

NEWS FLASH!

**You're Invited to Robin van Tine's 65th
Birthday Party!**



Sunday January 1st 2012

UU Fellowship of the Peninsula

415 Youngs Mill Lane, Newport News, VA

[Map and Directions](#)

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and beyond!

Stop by for Live Music by The Rock-it Men and The
Doc Robin Band

Potluck/BYOB and Jam!

Your presence is your present!!

NEWS FLASH!



The Flame

January
2012

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula



13136 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, VA 23602
www.uufp.org 757-369-1098



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

January Services

Theme: Revelation

January 1st: “Reflections on Tranquility” —
Mary-Elizabeth Cotton

What better time is there to reflect on tranquility in your life than after the hectic holiday season of November and December? Based in part on the book by Elaine St. James, *Inner Simplicity: 100 Ways to Regain Peace and Nourish Your Soul*, this service will be somewhat informal and intimate. Come and savor some peaceful time!

January 8th: “Revelation Is Not Sealed” —
Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources, striving to be open to new wisdom and knowledge that may deepen our understanding and expand our vision. James Luther Adams declared this principle — that revelation is continuous and meaning not finally captured — as the first “smooth stone” of liberal religion, a defense against attacks by both orthodoxy and fascism.

January 15th: “To question is an answer ...
but answers are nice, too!” — Rev. Andrew
Clive Millard

[Special music will be provided by Tret Fure!]

One of our hymns reminds us that, in our search for elusive answers, even to question is an answer. In religion, in science and in life it's important to ask good questions, but sometimes it's nice to have answers! So send Andrew your questions — by e-mail, on Facebook, by telephone, in person,

via pony express — and he'll endeavor to provide answers! (Your mileage may vary.)

January 22nd: “To Kiss the Ceiling” — High
School Youth

Kurt Vonnegut's short story, “Harrison Bergeron”, depicts a dystopian society, where “equality” has been reached, causing rampant apathy. Join the high school teens as they discuss the values and repercussions of equality and diversity as they relate to our Unitarian Universalist principles and heritage. How do we promote equal rights while championing individuality and fostering our own unique gifts? How do we build equality by lifting people up instead of pushing them down?

The first (9:30am) service will conclude with a “polylogue” on the topic; the second (11am) service will include a Children's Focus, with middle-schoolers staying with the older youth in the Sanctuary. Special music will be provided (at both services) by the youth themselves!

January 29th: “The End of the World” — Rev.
Jennifer Ryu

Revelation is the last book of the Christian Bible, also known as the New Testament. Many people find this text disturbing or confusing. We will try to unravel some of that confusion today.

We welcome Rev. Jennifer Ryu of the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists in this pulpit-swap with Andrew. Special music will be provided by the fabulous ChorUUs!



For all that is our life!

Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

From time to time someone I don't know figures out that I'm a minister. This is most often in a setting where that's a safe guess: someone in a jacket and tie asking where they can find a particular patient in a hospital is quite likely to be a minister. Sometimes it happens elsewhere — at the counter of a fast food restaurant, for example — particularly if the other person has already guessed that the chalice design on my lapel pin is a religious symbol.

There are situations where it's helpful to be identified as a minister, of course. I'm more likely to be allowed into the Emergency Room to see a member of the congregation — or to be with the family of that member — if I have a badge with "clergy" on it. There are also situations where it isn't helpful, where the other person becomes painfully self-conscious or sees me as a challenge to their own faith or even feels the need to confess what they think are their sins!

Furthermore, there are situations where being recognized as a minister can make a big difference. When you see clergy at protests, for instance, it sends a powerful message that this isn't just a secular matter of unfairness but a religious matter of injustice. My colleague Rev. Jeanne Pupke of First UU in Richmond shared with me her decision to wear a clerical collar at public witness events after seeing photographs of collared ministers at civil rights protests in the 1960s. The media certainly pays more attention to the presence of people in clerical collars, particularly if they're being arrested for civil disobedience!

In the July 2010 "Day of Non-Compliance" protests over Arizona's SB 1070, for instance, many Unitarian Universalist ministers wore clerical collars. Now few of them would wear such garb in their own pulpits — the stole is standard for an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, even more than the preaching robe — and yet there is power in being easily recognized as clergy, by the media, by those with whom we stand in solidarity, by fellow protesters of all faiths and, yes, by other Unitarian Universalists. Some of those collared ministers also wore yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" T-shirts on top of their clergy shirts — demonstrating a willingness to suffer for a good

cause in the heat of Phoenix in July! — and helped contribute to the visibility of "the love people", as the yellow-clad Unitarian Universalist protesters became known.

Given that the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will take place in Phoenix — and is specifically recast as a "Justice GA" — I've been considering buying a shirt with a clerical collar. I'd wear it at public witness events, at GA and elsewhere, whether protesting racial profiling, worker exploitation, economic injustice or marriage inequality. Then, a couple of weeks ago, I saw an announcement from the UU Ministers' Association that a well-established outfitter of church supplies and clerical attire would be selling clergy shirts in the yellow of the "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign and with the campaign's heart symbol on one sleeve. "What a great idea!" I thought. "That solves two problems in one go!"

Not all of my colleagues agree with me. Some dislike the shirts on aesthetic grounds. Others object to what they see as the corruption of a religious message through merchandising. Some complain about the Unitarian Universalist sense of "terminal uniqueness", that we're entirely separate from "mainstream" religion. Others argue that we are separate and thus have no right to a traditional symbol of Christian ministry. ("Traditional" should probably be in quotes: the Church of England records that the clerical collar was invented by a Scottish Presbyterian minister in the 1890s, and was only adopted by Catholic priests in 1960s.)

On the other hand, I remember the story that in 1917 the clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church assembled in St. Petersburg, and while they were engaged in a bitter debate over the color of priestly vestments, the revolution was raging just a few blocks away. So, I'm buying the shirt and I'll wear it at protests and other places where I'm a minister who works for justice, because it's the revolution that matters, not the debate.

~)<

I hope you're enjoying a happy and peaceful holiday season and I wish the best for you and yours in the new year!



Intergenerational Game Night!! Saturday, January 7, at 7:00 PM

Turn off the TV and come to the Fellowship for a fun evening of "Earth-friendly" games and prizes sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Bring: family and friends

a snack to share

a favorite game or two

a "regift" to add to our table of door prizes (optional)

Questions? Contact Bobbie Schilling 249-2586 or va_skibums@hotmail.com

Need childcare? Contact Joanne Dingus 867-7363 or jmdingus@verizon.net

Tret Fure in Concert!

submitted by Steve Kadar

Young's Mill Music presents LGBT artist Tret Fure in concert at UUFP on Sunday, January 15, 2012 at 3PM. Tickets for the concert are \$15 and are available from www.tomboygirl.com for an additional fee of \$1. This event is a fund-raiser for UUFP while Young's Mill Music works toward having artists receive fair compensation for their performances. If you have any additional questions contact Lauren Furey. A bit about Tret: Tret brings her long history of performing to us not only to share at the concert but as part of both services on Sunday, January 15. She recently taught song writing and finger picking at SUUSI this past summer. She is also a member of the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin. For additional information about Tret read her bio at: <http://www.tretfure.com/biography/index.htm> ■



RE NEWS

By Joanne Dingus

This holiday season has been wonderfully busy and now as we head into the new year, I'd like to take a moment to thank some of the folks who have helped with special projects in RE.

We had some unexpected scheduling situations in our OWL class so I really want to thank our teachers who went above and beyond their original commitment, Daneene Kelley, John Templeton, Jackie Wilson, Parker Stokes and Jeff Hinkley. Thank you so much for giving your time to our youth.

I'd like to thank Jennifer Lopez and Carey Hall-Warner for voluntarily adjusting their shifts in the nursery depending on the needs of the day. This is a big help to keeping our child care budget on track.

I'd also like to thank Steve Warner for his continuing help as a class aide.

I had several bakers/buyers bring cookies for CNU Students for exam week. A big thank you goes out to Janet Gecowets, Beth McCullers, Meg Glenn-Albiez, Judy Remsberg, Bobbie Shilling, and Sandra Engelhardt. Brandy and I helped hand out 150 snack bags to students through CNU Campus Ministries.

I'd also like to thank all the people who donated gifts for the RE-gift store especially Judy Goering for the lovely things from Alaska. We had our best year ever. Our UU values promote giving in three ways. To help our children learn about giving to our church, our community and our world, we will divide the money we collected in three parts: a year-end gift from the children to the Fellowship, to PORT and to Heifer International.

Last but not least, please thank Greg Gecowets for all his help with the Christmas Eve service and thanks to all the participants in the pageant and the UU Winds.

With the new year comes several new events to mark on the calendar:

We are launching a Secret Friends activity to take place from January 15th-February 5th. Some may remember having participated in this in the past. Basically, it is a way for adults and children in

the Fellowship to get to know each other a little better. We will make a list of adults and children who would like to participate and then secretly match them up. They will then get to send notes back and forth to each other for three weeks. The notes should tell fun and interesting things about themselves so that their Secret Friend can learn about them. Notes can be paper or electronic. Then, on the fourth Sunday we will have a luncheon where each will discover their Secret Friend. We ask that participants bring a small homemade gift for their friend to the luncheon. We will have sign-ups on January 1st and 8th. This is an easy commitment that really means a lot to our children and adults. So it is important that all participants make sure they are available to come to the luncheon on February 5th if they are going to sign up. See Brandy for details.

Just a reminder that Guest at Your Table boxes will be collected on January 1st and 8th .

Please plan to join the High School students for their service on January 22nd. They will use a short story by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. called Harrison Burgeron as their focus. All music for the service will be provided by the students.

This year our teacher appreciation luncheon will be a dinner. That's right, if you have taught children's RE or Adult RE this year please plan to join us at 6:00pm on Saturday January 21st for tapas and theology. We'll dine on a variety of hors d'oeuvres and watch the film I ? Huckabees.

I have scheduled visitors from Commonwealth Catholic Charities to participate in an informative potluck on January 29th after second service. CCC works with refugee families from around the world who are relocating to America. The CCC guests will show us a powerpoint presentation and have a Q&A session. I hope this will give our families a look at ways to help new families as they begin their lives in a new country.

Next RE Committee meeting will be Monday, January 9th at 7:00 in the Caum room.

See you in the RE! ■

Attendance

Date	Total attendance	visitors
Nov 27	24/61	0/1
Dec 4	24/56	--
Dec 11	35/75	3/1
Dec 18	30/68	2/2

Adult RE

by Dennis Shaw

After a brief interlude for the holidays, Adult RE will re-convene on January 8th with a look at some well-known UU's in our church's history. This two part series will be facilitated by Wayne Dawkins and promises to be interesting and informative. ARE is open and discussion-oriented and available to ALL. After a week off on January 22nd, we will have a session of the popular Socrates Cafe on January 29th with Chris Woods. Please join us from 9:30 until 10:30 in the office building for any and all sessions of Adult Religious Education. ■

UFP ADULT RE PROGRAM			
JANUARY-MAY 2012 9:30AM - 10:30AM			
DATE	CLASS TITLE	CLASS #	FACILITATOR
1-Jan	NO CLASS TODAY		HAPPY NEW YEAR
8-Jan	FAMOUS UU'S		WAYNE DAWKINS
15-Jan	FAMOUS UU'S		WAYNE DAWKINS
22-Jan	NO ADULT RE TODAY		TWO SERVICES
29-Jan	SOCRATES CAFÉ		CHRIS WOODS
5-Feb	IMMIGRATION	# 1	DONNA SPROCK
12-Feb	"	# 2	"
19-Feb	IMMIGRATION	# 3	DONNA SPROCK
26-Feb	A NEW COSMOLOGY FOR 21ST CENT	# 1	JACK DOUGHER
4-Mar	NO ADULT RE TODAY		TWO SERVICES
11-Mar	A NEW COSMOLOGY FOR 21ST CENT	# 2	JACK DOUGHER
18-Mar	"	# 3	JACK DOUGHER
25-Mar	A NEW COSMOLOGY FOR 21ST CENT	# 4	JACK DOUGHER
1-Apr	ARTICULATING YOUR FAITH		JEFF HINKLEY
8-Apr	COMPASSION		MEG GLENN-ALBIEZ
15-Apr	COMPASSION		MEG GLENN-ALBIEZ
22-Apr	NO ADULT RE TODAY		TWO SERVICES
29-Apr	COMPASSION		MEG GLENN-ALBIEZ
6-May	FEEDBACK SESSION		DENNIS SHAW
13-May	JUDAISM		DAWN HUTCHINSON
20-May	"		"
27-May	JUDAISM		DAWN HUTCHINSON

Submitted by: Dennis Shaw dj66shaw@yahoo.com



Transgender Day of Remembrance

By John/Gwynn Templeton

November 20th was Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR), a day we remember those who have been killed due to anti-transgender prejudice. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula (UUF) gave a wonderful service that included a reading of those lost which was followed by a Candle Light Vigil on the corner of Warwick and Young Mills.

Being transgender myself, specifically bigender (one who identifies as both male and female but born as only one gender), I was actually surprised and moved by the number who attended the service but still wish there was more. To show my support and to remind those that anyone can be transgender I came to the TDoR service as my female side, Gwynn. I typically go to church functions as my male side, John. I was also part of the individuals that read the names of victims of transgender biased violence.

This event really shows the meaning of 'Welcoming Congregation' and in the coming years the list of victims will hopefully be shorter until the need to read a list is no longer there. ■

And... by Rev Andrew Millard

"Pray until something happens" read the sign outside the dentist's office across the road from us. As we stood on our street corner with our candles and our "Standing on the Side of Love" banner, we looked over at that sign and thought about how it applied to us.

We were there in silent witness, in memory of those who were killed for claiming a particular gender identity and in commitment to stand against hatred and prejudice. For prayer, as I had said in my sermon that morning, is not only words or thoughts, after all: it is actions, too. In the gathering darkness of the evening, we held up our candles for all who would see them, to let the world know that we stand together, that we shall not forget, and that we shall continue standing together and praying together until anti-transgender violence and all hate-based violence is merely a sad memory. ■



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula

Adult Programs for Lifespan Faith Development

January – March 2012

All programs take place at the Fellowship unless marked with an asterisk.

January

1st: 12:30pm Goddess Circle: Spider Woman
(Native American)

4th: 7pm "The Arc of the Universe Is
Long", Rev. Andrew Millard

4th: 7pm * Poetry and More: Sparking
Creativity

5th: 5:30pm Beginners' Yoga

8th: 9:30am Adult RE: Famous Unitarian
Universalists, Wayne Dawkins

12th: 5:30pm Beginners' Yoga

15th: 9:30am Adult RE: Famous Unitarian
Universalists

15th: 6:30pm Humanist Group

18th: 7pm "The Arc of the Universe Is Long"

18th: 7pm "Developmental Harmonization"
with Dr. Raymon McAdaragh

19th: 5:30pm Beginners' Yoga

28th: 7pm Women's Drumming

29th: 9:30am Adult RE: Relaxing Meditation,
Carole Shaw

February

1st: 7pm "The Arc of the Universe Is Long"

1st: 7pm "Developmental Harmonization"

1st: 7pm * Poetry and More: Shadow and
Light

5th: 9:30am Adult RE: Immigration, Donna
Sprock

5th: 12:30pm Goddess Circle

12th: 9:30am Adult RE: Immigration

15th: 7pm "The Arc of the Universe Is Long"

15th: 7pm "Developmental Harmonization"

19th: 9:30am Adult RE: Immigration

19th: 6:30pm Humanist Group

25th: 7pm Women's Drumming

26th: 9:30am Adult RE: A New Cosmology for
the 21st Century, Jack Dougher

29th: 7pm "The Arc of the Universe Is Long"

March

4th: 12:30pm Goddess Circle

7th: 7pm "Developmental Harmonization"

7th: 7pm * Poetry and More: Finding
Balance

11th: 9:30am Adult RE: A New Cosmology for
the 21st Century

18th: 9:30am Adult RE: A New Cosmology for
the 21st Century

18th: 6:30pm Humanist Group

21st: 7pm "Developmental Harmonization"

24th: 7pm Women's Drumming

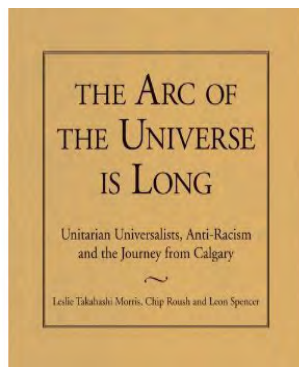
25th: 9:30am Adult RE: A New Cosmology for
the 21st Century



The Arc of the Universe Is Long

— program for youth and adults, facilitated by Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

7pm to 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings, Jan. 4th and 18th, and Feb. 1st, 15th and 29th



The Arc of the Universe Is Long presents a history of “Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism and the Journey from Calgary”. Based on original interviews as well as written records and other documents that address matters of race and ethnicity, Arc follows the denomination’s work toward anti-racist, anti-oppressive multiculturalism from the mid-1980s to 2006. The five-session program by UU minister Leslie Takahashi Morris is intended to generate a discussion about race, identity, relationships, social change and faith in ways that are respectful and constructive. The Arc of the Universe Is Long reminds us that our journey toward justice continues, so let us dedicate ourselves to this soul work of redemption and transformation!

Please let Andrew know if you plan to participate in the program as well as if you’d like your own copy of Arc (\$24 plus shipping). ■

POETRY & MORE...

by Mary-Elizabeth Cotton

It’s still going strong! We had six writers/readers/listeners for the December’s gathering – three who had participated previously and three new. We also heard from others who want to participate but couldn’t make it this time. The January gathering will be at Clyde Hunter’s on the first Wednesday Jan 4th.

We continue to be flexible in our approach but just for fun and a potential challenge, we randomly picked a few exercises to play with for next time. But it’s definitely not a “homework assignment.” You can do any, all or none – whatever strikes your fancy.

Here they are:

Alliteration Exercise: Make a list of 20 phrases that use alliteration. Pick two or three and try to build images around them. Use one of these images in a poem.

Childhood Exercise: Try to remember everything you can about a specific event that occurred when you were a child, any type of experience no matter how insignificant. Build a poem (or story) using the list. You don’t have to be faithful to the past – change details, descriptions or actions if the change will make your poem or story work better.

Crime Exercise: Write a “confession” poem or story detailing an emotional crime and how

you committed it – OR write a poem or story in the voice of a murderer. Make the reader sympathetic to the murderer.

Endless Exercise: Write a poem of about thirty lines that consists of a single sentence. Experiment with clauses and phrases and parallel structure. Try to keep the sentence moving forward, enjambling it across lines in different ways, while making sure it is grammatically correct.

False Memory Exercise: Write a poem or story in which you “remember” something that never happened. Use strong sensory images to convince the reader it really happened.

Another approach might be to find a poem or story that you or someone else previously wrote that fits the exercise.

For more details contact Mary-Elizabeth msmaryeliz@verizon.net. ■

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

Please join many of your UUF friends on January 8 for good food and fellowship at NAWAB INDIAN CUISINE in the Oyster Point Square Shopping Center on Jefferson at 12:30. This is one of the favorite restaurants for Second Sunday lunch—a great buffet of scrumptious food. Come dine with us and meet some new friends. Question? Contact Bob Smith 989-0989. ■

The Goddess Circle

Goddess Circle will feature Spider Woman (Native American Goddess) - January 1st. This is an open discussion circle. The group decided to open it for both women & men . Goddesses are chosen from various world religions as a starting place for group discussion.

We meet the first Sunday of each month right after the 2nd service (about noon) for potluck, fellowship and fun.

*We will meet in the Caum room through January 2012.

Please contact Dawn Hutchinson and dhutchin@cnu.edu.

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.

Caring Committee

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

50 & Better

We are on our Winter Break! Next get together on March 1, 2012! If you have any questions call Esther at 369-1858.

Membership

Want to learn more about our Fellowship or Unitarian Universalism?

Interested in joining the UUF? Want to meet other new members?

Come join us for our Membership Orientation on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 12:15pm to 4:00pm. We'll start with a light lunch provided by the Membership Committee.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Andrew Millard or Bobbie Schilling, Membership Chair, 249-2586, va_skibums@hotmail.com.

January Birthdays

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

- 1 Robin Van Tine
- 1 Esther Sherman
- 3 Kathy Black
- 4 Alice Callahan
- 6 Cathy Coley
- 7 Ava Strom
- 9 Andy Anderson
- 10 Shirley Grice

- 13 Bryan Higinbottom
- 14 Tavia Hayes
- 15 Amber Deaton
- 16 Pam Tenney
- 17 Christine Woods
- 22 Marj Gates
- 23 Ethan Farthing
- 23 Greg Gecowets

- 25 Michelle Sheeler
- 25 Deane Reis
- 26 Carole Shaw
- 27 Brandy Bergenstock
- 30 Skye Van Tine
- 30 Lauren Chambers

*Belated Happy Birthday
David Walsh - Dec 6th*

