



THE FLAME

November 2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula

13136 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, VA 23602

www.uufp.org

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula is to create a dynamic community that celebrates life and searches for truth

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November Services

Theme: Service

November 6th: "Unlocking the Doors to Inclusion"

— DRE Joanne Dingus and Rev. Clive Andrew Millard

There are times in our lives when the knock on our heart's door is so strong and clear we know we must find the key to opening that door and answering its call. One in every hundred children is diagnosed with some form of Autism and this number is growing. These children and their families long for a religious home. They offer many gifts that can enrich our faith communities. But too often our communities are not prepared to meet the unique needs of children with Autism. How will we at the Fellowship unlock our doors to inclusion?

November 13th: "Bless All Who Serve" — Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

Peace is often held up as a primary Unitarian Universalists cause, with the General Assembly passing over eighty resolutions concerning peace and disarmament in the last fifty years. And yet, though we may disagree with our nation's foreign policies, we also recognize that we owe a great debt of gratitude to the courageous women and men who serve in our armed forces.

Veterans as well as currently enlisted military personnel are invited to wear their uniforms, decorations and/or other insignia of service. Special music will be provided by the UUFP Winds!

November 20th: "The Wolf You Feed" — Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

Neuroplasticity refers to the ability of the brain to change in response to environmental inputs. Far from being unchanging after childhood, neuroscientists are discovering that the brain is not only affected by stroke and addiction, but actively "rewired" by physical activities and emotional habits, including meditation. When it comes to fear or gratitude, what we choose is what we are!

We'll distribute the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Guest At Your Table" collection boxes, and special music will be provided by the fabulous ChorUUs!

Special Service!

4:30pm on November 20th: “Transgender Day of Remembrance” — Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

Join us for an early evening service marking the thirteenth annual, internationally observed witness of and resistance to violence based on bias against transgender people. We'll begin in the Sanctuary for the reading of names before lighting candles at sunset and processing outside for a time of silent vigil.

November 27th: “Lessons for Unitarian Universalists on the American Dreams”

— Rev. David Hicks MacPherson

Following Thanksgiving, which is a part of the civic religion of the United States, let's examine how we Unitarian Universalists have been and are still very much involved with the meaning of the American Dreams. Since we have also been part of creating the American

Empire, it's vital that we take a look at how this happened, and where we ought to go with it.

Rev. David Hicks MacPherson is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister. He helped to build congregations and their buildings in Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. A fifth-generation Universalist, his book Reclaiming Universal Salvation: Universalism Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow was recently published.



For all that is our life!



Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.

This is our great covenant:

to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

— Blake Covenant of 1894

Ours is an engaged religion. Whether we're cooperating in one another's faith development, supporting our own members struggling with adversity or working with our community partners to address social needs, Unitarian Universalists are engaged with the lives and the world around them.

Such engagement does indeed take many different forms. Each of us, for instance, is a steward of our own community, accepting the responsibility to take care of something we do not own. Membership represents a commitment to not only support our congregation financially, but to also help realize our shared vision of "spiritual diversity and individual growth through lifelong religious education and service to the wider community". Every time we teach a class or participate in a discussion group, every time we take a meal to a member recovering from surgery, every time we volunteer at St. Paul's or the Living Interfaith Network, we help bring that vision alive.

While engagement and stewardship are characteristics of any self-organizing group of freely associating individuals with a vision for themselves and their world, a Unitarian Universalist congregation is not simply another community group working on social or environmental issues. The overriding characteristic for UUs is that, while we foster community and address issues, we do so in service to love.

That is why we emphasize covenant, the promises we make to ourselves and to each other about how we intend to behave within beloved community. Love isn't easy, whether we're talking about amorous devotion or beneficent compassion. Covenant brings us back to our best selves, providing a framework for those times when love is proving more challenging than we'd like, and service to one another and the wider world provides a mechanism for cultivating and re-cultivating that love.

It's tempting, when first confronted with an issue of injustice, to remain at a certain level of theory and abstraction. There are certainly no shortage of causes that might impel us to write a letter to the newspaper editor or to a political representative, to educate ourselves on the issues or try to convince others of their importance, even to join a demonstration or a protest. And those are all valuable activities that are essential to changing systems and structures of oppression. Also essential — and, in my experience, a powerful source of motivation and resilience — is direct engagement with and service to oppressed communities and those who suffer injustice.

After all, no newspaper article or television report will teach you about poverty or hunger or homelessness like volunteering at a food bank or a shelter. Nothing will build another's self-esteem like helping a disadvantaged child to read or meeting a homeless person's eyes with a genuine smile — nor warm your heart and grow your soul, too. And nothing dismantles privilege like entering in humility what would otherwise be a relationship governed by relative power, deferring to the wisdom of the oppressed and remaining accountable to those whom society renders powerless.

Rather than denying the world and ourselves, Unitarian Universalism calls us to boldly engage with them, seeking ways of being that strive for peace and justice, and living into the beloved community that fully embraces the humanity of every human being and the preciousness of life on Earth. If love, in the words of James Vila Blake, "is the spirit of this church and service its law", how are you answering the call of our living tradition?

Religious Education NEWS



By Joanne Dingus

We had two wonderful events in October. Thanks to all who helped and participated in the Gandhi Birthday Potluck and the Fellowship Retreat. The Retreat was absolutely wonderful. We couldn't have asked for better weather and the community spirit was contagious. Everyone helped out with something to make the weekend go smoothly. Special thanks goes out to Chessie Roberts for singing, Rosalee Pfister for storytelling, Judy Remsberg for yoga, Chris Woods for leading Socrates café, Dan Moore and Jaimie Dingus for the workshop on Strategic Planning, Rev. Andrew for the workshop on intergenerational services, cooking and for time spent with the teens at the campfire, Robin Vantine for piano playing, Amy and Gus Grissom for cooking, shopping and transporting, Sandra Engelhardt for breakfast Saturday, Ellis Remsberg and Alan Sheeler for Sunday breakfast, the teens for dishwashing and Saturday lunch, Brandy Bergenstock for cooking, cake decorating and transporting, Robert Drees for campfire making, all the tie-dyers and Amazing Race crew, kitchen helpers and last but not least, Aidan Grissom for extreme cuteness all weekend long!

Coming up in November we will have a multi-church lock-in for middle school and high school youth. Come meet your peers from Williamsburg, Glen Allen, Richmond, Norfolk on November 5th- 6th starting at 4:00pm. We'll have games, food and fellowship. Registration forms are available in the office building.

Also in November, we will be starting our [Guest at Your Table](#) program. This is a UU tradition where we help raise money for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee the social justice branch of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Pick up your GAYT box on November 20th and plan to bring in back in January. You will also notice UUSC Christmas cards on sale in the lobby.

Calling all child actors! If you would like to be part of the Christmas play this year please let Joanne know. We are looking for children to play animals in the Nativity scene. You will need to attend a couple of rehearsals in December and of course be available for the performance on Christmas Eve.

Next RE committee meeting will be held November 14th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary building.

See you in the RE!



2011 Annual Auction

November 12, 2011 ([more](#))

Amazon Kindle Fire Raffle:

Raffle Tickets for **Kindle Fire!**



[Buy now!](#)

**Auction/Dinner Tickets: Adults--\$10 Students--\$8
Children--\$5 [on sale now!](#)**

A massive catalog of items! [See it all](#)



Nominating Committee Gears Up

Each year the nominating committee recommends a slate of officers and standing committee heads to the policy board, which is in turn voted on by the Fellowship at the annual meeting. The five-person committee works on behalf of the Fellowship, helping connect volunteers with leadership positions that use their gifts and fire up their passion. The process is straightforward: we first ask board members and committee heads if they wish to continue serving (and are able to according to our bylaws) and then make sure the unfilled spots have nominees. We begin meeting in January, interviewing in person or by phone individuals who have expressed interest in taking on a leadership role or who have been recommended to us. Usually committee heads come from within the committee or have had experience on that committee, but not always! Nominated board members can be members who have had board experience or folks who have not served on the board before.

To make sure that we are aware of everyone who would like to explore a leadership role, we are asking that interested folks contact us in the next couple of months. We can tell you about leadership training opportunities, point you to committees that are seeking members, and connect you to people who have served in various capacities who can share their experiences with you. Wayne Dawkins is the chair of the nominating committee, and members are Donna Briedé, Randy Phillips, Alicia Hofler and Carole Todd. Nab us on a Sunday morning (we will strive to wear our name tags) or drop a line to Wayne Dawkins at wdawk69643@aol.com. [TOP](#)

General Assembly Report from Mason Moseley

I believe the richness and joy of Unitarian Universalism is that we have this congregation with our history and presence on the Virginia Peninsula and we are part of other UU congregations in Virginia and we are part of a national, continental and international denomination. Forrest Church has written that "Religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die". The General Assembly is the embodiment of ideas and organizational structure that are constantly churning and working towards giving each of us guidance in our life's journey.

I so looked forward to returning to this General Assembly in Charlotte, 18 years after Patricia and I attended our first GA in the same city. Joining several thousand other UUs from across the country and the world in a well planned event can only be joyfully overwhelming. My true delight this year, was sharing this gathering with so many from the UUFP. And sure enough, we're at the opening worship and there are my UUFP ChorUU members up on stage in the GA Choir. WOW! How cool was that. We are in a large meeting hall and the stage is 50 to 60 feet wide, with two large screens on either side and two small screens on each far side and ITS JAMIE ON CAMERA, RIGHT OVER THE UUA'S PRESIDENT'S SHOULDER.

From there, it was a reunion and a renewal of my faith. Ideas, songs, lines for food - we UU's took over that part of the central city. The assembled delegate body agreed with our District's decision and changed the name of our District; the delegates changed the governance of the UUA's Board, I attended a worship service for veterans, I saw many friends from meetings of previous years, we made a good fuss when Andrew's name was called to rise from being seated among us and to go on stage to be acknowledged in Preliminary Fellowship; and, at a reception, I watched Patricia ask Peter Morales, the UUA President, who he was. He wasn't wearing his badge at the time. I was proud to represent you and I thank you.

General Assembly Report from Lucy van Tine

Margaret Regan, the author of *The Death of Josseline*, was not a larger than life figure although her book has gained national attention since its publication in 2010. She smiled awkwardly at us when she was introduced at one of the workshops I attended at GA and she seemed at least momentarily uncomfortable as she began to speak. A tallish, middle-aged woman, she appeared no different from you or me. But her message was compelling.

She began by telling us that she was no expert on immigration issues, no PhD in public policy. She was a reporter for the Tucson Weekly but she wrote features for what I remember to be the home and garden section of the paper. She recalled for us that she kept seeing short news announcements in the Phoenix paper like the following: "The bodies of 7 people found in the Sonoran desert yesterday." "The bodies of 4 people found dead." "The bodies of 6 people found dead." At a staff meeting she raised her hand and said, "What is going on? Someone should investigate these deaths." She looked around at her cohorts. Everyone was overworked and underpaid, but still she was flabbergasted and disappointed. No one volunteered. Her boss shrugged and said something like, "You're right Margaret. Someone should do this. Go for it." She wasn't eager to take this on, to leave her comfortable niche at the paper and go tramping around in the forbidding desert and in the city morgue as an investigative reporter, but the image in her mind of those bodies in the desert stayed with her. Each and every one of those lifeless forms had been a person, someone who had a mother, a father, someone who had loved and been loved. Each one of these people had spent their last hours of life struggling, afraid and all alone in this unforgiving place. That is what compelled her to take this task on. Eventually Regan pieced together the story of these mostly young men and women, some, like Josseline, heartbreakingly young. It is a story of greed, ignorance, ill-used power and failed government policy. It is a story that we cannot ignore as UUs.

Later in the morning at GA, I attended a gathering that featured the Latino organizers and the UUs who had gone to Phoenix, Arizona to stand with the Latino community in protest against the new state immigration laws which allowed the police, among other things, to come into neighborhoods and kick in the door of houses looking for people without the proper papers to be living there. One of the speakers that I remember best was a UU minister from somewhere in the Midwest. She spoke about why she came and she was honest. 'To tell the truth,' she said, 'I came because a dear friend of mine (another UU minister from Arizona) asked me to. I didn't want to let her down. It was only when I got to Phoenix and stood in the street with the families of Latinos, including the kids, the grandmas and granddads that I knew that I was doing something so important.'

Like many here at the Fellowship, my life has been so enriched and gladdened by the Latinos from this area that I have known and worked with. As a teacher and reading assistant in the Newport News Public Schools I have gotten to know many beautiful boys and girls and their mothers, fathers and grandparents many of whom smile and greet me every day as they walk their kids to class. I am aware also that a lot of these families live precariously, despite being hard workers in thankless jobs like crab picking and oyster shucking. Like Regan, when we discover a problem and we look around our metaphorical newsroom, and no one is volunteering for the job to learn more and speak out about it, we know in our hearts that we must.

2011 Southeast District Annual Racial Justice Conference-Sept 23-24 Knoxville, TN

by Sandra Engelhardt, Denominational Affairs chair

"Weaving together Heaven and Earth: Creating and Sustaining Faithful Multicultural Partnership" was the theme of the 21st Annual Racial Justice Conference held at the Tennessee Valley UU Church, Knoxville, TN, September 23-24. I was one of over 70 UUs to participate by learning strategies, and engaging with others in building effective multicultural partnerships. The focus of this conference was to ...celebrate, to reflect, learn, to commit and to weave together anew a dream of racial justice for our whole region". We had several very special presentations and workshops where we had to make difficult choices of what would we do. Our Friday night keynote address by Tupac Enrique Acosta was entitled "The legend of Truth and the doctrines of Power". He is Judge of the First Nations International Court of Justice and founding member of the community-based organization TONATIERRA in phoenix, Arizona. He stressed that "ancient understandings were very important in the big scheme of it all".

The Rev. Alica Forde, Multicultural Program Coordinator for the UUA, spoke and gave a workshop on "Building the World we Dream About". She gave us several practical approaches to handle implementing a successful multicultural program. Susan Williams, of the Highlander Research and Education Center, spoke of their decades of racial justice work in the south and then demonstrated their model of teaching by implementing it with us. Every person in the room was given an historic photo and they were told to share the information on the back with as many people as possible in the next few minutes. This was a very teachable moment for everyone.

My other workshop was "Pilgrimage as Formation for Justice", by Retired minister, Rev. Gordon Gibson, founder of the Living Legacy Pilgrimage. He and others shared some of their thoughts about this program that takes UU's (and others) thru historic places in the Civil Rights Movement, where they meet some of the original participants. He stated that it (the pilgrimage) "Brings it back in a way that empowers us to act".

This was possibly the best UU District event that I have attended, especially in terms of training, music and speakers.

Activities

Goddess Circle Goddess Circle will feature Kaltes the lunar goddess of Siberia- Nov. 6th

This is an open discussion circle. The group decided to open it for both women & men . Goddesses are chosen from various world religions as a starting place for group discussion.

We meet the first Sunday of each month in the Annex after the 2nd service (about noon) for potluck, fellowship and fun. Please contact Dawn Hutchinson at dhutchin@cnu.edu with any questions.

Dr. Dawn L. Hutchinson

4th Saturday Women's Drum & Pot Luck

7pm - A casual gathering of women to share food & friendship, & to make music together. Mark your 2011 calendar now! 4th Saturdays!

For more info, call Connie 788-8903

Second Sunday Lunch

Join us at 12:30 on November 13 for lunch and conversation at NAWAB INDIAN CUISINE. We have not visited Nawab for almost a year and many have asked that we return for their great Sunday buffet. If you have

not tried Indian cuisine, you will be surprised that it is very tasty and not hot spicy. Everyone is welcome including children.

Fifty and Better

Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 3rd at 12 noon. All seniors are more than welcome to join us at the Office Building to enjoy a good lunch and visits with your peers. It's an opportunity to become better acquainted with UUF seniors. Please call Esther at 369-1858 for more details.

Adult Religious Education NEWS

By Dennis Shaw ARE Chair

Beginning October 30th, Adult RE will present a series of conversations around the topic "Jesus before Christianity", facilitated by Bob Smith. This series of six sessions will conclude on December 4th and will make for an interesting and informative month of November in ARE. All of the sessions are held in the office building Sunday mornings from 9:30 until 10:30. ALL are welcome to attend.

Attendance

Date	Total	Visitors
September 25	35/89	NA
October 2	30/65	3/2
October 9	25/61	NA
October 16	15/27 (retreat weekend)	NA
October 23	57/71	3/2

Thanksgiving "Potluck" at the UUF

If you are interested in joining fellow UU's for the big meal but don't want to do a lot of cooking, please plan on coming to the sixth UUF Thanksgiving Potluck. We have had 20-30 people each year for the "big traditional" meal. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Sandra Engelhardt at 757-930-1478 or xandihardt@verizon.net no later than 21 November, so we can get the right amount of turkey!

COMMUNITY GROWING RESPECTFUL STEWARDSHIP
 TEAMWORK SOCIAL JUSTICE ENERGIZED
 LEADERSHIP EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

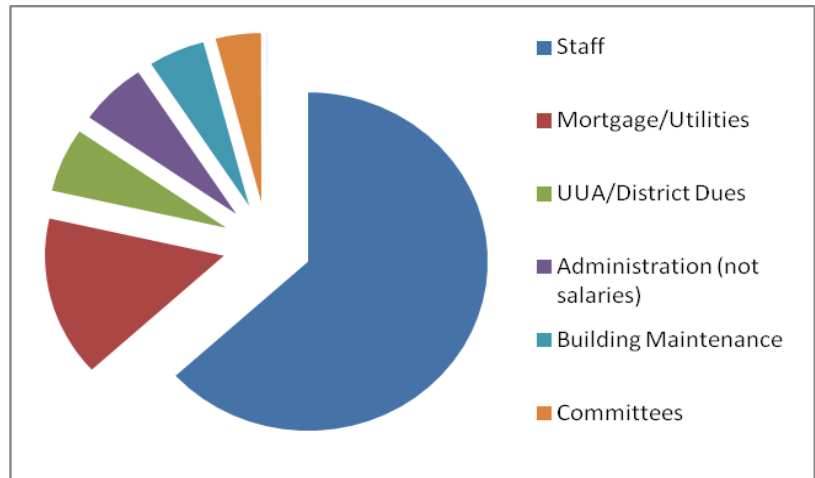
These are all great words that describe our Fellowship

We're only as good as the people who belong to the Fellowship and the varied programs we offer. Think about why you come.

Sermons? You never know what they will be like! Children's Focus gives us an opportunity to feel like a large family! Social justice programs give many of us the chance to try and make a difference. The policy board and committees are a way to give back time (a lot) to the Fellowship. Giving up a Saturday to clean brush, cut grass and maintain our buildings is a major sign of stewardship.

Fulfilling a pledge to support our church functions is something we all have in common. It's the smaller, sustaining pledges that move us ahead, though. They account for more than 60% of what our church needs to stay healthy and fulfill its mission.

Take a look at how your pledge is spent:



Daylight Saving ends on Sunday November 6 2011

Set your clocks **back** one hour



REVIVAL COMING

Hallelujah! ... No, no, not that kind. We want to attempt to revive the “Poetry & More” group before it becomes “The Dead Poets’ Society.”

Notice the “and More” – it’s not just poetry. Bring short stories, passages from books, interesting quotes you run across or poems to share. You don’t have to write. Share something from your favorite poet or author. No time to plan – no problem! Be spontaneous and pick up one of the poetry books that will be there and find a poem to read. OR just come to listen! Light snacks and tea available. FIRST WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM IN THE OFFICE BUILDING More information: msmaryeliz@verizon.net



Once again Laura Dollieslager is bringing [The Dream Shop](#) to the UUFP on November 20th. The Dream Shop is a Fair Trade Organization run by Eastern State Hospital Resident Volunteers. All items are hand crafted and hand sewn from cooperatives in Guatemala and Africa. 90% of sale proceeds are returned to the cooperatives. Proceeds support community development projects including, education, scholarships, housing, shelter, stoves, floors, senior citizen shelters, nutrition programs, clean water access, agricultural assistance, product development, schools, orphanages and medical clinics.

Choose from a wide variety of hand-beaded jewelry, woven scarves, embroidered clothing, carved wooden objects, etc. Come prepared to shop!



In her Memorial Day sermon at the Fellowship, Richmond's Pat Owens charged us to "consider it part of our calling and our privilege to serve as a guiding beloved community to veterans and military members". In response, we're launching the UUFP Ministry to Military Families! To get started, we invite you to a potluck dinner on Tuesday November 8th in the Office Building. Bring food, needs and hopes to share! And all members of military families are invited to attend: we'll have activities for the children while the adults talk.

when: Tuesday, November 8th, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

where: UUFP Office Building

RSVP to Andrew or via: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=227835453945321>

Our Cluster drafts Vision/ Mission, Plans for March 24th Gathering of 7 Congregations

Sandra Engelhardt, Denominational Affairs/UUFP Cluster Representative

The steering committee members of the Tidewater Cluster met in Williamsburg on October 8, 2011. The seven Tidewater churches were all represented. This was a first for lay representatives of : Fredricksburg, Glen Allen, Newport News, Norfolk, Rappahannock, Richmond and Williamsburg to meet and work together. Some of the meeting highlights were:

-Tidewater Cluster Vision Statement

To direct our spiritual partnerships toward building a just and peaceful world.

Tidewater Cluster Mission Statement

As a cluster of seven UU congregations in eastern Virginia, we share knowledge skills and resources in order to strengthen our individual congregations and increase our collective influence in promoting UU principles both in the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout our nation and the world.

-Dan Moore has agreed to be the webmaster for the Tidewater Cluster Website (it is ready & up, awaiting POCs from the other congregations)

-The Tidewater Cluster will be March 24, 2012 at the First Unitarian Church of Richmond

- Chairs: Denise Rimes (VP District & Richmond), Anita Lee (Richmond), Bonnie Ward, (Glen Allen), Linda-Lane Hamilton (Williamsburg)

-Sandra Engelhardt -food organizer

-Purpose: to connect the members from the 7 churches; enable networking & collaboration. In particular, introduce the members/leaders of specific committees to those of other churches

-Compiling contact info of leaders of various committees & post on website, so that one chair can advise another chair from a different congregation

-Brainstorming on ways to address issues of discrimination/race

-Social Outreach on a Cluster level

-Investigate buying yellow T-shirts (GA) or creating Tidewater Cluster T-shirt

Next Steering committee meeting Jan 21, 2012 at First Unitarian Church of Richmond

New Member Bios

Tavia Hayes was born and raised in Rochester, New York. She has one sister named Marna who now has a six year old child named Abigail. Growing up in upstate New York had its advantages. It was close to Niagara Falls where they would go to the Canadian side and sometimes go up to Toronto. Summers were also spent in her artist mother's native state of Colorado where they would go up to Rocky Mountain National Park. Father is an anthropologist and his side is Duxbury,Massachussetts, near Plymouth where they would spend a lot of time on the seashore. Tavia graduated from Penfield High School and then attended State University of NewYork College at Brockport. Her 95 year old paternal grandfather moved in to their home and she became very close to him. She majored in Communication Studies with minors in Anthropology and Gerontology. The gerontology minor was just beginning so it was hard to find classes to complete it. She ended up doing a great deal of volunteering at nursing homes, adult day center, and a senior center. She graduated in 1995 and worked with mentally challenged adults and seniors in their homes. She moved to Burke, VA around 1997 and

found work in Ashland working with intellectually challenged adults and also worked in retail. In 1999, she moved to Williamsburg and worked at Busch Gardens and Peebles. In 2003, she went back to her heartsong which was human services and worked with keeping seniors in their own homes for as long as possible with Home Instead Senior Care. In 2007, she received Caregiver of the Year Award for the company for going the extra mile for her clients. In 2010, she got certified as a Personal Care Aide with Hope in Home. She now works with centenarians, seniors with Alzheimer's, and intellectually challenged senior citizens. She enjoys playing her electric piano, writing poetry, walking in parks, and she is teaching herself to cook and write music.

Valerie Gecowets is eighteen years old and is from Poquoson, VA, though she currently lives in Washington, DC. A freshman in the School of International Service at American University, she is an International Studies major with a focus on Africa and International Development, minoring in Public Administration and Policy. Valerie hopes to have a career in diplomacy or working for social justice in developing nations, particularly in Africa. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends, reading, and anything having to do with music. Valerie began attending the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula in 2009. She enjoys the sense of community UUFP fosters and the broad religious education it provides.

Michelle and Scott Joers are Navy veterans from the mid-west who met on board their first ship. They live in Chesapeake with their two children, Sophia, age 4, and Collin, 3. Scott works as a contractor in the shipyards and Michelle is currently a stay-at-home-mom, hoping to start graduate school for environmental studies in the spring.

Sharlene A. Becerra

I was born in Winchester N.H., and left after high school and moved to Newport News. In 1977 I joined the U.S. Marine Corp. I got married and had two daughters. They are now 32 and 30. I was discharged in 1983 after 7 years of service and returned to this area. I moved to Albany, NY in 1990 only to return again in 1998. I have 3 grandsons and one granddaughter. Brenda Barlow and I have been together now for over ten years. I came to this church just out of curiosity because Brenda was so happy with it and I had to find out for myself. After just a few visits I knew I had found a place for me too.

Pat Sloan sporadically attended the Fellowship during the early 1970s, including her visiting family members, after she started teaching at Hampton University. My brother, Abe, lives in Florida; we both attended the Ohio State University. Her husband, Bob Elston, and she joined the UU Fellowship when they resided in Newport News, in closer physical proximity to the relocated sanctuary. We reverted to "friend" status when she took a job in Chicago, where Bob died in 2009. My stepdaughters, Wendy & Monica, live in North Carolina with their families.

Pat grew up in Ohio, worked in hospitals in Columbus and Chardon; then Dayton and New York as a public health nurse; and in rehabilitation while going to graduate school. she accepted a teaching position at Hampton Institute in June 1970. During the summers she traveled to Morocco, worked in Jamaica and did advanced study in interesting places such as the University of Oslo and University of Michigan. While earning her doctorate at Teacher's College, Columbia University, using documents collected for her dissertation, they established the M. Elizabeth Carnegie Nursing Archives. Her dissertation was about four early Afro-American nursing schools established between 1886 to 1906. She continued in various research, special project and administrative capacities in Hampton University's School of Nursing. She also served as the University's assistant international student advisor, directed the Hampton University HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention Education Program (HU HAS PEP) and taught effective study approaches (SQ5R). During this time she joined, and after 22 years retired from, the US Army Reserve Nurse Corps. She assisted in establishing Hampton's masters and doctoral degree programs in nursing by the time she retired from HU. She was immediately recruited to Chicago State University, retired from CSU administration in 2009 and returned to Virginia a year later.

Currently she freelances as a proposal writing consultant, travels and is trying to get beyond grief, to regain a zest for living and to rebuild her life as a productive single individual. She is slowly getting rid of over four decades of accumulated

papers, books, & inherited stuff -- each item infused with memories lending emotional value far beyond monetary worth. She says " the UU Fellowship is providing a spiritual continuity for me that spans my time residing in Hampton Roads: provided solace with deaths of my Dad, my Mom, and Bob."

Retreat 2011

We had forty-two participants at this year's retreat. Folks met at Pocahontas State Park Algonquin ecology Camp for a delicious dinner Friday night and settled into their cabins. The weather was gorgeous even into the late night around the campfire. Workshops on Strategic planning and intergenerational worship were held Saturday morning. Teens enjoyed cake decorating and tie-dyeing later on. An amazing race dashed from one pod to the next with people of all ages participating. Eight canoes paddled out onto the lake, many spotted sunning turtles and water birds. Wisdom was gained at the Socrates café. Spirits were nourished at worship and hearts were filled with the sounds of music and story well into the evening. All worked together to create wonderful meals throughout the weekend and clean up before the trip home.

We would love to continue this tradition of community in nature for years to come. Plans for next year's retreat will begin in February. If you have ideas about different locations, workshop offerings, entertainment or would like to be on the planning committee, please contact Andrew or Joanne.

It's hard to figure out who had more fun: the adults or the kids! [Pictures](#)



[Lots more pictures here!](#)

CNU student and UUF member attends Occupy Wall Street in NYC, Philly

Michael Wagner

I'm living a countdown. In 10 weeks I will simultaneously complete both my undergraduate career and a year-long Federal internship. With a high GPA and an accumulated 18 months of internship experience in my field, one might imagine a bright future ahead, but rather, it's the contrary as I have quite the odds to surmount. We live in a time when unemployment in our age group is among the highest of all demographics with estimates from 15 to 51 percent with some figures showing that periods of unemployment after college are often 12 months or more. As for underemployment, that just doesn't fly.

So, when the cacophony of sound emanating from Manhattan's Zuccotti Park grew so loud that it began pollinating other cities with its seeds of protest, I knew I had to travel to the epicenter and see for myself what hordes of college kids and recent grads were up in arms about.

However, before I set foot in Manhattan, I stopped in Philadelphia to meet the folks at Occupy Philly. A decidedly smaller group, they still rank in the hundreds (having launched Oct. 6, as did many events around the nation) and are taking many cues from their brothers and sisters in Manhattan.

In Philly, however, they've added a local twist, as I suspect many cities have, and have taken the opportunity to direct their voice at their own city government, who they view to be just as corrupt and in bed with corporate America as our Federal government.

The next morning, I crossed New Jersey and entered upper Manhattan before descending upon the heart of our nation's financial capitol. Occupy Wall Street has been going strong since Sept. 17, nearly a month, and has grown from half a dozen individuals to thousands. An NYPD officer reported that at any given time there are 2-3,000 people in the 3,300 square foot park. At night that number increases as individuals leave their workplaces and join the protest. As of this weekend, the number of protesters in New York City has grown so high they've begun the overtaking of Washington Park, a much larger park a half dozen or so blocks uptown from Zuccotti.

Media pundits and conservative demagogues will have you believe that the rabble of people occupying these events have no coherent message, are ill-informed, or are simply full of rage. And, admittedly the enormity and diversity of their message creates a lot of noise that is more easily ignored than received (which they are aware of and are in the midst of addressing). However, don't let the task of listening to them deter you from understanding that their voices have resonance in our daily lives, and that there is a clear unity in their discourse: end corporate influence of American government and return to serving the people.

There are those that would have you believe that Occupy Wall Street is not only incoherent but also incredibly disorganized. This is erroneous.

In both Philly and NYC I came across "occupations" that featured resource areas where protesters can find food, clothes, and basic supplies. Each city hosted a media center where information is Tweeted, Facebooked, and blogged around the clock. In New York they have a makeshift commissary, and in Philly they have an enormous movie screen where they can play film and live stream from other events. Occupy Wall Street even has their own high-quality printed The Occupied Wall Street Journal, which as of this weekend was in its second issue.

I think the definition of “stewardship” as stated in the Weekly Digest “a responsibility to take care of something one does not own” should be expanded to include people being stewards to each other.

As the fellowship grows, what could have become more difficult to handle, is operating with huge success. Meg is making stewardship more accessible, giving everyone the opportunity to be Stewards to each other. I found an interesting quote about the topic: “The meaning of stewardship, when it comes to relationships, is that a [person] is not taking another for granted and instead is giving 100% to the relationship.”

Isn't that what we're about – being in relationship with one another?

Mary Elizabeth Cotton

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