

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

*To affirm and promote
the inherent worth
and dignity
of every person*

AUGUST 1, 2005

Open Letter from UUA Board of Trustees

July 6, 2005

An open letter to UU youth of color and UU people of color who attended Fort Worth General Assembly and the broader UU community:

At General Assembly in Fort Worth, there were several incidents that reminded us that we have much work to do in our journey to becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural association. We, the UUA Board of Trustees, want to express deep sadness and regret that these incidents took place. Some of these incidents involved apparently disrespectful and racist treatment of our youth by Fort Worth officials. We will respond appropriately to these incidents. When we visit a city, we expect that all members of our UU community should be treated with respect and hospitality. For this and future General Assemblies, our presence might provide a "teachable moment" for us to work with our host cities on issues involving race and youth.

But we have work do within our own community as well. We have been disturbed by reports of other unfortunate incidents during General Assembly within our own Unitarian Universalist family, in which some UU youth of color were made to feel that they were not welcome. There was an incident outside the hall during the closing ceremonies at the Fort Worth General Assembly. Based on the reports of witnesses, the incident involved several UU youth of color, a UU adult who questioned their right to be there, provoking an angry response from the youth, a UU minister who intervened in support of the adult, and another white youth who defended the youth of color and verbally attacked the minister, who responded in like fashion with similar inflammatory language. This was not the only incident. We have also heard that on several occasions in Fort Worth, white UUs assumed that UU youth of color were hotel service people and asked them to carry luggage or park cars. We are troubled that some UUs may have treated other UUs as if they did not belong among us.

We can and must do better. Sadly, this was not the first General Assembly to have incidents like these. After one of those past incidents, the UUA Board of Trustees committed to provide safe space to process issues and concerns around oppression and racism and chaplains who could help facilitate reflection, discussion, and learning. However, we as a Board regret that we have not done enough to provide that safe space. We cannot control the actions of individuals, but we can create venues where we can all learn and grow as a community. We apologize for failing to provide those venues and commit to remedy this at future General Assemblies. As your UUA Board, we pledge to treat all these incidents as a wake-up call for our entire community. We understand that personal stories about individuals' experiences at Fort Worth GA have been recorded and we commit to hear these stories and learn from them. Also, we will work with the GA Planning Committee and other groups to ensure that General Assembly in St. Louis and all future General Assemblies are more welcoming to all members of our Unitarian Universalist family. In Faith,

—Paul Rickter, UUA Secretary

Program Highlights

Partner Church Brunch

Sun, Aug 14, 11:30 am
Hollin Hall

Memorial Service for Barbara Ann Morrill

Sun, Aug 14, 3:00 pm
Reception following the service
on the church grounds

Social Justice Project Training

Sun, Aug 28, 11:30 am
Hollin Hall

Fiftieth Anniversary Services

Sun, Sep 25, 9:30 & 11:15 am
Homecoming Picnic following
the last service on the church
grounds

The Book Group

Thu, Sep 29, 7-9:00 pm
Matisse Room

The Holiday Shop

Sat, Nov 19
Remington Chapel & grounds

INSIDE—Page 3

Labyrinth at MVUC



MOUNT VERNON
UNITARIAN CHURCH

MINISTER

The Reverend Louis Schwebius

*BOARD OF
TRUSTEES*

Ric Sears, chair '06

Joanne Masterson, vice chair '07

Doug MacCleery, secretary '05

Jane Nelson, Program Council Convener, '06

Nance Cedar, '06

Katie Tyson, Youth Representative '06

Hal Holtzclaw '07

Jane Nelson '07

Wendy Burns '08

Jim Potter '08

Raleigh Romine '08

~ ~ ~

Barbara Gay Stoddard

Interim Director of Religious Education

Vacant, *Director of Music*

Al Erickson, *Church Treasurer*

S T A F F

Donna Bledsoe

Business Administrator

Anne Bredeck

Office Administrator

Leah Choudhury

Office Assistant

Norman Comfort

Custodian

Jim Kerr

Religious Education Assistant

Farhi Chaudhry

Nursery Caregiver

WINDMILL NEWSLETTER

Editor Curtis Hunter

Production Crew Ginny Endicott, Phyllis Gonigam,
Laurie Hayden, Sally Montanari, Susan Montanari,
Kathryn Moore, Vilma Morrissey, Sue Ringwalt,
Flo Searle, Pete Solt, Betsy Stephens, Joan Weinstein

Proofreaders Phyllis Gonigam, Mimi Stevens,
Herb Tyson

Webmaster Herb Tyson webmaster@mvuc.org

The Windmill is published monthly.

Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month.

Items will be edited to fit available space.

Please e-mail articles to newsletters@mvuc.org.

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

1909 Windmill Lane

Alexandria, VA 22307

703-765-5950

Fax: 703-765-1237

info@mvuc.org

www.mvuc.org

Mark Your Calendars

Final Partner Church Summer Brunch—August 14

Make plans to attend the last of the famous, delicious Summer Brunches held to benefit our partner church in Szentháromság, Romania. If you are new to our church, our committee serves an awesome repast: scrambled eggs, potatoes, pastries, fresh fruit, and more. Enjoy great food and the opportunity to visit with other church members after the service on August 14 in Hollin Hall. Adults \$10.00, children \$5.00.

Anniversary Service and Homecoming Picnic—September 25

On Sunday, September 25, at both services, we will celebrate the beginning of our fiftieth anniversary celebration. We will honor our past and look forward to our future in special worship services at both 9:30 and 11:15. Afterwards, we will gather for a picnic (hot dogs, potluck salads, and, of course, cake) and reminisce in a sing-along. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Commons, reserve the date and plan to attend. Questions? Send e-mails to fifty@mvuc.org or call **Linda Jemison**.

The Book Group—September 29

The Book Group has been enjoying our monthly chats and welcomes everyone who wants to come. Our next meeting is September 29th (we always meet the last Thursday of the month) in the Matisse Room from 7:00–9:00 pm. We are reading *The Piano Tuner* by Daniel Mason. Even if you can't come we all highly recommend that you read *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich. This book will change the way you look at service workers and give you a new understanding about how difficult it is to live on minimum wage. If you read it and want to talk about it, come join us any month, because we are always happy to talk about it some more.

—Annie Stewart

Pastoral Coverage

Rev. Lou is on vacation and study leave for the months of July and August. He will be out of town for certain periods during that time. Pastoral coverage throughout the summer is being provided by various UU ministers throughout the Greater Washington DC area. Please contact the Church Office for further information regarding any pastoral concerns.

Religious Education

by Barbara Gay Stoddard, Interim Director of Religious Education

Hope everyone is enjoying his or her summer. Since I last wrote to you I have attended General Assembly, helped facilitate training for potential Interim Directors of Religious Education, and attended a wonderful Religious Education Conference at Ferry Beach in Saco, ME one of our many UU summer conference centers. In August, Jim will be attending an Administrative training module at Murray Grove, a Universalist Conference Center in New Jersey. We are continuing our education on the different ways to bring religious education to our MVUC family.

Our children's summer program continues in full swing under the leadership of **Nance Cedar** and **Naheed Ijaz**. Topics for the remainder of our series on Native American Stories are:

Aug 7 Fire
Aug 14 Water

Aug 21 Sky
Aug 28 Life, Death & Spirit
Sep 4 Unity of Earth

We are continuing to plan for the coming year and really need everyone's cooperation and assistance in (1) completing and sending in registration forms for children Nursery through High School, (2) volunteering to teach a class or help in the RE program during this, our anniversary year. Forms to accomplish these tasks are included with the newsletter and can be found on-line as well. So please, take a moment—while you sip those mint juleps by the pool, while you're stuck in traffic, running your kids around from here to there, or writing that legal brief—to make a commitment to the coming year at MVUC. Blessed Be.

—Barbara

Labyrinth at MVUC

The June 26 service with the Santa Rosa Labyrinth on the floor of the chapel was a great success, and I feel more strongly than ever that our community will welcome and benefit from having a labyrinth on site. In fact, I'd like to have two! One on canvas and one in the garden!

Labyrinths allow us to walk together and separately. They help to build community and allow walkers to look inside themselves. Labyrinths can be easily included in Sunday worship, weddings, memorial services, RE programs and meditation groups. Walking the labyrinth has been proven to reduce stress levels and help bring us to a state of equilibrium.

Labyrinths are generally a non-verbal experience which can take you past the thinking mind. They are used at hospitals and clinics to aid healing on many levels, including psychological, emotional, and physical.

You may have noticed in the July Windmill, a Garden Labyrinth has been included in the 50th Anniversary celebration of MVUC. Our preferred spot for the labyrinth is in the middle of the circle

garden in front of the mansion. We've discussed laying brick for the outline and keeping the paths grass.

I'd also like us to consider purchasing a labyrinth, painted on canvas, like the one that we used at the service and borrowed from the Arlington Unitarian Church. The Chapel was a beautiful place to walk the labyrinth. It could be set up on a schedule, 2-3 times/month, for people to come and walk. It's easy to fold up and doesn't take very much storage space. Please look for additional information in the next newsletter.

—Kathi McNeil



Activities, On and Off the Hill

What's your favorite MVUC memory? Share it with us. In a hundred words or less, share with us your favorite MVUC moment—humorous, poignant, spiritual or none of these. Whether an event, a service, a committee meeting, a solitary moment on our hill, tell us of a personally meaningful memory. It will be shared with the congregation on a memory wall, possibly used in a history of MVUC, or read during a church service next year. You may sign it and identify yourself or submit it anonymously. E-mail your memories to fifty@mvuc.org or mail it to the church office (MVUC, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307) and write "Attention: MVUC Memories" on the envelope.

New Photo Directory Coming Soon

Plans are underway for production of a new photo directory as part of the celebration of MVUC's 50th anniversary. Photos for the new directory will be taken in the late afternoon and evening of October 4–12. You can reserve a convenient time for your family to be photographed at a Sunday service August 28–September 18 or schedule yourself online through a link on our MVUC website. Each family or individual photographed by Lifetouch—the same organization that produced our last directory in 2000—will receive a copy of the directory and a free 8 x 10 photo. For more information or to help with logistics (such as making reminder phone calls) see **Ron Brandt** or **Meg Clontz**.

Truly, the Last Annual Flea Market

During the last MVUC Flea Market, it was being stated that this was to be the Last Annual Flea Market. **Pat Jackson** has rightfully resigned from being the leader of the Flea Market. She has been making the Flea Market happen since the 1970's, most recently to raise funds for the Property Major Maintenance Fund. **Sally Joy Remington** has talked to the leaders of the church to confirm that this was to have been the Last Annual Flea Market, that there wasn't a strong desire to continue and that there isn't leadership to take over.

Although the leadership came forward and many of the people who had been working with Pat over the years were willing to continue, the strong desire to use the church's talent and time in this manner for the treasure it generated was not there. Therefore, we will not be having the annual MVUC Flea Market.

So you are asking, "What am I to do with all my 'fleas'?" Here are some suggestions:

- MVUC Holiday Shop Boutique (703-765-5950) welcomes Quality Gift Shop Items,
- MVUC Book Sale (703-765-5950) sells books, puzzles, board games, records, videos, CDs, DVDs, and computer games,
- Fort Hunt Cooperative Preschool resells children's items, including clothes at their Rummage Sales,

- United Community Ministries' Back Porch (703-799-7015) takes clothing, household items, furniture in good condition,
- New Hope Housing (703-799-2293) accepts furniture and appliances when there is a need for them,
- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore provides a venue for recycling building and construction supplies, as well as computer items,
- Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary's Select Seconds (703-780-4603) takes clothing, books and household items,
- Rising Hope United Methodist Mission (703-360-1976) distributes clothing, small household items, small appliances. When there is a need, they will accept furniture and large appliances.

Any questions can be addressed to Sally Joy Remington.

Bikes for the World

Bikes for the World will collect used bicycles for developing countries from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on October 1 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Anyone with an adult or children's bike in "repairable condition" is urged to donate a bicycle to this worthy cause.

All cash and material donations are fully tax-deductible, and a receipt will be issued at the collection site.

Activities, On and Off the Hill

Don't Forget the Summer Playgroup!

Fort Hunt Preschool sponsors a summer playgroup under the big tree outside the Carriage House every Thursday from 9:30 am 'til noon (or until we all get too hot and go home). It's a fun time to make new friends and share a snack on our beautiful MVUC grounds. All are welcome.

Buster "Sugartime" Showing a Success!

We had a very successful celebration of education, family diversity and equality. Twenty-three adults and a bunch of kids viewed the PBS kids show *Postcards from Buster: Sugartime*. This is the program that was pulled from stations across the nation, including WETA, due to the episode featuring a family with two moms. Special thanks to our guest speaker **Linda Simensky**, Senior Director of Programming at PBS KIDS, for her insightful words and unique perspective. Also, thanks to **Jim Kerr**, RE Assistant, for his great organizational help, and to **Gioia Chilton** for getting the word out about the event and providing the ice cream!

CIRCA

Citizens Intent on Reforming Corporate Accountability is an organization founded within the First UU Church of Columbus, Ohio, in part, by a former member of the UU Congregation of Columbia, Maryland, **Michael Greenman**. One of their members, **Eme Lybarger**, recently visited with **Cyn Snavely** and **Pat Karlsen** of

UUSJ seeking to get the word out about their organization.

Their brochure declares that, "Prior to 1886 corporate charters specified a company's rights and responsibilities. They were granted by the state, had expiration dates, and could be revoked for cause. We don't need to return to 1886, but we, the real people can take our democracy back and repeal corporate personhood, if we set ourselves to it!" Since the issue of corporate personhood affects environmental decisions, decisions on affordable housing, health care and other area of concern for social justice activists, it seems appropriate to become familiar with it. A CIRCA member would be pleased to do a workshop for UUSJ and/or from its member congregations. *The Corporation*, a DVD of a documentary done with some humor, was left with us, and the following books were suggested: *Information Feudalism: Who Owns the Knowledge Economy* by Peter Drahos with John Braithwaite and *Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy* by Ted Nace. For more information see <http://firstuucolumbus.org/corppers/> One of the links from CIRCA's site is to a discussion group on corporate personhood run by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community.

Check www.uusj.org to see if UUSJ or another area congregation will sponsor a workshop on this topic.

Get in Shape for the Run/Walk for the Homeless
Lace up your running shoes and get in shape for MVUC's 2005 Run/Walk for the Homeless. This year's event will be Saturday, September 17, at 8:00 am, with 2.5 mile and 1 mile courses to suit all ages and fitness levels. Bring the whole family, and neighbors and friends too. Exercise for a good cause! Register in advance to get a T-shirt on run/walk day. There will be a registration table in the Commons before and after services starting August 28. Call **Kathie Watson** for details.

Social Justice Projects

On July 31st and August 28th, right after Sunday Service, there will be training sessions to facilitate the study and writing of petitions for official task forces for Social Justice projects. There will be an opportunity to present these petitions to the Social Justice Council in September in time for revision prior to informing the congregation before the October Selection Meeting in the evening of Sunday, October 23rd.

Address questions to **Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson** or **Sally Joy Remington**.





OUR LARGER WORLD NEWS

Social Justice Programs at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
Love is the Teaching of this Church ... And Service is its Prayer

UUSC Call for Justice Weekend:
September 24-26, 2005

UUSC believes that U.S.-sponsored torture, reflected in the grim photographs from Abu Ghraib, is abhorrent to our national values.

If you believe this is true, join the UUSC STOP (Stop Torture Permanently) Campaign for the UUSC Call for Justice Weekend in Washington, DC, September 24–26, 2006. We urge all citizens regardless of political, religious or cultural differences, to speak out with one voice on this issue. Together with our interfaith and human rights partners, all UUSC members, and supporters are invited to the following events and activities:

- Saturday, Sep 24: A series of educational workshops and a panel discussion.
- Sunday, Sep 25: A formal and solemn Citizens' Trial of high-level U.S. officials responsible for the current U.S. torture practices.
- Monday Sep 26: Advocacy work with national leaders and representatives.

To eradicate torture, we must insist upon the full application of our laws, and a full accounting of the truth. For more information, visit the UUSC website, www.uusc.org/stoptorture, or call them at 617-868-6600.

Partner Church Committee News

The last Partner Church Committee Summer Sunday Brunch is August 14, a Sunday Rev. Lou is in the pulpit. Many thanks to all of you who have attended the first two brunches and who have helped make them happen.

The MVUC Partner Church Committee dispensed approximately \$23,000 in scholarships for the school year 2004–05, benefitting 37 students in our partner village of Szentháromság/Troita, Romania. The scholarships were donated by MVUC individuals and families to assist youth and adults in attending high school, trade school, university and special schools (for the deaf).

The village school ends with the 8th grade. If individuals want to get further education, they must travel to neighboring towns and cities, often boarding. The program is administered by a Partner Church Committee from the Unitarian congregation in Szentháromság and the MVUC Committee.

Committee members and sponsors are proud of the accomplishments of many of the scholarship recipients. One really noticeable aspect is the fact that many more young people speak English, which they have studied at school.

Opportunities for sponsoring a student will again be available in September. **Lisa Gillispie** and **Janice Fitzpatrick** of the Partner Church Committee are traveling to Romania the last two weeks of August and will bring back information as to students and amounts needed.

Providing a scholarship is a great way to help on a very personal level. We have students with modest needs and more financially compelling needs to fit a number of different budgets. Sponsors have also been grouped to support a single individual with a larger financial need. Please let Janice or Lisa know if you would like to participate as a sponsor.

Village School Plumbing Improvements

The Partner Church Committee has received word from **Ferenc Márton**, the principal of the Szentháromság village school, that a group from a foundation in Holland will put running water and toilets in the school in October. This has happened because Principal Márton, with others from the village, have established a Szentháromság village foundation. The Pro Troita Foundation will work with a Dutch foundation for this project. The \$2,100 our committee raised with our alternative gift campaign at MVUC last fall will help with feeding and housing the group from Holland for 3 weeks, among other things. The project is truly a big step toward the village entering the late 20th century.

—Janice Fitzpatrick

In Loving Memory of Barbara Ann Morrill

Barbara Ann Morrill passed away on Tuesday, July 5, in Alexandria, Virginia. In February of this year, Barbara suffered an acute episode of congestive heart failure and respiratory distress. She recovered briefly but never fully regained the ability to return home. Barbara died peacefully in the early evening. She was 78.

Barbara found Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church almost immediately when she and her husband moved to Alexandria in 1972. She was an active member, serving on the Board of Trustees, and on countless committees for the enhancement of the church. She was particularly proud of her role as trustee for the Building and Grounds. She derived immense pleasure from her work on all aspects of the Holiday Shop. Mostly, she loved the people of the church and strove to keep it an active part of her life.


Barbara was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. She met and married her husband, Stephen A. Morrill there. They settled in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, and raised their three children—Mark, Robert, and Jill. After moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Barbara worked as a Welcome Wagon Hostess and later Supervisor. She remained active in PTA, her local Unitarian church and community activities.

Barbara lived independently in a high-rise condominium in Alexandria. She loved her view from the

13th floor and she loved the ready community. She worked as a Customer Service Specialist for 20 years with Kenfair in Alexandria. Since retiring, Barbara remained active in the church as well as in her condominium association, organizing a library and serving on the social committee. She stayed closely in touch with her many friends and family through letters.

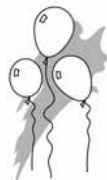
A memorial service for Barbara will be held on the grounds of Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church on Sunday, August 14, at 3:00 pm. Anyone wishing to contact the family may write to Jill Morrill, 6 Shooting Star, Irvine, CA 92604.






RE Youth Birthdays!

— August —



3 Madalena McNeil	13 Sam Sabo
5 Matt Bair	15 Marcus Picado
8 Alec Coakley	17 Hannah Howe
Grace Denton	Juliana Abelow
Zachary Gauger	19 Sophia Passacantando
Fares Hasan	24 Morgan Walton
Kelly Jemison	30 Sarah Watson
12 Maggie Farley	

Caring Community



Our thoughts are with:

The family of **Barbara Morrill**, who passed away on Tuesday, July 5, at 7:30 pm. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, August 14, at 3:00 pm.

Larry and Jo Jackley, as Larry undergoes medical treatment.

Jes Foster, who is in Paul Spring Retirement Center for a few weeks.

The **Caring Associates** provide support for members of the congregation who may need temporary assistance. This includes help with a ride to an appointment, shopping, picking up prescriptions, or delivery of meals due to an emergency. Caring Associate members wear green name tags during Sunday services, and there is always a member on call to respond to your needs, as noted in the Order of Service. Kindly notify the on-call associate or the church office if you know someone who may need assistance. Call **Betsy Stephens** if interested in joining us.

Sermons for Your Re-hearing and Reading

Each Sunday's service is recorded on audio tape. If you would like a copy for yourself, a friend, or one of our church's shut-ins, please speak to **Raleigh Romine** or **Joanne Ell**. The texts of most of Rev. Lou's sermons are also available at www.mvuc.org.

Stirrings From Windmill Hill

Deadline for the mid-month newsletter, *Stirrings from Windmill Hill*, is the 5th of each month. Material should be submitted to **Mimi Stevens** by email (newsletters@mvuc.org) or left in the Newsletter box by the Church Office. *Stirrings* is not published in July or August. The next issue will be September 16.

A Month of Sundays

Sunday Service at 10 AM ONLY
in the Remington Chapel

August 7

Concepts of the COSMOS

Al Weinstein & Pat Jackson

August 14

If I Only Had the Nerve

(Reflections on Courage)

Rev. Louis Schwebius

August 21

The Would-Be Poets

Ninth Annual Recital

Bea Holmes & Others

August 28

We're Still Fighting About EVOLUTION?

Ron Brandt & Reid Adler

Mt. Vernon
Unitarian Church
1909 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Alexandria, Virginia
Permit #658

Address Service Requested

TIME VALUE MAIL — PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

**No Meeting Required to Help With
Holiday Shop!**

It is true, to help out at Holiday Shop, whether with the set-up the week before, at the event, or with the clean up, one doesn't have to attend any meetings!!

So, mark your calendars for November 13-19, 2005. November 19 is the date of the actual event, but help is needed during the week before—from Sunday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. A hour or two from each of us is all it takes to help MVUC have a successful 50th Anniversary Holiday Shop. There will be daytime & evening, week-day & week-end, slots where help is needed. You don't have to be retired; all you need is a desire to help MVUC have a very successful fund-raising event.

Crew chiefs and worker bees are needed for a number of specific activities from set up to clean up. Sign-up sheets will start appearing at the Ingathering Picnic on Friday, September 9. For questions please contact the following:

Mary Barnett, Pat Jackson, Sally Joy Remington, and Janice Fitzpatrick.