

Sunday Services, 11 am

April 30 – **May Day celebration** with David Doersch, Liz Wiley and Shirley Ranck. Come grab a ribbon and weave your hopes and wishes for the community into the Maypole at our annual May Day Celebration!

May 7 - *Radically Inclusive: Expanding Your Spiritual Comfort Zones*, a service offered by the WUU YRUU youth.

May 14 - *Augusta Chapin and Me:*

Augusta Chapin was a Universalist minister in the 19th century. She was the first woman minister to serve the congregation in Oak Park, Illinois. One hundred years later I was their second woman minister.—Dr. Shirley Ranck

May 21 – *Eepa Oya!*

An exploration of some aspects of change and transformation from the Yoruba tradition of Nigeria. —Dr. Shirley Ranck

May 28 – Dr. Shirley Ranck

For Memorial Day, a story of courage in the midst of the Nazi occupation of Europe.



Shirley's Cauldron

Every year Unitarian Universalist congregations from across the country and around the world send delegates to General Assembly. This year from June 21-25 about

5000 UUs, maybe more, will gather in St. Louis. They will debate issues of social justice, hear reports on all sorts of UU activities, listen to extraordinary speakers, and attend a multitude of workshops and worship services. And if they have energy enough left, dance the night away.

This year is a special one for me because the course I wrote, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, will be 20 years old. Because the course has been so popular the UU Women's Federation is giving me their Ministry to Women Award and the Women & Religion organization is planning several special events: a Tea and Cakes party, an evening Queen of Heaven ritual, and a Saturday event where NPR's Margot Adler will interview me and the original editor, Rev. Leslie Westbrook.

At the Women & Religion booth in the exhibit hall a series of goddess images and women's art will be shown on a monitor and stories and pictures from *Cakes* groups all over the country will be on display.

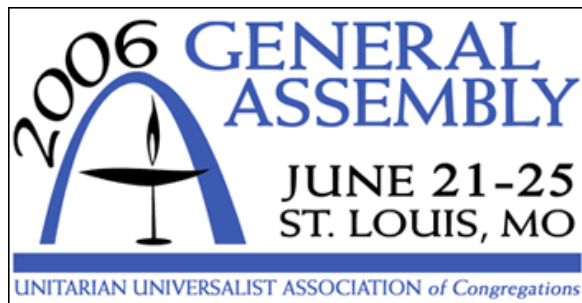
All these *Cakes* events of course are just one small part of the General Assembly experience. I hope WUU will send some delegates to enjoy it all.

“Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, meet me at the fair.” (a fair called G.A.) Are you old enough to remember Judy Garland singing that song?

In the meantime, blessed be!

Shirley

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/>

From the Top Spot

Upcoming events for WUU include The Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2006. With it comes the annual reports of the Minister, President and other officers and the election of the new slate of officers to serve for the 2006-2007 year and beyond. In a mailing to be sent out in late April, the slate, with biographical sketches, will be forwarded to congregants for their general information and consideration for the vote to take place at that meeting.

Also of note will be the vote on a new designation for WUU that of Minister Associated with the Congregation. This is a new position currently filled by our own David Tetrault who serves as Chaplain to students at The College of William and Mary. Our students are a valuable resource and any move to assist them should be

approved with full support of the congregation.

This month saw the end of a long standing arrangement between the Congregation and The Unicorn Cottage. Sharon Dennis, operator, purchased the house adjoining UU property on the south and moved her operation there. The Fahs house will thus become available for rent once again. A committee was appointed to oversee the transition, chaired by Jessica O'Brien and including John Bensel, Steve Brecker, Mike Gaus, Natalie Miller-Moore, Sara Mackey, Kim Scholpp, and Donna Stanford. After some renovations and repairs, it will again be offered for rental and those currently interested include persons considering child care.

Fred Adair

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE

This month marks another new horizon in the life of Williamsburg UU, following close on the heels of calling our new clergy couple: the pre-school day care center that was renting Fahs House has moved out, and we now have Fahs House for our own use. This is exciting news for the religious education program, as we can now paint the house in a color that we choose, arrange the rooms for use as we need them, put up our own UU banners, posters, and children's art, and at last restore the photograph of Sophia Lyon Fahs to the Fahs House. Sophia Fahs is one of the most recognized and respected names in liberal religious education, who believed and taught that children learn through their experiences, not through what they are told. Her daughter-in-law, Jamie Fahs, was a charter member of this congregation; she gave a generous donation to renovate the Fahs House, with the

stipulation that Sophia Fahs's photograph should always hang there. Look for it on the next time you go over to Fahs House.

Will we keep Fahs House for our use as a center of liberal religious education in Williamsburg? What would that take? We were renting the house for \$1,475 per month. Can we get along without that rent? If 50 members gave an additional \$30 per month...not per week, per *month*...we would not have to rent the house at all. If 100 members gave an additional \$15 per month, we would not have to rent the house at all.

Imagine what we could do if Fahs House were ours all week long, day and night! How would you like to see us using the house? During the month of May, come over after the service, look around, and share your ideas with us. Jessica O'Brien is chair of the Ad Hoc committee currently studying what to do next. Let her know your thoughts, or contact me or any member of the RE committee. We need to hear from you as we move forward. The children's religious education program is in your hands. The Fahs House belongs to you. What would you like to do?

Blessings, Sara

Notes from the Congregational Planning Committee (See also the one-page Executive Summary of the Retreat in this issue)

We have presented to the Board our summarization of the Congregational Retreat. The interest and enthusiasm of the 140 participants resulted in an awesome stack of easel paper! We have attempted to compile the suggestions for change reported by the 11 small discussion groups into six focus areas and tried to capture the common threads where we could. We expect that the

Board and committees can and will move quickly to adopt some of the ideas brought forward that will enhance our WUU quality of life.

The Retreat was a necessary first step to engage the congregation in a grass roots discussion. Now we will begin to get our arms around the larger issues that concern our members. Clearly, they are overlapped and intertwined, and we can't move on one without assessing the effect on others: "Growth", "Finances", "Governance", "Physical Facilities" are a few of the big ticket items that require strategies and action plans. The Congregational Planning committee will work closely with the Board, the congregation and, in the near future, with our new co-ministers in developing plans that reach into the future. Stay tuned!

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The greater Williamsburg area has much poverty. The FISH clothing bank



clothed 1,357 adults and 1,098 children last year, providing

8,621 outfits to those in need. We, the WUU's, have committed ourselves to sort and size clothes at the FISH clothing bank 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 interested please sign up in the lobby of the church on Sunday. Hanni F. Sherman has the sign up sheet or call her at 229-1719 or e-mail her at richardsherman at cox.net.

Unitarian Universalism classes

The Introduction to Unitarian Universalism (and the Williamsburg church) will be held on May 14th and May 21st. The meetings will be held after the services on both of these Sundays from 12:45 until 2:00 pm. A light lunch will be served. These classes will be for new members and friends who are thinking about joining WUU. The Rev. Dr. Shirley Ranck will be leading these sessions, along with other WUU officers. Please call the church office at 220-6839 to sign up or email office@wuu.org.

All Together Reads



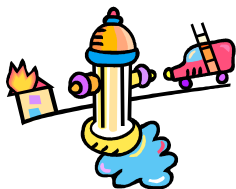
Please join us at 7:00 pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library as we look into the issues of human rights through reading relevant books.

On May 1, we'll be discussing "Trust Matters: Leadership for Successful Schools" by Megan Tschannen-Moran, a professor at William & Mary.

On June 5, we'll be discussing "The Left Hand of God: Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right" by Michael Lerner.

Contact David Wilcox for more information.

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.

Is a Star Vacation for You?

Looking for a week's stay on a rugged island in the Atlantic, isolated from the mundane world but in comfortable surroundings? Try Star Island, a UU conference center featuring a variety of themed weeks through the summer. Set your own pace while enjoying the company of like-minded yet diverse folks in a spiritual and enjoyable atmosphere. Learn more: email [rbaldwin](mailto:rbaldwin@widomaker.com) at [widomaker.com](http://www.widomaker.com) or check out the Star Island slide show at <http://www.starisland.org/StarIsland/IslandTour/DiscoverStarIsland.pps#80>.

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.

Approved by the Board, March 2006

Deadline for June newsletter: May 20, NOON

Executive Summary of Congregational Retreat

The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Congregational Planning Committee asked 140 retreat participants, divided into 11 small groups, what changes WUU needs to consider in the next decade. Each group recorded responses, which were summarized by the CPC and organized into the following six focus areas.

Facilities Development

WUU needs better facilities, particularly for Lifespan Faith Development. A Facilities Development Committee, including short-term and long-term sub-groups, should first focus on improving WUU use of Parker and Fahs Houses and then on involving the congregation in a facilities-needs assessment for future expansion and for guiding the process for such expansion.

Lifespan Faith Development (formerly Religious Education)

Lifespan Faith Development (LFD) requires enhanced and expanded physical facilities. WUU should develop small group ministries, expand multigenerational activities, and increase religious education opportunities for all ages.

Social justice

WUU should continue current ongoing activities and provide opportunities for WUU to engage in other meaningful social justice activities. A Youth Service Corps could be established for ongoing service projects.

Leadership/membership development

WUU is committed to growth. WUU should connect potential and new members to the congregation and to UUA in focused ways and raise expectations for membership in financial support and volunteerism. WUU needs to seek, develop, and support congregational leaders through in-house training, denominational leadership training, and mentoring. The church should look at other governance models including a revamping of the Church Council of Groups. A WUU Task Team should be formed to work on these issues in collaboration with the new co-ministers.

Outreach to community

Outreach includes how we are known in the community through publicity and community presence. WUU needs to connect more with college students and the greater Williamsburg area, including more comprehensive use of the *Virginia Gazette* and other news outlets. The co-ministers should write columns for area newspapers.

Financial growth and commitment

WUU needs to educate the congregation about money and make clear the financial commitment of membership. A major future expense involves expanding the physical plant, using professional UU consultants to help with planning. WUU should improve the space for Lifespan Faith Development and provide more funding for a variety of programs including expanded LFD, worship, music, leadership training, social activities, and support for WALT.

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:30p-7:30p Silent Meditation/ Sanctuary	3 4:00 p-5:30p Cong Planning Comm/Activity Room 7:30 pm. Choir practice/Sanct uary	4 10:15a-11:00a- Staff Mtg- Parker House 5:30p-8:30p MAA / Parker House 7:00p-9:00p- Worship Comm Mtg/Sanctuary	5	6 10:00a-2:00p-United Church of God Service/Sanctuary 2:00p-5:00p-Piano Recital/Sanctuary 6:00p-11:59p-Bonfire Event/Sanctuary
7 12:00a-9:00a YRUU Campout Event/Sanctuary 9:00a-10:30a-Finance Committee Mtg / Parker House 11:00a-12:30p-Worship Service / Sanctuary 11:00a-12:15p RE all ages /Fahs & Parker Houses 12:30p-2:00p-Annual Cong Mtg/Sanctuary 1:30p-4:00 WYO Orchestra Practice / Fahs & Parker Houses 6:00p-7:00p WALT Magic Class / Sanctuary	8 7:00p-9:00p Dream Group / Parker House	9 6:30p-7:30p Silent Meditation /Sanctuary	10	11 12:30p-2:00p- Separate Checks/Sanctua ry 5:30p-8:30p MAA / Parker House 7:30-9:30p- Personnel Comm Mtg / Activity Room	12	13 10:00a-6:00p United Church of God Service/Sanctuary 7:00p-10:00p-Sasha Anemone Recital/Sanctuary
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> 11:00a-12:30p-Worship Service / Sanctuary 11:00a-12:15p RE all ages /Fahs & Parker Houses 12:15p-2:30p-RE Committee Mtg/Parker House 12:30p-2:00p-New UU Class/Sanctuary	15	16 6:30p-7:30p Silent Meditation / Sanctuary	17	18 5:30p-8:30p MAA / Parker House 7:15p-9:30p Board Meeting / Multi-Purpose Room	19 2:30 Membership committee meeting/Par ker House	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 8:00a-12:00p- Second Spring Grounds Day 10:00a-2:00p United Church of God Service/Sanctuary 3:00p-11:30p-WAN Dinner/Sanctuary
21 11:00a-12:30p-Worship Service / Sanctuary 11:00a-12:15p RE all ages /Fahs & Parker Houses 12:30p-2:00p-New UU Class/Sanctuary 2:00p-4:30p-WYO Orchestra Practice / Fahs & Parker Houses 2:00p-5:00p-Piano Recital/Sanctuary	22	23 6:30p-7:30p Silent Meditation / Sanctuary	24	25 5:30 p-8:30p MAA / Parker House	26 5:00 pm. Live Off 5 Setup / Sanctuary 7:00 pm. Live Off 5 Concert / Sanctuary	27 10:00a-2:00p-United Church of God Service/Sanctuary
28 11:00a-12:30p-Worship Service / Sanctuary 11:00a-12:15p RE all ages /Fahs & Parker Houses 12:30p-2:00p-New UU Class/Sanctuary 2:00p-4:30p-WYO Orchestra Practice/Fahs & Parker Houses	29 <i>Memorial Day office closed</i>	30 6:30p-7:30p Silent Meditation /Sanctuary	31	Jun 1 5:30 p-8:30p MAA / Parker House	Jun 2	Jun 3 8:00 a-2:00p.- Tentative YARD SALE/Sanctuary 1:30p-4:30p WYO Practice-/ Fahs & Parker Houses

MOTIONS OF THE BOARD, April 20, 2006

1. MOTION: that the Board adopt the “Proposed Agreement Regarding Furnishings and Outside Equipment at the Fahs House,” as presented by the Fahs House Ad Hoc Committee, April 20, 2006. Moved: Nan Hart Seconded: Jan Brown Approved.
2. MOTION: that the Board adopt and approve the report of the Fahs House Ad Hoc Committee, including the agreement on furnishings/equipment with Sharon Dennis and the Addendums A, B, and C, pending the Board’s approval of an operating budget. Moved: Jan Brown Seconded: Bunkie Righter Approved.

The 2006 UU Pledge Campaign

The campaign to raise funds for the 2006-7 WUU year is nearing its end. It was launched with a gala dinner on March 25 and will end with a celebration cake after services on April 30. WUUs eat well!

The Finance Committee first prepared a vision budget with input from other committees and staff. The goal for this year was set: \$266,000. This permitted staff salaries to adhere to UUA guidelines; an enhancement of the music budget; and, accelerated debt retirement to prepare for the day when WUU needs to secure another mortgage to expand its facilities.

As of this date (21 April) we have raised \$197,344: 74% of our goal. You have probably seen the progress each Sunday by watching the colored portion of the WUU spiral expand. This is what you would have seen on Sunday April 22:

This amount was pledged by 137 pledge units representing 192 members—65% of the WUU membership. You can see the names of those who have pledged on the big “Thank You” board in the narthex.

For lovers of statistics, we offer the following:

- Mean (average) pledge: \$1440 (\$212 more than last year)
- Median pledge: \$1000 (half of pledges above and below)

The campaign committee is now telephoning all members that haven’t pledged yet. We still hope to achieve our goal—it is important to WUU this year as we welcome our new co-ministers that we be able to pay our staff adequately and maintain our facilities adequately. The need has been made more acute by the recent loss of the rental income from Fahs House due to departure of our day-care tenant.

And, a big thank you to our Pledge Campaign Committee: Bob Cowling, Joe Fisler, Kit Fournier, Mike Gaus, Mary Ellen Lloyd, Jennifer Rawlins, and Bob Winther!



Dave Banks

Support Your Commitment



As the Pledge Campaign enters its last week:

- Make your pledge if you have not already done so.
- If you have pledged, please consider increasing that pledge.

Our goal, \$266,000, translates to about \$900 per member (295 members).

Whether you have completed your pledge or not, please join us for the

CANVASS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION, AFTER SERVICES ON APRIL 30. THERE WILL BE CAKE AND BEVERAGES TO ENJOY!

Remember these dates:

- ★ May 7, 2006, after the service
Annual congregational meeting and election of officers
- ★ May 14 and 21, UU classes after services
- ★ May 20, 2006, second spring grounds day.



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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