



Celebrating Rev. Walter Braman



We will be saying goodbye to Rev. Walter Braman after his last service on June 21, Father's Day. There will be some presentations, a lot of shared memories, and cake. Let's make our send-off a big success. Please plan to join us!

—Jane Ellen Teller

UUFF Annual Year-End Picnic

Sunday, June 14, 1:00 pm
At the Phipps' Country Home



This year, our congregation will again gather at the country home of Ralph and Joyce Phipps for the annual UUFF picnic on **Sunday, June 14 at 1:00 p.m.** The picnic is a great way to end our Fellowship year, and is always a day of food, fun and friendship for the whole family.

Relax in the shade with a cool drink and a cup of Ralph's homemade ice cream. We'll get together our traditional volleyball game, or you can join in a friendly game of horseshoes. Our picnic is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old UU friends or connect with newcomers in a leisurely way.

The kids will enjoy swimming in the pool, swinging on the rope swing, sliding down the dirt hill, and trying out the trampoline. Ralph's always looking for ways to add to the fun, so this year, in addition to rides on the lawn mower-powered train, he'll be giving rides in his 1931 Model A Ford that's been converted to a truck. If you think your family needs a healthy dose of old-fashioned outdoor fun, the UUFF picnic is just the ticket!

Bring a picnic dish to share, and drinks for your family if you'd like (some soft drinks will be provided). A lawn chair or blanket to sit on is a must, and wear your bathing suit and bring a towel if you'd like to take a dip in the pool. There's plenty of shelter, so the picnic will be held rain or shine. Enjoy a fabulous day in the country in the company of old and new UU friends...it's well worth the drive!

Thanks to Ralph and Joyce for hosting the whole UU gang! For directions, contact the UUFF office at 310-4001.

News & Notes

Music makers of all ages, levels, and instruments are welcome to join our **Monday Music Gathering** every other Monday evening in the high school classroom from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (June 8 & 22). We'll sometimes meet at the fire circle in the memorial garden, weather permitting. For more info, contact Lee Criscuolo.

The UU Women's Group meets on Monday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. at *Basilico*, 2577 Cowan Blvd. We'll meet on July 20 at *Miso* at 1305 Jeff Davis Hwy. across from the bus station, and on August 17 at *Hard Times* at 314 Jeff Davis Hwy. near the Fredericksburg side of the Falmouth Bridge. Newcomers are enthusiastically welcomed—make plans to join us!

The Insight Meditation Community of Fredericksburg meets on Thursdays in Dragonfly Yoga Studio (810 Caroline Street) at 7:00 p.m. A daylong silent retreat, *Sacred Space – Listening to the Body* with Mary VanDevanter, will be



held June 27 at UUFF. For more details, visit www.meditatefred.com.

Join the UU Men's Group each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at **Prima-vera Pizzeria & Grill**, 600 William Street. Newcomers are always welcome.

When you make your summer purchases on **Amazon.com**, first visit www.uuffva.org and click on the Amazon logo

there. The UUFF profits from every purchase that results from a click-through from our site.

This is the last newsletter of the Fellowship year. The next issue will be September, with a deadline of August 22. Thanks to Ken Brown for editorial and proofing assistance, and to Nancy Michael for copying and distribution.

FROM THE Minister's Desk

Rev. Walter Braman



*"If the only prayer you ever prayed was
'Thank You,' it would be enough."*

—Meister Eckhart

In writing my last column for UUFF, my head is full of so many things I want to say to you before leaving, but two suggestions come to mind. First is the quote you see above by the Christian mystic Meister Eckhart. It sums up all the spiritual wonder, heartfelt gratitude, joy, and, yes, the "did I say everything I needed to say?" syndrome. Eckhart, looking at his own faith, could sum it all up with the words "thank you." He is right.

The second comes from many years

ago while watching the Academy Awards ceremony. David Niven was given an Oscar for his role in "Separate Tables." After hearing so many other award speeches by other winners, Niven allowed that all he could say was "thank you," which he did and stepped down from the dais.

After two and then five years of being with UUFF on its journeys, I look back on so much that I am nearly overwhelmed. After watching UUFF change its governance, begin its search for a new venue, search for a called minister (twice), engage in a storefront ministry with the same joy and dignity that is one of the Fellowship's hallmarks, plan and build a new building and begin using it, and all along celebrate and lift one another in loving community, I have good reason for that feeling.

At our annual meeting you voted to give me the title of Minister Emeritus. When Jane Ellen first called me to tell me

that there would be such a vote, I was stunned. Please, Jane Ellen, don't mistake my silence for a lack of passion – far from it! It is hard to put into words how much this means.

It is, perhaps, best for me to follow the example of a great Christian mystic and a famous actor and say, simply say, "Thank you."

And this: the honor is not mine alone. As I said in the sermon before the annual meeting and in my very first interview with you back in 1998, I cannot do the things on your list that need to be done, but "we" can.

I honestly believe that one of the main reasons I am receiving this honor is because of the beloved community of UUFF members who walked with me.

Thank you.

Love to you all,
Walter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



This will be my last newsletter post so I feel as though I should have some wisdom to impart from my time this past year as president of the Board of Trustees. Truly, I have learned a lot about things like church governance, and the importance of communication, and about people. But what I would like to leave members of the UUFF with is encouragement to volunteer and take on roles within the Fellowship. The Fellowship needs you, for sure; but you also need the Fellowship. When we give of our time and our talents to this place that we all love, special things happen.

I remember when I first joined the UUFF. It was all that I could do just to come on Sunday mornings. Paul Russell was the minister and his sermons would excite and intrigue me. I was thrilled with the knowledge that there were other people who shared my beliefs and disbeliefs. I still remember some of those sermons. At first, that was enough—after all, it was my first time in a church since I left the Methodist Church at age 16. I needed time to acclimate.

After a while, Ralph Phipps approached me. He was interested in whether I would help him with the Building &

Grounds Committee. He would do all of the work, he promised me, but he was being required to go to Board meetings and he hated doing that. Around that time a new governance was being implemented whereby there was a Board of Trustees being formed to make decisions. This Board consisted of committee chairs. Ralph didn't like that. He liked fixing the old furnace that he kept running way past its prime. He liked climbing trees with his chainsaw and trimming the branches that were hanging over the roof. He liked repairing chairs and furniture and building shelves. But he did not like meetings and he asked me if I would do that for him. That sounded easy enough so I said yes. Ralph and I worked together for maybe 10 years. And I grew to love that old building. It was a special thing that happened.

I have heard Kit Carver say that her year as BoT president was a year of much personal growth. She found the authority within herself to guide and lead the UUFF members where they needed to go. I don't remember where she was taking us, but I do remember that she emerged as a stronger person. That was a special thing that happened to her.

Bob McNichols has some special talents that he shares with us every Sunday when he records the services and controls the sound equipment. It is probably not difficult for him to do this, since he has been a sound engineer for "Eddie From Ohio" for much of his career, but it is a

big deal for us. Remember how the sound would bounce off of the walls when we first moved into our new building? Now, we have good sound quality and everyone can hear what is being said. That is a very special gift.

I could go on and on with stories of volunteers changing themselves or changing the lives of others. Religious Education is a delight for some folks who like to be around children. RE teachers can enrich the lives of UU children, while enriching their own. For some, volunteering as an RE teacher is a way to try something new. And who knows where it will lead?

Have you ever wanted to know a little more about finances and budgets? Join the Finance Committee. You may not want to be the chair during that first year, but you may learn something.

I hear all the time about the satisfaction that choir members get from their performances. Of course, we, the audience, love the music. But those volunteers on the stage, making beautiful music, love it also. It feeds their soul in a special way that nothing else can.

A new year will begin in September. It is a fresh start for you and for the Fellowship. What do you want to give? What do you need or want to do? Think about it over the summer. If there is a committee that you would like to join, just ask the chair. Or just come to a meeting. Something special might happen.

—Jane Ellen Teller



A few months ago, I made a promise to Reverend Walter. During one of our chats, he requested that I share in a newsletter article a little bit about my credentialing process. I said that I would and then he added, "Before the end of the year." He wasn't kidding around, so I'd better get to it...

Where to start? From the UUA website we learn: The Religious Education Credentialing Program...nurtures the call to religious education as a profession, provides a comprehensive path for professional development, and articulates and upholds professional standards and guidelines in religious education leadership.

I was hired to be your Director of Religious Education (DRE) in June of 2011. I was so busy trying to figure out which end was up that I had no time to consider what might be required to do the job well or how I would develop professionally as the needs here at the Fellowship grew. It was about the time we made the move to 25 Chalice Circle that I realized there would come a day when this Fellowship would need a full-time DRE and that, if the opportunity

was offered, there would be many things I would have to learn/do to be ready for that transition.

There is a saying, "when the student is ready, the teacher will appear." This would be one of those times. By some divine synchronicity, I heard about the UUA Credentialing Program – probably through one of my fellow DREs. After a bit of research and a whole lot of soul searching, I made the decision to take on this adventure. I saw credentialing as an opportunity to broaden my understanding of this job. After undergoing the interview process with Jan Gartner, UUA Professional Development Specialist, I was a credentialing candidate, Associate Level.

And let me tell you, this has been an undertaking! This rather involved process (www.uua.org/careers/re) takes two years and requires the supervision of a mentor. At this level, I have to show proficiency in 5 core "competencies" (Administration, RE Resources, Right Relations, Anti-Oppression/Anti-Racism/Multiculturalism, Volunteer Management), as well as 3 supplemental (I have chosen Worship, UU History, Youth/Young Adult). I am also required to take

five 15-hour classes, read about twenty books, show relevant work products and provide related personal and professional experiences – both UU and non-UU – and compile it into a 75-80 page document known as the portfolio. And all by the end of this summer. Almost there...

Why am I doing this? Because you deserve a stronger DRE. When you hired me, I had been a member of this Fellowship for 11 years. I knew what it meant to be a UU, I knew all the children and had enough creativity to build curricula that would serve them. But I want more for all of us. Thanks to this process, I am seeing how much more we can offer these children. I did not understand the value of professional development before I started this project. And I did not understand how important it is to tend to my own education, so that I can better tend theirs. An inspired DRE leads to an inspired RE program. A very special thank you goes out to the chair of my committee, Kirsten Willis, who understood that, to Walter, who encouraged me to take the leap and to all of you, who provided the budget that allowed it to happen.

With a grateful heart,
Chris Johns

Parents' Night Out a Success!

I want to share a big THANK YOU to everyone who made the Parents' Night Out events a big success!! I am grateful to the parents who trusted us with their kids – they certainly had a good time. And of course my greatest appreciation goes out to the volunteers, both adults and teens, who literally made the events possible. Elizabeth Cameron was my right-hand woman, Anna Slominski was there to charm and entertain, and Taylor Johns and Elena Noll did a great job on baby duty. Jane Ellen Teller, your ping pong balls were a stroke of genius! Valerie Setzer, Diane Elstein, Paula Barnes, Kristen Tuxbury, and any others I have overlooked – your generosity of time and spirit in stepping up to help mean so much to the kids, and definitely to me! And Sarah Dewees, thanks for enabling me to at last enjoy a night out myself. ☺

I hope we are able to continue and expand these fun events. We raised enough money for the play yard to make a good start on some fun things for the area. Hopefully we will be able to start making that happen soon, so look for some improvements there. And "customers" and volunteers can be happy knowing YOU made it all possible!

–Kirsten Willis

Welcome, New Members!

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the new members to our Fellowship this church year. They are **Christi Bayha, Pati Dunn, Anita Holle, Adrienne Ohle-Rodriguez, Mandolin Restivo-Walsh, Edward Rodriguez, Bonnie Rossi, Edward Rossi, Natalie Thompson, Taegan Toman, and Kristen Tuxbury.** We're glad to have you with us!

The next UU101 class for newcomers will probably be scheduled in October, depending on when Rev. Doug is available. There will also be a class in the spring. If someone would like to take the class and also needs babysitting, we can make arrangements for that. For more information, get in touch with Nancy Krause or Susan Hadley.

–Susan Ohle

Rev. Doug McCusker called in unanimous vote



After an exciting Candidating Week, featuring two services led by our ministerial candidate, plus numerous social events and meetings, our year-long ministerial search efforts came to a close with a congregational meeting on May 3. In a unanimous vote, the members of the UUFF chose to call Rev. Doug McCusker to be our full-time minister beginning in the fall of 2015. And equally exciting, Rev. Doug returned to the Fellowship, accompanied by his wife and daughter, to resoundingly accept the call!

We are thrilled to welcome Rev. Doug, who will start his ministry with us in August and will begin leading services in September. And we are forever grateful to Rev. Walter Braman for so graciously coming out of retirement to see us through to this point. Watch for more details in the upcoming months, but for now, we hope the images here, taken by UUFF members during and after the vote to call, can convey some of the enthusiasm that we all feel here at the UUFF!

—Ministerial Search Committee

The congregational meeting to call our next minister was attended by 109 members, with all 109 affirming Rev. Doug McCusker as our choice.



Chair Lisa Andretta is joined by the search committee as she phones Rev. Doug with the good news.



Rev. Doug returns following the vote to accept the call.

FY15 UUFF PLEDGE PAYMENTS

Members and Friends are reminded that pledges run for one UUFF fiscal year (July of one year to June of the next). We are currently in FY15, ending June 30, 2015. If you made an FY15 pledge, please pay it prior to June 30 if possible. If you have a question, contact the Treasurer, Ron Wasem.

—Ron Wasem

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Juneteenth Celebration! Juneteenth commemorates when the last slaves gained their freedom in the United States. There will be a celebration on Saturday, June 20 starting at 11:00 a.m. at New City Fellowship (200 Prince Edward St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401). This will be a fun event for all ages with free food and music. Organized by the Fredericksburg Race Relations Coalition. Bring the whole family and don't forget your dancing shoes!

ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at the UUFF this summer! We all had such a rewarding and fun time last year, we decided to do it again. No experience required! If you know English, you are needed! Travel the world without ever leaving the Fellowship (and no pricey plane ticket!). Classes will be Tuesday nights, 5:30-7:30 p.m. from June 16-August 4. You don't have to be available every class to participate. Please contact Jenny Bishop if you are interested in volunteering.

—Jenny Bishop

What is an Armillary Sphere?

A handsome focal point in our Memorial Garden is the striking armillary sphere, which was donated by Bill and Gae Pinschmidt. An artistic addition to the meditative space, it is also an accurate sundial.

The ancient Greeks are credited with inventing such devices, used to tell time and to model other celestial events. They reveal how the Greeks believed the universe worked and how the stars moved around the Earth. Over centuries, adaptations to such models reflected new understandings in gnomics, which is the science of sundials, with the gnomon that part of the dial casting the shadow.

Setting up the armillary requires measurements of latitude and longitude along precise alignment of the sphere with time indicated by the shadow from the shaft of the arrow where it falls upon the hour ring. An adjustable feature on this dial accommodates both spring and winter equinox, indicating standard and daylight saving time.

This fascinating and beautifully crafted device is the work of astronomer Frank Aimee, who made telescopes and taught at the Hayden Planetarium back in the 1960s. Our UU Memorial Garden becomes a fitting home for such a piece combining, as it does, concepts of time, history and the changing universe into one element, which well may lend itself to future tradition through this unique presence.

—Gae Pinschmidt



Chalice Lighter Heads-Up

Are you one? Would you like to be one?



In the March UUFF newsletter, Jane Ellen Teller asked “Are you a Chalice Lighter?” I answered “Yes, I am, but I haven’t heard about it for a long time.” In fact, my husband Dick and I thought maybe this wonderful program was defunct. Turns out someone somewhere moved us from VA to NC and we became “undeliverable.” I thank Jane Ellen for stirring me into action. I was so pleased to find out that Chalice Lighters still exist that I offered to be the UUFF Chalice Lighter representative for this very worthwhile program.

If you are not yet a Chalice Lighter, please consider becoming one. Briefly stated, Chalice Lighters contribute small amounts of money (at least \$15, no more than three times a year) which become large grants to UU congregations to help them out with special needs. For just \$45 a year, you can “pay it forward” to other UU congregations and feel good about yourself at the same time.

A new call will soon be issued, asking for donations to benefit the UU congregation in Winston-Salem. They will use the money so they can upgrade their sanctuary with comfortable seating and 21st century A-V equipment. As former recipients of two Chalice Lighter grants, including one to upgrade our sanctuary with sound panels, we in the UUFF know very well how much these small contributions add up (around \$15,000 each) and how much good they can do.

If you are a Chalice Lighter but haven’t had an appeal in the last year or so, please let me know. I will check the list of UUFF Chalice Lighters and add your name, correct your address, or otherwise bring your information up to date.

For more information about this great program, please visit www.seduua.org/clsed.html or call me or send me an email. You can enroll online or by mail. I will be happy to help you if you like.

—Sara Toyne

MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

The Memorial Garden team met Wednesday, May 13 and plans to meet again Wednesday, June 17 at 5:00 p.m.

What have we done, you ask?

- We discussed that we are short of money. The final bill came in and we are over budget by \$1,200. Not bad for a \$25,000 project. We need about \$7,000 more to put the walkway in. If you have felt the desire to contribute to this lasting memorial for all of us, now is the time.
- We have a firepit policy.
- We have found a memorial plaque company locally, maybe.
- We have ideas about what to do with the posts and concrete pad.
- We are all so very grateful to Anne and Carl Little for the first plantings in the garden of 20 boxwoods!

—Kit Carver

COMMUNITY ACTION CORNER

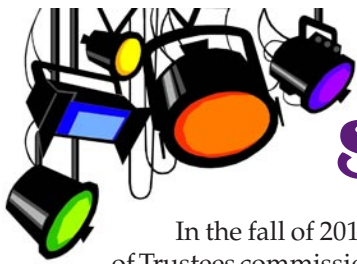
Looking for Volunteers

The Fellowship will be serving (not cooking) dinner and providing dessert at St. George’s Episcopal Church on June 15 and June 22. This is a great way to help the less fortunate people in our community. A variety of clients are served: the working poor, the unemployed, and the homeless. Up to 140 people are served each night.

Dinner servers should arrive between 3:30 and 3:45 p.m. to help set up; use the side entrance. There will be an orientation at 4:00 for those who have not served there before. We need 6 volunteers for each night. If you would like to help, please contact Curt Swinburne. Curt can also provide additional information about the type and number of desserts needed.

If you are looking for other places to volunteer during the summer, visit <http://www.volunteermatch.org>. Go to *Volunteers* and then click on *All Listings Near You*.

—Curt Swinburne



Spotlight on STEWARDSHIP

In the fall of 2014, the Board of Trustees commissioned a Stewardship Task Force to study the UUFF's present view of stewardship and research what might be done to expand and enhance its role within the Fellowship. Over several months, the task force met with individuals within the congregation, interviewed stewardship congregational leaders from other UU churches, and talked with UUA stewardship representatives. The task force delivered its report to the BoT in March.

The task force found that when the word "stewardship" is mentioned, we (UUFF) view it as primarily fundraising, i.e., the annual pledge drive. We see it mostly as an activity that takes place once a year and is talked about "a lot" during February and March.

However, the task force's research revealed that stewardship should be seen as much more than fundraising. It paints the entire Fellowship with a broad brush-

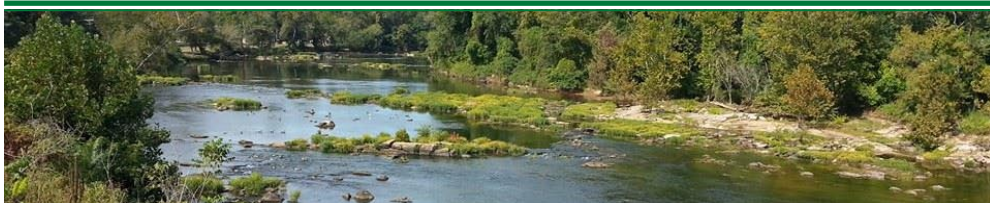
stroke and can be seen in many activities. It reflects how we care for one another and how we share all of our gifts. Stewardship, in all of its forms, should be recognized and celebrated throughout the year.

After discussing the task force findings, the BoT authorized the Stewardship Task Force to: 1) Begin meeting with committees to discuss how their activities may be viewed as acts of stewardship and how to better recognize and celebrate those activities; 2) Prepare monthly stewardship newsletter articles; 3) Investigate the possibility of having a fall Stewardship Awareness Sunday service; and 4) Introduce the concept of stewardship as a ministry and obtain feedback.

Changing our current perception of stewardship will present challenges and take time.

Are you ready to begin the journey?

—Stewardship Task Force contacts:
Kit Carver and Jim Yeatts



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US: Potluck & Film Showing of *Rappahannock*

The Friendship Committee is collaborating with Friends of the Rappahannock to bring the movie *Rappahannock* to the UUFF. If you have not yet seen the movie, or have seen it and want to experience it again, please mark your calendars for Saturday, July 18. We will have a potluck starting at 6:30, and will show the movie around 7:45.

The movie, approximately 45 minutes long, recently won the 2015 RVA Environmental Film Festival Environmental Documentary Film contest. "The first half of the film features the history of the Rappahannock watershed, beginning with the American Indians who lived there before the arrival of Europeans, and includes details about the Civil War in the region and the advent of commercial fishing. The second half explores the ecology of the river and the environmental challenges it faces in the 21st century" (*Fredericksburg Today*, Feb. 3, 2015).

There will be no admission fee, but donations to FOR (a non-profit organization) will be gratefully accepted. An FOR representative will be in attendance to introduce the movie and answer questions following the viewing.

—Lori Izykowski

Business Directory in the Works

Requests have been made off and on for several years for a Business Directory of UUFF members and friends. A volunteer has stepped forward to make this happen. New friend of the UUFF, Meg Sneed, has offered her time and expertise in creating this document.

The rules for this opt-in Directory are: Only businesses of UUFF members and friends will be listed; categories will be determined by the types of businesses that opt-in; listings will include the business's name, contact information (can include phone, address, email, and/or website) with member or friend's name; and a quarterly review will determine the status of the business. Due to the public nature of a business, the Business Directory will be accessible through the UUFF website with no password needed.

If you are interested in your business being listed in this directory, please email a brief (140 characters) description of your business to Meg Sneed. If enough members and friends with businesses respond, the directory will be launched in September. If you have questions, contact Nancy Krause.

—Nancy Krause



Kudos to **Ellie Brown**, who has been accepted into the UUA Multicultural Leadership School 2015, held in Boston, MA, from July 10-14. Ellie was chosen because she has "demonstrated a commitment to her own identity development as a person of color, an appetite for leadership and a grounding in Unitarian Universalism," and has been awarded a scholarship to attend.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Taegan and Cari Toman**, who were married in May. We wish the couple a lifetime of happiness together!

ArtsBeat

on this. It's sure to be a big, enjoyable day of music.

Lastly, on Sunday, June 21, back at the Fellowship hall the Adult Choir will be singing one last time for our beloved Minister Emeritus, Walter.

We have had an extraordinary year of notable occurrences in UU Arts this year. **Christie Johns** and **Caroline McNichols** are retiring from hand chimes after years of active performance to pursue college. We wish them both the best; they will be sorely missed. On the flip side, both Adult Choir and Hand Chimes have seen their memberships grow. Welcome again to **Lee Ann Tate**, **Laura Joy**, **Pati Dunn**, **Ed Rodriguez** and anyone I'm forgetting. Welcome back to Choir, **Hugh Teller**, after several years absence.

We've been on the radio, we've sung and rung for our new minister, Rev. Doug McCusker, we were bought at the auction by the McNichols family last year, and bought once again this year, this time by **Susan Kosior**. There hasn't been a moment to breathe and as soon as the season ends we'll all start counting the days until fall when the cycle starts all over again. To everyone who participated in music this year, to our Music Committee and co-chairs, Bruce and James, to Kana, to

Chris Johns, and to our loyal and supportive Fellowship, I thank you all.

Two quick notes in the arts about town: at Riverside, **Taylor Johns** has opened in *Jack and the Giant*. Jack runs May 16 to July 11. **Elizabeth Cameron** performed in her first musical last month. Called *The Cabaret: A Night on Broadway*, Elizabeth performed at North Stafford High School at the end of April and early May. Congratulations to both our talented young UU women making joyful noises around the community.

If you are involved in an arts activity and would like me to make mention of it in a future Arts Beat, please drop me an e-mail with some information. I would love to know more about what our Fellowship is up to, and would be happy to include it in an upcoming newsletter.

Starting again in the fall, Adult Choir rehearses 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Hand Chimes rehearses 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays, and UUth Choir is on Sunday mornings at 11:45 a.m. I hope to see you there. Happy summer.

—Jason Michael, Music Director



HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATES!

Congratulations and best of luck to all of our spring graduates:

Christie Johns graduates from Riverbend High School in June and will be attending Bridgewater College in the fall. She plans to major in business and explore art with an eye towards having her own jewelry design company.

Caroline McNichols is a June graduate of Riverbend High School. She'll be attending the University of Virginia in the fall to study engineering.

Sky Wilson is graduating from James Monroe High School in June. She'll be attending James Madison University in the fall, where she plans to major in theater.

Evan Rodriguez, son of new members Ed Rodriguez and Adrienne Ohle-Rodriguez and grandson of Susan Ohle, is graduating from Courtland High School in June. He will be attending the University of Mary Washington this fall.

Susan Kosior's host student, **Ine Lombaert** from Belgium, graduated from Fredericksburg Academy in May. She plans to study speech therapy at Thomas Moore College in Antwerp.

Xaviar Jenerette graduated from Germanna Community College this May and will be attending George Mason University in the fall to finish an undergraduate degree in English. He hopes to pursue law when he is finished.

Madeline Lovegrove graduated in May from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in theater. After touring DC, NYC, LA, and Atlanta, Madeline will return to Richmond to work for VCU this summer and then pursue her craft in an undisclosed location.

Eva Watkins graduated in May with an MSW from the University of Texas School of Social Work. She is working as a family services caseworker in Austin.

Cancer Club Provides Support

The Cancer Club is a group for those in the UUFF who have had positive cancer diagnoses. Our goal is to share information and strategies, provide support for each other, and have some fun.

The club will meet on Sunday, June 28 at 12 noon in the high school RE room. All club activities are confidential.

The club could use a Facebook page to streamline member communication. Please contact Pat Sabat if you can help get this page going, or if you have any other questions about the group.

—Pat Sabat

Sunday Discussion Group

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

June 7: Are free range kids empowered or neglected?

June 21: How much gun control is enough?

July 5: Do we need the 4th Amendment?

July 19: Can terrorism be defined? Is it ever justified?

Aug. 2: Should business discrimination on religious grounds be lawful?

Aug. 16: When should the U.S. interfere with other countries?



—Steve Sanders



TIDEWATER CLUSTER MEETING: On April 25, eight UUFFers joined members from the six other congregations in the Tidewater Cluster for the cluster's annual meeting. The theme this year was "Generations Working Together." Keynote speaker Kimberley Debus, an intern UU minister with the One Island Congregation in Key West, talked about how the world views of people of different generations affect the way they think about and respond to experiences in their lives. Understanding these different perspectives is a critical component in determining how congregations can best attract members and motivate them to become involved in the work of the church.

Other workshops talked about stewardship, membership, fellowship, music, and religious education. Cluster meetings allow congregational leaders to collaboratively work on solutions for common challenges that we face. Planning is already underway for next year's meeting at the First UU Church in Richmond.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: GA is the annual meeting where UUs from around the world gather for fellowship, learning, and growth. Attendees choose from hundreds of workshops, lectures, panel presentations, film screenings, and worship services. Delegates participate in plenary sessions where the business of the association is conducted. GA2015 will be held in Portland, Oregon June 24-28, 2,850 miles from Fredericksburg. In 2016, however, GA will meet in Columbus,

Ohio. That's a mere 470 miles away, about an 8-hour drive. I'm already making plans to attend and I hope that lots of UUFFers will be able to join me for the trip and the incomparable GA experience.

The Ware Lecture is a highlight of GA. This year's Ware Lecturer is the prominent and provocative democratic intellectual, Dr. Cornel A. West. Dr. West graduated magna cum laude from Harvard and obtained his MA and PhD in philosophy at Princeton. He has taught at Union Theological Seminary, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and the University of Paris. He has written 19 books and edited an additional 13 books. He is best known for his classic *Race Matters*, published by Beacon Press in 1993. His latest books are *Black Prophetic Fire*, which offers a fresh perspective on six revolutionary African American leaders, and *The Radical King*, a collection of Martin Luther King's writings.

He has recently been deeply involved in the Black Lives Matter protests and was among those arrested in Ferguson in 2015. Dr. West has a passion to communicate in writings and orations, through music and film, and in solidarity with groups and faith communities committed to justice in order to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.—a legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.

At the Annual Meeting on May 17, the congregation chose Racial Justice as this year's action item. In keeping with this initiative, the Social Justice and Denominational Affairs committees will be working together to offer opportunities to view and discuss Dr. West's Ware Lecture. We will also be assessing interest in conducting groups to read and discuss books that he has authored. Stay tuned for information regarding dates for these events.

—Lois Colbridge



GREAT BOOKS

The Great Books discussion group is well into its current anthology, "Short Story Omnibus." Ten of the 25 short stories have been covered. The collection breaks new ground as a resource for the variety and richness the short story form offers. These stories, spanning a century and a half, are among the greatest ever written. There are several discussion questions and brief author biographies.

A new feature has been added. The session moderator makes a selection from Mortimer Adler's *The Great Ideas*, a lexicon of western thought, and the group discusses the idea. An online link to Adler's text is provided to Great Bookers.

The next 10 short stories follow:

May 28: *The Country Husband*, John Cheever, 26p

June 11: *The Ledge*, Lawrence Sargent Hall, 17p

June 25: *Looking for Mr. Green*, Saul Bellow, 22p

July 9: *Sonny's Blues*, James Baldwin, 33p

July 23: *Argument and Persuasion*, Donald Hall, 20p

July 23: *The Professor's Houses*, Ursula K. Le Guin, 6p

Aug. 13: *Lost in the Funhouse*, John Barth, 24p

Aug. 27: *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and So Forth*, John Updike, 11p

Aug. 27: *Cathedral*, Raymond Carver, 16p





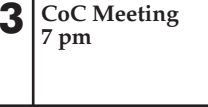


Sept. 10: *The Man from Mars*, Margaret Atwood, 21p

No special background is necessary. Session moderators are self-selected. You can order "Short Story Omnibus" from the foundation in Chicago at 1-800-222-5870 or online at www.greatbooks.org. The cost is \$35-\$40 depending on tax and shipping.

Our group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month excluding Thanksgiving and the week after Christmas. For questions contact Ron Smith. We welcome new members at any time.

—Ron Smith

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
Service 10:30 am UUth Choir 11:45 am Sun. Discussion 12 noon	Sunday Services Comm. 6 pm Music Gathering 6:30 pm Community Action 7 pm <i>Marriott</i>	Friendship 6:30 pm Adult Choir 7 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	Handchimes 7:15 pm	CoC Meeting 7 pm		Knitting Circle 12 noon
Service 10:30 am Picnic 1 pm <i>Home of Ralph Phipps</i>	Serve dinner at St. Geo's, 3:30 pm Women's Group 7 pm <i>Basilico</i> Finance 7:30 pm	ESOL class 5:30 Music Comm 6:30 Adult Choir 7 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	Memorial Garden 5 pm Handchimes 7:15 pm	Bldg & Grounds 3 pm Membership Comm. 7 pm	Drum Circle 7 pm <i>Hugh Teller's</i>	June- teenth Celebration 11 am <i>New City Fellowship</i>
Service 10:30 am Celebration for Walter follows service Social Justice 11:45 Sun. Discussion 12 noon	Serve dinner at St. Geo's, 3:30 pm Music Gathering 6:30 pm	ESOL class 5:30 Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>		Great Books 7 pm		Insight Meditation Silent Retreat Knitting Circle 12 noon
Service 10:30 am Cancer Club, 12 noon Life Preservers, 3 pm <i>Pinschmidt's</i>		ESOL class 5:30 pm Men's Group 7 pm <i>Primavera</i>	Activities are held at the UUFF unless otherwise noted. All are subject to change. For contact information for individuals, see the UUFF Directory or call the office.			

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 am

JUNE 7

Dealing with the Edifice Complex
Rev. Walter Braman

How do we love AND use the building?
Lay leader: Mandolin Restivo-Walsh

JUNE 14

We Are One

*Jason Michael, Music Director
with UUFF choirs & guests*

A celebration of the diversity of religious traditions within the UU community, this year's Music Committee Sunday service will include poetry, readings, and music from a variety of faiths. Performances by our Adult Choir, UUth Choir, Hand Chimes, and a special guest appearance by the UU Drum Circle.

JUNE 21

A Word or Two, *Rev. Walter Braman*

Some thoughts on leaving.

Adult Choir performs.

Lay leader: Cathie Braman

JUNE 28

How to Be an Ally

Addie Alexander & Eunice Haigler

What do we need to know to help improve race relations in our community? What can we do? Addie Alexander is from Virginia Organizing and Eunice Haigler is from Fredericksburg Area Race Relations Coalition.

Lay leader: Ainsley Brown

Coming This Summer

Our summer services are still in the planning phase, so watch the UUFF announcements and website for more details. Here are some highlights:

JULY 5

Dead in India: The Failures of Memoir
Steve Watkins

UUFF member and author Steve Watkins will talk about his near-death experiences years ago in India, and the difficulties—maybe even the impossibility—of making narrative sense out of major, and sustained, trauma.

AUGUST 9

The Neuroscience of Religion
Dr. Andy Thomson

This presentation will review the basic mechanisms human minds use to generate and sustain religious beliefs as well as the neurobiology of the rituals that reinforce them. Dr. Thomson is a staff psychiatrist at UVA and a trustee of the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science.

AUGUST 23

The Art of Nonviolent Expression
Dr. Dena Jennings

To embrace nonviolent living in a violent culture requires creative artful communication. Let's explore what it means to be a part of the Beloved Community. Dr. Jennings is a physician, artist, and musician.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF FREDERICKSBURG

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Wed, Fri, 9:30-3
Announcement deadline: Wed. noon

REV. BRAMAN'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tues. & Thurs., 9-3

During the summer, he will be available for emergencies only.

Sept. Newsletter Deadline:

Sat. Aug. 22, 4:00 pm.

Sept. Publication Date: Aug. 28.

Submit all articles to Maryann Brown.