



# TJMC Bulletin

Unitarian Universalist

July 2015

## *In This Issue:*

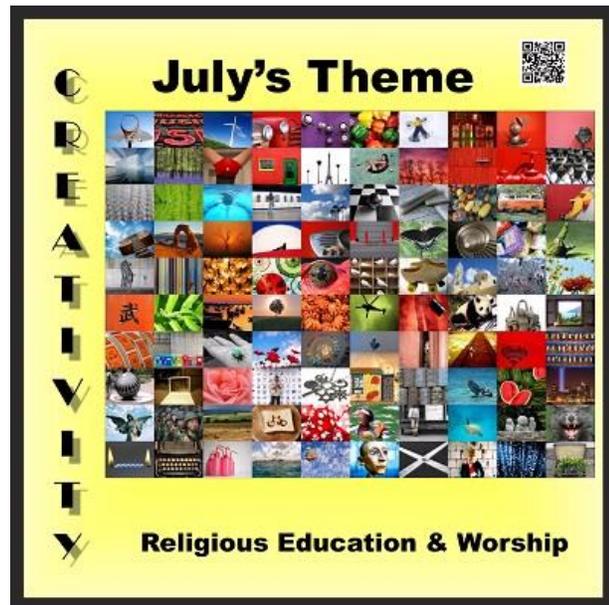
Words of Wikstrom

From The Board

Supreme Court Ruling

Virginia Organizing

August Yard Sale -Yes!



## Words of Wikstrom

### Worship Services

**Note: Summer schedule began May 24 with one service only at 10AM. Two services resume**

When we were children most of us were unstinting in sharing our marvelous creativity. We would draw with delight masterpieces one after another. We would sing with abandon. We danced at the slightest provocation.



Revwik

And then ...

For most of us, things changed. We began to become self-conscious. We danced less and less, sang only in the shower, and mastered the phrase, "Oh ... I can't draw ... I'm not an artist."

Sept. 20 at 9:15AM & 11:15AM



- July 5 **Can Creativity Be Destructive?**
- July 12 **Created in the Image of a Creator**
- July 19 **Can We Be Creative and Not Change Things?**
- July 26 **Creating Hope**

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](mailto: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](mailto:naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org).

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There is a proverb that apparently came from somewhere in Africa - it's attributed to many different people and cultures so it's hard to pinpoint its actual origins. "If you can talk you can sing; if you can walk you can dance." (A little bit ableist, that. There's always humming, and many a person in a wheelchair can still cut a rug. But I digress ...) If you can put pencil to paper you can draw.

And if you can cook a pleasing meal, or play with a child, or find the words to remain courteous with that discourteous customer service rep - you are being creative. If you can decide to put that thing on your shelf just so instead of like that - you are being creative. If you can read the news or see it on TV and still maintain optimism ... well, you probably get it by now.

[Read more](#)

## From The Board

*by Laura Horn*

I write this in anticipation of becoming your board's president, and of welcoming a returning board along with new members Katharine Maus, David Mick and Karen Ransom.



**Why are these people smiling?**

**Leaving our board but not our appreciative community:**

### **Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation**

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room  
[meditation@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:meditation@uucharlottesville.org)

### **CareNet Year-Round Program**

CareNet is our church's organized effort to help out with meals, rides, and other assistance for church members. Contact: [carenet@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:carenet@uucharlottesville.org)

### **Christian Fellowship**

[uucf@uucharlottesville.org](mailto: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](mailto:redirector@uucharlottesville.org) or 293-8179 Ext. 3#).

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## **Social Action Collection**

### **By Al Reynolds**

The Social Action collection in July is for **Virginia Organizing**. Virginia Organizing is a grassroots organization, headquartered in Charlottesville, with chapters around the State. For the past 20 years they have addressed economic and social justice issues,

Ian Sole, Past-Past President  
Amy Wissekerke, Past President  
Jamie McReynolds, Treasurer  
Bev Theirwechter, Vice President

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**Amy**, how do I thank someone who has given all that you have given to our church, our board and to those of us who follow you in leadership? I will try to love the congregation as you have, to be as kind as you have been, to speak for those not present as you did, and to govern with as much wisdom and openness as you did. I will try.

**Jamie**, thank you for the experience and expertise you brought to the work of the budget, for the way you guided us in our fiduciary responsibilities, and for the many resources you put in our hands. We will miss your wise and kind and reverent voice.

**Bev**, thank you for your hours and hours of work with our great Personnel Committee to bring us our beloved new Director of Administration and Finance and to guide us through staff performance appraisals, offer letters, benefits, and all the intricacies of our human resource responsibilities. You kept is in compliance with our wish to be a good employer.

Ian, Amy, Jamie, Bev, may you find it easy to rest in this grateful church. Go in peace, return in love.

And finally, thank you to **Sally Taylor**, who stays on the board but leaves the presidency.

[Read more](#)

like pushing for racial justice, LGBT rights, living wages, a healthy environment and more.

They are concerned about homelessness, hungry neighbors, children who need quality day care and other acute needs in our community. Virginia Organizing is working for systemic change, while at the same time working on current problems. For example, as they succeed in getting living wages and more jobs for individuals, many acute needs like homelessness and inability to pay for quality daycare lessen. They keep expanding to more communities in the State, empowering people who are directly affected to raise their voices for change.

[Read more](#)

## August Yard Sale - Yes!

*By Sally Taylor and Jean Newland, Co-chairs*



August 15 & 16 at TJMCUU

### Something for everyone at the 2015 Yard Sale

Outreach, fundraising, social justice, recycling, community-the yard sale is a quintuple threat, and it's ON for August 15 and 16. We need everyone's help to make it a



Ordination of Alexandra Rachel McGee  
June 14, 2015

(Read Laura Horn's entire article-click the "Read more" link above.)

## Supreme Court Ruling on Marriage Equality

TJMCUU has been a welcoming congregation supporting marriage equality for almost a decade and on Friday, June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right. Love wins!



success: what key roles will you play?

**DONATE: Starting July 17** (when renovations are complete at Summit House) we begin accepting items. Clean out your closets, attic, garage and basement for things we can sell. Make sure they are clean and in good condition and worth the time to sort, display, and sell. We cannot take large appliances, computer equipment, or clothes, and no TVs unless they are flat screen. Last day to donate is August 10.

**DROP OFF:** You can drop off items on the Summit House porch, including furniture. **Best days are MWF 10AM - 12 noon (when we're sorting) or Sunday**, but we'll take them any day. We do not have the ability to pick up furniture this year, but will sell whatever you deliver.

[Read more](#)

[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)



"Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen, and thinking what no one else has thought."

~Albert Einstein

[www.uucharlottesville.org](http://www.uucharlottesville.org)

Please send submissions for the monthly bulletin to [office@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:office@uucharlottesville.org) by the 3rd Friday of the prior month.



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## Words of Wikstrom July 2015

When we were children most of us were unstinting in sharing our marvelous creativity. We would draw with delight masterpieces one after another. We would sing with abandon. We danced at the slightest provocation.

And then ...

For most of us, things changed. We began to become self-conscious. We danced less and less, sang only in the shower, and mastered the phrase, "Oh ... I can't draw ... I'm not an artist."

All of this may not be true of all of us, of course, but it's most certainly true of many.

There is a proverb that apparently came from somewhere in Africa – it's attributed to many different people and cultures so it's hard to pinpoint its actual origins. "If you can talk you can sing; if you can walk you can dance." (A little bit ableist, that. There's always humming, and many a person in a wheelchair can still cut a rug. But I digress ...) If you can put pencil to paper you can draw.

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Two great quotes from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way: a spiritual path to higher creativity*:

"No matter what your age or your life path, whether making art is your career or your hobby or your dream, it is not too late or too egotistical or too selfish or too silly to work on your creativity."

And,

"But do you know how old I will be by the time I learn to really play the piano / act / paint / write a decent play?"

Yes ... the same age you will be if you don't."

This month our theme is *Creativity*. I encourage you to not simply come to services and soak up some wisdom (wait ... that was last month!). BE creative! When taking that snapshot take an extra moment to think about how you might frame it differently. Remember when you see something that strikes you with its beauty – or whimsy – that you probably *have* a camera with you. (If you carry a smartphone you always do.) At church stack some of the rocks beneath the tree outside of the social hall. Write a poem. Sing along to the radio, out loud, in front of someone. Turn on some favorite music and dance – alone in your home if you must, but dance with the recklessness of someone who doesn't know that they can't.

The first of the six sources (that go along with our seven principles) is this: "The living tradition we share draws from many sources [including] direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." Don't deny yourself the opportunity – no, the call – to be a part of those creative forces.

One last thought: if all of this seems too daunting, I oh so strongly encourage you to read the book *ish*, by Peter Reynolds (<http://www.amazon.com/Ish-Creatrilogy-Peter-H-Reynolds/dp/076362344X>). You won't regret it.

Pax tecum,

RevWik

## July 2015 Monthly Bulletin – Laura Horn, Board President

I write this in anticipation of becoming your board's president, and of welcoming a returning board along with new members **Katharine Maus, David Mick** and **Karen Ransom**.



**Why are these people smiling?**

### **Leaving our board but not our appreciative community:**

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Ian, Amy, Jamie, Bev, may you find it easy to rest in this grateful church. Go in peace, return in love.

And finally, thank you to Sally Taylor, who stays on the board but leaves the presidency. Sally knows and cares about our church, above all, and cares about how every single decision effects every person. She has guided and supported me and I could not imagine this coming year without her in the boardroom and at work on the governance and community that is our church.

## What happens when a generous community offers up \$6,200 in matching funds to supplement our budget?

Great things happen. As I write this, with nearly two weeks until we close the campaign, we have received \$4,940.00 in new or expanded pledges, which adds up to \$9,880 for TJMC. Every gift of time and treasure matters; we thank you for these and all gifts.

## Board business

The outgoing board met in retreat to take stock of the year, to consolidate our learning, and to begin processing the 2015 Survey and the results of the Congregational Meeting. We completed performance assessments of our Lead Minister and Director of Faith Development. We are working with staff on their and our goals for the upcoming year, which will be responsive to the priorities articulated in the Strategic Plan. (See page 26 of the plan.) [http://www.uucharlotteville.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/tjmc\\_strategicplan\\_140908.pdf](http://www.uucharlotteville.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/tjmc_strategicplan_140908.pdf)

Bev Theirwechter, V.P., has collected 39 of the annual reports from committees; she is hoping to have the other 10 or so in the next couple of weeks. We'll still be missing a few, where there is no chair or willing author for the committee, group or program. We will get the reports on the website and put a paper copy in the office. Thanks to everyone for recording all the good work that goes on in this busy church.

Board minutes, too, live on the web site and on paper in the office.

## Appreciation

I can never hope to name each wonderful event nor thank the right people for the right things in this column. Still I must acknowledge the way **our sanctuary and our grounds were filled—and forever sanctified**—by two services. A remembrance and an ordination.

I'll begin by thanking Erik and Leia, who ministered to our beloved congregants at a time of loss, and led three services on a Saturday afternoon so all who needed to could be in worship. And now I will borrow some of the words Elizabeth Breeden used as she and Carol Saliba acknowledged those who were privileged to help host the service to remember and celebrate Logan Gill. *The opportunity to help this amazing family through this very difficult time is an honor and lets us appreciate our community through heartfelt and needed work. Thank you for your loving hearts and helping hands (and some strong muscle.) I want to include a profound thank you to Caroline and Leia who carried the service pieces and the inclusion of our children in such a wonderful way. Every one of us left the service knowing how much this church belongs to us because of the good work of this day.*

And soon thereafter our church swelled open with pride, again, to host the ordination wherein, by the power vested in us as a congregation, our own Alex became, forever, Reverend Alexandra Rachel McGee! Thank you to all of you who made this great celebration happen, and to Reverend Alex, who chose this church for her ordination. How proud we are of her path and her ministry.



## **Something for everyone at the 2015 Yard Sale**

By Sally Taylor and Jean Newland, Co-chairs

Outreach, fundraising, social justice, recycling, community—the yard sale is a quintuple threat, and it's ON for August 15 and 16. We need everyone's help to make it a success: what key roles will you play?

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**SORT:** Our sorting crews will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from July 17 to August 14 from 10-12 to sort and price. Children 8 and up are welcome with adult supervision, and working on this crew gives you the opportunity to scout—and buy!—items early, as well as hanging out with some really fun people.

**TALK IT UP:** The Yard Sale is one way we get out in the community. We downsize our possessions and people who are still “upsizing” can pay for them. We get some money for the church and folks in Charlottesville come visit the “love church” with “that banner on Rugby Rd.” Post flyers around town, tell people you know, pass the word at work.

**BUY:** The sale is open Saturday, August 15 from 9-2 and Sunday, August 16 from 11-2. (Church members can also buy before the Sunday service.)

**HELP WITH THE SALE:** Sign up in the Social Hall to help. We need strong arms to carry and artistic eyes to display as we move things from boxes to tables for the sale. We need folks to tally purchases and receive money during the sale, and floaters to replenish stock, organize, and answer questions. We need people to box and cart leftovers to their next home on Monday after the best stuff is thoroughly picked over.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Our Yard Sale co-chairs this year are Jean Newland and Sally Taylor. If you don't know who they are, ask anyone to introduce you. Between them, they can answer any question you have, whether it's about the Yard Sale or not.

## **July 2015 Social Action Collection: Virginia Organizing**

By Al Reynolds

The Social Action collection in July is for Virginia Organizing. Virginia Organizing is a grassroots organization, headquartered in Charlottesville, with chapters around the State. For the past 20 years they have addressed economic and social justice issues, like pushing for racial justice, LGBT rights, living wages, a healthy environment and more.

They are concerned about homelessness, hungry neighbors, children who need quality day care and other acute needs in our community. Virginia Organizing is working for systemic change, while at the same time working on current problems. For example, as they succeed in getting living wages and more jobs for individuals, many acute needs like homelessness and inability to pay for quality daycare lessen. They keep expanding to more communities in the State, empowering people who are directly affected to raise their voices for change.

This year Virginia Organizing is seeking support for its efforts to improve the criminal justice policies in Charlottesville and in other Virginia communities by meeting with more police chiefs and getting more commitments to implement data collection programs to determine if there is racial profiling at police stops. They are also working with former felons to help them get their voting rights back, and getting employers to wait to ask about criminal convictions until later in the interview process (for example, “ban the box” that asks about convictions on the front of job applications).

Virginia Organizing is seeking assistance for its work to consciously overcome barriers among people regardless of race, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic status by holding Dismantling Racism workshops. With economic insecurity and the scapegoating of people of color, immigrants and the poor, anti-racism work is more important than ever. When people feel understood, find common understandings and then work together for the common good, there is hope; and positive change happens.

For more information about Virginia Organizing, please contact Harold Folley at 434-984-4655, x231.

## **Worship for July 2015**

### **July 5<sup>th</sup> – Can Creativity Be Destructive?**

We'll begin our month's exploration with, perhaps, one of the most challenging conundrums of creativity – when does our creative act impinge on others in a negative way? Can what we see as *creative* be for someone else an act of *destruction*? RevWik will help us to wrestle/dance with this question.

### **July 12<sup>th</sup> – Created in the Image of a Creator**

The biblical book of *Genesis* says that we were “made in God's image.” Assuming that there is at least some metaphoric truth in this assertion, what does that mean for us Unitarian Universalists in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? What *could* it mean? RevWik will try to creatively explore this bit of ancient wisdom.

### **July 19<sup>th</sup> – Can We Be Creative and Not Change Things?**

Is creativity fundamentally counter-cultural and subversive? Is it possible for things to stay the same in the midst of creativity? Could this be why some people find creative people so threatening? RevWik will help us to consider these things.

### **July 26<sup>th</sup> -- Creating Hope**

Feeling hopeless and helpless against a sea of troubles? We all lose hope at times, and it makes sense given the size and scope of some problems, but despair is not always a luxury we can afford. How can we use creativity and imagination to sow hope where there is despair? Pam Philips, long-time member of TJMC and current seminarian and candidate for the ordained ministry, will be preaching.