

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists
March 2015

In like a



Out like a



Mark Your Calendar

3.7

Selma Awakening Group Begins

3.8

Transcendental Club Begins

3.13

Social Justice Potluck & Movie

3.14

Rev. Dr. William Murry Lecture

3.16

PFLAG Meeting

3.22

Secret Friends Luncheon

Rainbow Potluck

3.27

4th Friday Family Potluck

March's Spiritual Theme is "Justice"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Wherever there is an absence of love, injustice can take root. Love in this case is not the affection we feel for our spouses and friends. This love requires neither affection nor fondness. It comes when we are able to see the full humanity of another person and the full "being-ness" of creatures and the Creation. When we can see the Truth and Reality of the other, there is Love. In the presence of this love, it is impossible to be apathetic about the suffering of others. As we witness the suffering of whales caught in fishing nets, children used as suicide bombers, families without homes, civilians trapped by war, land stripped for coal, or women assaulted by their partners, we can see injustice rise in the absence of love.

The good news is that the power of love is strong, and all of life grows in that direction. As a people of faith, we have the special task of reminding others and ourselves of this truth. The various faith communities will package this good news in different ways, but they are saying the same thing--Love is the Way. And our spiritual practices help us to grow in our capacity to see the full humanity and the full being-ness of others.

With this religious understanding of love and injustice, we are called to "stand on the side of love" (www.standingonthesideoflove.org). This means standing outside of the culture. It means taking our bodies and voices to places that make us targets for criticism, ostracism, and vilification. This may be more than some of you signed up for when you found this pretty little white sanctuary backed into a quiet wooded lot on Ironbound Road. Perhaps you came to find new friends and to hear beautiful music and poetry.

Continued on page 2...

Minister's Article Continued ...

Yes, we have that. But remember that all of that beauty is a means to a greater good. It helps us to renew our souls, to open our hearts, to learn to love, so that we can once again go into the world to preach the good news!

May it be so.

Amen!

Jennifer



March Worship Schedule

March 1, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"Prophetic Witness, UU-Style"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

Forgiveness

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5):

Faith, Hope, Prayer

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

No meeting-due to lack of volunteer teachers

YRUU (High School Youth):

Loyalty Homeless Shelter Recap

March 8, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"Selma Sunday: Unitarian Universalism & the Civil Rights Movement"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

Multigenerational Service – Stay in sanctuary

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5):

Multigenerational Service – Stay in sanctuary

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

Coming of Age

YRUU (High School Youth): TBD

March 15, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"Reason and Reverence:

A Religion for the 21st Century"

Rev. William Murry

As our nation becomes more secular, we UUs have begun to develop a new spirituality that can meet the moral and religious needs of the "non-religious." This sermon describes such a faith.

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2): Invitation

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5): Forgiveness

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8): UU Context

YRUU (High School Youth): A Journey of Faith

March 22, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"Prayers for a Just World"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

Children's Chapel

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5):

Children's Chapel

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

Choose to be Unitarian Universalist

YRUU (High School Youth):

Roots & Wings

March 29, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"Pulpit Swap Sunday"

Rev. Andrew Millard & Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2): Friends

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5): Welcome

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8): Question Box Day

YRUU (High School Youth): A Theology of Love

News From The Board President



CHANGE -- is this the state in which WUU forever is to be? According to a UU minister in Texas and editor of the Good News Journal, it is, if we are truly a spiritual faith community:

"When we understand that constant change, at least gradual constant change, is the spiritual playing field, we approach the challenges of change -- such as dealing with loss and the sense of insecurity as well as new opportunities for growth and learning -- as a deep, intentional, regular practice of what life in a faith community is all about." The Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Change certainly seems to be our lifestyle. We're changing our ministerial leadership as Jennifer takes a new path on her own life journey; we're changing the look and scope of our physical home to provide quality space for our children and facilities to further our mission; we're even changing the look of our webpage to make ourselves more readily visible. We're not a stagnant people. We hold close these, plus other, change challenges. Yes, we mourn losses and feel insecure sometimes not knowing exactly what lies ahead, but yet we do move ahead, embracing new opportunities. We must then agree with Rev. Lorenzen that we are right on, we are a healthy spiritual faith community.

To help meet the challenges of change, the Board and its committees deliberate and resolve some of the hard issues that make it possible for us to further the WUU mission.

- E.T. Gresham has been hired as the building general contractor to work with Guernsey Tingle Architects and our Design Build Team in pre-construction work that includes finalizing the expansion/renovation design and the costs thereof. Should the congregation agree with the plans, the Gresham firm will continue as general contractor through construction.
- NOTE: During their first meeting together on February 25th, it became clear that changing the Congregational Meeting, originally scheduled for March 29, to May 3 will be to everyone's advantage, giving ample time to prepare best possible estimates of construction costs, prepare details of the final design and financing, and prepare other detailed information you will need in order to vote on moving forward. This would be a vote of conditional approval, meaning that, if significant changes in design, cost or financing are needed, those changes would be taken to you for a second round of approval. Otherwise, the construction process would proceed as described at the upcoming Congregational Meeting.
- Members of the Finance Committee and the Building Our Future Steering Committee have interviewed several local lending institutions regarding WUU securing a mortgage of \$800,000 to supplement the Capital Campaign pledges of approximately \$1,400,000 to fund the building project. News from them will soon be available.
- On recommendation from the UUA Transition Office, the Board voted to begin the search for a 2-year Interim Minister to start work here in August or September. Three members of the Board -- Jim Kent, Finance Committee Chair; Dave Neiman, Building Our Future Steering Committee; and Lola Warren, Board President -- will serve as the search team. The Search Committee for a Settled Minister will be formed by the congregation after the Interim is on board.
- The Board is working towards its own changes, as new members take office on May 1st. A retreat is being planned for orientation of new members, evaluation of this past year's work, and setting goals for the coming year. More challenges, more changes, more spiritual growth are anticipated.
- As always, you are invited to attend Board meetings, held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Fahs.

Comments, questions, ideas are always welcomed by the Board. Contact us at board@wuu.org or me at president@wuu.org.

Wishing you many positive changes, including those in the weather.

Lola Warren, Board President

American Denial



Friday, March 13th, 6pm, Social Justice Potluck and Movie

Bring a dish to share and come watch “American Denial,” a film by PBS’s Independent Lens.

“American Denial” explores the power of unconscious biases and how the ideals of liberty, equality, and justice still impact notions of race and class today (55 minutes), followed by discussion.

Food For FISH

(our local community’s food & clothing pantry)



Two items are especially needed at FISH this month!

Macaroni & Cheese and Peanut Butter



There is no theme here, just a great need for popular foods to fill hungry tummies. Please be generous and THANK YOU!!!! FISH is having to buy food from the Peninsula Food Bank.

****You may notice our red FISH wagon is missing****

It has apparently caught the acting bug and is appearing in a play at Jamestown High School until the end of March. We hope it will decide to return to its day job with us! Until then you will see a plastic container with a FISH sign in its place.

Share the Plate Sunday, March 1



Navigators USA

On Sunday, March 1, the Share the Plate Program will donate the plate collection to Navigators USA, which is sponsored by our congregation.

Navigators USA is a nationwide scouting organization committed to providing a quality scouting experience open to all children and their families, regardless of gender, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation or social background. The local Navigators USA Chapter 36 held its first excursion in January 2013. Founders and leaders Greg Caldwell and Dan Moore (both WUU members) believe that the Navigators are filling a real need in the greater Williamsburg community for an inclusive scouting experience.

The chapter's first two years have been successful, and exciting things are in store for 2015. The group meets in Fahs House on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30-7:30, and also conducts monthly outdoor excursions. For more information, please contact: **Dan Moore** danartmo@yahoo.com, or **Greg Caldwell** greg.caldwell@cox.net

For information on the Share the Plate Program or to nominate a recipient, email stp-at-wuu.org.

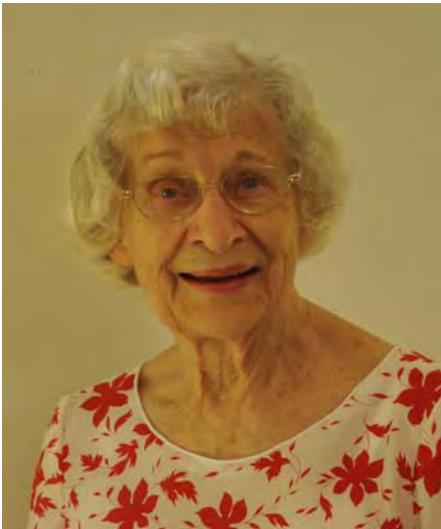
Do you know every WUU? Neither do I.

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.

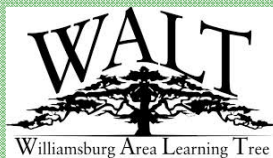
Please help us strengthen the WUU community by sharing your story. Together, we can weave a growing web of friendship, support, compassion, and love. Melissa Ackley, ackleymw@gmail.com

Spotlight on Katharine (Kit) Fournier



I'm an old (really old) member of WUU, dating back to Charter Day. I've served as Treasurer (twice), member of Home '95, Interim Minister Search, Memorial Garden secretary, and occasional envelope stuffer.

In an earlier life, I was a computer analyst, but now I've even retired from motorcycle riding. During these years, Art died (my dearly-loved husband of 56 years) and Susan (our first daughter, widowed 17 years ago) came to live in Williamsburg, join WUU, to sing in the choir (and work with VA Shakespeare Festival, care for pets, buy and sell real estate...). Annie (second daughter) lives in Vermont, though her photography profession takes her to strange places (right now, to Tanzania to swim with sharks). There are 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grands to keep track of - all this activity is too much for an old lady, but I still write books and show up on Sunday.



WALT Classes Have Begun!

A complete list of courses is available online at www.wuu.org/walt or in print in the WUU narthex or W/JCC Libraries; registration is through PayPal or by mail. WALT is always looking for new instructors. If you are interested in teaching a future WALT course or have questions or suggestions, please contact Jill Whitten - Program Coordinator, WALT at 757-220-9975 or walt@wuu.org.

THE ANNUAL CANVASS HAS BEGUN

Our annual canvass, asking for your pledges of support for the 2015-16 WUU operating budget, has begun. For the budget year beginning on July 1, 2015, we are seeking \$331,000 in pledges and gifts from our members and friends. Your gifts to the annual pledge canvass provide at least 85% of what is needed to meet our obligations to the congregation and to the wider community. If you have not already made a pledge, listen to the reasons that new and Charter members, young and young at heart have given to this community – we give to keep the WUU mission strong and serving each of us and those we love for another year.

Some of you have already made a pledge, and we thank you! For those who have not yet had the opportunity, a personalized pledge letter and form, along with information about the proposed budget, will be available in the narthex before and after worship services on Sunday mornings for the first two Sundays in March. If you are not able to pick up your pledge packet following a service, we will deliver it to you. We plan to report weekly progress, and intend to end our canvass for pledges quickly. But that depends on hearing back from you promptly.

Instructions for donations to the 2015-16 operating fund are also available in a link on the www.wuu.org home page. Online donation is welcome and if you experience difficulties, Suzanne Huddleston (finasst@wuu.org) is available to help.

Thank you for all of your gifts and for helping to nurture and sustain the community we have created together.

Peter Mellette, for the Stewardship Committee

WITH YOUR LOVE



HELP US GROW
& BLESS THE WORLD

PFLAG Williamsburg Meeting



Monday, March 16th, 7:00 pm

WUU Campus, Fahs House

Open to Public-All are welcome!

PFLAG is a national nonprofit organization committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBTQ people through its three fold mission of support, education, and advocacy. We welcome anyone who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer, as well as families, friends, and allies.

For information, email jennifer.putzi@gmail.com

“Reason & Reverence”

Grounding Humanism in Religious Naturalism

“If religion is about affirming the sacred and encountering the holy I believe as a humanistic religious naturalist that the universe and human life are sacred and living humanly is holy.” —William Murry



“We are the universe becoming conscious of itself.”

-Julian Huxley



Williamsburg U.U.
3051 Ironbound Rd.
Williamsburg 23185
757-220 6830

Admission is free, but goodwill donations will be appreciated

Childcare available if requested by March 7th

The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

invite you to an evening of

“Reason & Reverence”

on

Saturday, March 14, 2015

7:30 pm

with

Rev. Dr. William R. Murry

Minister Emeritus,

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Past President, Meadville Lombard Theological School

For more information and a reading list: www.wuu.org



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Jennifer Ryu, Minister
 Lola Warren, President
newsletter@wuu.org

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.)



March Birthdays

March Anniversary

Carolyn Wilson and Jack Bachner

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Jamie Armstong | Dan Moore |
| Greg Caldwell | Wayne Moyer |
| Damon Cone | Melinda Morgan |
| Lowell Diggs | Les Solomon |
| India Eklind | David Tetrault |
| Will Friedrichs | Elaine Themo |
| Gayle Henion (in memory) | Julia Wachter |
| Matthew Luchs | |