

*Sunday Services, 11 am*



**Daylight Savings Time  
begins April 2, 2006.**

April 2—by Welcoming Congregation  
Committee: **Love Makes the Family**

April 9 - Dr. Shirley Ranck  
**Diving Deep and Surfacing**

What are the great mythic journeys of  
today? What treasures do our heroes and  
heroines bring back to their communities?  
What treasures do you seek?

April 16 - Dr. Shirley Ranck  
**Do You Know a Phoenix?**

Does the myth no longer work for us? Where  
shall we find hope in today's world? In what  
shall we place our faith?

April 23 - Dr. Shirley Ranck  
**Amy, Jake and the Dilemma of Heinz**

On what basis do you make moral decisions?  
What process do you use to make such  
decisions? Let us explore these questions  
and consider how ethical and moral  
decisions are made in our society and its  
institutions.

April 30 – **May Day celebration** with  
David Doersch, Liz Wiley and Shirley Ranck

*Shirley's Cauldron*



Here I am in Sonoma, California  
and so glad to hear the good news  
about Jennifer and Preston! A  
whole new and exciting era is  
beginning for WUU.

Sonoma has lots of vineyards and  
wine, lots of cows and cheese. But did you  
know it also has lots of sheep ranches with,  
well, sheep? The sheep, perhaps desiring to  
be included more in the elegant wine and  
cheese culture, now hire themselves out to  
the vineyards as expert weeders. Got a  
vineyard that needs weeding? Just go to  
Woolyweeders.com. They weed one  
vineyard, then move on to the next, and the  
next. They're a little like interim ministers,  
don't you think?

As Williamsburg Unitarian  
Universalists look toward a new time in your  
history, I, like the woolyweeders, will be  
getting ready to move on to a new vineyard.  
I should know where about the middle of  
May.

In the meantime we have lots to do!  
Let's have a really all-out superbly generous  
cavass. And let's get a group together to  
attend the Thomas Jefferson District Spring  
Conference so we can tell everyone the good  
news about Williamsburg's newly called  
ministers. And hear a really excellent  
keynote speaker, Rosemary Bray McNatt.

See you soon. Blessed be!

*Shirley*

### *From the Top Spot*

I am certain that if I asked any one of you, when was the last time you enjoyed a week as much as we have this past week, you'd say, "I can't remember a time!" With the send off yesterday of our new co-ministers, Jennifer Ryu and Preston Moore the magic seemed to continue. The anticipation of their arrival back in Williamsburg in July when they move is high and they are as excited as we are. The small group who stayed around to see them sign their contract with Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists was cheered by their return, just before they left town for California. They seemed so happy that they had found a "home" in Williamsburg and were so welcomed by so many in such a short time.

The end of the congregational meeting came with a vote that was, for all intents and purposes, unanimous, and when they were called, just before they departed Williamsburg, they readily agreed to return to sign their contract with us. The president had previously agreed to call to inform them of the vote and if they had time they would return for the signing.

We are on the threshold of becoming what we set ourselves to become, a significant participant in the religious life of our community. Jennifer and Preston will help us make it happen!

The next significant event in our life as a congregation will be the Canvass Dinner March 25. If you haven't signed up to attend, please call the office to make your presence possible.

***Fred Adair***

### *Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE*

As I write this, we have just called TWO...count 'em...two new ministers to guide Williamsburg UU into another stage of development. HOORAY! This is the best news we've had in a long time, and my conversations with Jennifer and Preston make me convinced that we have some exciting, strengthening, intense, contemplative, energetic times ahead of us. Everyone is invited to join in this defining of Williamsburg UU that lies ahead of us. In fact, the efforts will be valid only if they involve everybody; that's part of the meaning of our fifth principle.

How would you like to come together in community, other than in Sunday morning worship? Here at WUU, the initials RE have come to be a kind of code that signals children. I invite you to substitute the phrase lifespan faith development for the initials RE. Imagine that we can become what some call a Lifespan Learning Community...how would that look to you? Would it provide learning opportunities for people of all ages? Would it provide space and funds to support creative, thriving programming? Would it support and sustain faith development at all stages, in adults as well as in children and youth? Would it relate to our mission in the broader community?

A Lifespan Learning Community engages all of us in the adventure of exploring why we call ourselves Unitarian Universalists. It gives us the opportunity to shine our light out into Williamsburg, the Tidewater area, and Virginia. We will be called, as a religious community, to make leaps of faith. We will be called to move out beyond imagining our visions for WUU...we will be called to supply the money to make those visions real. You are invited. You are invited to worship together, to learn together, to listen to each other's ideas, and to honor each other's stories. You are invited to use your income to support Williamsburg UU. You are invited to serve each other, to love your neighbor, to gather around a bonfire, to play games together as families. Let us gather together this fall, celebrate the arrival of our new ministers, and burst forth into a new life for this congregation.

***Blessings, Sara***

## *Farewell from the Ministerial Search Committee*

On April 18, 2004, the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists elected a seven member committee charged with the mission of finding the best match for this congregation for a called minister. For two years Diane Abdo, David Doersch, Vicki Hall, Gayle Henion, Debra Hill, Jim Kent and Jane Reilly dedicated themselves to that goal.

Through surveys, cottage meetings, workshops and conversations the MSC learned the wishes of this congregation as guidelines in writing our own congregational profile. From reading hundreds of pages of ministerial applications, theological statements, sermons and spiritual journeys, the committee narrowed the ministerial choices through conference phone interviews and then through neutral pulpit pre-candidating week-ends. As we journeyed, the MSC aimed for transparency and openness through Q&A sessions, monthly newsletter updates and availability. Through disappointment and joy the congregation supported, encouraged and embraced the committee.

It was an honor for each of us to work so closely with each other for two years; we are proud of what we accomplished. The Ministerial Search Committee unanimously agreed to present to the congregation as candidates the co-ministry team of Jennifer Ryu and Preston Moore. We were excited to plan a candidating week full of opportunities for WUU to get acquainted with Jennifer and Preston, culminating with the congregational meeting.

However, it is now time for us to “resume our role as private citizens” again. This is the recommendation of our UUA resource guide and settlement handbook. The Ministerial Search Committee has completed its charge from the congregation and it is now time for the lay leadership to step forward and continue the transition and new beginnings.

What an exciting time! We thank one and all for patience, for smiling during the tough times, for encouragement, for vision, for making a compelling commitment. To our partners – hurray, you have us back once more! To the congregation, we so look forward to becoming regulars again!

*To Jennifer and Preston we welcome you to our family. For the seven of us, this has been a blessed ministry!*



## *Tabernacle Band*



Spring is in the air and that means it is time for another appearance of the Tabernacle Band. We will play for the service on April 9, Palm Sunday.

This is a "no-fault" band for all instruments and for all ages. Even if you haven't played in a while, please join us for some joyful music. There will be one rehearsal at 10 am before the service on April 9. Jamie Bartlett is the conductor. Contact Vicki Hall for music or more information.

## *UU101 classes*

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or would like to take a refresher course, you are invited to participate in the UU 101 classes. They will be held following services on the dates below. Some food will be served. Mark your calendars.

April 30, May 7, May 14

## *Grounds Day/Earth Day, April 22*

Come celebrate Earth Day on the WUU grounds. The Grounds Committee is an informal group that holds all its meetings



out of doors with tools in our hands (and sometimes food). Join us for a general spring clean-up morning (8-12) and bring your ideas. Kids are welcome, providing that the

parent(s) take responsibility for them at all times. The lush green plant in the picture is poison ivy – and we do have some in selected places. We are all in favor of learning experiences—but not the hard way!

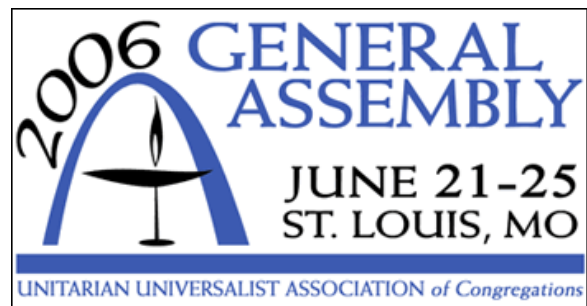
## *Memorial Meditation Garden*

Our memorial garden seems to be a well kept secret—but not intentionally so. If you



haven't visited it, it is directly behind the front of the Sanctuary. You can reach it by

sidewalks from the side doors or directly from the main parking lot. The garden is a peaceful retreat with welcoming paths and benches to encourage meditation. Frequent users include the local deer population as the nibbled azaleas and rhododendrons show. Maybe we will be able to see the flowers in bloom some year.



## *General Assembly 2006*

Registration is now open. WUU is entitled to send 5 delegates, in addition to the minister and DRE. The fee for adults is \$280 until April 30, after that the fee is \$325. There are also one-day and youth prices. The convention runs from Wednesday to Saturday—a change from previous years. There are also child care and children's programs. For further information see <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

## ***WOW, WHAT A GOOD BEGINNING FOR SECOND COLLECTION!***

The total for the first year (2005) is **\$12,743.**

1. American Red Cross International Fund (tsunami relief), \$2,866.00.
2. Williamsburg Faith in Action, \$314.25.
3. American Red Cross Katrina Relief Effort, \$5,029.00.
4. UUSC-UUA Gulf Coast Relief Fund, \$3,234.55.
5. UUSC-UUA Asian Earthquake Relief - \$1,300.00.

Members and friends of WUU who would like the Second Collection Committee to consider taking an offering for a local, national or international group please contact Jessica O'Brien, David Wilcox, Faith Casey or Sally Kellen.

***AGAIN OUR THANKS TO EACH OF YOU!***

Note: UUSC is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee— [www.uusc.org/](http://www.uusc.org/)

### ***Leadership Training***

There was a lot of discussion about leadership and training at the congregational retreat on February 25. One source for training is The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership (MSCL) which is sponsoring a program: ***Focusing on skill-building in order to strengthen overall congregational leadership.*** The dates are Sunday, July 23 – Saturday, July 29, 2006.

Cost of The Program: including housing and meals)

\$750 (payment received by June 6, 2006)

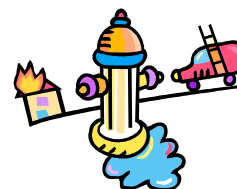
\$850 (payment received after June 6, 2006)

No applications accepted after July 1, 2006 – limited to 40 students

For more information, see:

<http://www.mountaincenters.org/leadership.html#mscl>

**Fire Lanes**—include the driveways and the curves around the circle. Recently, ambulances were called for a medical emergency during the service. They had a difficult time making it through the driveway with cars parked on both sides. Fire trucks would not be so gentle on your vehicles. While we hope that we never need the services of fire engines, we must keep space open at all times for them to get through to the sanctuary and other buildings. Parking is limited to marked spaces or to the gravel lot behind Parker House.



### ***Congregational Retreat Follow-up***

Our February 25<sup>th</sup> Retreat was attended by about 150 WUUs, including our lively young folks. The interest and enthusiasm spoke well for our future. We have transcribed the hefty stack of flip chart pages. From them, area summaries of desired outcomes and suggested actions will be sent to committees for comment. Soon we'll be contacting those who signed the focus area interest sheets, inviting their review of these summaries and encouraging their involvement as action plans evolve. The Retreat summaries will be published in future WUU Newsletters. Missed the Retreat and wish to be involved? Email [planning "at" wuu.org](mailto:planning@wu.org). *Congregational Planning Committee*

## *Friends in Disaster Task Force Arises!*

After a hiatus of several years, this WUU task force plans on reinventing itself to prepare for the next hurricane season. Basic functions: promoting family and congregational preparedness; training for a team response to major local disasters, either using WUU facilities or collaborating with other community groups. We will meet in late April to plan. All are welcome. Want to learn more? Email [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org).

### *New Member*, Dianne Jordan



Dianne is a non-profit administrator. She has a special interest in museums and art galleries and enjoys mixed media art as well as gardens, writing, and choral

music. Dianne lives in Gloucester Point. We are pleased to welcome her into our congregation.

### *Motions of the board, March 16*

**MOTION:** That the Board approve the *WUU Newsletter Content Policy-2006*, as drafted by Jacqui Winther, Community Cluster Chair, Vicki Hall, former newsletter editor, and Virginia Banks, current newsletter editor.

Moved: Jacqui Winther

Seconded: Joe Fisler

Approved 8-2

Deadline for May newsletter: April 20, NOON

## *WUU Newsletter Content Policy*

\* Approved by the Board, March 2006

### INCLUDED:

- Official WUU news
- List of upcoming services
- Columns by the Minister(s), DRE, and President
- Committee announcements (grounds day, fundraisers, new members)
- Personal announcements such as births, deaths, weddings
- Official announcements (e.g., Congregational meetings)
- Limited community social action announcements as space allows and retaining intended sense.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Announcements of events unrelated to the church, taking place elsewhere
- Letters to the editor
- Classified ads

### GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLES:

- General events of church-wide interest (such as, social action activities, all church parties, church sales and special presentations—100 word limit
- Announcements of interest to a smaller group of people (clusters, committee meetings —75 word limit
- Focus articles—church program areas, board news, auction, pledging, written by staff or board member—300 word limit
- Attachments preferred to email.
- Events must include date, time and place.
- Submissions must be related to WUU.



Songwriter Erica Wheeler visits WUU with her music for the “Live Off Five!” concert series on Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Live Off Five! concerts are presented in the sanctuary. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the performance begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students. This is the last performance of the spring season.

For more information about the concert series, please contact Sherri Powers (229-0136) or Natalie Miller-Moore (876-8824.) For more information about the artist, check out [www.ericawheeler.com](http://www.ericawheeler.com).

The UUs of **Napa, California** offer Wine Country excursions from April to October with lodging in members’ homes. Contact [twilson9@sbcgobal.net](mailto:twilson9@sbcgobal.net).

**UU Niagara Experience**, July 16-19, Niagara Falls, NY, see bulletin board in sanctuary or check <http://www.uunex.net>.

## *WUU Pledge Campaign*



... about that  
Compelling  
Commitment

### *Consider:*

- 60% of our budget goes to salaries and other personnel costs. This figure is up 28% due to salary increases and the costs of settling and celebrating our new ministers.

- 31% of the budget goes to infrastructure. This increased significantly due to costs of utilities, improved facilities maintenance, and our vision to reduce WUU debt.
- WUU pays annual dues of \$72 for each pledging member (not family) to Thomas Jefferson District and the UUA, for the important work they do on our behalf.

### *The Proposed Budget:*

- The proposed budget contains a number of visionary and obligatory cost increases.
- 75% of our income comes from pledges by members and friends. Income sources other than pledges are not expected to increase, SO, pledges must increase by one third-- to support the vision.
- WUU has 209 pledging members (150 pledging units—families or singles). For 2005-06 the median pledge was \$1200.
- WUU has nearly 100 members who did not pledge in 2005-2006. To meet the increased obligations of the coming year, every member needs to make a pledge!
- Membership means a compelling commitment to give your time, treasure, and talents.

### *How we spend our money:*

- 34% Worship and Music
- 21% Lifespan Religious Education
- 5% WUU Community activities
- 9% UUA & Thomas Jefferson District
- 31% Infrastructure

### *Support Your Commitment*

Saturday, March 25, Canvass dinner gala with entertainment

Sunday, March 26, Canvass service

April 1, Kenya day at the Community Building, next to library, noon-3 pm

Sunday, April 9, Please have your pledge forms turned in

Sunday, April 16, Canvass Celebration after morning service

Thursday, April 20, Board meeting

Friday, April 21, Live Off 5 presents Erica Wheeler, WUU sanctuary

Saturday, April 22, Grounds Day—and Earth Day

## WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

3051 Ironbound Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 220-6830  
[www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fred Adair, *President*  
Dr. Shirley Ranck, *Interim Minister*  
Sara Mackey, *Director of Religious Education*  
Mary Ellen Lloyd, *Administrator*  
Dr. Jamie Bartlett, *Director of Music*  
Joelle Griffin Russell, *Pianist*  
Virginia Banks, *Newsletter Editor*

Newsletter submissions: [newsletter@wuu.org](mailto:newsletter@wuu.org)  
Church office: [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org)

