



The Flame

August 2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula



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The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula is to create a dynamic community that celebrates life and searches for truths.

August Services

August 7th: "How rare it is, how lovely!"

Rev Andrew Millard.

Why is our congregation named a Fellowship? What does it mean for Unitarian Universalist congregations and ministers to be in fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association? Why does our small group ministry take place in fellowship circles? What is it that ties these all together, from creating our dynamic community to saving the world ten people at a time?

August 14th: "The Tao of Seinfeld",

Jacquie Ream

Jacquie will explore the overlapping philosophies of the Tao and the tv sitcom "Seinfeld."

August 21st: "Letting Go: Betrayal or Growth?"

Sandy Tabachnick (a Lay Leader from the Unitarian Church of Norfolk)

Sandy grew up Jewish; moved to Norfolk and sought out UCN about 8 years ago for educated, liberal adults for friendships which she found but she also found herself moving slowly away from

Jewish practice but maintaining Jewish identity. She suffered feelings of loss and mourning. This is the story of her journey.

August 28th: "Living the Welcoming Congregation"

Rev Andrew Millard with Lauren Furey*

A Welcoming Congregation is committed to being inclusive and expressive of the concerns of bisexual, lesbian, gay and transgender people at every level of congregational life, welcoming not only their presence but also the particularities of their lives. The Fellowship was recognized as a Welcoming Congregation in 2008, but the work of committed inclusion continues!

**Andrew shares the pulpit this morning with Lauren Furey, UUFP member and chair of the Welcoming Congregation Committee.*

Early announcement for 4 Sep Service

"We welcome new members of our community in a variety of ways, one of which is to dedicate members' children by pledging to support them as they grow in body, mind, heart and spirit. We're planning such dedications as part of the Ingathering and Water Communion services on September 4th, so please contact Andrew if you would like your child or children to be included."

For all that is our life!

Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

One of the highlights of my Summer as a Unitarian Universalist is General Assembly. This “meeting of congregations” brings together thousands of people representing hundreds of congregations around the country as well as members of other liberally religious traditions from around the world. I go for many reasons: to reconnect with friends and colleagues; to worship with thousands of other Unitarian Universalists; to hear inspiring sermons and stories — and the Ware Lecture; to sing in the ministers’ choir; to enjoy workshops on useful and motivating topics; to be a part of the public witness for justice; and much more!

This year, of course, was the fiftieth General Assembly, a full half-century since the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association consolidated. We spent some of our time together looking back over those fifty years, remembering the highs and the lows — how we stood up to the FBI following the publication of the Pentagon Papers, how we failed to embrace racial diversity and power-sharing, how we led the way in advocating for civil marriage equality — as well as the hymns we’ve sung and the people who’ve served us. We spent more of our time looking ahead, considering the continued challenges of our non-creedal theology, of race and class, of generational changes. Since we were meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, a significant thread addressed Unitarian Universalism in the South, celebrating our vitality and projecting a vision of optimism for our entire denomination.

In this issue of the Flame as well as in future issues, you’ll hear from others about their impressions of this year’s General Assembly in Charlotte and their hopes for next year’s in Phoenix. My primary impression is that Unitarian Universalism is enjoying a renaissance. From superficial indicators such as membership numbers this may be hard to tell, but it’s clear from the culture itself.

For one thing, there’s a wealth of new music being created right now. Singing the Journey (the teal hymnal) was, in 2005, the first supplement to Singing the Living Tradition (the gray hymnal) in over twenty years; since then, a Spanish-language hymnal, Las Voces del Camino, has also been

produced. The 2008 General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale included the premiere of “Sources: a Unitarian Universalist Cantata”; based on the six sources that inform our living tradition, it was created by Jason Shelton, a former Franciscan and composer of many of the new hymns in Singing the Journey, and Kendyl Gibbons, one of the leading Humanist ministers within Unitarian Universalism. This year’s General Assembly saw specifically commissioned pieces by music professor Tom Benjamin and by rock guitarist Bob Hirshon. There’s all sorts of new UU and UU-friendly music being created by plenty of other people, too, from Judy Fjell and [emma’s revolution](#) to Wally Kleucker and Amy Carol Webb. You’ll get to hear some of it in this year!

At the same time, there’s an increased willingness to take another look at Universalism, the half of our faith that was often overshadowed by the louder, more argumentative Unitarian half of the last century. Modern Universalism seems to be finding its expression in a greater tolerance for poetry and metaphor and ambiguity, recognizing that reason and spirituality are not at odds with one another, but are in fact each other’s essential partner if we are to avoid “idolatries of the mind and spirit”, as our Fifth Source puts it. Literalism is, after all, a form of extremism; whether religious or anti-religious, literalism is the enemy of compassion. Universalism reminds us that salvation — in this life, on this Earth — is something we must all achieve together, or not at all.

Next year’s General Assembly will take place in Phoenix and is intended to focus almost exclusively on issues of justice. Given the anti-immigrant sentiment expressed in Arizona and elsewhere, a large part of that will be in terms of advocacy for humane immigration reform. More generally, though, we’ll look at why and how Unitarian Universalists engage in justice work, both here in the United States and overseas, as well as within our congregations and within ourselves. I know there’ll be lots of great music and singing; my hope is that we’ll also approach this work while remembering that, no matter our disagreements and the range of petty human hatreds, there is room for all of us at the well of life.

Tret Fure in Concert



Young's Mill Music presents Tret Fure at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula as the kick off for the "Living the Welcoming Congregation" program.

When August 28, 2011 at 3 pm.

Tickets for the concert are only \$15 and are available from www.tomboygirl.com for an additional fee of \$1. Or you can purchase directly from Lauren Furey.

On the 28th, Tret Fure will also be performing at both morning services.

Read Tret Fure's bio at: <http://www.tretfure.com/biography/index.htm>

A Thank You

Hello Steve,

As Andrew's parents from 'the other side of the pond' it is a great comfort to us to receive The Weekly Digest of UUFP news and be kept up-to-date with all your events. We also look forward to receiving The Flame and reading it's contents as well as downloading all the sermons. This all helps to melt the miles between us.

We do appreciate the hours of creativity and thought given to the effort of producing these mailings each week/month and we would like to thank all contributors, editors and especially the producers of these for making this information available and electronically accessible.

Thank you, thank you.

from us both, Christine & Peter Millard, Chelmsford, Essex, England

Another Thank You

Posted by Gregory Gecowets

On behalf of Greg Sprock and the Grounds Committee...

Many thanks to the gardening hands of the congregation last Saturday. As promised, you showed up with sharp, heavy, and dangerous devices and put them all to extremely positive use.

Low branches near driveway? Gone! Brush pile near ({{smoking}}) area? Gone!
Long shaggy grass? Gone! Five gallons of premium lemonade? Also gone!

Kudos to all who supported, whether in body or in spirit. The place looks great!

Save the Date for the **UUFP Fall 2011 Retreat!**

**October 14 - 16th, 2011
Pocahontas State Park**

Attractions include:
Canoeing, yoga, Socrates cafe, camp fires,
intergenerational games, and more!

More information is coming over the next few
weeks, but for now...

Save the Date!

General Assembly Report

by Sandra Engelhardt

This was a very special GA for me. I truly enjoyed the special events honoring the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Universals and the Unitarians but having so many members of our congregation there was wonderful. With an attendance of over 4080, 49 states and 596 congregations represented, this was the second largest GA ever.

Some of the plenary highlights were:

-The adoption of the Statement of Conscience, "Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice," which has been in the works ever since it was proposed at GA 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, passed overwhelmingly. The four-page statement calls on UUs to "eat ethically by becoming aware of the ways that food choice affects one's health and the

health of the planet." The statement also urges congregations to work for "food justice" so that everyone can have "adequate, nutritious food."

Delegates did not approve a proposal from the Board of Trustees that would have eliminated AIWs from the 2012 agenda with no provision to restore them. After impassioned debate on the future of AIWs, which are social witness resolutions, delegates overwhelmingly voted in favor of the second proposal that would eliminate AIWs from the agenda of the 2012 Justice GA in Phoenix and will reconstitute AIWs with the 2013 GA.

-The Assembly approved a proposal to shrink the size of the UUA Board of Trustees from 26 members to 14 & one 6 year term to two 3-year terms.

Delegates approved off-site voting by GA delegates in future GAs.

Replaced the terms “church” and “fellowship” in the UUA bylaws with the more inclusive term “congregation”

Acknowledged the decision made by the former Thomas Jefferson District to change its name to the Southeast District.

One of the four Breakthrough Congregations was the first in our District, UU Congregation of Beaufort, SC.

The items that I recommend I/we take further action on:

- show the Ware Lecture, Karen Armstrong’s “The Challenge of Compassion”

- show the Breakthrough Congregation CD when it comes to a potluck group

- keep GA inputs in the Flame both from 2011 and info about 2012

- consider fund raisers for those going to GA

General Assembly Comments

by Wayne Dawkins

The record number of UU Fellowship of the Peninsula attendees at the Charlotte General Assembly was the most significant and enduring highlight. There were 20 of us, including three delegates, two alternates, and our minister. The past decade of General Assemblies has mostly been out West or in the U.S. midsection; Charlotte was a six-hour drive that was accessible to many of members. Once in Charlotte, six of our attendees sang beautifully in the Southeast choir during the opening ceremony.

We’re home, yet the energy from Charlotte has not faded. We have had two post-GA meetings at Joanne Dingus’ and Mason and Patricia Moseley’s homes to discuss what ideas we can apply to our congregation, and to our mission in the Hampton Roads community.

I hope we use this energy to grow our congregation in numbers and in the depth of spirituality and service. I was among the 175 people at the “Powerful Pathways to Membership: Midsize Congregations” workshop June 23. I was hoping to learn a lot from the session to bring back, but frankly, a lot of the practices the presenters from Harrisburg, Pa. and Wellsprings discussed have been applied at UUFP in the last five to seven years, and we continue to tweak and adjust what we do. I’m talking about the stewardship initiatives and fellowship circles that have fostered intimacy and shared ministry as we grow in numbers.

Do we want to go on a growth path like breakthrough congregations in Westside Seattle, Buford, S.C., Peoria, Ill. and Fairfax, Va.? We’re at a pivotal period. UUFP punched through the elusive 150-member mark. With that we have earned a fourth delegate for the next GA.

Are we ready and eager to continue growing?

This milestone 50th anniversary of the merger of the Unitarians and Universalists offered many opportunities in workshops to probe deeply into our past in order to understand our present and future. It was against Unitarian principles to keep its initiatives for sectarian purposes, explained the Rev. John Buehrens, so UUs didn’t claim hallowed institutions such as Harvard Hospital, the Red Cross and universities they helped create. Unitarians in 19th century New England also created schools that were state-funded. Sibling Universalists worked vigorously to end that funding. It was all about principle.

At “Moral Imagination: 50 Years of UU Social Justice,” the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed said that the popular UU fellowships of the 1970’s and 1980’s were often “anti-authoritarian, anti-hierarchical and a-historical,” values that often stunted growth and progress. Morrison-Reed’s critique witnessed by 400 attendees was spot-on.

Here at UUFP, I’m pleased that the congregation in recent years has struck a balance between freedom and independence vs. structure and order.

Many of us are inspired by the Charlotte GA. Are we ready to do more?

RE News

by Joanne Dingus

This year we're moving into the age of technology and trying a new way to do registrations for the RE program and to find volunteers. You can now go to our website and fill out the forms online. The results will be sent directly to me. This is a greener way to collect the information we need to have a successful Children's Religious Education Program. The registration form is at http://www.uufp.org/Religious_Education/reg_form.htm and the volunteer form is at http://www.uufp.org/Religious_Education/religious_education_registration.htm. A big thanks goes out to David Walsh for making this a reality. Paper copies will be available at the fellowship for anyone without computer access.

Speaking of volunteers, you don't need to have children in the program to volunteer. If you enjoy teaching, spending time with children, sharing your talents with others, we have a place for you. Fill out the volunteer form and we'll find the perfect way for you to contribute that fits your skills and needs.

Many of you know that I went to my first General Assembly this year in Charlotte, NC. Some of you may have even seen me and my daughter and fellow choir members online. GA was a very exciting, inspiring, (sometimes exhausting) experience that I will never forget. I saw many of my RE and Minister friends from other churches and met many new people who are all doing the work of Unitarian Universalism in one way or another. We gathered for workshops, lectures, worship services, plenary sessions and a standing on the side of love march.

I would highly recommend GA to anyone who wants to feel inspired and energized about our faith. That's why I'm promoting the following campaign: \$2 A Day 2 GA, to get all of our Coming of Age students and high school students to GA next year.

Next year will be the Justice GA in Phoenix, Arizona. Like previous GA's there will be plenty of time for workshops and worship. But unlike other GA's, the UUA has made a commitment to keep the business sessions to a minimum so that we can partner with local organizations to

do hands-on justice work. Arizona is one of the states that is struggling the most with finding a loving compassionate approach to immigration. In deciding not to boycott this GA, the UUA has made a promise to put their commitment to justice into action.

I believe this GA will be an especially eye-opening, rewarding, and spiritual experience for ourselves and our youth to be involved in this transformative event. In one of the workshops I went to this year on immigration the presenter gave this statistic; two people a day die trying to cross the border from Mexico to the United States. I know there are many opinions about the legal issues of people crossing borders but I think all of us can agree that no one should have to lose their life over these issues.

So, I would like to suggest that we all go to GA and do our part. Start saving now, \$2 A Day 2 GA, in honor of the 2 humans a day that lose their lives, in honor of our faith that seeks justice for all. Start setting aside \$2 a day to provide the funds you will need to go to GA in Phoenix, June 20-24, 2012 or if you cannot go yourself, please consider saving those funds to send a youth to GA.

See you in RE!

Adult RE

by Dennis Shaw

August will be HOT in Adult RE as we continue our summer program designed to hear what YOU have to say about several interesting topics. Here are some examples of what will be discussed on Sunday between 9:30 and 10:30 in the annex

building:

August 7- Travel, Culture and the UU Principles. How do our principles apply to our travel experiences- or do they? Meg Glenn-Albiez and Dennis Shaw facilitate

August 14- Who Says the UU Principles are Easy? They LOOK simple, but are they really? Mary Cotton and Chris Woods

August 21- Socrates Cafe- YOU provide the topic for the day through suggestions and a vote. Chris Woods and Jeff Hinkley

August 28- The Voice Within- what are YOU hearing? Bob Smith and Dennis Shaw

This will conclude our summer sessions. Please continue to come to ARE in the fall. Dawn Hutchinson will begin a series that asks the question: "What IS Religion?" beginning September 4th. As always, ALL are welcome.

Thanks, Dennis

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

We had a great time at our SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH last month at THE AWESOME CAFÉ—we had the entire restaurant to ourselves—so we are returning there again on August 14 at 12:30. The proprietor is opening on Sunday just to accommodate our group. All are welcome.

THE AWESOME CAFÉ is located in the Heritage Square Shopping Center, corner of Lakeside Drive and George Washington Hwy. (Rt. 17) behind the CVS Pharmacy, facing Lakeside Drive.

50 & Better

1. FIFTY & BETTER Just a reminder that our group will not get together again until Sept. 1. Have a lovely summer everyone!

2. On Thursday, September 1st there will be a luncheon get-together at 12:00 noon. Our summer siesta will end and we will welcome anyone who has past their 50th birthday! This gives us opportunities to visit with our peers, enjoy a nice lunch, and get a fresh start by sharing ideas for the fall season's activities.

Please call Esther at 369-1858; yall come!

August Humanist Meeting

The next meeting of the Humanist group will be on August 21 at 700 pm. Dan Moore is going to cover another part of the book by the popular Harvard chaplain, Greg Epstein, "Good without God".

Membership

Interested in learning more about the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula? Have questions about religion or faith? Thinking

about joining the UUFP? Come join us for a fun and informative morning in September! The Membership Committee will host our first UU Orientation Class of this fiscal year on Saturday, September 24, from 8:15 am until noon. Contact Bobbie Schilling, Membership Chair, or Reverend Andrew Millard if you are interested in attending.

Contact person: Bobbie Schilling, Membership Committee Chair, 249-2586, [va skibums@hotmail.com](mailto:skibums@hotmail.com)

The Goddess Circle

Goddess Circle will feature the Tao-August 7th

This is an open women's circle. Please feel free to join us. We will be having a special series this summer on deities with both genders, so men who are interested in joining our circle for August are welcome.

We meet the first Sunday of each month in the Annex after the 2nd service for food, fellowship and fun. Please contact Dawn Hutchinson at dhutchin@cnu.edu with any questions.

4th Saturday Women's Drum & Pot Luck

7pm - A casual gathering of women to share food, friendship & to make music together. Mark your calendar now! 4th Saturdays!

For more info, call Connie 788-8903

Share the Good News!

submitted by Bobbie Schilling

The Membership Committee would like to request that UUFP members recycle their UU World magazines by donating them to be put in welcome bags for visitors. Please place your donated World magazines on the shelf in the Art Nook near the podium. Thank you!

Fellowship Circle

Do you want to be part of a program that will help you meet some of the following personal needs?

NEED FOR: connection, acceptance, closeness, community, compassion, empathy, inclusion, trust, honesty, joy, fun, humor, inspiration, personal

growth, learning, mourning, participation, and self-expression. Our friends who are part of our Fellowship Circle program say these are some of the reasons they enjoy being in a circle.

On Sunday, August 7, you will have an opportunity to join one of our Fellowship Circles. During the services on that Sunday, applications will be provided for our NEW series of Circles (Expanding Your Friendships) that begin in mid-September. Or you may become a Circle member by contacting Bob Smith at bob_m_smith@aol.com / phone: 989-0989.

Caring Committee

Call Meg Glenn-Albiez, Chairperson at (757) 874-4368 or e-mail caringcommittee@uufp.org.

Communicating with the Fellowship

by Steve Kadar

What happens when you send your announcement to announcements@uufp.org?

It goes to:

- Steve King who creates The Flame every month. Deadline is the 20th of the month.
- Mary Cotton who makes The Weekly Digest, the Order of Service and the Announcements from the Podium weekly. Deadline for Digest & OOS is Thursday at noon and Announcements from the Podium is now Friday at noon
- David Walsh who updates the web site. Submit in a timely manner.
- And Steve Kadar who chairs the Communications Committee and works with our Facebook and Twitter pages. Submit in a timely manner.

Oh, the Communications Committee also maintains the Google Calender found on our webpage.

Make sure to provide a contact person for your, event so if anybody needs additional information they know how to get it.

Now we edit articles for typos & fix mistakes if we catch them. We will also trim articles due to character and space limitations.

In sum, one email and many places to get the word out! **Just let us know the subject and where the announcement should go** (i.e. Member Bio-Flame, Adult Ed-Digest, Second Sunday Brunch-OOS, etc.) no matter if you want your news put in the Flame, Digest, OOS, Announcements from the Podium, Website, Facebook, etc.

Be Green - Go Paperless

submitted by David Walsh

Change is good and when it comes to making things easier and saving money, it's great!

For over ten years, we've used Paypal to accept on-line payments. It's worked well. In fact, it's worked so well that it's become too expensive! We've seen a large increase in the use of the web to make contributions to support the Fellowship through Paypal.

So, we moved to Vanco Services, which many churches use, as does the UUA. Plus, they offer the ability for recurring payments!

The benefits: no need to remember to bring a check, you can set-up Vanco to do it monthly—from your checking account, plus you'll be able to see a statement of your contributions when you want! This makes it easy to get information for taxes or just to see how much you've contributed to the Fellowship this year.

Here's how it works:

- Click [HERE](#), set up a profile and then schedule a payment. Or, if you choose, make a one-time payment and do this whenever you want.
- If you click this [LINK](#), you can see what the screens look like. You'll also receive a welcome e-mail that confirms everything.

Ready? Click [HERE!](#)



August Birthdays

If your birthday is this month and we overlooked you, please contact Roy Schilling at va_skibums@hotmail.com or 249-2586

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Gayle Phillips | 23 Judy Remsberg |
| 5 Jeanie Goldberg | 23 Sandy Burkes-Campbell |
| 9 Nancy Emery | 24 Alex Hicks |
| 10 Tom Hagner | 26 Shea McIntyre (Coley) |
| 12 Kim Hummel | 26 Allison Black |
| 17 Anna Junkins | 29 Judy Goering |
| 18 Carol Millspaw | 31 Bob Mosolf |
| 18 Dan Luke | |
| 21 Neil Bates | |

