

The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro



What He Did on His Summer Vacation

By Margo Kiely

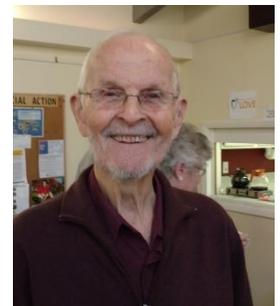
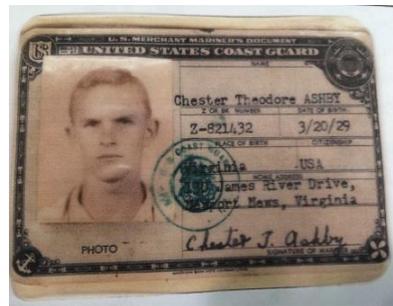
UUFW member Ted Ashby did three important things in the summer of 1946. He graduated from Newport News High School. He got ready to go to college. And he became a “Sea Cowboy” serving under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in their efforts to respond to the situation faced by farmers in Europe whose livestock and farm equipment had been destroyed during the Second World War.

The newly formed Heifer Project International, building on lessons learned from relief work during the Spanish Civil War, had started to bring livestock to Europe in 1945. Whereas the efforts in the thirties were concentrated on foodstuffs, the UNRRA focused on supplying the horses and cows necessary for food production.

Ted, being young, healthy and unemployed, signed up to work for HPI. Three days after his high school graduation, he picked up his duffle bag and boarded the Victory Ship, Bucknell Victory, en route to Gdansk, Poland with other sailors and 700 horses to care for on the journey. Many of these horses had been donated by farmers from the Church of the Brethren.

Upon return from this trip, Ted decided to spend the rest of his summer hanging out with his friends. It only took one night at the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park to change his mind. Getting sick on the roller coaster was much less

remunerative and no more fun than being seasick on a ship on the North Sea or Atlantic Ocean, so Ted signed up for a second journey.



This journey involved transporting another 700 horses—to Greece on a Liberty Ship, Alcee Fortier—which landed at Thessaloniki.

Ted returned to the U.S., disembarking at New Orleans on a Friday, and traveled back to Newport News by bus and plane. On Monday, he loaded his trunk into a neighbor’s car and left for college.

He had five days off in the summer of 1946.

Black Lives Matter

By Kathleen de los Reyes

We see the sign every time we attend services. What does it mean? Why not “all lives matter?” I could not quite figure out how to answer that question coherently until I viewed a YouTube clip of Jeffrey Robinson of the ACLU titled [“When Heritage Equals Hate: The Truth About the Confederacy in the US.”](#)

Continued

Black Lives Matter (Cont.)

After viewing the talk, I had my answer. The earliest history of this continent was based on white supremacy. The country institutionalized white privilege through systemic racism from the first days of slavery and the decimation of Native populations. It continued through Jim Crow, “separate but (not) equal” to discrimination after WW II in housing and educational opportunities. These were only a few of the historical facts I was never taught in school.

In the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, the criminal justice system is exposed as being biased against blacks as it has been since the end of slavery. The recent shootings of unarmed black people by police with no one being held responsible highlights the problem. When it happens over and over, the black community feels devalued and vulnerable to attack in one form or another. Our blindness about white privilege has allowed us to not think about the systemic, institutional racism which has devalued black lives since the inception of the US. So yes, when black lives matter, then and only then will all lives matter. *This article reflects the discussion and learning taking place in the class on Racial Equity led by Rev. Paul. Classes will continue monthly through June. You are welcome to join even if you have not attended previous sessions. See the [Adult Learning](#) page for dates and times.*

Pledge Drive Begins Next Month

By Ben Pumphrey

UUFW will be gearing-up for the 2018 Pledge Drive very soon. We hope to continue providing inspiring and challenging programs and

services over the course of 2018-2019. Drawing from our new [mission statement](#), we hope to build on our goal of being an essential resource for liberal religion in the Valley. Doing this requires a concerted effort from all of us. In addition to all the time and good work put forth toward UUFW activities, we also depend upon financial resources to bring many of our hopes to fruition. Please reflect upon what UUFW means to you as we gear-up for the Pledge Drive. This year, our Pledge Drive Task Force members are: Merrie Jo Perkuchin, Florence Ferguson, and Wayne Nolde.

New Member Spotlight

Margaret Hu and her family have deeply appreciated the chance to be a part of the UUFW community. Margaret is an associate professor of law at Washington and Lee University. She previously served as an attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice. Steve Miskinis, her husband, is an attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the DOJ. Their two children, Elena (sixth grade) and Beckett (fourth grade), have really enjoyed the wonderful RE programs. Margaret explains that: “UUFW is a very special place. In the fall of 2016, my sister-in-law lost her battle with cancer. I felt our family needed a spiritual home to help us heal from our sad loss. We were relatively new to the area and we instantly felt the warmth and kindness of UUFW. And my husband and I also felt inspired and comforted by the community’s commitment to justice, and social and political consciousness. I feel lucky to have found UUFW, and that we are now able to share in the friendships and commitments of this fellowship.”

