



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Newsletter

August 2005



SUNDAY SERVICES

The 10 am start time remains in effect up to & including Labor Day weekend. You don't want to be late for...



AUGUST 7 - MUSIC TELLS THE STORY OF OUR LIVES

From joyful to melancholy, from triumphal to forsaken, from the sublime to the mundane. Music is an expression of the human condition. It can touch our hearts. It can open our minds. Today we'll take a journey through a few of the many diverse styles, stories and emotions that the gift of music has to offer with The Delvers (Michael Glass - guitar, vocals, David Merrill - guitar, vocals, harmonica, Jay Shenk - viola, vocals, Howard Anby - bass, vocals). The Delvers perform an eclectic blend of swing, blues, instrumentals, roots country and acoustic rock. The members have been making music together in various incarnations both casual and professional for more than 25 years. With a song list ranging from Gershwin to the Grateful Dead, they blaze a varied path across the musical landscape.

AUGUST 14 – CEREMONIES

Rev. David H. MacPherson

What do they tell us about our needs and the needs of the world?

AUGUST 21 – SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

The Reverend Janna Roche

A recently-conducted nationwide survey determined that spiritual connection is the deepest hunger in America today. What does spiritual connection mean? And, if this hunger for connection were being nourished, how would that change life? The Reverend Janna Roche, Chaplain for Hospice Support Care of Williamsburg and Patriot's Colony retirement community will lead this service.

AUGUST 28 – *The Science of Harry Potter*

David Wilcox and John Bensel in collaboration with R.E.

Join us for an examination of the connection between science and magic - how they've co-existed in the past, and how they relate today.



2ND OFFERING COLLECTED FOR WILLIAMSBURG FAITH IN ACTION

On June 18th, WUU gave \$314.25 to Williamsburg Faith in Action (WFIA) through WUU's Second Offering Program. Joan Adair explained that this volunteer organization helps members of the community who need assistance in having someone take them to needed appointments, such as medical services. This group further helps individuals of the community who cannot perform errands without assistance. WFIA is always seeking new volunteers. Call or speak to Joan for more information. Again, thanks for your contributions.

CHALICE GAZING: NOTES FROM THE DRE AUGUST 2005

The last time I wrote to you, Rev. Shirley and I were on the way to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend the UU General Assembly. What a fantastic event! If you go to the UUA website you can see news, reviews, photos, and video of many of the main events. There's no substitute, though, for being there with thousands of people from all over the country who come to one place specifically because they are Unitarian Universalists. I urge you to plan a trip to St. Louis next year, June 21-25, for the 2006 GA.

The two most exciting events for me at GA were the introduction of *Singing the Journey*, a new supplement to the hymn book, and CYF, Church of the Younger Fellowship. First the hymn book supplement: at every big event, and at several workshops, UU musicians taught songs from *Singing the Journey*. Jazz, reggae, gospel, multicultural lyrics...glorious! We have much to look forward to in our already exceptional music program. And for all of you who ARE musicians, did you know that there's a UU Musicians' Network? Check it out on the UUA website.

The next big news from GA is Church of the Younger Fellowship. You may already be familiar with Church of the Larger Fellowship, an online congregation for members who have no access to a geographical congregation. Church of the Younger Fellowship is specifically for the Young Adults that we traditionally lose when they graduate from high school. CYF gives them a congregation to which they can belong, to which they have access wherever they are, whenever they are able to connect. Traditional congregations such as ours will have the opportunity to sponsor memberships for our youth when they graduate from high school, and you'll be hearing more about that in the fall. In the meantime, look for CYF brochures at the RE display in the narthex.

Here at home, WUU Hogwarts is filled with enthusiastic witches and warlocks every Sunday morning. The final Sunday of summer RE will be August 28, and there will be a closing ceremony worthy of Hogwarts on that day. Soon after that, we will have our teacher training for 2005-2006. If you have signed up to lead RE next year, or if you think you might like to sign up, please mark your calendar and come on Sept. 10. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, you'll meet people you may not know, you'll have a good time, and you'll leave with good information. Please come! Enjoy the rest of the summer, and stay safe.

Blessings,
Sara



NEW MEMBER IN JULY

Joan Adair surprised her husband, Fred, by signing the membership book in July. She has been an active friend of the congregation for many years, participating in circle dinners and serving on the Hospitality and Caring Committees. Joan also represents WUU in the new volunteer organization – Faith in Action – which helps out seniors and others with transportation and errands. She admitted that she had to become a member to have some influence with the new WUU Board President – her husband.

FROM THE SAMUEL ADKINS ELLIOTT LIBRARY

A gentle reminder to our dear readers! Three weeks is the length of the borrowing period for books, videos and service CDs. You may renew the materials for a longer time by just resigning the book card or CD list. One member is most anxious to borrow the copy of the May 4, 2003 service, but unfortunately the CD is apparently missing and was not signed out. Numerous books have been checked out and not returned, and others wish to borrow them – *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens and *Forrest Church* are among the strays. It is a wonderful book for new members as well as for long time UUs who want a quick review of our history and beliefs. If you or your committee has borrowed any of these materials, or something else that is overdue, please contact the WUU office at 220-6830.



SHIRLEY'S CAULDRON

On break until the September issue.

GREETINGS FROM THE TOP SPOT

Since I last reported to you, your Board and a few invited guests met in a retreat on July 9th at the Wareham's Pond Recreation Center in Kingsmill where we profited from an all day examination of our collective futures. We were assisted by an excellent facilitator and fellow WUU, Sally Fisk, Chief of Staff of the Jefferson Laboratory. During the day we examined what we saw as the possibilities for WUU and at the end of the day we were thrilled at the things that came out of it.

One thing we felt strongly about was that we have within our midst the makings of a sort of revolution! Revolution, that is, in the sense that we can revolutionize our way of dealing with what our possibilities are and come out with a truly successful ministry to the Williamsburg area for Unitarianism.

We discovered that we need to work on the following areas of concentration during the year ahead:

- Adult Programming including covenant groups;
- Our own Identity; who are we and how do we let other people know?
- Growth in Membership; how large do we need to be?
- Examination of the usage of our facilities
- Personnel policies; how to effectively use our personnel; and
- Strategic planning; where are we going and how do we get there?

I am also pleased to report that at our first Board meeting of the new WUU year, we started off with a bang! Adult Programming was the first item we examined; and the chair of that committee, Jan Brown, had some good ideas on making this happen. Look for great things in this area!

Strategic Planning, while not presently in progress, will begin in earnest in August when the chair of that committee, Roger Baldwin (our immediate past president), gets the committee organized plus initiates plans for a congregation-wide retreat where we can really move ahead.

I hope you will soon share the enthusiasm of the Board at the limitless possibilities for our future as we enter our 2005-2006 WUU year!

- All the best,
Fred L. Adair, President

TEACHER TRAINING, SEPTEMBER 10

Everyone who has signed up to teach RE - or if you think you may want to teach - mark your calendars for this exciting training session. More information to come. Training is important! Please come.



MOTIONS OF THE BOARD/ACTIONS TAKEN

July 14, 2005

1. Moved: That a Housing Allowance of \$10,800 be awarded to our minister as part of the 2005-2006 contract.

Moved: Dave Banks Seconded: Joe Fisler
Approved

2. Moved: That the Board approve the following policy proposed by the Finance Committee: The Finance Committee commits to keeping Committee Chairs and Cluster Chairs informed on a monthly basis regarding the status of their committee budgets. Committees are not to commit funds in excess of their budget nor request reimbursement without prior approval from the Finance Committee.

Moved: Dave Banks Seconded: Joe Fisler
Approved



Presents Coyote Run!

In the tradition of the Ancient Bards, Coyote Run weaves songs that Soar through the Air, Embrace our Mother Earth, Challenge the vastness of the Waters, and Evoke the spirit of sacred Fire. With driving rhythms, Celtic flair, Heroic Warrior's tales, and the Trickster's Twist, Coyote Run invites you to join in our Adventure.

Join us on Friday, August 19th for this special pre-season appearance by Williamsburg's favorite new Celtic alternative band! Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the performance begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$10 and will be available to WUU members and friends in advance—after the services on August 7th and August 14th. As always, coffee/tea and assorted baked goodies will be available for purchase.

For more information about the concert series, please contact Sherri Powers or Natalie Miller-Moore. For more information about Coyote Run, check out www.coyoterun.com.

A **special note** for Live Off Five! Fans—we'll be offering season subscriptions to the series beginning Sunday, August 7th. Choose a season subscription, and you'll get a concert for FREE! Performers include Peter Mayer, Arcona Reel Band, and Greg Greenway!

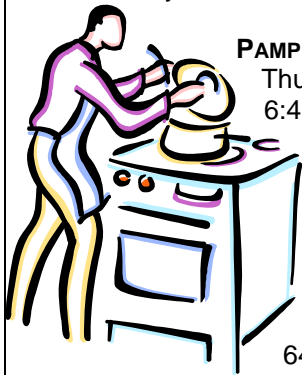
Check out www.wuu.org/liveofffive.htm for a complete listing of performers for the 05/06 season.

WUU CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. 2 suites: 900 square feet & 1400 square feet; or individual room(s). Located off Jamestown Road. Short-term or long-term lease. Reasonable rates. Ethical, reliable, pleasant non-smokers strongly preferred. Contact: Dr. Daniel Shaye, pchiro@performancechiropractic.com 229-4161

NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITION OR SPACE ON THE NEW NEWSLETTER TEAM

Looking for one person to take over the production of the newsletter – once a month. Training offered or you can just take it and make it your own publication. A great way to volunteer from the comfort of your own home. If no one wants to take on the job, we'll form a team of interested people (hopefully 3 or 4 so that you would only be responsible for a couple issues a year). Contact Mary Cottrill at newsletter@wuu.org



PAMPERED CHEF "FUN" DRAISER!

Thursday, September 22 @ 6:45PM in the sanctuary.

Come enjoy fabulous food while watching a live cooking demo using high quality kitchen tools! Bring a friend or two for this new "fun"draiser!

Contact - Jennifer Rawlins

645-4636

chefjennifer1@cox.net

www.pamperedchef.biz/chefjennifer1

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUND

Following the success of last year's drive to provide Christmas for a local needy family, the board has authorized the formation of a standing committee for the purpose of conducting an annual Christmas family donation drive. This drive will be headed by John Bensel and Beth Kennedy. They would like the congregation to know about this well in advance of the drive and would appreciate being contacted at this time by anyone who would be interested in helping. A restricted fund has been established to handle donations. Checks can be made out to WUU with a designation of "Christmas family fund" in the memo line. Donations can be made at any time. Once a committee has been established we will decide how to select a family; and if funding allows, more than one family will be selected. Look for more when elf season comes.



THE CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee is gearing up for another year. At this time we have 18 caring supporters and about 25 caring resource people. As the new head of the committee, I would invite any and all of you to sign up to be supporters or resource persons. Supporters use the Caring book for a two week period. The book contains names and information about folks who need anything from phone calls to visits to transportation, food or housework. Resource people provide services as requested by the supporters. The office and the minister are the primary sources for information during office hours. In the event that they are not available, the chair of the caring committee is the contact person. This service is provided to members and their families. It is a worthwhile and rewarding experience to be able to assist folks when they need us. Please join us!

Thank you,

Beth Kennedy, Caring Committee chair

I can be reached at home

My phone & e-mail are in the membership directory.

SUPPORT A SUMMER OF PEACE WITNESS AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY AND WAR



In his report to the 2003 General Assembly, UUA President William G. Sinkford recalled his trip to Japan that year. He said, "While I was in Japan, I took a day to visit the Hiroshima Peace Park, the memorial to the 250,000 Japanese who were killed when we dropped a weapon of mass destruction on that city. And at a wonderful dinner at the Tsubaki Grand Shrine after our ritual Misogi cleansing, I finally found the question I needed to ask our Japanese hosts."

Sinkford related the story: "How could you possibly have forgiven us for our use of the atomic bomb?" A member of the Grand Shrine Board, a retired nuclear physicist named Mr. Feruda, responded...He said: "Despite the horrific death toll and the devastation, we actually have come to see our loss as a blessing. You see, if we had not lost that war, the military government would probably still be in power and we would still be out colonizing and appropriating resources to fuel our industrial machine. If we had not lost, the attitude of arrogance that was a part of Japanese life during those times would still be with us, the belief that because we had the might, we had the right to do as we willed."

Go to the UUA web page to learn more about this visit and what happened at General Assembly.

Stay informed and Connected with UUs around the globe.

UUSC STOP TORTURE PERMMENTLY (STOP) CAMPAIGN “Call for Justice Weekend” Washington, DC - September 24-26

After the grim revelations of the last year regarding U. S. torture and abuse of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo, there can be little doubt that our nation faces an extraordinary moral crisis. In light of this situation, we have organized our “Call for Justice Weekend” in order to fully educate the public as well as our national leadership about the grim realities of current U. S. practices.

We ask that all attendees plan to stay in Washington on Monday the 26th in order to speak with their Congressional representatives on this crucial issue. We hope to receive delegations from across the country, from all faiths, cultures, races and political affiliations.

Our planned activities include the following:

- 1) **Saturday Sept. 24:** This day will include educational workshops and panel discussions on the history, legal considerations, and security consequences of U. S. involvement in torture. Specific and appropriate reform measures will also be discussed. We will offer inter-faith presentations on the moral and spiritual issues raised by the use of torture, as well as periods for prayer and reflection.
- 2) **Sunday Sept. 25:** We will present our Citizens’ Trial of Mr. Rumsfeld, Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Tenet for violations of international and U. S. laws prohibiting torture. This trial will be based on actual laws and evidence, and we will use real lawyers, as well as testimonies actually given by Iraqi and Afghan survivors. Lastly we will present an intelligence expert to testify that torture does not work, and that instead of increasing our safety, it creates rage against the United States. Our goal is not to fictionalize the current crisis, but to thoroughly teach its realities. We will close with a prayer and reflection service.
- 3) **Monday Sept. 26:** We will open with a final inter-faith presentation, then send all of our attendees to Congress and other government offices to share what they have learned about torture, and insist that all forms of this practice be abolished.

Please join us for “Call for Justice Weekend.” We are seeking as broad a base of religious and interfaith organizations as possible to participate in the event and speak out in one voice against the practice of torture. Register at www.uusc.org/programs/stop/trial.html If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Jennifer Harbury or Nadya Khalife at UUSC at 617-868-6600.

TAKING IT HOME: FAMILIES AND FAITH

The UUA’s Family Matters Task Force announces a series of six booklets for congregations and families to use at home or in community to support them through life transitions and spiritual/ethical challenges. The series covers:

- Let’s Talk About Respect
- Let’s Talk About Time/Money Balance
- Let’s Talk About Marriage and Committed Relationships
- Let’s Talk About Divorce and Broken Relationships
- Let’s Talk About Families and Loss
- Let’s Talk About Interfaith Families

The booklets are available at www.uua.org/families.



YOUR INPUT INVITED!

The UUA has announced that its all-member magazine, *UU WORLD*, will become a quarterly-issued publication beginning with the September issue. At the same time, a web-based *UU WORLD* will be launched that will have more timely news and will reach a wider audience than the current magazine, which is mailed only to voting members. An experimental version of the new web magazine will be at www.uuworld.org in July. Check it out and give your feedback.

REQUEST FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

At our recent board retreat, one of the things we discussed was discovering the things in which our congregation is interested. . . in other words, listening to you! We will use the database of interests thus developed to tailor our programs to those things we find out about our congregants. Recently the volunteer coordinator sought such information and with it matched the talents of our members with the things they desired to do. As you probably know, we depend upon our volunteers for many things and knowing what talents you have will make it easier to design programs that are appealing to you all. If you have attended services over the past three weeks, you saw on the walls a detailed list of those whose work was recognized for the past year. We'd like to have your name on that list next year! I would be grateful if you would take just a few minutes and respond to a few questions about your interests. You may complete this survey online using the weekly newsletter (where this information was also contained) and return it to volunteer@wuu.org, or you can mail or drop off this hard copy to the WUU Office.

Name _____ Contact _____

What is your occupation/profession? _____

What interests do you pursue outside of your employment? _____

What talents do you have that you are willing to share? _____

Answering these questions would help immensely in our planning for the next church year. We are excited about the program we saw developing in our retreat and are anxious to share it with you all! Thanks very much!

-Ruth Hopkinson, Volunteer Coordinator



Plans are now underway for the Thomas Jefferson District FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. It will be held October 14-15, 2005, at UUF in Winston Salem, NC. The theme addresses the issue of how to "Strengthen and Grow Our Great Faith."

The keynote speaker will be Harlan Limpert of Minneapolis, MN. He will speak on "What We Are Learning from Breakthrough Congregations." He will include input from four congregations which have broken through the obstacles that were preventing them from achieving numerical growth.

Registration forms and further information will soon be added to the TJD website at www.tjd.uua.org. Local area lodging options have been gathered; some were included in an email to those on the district distribution list. When complete, the list will be posted to the website along with the other details.

Significant Events Calendar August/September '05

| | |
|--------------|--|
| August 18 | WUU Board Meeting |
| August 19 | Live Off Five Concert (Coyote Run) |
| August 24-25 | Dr. Shirley Ranck, Interim Minister, returns |
| August 28 | FISH Donation Sunday |
| September 10 | Religious Education Teacher Training |
| September 11 | Sunday services resume @ 11:00 AM |
| September 15 | WUU Board Meeting |
| September 22 | Pampered Chef "Fun"draiser @ 6:45 PM |

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