



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

Sunday Service & School
10 AM

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*Freedom’s just another word
for nothin’ left to lose.
Nothin’ ain’t worth nothin’,
but it’s free.
(Kris Kristofferson)*

SERMONS: JULY

The Struggle for Freedom

July 3 Paul Sharp will narrate the story of the long and still-enduring struggle for freedom in America. Readers Jay Anglada, Liz Hausburg, and Russ Steffy will bring to life the words of Americans who have been a part of that struggle.

July 10 Chaos, Karma, and Convictions

Phillip Sawyer will explore Chaos Theory, the Buddhist concepts of karma and causality, and how faith and conviction guide us through a world that is indeed not deterministic, but chaotic.

Outreach Collection on July 10: Mental Health Association in Talbot County. To learn more about this organization, turn to page 4. Please make checks payable to MHATC. This is a tax deductible contribution.

July 17 Learn and Let Learn: Lessons From the Flying Trapeze

At home, work, and play, life gives us endless opportunities to learn and to support learning. When are we the student, and when the teacher? UU Minister Rob Keithan will look at how we learn, how we help others, and why it matters. *Learn more about Rev. Keithan on page 3.*

July 24 It’ll Be OK

“It’ll be OK” is a statement of realistic optimism. We’re smart enough not to fall for too rosy a prediction, but there is considerable value in remembering this more modest slogan. Speaker: John Turner.

July 31 My Spaced-Out Theology

Join leader Dwayne Eutsey on a theological odyssey that boldly goes where few earth-bound worldviews have gone before.

(Sermons are continued on page 3)

Calling All Creative Creators!

Debbie Simpers is looking for 5 people willing to share their creativity during the Aug 14 service for 5 minutes (see page 3 for details). Contact Debbie (410-479-2373; glassapp@verizon.net) or see her on Sundays.

Don’t Forget the First Sunday Potlucks: July 3 and Aug 7

Food • Fellowship • Fun • details on page 4

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Celebrate and Reflect

By the time you read this, I will be in Charlotte, NC, at the annual General Assembly of the UUA. I will attend business meetings; listen to famous theologians, such as Karen Armstrong, and to UU ministerial colleagues who will present workshops; enjoy worship services attended by literally thousands of UUs; and spend more money than I should in the Exhibitor Hall. GA is always a mixture of great fun; much learning; meeting many friends; and being totally, but wonderfully exhausted. I wish more of you could go!

After GA, I will spend 2 more days in my office at UUFE, then I'll be off during the month of July and the first 2 weeks of August. I'm on call for pastoral emergencies during July, but there will be a substitute for August (TBA via the batched e-mail).

The past few weeks have given me a great opportunity to reflect on our year together because I was working on all kinds of evaluations. First, there was my own annual evaluation, which consisted of feedback from you all gathered by the members of the Committee on Congregational Ministry, and of my self-evaluation combined with a professional development plan. I am glad that most of you are well satisfied with my work for UUFE, and in my self-evaluation, I made it clear how very satisfied I am with this wonderful congregation! It's hard to believe that I've been here 2 full years.

As they say, "Time flies when you're having fun." And I did have a good time with my ministry at UUFE – preparing and presenting worship 3 Sundays a month, providing pastoral care for quite a few congregants who struggle with life issues and the economy, teaching some classes here and there, and attending as many committee meetings as possible.

Outside of UUFE, I've also been very busy. For example, I served as vice president of TACL, as a consultant for the Habitat Faith Relations Committee, and as a speaker at various interfaith worship services. I am glad that there is a strong movement of at least some religious institutions in Talbot County toward tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs. However, we still have a long way to go, and we UUs are in a unique position to "affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every human being" as it says in our first principle.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Commencement

It's the middle of June, the time of year that is often bittersweet. For high school, college, and graduate school students, it may be time for *commencement*. It's the end of one phase of their lives and the beginning of another. There often is a wistful look back over what they have just completed, but more predominantly, it's a period of hope and looking forward.

I am experiencing that commencement kind of feeling these days. My year of serving as Vice-President of the Board of Trustees is coming to an end. My year as President is just about to begin, on July 1. I am filled with excitement about all that lies ahead for me as your new President and for our congregation. At the same time, I'm nervous about the responsibility of assuring that UUFE will take full advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

I see this coming church year (2011-2012) as a brand new journal with fresh pages just begging to be filled with new thoughts and feelings; experiences that excite, bewilder, inspire, enliven, and fatigue; and times of smooth sailing as well as head winds and impeding large waves. What I anticipate is that in June 2012, I will read through this journal that will, then, be stuffed with the events of the year. I will be struck with how much the congregation, the Board of Trustees, the committee chairs, the staff, and I will have learned, experienced together, and grown in our faith, personal relationships, governance, ministry, and maturity as a religious community.

I invite each and every one of you to join me in filling the journal, *UUFE 2011-2012*.

Ann Davis

Together with the chairs of the RE committee, the Music committee, and the Buildings & Grounds committee, I also worked on our staff evaluations. This process showed clearly how blessed we are with Liz Hausburg, our Coordinator of the Children's Religious Education, with Marcie Schiff, our former Music Director, and with Russ Steffy, our custodian! All of them did an excellent job sharing in the ministry that makes UUFE such a wel-

(continued p. 3)

SERMONS: AUGUST

There and Back Again

Aug 7 There and Back Again

Three of our members and friends will talk about their experiences as Peace Corps Volunteers, including Gail



Woodall who served in Malaya when the Peace Corps was young, and Frank and Lois Greenburg's daughter and son-in law, Jana and Tom Bergdall, who have recently returned from Botswana. Service leader: Janet Pfeffer

Aug 14 Creativity

Debbie Simperts will lead this exploration of the creativity within us and our Fellowship. Creativity is what we make, produce, or design and its impact on us and the world. Feel free to bring small examples of how you are creative to share.

Outreach Collection on Aug 14: Teen Court. To learn more about this organization, turn to page 5. Please make checks payable to Teen Court. This is a tax deductible contribution.

Aug 21 The Stories of Nasrudin

There is much wisdom in the ancient stories of all religions. Rev Gabi will begin our year-long exploration of this wisdom with stories by the Sufi Mystic Nasrudin.

Aug 28 Homecoming and Water Communion

We will gather together again after our summer vacation, and share our experiences and insights with the beloved community. Bring the water you collected at a significant spot during your vacation, and join it with the water of your fellow congregants. Rev Gabi's homily will focus on the Shared Ministry of UUFE.

(Ministerial Musings, continued)

welcoming and interesting religious community. I'm looking forward to a continuation of this work in the next year! I wish you all a wonderful summer, no matter whether you spend it in Naples or in Nepal or on your back porch!

Warmly,
Rev. Gabi

About Rev Rob Keithan

Rob Keithan (our guest minister for the July 17 service) is a social justice organizer, UU minister, and flying trapeze instructor. He recently served as sabbatical minister at the UU Church of Rockville and as a consultant for the United Church of Christ election year mobilization campaign. From 2002 to 2010, Rob served as director of the UUA's Washington, DC, office, where he advocated for federal policy change and helped to support congregation-based action for justice. Rob and his wife, Mandy, are members of All Souls Church and live in northeast Washington, DC.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT



Thanks for volunteering to teach this summer!

Each Sunday, we will learn from a different UUFE member about a famous UU!

*Emerson
Cafe*

A feast for the Mind and Spirit



GATHERINGS

Men's Luncheon, July 6, 20 and Aug 3, 17, & 31, 11:30 AM

Be thinking about a venue change, suggested by a few, and join us for discussion at the Easton Diner on Rt 50 (8451 Ocean Gateway).

Book Discussion Group, June 16, 11:30 AM

Join us at the Fellowship in the Archer-Shee room for the last meeting for the year. (We will not be meeting in July or August). We invite all to bring a brown bag lunch and share in our very informal discussions. Even if you haven't read the book, please come anyway. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be waiting. Our June book is *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck. We need a group leader for this discussion, so please call Joanie Baynard (410-770-8277) if you can help or for more information about the group.

Juliets Women's Luncheon, July 28 and Aug 25, 12 PM

We will gather at our favorite outdoor dining spot: *Masthead at Pier Street*. In September we will continue with our home hostesses TBA. We'll gather rain or shine for "femaleship," food, and a good time. No need for reservations, just show up! See you then!

MEMBER SERVICES

Next Meeting

Wed, Aug 10, 3:00 PM, Fellowship Building. (Note that there is no meeting scheduled for July.)

Summer Coffee Hour

During the summer, we will be flying a trial balloon of "downsizing" the coffee hour after the Sunday service. Space limitations have caused congestion around the snack table, leading to limited access to the food. In addition, the expense for the persons providing the snacks has escalated over the years, making it more difficult for people to volunteer. We will continue to provide tables for those who wish to sit and chat with new or old friends. Feedback is welcome. Contact Gail Woodall (410-820-8541 or gbwoodall@goeaston.net) with your thoughts or ideas.

First Sunday Potluck

July 3 & Aug 7 • 11:30 AM

Bring some food suitable for a picnic, and we'll have our own Holiday celebration either inside or out, depending on the weather. We'll spread the food out in the Archer-Shee room so you can take yours in there before the service, unless it needs the oven. It's a great time to chat with others, so plan to join us.



Mental Health Association in Talbot County

The Mental Health Association in Talbot County (MHATC) is a recognized resource and educator on mental health. Citizens call daily or consult the MHATC Web site for information on therapists, support groups, educational events, and prevention programs. MHATC engages speakers to address mental health issues. UUFE is contributing for this purpose. In addition, there are opportunities to volunteer at events, so if you're interested, contact MHATC directly at 410-822-0444 and ask for President Pat Price.

Social Justice has chosen this cause because it is in keeping with our first two principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. By acting together and choosing to support MHATC's Distinguished Speakers program, we as a congregation are affirming the work that this organization does. Our contribution will help pay for a speaker.

We will hold an outreach collection for this cause on Sunday, July 10. Please be generous and make your check payable to *MHATC*. This is a tax deductible contribution.

Outreach vs Special Collections

Our regularly scheduled collections will now be called *outreach collections*. The term *special collection* will be reserved for times of emergency, such as the earthquake in Haiti.



“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.... This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle.”

—Frederick Douglass

Teen Court

The purpose of Teen Court is to provide legal process for juveniles outside of the criminal justice system. The program provides opportunities for prosocial activities and social restitution in the community to steer youth away from the streets and delinquent activity, and it provides referrals to services to address substance abuse as well as mental health or educational needs. In many instances this one encounter with the law is sufficient to help the juvenile avoid a second offense.

Teen Courts are recognized as valid, legal venues for hearing cases, sentencing, and sentence fulfillment. They are authorized to provide legal process for juveniles who have committed a delinquent act, minor offense, or have been charged with a misdemeanor, including drug use, smoking, and alcohol.

Youth volunteers are trained to serve in all the capacities of a normal court, including as lawyers, jurors, clerks, and judges. The Teen Court acts much like a traditional court. Sentencing is in keeping with the offense and often involves community service or making restitution to someone harmed. In some instances, educational workshops are required as part of the sentence.

Our contribution will help to meet the \$1,500–\$2,000 yearly cost of mandatory drug testing if drug or alcohol use is the misdemeanor. Our contribution makes UUFE a strong, visible community supporter of this effort and allows us to implement our commitment to our UU principles of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

This outreach collection will be on Sunday, Aug 14. Please be generous and make your check payable to Teen Court. This is a tax deductible contribution.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 2011 Meeting

- **Music Director:** The Board received a letter of resignation from Marcie Schiff our Music Director citing growing physical problems complicated by a stressful schedule and many hours of sitting and driving. She went on to say that submitting her letter of resignation was a difficult decision and that she is very appreciative and thanks everyone at UUFE for their support.
- **Music Going Forward:** Nancy Sawyer has referred the possibility of filling the music post to the Music, Worship, and Finance Committees to work in tandem to propose a solution to the Board.
- **Leadership Development:** UUFE has been awarded a Leadership Development Grant in the amount of \$640.00 for the 2-year period beginning May 6, 2011, and finishing on May 6, 2013.
- **North Property:** The Board approved a proposal submitted by Lane Engineering for the tasks involved to obtain Talbot County approvals for our future new lot and additional parking facilities. These tasks include surveying, property line abandonment (to incorporate our current site, Fourth Street, and the North Property into one plat), a minor site plan for parking construction, and a Forest Conservation Plan for the new parcel. Our Gateway Campaign is moving forward successfully but needs your support to accomplish our goals of lot purchase and additional parking.

In Appreciation of Our Custodian



We are fortunate indeed to have Russ Steffy as our Building Custodian! Russ does an excellent job and always looks for ways to improve the way the Fellowship looks, and he is accommodating in spite of sometimes formidable obstacles. He accomplishes these tasks with a whistle, spreading joy to all who happen to be around! The next time you see Russ, tell him how much you appreciate his work. He usually does the cleaning work on Saturdays, so if you are planning a Saturday activity at the Fellowship, please be sure to put it on the church calendar so that Russ can schedule his work so as to not interfere.

UUFE Contacts

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Music Director: Marcie Schiff 410-822-8103

Minister

Emeritus: Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., DMin 410-745-3462

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Newsletter submissions for the September issue are due August 15. Happy Summer!

HOLY HUMOR

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My dad

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 that 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 for 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 congregations 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.

scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"