

# UU SEPTEMBER 2006 BEACON

## SERVICES

10:00 am Greetings & Refreshments  
10:30 am Worship & Children's Religious Education

### September 10

#### ***"9/11 and the Monsters on Maple Street"***

The Rev. Thomas P. Schmidt

An episode of *The Twilight Zone*, called *The Monsters are Due on Maple Street*, explored the nature of fear, prejudice, and violence in reaction to unusual circumstances. Through the lens of this episode we will question the events of September 11, the immediate reaction to those events, and the ongoing "War on Terror."

### September 17

#### ***"Like a Drop of Rain Flowing to the Ocean"***

The Rev. Thomas P. Schmidt

Bring the water you collected from your summer travels (or your backyard pool) to our annual Water Ceremony. A picnic will immediately follow the abbreviated service. ***This service will not be held at Congregation Beth Yam, rather at Fish Island in Sea Pines Plantation. Just announce your destination at SP Main or Ocean gates.***

### September 24

#### ***"Rosh Hashanah: Looking Back and Moving Forward"***

The Rev. Thomas P. Schmidt

Rosh Hashanah, commonly referred to as the Jewish New Year, has many lessons for us at this time of many transitions and changes. A good opportunity to probe the reserve of wisdom found in the ancient traditions of Judaism. ***This service will not be held at Congregation Beth Yam, rather at Indigo Hall in the Indigo Run Plantation. Just announce your destination at the IR Main Gate.***

## EVENTS

**UU Youth Group** (Sunday, September 10, 12:00 noon) First meeting of the new school year. Congregation Beth Yam. Pizza will be served! Please bring your appetite, your ideas, and your enthusiasm for the coming year! Youth ages 11-18 are invited!

**Religious Education Committee** (Monday, September 17, 6:15 to 7:30 pm) Friedman's home in Belfair.

**Board of Directors** (Thursday, September 21, 6:30 pm) Fellowship Members & Friends are welcome. Reports of recent Board Meetings can be found Sunday mornings on the back table as well as the Financial Year Budget and Treasurer's Report.

**Book Club** (Friday, September 22, 7:00 pm social and 7:30 discussion) *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner. Home of John and Folly King, 20 Bear Island Road, Hilton Head Plantation. Call 682-3191 for directions and a pass. Please mark the following books and dates: *Song Lines* by Bruce Chatwin on October 20, and *The World According to Garp* by John Irving on November 17. The book for December 15 has not been selected.

**Savannah Songfest** (Saturday, September 23, 4:00 to 6:00 pm) *Becoming a Singing Congregation*, led by Mary Grigolia, UU minister, musician and songwriter. UU Church of Savannah, \$15 includes supper, with vegetarian options.

**Fundraising Committee** (Monday, September 25, 6:30 pm) Manning/McDonell home in Palmetto Bluff.

**Fifth Saturday** (Saturday, September 30) 6:30 am help prepare breakfast, 8:00 am breakfast, 9:00 am leave for community service projects. Since several of our regular workers have not yet returned from summer vacations, your assistance at 6:30 am would be greatly appreciated. Sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee.

**Starting Up! Weekend** (Saturday & Sunday, October 6 & 7) Location, times and other details below.

**A Documentary Evening** (Friday, October 27, 7:00 social and 7:30 film) At the new building, details to be announced.

## MESSAGES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Co-President's Message



Our summer has come to a close and many of our members have returned from their travels or second homes. We begin our return to wholeness with many changes among us. We rejoice that our challenging journeys of finding our minister and building our home are coming to a successful close. Our hearts are filled with thanks and appreciation for the members of our Fellowship family who have contributed to these successes.

We have another reason for celebration: Through a democratic process, we have chosen a new name to coincide with our new physical identity. With the move into our new home, we will be the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry**, a name that is more regional and less exclusive. This name, along with our move into Bluffton, broadens our reaches. We will welcome our new community with open arms as we invite them to experience our liberal religion. UUA President Reverend Bill Sinkford has said that the World needs our religion. We say that South Beaufort County needs our religion.

The treasures and gifts that Ann Harrison has given our children and youth as Director of Religious Education (DRE) are invaluable. We are sorry her other work responsibilities drew her away from her position, but we are delighted she is on the Board and still involved in so many ways. We are also delighted that Chad Rodi was there to step in. Chad became our DRE in July and is off to a great start. He is forming his RE Committee and has started development of a strategic plan for Religious Education. He will share the DRE responsibilities of this position with his wife, Martee, and we are thankful to have this incredible pair on our team.

Join us on Friday, October 6, 7-9 pm, for *Congregation Sharing: History and Hopes*, an important segment of our **Starting up! Weekend** facilitated by our new District Executive, Annette Marquis. This evening event is open to all congregational members and friends. We will start with a Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm.

In Fellowship, Linda and Anthony

### Minister's Musings



It is hard to believe that we have been here for over a month now. Many thanks to all in the congregation who have made Rebecca, Will and me feel right at home and made this monumental change so smooth and peaceful. It has gone so well that

(Minister's Musings ..)

we think we might stick around for a while. As busy as the Summer has been – both Rebecca and I starting new jobs, Will starting school, out of town visitors -- things do not seem to be slowing down with the arrival of Autumn.

With the arrival of the Jewish High Holy Days, the Program Committee has found it necessary to locate alternative meeting sights for two services in September. I am sure we will later call this minor inconvenience, "The Great Period of Wandering" as we tell the story of building our own home to the next generation. In October we will be having "Startup Weekend," an opportunity for the entire congregation to share our hopes and expectations for the coming year and years of shared ministry.

And if all that is not overwhelming enough, we will soon be moving into our new home, thanks to the handwork of the Facilities Planning Committee. The light at the end of a very long tunnel is so close that it is not only visible, we can almost feel the warmth on our faces. I can only imagine the sense of accomplishment everyone must feel. I hope the members of the FPC will take this opportunity to take a break from committee work to recharge their bodies, minds and spirits.

My office hours currently are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Drop by to talk, or call ahead if you want to be sure I'll be free.

Yours in Peace, Rev. Tom

## Religious Education



As summer comes to a close, the Religious Education program at the fellowship is bringing together new and familiar faces to plan our year. With a brand new Director (me), a brand new Minister (Reverend Tom), and a brand new building, we have an opportunity to reflect on our congregation's strong RE tradition and identify new priorities as we move forward.

In addition to planning for the year, we are using this transition as an opportunity to lay out our hopes and dreams for the long-term future of our children and youth programs. We will begin by creating a vision for the RE program and then develop a strategic plan that will enable us to reach our goals. The next several months will provide plenty of opportunities for participation throughout the planning process; we will need help in all stages of this process from vision to plan to execution.

One way to get involved now is to join the RE committee. The RE committee will meet monthly for approximately one hour to plan, advise, and reflect on our congregation's RE program. Read details about the role and responsibilities of RE committee members: [Live link, your email address and last name requested](#). You can also participate in the vision setting process without joining the RE committee. We expect to hold a one-day RE visioning retreat at the new building in the next several months. Anyone interested in joining the RE committee or attending the retreat should contact me at [chad@literacycoaches.com](mailto:chad@literacycoaches.com) or 757.9763.

Yours in peace, Chad Rodi

*(Ed: Chad and Martee have been members of our congregation for a couple years now, and Chad -- assisted by Martee -- has kindly agreed to be RE Director, replacing Ann Harrison who "retired" this past June. Chad is eminently qualified, as seen by his professional "signature.")*

Michael "Chad" S. Rodi, Ph.D.  
Research Assistant Professor  
The Center for Child and Family Studies  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

## Starting Up! Weekend

Mark your calendars for a congregational potluck dinner on Friday, October 6 at 6:00 pm. This event will begin the *Starting Up! Weekend*, the purpose of which is to help a new minister and the congregation develop a clear understanding of history, roles, relationship, and expectations of one another. The weekend program is an invaluable service offered by the TJ District and will be led by our new district director, Annette Marquis. In the event that our new “home” will not yet be ready, the Friday and Saturday events will take place at All Saints Episcopal Church (next to Temple Beth Yam).

The Friday evening session begins at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed by a program which will help us remember how we got to this point in our history and begin to look forward to the future. As everyone knows, we now have a new full-time minister and a new building—two projects that have consumed most of our energy for several years. So Now Where Are We Going? What about those dreams that have been put on hold? We understand from others who have been to Start-Up Weekends that this session is not only valuable, but fun.

Friday's program, with the entire congregation, will set the tone for the all day workshop on Saturday, October 7 from 9:00 – 5:00 pm, which is open to members of the Board, committee chairpersons, Committee on Ministry members, and, of course, Rev. Tom. This session will focus more specifically on the roles of the minister and the leadership, with the goal of developing a leadership covenant.

On Sunday, October 8, Rev. Tom will lead the service designed to share this powerful Start-Up Weekend and its outcomes with the congregation.

Judy Gauthier is in charge of the potluck arrangements. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church or e-mail your reservation to her at [jwgauth@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jwgauth@ix.netcom.com). Help us get off to a really good start in this crucial year for our congregation by signing up to Start-Up!

Mary Alice Walker

**Facilities Planning Committee** Because of the extra generosity of some of our members, we will enter our new building with a fine decorative chandelier, a pulpit, podium benches, a minister's chair, flower and chalice stands, chairs for the congregation, office furniture, hymnals, bathroom vanity sinks, kitchen cabinets and sinks, a very fine expandable audio-visual system and more. There is also a monetary pledge to provide an appropriate musical instrument for our services. We are most grateful to all of these UU “angels.” These unbudgeted items will enhance our new home and help us to realize the goals that we have set for our future. Thank you, one and all.

Steve Avery, Fran Farrell, Dorothy Feind, Patricia Friedman, Charlie Lovely, Peggy Tweel, Twinkie Wilderman and all the other former members of the Facilities Planning Committee

## “Social after Service” to be tried at the new building

Two years ago the congregation approved the *Strategic Membership Growth Plan* proposed by the ad hoc Membership Growth Committee. One of the many promising strategies in this plan was to set up a trial period during which we will have our social time after instead of before the service. The details are being worked out now by the Membership, Program and House/Social committees. The trial period will begin with our first Sunday in the new building and last long enough for the congregation to have gotten a feel for it. A formal vote will then determine which we prefer, social before or after.

Most likely the service itself will begin at 10:00 or 10:15 am, with a goal to be out of the building by noon. Here are some of the features that, if they pan out, will be appreciated by members and visitors alike. It is worth noting that almost 90% of the UU congregations surveyed prefer the social after the service.

(Social after Service continued..)

- Enter a (relatively) quiet building, go to the worship area and sit contemplatively with music in the background.
- Remember visitors who introduced themselves at the service, welcome them personally afterwards over a cup of coffee, inquire if they liked the service, etc.
- Visitors who, after the service, want to follow up – will have a better chance to do so with the minister and membership committee.

Should you want to review the entire Plan, it is at the website: [Live link, your email address and last name requested](#).

Bob Shamo, Membership

### **From the Treasurer**

Until we have physically made the move to our new building, checks should be made out to the Unitarian Fellowship of Hilton Head Island (or UFHHI) and mailed to the current fellowship office at PO Box 7361, HHI, 29938. A new PO box will be announced next month.

Members making purchases for the congregation should know that checks are processed twice a month: on the 15<sup>th</sup> and on the last day of the month. An outside accounting service is used and, to keep the system efficient and the costs reasonable, we need procedures to be followed. There is a reimbursement request you can download and complete, if you are asking for reimbursement: [Live link, your mail address and last name requested](#). Please note that authorization by a Board member is required for amounts of \$50 or more. This form should be received by Jean Shamo at least two (2) days before the next processing date for prompt payment. It can be attached to an email ([jeanshamo@adelphia.net](mailto:jeanshamo@adelphia.net)), faxed to 843-681-9978, or mailed to 14 Virginia Rail Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29926.

If you are requesting checks for purchases or expenses, e.g. honoraria, that can be anticipated, you can send the information at any time via the options listed above. We can prepare the check with the next batch and have it ready for you at the requested time. Please give complete information for any check request or reimbursement .. name of payee, complete address including zip code. Checks are prepared and mailed or delivered in window envelopes and therefore the information must be complete. If you have any questions, please call Jean at 843-681-9989.

Jean Shamo, Treasurer

**Ceremonies of the Soul** are special times on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month when those who arrive early (at 9:00 am) share readings, chants, music, rituals from other religions .. whatever they find to be enriching their own, personal lives.

**Congregation Choir to Start Up** In an effort to bring more music to our Sunday morning services at the Unitarian Fellowship of Hilton Head Island, the Program Committee has decided to reinstate our fellowship's choir. If you sang with our small group last year, or are interested in singing this year, we need you! This is not a traditional "choir" -- we are basically trying to get some people together to help "lead" the congregation in singing hymns the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month. If you are interested in participating, please email me at [jilljauch@yahoo.com](mailto:jilljauch@yahoo.com).

### **Fundraising Volunteers & Party Hosts Needed!**

The Fundraising Committee is off to a good start this year, but we need your help! We have a goal of \$10,000 to raise this fiscal year, to be contributed to the operating budget of our congregation. In order to achieve this goal, we have come up with a few ideas (with some more to come).

WINTER GALA We are forming a special task force for the Winter Gala, which will be a major fundraiser for the congregation in February. This will be a silent auction which will include services

(Fundraising continued ..)

from members as well as donations from the community (golf games, dinners, movie passes, etc.). We need about 5 or 6 people who can focus on this Gala, in terms of publicity and tickets, food and beverages/set-up, and soliciting donation items. Please see a committee member if you would like to participate (listed below).

**PARTIES A LA CARTE** We had an extremely successful Parties a la Carte season last year, having fabulous parties and raising more than \$10,000 for the congregation. We are planning Parties a la Carte for the Fall and have come up with the following ideas. These are just ideas... If you would like to host one of these, or have a party idea of your own, let us know! We will follow the same format as last year. The host provides food/beverages/location, and congregation members/other guests pay to attend the party, with the money going to the congregation. We would like to have a full calendar this year, with plenty of opportunities for fellowship and fundraising! We would also like to see some "repeats" from last year, hopefully making some of the Winter and Spring events an annual tradition to look forward to.

- o Halloween Party (with costumes, of course)
- o Spaghetti Dinner/Italian cooking demonstration
- o Oyster Roast outside at the new building
- o Pre-Thanksgiving dinner
- o All-American Veterans Day party
- o Football Party

**OYSTER ROAST & WINGFEST** Last year, we raised some "easy money" in one day by providing volunteers for WingFest, a local fundraiser for the Island Rec Center. These opportunities have double benefits: We raise money for our congregation, while also helping a great community organization raise money for themselves! Please be on the lookout for details for these opportunities in the future. You get to have fun, meet lots of people, hang out outside, eat some good food, and raise money at the same time! What could be better than that?

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Steve Avery 681-5338 [fsajr@hargray.com](mailto:fsajr@hargray.com)  
Suellen Manning 785-4331 [suellenmanning@yahoo.com](mailto:suellenmanning@yahoo.com)  
Michael McDonell 785-4331, [mmcdon5808@aol.com](mailto:mmcdon5808@aol.com)  
Jill Jauch 912-507-7171 [jilljauch@yahoo.com](mailto:jilljauch@yahoo.com)

**Condolences appreciated** The families of Beryl Barraclough and Marie Kline wish to thank the many fellowship members who have expressed condolences and offered support in recent weeks.

**Say again, Who are We?** Upon moving into the "Home of Our Own," a few things will change. We'll publish this again next month, but you may want to make note:

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110 Malphrus Road  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
843.837.3330 voice  
843.837.3331 fax  
email [info@UULowcountry.org](mailto:info@UULowcountry.org)  
website [www.UULowcountry.org](http://www.UULowcountry.org)

**Member-Friends Directory 2006-2007** will be mailed the first week of September. Address additions and corrections will be noted in each month's Beacon and posted to the website. Remember, in case of doubt, the website directory is usually correct: [Live link, your email address and last name.](#)

## Tour UUA Headquarters -- Virtually

The UUA is pleased to announce a brand new interactive we feature for visitors and armchair alike. The *Virtual Tour* of the UUA's Boston Headquarters provides a peek inside the historic rooms of 25 Beacon Street: [Live link](#). You'll see buildings, paintings, and some of the artifacts that make up the physical Association headquarters. The tour gives you a good feel for the historic nature of Unitarian Universalism in the United States. The site can also connect you to information on planning a heritage trip to Boston and has links to the UU Historical Society and the UU Women's Heritage Society.

**Happy Birthday**

**Hal Pope, his 103rd a few weeks ago!**