

WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists *Graceful Exit Part Two*

May 2015

Rev. Jennifer Ryu



Mark Your Calendar

5.3

Congregational Meeting & Vote

5.7

Navigators Monthly Meeting

5.8

Social Justice Potluck & Film

5.14

The Odyssey

5.20

Pathfinders Book Group

5.24

Rainbow Potluck

5.29

WUU Yard Sale

5.30

WUU Yard Sale

It's time for me to start thinking about packing up my office. Even saying that stirs feelings of anxiety and grief and even regret. All of the things in my office remind me of what I did here and also what I was not able to do. Leaving you is hard, and it hurts. I look around this room thankful to Debbie Haynes for a fresh coat of new paint and for Jim Hall who installed these "green" light bulbs.

The Bluebird of Happiness sits on my windowsill. A gift from Gayle Henion, she reminds me of the Bluebird Cafe in Charlottesville where Preston and I had lunch with WUU's Search Committee. Christmas ornaments still hang from the window sash because they were hand-made by congregants and I don't want to put them away. A pipe-cleaner flower made by Callie Newton is pinned to my bulletin board next to a photo of my friend Amy who died in 2013. A glitter glue picture given to me by Nina Longo, a chalice painting by Becca Delbos, and a labyrinth signed by a 2008 Covenant Group all hang on the walls.

There is a binder full of news clippings. There's a photo of me in the Williamsburg Magazine--my goodness, was I really that young and thin? Together we stood for marriage equality, we spoke out against hatred against our Muslim and Sikh neighbors. We joined our voices and bodies with neighbors to say no to violence and war and racism. We practiced what we preached by welcoming everyone to our campus, despite pressures to give into fear.

The worship files are bulging, and I'm not sure what do to with all this paper! We've had some fun Sunday mornings, haven't we? Do you remember Charles Tankersley in a Yoda mask? A dozen Japanese students were visiting from the college, and there was Yoda! My favorite memories are of your participation in the service. There have been so many deeply moving "From the Hearts"--honest testimonies about broken relationships, addiction, spiritual longing, and love for this community.

Reviewing the things in my office reminds me of the incredibly abundant life I've witnessed in this congregation. My time with you has exceeded my vision of what parish ministry could be. In the midst of this current sadness, I know that the time is right for leaving, and that letting go is a powerful way of caring for a congregation.

Blessings,

Jennifer



May Worship Schedule

May 3, 2015

All-Ages Service

One Service Only at 11:15am

"Beltane & May Pole Celebration"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu & Liz Wiley

Beltane is a May Day festival of abundance and an important day for people of the Wiccan tradition. We will begin indoors with a shorter service than usual; we will follow the May Queen and Green Man to the labyrinth for a May Pole celebration. Please bring blankets, chairs and hats for the outdoor portion.

Religious Education: All-Ages Service

May 10, 2015

"Mother's Day"

9:15am & 11:15am

Pat Hoppe and Worship Associates

Religious Education: Children's Chapel-Peace Day

May 17, 2015

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

9:15am & 11:15am

"Serving the Congregation"

The nature of volunteer service has changed since WUU began in 1989. Members are overwhelmed by personal and family concerns and cannot volunteer as they used to. How can we keep up with expectations without overstressing those who do the work of the congregation?

Religious Education:

Lower Elem. (Pre-K-Grade 2): Caring for each other

Upper Elem. (Grades 3, 4, 5): Generosity

Middles (Grades 6, 7, 8): Coming of Age

May 24, 2015

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"Killing Changes You"

9:15am & 11:15am

On this Memorial Day we remember those in the armed services as we consider the moral injury suffered by those whom we send to war on our behalf. I will be using the Beacon Press book, "Soul Repair" by Rita Nakashima Brock, if you would like read along and perhaps gather for some follow-up conversations.

Religious Education: All-Ages Service

May 31, 2015

9:15am** & 11:15am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"Am I Still a Minister?"

I've been surprised that people ask me if I'm still going to be a minister after I leave WUU. Ministry is more than a job--even more than an adventure. It is a life-long commitment to something greater than my own ego-needs, and that means that we are all able to engage in ministry.

**This is the last day of the 2-services schedule. Starting on June 7th, we will switch to a summer schedule.

Religious Education:

All children together in Fahs House to celebrate our WUU Community.

Save the Date-Annual Picnic

For the past few years we have rented a shelter at Chickahominy Riverfront Park and had a picnic. This year will be even better; the congregation at UUF (the Newport News Congregation) is going to join us. So make plans to join us on **June 7 at 4pm** for food, fun and swimming. Details to follow...



Endings and beginnings -- as Temperamental April turns to Glorious May --

◆ Endings and Beginnings for the Board:

Having now completed their terms of office, Rachel Delbos, Wayne Moyer, and Donna Stanford are moving on to other positions in WUU. Their contributions to enhancing the WUU governance structure will have lasting impact on how WUU functions. Each has influenced WUU in other special ways: Rachel, as Board Vice President and Chair of the Personnel Committee, helped guide WUU through the resignation of Margaret Sequiera, the joyful hiring of Austen Petersen and recently the unexpected news of Rev. Jennifer's leaving. Donna served as a vital member of the first Governance Committee, helping the Board work through the changes to its new governance style, and will continue on the Building Our Future Steering Committee as their newsletter chief. Wayne, another essential member of that first Governance Committee, also served on the Finance Committee and most recently, the Personnel Committee -- in addition to spearheading the Board's commitment to WUU's becoming a fully multicultural congregation, with special emphasis on anti-racism.

The Board welcomes our new members who officially begin this month: Michael Coirin, Jess Hench, Pat Hoppe, and Jane Reilly, each taking a special position on the Board: Jane chairing the Personnel Committee, Pat serving on the Personnel Committee, Michael chairing a task force to develop a plan for acquiring alternative sources of income, using the results of the recent task force study of such possibilities; and Jess chairing a task force including the Interim Minister and the Leadership Development team leader to put in place a solid program for nurturing each person's unique abilities to serve WUU in carrying out our mission.

◆ Beginnings for our UUA connections:

Saturday, April 25, found fifteen WUUs driving through the chilly rain to Glen Allen UCC for the annual Tidewater Cluster meeting. Lots of connections with other UUs from the area, lots to share about how we each do things well and sometimes not so well, lots of conversation about generations coming together and working together in our UU congregations. Thanks to Rev. Jennifer for helping to lead the opening worship and Peter Mellette for conducting a workshop on Stewardship.

Michael and Cheryl Coirin, Larry Ventis and Les Solomon were approved by the Board as WUU's delegates to the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon the last week of June. Also approved was Evan Varney, who will attend as our Youth Delegate! Although the congregation pays for the registration fee, attending GA requires a significant monetary commitment from each attendee. The Board thanks each one for giving so generously of his/her time and treasure.

◆ Beginnings and Endings for our Facilities:

Everyone has heard and seen the plans for building and renovation. Members: don't forget to vote on Sunday, May 3, at 12:30 in the sanctuary. The Board is optimistic that we will end the planning and begin the construction. For our ongoing maintenance of our entire campus, a new Campus Improvement Team leader is needed as Les Solomon ends his term in that role. Are you, perhaps, the next one for this important job, beginning a three year term as the CIT leader?

◆ Endings and Beginnings for our Minister Leadership:

The end of next month we will bid farewell to Rev. Jennifer, celebrating her years with us and wishing her well in her beginnings.

The application for an Interim Minister was submitted and the selection process has begun. Hopefully, by mid-May, the Board will have Interim Minister news for the Congregation, as we begin our next chapter.

Endings and Beginnings: We wish each of you a May full of good endings and exciting beginnings.

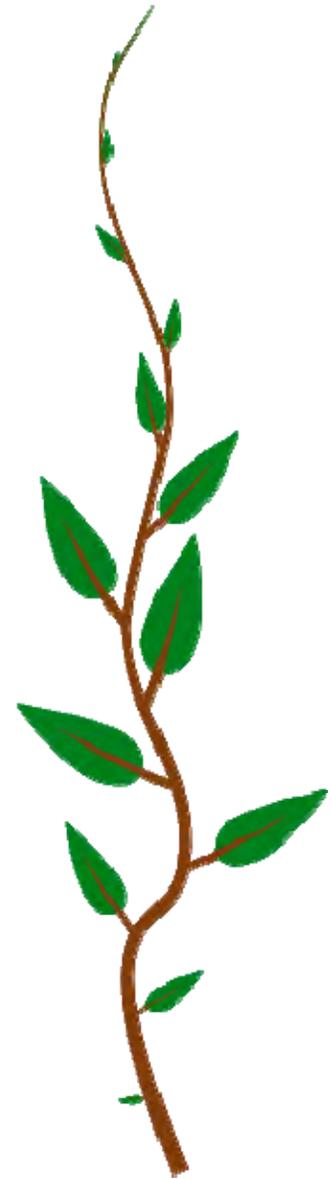
Lola Warren, for the Board



WUU has a Newly Upgraded Website!

Please be patient as we continue to update the events calendar and other functions. Some of the upgraded features include:

- ◆ mobile-enabled for easy access from phones and tablets
- ◆ easier navigation to find information more quickly
- ◆ uses up-to-date software for greater flexibility
- ◆ new online Care & Prayer Request Form
- ◆ quick & easy way for anyone to get on our mailing lists



Share the Plate Sunday, May 3



Williamsburg Aging and Disability Resource Center

The entire plate collection for our customary first-Sunday STP donation will be the Williamsburg Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), a new branch of the Peninsula Agency on Aging. The ADRC helps seniors and people with disabilities remain in their homes with dignity and independence. The agency collaborates with other local stakeholders in coordinating service delivery and referrals. Our STP donation will help the ADRC develop its services and expand its reach. For more Information on ADRC visit www.SeniorServicesCoalition.com. (You can also donate by check payable to "WUU", with "STP" on memo line, sent to the office.)

For more information on the Share-the-Plate Program or to nominate a recipient, please visit WUU.org under the Ministries and Outreach tab, or email stp@wuu.org.

Do you know every WUU? Neither do I.

That's why we want to include a brief member biography in every newsletter.

Maybe you'll discover someone who shares your background, interests, or hobby. Maybe you'll learn something new about someone you already know. Or maybe you'll be moved to reach out to someone who needs to hear from you.

Please help us strengthen the WUU community by sharing your story. Together, we can weave a growing web of friendship, support, compassion, and love. Melissa Ackley, ackleymw@gmail.com

Spotlight on Anne Luchsinger

I grew up in Syracuse, N.Y. I earned a B.S. in Music Ed. from SUNY Potsdam, N.Y. and a Masters from the University of Buffalo. Paul and I were married in 1959 and subsequently lived in Texas, Japan, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Jamestown, N.Y. and Buffalo. I taught public school music for 5 years and ran a private piano studio for 35 years. In 2005 we retired and moved to Williamsburg. I take many courses at the CWA, volunteer at Jamestown Settlement, belong to the Williamsburg Music Club and am currently serving on the Board of the Chamber Music

Society. I was a member of the WUU Board for 5 years and am now on the Personnel Committee. I have special affection for our WUU Choir. I continue to study and practice the piano and as an avid reader keep up with 2 book clubs. I also manage to see that our neighborhood Wine Club continues to function. We have a daughter and her husband living in Washington. Another daughter, her husband and our 3 grandchildren live in Greenville, N.C. We cherish the memories of our deceased son, Craig. We both enjoy our extensive travel adventures, and the highlight of every summer is time at our Chautauqua Institution residence.



Food For FISH (our local community's food & clothing pantry)

Our FISH wagon has returned and is waiting to be filled full of pasta and tomato sauce!



This is an easy, popular and filling meal.

Thank you for your generosity, and make sure to check freshness labels.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

May 10th (Mother's Day) the children will begin in the sanctuary and then be sung out to Fahs where we will have a special guest star musician. We'll have fun with different drum beats and celebrate the day in Children's Chapel with special music.

YRUU will be doing a special service project on May 24th at 4:00. Contact David Wilcox at (dwilcox@vims.edu) or Austen Petersen austen@wuu.org for more details.

Youth Chorus

All Children are invited to the next meeting of the youth chorus.

We will meet on Sunday, May 10th at 12:30 (following the second service).

Come to share in song and fellowship.



Harry Potter Camp 2015-Applications Being Accepted Soon

Sundays July 12-August 31 (Rising 2nd graders to middle school, with high school & young adult prefects)

Starting in June we will register children for camp so they can be properly informed of their acceptance to the WUU Hogwarts Extension School. We will be weaving the WUU principles of the interdependent web, treating others with compassion and working cooperatively throughout many magical activities. Classes will include Defense Against the Dark Arts (anti-bullying), Care of Magical Creatures (our interdependent web), Divination (listening to conscience), Potions (web), and Herbology (web) and the summer semester will end with a Quidditch match! A few old friends may appear.



Applications will be accepted soon; be on the look out in the weekly Spiral.



Are you Spring cleaning and saying what am I going to do with all of this stuff???

**DONATE YOUR TREASURES
to the
WUU ANNUAL YARD SALE!**

**Friday, May 29th 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 30th 8:00-12 Noon**

Donation Drop Off Times

**Sunday, May 24th (after services)
through
Friday, May 29th (at noon)**

Best Selling Items

- Small Furniture Items
 - Wicker Furniture
 - Boutique Items
- Seasonal Decorations
- Children's Toys etc.

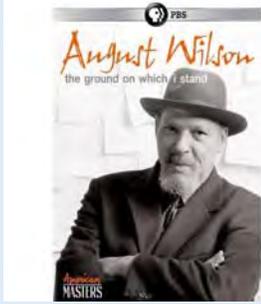
NOT ACCEPTED

- Clothing
- Gym Equipment
- Mattresses
- Refrigerators
 - Food
 - Knives
- Cribs & Car Seats
- Paints/Fuels/Solvents
- Broken/Non-Working Items

Lots of Volunteers Needed! Sign up online [HERE](#)

A sign up table will also be set up each Sunday in the Narthex

We can't do it without you!



Friday May 8 - Social Justice Potluck and Film 6pm in the Sanctuary

Bring a dish to share and come watch [August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand](#), a documentary about Tony- and Pulitzer-winning playwright August Wilson, followed by discussion. Over this summer we will be informally reading several plays by this important African American playwright and will present a reading for the WUU community in the fall. Come to the potluck to learn about him and how to get involved!

May 16 - Green Living and Congregational Sustainability Workshop at UUF

On May 16th the UU Fellowship of the Peninsula in Newport News will be hosting a Green Living and Congregational Sustainability Workshop; it will be a day of fun and information. They are working on becoming certified as a Green Sanctuary and invite WUU to join them. As part of the potluck event, there will be a series of speakers (like TEDTalk), a mix and mingle session, and a raffle.

Hampton Roads Pride

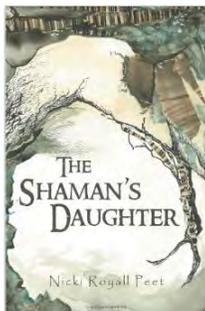


On June 27, 2015, WUU will collaborate w/ UU's from the Peninsula and Norfolk congregations in welcoming attendees at Hampton Roads Pride to learn about and attend our services and to feel welcome in joining our churches. This is part of our Welcoming Congregation ministry.

Hampton Roads Pride is an annual event at Town Point Park in Norfolk, attended by several thousand people. The hours are noon to 7 PM.

WUU's are urged to attend the event, which is a joyous occasion featuring music & other entertainment, food & other concessions, informational displays, and lots of mingling. Please consider signing up to staff our table for an hour or more, and enjoy the event on your own before and after that.

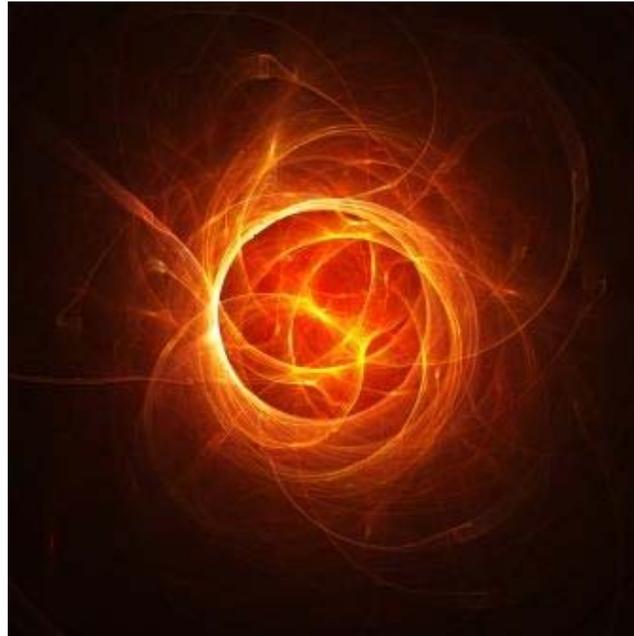
If interested in signing up, please contact Fred Gilbertson, WUU LGBTQ Chair, lgbtq@wuu.org



The Third Wednesday Pathfinders Book Group

The next book being discussed is [The Shaman's Daughter](#) by Nicki Peet.

Join us on May 20 at noon in Fahs House, all are welcome!



Interested? Higher Power: A New Affinity Group For WUU Theists led by Deborah Jane Wells

I'm gauging the degree of congregational interest in a new affinity group I'd like to form for myself and others at WUU who self-identify as "theists." My definition of theism is that there is more to life than what we experience through our five outer senses. There is more to everyone and everything than we are seeing, touching, hearing, smelling and tasting in any given moment.

There are many names for this Force, because It is beyond words. I use a variety of labels: God, Source, the Divine, Higher Power, Universe, Life Force, Creative Power and Spirit, to name a few. The reality of God is so large, It transcends the limitations of any name or description I could conceive of.

Those who join the group are eager to explore and share diverse practices for connecting with pure, love-based Source energy to inspire, guide and empower their lives.

Many of you already have a constructive, co-creative relationship with the Divine. For you, the group will be an opportunity to share your experiences, reinforce your practices and expand your possibilities.

Others haven't been on speaking terms with God for many years, due to abuse suffered in the name of fear-based organized religion. If, despite that painful past experience, you still find yourself seeking a healthy love-based way to reincorporate a Higher Power into your spiritual practice, for you this group offers the possibility of a major breakthrough. Based on similar groups I've facilitated in the past, this forum will provide a safe setting to redefine and reclaim Source energy in a way that feels authentic and supportive to you.

Right now I'm trying to get a sense of how many people might be interested in joining, the preferred frequency for meeting (weekly, monthly, quarterly, other) and what meeting days/times would be optimal for the majority of the group. Please email me at deborah@djwlifecoach.com to express your interest and let me know your availability.

Connections – Clusters, Canvasses and Workshops

Over a dozen WUUs attended the UU Cluster on Saturday April 25, 2015 and had the opportunity to see and hear first-hand how other congregations are operating and to share what we are doing. It was nice to connect with the larger faith community and share ideas and our common wisdom. Based on what we saw and heard, we are in good shape in Williamsburg.

That is not to say we can't improve. We can certainly do more to honor our connections with each other and the time, talent and treasure each of us bring to WUU. So thank you for your gifts, large and small, monetary and intentional, to build a community where our abilities and involvement are valued and honored. I hope gratitude for what each of us contributes of ourselves is appreciated and connects us more closely as a faith community. After all, it is our connections with each other that support our common goals.

So, speaking of goals, you ask, what is going on with the annual canvass? As of April 24, 2015, our annual canvass is at \$286,088, or at 86% of our goal of the \$331,000 needed to fully fund next year's budget. While 190 households gave to WUU last year, we have only heard from 148 families so far about their pledge. Some people may intend to pledge but may be putting off their pledge for a variety of reasons – if you are one of the 42 or more households who have yet to respond, please do so. Your pledge is important and will help us meet the spiritual needs of you and your family and achieve our goals of beloved community here in Williamsburg.

Next month you will hear the results of the canvass. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for the second workshop we will conduct on our relationship with money and how it connects us to the world around us. So, through your participation, help us celebrate our success in funding another year together and let's also learn about the role of money as a class barrier and as a tool of social justice when we get together after the Sunday service on June 14th. More information to follow. As always, let one of the Stewardship Committee know if you have any thoughts, questions or concerns.

Peter Mellette, for the Stewardship Committee (Dave Banks, Nancy Carnegie, Martha Elim, Peter Mellette, Ben Puckett, Trena Tankersley)

WITH YOUR LOVE



HELP US GROW
& BLESS THE WORLD



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Jennifer Ryu, Minister
 Lola Warren, President
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TIME SENSITIVE

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name? We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact Endowment@wuu.org.

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at office@wuu.org.)



May Anniversaries

- John and Patricia Folds
- Roger and Merry Guernsey
- Vicki and Jim Hall
- Kerry and Peter Mellette
- Ülkü Nouri and Grayson Williams
- Ben and Beth Puckett



May Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Mandy Addison | Paula Hougen |
| Tina Allen | Vanessa Jones |
| Stacy Bolling | Lucile Kossodo |
| Pearl Coopriider | Alfred McKenney |
| Nancy Coy | Lucinda Murdoch |
| Fred Coy | Beth Puckett |
| Stacey Felipe | Dave Stanford |
| Kit Fournier | Donna Stanford |
| Elizabeth Friedrichs | Leighton Thumm |
| Marjy Friedrichs | Scott Varney |
| Carolyn Greathouse | Elizabeth Wilkins |
| Joelle Griffin-Russell | Barb Worthen |