

THE UNIGRAM

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

June 5, 2007



June 10, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: Have we lost the art of real conversation? With the 2008 election campaign already upon us will we really hear what the candidates are saying and what the voters want them to hear? **Gaye Ortiz** will share her reflections on this past semester's experiment in public conversation at Augusta State University with her Communication classes, and will ask whether the sentiment of Hymn #129 is right when it says that when we unite in love "disputes enrich our life" and "debate can cause no strife"

9:30 Forum Topic: Flat World Theory

June 17, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "The Meaning of Life"

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

You can end your searching because the answer to your deepest question will be given.

9:30 Forum Topic:

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO LAURA!

Our former administrator **Laura Ingram** recently graduated from Starr King with her Masters Degree in Divinity. Traditionally Starr King graduates each speak for two minutes from the pulpit & 'our' Laura preached from the pulpit of the historic First Unitarian Church of Oakland. Until the end of June she will continue her role as assistant to SKSM's teaching professor Rev. Alma Crawford. After that ????

To get an update contact her at msswitch@yahoo.com or 1327 Virginia St., Apt. B, Berkely, CA 94702.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Pre-Annual Meeting Discussion

All Members are invited to the Fellowship's Pre-Annual Meeting Discussion on Sunday, June 10, at 12:15 p.m. after services. We will have the opportunity to review the proposed 2007-2008 budget and slate of candidates for the Board and Nominating Committee. Please come and offer your thoughts before the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 17.

2007-08 Slate for Board & Nominating Committee Announced

President-Elect - Mike Paget

Secretary - Jessica Kross

Treasurer - Glenn White & Ann Cargill

Board members - Joe Long, Ruth Sproat

Nominating Committee - Larry Siegel, Eve Ross, and Mary MacLachlan

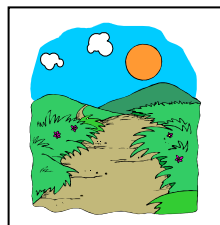
Recommendations from 2006-07 Nominating Committee:

Pat Mohr, Larry Siegel, Ann Johnson, Barbie Seymour, Adele Scaccia (Board liaison)

Learn more about what the **City of Columbia** is doing to protect and improve air quality, E-Waste Recycling, and much more. The City of Columbia's Climate Protection Action Committee's official website is <http://www.coccpac.com/> check it out.

"Buy one, get one free"

The next time you go food shopping, look for "buy one, get one free" sales. Consider donating the free item to the hungry families in our community by putting it in the basket in the Fellowship Hall.



Walk/Hike Group

Date for Hike: Saturday June 23

Hike: Raven Cliff Falls, Caesars Head State Park, meet at the Church at 8:00 for a two hour drive to the hike.

Description: The park ranger says it's the perfect hike for our group. Easy to moderate hike -- two miles in to a birds eye view of a 400 foot water fall, second largest in the East, second only to White Water falls! The hike would be four miles round trip. There's a nice sheltered picnic area by the falls for lunch. It looks to be about a two-hour drive to the visitors' center.

UUFCOutdoorActivities-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Title of Position: Director of Religious Education (DRE)

Congregation: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia (UUFC)

Time: The person in this position will work 7.5 units (approximately 24 hours per week), including at least 3 hours on 3 Sundays per month, 50 weeks per year.

Compensation: Salary will be consistent with UUA guidelines for a church of our size in our geo-region. The UUFC is committed to the Staffing for Growth models as described The Search for Religious Education Leadership: Best Practices for Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

Statement of Accountability:

The DRE, as is all other staff, is ultimately responsible to the Board of Trustees, and serves at the will of the Board of Trustees, with ongoing supervision and annual evaluation provided by the minister or his/her designee.

The DRE is responsible for administration of the year-round RE program and coordination of the youth program and youth group activities. The program is aimed at providing UUFC children and youth with knowledge of world religions, UU history and beliefs, and an environment where they can establish their own UU spiritual identity.

The DRE assists the RE Committee in carrying out the responsibilities in its mission statement, and the RE Committee in turn assists the DRE in administering the RE program. The DRE is responsible for youth programming.

Responsibilities

The individual in the position of DRE will be expected to perform 6 units of work in the following areas:

1. Programming
2. Coordinate Curriculum
3. Provide leadership for goal setting and development of philosophy for religious learning and growth including meeting regularly with the Minister for consultation and guidance on RE matters and to maintain a collaborative relationship, and formation and operation of the extra-curricular activities of the youth groups. - Essential activities may include but are not limited to Worship, financial, administrative, communications, professional Growth.
4. Other Related Duties - Tasks and activities to be determined depending on the specific resources and talents of the DRE, the needs of the congregation and guidance of the RE committee. At the current time, the position is funded to cover 1.5 additional units of duties and each of the following is estimated to take about 1 unit of time: These duties can be selected from the following potential list.

Cont'd. next column

Cont'd. **Title of Position:** Director of Religious Education (DRE)

nursery coordination, family night child care coordination, coming of age program, strategic planning, small group ministry, campus ministry/young adult ministry, family ministry, adult education, pastoral care/counseling, interfaith or social justice activities, community-building activities, and any other responsibility, beyond routine religious education program administration, intended to support the growth and maintenance of a healthy congregation.

Qualifications Required - Initiative, creativity, ability to encourage others; ability to delegate; knowledge of and acceptance of UU RE philosophy and curricula; understanding of children's growth and development; comfortable in relating to a wide variety of religious views; tact; discretion; judgment. Skilled in administration, communication, and conflict-resolution.

To request a copy of a detailed job description send an e-mail to uufc@bigfoot.com, and, in the subject line write: "DRE Search". The deadline to request detailed job descriptions is June 15, 2007, and the deadline for final applications is July 2, 2007.

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time"

John Lubbock (1834-1913)

Saturday June 23, Gaia's Rising CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) at 7:00 PM will once more mark the turning of the wheel of the year by observing Midsummer's Eve.

The celebration of Midsummer's Eve all over Europe was from ancient times linked to the summer solstice. People believed that mid-summer plants had miraculous and healing powers and they therefore picked them on this night. Bonfires were lit to protect against evil spirits and ensure good luck for the community.

The solstice itself has remained a special moment of the annual cycle of the year since Neolithic times. The concentration of the observance is not on the day as we reckon it, commencing at midnight or at dawn, but the pre-Christian beginning of the day, which falls on the previous eve. With the rise of Christianity, Midsummer, also called Litha (so-named by the Anglo-Saxon monk Bede in his *De Temporum Ratione*), was re-named the feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. From the June 3 Orange County Register:

"Summer solstice, the longest day of the year, inspired Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" and is associated with the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Solstice festivals abound in the United States, from Norwegian bonfires to pagan candlelight labyrinths and American Indian drumming rituals. On the summer solstice, as the sun reaches its highest point directly over the tropic of Cancer at an angle of 23 degrees 27 minutes north, countless festivities will start to heat up.

Known variously throughout Europe as the Feast of Epona, Gathering Day, Johannistag, Litha, Vestalia and Midsummer, the summer solstice was viewed across cultures as a period of peak fertility and a time for weddings. The term "honeymoon" sprang from Celtic tradition and referred to the June moon and the fermented honey mead drunk at wedding celebrations. Shakespeare's romantic comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" commemorates the magical pairings of the solstice, and Aragorn and Arwen hold their nuptials on that night in Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

But romance isn't the only reason to party on the summer solstice, which arrives on or about June 21. For numerous religious and ethnic groups, it is a time to pay tribute to nature and express cultural pride.

In Europe, the first day of summer involves revelry with deep pagan roots as tourists and religious groups gather to dance, drum and chant at Stonehenge, a 4,000-year-old stone structure in England.

In North America, the holiday has become a melting pot of sorts, with celebrations crisscrossing the continent, mixing European traditions, American Indian spirituality and new-age environmentalism." (reporter Rachel Breitman).

Join Gaia's Rising for a Midsummer ritual on Saturday, June 23, in the fellowship hall at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, 2701 Heyward Street at Woodrow Street, in the Shandon neighborhood near Five Points. All are welcome, childcare is provided, and you do not have to be pagan or UU to attend.

Questions, call 803.799.0845, or email cuupsolumbia@yahoo.com.



The Green Corner

Ed. Note: The following is quoted in part from an article on

www.nationalgeographic.com

Fluorescent Lights' Mercury Poses Dim Threat

Scott Norris for [National Geographic News](#)

May 18, 2007

They're breakable, contain toxic material, and are becoming increasingly commonplace. But fears of mercury poisoning from new energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs are overplayed, experts say.

Long billed as a "green" product for environmentally conscious consumers, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are quickly becoming the norm in household lighting—and may soon replace traditional incandescent bulbs altogether. ...

But CFLs' cool-burning illumination is made possible by a pinch of poison—about five milligrams of mercury sealed inside every glass tube—and the need for the element is unlikely to change anytime soon.

"There's a lot of misleading information out there," said Joel Hogue, president of Elemental Services and Consulting, an Ohio-based company specializing in the cleanup of sites contaminated with mercury. "But when people learn the facts, the level of hysteria dies down."

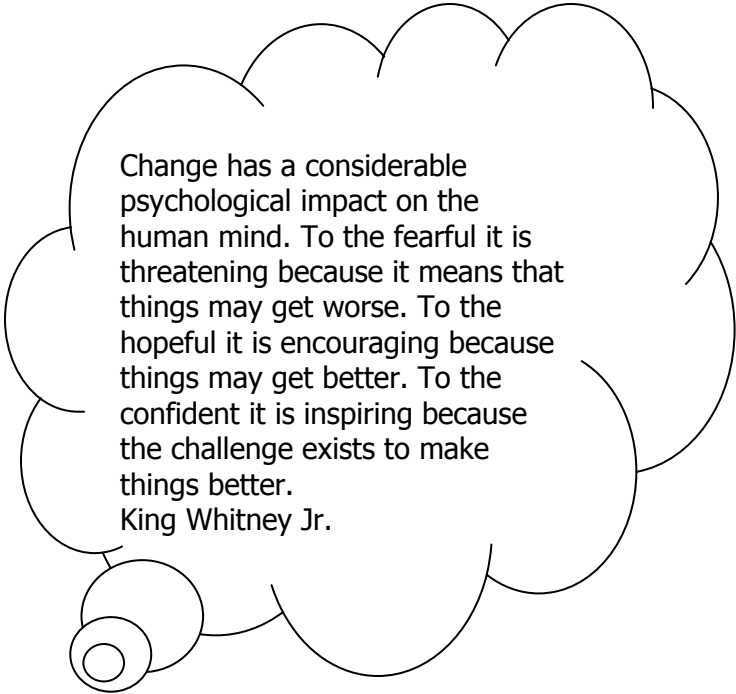
... "There's an extremely small amount of mercury in those bulbs," Hogue said. "It's a very minimal risk" and can easily be cleaned up at home.

One CFL contains a hundred times less mercury than is found in a single dental amalgam filling or old-style glass thermometer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). ...

The switch is occurring because CFLs are proven cost and energy-savers. Traditional incandescent bulbs are highly inefficient—about 90 percent of the energy they consume produces heat rather than illumination.

A compact fluorescent bulb can produce the same amount of light for less than quarter of the energy and last eight to ten times as long. A switch to CFLs would save an average household about 50 U.S. dollars a year in electricity bills, according to government estimates. ...

According to a recent report by the Washington, D.C.-based Earth Policy Institute, a worldwide shift to CFLs would permit the closing of more than 270 coal-fired power plants. Switching to CFLs in the U.S. alone could save the energy output of 80 plants. ... While their mercury doesn't make CFLs unsafe, experts say, it does place them alongside many other household products—from paint to batteries—that need to be used and disposed of in a responsible manner. ... "The best option for managing a spent CFL is to recycle it. Short of that, the next best option is to safely store the lamp until an opportunity for recycling becomes available," Bender said. ... Web sites such as [Earth 911](#) and [Light Recycle](#) can provide local disposal options. ... And if a CFL does shatter on the floor, the greatest danger may be the broken glass.

A thought bubble with a scalloped border and a small tail at the bottom left. Inside the bubble is a quote about the psychological impact of change.

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.
King Whitney Jr.

The Unigram

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

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 842
Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Staff

Minister	Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Administrator and Unigram Editor	Gin Beery
Director of Religious Ed.	Open
Custodian	John Squire

Board of Trustees (as of July 1, 2006)

President	Alice Leeper
President-Elect	Peter Kandis
Treasurer	Sej Harman
Secretary	Jessica Kross
Members at Large	Mike Kelly Sonya Jones
Mary McGriff	Adele Scaccia Cheryl Soehl
Janet Swigler	Glenn White

How to Reach Us Fellowship Office (803) 799-0845
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Ministers Hours: Thurs., Fri. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

E-mail: UUFC@bigfoot.com

FAX: (815) 550-4740

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 Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **9:00 p.m., June 17, 2007.**

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to UUFC@bigfoot.com

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