



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)
P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

April 2009

Fellowship Services

Fellowship services are held each **Sunday at 10:30 A.M.** at 366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA
All are welcome. Coffee and conversation follow the presentation.

Sunday Programs

April 5 – David Tetrault: “Ritual: Holy Week and Passover Observed”

Ritual activity helps us reactivate sacred memory. Tennyson might say it is “a link among the days to knit the generations each to each.”

RE Topic: Passover Seder

April 12 - Reed Johnson: “Can We Whip Global Warming Without Nuclear Power? I don't think so!”

After a brief presentation of information about nuclear energy and other alternative energy sources and concepts, Reed will make the case for the necessity of nuclear power in any comprehensive, global solution. An equally brief outline of a scheme for doing this will follow, opening the way for questions and further discussion.

RE Topic: Easter

April 19 - Rev. Jim Sanderson: “To Boldly Go”

Rev. Sanderson will explore the importance of mentors and community in the growth and development of humans and of humanity.

RE Topic: Child Dedication

A Potluck Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

April 26 – Jane Elkin: “Earth Day Celebration: Water, Earth, Tides, Wind, and Spirit”

For our Earth Day celebration, bring your thoughts and a few words about your Green lifestyle: building materials you recycle, your favorite environmentalists, global warming concerns, Earth Day, the Chesapeake or the Rappahannock. Bring an item for the Earth Day collage—an osprey feather, a native oyster shell, or any small treasure from a creek, river, wetland, beach or the Bay. Larry Graves has already contributed. Turkey feathers and a brochure describing his efforts to preserve a 12.5 acre waterfront parcel will be part of our Earth Day collage. Children are encouraged to contribute also.

RE Topic: Earth Day

The RE class will arrange the given treasures, notes, poems, ideas, and thoughts into an Earth Day collage.

President's Corner

By now, most of you have heard the news. I have officially resigned my position as Board President. Bob Weekley has graciously agreed to take over and begin his term early. It has been my honor to serve this fellowship for the past 15 months and now I need to take some time for personal reflection. I have always been an advocate among my friends and colleagues for not taking on too much. Over the last year, I have not taken my own advice and now have a renewed understanding for why this is important in life.

Thank you all for supporting me and my leadership at this fellowship. I will still be active in the fellowship and its activities. I'd also like to thank all the board members who worked with me. And a special Thanks to Bob Weekley, who, as I've said, has so graciously agreed to help me make this change.

Caroline

Phood and Philosophy

Dave and Marge Rowden will host the April Phood and Philosophy in their home on **Sat., April 4th, at 5:30 p.m.**

All members and friends of UUFR-VA are welcome for an evening of stimulating food for the body and mind. Please bring a dish or two to share, your favorite drink with some to share, and thoughts you'd like to contribute.

The evening's topic will be "**What is Virtue?**" Does it have a place in our modern ethical/moral systems of thought?

Some Definitions:

Confucius: The greatest virtue was piety, defined as Fealty (Honor, Respect and Obedience) to the State and the family.

Christian Church: Justice, Fortitude, Prudence and Temperance, known as the Cardinal Virtues, upon which a moral life hinged. Other virtues important to Christianity are Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Socrates: The virtues were: Justice, Moderation and Piety, sometimes defined as right thinking combined with right action. Pursuit of the virtues was necessary to live the ideal life, which was the search for "Good."

Benjamin Franklin: There were 13 virtues: Temperance, Order, Resolution, Frugality, Moderation, Industry, Cleanliness, Tranquility (the so-called Personal Virtues); Silence, Sincerity, Justice, Chastity, and Humility (the so-called Social Virtues). He attempted to use these virtues to guide his own life and behavior. However, history tells us Franklin was not entirely successful in this endeavor!

Three Questions for Discussion:

1. How do we define virtue in our modern society?
2. What virtues do you believe are central to living a moral life in modern society?
3. How would your definition of virtue have impacted recent historical events such as the behaviors that have led to our current worldwide financial melt-down, or the country's response to the attacks of 911?

For planning purposes, please let Dave and Marge know you are coming. We don't want to be short of chairs!

RE Notes

by Jane Elkin

Sixty thousand years ago, Neanderthal people decorated a grave with seven species of flowers having medicinal value. The study of primal, or preliterate, religions—both past and present—has appeal across a broad age range. Based on the first chapter of the “Asian Religions” curriculum of Jeff Liebmann (First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh) our syllabus includes purification rites--the ceremonial nature of the Native American sweat lodge; animism--Zuni fetishes--Mana, taboo, recognition of a supreme being, shamans, prayer, magic, myth, rites of passage; and the Haida Indian totems of British Columbia. Children over age ten will carve balsa totems. Also included are rituals for “anxiety”--overseas expeditions, rituals for dangerous or hazardous types of fishing, and rituals for “expectancy,” akin to our “Turning the Wheel of the Year” ceremonies. For “sacred places,” we will study the Return to the Earth Project and Native American Graves Protection and Reparation Act of 1990.

If you have any Zuni fetishes, African masks, totems, Inuit carvings, shaman items or other items from primal religions and you would like to spend a few minutes sharing your item with the RE class, please contact me.

“The Golden Rule” curriculum was acquired by Sue Adriance and “Honoring Earth Workshop, A UU Ministry for Earth Worship Resource,” was donated by Kathleen Brooks. We will use pieces from this Earth Resource at the April 26th Earth Day celebration.

An RE summer schedule, with suggested RE lessons for our visiting grandchildren, will soon be posted along with a sign-up sheet. You might choose a lesson plan suitable for elementary school from curricula we have in our library: “The Golden Rule,” “Stepping Stone Year,” “Timeless Themes,” or “Living in UU Ville,” or you may write your own lesson.



Sara Mackey, Jane Elkin, and sons, Jack and Jefferson, bring in the Vernal Equinox by lighting a final welcoming candle.

River Readers

The book discussion group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:30 P.M. at the Lancaster Community Library. Everyone is welcome. Please read the book and join us. The upcoming selections are:

April 27: *The Short History of a Prince* by Jane Hamilton

May 25: *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev

June 22: *Remembering Babylon* by David Malouf

July 27: *Dreams of My Russian Summers* by Andrei Makine

We will be choosing books for the remainder of the year soon and would like to include your recommendations. Please bring them to the next meeting. Call **Elaine Weekley** if you have any questions.



Diana Jamison's original oil painting is on the April auction block.

Once Upon A Tree - A Fundraising Opportunity

by Diana Jamison

Yes, you can become the proud owner of the unique oil painting of the tree in our own back yard. How? List your bid on the uBAY sign-up sheet located on the sideboard in our foyer.

Every dollar collected beyond the first \$100 will be donated to the fund for the interior trim of our building. The final day for bidding is April 30, 2009. The painting is on view in the foyer of our new building.

Support the Food Pantry

Pam Collins and Bob Duryea remind us to please remember to bring non-perishables every Sunday. There is an on-going need in the community.

With the current economic turmoil, local charities are working much closer to the edge. On taking our recent, wonderfully large collection of foodstuffs to Gleamers and Blenders in Burgess, Pam was greeted by "Oh, this is wonderful! Thank you so much. We were really running short."

In the News: U.S. Christians Decline While Nones Double

by Bob Weekley

A major study of 54,000 Americans' belief, belonging, and behavior, conducted by researchers at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, shows that since 1990 the *Non-Theist* and *No Religion* groups, collectively known as *Nones*, have gained almost 20 million adults since 1990 and almost doubled from 8.2 to 15.0 percent of the population. If those who don't know or refuse to answer are included, it appears that one in five adults does not identify with a religion of any kind compared with one in ten in 1990.

During this period, Catholics declined by 1.1 percent while Protestants declined by almost 10 percent. The number of people who identify themselves as Agnostic or Atheist has increased markedly during this period, from about 2 million to 3.6 million.

A few other items that I found interesting: Americans who believe "there is definitely a personal god" constitute 69.5 percent of the population. The survey reports "a real and growing theological polarization in American society, [wherein] 34 percent of the population believe they are *Born Again*, but 25-30 percent reject the idea of a personal divinity."

Regarding gender, the study finds "the most gender unbalanced group is the *Nones*, those who profess no religion or self-identified as Atheists or Agnostics. The ratio of 60 males to 40 females is a remarkable result."

The group with the highest percentage of married adults is the Mormons, with Baptists coming in second. The highest percentage of divorce is a tie between the *Pentecostal/Charismatics* and *non-religious movements/other religions* groups.



Bob Weekley and Tyren Frazier, chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Club.

Weekley's Ride

reprinted from the Rappahannock Record

Bob Weekley of Lancaster will ride his bicycle to West Point, N.Y., to attend the 50th anniversary of his graduation and commissioning from the U.S. Military Academy April 30. He's turning his 10-day bike ride to West Point into a fund-raiser for the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck. Weekley has always liked challenges. And the bike ride to his 50th anniversary is no different.

He hopes to raise at least \$5,000 for the Boys & Girls Club through pledges for the more than 500 mile trip, according to club spokeswoman Kathryn Kahler Vose. He's never done a solo bike trip before.

Weekley's pursuit of an education at West Point some 50 years ago required some of the same "can-do" spirit he is exhibiting in planning the 500-mile solo bike ride that will take him from Lancaster County to Fredericksburg, Washington, D.C., through Maryland

and Pennsylvania, and on to New York, riding on mostly back roads.

"Fifty-four years ago, living on a farm in a small town in western Colorado, I decided I wanted to apply to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York," Weekley said. "No one I knew of had ever attended West Point, and no one in my family had ever served in the military. I knew the studies and the training would be hard, but I had always liked challenges, so I gave it a try. That summer, after graduating from high school, I boarded a train for New York and was off on my new solo venture. Four years later, I graduated and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army."

Weekley added: "My Army assignments took me all over the world. I lived in Germany, Argentina, Switzerland, Spain, and many places in the U.S. I had the privilege of commanding troops in the field for two years in Vietnam."

Weekley will leave Lancaster County April 20. He is asking friends and supporters to pledge ten cents per mile – or more. Proceeds will go to the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck. His travel log will be posted daily at bgcnn.com.

Weekley said he chose the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck "because they are doing a wonderful service for the young people of the community by providing a safe place to learn and grow."

Prior to leaving Lancaster County, Weekley will meet with club members to discuss his trip. He will also phone in to the club to discuss his progress. At the conclusion of Weekley's ride, all who pledged will be informed of the number of miles Weekley covered on his ride.

Bob hopes his ride will inspire the Club's youngsters to challenge themselves, and inspire others to make a tax-deductible pledge to the Boys & Girls Club. Your pledge will help Bob complete his challenge ride. With every mile pedaled he will know that the Boys & Girls Club is being supported. Pledge five cents, ten cents, or more per mile by calling (804) 435-9696.

Greetings from Cyndi Simpson

by Cyndi Simpson

In anticipation of her interview by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee on March 26th in Chicago, our good friend, Cyndi Simpson, wrote:

“This is it, the culmination of all my study and work thus far ... a two-hour examination/interview, preceded by a sermon to be given by me.

“I have moved from a place of dread and anxiety to a sense of eagerness, anticipation and ... almost, Joy! I am ready as I will ever be, and though coming to this with humility, am also confident. The Committee wants to see a minister and a colleague come into the room and I am preparing to show myself to them as such.

“My gratitude to you and everyone at UUFR-VA for the generosity and support you have shown me in this journey ... the opportunities to lead worship and share fellowship with all of you have played a large part in my formation as a minister.”

Board of Stewards

Caroline Shifflett, President
Barbara Haynes, Treasurer
Diana Jamison, Secretary
Shirley Kinney, Past President

Bob Weekley, President Elect
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs
Dave Rowden, Vice President for Membership

Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>
<http://www.uufr-va.org>
Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the preceding month
Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)