

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

August 2010

Volume IX, Issue 8

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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## From Your Intern Minister . . .

During my recent vacation I did a jigsaw puzzle—something that is fun, but that I'd never do at home unless one of my children begged me. I even got my husband to help with "Cinderella's Grand Castle," the 1000-piece puzzle that was at my parent's house. When we were first beginning, trying to get the border together, I got a little miffed, because he was taking the pieces that were in front of me. "We're on the same team" he reminded me. Sometimes it's hard to remember that we are all on the same team. Really, ALL of us. Goodness knows a lot of times it doesn't feel that way in our world, we often see people operating from a win-lose mentality, and not just in politics. However, we do need to play to win, and as Michael Jordan will tell you, even the most talented among us depends on the team.



Our religious heritage calls us to this perspective by affirming the inherent worth a dignity of all people, our interconnections, and the goal of world community. Viewing the world through a through a win-lose lens is not compatible with these principles. Unitarianism and Universalism have profoundly shaped history in disproportion to our numbers because we have been a strong voice recognizing that playing to win means we all play together. This doesn't mean that we don't fall far short of our goal of team play, but, as individuals we try to keep our compass pointed this way. As Martin Luther King Jr said, "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." A tale order but as the quote implies, we don't really have much choice. And on the upside, living as team means we can attempt things we might never do alone... like a 1000 piece puzzle!

May you have an August filled with teamwork!

Love,

—Sally Beth

### UUCSV Board of Trustees

Heidi Blozan, *President* 669-7435  
Bill Altork 301-2654  
Teresa Ballinger 275-8453  
David Brown 242-8544  
Roberta Madden 669-2757  
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Emory Underwood 669-0869

Sally Beth Shore, *Intern Minister*  
(Office Hours: TuW 9-2)  
Rev. Dick Stennett, *Minister Emeritus*

Jim Carillon, *Treasurer* 628-1320  
Sybil Argintar, *RE Coordinator* 230-3773  
Tricia West, *Office Staff*  
(Office Hours: Th 9-3, F 9-2)

**Board Meeting: Monday 16 August, 6 p.m.**

Send Newsletter Information to  
Norm Kowal, *Editor*  
[normankowal@bellsouth.net](mailto:normankowal@bellsouth.net)

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 24 August, 10 a.m., covering September 2010

## Board Notes . . .

Dear Members and Friends,

Our business year runs from July 1-June 30. Thus, during our July Board meeting we elected officers. Jim Carillon and I will continue to serve as treasurer and president respectively. Scott Shaw took the office of Vice President. Robbie Madden is serving as secretary however, only until we find a non-board member to serve in this manner.

So, we are looking for someone to take minutes for our board meetings. This is a fabulous way to know what is going on at UUCSV. We meet the third Monday of every month from 6-8pm. The minutes are approved via email within one week after the meeting. Then the secretary posts the approved minutes and treasurers' report on the bulletin board plus files any documents associated with the meeting. The secretary is an officer of the board, however does not vote. If this is how you would like to serve UUCSV please contact board member Emory Underwood.

One concern of the board is how to create fund raisers that won't drain the pockets of our congregants. In the fiscal year 2010-2011 we will raise \$5,000 to meet our projected budget. Thus, the board created a Fund Raising Committee which will be chaired by David Brown. See David with your brilliant and creative ideas.

Secondly, the board is preparing for the absence of our minister in January. Since our Worship Associate Team will plan an increased number of services they will need more members to join this group. See Sally Beth if working on this committee is how you would like to serve.

Thirdly, the board is trying to figure out how to fund the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). With a budget that does not include money for this committee we are moving one step at a time to get them up and running. With the support of the board the MSC is planning a one day retreat with a Thomas Jefferson District consultant. They have begun to meet and are eager to fulfill the charge the congregation gave them.

We are a team and together we can make our dreams at UUCSV come true. Yours,

—Heidi Blozan



### **Training for Leaders**

Board Members and Committee Chairs of UU Congregations of the Western Carolina Cluster

Saturday, Sept. 18, 10am-2pm, Greenville, SC UU Fellowship

See poster on bulletin board for more details.

## Sunday Programming

**Sunday, 1 August 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Pulling in the Same Direction**

**Sally Beth Shore**

Being part of community takes work. Sometimes, the work is simply to pull in the same direction; difficult, but if we don't pull in at least the same general way, we can be pulling apart. In the communities we are put of, including our church, what are the forces that bring us together, and how can we nourish them in order to make progress?



**Sunday, 8 August 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **The Storytellers' Fire**

**David Novak**

An Asheville UU and award winning Storyteller, David Novak, will take us on a storytelling adventure around a summer time "campfire." His "fireside" stories will illustrate: sharing our light with the world (Raven Brings Light); the lesson's learned when encountering another person, culture and story (The Sky Woman's Basket); and remembering to share our abundance with others (Jack and the Beanstalk). This Intergenerational Service is not to be missed!

David began storytelling in 1978 and has been a "platform teller" in the national storytelling revival since 1988. Presently, he holds adjunct instructor positions for AB Tech College, UNC-Asheville, and East Tennessee State University in the performing arts. He is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network. FMI: [www.novateller.com](http://www.novateller.com)

**Sunday, 15 August 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Transylvanian Unitarianism—What has it got to do with UUs?**

**Evelyn Carter, Charlie Chilton, Sally Beth Shore**

For several years, we have been part of the UUA's partner Church program.

Every year our Women's group, the Sisters of Lucy Stone, has raised money to support our Partner Church in Medeser, which is in Transylvania, Romania. Today we learn more about the Partner Church program, Transylvanian Unitarianism, and the congregation in Romania.

**Sunday, 22 August 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Life Without**

**Melissa Mummert & Young Friends**



Well-known to our Congregation, UU minister, filmmaker, and community organizer, Melissa Mummert will bring to our Sunday service the high energy of the young people in Charlotte with whom she has been working. She and they will share with us how they came to make the film *Life Without* that shares their experiences and challenges as children of incarcerated parents. Excerpts of the film will be shown.

Melissa does her work through the non-profit Center for Community Transitions and, among many activities, facilitates parenting classes in the Mecklenburg County jail. Melissa's earlier documentary, *Perversion of Justice* won the Change Maker Award and, through one woman's story, recounted the serious problems with Federal Sentencing Guidelines and drug conspiracy laws. Melissa holds degrees in philosophy and theater from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and a Master of Divinity Degree from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. She is married to Rev. Jay Leach and together they try to keep up with daughter Annie.

## Sunday Programming

**Sunday, 29 August 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Meditation Sunday**

**Margie Meares**



Zen Master Dogen said "To study the Way is to study the self. To study the self is to forget the self. To forget the self is to be Awakened." In Margie's second offering of Buddhist practice to us, we will practice focusing attention so as to generate awareness. Through periods of meditation and a short dharma talk, we will focus on skillful techniques of mindfulness that can lead us to a deep and joyful understanding of existence.

Margie Meares is a lay minister in training with Anattasati Magga Sangha of Asheville. Nancy Spence is the teacher at Anattasati Magga Sangha, a sangha of a Soto Zen lineage. The Sangha stays true to the Buddha through teaching the most skillful aspects of Buddhism's various traditions. Margie has wandered on or near the Buddha's path since the 1970's and has now been a dedicated student of Nancy Spence for more than 12 years. If you wish to know more about the Sangha, please visit the website at [www.anattasatimagga.org](http://www.anattasatimagga.org).

**Sunday, 5 September 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Intergenerational Water Communion**

**Sally Beth Shore**

Today, the first Sunday in September, we celebrate returning home from summer travels with our annual UU Water Communion. This family-friendly service will be participatory and may have a surprise or two... Please come with 1) water from a source that is special to you and 2) stories of the waters you have brought or that you visited this summer. The homily will focus on how we can honor, clean and preserve Earth's waters, with particular attention to the situation in the gulf of Mexico. How do we make a difference in a sea of indifference?

## Religious Education Corner

In the past month I've experienced a pilgrimage to Boston with our oldest youth and also helped care for some of our littlest UUs in the nursery on Sunday mornings. We have a young set of one and two-year-olds in our nursery/preschool coming up this year and it strikes me how the cycle is beginning again. Preschool is mostly a time to learn cooperative play, invoking (not in any concrete form in the minds of our babies, but in ours) our first guiding principle of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person". Our babies learn this by playing together, learning to share, and beginning to understand that there are others out there different from them. As they grow, they will learn more about respecting differences, making friends, looking for their own truths, and appreciating the beauty in the world around us. I treasure the idea that we begin again, and as William Ellery Channing so aptly worded it "the great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own." I'm looking forward with great anticipation to working with all of our children and youth in the year ahead.

### Religious Education Classes

We've had a great series of summer programs this year, with many new volunteers stepping forward to offer their talents! We do continue to need preschool caregivers through the summer. Church safety policy dictates that we have two adults or one adult and a teen assistant present in the classroom at all times. We've had lots of little visitors this summer, so please consider helping

one Sunday! Below is a list of what we'll be offering through August.

### Spirit Play

I participated in a workshop on this topic in late June with the Asheville church which focused on this amazing teaching methodology. The basic premise of Spirit Play is storytelling. A story is presented, along with numerous props and materials to capture the audience, and then the children take time to answer questions of wonder and conduct their "work" for the morning (work consisting of acting out the story among themselves, drawing, making something, or drawing upon previous stories with questions or games). We hope to incorporate some Spirit Play mornings into our regular curriculum this fall and as some summer programs next year.

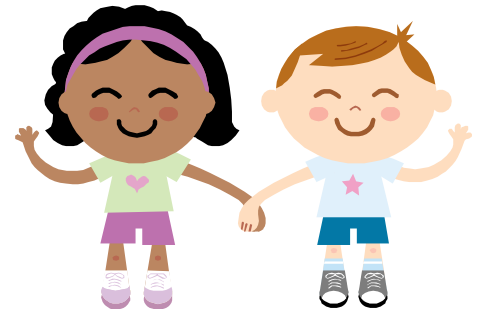
### Religious Education Teachers Needed

We still need several teachers to help with our classes this fall. Working with our children and youth is one of the most rewarding volunteer positions you can fill. We will have teams of a minimum of four again so that you would have two Sundays off to attend services. You would only be responsible for teaching one lesson per month, and assist the second Sunday. Not a whole lot of time.

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO HELP TO KEEP A STRONG RE PROGRAM GOING!!**

### Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee for the 2010 to 2011 school year will be comprised of George Scott, chair; Susan Shaw, Scott Shaw, Evelyn Carter, Krista Brown, and Aaron Eliot-Gaines (our first



youth rep!). Thank you to these great folks for their time and commitment to RE.

### Important Dates to Remember

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| August 1  | Campfire Preparation<br>101 with Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden      |
| August 8  | David Novak, storyteller (intergenerational service, Grades K and up) |
| August 15   | Water Rockets with Sam and George Scott (off-site)                    |
| August 22   | Creek Hike with Heidi Blozan (off-site)                               |
| August 29   | Big Bang with Evelyn Carter   |
| September 5   | Water Communion (intergenerational service, Grades K and up)          |
| Ingathering and beginning of RE Classes<br>September 12 |   |

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator  
230-3773



### **Social Action Committee**

The Social Action Committee is looking for host families for the nights of Friday August 20 and Saturday August 21. It's going to be a hopping good time!! Please contact Monroe Gilmour if you can host: 669-6677. Thanks!

### **UUCSV Men's Group**

Looking for a few good men to join our UUCSV Men's Group. We need you to help shape our direction and activities. Please bring yourself, along with any ideas, topics or personal stuff you would consider sharing, while learning greater trust and honesty with a few good men.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 8 at 9:30 am at the church. After that we will meet every other Sunday morning thus: Aug. 22, Sept. 5 and 19, etc.

For further information or questions, please contact Bill Altork at billaltork@gmail.com.

### **Congregational Care**

Congregational Care, now under the Membership Committee umbrella, is ready to assist our congregation in time of need by providing transportation and meals for those who are facing difficult circumstances. The coordinator is Kylie Fauth (817-5317). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

### **Room in the Inn**

Our next Room in the Inn will take place on October 29th at the Black Mountain Presbyterian annex. As usual we will need morning and evening van drivers as well as overnight volunteers and food for all meals. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer in late August. People can also contact me at 686-3112, flora258@isp.com to sign up. Thanks for your generous support of this worthy project.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator

### **SOLS News**

The August meeting of SOLS (Sisters of Lucy Stone) will be held on August 22 at 12:30 at the Church.

### **Drumming Circle**

If you'd like to drum on Friday, August 20, before Friday Fling, please contact Sally Beth... "we'll have a drumming circle at 5:30 pm that day if I hear from a few more people!"

### **Friday Fling**

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 20 August at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) will be provided. Bring some simple food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "Driving Miss Daisy" (1989, Morgan Freeman, Jessica Tandy) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



### **Choir News**

In August, the choir will be singing on the 15th. In recognition of Unitarians of Romania, we'll be singing the song "Szekely Aldas", part in English and part in Romanian. To round out our foreign language experience, we will sing "Ubi Caritas", an easy piece in Latin meaning "Where Charity and Love are Found, God is There." We will meet on Sunday the 8th at 12:15 PM, then on the following Thursday the 12th at 6 PM, and then on Sunday the 15th at 10 AM before the performance. Newcomers are always welcome to sing with us in the choir!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director

### Grounds Watering

While our Ground's chair, Melanie Ross, recovers we need volunteers to do the watering. The flowers will need to be watered twice a week (ideally Wednesday and either Saturday or Sunday). Some flowers are near the portico, while the others are around the parking lot near the RE rooms.

There are four apple trees, three red bud trees, and one rose bush that need watering once a week.

Those wishing to volunteer can add their name to the sign up sheet in the foyer. This has a space for flower watering and another for tree/rose watering.

### Music-Makers Wanted!

Would you like to play piano or another instrument, or perhaps sing, during a Sunday Service?

This is an invitation to let yourself shine! An accompanist can be provided, if needed, for singers and other soloists.

If you are interested, please contact a member of the Worship Associates Team (Jim Carillon, Carolyn Shorkey, Sue Stone, Ursula Goebels-Ellis), so that we can include you in an upcoming service.

### Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, August 4, at 6:30 pm. Our topic is Yemaya, a Yoruban goddess of the sea. Facilitator will be Teresa Ballinger. For information about this open group, contact Teresa Ballinger, 275-8453.

### Birthdays in August

August 11	Shari Spires
August 13	Jo Motzko
August 13	Sydney Wilson
August 15	Deb Vingle
August 17	Connie Krochmal
August 19	Susan Shaw
August 20	Carolyn Fryberger
August 20	Robyn Schuster
August 21	Dick Stennett
August 23	Ursula Goebels-Ellis

If you would like your birthday posted in the church bulletin, please fill out the form located on the table in the foyer.

### From the Editor—The Last Word

The Board approved a set of newsletter guidelines at their July meeting, and I presume that they will make them available in some fashion. The major changes that I see from how we have been doing things include: word length limitations on articles, restrictions on non-UUCSV related items, and increased font size. It should work out just fine.

