

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community – Please Join Us! July-August 2010

Our Sunday Schedule

Childcare 9:30 am - 12 noon
Worship and Church School 10:00 am

July-August Sermons

Celebrate July 4 with an Important UU Topic and Potluck Breakfast/Discussion

Kim Roberts and JoAnn Macdonald, Facilitators July 4

At the celebration of America's 234th birthday comes a time to discuss what and who we are as a people today: diverse in many ways. No matter our religions, our skin colors, our nationalities, or our sexual orientations, we are all of immigrant heritage.

The current *UU World* issue puts forth these questions: What should be the UUA's role and involvement in the current topic of immigration? How does UUFHC fit into the national voice? Bring a breakfast dish and share in the discussion.

The Welcome Table

Brenna Kupferman July 11

While working with ActionAid, an international organization that fights for the rights of poor people in developing countries, Brenna has met some extraordinary people and learned some amazing things about the world we live in. Brenna will speak about her experiences, share some stories from her travels, and explain why, after almost a decade of this work, she has more hope than ever for our future.

Tactile Meditation

Gerre Wolff July 18

Gerre will introduce us to tactile meditation and how to de-stress then re-focus in seconds. She will show us that there is more to meditation than contemplation of navel dust (but in a pinch this will do).

Furlough Sunday - July 25

Worship Services will resume August 8

Furlough Sunday - August 1

Worship Services will resume August 8

A Novel Approach to Theology

Merrill Milham August 8

The anticipation of August heat and humidity remind us of the wisdom of our Unitarian forebears in foregoing religious services during the summer months. The joke that follows from this custom is that Unitarians are the only people that God trusted to be on their own over the summer. Modern Unitarian Universalists might well ask, "Can God be left alone over the summer? Come join us on this Sunday for readings, discussion, and comment about Rebecca Newberger Goldstein's really cool new novel, *36 Arguments for the Existence of God*.

You Are Free

Rev. Lisa Ward August 15

Most of us understand the political concept of freedom and can roll around the philosophical discussion of free will, but many of us have a hard time knowing how this translates spiritually. What does it mean to be "free" spiritually, to open ourselves to the cosmos and the days of our lives?

Unique Like Everyone Else

Carol Bindel August 22

Once you hear it said, you know intuitively it's true: you are unique, and so is each other individual. In our individual experience of life, is anyone ever really alone? How might we as unique individuals find our way in community and even, true to our name, toward awareness of planet-wide unity?

Heal From Here

Rev. Lisa Ward August 29

We do not need to wait until we are perfect to transform toward well being. In fact, it is our imperfection, our stumbling blocks, that teach us how to embrace well being. Every moment, every challenge, every joy are companions within our journey toward wholeness.

From Our Minister



There's a story of an artist who offered to make a hat out of a long ribbon. Within minutes, the ribbon was transformed into a beautiful headdress. A woman watching this artistry offered to buy the hat. "One hundred dollars," the artist said. "But your only material was a simple ribbon, the woman protested. "Madam," said the artist, "the ribbon is free."

What you bring to any endeavor has value beyond what can be seen or counted. Our creativity, especially, brings life to our encounters, and offers a unique rendering of a moment. Creativity is not reserved, merely, for artists, but for any of us who live and breathe and offer our own being to our days.

We are creative in our response to life as well. Our notice of a hawk circling the sky, or bluebells lining a path or children determining who is "it" before they scatter from the chosen one's reach, adds the element of witness to creation. "We are here to abet creation and to witness to it," writes Annie Dillard, "so that creation need not play to an empty house."

Summer often offers more opportunities to play and witness, as we take time out from work or allow the heat to slow us down just enough to be mindful of the world around us. There is much that we can worry about and rail against, and certainly opportunities to apply ourselves toward alleviating suffering, but we will not be effective if we do not replenish ourselves.

I suggest we do a little of both this summer: applying our creativity to embracing the wonder of things and contributing in time, effort or resource to that which troubles us in the world. Perhaps you could write a playful note to a friend and one to your local congressman. Perhaps you could find ways to embrace beauty and other ways to focus some energy on preserving that beauty. Perhaps you could find ways to support the cleanup of the gulf and pay attention to the resources you use.

It's all one: the helping and the embracing. Let the summer replenish you, let your creative juices flow. You may be surprised at the artistry you create from the simple ribbon of your life.

Sending love to you and yours,

Rev. Lisa

Rev. Lisa is collecting suggestions for next year's monthly sermon series. The flow of the series is: "New and Ancient Spiritual Voices". Please send a suggestion of a spiritual writer or teacher who would offer, in her/his wisdom, a hearty Sunday morning service. Please send suggestions by July 15 to Rev. Lisa: rev@uufhc.net.

From Our President

By the time you read this newsletter, we'll have a new roof over our heads—or at the very least, the work will have been started. The Montessori school building also received a new roof. And sometime this summer, the rental house will have a new roof over the kitchen area. So many roofs, so little time – but it speaks to the idea of taking care of our own house so that we can be strong and stable when we reach out into our larger community.

My personal feeling is that when our own spiritual house is safe and comfortable, then we are stronger in spirit when we do work in the community on behalf of our Fellowship and beliefs. To that end, we will be looking into sprucing up our Fellowship building. Of course the new roof is the first step, but there are other projects to be undertaken as well. We will look into replacing the concrete in front of the entry way to alleviate the heaving in the wintertime. We all want to replace the carpet in the sanctuary and get a good sound system in there. And air conditioning for the sanctuary is on the wish list as well. But these will all take capital. Most of the funds from the sale of the cabin property will go to the new roof, which was necessary to protect the rest of the investments we hope to make inside the building in the future. We will certainly keep you informed about the progress. In the meantime, if anyone has a burning desire to join our Building Subcommittee to help out with these projects, please let me know.

The Board traditionally takes a month off in the summer, and we'll do the same this year. We won't meet in June, but we are planning a retreat for July. We'll discuss the goals for the upcoming year, and map out some plans for the beginning of the church year. If you have any suggestions for the Board, or comments to make about the work we do, please let me or any other Board member know. We are here to do the work of the Fellowship, and that includes you and your thoughts.

We've had a lovely period of growth this past year, so I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of some ways you can communicate with the Board:

- Any member is welcome to attend any Board meeting. We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Board room. You may bring an issue to the Board's attention, or you may simply observe a meeting.
- We do maintain a Suggestion Box which is located by the coat rack. It is checked every month just prior to the Board meeting. Suggestions or complaints must be signed, in keeping with our Anonymous Complaints Policy. We take your concerns seriously, and encourage all to use this avenue of communication as needed.
- You may send any Board member an email; their email addresses can be found on the UUFHC website by clicking on the link for Staff and Board Members. Or you may address your concerns to me at president@uufhc.net.
- You can also reach all the Committee Chairs through the UUFHC website by clicking on the link for Committees.

We want to hear your ideas and concerns. That's the only way we can address and respond to them.

The summer months are a time when we retreat and regroup for the coming church year. We do still need help in areas such as Christmas tree sales, Stewardship Drive, and the endowment board. If you have even a tiny iota of leadership in you—and I think you do—please contact me.

Have a safe and pleasant summer. Don't forget your sunscreen, drink plenty of water, and don't forget, as Jules Renard once said: "It is not enough to think. You must think of something."

As always, I welcome your ideas, suggestions, concerns and comments. Please feel free to email me at president@uufhc.net.

*Peace to all who enter here.
~ Stacie Beard*



Religious Education

I love the summer time here in Maryland (despite the humidity!) and here at UUFHC. It's such a relaxing time—good for the spirit and good for our families. It's often the time when our families get to slow down a bit,

stop running so much and just hang out outside. Whether you have young children or not, I hope that you get to take the time to renew your spirit in a way that brings you joy. Here at the Fellowship during the summer we have a great summer RE program that allows some downtime for kids and volunteers while still building those ties to our faith.

First of all, a huge thank you to those who have volunteered to be a part of our two summer programs that occur during RE time, the Game Room during June and July and Arts in August. We really depend on volunteers year round to keep our RE program flourishing and cannot show our appreciation enough.

The Game Room will run on Sundays, from 10:00 to 11:00 am, from now until July 18 and is open to children and youth five years and older. We meet in Room #4. Parents, please sign your children in and out of the Game Room. This is a time for simple crafts, coloring, board games and when it's not too hot, playing on the playground. The children enjoy the chance to be together, as a multi-age group, laughing and playing. A reminder that there is no children's programming on July 25 or August 1.

Our Arts in August program this year is going to be wonderful! We have some very talented members of UUFHC lined up share their gifts with our children and youth. The schedule for Arts in August is as follows:

⊕ **August 8:** Yoga for Kids. Becca Motil and Stacie Beard will take everyone through a simple and fun yoga class specifically geared towards our young UUs.

⊕ **August 15:** Creative Movement. Always a big hit, Paula Morrison will again take the children and youth through movement and games geared to get them moving and laughing!

⊕ **August 22:** Clay Art. Laura Paligo and Pam Perdue will work with our children and youth to make their own art out of polymer clay. Lots of colors, tools, ideas and fun will be provided!

⊕ **August 29:** Group Painting. Have your children join April Burril and Katie Hutchinson as they work together on a large group painting to be displayed in RE during the next year!

⊕ **September 5:** Collective Song-Writing. Brenna Kupferman and Lara Mortimer will lead the kids through a music-making experience together as they write songs and perform for one-another.

After the summer is over, we look forward to our opening day Water Communion on September 12. Don't forget to save some water from a summer adventure to bring that day and that the service will begin at 10:30! We will also have our always popular Sundae Sunday event after the service. Keep an eye out for registration and sundae information to come. The next week, September 19, will be the first day of regular RE classes. If you'd like to consider volunteering for RE next year, please contact me (dre@uufhc.net) or RE Chair Suzi Gallihue (re@uufhc.net).

Have a lovely summer.

*Take care,
April L. Fritts
Director of Religious Education*



Social Justice News

The committee met recently to evaluate this year's work and make plans for next year.

Social justice issues have always been a large part of the church's mission. The committee decided to go forward with our work with the Homeless Shelter and Sharing Table, the Domestic Abuse programs, which we've supported for years, and LGBT Concerns. The Environmental Tasks Force will take a hiatus this year with the funds presently in their budget transferred to the building and grounds for use for "green" repairs or improvements. The energy audit, however, is still being planned.

The Social Justice Committee will initiate an immigration study group to help us explore the various aspects of the impact of this volatile issue which has come to the forefront this year. We will also explore the possibility of coordinating services with all the agencies outside the government which supply money and services to those who are in need.

If you feel you would enjoy being a part of this important work of our church, please contact Hazel Hopkins for more information.

- Hazel Hopkins

Among Our Own

One of Rev. Lisa's memorable sermons during the past year was "Love Never Ends" which included the line from 1 Corinthians 13:2b, "If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

We show our love through our response to Candles of Sharing where members of the congregation share their joys and concerns or light a candle in silence. Your support, whether it be by a hug, a card, or a phone call can make a difference in peoples' lives. Our faith grows as we open our hearts to others.

Please keep the following in your heart and thoughts:

- Congratulations to **Evan Bucklin** who graduated in May from Franklin and Marshall with a dual major in Astrophysics and Mathematics, and wishes of good luck for future studies.
- Congratulations also go to **Mary Kuehl's daughter, Susanna** who recently earned her Master's degree, and healing thoughts go to **Mary** as she continues recuperating from back problems.
- We send thoughts of strength for these members supporting friends and relatives with health problems: **Erin Seiler, Scott Morrison, Mara League, Madge Thomas, Marianne Donovan** as well as **JoAnn Macdonald**.
- A high five to recent high school graduate, **Conner Morrison** who was inducted into the International Thespian Society.
- We send hope and strength to members supporting others in their time of loss, including **Lara Mortimer, Jesse Hutchinson** and **Dana Knighten**.
- Thoughts of hope and adventure go to **Julie Rothwell** as she begins a year in Italy this fall. She'll be serving as an *au pair* to an Italian family.
- Thoughts of gladness and relief go to **Nelson Fritts**, whose son-in-law, **Shane Nichols** has returned from Afghanistan.
- Thoughts of pride and accomplishment to **Nancy Weinbrenner**, whose son recently was awarded is professional engineering license and to **Gerre Wolff**, whose youngest daughter received her doctorate.
- Welcome back to **Rick Lund** who recently returned from China.
- Best wishes to **Theresa Herbert** who will take possession of her *Habitat for Humanity* house in August.
- Thanks to all members who remembered those who served on Memorial Day.

Corner on Finance

The Furlough is Coming!

Here's what to expect during the two week furlough, which begins July 25 and ends August 7.

- All three professional staff members, Rev. Lisa Ward, April Fritts and Nancy Karwatka will be on unpaid leave during those two weeks and will be unavailable.
- In case of an emergency, contact our Building and Grounds Chair, Scott Morrison, for any building issues (bldg-grnds@uufhc.net), Pat Stranger for lay care needs (laycare@uufhc.net) or our President, Stacie Beard for other issues that may come up (president@uufhc.net).
- Since our Office Manager, Nancy Karwatka, won't be processing checks, contact the Finance Committee (treasurer@uufhc.net) if there is a payment that cannot wait.
- The building will be open for regularly scheduled meetings including Tuesday yoga. Make sure that all lights are off and that the three-hour override for heat (if used) is cancelled. If child care is necessary contact Suzi Gallihue (re@uufhc.net).
- There will be no services or child care on Sundays July 25 and August 1.
- If you can volunteer to occasionally check phone messages, contact Nancy Karwatka

We expect that the furlough will be a one-time occurrence in response to the tough economic times, and that next summer we'll be a year-round full service church again.

Keep the Cash Flowing

As you can see on the front page of the newsletter, UUFHC's summer services offer Members and Friends new perspectives on a wide variety of topics. Nevertheless, with vacations and the desire for relaxation, some members come to UUFHC less often. If this is the case, don't forget to send your pledge payment.

We Love Music

*"Voice still and small,
Deep inside all,
I hear you call,
Singing."*



We, here at UUFHC, do indeed love music. When we listened to our Rev. Lisa, and our choir director, Jim Javorsky, and our Richard sing and play the above, lovely hymn, it was pure magic. Most of us cannot begin to perform with such beauty and talent, but many can

sing a song. This is especially true with Jim's expert, professional leadership. We who have been working, (it seems more like play), with him are having a ball. We would love for more of you to consider joining our choir. Next season, which will begin in September, we will have a little more time to rehearse with the service beginning at 10:30. We will meet from 9:00 to 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. Something else to consider: some of you play instruments. We would love to include you from time to time in our music. Please let us know if you would be willing to share that with us.

More information will be coming. If you would like to sing – just show up! If you would like to occasionally share your instrument with us, please let Jim Javorsky know: jim.javorsky@gmail.com or (440) 759-6323 – or speak to any choir member.

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”

- Friedrich Nietzsche

- Rhoda Huston

Salute to Our Seniors



This year we are blessed to have bridged two wonderful young people into our young adult community: Conner Morrison and Danielle Bowen. Conner and Danielle have both been at UUFHC as a part of the Religious Education program since they were children. They both went through our Coming of Age program last year and have been such a wonderful part of our youth group. They have answered a number of questions about their futures and were given a chance to reflect on their experiences here at UUFHC.

As of right now, what are your plans for the fall?

How are you feeling about those plans?

Conner: I plan to attend Robert E. Cook Honors College at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Philosophy and Computer Science. I'm feeling good about it; it's going to be a new and exciting part of my life and I'm happy to move forward!

Danielle: I'm going to Towson University. I'm pretty excited!

What is one of your favorite UUFHC memories?

Conner: Going to Boston with all of my YRUU friends. It was great!

Danielle: In Boston when Jason, Cara, and I got into the freezing cold ocean! We had so much fun!

What are some of the lessons you have learned as a part of UUFHC?

Conner: Diversity, Diversity, Diversity. I don't think I would be nearly as comfortable with the person I am today if I hadn't gone to UUFHC.

Danielle: Don't let peoples' judgments bring you down as a person; stand up for what you believe in.

What piece of advice would you give to a youth about to enter into YRUU?

Conner: Live it and Love it. Be who you are—you'll never find a group of people more accepting than your fellow YRUU members.

Danielle: Bring food!

Final Statement

Conner: It's been a wonderful experience, and I'm going to miss everyone at UUFHC. Good luck, have fun, and I'll be sure to visit!

Danielle: I'll miss you!!!

A thank you to both Conner and Danielle for all they have given UUFHC. Both of you brought a fun and dynamic presence to everything you did. You will be missed. We send you off with our love and support and hope to see you when you are home to visit!

Eckhart Tolle Book Discussion News

Does our planet have problems? Most spiritual leaders feel it is about ego-driven interpersonal communications and relationships, so we start with ourselves. Eckhart Tolle says: "...transcending our ego-based state of consciousness is not only essential to personal happiness, but also the key to ending conflict and suffering throughout the world."

A recent survey completed by the current Eckhart Tolle Discussion group revealed that continuing the group with the study of "The Power of Now" is preferred. We have found that there are many benefits realized with regular discussions. Starting in October, we are changing our meeting days to the 1st and 3rd Sundays after church. **We welcome new participants**, and this gives you time to start reading during the summer. We have found that taking it chapter by chapter is the best approach. As participants feel comfortable, we take turns facilitating the discussion. There will be a \$15.00 fee, but we do not want that to stop you from participating.

If you would like to participate, please let one of us know:

- Nancy Karwatka – (410) 734-7122 - uufhc@verizon.net
- Rhoda Huston – (410) 776-3838 - hustonrho@comcast.net
- Leigh Faunce – (410) 836-7653 – leighbrownfaunce@gmail.com

Murray Grove Wants Our Help!

What, did you ask, is Murray Grove? Located in Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey (just south of Toms River) over on the Atlantic coast, Murray Grove is of historical significance to Universalists, now Unitarian Universalists. In 1770 John Murray gave what is considered to be the first known Universalist sermon in the United States, then the "colonies."

A landowner, Thomas Potter, built a church on his property in Good Luck (now Lanoka Harbor) New Jersey, in hopes that someone would arrive to offer a sermon that embraced the concept of universal salvation. The ship on which John Murray was a passenger foundered off this piece of New Jersey's shore. Murray was cast ashore at this very spot, and with the synchronicity of the event, Potter persuaded Murray to speak. Murray had given up his will to remain a preacher in England and was seeking refuge in the colonies for various reasons. Fate perhaps? Nevertheless, Murray is credited with the beginning of Universalism in the colonies.

Murray Grove is more than a Universalist landmark. It is a spiritual place. It is a place of retreat, respite, renewal—a place to get away to for a day or two. Ministers can visit during the week for a short get-away at no cost to the minister as a Murray Grove courtesy. (Reservations are necessary for ministers, or religious professionals, if time and space permits.) Please see the Denominational Affairs Bulletin Board for announcements about family and group outings this summer and fall.

This invitation comes in the midst of a very slow economic recovery in the Mid-Atlantic States. It comes as a plea from Murray Grove by way of Ira Lerner, a member of both the Murray Grove Board and the JPD Growth Committee. Today, economic crises touch all of us. Nevertheless, we are asked to assist Murray Grove in continuing to support the history and principles of Unitarian Universalism in one or more of these ways: the UUFHC congregation can become an institutional member for only \$125.00; specify a Sunday plate offering;

and individual or family memberships are available starting at only \$40.00 per year.

The Murray Grove organization is also offering UU congregations a complimentary Sunday service or forum presentation about Murray Grove. From Ira Lerner: "If the timing is right, 'Thomas Potter' may also be able to attend."

For more information: please contact: Ira Lerner--iraalerner@aol.com or Michael Masters, assistant director -- murraygrove@murraygrove.org

"We look forward to your spiritual and financial support of Murray Grove for the future never to forget the past."
— Ira Lerner.

Respectfully yours,
JoAnn Macdonald, UUFHC Denominational Affairs
Committee

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay's Annual Wine Country Holiday

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses." - Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce a new season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members -- some with wine industry experience -- or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees

are below market rate for similar services and **all proceeds go to our small Fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707) 254-7443 or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

Rainbow Youth Alliance Forming at UUFHC

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month,
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The *Rainbow Youth Alliance* (RYA) is a support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning teens and their teen allies. RYA is a safe place for youth to ask questions, express their concerns and discuss issues of importance that affect their lives. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Harford County and PFLAG of Baltimore County, RYA meetings include discussion groups, movies and games in a safe and supervised environment. All adults working with the youth agree to background checks. Youth between 14 and 19 years of age are welcome, regardless of their gender orientation or religious affiliation. You only need to bring an open heart and mind. Call the office (410) 734-7122 for more information.

Watch General Assembly Events Live

Can't make it to the General Assembly this year? Video from fourteen major events at General Assembly (GA), the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) annual gathering of congregations June 23 through 27 in Minneapolis, will be streamed as they occur. Congregations are encouraged to gather and view these events online as they actually occur or watch video of the events later.

Congregations that would like to watch any of the 14 events are urged to go first to the [General Assembly website](http://www.uua.org) at www.uua.org where they will find a complete list of the live-streamed events as well as technical information about receiving them.

Included are GA worship services, the Ware lecture and the Service of the Living Tradition.

The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Harford County
2515 Churchville Road
Churchville, MD 21028

Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, August 15, 2010



Minister:	The Reverend Lisa G. Ward
Director of Religious Education:	April L. Fritts
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Karwatka
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Nancy Karwatka):
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Minister's Office Hours:
Mon: Day Off
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Fri: Writing & Research Day
(available for pastoral emergencies)

Director of Religious Education Office Hours:
Mon: 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Tues: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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Wayside Pulpit

The Four Laws of Ecology:

- (1) Everything is connected to everything else;
- (2) Everything must go somewhere;
- (3) Nature knows best; and
- (4) There is no such thing as a free lunch.

– *Barry Commoner*