



UUCOB NEWS

DECEMBER 2008



12/ 7 - "Seeing the World in a Loaf of Bread: A Bread Communion" - Rev. Pat Guthmann Haresch

"The world begins at a kitchen table." – Joy Harpo

The word "communion" comes to us from the Latin, *communio* meaning "mutual participation." Join Rev. Pat in reflecting upon the ancient roots of the Christian sacrament of communion and the interdependent web of life of which we are a part when we break bread together in our Unitarian Universalist setting. (2-4 homemade or local bakery unsliced loaves of bread are needed. Organic ingredients preferred. Please contact Rev. Pat [261-2891; minister@uucob.org] if you will be willing and able to provide a loaf or two of bread for that morning.)

This service will also include special music reflecting various Winter festivals and a New Member Recognition ceremony of UUCOB members who have joined this Fall. If you have not yet, but are interested in becoming a UUCOB member please contact Nancy Proctor, Membership Chair or Rev. Pat.

12/14 - The Time Between Times: CUUPs Yule Service - (Intergenerational) - OBCUUPS

Join us as we reflect upon this magical time of year when old and new blend into a time of remembrance and looking for-

ward. We will toast to those beings and events that have helped shape this past year and raise a glass to coming fortune! The service will be followed by a Yule potluck lunch for all who would like to participate.

12/21 - "Sing Out Ye UU Christmas Songs" (Intergenerational) - Rev. Pat Guthmann Haresch

It is only fitting that the last Sunday before Christmas be a Sunday for celebration and singing familiar songs of the season. Enjoy the music and hearing Rev. Pat telling the stories behind holiday songs with a Unitarian Universalist connection.

12/28 - Insight Meditation - Dr. Jim Layton - Discussion Sunday and Light Brunch

All are invited to enter a little earlier than usual (10:20 am). Take some refreshments and find a seat. The goal is to have ample time in the latter part of the morning service for discussion following the presentation. Light brunch potluck items are welcome.



FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Pat Guthmann Haresch

I think the last record that I have in my possession (yup, that you have to play on a record player), that I know I can't replace with a tape or CD is of an older woman with a twittery voice called "The Christmas Lady." She tells Christmas stories and explains many of the Yuletide customs from around the world. I listened to it over and over again as a child. There is a section where she explains why certain decorations like colored balls, golden spiders, and tinsel appear on evergreen trees during the holidays. One of my favorite stories from this album, is about an angel who walked the Earth with an apron full of stars. Among all the many decorations during the holiday season, have you ever noticed this angel?

As the Christmas Lady tells it, this angel with stars was among the heavenly host when the birth of Jesus was announced. She wondered what she could give him. Well, about the only things around her were stars. So, she filled her apron with as many stars from the heavens as she could carry and brought them to Earth to give to the baby Jesus. Yet, on her way to Bethlehem, she encountered people in need from Jesus' time. She would see a leper and give him a star, someone crippled or poor and out of her apron would come another one of her stars. By the time she arrived at the stable, not a star was left. Timidly she approached Jesus' father, Joseph, and explained why she had come empty-handed. He turned to her and as legend has it, he said, "What you have done onto the least of these, you have

done onto him." With each star she gave, she was giving a gift to the holy of holies of the Christmas story.

Do you know any star givers, are you a star giver? Someone who responds to those in need. Someone who might even think they have very little to offer, but give a gift that brings joy or healing or inspiration. Sometimes these gifts aren't even things. The "star" given might be a visit, a phone call, volunteering for a charitable organization, a reassuring hug.

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star. . .

Brilliance in a package,

Something you could keep. . .

To take out in times of darkness,

Something that would never snuff out, nor tarnish,

Something you could hold in your hand. . .

I can pass on to you the love,

That has been given to me

Ignited countless times by others.

(from Ann Weems' poem, Star-Giving)

May you enjoy and share the simple pleasures of the season: eat; laugh; sing; be with those you love dearly; find some quiet time for yourself amongst the busyness. And may you give and receive stars.

Happy Holidays, Rev. Pat



"THANK YOU"
Heather & Michel
For Our
Successful
Fair Trade Sale



A huge thank you to Michel Sanchez and Heather Demarest for ordering, setting up and selling a beautiful array of fair trade items. Appreciation also to Priscilla Broussard and Laura and John Gilson for helping with setting up the fair trade coffee, tea, and baked goods that so many of you brought, also to musicians who contributed their talents. Nearly \$650 was made due to the generosity of those within UUCOB and the greater community.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fran Green

Holiday Greetings to everyone from Colorado. I am spending some time babysitting with our granddaughter while our daughter-in-law returns to work.

Periodically, I have asked new board members to use this space to write an article of introduction. This month I have asked one of our newer UUCOB members and even newer Board Member, Mary Ellen Hawthorne to write about herself. Mary Ellen co-chairs the Program Committee with Clint Betz. She has been a vital asset to UUCOB, and I am sure you will enjoy learning more about her.

Getting to Know ... Mary Ellen Hawthorne

When asked to submit a short bio for the Newsletter, I thought, “considering the decades I’ve been around,” a condensed version could be a challenge. After all, I’ve passed through a number of doorways on this journey.....

An unlatched screen door, one that opened easily, would aptly describe entrance to the first chapters of my story. It would accommodate the coming and going of extended family members, friends and war-time boarders that made up an eclectic, but nourishing, household for my older brother and me in the early years in Norfolk, Virginia. It would provide an entry to a diverse neighborhood of many nationalities and religions and to sidewalks that allowed us to get out and connect with community and “catch the streetcar to the beach.” These were the carefree days of running out that door to have fun, interspersed with some attention to responsibilities, and a few serious relationships.

I would need a set of swinging doors to describe the adventures and happenings of the middle years, but then, wouldn’t we all? I left family and Norfolk behind and followed my husband Gene, an Air Force R & D Engineer, whose career would have us setting up housekeeping in eight states and Japan. Along the way I finally stopped saying, “I declare, really”. High points during those first years were the arrival of Dana in ’55, Dale in ’57 and Leanne in ’60. That swinging door was appropriate as I balanced child oriented activities with grown-up interests. Art classes for Dale’s 3rd and 4th grade classes, cheering on the side-lines at the games, and Scouts. (Our Girl Scout Troop was one of the first to integrate in ’64 and to enroll a Special Needs student.) In the meantime, I was active in LWV (we took to the streets with bullhorns in those days), Military Family Services and was an USO staff member in Florida. As a family, we loved the out of doors and for awhile had a wooded retreat in Ohio where we welcomed Dale’s Scout troop to set up a camp site. We had hoped they would cut trails for us, but they were too busy swinging on the tree vines!

It was through this door that the children eventually left. We deposited them in Ohio, Illinois and Florida. And I went back to school for a BS in Rehabilitation Ed. and graduate work in Art Therapy. I was able to work with Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Older Adult Services while in Dayton, Ohio. The best events during this period were the addition of the children’s spouses and later, the arrival of my four “Love Buckets” Shannon, Cody, Samantha and Matthew. P.S. I love all the family pets, too.

The last doorway, retirement on the Outer Banks, had to be a revolving door! It is so nice to have choices as how you want to spend your time, do you want to step out for this event or go round one more time and see what else is out there! We had been vacationing here since the ‘60s at my parents’ cottage in KDH and decided to build our home in Baum Bay Harbor. What a wonderful decision. We became involved at the Senior Center, GEM, the LWV and OBWC. I am very proud of our time with the Civil Air Patrol squadron. We were involved in many search and rescue missions. I earned my HAM license, K4MEH (I make it easy for myself), since I had to learn to use the plane’s radio.

There are some doors that we may not want to go through, but life moves us along anyway. Such was the case in ’06 when Gene died of cancer. And so now, I find myself seeking my place in the grand scheme of things, while I continue my commitments to community organizations that I enjoy. In my search for contentment and new challenges, I joined the UUCOB. The warm and friendly reception I received reinforces my belief that I have found a spiritual home and I honor that welcome.

Here’s a wish for a doorway where we could all stand, one that we would feel free to open without hesitation and maybe, just maybe, come full circle, and not have to lock!



Treasurer Trivia

Chuck Purser

We completed 33% of the current fiscal year at the end of October, collected 30% of planned income, and paid out 30% of budgeted expenses. Spreadsheets are posted in the church office detailing income, outflow, assets, and liabilities.

Successful fund raising through our annual Yard Sale and the Fair Trade Sale have helped our financial position and we may be able to pay half the annual dues to UU headquarters and to TJ district by December 2008. A continued effort into the second half of our year to pay the remainder of dues will be ongoing. Personally, I'm very proud of the way so many volunteers and donors have stepped up and kept our heads above water in these trying economic times. We are the "best little congregation in North Carolina," and then some.

Share the Plate for October was the OBX Cancer Support Group. A check for \$211.50 and letter were mailed on October 31, 2008. The congregation had a special collection for Association Sunday on October 16, 2008 and collected \$74.50.

Thanks, members and friends, for making the Treasurer's duties easier. Your attentiveness to pledges, plate donations, earlier mentioned volunteering, and committee participation helps our entire organization move toward our goals.

End of year reminder, please write your last tax deductible check for 2008 to UUCOB covering pledges or other donations in December.

LUNCH WITH PAT

Tuesday, December 9, Noon to 1:30 PM

UUCOB Meetinghouse

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.

We will begin a series of discussions on what participants think might be global, overarching, perhaps cataclysmic trends and changes that will be impacting how we live in the world and how we might respond as Unitarian Universalists.

After viewing and discussing the Bill Moyers' Journal video regarding "hate talk" and "shock radio" on Election Day, the group started having an interesting discussion on racism. So let us continue this discussion and consider some of these questions:

- What are some of your early and most recent memories of situations relating to racism? And how have your views regarding racial prejudice changed over the years?
- What does the term "white privilege" mean to you?
- Regardless of how you identify racially or ethnically, to what extent are you white? (Rev. Pat will share more about what she means by this question.)

Please bring any suggested topics for January to December's session (regarding global trends and changes), so we may plan ahead.

The playground will be in use by the Montessori school. Accordingly, the porch and offices may be available for supervised play. Anyone interested in a cooperative playgroup and/or finding a sitter together may contact Rev. Pat at UUCOB (252-261-



UUCOB Annual Holiday Potluck and Decorating Party

Friday, December 5th at 6:00 PM

Dinner at 6:15, Decorating at 7:00

Bring yourselves, your family, a dish to share and your favorite holiday music CD

Questions? Jennifer at rjgilbreath@aginet.com 441-9165



FROM THE BOARD

Fran Green

Action Points from November 2008 Board Meeting

Friday, December 5, 2008 was approved for the Holiday Potluck Dinner and Decorating Party. Jennifer Gilbreath and Melissa McCarter have agreed to coordinate this event.

Nancy Proctor and Rev. Pat noted plans for three Newcomer events: a reception on Friday evening, November 7 and two "Pathway to Membership" sessions on November 9 and November 23. Board members were invited and urged to attend on November 7 and 23.

Fran Green noted her appreciation for all who helped with the success of the yard sale. And all shared their appreciation for the hard work of co-chairs Fran and Dennis Tromba.

Nancy Proctor discussed her desire to have written material for newcomers regarding financial contributions. She offered a draft brochure for review. It was suggested that Membership and Finance work together on materials and presentation regarding financial contributions.

The Program Co-chairs will have a total of one vote from their committee at Board meetings. When they are both present at a meeting or in email responses, together they may provide a consensus vote. If one is absent, the other will be able to provide a representative full vote from the Program Committee.

Rev. Pat has had requests for a traditional service on Christmas Eve. The board was in agreement to try such a service and set the start time at 4:30 or 5 pm.

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

A THANK YOU from Fran Green

I am very happy to report that the UUCOB Yard Sale held on November 1, 2008 was a great success. At the end of the day our net sales were \$1,178! Most of the unsold items were donated to Hotline. Many of our members and friends need to be thanked. I hope I don't leave anyone out. First of all, a huge "thank you" goes to my co-chair Dennis Tromba. Dennis served as our "site manager" getting items out of storage from under the building and from the shed. This was not a "white collar job!" He and Bob Green helped move chairs, set up tables and placed signs in key locations. The two were able to use John Haresch's pick up truck (thank you John!) to collect bulk items from several contributors. Thank you to ALL CONTRIBUTORS!

Joan Liston and Nick Hodsdon helped sort mountains of stuff. Nick spent countless hours creating categories and labels to help bring order out of chaos. We also had help from Christine, Braden and Haley Heard. Braden helped Monika Lupean arrange about 100 stuffed animals. Thanks to all of you!

Jody Holcomb and Florence Burnham brought ticketing supplies and within a few hours almost everything was priced. Others who helped with preparation were Jennifer Gilbreath, Pat Hearsch, Nancy Byrne, John Gilson who brought a large collection of books, and Jim Coverly who brought a large table saw.

The day of the sale, Mary Ellen Hawthorne, Pat Hearsch, Laura and John Gilson, Jennifer Wooten, Lita Kapulski (from Feline Hope, with two beautiful cats), Nancy Proctor, Jennifer Gilbreath and Sherrie Lemnios were on hand to sell, sell, sell and/or cashier.

And at the end of the sale, Jerry Cook, Bill and Peggy Birkemeier, Bob Green, Chuck Purser and Joe Heard arrived to help clean up, organize items to go to Hotline, store carryover items in the shed for the next sale, and to prepare the Meetinghouse for Sunday morning.

This event was truly a team effort. Including me, 28 names are mentioned above! Forgive me if you helped and I forgot to mention your name. Everyone's help is appreciated, particularly all who shopped and made purchases.

DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 +ADD ▼ 10:30a State of the Child - How are the children? ▼ 12:15p Healing Circle	1 +ADD ▼ 7p Edenton Discussion Group ▼ 7:30p Al Anon	2 +ADD ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours ▼ 5p Strategic Planning Committee Meeting ▼ 6:30p UUCOB Board Meeting	3 +ADD ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours	4 +ADD ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	5 +ADD ▼ 6p UUCOB Annual Holiday Potluck & Decorating Party	6 +ADD ▼ 9:30a Edenton UU Discussion Group
7 +ADD ▼ 10:30a "Seeing the World in a Loaf of Bread - Rev. Pat Guthmann Haresch ▼ 12p Unitarian Universalist Perspectives on the Bible	8 +ADD ▼ 7:30p Al Anon	9 +ADD ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 12p Lunch With Pat ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	10 +ADD ▼ 8a UUCOB Men's Discussion Group ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours	11 +ADD ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	12 +ADD	13 +ADD
14 +ADD ▼ 10:30a The Time Between Times: CUUPS Yule Service (Intergenerational) - OBCUUPS	15 +ADD ▼ 7p Edenton Discussion Group ▼ 7:30p Al Anon	16 +ADD ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	17 +ADD ▼ 9a Minister's Office Hours	18 +ADD ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	19 +ADD ▼ 7:30p Jewish Service	20 +ADD
21 +ADD ▼ 10:30a "Sing Out Ye UU Christmas Songs" - (Intergenerational) - Rev. Pat Guthmann Haresch	22 +ADD ▼ 7:30p Al Anon	23 +ADD ▼ 9a Weight Watchers ▼ 2p Minister's Office Hours	24 +ADD ▼ 8a UUCOB Men's Discussion Group ▼ 9a Holiday for Minister - No Office Hours ▼ 4:30p Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service	25 +ADD ▼ Minister Out of Town for the Holidays	26 +ADD	27 +ADD
28 +ADD ←.....▼ Minister Out of Town for the Holidays	29 +ADD ▼ 7:30p Al Anon	30 +ADD ▼ 9a Weight Watchers	31 +ADD	1 +ADD	2 +ADD	3 +ADD ▼ 9:30a Edenton UU Discussion Group
▼ 10:30a Insight Meditation - Dr. Jim Layton - Discussion Sunday & Light Brunch - (Start time: 10:20 am) ▼ 12:15p Healing Circle						

DECEMBER SHARE-THE-PLATE DARE COUNTY FRIENDS OF YOUTH

A portion of our plate collections on Sunday mornings this month will go to Dare County Friends of Youth. This program is one of 54 Governor's One-On-One Volunteer Programs throughout North Carolina. It is County funded as well as grant funded by the State.

The purpose of the Friends of Youth Program is to place an at-risk youth between the ages of 6-17 with a caring adult volunteer to serve as a role model and friend. The youth involved in the program are referred by various community and school sources, as well as by parents. The adult volunteer provides the youth with one-on-one time, a few hours each week, in activities that build self-esteem, strong character and friendship, as well as strengthen ties at home and school.

UUCOB EVENTS

UU PERSPECTIVES ON THE BIBLE

Sunday, December 7th, Noon

Following the Sunday morning service and some time for coffee and conversation, join Rev. Pat for the second session in a series of explorations into Jewish and Christian scripture from a UU perspective. At last month's meeting, the group noted many questions and interests from the historical to the spiritual.

This month the session will focus on the historical, exploring such questions as who wrote the Bible and when was it written.

All are encouraged to bring a copy of the Bible.

SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 14th, 3:30 pm

Art Gallery, Roanoke Island Festival Park

**[sponsors: Dare Home Health & Hospice &
Twiford Funeral Homes]**

Rev. Pat will be providing the homily at Dare Home Health & Hospice's annual community memorial service. The service will include special music and readings as well as the opportunity to name and remember those who have gone before us. For any who have lost a loved one or friend this past year, the holidays may be particularly difficult. All are invited to come to remember a dear one and to find strength and hope in gathering with others who have also experienced such a loss.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

UUCOB Meetinghouse

Wednesday, December 24th, 4:30 pm

Rev. Pat Guthmann Haresch & Special Music

Come sing and hear songs of the season and the telling of the traditional Christmas story interspersed with contemporary poetry and reflections. Friends and family of all ages are welcome.

UUCOB HEALING CIRCLE

Sunday, December 28th. 12:15 pm

Our healing circle begins with a centering meditation. We then pass a candle to share our requests followed by silent meditation in which we send love and healing energy to all requests. We will begin gathering at 12:15 on Sunday December 28th and then begin promptly at 12:30.

If you'd like to bring a picture or memento of a healing request recipient, please do so, but it is not necessary. No special skills or

previous experience are required. Just bring an openness to send and receive love and healing energy!

Childcare will be available during the circle and meeting. Donations would be appreciated to help cover the cost. If you have any questions or comments you may contact Rev. Pat at minister@uucob.org, Heather at sunseaeearth@gmail.com, Michel at malameddin@aol.com or Janice at naturegirl@aginet.com. You can also reach Pat at 261-2801 during office hours.

UUA PRODUCES VIDEO IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

In light of the passage of Proposition 8 in California and similar blows experienced on election day which restrict the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people, the Unitarian Universalist Association has produced a video which makes clear the support of people of faith for marriage equality.

The video uses images, gathered from Unitarian Universalists across North America, who have advocated for marriage equality or been joined in equal marriage and music by UU composer the Rev. Jason Shelton. See the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz8omkCTvQA>.

HELP LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Please keep local food banks in mind during this time of economic downturn and as the holiday season approaches.

The Food Pantry at the Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Manteo is already experiencing food shortages and is in need of food and cash contributions. They have volunteers working 2 hours a day for 5 days a week. For more specific information on how to assist call 473-2089 (the church office).

You may continue to leave items for Beach Food Pantry in the Meetinghouse foyer. Thanks to Barbara Goulet for her continued delivery of our monthly collection to Beach Food Pantry

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM THANKS

A big thank you to Boyce Harwell who will be taking care of the end of the year UUCOB Adopt-A-Highway clean up for Bob and Fran Green while they are away.

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Please note Rev. Pat's usual office hours are:

Tuedays, Thursdays 2-5 pm

Wednesdays 9am-Noon

She will, however, be out of the office on the morning of Christmas Eve, 12/24 and out of town Thursday, 12/25 through 1/1. Office appointments are encouraged.

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. A program is provided for older children and child-care is available for the youngest.

The 4th Sunday of each month is "Discussion Sunday" and people are welcome to bring brunch items to share.

The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday, so please remember to bring a donation of non-perishable unopened foods, personal items or paper products.

Layout & Editor: Dick Liston

Assistant Editor: Joan Liston

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



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*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.*