



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFR-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

August 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

August 2 – Tom Kinney: “Kinney Speaks to UUs”

“The seventh principle of the Unitarian Universalist,” Tom states, “honors the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.” However, the impact of our energy needs brings us in conflict with the other priorities of that interdependent web. In the second in the series, “Gaia and the Seventh Principle,” Tom notes that proposals exist to build twenty-seven new nuclear reactors within the U.S. to provide some of that energy and avoid many of the downsides of the alternatives. Is what we know, and what we think we know, about nuclear power up-to-date and consistent with that Seventh Principle?”

August 9 – Rev. David Tetrault: “Quantum Theology: Stirring the Spirit”

Our biblical world of belief was a flat, dusty place where everyone walked, heaven was up, and the Law ruled. Today we will visit other sacred ways to view Creation.

The Annual Picnic will follow the service.

August 16 – Dr. Larry Graves: “Swine Influenza: Past, Present, and Future.”

Noted veterinarian and scientist, Dr. Larry Graves, will address the subject of swine flu and share his experiences investigating influenza.

August 23 – Deanna Beacham: “Virginia Indians in Today's World: Our Challenges and Opportunities”

Virginia Indian tribes and descendent communities are still living in their aboriginal territories 400 years after Europeans first came to these shores fueled by a need to expand and armed with religious and philosophical justifications for taking already occupied lands. What are these tribes like today? Who are they, and where do they live? What challenges do they face, and what are their goals today? What is it like to be a Virginia Indian in today's world?

Deanna Beacham, staff member for the Virginia Council on Indians, will tackle some of these questions with basic information about the tribes, as well as suggestions for how you can learn more.

August 30 – Dave Rowden: “TBA”

Thea Marshall will sign her new book: Neck Tales: Stories from Virginia's Northern Neck.

President's Corner

A Report on the General Assembly

What is happening in our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA for short)? In June, I attended the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City, the UUA's annual convention. Having never attended "GA" before I was curious about how our denomination conducts its business. Beyond the business side, I wanted to know what is going on among the UU churches across the country and what is going on in the UU movement generally. Are we growing? Are we changing? I was looking for ideas and inspiration to bring back to our own UUFR-VA.

GA exceeded my expectations. Talk about spirit! It seemed that everyone there, from the youth groups to the "elders," was full of enthusiasm, encouragement, and ideas to share.

The five days of GA consist of daily worship services, workshops, seminars, and business meetings. Worship services featured great musical groups and singing, dynamic speakers, and meaningful celebrations of our principles and heritage. The joy was contagious. The workshops and seminars I chose to attend were oriented toward the challenges and governance matters of small churches like ours. In the Plenary business meetings I was an official delegate representing and voting on behalf of UUFR-VA.

For those of you who follow UUA matters, some of the key items of business are:

* In a surprisingly hard-fought presidential race (but in good spirit) Rev. Peter Morales, a dynamic minister from the Boulder, Colorado, church, won over Rev. Laurel Hallman. There was a spontaneous outpouring of admiration for the outgoing President, Rev. Bill Sinkford, who has served two four-year terms.

* A proposed revision of the UU Sources and Principles ("Article II Revision") was narrowly defeated. While the proposed revisions were admirable, many felt that they were not good enough to replace the way our current Sources and Principles are stated.

* An ongoing study ("Fifth Principle Task Force") to determine if, and how, the UUA could accommodate a more representative participation in UUA affairs received support to continue the study and to offer specific recommendations during the coming year.

My brief report here cannot convey the wonderful spirit and enthusiasm I experienced with almost 4,000 other UUs from across the country. I hope I can help you feel it as we move ahead with the mission of our own wonderful Fellowship. GA reinforced strongly my belief that we, here in the UUFR-VA, are on the right track and are in step with like-minded people and churches across the country.

The next UUA General Assembly will be held in Minneapolis in June 2010. You might want to consider attending. You will get hooked on Unitarian Universalism and what it is doing in our country and around the world today.

Bob Weekley

Phood and Philosophy?

Phood and Philosophy, our monthly discussion group, will be on hiatus during August. Look for news of its return in the September edition of *The Chalice*.

Save the Dates

October 21-22: Annual UUFR-VA Fall Adult Retreat

Summer Fun – The Annual Picnic

by Elaine Weekley

On **Sunday, August 9th**, immediately following the service, the Annual Picnic will be held at the Failmezger property on the Rivah. Please bring something to sit on, as well as a dish or two and drinks to share. In case you want to barbecue, a grill will be provided. Swimming is also an option. Much fun and fellowship at a spectacular waterfront site with lots of summer breezes will be the order of the day. All are welcome.

Library Expansion

by Shirley Kinney

Bob and Sue Adriance have donated “No Excuses: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life,” a three beta-tape set to our UUFR-VA library. One of the Great Courses lecture series, this is conducted by Professor Robert Solomon of the University of Texas. A study guide is included. Divided into twelve lectures, the tapes cover the existentialism of Camus, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. Borrow it from our library and expand your mind.

Bob Weekley brought back from UUA’s General Assembly three small books that are well worth reading. Another new library addition is Big Ideas for Small Congregations by Jane Dwinell and Ellen Germann-Melosh. Jane Dwinell is the publisher of a monthly newsletter for small congregations that many of the UUFR-VA Board of Stewards reads regularly. She includes practical tips on stewardship, staffing, conflict, hospitality, and more for small congregations like ours.

Religious Humanism, two volumes, is a series of essays, poems, meditations, and sermons. The books are dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Sherwin Wine, who was a regular speaker at my first UU church in Michigan. The books’ essays are written by John Stuart Mill, Karen Quinlan, and other well-known humanists.

Plan for the Fall Adult Retreat

by Shirley Kinney

Have you contacted me to reserve your room for the Fall Retreat yet? Here are the basic facts in case you’ve forgotten:

- **Place:** Westmoreland State Park, just 49 miles from Kilmarnock
- **Time:** October 21 and 22
- **Cost:** \$70 per person, or \$140 per couple
- **What?** Glorious fun and UU times (See last month's newsletter for more details.)

Don't forget! You wouldn't want to be left out!



On July 12th the Rev. Karen Woodruff reflected on her “Religious Journeys by the Rappahannock”

Light Someone Else's Light

by Tom Kinney

The Thomas Jefferson District Chalice Lighters contributed over \$25,000 to help us build a Home of Our Own. We all benefit from that gift. Fifteen of our members are TJD Chalice Lighters and have participated in helping other congregations achieve their goals. Let's expand that participation so we can be a part of the success of other UUs.

Here's how Chalice Lighters works: Once a year you will receive a letter identifying what the Chalice Lighter Committee has chosen as the most worthy need among the TJD congregations. You are asked to respond with a donation of no less than your Chalice Lighter pledge amount which could be \$15, \$150, or whatever you pledge when you decide to become a Chalice Lighter. It's as simple as that.

You will receive a Chalice Lighter sticker to put on your nametag that identifies you as a participant in this program. It is a great way to say "Thanks" to our fellow TJD Chalice Lighters for what they did for us, plus an excellent opportunity to light someone else's light.

Please see me for a brochure and sign-up form.

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:

August 24: *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga

September 28: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

October 26: *A Coffin for Dimitrios* by Eric Ambler

November 23: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barberry and Alison Anderson

The "Big Book" selection is *Bird Without Wings* by Louis de Bernieres. The dinner and discussion will be at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club in September.

If you have a recommendation for a future read, please let us know. We need to get some on our list for the beginning of next year. Call **Elaine Weekley** if you have any questions.

Board of Stewards

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

Web Site

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

Vacant, President Elect
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs
Fran Schelling, Vice President for Membership

Newsletter

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