

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

June 2010

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Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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## From Your Intern Minister . . .

Hi Everyone,

This month I'll be traveling to the Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual General Assembly which will be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul June 23-27. I'm pretty excited because it is a place I have never been to, but I'm even more excited because I always gain tremendously from General Assembly, where I meet and learn from UUs across the continent, to hear from the most talented leaders of our tradition, and get great ideas to put to use here at home in our congregation. Given budget realities, UUA President Peter Morales and the UUA Board are looking at ways to change GA and make it more accessible to all. It's not sure that we will continue to have a national convention that all UUs are invited to attend. However, the planning for next year's GA, scheduled to be down the hill in Charlotte, is already underway, what a great opportunity for us! Mark it on your calendar for late June of 2011. In the meantime, I hope to bring back a little of GA with me, in the form of DVD recordings; they should be available by fall so that we can have our own, "UU University" in Black Mountain. I hope you'll take a few minutes to look at all the various workshops and speakers, at this website: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/programming/18214.shtml>. If you see something that you think I shouldn't miss and that you'd like to get more information from, let me know.



This church-year is winding down, since we use a July-June calendar. Please acknowledge the UUCSV Board Members who are finishing their terms: Ursula Goebels-Ellis and Mamie Hilliard, both of whom have been dedicated members. New members, elected at the May Congregational meeting, will begin their terms in July.

May your long June days be blessed!

Love,

—Sally Beth

### UUCSV Board of Trustees

Heidi Blozan, *President* 669-7435  
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Sally Beth Shore, *Intern Minister*

(Office Hours: TuW 9-2)

Rev. Dick Stennett, *Minister Emeritus*

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

**Board Meeting: Monday 21 June, 6 p.m.**

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 22 June, 10 a.m., covering July 2010

## Board Notes . . .

Dear Members and Friends,

As a board chair I am happy. I am happy with the way the board talks to one another and reasons things out. I am happy with how each person contributes their share, their perspective, their talent. I am happy with how the board prepared themselves and the congregation for the two congregational meetings that were held in May. I am happy that we exceeded a quorum at both congregational meetings and that everyone that could or wanted to be there was. We are demonstrating our faith in action. We are showing up, asking questions, and stating our thoughts, opinions and concerns. We come to this place as grounded people, people of integrity, and people of sound body, mind and spirit. We are practicing faith in action. We are doing it! It doesn't mean it is always pretty or perfect or prepaid. It means we are walking the walk. We are walking our path in beauty.



The single thing that excites me most right now is that we are moving forward toward our dream of having a part-time minister. We are choosing our path from a place of faith rather than fear. We are taking the baby steps it takes to get there. We are being patient with ourselves and know that it is not just going to happen. We have to participate in our own path. We are creators of the path.

In more plain terms the May meetings resulted in accepting the July 2010- June 2011 budget which includes a shortfall that will have to be creatively overcome. Then we approved the formation of a Ministerial Search Committee.

Thank you to every person who has contributed in some way to this growing, breathing, community. Your participation is what makes this a vital place. My fire chief would always remind us that each of us has something important to contribute. I believe it. It has taken me a while to realize this and believe it about myself. Each of us contributes to this community and without participation there would be nothing. Thank you for your ongoing contributions!

Sincerely,

—Heidi Blozan

### **From the Treasurer**

Dear members and friends -- We are fast approaching our church fiscal year end on the 30th of June. Many of us have not yet completed our UUCSV pledge payments for THIS fiscal year. Please complete your giving to our church by providing this year's final pledge funds by Sunday June 27th. This will greatly aid your treasurer in finalizing the contributions accounting for this fiscal year. And you will feel so much better having met your pledged contributions to this important community! We need your funds to keep doing the good work of this church. Thank you in advance.

—Jim Carillon, UUCSV Treasurer

## Sunday Programming

**Sunday, 6 June 2010, 11 a.m.**

**Flower Communion—New Member Sunday**

**Sally Beth Shore**

Flower Communion, or “Flower Celebration,” is a tradition begun by Rev. Norbert Capek in the Czech Republic in 1923, and introduced to American Unitarians in 1940. Each of us is asked to bring one long-stemmed flower from your home or elsewhere to contribute to our community bouquet.

This custom, now celebrated in nearly all UU congregations, links us with each other and invokes our aspirations for world community as a free religious faith. Melanie Ross, UUCSV’s new Grounds Committee chair and flower fanatic will assist with the service.

This is also New Member Sunday—we honor and celebrate those members who have joined us in the past 6 months.



we have for religion today. Come worship in community about your purpose.

We honor fathers and Fatherhood today.

**Sunday, 27 June 2010, 11 a.m.**

**The Road Less Traveled**

**Rev. Michael Carter and Rev. Judith Long**

Rev. Michael Carter and Rev. Judith Long will explore the universal dimensions of faith journeys and how we find meaning at the various points along these journeys. Part of spiritual maturing is exploring one’s unique perspective on how the universe works. If one’s path is more traditional then the exploration can be easier. However, if one’s path is nontraditional then the journey can be more challenging as well as magical and adventurous, like any path that takes one on the road less traveled.

Rev. Michael Carter, an ordained Interfaith minister, is the Diversity Officer at Mission Hospital. Rev. Judith Long, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, is the Executive Director of The Free Clinics in Henderson County, serving in a community ministry capacity.

**Sunday, 13 June 2010, 11 a.m.**

**More Love**

**Bill Altork**

Bill will offer a personal exploration into the endless need for more love in our world. He will also sing two original songs while playing his harmonium. As co-creators of our world, we make endless choices, all of which shape our future. The more skillfully we can penetrate our own awareness and express it most honestly with others will determine where we are heading as a species. From the global level to the inner chambers of your own mind, our individual and collective involvement in giving more love is critical to everyone, everywhere, all the time.

In his 62 years of life so far, Bill Altork has had very little involvement with organized religion. Bill is quick to defend any person’s right to freedom of expression, providing it is respectful of others. Bill became a member of UUCSV because he sees the potential for greater positive influence on others through the open-minded nature of Unitarian Universalists. He led a UUCSV Sunday service last August, 2009, speaking on the seven UU principals.

**Sunday, 20 June 2010, 11 a.m.—Fathers Day**

**Purposeful Lives, Spiritual Practice**

**Sally Beth Shore**

The Purpose-Driven Life by Christian pastor Rick Warren became all the rage a few years ago, and to judge by the number of spin-offs there is no doubt that the subject of life’s purpose has struck a chord. Religions have not always been used explicitly to help people find a purpose for their lives, but perhaps that is one of the strongest arguments

**Sunday, 4 July 2010, 11 a.m.**

**The Pleasures and Politics of Eating Locally**

**Peter Marks, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project**

July 4th is the day of our annual church picnic, a perfect time to learn about the importance of the choices we make when purchasing our food, especially when we choose locally grown products. Peter Marks, of the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), will give us some history about farming in our area, and talk about why local farms are so important and how our food choices can make a difference. We will also learn where and how to find locally grown food. ASAP helps to support and promote local farms and farmers, and encourages us to buy our food from these folks as much as possible.

Peter Marks is Director of the Local Food and Farm Campaign for ASAP, where his responsibilities include guiding ASAP’s marketing efforts, producing the Local Food Guide, and training farmers in marketing and business planning. From 1999-2000, Peter co-owned a garden seed company, and from 2000-2005, he helped more than 400 people create business plans in his work with Mountain Biz Works. He’s originally from Maine and has lived in Asheville since 2000. (peter@asapconnections.org)

## Religious Education Corner



The theme of this year's Coming of Age class was "Deepening Ties Within Your Congregation". Watching our five youth so gracefully present their service to the congregation, and likewise witnessing the younger children and youth present what they learned about their UU identity and principles this year made me realize that we are well on our way to having our children and youth feel they are a part of everything we do. We will work hard to keep our high school youth active in the life of the congregation through additional exploratory classes, community service work, and serving on committees. Each of our younger age classes has bonded together this year and will continue to move through the program curriculum as they explore more about their faith and the world around them. We will continue our tradition of inviting children and youth to join us once/month for the first part of the service, and will whenever we can, have them take part in things like speaking to the group, collecting the offertory, playing music, or serving as greeters. All of our children and youth are our future as UUs. We promise to continue to nurture and enrich their lives in the years that lie ahead.

### Religious Education Classes

We completed our RE classes for the year with our services on May 16 and May 23. There will be a special program for all children and youth on May 30, and we begin our Summer Sundays programs on June 6. See the schedule below. As always, we ask our church members and friends to sign up to lead one or more Sundays during the summer in your area

of interest or expertise. If possible, please arrange for an assistant to help you that morning. Any supplies you might need will likely be in the RE space or we can reimburse you for any you need to purchase.

Our biggest need for the summer will be preschool care since we will likely have two regular attendees who are under three years old. As is our policy, we will need two adults in the preschool at all times, or one adult with an older youth assistant. Our older preschool set from this year will "graduate" to the next class. Summer programs are appropriate for children in rising grades K - 8. Some Sundays we may break the group into two sections so the younger and older children will have a different experience.

We have lots of openings right now, so please sign up!

### Child Dedication Ceremony May 23

We welcomed Dorinda Ball into our midst as she was dedicated by Sally Beth Shore at our May 23 service. The congregation promised to love and support her in all her future years as part of our family.

### Religious Education Committee Planning Session June 6

The Religious Education Committee will be holding an extended planning meeting on June 6 to decide our curriculums for next year and begin program planning. If you would like to be part of this committee which meets once/month in the morning before services, we would welcome you to join us. Please let me know

as soon as possible.

### Summer Sundays

See below for the summer schedule we have open right now for June and July:

### Coming of Age Trip to Boston

We held a parent, youth, chaperone meeting on Sunday May 23 to go over in detail the plans for our Boston trip, and sign all permission and medical forms. We'll have a great time and hopefully learn a lot along the way. The youth and the chaperones are excited. We promise to take lots of pictures to share upon our return.

### Important Dates to Remember

June 6	"The Cracked Pot" story and hand-building clay pots with Nels Arnold
June 13	Open
June 20	Open
June 27	Open
July 4	Open
August 8	David Novak, storyteller (intergenerational service, Grades K and up)

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator, 230-3773

## Building and Aesthetics Committees: Report to the Congregation

You may have noticed a few changes recently around the church building. Our committee is up and running at full steam. We have completed a few projects and have several others on the agenda. Perhaps the most conspicuous change is the new nametag board in the foyer. We hope you find it useful and convenient. If you have had no reason to go to the shed in the back yard during the past few years, you may not appreciate the changes out there. New shelves have been installed, the place cleaned up, and more than a few things we thought we might use someday were donated to Trillium. Just like home. I am proud of the members of the committees for all their contributions of ideas, energy, labor, and cooperation. You too can thank Bill Altork, Emory Underwood, Angie Underwood, Sydney Wilson, David Brown, Evelyn Carter, and Sami Steele. We need more folks to join us—please don't be shy. Call or email me at 828-664-1695; dr\_jcarr@msn.com.

—Jane Carroll, Chair

## SOLS News

SOLS will have its next monthly meeting on June 27 at 12:30 at the home of Dawn Wilson. A brief history of SOLS will be given for the new members with a discussion and brainstorming to follow regarding new directions for SOLS. Potential new members are invited. Bring lunch type munchies.

## 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: Homeless Women Need Your Help

Homeless women in our community need your help. UUCSV is taking part in the next Room in the Inn event in Black Mountain on Friday, July 16th. This program provides food, lodging, and transportation for the women. This time it will take place at the Black Mountain Methodist annex.

Being a Room in the Inn volunteer is a very rewarding experience. The women are always very appreciative of our efforts. So do consider volunteering to drive the church van, be an overnight volunteer, or bring food. Social Action appreciates whatever help you can give. A sign up sheet is available in the foyer, or contact me at flora258@isp.com, 686-3112.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator

## Hospitality News: Go Forth and Multiply

This appears to be the theme for the ceramic mugs in our itty bitsy kitchen. The mugs seem to periodically double in number. Keeping up with these mugs is like managing the birth rate of rabbits. We have room to store mugs with your name on it and your friendly coffee hour host will put these "personal mugs" out on a table during Sunday coffee hour. I encourage you to pull out your own mug from the box when you are at church anytime. Mugs appearing in the kitchen without a name on them, will be stored and sold at the annual yard sale. If we had a dish sterilizer and more storage room we would love to house a collection of ceramic mugs with diverse perspective.

—Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden, Hospitality Co-Chairs

## Friday Fling

June's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 18 June at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) may be provided. Bring some simple food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "Australia" (2008, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



## Choir News

The UUCSV Choir will be meeting one extra Sunday this month, in order to prepare for a special concert on June 20th. We will meet on June 6th at 10 AM, on June 13th at 12:20 (after the service), the following Thursday the 17th at 7 PM, and then on June 20th at 10 AM, when we will perform. We will be working on a longer arrangement than usual, which is the beautiful Appalachian folk song, "The Water is Wide," plus one other song for Father's Day. This performance will be a special benefit for the UUCSV. Please come and sing with us! We can always use more singers.

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

### July 4th Picnic

Local Foods will be the theme of our annual Church picnic. Purchase a local food item from a Saturday Tailgate Market. Or perhaps something from your own garden. Bring a card to identify your dish name, the local ingredient in it, and write the name of the grower/producer on the card. In addition to bringing food to share, please remember to bring your place setting. Last year we fed 95 people and generated very little trash! It's fun to be green!



### Birthdays in June

- June 19th Don Pfister
- June 24th David Reid
- June 25th Jane Carroll
- June 26th Heidi Blozan
- June 29th George Scott

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

### Habitat for Humanity

Dear Friends of the 2010 Building on the Dream House,

The Llamas have a closing date!! Reuben and Luzmaria will become first-time homeowners at the end of June. In fact, two Partner Families will be closing that day—congratulations are due also to the Llanos family, whose home was sponsored by the W&S Charitable Foundation.

We will celebrate this milestone event in the Llamas' and Llanos' lives with a brief ceremony on Wednesday, June 23rd at 3:30. We will gather on the front porch and in the front yard of the Building on the Dream House in Woodland Court\*, to present a ceremonial key to each family, and formally dedicate the houses. After the presentation, we will have an opportunity to tour the finished homes.

Please plan to join us for this special event, to help celebrate the fruits of all your hard work and your financial contributions, and to welcome the two newest members of the Asheville Area Habitat family of homeowners.

Hope to see you at 3:30 on June 23rd!

[\* Headed west on I-40, take exit 44 (Enka/Candler). Turn L on 19-23. Turn L onto Old Haywood Road (opposite DMV). Go 0.2 miles, and then make sharp R turn onto Woodland Drive. Follow Woodland Drive to Verona Drive. Turn R onto Verona Drive.]

### Library News and Views

The most recent copy of the UUCSV Adult Library inventory should have arrived in your email recently. It is saved in Word and PDF, so I hope everyone can open it. If you do not have email, but would like to have a copy of the holdings, please call me. I will be happy to see that you get one. We have new contributions of books coming in just about every week. Thank you for your donations. The categories that seem to be the most popular for borrowers are Adult Fiction and History, Law, and Politics. Please let me know if you have suggestions or comments. Thank you. (By the way, the link to the current library holdings may be found at the UUCSV website, under "News and Publications.")

—The Library Lady (Jane Carroll, 828-664-1695; dr\_jcarr@msn.com)

**A Bill Altork Poem: Inheritance**

I Got my foot stuck in the doorway  
so I took it off and left it there,  
hobbled away, then turned back to watch.

Parts department.  
Searching my luggage for essentials,  
arranging them in time  
like an old canvas layered with colors.  
Dust, the final coat.

I got my father's young face,  
my mother's whimper.  
Scars from the raccoon,  
the bike wreck, the fallen mirror.

Blood, tissue, water,  
a pilgrim's brown eyes.  
Feet arched like two small bridges  
traversing the earth step by step.

Deeper in, a clock ticking out a mystery  
from long, long ago  
beyond parents, paired chromosomes,  
...beyond hope.

As a man I inherit my boyhood.  
As a being I inherit the universe.  
All possibilities live and die within me.  
When confused I remember that I am my parts.

Hurricanes of rainbows  
pass through the keyhole to unlock my heart.

**From the Editor—The Last Word**

I have recently discovered a fantastic TV channel that provides a liberal alternative to the Fox network, and an opening to the outside world not available from any other channel that I have encountered—Link TV. You can find details at [www.linktv.org](http://www.linktv.org). Besides the great programming, it is user supported and contributions (which they desperately need) are tax deductible. Check it out.

