



# Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists Newsletter September 2005



**REMEMBER the 10 am start time remains in effect through...**

**10 A.M. - SEPTEMBER 4 – THE CORNER BAKERY**

*Rev. Shirley Ranck and Sara Mackey*

Between the hotels and the convention center in Ft. Worth stretched several blocks of shops and eateries. Many Unitarian Universalists stopped midway at the Corner Bakery. Come hear about some fascinating conversations overheard there and elsewhere at General Assembly.



**THEN back to 11 am services until next summer.**

**11 A.M. - SEPTEMBER 11 – SHARING THE WATERS OF SUMMER**

*Rev. Shirley Ranck*

Remember to bring **WATER** from your travels!

**11 A.M. - SEPTEMBER 18 – WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The first Sunday of RE with an ice cream sundae party after the service for all registrants. Service TBA.

**11 A.M. - SEPTEMBER 25 – A WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME**

*Rev. Shirley Ranck*

A look at the prophetic work of Sophia Lyon Fahs, religious educator and visionary theologian in our UU movement. What does she have to say to us today?



**All Together, In partnership with  
James City County Parks and Recreation,  
Proudly present a ...**

## **CELEBRATION OF CULTURES**

Family Fun, Food and Music—

join us for a journey into the diversity within our community.

Sunday, September 18 from 2-6 pm

Chickahominy Riverfront Park - 1350 John Tyler Highway



Would you like to help out at the Celebration of Cultures? I am in charge of the Information Booth where we will hand out program/maps and answering general questions. I promised that WUUs would man the booth. If you are interested in working with me for a 2 hour shift of 2-4 or 4-6: pm, please e-mail me at [socialaction@wuu.org](mailto:socialaction@wuu.org). This is a great community outreach program and should be a fun afternoon. There will be great food, entertainment and exhibits. Thanks! Jessica O'Brien, Social Responsibility Committee



### SHIRLEY'S CAULDRON

Years ago a cartoon made the rounds among psychologists. Two rats are in a Skinner box and a human researcher is approaching. One rat says to the other "Boy have I got him well trained! Every time I hit that lever he puts food in my dish." Then there was the cartoon character Yogi Bear who knew exactly

where to find the picnic baskets of hapless campers. We used to think such animal cleverness only happened in cartoons. We thought they were funny.

This summer, high in the mountains near Dillon, Colorado my friends and I drove to a scenic spot where many people come to feed the squirrels. We took along a bag of pistachio nuts—only the ones we couldn't pry open with our fingernails. We planned to let the squirrels have them. As we stood at the scenic spot and started to put the nuts down for the squirrels, a little girl beside us said "Oh, they won't eat those; they only take the ones that are easy to open." She was right. The fat little squirrels turned up their noses at our tightly closed pistachios and scampered away to find better offers. These real squirrels had these humans well-trained indeed!

On the beach at Pt. Reyes National Seashore my family and I stood in the fog at the edge of the ocean, bundled in sweatshirts with hoods, but numbing our toes in the icy water. That's what it's like on the beach in Northern California in August. Suddenly my daughter, Chris, screamed and went running up the wide beach toward our blanket and possessions. We turned to see a huge seagull systematically pulling plastic bags of cookies and crackers out of our beach bag. By the time Chris reached the blanket the gull had pecked enough holes in a bag of Oreos to make off with one cookie and dump the rest into the sand—for future snacking no doubt. My newly acquired (by Chris' marriage) six-year-old granddaughter didn't think losing our Oreos to the thieving gull was funny at all.

So who's training whom? I have long been proud of our UU seventh principle affirming "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." But I didn't realize that seagulls have now acquired a taste for Oreos.

- See you all soon! Blessed be!  
Shirley

### 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 opportunities. Reasonable rates. Ethical, reliable, pleasant non-smokers strongly preferred. Contact: Dr. Daniel Shaye, 229-4161 or [pchiro@performancechiropractic.com](mailto:pchiro@performancechiropractic.com)

### GREETINGS FROM THE TOP SPOT

As we move into the fall season, I am excited about two new initiatives that have been started this month. Two new committees, both headed by dynamic UUs, have been formed; their agendas are being finalized for presentation to their respective members.

Ann Cowling was named to form a new committee concentrating on membership in order to strengthen our first contact with prospective new members. This committee of ten, refreshed in focus as a result of the WUU July retreat, met at her house last week. Sub-committees have already been formed whose members are currently studying which factors do and/or should determine meaningful significance with regard to membership in WUU.

One of the first things they looked at was the packet of information being given to new members upon joining. While the previous packet has served us well, it was thought that making it a little more specific to the local congregation would better educate new members about our meaning and priorities.

Another item being considered is the thought that an orientation session expressly designed for new members would be helpful in getting them integrated into the community. Accordingly, this is being studied for possible inclusion.

Bunkie Righter has taken on the equally important task of addressing the Welcoming Congregations designation for WUU, thus enabling our congregation to be considered a bona fide member of this denominational group which welcomes all who come with enthusiasm. While the idea of Welcoming Congregations has been around for some time, its significance was emphasized in a sermon by our own DRE Sara Mackey earlier in August. Her eagerness to attain the numerous benefits of such a designation was immediately embraced by interested members.

The first meeting of this group will take place in September. Bunkie has already ordered the necessary items from UUA to undertake this important step in the life of our growing congregation, and we can all look forward to participating as the certification process proceeds.

Our thanks to both of these committee chairs and to their committees for taking their time and expending the energy to make us a real community of committed persons in Unitarian Universalism. Keep up the good work!

- All the best,  
Fred L. Adair, President



### PAMPERED CHEF "FUN" DRAISER!

Thurs, Sept 22, 6:45PM in the sanctuary.

Enjoy fabulous food while watching a live cooking demo using high quality kitchen tools! Contact - Jennifer Rawlins 645-4636

[chefjennifer1@cox.net](mailto:chefjennifer1@cox.net)



### SEPTEMBER GROUNDS DAY

Bring us your tired, your poor, your yearning bodies, waiting to be cool. September 10th will be Grounds Day (unless it is another of those 90 degrees by 9 am with 90 plus humidity days or is pouring down rain). If the weather is inhospitable, Grounds Day will take place on Sept. 17. No need to enumerate the jobs that we could work on—they have become all too obvious. We will start at 8 am and bribe you with goodies so you can keep going. See YOU there.



Dear Rev. Ranck:

Thank you so much for your donation of \$314.25 to **Williamsburg Area Faith in Action**. It is with the support of the churches in the Williamsburg community that we are able to help the chronically ill, the disabled and the frail elderly. We are very grateful for the volunteers, the prayers, and the financial support which you have given to us.

As the needs of the community continue to increase, so too will the need for more and more of the services which we are providing.

Thank you for helping us to put our Faith in Action.

- Sincerely,

Harry Campbell, LCSW  
Executive Director

Williamsburg Area Faith in Action



### COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Most housing options available today isolate people and discourage a neighborhood atmosphere.

Alternatives are needed. If you are interested in:

- living in a large, social community
- having your own house and
- participating in the planning of your home,

perhaps this is for you. We will be a group of 20 to 40 individuals and families who will plan a housing development which addresses our needs both for community and private life. The development will include housing suitable for families, singles and seniors, and persons of any income group or background are welcome.

If this interests you, our first meeting will be **7:30 PM, Monday September 19** in Meeting Room 'B' at the Williamsburg Regional Library, at the corner of Henry Street and Scotland Avenue in Williamsburg.

### MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

After taking a short break, the Ministerial Search Committee is active once more and is ready to engage the congregation in new cottage meetings this autumn. We invite the congregation to join MSC members immediately following Sunday worship services on **September 25 and October 2 for cottage meetings**, an opportunity to share your thoughts, answer questions, listen to other members and take an active part again as we begin our search. Details will be forthcoming in the weekly announcements.

Re-elected members of the initial search committee - Diane Abdo, David Doersch, Vicki Hall, Gayle Henion, Debra Hill, Jim Kent and Jane Reilly - are dedicated to the task of continuing our search for the best possible match of congregation and minister. We are energized once more, and have been in contact with John Weston, UUA settlement director and Joan Kahn-Schneider, TJ district settlement representative. We're updating our profile book and online congregational record, arranging neutral pulpits, meeting with the Board, initiating new approaches to the process within UUA guidelines, and setting up schedules.

The search committee welcomes your comments and particularly looks forward to hearing from new members. Again this year we intend to be open and accessible, informing the congregation of the timeline and process, but respecting confidentiality during the interview process.

We consider it a privilege to serve as your Ministerial Search Committee, and we appreciate your confidence and trust in us.

- Gayle Henion

### WUU BOOKSTORE

HAVE YOU BEEN WONDERING about what happened to the bookstore? The bookstore cabinet has moved to the Activity Room (and will be used for undetermined purposes). However, one section of the new glass-encased bulletin boards in the foyer will be dedicated to an ongoing bookstore display.

The bookstore is changing its function to a "by-request" basis. That is because it has become increasingly easier for congregants to order things on the internet. However, if an individual or group/committee needs a specific item, or perhaps a large quantity of a certain item, the bookstore chair can still obtain it for you.

If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Gray-Snitwongse at [Bookstore@wuu.org](mailto:Bookstore@wuu.org).



### **THE CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Connecting UUs – Spiritually, Humanly, Globally**

You may know someone who would enjoy the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), a congregation that provides a ministry to isolated religious liberals around the world – from Texas to Timbuktu. CLF offers a spiritual home within the Unitarian Universalist movement for all kinds of people. Our members receive mailings of our monthly worship publication (*Quest*), and the *UU World*, and can access our loan library of UU materials, including R.E. and worship resources. Our members participate in online covenant groups, online courses, and electronic discussion groups, and have access to pastoral care by CLF's Senior Minister, Rev. Jane Rzepka. Our Pen Pal program connects "free world" UUs with incarcerated men and women who have joined CLF, and is a powerful way for UU congregations to learn more about the prison system by connecting with fellow religious liberals. The CLF also supports many small congregations with worship and programming resources through the Church-on-Loan program. Nearly half our members are active contributing members of local congregations who appreciate the connection to the wider UU world.

Young adults you know may be interested in the Church of the *Younger Fellowship* – a unique Unitarian Universalist spiritual community and worship space designed by and for UU young adults, ages 18-35. The CYF is a part of the CLF and can be found at:

[www.uucyf.org](http://www.uucyf.org)

For more information, contact the Church of the Larger Fellowship: 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108, phone (617)-948-6166 [clf@clfu.org](mailto:clf@clfu.org), or visit our new website at: [www.clfu.org](http://www.clfu.org)

### **PRESCHOOL AT WUU?**

I have recently been searching for a preschool for my daughter and have had a difficult (impossible) time finding a school which meets all my criteria - part-time, non-religious or liberally religious, reasonably priced, and with available space. Of course I also want her to have a space where she will be nurtured to learn and grow, to develop her social skills, and have wonderful artistic and musical experiences.

I wonder if there are others in our congregation who would be interested in a space like this - in having it for their children, and in helping to create it. I think it would not only serve current congregants, but might be a wonderful opportunity for outreach to the Williamsburg community. I have a lot to offer - considerable teaching experience, Montessori certification, even some materials and toys. I don't have the physical space, the knowledge about



licensure & governmental regulations, the experience in creating a business plan or dealing with financial issues.

First, I would like to hear if there are others at WUU who are interested in this project - contributing their time and talents, or by enrolling children. Please email me at [joelle@sorceryandsong.com](mailto:joelle@sorceryandsong.com) and we can begin the discussion.

- Joelle Griffin Russell

(contact information in WUU Directory or call the church office)



### **AUGUST NEW WUUS**

We welcomed two new members on August 7, 2005. Kenneth McLaren and Linda Martin-McLaren came to Williamsburg in April of this year from Fredericksburg. Ken is a retired accountant with an interest in collecting sports memorabilia. Linda is retired from the Coast Guard, and Ken has been in the Coast Guard Reserves in both military and civilian capacities. Linda enjoys reading, traveling, and swimming. Linda was pleased to find a Buddhist group here, and both Ken and Linda are happy to be part of a loving and caring congregation with opportunities to give as well as receive. Welcome, Ken and Linda!

**CHALICE GAZING: NOTES FROM THE DRE**  
**SEPTEMBER 2005**

As I write, the end of August is nearly here, and my teacher friends are getting ready to go back to school. Ever since I was a child, I have dreaded the beginning of school, and I still dread it even now. When I'm not at WUU, I'm usually at one of my other part time jobs, either at Virginia Commonwealth University's Cabell Library, or in the registrar's office of Union Theological Seminary. This week many of the people I have worked with are just about to start school. Some are on their campuses for the first time. Most are anxious. Some hang around to talk, not for any particular reason other than the need to feel that they aren't invisible. My heart goes out to them; I feel such a yearning to reassure them...it won't be this difficult for too long, you'll know where things are very soon, you can do this, you aren't alone. On some level, maybe not consciously, all these new students are wondering, who am I? What am I here for? Who is my neighbor?

We never outgrow our need to explore, discover, and name our identity. Here at WUU, we can tap into fresh, life-giving streams of meaning by engaging those same questions as a congregation. We have a big sign on the street that says Unitarian Universalist. People from New Mexico or Wyoming or Glasgow could see that sign and recognize those words instantly. Yet we don't know if the words mean the same thing to us as they would to another UU from another congregation. What does it mean to call ourselves Unitarian Universalist? What do we all hold in common?

The Commission on Appraisal of the Unitarian Universalist Association recently presented a report called Engaging Our Theological Diversity, based on their work over the past four years. The commission has found a great need, in the denomination as well as in individual congregations, for us to articulate what it means to be UUs. "It is critical that the Unitarian Universalist Association and congregations within the UUA know their identity. That identity cannot be a club, a social-action organization, or a surrogate family."

Who are we? What are we here for? Who is our neighbor? When you are invited, later on in the fall, to a congregation-wide retreat to talk about our WUU identity, please come. The discussion will not be complete without you; we need your voice. We can't leave it up to a committee or a board or the minister to determine our identity. This is the congregation's sacred task. What an opportunity!

Blessings,  
Sara

**UUSC STOP TORTURE PERMANENTLY (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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

- 1) **Saturday Sept. 24:** Educational workshops and panel discussions on the history, legal considerations, and security consequences of U. S. involvement in torture.
- 2) **Sunday Sept. 25:** Citizens' Trial of Mr. Rumsfeld, Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Tenet for violations of international and U. S. laws prohibiting torture. 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:** 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.

Please register with us at [www.uusc.org/programs/stop/trial.html](http://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.



## Bringing Together Great Performers & Great Audiences! 2005-2006 Concert Series

### September 23, 2005 Billy Jonas

...A Billy Jonas concert is an explosion of energy! In singalongs, bangalongs, and whisperialongs, as well as improvised songs, his primary instrument is the audience in this family friendly show...

### October 21, 2005 Amy Carol Webb

..."Amy Carol Webb" defined, is "beloved songweaver." She is passionate, powerful, and poignant. 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...

### November 18, 2005 Greg Greenway

...Greg Greenway—a one-man tour-de-force! Put simply, he is one of the finest entertainers you'll ever see. Musically, he draws inspiration from all over the map—gospel, rock, blues, even world music. But its central appeal is that it comes through the singular lens of Greenway's humanity and his soulful affinity for the audience...

### January 20, 2006 Zoe Speaks

...Two native Kentuckians pay homage to their Appalachian roots with their contemporary mountain songs and an original spin on traditional tunes...

### February 24, 2006 Arcona Reel Band

...Arcona Reel Band is a hard-hitting, raucous, witty group of musicians who put an American spin on traditional Celtic music. In addition to strong vocal harmonies, featured instruments include the hammered dulcimer, fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, banjo, mandolin, upright bass, and bodhran. The band's music has been described as honest, their style as unique, and their performance as high energy...

### March 17, 2006 Peter Mayer

...Peter Mayer writes songs for a small planet—songs about interconnectedness and the human journey; songs about the beauty and the mystery of the world. Whimsical, humorous, and profound, his music takes you up mountains, across oceans, into space, and back home again...

### April 21, 2006 Erica Wheeler

...With a voice that echoes with a little bit folk, a little bit new country and a little bit bluegrass, Erica's music is an imaginative and ultimately unforgettable ride through the beauty of the American landscape and the lives lived there. Her songs weave through small towns and open roads telling tales of love lost and found again with poignant clarity...

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Season tickets for all 7 concerts are \$60 for adults, \$30 for students. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7. 757.220.6830 [www.wuu.org/liveofffive.htm](http://www.wuu.org/liveofffive.htm)

## Significant Events Calendar September '05

September 10	Religious Education Teacher Training
September 11	Sunday services resume @ 11:00 AM
September 18	R.E. Registration and Ice Cream Social
September 18	A Celebration of Cultures (Chickahominy Park)
September 22	Pampered Chef "Fun"draiser @ 6:40 PM
September 23	Live Off Five! Concert: Billy Jonas, doors open 7 pm
September 25	FISH Donation Sunday
September 25	MSC Cottage Meeting following service

## **WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

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