



THE CHALICE

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

February 2010

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

February 7 – Hank Stupi: “Stuttering: A Challenge to the Spirit”

Hank has dealt with stuttering since he was a young child. He will discuss how it affected him at different stages of his life and how confronting his problem openly as an adult has strengthened his character and spirit.

ancient Egyptian myth for guidance as we seek a light spirit.

A Potluck Luncheon and Conversation with Rev. Duhon will follow the Service.

February 14 – Thea Marshall: “Celebrating Valentine's Day”

Thea Marshall, with long-time friend Randal Tyler, wearing their professional actors' hats, will explore "The Many Faces of Love," with scenes and readings from a wide variety of writers and poets ... from Mark Twain and Oscar Wilde to wild Bill Shakespeare and Carl Sandburg ... with lots of in-betweens.

Who Are We? A New Look at UU Conversation

This Sunday's conversation will center on our history of peace and justice work. It should make you proud and inspire you to explore our current programs, including “Standing On the Side Of Love.”

Chocolate hearts will be served, and you'll get a gift of Love from our UUA Advocacy Office.

February 21 – Rev. Kathy Duhon: “Feet As Light As A Doe's”

How is your heart? Is it light enough to keep your feet light? We explore the meaning and promise of lightness in the Bible verse of Habakkuk and of an

February 28 – Rev. Jennifer Ryu: “One Must Also Learn to Love Evil”

These are the words of Martin Buber, Jewish philosopher. Rev. Jennifer Ryu, who serves the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist congregation, will explore the concept of evil.

President's Corner

Our UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock is not a building, not a landscape, not beautiful décor – it is our *people*. It is people who come together to explore the deepest aspects of their lives. And such people we are! At our recent “Soapbox Sunday,” I was deeply touched by the many who stood and shared nuggets of their insights and feelings. I am convinced that you will not find such inspiration anywhere else for many miles around.

The following week, as Rev. Kathy shared such depths and insights of our Unitarian Universalist history, and as the many who stayed for the after-lunch “conversation” each spoke in turn about their own spiritual journeys, again I was just so pleased and proud to be a part of this Fellowship.

As a congregation we do many things. We bought and cleared the land; we built a beautiful lighthouse sanctuary for our meeting together; we support and serve our community; we uphold our members and friends in need; we encourage each other; and we give financial support to all of this. But the greatest gift we give each other is this beloved community of exploring and sharing as our spiritual journeys interweave and connect.

Bob Weekley

Petition for Full Equality – Standing on the Side of Love

by **Bob Weekley**

Twenty-seven of the UUFR-VA members and friends signed the petition “in support of full equality for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations.” The petition has been faxed to the UUA to be combined with the thousands of other signers and sent to the federal and state legislatures. Thank you to those who participated.

Phood and Philosophy

Caroline and Matt Shifflett will host this month’s Phood and Philosophy in the UU Fellowship home, **366 James Wharf Road, in White Stone, on Saturday, February 6, at 5:30 P.M.**

The evening’s topic will be: “Table Talk.” Each participant will get the chance to raise a question to the group from a selection of questions that they will receive as they arrive.

Directions to 366 James Wharf Road:

- *Traveling from Kilmarnock on Route 3:* Head South, and continue through the traffic light in White Stone approximately 1/2 mile; turn right onto James Wharf Road.
- or -
- *Traveling from the Middle Peninsula on Route 3:* Head North and, after crossing the Robert O. Norris Bridge, proceed 1 mile; turn left onto James Wharf Road.
- *On James Wharf Road:* Travel approximately 0.3 miles. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock Church will be on the right at 366 James Wharf Road.

Please call Caroline or Matt to ensure we arrange the space to comfortably accommodate everyone. Plan to bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share.

Revamped UUA Website

UUA announcement

The UUA Office of Electronic Communications has been hard at work preparing for the launch of a revitalized website. In February 2010, look for the new, more welcoming and informative [UUA.org!](http://UUA.org)

"Do you know anyone who's been told they can't come to church?"

Your Welcoming Congregation Committee

“Third Sunday Series” Off to a Great Start

by Bob Weekley

Rev. Kathy Duhon kicked off our *Who are We: A New Look at UUs* series in January with an insightful look into the history of Unitarian Universalism. The next “Conversation” in this series will be right after the potluck luncheon on February 21. The February conversation will look at the UUs’ newest justice work, called “Standing On the Side of Love,” as well as some of our UU history of making a difference.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to learn more about what the Unitarian Universalists are doing to make our world a better place for all.



The Eatin' is Easy: Monthly Potlucks are an irresistible temptation.

UUFRAHANNOCK.ORG

by Bob Weekley

Are you using our website? The UUFRA-VA website just keeps getting better and better. You will find frequent updates about ongoing activities, upcoming events, newsletter back-issues, lots of good photos—even many of the great sermons and talks you might have missed. When telling friends about UUFRA-VA, referring them to the website is a great way to “show and tell” them what we are about.

A Letter to the Governor

Bob Duryea, Chair of the Social Justice Committee, addressed a letter to the new governor on January 5th, signed by 24 members of the Fellowship. An excerpt follows:

“As the government of the Commonwealth of Virginia considers its protections and services to its citizens at this time of revenue shortfall, the undersigned members of this Fellowship fervently request that the burdens of contracting protections and services not fall disproportionately upon those citizens who are most vulnerable and needy, citizens who are impoverished, those who are aged, those who are disabled or handicapped, those who are ill, those who are young and powerless and without a voice of their own, those who are unable to be self sufficient.”

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:

February 22: *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad

March 22: *Lark and Termite* by Jayne Anne Phillips

April 26: *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa

May 24: *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout

If you have a recommendation for a good read, or if you have any questions, please call **Elaine Weekley**.

Our Children Need Your Volunteer Support

by Bob Weekley

Our Fellowship has grown and is thriving. But the future of UUFR-VA depends on incorporating and accommodating younger families and children. The Board of Stewards is asking members to consider volunteering to be on a roster for an *occasional* Sunday morning working with our children.

Yes, we do have children – but some do not come because there is no care for them, and some do not come because there are not more children. Some parents are reluctant to attend due to the lack of childcare.

Jane Elkin, our Religious Education (RE) chair will return in late March from her annual skiing hiatus in Southwestern Virginia (which she reports has been the best in years). But we need additional people, already prepared and familiar with the resources available. We need people who are able to help, so that all of the support for our children does not fall on one person and so that someone is always available if needed.

Volunteers will receive an orientation on resources available in our RE room for children of various ages, from toys and coloring for small children to stories and lessons for older children. Jane has located excellent sources of lessons that will be both interesting and helpful to our young people.

We will maintain the list of volunteers and, as the need arises, call on them on a rotating basis so that only occasionally will any one person be asked to serve. This valuable service to the Fellowship will have its own rewards – an opportunity to get to know and work with some of our children and their parents.

As recommended by the UU Association of Congregations and other authorities, our volunteers will have an approved “Background Check” paid for by our Fellowship. Please speak to me if you are willing to help.



Hank Stupi presents *Stuttering: A Challenge to the Spirit* on February 7

UUFR-VA Yard Sale

by Hank Stupi

The UUFR-VA Yard Sale is being planned for Saturday, May 1. We are hoping for lots of donated items, so please keep this in mind as you clean out your basements, garages, attics, and closets. Many volunteers will be needed for all sorts of tasks; such as, pick-up, storage and pricing of donated items; advertising and sign-making; early morning set-up prior to sale; bake sale items; and clean-up and disposal of unsold items, just to name a few. More details will follow.

RE Notes

by Jane Elkin

Although Jack, Jefferson, and I are immersed in our annual winter hiatus—skiing every weekend in Southwestern Virginia and West Virginia—we look forward to our return to UUFR-VA RE. In our RE classes last year and last fall we explored such areas as: “Sacred Places,” “Primal Religions,” “Ying and Yang,” and the UU Judeo-Christian Heritage-based curriculum, *Timeless Themes*. We have rich resources for curricula, including the Thomas Jefferson District RE library in Roanoke, and the online, down-loadable RE lessons in the UUA’s *Tapestry of Faith*.

The 13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count by Audrey Brainard

The Great Backyard Bird Count is almost here!

What is it? Citizens throughout North and Central America spend at least 15 minutes a day for one or more days, from February 12-15, counting the birds at their feeder and in the backyard. Then the data is submitted to Cornell Ornithological Laboratory at www.birdcount.org. Anyone can go online and see the results as data are recorded throughout the country; you can even narrow your search to your local postal code.

Here is what is required for the GBBC:

A pair of binoculars, a bird identification book, and a window overlooking a feeder is best. However, just the backyard is adequate.

Here is how to participate in the GBBC:

1. Count the birds you see, wherever you choose to count. This could be a local natural area preserve or just your own backyard. Write down the highest number of individual birds you see at one time - that way you will avoid counting any bird twice. For the winter months it is an easy task to sit in a warm location to tally the birds seen while drinking coffee or something stronger later in the day.
2. After at least 15 minutes of watching, in one place, report your results on line at www.birdcount.org. You can spend more time observing, or repeat on other days, or go to another location if you prefer. Submit a new checklist for each day that you count.
3. You can view the results with online maps and lists that are updated throughout the count, making it easy to see how your birds fit into the big picture. It is astounding to see the red rings increase as more and more people in your area submit their data. Last year 93,600 checklists were submitted and 619 species identified. Each checklist contributes valuable information for conservation. Short or long, your list will help scientists understand more about how the distribution and abundance of birds are changing through time. Whether you are new to watching birds or an expert birder, your count counts!

On Tuesday, February 2nd at 9:30 A.M. in the Northumberland Library, Tom Saunders, a talented local birder, will present a program on how to participate in the 13th Annual **Great Backyard Bird Count**. The program is open to non-birders who would like to know more about what birds to expect at local feeders during February as well as to those who want to learn a few techniques on using binoculars more efficiently

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3 to learn more about the birds that visit your feeder and make a contribution to the scientific studies at Cornell. Questions? Email me or go online to www.birdcount.org.

Tidbit: Among the 10 most commonly reported species in 2009 is one species NOT seen in our area; the black-capped chickadee is replaced by the Carolina Chickadee in this part of Virginia.

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Caroline Shifflett, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Diana Jamison, Secretary

Web Site

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

Vacant, Past President
Shirley Kinney, Vice President for Programs
Fran Schelling, Vice President for Membership

Newsletter

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