



Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

May 2009

Sermons

Climate Change – A Social Need

May 3 with Reverend Gabriele L. Parks

This morning we will explore with Rev. Gabi whether global warming and its resulting consequences are strictly an environmental problem or whether it has morphed into a social crisis.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION FOR OUR FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, following the May 3 service, the congregation will gather to vote on affirming the Search Committee's selection of Rev. Parks as our settled minister. Our bylaws require a quorum of at least 50% of our active members for this vote.

WE NEED YOU !!



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

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calendar*	insert

May 10, Our Children, Our Mothers

Bring open hearts to this service for all ages celebrating childhood, parenthood and the roller coaster of life. Rev. Paula Maiorano, UUFE young people, and the young at heart will offer this service of song, love, poetry, stories, reflections, fun, plus the voices of our wonderful UUFE choir.

May 17, Beautiful Imperfections

The beauty of nature's imperfections can help us embrace our own male and female beauty, and at the same time do something about the imperfections we wish to change in ourselves. Rev. Paula Maiorano

May 24, Remembering Memorial Day

Sue Loweree will encourage everyone to celebrate the past by joyfully honoring Memorial Day. With the help of empowering thoughts from thoughtful minds and brief stories from Fellowship members we will recount how we viewed Memorial Day through the eyes of a child and contrast that with our grown up perspective.

May 31, A Theology of Play

A children's story by Mary Ann Moore, "Hide-and-Seek with God," opens up a reflection on the importance of play to the joy of living in the present moment. Rev. Paula Maiorano

* Note: If you are viewing the Newsletter on-line, you can click on the word [calendar](#) to go directly to it. A calendar is inserted only in the Xeroxed/mailed edition.

Yard Sale on Saturday May 23

The Annual UUFE Yard Sale has been scheduled for Saturday May 23 at 8 a.m. Items can be brought to the Fellowship as follows:

Sunday 5/17 after service
Mon. -- Wed. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thur. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Transportation of large items can be arranged by contacting Tom Anovick.

Please contact Patty Joiner or Debra Hathaway to volunteer for displaying and pricing items and working the day of the yard sale.

Yard sales, the best way to recycle and make some money!

Lifethemes

From Paula's Pen



Thoughts on a Blossoming Community

In this season of May flowers, it is easy to notice that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton is a blossoming faith community. I see it not just as growing in numbers of members. I am observing a community that has been growing in ministry to its members and surrounding community. Take a few minutes to reflect, alone and with other members, on what it means to be "A Ministering Congregation." Consider ways in which you believe UUF is growing in this capacity.

A Ministering Congregation

- Has a communal sense of call
- Knows the community that it aims to serve
- Mobilizes its resources and programs to respond to the diverse ministry needs of its gathered congregation and surrounding community
- Provides a formation process to engage its membership in a shared ministry

A Few Characteristics of a Ministering Congregation

- A vibrant Sunday worship experience
- Commitment to spiritual growth and development of its members and congregation
- Responds to the community's needs for ministry
- Offers small groups for pastoral care, religious education, new member inclusion, and leadership development
- Commitment to antiracism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism
- Responsible, mission focused stewardship and outreach
- Engages with other faith communities for social action and advocacy

I've adapted the above from a UUA handout.

To learn more on becoming a ministering congregation contact

growthresources@uua.org.

In peace and with blessings,
Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister
paulamaiorano@yahoo.com

Religious Education-Youth

Calendar Events

- May 3 Wiccan/Pagan: Introduction
- May 10 Celebration of Mother's Day
- May 17 Wiccan/ Pagan: Celebration of the Seasons
- May 24 Unitarian Universalist: Joseph Priestley
- May 30 Unitarian Universalist: John Murray

RE Donation Needs: None this month

Our Religious Education

Our religious education program of World Religions is coming to an end. The first Sunday in May we will explore the beliefs of the Wicca, a religion based on nature and respect of it. Wicca, sometimes called "*The Craft*" or "*The Craft of the Wise*" is one of many earth-based religions. The religion which is closest to Wicca in America is probably Native American spirituality. Traditional Wicca was founded by Gerald Gardner, a British civil servant, who wrote a series of books on the religion in the 1940's. It contains references to Celtic deities, symbols, seasonal days of celebration, etc. Added to this were components of ceremonial magic and practices of the Masonic Order. A more recent form is eclectic Wicca which involves a combination of Wiccan beliefs and practices, combined with other Pagan and non-Pagan elements. The various traditions of Wicca are part of the Pagan or Neopagan group of earth-based religions.

In 1974 one group of American Witches meeting in Minneapolis adopted a group of principles that they felt reflected the thinking of many modern Pagan Witches whether in the United States or elsewhere. A few of these principles from Minneapolis are: (1) practicing rites to attune themselves with the natural rhythm of life forces marked by the phases of the moon and the seasonal Quarters and Cross Quarters. (2) recognizing that their intelligence gives them a unique responsibility toward the environment. They seek to live in harmony with nature, in ecological balance offering fulfillment to life and consciousness within an evolutionary concept. (3) They do not recognize any authoritarian hierarchy, but do honor those who teach, respect those who share their greater knowledge and wisdom, and acknowledge those who have courageously given of themselves in leadership.

Many people view the Wiccan/Pagan religion as a personal thing that can mean different ideas to different people. I feel it is the joyous union of nature and being one with Divinity in whatever form you feel he/she/it may take.

On May 10 we will take a break from World Religions to celebrate and honor our mothers and guardians. On May 24 and 31 we will begin an exploration of Unitarian Universalists who have helped shape our fellowship and the future of America. We will begin with Joseph Priestley the discoverer of oxygen who was also the minister who started the first Unitarian Church in America. On the last Sunday of May we will discuss John Murray, the founder of Universalism in America.

A big Hearty thank you to all who participated in the "Secret Friends" activity. As always, it was a hit, ending with a wonderful pot luck!

Summer RE Program

Our summer RE program will begin June 21 and end August 30. We need volunteers (preferably pairs) for the 11 weeks that the regular classes are not in session. This is your chance to work or play with our fantastic kids! There is no limit of activities you can

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President's Corner

Notice of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP AT EASTON Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 17, 2009 (11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)*

We need your input and your vote (50% quorum)

Agenda

- Welcome – (Dick Doughty)
- Approval of Minutes – May 2008 & May 3rd Special Congregational Meeting – (Jane Terebey)
- Recognition of Staff, Board, and Committee Chairs – (Dick Doughty)
- Stewardship Committee - Pledge Status – (Janet Pfeffer)
- Items for Approval
 - Children's RE Committee Recommendation to Increase the Religious Education Coordinator from a Quarter-Time to a Third-Time Position – (Colleen Ronning)
 - Music Committee Recommendation to Hire Half-Time Music Director (Maggie Garey)
 - Budget FY2009-2010 – (Peter Paul)
 - Amendment to Article IX of UUFE By Laws – (Joanie Baynard)
 - Election of Officers, Board Members, and Nominating Committee – (Dave Moore)
- Member Input To Board
- Presentation of Special Awards
- Adjournment

*Substantial snacks will be available during coffee hour.

UUFE Slate of Officers, Trustees, and Nominating Committee Members 2009-2010

Officers:

President: Nancy Dimond
Vice-President: Sandra Henry-Stocker
Treasurer: Liz McGroary
Clerk: Janet Pfeffer

Board Members at Large:

Through 6/2010: Ann Davis, Frank Greenburg, Broughton Earnest
Through 6/2011: Jane Terebey, Lisa Menditch, Chris Hall

Nominating Committee:

Through 6/2010: Dave Moore
Through 6/2011: Martha Hamlyn, Juliet Smith

PROPOSED CHANGE TO UUFE BYLAWS ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Explanation - The list of committees in Section 1 was updated to reflect the current committee structure. No other changes were made. Section 2 remains the same.

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(Religious Education-Youth, continued)
choose to do! Do you like to hike? Do you like to play games? Do you like to do arts and crafts? Do you like to make bird feeders? Paint? So do our kids! Check your summer calendar – decide what talent or gift you would like to share – find a friend to join you - and sign up!

The Summer Sign Up is located on the RE bulletin board. If you are interested in volunteering this summer in the nursery please see Nancy Dimond.

Something to Think About

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

We agree to do the following things with our children:

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

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

See you on Sunday!

*Liz Hausburg
Director Youth R.E.*

Board News

In April the Board approved a partnership with Easton Rocks After School, Inc. to provide the UU curriculum, *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* during the next fiscal year. This curriculum addresses sexuality and will be given twice at our Fellowship in a retreat format for 15 youth during each series (fall and spring). Facilitators of the sessions, having been trained in the curriculum, are from UUFE and Unitarian Universalists of Chester River. Participants will be recruited first from the youth of these two congregations and then from the participants of Easton Rocks.

The Board voted to accept the dedicated gift of anonymous donors in the form of a challenge grant to match up to \$4000 of increased pledges to fund the salary of a half-time Music Director, and make it possible to balance the proposed budget.

Jane Terebey

May 2009

(President's Corner, continued)

Proposed revised wording for Section 1:

Section 1. Standing Committees:

The Board of Trustees shall establish and define the function of all Standing Committees except the Nominating Committee. These shall include, but not be limited to:

- Administrative
- Adult Enrichment
- Annual Stewardship
- Archives
- Building & Grounds
- Children's Religious Education
- Communications
- Denominational Connections
- Finance
- Fund Raising
- Member Services
- Kitchen/Coffee Hour
- Music
- Personnel
- Social Action
- Worship

The President shall appoint the Chairs of the Standing Committees, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, for a term of one year.

Dick Doughty

Member Services

Our next committee meeting is Wednesday, May 13 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

Life is uncertain -
Eat dessert first

Ernestine Ulmer

**A Tribute to Nelson Marshall
December 1914 - March 2009**

Many members of the Fellowship remember both Nelson and his wife Grace with great fondness. They were active participants at UUFE for over 20 years until moving to Oregon to be near their daughter. We remember Grace as a true lover of nature who funded our Nature Trail, now named in her honor. Her work toward peace included support of the United Nations and our annual day of observance, which she always organized. Both were active in our Sunday School program with Nelson teaching a group of our younger boys for several years. Under his eye, there was often a rowdy, all-age, soccer game following classes.

As president, Nelson's faith in our little community led us through the purchase of this property at a time when our membership and resources were slim. Professionally, he was a devoted scientist, working internationally in his field of oceanography, but I remember him most for his continuing quest to marry his training with his deep sense of religious sensitivity. He believed that we must take "a great leap of freedom" and build from within our own perspectives a religious view of the nature of life and the grandeur of the universe. Both Grace and Nelson were the best of Unitarian Universalism.

Edie Swallow

Gatherings

May Day Celebration and Fellowship Supper, Friday, May 1: This month, for First Friday Youth Night, the youth will participate in this May Day Celebration and Fellowship Supper with Rev. Gabi at 5:30 p.m.

Brunch with Children's R.E., Saturday, May 2: Kids, Parents and Teachers join Rev. Gabi for brunch at 10 a.m.

Open Invitation to All, Saturday, May 2: Stop by and chat with Rev. Gabi anytime from 2 - 6 p.m.

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, May 6 and 20: We meet at the Airport Café at about 11:30. Women are always welcome, but seldom seen.

Religions of the East, Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27: This ten week class concludes this month with Nancy Dimond and Paula Maiorano leading a ten week exploration of *Religions of the East*. The class is currently filled, but if you are interested, contact Nancy or Paula for information regarding a possible future opportunity. There is a \$10 materials fee for the class.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, May 14: Enjoy your brown bag lunch with this lunch bunch on Joanne Baynard's porch at noon. Joanie lives at 207 Wye Avenue, behind Memorial Hospital.

Book Group, Thursday, May 21: Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for a lively discussion of a book you are currently reading. We will also share regarding *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us in the Archer Shee Room. If you have any questions, contact Joanie Baynard at 410-770-8277.

Friday Night Movie: The Friday Night Movies will be suspended until Fall. Have a great Summer!

General Assembly (GA), A Meeting of Congregations

June 24-28, 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.

Make General Assembly Fun and Solution-Filled for YOU

Work with some of the best and brightest minds in our Association.

Opt for the track that best suits your interests and the needs of your congregation.

Recharge your spiritual batteries as you learn—inspirational worship is part of every track.

Think outside of your own congregation's box.

Meet and share experiences and ideas with UUs from congregations of all types and sizes. "Aha!" moments for all.

Enjoy trainings designed for UUs of all ages, learning styles, and experience of Unitarian Universalism.

The full [Program Schedule](http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/programming/14599.shtml) is available at <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/programming/14599.shtml>

2009 is a [UUA presidential election](#) year.

This year's Assembly will vote to adopt a new Statement of Conscience, [Peacemaking](#).

We welcome Melissa Harris-Lacewell as the [2009 Ware Lecturer](#).

If you plan to go to GA this year, please contact Suzanne Clarke sjclarke232@verizon.net to let her know you plan to go so we can keep a head count.

TOO GOOD FOR THE YARD SALE!

A SWAP PARTY FOR UUF E WOMEN AND THEIR FRIENDS

FRIDAY, MAY 8 7 P.M.
RHIAN-FAIRBANKS HOME
7607 EASTON CLUB DRIVE ,
EASTON

*Deliver your special trade-ins to
UUF E
between Sunday, May 3rd and
NOON Friday May 8th
or make arrangements with
Jean, 410-822-5807.*

Let Janet Pfeffer know what you
can bring for dessert to share!

\$10 cover
We welcome donations for lucky
finds!

A Day of Mindfulness presented by the Center for Integrative Medicine

This workshop is an opportunity to learn a meditation technique that can bring about tranquility, mental clarity and the ability to reduce stress - appropriate for those interested in the awakening and enrichment in their lives that mindfulness can bring about. The **Day** will consist of instruction and practice of various types of meditation: sitting, walking, eating, body scan, gentle yoga and mindful dialogue. A portion of the **Day** will be held in silence as an integral part of the experience. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat and bag lunch. Some yoga mats will be provided.

Dr. Larissa Kitenko, the instructor, is a clinical pharmacist at Shore Health System and Associate Clinical Chaplain.

The **Day** will be held at the Talbot Hospice House, Cynwood Drive in Easton on Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 to 4:00. Tuition before May 15 is \$55 (\$65 thereafter).

For more information or to register, call 410 770-9400.

Editor's Note: John Turner brought this event to our attention.

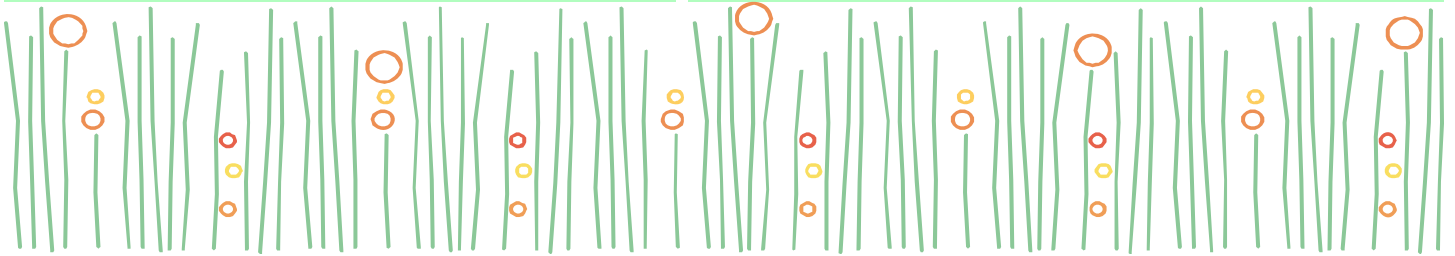
UUFE Contacts

Interim Minister	Rev. Paula Maiorano, 410 822-8103
President	Dick Doughty, 410 673-7580
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, 410 819-8810

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
PO BOX 1162
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

