



News & Notes

On September 7, we celebrate the **Water Service**, an opportunity for us to share a bit about our summer as we mingle our collected waters. Bring water from your travels or activities, or that represents something meaningful to you. There will also be water available for symbolic sharing if you forget, so that all may participate.

The UU Women's Group meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at a local restaurant. On September 15, join us at *Castiglia's* in downtown Fredericksburg at 324 William Street. Enjoy casual conversation and dinner or a drink with a great group of women. No agenda, no action items, no purchase necessary. Newcomers are enthusiastically welcomed—make plans to stop by!

The UU Men's Group meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at *Primavera Pizzeria & Grill*, 600 William Street. Newcomers are always welcome to join the group.

Music makers of all ages, levels, and instruments are welcome to join our **Monday Music Gathering**, which meets every other Monday in the high school classroom from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Sept. 8 and 22). For more info, contact Lee Criscuolo.

The Insight Meditation Community of Fredericksburg meets on Thursdays in Dragonfly Yoga Studio (810 Caroline Street) at 7:00 p.m. for sitting and walking meditation, or Mindful Listening. Visit www.meditatefred.com for the schedule and details.

Keept thinking about the Fellowship when you order from **Amazon.com**. Visit www.uuffva.org first and click on the Amazon logo there. The UUFF earns a percentage of every purchase that results from a click-through from our site.

From Visioning to Reality... We Need You to Help Tell Our Story



If you were considering applying for the ministerial position at UUFF, what would you want to know about us? You might want to know how we identify ourselves... Atheist, Agnostic, Christian, Buddhist, Pagan, etc. You'd probably want to know how many children we serve, along with their ages and grade levels. You would definitely want to know what we, the members and friends of UUFF, say we want most in a new minister. What else would you want to know?

The goals of the Ministerial Search Committee and the search process are to select a minister who is clearly the best fit for this congregation. We use the UUA on-line system to reach candidates whose skills and talents best meet our needs, and encourage them to apply.

To accomplish this, we must go beyond visioning and conduct a detailed congregational survey. The composite results of this survey will become part of a comprehensive packet provided to potential candidates. We are fine-tuning the details of the survey, such as how to administer and compile the results and, most importantly, how to ensure everyone's opinions are counted.

Look for more information from the committee in the near future, but until then... think about how you would describe yourself to a new minister and what you feel are the three to four most critical qualities and characteristics needed in a new minister.

These and more questions will be coming your way later this month.

If you have questions about the upcoming congregational survey or any aspect of the search process, ask any member of the Ministerial Search Committee: Lisa Andretta (chair), Gary Barnes, Maryann Brown, Steve Elstein, Gloria Lloyd, Angie Noll, Carmela Southers, and Randy Walther. For more information about our progress, see the article on page 3.

—Ministerial Search Committee



Water Service Potluck Lunch

SEPTEMBER 7, FOLLOWING SERVICE

The Friendship Committee invites you to celebrate our community with a potluck lunch following the Water Service on September 7. Please bring a delicious dish to share—your specialty or your favorite take-out—and enjoy the company of fellow UUs. We'll cross our fingers for good weather, and will set up the buffet in the foyer, but plan to eat outside on our patio or on the grass. Please bring a blanket or lawn chairs



for seating. The Friendship Committee will provide the paper goods and drinks, and will organize food contributions as you bring them in before the service. Potlucks are always a dining adventure and we encourage you and your family to join in!

—Susan Lovegrove

FROM THE Minister's Desk

Rev. Walter Braman



My inclination was to begin this with a big WELCOME BACK, but then I realized that, during my days in the ministry, a big change has taken place. There is no "back" to welcome you to. When I began the ministry, most UU churches were closed during the summer, inspiring a number of jokes, mostly around "God takes a vacation in UU churches."

Those days are long gone. The summer here in Fredericksburg, as in most of our UU churches, has been ongoing and full. The Board and the Ministerial Search Committee have been working full tilt. Our services have continued with the quality we have come to know (well done, Sunday Services Committee). Our church year is indeed twelve, not ten, months. And our faith is so much the richer for it.

But there still is a September and we can welcome one another to a change in the church year as RE programs start up, the choir returns, and I will be back in the office. And we acknowledge the beginning of the fall and end of summer, and we do it formally – our Water Communion service, which will take place on September 7.

The Water Communion is a much-loved tradition at UUFF that celebrates our community as we come together after being apart.

Symbolically, the ritual celebrates our presence as a beloved community, a community of the free church tradition that goes back four hundred-plus years in the history of the Protestant Reformation. Although the water communion is only a few generations old, its roots lie in a very old tradition that makes our community beloved and even richer.

Please come on the seventh, join us to celebrate life, beloved community and the joy of who we are.

NOTE: The water may be from a place you visited, or represent a place you have visited, or may just be symbolic of you and who you are.

Please come. We have a very busy and exciting year in store.

Love to you all,
Walter

Friendship Committee News

Survey Results Are In!

In the spring, we gave out a questionnaire designed to help guide our scheduling of Friendship events this year. We asked what types of activities you would be most likely to attend, and which days and times were best for you. We had 72 responses, which was outstanding; thank you for your feedback.

Here are the top vote getters for events, including the percentage of responses for each: 1. potluck meals, 79%; 2. picnics (at the UUFF or nearby parks), 57%; 3. post-service social gatherings with refreshments, 50%, and 4. circle suppers, 47%.

Your preferred days and times for events were: 1. Saturday evening, 65%; 2. Sunday after the service, 64%; 3. Friday evening, 54%; and Saturday afternoon, 46%.

To start the year, we'll concentrate our efforts on these types of gatherings. Our potluck following the water service on Sept. 7 will be our first, a way to welcome everyone back together after our summer adventures.

In the fall, we'll join forces with the Religious Education Committee to organize a Saturday picnic, with geocaching as a fun activity for all ages.

And in coming months, we hope to bring back our Circle Suppers, which are small group dinners in homes, with the host providing the entree and guests bringing coordinated dishes. This was a popular tradition in past years, and is a great way to get to know new people.

We hope you and your family will plan to take part in our social activities, and look forward to seeing you on September 7!

–Jane Ellen Teller

–Friendship Committee

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The UUFF Board of Trustees holds monthly meetings that are open to everyone. If you want to speak at a meeting, we can put you on the agenda for a few minutes. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The BOT is a group of nine hardworking UUs who make policy decisions for our Fellowship. I invite your input and, in turn, I will use this newsletter space to let all UUFF members know what is going on at the BOT meetings.

My first meeting as president was held in August. At that meeting we formed a Stewardship Task Force, which will study the ways that we give back to our Fellowship. Jim Yeatts will be the chair. You will be hearing a lot more about this in the coming months.

There is also more work to do on the rental policy. Many of us want to be able to offer our building for music concerts

or coffee houses and George Solley hopes to make some progress on that.

I have asked Bill Wood to address emergency procedures and security for the UUFF. Nora Wilson-Lesser will be the representative from the BOT. Please feel free to contact either of them if you believe that you might be able to help with our safety procedures.

One last thing: we have signs which should be put out on Sunday mornings to direct cars through the maze of parking lots into our Fellowship. The two new ones are a bit lighter than the original ones, but will still require some strength to move. I need people who are willing to get them out early on Sundays and pick them up. Please let me know if you can help with this.

There is a lot going on here, and there are lots of ways to get involved in the life of our Fellowship; this is a great place and, together, we can make it even better.

I am honored to be the president this year. I love this place; it is where I can discover, search and grow in a safe place. And I expect that this year will be one of continued growth! We can do it together.



I saw a single orange leaf fall from the sky as I was driving home yesterday afternoon. "Oh no," thought I, "It is too soon." But the hard, cold truth is, it can mean only one thing. Autumn is upon us. And for this Director of Religious Education, that means turning my thoughts to registration forms and children returning from their travels, and lesson plans and organizing volunteers. Oh and rehearsing with the UUth choir! Can't forget about them...

In a way, this is an odd first newsletter article of the season for me. I usually shut up shop the last day of the instructional year and only come in a time or two over the summer to teach a drama class, thinking only of Kings Dominion and trips to the beach. But this summer has been different. I have spent a lot of time in class learning about UU history and reflecting on our rich heritage. I have spent a lot of time discussing the breach of sacred space down in New Orleans on July 20 with colleagues and how we as a beloved community should respond. And with my new "12 month employee" status, I've been here all summer long. I should

report that, even though attendance was predictably low, it was very exciting for me to see how many of our kids came each week—despite sleepovers and the chance to sleep late. And even more exciting? I saw so many new faces come through those doors and I was really happy to be here to welcome them and talk to their parents who came looking for a new spiritual home for themselves and their little ones.

I am hoping that this influx of new kids over the summer translates to larger classes in the fall which of course means a greater need for teachers and assistants in the classrooms. Now, I am not a big fan of the word "mandatory" but it is very important for at least one parent/guardian from each family unit to attend the Volunteer Training on September 6. After a light breakfast at 9:45, we will get right down to the work of applying some of the great information that I took away from the UU Curriculum Renaissance Module that I was able to attend thanks to the generosity of this Fellowship. Lunch will be served as well, somewhere in between workshops and team building time. I

have reserved the building until 2:00. My number one goal for the day—and I know if we focus and work hard we can do it—is to get that 2014-15 instructional calendar set for the year! We can do it!

So if you have been here all summer long, like I have, it's good to see you again. And if you have been off traveling the globe, welcome back. I'll see you in class...

—Chris Johns

RE CALENDAR

Aug. 31

Registration for upcoming instructional year begins

Sept. 6

Volunteer Training/
Orientation

Sept. 14

RE begins!

MINISTERIAL SEARCH UPDATE



We're Off And Running!

Since our election at the UUFF Annual Meeting in May, the Ministerial Search Committee has been working together to tackle the many elements of the search process. At our first meeting, Lisa Andretta agreed to be our committee chair, and we began to plan the search path. Our goal is to have a called minister in place beginning in September 2015.

During the summer, we had a successful retreat with Denise Rimes, the Southeast District's Ministerial Search Representative (and also its president). Here we developed strategies for how the committee would function to ensure a smooth process and successful journey. We drew up a covenant for how the committee will work together, discussed

methods of decision-making, refined our timeline, and divided roles and tasks according to our individual strengths. Thanks to Patrick and Paula Neustatter for offering their lovely guest cottage as a retreat site.

In August, we began meeting weekly to confer on several key pieces of the search puzzle, including: a congregational survey to help give a clear picture of who we are and what we are looking for in a minister (see page 1 for more details); a series of small group forums or "cottage meetings" to help clarify some of the survey results; the Congregational Record, a standardized online profile that will give ministers a first look at the UUFF; and the information packet, a lengthy document that gives potential ministers a detailed view of all aspects of our congregation and community.

These items are to be completed in the fall on a timeline followed by all congregations in search. By December, ministerial candidates can view our online profile, and in January we can begin to connect directly with those candidates for whom we are a good match. Interviews are conducted and neutral pulpits visited through March to narrow down our choices, with the goal of presenting our best candidate to the congregation in April.

We'll continue to keep the congregation up to date on our progress with monthly newsletter articles, a bulletin board, community-at-work presentations, and weekly announcements. We welcome your comments and questions.

—Ministerial Search Committee

COMMUNITY ACTION CORNER

The Community Action Committee is getting ready for the fall and has many projects for the Fellowship to get involved in, including meals nights and holiday projects. These will be advertised in the emailed announcements, orders of service, community at work presentations, and in the Fellowship website under "Standing Committees." Please make plans to participate in our efforts on behalf of the Fredericksburg community.

Also, find out ways to volunteer in the area by visiting VolunteerMatch.org. Click the arrow next to the city at the top of the page and enter Fredericksburg, VA. You're sure to find local organizations focused on the causes that mean the most to you.
—Curt Swinburne



BORDERLINE

PAINTINGS BY PATRICIA SMITH

You're Invited

Opening Reception
Friday, Sept. 5 ■ 6-9 pm

Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts
813 Sophia Street, Fredericksburg, VA
Exhibit: August 30 – September 27

All artist's proceeds donated to
Virginia Organizing

patriciasmith.artspan.com

Pictured image: *Endless Wall*

The exhibit is thematically focused on immigration and environmental issues.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



ESOL CLASSES

The Social Justice Committee finished its first series of ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages), only to continue by having weekly dinners out in restaurants! Ten members of the UUFF community participated in teaching the classes, and we had students from Honduras, Somalia, China, Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan.



Teachers and students of the Social Justice Committee's summer ESOL classes enjoy a meal together.

We had a student who has lived here for 15 years, and a recent arrival who did not read or write in any language, so we had the challenge of meeting the needs of everyone. As Cassie Kimberlin stated, "We were afraid we would not have any students, and then we were afraid the students wouldn't stay, and now we have made great new friends, and it is continuing to be a joyful experience."

The most poignant statement was from a student who said her first class in English (taken elsewhere) had been dreadful, and she left in tears after one day, never to return. The first word she was taught was "under," with a picture of a policeman putting handcuffs on a Latina woman, with the caption "under arrest." She said about our classes: "This methodology is learning with love." Needless to say, we plan to teach ESOL classes at UUFF next summer as well. If you would like to join us, please contact Jenny Bishop or anyone on the Social Justice Committee.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

On June 29, we participated in a "Vigil for the Least of These," a silent vigil for Medicaid expansion, and a walk to Speaker Howell's office to deliver messages for him to reconsider his position. A casket emphasized the lives lost as we fail to expand medical coverage to the 400,000 Virginians who need healthcare.

On July 25, we met Belhaven, N.C. Mayor Adam O'Neal on his 273-mile walking journey to Washington, D.C., to protest the closing of the hospital in his town and to advocate for Medicaid expansion, which would save many rural hospitals from closing. His unlikely travel companion was 75-year old civil rights activist Bob Zellner, whose harrowing account of being a SNCC leader in the 1960s is described in his memoir, *The Wrong Side of Murder Creek*. Spike Lee is making a film of his story. Rev. Dr. William Barber, of NAACP and Moral Monday fame, began and ended this journey, which climaxed with a rally in front of the Capitol. UU folks met the group on each stop of the journey. Eric Byler's blog, www.storyofamerica.org, tells the story of these events.

IMMIGRATION VIGIL

On August 25, Rev. Walter Braman led a group of speakers in an immigration vigil at Old Mill Park, designed to "Honor the Immigrant Journey" and reflect on the refugee crisis in Central America. A candlelit labyrinth was made to honor the child refugees. The event was sponsored by Virginia Organizing, the UUFF Social Justice Committee, and SINOVA (Spanish Information Network of Virginia).

—Pat Smith



GA YOUTH DELEGATE REPORT

While I have participated in a number of UU affiliated programs and events, I have never been part of one quite as large as General Assembly. I wanted to take advantage of everything that was offered to us. I attended the general meetings, observed the debates, met other youth delegates from around the country, and voted with the UUFF youth in mind.

In addition to attending workshops, I spoke on a panel for a workshop titled "Catalyzing Youth-Led Social Justice." I also attended a rally to support raising the minimum wage, and joined the youth justice-training program known as Activate.

General Assembly has helped me realize just how much Unitarian Universalists can achieve as a community, as well as individually. It has helped me become confident in my desire to attend services while in college and to fight for social change in my young adult years. I have grown exponentially through this experience, and I will continue to seek opportunities that will help me grow in leadership.

—Ellie Brown

FIREWORKS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

If you've never thought about attending UUA's General Assembly, you may want to reconsider. It is awe-inspiring and energizing! This was my first GA, and, while I will probably attend another at some point, this one was special. First, it was held in my home town—beautiful, historic Providence, Rhode Island, founded by Roger Williams and truly a center of religious freedom. Second, I stayed at the extraordinary Providence Biltmore Hotel which had housed my family during a particularly brutal blizzard in the 1950's and where I later attended my first prom. Third, I dined on steamed mussels, wine, and fresh strawberries at my brother's home followed by front row seats for a College Hill (think Brown University and RISD) outdoor rock "concert" performance by UU musicians.

On a breezy week in late June, Providence was the gracious host to 4600+ Unitarian Universalists who descended on the city. The group included over 1800 delegates from fellowships and churches across the US and beyond, and four from UUFF—Rev. Walter Braman, Nancy Krause, Ellie Brown, and me!

So what did we do at GA? Well, one thing is certain, we did not sleep. Over the course of 5 days, there were 8 General Sessions, over 150 seminar choices with extraordinary speakers, authors and experts, an exhibition hall and bookstore to explore, and a variety of evening activities: we joined Barney Frank as he received the UUSC's Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights Leadership; we saw *Inequality for All*, a 2013 documentary narrated by Rob Reich; and we listened to religious leader, attorney, poet and Ware Lecturer Sister Simone Campbell, of "Nuns on the Bus"



fame, speak on immigration issues. And Providence has never seen such a display of humanity as it did during the WaterFire celebration on the Providence River with gondolas and fire pits and over 4000 strolling UUs in yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts.

Perhaps the most important "activity" at GA was to select/vote for the 2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). Study/Action Issues include the topic's grounding in Unitarian Universalism, topics for congregational study and possible actions for congregations, forming the basis for social action within congregations. The 2014 CSAI, *Escalating Inequality*, was selected and will be researched, studied and acted on, potentially resulting in a Statement of Conscience (SOC) by UUA. Past CSAIs and SOCs have included *Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling*; *Immigration as a Moral Issue*; *Ethical Eating*; and *Creating Peace*.

It's now been two months since GA. So what did I learn? Well, I had the opportunity to listen and learn as UUA Director of Transitions Keith Kron spoke about the ministerial search process. This should come in handy over the next several months! From my perspective, General Assembly showcased the extraordinary level of thoughtfulness, creativity, intelligence, commitment, social conscience and sense of community within this amazing organization of which we are a part, but don't just take my word for it...feel free to ask Walter, Nancy, and Ellie! Any takers for Portland in 2015? Maybe New Orleans in 2017?

—Lisa Andretta



Photos from UUA website: Top left, UUA President Peter Morales passes the flame at the WaterFire arts festival; top right, opening banner parade; above, Nancy Krause lifts her voice at the Saturday evening worship service.

CREATE >

CONNECT >

ACT >

ONE VOICE BENEFIT CONCERT



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 ■ 6:30 PM ■ FREDERICKSBURG, VA

CONTACT UUFF OFFICE FOR ADDRESS

Looking for an enjoyable evening where you can share good food, have some fun while listening to great music, and help out a worthy cause? Then please join us for an upcoming house concert featuring singer/songwriter Robbie Schaefer. The concert will benefit *One Voice*, a non-profit organization Robbie founded in 2010 with the mission of uniting children worldwide through music and creative expression and empowering children to build a just, peaceful, and wonder-filled world.

One Voice seeks to cultivate and illuminate the creative sparkle of every child, no matter where they live. They do this by:

- Fostering global sister-school relationships based upon musical and creative sharing
- Promoting the resulting collaboration to a worldwide audience
- Engaging in education and outreach programs to advance the broader community

The house concert will be held on Saturday, September 27 at the Slominski home in the City of Fredericksburg (22401). A potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m. (please bring anything you are comfortable sharing—food, beverage, or simply a desire to enjoy the evening). Contact the UUFF office for the address.

Beginning at 7:30, we will have the pleasure of listening to Robbie Schaefer, of Eddie from Ohio fame, perform to raise money for *One Voice*. More information can be found at www.onevoicecommunity.org. Please provide \$15-\$25 for the concert; all proceeds will be donated to *One Voice*.

Robbie will be sharing more about the mission of *One Voice* as the speaker for the service at UUFF on Sunday, September 28.

—Cathy McNichols

IN OUR HEARTS

Our love goes out to **Pat Sabat**, who has been undergoing treatment for colon cancer, including surgery and chemotherapy. Pat says words can't express how very grateful she is for all of the support and encouragement she's gotten from the Fellowship. We'll continue to send Pat our healing thoughts for her recovery.

Anne Little had hip replacement surgery this summer, and we're glad to hear her recuperation has gone smoothly. It's great to see her getting back to all of her many activities!

Randy Walther took a fall during a SUUSI waterfall climb, and while receiving treatment for his injuries at the hospital, was diagnosed with a cardiac problem. We're keeping Randy in our thoughts as he works out his treatment plan.



VEGETARIAN GROUP

Potluck Picnic and Fellowship at Kenmore Park

The Veg Group is thrilled to be ushering in another delicious year of food, fellowship, and learning! Join us for our September meeting on **Saturday, September 6, from 11:30-1:00 at Kenmore (Memorial) Park** in downtown Fredericksburg. This different location will allow us to have a casual and conversational Potluck Picnic!

We have the lawn booked, but not the picnic tables, so come early and claim a spot! Or bring a blanket, canopy, or chair! Please bring an extra folding or card table if you can so that we can share our dishes with ease. Please **DO** bring a vegan or vegetarian dish to share, gluten-free or raw appreciated as always, along with your own silverware, plate, and drink. We will share good food, meet new and old friends, and get excited about the upcoming year!

Any donations will be collected to pay for the "lawn rental." All are welcome—you do not need to be a vegetarian to enjoy the good food and fellowship. Bring your friends, family and little ones! There are two excellent playgrounds right on the premises.

Don't forget, we also offer support, a lending library of books and videos, recipes and ideas! Questions? Contact Gloria Lloyd or Christine Carlson. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UUFFVegGroupof-Fredericksburg>. Can't wait to see you there!

—Christine
Carlson





Community Circles Update

It's that time again...

Community Circles will begin in October. These groups of 8 to 10 committed participants come together with a trained leader to listen and share about their lives. They are grounded in the spiritual practices of deep listening and open-hearted reflection.

Training for facilitators, co-facilitators, or alternating facilitators will be held on Saturday, September 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., location TBA. Here are the Community Circles that are in the works; some need a facilitator, and some need interested members, friends or others to join! If you would like more information on how to participate in a Community Circle, or facilitate one, please contact Valerie Setzer.

Theme-based Community Circles

- **Gardening**, needs a facilitator!
- **Parenting**, needs a facilitator!
- **Personal Growth**
Charles Lopez, facilitator
- **UU Christian Seekers**
Ally Arendt, facilitator
- **Shawls from the Heart** (knitting/crocheting), Joset Powell, facilitator
- **Dream Reflection**
Susan Calhoun-Sousie, facilitator
- **Earth-Centered**
Craig Cherry, facilitator

Location-based Community Circles

- **North Stafford/Aquia/Warrenton**
Jody Chritton and Kirsten Willis, co-facilitators
- **Fredericksburg/South Stafford County**
Needs a facilitator/co-facilitator!
- **Spotsylvania/Wilderness/Culpeper**
Cassandra Hanna

All of the Community Circles above have vacancies for additional members (including friends and others), so please consider joining one!

Here's some information on the Dream Reflection Circle that is brand new, and needs interested persons to join!

Dream Reflection Circle

Facilitator: Susan Calhoun-Sousie

"Only the dreamer can say with any certainty what his/her dream means," says Dr. Jeremy Taylor. An ordained UU minister, Dr. Taylor has worked with dreams for over forty years; he blends the values of spirituality with an active social conscience and a Jungian perspective. We will begin by using a method of reflection based on his work and, along the way, learn more about his research and writing. For more information, call Susan and please meet her in the back of the meeting room following the service on September 14 when we will discuss day, time, and frequency of meetings.

—Valerie Setzer

Sunday Discussion Group



The Sunday Discussion Group meets after the service on most first, third, and fifth Sundays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Clara Barton (Board) room. If you are not on the regular discussion group email distribution and wish to be informed of the meetings, please email Stew Engel. Visit our website at <http://uuffva.org/home/congregational-life/interest-groups/sunday-discussion-group>. All are welcome to participate or just sit in on discussions of interest.

The topics scheduled for the near future are:

- Sept. 7: *Should the same child labor standards apply worldwide? Why?*
- Sept. 21: *Are "trigger warnings" a sign of academic sclerosis?*
- Oct. 5: *Who will take over Scheduler duties on Dec. 1? A current affairs topic will follow if time permits.*
- Oct. 19: *Who bears the least blame in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict? What is the solution?*

—Stew Engel



We're pleased to welcome Nancy Michael to the position of Office Administrator. Nancy is no stranger to us—she is the wife of Music Director Jason Michael and mom to adorable John Adams, and has been participating in our adult choir and handchimes choir. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in English at Catholic University, where she specializes in medieval literature and teaches undergraduate classes.

Congratulations to Bill Brooks and Lynda Allen, who were married at their home on June 21. We wish the newlyweds a lifetime of peace and happiness together.

Our congratulations also go out to Lee Rodrigue and Jennifer Swisher, who were married on July 20. We send them our best wishes for a life filled with joy and laughter!

Doug and Pat Wall have moved to Charlotte, NC, to be closer to their son and his family. They've built a new home there, and will be joined by daughter Mieke. We wish the Wall family all the best, and are missing them already!

Our fondest farewell to Linda Berkoff, who moved to Connecticut this summer to be closer to her sons and grandchildren. We're thrilled to hear that Linda has found a UU congregation near her new home that has welcomed her warmly. We'll miss you, Linda!

Congrats to Miriam Liss on the publication of her book, *Balancing the Big Stuff: Finding Happiness in Work, Family, and Life*. Miriam will be speaking about this topic at our service on August 31...don't miss it!

We're delighted to welcome back Cynthia Holland from her deployment in Guantanamo Bay with the Navy. Cynthia was gone for almost a year, and we're so happy that she is back home with her husband Guy and their two children.

UUA President Issues Statement on Violence in Ferguson

August 20, 2014

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the continued violence in Ferguson, Missouri:

“The images from Ferguson, Missouri, are profoundly unsettling: tanks, tear gas, military weaponry for urban warfare, angry crowds. We immediately feel a mixture of shock, anger, dismay, helplessness, sympathy, and outrage. As religious people who are committed to compassion and justice, what are we to do?

In the short term, we must add our voices to those who seek an end to the violence and chaos. We must stand in solidarity with those who seek justice. This is a time to be steady, calm, resolute, and determined. It is also a time for reflection.

The real challenge for us is not in the short term, but in the long term. Events like those transpiring in Ferguson have happened too often. The disturbing fact is that they could have happened in most cities in America. There is so much bottled up frustration, so much injustice, so much repression, so much fear, hatred, and racism in our nation that the explosion of violence and rage in Ferguson is symptomatic of a cultural disease.

Ferguson is not about Ferguson. It is about the systematic dehumanizing of people all over America. As Unitarian Universalists, we have faith that it need not be this way. We can create a world that is accepting, fair, loving, and diverse. We know we can make a difference. Look at our work for justice throughout our history.

In the short term, let us stand on the side of love with those seeking healing and some measure of justice. In the long term, let us rededicate ourselves to the work of building a world where events like those in Ferguson are unthinkable.”

—from *uuu.org*

Chapin Chatter

The GOOD news is that Stuart Chapin is NED (no evidence of disease); the BAD news is that he is still a pretty sick cookie. Cancer, surgeries, chemo, etc. have taken their toll and now he has some internal infections that are very tricky to treat. So while we (and they) celebrate the good news, there is still a long, hard road ahead of them.

One thing we can do to help is provide prepared foods. We had offered this service earlier, but preparing family meals was one of the few “normal” activities they could continue. Now, however, some help would be appreciated. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Susan Calhoun-Sousie and you will be sent the information to access the online sign up.

—Susan Calhoun-Sousie

New Fall Office Hours

With the start of the academic year, Nancy Michael’s hours in the office will be changing. Beginning August 25, Nancy will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. The deadline for announcements will remain Wednesdays at noon, but announcements will be emailed out on Wednesday afternoons instead of Thursdays beginning August 27, so this deadline is very firm.



UUA 2014-15 COMMON READ **Reclaiming Prophetic Witness:** **Liberal Religion in the Public Square** by Paul Rasor

In this clarion call to action, leading Unitarian Universalist theologian Paul Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in the national debates on social policy. Showing that religious liberals are more numerous than many realize, he calls on them to embrace their prophetic heritage and bring their religious convictions to bear on the issues of our time. *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* will lift your spirit, while inspiring you to lift your voice and reclaim a place in the public square.

Volunteers Needed for New Fundraiser

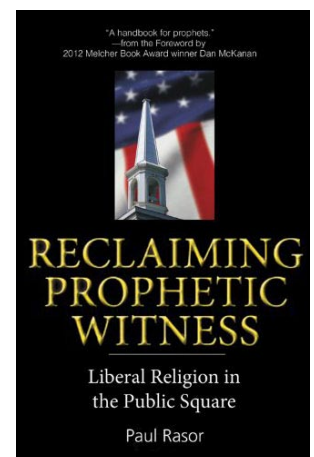
Are you computer savvy? Do you consider yourself up to speed with eBay and Craigslist? Would you like to assist UUFF by volunteering your time *from your home* on your computer?



We are starting up a new ongoing fundraising effort that will afford members and friends an opportunity to find a meaningful and “feel good” way to downsize their belongings and benefit UUFF at the same time! Volunteers will assist those that have items they wish to donate to UUFF to be sold, by acquiring comprehensive descriptions and photos of the items, listing them in the appropriate online sales venue, arranging necessary coordination for potential buyers to view and purchase them, and complete the proof of donation for tax purposes when the sellers’ donated items are sold.


If this sounds like something you’d enjoy doing, we are seeking a minimum of three volunteers to get this kick-started. Please contact Diane Elstein, Volunteer Coordinator, or Valerie Setzer, Fundraising Sub-Committee Chair.

—Valerie Setzer



—from UUA Southern Region website

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 LABOR DAY	2 Mood Support Group 10:30 am Adult Choir 7 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	3 Handchimes 7:15 pm	4 Council of Committees 7 pm	5	6 RE Volunteer Training 9:45 am Veg Group 11:30 am <i>Kenmore Park</i>
7 Service 10:30 am Potluck follows service Sun. Discussion 12 noon	8 Music Gathering 6:30 pm Sunday Services Comm. 7 pm Community Action 7:30 pm <i>Marriott</i>	9 Friendship 6:30 pm <i>Marriott</i> Adult Choir 7 pm Music Comm. 8:30 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	10 Handchimes 7:15 pm	11 Board Meeting 7 pm Great Books 7 pm <i>817 Caroline St.</i>	12	13 Knitting Circle 12 noon
14 Service 10:30 am Dream Reflection Circle <i>org. mtg. following service</i> UUth Choir 11:45 am	15 Women's Group 7 pm <i>Castiglia's</i> Finance 7:30 pm	16 Mood Support Group 10:30 am Adult Choir 7 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	17 Bldg. & Grounds 7 pm Handchimes 7:15 pm	18 Social Justice Comm. Mtg. 6 pm	19	20
21 Service 10:30 am UUth Choir 11:45 am Sun. Discussion 12 noon	22 Music Gathering 6:30 pm	23 Adult Choir 7 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	24 Handchimes 7:15 pm	25 Membership 7 pm Great Books 7 pm <i>817 Caroline St.</i>	26	27 Comm. Circle Facilitator Training 9:30 am <i>Location TBA</i> Knitting Circle 12 noon One Voice Concert 6:30 pm <i>Slominskis'</i>
28 Service 10:30 am UUth Choir 11:45 am Life Preservers 3 pm <i>Pinschmidts'</i>	29	30 Adult Choir 7 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	<i>Activities are held at the UUFF unless otherwise noted. All are subject to change. For contact information for individual members, see the UUFF Directory or call the office.</i>			

SUNDAY SERVICES ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

SEPT. 7

How Strong a Tie is Water?
Rev. Walter Braman

A reflection on our water communion service.

Lay leader: Jane Ellen Teller

Potluck follows service.

SEPT. 14

Lessons from Juvie: The Neverending Search for Meaning
Steve Watkins

Longtime UUFF member Steve Watkins will talk about his experiences researching and writing his novel *Juvie*, which explores the troubling world of juvenile incarceration, and his experiences volunteering at the regional juvenile detention center where he teaches yoga with some of the teens serving long-term sentences there.

Lay leader: Angie Noll

SEPT. 21

Suffer the Little Children
Rev. Walter Braman

Some thoughts on our present immigration situation.

Lay leaders: Jenny Bishop and Luis Yac

SEPT. 28

One Voice Community
Robbie Schaefer

Singer/songwriter Robbie Schaefer will speak about *One Voice Community*, the non-profit he founded in 2010 with the mission of uniting children worldwide through music and creative expression and empowering children to build a just, peaceful, and wonder-filled world. For additional information, visit

www.onevoicecommunity.org.

Lay leader: Cathy McNichols

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF FREDERICKSBURG

25 Chalice Circle, Fredericksburg, VA 22405



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fredericksburg fosters a welcoming and intentionally diverse community of those who seek philosophical, spiritual, intellectual or religious growth in a forum of mutual respect. Affirming the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we value social justice, respect the interdependence of all life and are united by a desire to make ethical decisions on issues of mutual concern.

Minister:

Rev. Walter Braman, 310-4001

Treasurer:

Ron Wasem

Religious Education:

Chris Johns

Newsletter Editor:

Maryann Brown

Office Administrator:

Nancy Michael, 310-4001

BOARD MEMBERS

Pres: Jane Ellen Teller

VP: Valerie Setzer

Sec'y: Charles Lopez

Diane Elstein

David Lovegrove

George Solley

Barry Waldman

Nora Wilson-Lesser

Jim Yeatts

Fellowship Email: uuff@verizon.net

Website: www.uuffva.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:30 am-3:00 pm
Announcement deadline: Wednesday at Noon (firm!)

REV. BRAMAN'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 am-3:00 pm

October Newsletter Deadline: SAT., SEPT. 20, 4:00 pm

Oct. Publication Date: Sept. 26.

Submit articles via email to Maryann Brown.