



The Unigram

January 17, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

January 22

Attention Must Be Paid: A Remembrance Don Mohr

Join us as we reflect on the lives of many of those whose lives have touched our own. Some of those we will remember include Rosa Parks, Arthur Miller, Johnny Carson, Peter Drucker, Terri Schiavo, Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, Eugene McCarthy, and Richard Prior. Participants in the service will include Heather McCalman, Thorne Compton, and others.

It is not unusual for this service to last a bit longer than others.

Forum: "Big Brother is Wataching"

January 29

Jesus and the Buddha: Two Mahatmas Morgan Maclachlan

When we say we respect and draw from many religious traditions, what do we mean? As UUs we do not generally mean we endorse the very different and conflicting supernatural beliefs of different faiths. Rather, we mean we recognize authentic moral witness in its many guises as embodied in what Hindus call Mahatmas or Great Souls. In this talk we will explore the character of Mahatmahood as exemplified in the teachings and lives of Jesus and the Buddha.

Forum: "Is Science a Religion?"

Sunday Schedule

Choir:	9:30 Jan.22
Forum:	9:30 in the Library
Worship:	11:00 – 12:15, followed by a Coffee Hour in the Social Hall
Nursery:	During service, for infants–age 3
Children:	Children attend the beginning of the service with their parents and then are dismissed to Religious Education classes.

Long-Range Planning – A Piece of the Pie

Pie in the sky? Not at all!! You can have piece of the pie after the Sunday service, January 22 when the Long Range Planning Team (LRPT) kicks off the second phase of its work. The LRPT has crafted a process during which we will be asking for your input on the future of UUFC. Please take advantage of the opportunities that will be scheduled to give us your ideas about our community's long range plans and goals. Piece by piece we are setting our course -- let's begin by sharing a piece of pie! We hope you will join us Sunday, January 22, 2006.



The Long Range Planning Team was formed last fall to examine several areas of congregational concern. Over the next several weeks they will be gathering information about Building and Grounds; Finances; Membership and Outreach; Leadership and Structure; Growth Goals; and Staffing. Their goal is to bring their recommendations to the Board in April.

Members of the LRPT are **Ann Cargill, David Crockett, Caroline Eastman, Joe Long, Cheryl Soehl, Janet Swigler,** and **Mike Paget,** chair.

COMMUNITY CHALICE

b On January 10th **Joyce Rodgers** welcomed a new member into the family. Christian Pham is the second *great* grandchild for Joyce.

b We are glad to hear that **Laurel Sutton** has finished her chemotherapy and is able return to work part-time and sing in our choir again!

b We offer our condolences to **Susan Siegel** whose mother died recently, following a lengthy illness.

Bb On Monday, January 16, **Rev. Dr. Neal Jones** offered the Prayer for Peace at King Day at the Dome. Text of his prayer is printed below:

PRAYER FOR PEACE Rev. Dr. Neal Jones – 1/16/06

Spirit of Life and Love, many of us who gather here today do so because we were privileged to hear in our lifetime the inspiring words of a prophet who had the courage to share a dream of human dignity, freedom, and justice. We who have grown comfortable and complacent often forget the radical demands of that dream and the ultimate price paid by too many to make it more real. We realize that it is easier to pay homage to the prophets than to follow the direction of their vision. So we pray that we, the heirs of the dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, dare to be instruments of peace in our day.

We pray for peace among the nations, and we must pray with repentance, for our nation has grown mad with the fever of war. We have invaded another country that posed no threat to us. We lay waste to that country's infrastructure and line the pockets of our corporations to rebuild it. Imitating our enemies, we disregard international law and torture prisoners of war. Calling ourselves liberators, we rain fire and steel upon civilian populations, killing tens of thousands of woman and children whom we do not bother to count. Yet we wonder why the Iraqi people despise us, and Muslims around the world distrust us, and our own allies disrespect us. At home we trade our precious civil liberties for the illusion of security, and we have allowed our leaders to spy on us, to lie to us, and to instill fear within us. Let us remember,

before we destroy Iraq and America, that every person is a child of God and that we are all brothers and sisters.

We pray for peace within our own nation, for as we spend billions to rebuild Iraq, we continue to neglect millions of our fellow Americans whom we have abandoned to "minimally adequate schools," dilapidated housing, unaffordable health care, substandard wages, and pervasive hopelessness. We are told that the poor themselves are to blame because they are lazy. Yet working people know that they are working harder and longer but are falling further behind. The growing inequity between the have's and have-not's is no accident of the free market or the global economy. It is the direct result of deliberate political decisions made in Washington and in this capital favoring the powerful and the privileged. Our government has been sold to the highest bidders to give tax cuts to the rich, service cuts to the poor, and debt to our children. Let us remember, before we decimate our social contract, that while all of us came to America in different boats, we are all in the same boat now.

We pray for peace within ourselves, for our actions are too often in conflict with our conscience. We acknowledge our selfishness -- we are content when things go well with us and intentionally blind to the struggles of those around us. We acknowledge our cynicism -- we no longer believe our highest ideals and have settled for our lowest ambitions. We acknowledge our arrogance -- we are adamant that others should live as we want rather than insist that we live as we should. We acknowledge our hypocrisy -- we make war and call it peace, we create special privilege and call it justice, we remain indifferent and call it tolerance. Let us remember, before we lose our souls, the better heritage of our nation's life, the seers who have seen a brighter tomorrow, the prophets who have spoken truth to power, and the martyrs who have died that we might live. Set against this larger background, may we broaden our vision beyond our narrow concerns, serve something greater than ourselves, and become the men and women we were meant to be.

We pray in the name of all that is decent and good and just. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Committee Corner

- January 17** 1:00 Unigram Folders
6:15 Co-Council
January 21 10:00 Canvass Committee
January 29 10:00 Canvass Committee
January 31 1:00 Unigram Folders

Coffeehouse Connection



On Saturday, January 21, the UU Coffeehouse features John William Davis. A 2005 South Florida Folk Festival New Folk winner, a 2004 Kerrville New Folk winner, a finalist in the 2003 Wildflower Songwriting Competition and a winner of the 2002 Swallow Hill Songwriting Competition - all of

these describe singer songwriter John William Davis.

His debut album *Dreams of the Lost Tribe* received critical acclaim and was one of only nine albums to earn a perfect 10 from Folkwax reviewers. John's acoustic blues echo Tom Waits, Leon Redbone, and Randy Newman in a pastiche of Southern musical styles that manages to evoke both William Faulkner and Robert Johnson. No matter your taste in singer/songwriters you owe it to yourself to see this great artist.

For Our Visitors

There will be Visitors Orientations on January 22, after the service in Room 6 in the R.E. wing. This one-hour meeting will give you a chance to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation in particular. Snacks will be served.

If you have any questions, please contact: **Larry Siegel** (xxx-xxxx) **Barbara Allen** (xxx-xxxx), **Carita Barr** (xxx-xxxx), **Beth Crawford** (xxx-xxxx), **Gertrude Edge** (xxx-xxxx), **Joyce Rodgers** (xxx-xxxx), **Mary Maclachlan** (xxx-xxxx), or **Tootsie Holland** (xxx-xxxx)

September Set

Now that the holiday season is over, we are ready to begin our regular September Set Suppers again. Our first one of the year will be held on Friday – January 27th at 6 PM. **Molly Jones** will be hosting this month. If you need further information you may call **Joyce Rodgers** at xxx-xxxx. If you would like to contact Molly, you may email at: mjones522@aol.com or call xxx-xxxx to reach her by phone. We look forward to seeing you there.

Play Readers Resurrected

Hero, heroine, or villain – there is a part for you in the UUFC Play Readers Group. If you are interested in getting together to share in reading a variety of plays, come to our first meeting on Wednesday, January 25, at 7:00 in the Library. For more information, contact **Jennifer Slater**, xxx-xxxx or **Ron Edge**, xxx-xxxx.



This Spud's For You!

The Jr & Sr High Youth will sponsor a Loaded Potato luncheon on February 5 after the service. This will be a fundraiser to help offset costs for the upcoming Youth CONferences at the Mountain.

Is the UU for You?

The next New Member Joining Service will be held on February 5, 2006. If you have been considering membership in the UUFC, please contact one of the Membership Committee listed in **For Our Visitors**, on this page.

Science & Religion Book Group

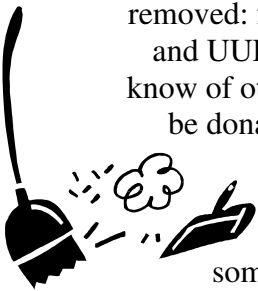
The Science and Religion book group will meet in the Library at 7PM on Thursday, March 9th. The book this time is Godel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid, by Douglas Hofstadter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trash or Treasure?

The gift shop is overflowing with both and must be cleaned out so that it can be used for church business. Many of the items are leftovers from the garage sale and bazaar. They will be boxed up for donation to Habitat for Humanity. Questionable things include baskets--gift and empty, aprons, tablecloths, pottery, dried flower arrangements, misc. computer components the list goes on.

Some items definitely will NOT be removed: functional computer, RE files, and UUFC or UUA business. If you know of other things in there that cannot be donated or trashed call **Jan Fulcher** (xxx-xxxx)



Members of the Social Action Committee will do some organizing of the area

Tuesday the 17th so that you can stick your head in the door next Sunday to see what's there. Please drop by.

Canvass Committee Forming

Peter Kandis will direct the Annual Canvass this year. Anyone who would like to help out should e-mail him at pkandis@sc.rr.com (preferably) or phone xxx-xxxx.

The first two meetings have been schedule for 10 AM on Sunday 1/22. And 1/29.

Correction: Caring Committee Chair

In the Dec 20, 2005 issue of the Unigram, it was announced that **Sandy Chubon** was Coordinating the Listening Ears Network. She is doing much more than that. Sandy has agreed to Chair the Caring Committee. Thank you Sandy for taking on this important position!

Administrator's Note

Pamela Hoppock has joined the Office Volunteer Team and will staff the office while **Isabel Oake** is out of town, January 20 and 23.

Partner Church News

Besides the fund raiser for the Flood Relief in the Nyiko Valley, The Partner Church Committee was able to send a small gift of money for the interim minister, Erika Orban, and the congregation in Beszterce, Romania. We have added a small space on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for news of the congregation and also for the Unitarian High School in Kolozsvar where Erika teaches. If anyone is interested in either of these projects please contact **Joyce Rodgers** at 776 0601 or email her at jrrodgers@bellsouth.net.

Job Opening at the UUFC:

With this advertisement, we are beginning a search for a Director of Religious Education (DRE) here in our own UUFC community. We are looking for someone who shares our UU values and has a background in RE, teaching, and/or work with children. Optimally, we would like someone credentialed and experienced in coordinating a UU RE program, but this is not a requirement for the position.

The job is half-time (20 hours), which includes hours on most Sundays, scheduled office hours during the week, and occasional evening meetings. The DRE, working in collaboration with the RE Committee and other volunteers, is responsible for coordinating the RE program, including the development/ selection of RE curricula and the recruitment of teachers for classes. S/he must work closely with parents, UUFC staff, and other committees.

Salary will be based on education and experience. For more information, please contact the UUFC administrator, **Isabel Oake**, at 803-799-0845 or at uufc@bigfoot.com. She will refer your inquiry to the DRE search committee. if necessary, we will extend the search to the larger community in February.



Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met January 11, 2006 and:

- Discussed plans for our annual canvass
- Appointed a subcommittee to develop Employee Complaint and Grievance Procedures and a disciplinary procedure for employees
- Appointed a subcommittee to develop guidelines for use of the nursery during UUFC activities
- Agreed to continue using the ADP payroll services
- Approved guidelines for involving persons with a history or an accusation of sexual misconduct in the congregational life of the UUFC (see article below).



Policy Regarding Sex Offenders' Participation in the UUFC

A few months ago we received a request from an inmate in a South Carolina prison, convicted of a sexual crime. He was about to be released from prison and he wanted to participate in the UUFC. We had no policy to address his

request. Neal Jones formed a task force to develop a policy. Then we learned that the inmate had decided to move to another part of the state after his release. We decided to be proactive and develop a policy to be prepared for future requests. The Board approved the policy at our January meeting. A copy is posted on the Board's bulletin board in the Social Hall.

Adoption of this policy does not require that we allow sex offenders to participate in the Fellowship. If an offender is not rehabilitated and is deemed to be at high risk of re-offending, we can deny him/her permission to participate. If we agree to have an offender participate in the Fellowship, he/she will be given limited access to activities. For example, offenders might be barred from any interaction with children. Offenders must always be accompanied by a same-sex support person (a member of the Fellowship who agrees to serve in this capacity); offenders must sign an agreement, which clearly spells out the restrictions on their participation. The agreement must be reviewed every three months and re-signed annually.

The Board thanks **Neal Jones, Andrea Derrick, Pamela Hoppock, and Allison DeFelice** for their work on this policy.

DISTRICT AND DENOMINATION

From the UUA Youth Office

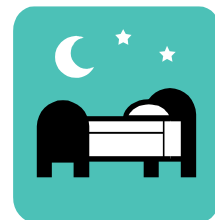
The Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth is a two-year process to explore what UU youth ministry and programs are currently and how they can be strengthened. This process is being implemented by a 15-member task force of youth and adults and Beth Dana of the UUA Youth Office.

The first step in the process is a survey of youth, ages 12-18, who are: current or former participants in a UU Religious Education program, or any UU affiliated program or who identify as UU and do not participate regularly in any UU group.

Surveys are available from any **Youth Advisor** or from **Isabel Oake** in the office. They should be completed and mailed directly to the Survey Office by the end of February, 2006. Postage is prepaid and there is an optional prize drawing for participants.

UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

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



For 27 years, the UU bed and breakfast directory, *UU're Home*, has provided a network of hosts in the United States (and abroad) who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

Log on to www.UUreHome.com, where entries are updated and you can charge a membership to your credit card. The 2006 edition will be available in April.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Thank You RE Volunteers!

The RE Committee would like to thank all of our wonderful program volunteers who dedicated countless hours to make our Fall session a big success. Special thanks to

Elementary Program: **Caroline Eastman, Trish Jerman, Eve Ross, Russ Watson, Paul Kenosian, Sonya Jones, and Barbara Allen**

Children's Chapel: **Paul Fram and Noah Fram**

Social Action: **Alex White and Heather Matthusen**

Senior High: **Susan Carlton, Heather McCalman, Don Mohr, Walter Patterson, and Jonathan Watterson**

Special Friends: **Gertrude Edge, Pat Mohr, Bethany Storlazzi, Isabel Oake, Andrea Derrick, Sej Harmon, Maryah Fram, Dana Gilchrist, and Peter Kandis**

Welcome (and, for some, welcome back) to our new volunteers for the Spring session:

Kindergarten: **Stephanie Fisher and Christina Pandimos**

1st & 2nd Grade: **Raia Hirsch**

3rd & 4th Grade: **Dan Thompson**

Chapel: **Chrissie Faupel and Dan Thompson**

Special Events: **Kitty Roberts**

Way Cool Sunday School is Back!

This month we have resumed our Way Cool Sunday School schedule for our elementary kids, which includes Children's Chapel and Social Action Sundays once a month and Religious Education twice a month. RE classes are divided by age/grade. This session we will be continuing with our study of Judeo/Christian roots with a look into the life of Jesus. Chapel and Social Action bring all of our children together for worship and awareness. Junior High kids (7th & 8th) are free to join the Sr. High group or participate with the elementary group. Any adults interested in starting up a Junior High program, please let us know. The elementary schedule for January & February is as follows:

January 15 RE Classes (Childhood in Palestine)
January 22 RE Classes (Baptism/Disciples)
January 29 Social Action

February 5 Chapel
February 12 RE Classes (Sermon on the Mount)
February 19 RE Classes (Miracle Stories)
February 26 Social Action

Special RE Class for Kindergartners

Our friend **Stephanie Fisher** has agreed to lead the Kindergarten RE class for the rest of the year. She and her helpers, **Caroline Eastman** and **Christina Pandimos**, have plans for special activities designed just for Kindergartners. This class is designed for older fours and five- and six-year-olds in Kindergarten. Older threes may participate; however, a parent must remain in the classroom. Parents of three-year-olds who prefer to participate in the adult service should avail themselves of the nursery.

Plans for Beltane are Underway.

Once again, the RE Committee will be sponsoring children's activities during the Beltane celebration. Beltane is planned for Sunday, May 7. We need adult and teen volunteers to coordinate and supervise crafts, games, and other activities. Please contact **Sonya Jones** at sonyajones865@aol.com if you are interested in helping out.

Puzzle Pieces – Creating Community Through Connections

The upcoming Youth CONferences at the Mountain will include workshops relating to communication (Zine Design, Comic Strip Making, Movie Making, First Amendment discussion) and self-expression (Clothing Modification, Sock Puppets, Candy Art, Recycled Jewelry).

The Jr High Con (6th-8th grade) is scheduled for February 10-12 and Sr. High Con (9th-12th grades) March 3-5. Registration is \$85 for the weekend. Forms and a \$45 deposit should be turned in to Isabel Oake by January 24.

Please contact **Isabel Oake** in the Fellowship office or at xxx-xxxx for information.

The Unigram
The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia
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Web Page: www.uu.columbia.sc.uua.org		
Special Events Line: (888) 849-4224 ext.4		

The Mission of our Fellowship is:

- To nurture and respect each other in our spiritual growth and pursuit of meaning,
- To create a welcoming and engaging environment through which we work for positive change in our community and the world.

Unigram Deadlines

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **5:00 pm, Jan 29, 2006.**
Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to Isabel Oake at UUFC@bigfoot.com with a copy to iioake@hotmail.com.
Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.