

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUU NEWS

APRIL 2007

April 1—Rev. Jennifer Ryu **Being White in America**

What does it mean to be a white person in America today? How do whites who care deeply for justice, equity and compassion legitimately do the work of dismantling racism? It starts with honest conversation; first with ourselves, then with others. There are stories waiting to be excavated; truths waiting to be told.

April 1, 7:00 p.m. **Service of Installation of Co-Ministers**

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker will deliver the sermon. Revs. Latham, Pupke, Manwell & Hubbell will also preside. Special guest musicians will join the WUU Choir. Reception to follow. Childcare will be provided.

April 5, 6-7:45 pm--Celebrating Easter on Thursday Evening

“Life Comes To the Archbishop.” On Thursday, **April 5**, please join me in the sanctuary at 6pm for nourishment of the body—a simple supper in the manner of the early Christian church (\$2 donation requested) – followed by nourishment of the spirit—a short vespers worship service (concluding by 7:45) to mark “Maundy Thursday,” the day before Good Friday. I am not a traditional Christian, but looking at this lesser-known piece of the Easter holidays from a modern perspective put the death of

Jesus in an entirely new light for me. It just might do the same for you. Please RSVP to minister@wuu.org and put “Maundy Thursday” in the re line, so we can know how much food to prepare. If you need childcare, please mention that, and it will be provided. If you are willing to join me in preparing the food, please mention that too. Even if you can’t join us for the communion supper, please feel free to come for the worship service, which will begin promptly at 6:45.

Preston

April 8—Rev. Jennifer and Rev. Preston Moore

Intergenerational Easter Service

With music from the WUU choir and Brass Ensemble

April 15—Worship Associates—On Trust

April 22—Rev. Preston Moore

“Working at the Water’s Edge: Toward a Reunion of Religion and Science”.

Religion and Science are fighting like cats and dogs these days. The fur is flying, in the form of shredded pages from polemical books by the true believers of both camps. What should we hope for? A brokered cease-fire? Or is there a deeper complementarity?

April 29—David Doersch and Elizabeth Wiley—Intergenerational May Day Service

Let's Make Some Room—Rev. Jennifer Ryu

For whom does our Unitarian Universalist congregation exist? For whom do we give hours of our time and thousands of our dollars? It exists for everyone seeking spiritual liberation from the constraints of traditional religion. We give our time and money to build a community for everyone who needs the saving message of a free faith. This is the message Preston and I want to send to the residents of Williamsburg and surrounding areas. But what is the implicit message that we send to visitors when they arrive to face a full parking lot and a full sanctuary? Church consultants say that when a space becomes more than 80% full, newcomers are likely to feel that there is no room for them. And that is certainly not the message we want to send. One obvious immediate solution to this challenge is to offer two Sunday morning services. As we consider this significant change and possible alternatives to it, I want to respect the needs of visitors. I also want to pay attention to the needs of those already here.

Change is a process we do together. We must include all voices: younger and older; singles, couples and families in the conversation. I am currently gathering a “Two-Services Task Force” to address these issues. Please contact me if you are interested in serving. I am confident that we will find a way to make room for everyone. We will do so by always remembering our ultimate reason for being here—to be a place where everyone and anyone can find the saving message of a free faith.

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DFD

Earlier this month, about 40 members gathered to talk about WUU’s children, their faith development, and their spiritual growth. We understand that churches are the

only agencies in our society whose purpose is to nurture this spiritual growth, and we embrace that responsibility knowing that the ways we teach faith are very different from the way schools teach information. This is a fundamental reason for the shift in language from religious education to faith development.

We have our children for about four hours per month maximum, and usually we have them for less time than that. During those hours, we are called to sustain them in their growth as Unitarian Universalists. We give them opportunities to interact cooperatively (principles 1, 2, and 3), to solve problems together (principles 4, 5, 6, 7), to learn about themselves (principles 1, 4), how they feel, what they think. We provide opportunity and support for them to name what they learn (principles 3, 4, 7), and this naming lets children, youth, teens and adult guides connect their experiences with the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. We don’t teach them to recite the principles; we teach them to live the principles.

What kind of person do we hope will emerge from our faith development program? A person who will know herself—who will treat his co-workers kindly and fairly—who will engage in a regular spiritual practice—who will vote—who will participate actively in a church community—who will be aware of how her lifestyle affects the environment—who will help justice to roll down like water.

Of course, families are the true spiritual guides for the children, youth, and teens of WUU. We offer our deep thanks for all the volunteers here who offer their generous, loving support to our WUU families.

Blessings, Sara

President's Message

Greetings,

It's Sunday afternoon, March 18th as I write this. Rev. Crestwell's sermon is still resounding in my ears. "UU's on the Brink" was especially timely in my judgment. For the last several months now, we have been eating, sleeping and drinking policy governance, wondering all the while whether we were in danger of falling off the slippery slope of very significant changes for WUU. His strong message of taking action, coupled with the successful congregational meeting which followed, has reduced my anxiety level substantially. Last month's chat session went well, but only 35 or 40 people attended. Today more than twice that number came out, and the absence of any dissenting voices has reassured me that we are on a sound path which will allow us to expand our mission and enrich the lives of our members and our community as well.

I don't want you to take this as a signal that the tough work is behind us. As Dave Banks indicated this morning, we have some very large targets to achieve if we are to fund our program visions for the next year. We need to devote a good deal of thought to the issues around overcrowding, and how we identify short and long term solutions to them. We need to recruit more volunteers to fill all the slots on the managerial grid. We also need to train ourselves in the day to day realities of policy governance and decide just how we can work effectively together to achieve all our high aspirations.

"UUs on the Brink" took on a new meaning after today's meeting. I no longer feel we might be teetering on a cliff. Instead, we are on the edge of wonderfully exiting opportunities. We are going to FLY!!!

New UU orientation session—save these dates! Are you considering membership? Join us on Sunday, April 29th at 3 pm at the home of our co-ministers, Jennifer Ryu and Preston Moore. Snacks will be served. The first session will include an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and to the Williamsburg UUs. The second and third sessions will take place after Sunday services on May 13th and 20th in the Sanctuary after services. Child care will be provided for all three sessions.

The orientation program will be led by our co-ministers and members of our Membership Committee. They will make UU history and theology come alive for you, provide a guided tour of life in our spiritual community, and make clear the meaning of membership. We'll get to know each other better. Come spend some time exploring whether WUU is where YOU belong. For more details, contact Jacqui Winther at moonthyme@aol.com or the WUU office at office@wuu.org.

General Assembly 2007

June 20-24 in Portland, Oregon

<http://www.uua.org/ga/>



Join a Sunday Morning Team!

The Sunday Morning Teams are reorganizing. Each Sunday Team volunteers to support one worship service, every month. Team members are our greeters and ushers and they serve refreshments. The commitment is for 12 Sundays in the year

ahead, beginning in May, with each team assigned a given Sunday. (If other plans or needs arise, team members can exchange days or a substitute will be found to cover.) This is a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with other members and to welcome visitors while making a significant contribution to the Sunday morning program. A sign up sheet will be on a clipboard at the Hospitality table after church. Patricia Folds and I will be happy to answer any questions. See one of us after the service, or contact me by phone or email.

Faith Casey

Nominating Committee seeks a few good people to fill these vacancies:

- Four seats on the board
- Up to five delegates to General Assembly
- Three members of the Nominating Committee for 2008

Contact us at nominating@wuu.org.

2007 Nominating Committee

Fred Gilbertson
Donna Stanford
Dawn Traver

Global Warming Meeting: April 12, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, at WUU. Come be part of the solution. We will be planning our Step It Up Rally for Saturday, April 14, 10:00-1:00 in the Wren Field, and start forming Action Groups. Contact Chris Llewellyn,



CHL5075@aol.com.

Have you seen me?

I'm a WUU altar cloth and I've been lost or misplaced. I first appeared at the WUUs on the occasion of the very first charter day at the Williamsburg Library. I was commissioned by the board to be woven by a Williamsburg weaver. I was proud to be a symbol of the congregation. Somewhere between our meetings at Clara Byrd Baker and those at the current church building I went missing

I am about 14" wide and two feet long. I am green and white. The UU chalice is in my center. Did someone take me home to be cleaned?

If you have seen me or know of my whereabouts please contact Pat Winter.

Board Motions

Motion: In order to address the crowding in Sunday worship services, we ask the ministers to form a task force representing those would be responsible for considering and implementing two worship services, or alternatives thereto, to develop a plan and timeline to accomplish this, and that the ministers meet with interested members of the congregation to present and discuss proposed solutions. Moved by Chris Faia, seconded by Dave Banks and passed by unanimous vote.

Welcoming Congregation workshops

April 8 through April 23. Sundays from 9-10 am, Mondays from 7-8 pm. This is the last month to attend the Welcoming Congregations workshops before our May 6 vote. We need your vote to be a positive one, so come and see what this is all about.

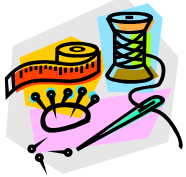
April 8, 9: Fred Adair and Melissa Stump will facilitate Gender Socialization and Homophobia.

April 15, 16: Sam Jelinek will facilitate a panel who will speak on Experiences of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and/or Transgender People.

April 22, 23: Jan Brown will facilitate the final session: What Now?

FISH

The greater Williamsburg area has much poverty. The FISH clothes closet provided 8,621 outfits (a 4% increase) last year to those in need. We, the WUUs, have committed ourselves to sort and size clothes at the FISH clothes closet each Tuesday during the month of May from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. No special skills are required. 3-4 people (men and/or women) are needed each Tuesday in May. If you can help out only half a day, that can be arranged, too. Those who are interested please sign up in the lobby of the church on Sunday. Hanni F. Sherman has the sign up sheet -- e-mail her at richardsherman@cox.net.



Social Justice

On March 25th, the Social Justice Steering Committee (previously the Social Responsibility Committee) unveiled the new WUU Social Justice Program. The goal of the program is:

“to assist the congregation in its efforts to advocate, educate, organize, serve and witness for social action; to establish the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists as a leader in social justice.

The members of the SJSC are Joanne Braxton, Sally Kellen, Eileen O'Brien, Jessica O'Brien, and David Wilcox, Talk to us anytime.

Here is how the program works. If you have a social justice issue you think our congregation should address, find 5 WUU members/friends who will commit themselves to lead and work on the project for at least one church year. Then find 5 additional WUU's who feel that this is a worthwhile project for the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists to take on. Submit these names to the SJSC by July 1, 2007.

Over the summer, your group will meet to complete the Social Justice Program Submission Sheet by September 1, 2007. You will also prepare a presentation for the congregation.

In September, the project petitioners and all WUU members and friends who are willing to take part in Social Justice activities will be invited to a gathering where these presentations will be made. Those present will then decide how many and which projects will be adopted for our involvement over the next year. These will be the social justice projects the WUU congregation will support and involve itself in for 2007-8. The SJSC will help facilitate the chosen projects and provide funds from its budget.

We expect to receive some exciting petitions before the summer—there are many WUUs already working on social justice issues who would like to see our congregation get more involved and many others with new ideas. How about you? Take a look at the guidelines on www.wuu.org, on the Social Justice link. We are adding information and forms to our website link and plan to have all materials available by April 15th. Jessica O'Brien, Chair, SJSC

Upcoming Fundraisers for the Maasai American Organization

April 22, Sunday

“Build a Library” Craft Show and Raffle from 1 PM to 4 PM at Legacy Hall (4301 New Town Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23188). Funds from this benefit will go to construct a much-needed library building at the Siana Boarding Primary School. Many exciting prizes will be part of the raffle. Crafts from Africa and Guatemala will also be on sale. Special activities for children include mancala games, letter writing to students at the Siana Boarding Primary School, and a story telling hour.

June 2, Saturday

Kenya Night Dinner from 6 PM to 9 PM in the WUU sanctuary and terrace. Delicious African style food as well as craft sales and drumming circle. A multimedia presentation of current Maasai American Organization projects will be shown by locally famous media designer and world traveler, Debra Hill.

Kitty litter buckets with lids still needed for handwashing project. Bring them to church and give them to Debra Hill or Camilla Buchanan

Darfur

Interested members of WUU and Temple Beth El gathered on Saturday March 17 to view “Heroes of the Spirit” a story about Waitstill and Martha Sharp, who manned the UU Service Committee’s European office during WWII and helped Jews escape from Nazi controlled territories.

The movie then segued into a discussion of the current genocide in Darfur. Where do

our personal and congregational responsibilities to confront this crisis lie? Should we raise money for UUSC? Should we write letters to our congressional representatives expressing our concerns and requesting economics sanctions against Sudan? Should we request our financial advisors that they divest us from any investments in Sudanese oil?

In the discussion that followed the movie, we agreed to form a joint taskforce with members drawn from Temple Beth El and WUU to formulate proposals for personal and congregational efforts to confront this crisis. WE NEED THREE VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE. Will it be you? Contact Jessica O’Brien (newjb2001@hotmail.com) for further details.

Musical Opportunity at WUU



On April 15 the Tabernacle Choir will sing for the service. This is a chance for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in choir on a regular basis. They will sing along with our regular choir to provide an anthem. There is one rehearsal before the service on April 15. Please mark your calendars if you are interested. For more information, either of please contact Vicki Hall or Jamie Bartlett.

Money Matter\$

Our Annual pledge drive is upon us: you should have received your pledge packet in the mail. Those of you who would like to talk with a member of the committee should call or e-mail us (pledge@wuu.org).

This year’s theme, “Taking Flight”, is a way of visualizing the great energy that has built in the months Preston and Jennifer have been here—and the very significant program

enhancements coming in the near future. We need to take steps to reduce crowding; build a new adult Lifespan Faith Development program (and enhance our childrens' program); begin small group ministry; and, enhance the music program. All of this translates to a significant cost increase compared to last year:

Personnel	\$224,210	(up	17%)
Facilities	\$94,240	(up	21%)
Program	\$19,090	(up	77%)
Community			
& Outreach	\$12,500	(up	96%)
UU dues	\$17,850	(up	17%)
Contingency	\$5000	(up	306%)
Total cost	\$374,570	(up	26%)

Pledge goal \$300,000 (up 29%)

Please let this guide your giving this year! Programs and churches run on time, talents, and generosity—your generosity. With an abundance of generosity anything is possible. Remember, 78% of our income comes from your pledges.

Thomas Jefferson District annual meeting, April 27 and 28 at the UU Community Church of Glen Allen. Gather friends, carpool, and come to Glen Allen for an exciting and energizing UU week-end. For more information check:

<http://www.tjd.uua.org/tjd-2007annual-meeting-details.htm>

Live Off Five presents David Lamotte, singer, song writer and acoustic guitarist, April 20th

Flowers at WUU, late March



Approximately one inch wide.
Unidentified



Vinca—one inch across
Check Memorial Garden



Speedwell, about one half inch wide found in traffic circle



Moss in Memorial Garden, about 2 inches tall



This flower is nearly 2 inches wide. If you can identify it, please send the answer to newsletter@wuu.org.

APRIL 2007 PROGRAM AND EVENTS CALENDAR

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| <p>1 Sunday
9-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
INSTALLATION 7 pm</p> <p>2 Monday</p> <p>3 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff Meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>4 Wednesday
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A</p> <p>5 Thursday
9:30-10:30 am Tai Chi-S
7:30-8:30 pm Worship Associates</p> <p>6 Friday</p> <p>7 Saturday</p> <p>8 Sunday (Easter)
8:45-10:30 Lifetime Faith Devel.
9:00-10:30 Finance Committee-PH
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30 pm RE Committee-PH</p> <p>9 Monday
7:00 pm Dream Group-PH
7:00 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> <p>10 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>11 Wednesday
7:00-8:30 Social justice meeting
7:30pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>12 Thursday
9:30-10:30 Tai chi-S
12:30 pm Separate Checks-S
7:15 pm Board meeting-A</p> <p>13 Friday</p> <p>14 Saturday</p> <p>15 Sunday
9-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>16 Monday
7-8 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> | <p>17 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice</p> <p>18 Wednesday
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>19 Thursday
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi
7:30-9:00 pm Membership Comm.-A</p> <p>20 Friday
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>21 Saturday</p> <p>22 Sunday
9-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>23 Monday
7-8:00 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> <p>24 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>25 Wednesday
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A</p> <p>26 Thursday</p> <p>27 Friday</p> <p>28 Saturday</p> <p>29 Sunday
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30 pm RE Committee-PH
3:00 pm UU Orientation at Jennifer and Preston's home</p> <p>30 Monday</p> <p>Key: S –Sanctuary
L – Library
A –Activity/Multipurpose Room
PH–Parker House
FH–Fahs House</p> <p>Check out our website: www.wuu.org.</p> |
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An April Celebration: Jennifer's and Preston's Installation

An installation ceremony is one of the most special events that a congregation shares with its new ministers. We invite you to Jennifer's and Preston's installation on **Sunday, April 1, at 7 pm** in the WUU Sanctuary, followed by a reception organized by Tina Allen. Jennifer and Preston have invited many special guests and friends to participate in the service. We are honored to have as the keynote speaker Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker, president of Starr King School of Ministry, the UU seminary in Berkeley, CA. Other guests include Rev. Robert Latham, Rev. Beverly Boke, Thomas Jefferson District Executive Annette Marquis, and Doug Fraser and Molly Scholz, friends of Preston who are flying from Portland, OR to provide some of the special music. Jennifer and Preston will also be joined by their families, as well as by other Williamsburg area ministers and dignitaries. Mark your calendar for Sunday evening, April 1, for this most special event!

-Susan Geary and Linda Lane-Hamilton, Installation Committee Co-Chairs

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Sara Mackey, Director of Religious Education

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

