

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community – Please Join Us!

May 2018

Our Sunday Schedule

Childcare 10:00 am - 12 noon
Worship and Church School 10:30 am

May Sermons

Fires of Beltane

Rev. María McCabe *May 6*
For the ancient Celts, the feast of Beltane was a riotous celebration of new life and the beginning of summer. While the practice slowly disappeared in the 19th century, it has been re-imagined for our times and is as popular as ever. Come celebrate the blooming of the earth and connect to the ancient rhythms of our wondrous planet.

Mama's Day

Rev. María McCabe *May 13*
Mama's Day is the vision of the Strong Families Network, a coalition of almost two hundred grassroots organizations across the nation. They are dedicated to making sure all families receive the rights, resources and recognition they deserve. In this service we will honor all "mamahood" with a **Flower Communion**. **Please bring a flower to share!**

*Today's Social Justice Collection
Supports Homeless Concerns
No potluck today - Happy Mothers' Day*

Halt These Reversals!

Stephen Buckingham, UULM *May 20*
People of faith and good will are asking what they can do to resist the current attempts to undermine or dismantle many laws and systems that were established to advance social, environmental and economic justice. We will explore options to halt these reversals as well as ways to prevent this from happening in the future.

Stephen Buckingham, a Lay Community Minister, is the founder and chair of the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Remember the Fallen

Rev. María McCabe *May 27*
One of the earliest remembrances of what would become "Decoration Day" and then "Memorial Day" took place on May 1, 1865. A procession of more than one-thousand newly freed slaves gathered at the site of a Confederate prison camp to properly honor the Union soldiers who had died there of disease and exposure. They sang hymns, offered readings and placed flowers in memory of the men they called "Martyrs of the Race Course." In this service we will remember those who have died in the service of their country.

From Our Minister

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."

- Maya Angelou



AS I WRITE THIS

newsletter column, it is still winter outside my window. Mounds of snow have yet to melt, and I need hat, coat and gloves to take my daily walk. It is mid-April, and to my way of thinking, this is not what April is supposed to feel like! Perhaps by the time you read these words, everything will have thawed a bit. The trees will finally be in bloom and we'll be ready to embrace our spiritual theme for May, which is creativity. What a relief. And what a joy to watch the wheel of the year turn once again to spring.

A new year begins on May 1 for our Fellowship. And I am curious. What will we create together in the coming year? It's hard to believe our first year is almost over. Your new minister has had quite a learning curve to negotiate. And I suspect the same is true for you. There is always so much to discover and learn in a new congregation! We don't do 'one-size-fits-all' in Unitarian Universalism, which means that every congregation has the opportunity to create its own path forward. It is also

true that the arrival of a new minister means the congregation will have its own learning curve to navigate. And this is OK. Actually, it's more than OK. It is exciting.

It will be tempting to sit back, relax and breathe a sigh of relief. A bit of stability can be very welcome after a time of uncertainty and change. By all means, catch your breath if you need to. I know I will. And by all means, let us celebrate all that has been accomplished.

But I urge you not to rest for too long. Our communities are calling us to grow in all the ways we live our faith. What is the mission of our beloved Fellowship in these times? Who do we want to be in the world? There is the important work of making our own community stronger and more resilient. From fully welcoming new members into our community to growing leadership, enhancing security and fostering stewardship, there is much for us to do. And I am excited for us to build on our many strengths together in the coming year.

As we knit our community fabric more tightly together, let us broaden our vision for the future. I see us continuing to build covenantal community beyond our walls, answering the call of a hurting world. I see us building relationships with other Unitarian Universalist congregations and our movement as a whole. I see us connecting more deeply with community organizations that are making change in ways that resonate with our UU values. I see us learning to travel across boundaries of class and race, with humility and grace. I see us leaning into the challenges of living our faith in an increasingly and gloriously multicultural world.

What do you see?

-Warmly, Rev. María

From Our President

“Working for justice in our world is a principal way for Unitarian Universalists to express faith. Many undertake social justice work to show their gratitude for life’s gifts and their commitment to making our world the best place for all.” - *William G. Sinkford, President, UUA, 2001-2005*

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel with my fellow UUFHC friends and family to the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, DC. From beginning to end, the day left me filled with hope for our country’s future. Organized by young people, the messages were positive, the energy level high and the enthusiasm was

contagious. The activities and speeches spoke of love and peace and hope. It was such an honor to participate, listen in awe to the words of our future leaders and spend time with my fellow congregants renewing our desire for a peaceful and safe world.

Regardless of where you stand on the gun control issue, you have to admit that it seems like these teenagers are making a difference by making a collective stand. I do believe that our young people can change the world and have set an example in speech, in conduct, in love and in faith.

Thank you to all that helped organize this fantastic and uplifting adventure!



*- Diana Rudolph,
Board President*

Religious Education

We’re moving half a mile away. This is not something we would have planned—during the school year, in the midst of all the spring goings-on, but it became necessary. And so, we are packing, which seems slightly ridiculous because we’re going to load up, drive down two streets, and unload, but we’re doing it. This whole thing seems surreal.

When we moved here in 2011, it was the week before Brandon enrolled in Kindergarten. The movers delivered our belongings during a hail storm, a few days later there was an earthquake, and then Hurricane Irene swung by for a visit. It wasn’t the calmest time and yet as hard as it was, it was the beginning of much better times for our family. When we moved to Harford County, we were in close proximity to family, good schools, Wegman’s, and a fantastic UU church.

At the time, I was very sick without a diagnosis and moving here meant I could have an appointment with a world class doctor at Johns Hopkins, and get treated for the infections that were found. Moving to Harford County saved my life. We made friends and found meaningful work. Our kids joined activities that contributed to their growth. We may not have been born here, but Harford County has become home. So, although the place where we currently live has had its challenges, it facilitated many wonderful opportunities, for which we will always be grateful.

Soon we will say a thank-you and goodbye to the first home my daughter remembers, the place where our children created chalk masterpieces on the sidewalk, the shady places beneath trees where my son and his friends discussed military strategy, and the rooms where we cried and laughed and played. Then we will say hello to our new home and fill it with life.

This month in Religious Education:

May 4: JYG Sleepover - There will be bowling at Brunswick Zone Perry Hall Lanes and then a sleepover in the Sanctuary on Friday, May 4.

May 6: Picture Day! Directly after the service, we'd like to get a picture of Rev. María and the students of the RE Program. Please ask your kids to wear rainbow colors. We will make a memory that will hang in both Rev. María's office and the RE Wing for years to come. Please join us!

May 11: Parent Support Group will meet from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm. We will share a light dinner of pizza, salad, and dessert. After dinner, the kids will go with babysitters to the RE Wing and the parents will talk. The cost is \$5 per family—unless you'd like to bring a salad or dessert, and then there will be no charge! Please RSVP dre@uufhc.net

May 13: Children's Worship for PreK-3rd Grade: Children's Worship provides an opportunity for students in preschool through 3rd grade to interact through music, stories, games, and crafts. **Young Leaders for 4th – 5th Grade:** Young Leaders is an opportunity for makerspace and service activities. **JYG (6th-8th Grade):** Junior Youth Group is a chance for middle school youth to build community through different activities. This Sunday will celebrate the end of our Neighboring Faiths curriculum. We will have some food and conversation about all our experiences this year. The **Youth (9th-12th Grade)** will attend the celebration as well. Classes end at 11:30 am.

May 18: Glow in the Dark Party! – *Kindergarten - 5th Grade are invited to have pizza, ice cream, and games on May 18 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. 3rd-5th Graders can stay for a movie, popcorn, and the sleepover!* There is an \$8 fee per child (\$20 per family) to cover the cost of supplies and food.

May 27: Memorial Day Lesson: There will be no regular RE, however, there will be a class for Pre K-5th Grade in which they will learn about Memorial Day and then go outside to play. Middle and high schoolers will remain in the service.

Stay tuned for more fun events!

*Be well,
- Stephanie Kalka, DRE*



Corner on Finance

Reconciliation - The term reconciliation has a variety of meanings, and in the fiscal arena it means the action of making financial accounts consistent or harmonious. Our pledge goal budget of \$202,000 was not met this year. We have fallen short by about \$10,000 and what that means is that our goals had to be amended to fall in line with what the members say they are willing to support. This action will make our income and expenses match and, as a result, some of what we wanted will have to be postponed or eliminated. This happens often in organizations, but is this the best action to take to reconcile the shortfall?

When the goal budget is not achieved, it is usually considered the easiest to cut some of the things we want. This is easy to do, but sometimes difficult to live with. The beauty and flow of the organization is oft-times impeded, and the spirit of satisfaction and fulfillment is sometimes left wanting. So maybe it is not the easiest thing after all. A seemingly more difficult option is to re-evaluate the giving that was pledged and increase that pledge to help achieve our goals.

For some, that is just not fair. If you have already balanced what you can afford to give with what you receive from this congregation, then you are providing enough to the Fellowship. If every member is balancing in this fashion, then we are likely in a position of wanting more than we can afford. However, if some of us have not reconciled what it is we want with what we are willing to provide, then there may be a way for the church to reach its stated goals. If there is a mismatch between what you receive from the congregation and what you can afford to provide, email or phone me to re-make your pledge and perhaps, then, we can show that we *can* afford what we say we want.

If every one of our members does this, then we can move into our new church year be truly reconciled.

- Rob Lieb, Treasurer



Buildings and Grounds News

As you read this another church year will have come to a close. As I look back, I am amazed at all that has transpired. We started the year with “old” business, finishing up the projects from the Capital Improvements Loan. The siding job was completed, the sign base was repaired and the new sign installed, new phones were purchased for the administrative staff and our new HVAC system found a home in a newly constructed closet in the Children’s Library. A few of the projects completed in the Fellowship included replacing the original water heater (the new one should last so long), waxing the floors in RE, repairing and cleaning the sanctuary chairs, and planting and tending our environmental demonstration garden. This was done with a grant from the county. The plants will be identified with little signs, and the county will be able to show people how to plant responsibly with native plants and reduce the use of mulch. Thank you Mark Petrequin for making this contact.

The church is responsible for maintaining the storm water management area on our property. This is a very large area near the road. In September we had the area cleared. To make this a more manageable task, we plan to have a large portion of the “pond” rolled. Our lawn mower will then be able to keep that area clear. Bob Veidt and Pat McQuate did extensive work in this area including climbing down into that cement box to clear it out.

The Aesthetics committee members have been busy with projects large and small to improve the appearance of the Fellowship. They are currently embarking on a major painting project. Please thank Darlene Rothwell, Joy Mullen, Judi Walkley, Noreen Anderson, Trish Tatum-McQuate, Pat Stranger, Vera Swearingen, Linnea Tober, and Kim Roberts (Ed was also pressed into service painting). Bob Veidt has spent a lot of time with a paint brush to assist in this effort.

At the school our major job this year was repair of a portion of the floor that was sagging. Due to improper original construction, this is an on-going job. Another section will be repaired this year. A new member, Andy Whaley, has expertise in this area so we will be forming a work crew this time. Be sure to welcome Andy and his family. A crew consisting of Trish and Pat McQuate, Rod Stewart, Bob Blackstock and Bob Veidt shingled and sided a shed on the school property.

The house has been rented all year. The major maintenance repairs here and at the school and Fellowship have been plumbing in nature. This is partially due to the Ph of our water. We are looking for

the magic solution for this. The bathroom is in need of a major upgrade. Thankfully we have found an excellent contractor who will do the work in part for a tax credit.

As we look forward to a new year with Rev. María, we can feel renewed not only in our physical space but also our spiritual and communal home.

- Cindy Veidt



The Big Day is Almost Here! Rev. María McCabe’s Installation Ceremony Sunday, June 3, 4:00 pm at UUFHC

On June 3 we will be celebrating the installation of our new minister. This ceremony will acknowledge the commitment between the members of UUFHC and the Reverend María McCabe. We are embarking on a new journey together!

The theme of the event is ‘Building Community’: strengthening our bonds within our own congregation, our local community, the UUA and beyond. We will be joined by members of the UUA and local officials and clergy. It will be a special day!

Come. Be a part of this special happening. Enjoy music, song, food and fellowship. Join in our celebration as we move forward—together.

- Darlene Rothwell

Volunteer of the Month



Describing the Volunteer of the Month for May calls for some descriptive and enthusiastic phrases! **MJ Price** is overflowing with bundles of energy, displays a willingness to do whatever is needed to make an event successful, is hard working and positive. She worked tirelessly to organize the March for Our Lives UUFHC bus trip, guides our young people in our RE program, helped with the holiday bazaar and always steps forward to offer her organizational talents and creative ideas. Enjoy that coveted parking space, MJ, you have earned it!

- Diana Rudolph

Upcoming Events



May 1 - Happy Fiscal New Year! UUFHC begins Fiscal Year 2019.

Friday, May 4 and Friday, May 5 - Annual Overnight Retreat - "Journey Within" at the Virden Retreat Center in Lewes, DE. Since the newsletter comes out early this month, you may read this before the registration deadline of April 24. Cindy Curry can tell you where to pick up a registration form. The fee for the contemplative weekend is \$125 for double occupancy or \$170 for a single room. All meals, supplies and instruction are included in the fee, and you can purchase an extra night for \$45 (double) or \$90 single. Experience spiritual growth without distraction through movement, meditation, discussion, and creative mediums.

Sunday, June 3 - Installation Ceremony for Rev. Maria McCabe - Join us at 4:00 pm for a wonderful ceremony when we will officially call Rev. Maria to be our settled minister. Join us for inspiration, food, and fellowship.

Water Communion Sunday in September - Annual Picnic - our annual picnic will take place immediately following our first service. Bring lawn chairs, meat to grill or a dish to pass. **This is a one-time change** - we'll all get together at the Installation Ceremony.

RE Culture Camp - July 16 to 20. See DRE Stephanie Kalka for more information and to register your kindergarten through 5th grader (older children can assist).

May Birthdays



Happy Birthday to:

Michael McCarthy	May 4
Cynthia (Cindy) Veidt	May 9
Deborah Cruise	May 10
Jacqueline Cunningham	May 11
Gertrude Hopkins	May 15
Daniel (Dan) Smith	May 17
Elissa McCarthy	May 18
Janine Cerino Seadler	May 18
Emily Yeatman	May 31

Rev. (and Chaplain) David Pyle to be Deployed This Summer

A great way to stay connected to our larger movement is to visit the UUA website, www.uua.org or more specifically, browse through the UUA website and then look at the news in our region at <https://www.uua.org/central-east>. There you can find blogs by local ministers and our regional staff, calendars of events and webinars you can take to strengthen your leadership abilities.

I visited the website and read the blog about our Central East Region staff representative, Rev. David Pyle, who worked with our search team and led the start-up seminars for Rev. Maria back in October. At that time he mentioned he was a Chaplain for the armed forces, and was heading to a meeting directly after our start-up. He mentioned some surprising news in his blog:

“Some of you may have noticed a position vacancy announcement for a 1-year Interim position on the staff of the Central East Region. The reason for this opening position is that I have been designated for deployment to the Middle East as a part of Operation Spartan Shield, to serve as a Chaplain in Medical Command. It is my intention to go on unpaid leave from the Unitarian Universalist Association beginning sometime in July (depending on training requirements) and to be away from the UUA for approximately one year. Through the summer I will be focused on completing some necessary training requirements, as well as being available for my soldiers and their families. I will be traveling to the Middle East in the fall and will be there for approximately 9 months. I expect to return to serving as a member of the UUA Staff during the summer of 2019.

“Though I did not volunteer for this assignment, I will admit to being willing to go. Though I have deployed several times as a soldier, I have never deployed as a Chaplain, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do that before the end of my military career. Though I cannot share much about the mission, I will say that it is in-tune with my personal faith and with my Unitarian Universalist Values. I will be with a team of Medical Command soldiers who were specifically selected for this mission, many of whom already know me as ‘their Chaplain.’”

We all wish Rev. Pyle well on his deployment and look forward to his return. He will still be serving congregations here in the Central East Region until he leaves in July. Read his full blog at [news-cer-staff-more-changes](#).

Some UUFHC Social Justice History

UUFHC has had a long history of fighting for Social Justice; our history shows that founding members led the fight for Civil Rights in the 50s and 60s when there was still segregation here and even offered to have Civil Rights leaders use our sanctuary on Lee Way if the H. Rap Brown trial was held in Harford County. Founding Member Mary Woodward led the committee, then known as Human Concerns, and UUFHC even won an award from the UUA back in the late 1980s for our social justice work.

Through the years we've led by being the voice in Harford County for Marriage Equality, and before that took steps to become a Welcoming Congregation for the LGBTQ community. Rev. Lisa Ward hung the banner, "Civil Marriage is a Civil Right" on the front of our building when it was still controversial. We've always been an alternative voice for social change in an often conservative county.

UUFHC Members have often been on the front lines of protests, demonstrations and rallies. Does anyone remember "Hands Across America," a rally that was well known in 1986 but now probably forgotten? The idea was for everyone to get together and form a human chain across the country. UUFHC members participated. I remember standing with others on Route 40 in front of Harford Systems in Havre de Grace. I think the object was to raise money for charity. It worked pretty well, though there were gaps in farm country and in the Rocky Mountains.

Rev. Lisa Ward led youth and adults to Washington to protest the upcoming Iraq War. Before this year's "March for Our Lives" to stand in favor of solutions to gun violence, I went to the Million Mom's March on Mother's Day, 2000 to advocate for gun control along with many other UU members at the time. (I traveled with Beth Wood-Roig.) Let's hope the youth have better luck than the mothers had!

For many years in the 1980s through the early 2000s, UUFHC had a "Guest At Your Table" campaign to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In fact, we were so successful in the 1990s that UUFHC won a "banner society" award.

Around 2000, Dorothy Lemmey began the Silent Witness display. Every October since, we've put up silhouette figures of domestic violence victims to call attention to the problem of Domestic Violence, and we've had a ceremony with Harford County law enforcement officials and representatives from SARC. This has called attention to UUFHC for the Harford

County residents—we're the church with the Silent Witness figures.

One program that strengthened our Social Justice commitment was the introduction of the Second Sunday Social Justice Collections, begun in the early 2000s. We raised funds to support the Homeless Shelter and the Sharing Table, now one of our most important social outreach programs. We have also supported LGBTQ issues, Sexual Violence issues, the Environment and the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Other than going to a few marches and running the Guest At Your Table campaign in the 1990s, I haven't been a member of the Social Justice Committee, but perhaps that will be in my future someday. I'm sure I've missed many Social Justice milestones. If you can think of any other memorable projects or events, let me know and I will include them in a future newsletter.

- Kay Saucier

Join the UUA General Assembly Online

Can't afford a trip to Kansas City to attend the UUA General Assembly this year but wish you could share the excitement? This year's general assembly takes place June 20-24, and you can attend remotely.

Technology has reshaped the meeting landscape in recent years. The UUA offers new opportunities to connect to the General Assembly. GA is transforming from an event at which one needs to be present to experience into a hybrid meeting—you can live stream events and use social media to create an interactive experience for on-site and remote attendees.

Check with the Board to find out if we are sending a delegate to the General Assembly. If not, you can be an off-site voting delegate which will allow you to participate in the business sessions and debates, propose amendments and vote.

Other off-site registrants are able to watch and ask questions in live sessions including workshops, business sessions and worship. In the past, Glenn Brown offered GA watch sessions at our Fellowship, but you can also live stream from the comfort of your own home.

Live streaming will include the Service of the Living Tradition, the Ware Lecture, morning worship and all General Sessions.

The Ware lecture is the highlight of General Assembly. The Ware family made a bequest to the American Unitarian Association, and the first lecture took place in 1922 and every year since, except for 1945 because of World War II. This year, Brittany Packnett, educator, organizer, writer and speaker, will speak on social change and empowerment.

Ms. Packnett serves as Teach for America's Vice President of National Community Alliances, where she leads partnerships and civil rights work with communities of color. She was a Ferguson protestor and continues in activism as, among other things, co-founder of Campaign Zero, a policy platform to end police violence. She is a writer for many publications, a podcaster, and recently appeared on the PBS News Hour. The Ware Lecture takes place Saturday, June 23 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

For further information about off-site participation in General Assembly, go to www.uua.org/ga/off-site.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Organizes for Welcoming Communities

The UUSC Is helping people in cities large and small to build communities that are inclusive, embrace new members, and celebrate the diverse contributions and experiences of all their residents. The UUSC offers grants and advocacy to make these programs possible.

One UUSC partner is the Greater Minnesota Workers Center (GMWC) in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The UUSC supported the center's "Resist and Persist" campaign. This effort seeks to advance human rights and social justice by "welcoming refugees and protecting undocumented immigrants and other vulnerable populations from deportations." The work organizes and supports low-wage Latinx and Somali workers and enriches the lives of all St. Cloud residents by fostering a welcoming culture. UUSC and GMWC worked to defeat a city council effort to reduce refugee admissions to the city and advocate for the the city council's passage of a "Welcoming City" resolution, which inspired the nearby city of Willmar to pass a similar resolution.

In Milan, Missouri in the northeastern part of the state two hours from Kansas City, UUSC works with Rural Community Workers Alliance (RCWA) to support Latinx workers advocate for fair pay and to stop discrimination. UUSC works to advance human rights and social justice, and as one worker said, "Thank God that there are good

people... who are interested in opening our eyes to stand up for our rights and stand up with us against those who exploit us... we are really grateful to partner with UUSC."

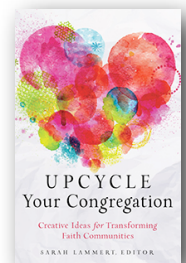
Besides working for immigrant issues and economic justice, the UUSC works for Civil Liberties for populations in need here in the US.

The UUSC is active in Haiti supporting members of the Papaye Peasant Movement to build strong communities with sustainable agriculture, environmental initiatives and community education. UUSC has also worked for disaster relief in the Caribbean and around the world to help countries recover from many kinds of natural disasters.

Go to the UUSC website, www.uusc.org to learn more about their programs, and consider supporting the work of the UUSC with an annual donation. Your donation can often be matched by funds from a grant by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock.

From the UUA Bookstore, InSpirit **Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities** Editor, Sara Lammert Publisher, Skinner House Books, April 2018

As UUFHC starts a new fiscal year with a newly installed minister, we might think of re-invigorating our Fellowship with some new ideas. Hot off the presses are nine engaging essays from UU leaders who show creative ways to transform and "upcycle" the main ingredients of our congregations to something relevant, innovative and new.



"These authors are people like you—real-life congregational and religious leaders who have found a way to make new wine from old wineskins, attracting new growth and vitality where things had gotten a little dim and dusty."

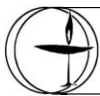
Editor, Sarah Lammert, continues in her introduction: "Instead of starting a daunting new project, you don't have to start from scratch to bring vitality to your congregation. You don't have to take it all on at once. There are simple, yet profound ways you can use the riches you already have around you to create fun, relevance, vitality, and beauty in your religious community."

The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Harford County
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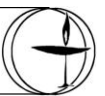
Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, May 13, 2018



Minister:	The Rev. Maria McCabe
Director of Religious Education:	Stephanie Kalka
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle): Tues, Wed & Thurs:	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
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Minister's Office Hours: TBA	
Mon:	Weekly Sabbath Time
Tues & Wed:	11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Thurs:	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Fri:	Writing & Research Day

Director of Religious Education Office Hours:	
Mon:	Day Off
Tues, Wed & Thurs:	9:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Fri:	Day Off

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Wayside Pulpit

Happiness does not depend on what you have or who you are. It solely relies upon what you think.

– *Buddha*