



The Unigram

March 28, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

April 2

A Mature Spirituality

Rev. Dr. Neal Jones

Daylight
Saving
Time Begins



Remember to
set your clocks
ahead one hour

"Spirituality" has become a popular buzzword in our society and even in our denomination in recent years. Often used, it is seldom defined. I'd like to define what I think constitutes a healthy, mature spirituality, and if we have time at the end of the service, I'd like to invite you to weigh in, as well.

April 16

Annual Flower Communion Service

Rev. Dr. Neal Jones

On Easter Sunday we celebrate a uniquely Unitarian Universalist service. The Flower Communion symbolizes and reaffirms our commitment and communion with each other as part of the Beloved Community.

Please bring flowers to the service to share with each other.

The service will be followed by a potluck luncheon for everyone and the Justice, Equity & Compassion Easter Egg Hunt for our children.

April 9

Conceptions and Misconceptions About Unitarian Universalism

Rev. Dr. Doug Reisner

As a percentage of the world's population, or even of America's, UUs are practically insignificant. Besides that, our name doesn't convey meaning to most people. Who are we, really?

Sunday Schedule

Choir: 9:30 (April 2)

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 adults and are then dismissed to Religious Education classes or activities.

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!

(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!

GAP ANALYSIS :

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the UUFC

The Gap: How much my heart says, "Go" and my giving says "Whoa." I would like to have a fancy car in my garage and orchids in my garden but instead I have an 11-year-old Volvo and a few daffodils. There is a gap between what I want to have and what I am willing to pay for. I give much to the UUFC because I do not want a gap between my vision, my love for our beloved community, and what I give to see that vision fulfilled.

The following are my interpretations of the giving categories:

SUPPORTER: Goes to the museum or the zoo occasionally, pays their \$7 to get in, wanders around, has a thoroughly good time and that is about as far as it goes. *Our guideline: The Fellowship is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.*

SUSTAINER: Buys an annual family membership because they go often enough and that it is a good bargain. They are helping to pay some of the utility bills and buy a little food for the elephant but there is no opportunity for growth and normal maintenance is problematic. *Our guideline: The Fellowship is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs.*

VISIONARY: Has a lifetime membership because they want more animals and paintings. *Our guideline: I am committed to both the present and future growth of my Fellowship.*

FULL TITHE: Is a patron and is fulfilled by the knowledge that the rewards are greater than the costs. By their actions, future generations will have the opportunity to experience our beloved

community. *Our guideline: I designate 10% of my income to the Fellowship as a way to live out my spiritual principles.*

Please note that the categories are progressive. **Financially, categories are based on the percent of income pledged, not the number of dollars pledged.** The giving guide begins with your 1040 adjusted income (line 37). The giving guide goes a step further and provides for child and parent care expense, un-reimbursed medical expense and the cost of higher education (deducted from adjusted income) and it provides for tax-exempt income and depreciation (added to adjusted income). After you have adjusted your income, find that amount in the first column of the table and read across to your category to find your pledge amount.

Thomas Moore in "Care of the Soul" talks about honoring symptoms as the voice of the soul. When we do not take care of our core, it speaks to us in ways that are not always obvious but we know something is wrong. When we feed our core, we may not bother to ask, "Why do I feel this bliss?" but, nevertheless, we feel the bliss.

We need to know if we want the UUFC to grow or if we want it to stop in time. Your pledge category is your vote and your vision for the UUFC for next year and beyond. If we adopt a budget and a Long-Range Plan because our heart says *Visionary* but our pledge says *Supporter* or *Sustainer*, then we will have symptoms and there is already enough suffering in the world. Please give at the *Visionary* level so we can grow and thrive.

Peter Kandis, Canvass Chair

COMMUNITY CHALICE

b **Laurel Sutton** has finished with this round of chemotherapy and awaits scheduling of a bone marrow transplant at Duke.

Donations of platelets or blood can be made in Laurel's honor at the Red Cross on Bull Street. Platelets are especially important and you should allow about 2

hours for registration and the procedure. Call for an appointment at xxx-xxxx.

Bb **Anthony Houser** is moving to a new apartment. If you can lend a hand with the moving on Thursday, March 30, your help would be appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Us Find a New DRE

Resumes will be accepted for the position of half-time Director of Religious Education (DRE) through the end of March. The interview process will begin the first week of April. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in this position, 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.

Art Show to Be Rescheduled

The Art Show benefit for Sistercare, planned for this summer, will be postponed. Please look for further details in the fall.

Fellowship Finance

The following shows all offerings collected for the general operating fund, since last reported in the Unigram. The figures do not reflect money collected and passed through to specific funds such as the Capital fund, Hurricane Relief Fund, or TJ District or UUA dues. Per the approved budget for FY05-06, we need a minimum of \$1,958 per week in offerings to sustain our Fellowship.

Feb 5	\$1834	Mar 5	\$1633
Feb 12	\$2508	Mar 12	\$ 938
Feb 19	\$2228	Mar 19	\$2332
Feb 26	\$1467	Mar 26	\$1335

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Committee Corner

April 4, 6:00 - Co-Council Meeting
April 5, 7:00 – Worship
April 6, 6:00 – Finance Committee
April 11, 1:00 – Unigram Folders
April 12, 6:15 – Board of Trustees

Spring Flings Start Sunday, April 9

We have a great line-up of Spring Flings created to provide wonderful opportunities to get to know each other AND give a boost to the funds for the Fellowship. The FRAT (Fund Raising Action Team) will be distributing flyers, created by “resident artist” **Regina Moody**, detailing events and registration procedures. Watch your Unigrams, email lists, website, etc during the next week and be thinking of events you want to attend.

Registration will be through the FRAT team and NOT through individual hosts (to keep their bother to a minimum).

An **Omelet Breakfast**, will be sponsored by the Fund Raising Action Team, at 9:00 a.m. at the Fellowship. For a mere \$5.00 (\$2.50 under 12), you can have the two-egg omelet of your choice, plus a



slice of toast and bacon (or pseudo-bacon for vegetarians), coffee and juice.

E-mail **Sej Harman** – Harman@gwm.sc.edu if you plan to attend so we can “count our eggs before they...” You get the idea. Put **OMELETTE** in the subject line, please. Pay at the door.

Later, come to **A Night at the Movies** at 7:00 p.m. (cancelled if rain), sponsored by **Dan Thompson, Chrissie Faupel**, and friends.

7 – 9 PM Classic (Casablanca-type) movie
9 – 1 PM Comedy/Cult (for the late-night set)

Bring deck chairs and blankets for this **OUTDOOR SCREEN** showing! Popcorn and pop will be provided. \$5.00 single, \$8.00 couple or \$12 family

Location: Dan and Chrissie’s at 327 Whaley St Ext.
803.546.6063 for directions)

E-mail **Sej Harman** – Harman@gwm.sc.edu to let her know you plan to attend and when you’ll mail/bring your registration fee.



Legends of West Africa



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.

Play Readers Encore!

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 meeting on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 in the Library. For more information, contact **Jennifer Slater**, xxx-xxxx or **Ron Edge**, xxx-xxxx.

New to UU?

The next Visitors Orientation will be Sunday, April 30, after the service.

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), or **Mary Maclachlan** (xxx-xxxx) and **Tootsie Holland** (xxx-xxxx)

Science and Religion Book Group

The Science and Religion Book Group will meet 7 - 9 PM on Thursday, May 11 in the library to discuss *The Mind's I*, Daniel C. Dennett and Douglas Hofstadter, eds. For more information, contact **Ann Johnson**, xxx-xxxx, or **Joe Long**, xxx-xxxx.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

April RE Schedule

- April 2 Children's Chapel
- April 9 RE Committee Meeting
Sunday School (Story of Easter)
- April 16 Intergenerational Service
(no Sunday School)
Pot Luck & Egg Hunt after the Service
- April 23 Youth Service (no Sunday School)
- April 30 Social Action

*Note that there will be no Sunday School on April 16, April 23, May 7, or May 14. The services on these Sundays will be for all generations. The nursery will be available for children 3 and younger. All other children will participate in the services.

RE Committee Meeting

Do you have talents to share with the children or youth in our congregation? Are you curious about the status of the DRE search? Would you like to have a say in the curricula used in our Sunday School program? Do you have ideas for an exciting and educational summer program? The best way to participate in the Religious Education Program at UUFC is to come to the RE Committee's monthly meeting. The April meeting is scheduled for 9:30 on Sunday, April 9. Everyone is welcome.

Easter Pot Luck & Egg Hunt

Please join us after the service on April 16 for a potluck luncheon and egg hunt sponsored by the RE Committee. The Committee will provide ham and drinks. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Children who would like to participate in the egg hunt should bring a basket. Contact **Barbie Seymour** xxx-xxxx for more information or to volunteer to help.

Beltane

Volunteers are still needed to help with children's activities for Beltane on May 7. Please contact **Sonya Jones**.

RE Graduation Ceremony

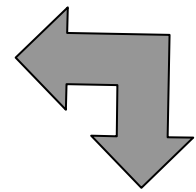
Don't miss our annual Bridging ceremony on May 14. Children and teens in our RE program will celebrate the end of the school year with a special service honoring their achievements and the hard work and dedication of our program volunteers. For more information, please contact **Barbie Seymour** xxx-xxxx.

The Unitarian
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If there is a red dot
on your address label...
this may be your last Unigram!
Please contact our office
if you would like to continue
receiving our newsletter
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Unigram Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next
Unigram is **5:00 p.m., April 9, 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.