First Thanksgiving in America

We invited Mark and Hannah Gaffigan to tell the story of their adoption of three orphaned siblings from Ethiopia. Their is a cause worth celebration of all we have here, of all we can be thankful for, of all we can do for others. This is the 1st installment of their remarkable story.

Crazy or wonderful?? We’ve been called both. We like to think we are a little crazy in a good way – we are enjoying life! Wonderful – no! We are just excited to be parents again. We have enjoyed raising the children we gave birth to, and now we have the opportunity to continue the adventure!

As we were deciding to add to our family, Hannah was doing a lot of research on the internet about adoption agencies and countries. One of the easiest programs in terms of timelines, travel and expenses was Ethiopia. After researching that amazing country and reading about the beautiful people it was easy to fall in love with that Eastern African country and to know our children would be from there. Of course, after our initial decision the regulations changed and lengthened, adding a second trip which added $ and more paperwork hoops to jump through. All part of the joy of international adoption!

We found an adoption agency with a solid reputation and completed the long, long list of requirements. We knew we were open to a sibling group of 2 or 3 and were thrilled to be told about Birhanu, Eyob, and Aeden who were ages 9, 7 and 4. As few adoptive parents are willing to take on three children who are that old, the children had been waiting for a family. The entire process took 14 months so by the time our little ones arrived in the States, they were 10, 8, and 5.

We had the privilege of traveling to Ethiopia twice, once in March to meet the children (and we fell in love with them instantly!) and the second time in July to bring them home. The waiting during the whole ordeal was the hardest part, especially since it held uncertainty. We couldn’t plan the rest of our life (work meetings, family visits, summer camp) as we didn’t know when we would receive that email that would make it all a reality.

Much of the children’s background we will keep to ourselves as it is their story to tell, not ours, but we can share that their mother died 3 years ago and their father was not able to keep them. We appreciated being able to travel to the country and see the extreme poverty for ourselves. For the past two years they lived in a wonderfully loving orphanage where they received excellent care and tutoring in English. They have always lived in the capital city of Addis Ababa, so our trips away from the farm into Baltimore or DC have been treats for Birhanu! There are many languages spoken in Ethiopia, but the one spoken in the capital city of Addis Ababa is Amharic. The alphabet and sounds are not remotely similar to English. Hannah was able to learn several nouns but could never figure out how to put two words together. The children have done an excellent job picking up English, from their lessons in the orphanage, and while with us.

The children’s personalities were described to us, and they were right on, except for the parts where they said Aeden eats very little – wrong! She eats and eats! And Eyob is not quiet! Once he gets rolling he is the life of the party! Getting to know these children has been a real privilege. Birhanu, turning 11 in November, is outgoing, willing to strike up a conversation with anyone, and is intensely curious, asking questions when he wants to know more. He is a wiz on the soccer field. In Ethiopia they played in the streets with balls they made of plastic bags stuffed with fabric scraps, so playing soccer on a grassy field, wearing shin guards and cleats, a new uniform, and kicking a real ball is heaven.

To be continued . . . .

News & Notes

Bridge Club is meeting Saturday, Nov. 12 at Janice and Stan Schlepp’s. Potluck, bridge, and a lot of fun. Learners welcomed. To find out more email <jschlepp@comcast.net>.

Our UUCF Book Club will meet on Dec. 2 at 7:30 at the home of Mary and Carl Kruhm. The book being discussed is The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid. Info at 301-712-6828 or email <carlkruhm@comcast.net>.

The Chronologically Gifted will meet for a potluck lunch Saturday, November 12 at noon in Room 113-115. Carole Larsen and Pinoake Browning will show us their beautiful pictures of Thailand. Come join us for lunch, bring a dish to share. Good food and good conversation. We look forward to seeing you there. Call me, Marj Mansfield, 301-693-6195 if you need further information.

Retired UU Men Eating Out (RUUMEO) will meet at Denny’s (“back dining room”) on the Miracle Mile at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16th. RUUMEO is an unauthorized, entirely unstructured group of UU guys who meet monthly for the sole purpose of sharing breakfast and fellowship. (You don’t have to be retired or a guy, though that’s who generally show up.) To assure a place at the table, email Bill Butler at <wb6566@gmail.com>, or phone him at 301-712-5870 (cell).

Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch

November 27 after Second Service
Watch for Notices and Sign-up Sheets
Minister’s Words

Rev. Robert Hughes

I am aware of some exciting possibilities ahead of us at UUCF!

• We will continue our discussions with Kol Ami regarding how we might share space effectively and graciously.

• Stan Schlep, Dave Hutchins, and Dick Menzer have been at work on storage space for us with the goal of having the sound room be better organized. Pass along your thanks!

• The next “Congregational Conversation” will be held on December 6. This is a follow up to the conversations held in April and May. A stress on Lay Ministry is continuing. (See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

In regard to Lay Ministry I will take some time at 10:00 on November 13 during the Friendly Forum to review the concept of the office of Lay Minister and what such folks might do to further the ministries of UUCF. I encourage those of you who wish to know more to join me at that time. Our protocol will involve a congregational meeting to vote on the two individuals who have submitted applications and been approved by the minister for the office of Lay Minister. Prior to that vote having some opportunities, including November 13th, to learn more will be helpful.

I ask that you join in a spirit of reflection and excitement as we move into the Fall Season.

Best wishes to us all.

President’s Corner

Karen Russell

This year we will once again conduct a search for a new minister. When we conducted the search for Rev. Bob, the search committee went through a process of educating the congregation about the different types of ministers. I thought to review that information here and let you know about our current plans.

There are 3 different types of Ministers—Settled, Interim and Consulting. The Settled Minister search process follows a structured procedure and is handled by the UUA Transition Office. In January, a finite pool of national candidates begins interviews with interested churches. The pool of available ministers diminishes, as congregations hire. Selected ministerial candidates are “called” by congregations (hired permanently), without a “probationary” period.

An accredited Interim Minister is specially trained for congregations in transition from a recently departed long-term settled minister, and hired by the Board. The maximum length of an Interim minister’s stay is two years and it is understood by all that the interim minister leaves after that time. Interim ministers assist in healing congregations after a minister leaves.

The search process for Consulting Minister is less formal than that for Settled ministers and is handled by the District Executive. The candidate pool is not finite—ministers who wish to become consulting ministers may make their intentions known at any time and the District Executive may pass on their names. Consulting ministers are hired by Boards on a contractual basis; contracts are renewed with the consent of both parties. Consulting ministers may be called by congregations, after a congregational vote.

The Board of Trustees has chosen to seek another Consulting Minister because of the flexibility of the process. Our goal is to make this a full-time minister. The Finance and Stewardship committees plan to conduct our annual pledge drive in February, a month earlier than usual, in order to determine the funds available for the minister’s salary in the coming year. (We also need to be confident of our ability to sustain that salary beyond one year.) This calls for a major commitment from every member. We will then begin our ministerial search, in March.

Applications for members to the ministerial search committee are currently being solicited. Please see the related article in this issue, for further information.

I sincerely hope that this is the last ministerial search we need to conduct for a long time. Let’s find a minister that is a good fit for us and who will provide continuity and stability.

In Service,

Karen Russell<1ceramicat@comcast.net>

Reverend Bob Invites You to a

BAG LUNCH AT UUCF

Those who are available are invited to bring a bag lunch to UUCF on Friday, November 4, at 12:00. There is no agenda - just an opportunity to socialize and converse with other members and friends. You are welcome to arrive when you can and leave when you must if you need to return to work.
From the Director of Religious Education

I am thankful for:

✦ Yellow and red and brown and orange leaves
✦ Warm blankets
✦ Two boys who still want to come to church with me even though I work them hard when they’re here
✦ Monday Meditations from the UUA on Facebook
✦ Apples, apples, apples
✦ Peas and violets and pumpkins in the future Love Will Guide Us Garden (ask the 2nd-3rd graders!)
✦ The chance to do something—even a small thing—to make room for more justice and love in the world
✦ Homemade soup (Thanks, Mom!)
✦ The “shekels” (Dad’s word) that make their way into my wallet whenever my Dad comes to help me with my house
✦ A dinner table and a chalice to light and family eating together
✦ Getting to be an aunt again (waiting, waiting, waiting)

Working with and for a UU congregation

One of the many catalogs that have begun arriving in my mailbox has a Thanksgiving Bowl. It is a lovely wooden bowl filled with carved wooden acorns and cut out wooden leaves, and is meant to be part of a Thanksgiving table year after year.

My first thought on seeing the photo: “Want! Want! Want!”

And then I thought about the beautiful hand-carved wooden bowl I have on my bedroom windowsill. I thought how lovely it would look with a polishing of beeswax and a handful of real acorns rolling about inside. I thought how wonderful it would be to pass that bowl at the Thanksgiving table, or weekly Sunday dinner, breathe gratitude into those acorns, and then plant them somewhere (maybe in the future grow-out station at UUCF?).

What I have already, right in front of me, is enough.

Blessed be.

Lora Powell

ADULT SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Remember, current classes and opportunities are listed under Religious Education at www.frederickuu.org.

A BOOK FOR ALL SEASONS DISCUSSION

We hope some of you are reading Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong. The discussion will be put off from previously announced Dec. 4 till after the New Year because of the “Congregational Conversation” and other activities on the 4th.

If you have ideas for future books we should discuss together, please let members of the Adult Spiritual Enrichment Committee know.

AND... we are seeking your input for Adult Enrichment activities for 2012. If there is a class or activity you’d like to offer, please see the proposal form on the website or contact co-chairs Ann Foard or Nancy Hutchins. You may also reach us at <enrichment@frederickuu.org>.

Get ready for the arrival of our Guests!

Sunday, November 20 will be the kick-off of this year’s Guest At Your Table (GAYT) campaign. Hear the story of the campaign, and stories of those who benefit from the campaign through Stories of Hope. Take a collection box and a booklet (the Stories of Hope) and invite a Guest to your dinner table in November and December.

Requested items

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<th>New or lightly used</th>
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<th>Other Items</th>
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Lesson Schedule for November

Spirit Play class stories: Our Puritan Connection; Wapanoag Thanksgiving; Higgins, The Drop With a Dream (Guest at Your Table); Faith in Action Work Day

We invite your children to join us in one of our age-appropriate programs.
An Annual Program by the Stewardship Committee
By Nancy and David Hutchins
<dhutchins471@comcast.net>

You can be a UUCF Holiday Angel! This annual Holiday fundraiser is beginning October 30. It has a new title: Holiday Angel Program.

Give a gift of support to UUCF to honor someone, make a memorial donation, or put a gift to UUCF on your own wish list for family and friends.

The donating “Angel” will receive acknowledgment and the honoree will be notified and recognized with an ornament in our atrium. Donation forms are available in the atrium and online.

Are you someone who would appreciate a gift to UUCF’s ongoing programs from a friend or relative? Are the intangibles in life more important to you than the kind of gifts you have to unwrap? Would someone in your life just love to do something for you that would be meaningful to you and save on the head-scratching trip to the shopping mall? You can share information about the program by picking up a one-pager describing the Holiday Angel program at the UUCF station in the atrium (next to the rocking room/library), or find information at www.frederickuu.org.

Our children love this program! And we appreciate their generosity. It makes us feel good about the Holidays., and simplifies our lives.

Many of you may not realize it, but the piano that graces our sanctuary so beautifully was loaned to us approximately ten years ago. We have been very fortunate to have the free use of such a fine instrument for all of those years. Recently, the lady who lent us the piano has been experiencing a medical crisis, and she had to liquidate most of her assets to cover her bills. She asked us to buy the piano for $7,500, which was a reasonable price for the age and condition of the instrument. She also needed to have the proceeds of the sale quickly. So, one family in the church advanced the full amount with the understanding that we would do fund raising to recover much of the cost. The goal is to raise $6,500.

The piano keyboard sign you see in the narthex is the first phase of those efforts. We are asking members and friends to “buy” a key for $75. We will be auctioning off Middle C at the upcoming auction. If we sell all of the keys at that level, the full amount we need will be raised. If you would like to support the piano fund, but you can’t manage a gift that size, we will gladly sell you a key for a smaller amount.

The most important thing is that the piano is an essential element of our musical life on Sunday mornings. Try to imagine a full, rich musical experience without it. Now that instrument is safely ours, we hope you will express your support for the music our gifted pianists create with it.

~~ Jeff & Marguerite Wilson
<jmrwilson@comcast.net>
Perhaps you have heard the words "Chalice Community" at UUCF. Perhaps you know that these are informal discussion groups for members and friends. But do you really know what they are all about?

~ Chalice Communities are small groups – six to ten UUCF people
~ It’s the name we give to our congregational program of “small group ministry”
~ Six CC groups are meeting now, twice a month being the typical schedule
~ Groups meet Oct – June, but not in the summer
~ Some groups meet in the daytime, some in the evening
~ Each meeting has a topic, and the discussion is led by a facilitator
~ Members chime in with their life experiences related to the topic
~ New members are welcome -- you can join anytime
~ You can request to be a “visitor” for a session or two, or you can join (i.e., make a commitment of four months or more)
~ Former CC participants say the sessions are a great way to get acquainted at a deeper level with UUCF people

So now you know more. The next step is yours to take. If you want to be part of this very satisfying program, please contact one of the coordinators (Nancy Hutchins or Diane Shuey) in person or using this email address:

<cc@frederickuu.org>

AHA MEETING
Atheists, Humanists and Agnostics

By popular demand, AHA is adding a monthly discussion group with no specific agenda. We will focus on current events and social justice. Bring your ideas and arguments. This free-form discussion will occur on the 2nd Sunday of each month following second service.

Due to the Thanksgiving potluck lunch, our regular 4th Sunday AHA meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday, Nov. 20th. Dick Menzer will lead a discussion of Shaw’s play, Major Barbara.

~~Ann Foard <annford@gmail.com>

Sunday Worship Services
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

November 6
All Saints Sunday
In the Spirit of Full Disclosure
Turner Stokes

November 13
TBA
John Menke

November 20
Spiritual Journeys
Rev. Bob Hughes

November 27
Small is (still) Beautiful
Rev. Bob Hughes

If you remember the book and were touched by it, perhaps you have wondered how things might be different today if more of those suggestions had been followed! In these days of "too big to fail" (or "to tolerate") what might we have to relearn? If you haven't looked at E. F. Schumacher's book for some time, there is time to check it out again.

FRIENDLY FORUM     SUNDAY 10:00

Small groups discussing anything and everything of interest for 45 minutes in between our two services defines Friendly Forum. Come to room 113 to learn, share ideas, and get to know your fellow UUs on Sunday morning. Here are November’s discussions:

Nov. 6 - Reviving Chesapeake Bay by Restoring Native Oyster Reefs (Steve King)
Nov. 13 - Discussion of Lay Ministry at UUCF (Rev. Hughes)
Nov. 20 - God and Religion in Popular Music (Jack Topchik)
Nov. 27 - TBA

~~Dick Menzer <janddmenzer@comcast.net>

SERVETUS SOCIETY
10 a.m. Sunday November 6
On November 6 the Servetus topic focuses on Reformation Sunday. Communion will be served.
Participants describe these monthly services as Unitarian Universalism in a Christian context. All are welcome.

~~Sea Raven <searaven57@comcast.net>

UU BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

The UUCF Buddhist Fellowship meets on the third Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sunday, November 20, 10:00-10:55.

<uubgfrederick@gmail.com >

MEDITATION
Sundays, November 13 and 27, 10:00-10:50 am

Mark Holloway will provide some basic meditation instruction and readings. Each session will include approximately 30 minutes of sitting meditation. Mark is a participant in UUCF’s Buddhist Fellowship and has studied and practiced several forms of meditation, including Vipassana and Zen.

Please sign up if you are interested. Call UUCF, use the Adult Spiritual Enrichment sign-up notebook, sign up at www.frederickuu.org, or email to <enrichment@frederickuu.org.>
"Democracy," according to President Lincoln in his famous Gettysburg Address, is "...government of the people, BY THE PEOPLE, for the people..." and certainly that is compatible with UU Principles and Sources. In fact, our 5th Principle states specifically that we practice the "democratic process within our congregation..."

Please note our emphasis on the clause "by the people" - as it is the right, responsibility, and privilege for each of us to serve in a leadership capacity in our beloved congregation. Certain jobs lend themselves to certain attributes, talents, and qualifications. With that in mind, please note that UUCF is presently seeking new leadership — we are especially seeking folks who may not yet have taken "their turn" in volunteering to govern our little democracy.

As such, there is a call for ALL MEMBERS even remotely considering future positions of leadership to attend a "Diaglogue About UUCF Leadership -- It's TIME TO SERVE!" This will take place just after the conclusion of our 11:00 service on November 6th in the Sanctuary. It will be brief, yet informative. Please mark your calendars!

~~Danielle Grace

Covenant of UU Pagans
The CUUPs Open Circle celebrated the Fall season with a bonfire and drum circle this month. The Mead’s graciously lent their beautiful spacious property for the bonfire. It was a blustery day and we were not sure if it would be safe to light the fire, but the weather service predicted that the winds would ease at 7pm and they did! It was a bit chilly, but the fire was nice and toasty. We used sympathetic magic to burn away that which no longer served us and cleanse us for the upcoming Winter.

Speaking of Winter, the Winter Solstice/Yule celebration is scheduled for Thursday December 22nd. We will celebrate the shortest day of the year in the chapel at 7:30. So mark your calendars. <laughingfrog@gmail.com>

“Here and There”
Blanche Ames Gallery welcomes a collection of work inspired by local and travel scenes by the husband-wife team of Lou and Suzanne DiPasquale. Lou’s digital photographs and Suzanne’s acrylic paintings comprise landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, and flowers representative of the Frederick area and other East Coast destinations.

Lou DiPasquale
UUCF and the artists invite you to the reception for their show Here and There on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wed, Thu, Fri, 9:30-4:30, and Sun 9 – 1:30 or by arrangement, 301.473.7680.

Through November.

Enjoy the Show!!

Suzanne DiPasquale

Janet and Oscar Stine recently celebrated 60 years of marriage! This is a joy to all of us who know them.


Toastmasters in Frederick honored Roy Greene as model speaker in its Humorous and Evaluation contest. A toast!

Bob Hudgins is Hip! Actually, Bob now has a hip. Two hip operations and many set-backs later, Bob is on his feet and getting his stride back. It has been such a haul and we couldn’t be happier for him and for Mary.

Meet new member Mike Stockman. Mike wants to make a difference through working on our Social an Environmental Justice Committee. As a new committee member he has worked toward ending hunger in America and clothing those with limited resources.
SPLIT-PLATE FOR NOVEMBER

As a tribute and thank you to the tremendous job done by UUCF’s Green Sanctuary and the Green Team, the split-plate recipient on November 20th will be Unitarian Universalist Ministry For Earth. UUMFE’s vision is: Connecting and inspiring an active community of UUs for environmental justice, spiritual renewal, and shared reverence for our Earth home. More at www.uuminstforearth.org. For information about the work of UUCF’s Green Sanctuary and commendations, see the UU Green Sanctuary blog: http://tinyurl.com/3hvgw66.

NEW SEJC MEETING DAY AND TIME

Beginning Tues., November 15, the SEJC will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. This meeting is a steering committee meeting. If you are at all interested in any aspect of social justice or in leading a specific activity, please join us.

~~Mary Kruhm <writer@marybk.com>

HELPING OLTOROTUA VILLAGE, KENYA

The Oltorotua Clean Water and Sanitation Project, our split plate recipient next June, received a big boost from the Fredericktowne Rotary, which contributed $3,000 to building the three wells and 100 latrines (a 2-year $100,000 project). See http://digthiswell.com.

ALZHEIMER’S WALK DONATIONS

Ed Sorensen and Carol Antoniewicz, who spearheaded UUCF’s social action committee for many years, walked for Alzheimer’s on Oct. 23. Carol says the association is “doing great work in research to eliminate this heartbreaking illness and in advocacy to improve health care and services and have been very helpful to us.”

Make a tax-deductible donation online at http://tinyurl.com/3xxwvm or by mail (check payable to Alzheimer’s Assn. to 8207 Gambrill Park Rd., Frederick, MD 21702) by Nov. 23 to help “Ed’s Team.”

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Frederick County H for H: Nov 4 – New & Used Purse Auction at William R. Talley Recreation Center; Food from Wegman’s, $30/ticket. See www.frederickhabitat.org

INTERWEAVE

Second monthly meeting is on the 16th of November, at 7:30 in room 124. Interweave is a LGBT/QI/S support group.

~~John shining bear
<wygelia@xecu.net>

PRAYER WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

Many local congregations are joining in an interfaith effort to highlight the need for and support of those who are homeless in our community. Here is some additional information.

There is a Dinner for the Homeless which will be held at the Frederick Community Action Agency, 100 S. Market Street on Sunday, November 13, starting at 5:30.

Following the dinner, at 6:30, there will be an Interfaith Candlelit Prayer Walk through portions of Frederick as described in another announcement on this page. You may call Joey Hoffman at 240.285.5691 for information and ways to help or see the flyer on the minister’s door.

Participating in such efforts is one way UUCF can provide outreach to the local community and live out our commitment to justice and equity.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

As an Envoy to our UN Office, I am grateful to the congregation for the support shown on United Nations Sunday, with this year’s theme of “The Empowerment of Women for a Better World.” Thank you, everyone!

I would like to let you know a little about the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. These are the five priority goals of UN WOMEN, led by Michelle Bachelet:

1) Expanding women’s voice, leadership and participation;
2) Ending violence against women;
3) Strengthening implementation of the women, peace and security agenda;
4) Making gender equality priorities central to national, local and sectorial planning and budgeting.

In addition, Dr. Bachelet emphasizes the essential points of the 2011 Commission on the Status of Women: “Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work.”

In Peace,

~~Monica Greene
<monica.greene@yahoo.com>
Each month’s UNISON will include a short summary of our congregation’s finances, so here goes:

From July 1 through the middle of October, our “General Fund” shows the following:

Income = $88,985
Expenses = $77,297
Difference = $11,688

Here are some details about income: Pledge payments and donations in the Sunday plate make up about 80% of our income to date. We also have revenue from the gallery, renting to Congregation Kol Ami, interest on bank accounts, contributions for adult education programs, etc. (Next month, I’ll report income from the Annual Auction to be held on October 29.)

As for expenses, your donations to date have paid for salaries and benefits for our staff (45% of the total expenses shown above) and facility costs including mortgage, utilities, repairs, system tests and so forth (another 45% of the total). Other expenses are office supplies, phone and copier expense, Internet service, curriculum materials for religious education and so forth.

Last month we reported that we had not yet received any wish list donations, but that is now past history. Special people have made targeted gifts for cleaning the building, mowing, dues to UUA and JPD and the anniversary of our congregation. The only “wish list item” that does not need more donations is the 50th anniversary celebration (it took place in September). Any time you want to target a donation, be sure to note on your check if it is for mowing, cleaning or dues.

Here is what UUCF has given to outside organizations in the first quarter of our church year: $311 to Beacon House in support of summer programs for kids; $180 for the YMCA Aquatics program; $292 to the Community Correctional Service Committee in support of services at the state prison in Hagerstown and $315 to the UU-UNO office. In addition to those Split Plate Program gifts, we made a gift of $200 to the UU Service Committee.

If you have questions, please ask us. Meg Menke, Treasurer, Sandra Smith-Gill, Asst. Treasurer

~~Meg Menke<meg@menkescientific.com>

Service Opportunities

The Comprehensive Planning Committee is looking for members. Be a part of making the UUCF vision become a reality! The CPC helps the Board of Trustees do long-range planning and designs ways to ensure that UUCF is accomplishing its goals. Contact Steve Schatken <schatken@frontiernet.net> for more information.

Social & Environmental Justice Committee (SEJC) needs new members either to serve on steering committee or to help on one-time basis with already scheduled events (e.g., potlucks, publicity for meetings that provide outreach to community). For Social Action/JustAct projects, contact Mary Bowman-Kruhm, <writer@marybk.com> or phone 301-712-6828. For Green Sanctuary, contact Sandi Smith-Gill, <sandrasmithgill@aol.com> or 301-668-9698. Beginning Nov. 15, steering committee will meet third Tues. of month, 2:00 p.m. New members are needed if SEJC is to continue.

At present, the Nominating Committee is seeking a member with excellent accounting skills (past professional experience a bonus, but not a requirement!) to accept a nomination for ASSISTANT TREASURER to serve in the 2012-2013 term.

According to our Policies and Procedures Manual, the position of “Assistant Treasurer” is defined as:
* Assists the Treasurer and performs all the usual duties of that position;
* Assumes the duties of the Treasurer and votes in Board of Trustee meetings in the absence of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer is not otherwise a voting member of the Board;
* Performs other duties and functions as identified by the Board

If interested, please speak to any member of the Nominating Committee or the present Board of Trustees. Members of the latter are identifiable by their nametags. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Joan Deacon, Danielle Grace, Turner Stokes, Ruth Westman, and Irene Zmitrovis.

~~Danielle Grace
<88keys piano@comcast.net>
Lay Ministry at UUCF

For the past year the Board of Trustees has been studying the issue of ministry and ordination at UUCF. After extensive research, the Board presented a resolution to the congregation at the 2011 annual meeting in July. The resolution reads:

Be it resolved that

UUCF is not equipped at this time to confer full ordination outside of the UUA In-Fellowship process
UUCF find ways to support and recognize members of the congregation who are pursuing UUA ordination
UUCF should find means, short of full ordination, for recognizing and encouraging members who are developing their own particular ministerial skills, both within and without our UUCF community.

Further, that the incoming Board of trustees shall take reasonable and timely steps to further develop and refine this policy and to put it into effect.

The congregation accepted that resolution at the July meeting. Since then the Board has developed a process for identifying lay ministers to serve the congregation and the community in the name of UUCF. The process requires that candidates for the lay minister position be screened and approved by the current minister, then presented to the Board of Trustees and voted on at a full congregational meeting.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees is happy to announce that Deb Calhoun and Sea Raven have been recommended by Rev. Bob Hughes for Lay Ministry at UUCF, subject to approval by the congregation.

The recognition accorded by the title “Lay Minister” indicates that when Deb and Sea Raven perform ministerial duties such as conducting services, officiating at weddings and funerals, or extending care to the sick and dying, they do so in the name of UUCF. In the near term, these women will be able to assist Rev. Bob when his schedule is full. In the long term, if UUCF must manage without a minister for awhile, Deb and Sea Raven, with the assistance of the Worship Associates, will enable the congregation to continue to function effectively.

Deb Calhoun is currently pursuing formal studies that will eventually lead to full ordination within UUA as a Community Minister, with a specialization in chaplaincy. In the Spring of 2012, she expects to complete an MA degree in Pastoral Care through Loyola University, and will continue her work towards a MA in Theology through The Ecumenical Institute of Theology. In August, she completed a 20-month chaplaincy internship at Homewood (a continuing care retirement community in Frederick) and began her first unit of clinical pastoral education (CPE) at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. Additionally, by the time of graduation from Loyola, she will have completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). She is currently a student member of the Association of Professional Chaplains, and plans to pursue certification as a Board Certified Chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains. Furthermore, she is a member of Spiritual Directors International. She has attended UUCF since 2007 and has been a member of UUCF since September 2008. During that time she has served on the Pastoral Care Committee, preached several sermons for the full congregation, and has led services for the Servetus Society.

Sea Raven, D.Min., has recently completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education, and in November will receive certification as an Associate Clinical Chaplain by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, Washington, D.C. chapter. She is currently volunteering as a chaplain for Hospice of the Panhandle in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and at hospitals in Martinsburg and Ranson, West Virginia. She has an M.Ed. from Counselor Education from American University and a Doctor of Ministry in Creation Spirituality from the former University of Creation Spirituality (now Wisdom University) in Oakland, California. At UUCF, Sea Raven was a founding member of the Worship Associates Committee and is now serving as chair. She has regularly enhanced services at UUCF by preaching sermons, assisting the minister, and presenting music. Sea Raven has also offered many courses at UUCF as a part of our Adult Spiritual Enrichment program. Those courses include an introduction to Matthew Fox’s Creation Spirituality and several on the New Testament, such as the Gospel of Mark and the authentic letters of Paul, using current liberal Christian scholarship.

The process accepted by the Board of Trustees for naming Lay Ministers requires individuals to submit an application to the UUCF minister listing the appropriate credentials and experience; to abide by local, state, and federal laws; to make clear, when performing ministerial tasks, that they are not ordained ministers, but rather individuals authorized to support specific ceremonies; to demonstrate to UUCF, through the minister, specifically how they work with those they serve, perhaps through a discussion of their approach to ministry, their experiences in ministry, how the UU tradition shapes their presence in ministry; to be available to meet with the minister or ministerial representative before a ceremony to be conducted by the lay minister to review the plans for the ceremony as well as after the ceremony to reflect on the experience.

It is expected that all ministerial functions performed in the name of UUCF would be coordinated through the minister. When that function takes place at UUCF and involves members of the congregation, it is assumed that the minister would have the right of first refusal. Upon receiving and reviewing an application, if the minister is in support of the application, the minister will make his/her recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Because lay ministers will be serving in the name of UUCF, applicants will be presented to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting. There will also be an appropriate ceremony to confer the designation on the new Lay Minister. The designation as Lay Minister be conferred for a period of one year, renewable after a conference and review by the minister.

~Ann Foard
<annfoard@comcast.net>

Your Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of each month.

Complete Board minutes from previous months can be found online on our website and a hard copy is stored in the office.
2011 HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: “CHOOSE COMPASSIONATE CONSUMPTION”

The holiday season will be upon us before we know it, and we are busy planning our 2011 Holiday Boutique which is scheduled for December 4, 2011.

This year’s theme is one of UUSC’s Action Campaigns: “Choose Compassionate Consumption” (CCC). This theme is a natural extension of the goal of UUCF’s Fair Trade Project: to educate our congregation and the community about fair and ethical supply chains, emphasizing the concept that is taken directly from Green America’s publications: “following a fair and a sustainable supply chain”.

In addition to offering fairly traded and handcrafted merchandise, shoppers will be invited to sign UUSC’s “Choose Compassionate Consumption” pledge http://www.uusc.org/ccc to ask themselves the following questions before purchasing a product or service:

- Does my purchase support a just economy?
- Was the item/service produced with respect for workers’ rights and the environment?
- Who is profiting from my purchase? Are workers depending on my tip to enable them and their families to live with dignity?
- Does this purchase reflect a respect for the interdependent web of all existence?

UUCF’s 2011 CCC Holiday Boutique will offer a wide variety of ethically traded and sustainably crafted merchandise from our Fair TRADE BOUTIQUE, including jewelry, accessories, tableware, cards, art, and much, much more!

A different selection of merchandise is available at any given time. In addition, we feature offerings that are environmentally friendly and that support Sustainable Living. These range from Fair Trade products that are made from recycled and/or sustainably harvested materials to environmentally friendly natural garden products.

We support US vendors that protect worker’s rights, practice socially and environmentally responsible policies, and source their products through a fair supply chain. Among these products are Reusable Shopping Bags, recycled & compostable plastic bags, energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps, tree-friendly and fairly traded greeting and note cards, and organic soap. Eco-friendly wrapping paper will also be available.

This year we are hoping to add a “Secret Santa” shopping area for children only to purchase moderately priced gifts for their parents and family. No adults, except for designated helper-“Elves”, will be allowed! If you are interested in working on this project, please let us know at <fairtrade@frederickuu.org>, or contact Sandi Smith-Gill.

As in past years, artisans from the congregation and community are invited to sell their own hand-made crafts or imported Fair Trade gifts from their home countries. Healthy homemade baked goods are traditionally offered by the Circle of Life Cooperative. The CCC Holiday Boutique will not include a fashion show but all the events described above will provide a great holiday shopping experience. With a Blanche Ames Gallery Art Exhibit opening on the same day, you should be able to complete your holiday shopping all in one day and one place!

Of course, the success of this event depends upon volunteers to help with overall management, set-up, sales, cashiers, Elves to help “Secret Santa” shoppers, and break-down. Additional information will be available in November for volunteers and exhibitors to sign up on the UUCF Fair Trade web page http://www.frederickuu.org/sac/UUCF_Fair_Trade_Project.php and in the weekly Announcements. In the meantime, interested persons can contact <fairtrade@frederickuu.org>.

RECYCLING NEWS

Did you know that many brands of cat food use aluminum cans for the small and extra small (premium) flavors? I didn’t, because until recently I fed my cats only dry food, but needed to switch to canned food. It’s surprising how fast they accumulate. So we can bring cat food cans, in addition to soda cans, for John to recycle! (Caution, though, not all brands are aluminum - check with a magnet! (Friskees and Fancy Feast are OK) ~ ~Sandi Smithgill
November Birthdays


Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Of Frederick, Maryland
4880 Elmer Derr Road
Frederick, MD 21703
301-473-7680
www.frederickuu.org

Our Mission
We, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, are a socially and spiritually welcoming congregation of life-long learners. We embrace social justice, caring for the earth, fairness and peace. By living our UU Principles, we aspire to diversity, compassion and respect — in our lives, community, and world.

Congregational Contacts

Church Office and Directory Assistance for all Contacts — 301.473.7680

Rev. Bob Hughes — minister@frederickuu.org
Dottie Hall, congregational administrator — office@frederickuu.org
Lora Powell, DRE — education@frederickuu.org
Karen Russell, board president — 1ceramicat@comcast.net
Sue Singley, Circle of Life pre-school — circleoflife@frederickuu.org
Carrie Bagwill — cadmin@circleoflifeuu.org
Turner Stokes, communication — infotech@frederickuu.org
Rick Holt — webmaster@frederickuu.org
Tibby Middleton, Unison — midken@comcast.net

Contact individuals for any meetings as schedules vary; Posted hours are

Dottie Hall: Wednesday to Friday 9-5. Sunday 9-1
Lora Powell: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:15-2:30. Sunday 8:30-1:30.

Pastoral Care Contacts
If you are in need of assistance or help, make a call. Your community is ready to hold you up:

Fanny Johnsson — fjohnsson@comcast.net – 301-694-5474
Diane Shuey — dbshuey@comcast.net – 301-865-6023
Deb Calhoun — deborahcalhoun@comcast.net – 301-865-0249
Julie Ebersole — julie.ebersole@gmail.com – 240-329-7266
Hannah Gaffigan — hmgaffigan@msn.com – 301-845-0478
Jill Schatken — schatken@frontiernet.net – 304-876-0010
Foods for Friends — Dorothea Mordan – mordanmailbox@gmail.com – 443-980-9363

Announcements for our monthly newsletter are submitted by the 24th of the month. Editor is Tibby Middleton, associate editor, Barbara Kenny. Please be brief and concise.

Send to <announcements@uucf.org> and write Unison as the subject.

Weekly email announcements are submitted by Wednesday of each month. Editor is Turner Stokes.

Send to <announcements@uucf.org> and write Announcements as the subject.