



Stirrings From Windmill Hill

News and Notes from Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

October 16, 2005

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Editor: Mimi Stevens (newsletters@mvuc.org)

The Board in brief (Doug MacCleery)

At our regular meeting on October 5, the Board approved an addition to the MVUC gifts policy which, among other things, laid out the funds and specific projects for which gifts may be accepted. The Board also approved an updated charter for the RE Council.

Ron Brandt reviewed two reports sent to the Board by the Construction Task Force (CTF), one updating the Board on the activities of the CTF and the other making recommendations for resolving issues that have arisen between MVUC and the Fort Hunt Preschool (FHPS). The Board requested that the CTF would provide an estimate of the additional costs to MVUC for safety measures that would be expected to result from the operation of FHPS during construction of the Meeting House. The Board also decided to seek a legal review of the potential risk to MVUC associated with continued operation of FHPS during construction activities.

The Board received and discussed reports from the Director of Religious Education, the Business Administrator and the Treasurer.

For details, see the minutes, which will be posted in the Commons and on our website after approval at our next Board meeting.

From the Treasurer ... (Al Erickson)

| The September 30, 2005, financial report shows: | September | Fiscal Year to date | Budgeted |
|---|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| INCOME | \$36,103 | \$ 93,697 | \$483,810 |
| EXPENSES | \$39,497 | \$115,155 | \$483,810 |

... and from the Assistant Treasurer (Joan Wamsley)

Book Sale report (as of Sept 30): The final number is not in because a big box of change had not been rolled and deposited yet. However, we know that income from the Fall Book Sale will be over \$8,800. Many thanks to all who helped and to those who bought books. Our leftovers from the Mansion are going to BEL Center, the hospital, Salvation Army, Sherwood Library, Martha Washington Library, Kings Park Library, and Beatley Library. If you have suggestions for other places to donate our nice leftovers, please contact Joan Wamsley.

RE activities (Barbara Gay Stoddard)

Sunday Morning Happenings:

3 & 4 year olds: Oct. 16: Each Tree is Special; Oct. 23: We Must Care for Trees; Oct. 30: Monsters Can Be Nice! **plus** UNICEF Carnival after each class; Nov. 6: Cooperation Means Helping Each Other; Nov. 13: People of All Colors Are Important.

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade: Oct. 16: Sukkot; Oct. 23: Chapel with **Kathi McNeil** – All About Wicca; Oct. 30: The Torah, **plus** UNICEF Carnival after each class; Nov. 6: The Story of Muhammad; Nov. 13: The Five Pillars of Islam.

Grades 4 & 5: Oct. 16: Arabic & Islamic Art; Oct. 23: Chapel with **Kathi McNeil** – All About Wicca; Oct. 30: Preparing for Haj **plus** UNICEF Carnival after each class; Nov. 6: Haj to Mecca; Nov. 13: Visit with a Muslim.

Jr. Youth: (Grades 6-8) 9:30 am & 11:15 am

YRUU: (Grades 9-12) 11:15 am only

Sunday Afternoons

COA – Mentor Mixer – Sunday, Oct. 16, 5-7 pm

OWL – (Grades 10 – 12) Parent Orientation – Sunday, Oct. 30, 4-6 pm – Classes begin Nov. 6, 4-6 pm.

COA – class – Sunday, Nov. 6, 4-6 pm

COA – River Rafting Trip - Sunday, Nov. 13, 12:30-?

COA – Mentor Orientation – Sunday, Nov. 13, 12:30-2:30 pm

EMPTY BOWLS – Sunday, Nov. 13, 3-5 pm

Special Events

COA – Overnight Retreat at Murray Grove – Friday, Oct. 21-Sat. Oct. 22.

Family Halloween Party: Friday, Oct. 28, 6:30-8:30 pm. Wear costumes, play games, eat. Check out flyer in mail and in this newsletter.

Adult RE Happenings

Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 7:00 pm, Hollin Hall Dining Room: Resident Theologians

Oct. 16, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, 10:30-11:15 am, Carriage House: UU Principles in Current Events

Oct. 21, Nov. 13, 7:30 pm, Commons: Movie Night – **Oct. 21: *The Corporation*, Nov. 13: *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price***

Oct. 22, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Commons: Introduction to Unitarian Universalism

Oct. 27, 7:00-9:00 pm, Matisse Room: Book Discussion Group

Special collection October 16

On Sunday, October 16, there will be a special second collection for the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund. If you will not be there and wish to contribute, checks may be sent to the church.

More activities for October 16 ...

October 16 is the day to rejoice in MVUC's beautiful grounds — and to do something about it! At 1 pm we will have the dedication of the newly restored garden gates, and from 12-3 pm we will have the Fall Workenanny. Please help maintain the church grounds. Bring clippers, pruners, and gloves if you have them. Wear old clothes to church. No special skills are needed. Sign up sheets are in the Commons. See you there! Questions? See/call: **Alvin Macomber** or **Wendy Burns**.

Wisdom Years October 25 (Bev Southerland)

Our speakers come to us from the Memorial Society of Northern Virginia. Kathy Birnbaum and Warren Yates, Board members, will bring us up to date on the latest information concerning the Memorial Society, Advance Directives, and how to choose funeral homes, along with other information. We meet from 10 till noon in Hollin Hall. Join us!

The holidays are coming! (Lisa Gillispie)

Once again the Partner Church will be offering its Alternative Gifts program to benefit our village school in Szentháromság, Romania. If you need to buy a gift for a special someone, who has everything, is hard to buy for or you want to honor a special person, such as a teacher or family member, Alternative Gifts are a great choice. You choose the amount to give, which will enable the school to buy much-needed books, supplies and furniture, and we supply a beautiful gift card to share with the recipient. Last year we raised over \$2000, which has been used to pay for the school's internet fees, and most importantly, in the project to install running water and toilets in the school. Look for our table at Holiday Shop and in the Commons after services beginning mid-November.

Come dance with our International Folk Dancers (Pat and Ken Krogh)

Come be Zorba the Greek once a week! Celebrate Oktoberfest every month of the year! Rediscover the joys of a waltz or a polka! The Mount Vernon International Folk Dancers do it all every Thursday night in the Chapel from 8 to 10. We have a new director, Patricia Williams, a long-term Unitarian Universalist who is an accomplished instructor in dances from Greece, Israel, Croatia, Bulgaria, France, Mexico, England and a dozen other countries. Basic teaching will be from 8 to 8:30 pm, followed by requests, walk-throughs, and advanced instruction. Dances include line, square, circle, contra, set and solo. Steps incorporated include the waltz, buzz, yemenite, two-step, mixed-pickles and do-si-so. Partner and non-partner dances are performed. Sessions end at 10 pm. Suggested contributions of \$2.50 go to United Community Ministries. For information, call **Pat** or **Ken Krogh**.



Caring Community (Betsy Stephens)

We continue to extend our good thoughts to **Jes Foster** for recovery of several illnesses. She looks forward to a visit together of all her children. Our good wishes also extend to **Larry Jackley** as he continues treatments.

We extend best wishes to **Marguerite Murray** in her recovery from hip surgery. Marguerite is a charter member of the Cedar Lane UU Church and now attends MVUC. She has moved from Garrett Park to her apartment at her daughter's home in the Mount Vernon area.

Suzanne Hall died on September 19 from complications for treatment of cancer. An informal Memorial Service was held at Suzanne's home on October 8.

Sign up for Holiday Shop (Janice Fitzpatrick)

OCTOBER!! November 19 and Holiday Shop will be here soon! Volunteering the week before and the day of Holiday Shop is a great way to get to know others in the MVUC community and become part of that community. There are many ways to help; check out the sign-up sheets which are available in the Commons every Sunday, or call **Janice Fitzpatrick**.

MVUC History at the Book Nook (Steve Phinney)

Now is a great time to explore MVUC's history. We have much to celebrate in all that has happened in fifty years. To support this, we have republished the late **Lucy Phinney's** book, *A History of a Name and a Place: The story of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church and Hollin Hall*. Copies are available in the Book Nook. This is a good chance to find out all about Hollin Hall and the gardens. There are stories about what went on and who did it. Stop in the Book Nook.

Upcoming Events, on and off the Hill

October:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 16, after services | Workenanny | MVUC grounds |
| 16, 1 pm | Dedication of Garden Gates | MVUC garden |
| 16, 3 pm | Tom Teasley Concert for BEL Center | Remington Chapel |
| 18, 11:45 am | Good Companions: Al Kramer | Hollin Hall |
| 23, 10:10 am | <i>Forum: UU Ministry for the Earth</i> | Cedar Lane UU Church |
| 23, 12:45 pm | <i>Lunch meeting on Renewable Energy</i> | UU Church of Arlington |
| 25, 10 am | Wisdom Years | Hollin Hall |
| 27, 7 pm | Book Group | Hollin Hall Matisse Room |
| 28, 6:30 pm | Family Halloween Party | Meeting House Commons |
| 29, 11 am and 1 pm | UUSJ: "Energy Rekindled" Workshops | Cedar Lane UU Church |

November:

| | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1, 11:45 am | Good Companions: "Remembering the Forties" | Hollin Hall |
| 4, 7:30 pm | <i>Movie: "Tying the Knot"</i> | Rockville UU Church |
| 4, 7 pm | Workshop: "Melting the ice in the heart of man" | Remington Chapel |
| 5, 9 am | "Melting the ice ..." continues | Chapel |
| 5, 2 pm | <i>Dr. Richard Gilbert: "Was Robin Hood Right?"</i> | Cedar Lane UU Church |
| 5, 7:15 pm | <i>Play: Fundraiser for minority scholarships</i> | River Road UU Church |
| 6, 6 am | <i>Sunrise service</i> | Frog Pond Early Learning Center |
| 6, 8 am | "Melting the ice ..." continues | Huntley Meadows Nature Center |
| 11, 8:30 pm | Friday Nighters Dancing Club | Remington Chapel |
| 13, 3-5 pm | Empty Bowls Project | Carriage House |

Good Companions

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

OCTOBER 18: "Escaping the Nazis - Twice"

Al Kramer's story was told us long ago, but it was so dramatic we twisted his arm and asked him to tell it again. After years of danger in Austria and France, he finally came to America in 1941 and got a job as a diamond cutter. In 1943 he was drafted into the U.S. Army. You must come to hear the exciting details.

NOVEMBER 1: "Remembering the Forties"

The series continues as **Diana Macomber** tells about "Growing Up in Exmoor, England" and **Addy Krezak** adds her story, "A Childhood in London, Evacuated to Oxford."

Good Companions will not meet November 15, making way for Holiday Shop preparations.

For information, call **Elaine Bronez**.

Partner Church scholarships (Lisa Gillispie)

If you have been a scholarship sponsor last year, you should have received a letter from Janice Fitzpatrick, with information and a picture of your student and his or her family. If you are new to our program, MVUC members sponsor individual students in our partner church village, Szentháromság, so that they can attend high school, technical or trade school, or university. There will be a number of new students who will need sponsors if you are interested. Sponsorships are available to meet the needs of varying financial situations, so there are many ways to help. Please contact **Janice Fitzpatrick** or **Lisa Gillispie** for more information.

Melting the ice in the heart of man (Pam Tinker)

A three-day intensive workshop with Angaangaq will be held at MVUC and nearby on November 4-6, 2005.

Angaangaq, whose name means "The Man Who Looks Like His Uncle", is an internationally recognized Eskimo-Kalaallit Elder from Greenland who currently resides in Ottawa, Canada.

It is not often that we have a person of his knowledge, skills, background, wisdom and diversity regarding the environment, climatic changes, global warming, spirituality and indigenous people's issues visiting within our community. He has traveled all over the world, spoken before governments, politicians and United Nations councils.

He is founder of Sirmiq Aattuq, which is specifically dedicated to melting the ice in the heart of man through lifting the spirit of man above the present to look with eyes of faith into the future. Sirmiq Aattuq is dedicated to teaching people of the Earth how to live in harmony with each other so that they may live with faith in themselves and each other, and look to the future with hope.

Come share in the teachings with Angaangaq at MVUC. For more information contact **Pam Tinker** or info@icewisdom.com

Sunday Worship Themes:

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Oct. 16 | <i>Spiritual but not Religious</i> |
| Oct 23 | <i>Can UUs Attain Salvation?</i> |
| Oct. 30 | <i>Going Beneath the Mask</i> |
| Nov. 6 | <i>Encountering Islam: Ramadan</i> |
| Nov. 13 | <i>The "Yes" Behind the "No"</i> |

Services in Remington Chapel, 9:30 and 11:15 am

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|-------------------------|
| Rev. Louis V. Schwebius |
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| Rev. Louis V. Schwebius |

Serving Our Congregation**Board of Trustees**

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Program Council

(Jane Nelson, Convener)

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Sally Joy Remington, <i>Our Home Community</i> | Meg Clontz, <i>Worship</i> |
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The Reverend Louis V. Schwebius, **Minister**Barbara Gay Stoddard, **Interim Director of Religious Education**Michael O'Brien, **Director of Music****Mt. Vernon****Unitarian Church**1909 Windmill Lane
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*for more information on these and other activities, please check the bulletin boards***Beyond the Hill ...****Renewable Energy**

On **October 23** there will be a Forum on the UU Ministry for Earth & GWIPL with Rabbi Daniel Swartz at **Cedar Lane UU Church**, beginning at 10:10 am. There is no fee or registration for this event. On the same date, **October 23**, there will be a luncheon and talk with Rabbi Schwartz at the **UU Church of Arlington** at 12:45. There is a \$10 fee for this event. Reservations may be made with Ldely@yahoo.com. On **October 29** at the UUSJ program, "Energy Rekindled," Rabbi Schwartz will give a workshop at 1 pm entitled "From Just Us to Justice: Deepening Congregational Involvement in Addressing Global Warming." To register for just the workshop, contact edbutterworth@yahoo.com. There will also be a workshop at 11 am with the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill, followed by lunch. To register for the entire UUSJ program, "Energy Rekindled," see the UUSJ website, www.uusj.org.

First Friday Freedom Films at Rockville UU

Friday, November 4, 7:30 PM: *Tying the Knot*, a documentary by Jim Seve. What is it like to have a life partner that you can't marry? What are the consequences of being barred from having the legal rights that married couples have? This film follows the stories of a lesbian couple from Florida, both police officers, and a gay couple from Nebraska, farmers, who are denied the rights that heterosexual couples take for granted. 100 Welsh Park Drive, off Manakee, near Main Campus, Montgomery College. Call 301-762-7666 for information. No charge for admission.

Dr. Richard Gilbert to lecture on Economic Justice at Cedar Lane

On Saturday afternoon, November 5, at 2 pm at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, MD, the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert will speak about the growing gap between rich and poor in the U.S. In a lecture entitled "Was Robin Hood Right? Ethics and Economic Justice in America Today," Gilbert will explore the moral implications of extreme disparities in wealth and income, and will suggest ways of sharing resources more equitably. The lecture is open to the public, but advance registration is encouraged. Adult admission is \$10; students free. To register, call the church at 301-493-8300, or visit www.cedarlane.org.

Minority Scholarship Fundraiser: "1001 Black Inventions"

Saturday, November 5, 7:15 pm, River Road Unitarian Church's Racial Justice Task Force welcomes Pin Points Theatre for a performance of their play "1001 Black Inventions," an educational comedy for all ages, now in its 16th touring season. This play features the lives of African and African American inventors, showing the audience how their genius impacts all of us – every day! Since 1990, RRUC's Minority Scholarship Fund has provided college scholarships to minority students who otherwise might not be able to afford to pay for higher education. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., performance begins at 7:15 p.m., at 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD. Reception to follow. Child care provided. Adults, \$25, youth \$10. Family \$60. Call Shirley Caminer (301) 871-8066.