



# WUU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

JUNE 2018



## Seen and Loved

BY REV. LAURA HORTON-LUDWIG

Have you ever seen the film version of Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*? It tells the story of four Chinese-born women and their second-generation Chinese-American daughters. In a scene that's always stayed with me, June, one of the daughters, has been struggling with feelings of inadequacy. She feels like a failure compared to her glamorous friend Waverly, a successful businesswoman. Over a crab dinner prepared by June's mother Suyuan, Waverly taunts June for her lack of style and sophistication, and her mother agrees that style can't be taught; you have to be born that way. After dinner, we see June and her mother cleaning up in the kitchen. June, humiliated and embarrassed, angrily apologizes to her mother for being such a disappointment, for failing to live up to all her expectations over the years.

Then her mother speaks. "I never expected anything," she says. "Only hoped. Only hoped the best for you." We begin to hear the love in her voice. But June says, "Every time you hoped for something I couldn't deliver, it hurt. And no matter what you hope for, I'll never be more than what I am. And you never see who I really am."

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Now Suyuan looks right at her daughter. With great intensity, she says, "I see you." She tells her daughter she watched that night as Waverly took the best crab on the plate, while her daughter took the worst so that no one else would have to eat it. Waverly, she says, prefers the best quality. "But you," she tells her daughter with tears in her eyes, "you think differently. Because you have the best-quality heart. And that, no one can teach. You must be born this way. I see you."

What a gift it is to be seen, and loved, for who we truly are. This month, as we explore the theme of Blessing, I hope you will drink in the words we say each week and receive them as a blessing for yourself:

You belong here. You are seen here.  
Your presence here is a gift.

May you receive those words as a blessing, and go on to bless others in your turn. May we see each other and receive each person's presence as a gift.

In faith,

Rev. Laura



P.S. I'm excited to introduce you to a summer worship series I'm kicking off on June 10. Inspired by a podcast that studies the Harry Potter novels as if they were sacred scripture, I'll be leading a worship series called "What's Your Sacred Text?" And I need your help! **I invite you to tell me about a story, novel, poem, movie, or world scripture passage that has inspired you—something you consider to be part of your personal "sacred scriptures."** I'll be asking our kids to tell me about their favorite stories too. Send me your suggestions by June 24 and I'll use them to put the series together. Thank you!

## Yard Sale-A Great Success!

Neither downpours nor a royal wedding kept shoppers away from our annual Yard Sale on May 18-19. The result: Net sales reached a super \$6,400!

Yard Sale Leads Pat Russo and Katrina Landon are immensely grateful for the contributions from so many in the congregation: The overflowing number of donations--from furniture to cupcakes--the hours and hours of sorting and pricing, the heavy lifting and loading, and the energy and enthusiasm of the greeters, runners, sellers, talliers and cashiers at the sale.

Pat said she and Katrina were particularly moved by how this project was visible evidence of the power of community. It certainly demonstrated the strength and vitality of our congregation. Thank you to all!

## **CALL AND NOTICE FOR SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** **VOTING PROCEDURES (INCLUDING ABSENTEE)**

### **NOTICE**

Agenda Items: APPROVE: Minutes from 2/25/2018  
RECEIVE REPORTS: Minister, President, Treasurer, Strategic Plan  
PRESENTATION: Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19  
ELECT: Committee on Right Relations (CRR) members-2; Trustee-1

DATE: June 24, 2017

TIME: 20 minutes following the end of the Sunday service (time to get coffee)

PLACE: WUU Sanctuary

All are welcome. Members will vote.

### **WHO MAY VOTE**

All members are urged to attend and vote.

**NOTE:** A quorum of 20% of members (currently ~54 members) is required to conduct business requiring a vote. It is VERY important that you attend.

Please be reminded that the voting requirement includes having signed the membership book and having made "an annual financial contribution of record to the operating fund" during the 12 months prior to the voting date.

### **ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS**

Contact the church office

Office staff will verify your voting status

When verified, an absentee ballot will be provided

(US Mail, Pick-up in person, only in unusual/rare circumstance via electronic means)

### **US Mail or Drop-Off**

Complete the ballot & place it in a sealed envelope

Write your complete name on the outside of the envelope only

Submit your completed ballot in the sealed envelope to the WUU church office

ABSENTEE DEADLINE: NOON, 48 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE

### **Electronic Means** (only in unusual/rare circumstance)

Receive ballot image

Print out the ballot image & mark

Scan or photograph the actual ballot document

Submit the actual ballot image via electronic means to office@wuu.org by absentee deadline

(marked ballot image will be printed, placed in a sealed envelope with voter's name on the outside only)

**ALL ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE DUE BEFORE NOON US EASTERN TIME ON FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2017.**

Questions? Contact the WUU Board Secretary, Susan C Fournier (757-532-9254-voice, voice mail, text)

# June Worship Schedule

We are currently on our summer schedule with one service only at 10 am, continuing through Labor Day.

## JUNE 3

10:00 am

### "Flower Communion: Blessing Each Other"

**Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister**

People of all ages are invited to bring a flower and participate in our annual Flower Communion, celebrating all the ways we bless each other with our different gifts.

The WUU membership book is open for signing today by those who have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2, or are transferring from another UU Congregation, or are a young person who has completed the coming of age course, we welcome you to come forward at the end of the service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU. We invite current members and friends to witness the signing and to meet our newest members.



**Bring a flower to the June 3 service to add to our community gathering of blossoms.**

## JUNE 10

10:00 am

### "What's Your Sacred Text?"

**Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister**

Inspired by the podcast "'Harry Potter and the Sacred Text,'" we'll kick off a summer worship series honoring the many and varied "sacred texts"--world scriptures, poems, movies, songs, and stories--that guide our lives. Kids are especially invited to this service, starring Horton the Elephant and Wilbur the pig!

## JUNE 17

10:00 am

### "Seeds of Creativity"

**Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister**

Today we celebrate the creativity of the universe and in each of us. Children are especially invited for a wildly participatory service of story, dance, rhythm, and art!

## JUNE 24

10:00 am

### "General Assembly Sunday"

Join with thousands of others for this Sunday's worship, as we Livestream the Sunday morning worship service from the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in Kansas City, MO. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the UUA, will preach and the always-inspiring GA Choir will sing. We'll gather in our sanctuary for a festive watch-party from 10 to 11:30 a.m., followed by a congregational meeting.

# Board Report

It is always interesting to see how a new Board begins its work together. I believe that from the perspective of the members as well as our process checker, Pat Russo, our first meeting is indicative of a very productive year. Before getting down to business, we thanked Pat and Katrina Landon for a well-run and profitable Yard Sale!

Two exciting actions took place at our May meeting:

- **Solar Panel Task Force Established:** For years members have dreamed of making a statement about our “Green” values with the installation of solar panels. In fact, the Building our Future team planned for this in our recent construction. After hearing a report from Jim and Vicki Hall and Roger Guernsey, the Board moved to create this Task Force. Rachel Delbos is the Board’s representative. Once the task force is formed, they will have responsibility for the project with, of course, reports to the Board. Watch for further information. Our goal is to complete the project this fall.
- **Strategic Plan 2018-2021:** We are about to launch the rollout of the new strategic plan. Franz Gross’ article provides more complete details about the plan. Please mark you calendar to attend one of our informational meetings in June.



Other Board actions:

- **General Assembly Delegates:** The Board approved the following delegates: Carolyn Greathouse, Jessica O’Brien, Katrina Landon, Les Solomon, and Ty Alexander.
- **Congregational Meeting on June 24:** According to our By-Laws, this is the time to hear reports from the Treasurer, Minister, and Board President. Our only other business will be to hear the report from the Nominations Committee for one Trustee and two members to the Committee on Right Relations. It should be a brief, yet important meeting.
- **Public Hearing:** The house to the south of Parker (3021 Ironbound Rd) has filed for a Special Use Permit (SUP) from James City County to allow it to become listed as a computer advertised "bed and breakfast", AKA- Air B&B, Turn-Key, and others for short term rentals. On behalf of the Board, Les Solomon will speak in support of this proposed SUP at the JCC public hearing.



**Les Solomon**  
**WUU Board President**

# **The New Strategic Plan is Almost Here!**

## **Cafe Conversations on June 10 and June 17**

The Board and Program Council have assembled Draft 2 of the new WUU 2018-21 Strategic Plan for your review. Cafe conversations after the Sunday services on June 10 and June 17 will provide an opportunity to discuss it and ask questions. Please come and join the conversation.

The full text of the Plan is in three Parts on our web site (in the Members section). If you are unfamiliar with it, Part I should give you the broad overview you need. It is our intention that this Plan be revised as we work with it — the Plan will always be a “draft.”

Draft 2 of the Plan was developed from the six Goals identified by the Board and reported in the January Newsletter. Since then members of the Board, the Program Council Ministries, the Strategic Planning Task Force, and Goal “synthesizers” have identified major Initiatives under each Goal, and a number of specific Tactics under each Initiative that provide a way for us to achieve these Goals in the next three years. If you like numbers, under the 6 Goals there is a total of 17 Initiatives and a grand total of 69 Tactics prepared by a group of well over 30 WUU leaders!

Preparing a good strategic plan requires broad input from both WUU leaders and others in the congregation. Because the Ministerial Search Committee completed an extensive series of cottage meetings leading up to the call to Rev. Laura, Draft 2 uses information collected during that process as the basis for congregational input to this Plan. Now we seek to update that information through the June cafe conversations.

The main purpose of a strategic plan is to focus much of our effort on a few main Goals that we all agree are important, and that can have a substantial impact on who we will become in the next three years. Strategic plans can be very effective. The last one (Vision 2017) led ultimately to our successful construction of the new education/multipurpose wing, little sanctuary, and office spaces! This is a very significant change that would not have happened without a focused effort by the whole congregation.

It is not the intent of the Strategic Plan to restrict members from pursuing individual goals and interests that may lie outside of those described in the Plan. In fact, some components of the new Plan may make it easier to propose new ideas for consideration.

We all look forward to seeing you at one of the cafe conversations!

Franz Gross, reporting for the Board, Program Council Ministries, and the Strategic Planning Task Force (including Allen Cooke, Nan Hart, Michael Luchs, Jessica Sapalio, and Rev. Laura)

## Share the Plate



### Share-the-Plate for June 2018:

On Sunday, June 10, the Share the Plate collection will benefit the National Bail Out movement. This newcomer to the STP roster is an emergent collective of African American-led social justice groups focused on the well-known injustices of pre-trial incarceration, especially as they inequitably impact racial minorities, LGBTQ families and other marginalized citizens. Hundreds of thousands of people in these affected groups are condemned to local jails and separated from their families. A majority of them are there simply because they cannot afford to pay bail. Pre-trial incarceration of people who have been convicted of no crime has catastrophic impacts on families and communities. Even a few days in jail can ruin a person's life. They may lose their job, their family may lose housing and some even lose their children. LGBTQ people are significantly more likely to be sexually and physically abused while in jail.

We can buy their freedom and push against mass criminalization and modern bondage! A donation to the National Bail Fund can go towards getting someone out of jail or providing them with the help they need. The great news is that most of the bail money is ultimately returned so your contribution can cycle through and support multiple Bail Outs. Groups are working throughout the country and in Virginia, with plans underway to begin local operations. Please give generously to support this important social justice cause. For more information, visit [nomoremoneybail.org](http://nomoremoneybail.org)

## More on Share the Plate

Last month, we announced there would be three new STP recipients in 2018. "National Bail Out", described in the item above, is the first newcomer. WUU Social Justice leadership strongly endorsed its selection as conveying a commitment to delve into issues not as highly visible to us as the more familiar charities around us. National Bail Out has been working in Richmond and Charlottesville, and is a growing movement in Virginia. With WUU adding its moral and financial support through STP, we expect it to have a growing impact on our community. Please consider a generous donation.

To nominate a Share the Plate agency or learn more about the program, email [stp@wuu.org](mailto:stp@wuu.org). Thank you for your generous support of this outreach initiative.

## Our Beautiful Home-A Photo Exhibit

Were you here two years ago, when the Little Sanctuary was just a shell? On Sunday, May 29, 2016, everyone present at that morning service was invited to the Little Sanctuary to write a message on the plywood wall structure. Les Solomon photographed all these comments as a record for posterity.

Now, our building expansion is complete, the walls of the Little Sanctuary have been covered with sheet rock and painted, and our new space is full of life. Those comments of two years ago are no longer visible, but the sentiments they convey are a part of its structure.

In a recent chat with Dave Wilcox, he mentioned an idea for a photo exhibit in our new gathering spaces. The exhibit, "Our Beautiful Home," would feature photographs of the new space, showing how it is becoming part of our lives. It would be an opportunity for creative photography--a way for each of us (of any age) to share a feature of the building that means something special to us.

Wouldn't it be fun to combine the two projects--a photo display of the thoughts posted on the bare plywood of the Little Sanctuary with an exhibit of individual photos of our beautiful building? These photos could be exhibited in September as part of our Fall Startup.

More information will follow in the summer Spirals. Please give some thought to an idea for a photo expressing what "Our Beautiful Home" means to you. Please send your ideas or questions to Donna Stanford, [aesthetics@wuu.org](mailto:aesthetics@wuu.org).

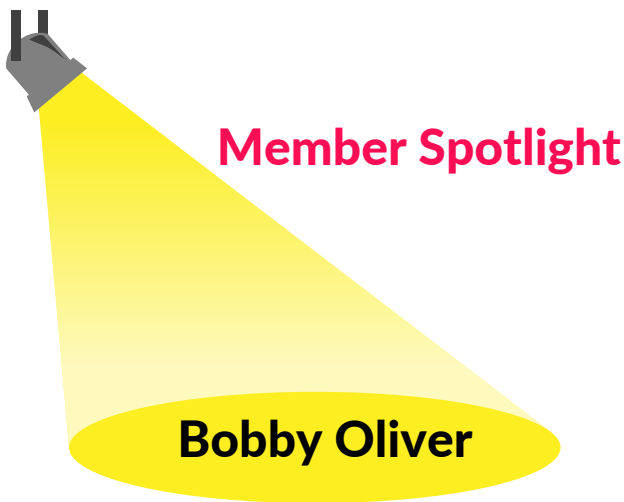
## Welcome New Members Gene and Janna Roche



Gene & Janna Roche moved to Williamsburg in 1998 so that Gene could take a position in the Information Technology organization at William & Mary. They moved from Clinton, NY where they both worked at Hamilton College.

Janna served both the Hospice House and Patriots Colony Retirement Community as chaplain until she semi-retired four years ago. Since then she has been doing community outreach and celebrant work at Bucktrout Funeral Home, serving on the Olde Town Medical and Dental Center Board and she just published a book "Visiting Hours Are Over - A Chaplain Discovers What Really Matters from Her Parents' Deaths."

Gene's career has been focused primarily on supporting faculty in using technology in their teaching and research in a variety of positions including Director of Organizational Development, Director of Academic Computing, Executive Professor and Director of University E-Learning Initiatives. This career has given him the flexibility to explore a whole range of new technologies from robotics and high-performance computing to audio-video and artificial intelligence. His last gig will be as faculty fellow with both Swem Library and the Center for Innovation in Learning Design.



## Member Spotlight

**Bobby Oliver**

Greetings!

I was born and grew up in Suffolk, Virginia. My parents grew up on farms in Nansemond County (now part of Suffolk). I have always had one foot in town and one in the country.

After graduating from Suffolk High School, I earned a BS in Education from Old Dominion University and a MA in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont. I have taught Spanish, French, Latin, and ESL in Suffolk, Hampton, Virginia Beach, and York County. I moved to the Peninsula in 1978.

After 36 years of language teaching, I retired and returned to Suffolk to take care of my 91 year-old mother, who had fallen and broken her hip. During this time, I volunteered with the Friends of the Suffolk Public Library and the Riddick's Folly House Museum. My mother peacefully passed away in her bedroom, three years later, surrounded by her favorite mementos and memories.

I sold our family home and returned to the Peninsula--this time to Williamsburg--and transferred my membership from the Unitarian Church of Norfolk to WUU. I've hosted a Covenant Circle, acted as a resource for RE, participated in the Rainbow Potluck, and attempted to form a chapter of PFLAG with other WUUs. Part of my identity is being Unitarian.

While teaching in York County, I was a cooperating teacher for several William & Mary student teachers. Since 2010, I have been an adjunct instructor and university supervisor for the School of Education in world language and ESL teacher education. For the past 5 years, I have also worked with world language interns from Beijing Normal University assigned to the W & M Confucius Institute. Working in teacher education and with student teachers in their field placements has been a very rewarding and exciting opportunity for me. Once a teacher, always a teacher.

I have one adult daughter, Charlotte, from my first marriage, and two "unescorted refugee" minor children from Viet Nam, now adults. Charlotte, Linh, and Dinh all live in Northern Virginia. Linh and Dinh have married wonderful spouses and have children. Charlotte has tutored two of their children in Spanish. She works for the US Tax Court and as a bi-lingual legal interpreter.

John and I have been married since 2013, when marriage equality finally came to Virginia. John was a Chinese linguist in the USAF and is retired from Delta Airlines. We own a home in Williamsburg and have two Scottish terriers: Ziva and McKeever.

For many years, I have been a member of the Human Rights Campaign, Equality Virginia, ACLU, Lambda Legal, Southern Poverty Law Center, NAACP, UUSC, the UU Chalice Lighters, NEA\_VEA\_YRTA, and the Peninsula Ukulele Players (PUPS).

I enjoy traveling internationally. I speak some Portuguese and a little bit of Italian and German, and have learned to say hello" and "good-bye" in the many languages of my ESL students.



## **"As You Wish" Program on Advance Directives**

The "As You Wish" program on Advance Directives was offered to congregants and the local community on May 22, by David Murray, Executive Director of the Advance Care Planning Coalition of Virginia. The event was well attended and many questions were answered. Murray will return to WUU on Tuesday, June 5, to meet privately with individuals or small family groups who wish further guidance. Individual appointments can be made directly with David Murray by calling 757-325-9400. WUU member, Cynthia Frezek, can also be contacted for information about this important topic.



## **Memorial Service for Philomene Hood**

All are invited to attend a memorial service for Philomene Hood on Saturday, July 14 at 4:30 pm in the WUU Sanctuary and Gathering Hall.

# Nominations for the June 24, 2018 Congregational Meeting

The Board requested that nominations for the Committee on Right Relations be delayed until the June 2018 congregational meeting. This spring the Nominating Committee received more than a dozen suggestions for CRR and interviewed five potential candidates. We are recommending Allen Cooke for the unexpired two-year term and Dr. David Hopkinson for the three-year term.

In addition, Peter Mellette is being re-nominated for his second five-year term as a trustee.

## **Allen Cooke—Committee on Right Relations, two-year term**

Molly and Allen moved to Williamsburg in 1999. They met while serving in the Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa, and were married there in 1965. During the course of their 53 years together, they raised two children and lived in Indiana, New York, New Jersey and Texas as well as Hamburg, London and Hong Kong where Allen worked in senior systems management positions for Exxon. Since moving to Williamsburg they performed volunteer work for Colonial Williamsburg; and Allen was a member of the First Night board for five years. They both joined the Williamsburg Choral Guild in 1999 and Allen was on the board for 8 years, serving as president for three of those years.

Raised in a Methodist family, Allen was an active participant in the church until he started drifting away during his college years. Molly and Allen began attending Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists in search of a spiritual community soon after moving to Williamsburg and are members of the WUU choir. They became WUU members in April 2007. Allen has served on the WUU Nominating Committee, as a member of the Worship Associate committee, on the Sabbatical Committee, on the WUU Board as chair of the Finance Committee, on the Strategic Planning committee, on the Building Our Future team as lead of the Capital Campaign and lately as co-chair of the Annual giving campaign.

## **David Hopkinson—Committee on Right Relations, three-year term**

David Hopkinson, age 71, is a Charter Member of WUU. He will honor his 50-year anniversary with his wife Ruth this June. The Hopkinsons have two adult daughters and four middle-school-aged grandchildren. He is in his last year of winding down a 40-year career as a Clinical Psychologist in private practice in Newport News and Williamsburg. He is very well used to being in the room with close interpersonal conflicts, aiming to facilitate resolutions.

With his new-found time he has been volunteering at Hospice House of Williamsburg. In the past four years he co-led in the formation and establishment of our Lay Pastoral Care Associates group. He is also a tour guide at Maymont Mansion in Richmond and a regular teacher at Christopher Wren Association.

His services to WUU include several years as RE co-teacher to our teens; co-founding and serving on the WUU Endowment Fund; and many terms as an usher at worship services. Most importantly for this office he was on a committee of six, under Fred Adair's leadership, which wrote the original "Covenant of Right Relations," and accompanying "User Guide." Once established as a "Committee of the Congregation" he then served three years on the first "Committee of Right Relations." Ten years later he is ready to come back to it.

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## **Peter Mellette—Trustee, Five-year term**

Peter Mellette grew up in Richmond and has been living in Williamsburg for the last 30 years, 22 as a WUU member. After graduating from Dartmouth College with a degree in policy studies, he continued his interest in health care policy through work as a Washington D.C. consultant and during that time, met his wife of 35 years, Kerry Crowley Mellette. After attending law school at the University of Richmond, Peter focused his law practice on representing health care providers.

After working in Richmond for 20 years, Peter relocated his practice to Williamsburg. With four attorneys, Mellette PC continues Peter's initial focus on representing health care providers throughout Virginia. Peter's wife Kerry is now a consultant to Hospice House and Support Care of

Williamsburg and his two daughters are both college graduates, one with a law degree working on Capitol Hill for Sen. Kamala Harris and the other a first year student at University of Virginia School of Medicine.

At WUU, Peter currently serves as co-chair of the Membership Team. He has also completed his first term as a Trustee. Peter has served in a variety of other capacities, including Stewardship Committee chair, RE teacher, Lay Led (membership training) Team chair, and two stints as a Board member.

Peter also participates in a variety of community and bar activities, including recent service as chairman of the Virginia State Bar Clients' Protection Fund Board. His past service includes chairmanship of Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg and Literacy for Life. He currently serves as Rotary Club of Williamsburg President, as a member of Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation Board, and the Literacy for Life Advisory Council.

From the WUU Nominating Committee

Linda Lane-Hamilton, chair; Charlotte Lorentson, Susan Walkley

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUMMER 2018

- When: July 1 through August 26.
- Who: Children ages 4-17 (nursery care is available for infants through age 3.)
- What: Summer Fun is an opportunity for kids (and adults) to get creative!



## SCHEDULE

- July 1 Garden Day
- July 8 Noah and the Ark
- July 15 Blessing of the Animals Service
- July 22 Use the Ark-bring stuffed animals
- July 29 Social Justice Book Club
- August 5 Mosaic Makers Day
- August 12 Participants' Choice
- August 19 Storytelling and Illustrations
- August 26 Honor Water
- September 2 Labor Day-No RE
- September 9 Ingathering (water communion) everybody worships together

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE SUMMER FUN A SUCCESS

Would you like to offer your help? We need lead teachers to lead the themed sessions, and assistant teachers to assist the lead teachers.

CONTACT AUSTEN PETERSEN,  
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
[austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org)

