News & Notes

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

The Bridge Club will get together December 10 at the home of Nancy and Dave Hutchins. Potluck dinner precedes bridge. Contact <nhutchins471@comcast.net> for info.

As they do each month, the CGs (Chronologically Gifted) will meet for their monthly potluck at the church on December 10. Always festive, the potluck sets up at 11 a.m. to be ready for lunch at noon. Contact person is Marj Mansfield <marge2774@comcast.net>.

Celebrate the Holidays with Us

AN ANCIENT RITUAL BECOMES AN ANSWER TO HOLIDAY RUSH, NOISE, STRESS and MEANINGLESSNESS.
Our Labyrinth welcomes you on December 10, the night of the full moon.

"Enjoy the beauty and peace of the Labyrinth by the light of the full moon Saturday, December 10th, between 5 and 8 p.m. Remember to dress warmly and feel free to bring a thermos of something warm to drink. If you have not participated in a Full Moon Labyrinth Walk before, there's no need to worry. There is no ceremony or ritual, no wrong or right way to walk a Labyrinth. We put out little flickering LED tealights to help illuminate the turns and people are free to walk whenever they'd like to.

The first hour and a half of the Labyrinth walk is a quiet walk. The second half of the evening is a drumming walk--hand drummers are welcome to bring percussion instruments and add the energy of rhythm to the Walk."

~~ Irene Jericho, our Labyrinth Facilitator <irene.jericho@gmail.com>.

WINTER SOLSTICE/ YULE CELEBRATION
Scheduled for Thursday evening, December 22nd. For people of nearly any religious background, the time of the winter solstice is a time when we gather with family and loved ones. For Pagan and Earth Religionist, it is often celebrated as Yule. The Yule season is full of magic, much of it focusing on rebirth and renewal, as the sun makes its way back to the earth. It is time to focus on new beginnings which germinate in winter! Please join us at 7:30 at UUCF for ritual, drumming and a Yule Feast (please bring something to share).

~~ Cosette Blackmer <lafingfrog@gmail.com>

CHRISTMAS EVE
Our sanctuary welcomes you for
“LESSONS AND CAROLS”
The Christmas Eve Service is a UUCF tradition. Don’t spend Christmas Eve alone! Spend it with us.

7:00 p.m.
Are you thinking about preschool for your child for next year? The Circle of Life Cooperative Preschool will be hosting an open house on Saturday, January 28th from 10 am - 12 pm in the preschool classroom. Come meet the teacher, talk to parents of current students, let you child explore the classroom.  Come meet the preschool classroom.  Come meet the teacher, talk to parents of current students, let you child explore the classroom, and sweet treats set the mood for your seasonal shopping! This year we are making two of our popular items available for special order, set for delivery to the church on your choice of December 11th or 18th. See our table for details!

Giving Tree in the Gallery Hall
The Giving Tree still has a few ornaments! Please choose one and provide a gift or gifts for a child or adult in need this season. Gifts should be wrapped, have the ornament/tag attached and be at the church by December 11. Thank you!

The Circle of Life Cooperative Preschool will be holding its annual bake sale during the Holiday Boutique on December 4th. Stop by our table in the narthex between the hours of 10:00 and 3:00 and let the smell of hot apple cider and sweet treats set the mood for your seasonal shopping! This year we are making two of our popular items available for special order, set for delivery to the church on your choice of December 11th or 18th. See our table for details!

President’s Corner

After I became a UU, I was surprised to learn that five U.S. Presidents were Unitarians: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Millard Fillmore, William Howard Taft, and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, however, was never a member of a congregation, according to a UU friend who taught a class about our denomination. My friend said that documentation of Jefferson’s affiliation came as the result of a letter that he wrote, wherein he professed Unitarian leanings.

I’ve always been curious about that letter. While I was happy to count Jefferson as a UU historical heavyweight, the letter referenced by my friend was not readily accessible for scrutiny. How much did it count? Were UU’s stretching the point to benefit from the status of the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?

A letter to the editor in the December issue of Smithsonian Magazine (pg. 6) has produced an answer to my questions. Assuming that Dwight Cramer, of North Bethesda, MD is correct, here’s what Jefferson wrote to smallpox vaccination pioneer Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, in 1825: “The population of my neighborhood is too slender, and is too much divided into other sects to maintain any one preacher well. I must therefore be content to be a Unitarian by myself.” The letter was written a year and a half before Jefferson’s death.

Mr. Cramer writes further, “Jefferson’s personal ‘Bible’ was a book he created from the basic teachings and moral lessons of Jesus, but like Unitarianism, without the concept of the Trinity and associated dogma, which Jefferson also rejected.” I’m now satisfied that Jefferson was a Unitarian. Thank you, Mr. Cramer.

Happy Holidays,
Karen Russell
<1ceramicat@comcast.net>

Minister’s Musings

What’s our Slogan?

Rev. Robert Hughes

The slogan for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America is “do a good turn daily.” All-state’s slogan is, "You’re in good hands with Allstate." The US Army’s slogan is, “Be all you can be.” You get the idea - many organizations have slogans. In addition to being memorable, catchy advertising, slogans tell us something about the hopes and commitment of the organization. Check out http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Advertising_slogans

So, what is the "slogan" of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, Md.? If you could sum up our work/intention/hopes/commitments in a short phrase, what would that phrase be?

The Committee on Ministry would like to hear from you regarding your ideas for a congregational slogan. Let’s have a “slogan” contest!! Think of some fitting words and get it to a member of the Committee on Ministry. We want to emphasize that we would like a positive slogan (do not send us something about “what we are not”). The COM will evaluate the entries and share the best ones with the congregation. Perhaps we could adopt the winning slogan as our own for a year or so - let’s see what happens. Slogans need to be easily memorized, accurate, descriptive, and promote the positive.

You may submit your entries to minister@frederickuu.org or any member of the Committee on Ministry - Carole Larsen, Ed Rau, Julie Ebersole. Entries are to be submitted by December 15, 2011. Thanks for thinking about our congregational life.

Best wishes,

rth

IF YOU ARE NOT YET 70 1/2 YEARS OLD, PLEASE DO NOT READ THIS

You, dear reader, have elected to pay attention to this article because you are the right age. Congratulations. May I ask if you have an IRA account? If so, you already know about the tax rule that says you must withdraw some of your IRA funds every year. But do you know about “The IRA Charitable Rollover?” It is a special IRS rule that allows you to use your annual distribution both to do good and save on taxes. What could be better?

By using this special method of taking an IRA distribution, you can give up to $100,000 in 2011 to any eligible charity, and yes, UUCF is one of those. Money you give with this method can be counted toward your Minimum Required Distribution, but you don’t count it as income when you file your taxes. (Thus the tax saving.)

An IRA Charitable Rollover donation must be done in a particular way – you cannot do it by writing a check. If you would like to take advantage of this special plan, please talk to your tax advisor soon (i.e., don’t wait until the end of December.) Or you can ask Meg Menke, UUCF Treasurer, for more details.

<meg@menkescientific.com>
I had the pleasure of traveling to Georgia to attend my sixth Renaissance Module: Administration of Religious Education Programs (find out more about the Renaissance program here: http://www.uua.org/careers/re/renaissance/index.shtml).

Reconnecting with colleagues from the southern districts, learning about other programs, and the issues those programs face, and sharing knowledge and experience were wonderful. The best information I brought back, however, included descriptions of responsibilities for a religious education committee, how the chair of that committee can be most effective, how a DRE and REC work together to create the most effective RE program.

Here is my other favorite bit of wisdom, which came out of a large group discussion: A Director of Religious Education serves (not really in a particular order, despite the numbered list!): 1. Children and youth of the congregation 2. Families of the congregation 3. The congregation 4. The Unitarian Universalist faith

This may seem obvious once it’s in list form, but it is a reminder that religious education decisions affect the whole congregation, especially the future of a congregation’s program, mission, composition.

“We, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, are a socially and spiritually welcoming congregation of lifelong learners.”

May we learn together to be Unitarian Universalists. May we send our children out into the world with a strong spiritual foundation, and may we provide such a rich and compelling beginning that the children and youth raised in this congregation will be lifelong Unitarian Universalists. Blessed be.

Lora Powell

Appreciation

Our RE year is well under way! I would like to take this space to celebrate and recognize our RE volunteers. Please thank them if you meet up in the hall! Religious Education Committee: Charlotte Letourneau, Dick Menzer, Penny McDougal

Teachers and Assistants: Julie Ebersole, Pam Gromen, Monica Greene, Sue Singley, Charles Haney, Julia Roettiger (who had to take a leave of absence for this year), Lisa and Scott Schooling, Cosette Blackmer, Charissa Biliigmeier, Alex Hamill, Isaac Whitaker, Maggie Scobie, Roger Smith, Charlotte Letourneau, Karen Butler, Marty Letourneau, David Simmons, Deb Couture.

Thanksgiving Acorns

If you took home a packet of acorns, please remember to keep them cool and moist on your travels, and to bring them back to UUCF for planting.

Evensong for Families

Building community requires time to be together. There is a wonderful program for families that involves a short worship time and a project that is done together. If your family would be interested in a Wednesday evening soup and bread supper, followed by a structured program for all of you, please contact Lora Powell (education@frederickuu.org; 301-473-7680 x104). The program, including dinner, would run for about an hour and a half, for eight weeks.

Abundance Share News

The middle school youth delivered an abundance of donations to the Frederick Rescue Mission on Sunday, November 27. Thank you to everyone who brought in new and gently used items for people in need.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

Programs for 2012: Your Input Welcomed. The Adult Spiritual Enrichment Committee is seeking workshops, discussions, activities for 2012. The list of opportunities is being listed on the frederickuu.org website and will be updated for January - spring. If there is a class or activity that you’d like to offer to lead or present, please see the proposal form on the website or contact co-chairs Ann Foard or Nancy Hutchins, email enrichment@frederickuu.org.

Book Discussion Re-Scheduled to February.

Our “Book for All Seasons” selection for the fall/winter is “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” by Karen Armstrong. You have lots of time to read it and join us for discussion after the 11:00 service on Sunday, Feb. 5. We welcome your ideas about other books our congregation might enjoy discussing.

Chalice Communities - Small Group Discussions.

Our small group ministry program is up and running for the year. These small groups meet twice monthly to discuss topics agreed to by the group. These groups are open to all--friends just exploring UU to long-time members--and a great way to really get to know others in the congregation. We are organized to welcome additional members throughout the year. Please contact Diane Shuey or Nancy Hutchins if you would like to visit a group, so you can see if you’d like to join. Email to cc@frederickuu.org. There are groups evenings and mornings and one group which is meeting some Sunday afternoons and some Friday evenings.
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY--OUR CONGREGATION'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU!

We all want to have a say in our congregation's future, and our next chance to do so will be at the 11:00 service on Sunday, December 4. We began our congregational conversation last April and May. Then we asked ourselves the broad questions of "Who are we, how are we doing now, and who do we want to become?" The Board of Trustees has adopted the following four goals to address the most pressing needs of UUCF that were identified in those conversations:

- Finding a full-time minister who will help the congregation achieve its goals.
- Improving stewardship, including improving the fiscal stability of UUCF.
- Strengthening and adding more focus to the UUCF social action and environmental justice program, including providing more opportunities for service.
- Continuing to build and maintain community in UUCF.

During the service on December 4 we will share our thoughts about the four goals and what we need to do next to make these goals a reality in our congregation. Please be there to help shape our future!

Contact: Steve Schatken, Chair, Comprehensive Planning Committee, <schatken@frontiernet.net>.

AHA MEETING
Atheists, Humanists and Agnostics

Our free-form discussion will be held as scheduled on December 11 following second service. Due to the busyness of the month, we will vote on whether or not to meet the 3rd Sunday, December 18 for a themed discussion.

~Ann Foard <annford@gmail.com>

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

December 4, one service at 11:00 a.m.
The Advent of 2012, and a Congregational Conversation
Rev. Bob Hughes
December 11
Our Jewish Heritage
Rabbi Dan Sikowitz
December 18
Light of the Time
Solstice Celebration
Rev. Bob Hughes
December 25, one service at 11:00 a.m.
Walk the Indoor Labyrinth
Flute and harpsichord music from Sea Raven, Jeff Wilson, and Marguerite Wilson

Additional Services in December

December 24, one service at 7:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols
Lora Powell, Director of Religious Education

December 31, one service at 7:00 p.m.
Taize Vigil for Peace held in the Chapel
Led by Sea Raven and Mary Fletcher

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 December’s discussions:

Dec. 4 - Are UUs Christian? (Bill Sydnor)
Dec. 11 - Transitions Movement (Hillary Banachowski)
Dec. 18 - Process for Congregation-wide Social Action Issues (Dick Roblin)
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day (no forum)

~~Dick Menzer <janddmenzer@comcast.net>

SERVETUS SOCIETY
10 a.m. Sunday, December 4

Doug Foard leads the service in the chapel on a theme of Advent. 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, December 18, 10:00-10:55.

~uubgfrederick@gmail.com~

New Year’s Eve

Our Yearly Taize Vigil for Peace
7-8 p.m.
in the Chapel

(The ecumenical Taize Community, founded in France, practices a devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation.)
**Blanche Ames Gallery welcomes ONE show, TWO artists, and THREE dimensional art forms.**

**Julie Maynard**'s work is form of painting with paper on two- or three-dimensional surfaces, building up layers that incorporate objects picked up along the Potomac River and city streets.

**Jeffery Miller** creates frames that are as intricate and decorative on the reverse side as they are when viewed from the front -- thus producing a true sculpture.

UUCF and the artists invite you to the reception for their show “**One, Two, Three**” on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 12:00 to 2 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wed, Thu, Fri, 9:30-4:30, and Sun 9 – 1:30 or by arrangement, 301.473.7680. Through December. Enjoy the Show!!
Welcome to news from the Social and Environmental Justice Committee (SEJC)!

JUSTice + ACTion = JustAct

We have a little prize for a UUCFer who correctly counts how many times the letter p appears from Go! through the rest of the article. E-mail <writer@marybk.com> with your name and count. The winner will be drawn from those who submit the correct number.

For Example: You should find letter p seven times by the time you read atrium. To give you a start, they are highlighted in bold type. Ready to begin reading and counting every letter p or P? Go!

COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD PANTRY OF THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR EMERGENCY HUMAN NEEDS

Needs are up 40% over last year, the largest increase in over 20 years, and contributions have gone down. Way down. A big trash-type can covered with holiday wrapping paper is in the narthex/atrium. Please donate canned or dry food items or script. And remember pets. The following is a list of items needed:

CANNED MEATS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS, SOUPS, AND PASTA SAUCE,

HEALTHY CEREALS, PASTA, RICE, DRIED BEANS,

INSTANT POTATOES, PEANUT BUTTER, BABY FOOD, DIAPERS

Questions? Contact Cynthia Kuske <cynthiakuske@hotmail.com> or 301-874-2482. Check the Food Pantry website at http://www.thereligiouscoalition.org/supplies.php#Pantry

DECEMBER SPLIT-PLATE

Our December split-plate will benefit Kenya Self-Help Project (Kenya-Help.org) by providing IT tuition and, hopefully, a graduation gift, for Lilian Adoyo, the student we supported through high school. In Kenya, high school students do not have access to computers. Her grades almost guarantee Lilian a scholarship and, to encourage her college success, we want to pay for her enrollment in a computer literacy program. Can we possibly purchase a new or used computer for her? It depends on your contributions to the December split-plate!

You may remember that four years ago Lilian, who was accepted to the very prestigious Alliance School for Girls outside Nairobi, did not have bus money to take her there. Our split plate contribution arrived as the semester was beginning and the KSH executive director himself drove her there. See p. 7 of last month’s Unison for a photo and details about her success, thanks to our contribution. Let’s just say when she entered Alliance she was 172 out of 206 students and she has risen to 16 out of 206.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Guest at Your Table is a long-time UUA program to turn contributions into tangible projects to advance human rights. You can choose to contribute three ways:

- Use the boxes RE distributed. Drop in coins and return the box by December 18th.
- Write a check to UUCF with “Guest at Table” on the For line.
- Go online to http://www.uusc.org/guest/donations. Click on the link “Make your Guest at Your Table gift online.”

CLOTHING DRIVE

Thanks for your donations. Five 30-gallon bags of clothing were distributed to Goodwill. Although Goodwill charges a nominal fee for items, the Religious Coalition issues vouchers that allow those in need of clothing to obtain them without cost. Items on hangers, such as job-oriented suits and dresses, were taken to Select Seconds, the outlet for Frederick Memorial Hospital, which also charges a very nominal price to those in need.

PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sunday, January 15, 12:15: Critical Exposure. The Blanche Ames gallery is dark but SEJC will sponsor an exhibit of powerful photographs taken by D.C. youth to advocate for improvements in their schools and communities. More at http://www.criticalexposure.org/
UUCF income always gets a boost in the Fall when we hold our Annual Auction. Ditto our sense of community because the Auction is always a lively, funny and delicious event. In October, even though we had a weather related change from Saturday eve to Sunday afternoon, costumes and bidding paddles were on fine display. We did meet our fund-raising expectations, netting $19,208 after paying costs of food, printing, etc. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, donated and bid with such glee and generosity.

Income and expenses from July 1 through late November are as follows:

- **Income**: $131,724
- **Expenses**: $104,220
- **Difference**: $27,504

Income is especially positive at this time due to auction receipts and other generous gifts from our members. Expenses remain low for now but soon we will be paying for winter (propane for heat, snow clearing) and the ministerial search, to begin after Jan. 1. We will make another quarterly payment of dues to UUA and JPD at the end of December (...yes, now is good time to add a Wish List donation for this purpose.)

~~Meg Menke, Treasurer <meg@menkescientific.com~~

**Service Opportunities**

The SEJC needs at least one volunteer to assume the role of coordinating UUCF’s Fair Trade Program. This is the last year Sandi Smith-Gill will be able lead the program. If no one steps forward most of UUCF’s Fair Trade Program will become dormant, with the exception of Sunday Coffee-Etc sales which will continue under the leadership of Jane Ladner.

The UUSC encourages congregations to actively support Fair Trade, and UUCF’s program was an important part of our Green Sanctuary certification process. If you are interested, or would like more information, see our webpage at [http://www.frederickuu.org/sac/UUCF_Fair_Trade_Project.php](http://www.frederickuu.org/sac/UUCF_Fair_Trade_Project.php), or contact Sandi at sandrasmithgill@aol.com or 301-668-9698.

*Volunteer(s) are needed if events like the Holiday Boutique, Fair Trade events accompanying the Fashion Show, and other special Fair Trade sales or events are to continue.*

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Please check out the SEJC website: http://www.frederickuu.org. On the left side of the web page click Social & Environmental Justice and then click on JUSTice ACTION Committee. **We need members!** The five current members cannot continue without help. If you are willing to take on a short, limited-time project (one of ours or one you suggest and are invested in), please contact Mary Bowman-Kruhm, <writer@marybk.com>. Or attend our next meeting, Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
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**Looking for You**

*If you sing or play an instrument, we would love to have you share that talent with us. Please contact Sheryl Dean <skylarks cf@gmail.com>.*

Patty Pollatos and the friends and co-workers of our members **John and Sabrina Smith** are finding ways to help them financially with John’s struggle against recurring cancerous brain tumors.

To see information about an event fund-raiser on 12/15, please email Pastoral Care member Diane Shuey <dbshuey@gmail.com> and ask her to email you the flyer.

If you would like to help the Smiths through a donation, here is that information: Make checks payable to PPF, Inc. and **write “John Smith Fund” in the memo**. Mail donations to PPF, Inc. 11102 Eagletrace Court, New Market, MD 21774. PPF, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, benefiting John Smith. John is a proud YMCA Hall of Fame recipient and the Frederick Dive Team founder and coach. His wife Sabrina is a local teacher.
Mark and Hannah Gaffigan reared four children and have now adopted three orphaned Ethiopian children. We began their story last month, including a picture of the new kids. We wish all the best to this beautiful family.

The children are settling in, but a great deal goes into preparing the adoptive families and the orphans in hopes of as smooth a transition as possible.

Birhanu, now going by Luke, 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 team uniform, and kicking a real ball is heaven.

Eyob is a barrel of fun. He has grasped the language quickly and always thinks of a way to make us smile.

Aeden is all girl. She loves her ballet and tap dance lessons (which she is excited to resume once the cast is off her broken leg.) She goes to the Walkersville High School football games with us and plays cheerleader in the stands, imitating all they do. She has managed to wrap us all round her little finger.

When families are completing an adoption, there is a boatload of training involved. Ten hours have to be completed before parents can be deemed suitable for the role. (Prior hands on experience doesn’t count!) On the other side of the world, our children were also being prepared. Once we had met them in March and been approved by the Ethiopian judge in the Ethiopian courts, they were each given a small photo album we had made for them that told about our family. It included pictures of us, their new brothers, John, 20, Sam, 18, and Ben, 15, and of their new sister Libby, 13, as well as our dogs, cats, donkeys, house, yard, and new soccer balls.

Their social workers were able to start talking about “adoption” and so by the time we returned to Ethiopia in July to have our US Embassy appointment and bring the children home, they were ready!

Our trips to Ethiopia were both excellent. The adoption agency we used had a guest house for all the families who were adopting from their orphanages. That is also where we were served our meals. In March we stayed with 13 other couples, so you can imagine the sharing of emotions that went on that week as we all met our children for the first time. For our second trip we included Sam and Ben. We added 3 days on the front of the Ethiopia trip to be tourists in Egypt. The Egyptian revolution made us question our plans but once there it was exciting to be able to see history being made.

Including Sam and Ben in the Ethiopian part of the trip was a great move! They were wonderfully energetic helpers with the children, playing soccer, wrestling, teaching card games, and giving piggy back rides. The new children fell in love with them immediately! It also widened their world experiences and to quote Sam, “I will never say a bad thing about the US again!”

So now the children are settling in nicely. Hannah is home schooling them at the moment to help them get used to our culture, spend time bonding, and to work on getting their reading up to grade level. Our hopes are to send them to school in Frederick in January, as they are craving the American school experience. They have enjoyed our trips to the Baltimore Aquarium, (the parking deck was amazing to them — they had seen American parking decks in movies while living in Ethiopia and these all involved car chases and shooting), the Catoctin zoo (the llama spat in their faces), Washington DC (Aeden was more fascinated with a teenager with green dyed hair than she was the dinosaurs), and hiking in the mountains (moss and acorns were exciting to them)!

The children are American citizens now, and will tell you how much they love America. It is important to us, however, that they keep in touch with their Ethiopian culture. On our trip into DC we were able to visit the area of the city known as Little Ethiopia. This is the largest community of Ethiopians in this country, approximately 200,000. Luke admitted how much he enjoyed seeing the Amharic writing on the store fronts, smelling the smells, and tasting the food.

Addis Abbaba

We will also enjoy our Frederick Ethiopian restaurant, and are looking forward to taking them to some Ethiopian Eastern Orthodox church services. They do love our RE classes at UUCF. This is the closest to “school” they are getting at the moment, and they are loving those interactions. Thank you to their marvelous teachers.

Each day is a new adventure. It may include trying new foods (pizza and spaghetti are favorites), seeing a squirrel race up a tree (ground hogs are almost as exciting), seeing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time and discovering sand crabs in Chincoteague, or learning that the leaves are really going to change colors and then fall off the trees (“No, Mommy, no,” said Luke in disbelief, sure he was being teased.) We are thrilled to have these children in our lives and look forward to sharing them with you, our UUCF family.
**UUCF and FREDERICK**  
Campaign for Non-Violence

**The Season for Nonviolence** commemorates the 64 days between the Anniversary of the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program is convened by the Association for Global New Thought, and co-founded by Dr. Arun Gandhi of the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. Communities across the country recognize the “Season” through an educational and community action campaign. UUCF participates by hosting an event and by sharing information of other events with the congregation. This year’s Season for Nonviolence in our Frederick Community will take place January 29 through April 1.

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**Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition — shared by Rev. Bob Hughes**

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods --merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It’s time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificate from your local American hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It’s appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement. Who wouldn’t appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course. There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn’t the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn’t use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy? My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running. OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes. I am sure we could put our heads together and think of many more!

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre. Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands. Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

**THIS is the new American Christmas tradition.**
Use our Amazon link for your Holiday shopping. Why?

Amazon is appreciated by all ages, who live in all places. You can buy merchandise, or send a **GIFT CARD**. UUCF benefits from every order. The link to use: [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/uucf04-20](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/uucf04-20)

To the customer, it works just like any other Amazon order, but the code allows Amazon to track UUCF orders and generate a rebate. Bookmark and use for sending gifts all year.

We also invite you to use our **Sunday Scrip Table**. We have available gift cards for all the major grocery stores; Home Depot; Lowes; Walmart; Kmart; Petsmart; Sheetz; Rite Aide; Joann's; Red Lobster; Panera; Starbucks. Is this the year for a practical gift card?

Visit our **Scrip Table** and we can **order cards** for LOTS of other stores, and services - even motels and airline travel. (Janice Schlepp just booked with Marriott.)

These cards added $5,000 to our 2010-2011 budget! **FREE MONEY FOR UUCF.** The program makes money, but doesn't cost the end-user anything.

**What do you want for Christmas if you already have too much?**

Would you appreciate a gift to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick to support ongoing programs and congregational life?

This gift would be valued and appreciated because of your involvement in the UUCF community...

If you are the person who would appreciate a donation to this community and want to add it to your “wish list” for friends or relatives, please pick up a flyer that you can send your friend or relative at UUCF at the **Holiday Angel Station** in the atrium. Donation forms available at the same location. Printable forms are also available at [www.frederickuu.org](http://www.frederickuu.org). Questions to Dave Hutchins, <dhutchins471@comcast.net>.

**2011 HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**
**DECEMBER 4, 12:30-3pm**

The theme of this year's Holiday Boutique is one of UUSC's Action Campaigns: “Choose Compassionate Consumption”. Shoppers will be invited to sign UUSC's “Choose Compassionate Consumption” pledge [http://www.uusc.org/ccc](http://www.uusc.org/ccc). A seasonal selection of our inventory of **Fair Trade merchandise** will be on display, including fairly traded and eco-friendly cards and wrapping paper. As in past years, members and friends of the congregation have been invited to sell their own hand-made crafts or fairly traded gifts from their home countries. **Healthy homemade baked goods** will be offered by the **Circle of Life Cooperative**. With a Blanche Ames Gallery Art Exhibit opening on the same day, you should be able to complete your "Compassionate Consumption" holiday shopping all in one day and one place! For more details, see the article in the November Unison newsletter or our webpage at [http://www.frederickuu.org/sac/UUCF_Fair_Trade_Project.php#HB](http://www.frederickuu.org/sac/UUCF_Fair_Trade_Project.php#HB).
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS


A special December 4th HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our wonderful Congregational Administrator, Dottie Hall.

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 — clcadmin@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@frederickuu.org> and write Unison as the subject.

Weekly email announcements are submitted by Wednesday of each month. Editor is Turner Stokes. Send to: <announcements@frederickuu.org> and write Announcements as the subject.