



# The Unigram

June 20, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

June 25

## The Soul in Unitarian Universalism

Rev. B. Elaine Faithful

Emerson wrote: "Nothing can be greater than (the soul) . . . It is wider than space, older than time, wide as hope, rich as love." (The Method of Nature, 1849). On this Sunday we will consider "the soul" and its place in present day Unitarian Universalism.

Forum: Evolutionary Pressures and Forces

July 2

## Is God an American?

Betty Glad

The "City on the Hill Tradition" and US foreign policy. Betty Glad is the Olin D. Johnston Professor of Political Science at USC. Her talk is from a chapter in a book she is writing on Jimmy Carter.

Forum: The Birthday – Rituals, Significance, Relevance

## Sunday Schedule

**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

## FINAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

B I have had the greatest of privileges to serve as the president of the Board of Trustees over the past year. It was my pleasure to serve with this truly great board. How great you may ask---well, look at what they have accomplished: the policies, the employee handbook, and under the leadership of Mike Paget, a long-range plan that provides goals and vision for this congregation beginning now (with the new board beginning implementation later this summer) through the next three to five years.

As icing on the cake, at our annual meeting last Sunday, the congregation not only voted to implement that Plan but also approved a budget for the coming year that includes a line item for our denominational dues. When I told the district about

it, they were almost as excited as I was. Do you realize how far this congregation has come?

For the first time in a long time, we are financially solvent and the energy and momentum to grow keeps rising. I feel that much of this is due to the work of Dr. Neal Jones, who, not incidentally, received the unanimous support of the congregation in the Sunday meeting to expand his time at the UUFC. I think we're about ready to take that leap of faith that can finally make us a force to be reckoned with in Columbia, to become that beacon for tolerance and reason in this often, seemingly endless, sea of ignorance and bigotry.

(Continued on page 2)

Meanwhile, later this week, Don and I, as well as Neal & Toni Jones, are off to St. Louis for the UUA General Assembly. Then, I'll be back to start on my new UUFC project, adult programs. If you have some good ideas, let's talk.

Finally, do you remember that analogy about the lead goose? Well, now it's time for me to

go to the back of the flock and honk, honk, honk encouraging words to our new leaders. Let's all support Alice Leeper and our new board who will take over on July 1.

With thanks & appreciation,  
*Pat Mohr*

## COMMUNITY CHALICE

After a lengthy search, the Board has hired **Danielle Marx Conwell** and **Lisa James** as Co-Directors of Religious Education, effective July 1, 2006. Formal introductions will be made soon.

Our former DRE, **Hope Andonovska** and **Joshua Gold** were wed June 10 at the Inn at USC. Hope's daughters, **Aia and Della Andonovska**, were flower girls and received necklaces during the ceremony signifying their role in the new family. Music for the ceremony was provided by **Paul and Noah Fram**.

Congratulations to **Alexandra White** on her art exhibit at Buster's Bistro. The "Celebrating Steve/Life Dreams" exhibit, expressions of life, love and where to go after death opens July 10<sup>th</sup> and runs through the end of the month. An opening night reception will be held on July 10th.

Welcome back **James Wilson**, a former member who has rejoined the Fellowship.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2006 Board Awards! **Tom and Judy Turnipseed** were honored for their years of involvement in many social justice causes. The first annual Turnipseed Social Action Award was given to **Don Mohr** for his work with hurricane Katrina evacuees.

**Gertrude Edge** received the Unsung Hero Award for her many years of participation in a wide variety of committees, events and causes at the UUFC and the larger UU community. The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to **Mike Paget** for leading the Long Range Planning Team and to **Barbie Seymour** for running the Religious Education Program this year in absence of a DRE.

Many thanks to those who worked on our lawn and gardens this spring, helping to make our site more beautiful and inviting! Check out the properly pruned azaleas and the edged sidewalks...

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### From Rev. Neal Jones

Dear UUFC,

I was deeply touched by your unanimous vote to expand my hours as your part-time minister. In that Sunday's sermon, I spoke of the "soul death" that can occur when people ignore their passion and perform a job for external benefits only. But when we "follow our bliss" (to use Joseph Campbell's phrase), when we find fulfillment in our work, when we feel like we're making a meaningful contribution and giving something back to life, then work doesn't feel like work. Instead, we feel fully alive. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to follow my bliss as your minister.

*Neal*

### Annual Ingathering of Waters

Remember the "Ingathering of Waters" service. As you travel this summer, be sure to get a small container of water from the place(s) you visit. Then, at this service which will be on August 27, you can pour your well traveled water into a communal fountain and share your travels with others in the congregation. Past experience has shown that it is a good idea to freeze the water until a day before the service.



## Hello, from Gin Beery, UUFC Office Administrator

This is to introduce myself, Gin Beery, as your new Office Administrator. I had not attended any religious organizations for years and was missing the community support, but not the strict doctrine and judgement. My daughter recently asked me how we were to teach my 5-year-old granddaughter about religion, faith and the different beliefs. After we found the UU's website, I decided to visit and was delighted to find a group that respects each person's spiritual path. On my first visit I carefully read each of the Seven Principles and thought, "Wow, I agree with all of them." It has been a delight to come and meet with others searching for spiritual fulfillment from every source.

I have many years of office experience and skills that I feel will enable me to provide the support that is needed to assist with the Long-Range Planning Goals of the UU Fellowship. I look forward to getting to know everyone as we work and grow together. Just please, be patient with me as I try to remember well over one hundred names and faces.

### A Service About UU Poets



You probably know that many famous poets have been Unitarians, Universalists, or Unitarian Universalists. On July 30 we are doing a service that will feature the work of a number of these poets. We'll do the service in "reader's theatre" style, and it will involve some rehearsal the week before the service. Although not

confirmed, we may be asked to take this service to the Augusta UU Church in August or September. If you have a theatrical bent, or are at least a good reader, please contact Don Mohr if you are interested in participating. Call at xxx-xxxx or e-mail at dmohr@mindspring.com.

## Seeds of Hope



July 4th Celebrations: Need fresh fruits & vegetables for your holiday feast? Stop by our Seeds of Hope table and get fresh squash, beans, potatoes, cucumbers, and (hopefully) cantaloupes, watermelons and peaches. Oh, and did I mention tomatoes, okra,.....? Y'all come.....

### School Supply Drive

The UUFC is participating in the Cooperative Ministry's 16<sup>th</sup> annual school supply drive. Supplies are collected and distributed for students in need in Richland and Lexington county schools. Needed supplies include: notebook paper, 3-ring binders, tablets, spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, glue sticks, tape and art supplies. Please bring your donations to the Fellowship and leave in the collection boxes on the stage in the Social Hall.

Anyone interested in any aspect of the School Supply Drive may contact the Cooperative Ministry at xxx-xxxx x3011 or x3015.

### June 14 Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met June 14, 2006 and:

- Revised the description of the Personnel Committee
- Approved Don Mohr and Mary Maclachlan as new members of the Personnel Committee
- Created a Bylaws Committee to recommend to the Board revisions of the UUFC Bylaws by October, 2006
- Voted to purchase and have installed ACS software to maintain financial and membership records for the fellowship.
- Agreed to take \$4,000 from the savings account to pay dues to UUA and TJD for this fiscal year.
- Approved a budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.

*Sandy Chubon*

## Annual Congregational Meeting

The UUFC held its Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 18, 2006 after the worship service. The congregation:

- Accepted the Long-Range Plan.
- Accepted the Report of the Nominating Committee and elected all nominees by acclamation.
- Endorsed a plan to expand Neal Jones' role as our part-time minister.
- Approved the budget presented by the Finance Committee.
- Amended the budget to take \$6,000 from our "excess" income from this year plus \$3,000 from the savings account to pay for more hours for Neal Jones.
- Agreed to have a "Miracle Sunday" to raise an additional \$3,000 for Neal's salary.
- Voted not to take additional money from our savings to become a Fair Share congregation for the current fiscal year.

*Sandy Chubon*

## 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.

May 28	\$1,885	June 11	\$2,745
June 4	\$1,872	June 18	\$1,134

## Does the UUFC Owe You Money?

Many times during the year, for convenience or necessity, volunteers pay for supplies or committee expenses out of pocket. We appreciate your willingness to chip in whenever it is more expedient than waiting for a UUFC check. However, in order to keep track of what it costs to run our various



programs, all expenses should appear in our records and be charged against the appropriate line item.

Our fiscal year ends June 30. If you have made any reimbursable purchases since July 1, 2005, please submit a Check Request Form (available from **Isabel Oake**, Administrator or **Sej Harman**, Treasurer, *before June 30*). Each Request must be accompanied by valid receipts and approved by the appropriate committee chair.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### Committee Corner

July 5, 1:00 – Unigram Folders  
July 5, 7:00 – Worship  
Committee

### Playreaders

The next meeting of the UU Playreaders will be Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 in the Library.



### September Set

Please join us at 6:00 on Friday June 23rd, in the Fellowship Hall, for this month's September Set Potluck Dinner. Molly Jones has graciously agreed to be this month's hostess. She will be making turkey tetrazini (veggie and regular). If you know what you'll be bringing, please let Joyce Rodgers know (jridgers@bellsouth.net or xxx-xxxx) If you don't know ahead of time, please don't let that keep you from attending.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and, as always, if you know of someone who would like to join us, please bring them along.

## Rhythm in the Circle of our Lives June 24th at the UUFC

From the beginning of time, sacred movement, music, song and story have brought people together at times of seasonal ceremony and celebration, as part of everyday life and life passages and in daily renewal and meditation.



Come enjoy any or all of the following:  
3:00-5:00 PM PLAYSHOP:  
Rhythm, singing, and sacred folk dance workshop  
5:30 – 7:00 PM POTLUCK:

Bring a dish to share. Mark it vegetarian or non-vegetarian please.

7:00 – 9:00 PM DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE... are part of the timeless tradition of Sacred Dance. The dances are simple, meditative and joyous, using sacred phrases, music, chanting, and movements from the many traditions of the Earth to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. They promote peace and integration within individuals and groups worldwide. There are no performers or audience. Come join hands and experience peace--within and without.

No prior experience is needed and everyone is welcome. No special attire is required, although comfortable, loose-fitting clothing works best. If

you have a percussion instrument (drum, shaker, rattle) please bring it along.

To register or for more information contact Laura Rich at (803) xxx-xxxx. (Pre-registration appreciated for 3:00-5:00 workshop.) Cost: donations accepted

## Farewell Potluck for Isabel

It is now time to bid farewell to a woman who has been so important, in so many ways, to the life of this Fellowship. She is a longtime member, a dancer, a soprano in the choir, an RE teacher and our hardworking Administrator.

After the service on Sunday, June 25th, we

will have a potluck to say goodbye to Isabel Oake, her husband Eric and daughter Ivey Lynn. Bring food and/or a beverage and don't forget to write a note in her memory book. Contact Mary MacLachlan, xxx-xxxx or Alice Leeper, xxx-xxxx.



## DISTRICT AND DENOMINATION

### From Pat Griggs, T J District

Dear UUs of Columbia,

What a joy it is to hear from Pat Mohr that you have elected to include your denominational support as a line item in your operating budget!!! You have wrestled long and hard with this issue, and goodness is coming forth.

You are honoring your covenant with the Association by your stewardship of it. You probably know that our sacred "Principles and Purposes" is a covenant between member congregations and the Association—how we will behave among each other. The last sentence of that covenant is "As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support."

Therefore, I joyfully congratulate you on the outcome of your hard work. Last year you were able to contribute your full Fair Share, and though you were not able to do that this year, your contribution was much more generous than in other years! To paraphrase my fellow Alabamian, Helen Keller, together we can do so much more than we can alone.

Thank you for being part of our "togetherness." As ever, I stand ready to serve in any way I can.

Blessed Be!  
Pat Griggs, Chair  
Thomas Jefferson District

## Why Do We Pay Dues to the UUA?

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations does what no one congregation can do alone. We respond to the needs of over a thousand congregations, and start new ones. We provide programs, services, and resources that are essential to their health and growth. We extend the reach of UU into the wide world and give public voice to our UU values. There is much exciting and transformative work being done by our congregations, our districts, and affiliated organizations. And, much more to be done in support of our mission and put our faith into action.

Our congregations continue to support one another as part of their covenantal relationship in the UUA of Congregations. Your congregation, as a member of the Assoc., is asked to provide contributions to the **Annual Program Fund**. The amount of your congregation's requested "Fair Share" contribution is determined by the UUA Board of Trustees, \$53 as of July first. These annual contributions constitute nearly 50% of the Association's undesignated funding. As you can imagine, each and every contribution matters and makes a difference.

Because of Your Generosity the UUA has provided:

- A newly revised, online edition of the Congregational Handbook.
- *The Membership Journey*
- A new hymnal, *Singing the Journey*
- *Congregational Life Dynamics and Conflict Management: An Application of Family systems Theory*
- An expansion of the "Uncommon Denomination"
- A greater-than-ever public voice in matters of religious conviction.
- Enhanced support for lay leaders through a new web site. [www.uua.org/programs/layleader](http://www.uua.org/programs/layleader)
- An extraordinary internship program at our Washington Center.
- A strong and effective program for socially responsible investing.
- A strong, two-pronged publishing program: Skinner House and Beacon Press.

The Annual Program Fund is a major funding program of the Stewardship and Development Staff Group.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Summer RE Classes

- June 25: Puppeteering with Amanda and Heather
- July 2: Puppeteering with Amanda
- July 9: Mad Scientist Experiments with Paul Kinosian
- July 16: Mad Scientist Experiments with Paul Kinosian
- July 23: Topic TBA, led by Andrea Derrick
- July 30: "Old Turtle" teaches us religious tolerance – Trish Jerman and Eve Ross
- August 6: Theater with Raia Hirsch and Amanda
- August 13: Recycled crayon candles with Sonya Jones
- August 20: Art of Everyday Objects with Sonya Jones and Heather Matthusen
- August 27: "Roxaboxen" inspires us to build a better community, led by Trish Jerman



# The Unigram

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia  
2701 Heyward Street  
Columbia, SC 29205

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US Postage  
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Permit No. 842  
Columbia, SC

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## Staff

Minister	<b>Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones</b>
Administrator and Unigram Editor	<b>Gin Beery</b>
Directors of Religious Education	<b>Lisa James and Danielle Marx Conwell</b>
Custodian	<b>John Squire</b>

## Board of Trustees (as of July 1, 2006)

President	<b>Alice Leeper</b>
President-Elect	<b>Peter Kandis</b>
Treasurer	<b>Sej Harman</b>
Secretary	<b>Jessica Kross</b>
Members at Large	<b>Mike Kelly      Karen Koprowski</b>
	<b>Mary McGriff      Adele Scaccia      Cheryl Soehl</b>
	<b>Janet Swigler      Glenn White</b>

**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., July 2, 2006.**

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [UUFC@bigfoot.com](mailto:UUFC@bigfoot.com)

Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.