



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

October 2008

Sermons

Oct. 5, **Getting Beyond Categorical Thinking**

Are we really open minded? UUA leaders Jerry Carden and Wendy Pajola will speak on the way entrenched attitudes can get in the way of choosing the best candidate for our called minister. Plan to sign up and stay for the workshop following the service. Read the details below.

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Sunday, October 5, noon to 2:45 p.m. Free lunch and child care for participants. Sign up at the Search Committee table or call the office at 410-822-8103. This workshop is offered by the UUA for congregations involved in their search for a new minister. It is designed to help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process and to promote inclusive thinking about the kind of minister our congregation is looking for. We will consider the concerns, expectations, and hopes we have for a minister, and how thinking categorically about people can sometimes interfere with choosing the best candidate.

Oct. 12, **What Can We Promise?**

When we say that Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal religion, a few wonder about our use of such formal language. Yet our tradition of religious covenant extends to the beginning of the Unitarian Universalist history in America. This morning, as we celebrate Association Sunday, Rev. Paula Maiorano will explore our covenantal tradition and the promises it asks from each of us. Bring your check books for the special Association Sunday "**Growing Our Spirit**" collection.

Association Sunday "Growing Our Spirit"

On Oct. 12, Unitarian Universalists across the country will celebrate the second annual Association Sunday. Last year the results were phenomenal, with over **1.4 million dollars** going to the Association. This year 50% of the funds will support Lay Theological Education programs giving congregations, districts, and seminaries the opportunity to apply for grants. The balance will be directed towards three "Excellence in Ministry" programs - continuing education for ministers, scholarships for promising students preparing for ministry, and The Diversity of Ministry Team's Initiative to support ministers of color. The hope is for at least \$50 per person. Not everyone can afford that, and others can afford more. Bring your checkbooks for the special collection and be as generous as you can.

Oct. 19, **An Amazing Discovery!**

Sue Loweree will reveal the most recent translation from the Aramaic of familiar words which lost their original meaning through centuries of liturgical rewrite - and they are Unitarian! Have we come full circle? Come, share an amazing discovery!

Oct. 26, **Circle of Life: Messages from *The Lion King***

Our first intergenerational worship service with Paula will explore mythic themes from the film and music of *The Lion King*. Everyone is invited to wear costumes thematic to the movie and story. The Fall Festival Potluck will follow the service.

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

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The calendar as well as this Newsletter and previous UUFE Newsletters can be viewed and printed from our web site www.uufeedeaston.org.

Selected past sermons can be found at <http://uuife-dialogue.blogspot.com>

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL Sunday, October 26

Festivities begin immediately following the Lion King worship service. The children will arrive in animal costumes and adults are invited to do the same. Our fabulous potluck lunch will include chili, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, corn bread, hot dogs, pies, cakes, cookies and cider. RE will have a variety of inter-generational games for everyone's participation. We hope everyone will join us on what promises to be a fun filled Sunday with an excellent opportunity to get to know each other at a different level.

Religious Education

Calendar Events

October 5 Judaism - Yom Kippur
October 12 Judaism - Sukkot
October 19 Jainism
October 26 Fall Festival – “The Lion King”

October Religious Education Needs

Nothing needed this month

Our Program

Teachers for the first semester of our religious program are:

Pre K and K (ages 4 & 5): Ellie Spurry and Amy Eutsey

Elementary (grades 1-4): Patty Rubin, Nancy Dimond and Tineke Tan

Upper Elementary and Middle School (grades 5-8): I am pleased and honored to be teaching this group and am fortunate that Tineke will assist some Sundays.

Classes continue to grow as does the enthusiasm for world religions. In September we learned about Hinduism and began our instruction about Judaism through the celebration of Rosh Hashanah. Now in October we continue our studies on Judaism and add Jainism. The last Sunday service, October 26, will be multi-generational involving the children in the “Lion King” service. We hope you'll join us!

“Something to Think About”

Today we tell our children, “If you want to get something, give it.”

We agree to do the following three things with them:

Invite them to give one thing to someone else in their family,
Inspire them to receive graciously,
Share a brief ritual of gratitude for life's gifts.

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

See you on Sunday! *Liz Hausburg, CRE*

Ministerial Thoughts

From Paula's Pen - On the Unitarian Universalist Ordained Ministry - Part I

Our faith tradition began as a small sect of the Protestant Reformation, the latter famous for the saying “the priesthood of all believers.” The Protestant Reformation had its roots with the printing press, and the individual's capacity to read and interpret the Bible independent from church authority. Over the centuries and decades, the role of the ordained minister in the life of a UU Congregation has evolved.

Today, ordination as a Unitarian Universalist minister is the culmination of a long and arduous process which begins and ends in a local congregation.

The first step on the journey to ordained ministry is sponsorship by the home church. It is the local church who says that we believe this individual has the gifts, talents, and calling for ministerial formation.

Next is enrollment in an accredited seminary to begin a four to five year ministerial process. Then a relationship with the Department of Ministry begins. About a third of the way through seminary, there is a meeting with the Regional Fellowship Committee, which either affirms or disagrees with the local church's recommendation of the seminarian.

If affirmed, the individual is eligible to become a pre-candidate member of the national and regional chapters of the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association (UUMA). Easton's minister is a member of the Chesapeake UUMA, which meets on the last Wednesday of the month in Bethesda, MD.

Ministerial formation includes a nine-month internship in a church, as well as at least one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in a hospital or other accredited institution. There is additional reading required, specific to Unitarian Universalists. Years of counseling and/or spiritual direction are not required but usually accompany the formal academic process, as the role of the minister is just as much about whom you are as what you know.

Sometime toward the end of the process, there is a review by the national UU Committee on Ministry based on documentation and a personal interview of the candidate. If approved, the ministerial candidate is eligible for preliminary fellowship as a UU Minister. The next step is ordination by a Unitarian Universalist congregation, usually the one that has called the minister to serve.

The newly ordained minister then enters into a three-year mentor relationship with a UU minister in final fellowship. An additional review by the Fellowship Committee occurs for each of those three years. The new minister now enjoys final fellowship, which is for a lifetime, except in the case of ministerial misconduct. Fortunately, it is rare that a minister's fellowship is discontinued for that reason. Most of our ministers are fine, dedicated men and women, who have turned their own and their families' lives upside down to follow their call to ministry.

Next month, I'll write Part II about the role of the ordained minister in a congregation. In the meanwhile, ask me any questions you have on the journey towards ordained ministry.

In peace and with blessings, Paula

UUA Guidelines on Political Activities

There is a wide range of totally acceptable actions that religious groups can take to influence public policy and promote civic participation," said Rob Keithan, Director of the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy. "The IRS places certain restrictions on what congregations can do, and those boundaries need to be respected. But there's also much that can be done, and we want to encourage appropriate activities."

"It's possible for religious groups to be active in public life without being partisan," Keithan elaborated, "There are many ways to participate in the democratic process while honoring the boundary between church and state. For example, with certain restrictions, congregations can support issues-based ballot initiatives, lobby their legislators, and encourage civic participation by registering and mobilizing voters. **The key is to avoid any action that supports or opposes a candidate or political party.** The work must be strictly nonpartisan."

IRS GUIDELINES AND ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Congregations and Religious Leaders May, With Certain Restrictions:

- Conduct issue advocacy to educate and mobilize the public on issues of concern
- Conduct limited lobbying activity, including work on ballot measures
- Educate the public about their voting rights
- Conduct nonpartisan voter education, registration and get-out-the-vote drives
- Educate candidates on issues of concern to the congregation
- Sponsor candidate forums/debates
- Prepare and/or distribute nonpartisan candidate questionnaires and voter guides
- Make congregational resources, such as facilities, available on an equal basis to candidates, parties, and/or political organizations
- Conduct poll monitoring to ensure that voting rights are respected
- Encourage and assist voters to get to the polls on Election Day

Congregations and Religious Leaders May Not:

- Endorse or promote candidates or parties, such as making statements in congregational publications or at events, distributing campaign literature, posting campaign signs on congregational property, etc.
- Increase the level of incumbent criticism as election time approaches
- Solicit or make campaign contributions
- Discriminate in how congregational resources are made available to different candidates or parties
- Coordinate voter registration, GOTV campaigns or other electoral activities with any political party or partisan organization

Dick Doughty

Meeting Highlights

The Board appointed long-time member Broughton Earnest to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees.

The Board approved a Draft Ministry Agreement to use as the basis for a contract with a prospective Ministerial Candidate.

The Board supports the efforts of "Voice of the Homeless" to provide a cold weather shelter this coming winter. More details regarding our congregational support will be provided as plans develop. It is likely that we will support the effort by providing meals or financial support. Lisa Menditch and Mary Young will provide a proposal.

Plans are being developed for the construction of a fence and sandbox to provide a safe play area for our growing number of children. Contact Sue Loweree for further details.

Jane Terebey, Board Clerk

Complete copies of minutes of recent Board meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the UUFE office.

Other Resources Regarding Political Activity and Legislation

The UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland has created two resources also detailing some of the activities described in *The President's Corner*. One describes ways that congregations may engage voters during this election season. The other provides background information on the slots referendum that will appear on the Maryland ballot in November.

Check out both of these resources at www.uulmmd.org

(Information provided by)

*Maureen Harris, Executive Director,
UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland
mharris@uulmmd.org 410-353-5904*

Member Services

Member Services Committee

The next meeting of the committee is Wednesday, October 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Thank you, Caring Committee

Recently we found ourselves in need of help from our friends, and UUFE was there for us. Tom's elderly aunt was unable live by herself for a while, and came to stay with us. She could not walk well and was in pain. We were able to borrow a hospital bed to set up in the living room, but she could not be left alone all day while we were both at work. Members of the Caring Committee have been coming by to spend an hour or two each day with Ann. The support of this small group of people has made a big difference in the lives of all three of us - Tom, Aunt Ann and Beth. We are especially grateful to the committee and to UUFE in general for providing a community where such love and support is expressed.

Beth Hansen and Tom Anovick

INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM PART 2

Sunday, October 12
11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Fellowship
Lunch Included

Visitors, those who are new to the Fellowship, and anyone interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and our Easton Fellowship are invited to join us for the second part of this class. You are also welcome even if you missed the first class (which will be repeated soon). Rev. Paula Maiorano and Gail Woodall, Member Services Committee Chair, lead this class.

Register by calling the church office at 410 822-8103 or Rita Barker at 410 634-2399. Lunch is provided. Child-care can also be provided if advance notice is given by Sunday, Oct. 5.

Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, Oct. 1, 15 and 29: Meet at the Airport Cafe for good food at a reasonable price (before 11:30 if you prefer breakfast). Favorites seem to be chicken salad sandwiches, tuna melts, cheeseburgers, half turkey sandwiches (no mayo), and the daily specials.

Storycatching, Oct. 1 and each Wednesday of the month: The fourth of ten evenings of this group meets at 7:00 p.m.

Silent Peace Vigil, Oct. 2 and every Thursday: At 5:00 p.m. spend 30 minutes in front of the courthouse to witness against war.

First Friday Youth Night, Friday, Oct. 3: All kids (and friends) 6th grade and up are welcome to join us for the first youth night of the school year, an evening of dinner and fun. Weather permitting we will be outside, so dress accordingly. Contact Colleen Ronning 410-770-3843 or colleendr13@yahoo.com for questions and to give us a head count.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, Oct. 9, Noon:

This month we will meet at the Crab Claw in St Michaels for a seafood lunch. Let Edie Swallow (410 745-5170) know if you can join us so she can reserve space. We'll hope for a nice day on the harbor and maybe do some Christmas shopping in the Museum Gift Shop afterwards. (When coming through town, take the second right after the Acme and go to the last parking lot.)

Dinner and Movie Night, Friday, Oct. 10: Following the 6:30 p.m. potluck, at 7:00 we will watch Kundun. This biopic about the life of the Dalai Lama was filmed with a cast of unknowns in Morocco when film crews were forbidden to enter Tibet. The Lama's escape during the Chinese invasion, meetings with Chairman Mao, and eventual exile in India are vividly depicted.

The Book Group, Thursday, Oct. 23: We meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Archer-Shee room. Bring a brown bag lunch. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided. We will discuss a book from the One Maryland One Book initiative, *A Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind. Jane Terebey, an employee of the Caroline County Library, has loaned us 10 books, so let Joanie Baynard know if you would like one and will attend our discussion. She can be reached at 410 770-8277.

Women's Spirituality Circle, Thursday Oct. 23: A ritual of deepening and of preparing to go to the underworld as the Earth prepares for Winter starts at 7 p.m.

Lion King Needs Drummers!

Drummers and other percussionists are needed for the Oct. 26 Lion King Extravaganza (during the service). You do not need to provide your own instruments. We will meet once or twice to rehearse. Contact Sandra Henry-Stocker (bugfarm@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.



Song Circle Regrouping

Enjoy singing songs in a small group? Play guitar? The Song Circle sings from the "Rise Up Singing" songbook with words, chords and sources to 1200 songs. Email Sandra Henry-Stocker (bugfarm@gmail.com) if you would like to participate once a month in a musical get-together.



Search Committee Update

The Search Committee is compiling the online Congregational Record (CR). This document provides a summary of UUFE's church life, governance, membership, history, and operating budgets. In addition to these summaries and statistics, the CR includes two 500 word essays: one describing our congregation and another describing the type of minister we desire for UUFE. Information gathered from these surveys, the small group discussions, as well as interviews with UUFE's past ministers are being used to create the CR. It will be posted on the UUA website at the beginning of November for prospective ministers to review.

A Congregational Packet is being compiled to provide a comprehensive overview of who we are. This packet will contain letters of support, sample sermons, an in-depth history of UUFE, our local outreach, activities, Eastern Shore information, and pictures of our grounds, worship services, members, and lovely sanctuary. It will be sent to those ministers who express an interest in UUFE after reading the CR on-line. In exchange, we will receive information about them, including sample sermons.

The committee looks forward to the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop held Sunday, October 5 from noon to 2:45. See the front page of this newsletter for more information about this event and feel free to ask any of the Search Committee members (Jean Rhian, Gail Woodall, Tom Anovick, Dwayne Eutsey, Laura Winne, Nancy Orr, or Juliet Smith) about our work. One of us will be available to answer questions after Sunday services.

Juliet Smith

Sunday Mornings

HELP CREATE A WORSHIP CULTURE OF REVERENCE

The Worship and Member Services Committee and Paula Maiorano are introducing changes beginning October 12 to provide a better sense of sacred space for worship.

Beginning fifteen minutes prior to worship, ushers will seat only those who wish to sit quietly in the sanctuary while meditative music is played. Those who wish to mingle and chat prior to the service will be directed to the Emerson Lounge (formerly know as the ante room to Archer Shee) and the Archer Shee Room. When it is time to be seated for worship, please enter the sanctuary in silence.

SOCIAL HOUR CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE A LARGER CROWD

At the end of the service, coffee will continue to be served at the back of the sanctuary. Snacks will be available in the Emerson Lounge. The office, copy room, and Archer Shee rooms will be open to accommodate the social hour flow and free up the foyer for those leaving. Weather permitting, coffee and snacks will be served outdoors.

COFFEE HOUR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Coffee Hour Committee needs more volunteers. If you are willing to sign up for one Sunday each month or just want to provide the "goodies" every now and then, please talk to Eric Stocker.

Check It Out

Thank God for Evolution by Michael Dowd is in the "New Acquisitions" box in the office. A few years ago, Michael and his wife conducted a workshop here at UUFE.

Marian, the Librarian

Social Action

Works in Progress

The Social Action Committee is working with numerous local churches on a project that would house eight homeless men through the Winter months. The men would be housed overnight and fed breakfast and dinner. Although UUFE will not provide housing, we expect to provide some volunteer help and possibly funding. Lisa Menditch is spearheading this effort UUFE.

The committee is also looking into the feasibility of participating in a project in which local churches would join together to create a partnership between our community and a village in some destitute part of the world (e.g., Haiti). David Stevens introduced this idea and is working with other churches in the area to determine if we can tackle a project of this size. *Sandra-Henry Stocker*

Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

The Talbot County Branch of the NAACP will hold their Annual Freedom Fund Banquet at the Easton High School on December 13th, 1:00 p.m. If you would like to have your name listed in the program as a patron contact Dan Higgins by November 6, 2008 (410 745-3462).

Donation: One name \$2.00, two names (Mr. and Mrs.) \$3.00, Family name \$4.00.

Dan Higgins

ONSLAUGHTS

The League of Women Voters of Talbot County and the Talbot County Stop Slots Committee will sponsor a forum at the Historical Society Auditorium, 25 South Washington Street, on October 22nd at 7:00 p.m. The speakers will be Maryland Secretary of State Peter Franchot and Representative Wayne Gilchrest (1st MD District). Following their presentations there will be a question and answer period. Get the word out to your friends and neighbors.

New Member Biographies

The Halls , Beth and Chris

New members Beth and Chris Hall remind me of a phrase I read years ago. “Love isn’t as much about looking closely at one another as it is about looking outward together in the same direction.”

Both Beth and Chris had explored careers in the military when they met at Grove City College north of Pittsburgh. They became fast friends, commiserating with one another about the downsides of that type of career. Beth had sampled the Coast Guard and Chris had attended the US Air Force Academy.

After graduating from college, they went on to the University of Kansas, both receiving master’s degrees, Beth in counseling psychology and Chris in school psychology. He has since received national certification in his field. Their friendship became a romance and they were married in 1997. Williamsburg was their first home and provided their first exposure to Unitarian Universalism when a friend of Beth’s introduced her to a UU minister at a bar. (Beth really smiles when she tells this story.)

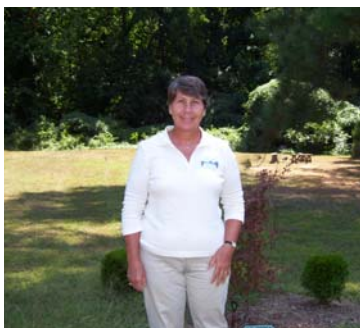
When their Williamsburg apartment was flooded during a hurricane, Beth and Chris took to higher ground in Annapolis (?!). Oh, right; the latitude was higher. Beth worked in nearby Arnold, while Chris commuted to Easton. The commute got too wearisome so the couple set their sites on living on the Eastern Shore. They rented for a year in Easton and then bought their current home in Trappe. Chris secured a job with Dorchester Schools, where he still works and Beth remained with Easton Middle School.

In January of this year, they also found what would become their spiritual home – UUF; they are pleased by the openness, the questioning, the intellectual stimulation, the friendliness and the positive thinking in this congregation. Beth was raised as an “Air Force brat” before her father retired to central Pennsylvania. She had gone to Christian churches, but only on holidays. For a time, she followed the conservative Christianity she learned about at college but eventually realized it didn’t meet her needs. On the other hand, Chris grew up as a Catholic on the shores of the very Catholic state of Connecticut, but left that religion while in college and didn’t find a new spiritual direction until coming to UUF.

As you might imagine, Beth’s and Chris’s jobs are demanding at many levels, requiring that they routinely refuel their energies. To accomplish this, Beth enjoys reading fiction, doing a variety of puzzles and reveling in quiet time. Chris enjoys career-related reading, gardening and staying physically fit (running, basketball). They both take pleasure in caring for their little dog, a Bijon Frise, who supposedly runs the house. Recently, both Beth and Chris have been enjoying honing their skills in kite boarding.

We are fortunate to have this intelligent couple in our community and wish them well as they journey with us.

Liz McGory



Suzanne Clarke

Suzanne and her husband, Jonathan, are currently remodeling a circa 1900 home on a point of land near St. Michaels in anticipation of retirement. In keeping with their environmental interests, they have installed a geothermal heating and air-conditioning system.

Suzanne and Jonathan met at Indiana University where Suzanne was a student and Jonathan, an Oxford student, was studying Chinese. They were married after graduation thirty eight years ago and have three adult children, all born in different countries. As the wife of a British diplomat, Suzanne lived in many different countries, including Taiwan, Germany, Zimbabwe, and England. In each country, she tried to create something that would endure after she departed. For example, while living in Zimbabwe she established a pre-school to help children of domestic workers prepare for entry into the public school system. This effort expanded into the development of a community center that continues to this day.

Suzanne has been teaching at the Islamic-Saudi Academy in Washington, D.C. for the past five years. She grew up in Indiana as a Christian Scientist and later attended the Episcopal Church. Following the events of 9/11, she began attending the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda, where she discovered she had always been a UU.

We are delighted to welcome Suzanne into the Fellowship.

Jean Griffith

4th Annual Joseph Priestley District Racial Justice Conference

Saturday, October 25, 2008
8:00 am – 8:30 pm



First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia
2125 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA
215-563-3980
www.philauu.org

\$35.00 per Adult (Includes Lunch, Dinner, & Concert)
(Just \$28 for UUFE members - see note below)
Youth/Young Adult Rate: \$17.00

Make payment to the JPD and indicate in the notation that it is for "Racial Justice Conference." Full Fair Share Congregations receive a 20% discount of \$7.00 per registrant off adult fee.

Youth/Young Adult fee is already discounted.

Full information and online registration can be found at www.JPDUUA.org.

Early registration deadline is October 20th. After that date a late fee of 10.00 will be assessed. No further registrations will be taken after October 23rd.

The 2008 General Assembly was excited and energized when Van Jones, who has founded a number of non-profits in California credited with reducing youth violence and incarceration, challenged those present to get ready for an upcoming opportunity to govern by understanding the opportunity that the developing "green" economy presents for involving, training and employing youth who are currently marginalized. His Ware Lecture will be the centerpiece of this conference. It will be shown as the keynote address and responded to by a distinguished panel led by the Rev. John Gilmore. Workshops and worships will explore and build on these ideas.

UUFÉ Contacts

Interim Minister Rev. Paula Maiorano,
410 822-8103

President Dick Doughty,
410 673-7580

Coordinator of
Religious Education Elizabeth Hausburg,
410 476-4774

Minister Emeritus Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., D.Min,
410 745-3462

UUFÉ Office 410 822-8103

Newsletter Editor Frank Greenburg,
410 819-8810
frankg@goeaston.net
(Deadline for the November UUFÉ Newsletter is October 15)

SOUP & BREAD SALE AND AUCTION CLUB

Here is an easy, appetizing way to save money for the Service Auction next year in October 2009. After worship services on October 12, 19 and 26, 2008 you will have the opportunity to purchase home-made soup and bread to go. Volunteers will provide soup for \$8 per quart. Fresh bread is included. This amount will be donated directly to UUFÉ.

Any **extra** amount you pay will be deposited in **your personal** Auction Club Account and held until the Service Auction in 2009. You will have accumulated funds to spend, having money in the bank!

Questions?? Or do you want to volunteer to cook soup or bake bread? Call Janet Pfeffer at 410 770-9540 or e-mail her @ jpfeffer@goeaston.net

