



UUFC WORLD



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
 230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631
 April 2014 Volume 45 Issue 4

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Deadline for submission to the next issue of UUFC World is **April 20th.**

Please share with us at UUFCWorld@gmail.com.

SOUND HEALING CONCERT
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Easter Sunday
 April 20th

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April Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30 am
Coffee and conversation follows in the social hall.

April 6: *The Dangers of Translations.* This morning we will take a fresh look at some sacred texts whose mistranslations have shaped Western civilization in harmful ways. Claiming the original intent of the passages can help us reflect on new ways of seeing some sacred stories. Rev. Terre

April 13: *What is Shared Ministry?* There are many ways that members of our Fellowship minister to and support one another. Our Shared Ministry Committee will offer some thoughts about how to share the ministry of our Fellowship in healthy and authentic ways. Rev. Terre

April 20: *Easter Flower Communion.* During this service, when we celebrate Easter and the Rebirth of Spring, everyone is invited to bring flowers from your yard to share with others during our Flower Communion Ritual. Come and share the beauty of this season. Rev. Terre

April 27: *Earth Was Given As A Garden.* This morning we celebrate our Mother Earth and the life we have been given. During this service we will celebrate new life as we name and dedicate Sylvia Chenette. Rev. Terre

April 15th Community Passover Seder!

May all who are hungry come and eat!

Join us at 6:30PM on April 15th in the social room for a community Seder in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Passover.

A Seder is a ritual meal eaten on the first and/or second nights of Passover to commemorate the biblical story of the Hebrews' liberation from Egyptian slavery. We will be celebrating freedom in true UU style with a potluck dinner and minimal Hebrew.

Kids are absolutely welcome to attend: in fact, they're needed!

If you wish to cook, please refrain from leavening agents like yeast and baking powder/soda as well as all wheat products (except matzah, of course).

If you would like to attend, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or RSVP to Rev. Terre.

Meditation Retreat

Join us for a meditation retreat in the Sanctuary on Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. The retreat will consist of long, silent sitting periods, walking meditation, and a silent lunch. If you'd like to attend, please contact Susan at uufcadm@gmail.com.

Chalice Lighter Call #161

Call #161 was awarded to the UU Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley (Black Mountain, NC). They requested a CL grant to move their half-time minister to full-time status. Help increase UUism in our District by contributing to SED CL Call, 9704 Mallard Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262 by April 30th.

General Assembly

General Assembly 2014 will be held in Providence, RI on June 25 — 28.

Theme: Love Reaches Out

More information can be found at www.uua.org/ga/

The Reverend's Remarks

Rev. Terre Balof, Minister

Dear Friends,

Our lives are shaped by the stories we claim and those we share about our history. Many of our stories are the myths taught to us as children about the world and ethics. Other stories are

the ones we created as we grew and experienced the world. As we make choices and reshape our lives, the way we see and interpret our formative religious and personal stories changes. We leave behind stories such as the "monster under the bed" while other stories, such as the Exodus, take on meaning as metaphors which continue to guide our lives. As we mature some of our personal experiences often lose their pain and drama as we see the stories through the eyes of age and wisdom.

This month we have several opportunities to engage with both our personal stories and community stories. During our UU and You classes (April 6 and 27) those considering membership will have an opportunity to share their personal stories. Our service on April 6 will be a time to explore the power and danger of misinterpreted sacred texts and how we might reclaim the authentic meaning of religious stories. On April 15 our community is invited to share the story of the Exodus during a potluck Seder dinner (please see the announcement in this newsletter). On April 20 we will share our traditional Easter Flower Communion during which we celebrate the coming of spring and the rebirth of hope and love. April 27 will be a time for us to honor Earth Day as well as to name and dedicate Sylvia Chenette who is beginning her own life story in our midst. The coming weeks will indeed be a time for shaping and reshaping the stories that inform our lives.

As we grow in our understanding of life, may we find in our Fellowship community a place where our stories are revisited and enriched.

Blessings, Terre



**UUFC WORLD
230 PENDLETON ROAD
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UUFC World is published 11 times a year. All articles are due on the 20th of the month preceding publication. Articles can be e-mailed to: UUFCWorld@gmail.com

We welcome new ideas, opinions, poems, inspiring quotations, advertisements, photos, artwork, and of course UU-related news!

The President's Column

Cecil Huey, 2014 Board President

Growth and Change

Scholars study religious organizations, as they do all other human endeavors. Some have examined the changes that occur as congregations grow, and many of them have written a lot about these changes—a Google search for “size transitions in churches” yields about 14 million hits. As usual, when a lot of folks write a lot about an interesting topic, someone steps in to distill and condense it all for the lazier rest of us. Some good UU’s have done that, and one very readable and useful result is a short summary, “*Size Transitions in Unitarian Universalist Congregations* (<http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/sizetransitions.pdf>).

Terre described some congregational size related issues at a recent mini-retreat of the Board of Trustees and Council of Committees. Most of us found the discussion very helpful and enlightening and have commented about its relevance at UUFC right now. The following is a summary of Terre’s comments and a bit more, lifted shamelessly from the reference above.

From “Size Transitions in Unitarian Universalist Congregations.”

“Change is inevitable; misery is optional.”

An Episcopal scholar Arlin Rothauge originated a typology based on congregation size. His typology, briefly detailed below, formed a basis for much subsequent study and analysis.

Family Size Congregations—0 to 50 members

Family size congregations function much like extended families. They organize around a few matriarchs and/or patriarchs who are afforded or assume authority. Some of them have part-time ministers, but ministers who challenge the authority of the matriarchs or patriarchs are rarely successful.

Pastoral Size Congregations—50 to 150 members

Pastoral size congregations consist of a few family and friendship networks that center around a minister who establishes relationships with each member. Often a small group of leaders become personally involved in worship services and in leading group programs and events. A governing group or committee manages most of the day-to-day affairs. Most members know each other and readily notice visitors.

Note, in particular, that UUFC is currently approaching the upper threshold of this category.

Program Size Congregations—150 to 350 members

Program size congregations offer separate programs for children, youth, couples, seniors, etc. These groups act as entry points for a broad range of people. Ministers work with a small circle of program leaders and paid or professional staff, such as choir directors, directors of religious education, and chairs of committees. Working with the minister, these leaders reach out to the congregation to involve others both as program participants and as leaders. Members must share pastoral care as numbers grow.

Corporate Size Congregations—350 to 500+ members

Corporate Size Congregations have the resources to support excellent and diverse programs and provide specialized ministries. Often, smaller groups within the congregation organize around different worship events, programs, or initiatives. Senior ministers are similar to corporate CEO’s.

Transitions

Transitions from one size type to another are challenging and may cause congregations to stall at one of the size thresholds. One fundamental difficulty is the need to modify the glue that holds the congregation together.

For example, in pastoral size congregations such as UUFC, the minister knows everyone, and that knowledge is a substantial part of the glue. But, a minister's capacity for "knowing" members is limited, and that limit is just about the size threshold between Program and Pastoral size categories. Therefore, with continued growth, something must change, and means of supplementing and complementing the minister's efforts must be found. Complicating matters, as always, is the normal, natural human reluctance to change things at the core of congregational life.

Embedded in the sequence of transitions from one size to the next is an irony of sorts. In Family size congregations, the entire group occupies the center, in Pastoral size congregations, the minister is at the center, but in Program size congregations, focus returns to the group as members organize around particular programs or initiatives.

UUFC

Our challenge over the next few years will be plotting a course through the choppy transitional waters we're bound to find as we approach the next threshold. In fact we are experiencing the first effects as we outgrow some of our customary practices. The Board and the Council of Committees are currently working to clarify our organizational structure and to delineate responsibilities and relationships to be sure things work as we have intended. The Communications Committee is finding ways to supplement our communications procedures. Some change will likely be needed, but we will work all of that out together once the issues are clarified. The authors of the reference cited earlier suggest that, "Change is inevitable; misery is optional." I agree with them, and think that change might be stimulating as well.

Good Friday is a Good Day for an Earth Day Concert Friday April 18th 7 p.m. at UUFC

An Earth and Spirit Songfest with Jim Scott and James Durst \$15 suggested donation

Come lend your voice to a joyful vocal celebration of earth and peace on earth. Drawing from Jim's Earth and Spirit Songbook and their wide repertoires, they turn the audience into a choir, singing in many styles that run from world folk music to jazz. Both Jim and James knew Pete Seeger well and they will remember Pete with some of his songs as well.

Taught by ear and with an invitation to all to join in, the evening makes a great demonstration of contemporary music for our spiritual gatherings and in the greater movement for social change. Come listen or participate. No experience necessary!

Jim Scott bio: Jim Scott brings a warmth and humor with his jazz/world music songs. He uses well his guitar mastery and clear voice to encourage all to get involved with messages and ideals of ecology, peace and justice. As a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim was co-composer of their "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass." He's visited over 600 UU churches in 30 years and his "Gather the Spirit" is known across the denomination. Jim helped to create the "Green Sanctuary" program, and compiled/arranged 110 songs by many contemporary composers in his "Earth and Spirit Songbook." He's recorded 7 CDs and published a growing line of choral works. More at www.JimScottMusic.com

James Durst bio: Quietly touring the world for over 40 years James has performed for audiences in 45 countries and all 50 American states. He draws from a repertoire of original and collected songs in more than 2 dozen languages. His many recordings include thoughtful anthems and delightful kid's songs reflecting global perspective and sense of the interconnectedness of all life. James has led many UU services and concerts in his travels. In 2003, James founded "Work o' the Weavers" to celebrate the musical legacy of Pete Seeger and The Weavers, honoring beloved songs by America's pioneering folk quartet. More at www.JamesDurst.com

Religious Education

Theresa Pizzuto, Director of Religious Education

Theresa.pizzuto@gmail.com

Togetherness

Our prayer flag party in February was a big success, with 12 more sets of flags created by youth and adults alike. Children and youth pitched in to help assemble the flags, as well as the pizzas. Ellie Taylor led a crew that made delicious English muffin pizzas with shredded carrots, tomato sauce, olives and a little bit of cheese. Thanks to everyone who came and participated and had fun. Look for the flags throughout the building.

The RE/Grounds workday did not happen on March 8 due to schedules and less than ideal weather. If you were afraid you missed it, you still have a chance! It's now on April 26. We will be working on the grounds and the playground equipment, so come on out!

Relay for Life is another multigenerational event that happens in May. Led by Carolyn Turner, we ask that you consider remembering or honoring someone with a luminaria. For \$10, your loved one will be part of the event on May 16th. Your bag can be decorated by the UUFC youth. Our goal is \$1,500 for all of UUFC. We would love ideas for ways to reach this goal. If you have never been part of the Relay for Life event, it's a terrific family event.

We hope to plan more of these congregational events; let us know if you have ideas or would like to be involved in planning.



Spotlight on the faces of RE: Meg MacArthur

If you've ever had a child attend Religious Education classes at UUFC, the odds are very good that Meg MacArthur taught their class. Meg started teaching at UUFC for the reason many of us do: we had children. However, Meg's children have grown up and moved away and Meg is still here, still teaching. There are many roles that Meg has done at UUFC, but she always ends up teaching and for her commitment to RE, UUFC is grateful.

However, Meg is more than a teacher: she is a knitter, a gardener, a Co-op board member and a hiker. In fact, in the summer of 2012, Meg hiked a good portion of the southern part of the Appalachian trail. How many of us can say we've done that? Or, can say that we've touched as many young lives as Meg has?

Thanks for all you do, Meg!





Earth Matters

Submitted By: Ellie Taylor

UUFC is a certified Green Sanctuary congregation. We are committed to protecting the interdependent web of life, and creating a world in which we make reverence, gratitude, and caring for Earth central in our lives.

Earth News:

Green Sanctuary meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm for lively discussion and taking environmental action at UUFC, in our own lives, and in our world. Many of us stay to attend the Sierra Club monthly gathering at 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please call Ellie Taylor at 654-1331 or Ellie@FeedingTheKids.com.

Earth Day is April 22 - Working Towards Sustainable Communities is the 2014 UUA theme. Check our UUFC Green Sanctuary bulletin board for local events. Read an important new report from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that was published on March 18.



Titled “**What We Know: The Reality, Risk, and Response to Climate Change,**” the report is an accessible, easily understood summary of the current and future trends in climate change and the urgent need for action. Read the executive summary, watch a

five-minute video, and download the 18-page document on their website.

Earth Dialogue is a new community event that UUFC helped create. The next meeting is on Monday, April 28th. The topic will be “Water Matters: Should We Be Worried?.” *Earth Dialogue* is an informal gathering of students, environmental groups, government and others to build community action on addressing an increasingly catastrophic climate crisis and to foster local sustainability efforts. *Earth Dialogue* will meet on the 4th

Monday of each month from 6:00 – 7:00 pm at Friends Café in downtown Clemson. A special buffet will be available beginning at 5:30 pm.

Love Gardening? Please volunteer to help plant and maintain the Children’s Garden at the Clemson Child Development Center. UUFC assisted them in writing a “fresh fruits and vegetable” grant a few years ago. Since then we have helped them build raised beds, plant annual summer and fall gardens, and maintain the gardens year round by mulching and adding organic soil amendments. You will learn much about organic gardening and enjoy watching the enthusiasm of young children as they plant, water and harvest their own veggies. Contact Ellie at 654-1331.

Action Tip of the Month: The weather is finally warming. You can now buy more local fruits and veggies in season. Local foods stay fresh much longer in your refrigerator, so you will save money. Do not worry about “organic”, since most local farmers are using fewer herbicides and pesticides. Experts agree that “local” is always healthier for the environment and for you because they are not imported from other countries and have not traveled 1500 or more miles to your store. Another benefit: elaborate packaging will not end up in our local landfill. Visit UUFC.org for tips on buying local foods.





2014 Silent Auction

Submitted by Cindy Lee

The 2014 Spring Auction will be taking bids during the four Sundays in May. You can contribute to our community by donating items, events, talents, etc. - to include in the silent auction that typically brings in about one-third of our major fund-raising at UUFC. The idea is to contribute to community-building as well as to raise funds. We are looking for ways to interact and connect, to learn more about each other, and “to help one another.”

Consider donating a piece of art that you created from paintings to knitted socks (yes, they can be very arty). Host a special meal such as pizza (made in an outdoor oven—you know who you are), brunch, a steak dinner (some of us are not allowed to eat red meat at home), a Greek dinner, a spicy Thai dinner, an Indian dinner, or wherever your travels and/or imagination have taken you. How about teaming up with a buddy to offer “two guys and a toolbelt” who can fix those sticky doors or hang pictures or some

other to do item. Teach a cooking class for those special cinnamon rolls that everyone raves about or bread (kneading can be very relaxing) or cookies that are special to your childhood.

Lead a hike or a sing-along. Do standup. Host a high tea or a picnic by the lake. Guide a kayaking trip. Take a carload to the Greenville Art Museum or that special bookstore that you found in a little out of the way place. Share yourself with the UUFC community.

Let Cindy Lee (pcbdoctor.lee99@gmail.com) or Marty Bynum (mbynum303@gmail.com) know what you can donate. Or stop them on a Sunday and let them know. Or send ideas of events that you would like to see offered. Make sure to send them all before Sunday, April 27th. Bidding starts on Sunday, May 4th. Winning bids to be announced on June 1st.

It's A Miracle

Our foremothers and forefathers who built our current sanctuary would be amazed that now we can again attend Sunday services in the previous sanctuary that is now our social room. Rev. Terre tells me that I am the first one of the “modern era” to attend a Sunday service in the social

room. Viewing and listening to the service in the social room has been advertised for parents whose small children wish to stay with them during the service. However, I had a dreadful cold (Is there any other kind?) and did not wish to share my germs so I took advantage of our miracle. (All technology is a miracle to me.)

Usher, Earl Wagener brought me a bulletin and I commandeered a “singing book” and just participated as I always do. I sang every hymn (wish you could have heard me —well, maybe not) and raised my hand when Rev. Terre asked who had taken the Myers Briggs personality test and took pictures of Nancy Brown without having to stand up in front of anyone.

The picture quality on the giant flat screen (thought I was at a drive in movie) is excellent and the sound is so terrific that I

discovered another joy with our miracle. As most of you know I wear hearing aids during services and being just a few feet from the screen I could hear perfectly. Also it did not seem to pick up the extraneous noises that are so obvious to those of us who wear hearing aids.

Sometimes it would go off for a second but our miracle worker Del Kimbler, otherwise known as Chief Technician, is aware and is working on that. Also I could only see those by the podium, but there is the capability to move the camera around. So I am “thankful glad” as a man I knew many years ago used to say, for our miracle. I suggest you check it out.

Joyfully,
Martha Alexander



Submitted by Doug Shier

CURIOUS?

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism or our own UUFC history? Do you want to become a UUFC Member? Or find out what that means? Join us for a two-part course *UU & You!* A light lunch will be provided, and childcare is available upon request. We ask that all persons who wish to become Members of UUFC (new or returning) attend Part 1 and Part 2 of this workshop.

Kindly **RSVP** to egarbe@bellsouth.net.

Sunday, April 6, Noon – 2:15 pm, Library

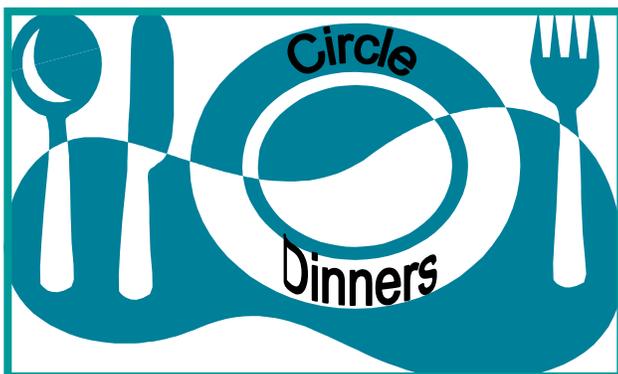
UU & You, Part 1: What is Unitarian Universalism?

We will share our own spiritual odysseys that have led us to UUFC and will discuss historical underpinnings of Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, April 27, Noon – 2:15 pm, Library

UU & You, Part 2: Our UUFC and the path to UUFC Membership

We will meet with members of different UUFC groups who will tell us more about how our Fellowship functions and how those considering membership might like to get more involved.



It's that time of year again to sign up for one of our Fellowship's favorite activities. Circle dinners are a wonderful way to get to know members and friends of our Fellowship in a little more intimate atmosphere. We encourage your participation.

Dinners begin in September and continue for 5 months, skipping November and December. Everyone gets to host at least once in their home. Others bring the food as designated on the rotation chart: salad/bread, appetizer, or dessert. If you are unable to

participate on a regular basis for the entire 5 months, you may want to be on the substitute list.

The deadline for signing up is August 17th. Look for the sign-up sheet in the atrium. Questions? Contact Jackie Renzi at 888-2276 or jcrenzi@aol.com



Welcome Home, Kathy Crain!

The UUFC Women's Salad Supper Group will celebrate Kathy's return to us with our typical salad supper, followed by Kathy's "presentation" of her experiences as a Peace Corp Volunteer in the Philippines.

We will gather at Founder's House on Friday, May 2 at 5:00 PM, dinner at 5:30 pm. Old members, new members, friends – all women are VERY welcome!!

Bring a salad (a few desserts are good, too) to share and a beverage. Please RSVP to Janet Marsh, jmarsh@clemson.edu, 864.888.001.

The UUFC's Transylvanian Connection

Submitted by Michael Kohl

At a time when the world is again focused upon crisis in Eastern Europe; this time in the Ukraine, we UUs in the Clemson area should remember our former relationship with fellow Unitarians in the part of Romania known as Transylvania. Back in the fall of 1989, Eastern Europe was convulsed with a momentous series of political changes that swept aside the governing communist regimes. As events unfolded, the historic connection of Unitarianism with Central Europe awakened an interest among some UUFC members.

In early December 1989, a service about the origins of Unitarianism in Europe coincided with the fall of the Ceausescu dictatorship a few days later.

During the course of the 1990s, the UUFC became involved with the Partner Church program and eventually was tied with the Unitarian congregation of Nagybanya in the Romanian city of Baia

Mare and with its visiting minister, Rev. Frencz Sebe. Although Rev. Sebe was in his seventies, he ministered to the small village of Kide as well as to the Beszterce congregation in Bistartia that was partnered with Columbia, SC. In 1994 and 1996 Rev. Sebe visited South Carolina and conducted services in Columbia and Clemson.

A number of members of the UUFC had pen pals from the Nagybanya congregation. However as time passed, communication became less frequent. One of the issues was a turnover in ministers with Rev. Sebe being replaced by younger ministers ordained after the fall of communism. Another problem was the language difficulty that was compounded by unrealistic expectations that the Clemson Fellowship could provide more financial help than was possible. By the middle of the 2000s, all contact with the Nagybanya congregation ceased. The absence of any UUFC

member ever visiting Transylvania and meeting with members of our sister church likely proved to be a critical aspect as did the limited level of financial commitment that Clemson could provide.

One of the main reasons for this endeavor was celebrating the historic Unitarian connections with Europe. In doing so, we recognize the long term history of its theology and international heritage which transcends the Northern New England heritage of Unitarian Universalism in America. The recognition of this early heritage distinguishes UUs from a number of denominations that essentially were created in the United States during the nineteenth century. Equally important, this heritage, and the continued links to Unitarians in Europe provide a tradition and history that roots our faith as part of the liberal interpretation of Christianity.

UUFC Novel Circle

The Novel Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Founders' House. In April we return to fiction after a detour to nonfiction that spurred an interesting discussion with Jerry D. Vickery, author of *The Forgotten Society of the Keowee River Valley: A Biography of a Sharecropper*, Johnny V. Hester. April's book is also sure to generate a lively discussion so if you like reading books, talking about books, and eating chocolate, do join us.

April 2, 2014: **When Madeline Was Young** by Jane Hamilton. A rich and loving novel by the author of *The Book of Ruth* about a non-traditional family in the aftermath of a terrible accident. When Aaron Maciver's beautiful young wife, Madeline, suffers a head injury in a bicycle crash, she is left with the mental capabilities of a six-year-old. In the years that follow, Aaron and his second wife care for Madeline with deep tenderness and devotion as they raise two children of their own. This is an honest and exquisite portrait of how a family tragedy forever shapes the boundaries of love. Anchor, 336 pages, 2007.

May 7, 2014: **The Soloist** by Mark Salzman. As a child, Renne showed promise of becoming one of the world's greatest cellists. Now, years later, his life suddenly is altered by two events: he becomes a juror in a murder trial for the brutal killing of a Buddhist monk, and he takes on as a pupil a Korean boy whose brilliant musicianship reminds him of his own past. Vintage, 284 pages, 1995.

June 4, 2014: **Spilling Clarence** by Anne Ursu. In the fictional town of Clarence, Minnesota, a breakroom microwave sparks a smoky fire at the pharmaceutical factory and triggers a massive chemical spill. Over the coming days, the citizens of Clarence fall under the spell of a strange and powerful drug that unlocks their memories. They become trapped by their own reminiscences: of love and death, of war and childhood, of family they've lost and sins they've committed. Beautifully rendered with a light comic touch, this bittersweet first novel is about more than the sum of its beguiling parts. It's about the need to remember, and about the bliss of forgetting. A universe peopled by exquisitely drawn characters, *Spilling Clarence* is a funny, moving story with a truly original premise that introduces the impressive talents of an exciting new writer. Hyperion, 204 pages, 2003.

July 2, 2014: **Beginners Goodbye** by Anne Tyler. Crippled in his right arm and leg, Aaron grew up fending off a sister who constantly wanted to manage him. So when he meets Dorothy, she's like a breath of fresh air. He marries her, and they have a relatively happy, unremarkable marriage. Aaron works at his family's vanity-publishing business, turning out titles that presume to guide beginners through the trials of life. But when Dorothy is killed, Aaron feels as though he has been erased forever. Only Dorothy's unexpected appearances from the dead help him to live in the moment and to find some peace. Gradually, Aaron discovers that maybe for this beginner there is indeed a way to say goodbye. A wise, haunting, and deeply moving new novel about loss and recovery, pierced throughout with humor, wisdom, and always penetrating look at human foibles. Ballantine Books, 224 pages, 2013.

August 6, 2014: (Mystery Month): **In The Bleak Midwinter** by Julia Spencer-Fleming. Clare Fergusson, St. Alban's new priest, fits like a square peg in the conservative Episcopal parish at Millers Kill, New York. She is not just a "lady," she's a tough ex-Army chopper pilot, and nobody's fool. Then a newborn infant is left at the church door. The search for the baby's mother quickly leads into the secrets that shadow Millers Kill like the ever-present Adirondacks. What they discover is a world of trouble and murder. Minotaur Books, 384 pages, 2003.

Submitted by: Dixie Haywood

**“Reading is to the mind
what exercise is to the body.”**

**Windham Hill Recording artists
Legends of the Celtic Harp
in concert at UUFC
Tuesday April 1 7:00 pm**

LEGENDS OF THE CELTIC HARP with Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter is a musical journey into the heart of a legendary instrument. Three of the premier Celtic harpers in the world have created a dramatic ensemble that takes you deep into the myths, stories, magic and fabled history of this most captivating instrument.

Legends of the Celtic Harp is a trio of Celtic harpers who hail from Northern California. They have toured extensively throughout the US to sold out audiences and rave reviews. One recent review states "Legends of the Celtic Harp is a blend of music and oratory, falling somewhere between concert and theater. It spanned nearly the range of human feeling, from humor to tragedy, tenderness to rage, reality to mysticism, and more besides. The effects were powerful and exhilarating." (Presenter Review)

You will hear three Celtic Harps including the rare wire strung, Swedish Nyckelharpa, Cittern and Irish Bouzouki intertwined with moving stories from historic journals, myths and legend.

**\$18/advanced sales , \$15 for senior/students/
military/congregational members**

**\$20/ at the door - \$18 for seniors/students/military/
congregational members**



Adult Religious Education Class

A Meaningful Life

April 27, May 4, 11, 18

Have you ever wondered, "Is there anything more to life than just being alive?" The author of the book Ecclesiastes in the Bible did. Please join me in looking at the steps he took to find a meaningful life. We will read and discuss *When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough* by Harold Kushner from 9:00 to 10:00 am starting the Sunday after Easter and continuing for 3 more:

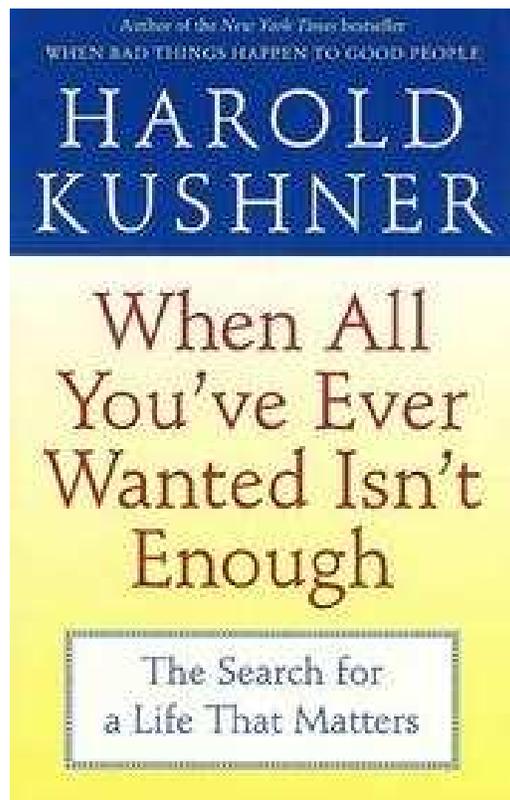
April 27, The Problem: Chapters 1 & 2

May 4, Steps on the Path: Chapters 3, 4 & 5

May 11, More Steps on the Path: Chapters 6 & 7

May 18, The Solution: Chapters 8, 9 & 10

Facilitator: Meg MacArthur



My Adventure in Costa Rica with SCETV, Patrick McMillan and Our Own Steve Maria Johnson

Submitted by Carol Ward

What does my adventure trip to Costa Rica in January have to do with our own members Steve and Maria Johnson? Since I was in the Green Sanctuary committee with Steve for several years, I found a real connection. Both Costa Rica and the Johnsons have a real love of nature and of recycling. In fact, Costa Rica ranks higher in the amount of recycling it does than America, much to the delight of the Johnsons as they also recycle naturally. The hotels and public places I visited in this country had well defined and used recycling bins inside and outside of hotels. Many of the hotels left windows open to introduce fresh air and were not as heated as American hotels are.

My adventure in Costa Rica began with a 10 day tour with the ETV endowment on an expedition led by State Naturalist and head of the SC Botanical Gardens--Patrick McMillan. Our tour was called "Costa Rica--Where Nature Meets Adventure," an classy title for an exciting tour. In my experience Nature met Adventure when I fell into the mud puddles created by heavy rain on our visit to the rainforest on a hike to see Rio Celeste in Tenorio Volcano National Park. I was hiking with the "slow" group, so no one was fooled by my muddy fall. I need more practice with our HUULA's before I repeat this humiliating adventure.

Our Safari Float by Raft showed us the teeming wildlife on the river in our raft. We could see and hear many natural creatures, like the howling monkeys, that managed to wake us each morning with their shouts. We didn't need alarm clocks when nature provided our alarms. We met a 102 year old man in his house at our stop. There we could not only use the restroom, but wish him a very happy birthday, eat some tea and cakes, and enjoy his family. I was embarrassed when our leader asked if we wanted to have our picture taken with this elderly man. It was a little too personal for me.

When we also explored Manuel Antonio Park, my group was led by a local Quaker guide. There is a large community of Quakers from America that live in Costa Rica who make dairy products. The forest revealed many ancient trees and bizarre animal creatures. My favorite was a little creature that looked a lot like a raccoon, but its legs were much longer. It proved to be a thief. My roommate's bag was opened to steal a banana. That afternoon we went on a catamaran tour to see the Pacific Ocean and watch the humpback whales in the distance and enjoy dinner aboard. Some of our crew went out to snorkel and swim and dive from the boat.

After a night walk in Monteverde, where my group saw an orange-legged blind tarantula, we also enjoyed our hike in the Monteverde Cloud Reserve. The last night of our tour included an exciting play of Costa Rican history and art with dancers and live music. The dancers grabbed people from the audience to bring them onstage to dance with the artists. I enjoyed my dance with a lovely young woman in her costume. We were taken into a nearby church where we were served our final dinner.

Our tour was over, but Steve Johnson came to my rescue. He picked me up when the others left the country, to take me to his and Maria's home. I got to live in his guesthouse for four days with Maria cooking meals for us at night on their front porch. As we talked and watched the lovely sunsets, she baked tamales for us to enjoy. I had never eaten one before, but they were very tasty and I miss them. Since Steve had a trusty vehicle, he could take us on adventures and he knew where everything was. We went shopping at a local town center where we parked, and entered our setting. Maria had to get some things, but we ate a delicious meal there too on stools as shoppers rushed past us. I felt like I was actually living in this culture. On another day, Steve took us to a restaurant where we enjoyed a delicious meal together. We enjoyed the gardens at the

restaurant where Maria found some limes, which she collected for a delicious key lime pie for us to eat.

Since Steve and I had been on the Green Sanctuary Committee for many years, I enjoyed his lessons in bird watching in Costa Rica. His binoculars gave me great views of the varied colorful birds that surrounded us at all stops. I wasn't fast enough to see all of the ones that they were able to view. I need lots more practice with that too although he advised me on some good binoculars to get. Like a great member of our committee, Steve rose every day to work in his garden before we did anything. He had compost and mulching heaps in his yard to help with his crops. Once, on his Facebook page, he noted when he discovered a poisonous snake in one of the bins. We must always be vigilant when in nature.

One of our greatest adventures was before the ETV endowment trip began. He picked me up at the hotel to take me to a coffee plantation near San Jose. We followed the signs to the Doka Plantation for fresh roasted Costa Rican coffee. We made fun of the signs too. When we saw the sign, the mileage was varied and confusing. There weren't enough signs to tell us how to get there and the kilometers varied confusingly. After we finally arrived, our morning tour started with a tasting of the types of coffee sold there. The small cups were filled and tasted. We discovered our favorite type of coffee--Peaberry. I had never heard of it, but the repeated tastings revealed a singular taste that I had to purchase and bring back to America.

We got to see the trees and the beans and get the tour of the whole process of growing and hand picking and curing the beans. We saw the beans being washed in large machines with many stages for taking them out for a perfect taste. The best beans fell to the bottom of the tanks. From there, they would be taken out and dried on a field being raked until they were totally dried in the hot sun. Steve asked who picked and who raked the beans. Our leader said that Costa Ricans were too smart to work in this industry. The main industry is computer chips and then agriculture. The picking was done by Nicaraguans from the north, and the raking and other tasks were done by their southern neighbors from Panama. The cured beans were then taken to be flavored then sold. This Doka group had some of the

only coffee makers that actually handpicked their beans. He said that the coffee plantations in South America used huge machines to do the work. I certainly enjoyed the tastes, so I ordered my box of coffees to arrive in America before I returned. We got to see the many old machines that had been used in the past to grow and harvest the crops. We decided to eat lunch there where we got a very delicious meal with fresh ingredients. After our lunch we took a walk where we could see where the foods were grown hydroponically. We were overwhelmed with our whole tour before Steve returned me to my hotel.

One of our last adventures was a trip to Poas Volcano. The weather was good for our drive and our short hike to the crater where we could see the frothing clouds coming out of the volcano. The museum there was also very informative when we went through it together. Since much was in Spanish, I took a lot of pictures that I could decipher later. On our drive back down the mountain, we enjoyed a delightful meal on the side of a mountain with the valley beneath us. Steve's binoculars let us see everything in detail. We had a delicious meal as we examined the countryside beneath us. A group of German tourists took the table next to us to enjoy the same experience, although they bought the beer we didn't get. It was a delightful culmination of my whole trip in Costa Rica with SCETV and the Johnsons.

What I enjoyed the most was the delicious fresh breakfasts, filled with fruits, beans & rice, sausages, breads, oatmeal, eggs, etc. Every hotel gave a free breakfast, so that was almost enough for much of a day. The other thing I loved was the hot springs. Some were at our hotels or within a short drive for a day in the spa. That was also a delight to remember, even if I didn't get a Costa Rican massage.

Other Important Announcements

Emergency Contacts

The Care Committee asks that members and friends send emergency contact information to the office at uufcadm@gmail.com. This information will be held in a confidential file and will be used only for a health or other emergency.



Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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- justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- the right of conscience and use of the democratic process
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- acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth
- respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

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