



# The Unigram

February 26, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

## FORUM

March 5, 2006

### Topics

### Family Values

**Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones**

- 5** Revisionist History
- 12** Too Many Choices?
- 19** Culture War? Islam vs. the West
- 26** Culture of Violent Communication

The effort here in South Carolina and in other states to deny same-sex marriages has ignited again the debate over "family values," a euphemistic phrase introduced into our political and cultural discourse by the Religious Right some twenty years ago. What is a family nowadays? The Religious Right is eager to define family for the rest of us. Do Unitarians have family values?

## Sunday Schedule

March 12, 2006

- Forum:** 9:30 in the Library
- Worship:** 11:00 – 12:15  
Coffee Hour follows in Social Hall
- Nursery:** During service for infants—age 3
- Children:** Children attend the beginning of the service with adults, then go to Religious Education classes or activities

### "When Hope is Hard to Find"

**Rev. Priscilla Richter**

We indeed live in times when hope seems hard to find. Where do we find the spiritual resources to continue our Unitarian Universalist legacy that claims hope as a foundational value?

Rev. Richter is the former minister at the UU church in Oak Ridge, TN, a former Board Member of the Thomas Jefferson District, and she is currently serving as the Interim Minister of the Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano, Texas.

## LONG RANGE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The LRP team has held three input sessions to date on the topics of **finances, buildings and grounds, and membership**. The thoughts and discussion have been very much appreciated. A few written comments have also been submitted.

**Three input sessions remain**, and we encourage all who wish to share their thoughts to make time for the meetings. **All meetings are on Thursdays, from 7:00 to 8:00 in the sanctuary.**

**March 2: Leadership**

**March 9: Growth**

**March 16: Staffing**

For those of you who wish to give written input, the forms are in Room 1, in the black wire basket on the desk. If you have input, please provide it soon. The LRP team is working on draft recommendations, and will complete its work by mid-April.

Thank you to those who have been attending the input sessions. Your input is greatly appreciated!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Spring Flings

Spring Flings are a great way to throw off the blahs, renew our energy, celebrate with old friends, AND deepen bonds with new friends and Fellowship members. Most of all....**Flings are for Fun!!** So, you're invited to "fling a fling" for the UUFC!

**Between April 9 - June 30, the UUFC will offer a variety of Spring Flings**—unique ways to get to know each other in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. **Please indicate your willingness to hold a Fling by completing a Spring Fling form and dropping it in the box in the Social Hall or by contacting a F.R.A.T. member below.** We will get back to you to add YOUR event to the schedule. **Deadline for your Fling to be included in the booklet is March 19th!**

Barbara Allen    xxx-xxxx

[theallens@bjmeallen.com](mailto:theallens@bjmeallen.com)

Mike Allen    866-xxx-xxxx (toll free)

Sej Harman    xxx-xxxx / xxx-xxxx (w)

[Harman@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:Harman@gwm.sc.edu)

### New to UU?

The next Visitors Orientation will be *Sunday, March 26* 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 call:

**Larry Siegel** (xxx-xxxx) **Barbara Allen** (xxx-xxxx),  
**Carita Barr** (xxx-xxxx), **Beth Crawford** (xxx-xxxx),  
**Gertrude Edge** (xxx-xxxx) **Joyce Rodgers** (xxx-xxxx),  
or **Mary Maclachlan** (xxx-xxxx) and **Tootsie Holland** (xxx-xxxx)

**"The Art Show" is coming this summer.**

**Artists are invited to exhibit their works at the UU, with a portion of profits benefiting Sistercare.**

**"Call for exhibitors" deadline is April 15.**

**Please contact Alex White via email**  
[ChariscuroBaby@yahoo.com](mailto:ChariscuroBaby@yahoo.com)

**Please visit: AbstractAlexandra.com**



### Find Your Magic

Please mark your calendar for the **Find Your Magic Canvass Kickoff Party March 31st** and watch your in-box for information about other canvass events as we celebrate our beloved community together. You will also find canvass information at the greeter's table and posted in the social hall.



### Keys Please

We are again experiencing a shortage of keys to lend to renters and members planning activities. If you are a former Board member or Committee Chair with a key, please return it to the office. If you have passed your key on to another member, please contact Isabel in the office to let her know who has the key.

## COMMUNITY CHALICE

**Cecily McKinney** is now in Baptist Hospital's Rehabilitation Center on the 7th Floor, in Room 719, and will remain there for several weeks. She had a serious hip operation and a new implant, and has to learn to walk again. She would like to hear from U-U friends.

**Joan Watterson** reports that son **Jonathan** (and former UUFC Board member) arrived safely-- after driving through sleet & snow--in Freedom, NH, Sunday, for his job at Freedom's Classroom.

**Our condolences.....**Stephen "Steve" Gary Burr, fiance' of UU member **Alexandra White**, passed through this world February 23, 2006, after his long battle with cancer. At the time of his death, his family and friends surrounded him. Loved and respected by so many, Steve will be cherished and never forgotten.

**Mary McGriff** is home after a brief stay at Moncrief Army Hospital to dissolve a blood clot in her leg

**Jonathan Thompson**, son of member **Dillard Thompson** will be bicycling 4000 miles cross-country this summer starting May 27 to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. He needs to raise \$ 4000 by May 1. Contributions (check payable to Habitat Bicycle Challenge) can be mailed to: Habitat Bicycle Challenge, 37 Union St, New Haven, CT. 06511. Please write "Jonathan Thompson" in the memo section.

**The Chocolate Auction** on February 12 was a rousing success again! With many "donating goodies," and, of course, "goodies donating" their talents and labor, the UUFC cleared over \$575 for the benefit of the programs of the Fellowship. Many thanks to all.

## Coffeehouse News

Visit the website for more information. [www.uucoffeehouse.org](http://www.uucoffeehouse.org)

### March 18

**Chris Rosser** and **Ron Fetner** return to the UU Coffeehouse Saturday evening, March 18. We all know Chris from his past visits to the UU, and we were able to meet Ron last season. They will be performing as a duo for this show.

Call 1.888.849.4224 X4 for reservations

### April 1

Mark your calendars now for a special show on Saturday, April 1. **Legends of West Africa** will come to the UU, featuring some of the World's most notable curators of West African traditional musical arts. The ensemble displays a dynamic and exhilarating celebration of the region's ethnic heritage through song, music and dance.

## Junior/Senior High Youth Social Action Project....

The Youth will place an order for **canvas** and now **string bags** in an effort to make a small dent in our nation's dependence on petroleum products. Canvas bags will be available for \$5 each or \$25 for 6. We favor these for grocery shopping as they have square bottoms and can stand upright for packing groceries. String bags will be a little more unless we can find better prices, but we have decided to offer them because they are easy to pop into your purse or pocket. One secret of changing habits is making sure you have the tools you need with you at all times!

Thanks, to **Mariah Fram**, Professor of Social Work at USC, we have a broader vision of social action. First we identify an issue, then dream of how things would be if that issue were resolved. Then we select one or two "doable" things we can do to reach that vision. We figure out what must change in our **attitudes** (education about the issue). The next step is what must change in our **behavior** and how do we truly alter habits. The final step is what we can do to change the **public policies** to impact our issue.

We decided to address petroleum dependence, but what really can a handful of youth do? We don't have a tidy figure on how much petroleum it actually takes for each plastic bag. But we have learned that some nations and states are considering taxing plastic bags because they create so much non-biodegradable waste. Studies of beach trash all over the world shows them as the 4th most common items left on beaches, and they kill thousands of wildlife creatures in the ocean and on land each year.

On a recent shopping trip, \$50 worth of groceries required 12 plastic bags. If that is weekly, then one household could reduce the use of plastic bags by 624 a year. If 10 UU families participate, that's a saving of 6,240 plastic bags a year! And, if we can make it easy enough, perhaps all UU families will participate and that will be thousands more. Then when people see us making it easy and grocery stores begin to accept the practice, there will be a ripple effect. And then when we think about asking the legislature to pass a 3 cent per plastic bag tax, we will have the beginning of a base of support.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

## Committee Corner

March 1	7:00	Worship Committee
March 2	6:00	Finance Committee
March 7	6:00	Co-Council
March 8	6:15	Board of Trustees
March 12	9:30	Religious Education Committee
March 12	12:15	Membership Committee
March 14	1:00	Unigram Folders

### Long Range Planning (see article, page 1)

Thursday, March 2	Leadership
Thursday, March 9	Growth
Thursday, March 16	Staffing

## Science and Religion Book Group

The Science & 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.

## Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet on *Tuesday, March 14* to discuss the life of America's first poet as described by Charlotte Gordon in her book, "Mistress Bradstreet." The meeting will begin at **7:00 PM**, a half-hour earlier than previously, in the home of Lynne Sparrow, 1425 Adella Street, Columbia, 29210. Call Lynne at xxx-xxxx for directions and to let her know you'll be there. All female friends and members of the UUFC are welcome.

## Committee Council

The Committee Council or Co-Council was founded in 1996 when it was decided that our Fellowship had grown to the point where there were too many details for the Board to focus on. The Co-Council was established to enhance communication, discuss issues and concerns, and result in efficient planning of UUFC events. All committees are requested to send a representative to the next meeting, **March 7 at 6:00**. The Co-Council is led by President-Elect Alice Leeper, who will summarize committee reports and issues discussed for the Board of Trustees meeting on March 8. If you have any questions, contact Alice at xxx-xxxx or [AliceUUFC@yahoo.com](mailto:AliceUUFC@yahoo.com).

### UUA's Social Justice Sunday

Mark your calendar: **Sunday, March 26th-- Justice Sunday**. Stay tuned for details (or check UUA online).

The next **September Set Pot Luck Dinner** is scheduled for March 24th at 6:00. More details to come, but mark your calendars now!

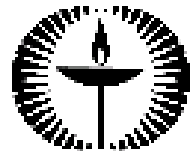
Adele Scaccia (phone—xxx-xxxx or email: [ascaccia@sc.rr.com](mailto:ascaccia@sc.rr.com)) can answer any questions you may have.

## District and Denomination

### UU's Flaming Chalice

The flaming chalice was originally designed by an Austrian artist, Hans Deutsch as a symbol for the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) in 1941. The USC was founded in Boston to assist Eastern Europeans, among them Unitarians as well as Jews, who needed to escape Nazi persecution. The Reverend Charles Joy, executive director of the USC, requested that Deutsch create a symbol for their papers "to make them look official, to give dignity and importance to them, and at the same time to symbolize the spirit of our work.... When a document may keep a man out of jail, give him standing with governments and police, it is important that it look important." Rev. Joy reported that the symbol is "the kind of chalice which the Greeks and Romans put on their altars. The holy oil burning in it is a symbol of helpfulness and sacrifice." In time the flaming chalice became a symbol of Unitarian Universalism all around the world. In 2004 UUA President William G. Sinkford began working with Emily Mitchell and Tim Nielsen, principals of [Nielsen Design Group](#), to produce a new corporate identity for the UUA staff. It was intended that this identity would distinguish all UUA materials with a mark of quality and integrity and offer a visual representation of a modern and dynamic faith.

The new UUA logo is designed to convey the idea of light emanating from the flame, or illumination. To maintain a consistent appearance the number of radiants must adapt appropriately as the chalice increases or decreases in size. For this reason, the UUA website provides versions of the logo in various sizes for use by member congregations.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Volunteers Needed!



#### RE Schedule for March:

5-Mar	Children's	Chapel
12-Mar	RE	Parables
19-Mar	RE	Stories of Acceptance
26-Mar	Social Action	Partner Church Sunday

**Easter Bunnies** – Our annual spring celebration is scheduled for **April 16**. Following the service, the REC will host a potluck lunch and Justice, Equity, & Compassion Easter Egg Hunt. Many volunteers are needed! Please contact **Barbie Seymour** at [bseymour@scbar.org](mailto:bseymour@scbar.org) if you can help out.

**Faeries, Nymph, & Elves** – The Beltane Celebration is scheduled for **May 7**. Following the service, the REC will sponsor children's activities. **Sonya Jones** has agreed to coordinate these efforts, but she needs volunteers! Please contact her at [sonyajones865@aol.com](mailto:sonyajones865@aol.com) as soon as possible

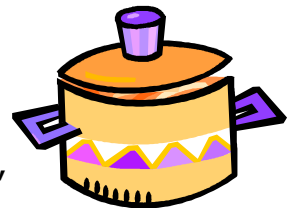


**Lifelong UUs** – *Were you raised in the Unitarian, Universalist, or UU tradition?* If so, we need your help! We are planning a special bridging ceremony for our six graduating seniors during the worship service on **May 14**. It will only take a few minutes of your time and would mean the world to them. Please contact Barbie Seymour at [bseymour@scbar.org](mailto:bseymour@scbar.org) or xxx-xxxx if you are interested.

All these wonderful opportunities and more are available to all.  
Please plan to attend the next RE Committee meeting on **March 12 at 9:30**  
to learn more. Everyone is welcome.

## Youth NEWS

Thank you to everyone who donated money to the Souper Bowl of Caring project this year. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$53.00, which will be donated to a charity designated by the youth.



**Youth Service – April 23:** Each year members of our Youth Program present a worship service for the congregation. Please make plans to attend this important event culminating a year of religious education, reflection, and fellowship for our teens. There will be no Sunday School classes as this is an intergenerational event.

# ∞ Find Your Magic ∞

at the Canvass Kick-off Party  
Friday, March 31, 7:30 P.M. until....

*This enchanting evening in our Fellowship's Social Hall will be filled with delectable desserts, dancing (fast, slow and in-between), and a generous sprinkling of magical acts.*

*One of our own Magical Mikes will be spinning the discs for the musical selections.*

*You are invited to enjoy the festivities dressed in a costume that represents whatever it is you aspire to be – acrobat, Donald Trump, championship golfer, belly dancer, African drummer, Peter Pan, glamour puss! (Your total transformation by a costume is optional so come as dressy as you like, or just wear something that gives us a hint of your aspirations.)*

*The sky's the limit for you and our Fellowship!*

*Childcare will be provided with a week's notice to the Fellowship office. Please call Janet Swigler (xxx-xxxx) or Regina Moody (xxx-xxxx) to contribute your magic touch before, during, or after the party.*



Staff
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Minister **Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones**  
Administrator and Unigram Editor **Isabel Oake**  
Custodian **John Squire**

### **Board of Trustees**

President **Pat Mohr**  
President-Elect **Alice Leeper**  
Treasurer **Sej Harman**  
Secretary **Sandy Chubon**  
Members at Large **Donald Griggs** **Peter Kandis**  
**Jessica Kross** **Kathy Paget**  
**Tom Turnipseed** **Glenn White**

### **How to Reach Us**

Fellowship Office (803) 799-0845  
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10:30 – 3:00  
**E-mail:** [UUFC@bigfoot.com](mailto:UUFC@bigfoot.com)  
**FAX:** (815) 550-4740  
**Web Page:** [www.uu.columbia.sc.uua.org](http://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.

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### **Unigram Deadline**

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