



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

July & August 2009

Sermons

"I Hear America Singing"

July 5

In his poetry Walt Whitman sought to encompass all of America. Was he also "historian of the future" as he hoped to be? Nancy Orr will share some of Whitman's views and his poetry celebrating American democracy.

July 12, Physics, Buddhism, and the Seventh Principle

Phillip Sawyer will discuss the meaning of the "interdependent web of all existence" from the overlapping perspectives of the Transcendentalists, the Tendai priest Chang-an, and the Heisenberg uncertainly principle of modern physics.

July 19, Riverkeepers

Our Social Action Committee has invited Tim Junkin to help raise our consciousness about what is happening to our local waterways and how we can protect and restore them.

July 26, Peace, Health, Life

Too often, when we speak of the nation "in peacetime," all we mean is "not currently in a big war." John Turner will explore what it would mean for our nation – our world – to truly be "at peace." What would it mean for our lives to be "at peace?" This leads to bigger issues of what we mean by "health" and "being alive."

August 2, Couples

Three couples will reflect on their relationships: Jordan and his mother Amy Eutsey, Rita and her husband Don Barker, and a pair of friends. Janet Pfeffer is lay leader.

August 9, Compassion

What is the definition of compassion? How does it differ from pity or sympathy? What does it mean to "practice compassion"? Larissa Kitenko, facilitator of the Easton Meditation Group, will explore these thoughts, followed by a brief guided meditation on compassion.

August 16, Mark Twain's Adventures in Hinduism

Dwayne Eutsey examines how liberal religions' openness to Eastern philosophy may have helped Twain, a religious critic, find peace with God.

August 23, The Paradox of Religion

Why is it that religion can serve as a source for both the highest forms of human compassion and the worst forms of repression and persecution? Drawing from Dostoevsky's story *The Grand Inquisitor*, Paul Sharp will attempt to reconcile those two opposing aspects of religion.

August 30, Living Water

This being our annual Water Communion service, Rev. Gabi Parks will explore the spiritual significance of water in our lives. You are invited to bring water from your summer journey or local summer activities.

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

Inside....

President's Corner.....	2
Religious Education-Youth.....	2
Thoughts from Rev. Gabi.....	3
Gatherings.....	3
Board News.....	3
Member Services.....	4
Adult Enrichment.....	4
Social Action.....	5
UUFE Contacts.....	6
Calendar	click on word

President's Corner

Did you realize that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton will celebrate its 50th year in 2010?!

Amazing, isn't it, that Easton, Maryland has been a hotbed of liberal faith for 50 years. One year before the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church in America joined to become the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1961 our little church was beginning its journey to where we are today.

I'm mentioning this upcoming celebration for two reasons: first to alert you that there will be some sort of celebration organized in 2010 but also to reflect on how far we've come from 50 years ago. The legacy of our Fellowship is one of which we can be proud. Our Fellowship has always been forward thinking. We have always been committed to building a home for liberal thought and spirituality. Our Fellowship has taken several leaps of faith. Those leaps of faith have brought us to where we are today.

It is my sense that we are embarking on a new time for our Fellowship, not just because we're expecting the arrival of our new settled minister, Reverend Gabriel Parks in August, but because I sense an energy of excitement within our members. Members of UUFE are ministering to other members. Members of UUFE are ministering to our community. Religious exploration is happening. Young people are adding an energy to our world as well. Oh, and did I mention that our halls will be alive with the sound of music with the anticipated addition of a Director of Music.

I expect that 2009-2010 will be a very lively year for the UU Fellowship at Easton. Come join us on Sunday or at any other event of interest on our church calendar. Ask our long-time members about our history. Share your life! Share your love!

Namaste

Nancy Dimond



Religious Education-Youth

Help Wanted! The Children's Religious Education Committee needs volunteers to work with our children from June 21 through August 30. Because summer enrollment is lower than during the regular year we will have only one classroom. Volunteers will be responsible for creating a stand-alone activity so that children can learn something new....examples include: outdoor cooperative/team building games, board games, nature walks, painting, drawing, clay sculpting, acting (plays), puppet shows, homemade bird feeders, etc. The children seem to enjoy any idea that draws on the unique creative ideas of our Fellowship and the children themselves. A sign-up sheet is on the RE bulleting board.

Anyone wishing to be a teacher for the 2009 – 2010 school year should contact Liz Hausburg. The curriculum we will use is called "Timeless Themes: Stories from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles". This curriculum will guide us through the people and events of the Bible. If you are interested in being one of our teachers or simply have questions, please feel free to contact me: ehausburg@yahoo.com

September 6 will be the first day of Church School with introductions, crafts, and "get to know you" activities. The curriculum will begin on September 13, 2009 with "Adam and Eve".

Teacher Gathering: Thursday, August 13. We will have a "teacher" gathering to review the curriculum (Timeless Themes) and other materials. This meeting will begin at 6:00 at UUFE. Attendance is essential for all those who have volunteered to teach.

Religious Education Donation Needs of the Month: July/August

Snacks for summer (animal crackers, cookies)
Juice boxes - Capri Sun

Have a great summer!

Again, please see me if you have any questions. A big thanks to everyone who made our church school year a success!

Liz Hausburg CRE

UUA Presidential Election

At the General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City at the end of June, a new President for UUA will be selected by member congregations, either by sending delegates to vote on site at General Assembly or by submitting completed absentee ballots by June 17th. UUFE has three votes in this election. Because we are not sending delegates this year, our three absentee votes were decided via an email vote of our members. UUFE members voted by more than a 4:1 margin preferring Rev. Peter Morales over Rev. Laurel Hallman. Thanks to all of you who participated in this election.

Suzanne Clark

Thoughts from Rev. Gabi

The Perfect Minister

Results of a computerized survey indicate that the perfect minister

- Preaches exactly fifteen minutes.
- Condemns sin but never embarrasses anyone.
- Works from 8 a.m. to midnight and is also the janitor.
- Makes \$50 a week, wears good clothes, drives a new car, and gives \$50 a week to the poor.
- He/she is 28 years old, has been preaching for 25 years, is wonderfully gentle and handsome, loves to work with teen-agers, and spends countless hours with senior citizens.
- He/she makes 15 calls daily on parish families, shut-ins, and hospital patients, and is always in the office when needed.

If your minister does not measure up, simply send this letter to six other parishes that are tired of their ministers. Then bundle up your minister and send him/her to the church on the top of the list. In one week you should receive 1,643 ministers. One of them should be perfect.

Do NOT break the chain; one church did and got its old minister back.



Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, July 1, 15, 19 and Aug. 5 and 19: Young and Old are invited to meet at the Airport Café about 11:30. Best lunch and conversation value in town!

Silent Peace Vigil, every Thursday: Violence is a dead end. At 5:00 p.m. join a small group in front of the courthouse for 30 minutes to witness against war and violence.

Women's Spirituality Circle, Tuesdays, July 7 and August 4. We will meet at 7 p.m.

Women's Summer Lunches, Thursday's July 9 & Aug. 13: We will follow the custom of past summers to hold our monthly women's lunches at the Masthead Restaurant (formerly known as the Pier Street Restaurant) on the Tred Avon River in Oxford. We will meet at 12:00 and order from the menu. To indicate your interest and/or for directions, please contact Ann Davis at awd1620@aol.com or 410 745-2461. Hope to see you there!

Book Club, July and August, 2009: The Book Club will not meet in July and August. In September we will have an organizational meeting to decide which books we would like to read for the next six months. A group leader will also be selected for each monthly meeting.

Board News

At the June meeting retiring Officers of the Fellowship, Dick Doughty-President, Joanie Baynard-Vice President, and Jane Terebey-Clerk, were thanked for their work and dedication. New officers, Nancy Dimond-President, Sandra Henry-Stocker-Vice President, and Janet Pfeffer-Clerk, were welcomed.

New Board members, Jane Terebey, Lisa Menditch and Chris Hall, were also welcomed. They will replace Peter Paul, Jerry Fairbanks and Beth Hansen, whose terms have expired.

HELP WANTED



Volunteering in the office for a couple of hours a week is a great way to discover what makes the Fellowship tick. Those who do it find it both rewarding and fun. Please give some thought to calling Edie Swallow at 410-745-5170 to talk it over. There is a need for all skill levels, from simply taking messages to various computer skills. We can plan an hour or two of training this summer and there is always the Office Manual to fall back on. Try it. You'll like it.

UUFE SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Fellowship office will be open mornings only from 10 to Noon, Monday through Friday. Please call during those hours to leave messages, get information, and to make calendar notations. Volunteers will be glad to help you. By mid-August Rev. Gabi Parks will be with us and we will resume office hours from 10 'till 2PM.

Edie Swallow

Member Services

The Member Services Committee will not meet in July. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 19 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

Our Newest Members

We are delighted to welcome the following five new members:

David and Fiona Foster,
Leigh Marquess, and
Jack and Lynne MacKnight.

Watch for their biographies in future newsletters.

Gail Woodall

Caring Circles News

Rev. Paula will be away from June 19 until her last official day as our Interim Minister on August 15. During that time, the pastoral care of our congregation will be overseen by Caring Circle Captains and Co-Captains. Ann Davis will be the primary contact for any emergency pastoral care needs with Liz McGrory and Rita Barker as back-up in her absence.

If needed, the Caring Circle Captain or Co-Captain for your Caring Circle will be available, as usual. To refresh your awareness of who these people are, please refer to the following:

Easton, Group A

(Last names starting with A through L)
Joanie Baynard and Ken Court

Easton, Group B

(Last names starting with M through Y)
Ellie Spurry and Liz McGrory

Dorchester-Trappe

Debbie Easterling and Ann Davis

Bay 100

Jim Richardson and Martha Hamlyn

St. Michaels

Lisa Menditch and Ann Davis

Caroline and Queen Anne

Rita Barker

Please don't hesitate to reach out for assistance. That's why we are here.

Ann Davis

Adult Enrichment

SUMMER OFFERINGS FOR ADULT RE

Classes are held on Wednesdays in the Archer-Shee Room.

July 22, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. A Common Sense Morality or How to Develop Practical Wisdom

Facilitator: Amy Hadsell

Registration: Sign up in the Emerson Room on Sundays or call/email the church office.

American psychologist Barry Schwartz, author of *The Paradox of Choice* and frequent editorial writer for the New York Times, offers provocative ideas for applying practical wisdom to current events. Join us for a viewing of his most recent TED (ted.com) talk and for guided discussion afterwards.

August 12, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Energy, A Sustainable Future

Facilitator: Paul Sharp

Registration: Sign up in the Emerson Room on Sundays or call/email the church office.

Alex Steffen argues that reducing humanity's ecological footprint is incredibly vital now, as the western consumer lifestyle spreads to developing countries. He is cofounder and executive editor of World-Changing.com, an online clearinghouse of information and inspiration on the environment. Join us for a viewing of this TED (ted.com) talk and facilitated discussion afterwards.

FALL OFFERINGS FOR ADULT RE

Building Your Own Theology – a 10 session course

Wednesdays, September 2,9,16,23 October 7, 14, 21, November 4, 11, 18

7:00-9:00pm in the Archer-Shee Room

Facilitator: Rev. Gabi Parks

Cost: \$15

Registration: Sign up on Sundays beginning **July 18** in the Emerson room or call/email the church office. This course is limited to 20 participants.

Within a group context, individuals will reflect on their religious experiences and knowledge and create their own credos. The process of study, reflection, group discussion, and credo-writing will guide participants in examining and articulating their own and the group's theology. Each person writes his or her spiritual odyssey and the group discusses varieties of religious experience, human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics, and religious meaning. This is not a drop-in class. The sessions are sequential and build upon previous content. Signing up for the class indicates an intention to attend as many of the classes as your schedule allows. We understand, however, that personal commitments might occur and a session or two may be missed. Completed independent study and exercises will likely compensate for missed sessions.

Film Nights - Coming this fall. See the September Newsletter for details.

Nixon-Frost - September 30

Slumdog Millionaire - October 26

Pictorial Directory



With our new minister coming, and so many new members, we sense a need for an updated pictorial directory. If, you do not yet have your picture in the directory, or if you would like a retake, submit a photo to Rita Barker or make arrangements with her to take your picture. The time to do this is from now until mid-September.

Call Rita at 410 634-2399 or
e-mail her at rita78@comcast.net

Rita Barker

Social Action

The Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger provides lunches every week day to residents of the Ridgeway House year-round shelter located in Easton at 121 Aurora St. (across from the cemetery). UUFE is responsible for the 2nd and 4th Sundays (for use on Mondays) each month. We currently need someone to prepare and deliver lunches for six persons on the second Sunday of each month.

Lunches are simple: a sandwich, fruit, dessert and small drink. Mary Young has a sign up sheet for volunteers. If you have any questions or can offer your assistance, please contact Mary.

Did you know?

Murray Grove is traditionally considered the site where Universalism in America began. On September 30, 1770, John Murray gave his first Universalism sermon on the North American continent.

Too Early?

It might be early to advertise one of our most popular fund raising events but it's not too early to mark our calendars. Janet Pfeffer gives us time to think about what we might want to auction.

2nd Annual Murray Grove Drum and Dance Retreat!

Express yourself creatively and spiritually!
August 14-16, 2009

Workshops on Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, and African Dance and Belly-Dancing: *Ancient practices with roots in ritual, religion and celebration!*

Only \$250 per person for the weekend, double occupancy, including meals! (\$225 if registration is received before July 1, 2009!) Or sign up just for the Saturday afternoon and evening session for \$75. Space is limited, so register early!

For information and registration:
Murray Grove Retreat and
Conference Center
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
609-693-5558
murraygrove@murraygrove.org
www.murraygrove.org



**UUFE Service
Auction & Dessert
Buffet
Friday, October 16, 2009
7:00 p.m. Silent Auction
7:30 p.m. Live Auction**

Mark your calendars now for the 2009 Service Auction -- our major UUFE Fund Raiser and Laugh Fest.

Popular items at past auctions include special meals; items from gardens, kitchens, and craft rooms; professional services; airplane rides and excursions.

Look for the sign-up sheet on our web-page and in the September newsletter, or request one at jpfeffer@goeaston.net

UUFE Contacts

Minister Rev. Gabriele Parks,
410 822-8103
as of August 15.

President Nancy Dimond,
443 362-0946

Director of Religious Education for Children and
Youth Elizabeth Hausburg,
410 476-4774

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

UUFE Office 410 822-8103

Newsletter Editor Frank Greenburg,
editor@uufeaston.org

Deadline for the September UUFE Newsletter is
August 15

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. There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- 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.



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP AT EASTON
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

