



# Stirrings From Windmill Hill

## *News and Notes from Mount Vernon Unitarian Church*

February 16, 2005

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Editor: Mimi Stevens ([mimis@erols.com](mailto:mimis@erols.com))

### **The Board in brief (Jane Nelson)**

At our regular meeting on 2-1-05, the Board of Trustees discussed wedding policy during construction, reviewed the Letter of Agreement between Fort Hunt Preschool and MVUC, approved Susan B. Anthony Fund recommendations, approved a new canvass goal of \$400,000 as well as finance committee recommendations for debt reduction and money for the ordination of **Steve Phinney**. The board also reviewed RE council recommendations. We heard reports from the minister, DRE, and business administrator.

The full minutes will be posted in the Commons and will be available on-line once they are approved.

### **From the Treasurer ... (Joan Wamsley)**

The January 31, 2005, financial report shows:

	January	Fiscal Year to date	Budgeted
INCOME	\$ 63,786.68	\$232,374.43	\$491,550
EXPENSES	\$ 36,023.24	\$261,244.27	\$491,550

A reminder about the book sale coming March 24-26. Donations are now being accepted. Please don't wait until the last minute!

### **Coming up in RE (Barbara Gay Stoddard)**

**Feb. 20: Way Cool Sunday School Chapel** – children grades K – 8 meet in Fireplace Room/Hollin Hall.

**FYI:** Grades 6 and up are invited to stay and listen to Steve Phinney's talk this morning if they so choose.

**PREschool group:** meets in Carriage House for a lesson on Rainbows

**YRUU:** Meets as usual in Carriage House

**Feb. 27: Way Cool Sunday School Classes** – children grades K – 3 meet in the Carriage House and grades 4-5 meet in Fireplace Room/Hollin Hall.

**FYI:** Grades 6 and up are invited to stay for the Service, which is being led by the Youth Group.

**PREschool group:** meets in Carriage House for a lesson on Dreams.

**YRUU:** leading the service today in the Chapel.

**March 6 & 13: Way Cool Sunday School Classes** – children grades K – 8 meet in the Carriage House and grades 4 & up meet in Hollin Hall.

**PREschool group:** meets in Carriage House for a lesson on Imagination (3/6) & My Shadow (3/13)

**YRUU:** Meets as usual in the Carriage House.

**OWL Class Meets:** Feb. 27, March 6 and March 13 (final class). No Class on Feb. 20 due to holiday weekend.

**Adult RE Happenings:** Check out the flyer to see what the latest Adult RE offerings are. Join a book discussion group or a great decisions discussion. Come one, come all.

### **Little Persons' Night Out (Jim Kerr)**

When: Saturday, **February 26, 2005**

Where: MVUC Chapel

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

What could be more fun than eating, dancing, and playing with your friends at church in your PJs! We are holding a potluck dinner and PAJAMA PARTY for the families and friends of MVUC with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Older siblings are most welcome to attend, of course. Children (and adults too) are invited to come in their pajamas. Special games, activities, and bedtime stories are planned. Please bring a Toddler/Preschooler-friendly salad, main meal, or dessert to share. \$5 donation to cover costs appreciated. RSVP by February 20, 2005 to our Organizer, **Suzanne McDonnell** or sign up in the Commons.

## “We’re on our way!” (Tony Barkume)

Our Annual Canvass to support MVUC in the coming church year will start the first Sunday in March, March 6. That Sunday, **Rev. Lou** will devote the services to the meaning of stewardship, and MVUC will celebrate that evening with a community dinner in the Meeting House—with special entertainment!

Before the start of the Annual Canvass you will receive in the mail a question-and-answer fact sheet that gives guidelines for making your pledge, how your pledge dollars are used, and some goals our Board of Trustees have set for the congregation in the next church year.

## Movie night (Marty Bredeck)

February 18: *Waking Life* (2001)

*Waking Life* follows the dream(s) of one character and his attempt to discern the absolute difference between waking life and the dreamworld. He runs into many people on his way, some of whom offer asides on life, others delving deeply into existential questions and life's mysteries. Can we control our dreams? What are they telling us about life? About death? About ourselves and where we come from and where we are going? The film does not answer these for us, but inspires us to ask the questions and find the answers, ourselves. This animated film uses "rotoscope" techniques and a variety of different artists to create a unique visual style defying simple description. Rated R for language and some violent images.

## Wisdom Years (Bev Southerland)

**Ginny Endicott** and **Bev Southerland** will be meeting all members of the Wisdom Years at the nearby Paul Spring Retirement Home on Fort Hunt Road on Tuesday, February 22nd. Please let us know you will be coming, as we will be shown the facilities of the Home and served lunch, so the number of "guests" needs to be given them beforehand. Please give Ginny or Bev a call.

## Looking ahead to summer ... (Janice Fitzpatrick)

The Sunday Services Committee will meet Sunday, February 27, after the second service (12:45ish). The meeting will be held in the Matisse Room, top of the stairs on the 2nd floor of Hollin Hall. Feel free to bring your lunch. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss summer services. All with ideas for a summer service are welcome to attend. Call or email **Janice Fitzpatrick** if you cannot attend the meeting, but have something in mind for an MVUC summer church service.

## Come dance with us ... (Friday Nighters Dancing Club)

As you have welcomed us to your Church we also welcome you to join our Dances from 9:00 to midnight on the second Friday of each month from September through June. We have a band "The Family" providing the music for fox-trot, waltz, swing and various Latin dances--samba, cha-cha, rhumba etc. The dress code is coat and tie preferred except for theme dances such as Hawaiian or Halloween themes. Come and join neighbors and friends for monthly social dance to live music and bring your favorite dance partner. Admission is \$12.50 per guest per dance. For more information or to make reservations contact Deborah Anderson at 703-791-6527 or e-mail [deeborah@yahoo.com](mailto:deeborah@yahoo.com).

## Volunteers needed (Karna Schwimmer)

Help! Volunteers are needed to prepare coffee and refreshments for both Sunday morning coffee hours, and to clean up afterwards. Call **Karna Schwimmer**.

## The Job Market

**Babysitter needed** for 2 afternoons or mornings a week for 2 small children. If interested, call **Judy or Carl Lohmann**.

**Church Administrator for Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville**; good people skills, well organized, detail oriented; supervise support staff and volunteers, manage facility; proficient in Windows XP, Microsoft Office, familiar w/data bases. Send resume to Church Administrator, Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

## UU Niagara Experience July 17-20, 2005

If you have ever wanted to visit Niagara Falls or if it is already one of your favorite places, this is a chance to experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while in the company of UUs from around the country. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural wonders around the Falls.

For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/> Email : [info@uunex.net](mailto:info@uunex.net) Telephone: (716) 791-4453

(Editor's note: for a firsthand account of this fun experience, talk to **Al and Eleanor Erickson!**)

## Upcoming Events, on and off the Hill

### February:

18, 7:30 pm	Movie night: "Waking Life" (2001)	Meeting House Commons
22, 10:30 am	<i>WisdomYears</i>	<i>Paul Spring Retirement Home</i>
23, 7:30 pm	" <i>Racism Today</i> "	<i>UU Church of Rockville</i>
26, 9:30 am	<i>JPD Music and Worship Arts Festival: "Singing Outside the Box"</i>	<i>UU Church of Cherry Hill, NJ</i>
26, 10 am	<i>UUSJ Advocacy Training</i>	<i>Silver Spring UU</i>
26, 5:30 pm	Little Persons' Night Out	Remington Chapel
27, 12:45 pm	Sunday Services Committee	Matisse Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Hollin Hall

### March:

1, 11:45 am	Good Companions: Ron Brandt	Hollin Hall
4-6	National Leadership Gathering	Washington, DC
6, time tba	Canvass Dinner	Meeting House
9, 7:30 pm	" <i>Islam in America</i> "	<i>UU Church of Rockville</i>
11, 9 pm	Friday Nighters Dancing Club	Remington Chapel
15, 11:45 am	Good Companions: Tom Hirshfeld	Remington Chapel

## Good Companions (Bev Southerland and Elaine Bronez)

**11:45 to 12:45 - BYO lunch; program - 12:45 to 1:45 in Hollin Hall**

**MARCH 1 - RON BRANDT - OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS I HAVE MET**

As an editor of a widely read educational journal, Ron Brandt met a number of fascinating people who tried to reform education — and mostly failed. He will talk about the interesting ideas that these people developed.

Ron has been in MVUC since 1978, serving two terms as chair of the board. He enjoys most singing in the choir.

**MARCH 15 - TOM HIRSCHFELD: ABOUT U.S. INTELLIGENCE REFORM.**

**Note: We will meet in the chapel because of preparations for the Book Sale.**

Tom will explain what problems there are in the job of trying to improve intelligence. He will help us understand why this is so complex to accomplish.

Tom retired from the foreign service and then was an arms control negotiator with the Soviet Union. He has been a member of MVUC since 1977 and lives in Hollin Hills.

## JPD news

### Singing Outside the Box- February 26

The fourth annual JPD Music and Worship Arts Festival will be held February 26, 2005, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Cherry Hill, NJ, from 9:30 am to 4 pm. This conference is for all Unitarian Universalists interested in UU musical and worship activities. Come share, learn new ideas for music and worship in your church, and meet your JPD neighbors! We will gather at 9 am for coffee, conversation, and registration, and start with worship at 9:30.

Because the advance registration date, February 15, has passed, we cannot guarantee music or lunch. Late registration cost is \$30. (MVUC: A flyer, including registration form, is posted on the bulletin board.)

### JPD Spring Conference April 8-9

Attention Graduating Seniors and Parents: New programming for Bridgers announced to supplement the JPD's annual Bridging Ceremony!

Attention Young Adults ages 18-35: Learn and grow with workshops on all aspects of UU life, from young adult ministry and church membership to social change and "generational personality." Discounted Young Adult registration fee offered.

All this and more at the Joseph Priestley District 2005 Spring Conference!

Faith Development: A Life-Long Journey

April 8-9, 2005 - King of Prussia, PA

To view the full program and register, visit [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org) or call the JPD office at (800) 351-6637.

## Caring Community (Betsy Stephens)

We send **Jes Foster** our wishes for a speedy recovery.

**Sunday Worship Themes:**

February 20: *Is God a Verb?*  
 February 27 *Finding the R in YRUU*  
 March 6 *A Culture of Generosity*  
 March 13 *We're All Environmentalists Now*

**Services in Remington Chapel. 9:30 and 11:15 am**

Stephen Phinney  
 YRUU Class  
 Rev. Louis V. Schwebius  
 John Passacantando, Executive Director, Greenpeace USA

**Serving Our Congregation****Board of Trustees**

Karen Tyson, Chair '06     Joanne Masterson, Vice-chair '07  
 Doug MacCleery, Secretary '04  
 Nance Cedar, '06     Jack Hinman '05  
 Hal Holtzclaw '07     Eben Kuhns, '05  
 Jane Nelson, '07     Ric Sears '06

**Program Council** (Ric Sears, Convener)

Sally Joy Remington, *Our Home Community*     Carolyn Slenska, *Worship*  
 Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, *Our Larger World*     Becky Brandt, *Property*  
 Linda Walton, *Religious Education*     Tony Barkume, *Administration*

The Reverend Louis V. Schwebius, **Minister**

Barbara Gay Stoddard, **Interim Director of Religious Education**

Dr. Lisa Billingham, **Director of Music**

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*for more information on these and other activities, please check the bulletin boards*

**Beyond the Hill ...****Racism discussion at Rockville UU, February 23**

RACISM TODAY, a forum for discussion of the current state of racism in Montgomery County, will be led by Mary Betters, civil rights activist and co-chair of the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee on Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Open to all. 301-762-7666 or [www.uucr.org](http://www.uucr.org).

**UUSJ Advocacy training**

Due to inclement weather on January 22 the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice/ Unitarian Universalist Association Washington Office (UUSJ/UUAWO) advocacy training, "Claiming Our Power, Speaking Our Truth" has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 26, 2005 10:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the UU Church of Silver Spring. New registrations and cancellations of previous registrations are being taken. Contact [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951.

**The National Leadership Gathering -- Washington, DC, March 4, 5, 6**

JOIN hundreds of activists from around the nation; RECEIVE expert training in fundraising, media, the internet; FORMULATE strategy on important public policy issues; DISCUSS vital election-year issues, central to religious liberty and a healthy democracy; PLAN interfaith efforts to promote a healthy role for religion in public life. Open to the public and all members, activists and supporters of TIA. Contact [jdavis@interfaithalliance.org](mailto:jdavis@interfaithalliance.org) (<mailto:jdavis@interfaithalliance.org>) for more information.

**"Islam in America" - March 9**

Laurie Jaghlit, a member of the Islamic community of Virginia, a high school teacher and a social justice activist, will speak on the basic beliefs of Islam and her own experiences as an Islamic American on Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Open to all. 301-762-7666 or [www.uucr.org](http://www.uucr.org).

**Save the date: April 23**

UUSJ is organizing a "Social Justice Pilgrimage" on April 23, from 9:00 to 4:30, at All Souls Church in the District of Columbia. Get energized and see how to transform UU principles into action — and transform yourself in the process. Included in the Pilgrimage: special worship, good speakers, music, a bus tour organized by UUAHC and Beacon House, meditation . . . For more information, check the UUSJ Web site and/or ask your church's UUSJ Board representative.