



UUCOB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2008



COME JOIN US!

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

See our calendar on page 6, or visit www.uucob.org for the most up-to-date information.

2/3 UUs in Selma: James Reeb, Viola Liuzzo *Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch*

In recognition of Black History month, Rev. Pat will recall two of the many Unitarian Universalists who heard the call from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1965 to march from Selma to Montgomery in support of civil rights. Yet in so doing, Rev. Reeb and Mrs. Liuzzo lost their lives. Let us take a look into the past and reflect some on the present with regard to UUs, civil rights and race relations.

2/10 Topic TBD *Reverend Terre Balof*

Terre Balof is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, Georgia. Before coming to Athens in 1995, Terre served as the half-time minister at Emerson Unitarian Congregation in Marietta, GA, for three years and as weekend minister at the Montgomery, AL, Fellowship.

Rev. Balof was originally ordained a United Methodist minister in 1978. After a circuitous religious pilgrimage, she finally found Unitarian Universalism and became a Fellowshiped UU minister in 1994. She received Final Fellowship at the 1997 UUA General Assembly. She is a graduate of Millsaps College and Emory University where she received both a Masters of Divinity and a Masters in the Teaching Arts.

2/17 What the World Needs Now is Love *Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch* *Intergenerational Service*

What might the animals teach the humans if they could? Find out by listening to or being a part of an adaptation of Douglas Woods' lovely story, "Old Turtle and the Broken Truth." Readers of all ages are invited to contact Rev. Pat if you would like a part in the presentation.

2/24 All of Creation *Burnham Gould* *Discussion Sunday*

Burnie Gould will lead our discussion. He will focus on the ideas in a statement which Rev. Steve Keplinger, Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Page, Arizona, made recently at a meeting of national religious leaders in Washington, DC, which concluded with the words "Every age has a deep calling to bring about a new world view. This is the evangelism of our time. It is time for us to hear not just the cry of God's people, but to hear the cry of all of God's creation. There is nothing more important we will ever do."

DON'T FORGET the Chocolate Auction February 8th at 7:00 PM



FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Pat Guthmann Haresch

Over the course of three consecutive Sundays following the morning service in January, seventeen different individuals (UUCOB members, friends, visitors & the minister) joined together to talk in depth about our Unitarian Universalist Principles & Purposes (P&Ps). Isn't this one of the glories of being Unitarian Universalist? That no document or statement is beyond review or questioning or fodder for a great exchange of ideas and heartfelt concerns.

While many denominations, faith groups, may use statements such as the P&Ps as a creedal test to draw boundaries between true believers and non-believers (innies & outies), historically Unitarians and Universalists were among the Protestants who rejected such creeds. For instance, a clause in our P&Ps which does not appear in the front of our hymnal nor typically in other publications is the following:

"Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test."

The impetus for the January chats at UUCOB is that the P&Ps are currently under review by the entire Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The UUA Commission of Appraisal (COA) was given the task of taking on this review.

Rather than invite UUs across the land to participate in an opinion poll, the COA chose to encourage congregations to engage thoughtfully together in dialog, then provide feedback to the COA. In this way, the COA hopes not just to gather data, but also to have the process be personal, meaningful, possibly transforming. For the most part, this seemed to be true for those who met here at UUCOB in January.

While many supported the principles, felt they were unifying ideals among UUs, upon close examination questions arose such as what does "the right of conscience" really mean in the 5th principle. "Affirming" the principles as stated in the P&Ps was affirmed, but "promoting" sounded too much like an ad campaign. "Advocating" the principles was suggested as an alternative to promoting.

Some observed that the P&Ps seem too human-centered and Eurocentric overall. With regard to the Sources some questioned why Jewish and Christian teachings might be singled out over other world religions. Does "Earth-Centered" adequately include those who identify themselves as Pagans?

There was also some discussion about the extent to which UUs in general and within this congregation are truly open to any belief. For instance, what if an outspoken racist came through our doors? The group discussed while a congregation might not exclude such an individual just because of their beliefs

or infringe upon his or her freedom of belief, there is still an intrinsic expectation of behavior. In other words, believe what you will, but let us all endeavor to live up to our principles of justice, equity, respect, and compassion. It is easier to be open to each others' differing beliefs when we treat each other with respect and not try to impose our opinions on others forcefully and have some openness to others' positions and beliefs.

I don't have the time or space to cover all the issues raised, but hopefully, the above gives some sense of the depth and breadth of the conversations.

I will be taking all comments I have received in writing, summarize them in compliance with the COA reply form and submit them before the end of the month. Thank you to all who participated.

The dialog about the P&Ps will continue within the denomination throughout the COA's review and recommendation process. May we continue the deep reflection and dialog about the P&Ps as well during coffee and conversation and perhaps in more structured settings. Let us relish in being part of a congregation and denomination that so cherishes these exchanges and explorations.

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. . . Live the questions now, and perhaps even without knowing it, you will live along some distant day into your answers". (Rainier Maria Rilke)



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fran Green

Although February is often a bleak month it has always been a special month for Bob and me. This February we will celebrate our 44th anniversary (the same day as the Chocolate Auction), Bob's 64th birthday and Valentine's Day. It's also a month that is full of preparation for UUCOB's annual Canvass. Currently we have 42 members and 21 pledging friends. It is amazing what we accomplish with your generosity.

We also have 59 names on our current list of "non-pledging friends". Many of these friends give in non-financial ways that are greatly appreciated. Certainly there

is no way to put a monetary value on the time, talent and energy that is given to UUCOB. It is my hope that many of our friends will become "pledging friends", or better yet, become full fledged members. In the meantime, your weekly offerings mean a great deal to our congregation. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again! I do have a request: when the time comes next month, please consider making a formal pledge to UUCOB. Your generosity will be part of our budgeting process for the year, and will contribute to the financial health of our congregation.

UUA News UUSC-UUA Kenya Crisis Fund and UUA President William Sinkford's Pastoral Letter

Unitarian Universalist Association President William G. Sinkford has issued a pastoral letter on recent violence in Kenya and Pakistan. In it he writes, "I am sure that you have been paying attention to the reporting about the post-election violence in Kenya, as well as to the harrowing events occurring in Pakistan—preceding and following the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. Many of you are also aware that Unitarian/Universalists in Kenya and Pakistan are among those who have suffered directly. We have received reports that the home of a Unitarian pastor in Kenya was among those that have been burned to the ground, and that many Unitarian families are among the nearly 500,000 newly displaced people in Kenya. And on Thursday, January 10th, we received a report that two members of the Unitarian Universalist Christians of Pakistan were among the 23 people killed during a suicide bombing in Lahore." In his letter, Sinkford offers a Prayer in a Time of Mourning for those killed in the violence, and announces the creation of the UUSC/UUA Kenya Crisis Fund.

The UUA/UUSC Kenya Crisis Fund will provide emergency aid and will be administered through UUSC's grass-roots partners and relief organizations in that country. This weekend the UUSC will be sending a delegation to

Kenya to meet with regional partner groups, community members and leaders, and humanitarian specialists.

The full text of Sinkford's letter, as well as additional resources, can be found at:

<http://www.uua.org/news/newssubissions/6295.shtml>.

The current crisis in Kenya is dire, and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is mounting an urgent effort to respond. Donations will enable UUSC to direct assistance to those whose human rights have been further eroded.

Across Kenya, entire neighborhoods and villages have been burned to the ground. Sources report that between 485 and 600 people have been killed, numbers that are likely to rise once humanitarian aid groups gain access to remote areas that are currently restricted.

"We are being brave, but it's really bad. The nation is so agitated, and we are living in intense fear, anxiety, and danger. It really seems that the ordinary person's daily life, hope, and spirit have been destroyed. We were in a cease-fire with the hope that mediation would take place, but now I think those hopes are dashed," said Bahahi, one of UUSC's partner leaders.

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Treasurer Trivia



December's ending brought us to half of our fiscal year. The church has collected 48% of our planned income for the year and spent 49% of our budgeted expenses. We're pretty much on schedule, just a little behind on our income mostly in the fund raising area. Hey, we can make it up soon with your help! The Chocolate Auction is February 8th, so be a sweet thinker, and spender.

One area we haven't covered in previous Treasurer newsletter articles in talking about the budget is the Minister. It must be noted that we have a two-thirds time minister who often performs full-time hours and is dedicated to "anytime" emergencies. The total compensation package for the current fiscal year is \$32,284 and is broken down between FICA allowance, housing, expenses, and salary. Forty-five percent of our current budget supports our ministerial services. An added bonus for the church is that our minister is a generous pledging participant.

If time and space permit, we will try to cover in the next article just what we get for our dollar in key expenditures. One area will be the UU dues, nationally and district.

Our total budget for this current year is \$71,230 and we will collect about 52% of this from pledges. The necessary breakdown would be \$861 per member and if we maintain the twenty pledging friends the amount is lowered to a \$588 unit average. This only works if we can collect 48%, about half, from outside sources. Most pledges are less than these averages and a select few generous souls skew the averages by pledging much more. These same plus pledgers are often in the overworked volunteer section too. When you see tears in my eyes you know that we've lost one of these members and it usually takes 2 or 3 new members to replace them.

The future holds many opportunities. We can do most anything we set our minds to do. Stay involved.

Chuck Purser

CHOCOLATE AUCTION

February 8, 2008 at 7:00p.m.



Please bring delicious homemade or purchased chocolate goodies or Valentine baskets with a descriptive note of what your item is by 6:30 p.m. There will be chocolate, wine, coffee and much more to bid on. Come enjoy the great entertainment and beverages to share during the bidding.

Help increase our fund raising dollars which are falling short of expectations, and have great fun at the same time!

FROM THE BOARD

January 2008 Board Meeting Action Items

- The board discussed a proposal from Bob Green to volunteer as a “research associate” for the church and determined that proposals for Bob's research capabilities would be fielded by the Board President.
- The board set January 25 (after consultation with absent members) for a retreat to set goals for the upcoming canvass. Following the retreat several members will work on cleaning the office/conference room in preparation for it to be used as a Listening Room using the new baby monitor.
- February 8, 2008 was set as the date of the annual Chocolate Auction Fundraiser. Since the meeting, Chuck Purser and Jerry Cook have agreed to co-chair the event.
- Sunday, February 3, 2008 was selected for a Special Congregational Meeting to fill a vacancy on the

Long Range Planning Committee.
Fran Green

has since con-

firmed that Burnham Gould has agreed to serve and therefore he will be the nominee.

- Appreciation of Susan Lawrence's dedicated work to produce the UUCOB monthly Newsletter was recognized. Susan has asked to step down from this role and has offered to train a new editor. Since the meeting Dick Liston has agreed to become the next editor, beginning with this February issue.
- The Canvass Kick-Off event was scheduled for Friday, March 7 followed by pledging during Rev. Pat's service on Sunday, March 9.

A complete copy of the meeting minutes, committee reports and associated documentation are posted in the office at UUCOB.

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UUSC-UUA Kenya Crisis Fund and UUA President William Sinkford's Pastoral Letter

An estimated 255,000 displaced people have crowded into insufficiently equipped sites, without adequate access to food, water, medicines, and other supplies. Another 250,000 people who have not been displaced are in need of food, water, and other services. Kenyans still in their homes also are living with insecurity and many are afraid to leave; Kenyans report that people are being forced from their homes at night. Schools that were scheduled to open Monday, January 14, are full of displaced persons, and parents fear sending children to school amid the current insecurity. Many hospitals are overwhelmed with trauma cases and are running low on medicines and supplies.

Areas throughout the country are being strained by serious shortages of fuel, water, food, and other commodities due to closed ports and the paralyzed transportation system. Because Kenya also serves as the regional hub for trade and the flow of relief supplies, the growing crisis threatens vital humanitarian work in Uganda, southern Sudan, and the Congo.

Through UUSC's long-term and ongoing work in Kenya, we have established relationships with grassroots organizations from a variety of social sectors. In collaboration with these groups, we have been monitoring the situation closely. An expert delegation led by UUSC President Charlie Clements and Programs Director Atema Eclai will be traveling to Kenya on January 19 to assess the growing humanitarian crisis by meeting with UUSC partners, community members and leaders, and humanitarian specialists.

UUSC members and supporters who would like to support UUSC's efforts to help the people of Kenya are encouraged to donate to the UUSC-UUA Kenya Crisis Fund online, or by mailing checks payable to Kenya Crisis Fund to:

UUSC-UUA Kenya Crisis Fund
UUSC
PO Box 845259
Boston, MA 02284-5259

FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 ▼ Discussion Sunday: Reduce: Recycle: Reuse	28	29 ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours ▼ 5p Weight Watchers	30 ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours ▼ 4p Dare County Literacy Council	31 ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	1	2 ▼ 9:30a Edenton UU Discussion Group
3 ▼ UUs in Selma: James Reeb & Viola Liuzzo Rev Patricia Guthmann Haresch ▼ 11:30a Congregational Meeting to fill opening on Long Range Planning Committee ▼ 11:45a Lay Leader Team Meeting	4 ▼ 7p Edenton Discussion Group	5 ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours ▼ 5p Weight Watchers	6 ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours ▼ 4p Dare County Literacy Council	7 ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	8 ▼ 6p The Outer Banks Peace Meditation Group ▼ 6:30p Chocolate Auction	9
10 ▼ Reverend Terre Balof	11	12 ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 12p Lunch With Pat ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours ▼ 5p Weight Watchers	13 ▼ 8a Men's Group ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours ▼ 4p Dare County Literacy Council	14 ▼ 2p Long Range Planning Committee ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	15 ▼ 7:30p Jewish Service	16
17 ▼ What the World Needs Now is Love Rev Patricia Guthmann Haresch (Intergenerational Service)	18 ▼ 7p Edenton Discussion Group	19 ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours ▼ 5p Weight Watchers	20 ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours ▼ 4p Dare County Literacy Council	21 ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	22	23
24 ▼ Discussion Sunday: All of Creation - Burnie Gould	25	26 ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours ▼ 5p Weight Watchers	27 ▼ 8a Men's Group ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours ▼ 4p Dare County Literacy Council ▼ 6:30p Drumming	28 ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	29	1 ▼ 9:30a Edenton UU Discussion Group

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

What Do You Think?

At our last meeting in January, members of the Long Range Planning Committee agreed that UUCOB is in the position of being perhaps the only liberal religious congregation in the Outer Banks and surrounding area. On the one hand this is an opportunity for growth and vitality, on the other, it is a challenge to our sustainability and effectiveness. Given that, what do you think the Long Range Planning Committee should be focused on? Sometime in February you will get the opportunity to answer that question. Via email and on paper, the LRP will be asking members and friends to help in prioritizing areas of investigation and concern. A follow-up discussion will be held in March.

Nancy Proctor

LUNCH WITH PAT

Tuesday, February 12, Noon to 1:30 PM at UUCOB

Bring your own lunch and beverage.

You are invited to join Rev. Pat, our minister, and other UUCOB members and friends for lunch, socializing, and conversation. In January, we discussed Animals & Spirituality.

Do you have questions about energy work and healing? What are the principles behind it and the underlying philosophy of some of its practitioners?

In February, UUCOB members Heather Demarest, Janice Lane and Michel Sanchez will be joining us to answer questions about their energy work. Each of them are practitioners with different specialties in various forms of healing: Reiki, Tapas Acupressure Technique (TAT), chakra balancing, transpersonal hypnotherapy.

The playground will be in use by the Montessori school. Accordingly, the porch and Minister's Office may be available for supervised play. Any interested in a cooperative playgroup and/or finding a sitter together may contact Rev. Pat at UUCOB (261-2801; minister@uucob.org).

District & UUA News & Events

THOMAS JEFFERSON DISTRICT

19th Annual Anti-Racism Conference (ARC)

Friday, Feb 29-Sat., March 1

UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem, NC

Don't miss this important and timely gathering. The theme of the 2008 ARC is: Anti-Racist Action, Moving from workshop discussions to work with real repercussions

Keynote Speakers are the Reverend Hope Johnson and the Reverend Barbro Hansson. In addition, two sessions of four workshops each are planned.

You may access the brochure and the registration form from the home page of the TJD website: www.tjd.uua.org

UU Bed & Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 28 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has some listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2008 directory and a yearly access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women

Weaving Global Partnerships to Enrich Women's Lives

Tuesday, February 26-Sunday, March 1

Hilton of the Americas, Houston, TX

The goals of the Convocation are to gather together to:

- Discover common interests, emergent ideas and future priorities;
- Worship together, connecting spiritually with our individual and collective power, caring and humility;
- Explore the major challenges that lie before all women around the globe;
- Learn from women's accomplishments and how their work has improved women's lives;
- Showcase vibrant, relevant model programs to empower women; and
- Create personal action plans to enrich and transform our lives, while expanding opportunities for women's equality, development, social justice, security and peace.

To develop individual and group action plans, and to build partnerships to improve women's lives around the world., we will learn about innovative programs that address gender inequality and injustice.

Presentations on effective local strategies will challenge us in the following areas:

1) Economic participation

Women produce more than half of global food crops; yet, 70% of those living in hunger are women. Women seldom control land or resources. Women's low economic participation worldwide is reflected in wage differentials, higher unemployment rates and glass ceilings.

2) Community leadership and political expression

Around the world, women have unequal access to political participation and community leadership. Of the 200 members of the United Nations, only 10% have female leaders and less than 18% of the world's parliamentary seats are held by women.

3) Education

Of the world's children who have no education, 60% are girls. Two-thirds of the world's 780 million illiterate adults are women.

4) Healthcare and safety

200 million of the world's women lack access to family planning; over 500,000 die annually from complications in pregnancy and childbirth. Up to 1 billion women now living have been beaten, raped or otherwise abused. In war-torn regions 80% of the refugees are women and children.

For more information go to www.icuuw.com.

*The mission of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of the Outer Banks
is to be a focal point
of enlightenment,
enriching our spiritual
lives and enhancing
the quality of life
in our community.*



**P.O. Box 1006
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OUR PRINCIPLES

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

The inherent worth and dignity of
every person;
Justice, equity and compassion in
human relations;
Acceptance of one another and
encouragement to spiritual growth in our
congregations;
A free and responsible search for
truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of
the democratic process within our
congregations and in society at large;
The goal of world community with
peace, liberty, and justice for all;
Respect for the interdependent web of
all existence of which we are a part.

COME JOIN US!

Our meeting house is located at the corner
of Kitty Hawk Road and Herbert Perry Road.
It is one mile west of Highway 158 at about
milepost 4.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

All services are held at 10:30 am. The last
Sunday of the month is devoted to topic dis-
cussions. Everyone is welcomed to attend
these services and light refreshments will be
served.
A program is provided for older children
and childcare is available for the youngest.

Layout & Editor: Dick Liston

Assistant Editor: Joan Liston

To have something included in the
newsletter, please email it to
jodliston@embarkmail.com