



Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

November 2009

Sermons

Disenfranchised Grief

Nov. 1

Rev. Gabi will explore how people deal with grief that is overlooked, considered not "normal," or is not "socially acceptable," for example suicide, miscarriage, partners in a glbt relationship, etc.

Nov. 8, Baha'i

November 12 is the birthday of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i religion. Rev. Gabi will use this opportunity for our exploration of a religion which now has more than five million followers in 200 countries.

Nov. 15, Who am I?

Arguably, there is little that is more fundamental to our identity than our gender. But what if you got the wrong gender? John Turner will discuss some of the issues for transgendered people and how these are relevant for all of us. Note: this sermon will be completely appropriate for all ages and sensibilities.

Nov. 22, Are We There Yet?

This intergenerational service will be a scripted reading of a modern day Thanksgiving story, presented by UUFE Thespians.

Nov. 29, The Soul of Public Health

UUFE member Janet Pfeffer will touch on the history, heroics and evolving challenges of her chosen field, public health, as she looks at her quest for truth and meaning. Who knew she was a Polio Pioneer?

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

Inside....

President's Corner.....	2
Minister's Message	2
Gatherings	3
Member Services	3
Adult Enrichment	4
Religious Education-Youth	4
New Member Biographies	5
Board News.....	5
Other Items of Interest	6 & 7
UUFE Contacts.....	8
Calendar	click on word or see the insert

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL - Nov. 1
Pot Luck, Games, Prizes and Lots of Fun

Once again it's time for our Annual UUFE Fall Festival - Sunday, November 1. Festivities will follow the worship service. We will have a potluck lunch with standard fall fare - chili (both vegetarian and non-vegetarian), corn bread, hot dogs, pies, cakes, cookies and cider. The Religious Education staff has a variety of inter-generational games for all - adults and kids alike. Hope everyone can join in on the fun and get to know each other better. Please come with one of the above suggested dishes to serve 6-8. If you can't bring a dish, come anyway. We always have plenty.

Gail Woodall, Member Services



President's Corner

I believe it was in the spring of 2002 that the members of UU Fellowship at Easton had a vote on whether or not the Fellowship wanted to grow. The vast majority voted yes. Well, our dreams are coming true. On a recent Sunday we had 94 adults and 25 children in attendance! A record for UUFE!

Several things are going on behind the scenes that will affect where we go from here and facilitate the management of the growing numbers who come through our doors in search of a spiritual home.

- 1) Most immediately, our Building and Grounds Committee will be working to expand parking by about 10 spaces. So join the workday on Saturday November 7!
- 2) Next spring we will have a Visioning Workshop for the congregation. This is a workshop where congregants express their hopes and dreams for the Fellowship. If we don't know where we want to go, then how do we get there? and...
- 3) At our most recent Board meeting, a proposal from the Building and Grounds Committee was approved to update the Site Master Plan. The Site Master Plan was developed as part of the process for renovating our building into what it is today. The original plan called for a large sanctuary to the south of our current building. One of these days, maybe in the not too distant future, we'll need to start thinking about completing this Master Plan and build the larger sanctuary.

A growing congregation is both exciting and scary, as is all change. For me personally, I think about what the world would be like if more people discovered Unitarian Universalism. If our congregation, here in Easton, Maryland can open its doors to more and more people, we can help make a small change in our world.

Namaste

Nancy Sawyer

Minister's Message

The leaves are starting to change their color – fall is really here now! I love taking my dog for a walk in the large field behind my house. Nature is undisturbed there, because it's under a power line; and Koal and I meet many critters and see countless plants so that I am constantly reminded of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. In our busy daily lives it is easy to forget that we are just part of the puzzle that makes up life in the universe.

As a species, we tend to think that we matter and other life forms don't; and often individuals may fail to grow out of the belief that "I count" and "you don't." But if we take a closer look at nature, we can see that each creature has its place in the world. A snail's job may be to suck the slime from rocks in a brook. Not a glamorous job, but one that affects the character of the stream and the life that it carries. The purity of the water you drink may depend on the well-being of microorganisms living in the gut of that snail high in some mountain stream you will never visit.

We only really become at home in the world when we recognize the unity of all life. We become fully human when we join the rest of the animal kingdom in their family. The web of life is deep and complex. Let us not forget that we are part of its weaving, and it is our responsibility to go easy on its threads.

The spider, the fly, the wolf, the sheep, the swan that swims so gracefully and the vulture that tears the flesh of the dead; the saintly nun feeding the poor, and the thief who steals a child's milk; all breathe the same air. Each hungers for sustenance. Each tires with exertion. Each seeks to be warm and comfortable. Each will feel pain and each will die. Each will make their mark on the world some way.

I invite you to take some time to contemplate this web of life. Relax and close off your mind to the pressures of your day. Set worry aside and give your mind to quiet thought. Breathe out slowly and fully to make room for the air that will flow into your lungs to fill the need. Let your conscious breathing calm you. Bid your muscles to relax. Scan your body for any muscles that didn't get the message. Where you feel tension, invite relaxation. Be calm. Be open. Take time to create images that use all your senses. In your mind, see, feel, hear, taste and smell. In your body feel emotion, feel the wonder of being what you are not aware of being.

Turn your mind to thoughts of the unity of life. As you perceive the world in new ways, let your heart open to all beings. Choose to be in the world as an expression of love. Allow compassion to inform your choices. Make friends with all the world.

Rev. Gabi

We've got it, by Georgette, we've got it! I think.

At least for the time being, a plan is in place for the JULIET's.

Monthly **luncheons** will be the 10th of each month unless the 10th is a Saturday or Sunday. In that case the luncheon will be held the following Monday. Lunches will be held at homes or the Fellowship at 12:00 noon. They will be BYOB (bring your own bag) with the hostess providing beverages and dessert. Come summer, we may dine *al fresco*.

Monthly **dinners** will be on the 20th of each month. If the 20th is a Saturday or Sunday, dinner will be held the following Monday. Dinners will be held at 7:00 at UUFE and will be hosted by one or two women who will provide beverages and dessert. They will also be BYOB (bag dinner).
Ann Davis

Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, Nov. 4 and 18. All men are invited to meet at the Airport Café about 11:30. This gathering is sometimes referred to as ROMEO's, however retirement is not a prerequisite for attendance. Breakfast is served until 11:30.

First Friday Youth Night, Nov. 6. Amy Eutsey will be the parent on-hand for this night of fun, games, and 'Making your own Pizza'.

UUFE Workday, Saturday, Nov. 7: Come join one of the teams from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to clean up flower beds, wash windows, clear foliage for additional parking, clean up the nature trail and even scrub the kitchen. The more the merrier.

Juliets' Lunch, Tuesday, Nov. 10: BYOB (Bring your own bag) to the Fellowship at 11:15 a.m. and carpool to Robin Benfer's home in Cambridge. Directions are available at the Fellowship or by contacting Ann Davis. Robin will provide beverages and desert.

Movie, Wednesday, Nov. 11: *Doubt*, shown at 7 p.m. See details in the Adult Enrichment column, page 4.

Yoga, Mondays, Nov. 16,23,30: Weekly classes from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. start this month. See ad on page 7 for details.

The Book Group, Thursday, Nov. 19:

We meet at the Fellowship at 11:30 a.m. in the Archer-Shee room and invite all to bring a brown bag lunch and share in our very informal discussions. Even if you haven't read the book, please join us. The book for November is *Elegance of A Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Joanie Baynard and Diane Post will lead the discussion.

(Our December book is *The Guernsey Literary Potatoe Peel Pie Society* by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffner with Nancy Orr as leader. In January, Gail Woodall will lead a discussion of *Gardens of Water* by Allen Drew.)

The tea kettle will be boiling and coffee made. Please let us know if you would prefer a different day or time for the Book Group. For more information, call Joanie at 410-770-8277.

Juliets' Dinner, Friday, Nov. 20: Meet at the fellowship at 7:00 p.m for the first of our monthly women's dinner gatherings. BYOB (bag) dinner. Deserts and beverages will be provided.

Member Services

The committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building on Wednesday, November 11.

NEW MEMBERS

Our newest members are Steven and Tara Dellavecchia who moved to St. Michaels from Columbia, MD where they were members of the UU Church there. Their children, Samuel and Anna, participate in our religious education program. We hope you will be able to have a chance to introduce yourselves to the Dellavecchias and get to know them better.

INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Sunday, November 8 from
11:30 am – 3:30 pm at the
Fellowship

This class is for visitors, those of you who are new to the Fellowship, and/or those who are interested in knowing more about Unitarian Universalism and our Easton Fellowship. Rev. Gabi Parks and members of the Member Services Committee will lead the class.

To register, please call the church office at 410- 822-8103. A light lunch will be provided. Childcare can be arranged with advance notice by Sunday, November 1.
Gail Woodall

Arcs from the Caring Circles

One of the features of this UUFE program is designed to cover emergency situations. When you are contacted by your Caring Circle Captain/s you will receive a Religious Affiliation/Emergency Card which provides emergency or medical personnel with a contact phone number. If family information is not available, the UUFE contact name and phone number will be provided. This card should be kept with your health insurance card or other forms of identification.

Reverend Gabi or a member of your Caring Circle will respond in an emergency; this response may be in the form of attending to you at the hospital and/or contacting the person you have designated as your emergency contact.

The Fellowship will maintain a Personal Information Registry. Forms are available from Ann Davis or Rev. Gabi.

Additional information will be presented at a meeting in the near future.

Watch for publicity.
Ann Davis

Adult Enrichment

November 2009 Programs

Building Your Own Theology – an on-going 10 session course

Wednesdays, November 4, 18
7:00-9:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Facilitator: Rev. Gabi Parks

This course began in September and will continue through November 18. Participants reflect on their religious experiences and knowledge and create their own credos. Each person explores varieties of religious experience, human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics, and religious meaning. Notice there is no program on November 11.

Movie – *Doubt*

November 11, 2009
7-9 pm in the Archer –Shee Room

Set in 1964, *Doubt* centers on a nun who confronts a priest after suspecting him of abusing a black student. He denies the charges, and much of the play's quick-fire dialogue tackles themes of religion, morality, and authority. Starring Meryl Streep, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, and Amy Adams. Discussion afterward.

December 2009 Programs

YULETIDE RECHARGE

Wednesday, Dec 2, 9, 16, and 23
from 7 pm to 7:45 pm

Take a break from the hectic busy-ness of the holiday season and join Rev. Gabi for 45 minutes of quiet music, silence, and reflection.

Don't buy one yet!



The Holiday Wreath Sale will be Sunday December 6 after the service.

Religious Education-Youth

Calendar Events

- Nov. 1 Joseph and His Brothers (Jealousy/Envy)
- Nov. 8 Joseph and His Dreams (Giving and Forgiving)
- Nov. 15 Moses in the Bulrushes (Persecution)
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving (Thankfulness)
- Nov. 29 Moses and the Burning Bush (Dedication)

Donation needs this month: Kleenex, Hand sanitizer, Drink boxes.

Our Religious Education Year

This month begins with the topic of jealousy as we learn the story of Joseph and his brothers. As we continue through the month we will discuss giving, forgiving, thankfulness and dedication. The story of Moses in the Bulrushes addresses the topic of persecution -- bothering or harming someone because of their beliefs, a topic which aligns with three UU beliefs:

- We believe that each and every person is important.
- We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
- We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

This month focuses on kindness and treating everyone with respect regardless of beliefs.

A reminder: I will be available at the Fellowship 2 evenings a week, the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 to answer questions about our Religious Education program, Friday Youth nights, or to just chat about kids. My office is in the Nursery down the hall in the RE wing.

November's "Something to Think About" from Jane Barlett's book *Parenting with Spirit*

Create a Family Creed. What is the purpose of your family? Whether you are a large or small family, a single-parent family, a family with stepchildren or adopted children, why are you all together, living here on this earth?

Make this a fun activity! Provide paper and colored pencils or crayons and use these questions to guide your activity.

What is the purpose of our family?

- What kind of family do we want to be?
- What kind of things do we want to do?
- What are our highest priorities and goals?
- What are our responsibilities?

For younger children you might try:

- What are we like together when we are feeling really kind?
- What do you like doing as a family?
- If you had three wishes for our family, what would they be?

See you in Fellowship!

Liz Hausburg, CRE

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES – Fiona and David Foster



Both Fiona and David feel very strongly about the importance of community in their lives, and their interests have consistently reflected this feeling. Coming from the big city of Philadelphia and eventually settling in Oxford, Fiona has immersed herself in the life-blood of this community. She has served as a director of both the Oxford Museum and the Oxford Community Center and is currently the Artistic Director of the noted Tred Avon Players, in which capacity she has directed or produced 27 plays. As a harbinger of her future life in Oxford, Fiona remarked that on her very first night in Oxford in 1982, the Tred Avon Players performed their first production.

It was a love of theater that drew Fiona and David together. After a career as a lawyer in his hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, San Diego and Dallas, David moved to the Washington, D.C. area as a political representative in the telecommunications and energy sectors. He confesses to a lifelong closet vocation as an actor and entertainer and was on stage for The Little Theatre of Alexandria in 1983 when Fiona first saw him.

Combining their families when they married in 1984, Fiona brought four daughters and David two. Thus far, they have eight grandchildren, six boys and two girls. David's background as a Washington lobbyist prepared him gastronomically if not vocationally when he and Fiona assumed the management of the Masthead restaurant in Oxford. After four years, when they turned it over to their daughter, Leigh Marquess (another new UU member), they had successfully doubled its capacity.

Delighted to discover the recently formed Tred Avon Players in Oxford, they soon recognized that TAP had many actors, but not enough directors. Stepping into that role, they have worked with many others to build what is now a renowned community theater. As David puts it, "Theatre is best done by a couple working together."

Although Fiona comes from a Roman Catholic background and David from a Methodist one, they were attracted to the Fellowship by its humane, enabling and inclusive message and by the opportunity it offered for spiritual renewal and authentic participation. Fiona summed up her feeling by stating that as she joins in our services she feels that at that moment she would not want to be anywhere else. David has already lent his story-telling talent to our pulpit.

We warmly welcome Fiona and David into our congregation and urge all members to discover the many other facets to their remarkable lives that could not be covered in this brief biography.

Note: In the future, new member biographies will not appear in the newsletter but will be available on our web site. For those of you who do not have internet access, arrangements for printing them can be made.

Jean Griffith

Board News

Highlights from the Board of Trustees of UUFE Meeting

October 13, 2009

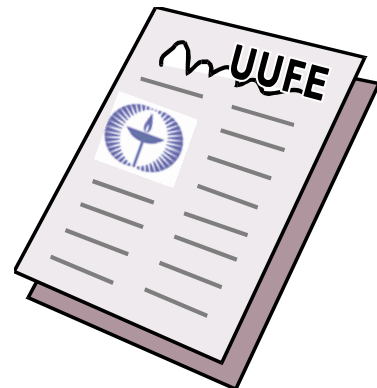
- The Committee on Congregational Ministry has begun meeting and will meet approximately monthly.
- The Board will receive balance sheet and capital fund reports quarterly as well as monthly financial statements.
- Jean Rhian and Jack Davis are receiving thanks for their help in closing out the last fiscal year and establishing fiscal procedures.
- Board Members will continue to take turns making Sunday morning announcements.
- Amy Hadsell's request to provide family yoga classes at UUFE is approved.
- The Building and Grounds Committee will be hiring a new custodian and refining custodial responsibilities.
- The Building and Grounds Committee plan to add 10 parking spots on the North side of the UUFE property is approved.
- The Building and Grounds Committee will create a sub-committee to revise the UUFE building master plan.
- A Long Range Planning Task Force (Sandra Henry Stocker, Chris Hall and Liz McGrory) will write a plan for the current fiscal year and, in conjunction with the Visioning Workshop in the spring, develop a long range plan for the future.

Janet Pfeffer

Newsletter News

To submit an article or notice for the next newsletter, send it to editor@uufeaston.org by Sunday, November 15. Please attach photographs separately. Space permitting, you'll see your contribution in the December UUFE newsletter on-line at www.uufeaston.org.

If you don't have internet access, request that a copy be mailed to you by calling our office at 410 822-8103.





Going in Circles

Help! What the Heck Should We Call Them !

We have groups named "Caring Circles" and we think everyone understands that they are about lay ministry and pastoral care. That name seems to fit. We are thinking about starting up "Circle Dinners" and that should be OK also because the word "dinner" describes what they would be about.

However, we have groups named **Chalice Circles**, formerly called small group ministry or covenant groups. These groups of up to ten people come together twice a month to share thoughts and feelings about topics of deep meaning. These groups develop a covenant outlining behavioral guidelines. The purpose of a covenant group is relationship building and the support of individual spiritual development. By extension covenant groups extend the shared ministry of UUFE.

PLEASE HELP US!! So that our congregation is not spinning in circles regarding what we are and what we do, we are looking for a new name for "Chalice Circles" that is more representative. We need your insight and creativity. The person with the winning name will win two passes to the Easton Cinema.

To participate in this name changing project, submit your suggestion and your name in the file marked "Ann Davis" on the desk in the church office or e-mail Ann at awd1620@aol.com.

Thanks, we appreciate your help.

Ann Davis

I'm a Unitarian Universalist.

The bedrock of my faith is the unshakable belief that your guess is as good as mine.

Building and Grounds - Protecting Our Septic System

On a Sunday morning, while in the Meeting Room looking east toward the back of our property, have you ever noticed the above ground electric box with a red light on top? That box is part of the septic system which handles wastewater and sewage from our facility. The septic system consists of two holding tanks piped in series, 750 gallon and 1500 gallon, followed by a pumping station which delivers the effluent to the tile field. These two holding tanks and the pumping station are located directly behind the Meeting Room. Their location is marked by flat concrete slabs on top of the ground. The red light on the electric box is a high level alarm for the pumping chamber. If the red light should ever turn on, it indicates that the septic pump is not working, the pump chamber has a high level, and maintenance is required. The tile field consists of three lines 100 feet long which start at the pumping station and extend north almost to the northern property boundary near the large pine tree.

Why is this information important? The septic holding tanks are not designed to support heavy loads on the soil above them. For this reason, vehicle traffic over them is not permitted. Also, vehicle traffic over the tile fields tends to compress the soil in the tile field and make it less effective in treating the effluent. For these reasons, vehicle traffic is not permitted directly behind the Meeting Room or the RE classrooms in our building. This traffic-prohibited area extends north to the property line and all the way back to the overhead electric lines running south to north. Flower beds have been planted on three sides of this vehicle restricted area to remind people of this limitation.

If you need to bring a vehicle to the back of the property to reach the storage shed or nature trail, please drive on the south side of the building and go straight toward the back (east) side of the property without entering the restricted area. It is also undesirable to drive metal rods such as tent stakes into the ground in the restricted area. The rods may penetrate and break the tile field piping, causing leaks and reducing the effectiveness of the treatment system.

For more information, please direct any questions regarding the septic system and restricted vehicle access to any member of the Building & Grounds Committee.

Dick Doughty



WOW

Kudos to Shalagh Hogan and the FUNdraising committee for a wonderful Service Auction. It was a beautiful event, and the most profitable ever - \$10,200!

Thanks everyone for your hard work and participation.

Colleen Ronning

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Southern Delaware Invites you to attend the Second Annual Church & Community Arts Benefit & Fund Raiser on Saturday November 21, 2009 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at 8255 Hearn's Pond Road in Seaford DE 19973. The afternoon features work of Gabriel Jules.

Recently featured in the UU World Magazine Fall 2009 edition, Ms. Jules is a renowned local artist and member of the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware.

Admission is \$35.00 per guest (cash or check made payable to UUSD)

Included in this tax deductible contribution:

Light refreshments on beautiful Hearn's Pond and your choice of an original, signed, hand pulled etching by Gabriel Jules. "They make great gifts." There will also be a raffle for a framed, colored woodcut, "Boy With Bird" by well known American Artist Mervin Jules, 1912 - 1993. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six tickets for \$5.00. You need not be present to win.

All proceeds benefit UUSD and The Rehoboth Art League Children's Program. Music will be provided by Mr. Jessie Friend.

For more information please call 302-628-0471.



YOGA – FAMILY STYLE

Enjoy gentle to moderate yoga classes with Amy Hadsell, a Kripalu trained yoga instructor. Open to adults and parent/child pairs, this series is appropriate for beginners to experienced yoga enthusiasts. Each 90 minute class includes centering, warm-ups, yoga poses and sivasana. As the series unfolds, Amy weaves in a variety of interactive activities and partner yoga, which are engaging to both adults and youth.

Classes are held in the UUFE sanctuary and include all yoga props and supplies. Increase your fun, relaxation, focus and flexibility with Yoga – Family Style!

6 week Fall session, Mondays,
November 16 - December 21,
5:00-6:30pm

Full session is adults \$77/child \$35; or
pay per class
at \$14 adults/\$7 child

Class size is limited.

For more information or registration,
call Amy Hadsell 410-570-3702

UUFE Contacts

Minister	Rev. Gabriele Parks, 410 822-8103 minister@uufeaston.org
President	Nancy Sawyer 443 362-0946 president@uufeaston.org
Coordinator, 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

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.



www.uufeaston.org



8



November 2009

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP AT EASTON
PO BOX 1162
EASTON, MD 21601

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

