



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists Newsletter October 2005

11 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 2 – BROKEN IMAGES AND PRACTICAL CATS

Dr. Shirley Ranck

Reflections on some poetry by T.S. Eliot, and the emergence of a new world-view and a new image for humanity.



OCTOBER 9 - *WHAT DO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS BELIEVE?*

Dr. Shirley Ranck

How do you answer? As our UU movement wrestles with this question, here is part of one UU response.

OCTOBER 16 – *UU WHO?*

Sara Mackey, Director of Religious Education

What do you mean when you say you're a Unitarian Universalist? What do I mean? Do we mean the same thing? How do we know? There is conversation throughout our denomination about our identity, how we define ourselves, how we decide what to do when our definitions don't agree. Come this morning and imagine how we might come together as a congregation and discuss, discover, and decide about our own WUU identity.

OCTOBER 23 – *CHECK THE WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DETAILS ABOUT THIS SERVICE* *FISH Sunday, bring donations.*

OCTOBER 30 – *A WITCH'S NEW YEAR*

Dr. Shirley Ranck

Samhain in story and song.

AMY CAROL WEBB WEAVES A WEB OF MUSIC FOR WUU

Amy Carol Webb brings her rich musical style to WUU's "Live Off Five!" concert series on Friday, October 21. Webb's music is described as passionate acoustics mixed with the poignant heritage of folk music from her home in the Southwestern United States, with a touch of blues and Cajun.

The Gables Gazette called her "beauty and vulnerability, genuine, sympathetic and electrifying. Her joy is infectious, her courage inspiring, her songs gifts of literate, humorous, often profound poems of one woman's remarkable journey from precious child to woman to mother... to 'Songweaver.'"

Amy is on the road again, traveling from celebrated concert halls and festival stages to spiritual gatherings and intimate house concerts, sharing stages with many whose work inspires her own – musicians such as Janis Ian, Nestor Torres, Michael Smith and Vance Gilbert.

Live Off Five! concerts are presented in the worship building. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the performance begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students.

Live Off Five! offers regular fall and spring performances, including local, regional, and national touring acts with a variety of styles. For more information about the concert series, please contact Sherri Powers or Natalie Miller-Moore or go to www.wuu.org/liveofffive.htm. For more information about the artist, check out www.amycarolwebb.com.





SHIRLEY'S CAULDRON

Who are we anyway? What does it mean to say we are the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists? What does it mean to say we are Unitarian Universalists? It is not only congregations in search of new settled ministers who are asking themselves these questions. The Unitarian

Universalist Association has had a Commission of distinguished Unitarian Universalists representing our vast theological diversity working for several years on answers. This year at General Assembly they made available the results of their work.

The Commission was searching for our innermost identity as Unitarian Universalists, the core or center or glue that binds us together in all our diversity. What is that core, that center for you? Or to put it another way, what kinds of beliefs or values would you consider NOT to be part of our diversity? Is there any answer we could all agree on?

One of the tasks we ministers often take on is articulating our personal answers to these questions. In my own experience it is always a work in progress. Other species seem to know who they are and what life is about. Maybe we'll get there one day. In the meantime I offer you this poem by Mary Oliver:

Crow

Every morning

crow

steps

along the beach

as though he found the world

brand-new,

and wonderful,

and, without a doubt,

made especially for him.

The eiders stare,

the black ducks are busy

with their own affairs

as he marches

along the wrack line

on his sturdy feet

to the bounty of stranded sea worms,

crabs,

abandoned bags of popcorn--

"oh yes," his big black beak seems to say,

"this is good,

here is breakfast and lunch both,

and as for dinner,

I'll be back.

What a good world!"

I wish we could be friends,

but when he sees me

daring to look at him

he opens his strong arms

that are dressed, always, in the darkest ribbons,
and floats off--
but only a little way

and he's down again on the sandy track--
and who has seen yet anything cleaner,

bolder,

more gleaming, more certain of its philosophy
than the eye he turns back?

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cottage meetings, question and answer sessions and responses to specific queries have all invited congregation participation in our second year of search for our called minister. The committee has been meeting, updating the Congregational Record and Profile Book. To refresh everyone's mind to the process, here is a brief overview:

Following UUA directives for all congregations in search, we post answers to very specific questions online, called the Congregational Record. Ministers have access to this and decide if they are interested in WUU. We begin to receive 12 - 20 page applications, again answering very specific questions, again confidential, all online. The committee reads all of these forms, discusses the pre-candidates thoroughly and selects a number of them to phone interview through a conference call with all of us participating. Last year we interviewed 8; this year will be at least that many. Additionally, we are inviting other ministers to apply. In the meantime we are conducting reference checking and background checks as well as exchanging profile books.

January through March we extend an invitation to 3 or 4 pre-candidates to join us individually for a three-day weekend in Williamsburg and at a neutral pulpit on Sunday to assure confidentiality. This involves intensive interviewing, introducing the pre-candidate (and possibly partner) to the area and to our facilities, driving to another congregation for the Sunday service (pre-arranged in the autumn) and then reviewing the weekend. We decide on the minister who best matches our congregation's needs and invite that person to candidating week when the congregation has the opportunity to meet and talk with the candidate on many levels. The candidate preaches two Sundays. A vote is taken and the congregation extends the call to the minister.

Last year our committee worked extremely well together and we expect the same for this experience. We anticipate a successful year and appreciate your support.

- Gayle Henion

MOTIONS OF THE BOARD/ACTIONS TAKEN

August 18, 2005

1. *MOTION: That the Board adopt the Charter proposed by the Memorial Garden Committee.
Moved: Dave Banks Seconded: Jacqui Winther
Approved.
- 2.*MOTION: The Board approves the name change of the Strategic Planning Committee to the "Congregational Planning Committee." The Board approves the *Charge* of the Congregational Planning Committee, as presented by that committee to the Board.
Charge:
 1. "The Congregational Planning Committee will Develop and guide a process for involving the congregation, board, committees and professional ministry in long-range planning deliberations and decisions for our future
 2. Create a strategic plan and timeline for board review and congregational approval
 3. Develop and guide a process for implementing the strategic plan
 4. Monitor and report on the progress of implementation to the board and congregation at least annually
 5. Conduct a formal review and update of the strategic plan every year."Moved: Fred Adair Seconded: Dave Stanford
Approved.

September 15, 2005

- MOTION: That the Board adopt the "WUU Personnel Committee Charge":
Moved: Dave Stanford Seconded: Joe Fisler
Approved.
Charge:
The Personnel Committee takes the lead role in the development and administration of personnel policy for the WUU. Its primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:
1. Preparation of the annual budget for staff compensation, insuring that the fair compensation guidelines of the UUA are followed to the extent possible.
 2. Recruiting new or replacement staff, using Position Descriptions provided by the Minister or a concerned committee.
 3. Preparing appointment letters for staff as needed.
 4. Advising on personnel policy and helping to adjudicate disputes, when appropriate.
 5. Monitoring the annual evaluation of staff, seeing that required evaluations are current and follow adequate procedures.
 6. Proposing new personnel policy when the need arises.

THE GREENHAVEN BEES DONATE HONEY



after

Once again the bees of Greenhaven are donating a quantity of their honey to the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, to support the trees and flowers of the Memorial Meditation Garden. The honey will be available church service on October 2nd and 9th. The cost is \$5 per pound, with all proceeds going to the garden.

- Wayne & Dolores Moyer

JOIN THE UU COACHING NETWORK!

UUCN is growing and invites you to join! This non-profit association is a community of professionally trained life coaches anchored in the UU principles of compassion, integrity and inclusion. To learn of its' mission and how you can benefit from membership, please visit www.uucoachingnetwork.org. Feel free to can contact a board member to learn of upcoming benefits as well. If you are considering hiring a coach, UUCN is also a resource to find the right coach for you.

YOUR INPUT INVITED!

The UUA has announced that its all-member magazine, *UU WORLD*, will become a quarterly beginning with 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.



TAI CHI RETURNS

The Tai Chi Autumn session will begin Wednesday, Sept. 28th, promptly at 11am. The classes are one hour and will run 8 weeks, on Wednesdays, through November 16th. Newcomers are welcome. You will be introduced to basic Qigong exercises and breathing, followed by the Standardized Tai Chi Postures. There is no fee for this class.

NEW TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM?

You can learn more about Unitarian Universalism and ask questions to help you explore this faith on the Unitarian Universalist Association's website at www.uua.org/newcomers/newcomerbb.html. Answers are provided by the UUA Office of Information & Public Witness staff and "seasoned" UUs.

CHALICE GAZING: NOTES FROM THE DRE
OCTOBER 2005

This past Sunday, our 2005-2006 religious education program began. We are excited and delighted to welcome some new families to RE, and hope that you will let the members of the religious education committee know what you think of the program as it progresses. (See their names at the end of this article.) Our Sundaes Sunday ice cream social/registration event gathered all the registration forms from the folks who attended that day. If you still have not filled out your form (mailed in August), please do that and send it to us. Not to worry... if you can't find it, you can get one in the narthex at the RE display.

Our program this year will be characterized by its change. We learned a lot from the magnificent Harry Potter summer program, organized and produced by Kim Scholpp, co-chair of the RE committee, and Jennifer Olson, new-this-year YRUU advisor. One of our most important lessons was the value of having all of our children together, rather than segregated by grade level into small separate groups. Our RE space still requires us to divide the RE program somewhat; we still have the older youth in the Parker House. However, this year we want to continue that sense of community among the children who go to Fahs House on Sunday morning. Toward that end, every Sunday we will have a chalice lighting for all the children together, and at the end of RE, we will have either a snack for everybody or playground time for everybody.

Imagine what Sunday morning worship would be like for the adults if we had arranged seating by age: 18-35 sit here. 35-45 sit over there. 45-60 on that side. Suppose you're 44 and your spouse, partner, friend, is 46...does that mean you can't be together in church? One reason we divide children this way is because that's how it's done in school. We hope to create a Sunday morning experience that's NOT school. We aspire to having our children come into a religious community where they will learn that adults other than family members know their names and want to know how they are. We want them to learn that in this place, we call ourselves Unitarian Universalists. We light a chalice, and there are reasons for that. Most of all, though, we want them to learn that they BELONG here. Please join the religious education committee and RE adult guides in teaching this wonderful truth.

Blessings,
Sara

RE Committee:

Bunkie Righter, Kim Scholpp, co-chairs (contact information available in the directory)
Kim Barbarji, Jennifer Olson, Patty Silence, Heather Scully, Joe Ogden, Dawn Traver

GREETINGS FROM THE TOP SPOT

On Tuesday, September 20th, the Rev. Shirley Ranck, Sara Mackey, Dave Stanford and myself, met with Laurel Amabile of the Thomas Jefferson District UUA. Initial plans were formulated for a long-awaited and much needed congregational retreat led by a district-trained facilitator. The event is currently scheduled for late February. This most important gathering will address who we are as a congregation and how we will move into the future. Please plan on attending; your input is vital. More information will follow as plans progress.

All the best,

Fred L. Adair, President

YOU ARE THE AUCTION

Without you, the WUUs would not have an auction. We would miss the community gathering, the festive atmosphere, good conversations and shared experiences. We'd miss good food and good bargains. And we'd miss the opportunity to give to WUU in so many ways.

How can you give?

- You can give cash to help pay for costs. Write checks to WUU and mark them "auction."
- You can give auction donations--anything from a service you can provide to something concrete you can give to an experience you can offer for others.
- You can give time, helping Wendy Owens and Ruth Hopkinson and their crew of auction devotees put on the best auction yet.
- You can give an evening to WUU by attending the auction.
- You can give by purchasing a raffle ticket the night of the auction.
- You can give by bidding at the silent auction and by competing for items at the live auction.

When is the auction?

- Saturday, Nov. 5. Doors open at 5, and dinner is served at 6.
- Live auction starts at 6:30.
- Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Dinner is included.
- Cash bar available.

How do I sign up?

- E-mail auction@wuu.org for questions or to donate items or cash.
- Visit the Auction Table after church each Sunday to buy tickets, make donations or have questions answered.

AUCTION INFORMATION CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

AUCTION NEWS CONTINUED HERE

Who knows what's going on?

More than 25 WUUs are already involved in helping with the auction. Let the auction co-chairs know if you are interested in adding your name to the list.

- Co-chairs Wendy Owens and Ruth Hopkinson
- Auction donations: Jennifer Rawlins
- Raffle: Jennifer Rawlins and Jessica O'Brien
- Silent auction coordinator Nan Hart and friends
- Facilities, including coordinating set-up and take-down: Damon Hill
- Live auction: Bunkie Righter and Heather Ockler
- Good and beverages: Bunkie Righter
- Operations including check-in and check-out led by Hanni Sherman
- Publicity: Linda Lane-Hamilton and Lynn Thornton

Significant Events Calendar October '05

October 2	MSC Cottage Meeting @ 9:30 am
October 14-15	Thomas Jefferson District Conference
October 20	Board Meeting @ 7:15 pm
October 21	Amy Carol Webb Concert
October 23	FISH Donation Sunday
October 29	Turn your clocks back!

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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