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Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

A Welcoming, Worshiping, Witnessing Community

The Spiral January 31, 2014

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This Sunday at WUU: February 2, 2014

There will be 9:15 am service this week

11:15am

All-Ages Service

"Looking for Our Shadow and Finding Our Future"

Rev. Dr. Randy Becker

The Place: Gobbler's Nob, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania

The Time: Sunrise, February 2

The Cast: One Groundhog

The Plot: How a ritual of the season and a movie about that ritual offer insight into the human condition.

The WUU Choir will sing a new piece of music commissioned for our 25th anniversary, based on words written by the Rev. Eileen Karpeles.

Randy Becker returns to WUU where he served as our first called minister. Randy currently serves the UU congregation in Key West, Florida. We are honored to also welcome the Revs. Roy Reynolds, Jim VanderWeele, Eileen Karpeles, and Preston Moore.

Share The Plate

On Sunday, February 1, 2014, as part of our 25th birthday celebration, Share The Plate will go to the South East District's Chalice Lighter program. You can convert this one-time offering into a year round pledge of support by becoming a Chalice Lighter—details are in the narthex or ask Wayne Moyer, CL Coordinator. The CL Program provides grants of \$25,000 to congregations within our District. To be eligible, WUU needs 45 active participants—will you join us?

Membership Book Open

This Sunday the WUU membership book is open for those who would like to join. If you

have completed both WUU orientation sessions or are a transferring member of another UU congregation, please join Rev. Jennifer at the front of the sanctuary after the offering to sign the membership book at the end of services

4:00 pm YRUU, Parker House

7:00 pm Insight Meditation, Sanctuary

Annual Congregational Meeting, February 9

Next Sunday, February 9th, 12:30 pm, the WUU congregation will gather for the Annual Congregational Meeting. This is the time for us to come together to hear from the leaders, have discussion and make decisions on where we are and where we are going, including electing new leaders to office and considering a bylaw change being proposed for adoption. Bios of the candidates may be found in the narthex. Please plan to attend and make your voice in WUU affairs be heard.

Childcare will be provided. A light lunch will be available for all in attendance.

This Weekend and the Coming Week [Click for entire WUU Calendar](#)

Friday, January 31

- 1:00 pm, Spiritual Journey Group, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Beginning Meditation (offered through Lighthouse), Sanctuary

Saturday, February 1

- 5:00 pm, WUU 25th Anniversary Celebration, Williamsburg Hellenic Center

Sunday, February 2--Charter Sunday

- No 9:15am Worship Today
- 11:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm, YRUU, Parker House
- 7:00 pm, Insight Meditation, Sanctuary

Monday, February 3

- 10:00 am, The Gayle Henion Creative Arts Group, Fahs House
- 5:00 pm, Stewardship Team Meeting, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary
- 8:00 pm, DRE Search Team Meeting, Fahs House

Tuesday, February 4

- 6:30 pm, Compassion Deep Study Group, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, QiGong Practice, Narthex

Wednesday, February 5

- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 6

- 6:30 pm, Navigators Monthly Meeting, Fahs House

- 6:30 pm, New UU Covenant Group, Parker House

Next Sunday: February 9, 2013

9:15am

The Circle: Contemplative Worship

Rev. Dr. Robin Gorsline

11:15am

"How Ready Are We for More Blessing

Rev. Dr. Robin Gorsline

Building on a Marge Piercy poem and a few verses from the Christian gospel of Matthew we explore what it means to be a blessing-giving, receiving, being. Rev. Gorsline will do this in the context of the work of POFEV: People of Faith for Equality in Virginia-getting Virginia ready for equality for LGBT people-and encouraging us to participate in a public Witness for Love on February 14 in Williamsburg.

WUU 25th Anniversary Celebration News

Don't forget our celebration this Saturday, February 1 at 5pm at the Williamsburg Hellenic Center. You must have reserved a ticket as they will not be sold at the door.

You do not need to have a physical ticket in hand as we will have a master check off sheet. See you there!

Stewardship News

THE ANNUAL APPEAL OFFICIALLY BEGAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH - AND YOUR PLEDGE IS IMPORTANT

We have an annual appeal goal for the July 2014-June 2015 year of \$331,000, about 3% greater than the current year. Your pledges pay for over 80% of our annual budget and keep the chalice lit and the doors open. An annual pledge is our way of giving thanks for the services we receive from a dedicated minister and staff and allows us to support our WUU community and our social justice outreach.

For the next 5 Sundays, your Stewardship Committee will have a table set up outside the sanctuary to distribute pledge packets and collect pledges. Please stop by before or at the end of the service to pick up your personal packet.

PLEDGING IS EASY

You can complete the pledge form in the packet or you can go online to the WUU home page and use the fillable form to complete your pledge.

THE ANNUAL APPEAL IS OFF TO A GOOD START

As of Monday, January 27th, we have already received \$96,650 in pledges from 32 pledging individuals and families. So after kickoff, we have 29% of our goal. My thanks to those who have already given and to the Stewardship Committee who have been at work since October to make it possible.

QUESTIONS?

Please ask a Stewardship Committee member or either Ellyn Stephens or Suzanne Huddleston in the WUU Office.

THANKS IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR CONTINUED - AND WHERE POSSIBLE INCREASED -SUPPORT

Remember that your gifts help WUU thrive and bless the world. Thank you.

Peter Mellette - on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

Social Justice News

FISH Needs

Share warm feelings by bringing in "warm comfort" food - soups, mac & cheese, hot chocolate (some sugar free) each Sunday in February for our donation to FISH.

Community of Faith Mission Homeless Shelter

WUU will be hosting the shelter Feb. 16-23, our biggest social justice project of the year. Most of the shifts have been filled. Thank you WUU!!!! There are a few more overnight shifts available.

You may check your scheduled shifts at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FA4AD28A0FE3-cofm>

Donations are also welcome to be used for new clothing, laundry, or gas cards. You may put checks in the offering plate with COFM Shelter in the notation line or send contributions to the office clearly marked.

If you signed up to bring food, Jessica will be in touch. Desserts are needed and can be delivered to the kitchen any day after 5:00 pm. If you would like to sign up in case more food is needed, please e-mail Jessica O'Brien. newjb2001@hotmail.com

There will be one more training session this Sunday, February 2 at 10:40. Key leaders will be providing tips on being good hosts, explanation of rules and procedures._

Contact sjchair@wuu if you have any questions or comments. We look forward to working together to help our neediest neighbors.

Two check in shifts are needing to be filled, Friday, Feb. 21 and Saturday, Feb. 22.

Also, if you would like to be on call for any shifts, please contact Stacey Felipe stacey.felipe@gmail.com or Helen Hansen helenfoxfanen@gmail.com.

UUA Common Read - Beyond the Kitchen Door

WUU is participating in the Unitarian Universalist Association Common Read of "Behind the Kitchen Door." We're reading the book now and will be getting together on February 23 at 2pm to discuss the book and consider the insight it gives us into this important part of Williamsburg.

30 Days of Love

The Thirty Days of Love is a period from 1/18 to 2/16 of intentional action, service, education, and reflection to focus on this essential work. Will you commit to join us on this spiritual journey for social justice? Check the [Standing on the Side of Love](http://StandingontheSideofLove) website for more information.

An Urgent Call from North Carolina-Come to Raleigh Feb. 8

We'll be travelling to Raleigh, NC on 2/8 to stand beside our friends as they fight for justice with a Mass Moral March. Contact Robin Allman of UGCC in Glen Allen at (804)-741-0975 to reserve a space on the bus. They will be leaving Richmond at 6am and return at 6pm. If you plan on participating in the March, whether you'll be riding the bus or not, please drop us a note at sjchair@wuu.org so that we know who will be there and make sure you have the most current information about the March.

Be a Secret Friend

Plan to BE a "Secret Friend"

If you would enjoy getting to know another person through this program of pairing an older member with a younger person in the UU community, this is perfect for you.

Those who want to be a secret friend will fill out a form And they agree to send a letter to their secret friend at least three times.

Children who want to participate need to have their parents complete a permission form....forms will be available starting January 26th both on the web and at the LFD table in the Narthex. Please submit your forms by February 9th in the box provided in the Narthex. Secret friends will all get their notifications by February 17th.

In April there will be a reception after the 11:15 service where each friend will meet his or her pen pal....and we will eat lunch together! It will be a fun "reveal." Questions? Contact Pat Hoppe, Acting Director of Lifespan Faith Development at dffd@wuu.org or by phone at 220-6830.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) News

This week YRUU we will be attending a movie night at the Kimball Theatre on Duke of Gloucester Street; we will meet at Parker House at 6pm (the movie begins at 6:30pm) if you need a ride to the theatre... the movie that night is a documentary called "Inequality for All?". Permission slips are available upon request, so text or email Pat to get one.

Building Our Future: Step by Step (BOF)

Building Our Future

After interviewing three impressive architectural firms, the BOF Steering Committee recommended to the WUU Board that Guernsey Tingle Architects be approved to prepare an analysis of our needs, visions and a preliminary design to complete Phase One of the BOF Timeline. (Roger Guernsey is no longer a member of this firm which still carries his name.)

The WUU Board voted approval at its Tuesday, January 28, meeting.

Details of the interview process, as well as next steps in Building Our Future, can be found in this week's *BOF Newsletter*. (Ellyn, please provide a link here)

[See this weeks BOF Newsletter for details.](#)

Caring Committee News

Please contact the Caring Committee at caringchair@wuu.org if you know of a member of the Congregation in need of support, or if you are in need of support.

Other News

Spring WALT Classes Now Open For Registration

65 Great classes to choose from! Check them out online [here](#) or pick up the program flyer available in the Narthex.

Committee of Right Relations Discussion Sunday, February 16

The Board of Trustees and the Committee on Right Relations would like to invite anyone who has unresolved feelings regarding the departure of Margaret Sequeira to a discussion on Sunday, February 16, 2014. We will meet in Fahs house immediately following the late worship service. Child care and a light snack will be provided. With the assistance of the Committee on Right Relations, Rachel Delbos and Charles Tankersley, who are both members of the Board and the Personnel Committee, will hear your thoughts, answer your questions, and provide as much information as they possibly can.

Hands Together Historic Triangle 2014

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Have you signed up to volunteer for February 24th's Hands Together event? We are still looking for Navigators -- people to guide our neighbors around to the services they are interested in, share a lunch, and get to know them and the community resources available. Training is provided.

If you'd like to help a neighbor in need to navigate the event, please send an email to handstogethervolunteers@gmail.com -- you can get to know someone and help them find the resources they need on February 24th at Quarterpath Rec Center in Williamsburg.

Artists, Writers, Musicians

--an invitation to participate in this April's "Celebration of the Earth Through the Arts." As WUU commemorates its 25th Anniversary Year, the definition of "the arts," is expanding. Check the February WUU Newsletter for details.

Upcoming Events

- February 1: 25th Anniversary Celebration, Williamsburg Hellenic Center
- February 9: Annual Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- February 16-22: COFM Homeless Shelter Week
- February 23: Rainbow Potluck
- February 23: Book Discussion "Behind the Kitchen Door"

Links

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