



Odyssey December 2009

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe:

I see that Ken, in his article for this newsletter, said he dreamed of universal love as a grandmother. I have fond memories of my own maternal grandmother. I spent many overnights at her house as a young girl, awakened by the smell of coffee brewing in an old fashioned percolator. Grandma told me thunder was just the angels bowling. She encouraged me to teach the first grade Sunday school class when I was a teenager. She taught me to drive. My first job was working at the sandwich and ice cream shop where she was the night manager. She was there at my college graduation. My father and another man carried her up the steps of the chapel at Albright College in her wheel chair to see me ordained. In her later years I would feed her pureed food from a spoon in a nursing home. She has been gone many years now, but I would not be who I am today if she had not been a part of my life.

"Over the river and through the woods, to grandmother's house we go." I know that for many parents trips to grandmother's or grandfather's house are actually quite stressful, but such trips can be a blessing to your children. Once when I was afraid an ex-boyfriend would hurt me and my parents weren't home, I fled to Grandma's house. My extended family is not perfect. There has been divorce, violence, addiction and secrets, but I would not give up knowing and having known, great grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, second cousins, great aunts, great uncles, and on and on. And I knew them because I saw them at holidays.

So make that obligatory visit this Hanukkah, Christmas or New Year. Your mother, your aunt, your grandma, your uncle, your father, your son, your daughter may not really embody universal love. At times this holiday season you may think your family members embody the opposite of love. But somehow, for most of us, even in the midst of dysfunction, some love and care survive. For that it is good to be thankful.

Happy Hanukah!

Good Solstice!
Merry Christmas!
A Good Kwanzaa!
Happy New Year!
Blessed Be,
Cyn

Mystic Journeys - Ken Shilling

The spiritual journey is both inward and outward. We all need a supportive community to assist us on our journeys. In trying times, in the dark night, in a world upside down, we need a sacred place for getting through the storm.

Chaos can surround us at any age. The dream of universal grandmother is vivid now as when I first dreamed it at age 4. I did not understand the family arguments, nor did I understand death, nor torrential storms. I yearned for unconditional acceptance, for universal love - the love of a grandmother.

We have many special needs like parents concerned about the growth of their children and spouses trying out and being overwhelmed by new jobs. Vibrant individuals slowed down and mired by health issues. Successful people navigating midlife crisis when we lose confidence in our normal strengths and are bewildered by new impulses of life. Departure or separation from loved ones that leave us empty. At times like these, we do not want to be alone, and we need support and acceptance from our community.

Community can be empowering. I first visited the "Bowie Fellowship" 25 years ago when there were 12 people. We talked about advertising, and worship, and religious education. I was filled with an enthusiasm of abundance. "Yes, we can". Many times since then, I have drawn from our community to sustain me through dark nights.

Building community takes long term commitment.

We wanted religious education and had to start a brand new program. One mother asked, "Will my daughter be the only child?" "No", I answered. The mother brought her daughter and she was the only child in the program for a year. The next year, there were 5 or 6 children, and then 20.

Entering in community brings us in contact with a diversity of living expression. We honor our military veterans and seek ways for peace. We are a mixture of interfaith, ethnic, cultural, economic, and political views. There are many ways that we can feel alone, or excited with new possibilities. In my living, Grandmother reminds me to accept everyone of you and offer you the enthusiasm of abundance.

Some seek a 'coffee house' that provides low cost entertainment. Others seek a Conservative Forum for UU's (check it out on Facebook). Some enjoy being with their partner in a safe and accepting congregation. Others seek UUs who look like them, or who worship in Spanish. And to you, I say "Yes, we can".

It will take time. We may make mistakes. Yet, in beloved community, we can grow new programs and those new programs will attract others. I don't know how it will happen. I do know when we were having fun, others felt our enthusiasm and found their place in our community.

It is our choice to be together in community. Each new person brings new possibilities in beloved community. We have done it before, and we will do it again. Blessed Be.

Another UU congregation is standing up against hate by raising money for GLAAD. Here is an opportunity to join with other UUs to make a stand against hatred.

Ken Shilling

Sunday Service Topics

December 6 Why Dying is a Good Thing Rev. Snavely: Some imagine a day when we will not need to die but can remain forever, perhaps in some bodiless mind only state. I would not want death to be no more. Death clears away the old so that the new

may come. Death as well as birth can be a good thing.

Dec 13 Israel and Palestine Rev. Snavely:

In this season of Hanukkah I reflect on two peoples and one land. Hanukkah celebrates a military victory but the miracle of light may show a way to peace.

Dec 20 Holiday Choir Service

Dec 27 Kwanzaa Tisha Richardson, Alexis Flanagan and Worship Associates.

January 3 The Road Less Traveled Louisa Davidson and Worship Associates
On choices past and present

Christmas Eve

A Christmas eve service will be held at 7:30pm on December 24. The theme will be "Christmas-- a time to see the good in all, even the villain." If you or your child would like to offer a musical selection as part of the service, please contact Rev. Snavely at 240-475-2111 or CSnavely@uuma.org. Bring your visiting family and friends, and please bring some cookies to share with the congregation at the end of the service.

Goodloe Board Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2009

Present: Ken Shilling, Rev. Cyn Snavely, Roger Davidson, Jill York, Joe Puccio, Jackie Lord, and Laird Towle.

Invocation: The meeting was called to order about 7:35 after a reading by Rev. Cyn.

Business:

- 1) Roger was appointed timekeeper for the meeting.
- 2) The Minutes of the October Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
- 3) Because of a small profit made at the Goodloe celebration events, and other contributions, we have more than the necessary funds in the Goodloe Scholarship account to cover this year's contribution (due to be paid in December).
- 4) The various functions of the Membership Committee were discussed at length. Several

corrections to Jackie's organizational chart were made. George Schulman was appointed Chairman of the committee; his specific responsibilities remain to be determined following an organizational meeting of the committee.

5) The periods Jan/Feb 2011 and Jul/Aug 2011 were approved for the Minister's sabbatical. Karen Scrivo, Louisa Davidson, Roger Davidson, and Dick Morris were appointed an interim Sabbatical Committee to begin making plans.

6) The functions of the Committee on Ministry were discussed at length. The following were appointed to the committee: Jill York, Chairman (Board rep.), Nita Daves (RE rep.), Lorraine Webb (Worship rep), and Louisa Davidson (Cong. Rep.). Jill is organizing a congregational survey. Ken will prepare a charge for the committee for insertion into the Policy Manual.

7) Ken reported that he had talked with the Chairman of the RE Committee at length regarding recent losses of committee members, teachers, and students. He is satisfied that these were unique events, and not symptomatic of a continuing problem. He does not see any need for Board action at present.

8) Youth Ministry at Goodloe was discussed briefly. The fact that we only have three teens limits the possibilities. It was pointed out that they might play a more active role in the services by doing readings, handling the collections, and presenting the children's story time.

9) Based on a comparison of the duties of various committees as recorded in the Policy Manual and the Organizational Chart prepared by Jackie last spring, Ken made several suggestions for refinements to the chart. Laird was requested to get the Inclement Weather policy published in the Odyssey in December.

10) Leadership development was discussed briefly. It appears that we have four members of the congregation who are interested in taking the Healthy Congregations course, and that the necessary funding is also available.

11) Possible fund raisers were discussed at length. It was decided to participate in the community yard sale at the Baysox Stadium in the spring. Joe Puccio will do some initial organizing, but we need to find a specific person to lead the event.

12) The State of the Congregation was discussed at

length. There was general agreement that we frequently have vibrant worship services. Board members spoke at length about how many former members/attendees had just drifted away, and our general lack of a sense of community. It was proposed that we specifically invite some of these folks to an Old Friends Sunday on January 10th. Cyn will prepare a proposal for the service, and after it has been approved by the Board, it will be handed over to George Schulman; Joe and Ken also have an interest in this project. Another idea was that we adopt a family for Thanksgiving. An attempt was made to interest Tom Brenner in this project as he was leaving the building, but he didn't appear to take the bait. It was also pointed out that some on-going community project in which the whole congregation had a role would help build a sense of community. Our lack of an energetic Social Action Committee may be a major factor contributing to our ennui.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 9:20

**Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary,
November, 2009**

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Please remember to keep a Guest at Your Table box on your table this holiday season. As you enjoy a meal place something in the box to share with others. When you return the filled box after the new year, we will send the collected money to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Read some stories of hope here
http://www.uusc.org/files/guest_StoriesofHope2009.pdf

"The following list illustrates the many ways in which UUSC translates support from our donors, during Guest at Your Table, into tangible projects to advance human rights.

- **\$30** pays for part of a multilingual brochure for Boston residents about the [Color of Water campaign](#), which aims to adopt a human right to water in Boston, Mass.
- **\$40** buys materials for a woman in Northern Uganda to make her own groundnut sheller. A groundnut sheller helps to reduce women's workload and generate needed income for families, as residents return home after more than 20 years of war.

- **\$65** pays for a small business loan for a displaced woman in Kenya. Kakamega Grassroots Initiative organizes women displaced by the 2008 electoral violence into groups of 20 and provides them with training and small business loans. There is a very high rate of repayment and the first group of recipients is now on their second loan.
- **\$66** pays for door-to-door campaigning in Soweto, South Africa, to educate people about their human right to water — as guaranteed by their constitution — and helps to carry out inspections by residents of municipal water services." www.uusc.org

2. People are reminded to turn off their cell phones before service starts.
3. Announcements made on Sunday are for the benefit of all Goodloe members and friends. Announcements are meant to inform about dates or information regarding all church or district wide events. It is not the time to announce personal services or products even if one thinks that his/her offering is consistent with UU values.

What's Happening in our Religious Education Classes?

We're On Our Way-- First through Fifth Grades

In our first through fifth grades class we are exploring how we are different from each other and what our relationship with those differences are and accepting them. These lessons are based on the third UU Principle in which we are advised to accept one another and keep on learning together. The curriculum we are using is called "We're On Our Way". This is an anti-oppression, multi-cultural values program for first through fifth grade UUs written by Dawn Star Borchelt, a local religious educator and director of religious education. In our class this autumn, we have been discovering ways in which we are different from each other, including our abilities (where we tried writing our names looking at a mirror only to experience fine motor exceptionalities), our bodies and physical traits, and our families (including gay, straight,). We have learned that there are many ways in which we can be and are different from each other. Learning about these differences and accepting them and each other can help us to grow.

In December we will explore how to relate to these differences in our lives- to distinguish between the things we can change, and cannot change, which things time can change, how to accept all people but not all behaviors and through all this learn how to be fair to one another.

—
Kimberly Spencer, teacher first through fifth grade class

Peace-making Skills for Little Kids --PreK-Kindergarten

Five things Anna misses about Goodloe:

1. Working in the nursery (Hello to Finn and Henry!)
2. Bread Service (all that lovely, delicious, bread)
3. Pot Luck Sundays (all the wonderful homemade goodies)
4. Services. Was often able to connect herself to the message even if the topic didn't obviously relate to her. Favorite sermon: Rev. Snavely's sermon about how you should not let fear define you. Was inspired to write a poem about that after the service.
5. People who have known you since you were a little child and have watched you grow up. Love the feeling of a church community.

Anna Pietras
Freshman, University of Mary Washington,
Fredericksburg, VA

Announcements:

1. Remember to fill out the annual Goodloe survey. Blank surveys are available on the table in the social hall. Partially filled out surveys are accepted. All surveys are anonymous. Your feedback and comments are needed.--Thank you. The Worship Committee.

The PreK/Kindergarten curriculum is "Peace-making Skills for Little Kids," by Fran Schmidt and Alice Friedman. It is part of the *PeaceWorks* curriculum of the Peace Education Foundation. So far, we have focused on respect for all people and the Earth. A memorable aspect has been using "I-care" words such as "please," "thank you," and "you're welcome." We are also showing that you care when talking with others, by saying, for example: "I just started playing with this toy, but I know you want it, too, so I'll play with it for only five more minutes before you have a turn."

The curriculum advances to talking about feelings and age-appropriate conflict resolution techniques. We enjoy reading picture books that help us discuss the concepts we are learning. Concepts are also reinforced through art work and small hands on projects. We enjoy good conversation while they work.

As the teacher, I am enjoying the curriculum's content and guidance in preparing for class. Since many of the children don't attend every Sunday, we try to review major concepts as we discuss new ones. I love listening closely to each child and getting a glimpse into how he or she sees things. Sometimes, it is clear I have been able to plant an idea that helps them see the world in a new way and that I hope will aid them as they navigate through it in the future.

---- Sid Soderholm, teacher PreK/K

An Unholy Trinity – Part V

In the previous installments of this commentary we saw that the world is teetering on the brink of three major crises: 1) Resource Depletion; 2) Climate Change; and 3) Economic Collapse. We now turn to discuss a possible way out.

A Tentative Plan

Our long term goal is to rebuild human civilization in such a way that the population is sustainable indefinitely in a steady-state condition, with a comfortable standard of living based on resources that are wholly recycled and reusable indefinitely. We

recognize at the outset that, when we are close to or beyond the carrying capacity of the planet (as we are now), the population and standard of living are inversely related. In other words, the planet can support a larger population at a lower standard of living, and vice versa, and that an appropriate balance must be struck. Not knowing exactly where we want to be, or how to get there from where we are, we need to start with a more modest plan that will at least get us headed in the right general direction; then we will have to learn more as we go along.

Since climate change is an imminent threat, we clearly must take immediate action to drastically reduce our CO2 emissions. That means we must stop burning fossil fuels as rapidly as we possibly can. The climate scientists tell us we have only about ten years to accomplish this massive transition. Since we want to maintain something close to our current standard of living if possible, we will need to substitute some combination of green energy sources for the fossil fuels we are currently burning. By a green energy source I mean one which does not emit greenhouse gases during its normal operation. We need to recognize at the outset that this transition may require some reduction in our material standard of living because manufacturing and maintaining the green energy sources will probably entail the production of some greenhouse emissions or other wastes which we will have to compensate for.

If it turns out that we can transition from fossil fuels to green fuels faster than is required to meet the climate crisis (which seems highly unlikely), we should still make the transition as rapidly as possible anyway in order to save the fossil fuels for later high-value uses, such as making fertilizers or pharmaceuticals, for example. To burn a fossil fuel simply to generate heat is a terrible waste of a precious resource.

At the same time we should initiate such actions as will slow down the growth in population and eventually turn it around in order to reach a sustainable population. Educating and empowering women has proven to be extremely effective in moderating birth rates. Greater equity in wealth distribution would probably be very helpful also. There is a great opening here for innovative adaptations.

Our Alternative Energy Options

The alternative energy sources available that could conceivably provide enough power in the short term to be useful as replacements for the fossil fuels are wind, solar thermal, solar photo voltaic and geothermal. I have listed them in the order in which I think they will be most useful, but that isn't important here. All these sources are solar derived except the geothermal, which utilizes the residual heat stored in the interior of the Earth; while it is not renewable, the Earth is so massive that humankind will probably be extinguished by another meteor impact before this source is depleted significantly!

I have not included nuclear because uranium is not renewable, and ores are being depleted. However, there is a highly efficient type of fourth generation nuclear plant that could be fueled by what we currently consider nuclear waste. These Integrated Fast Reactors offer the prospect of transforming our rapidly accumulating nuclear wastes to a relatively small volume of short-lived radioactive waste. The mass of waste we have already accumulated, and will continue to accumulate for several decades at least, could power such reactors for several centuries, so their use might be a valuable transition option.

In the longer term other types of energy converters may prove feasible, such as ones using the currents, tides, or waves in the oceans which derive their energy ultimately from the sun or the moon. However, our immediate concern must be to implement technology which is ready to install immediately because of the climate crisis.

Potential Problems

The tentative plan described above represents a beginning, but is not without its problems. Several authors have developed plans that show how we can get from our present energy configuration to one based on alternative energy sources, and even do it while avoiding runaway climate change. What remains to be done is to show how it can be accomplished given the constraints imposed by the available materials, energy and finances.

In addition, it is important to realize that building, installing, and maintaining the replacement equipment will require upfront consumption of fossil fuels and "expenditures" of CO₂ and other pollutants. Likewise, the new equipment will wear out and have to be replaced in a generation or two. The sun and wind may be effectively inexhaustible, but the equipment itself is only partially renewable at best.

The amount of energy incident on the earth from the Sun is thousands of times greater than the entire energy budget of humankind, but we should not let that fact lull us into a false sense of security. If we capture more than a tiny fraction of that "excess" energy, we will disrupt the ecology of the planet which is exactly what we are attempting to avoid. On the plus side, the alternative energy sources are distributed around the globe much more uniformly than are the fossil fuels. In particular, more than enough solar energy falls on the US to meet our entire national energy budget, and furthermore, that same budget could be provided by wind turbines scattered around the country in the windier locations.

Among the many questions to be addressed are: 1) can we build equipment that will convert the alternative energy into a useful form, say electricity, with sufficient efficiency to be practical, and 2) can we do it fast enough to avert the approaching disasters? The answers to both these questions are unclear to me.

When it comes to building the necessary equipment we come up against the dilute nature of the energy in sunlight compared to coal or oil; one has to capture a great deal of sunlight to match the energy in a barrel of oil. For example, roughly speaking, the US energy budget could be acquired by covering the entire State of New Mexico (122,000 sq miles) with photovoltaic solar cells, or by placing about 1,000,000 wind turbines around the country, or some combination of the two.

This illustrates the scale of the problem. How long will it take to produce 122,000 sq miles of solar cells and their ancillary equipment? How long will it take to build 1,000,000 wind turbines and the necessary additions to the electrical grid? Then there are installation and maintenance costs. Our current energy needs are being met by only a few thousand

fossil fuel power plants. To build this mass of replacement equipment will require enormous amounts of various natural resources, energy, and money at a time when we are running out of all three. For example, to build and install 122,000 sq miles of solar collectors in the ten years the scientists say we have to stabilize global warming would require us to build and install 33 sq miles per day; is that conceivable? Alternatively, building wind turbines would require that we build and install about 1,400 per day.

Naturally, the rest of the world has to make comparable changes simultaneously if we are to solve the global problems. Is that feasible? Frankly, I am skeptical. **On the other hand – we must try - There is no other choice, and time is running out!**

Laird C. Towle, lairdtowle@aol.com, 24 May 2009

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Dec 5 2:00pm to 5:00pm Washington/Baltimore Gathering of UU People of Color, Ethnic Minorities, and Partners and Spouses at All Souls Church, Unitarian 1500 Harvard St. NW... For directions please visit www.all-souls.org. Joseph Priestly district and DRUUMM National will sponsor this gathering for UUs of Color Minorities in the B/W area to network, communicate, provide mutual support and to inform DRUUMM and the JPD how they can be most supportive in creating a nurturing, safe environment for People of Color, ethnic minorities and their spouses and partners. For more information, or for an RSVP, please contact OM Prakash Gilmore, Director of Racial and Social Justice, Joseph Priestley District at 610-368-2525 or john@jpduua.org. Please RSVP as soon as possible. An early dinner will be served.

Lunch Bunch at Chinese Buffet Collington Shopping Center; 4th Sunday every month. Please join us in a social and informal setting, all you can eat including desserts.\

Reading 615 from *Singing the Living Tradition*

When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To Rebuild the Nations
To bring peace among the brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman.

Reading 630 from *Singing the Living Tradition*

The Feast of Lights

Kindle the taper like the steadfast star
Ablaze on evening's forehead o'er earth,
And add each night a luster till afar
An eightfold splendor shine above thy hearth.
Clash, Israel, the cymbals, touch the lyre,
Blow the brass trumpet and the harsh-tongued horn;
Chant psalms of Victory till the heart take fire,
The Maccabean spirit leap new-born.

Emma Lazarus

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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If you have changed your address, phone, or email,
please let us know at goodloe.memorial@gmail.com
or contact Jackie Lord (301) 249-7713 or Nancy
Choice (301) 805-5345.

Notice: Lorraine Webb Maryland Notary

Lorraine Webb, a certified Maryland Notary,
offers her services, free of charge, to
Goodloe Memorial members and friends. If you
would like to utilize her notary services, contact her:
(301) 218-1516 or llacey33@verizon.net.

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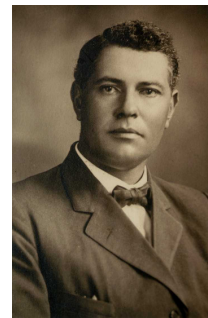
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Goodloe makes 5% to 10% each time you shop.
Contact Deon Merene (240) 678-0262.

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check out line.**

Deadline for Next Odyssey: December 15th, 2009

**Please email submissions to
goodloe.newsletter@gmail.com.**

**Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist
Congregation** is named for Don Speed Smith
Goodloe, first principal of Maryland Normal and
Industrial School, Bowie



December Calendar for Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30 Spanish Group	2 7:30 Choir Practice	3	4 7:30 Drumming from the heart	5
6 10:30 Worship/RE	7	8 7:15 Buddhist Meditation 7:30 Board of Trustees	9 7:30 Choir Practice	10	11	12
13 10:30 Worship/RE 11:30 Potluck 12:45 Worship Associates	14	15 7:30 Spanish Group	16 7:30 Choir Practice	17	18	19 6pm Holiday Party!
20 10:30 Worship/RE	21	22 7:15 Buddhist Meditation Group	23 7:30 Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 10:30 Worship/RE 12pm Chinese Buffet 12:45 Worship Associates	28	29	30 7:30 Choir Practice	31	Jan 1 7:30 Drumming from the heart	

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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 Reverend Cynthia Snavelly
 Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays

