

## Conversation on Care for our Common Home: Next Steps

June 12, 2016

In our “Conversations,” we have all discovered others who share some of our concerns and quests. Many suggested possible further action – as individuals, communities, advocates for public policy, naturalists, citizens, ethicists and philosophers, or as persons of religious faiths, in quest for social and environmental justice. Some of us wish to share with the group our passion or project or organization.

To make corrections and updates to this document, email [beverly@bevhunter.com](mailto:beverly@bevhunter.com)

### List of Next Step Projects

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Hal Hunter	Support low-income seniors in Rappahannock County
Ellie Clark	Bring a refugee family to Rappahannock County?
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Stephen Clapp	<i>Fixing the Food System: Changing How We Produce and Consume Food</i>
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Elizabeth Lee	<i>The Truth about CANCER: a GLOBAL QUEST</i>

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### Continuing this Group through Email Contact

Name: Kevin O’Neill

Email address: [kevintoneill@yahoo.com](mailto:kevintoneill@yahoo.com)

Phone number: (540)454-8827

Project name: Email Contact List

My role: I will volunteer to be administrator for the site.

This email list of the people who have attended the Laudato Si conversations would be used to send out notices on events, meetings, and initiatives that may be of interest to list members. If others want to join, they would be allowed to do so - those wishing to be removed would be taken off. The notices would go out, and each person would determine if they have an interest in it. By extending the reach of individual groups and people, it will be possible to form connections and partnerships that would not happen otherwise. I would want the email list with the names of all those wishing to participate.

## Support low-income seniors in Rappahannock County

Hal Hunter, Hal@Rappahannock.com, 937-4744

The U.S. Census estimated last year's Rappahannock County population at 7,378. Of these, 23.8 percent were aged 65 and older. That's 1,756 seniors or almost one in four. And the percentages are going up.

Bev Dunford, Director of Social Services, estimates that at least 200 of these are living in poverty, probably more because "we know there are poor people who do apply for benefits."

Many of these are socially isolated. Living alone with no car. That can lead to depression and mental health problems.

What can we do?

First we need to identify the seniors, preferably through someone they know and trust.

Then we need to recruit volunteers to provide services. The top three services nationally are transportation, phone calls for companionship, and home visits.

What commitment are you looking for? : Time

What you are offering to persons in the Conversation to facilitate their participation.

I will meet with you in person to discuss your interests and abilities and how I can help you schedule time to work with our target population.

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## Bring a refugee family to Rappahannock County?

Ellie Clark

[blessingsfromellie@gmail.com](mailto:blessingsfromellie@gmail.com)

540 675-3978 home

540 316-7104 cell

I'd like to form a group or join other locals already researching the possibility/ feasibility of bringing a well-vetted family unit of refugees (perhaps 3 generations) from a world crisis situation to resettle in Rappahannock County. As a UU, I would investigate what already has been done by UU churches in America and in other countries.

Other members could investigate relevant experience of other faith groups. I would ask for group members to commit to at least a year's worth of cooperation, to plan and investigate other facets of what would be involved in welcoming such a family into our community/ county.

Areas of investigation might include legal logistics, financing / fund-raising, helping the family to find food, clothing, housing, health care, transportation, and work opportunities, seeking other people from the family's country to serve as liason/friends/resources, ascertain what types of counseling might be available, etc. Members of the group with business experience could investigate what assistance could be provided with cooperation from local farms, businesses, and employers. English as a 2nd language classes might need to be located or started. Child care assistance might be needed as the family begins to move into the community and schools. Perhaps the family members would each like to buddy with a Rappahannock friend of similar age/gender in a sort of friend/mentor role. There are so many ways in which Rappahannock citizens could be invited to open their hearts to a refugee family.

There are so many refugees flocking from various dangerous situations all over the world hoping to find safety, welcome and a new start. The human need is obvious. We all could share in giving them a chance to start a new life in a free country. Their problems would be daunting and numerous, but perhaps when they begin to feel safe and welcome, they would accept help and friendship willingly offered by us and our neighbors.

At the moment, I have no handouts or visual aids for an exhibit. Perhaps I can find some between now and next Sunday. I wonder how many people would want to help this effort?

I hope there is interest! I can't sit by and do nothing to help in some small way..... when the needs of the refugee community are so great.



## Communities of Peace Foundation

PO Box 3507  
Warrenton, VA 20188  
540-937-4940

[www.communitiesofpeace.org](http://www.communitiesofpeace.org)  
[communitiesofpeace@gmail.com](mailto:communitiesofpeace@gmail.com)

### DEEPEN YOUR CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE

- SPONSOR: Gerry Eitner [communitiesofpeace@gmail.com](mailto:communitiesofpeace@gmail.com) 540-937-4940
- ORGANIZATION: Communities of Peace ([www.communitiesofpeace.org](http://www.communitiesofpeace.org))
- MY ROLE: President
- We're looking for people who are interested in deepening their mystical connection with Nature - to experience their own divine inner nature and contribute from their most effective and fulfilling place.
- Why it is important towards helping the earth, its creatures, its human institutions:  
We believe that each person is here for a reason at this critical time in the earth's history. Understanding that reason and making those connections, both internal and external is key.
- What commitment are we looking for?  
The commitment varies according to the interests and finances of each participant (we do charge for most of these training programs.) We offer individual mentoring, plus a variety of group workshops, both in person and online. Much of our approach involves direct connection with Nature, evoking a deep response from the person's inner nature.
- I will meet with each interested person (at no charge) to assess their interests, their values, and how we might be able to help. I (and if needed, other teachers from our organization) will then work with each participant in ways that are appropriate for him/her, and assist them to make their most valuable contribution to the community. I expect that these people will naturally gravitate toward existing community organizations, such as RappFLOW, local schools, etc.
- Yes I want exhibit space/table and opportunity to speak to the group.

## **Green Sanctuary**

Bonnie Dixon  
Email: Bonnie Dixon <edenart@crosslink.net>

Our seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle is “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

Green Sanctuary was an outgrowth of the Seventh Principle Project, Ministry for Earth, created in 1989, encouraging Unitarian Universalists to imagine what it would look like if our congregational life reflected this respect for the web of life.

Our projects are:

Food Pantry-Nutrition Equality through Community Support Led by **Rachel Bynum**

Solstice Celebrations

An **intergenerational group activity for the whole congregation**

Workshops and Activities to Inspire a Sense of Awe

To be **shared among our ESJ Committee**

Services with Green and Social Justice Themes

To be **planned and shared by our ESJ Committee**

Our Green Library and Quarterly Seminar Series Led by **Vernon Gras**

Plant a Tree Led by **Kristin Worthington and Christina Look**

Interdependent Web Workshops and Continuing Education

Led by **Kristin Worthington, Christina Look and Elizabeth Lee**

Energy Transition Led by **Ian Fitzsimmons**

Vegan, Vegetarian and Locavore Led by **Vernon Gras**

Voluntary Simplicity Led by **Jay Allen**

Park Hikes Led by **Marc Malik and Janet Scott Davis**

These projects lend themselves to interfaith action and participation is not limited to members of Unitarian Universalists of the Blue Ridge. If you suggest your own interfaith projects inspired by the Green Sanctuary mission or help with any we have undertaken, you are warmly invited to contact me, Rev. Savage or any of our Green Sanctuary project leaders in the interest of creating a better world for all of us.

# Many Ways for You To Support the Rappahannock Food Pantry and Plant a Row for the Hungry

Mimi Forbes and Jane Coon

**Spread the Word** If you know someone who is hungry, tell them about the services available at the Pantry. For those who are more fortunate, tell them about how they can support the Pantry.

**Plant-a-Row** Gardeners, please plant a little extra and/or donate your excess harvest of vegetables, fruit, and eggs.

## **Volunteer at the Pantry**

The Pantry could not operate without our volunteers. Volunteers accept food from donors, issue receipts, unload vans and stock shelves, drive shut-ins to the Pantry, take food to shut-ins, and pick up food from area farms and orchards. [Click here for more information on Volunteer Opportunities](#). Or, if you have special skills related to food, health, wellness, etc., let us know and we'll find a way to put you to work.

**Monetary Contributions** If you do not have fresh produce, cash is often the best way to contribute the Pantry. The Pantry can often buy more with a dollar than you can.

## **Donate Perishable Foods, Pet Food, and Toiletries**

The Pantry always needs Milk, Eggs, Butter, Sliced Cheese, and Ground Beef. In addition, the Pantry needs Peanut Butter, Jam and Jelly, Hearty Soups, Canned Meat and Tuna, Pancake Mix, Coffee, Tea, Cooking Oils, Ketchup, Mustard, and Syrup. Finally, the Pantry accepts personal items like toothpaste and other toiletries. Feel free to call (540-675-1177) and ask what we need to put on the shelves this week.

**Add a Few Items at the Corner Store** The Sperryville Corner Store allows shoppers to buy items for the Pantry at a discount and delivers them here for you.

## **Donate Some of Your CSA**

Going out of Town? We'll pick up your shares while you're away. Can't use all your food this week? We'll take it. Call 540-675-1177.

**Organize a Collection** Start regular collections at your church, civic organization, or business.

**Hold a Benefit** Several groups have held dinners or special events to raise money for the Pantry.

**Hunters for the Hungry** The County will pay for Manfred Call to process deer donated to the Pantry. Hunters can call him at 540-522-2896 to arrange to meet him at Muskrat Haven Farm.

## Child Care and Learning Center (CCLC)

Betsy Dietel

Betsy Dietel <bdietel@dietelpartners.com>

There are many ways to support CCLC. Donor and Volunteer opportunities include:

- Donating a scholarship for a needy family to send their child to CCLC.
- Working in the children's garden- preparing the soil, weeding, planting, watering, teaching children about what is happening in the garden.
- Cooking projects
- Art projects
- Playing an instrument or dancing with the children
- Reading in the classroom
- Trail maintenance or landscaping on our 7 acre campus
- Building and ground improvements
- Assisting on field trips
- Working in the office-data entry and mailings
- Helping with special events

Our mature and steadfast staff is committed to providing an enriching and safe haven for your children.

- Providing essential social interaction opportunities for young children in our rural setting is critical.
- We encourage personal visits by families so they can see for themselves what our programs and curriculum have to offer.
- They are based on the latest brain development research that supports active learning and building social relationships.
- We are committed to enriching the lives of young children and their families.
- We are a private non-profit corporation that provides [full and part-time programs](#) for children from 3 weeks to 12 years of age.
- CCLC is an equal opportunity provider of early childhood programs.
- Licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Social Services, CCLC is one of only 113 centers (of the more than 3,500 licensed preschools) in Virginia that is also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- This accreditation recognizes CCLC as one of the highest quality early childhood programs in the Country.

## TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN RAPPFLOW

- SPONSOR: Beverly Hunter [beverly@bevhunter.com](mailto:beverly@bevhunter.com) 540 937-4744 (h)
- ORGANIZATION: RappFLOW ([www.rappflow.org](http://www.rappflow.org))
- MY ROLE: President
- RappFLOW Board of Directors is looking for people who will take leadership roles as Directors and/or Officers, or in other capacities such as data collector, teacher, publicist, event organizer.
- **Why it is important towards helping the earth, its creatures, its human institutions.** RappFLOW Mission is to help preserve, protect, conserve and restore water resources and watersheds in Rappahannock County. Please see [www.rappflow.org](http://www.rappflow.org) for activities, projects, services we offer.
- **What commitment are you looking for?** Average 5 – 10 hours per month for a year.
- I will organize a meeting of the RappFLOW Directors and other key leaders to introduce you, and I will work with you to find your best fitting and rewarding roles in RappFLOW and the community.
- Yes I want exhibit space/table and opportunity to speak to the group.



**Buy and Read my book:**

*Fixing the Food System: Changing How We Produce and Consume Food*

Stephen Clapp

I'm quoting what the publisher says about my book on Amazon:

"America's broken food system has provoked an outcry from consumer advocates seeking to align food policies with public health objectives. This book examines both sides of the conflict for solutions.

- Traces the development of a national food policy proposed by food movement leaders
- Reveals the true cost of food and its toll on consumers and taxpayers
- Discusses the opposition against a national food policy from the agricultural-industrial complex
- Shows the effects of changing the current food system
- Analyzes efforts to fix the food system and the efforts to oppose them
- Introduces early food advocates who changed the food policy landscape."

"about the author,": "A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Journalism School, Steve covered food policy in Washington, D.C., for more than 40 years. He came to Washington after serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in northern Nigeria. In 1966, he joined the Office of Inspection in the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, investigating and evaluating antipoverty programs in the Midwest and South. From 1971 to 1983 he edited *Nutrition Week*, a newsletter published by the Community Nutrition Institute, then became communication coordinator for the Interfaith Action of Economic Justice. He began reporting for *Food Chemical News* in 1988 and retired as senior editor in 2013."