of their stories. Music will be from the combined choirs of the Chestertown, Salisbury, and Easton UU congregations.

#### Oct. 29, A Day for Those Who Have Gone Before

Every year we use this Sunday before All Saint's Day to honor those who have gone before, asking young and old to bring pictures to this intergenerational service and to share with everyone a bit about the person, or the pet, they choose to remember.

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

New Place and Time  
for Services and  
Sunday School

**Third Haven Friends  
Meeting House  
3 p.m.**

**Child Care Provided**

*(See p. 6 for details)*

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

Third Haven Friends  
Meeting House  
405 South Washington St.

## Annual Fall Festival

Oct. 29, 12-2:30 p.m.

Idlewild Park



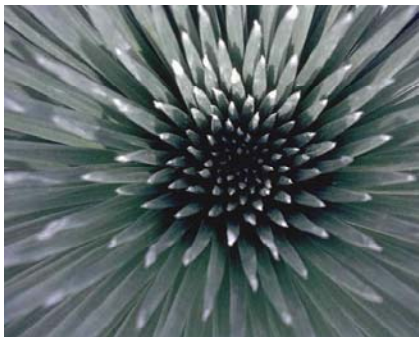
*See p. 3 for details.*

## Inside...

Ministerial Thoughts.....	2
President's Corner.....	2
Gatherings.....	3
Thoughts for All Ages.....	4
Social Action.....	4
Adult Religious Education.....	5
Music Notes.....	5
Building News.....	6
Board News.....	7
UUFE Contacts.....	8
Calendar.....	insert

## 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.*



## Dear Members and Friends of UUFE

It is with much sadness that I announce my resignation as Co-President of the Fellowship. I have been having some health issues for the past year that have precipitated my need to resign. My resignation was delivered to our Board of Trustees at its September meeting and became effective immediately. Jean Rhian has agreed to continue to assume the full role of the presidency. I know that she would appreciate your supporting her in whatever ways you can.

I have enjoyed serving the Fellowship as Co-President for the past 14 months, and I regret the need for this decision. However, I am very optimistic about our future, and I know that the Fellowship is in good hands.

In Faith,  
*Cynthia Quast*

## Ministerial Thoughts

### Corridors of the Future

One of the consequences of living down the block and around the corner from the Fellowship building is that I go by the place a dozen times a day even during the present period of refurbishment. I need only make a turn along the necessary path, take a few steps, and I'm inside the building that will be our home once more in 8 or 9 months.

I do this enough that the workers are starting to know me by name, and I'm getting a real feel for the changes that are taking place—not on the scale of Dick Doughty, who seems to live with what's happening 24/7, or Tom Anovick or Eric Rubin, who understand the structural issues as they are unfolding, but enough so to feel the artistry of the process and to glimpse the building that is yet to be.

So when I open the door or climb through an open entranceway, I people the rooms and corridors with others. I see Cailyn peeking around a door, looking for Claire or Merritt. I see Nicole vanishing into a classroom. I hear Martin calling for Amy or catch a glimpse of Edie looking over papers in the office. I hear Patty taking the choir through an anthem or look in on the Board assembling, or I stand at the front of the sanctuary as the Fellowship assembles. And I take pleasure in each moment of these reveries.

This month we will kick off a second portion of our drive for the funds to make my visions of the future and yours the reality we all want. We will pledge our hearts once more to the dreams that have motivated us through past and present. I hope you will join with me and all of our Fellowship friends in pledging what you can appropriately toward helping us finish our plans and dreams for the future.

See you at the Meeting House and at our offices  
in the Stewart Building downtown!

*Jim Bank*

## President's Corner

### A Proud UU, A Proud UUFE President

My heart swelled with pride when I read an article in *The Washington Post* on Sept. 15 about Waitstill and Martha Sharp, both Unitarian Universalists. The Sharps saved hundreds of Jews and non-Jews targeted by the Nazis in 1939. They have been chosen as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust remembrance authority in Jerusalem. They are the second and third Americans to be so honored. The Sharps also have been honored on the Rescuer's Wall at the Holocaust Memorial in Washington, DC.

We have a heritage of social action that is rich and deep. This is a great gift to us from our forbearers. Today in our congregation, we carry on that heritage. I'm proud to be in the same congregation as Dan Higgins. His actions for racial equality have earned him the respect of people from all walks of life. His commitment is one example of UU beliefs in action.

I often say when asked about UUism that our religion is more interested in helping one another to lead better lives in the here and now than in telling people what to believe. Our Social Action Committee, under the leadership of Jim Richardson and Mary Young, acts on behalf of the congregation to continue our commitment to social justice as UUs.

*(continued p. 6)*

## Gatherings

**Men's Lunch Bunch, Oct. 4 & 18:** Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Cafe.

**Women's Lunch, Oct. 12:** For an in-town location, we'll return to Legal Spirits in the Avalon building in Easton. It is easily accessible for all. Hope to see you there. Please let Edie Swallow know whether you can come (410-745-5170).

**Movie Night, Oct. 13, "Ushpizin" (PG).** A downtrodden couple finds hope and good fortune—amid unexpected houseguests—in this humorous take on religious Jews living in a modern world. Moshe (Shuli Rand) and his wife are given a sum to help prepare for the holy holiday of Succoth and end up hosting two unannounced guests (rather, escaped prisoners). The couple must deal with their boorish visitors, who reveal Moshe's not-so-holy past, while upholding their faith. *Showtime:* 7:00 p.m. at the Uufe Offices in the Stewart Building (5 Federal St.).

**Women's Spirituality Circle, Oct. 16:** All women are invited to come together at 7 p.m. to honor the female divinity in this monthly circle. For more information and meeting location, please contact Beth Hansen (410-253-0214; sagefirebeth@yahoo.com).

**Drumming Circle, Oct. 20:** Join us at 7 p.m. if you want to learn or just have fun. There are always extra instruments. For more information on meeting location, please contact Debra Hathaway (410-770-9057).

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## Annual Fall Festival at Idlewild Park

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**12 to 2:30 p.m.**

**P**lan to bring a friend or two, young or old, to join us for this annual event. We have reserved the pavilion in the park for the festivities this year. Let's gather at noon to admire one another's costumes (adults and children!) and perhaps parade around the park. Lunch will be potluck—stand by for information regarding the menu. Plenty of activities will keep us busy: mask-making, pumpkin decorating, bobbing for apples, games, and more. Regular worship service and religious education will follow the celebration. Come join the fun!



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## RE Committee: Welcome to a New Year!

**T**he RE Committee is seeking new members to meet monthly to discuss children's programs, O.W.L., intergenerational activities, and family outreach. You do not need to teach or have children to participate in the discussion. Contact Nicole Meehan if interested, and we can set a regular meeting time that works for everyone.

## Calendar

**Men's Lunch Bunch**  
Wed., Oct. 4 & 18, 11:30 a.m.

**Women's Lunch**  
Thurs., Oct. 12, 12 p.m.

**Movie Night**  
Fri., Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

**Women's Spirituality Circle**  
Mon., Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

**Drumming Circle**  
Fri., Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

## Children's RE Calendar

**Sun., Oct. 1**  
RE all ages, kids start in service

**Sun., Oct. 8**  
RE all ages, kids start in service

**Sun., Oct. 15**  
RE all ages, kids go directly to class for group worship service

**Sun., Oct. 22**  
RE all ages, kids go directly to class for group worship service

**Sun., Oct. 29**  
Intergenerational service, kids in service, child care available

## Choir Calendar

**Thurs., Oct. 5, 12, 19**  
Rehearsal from 7–8:30 p.m. in the Third Haven Friends Common Room. **Note.** No rehearsal on Oct. 26

**Sun., Oct 15**  
Uufe Choir at UUCA

**Sun., Oct. 22**  
UUDelmarva Combined Choir at Uufe service

Coming in November

## Our Whole Lives O.W.L.

*Our Whole Lives* helps our kids to make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips them with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps kids to clarify their values; build interpersonal skills; and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

UUFE O.W.L. Facilitators Amy Eutsey and Nicole Meehan are reaching out to area teenagers in 10th–12th grade to participate. How often we meet and when will depend on interest and numbers. If you are or know of any teens who would be interested in participating, please contact:

Amy: 410-820-7971;  
[beansnbear@hotmail.com](mailto:beansnbear@hotmail.com) or  
Nicole: 410-745-5959;  
[nicole@rainmakercreative.net](mailto:nicole@rainmakercreative.net).

## NAACP Membership Campaign

The NAACP is having a major membership campaign. If you are interested in becoming a member of the oldest civil rights organization in America, contact Dan Higgins. Individual membership is \$30 a year. Remember two UU's were founding members.

Thoughts for All Ages

## Contemplating Space

I have spent a great deal of time this morning contemplating space. Car space. Living room space. Bedroom space. Most of my contemplation involved deep reflection on how I am affected by my own sense of personal space and the disruption of my space by the elements of parental life: dried-out shriveled French fries in my under-the-car-seat space, one wet sock in the behind-the-TV space, and a spiky triceratops surprise in my comfy-cozy-bedsread space. How I long for my one little bit of sacred space—one tiny place where, if there is a flashlight deconstructed into 33 separate pieces, it is because I chose to put it there!

As much as personal space is important to everyone one of us, creating a public space that speaks to who we are is just as important. We all long for our homes to tell the story of who we are, what we find fascinating, and what we dream for the world. Finances, busy lives, and the in-the-moment agendas of our children don't always make this realistic, however. But we try. We make sacred our homes with those small details that speak to us—a family photo on the wall, an inspiring book on the shelf, or a song that makes us remember on the CD player.

Children need this sacred, personal space as well—individually and as a peer community. They need a place to call their own where the signs and symbols are welcoming, where familiarity equals safety, and where memories can grow. I believe that our children will be blessed with these sacred spaces when we return to our “new” building. The classroom expansions will allow each age group to have a room they can call their own. Their artwork will adorn the walls, they can easily see the history of their church year, and they will feel the confidence of knowing “where to go.” These little things make such a difference to the children in their RE experience. Because the children gain just as much from the sense of community as from the curriculum, these spaces will foster a strong RE experience and the development of a positive UU identity.

We can't wait!  
*Nicole Meehan*

Director Religious Education

## Social Action

### Fair Trade Coffee and (Now) Chocolates

Fair Trade chocolate bars are now being offered along with Fair Trade coffee. These come in cases of 12 3-oz. bars and will be sold by the case only for \$23.40 each. Offered will be milk chocolate; dark chocolate with almonds; and dark, dark chocolate. These can make great holiday gifts or stocking stuffers and, at the same time, ensure fair prices to small growers.

### Social Action Funding to Date

The Social Action Committee voted to fund \$104 for transportation cost to O.W.L. training and \$300 for the Wednesday Coalition lunches and the lunches provided bimonthly for the local homeless shelter.

## Adult Religious Education

### Oct. 4, Four Directions

Using the traditions of earth-centered spirituality, we will look at the significance of the four directions in our lives. Leader: Beth Hansen



### Oct. 11, Free Speech for Sale

In cooperation with our Social Action Committee and during this election year, we present a Bill Moyers show on the political implications of the corporate control of communications in our nation through expenditure and outright ownership of the media. Leaders: Jim Richardson and Jim Bank

### Oct. 18, Theology of Film Series: “I Heart Huckabees”

This film has been described as “an existential comedy” that presents profound questions about existence with a unique comic approach. A theme of the film is that identity is an illusion and we are all connected. Leader: Gail Woodall

### Oct. 25, Breakthrough Moments

Once or twice during our lives, we may experience a moment that changes us deeply. A moment that inspires us, opens us up to another level of understanding or gives us a totally different perspective, or offers a flash of clear insight. Join us as we hear a few of our fellow UUs describe one of their breakthrough moments. Then share with us, if you wish, one of yours. Leader: Judy Hedges

## Music Notes

### Times Are Changing

The UUFE interdependent web adjusts yet again to changes in meeting time and place. With “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part” (the seventh UU principle), the UUFE Choir schedule also has changed for the duration of afternoon service times. In general, the choir will gather at UUFE service formally once a month. Song leaders will be scheduled for the other Sundays, as much as possible. Thursday rehearsals continue on regularly at 7 p.m., except for one Thursday a month, which has been dropped for budget reasons.

### Sharing the Music

As part of the UUFE Music Program’s intention to “develop community outreach through music,” the choir will be joining other area UU choirs at their services to share music and fellowship. In October, we will be at UUCA (Annapolis) to present the service that the UUCA Choir brought to us last June. In November, we go to UUCR’s (Chestertown) new facilities to sing with its choir and the choir from UUFS (Salisbury). In December, these same three choirs will sing at UUFS. This combination of three choirs, known for the moment as “the UUDelmarva Combined Choir” (if you have a catchier moniker, please let me know!) is one of the results of the meetings of the Delmarva area UU churches. UUFE will be the first

*(continued on p. 7)*

## A Night of Political Theatre in DC

### “Get Your War On”

### Woolly Mammoth Theatre In October

Nicole Meehan is interested in organizing a group to see the Rude Mechanical’s production of *Get Your War On* at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, DC. The show presents an edgy, sardonic, and hilarious look at outraged Americans as they react to 9/11, political administration, and the War on Terror. The show contains strong language and content—sensitive viewers be warned—and runs for most of October, with evening and matinee opportunities. Contact Nicole at [Nicole@rainmakercreative.net](mailto:Nicole@rainmakercreative.net) or 410-745-5959 to set a date. See [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net) for more information.

Thank You  
Temple B’Nai Israel  
and  
Third Haven Friends

We are grateful to the members of the Temple for their hospitality. Though we bid farewell to their building, we look forward to continuing our warm relationship with them. The Society of Friends at Third Haven has been hospitable as well, and we are fortunate for the opportunity to become more familiar with these two religious groups in our community.

## Building Our Future

### Extended Capital Campaign Kickoff

October 8, 2006

In May of this year we cast a 69 to 2 vote in favor of going ahead with our building expansion project. Our vote of yes came with the understanding that an extended capital campaign needed to be undertaken so our eventual mortgage would be manageable.

During October, a member of the congregation will call on you to secure your pledge to the Extended Capital Campaign and to answer any questions you may have.

We hope you'll give generously to support the growth of the UU faith here on the Eastern Shore.



February 4, 1939: Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp depart for their mission to Czechoslovakia. Learn more about the Sharps at <http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/unitarians/cogan.html>

## Building News

### Changing Spaces and Times

Since June, we have enjoyed the use of the lovely sanctuary at Temple B'Nai Israel. Now we have been given the opportunity to use the Third Haven Friends' Meeting House compound, whose facilities suit our needs better. Consequently, our Board of Trustees has approved moving our Sunday services to the Third Haven Friends Meeting House until we move back to our own building on Route 50.

When you receive this *Newsletter*, we will have already met on Sept. 24 and 30 for two Sundays at Third Haven, so many of you will already have been introduced to its historic buildings and leafy grounds.

Additionally, the Board has decided to change the time of our Sunday service **from 4:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** This new schedule takes effect on Oct. 1 and continues during our stay at Third Haven for the next many months. The recent post-card survey regarding this time change gave everyone a chance to indicate a preference for the time of service. Though the responses did not reveal an overwhelming preference for 3 p.m., they did indicate that this time would be agreeable to the majority of Fellowship members. A real plus is that it will allow daylight hours for travel.

Third Haven is located at 405 South Washington Street, about a quarter mile south and on the same side of the street as Memorial Hospital. There is a small sign at the entrance to its long, tree-lined driveway. When you reach the driveway's end, turn right to the parking area, or you may park closer to the Meeting House if your mobility is impaired or you are carrying in a platter of food or such.

If you have any questions about our use of Third Haven, please contact the appropriate committee chair or Liz McGrory (410-924-6245; [lizmc@aol.com](mailto:lizmc@aol.com)).

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*(President's Corner, continued)*

I'm also proud of the work done by our many volunteers and committees. One thing that being president has shown me, day by day and month in and month out, is the dedication of so many to make our Fellowship an organization that makes a difference in people's lives. It really does take many hands, many talents, and continued commitment to enrich religious life as UUs on the mid-Shore. And I experience the joy of working together for something that we know is important and central to leading a more fulfilling life.

I'm proud of the generosity of this congregation. It's absolutely amazing! As I travel and talk with other UUs, and non-UUs, and tell them about our building project, they are blown away. I say we are the little congregation that could! We are making a mark in our corner of the world.

Let's teach our children of our proud heritage. Let's remind ourselves of that heritage. We have examples of making a difference in the world locally and globally, from the distant past and from the right now! Your participation matters.

Jean Rhian  
UUFE President

## Extended Capital Campaign To Commence

Our extended capital campaign will begin on Oct. 8 and extend to Sunday, Nov. 5. One-on-one solicitations also will include past members who had to move away for various reasons. The original good faith contributors have now pledged a total of \$182,000, and our goal is \$300,000. The Board approved the generous offer of a UUFE member to loan us \$40,000 for construction purposes with an interest rate equivalent to that offered by the Talbot Bank on its certificates of deposit.

In related news, Jean Rhian reported that our application for a Chalice Lighters grant had been approved by the Joseph Priestley District for \$20,000. Although we had requested \$40,000, under JPD policy we could only receive half because we had previously received a \$20,000 grant in our initial campaign.

### Change of Service Venue and Time

Nancy Orr reported that she and others were favorably impressed with the Third Haven Friends Meeting House as a place for our future worship services. It also had better space for the coffee time and for children's RE upstairs. The Friends have invited us to use their facility for the same or slightly less rent while our building is under construction. Nancy also reported that her poll of the congregation resulted in a 13 to 13 tie between a 3:00 p.m. and a 4:30 p.m. service with a like number having no preference, but that she favored a 3:00 p.m. service to accommodate older drivers during the darker fall and winter months and for the convenience of parents with younger children. The Board unanimously approved having our worship services at the Third Haven Friends Meeting House at 3:00 p.m. beginning Oct. 1; however, the service scheduled there on Sept. 30 will still be at 4:30 p.m. because of the prior announcements of that time.

### Building Update

Our building construction is proceeding on schedule. A new door key plan has been approved.

### Web Site Improvements

Our Web master, Sandra Henry-Stocker, proposed to the Board the following improvements to the UUFE Web site:

- Set up a password-protected folder for the Finance Committee to share important documents.
- Extend this concept to other committees that wish to share documents or other information on the Web so that anyone on the committee has access to the most current copy of documents.
- Establish some initial e-mail aliases for the uufeaston.org domain, meaning that we can set up addresses for roles (e.g., [minister@uufeaston.org](mailto:minister@uufeaston.org)) or groups ([office@uufeaston.org](mailto:office@uufeaston.org)) that make it easy for us to provide others with easy-to-remember e-mail addresses.
- Customize the script that runs the current slide show of construction pictures to support other sets of images.

*(Continued on p. 8)*

## Opportunities/ Questions Come With a New Building

In the President's Column this month, I refer to two UU heroes, Martha and Waitstill Sharp, and that got me to thinking....How about naming some of the rooms in our new building for important UU figures? We could have the "Clara Barton Room," the "Sharp Library," and so forth. This would be a handy way to identify spaces and to remind us of UU history. What do you think?

- If we do this, how will we choose the names?
- Does this bring to mind other thoughts about living in the new building?

E-mail your responses to [uufe@verizon.net](mailto:uufe@verizon.net) or snail mail PO Box 1162, Easton, MD 21601. Write "Life in the New Building" as the subject or attention line to help us sort the mail.

### *(Music Notes, continued)*

to hear this combined voice, as we will gather to sing at service on Sunday, Oct. 22! We also are talking about singing sometime at UUSD (Lewes), another of the UUDelmarva consortium who does not have a regular choir but uses a variety of in-house instrumentalists. Maybe some of them will come visit us, too!

It is a joy to work with neighbors in spirit and space, both UU and not. Working jointly with others requires more time and effort, but repays doubly by reinforcing the interdependent web that may not always feel so present to a small, relatively isolated UU community.

*Patty Rubin*  
Music Director

## UUFE Contacts

Minister	Rev. James Bank, 410-770-9772 or 410-822-8103
President	Jean Rhian, 410-822-5807
Dir. Religious Ed.	Nicole Meehan, 410-745-5959
Music Director	Patty Rubin, 410-745-2000
Minister Emeritus	Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., DMin, 410-745-3462
Newsletter Editor	Amy Eutsey, 410-820-7971 <a href="mailto:uufenewsletter@hotmail.com">uufenewsletter@hotmail.com</a>

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

The deadline for the November *Newsletter* is October 15.

*(Board News, continued)*

- Have committees take responsibility for keeping the pages related to their activities updated. Sandra can make the changes, but she needs each group to ensure that their pages are up to date.
- Start dressing up the Web site with lots of pictures to better transmit the friendliness and activities of the Fellowship than the text-only character of most of our current pages.
- Consider setting up an interactive calendar so that we can add and change events as needed.

## 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.

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### We Want To Hear From You!

UUFE is always interested in hearing from members and friends about new ideas for small group activities. Contact Presidents, Jean Rhian, and let' make your ideas a reality!

