



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

September 2009

Sermons

Labor and Justice

September 6

Rev. Gabi explores the past, present and future of the labor movement; and of the role churches and religious individuals play(ed) in it. Look forward to lots of music, too!

September 13, Expectations

We are starting a new (church) year, and a new relationship with each other. What are our expectations of each other, and what do we hope for? This worship service led by Rev. Gabi will include a multi-logue, giving all a chance to share their outlook for the year.

September 20, Forgiveness

Honoring the Jewish High Holy days, Rev. Gabi will explore with us the concept of forgiveness. Why it is sometimes so hard to forgive. Why is it dangerous to hold on to grudges? And why is it important to work on such issues?

September 27, Fighting for Your Life: When the Spiritual Life is a Struggle

Wes Davis is an educator, writer, songwriter, musician, former United Methodist pastor and popular speaker with the Salisbury UU Fellowship. He will explore the ways many of us wrestle with faith and common understandings of God, stress the personal and individual dynamics of religious belief and share his own struggles with a sense of spirituality. His sermon includes original music.

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

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An Early But Important Notice



The 12th terrific UUFE Service Auction and Dessert Buffet on Friday, October 16 promises fun, food, and fantasy fulfillment. Come to

- feast on cakes and cookies, fruits, wines and cheese
- bid on professional services, arts and crafts, adventures, special dinners, and edibles galore
- see who snaps up your offerings, and
- laugh with our auctioneers, as Tom Anovick pairs up with Kirk Hadsell

Look for a sign-up sheet in this newsletter, on the UUFE web-page, or in the lobby display stand.

Questions? Ask Janet Pfeffer at jpfeffer@goeaston.net or 410-770-9540.

IN MEMORIAM

A Memorial Service for our former minister, Rev. Jim Bank will be held Saturday, August 29, 2 p.m. at the Fellowship.

His long-time friend, Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh, of Westside UU Church in Knoxville, TN will officiate.

A reception will follow.

President's Corner

I thought this poem might be appropriate for the beginning of our new church year and at the beginning of our relationship with our new minister, Gabriele Parks. As you read the poem, I encourage you to think about what this new story might be for you, what it might be for our Fellowship.

Here are a few of the stories of the Fellowship you'll see unfold this year:

- Hiring a new Director of Music Ministry
- Having many youth involved in the "Our Whole Lives" project (co-sponsored by Easton Rocks)
- Varied offerings by the Adult Religious Education program
- Expansion of the Talbot Interfaith Shelter program of which Uufe is a part

The Soul, Feeling Expansive, Masquerades as a Butterfly

*Attaching the wings is the easy part.
A dab of glue here and here, and stretch.
See how the light comes through, pinks the air,
drops a sudden pattern on the sidewalk.
Next the furred mask, the antennae like
breathy threads,
and adjusting them just so in a mirror
made of puddle and sky.*

*The soul anticipates flight as if it were not
imagining,
tastes the air, tests the wind, flutters
the veined wings, feels the small whir
in the center of itself, that engine of yen and
excitement.*

*The daylight shifts and shifts back,
breath and magic and breath,
a world gone keen with glint and shine.
The air tastes like lemon and the secret
mouths of penstemon.*

*The soul scans the whole wide view,
lifts the costume wings and jumps,
both feet at once, into a horizon
as open as the beginning of a story.*

Gillian Wegener, *The Opposite of Clairvoyance*, Sixteen Rivers Press, 2008.

If you feel inspired in a way that would influence what the Fellowship is or does, take your ideas to the appropriate committee, me, Sandra Henry-Stocker or Rev. Parks. Maybe we can help your soul take flight.

Nancy Sawyer

Thoughts from Rev. Gabi

"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something."

I chose this quote by Sandra Day O'Connor for my first Uufe newsletter column because it touches on two facts that are important to me in my ministry: 1) together we are able to create something that is much larger than what any individual could achieve; and 2) we are completely and utterly interdependent - whatever one does influences what others can or will do.

As your minister, I see myself as the spiritual leader of your congregation - this group of people who come together in a covenantal relationship with each other to form a beloved community. My role is defined through YOU and through our relationship with each other. In other words: I don't have a job without you, and I can't DO my job without you!

I invite you to come aboard, join me on this journey through the new church year; and I encourage you to interact with me as much as possible. I will have regular office hours when you can just drop in for a chat: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the evening from 6 pm to 8 pm; and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 10 am to 2 pm. Of course you can also make an appointment for a different time, or talk to me on the phone; the number is in your directory.

You will learn much about me in the coming months; and I will get to know you all much better. You will see that I am quite different from your previous ministers; and I in turn will most likely realize that you are very different from my previous congregations!

However, I'm confident that our different-ness will be a bonus, not an obstacle. To paraphrase Adlai Stevenson: *"Difference is, in fact, one of the healthiest and most invigorating of human characteristics without which life would become meaningless, and there's nothing to fear in difference. It is what gives power to the liberal way: not in making the whole world Unitarian [Universalist], but in helping ourselves and others to see some of the possibilities inherent in viewpoints other than one's own; in encouraging the free interchange of ideas; in welcoming fresh approaches to the problems of life; in urging the fullest, most vigorous use of critical self-examination."*

I am looking forward to a year of exploring together, creating together, and reaching out into the community together!

Warmly
Rev. Gabi

The Building Maintenance Subcommittee is always looking for "DIY" guys and gals who want to pitch in to keep our Uufe building in good repair. All you have to do is look down our list of chores here -- <http://uufeaston.org/BGC/> (click the "Task List" link) and pick out which ones you want to help with. Then contact Don Barker at MarylandGIS@yahoo.com or 410-634-2399.

No committee meetings to attend!



Religious Education-Youth

Calendar Events

- Sept. 6 Welcome (getting to know one another)
Sept. 13 Adam & Eve (loneliness)
Sept. 20 Cain & Abel (sibling rivalry)
Sept. 27 Noah (obedience)

RE Donation Needs: Drink Boxes

Starting Off Our Religious Education Year

Church school begins on September 6. This year we will begin a year long look at the people and events of the Bible using the UUA curriculum "Timeless Themes". I think my reasoning for using this curriculum is best explained by the introduction to the curriculum itself.

"This curriculum introduces our children to the religious literature which is central to our culture and to our heritage as Unitarian Universalists. By becoming familiar with the stories which help to shape the Jewish and Christian faiths our children will better understand our heritage. The human issues which inspired these scriptures are ageless. Their settings, social customs, and scientific knowledge may seem outdated, but their vital core of beliefs and values continues to be important. These timeless themes include:

- the belief in a transcendent power
- the belief that humans are responsible for their actions
- the love of freedom for all people
- the prophetic imperative to speak out against injustice
- the respect for the beliefs of others, and our common humanity
- the love of one's neighbor
- the forgiveness for wrongdoing"

All age groups will study the same "topic" using age-appropriate activities. Our four classrooms will be: nursery (for infants through age 3), Younger Elementary (pre-K - grade 1), Elementary (grades 2 - 4), and a Middle School group (grades 5 - 8).

This year in my *Something to Think About* section I will include ideas from the Jane Bartlett's book *Parenting with Spirit*.

September "Something to Think About"

1. Make the decision to parent with spirit
 - a. What have been my happiest moments that I have shared with my children?
 - b. What have been the most difficult challenges that I have faced as a parent?
 - c. What have I learned from these experiences?
2. Recognize Your Child's Natural Spirituality
 - a. How do I treasure my connection to spirit?
 - b. How might I nurture my spiritual self more?
 - c. What are ways in which I have already been nurturing the spiritual development of my children?

Also new this year - Beginning September 6 the children will not have a separate coffee hour/snack time. We would like to have them join the adults for fellowship and conversation 10 to 15 minutes after the service has ended. The teacher, parents and I will bring additional snacks and drink boxes for both children and adults. Just help yourself! Please be patient with us as we learn to converse and become a part of the greater Fellowship.

The RE staff extends an invitation for any member of the Fellowship to teach on a Sunday during the next five months. We will provide the lesson and materials. Our hope is to give our teachers an opportunity to attend the worship service. Please see me to review the calendar and to choose a person or event of the Bible that is of interest to you.

I look forward to a great year!

Liz Hausburg, CRE

Gatherings

Women's Spirituality Circle, Tuesday, Sept. 1. At 7:00 p.m. we will prepare to greet the autumn harvest at our monthly gathering honoring the Goddess. The circle is open to all women.

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, Sept. 2, 16, 23 and 30. All men are invited to meet at the Airport Café about 11:30. Best lunch and conversation value in town!

Women's Lunch, Wednesday Sept. 16: Bring a bag lunch at 12:00 Noon to Suzanne Clarke's home, 127 Miles Lane, St. Michael's. Suzanne will provide beverages and dessert. To get to her home, turn right onto Miles Lane from Route 33 opposite Shannahan's. Pass between the one-story duplex homes. At the end you will reach Suzanne's home. Please notify Ann Davis at awd1620@aol.com or call 410 745-2461 if you plan to attend.

Women's Lunch (Soon to have a new name—suggestions are welcome)

The monthly women's lunch will change its day and time this next year to accommodate members and friends who are not able to join us for our traditional Wednesday lunch. So that you can plan ahead, a notice will be sent via e-mail, a week in advance of each gathering. The dates will be shown in the monthly newsletter and on our web calendar at www.uufeaston.org

BOOK Group, Thursday, Sep. 17: 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 very informal discussions. If you haven't read the book, we invite you to join us anyway. Our selection for September is *Suite Françoise* by Irene Nemirovsky. Edie Swallow will be the group leader.

The October book selection is *A Life Worth Living* by Robert Martensen with Gail Woodall leading the discussion. The tea kettle will be boiling and coffee made.

Please let us know if a different day or time for our Book Group would be more convenient for you. For more information, call Joanne Baynard at 410-770-8277.

Popcorn Theology - Movie Night at UUFE, Wednesday Sept. 30: Come out and enjoy popcorn at this month's movie *Frost/Nixon* at 7:30. Discussion to follow. Join facilitator David Stevens for a dramatic retelling of the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former president Richard Nixon. Directed by Opie.

Adult Enrichment

Building Your Own Theology

a 10 session course offered on
Wednesdays,

September 2, 9, 16, 23,
October 7, 14, 21, 28,
November 4, 18

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

Facilitator: Rev. Gabi Parks

Cost: \$ 5

Registration: Sign up on Sundays or call/
email the church office. This course is limited to 20 participants. Make checks payable to UUFE

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 theology. Each person will write 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.

Adult RE Film Night on Wednesdays

Adult RE has scheduled one film night a month for most of the year. Participants will view the film together followed by a facilitated discussion. Facilitators will be from the Fellowship: someone who is passionate about the selected film and has prepared background information and questions for discussion. Let us know if you'd like to lead/co-lead an evening. See September's film offering under "Gatherings" on page 3.

Forget something?

For several months two winter coats have been left hanging in the closet at church. Both are tan, one a lady's, the other a man's. If they belong to you, pick them up soon or they might be candidates for the Neighborhood Service Center. See Mary Young's comment on page 5 under Social Action.

Member Services

INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Sunday, September 20

11:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Fellowship

We invite visitors, those of you who are new to the Fellowship, and those who are interested in knowing more about Unitarian Universalism and our Easton Fellowship to join us for an "Introduction to Unitarian Universalism" class. Our minister, 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 for all participants. Childcare will be provided with advance notice by Sunday, Sept. 13.

The next Member Services meeting will be Wednesday, September 9 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Gail Woodall

NEW MEMBER Leigh Marquess

Leigh is familiar to many members and friends at the Fellowship. She, her husband Skipper, and her daughter, Galen, have been attending and participating in services here for many months. Shortly after her mother and stepfather, Fiona and David Foster, signed our membership book, Leigh followed suit.

Leigh grew up near King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. When she was twenty she moved with her mother to Oxford. She attended the University of Maryland, received a degree in Psychology, and then went into the restaurant business. Her mother and step-father ran the Masthead Restaurant in Oxford for four years and Leigh managed the business. Later she attended the Macqueen Gibbs Schools of Nursing in Easton where she received her Nursing degree. Presently, she is a Nurse Care Manager at the Caroline County Health Department in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Division.

Many of our members may recall seeing Leigh in a number of the Tred Avon Players productions at the Oxford Community Center. She loves the idea of community theaters and tries to participate in a production every year. Last year she had a major role in *Sylvia*, the only play that the Tred Avon Players have ever repeated.

Leigh and Skipper's six-year-old daughter, Galen, has been an active participant in our children's Religious Education program and will enter 1st grade at the Country School in September. This may free up a bit of time for Leigh who has an interest in joining our incredible choir. Welcome Leigh!

Jean Griffith



CALLING ALL ARTISTS



A space in our entrance foyer has been created to showcase the artistic creativity of members and friends. Recently, photographs by David Stevens and paintings by Sue Loweree have been shown. All artists, working in any medium that can be hung, are invited to show their work. Showings will be scheduled for about a month each, according to interest and available artwork.

We UUs are talented and creative people and this will provide an opportunity to show and share our talents, bringing life and color to our entrance. No professional credentials are required: just the joy of creating in any medium – painting, photography, collage, quilting, needlework, or other. Work must be framed or otherwise ready to hang. One person may show several works at a time, depending on size. If work is for sale, a donation to UUFE of 20% of the price is suggested.

To help us get our UUFE Gallery started, a form is available in the foyer display area. Fill it out, leave it in the office, and a member of the Aesthetics Sub-committee will contact you. If you need additional information, speak to a member of the committee: Maggie Garey, Sue Loweree, Jean Rhian, or Nancy Orr.

Social Justice

Four members of the Social Justice Committee, Mary Young, Ken Court, David Stevens and Eric Stocker, sold lemonade and bottled water at an Aug 1 Arts Festival in St. Michaels to raise money for Pastor Luc Duratus' third Haitian School Project. The project is supported by several churches in the area as well as one in Centerville.

At the next meeting, the committee will plan how to allocate its budget for the first six months of the fiscal year (through December).

Sandra Henry Stocker

Again this year, Mariann Stackpole will collect clothing for the needy. Donations of coats, hats, scarves, gloves and boots are needed for both children and adults for distribution by the Neighborhood Services Center. The deadline for donations is October 1. For questions and/or to donate, contact Mariann at mariann64@msn.com or me.

Mary Young



LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR PHOTO INTO OUR NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you would like a retake of your photo, or if you do not yet have a photo in our directory and would like it to be in the new directory, please contact Rita Barker at 410 634-2399 or 443 786-0120 or e-mail me at rita78@comcast.net

I will be happy to set a time after a Sunday service to take your picture. Or if you have a photo you would like to be used I can make that happen as well. To ensure that your smile is included with your fellow UUFEs Please contact me before the end of September.



Rita Barker



Learn how it all comes together by volunteering for just two hours a week in the Fellowship office. No special skills are needed, except to provide a friendly presence. We'll find a niche for you. Please contact Edie Swallow

Board News

Highlights of the July and August UUFE Board of Directors Meetings

Treasurer's Report. Liz McGrory will present the final report for the previous fiscal year (prepared by Jean Rhian and Jack Davis) at the September board meeting.

Plans for Hiring Music Director. A Music Committee-led Search Committee, represented by at-large members and representatives from the Worship and RE Committees, should begin meeting this summer. Based on the work of the Search Committee, the Music Committee will recommend a candidate for Music Director for board approval.

Committee Chair Positions. President Nancy Dimond is seeking members to serve as Finance Chair and Annual Stewardship Chair. Responsibilities of the Capital Fund Director will be combined with the duties of the Finance Chair.

Leadership Development Plan. In November or December 2009, a Board-created task force regarding leadership development will present a plan for board approval.

Talbot Interfaith Shelter Fundraising Plans. The Social Justice Committee will be asked to increase UUFE's contribution to the shelter and/or to hold a fund-raiser for the shelter project.

Harmony Ministries Aid to Haiti Project. The Board approved a motion that the Social Justice Committee do fund-raising in support of the Harmony Ministries Project which in conjunction with other local churches will provide aid for schools and health clinics in Haiti.

Janet Pfeffer, Board Clerk

UUFE Contacts

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

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Deadline for the October UUFE Newsletter is
September 15



Reaching Out to Neighbors

To support the restoration of John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Oxford Neck, corner of Oxford Road and Evergreen Road, two September

events are planned to raise funds for the project. This one-room building served as an important house of worship and meeting place for generations of Talbot County African Americans. Deeded in 1838, the existing church cornerstone, uncovered during the work process, is dated 1875.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 6:00 p.m.

Lip Synch Show at the Oxford Community Center. Tickets are \$20 for an evening of music, food and fun. This fundraiser is for the restoration of the early 1900's bellows pedal organ. For ticket information contact Dorothea Rasin at 410 226-0405, Virginia Gibson at 410 924-1476 or Kathy Radcliffe at 410 924-1476.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 4:00 p.m.

Gospel Fest for the restoration project at Easton High School Auditorium. Adult admission is \$15, no charge for children under 10. Advance tickets are available in Easton at both The Athlete and Easton Affordable Furniture.

Lisa Menditch

Room for different beliefs. Yours.

**Unitarian Universalists
The Uncommon Denomination**

www.uufeaston.org

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September 2009



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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

