

UUtopia

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Salisbury

June 2009

"Home of Liberal Religion on the Eastern Shore"

Sunday Summer Discussions

Please join us at 11:00 AM

May 31 – In Memoriam Memory of loved ones and valued ones by Ashley Thomas-Mason

June 7 – Is There Room for Mysticism in UU? By Karen Goyer

June 14 – Enjoy Yourself. It's Later Than You Think by Mike Goebel

June 21 – Environmentalism by Andy Pica

June 28 – Judy's Surprise by Judy Burns

Plate Donations

Each Sunday's donations made to the basket will benefit the organization or program listed here.

Jun 7	UUFS - MINISTERIAL FUND
Jun 14	VILLAGE OF HOPE(SALISBURY)
Jun 21	SALVATION ARMY(SALISBURY)
Jun 28	RIO BENI CLEAN WATER PROJEC BOLIVIA

Thank you!

Your generous donations supported the following organizations.

Apr 5	\$101.00 UUFS - Ministerial Fund
Apr 12	\$91.00 INTERFAITH ALLIANCE(NATIONAL)
Apr 19	\$78.00 RED CROSS(SALISBURY)
Apr 26	\$55.00 HEIFER PROJECT(INTERNATIONAL)

Minister's Musings

John Wright, M.Div. Minister minister@uufs.net

Dear Ones-

Recently I received an e-mail message from a friend of mine. He is in the process of facing some very tough interviews that have the potential to change the course of his life. He told me how deeply concerned he was, and how uncertain he was about the outcomes of these interviews. He then asked me if I had any "sage advice" to give him. My initial response was to laugh at the ludicrous idea that I could in any way provide this brilliant man with "sage advice."

But in thinking further I realized that there was some advice I wanted to give him, and it is advice that I would give to graduating High School Seniors, College graduates, job seekers, and anyone else facing the judgment of others. It's not terribly original, and I don't think it's particularly profound (whether or not it is "sage advice" I will let others decide).

So here it is: Be yourself. Be as fully present as possible, be on your best behavior, of course. But BE YOURSELF.

Certainly, there are people who will judge us harshly. Some of those people even have the power to change our future. But that future is only one possible future in an infinite number of possibilities. We have no way of knowing if the future we are being denied by those who would judge us is the BEST future- it is only one of many.

Our dreams can be crushed and our hopes can be dashed. But there are other hopes to be had, other dreams to be realized, other paths to take.

We are-each of us- a unique expression of life and love on this planet. There is no other being in the universe quite like you or me. Our uniqueness is a blessing on the world and while some may not see it, their blindness does not change the reality. Each of us has the potential to bring kindness, love, joy, warmth, humor, enthusiasm, strength, beauty or any one of an infinite number of blessings to this troubled world, simply by being our most genuine and authentic selves.

Be yourself. It is enough. YOU are enough.

May each of us glory in our uniqueness. May we be humbled by the glory of our uniqueness. And may we strive to humbly bless the world by the glory of simply being our unique, authentic selves.

Wishing you peace and blessings,
John

Update: Rio Beni Clean Water Project, Bolivia

Hello Everybody

Hope all is well. We just returned from a 2 week trip to Bolivia. We wanted to give a quick update on how the Rio Beni Project is doing. There is good news and there is reason for concern. The downturn in the global economy has affected virtually all NGOs. The once reliable revenue/donor streams have slowed.

The water filter project is developing and expanding nicely. Joselo has taken the leadership role. Currently, approximately 200 filters have been made/distributed. Due to logistical concerns, the filters are now made at the clinic in Rurre under the guidance of one of the health promoters named Quintin. Quintin has become the team expert and he is even developing his own quality improvement ideas. Quintin lives in a community about 1 1/2 hours from Rurre. He comes to clinic to make the filters and he has been involved with the education/maintenance in the communities. He is paid for his services which helps supplement his subsistence agricultural life. The filters are "sold" (heavily subsidized) to community members throughout the region. They receive training on maintenance and problem shooting. Joselo makes regular visits to the communities to answer question, problem solve, etc.

The Rurre clinic now functions 5 days a week (previously 3 per week). Dr. Frieda is there every day. A Cuban doctor, named Jorge, helps 2 days a week when he is not traveling to the communities. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, the team has elected to start charging a small fee for all office visits. Patients must also pay at wholesale cost for any medications. While we agree that patients should "pay" something for the services/medications, we found during our brief visit, there were examples where the cost prevented the patient from receiving the best care possible.

The team continues to travel to the outlying communities but on a reduced schedule. This is both a result of less funding and personnel. The two of us were replaced by one Cuban physician and Dr. Frieda was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year. She underwent a mastectomy and she is not up to traveling yet. Lola, the nurse, was also out of commission after having to have her gallbladder removed. Gas can be difficult to obtain and the car/boat always have ongoing repair needs given the road/river conditions.

Some of the health promoters have left the program. This is expected given the demands of their daily life. We are told the remaining promoters are participating/seeing patients/educating their respective communities. Our sense was, that with difficult times, the promoters (just like medical students in USA) can get neglected. Strong leadership is still needed to help Dr. Frieda run the educational component.

There you have it. Warts and all. We still have incredible confidence and a positive outlook for the project. Chris Brady (International Director) continues to pour his heart and soul into the project. Bolivians are resilient people and the team will weather the hard times. Our hope is that as the economic woes of the world improve, the Rio Beni project continue to grow and prosper. For many poor families in the Amazonas region, the alternative is unthinkable. If you would like to support the project, we have provided the link to donate on line <http://netzerbrady.org/>. If you are concerned that your money may not do a lot, remember....the entire project including 5 Bolivian salaries, US doctor/s stipend, all the medicines, promoter training, rent, maintenance, etc costs around \$120,000 per year. We will continue to keep everybody updated.

Please feel free to email or call us if any questions/concerns

Take care~Brett and Katherine

Cinema Circle

at UUFS

6:00 PM on a 5' x 5' Screen
SUGGESTED DONATION \$2.00
Discussion immediately following
the film.

Pot Luck Pizza, Snacks &
Beverages.

June 12

MILK: (2008) Sean Penn (in an Oscar-winning role) stars in this fact-based drama about Harvey Milk, the openly gay activist and San Francisco politician who was murdered along with mayor George Moscone (Victor Garber) by disgruntled city employee Dan White (Josh Brolin, in an Oscar-nominated role) in 1978. Director Gus Van Sant's compelling biopic (nominated for a Best Picture Academy Award) co-stars Emile Hirsch, James Franco and Diego Luna. (129 minutes)

June 26

CRY FREEDOM: (1987) In a segregated South Africa, black nationalist Steven Biko (Denzel Washington) and white newspaper editor Donald Woods (Kevin Kline) are unlikely friends with a common goal: ending apartheid. When Biko's beliefs land him in prison and he's covertly murdered by South African authorities, Woods rallies to expose the injustice. Based on Woods's books *Biko* and *Asking for Trouble*, the film earned Washington his first Oscar nomination. (159 minutes)

Contact person: Seth Cowall
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Our Events For The Month

<p align="center">SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING: 9:30 A.M., Sunday, 6/14/09. What would UU like to act on?</p> <p align="center">Contact person: Board Liaison Ian Finlayson 410-749-7613 fins1024@verizon.net</p>	<p align="center">THE PEACE ALLIANCE OF THE LOWER SHORE (PALS) – Peace Action Planning Meeting 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, 6/10/09 Room 2, downstairs, at the Wicomico County Library. Contact Jackie Fritch, Coordinator, 410-546-1466.</p>	<p align="center">PALS SILENT PEACE VIGIL First & Third Sundays, 2:00-3:00 P.M., corner of Route 13 and College Ave. Signs are available. <i>While there is some positive movement, there is a long way to go!</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>"SPEAK YOUR "PEACE!" BE HEARD ON YOUR ISSUES!"</i> CONTACT PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESS! CALL CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD, 202-224-3121 / WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE, 202-456-1111. Send letters to local addresses to avoid delay for anthrax etc. screening, in D.C. See SAC Board for updated addresses. (Note: Congressman Frank Kratovil's local office will open at One Plaza East, Salisbury, MD, 21801.)</p>
<p align="center">Next UUFS Board Meeting: Sunday, June 7, 2009 Following Service In the meeting room</p> <p align="center">Contact person: Lara Nieberding, Secretary of the Board of Trustees 410-627-7829 uufs@uufs.net</p>	<p align="center">Game Night Game Night is the first Friday of the month. The next one is June 5 at 7:30PM. In May we played bridge, but there are both board and other card game options. As usual, bring a snack and/or a favorite game if you wish.. Hope to see you then.</p> <p align="center">Contact person: Naomi Reed 410-677-3805 naomireed1812@verizon.net</p>	<p align="center">Second Saturday Crafters 11:00 A.M. Saturday <i>*June 13, 2009*</i> This month's theme: "Painting on Glass"</p> <p align="center">Please call Monika Pawliuk for a list of supplies and to make reservations. 410-835-3616 <i>"The Modern Day Quilting Bee."</i></p> <p align="center">All crafters are welcome. Open to the public. If you bring your own projects, there is no fee to attend. Knitters and Crocheters we have comfortable sofas to sit back and stitch away. Scrapbookers we have tables for you to spread out your scrapbooks.</p>	<p align="center">"LET'S DO LUNCH!" WOMEN'S GROUP Noon, Friday, June 19, 2009 At UUFS</p> <p align="center">BYOLunch and brighten up with the sunshine of friendship!</p>
<p align="center">Religious Education Committee Meeting: Sunday, June 7, 2009 Following Service Upstairs in the Elementary Room.</p> <p align="center">Contact person: Lara Nieberding, RE Committee Co Chair 410-627-7829 uufs@uufs.net</p>	<p align="center">Buddhist Study group Meets every Monday evening at 7:00 PM We are currently reading "Start Where You Are" by Pema Chödrön. See the website www.salisburyzen.com for more information.</p>	<p align="center">Tuesday mornings with UU's Meet for Breakfast every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. At the Lighthouse Restaurant on S-13, Court Plaza.</p> <p align="center">Contact person: Naomi Reed 410-677-3805 naomireed1812@verizon.net</p>	<p align="center">Mid Week Announcements Join our email list! Once a week on Wednesdays, UUFS sends out an email with helpful information.</p> <p align="center">To subscribe/unsubscribe Please send an email to the editor, Lara Nieberding UUFS@uufs.net</p>

**UUFS Events Calendar
June 2009**

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May 31 11a UUFS Sunday Discussion-In Memoriam	1 Volunteer Custodian- Jackie & Maurice Cox 7p Buddhist Study Group	2	3	4	5 7:30p Game Night	6
7 11a UUFS Sunday Discussion-Is There Room for Mysticism in UU? 12:15 Board of Trustees Meeting 12:15 Religious Education Meeting 2p PALS: Peace Vigils	8 Volunteer Custodian- Merrill Burhans 7p Buddhist Study Group	9 8:30a Breakfast with UUs	10 7:00p PALS	11	12 6p UUFS Cinema Circle	13 11a UUFS Second Saturday Crafters
14 9:30a Social Action Com Meeting 11a UUFS Sunday Discussion-Enjoy Yourself-It's Later Than You Think 12:15 Fundraising Committee Meeting	15 Volunteer Custodian- Pat Hollinger 7p Buddhist Study Group	16 8:30a Breakfast with UUs	17	18 UUFS Biking Group	19 12p UUFS "Let's Do Lunch" Women's Group	20
21 11a UUFS Sunday Discussion-Environmentalism 2p PALS: Peace Vigils	22 Volunteer Custodian- Abby & Mike Goebel 7p Buddhist Study Group	23 8:30a Breakfast with UUs	24	25	26 6p UUFS Cinema Circle	27
28 11a UUFS Sunday Discussion-Judy's Surprise	29 Volunteer Custodian- Andy Sortman 7p Buddhist Study Group	30 8:30a Breakfast with UUs				

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- ☪ *The inherent worth and dignity of every person;*
- ☪ *Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;*
- ☪ *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;*
- ☪ *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;*
- ☪ *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic processes within our congregations and in the society at large;*
- ☪ *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*
- ☪ *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

2009-2010 Board of Trustees

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Our Web site www.uufs.net

Web resources:

Unitarian Universalist Association: www.UUA.org

UUWorld Magazine Online www.UUAWorld.org

UUA Bookstore Online www.UUABookstore.org

Got Questions? <http://www.uufaq.com/>

ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP

CELEBRATING 51 YEARS!

It is the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Salisbury to become an increasingly diverse community with differing beliefs and shared values. In joy and mutual support, we offer spiritual nourishment, affirm the worth of each individual, and honor the democratic process. We encourage all ages to learn and grow together while we work for compassionate justice in our society and on our planet.

UUFS founded May 14, 1958

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UUFS

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

