

# UUMAC Connections

...newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community

Friday, July 25, 2008 Volume 27, Issue 5



7:00 Breakfast in UC All

8:30 Worship in UC

8:45 Children & Teachers  
leave for their program

9:15 Theme Talk in UC

10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Adult Workshops

Noon Lunch in UC

1:00 Bridging & Annual  
Meeting in UC  
Commonwealth

4:30 Choir Practice

4:00 Talk Back

5:30 Dinner in University  
Center

7:00 Showcase

9:00 Night Owls begins,  
curfews extended by ½  
hour

10:00 Vespers, Drumming



## ...from Virginia's homily Thursday morning:

There is a very practical side to being open to love. To become so, we must practice. It is in this practice of love, rather than in the examination of it, that one discovers its power. Dogs know this as well as anyone. Yes - dogs know how to practice loving. My dog Aurora, my personal trainer, tells me all about it every day that we walk and run together. Here is how she tells me to practice love: (with help from an unknown internet source)

1. Never pass up the opportunity for a joy ride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
3. When a loved one comes home, always run to greet them.
4. When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
5. Let others know when they have invaded your territory.
6. Take naps and always stretch before rising.
7. Run, romp and play daily.
8. Be loyal.
9. Never pretend to be something you are not.
10. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
11. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
12. Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
13. Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
14. Avoiding biting when a simple growl will do.
15. When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
16. No matter how often you are criticized, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout. Run right back and make friends.

## Attention all UUMAC Photographers!

Please bring your cameras to McShea tonight. After Showcase, we'll get together in the UUMAC office (aka cyber cafe), download all the digital photographs, and produce some CDs for you to take home. Selected images from the collection will be used on the UUMAC '09 website. See Bill Stratton for details.

## BOOKSTORE NEWS

All good things come to an end. The bookstore will CLOSE today at 7pm. If you have a "bag" started or have an outstanding IOU (you know who you are), please make sure that you come by to settle your account before 7 pm.

Thanks to all for making the bookstore a successful fundraiser for UUMAC!

Andrea

## Blood Drive was a success!

Thanks to everyone who showed up for their appointment. **Nineteen** people responded and the blood mobile collected blood from eight folks. The blood donation group has higher than normal standards for the level of red blood cells necessary to donate. Many UUMACers with normal blood counts were ineligible to donate. UUMAC did a super job in the effort to have blood available to those who need it.

## Finding Your Own Voice Workshop

Monday the class claimed being alive. Tuesday, we centered ourselves to walk into the day. Wednesday, we trained our senses and awareness toward beauty. Thursday we summoned the sense of our connection with the larger reality (as it was individually named). We also warmed up on some instant group limericks, done together, in 2 minutes:

There once was a sleepy UU,  
Who was one with the many and few,  
She schlepped across town  
Still in her nightgown  
In search of her fair-traded brew.

There once was a class about God,  
And nobody thought it was odd,  
Except for that one  
Who worshipped the sun  
And ritually offered his bod'.

Sophia Waldo Parker

### *...but seriously*

Oh great and beautiful power  
I seek you when I need strength  
Sometimes I fear you may not understand what I'm asking  
And I will ask again, how can I know?  
I thank you for your listening  
Oh great and beautiful power.

Penny O'Brien

Oh patient, kind and available potential  
I know you when I write music.  
Sometimes I fear the stillness needed for this space to emerge.  
Thank you for waiting.  
Oh place of possibility and wonder.

Tara Stephenson

## Ping Pong Tournament—Sheree Mullen

The ping pong tournament is in full swing! We began the games Wednesday and will finish sometime on Friday. This

year, we have 3 divisions: beginning, intermediate and advanced. The play at all levels has been competitive (yet friendly) and REALLY fun and amazing to watch!

The surprise game of the day on Thursday was the match between Inge and Katrina. At first, both denied an ability to play ping pong and they even appeared apprehensive to play at all. But their fierce competitive natures became apparent.

Katrina almost backed out of the game but then gallantly agreed to play. Claiming to be a beginner, her secret (can-it-go-over-the-net??) slow serve baffled her opponent. She won the 1<sup>st</sup> game.

Inge, who repeatedly voiced her reluctance to play, rallied in the second game. Appearing to be a soft-spoken and retiring, gentle woman, she had a seriously KILLER SLAM shot that made all spectators jump each time she used it. She won game 2.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> game was also won by Inge, whom we now suspected was really not a beginner but had played competitively in a past life (or maybe 20-30 years ago?). Katrina was no slouch—she showed an amazing affinity for the game, and I suspect that we will see more of these “beginner” ping pong sleepers at future UUMACs. We should finish up all the tournaments tomorrow.

Ping Pong On!!

## Check Out Procedure

Check out hours: 10:30-12:00 noon Saturday in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor lobby of both Conmy and Welsh

Turn in your keys to the university personnel in your dorm. A representative of the registrar will be present to check you out. There will be a \$50 charge for each key not returned.

If you must leave prior to 10:30 am Saturday, please return your keys to Josie Dubsy.

There are trash containers in each dorm.

## Becoming!

News from the Children's Program

On Thursday, the children's program (grades K-5) looked at God in Between by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. In a town of windowless homes, the people want to find God. They send two people to look, but the searchers come back disappointed. In the effort to stay in touch, the man and

woman realize that God is in the between of all of us.

On Friday, the children's program (grades K-5) will be looking at *The Secret of Saying Thanks* by Douglas Wood. In this book, we find out the secret to happiness! Ask your children about it. The K/1/2 and 3/4 classes will be attending *The Jungle Book* at the Shakespeare Theater. All classes will be practicing for the showcase!

On Thursday, the Tweens had a great conversation about possibilities, and helped each other sort out new options for real problems. On Friday, the Tweens will conclude their program on how to be the best person they can be!

Robin

### Youth Program info for Friday July 25th:

Intergenerational Morning Worship- Memorial Service @ 8:30 a.m.

Youth Morning Program after Memorial Service in McShea Dog Pound

Intergenerational Bridging Ceremony @ 1 p.m. in University Center

(Tweens and Youth who are bridging please arrive at 12:30 p.m. for rehearsal)

Youth-led Vespers @ 10 p.m. in McShea Kender room

Youth-only "send-off" ceremony for Bridgers 11-11:30ish p.m. McShea Dog Pound

On Thursday, the Youth watched a classic episode of "The Simpsons" where Homer presumably ate the poisonous part of a blowfish and will die in 24 hours- actually 22 hours because of the two hours he had to wait in the doctor's office... Homer must decide who to see, what to do, and where to go in his final hours. In the end Homer did not eat the poison and lives.

The Youth then shared some of what their "bucket list" would consist of- partying with as many close friends, doing something they've never done before, going to a favorite place or a place they've never been to. Overall, the consensus was to live each day well, as tomorrow is promised to no one. (Homer vowed to live each day to the fullest, only to be seen during the credits sitting on the couch, eating pork rinds, watching t.v...- Doh!)

### Prayer by the Rev. Davidson Loehr

We Pray

not to something  
but from something, to which we must give voice

not to escape from our life,  
but to focus it;

not to relinquish our mind,  
but to replenish our soul.

We Pray

that we may live with honesty:  
that we can accept who we are,  
and admit who we are not;  
that we don't become so deafened by pride and fear  
that we ignore the still small voices within us,  
that could lead us out of darkness.

We Pray

that we can live with trust and openness:  
to those people, those experiences, and those  
transformations  
that can save us from narrowness and despair.

And We Pray

on behalf of those hopes  
with an open heart,  
an honest soul,  
and a grateful reverence for the life which has been  
given to us.

Sent by one of our theme speakers, Mary Katharine Morn

### President's Report

As the week winds down, I want to bring your attention to several upcoming things that may be somewhat different for those of you who have been at UUMAC before:

\* Saturday lunch will be a continental breakfast at the regular time in the regular place. The food will be set out in the middle of the dining hall, self-serve style. From there we will go directly to the closing ceremony in the commonwealth Room.

\* This year's evaluation and photo directory will be sent to you electronically. Please check with me if you did not give us e-mail addresses for all family members on your registration form. The evaluation link will be sent to each person (children and youth included) for whom we

have an e-mail address. Therefore, all family members will be able to give their individual opinions. If you DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL, let us know and we will give you a paper copy of the evaluation to complete at checkout. We can give you a paper directory as well.

Enjoy and savor your final hours at UUMAC 2008. I hope to see you all at Showcase tonight as we celebrate our week.

*Remember this?*

“Four brothers make this royal band,  
Mixed and handed out from stacks,  
Three with sword and one with axe,  
A strong force when held by one hand.”

What does this refer to?

**Answer**

The kings in a deck of cards!

The hint refers to the last line in the riddle, because four kings, or four of a kind, beats a full house, or cramped dwelling.

**Very Important!!!**

Watch a rite-of-passage as some of our youth bridge over to become young adults. One o'clock today in University Center—Commonwealth.

AND

Participate in the governing of UUMAC. Be a good citizen. Come to the annual meeting at right after the bridging, same place.

**Those afternoon activities can wait.**