



TJMC Bulletin

Unitarian Universalist

April 2015

In This Issue:

Words of Wikstrom

From The Board

Deeds Not Creeds

Strategy for Success:
Spring Into aUAction!

April Art Show

Virginia Organizing

April Theme: JOY!!!



Come join us!

Religious Education & Worship
Sundays ~ 9:15 & 11:15 am

Worship Services

9:15 and 11:15 AM

Words of Wikstrom

Perfect Joy

In the first congregation I served we tried an experiment once - we began to sing "Spirit of Life" every week. Now, if you've been in our sanctuary some Sunday when we sang it here you have probably noticed that a lot of people are visibly moved by this song. You may be one of those



RevWik



- April 5 **The Rite of Spring**
- April 12 **The Joy of Making An
IMPACT**
- April 19 **For the Beauty of the
Earth**
- April 26 **Joy of Community**

Click [HERE](#) for worship descriptions.

A Life in Faith

Pastoral Visitors Year-Round Program

The Pastoral Visitors Program has been designed to complement the roles of the minister and the CareNet program, in providing a comprehensive ministry of pastoral care. It is a lay ministry of support and hope, offered by trained volunteers who offer a sustained caring presence for those who are members of the TJMC community (and their primary caregivers) who are experiencing crisis or stressful transitions. Contact: pastoral@uucharlottesville.org

NatureSpirit - Second Sundays

Exploring Nature in spirituality. We are an open group, drop-ins are welcome. Check the Weekly Email and the This Sunday insert for updates. For more information: naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org

Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room
meditation@uucharlottesville.org

CareNet Year-Round Program

CareNet is our church's organized

people. And there were a lot of them at First U of Y. (That'd be the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth.)

After we'd been experimenting with this for about a month or so, a group of us were trying to assess how it was going. One person said that she thought it was just too much - too moving, too rich. She said that it was "like having birthday cake every day." Another person responded - a lovely, wise, older woman with a twinkle in her eye - "what's wrong with having birthday cake every day?"

[Read more](#)

From The Board

Social Justice and Public Witness by Sally Taylor

I have never been an activist. I haven't been part of a march for any social justice issue. I am a bench sitter who supports causes silently, sometimes with donations, but rarely with active participation. The one exception to this happened when I was chair of the TJMC Personnel Committee and tried to find a health insurance plan that would allow our Director of Religious Education to include her partner on it.....it couldn't be done in the state of Virginia. I was incensed. I couldn't believe the unfairness of it. I was so angry that I joined Equality Virginia and volunteered to co-chair the Welcoming Congregation Task Force.

We worked hard to educate the congregation and to meet all the criteria to become a certified Welcoming Congregation. We worked equally hard to defeat the constitutional amendment here in Virginia that limited marriage rights to heterosexual couples. I am anxiously awaiting a Supreme Court decision which declares that this amendment is unconstitutional not only in Virginia but everywhere in the United States and makes marriage possible for all gay and lesbian couples. I will rejoice very publicly when that happens....even though according to our congregational decision once gay marriage is legal, it will mean that our "we support marriage rights" banner will have to come down. But still I do not consider myself a social justice activist.

effort to help out with meals, rides, and other assistance for church members. Contact: carenet@uucharlottesville.org

Christian Fellowship

uucf@uucharlottesville.org

UUCF is a welcoming place to explore your spirituality within a liberal Christian context. Gatherings may include, music, sermons, discussion, readings from the Bible, meditation, movement, sharing of joys and sorrows, food and drink, and they always include compassionate fellowship. All are welcome!

Midweek Worship Service

Wednesdays at 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM led by Leia Durland-Jones. This is a simple, contemplative time incorporating our monthly ministry theme. Please join us and let your soul be nourished. We meet on the outdoor labyrinth (weather permitting) or in the sanctuary. All are welcome. For more information, contact Leia (redirector@uucharlottesville.org or 293-8179 Ext. 3#).

April Art Show



Bennett Curtis

Bennett Curtis experienced the world essentially as an artist. He experienced that quality in different ways. Classical music was a great inspiration. After listening to many versions of the same piece of music, Bennett carefully chose the one he considered to be the best rendition. He listened to the collection that resulted over and over again.

[Read more](#)

Deeds Not Creeds

by Stephanie Jones

Last year, as I sat in one of my first Social Justice Council meetings, a church member and activist used these three words to sum up the Unitarian Universalist faith. I've learned over the past two and a half years that many choose to attend TJMC-UU because of our commitment to social justice work. For some, the work is their religion, and worship comes second, or third, or further behind. And yet, even in worship and in other spaces, our ministers Erik Wikstrom and Alex McGee call out, almost desperately, for us to "Awake!" to "Do something." As an activist congregation, many of us still ache for justice.

This begs the question, what does "social justice" even mean at our church? If you are a newcomer, you might see our marriage equality banner, or our solar panels, or our foyer with its mix of Jefferson quotes and African-American history. You might come to social hour and chat with-or be accosted by-someone promoting their favorite cause. So, at TJMC, what do "we" stand for, other than questioning or changing the status quo? For many-including myself-worship should be a place of contemplation and sanctuary, a space for inner growth that leads to inspired action. And yet, "action" is built into the fabric of our religion. And this "fabric" is a lot like a gorgeous, sprawling, colorful and even clashing patchwork quilt.

[Read more](#)

[Read Social Justice Updates](#)

Strategy for Success: Spring Into aUAction!

By Lynn Heath

The aesthetics and beauty of nature were also a huge influence on Bennett's art. Early on, gardening became an important creative outlet. Working at home and around his neighborhood back in Maryland, he transformed each yard from the mundane into a unique harmonious whole.

Even his houseplants were carefully pruned and arranged to be aesthetically pleasing in every room of his home. [Read more](#)

April Social Action Collection

By Al Reynolds

Virginia Organizing is an effective state-wide grass-roots organization working for poor and oppressed people in Virginia. It was established in Charlottesville and is headquartered here, and now has chapters around the state. One of its main efforts this year is the improvement of criminal justice policies in Charlottesville and the rest of Virginia.

[Read more](#)

www.shopwithscrip.com



Are you ready to get your auction on, **Saturday, April 18, from 4:30 to 7:30?** We have dinners to delight, treasures to take home, along with food and drink, entertainment, and childcare for the littlest ones among

us. We've done a lot of work to make this a great event, and now it's time for you to plan your best auction, too.

Online: Jenn McCutcheon is our auction wonk, and she's making this the easiest auction ever. If you've donated or bid at a previous auction, you'll get an automatic bid number. Our [online site](#) has pictures right in the catalogue and is set up to take **early bids starting April 5**. Some auction events are fixed price and limited numbers, and they may sell out early, so take advantage of the online site. Give us your highest bid and knock out the competition!

[Read more](#)

"Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere."

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Please send submissions for the monthly bulletin to office@uucharlotteville.org by the 3rd Friday of the prior month.

