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THE UNIGRAM

January 16, 2007

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC



January 21, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: The Difference Between Fingers and Moons by Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Buddhism teaches us that religious images, rituals, and scriptures are metaphors pointing to larger meanings and mysteries, like fingers pointing to the moon. In fact, all religions at their best teach this, yet we often confuse symbols with the things they symbolize. When we do, religion becomes literal and life becomes flat.

9:30 Forum Topic: Inappropriate Sexual Advances

January 28, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: Elaine B. Faithful
9:30 Forum Topic: What Is UU's World Mission

Sunday Schedule

Forum: 9:30 AM in the Library
Worship: 11:00 AM -12:15 PM followed by a Coffee Hour in the Social Hall
Nursery: Available during service for infants through age 2
Children: 11:00 AM -12:15 PM Religious Ed. classes for children ages 3 through 8th grade

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From the Minister...

For our meditation during a recent worship service, Rev. Jones read the poem "Desiderata." Max Ehrmann, a poet and lawyer wrote it in the 1920s from Terre Haute, Indiana. It is sometimes mistakenly believed to have been written in 1692 and to have come from Old St. Paul's Church in Baltimore. That's because the poem was included in a collection of devotional materials compiled by a rector of St. Paul's, which was founded in 1692. When two-time Presidential candidate and Unitarian Adlai Stevenson died in 1965, a copy of the poem was found near his bedside. "Desiderata" is Latin for "Things to be Desired."

Cont'd next column.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful.
Strive to be happy.



Community

We congratulate...

Mark and Laura Woodworth, who gave birth to Katie Meridian Woodworth on December 31.

Ann Johnson, who became a great-grandmother on January 18 when daughter Jennifer's daughter Jackie gave birth to Tristan Knight.

Linda Brennon, who has returned to the Fellowship and other places outside her house now that she is better able to walk. Linda broke her ankle and tore some tendons in a fall several months ago.

Emile DeFelice, who will be featured on ETV on January 25th at 9:00 in a program entitled, "Down the Ballot," a look at the 2006 campaign for SC Commissioner of Agriculture.

Our thoughts and concerns are with...

Jan Fulcher, who is recovering from a broken rib sustained in a fall.

Henry Heriot, who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Peter Kandis, whose uncle in Miami died on Jan. 13.

ACTING Director Religious Education NEEDED FOR SPRING 2007

We have the children. We have the schedule. We have the teachers. Religious Education program needs an Acting Director of Religious Education to help keep our RE program running smoothly for the remainder of the program year. Responsibilities include welcoming new families, working with current families, coordinating Sunday School activities, recruiting additional volunteers for special activities/summer, and planning the bridging ceremony in May. You will be supported by the UUFC administrative assistant, the RE committee and volunteers.

The position is part-time, for 10 hours a week, from January 1 through the end of May. Background check and references are required. Please contact Caroline Eastman; Chair of the RE Committee, to apply or to request additional information. Home phone: 803-782-8820. Cell phone: 803-466-2840. Email: Eastman@sc.rr.com.

L UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

I REGIONAL CLUSTER MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Mark your calendars now for a meeting of the Eastern NC Cluster Meeting of UU congregations. It will be on Saturday, February 24, at Outlaws Bridge Universalist Church, about an hour and a half from Wilmington. This will be a good opportunity to connect with fellow UU's from nearby congregations and network on common problems. In addition, the three candidates for District Trustee to the UUA Board will be there to discuss their candidacies. For more information, contact Rev. Barry Whittemore, minister of Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church at: obuc@bellsouth.net

I GLOBAL WARMING: WHAT CAN WE DO?

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW) is inviting leading local industries and regional environmental groups together for a public Global Warming Conference (GWC) to be held March 30 and 31, 2007.

For more info, email: gwc@uufwilmington.org
<http://www.shelterneckuucamp.org/2007/GWC.html>

I Bantu Refugee sponsorship We are the secondary sponsor for Halima Magano. She is 13 going on 14 and the rest of her family has moved to Portland. She lives with her Aunt Hawwa Noor and cousin Aweys. She is in the 8th grade...some Bantus her age were placed two grades lower than she is because they were in a different district that placed them by ability rather than age. She is probably at a 3rd grade level overall. There is a need for tutoring--help with her homework plus helping her catch up on the basics. Help from a child close to her age or from someone who could be a rolemodel for her might be helpful. She needs some extra attention because she is isolated from her father, stepmother, half-sister, and five other brothers and sisters. Anyone interested in helping this remarkable young lady adapt to America can contact me Dean Smith at deanjaysmith@yahoo.com or find me after a service.

Tuned In to UU Opportunities:

Members are reminded that many wonderful and inspiring things are happening in the greater community of Unitarian Universalists. Check the websites:
<http://www.uua.org/> - The Unitarian Universalist Association
<http://www.tjd.uua.org/index.html> - The Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA

<http://www.tjd.uua.org/calendar.html> - TJD District Calendar. Make a note that the TJD Anti-Racism Conference will take place on March 2-4, 2007 at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist in Charlottesville, VA - <http://www.uucharlottesville.org/>.

The Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship also maintains a website for those who come to us from Christian traditions wishing to enrich their spiritual growth in communication with other UU Christians: <http://www.uuchristian.org/>

L UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS!



I Hiking/Walking Outdoor Group

The ad hoc outdoor hiking and walking group had a good walk at Congaree Swamp this past Saturday. In addition to the joys of being outdoors, we discovered that this is a good way to get to know people better in sharing a picnic lunch. Our next outing will be to Poinsett State Park. It is located between Columbia and Sumter; you can look on the Web at SC State Parks to find details and directions. We will meet at the visitor's center on Jan. 27 at 10:30 AM. Bring a picnic lunch to eat during our hike. Families with children are invited; this is not strenuous hike, but for anyone who enjoys being outdoors. For information call Ann Johnson at xxx-xxxx xxx-xxxx.



I Recycle Office Paper

We now have a 'Recycle Roll Cart' for office paper. So if you would like to bring in 'office paper' only for recycling please call the office for more information.

I Make a Deposit

Non-perishable food items are needed every week for Harvest Hope Food Bank. Let's fill the basket on the stage in the Social Hall, volunteers deliver all donations to the Food Bank every Monday.

I UU Crafters

Anyone interested in knitting or rya tapestry arts is invited to join us on Monday, January 22nd at 7:00 in the fellowship hall. Whether you are experienced, intermediate or would simply like to learn more, here is the place to start. For information you may call Carita Barr at 782 0053 or Joyce Rodgers at 776 0601.

I Thanks to all!

The total for the 5 weeks was \$1115.87 with \$834.55 going to Heifer and \$281.32 going to Hannah House. That is an average of nearly \$225 per week, which is double our normal loose plate collection.



I September Set Potluck Dinner

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM on Friday, January 26th for this month's September Set Potluck Dinner, to be hosted by Adele Scaccia. As always, if you know of anyone who is interested in this group, please encourage them to join us. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Joyce Rodgers (ljrrodgers@bellsouth.net or xxx-xxxx) We look forward

L UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Wednesday Adult Education Programs Starting Up Again in February!!!

Mark your calendars NOW for classes that will run on Wednesday nights: February 21 & 28 and on March 7, 14, & 21. We'll have three or four classes this time, including a class based on the book by Forrest Church and John Buehrens called "Our Chosen Faith" and a class called "It's Easy Being Green" about how we can make a greener building and a greener world. Once again, childcare will be available upon request, and we'll have dinner before the classes (though we're doing the food arrangements differently this time). Watch for upcoming notices with more details and the dates for registration.

"Make your heart like a lake, with calm, still surface, and great depths of kindness." (Lao Tzu)

What Is Imbolc?

This earliest spring sabbat belongs to Brigid, the Celtic goddess who in later times became revered as a Christian saint. Originally, her festival on Feb. 1 was known as Imbolc or Oimelc, two names, which refer to the lactation of the ewes, the flow of milk that heralds the return of the life-giving forces of spring. Later, the Catholic Church replaced this festival with Candlemas Day on February 2, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and features candlelight processions. The powerful figure of Brigid the Light-Bringer overlights both pagan and Christian celebrations. She is the goddess-patron of bards, smithing, childbirth, healing, home & hearth, livestock, weaving and brewing. She often appears with a red-eared white cow. We call on Brigid for healing, peace, and plenty.

Old & New Imbolc Customs

- Spring-clean your house, turn your compost, order seeds.
- Bless your fresh-cleaned house with water and smudging.
- Braid Brigid crosses and hang on your door
- Leave milk, bread and butter outside your door for Brigid and her cow as they walk through your neighborhood.
- Leave a ribbon on your doorstep for the great goddess of healing to bless, then use it the rest of this year.
- Put your financial affairs in order, do taxes early, get rid of baggage that might hinder you in the months to come.
- Leave candles burning in your window all night.
- Invite close friends and family to share an Imbolc meal in front of your fire.
- Invite your guests to share favorite stories and songs in honor of the bard.

A Brighid, scar os mo chionn Do bhrat fionn
dom anacal.

O Brigid spread above my head Your Mantle
bright to guard me.

The Three-Fold Fire of Brighid

Fire in the forge that shapes and tempers.
Fire of the hearth that nourishes and heals.
Fire in the head that incites and inspires.

Gaia's Rising CUUPS will hold a public Imbolc ritual on Friday, February 2, at 7:00 PM, to which all are invited. Rituals normally last about 30 minutes, are usually held in a circle, and include a call to the four directions, singing, some readings, prayers, oh, and candles, of course! Dress comfortably and call ahead if you need childcare. Questions, call 799-0845, or email lcuupscolumbia@yahoo.com.

I FRIENDS OF THE UUA PHONATHON

We would prefer that no one would be surprised to receive a fundraising call from Friends of the UUA, so we ask that you please share this information with the members of your congregation through a mention in your congregational newsletter or other announcements.

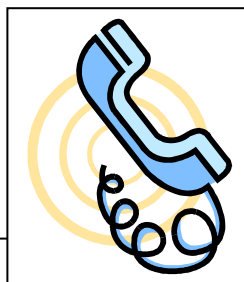
As a supplement to periodic mailings, Friends of the UUA will be conducting a fundraising phonathon beginning the week of February 19th and continuing through the third week in March. Outreach Associates, a telemarketing firm located in Pittsburgh, will be phoning members who are currently active Friends of the UUA to ask them to renew their support.

Theme: Progress Report on Tapestry of Faith
Lifespan Curriculum

Our contract with this firm requires that all callers must be courteous, respectful, and succinct as they offer identified Unitarian Universalists an opportunity to support our Association directly. Your feedback about the calls will help us to monitor their quality. We have established a Friends Phonathon Hotline to facilitate that feedback: Members may call (617) xxx-xxxx to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UUA staff member.

Your willingness to support the UUA enhances our ability to provide services and programs to member congregations and presents avenues for future growth of Unitarian Universalism throughout the country. If this phonathon is occurring at an inappropriate time for Friends of the UUA to be contacting members of your congregation, please let me know by return email before February 5, 2007.

With gratitude,
Cynthia Salloway, Director
Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Association
Stewardship & Development



INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER'S



Hi, everybody. I'm John Charbonnet and a new member of the UUFC. Some personal info about me: I'm an army brat, and was raised in a large, devout Catholic family (there are 34 first-cousins just on my Mom's side!). I'm a professional

engineer, and I like foreign films, R&B music, dogs, kids, and outdoor activities. After my wife passed away and my two sons grew up and left home, I needed a change. So I finished my Master's, moved down here, bought a house in Lexington, and learned to shag. I discovered the UU last summer, and was impressed with the attitudes and beliefs I found here. So far, I've had fun doing a cooking workshop with our youngsters and organising an adult trip to Augusta, and now I'm on the membership committee. Some of my other interests include travel, outdoor activities, and environmental issues. I'm very glad to be here and look forward very much to working with all of



My name is Laura Woodworth. I live in Shandon with my husband, Mark. We have a new baby at home. Her name is Cadence Meridian Woodworth and she was born on Dec 31st at 7:56 pm...8

pounds, 7 ounces! I grew up going to a UU church in Edmonds, WA. I joined UUFC for community and spiritual guidance. I love gardening and kids, and I have worked as a ship cook and a camp cook. At UUFC, I would like to get involved with gardening, kids and kitchen stuff.



My name is Marilyn Miss. I spent most of my life in California where I attended high school and college and raised four children. I moved to Colorado in 1982 to be closely involved with a small religious movement (read cult)

that had a Hindu teacher as its leader. In 2001 I moved to New Jersey and eventually joined a Unitarian Universalist congregation because of UU's openness and religious pluralism. I am vitally interested in the survival and expansion of the liberal church movement. I want to support the UU faith and work to increase this Fellowship's outreach to serve the larger community.

January 20, 2007 at the UU Coffeehouse

Chuck Brodsky

www.chuckbrodsky.com

Chuck Brodsky is a musical storyteller, offering barb-witted social commentary delivered with compassion, humanity, and humor. Chuck has toured extensively throughout the US, Canada, and Ireland, playing at folk festivals such as Tønder in Denmark, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Kerrville, and the Lincoln Center Out of Door series in New York. He has appeared in concert with Arlo Guthrie, Janis Ian, Pete Seeger, Ramblin' Jack Elliot, John Hartford, Gillian Welch, Tom Paxton, Richie Havens, Patty Larkin, and The Kingston Trio.

Gigi Dover opens for Chuck.

www.gigidover.com

This soulful redhead with the compelling voice and passion for exploring the musical roots of her past is a brilliant singer, songwriter and performer. Compared to the likes of Janis Joplin, Etta James & Chrissi Hynde, Gigi Dover's vocals are seductive and soulful, as she performs her country/rock/blues.

Doors open at 7:30, and the music begins at 8:00

\$10/\$5 advance \$12/\$7 at the door

2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC

For advance reservations, call the events line at 1.888.849.4224 extension 4

For more information, visit www.uucoffeehouse.org.

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia

The UU is a smoke and alcohol free listening room located at the corner of Heyward and Woodrow Streets in the Shandon area of Columbia. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for high school and college students by making a reservation on the events phone line. Tickets at the door are \$12 and \$7. Children through 8th grade are free when accompanied by an adult.

We think too much, we feel too little.
Russell

The Unigram

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Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Ministers Hours: Thurs., Fri. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



E-mail: IUUFC@bigfoot.com

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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., Jan. 28, 2007.**

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to IUUFC@bigfoot.com
Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.