

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

July 2011

Volume X, Issue 7

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



500 Montreat Rd
Black Mountain, NC 28711
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From the Board

The board thanks all of our members for meeting our pledge commitments. This put us in a good position to start the new fiscal year. Jim Carillon has served the board over the last several years in many key roles and is finally taking a break. The last office he held was treasurer. Many, many thanks to Jim!

The Ministerial Search Committee is on their way! The board and members greatly appreciate the work you have committed yourselves to. Go team! Go!

When our friend and member Tom Rodman died, his estate gifted UUCSV. His gifts are now turning into 50 beautiful new chairs and a new front door and windows! The Building and Aesthetics Committee will round out this significant gift by framing and displaying a piece or two of Mary Rodman's (Tom's wife) artwork. (The sample chair is on the minister's office.)

A free meditation session will be starting on June 30 in our space and every Thursday thereafter from 7-8 a.m. Judith Toy from Cloud Cottage is offering this to us. She invites beginners as well as people already in a practice. Read The Current for more info.

The board will elect its new officers at the July meeting. Please encourage and support your new board members to rise to this marvelous opportunity to serve by being an officer. Both President and Vice President are open.

There was so much positive feedback to RE (Religious Education) about the use of the large screen in the foyer that they have offered to create an inviting show geared especially to guests as well as featuring special events. We will give this a try so please continue to give us more feedback.

—*Outgoing President, Heidi Blozan*

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Helen Bell
Heidi Blozan
Jen Caldwell
Lynn Failing
Roberta Madden
Mary Soyenova
Geoff Stone
Emory Underwood

Sybil Argintar, *Director of Religious Education* 230-3773

Linda Metzner, *Choir Director*

Tricia West, *Office Staff*

(Office Hours: W 12-5,
Th 9:30-3:30)

Board Meeting: Monday 18 July, 6 p.m.

Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 26 July, 10
a.m., covering August 2011

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 3 July 2011, 11 a.m.

Good Advice

Jeff Hutchins

In honor of Independence Day, Jeff Hutchins will talk about the ethics we impart to our children as they become independent of us. It's based on the advice he gave his younger daughter on the day she graduated from high school. Jeff hopes his talk will be humorous and inspiring, but what are the odds?

Jeff has been a regular speaker here. He is the author of "A Press Conference with God."

On this day, we will also observe the anniversary of UUCSV moving into our current building, and we will hold our annual church picnic/cookout to celebrate.

Sunday, 10 July 2011, 11 a.m.

Intergenerational and Pet Blessing Service

Rev. Michael Carter

Our Sunday service on July 10th will not be held at our church. The 11:00 Intergenerational Sunday service will be held at the pavilion at Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain. Rev. Carter will conduct a Pet Blessing service. We will be acknowledging the important role pets play in many of our lives. Rev. Carter will do a group blessing of the pets in photo's and stuffed animals. He will individually bless the living animals.



We urge you to follow these guidelines for participating in this unique service.

1. If you will be uncomfortable sitting without back support at a picnic table, please, bring your own lawn chair.
2. We have the pavilion rented for the whole day. Bring



your own picnic lunch if you wish to stay and enjoy the park following the service.

3. We will not provide coffee hour after the service. We will not be set up for finger food snacks. We will, however, provide cold beverages in cups.

4. Bring your pet! Live pets are welcome, or a photo of your pet, or your favorite stuffed animal.

5. If you bring a dog, it must be on a leash or in it's kennel. The dog must be under the supervision of a adult at all times. Think about how your dog behaves around other dogs (for instance, at the dog park). If your dog is likely to be relaxed in the presence of other dogs, your dog is a good candidate for attending the pet blessing service.

6. Every being's safety is our primary concern. As with children and animals we are prepared for the occasional disruption. That is not a problem, so long as we are safe in community, we will all be able to enjoy this special Sunday service.

FMI: Contact Scott Conklin scottconklin@charter.net or Carolyn Shorkey 299-9456

Sunday, 17 July 2011, 11 a.m.

Square Table

Byron Ballard, Tim Perry, and Kim Taylor

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 24 July 2011, 11 a.m.

A Service on basic beliefs: Where is the focus of our reverence and trust?



Ann Sillman and Friends

We are all familiar with the phenomenon of UUs being very clear in articulating what we DO NOT believe. So many of us are "refugees" from other faiths, or "unbelievers" in any conventional religious sense, that it's quite natural to think in terms of what we reject. Several years ago, Ann Sillman's late husband Jerry wrote a sermon on what UUs might actually believe. Jerry wrote six parts toward understanding our own spiritual needs and toward developing an improved belief system, ending with a question mark, "We all surmise, they this thing, and I that. Whom shall my soul believe?" The sermon will be read by several of our members who have agreed to adhere to Jerry's thoughts, but express them in their own words.

Sunday, 31 July 2011, 11 a.m.

Deb Vingle

Meditation Sunday

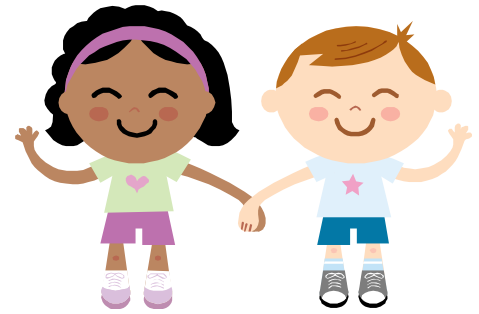
Sunday, 7 August 2011, 11 a.m.

Poetry Sunday

Bill Altork

One of the many sources of inspiration and spiritual enrichment for UUs is found in the writing and reading of poetry. Please join us on this Sunday for poetry readings by approximately fourteen members and friends of our congregation. Listen to original and other poems that have inspired those among our congregation.

Religious Education Corner



Summer Sundays!!

So far this summer we've helped with decorations for and participated in the Flower Communion service, taken a hike on Black Mountain's new greenway, and made some special gifts for dads. We still have some openings for programs so we can make this a really memorable summer for our children. All you talented folks, please sign up. We especially need help in the preschool. Sign-up sheets are posted in both rooms. We must have coverage for the preschool or it will be difficult to offer this childcare service over the next few months. RE is the responsibility of all of us, so please sign up for one Sunday to help!

July 3	Fun at the Gilmour/ Martin residence
July 10	Pet Blessing at Lake Tomahawk IG Service—all activities off-site
July 17	Creative Clay with Nels Arnold
July 24	Open
July 31	Open
August 7	Open
August 14	Open
August 21	Democracy flags with Milt Warden and Carolyn Shorkey
August 28	Open
September 4	Open

Summer Camp

We have six children interested in our half-day summer camp program, *Journey for the Earth: Daily Travel Adventures*, set for July 18-22, but we need a few more! Registrations must be in by July 1 so we can make a decision about whether or not we have enough campers to move ahead with plans for this year. Please get the word out to friends in the community. Black Mountain doesn't offer many day camps and this is a great opportunity. We'll be building a recycled creature, growing plants in newspaper pots, going on field trips to the community garden and Montreat Park to play and learn about water. Camp is open to rising first to fourth grades. Cost for members and friends is \$85 for the week; \$90 per camper for the general public.

General Assembly in Charlotte

Aaron Eliot-Gaines and I will be attending the UUA's General Assembly in Charlotte Wednesday and Thursday, June 22 and 23. There is a full program of youth caucus activities that Aaron will be attending, and I will be attending a great mixture of programming related to RE and multi-cultural activity planning. There will be lots of other religious education materials to pick up as well. We'll report next month about our experiences!

Teacher Recruitment Begins

I will begin the process of teacher recruitment over the next few weeks for our fall classes. If you are interested in being a lead teacher or just assisting in the classroom, please let me know as soon as possible. Here are our curriculum offerings for next year, all based around the theme of social justice:

Infant/preschool Class: Free play, stories, songs about social justice and caring for others

Grades K-4 Class: In Our Hands and Moral Tales

Grades 5-8 Class: Race to Justice and Beyond Pink and Blue

Grades 9-12 Class: A Chorus of Faiths

— Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education

(sybil.argintar@yahoo.com)



Membership Matters

Our membership committee is meeting the second Sunday morning in July at 10:00 a.m. In our usual location at the church.

The membership chair is looking forward to being out and about and seeing everyone.

—*Angie Underwood, Chair*

Hospitality News

July 3rd will be our annual church wide picnic after the Sunday service. Hospitality will provide hotdogs (beef, turkey and vegetarian), buns, condiments and beverage. We ask that you bring a favorite summertime covered dish to share. You are encouraged to bring your own plates and utensils to help reduce the amount of waste generated. We hope you will join us for this afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Thank you to the many people who helped with set-up and/or clean-up for the new member potluck on June 5th. We greatly appreciated all the wonderful dishes brought to share. It was a very enjoyable time and a terrific community welcome for our new members.

On another note, hospitality has expanded it's area into the administration office, to what we are fondly calling the "hospitality annex." This user friendly area now has a tall faucet, mug hooks for your personal mug, shelving space for your personal glass and an array of vases to use when you bring flowers to the service; these are all found above the sink. We encourage everyone to clean and return your mugs and glassware to this area after the service, as we put into practice our "green principles."

It has also been brought to hospitality's attention by several new members and friends that they were unaware of our policy of bringing food to share, for the social time after the service. So please consider bringing a snack on occasion and placing it on the food table in the portico. And to those wonderful folks that have helped maintain this tradition, we say "thank you, thank you, thank you!"

—*Lauris Liljestrand, Hospitality Co-chair*

Choir for June

The choir will be back to its normal schedule in July, rehearsing on the 17th after the service at 12:15, then the following Thursday the 21st at 6 PM (earlier because of the Lake Tomahawk concerts), and then on the day of the performance, the 24th, at 10 AM. We will sing songs relating to a sermon created by Ann Sillman's late husband Jerry. Come sing with us!

—*Linda Metzner, Choir Director*
(annelinde@hotmail.com)



Room in the Inn

Social Action sends a special thanks to all those volunteers who so generously helped out with Room in the Inn on July 1st at the Bl. Mountain Methodist annex. This event wouldn't be possible without you. As always the women enjoyed their week in Black Mountain and look forward to returning in the fall.

—*Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator*

Friday Fling

July's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 15 July 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 "The Truman Show" (1998; Jim Carrey, Ed Harris, Laura Linney; a man learns that his whole life has been a reality TV show) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Grounds

We again need help with keeping up the grounds—weeding the flowerbed, mowing the lawn, and just general "help around the place."

—Melanie Ross



SOLS

After our successful Trillium festival, we are leaning back and thinking about social things we may want to do for fun. We may come up with some congregation-wide activities. Our relationship with our partner church in Medeser, Romania is growing stronger. They have a new permanent minister named Monika Sopsis. She is married and they have a young daughter. If anyone has anything they think we should write about in our letters to the people in Medeser, please let us know.

The Partner Church display on the wall in the rear of the sanctuary has been updated. Pictures of Monika, "the old people," and congregants at a Christmas party are posted along with the latest letter we received from them. We think becoming familiar with the materials on the display will help our people feel more connected to our partners.

—Jane J Carroll, SOLS Chair

Birthdays in June

- July 7th Emily Eliot-Gaines
- July 13th Elaine Stennett
- July 14th Betty Bates
- July 15th Laine Everly
- July 15th Judy Lutvack
- July 22nd Bob MacDicken
- July 26th Jey Hiott



If you would like your birthday posted in the church bul-

Women’s Spirituality Group

Women's Spirituality Group meets at 6:30 on Thursday July 7. Our facilitator is Lisa Kretschmer...topic" The Evolution Continues - The Mayan Calendar." Lisa has been our speaker before, talking about Anchi Crystals. She has a lot of good information about the Mayan Calendar events for this year. Come with a snack if you wish to share one. Juice will be provided.

Women's Spirituality Group is a women's circle that is open to all. For information contact Barb Rogers at boardwalk-barb@yahoo.com.



—Barb Rogers

From the Editor—The Last Word

For an excellent people’s (a la Howard Zinn) introduction to classical music, written by an enthusiastic amateur, I strongly recommend *Classical Music: The Fifty Greatest Composers and Their 1,000 Greatest Works* by Phil G. Goulding (1992, Fawcett Columbine).



“It does wonderful things for your ego and interest to hear something and think: ‘This is Baroque. Maybe Bach, maybe Handel, maybe an unListed [sic] composer, but almost certainly Baroque.’ And then you recognize that strange and less pleasant-sounding music as probably Stravinsky or Bartok or one of their Twentieth Century contemporaries. At the beginning [of writing this book] I was often wrong, but gradually I improved—and so will you. And don’t get uptight about computing precisely why the sounds of one fellow’s music are so different from the sounds of another’s. It would be a nice thing to know, and people (like the late Leonard Bernstein) sometimes appear on television to try to tell us [Several of us UUs recently watched the whole series at my place.], and you pick up a little as you go along, but it is not essential to your enjoyment.”