



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

**500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

*For more information about our
congregation, call*

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 21 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Covering November 2008

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News from the Board

If your newsletter is a few days late it is my fault. I begged Norm to let me write this article following our important congregation meeting yesterday. He thankfully agreed but this necessarily delayed the production of this newsletter a few days.

There were important conclusions reached in our Re-Visioning congregational meeting that I want to share with everyone. Sarah York facilitated this meeting and shared the history of our progress in searching for ministerial leadership over the last few years. We are all proud of the fine job our search committee did even though it didn't result in the called minister we were hoping for.

I'm also excited to share that the board has found some talented local ministerial leadership for this current year and hired Sally Beth Shore as our Consulting Minister. The congregation affirmed this board decision with a vote at our meeting yesterday. Sally Beth will start November 1, and work with us through at least June 30th of next year. She'll provide two services a month, pastoral care services and other assistance and soon will post regular office hours. Please welcome her to our community and seek her leadership help. Thanks to Scott Conklin, Angie Underwood and Kim Taylor, a new committee of ministry will be working closely with her to make this relationship successful for all of us.

In our meeting we again affirmed our congregation's interest in seeking more permanent ministerial leadership. Then we described and discussed the major difference between a CALLED minister and a HIRED minister, and voted to begin the longer process to seek a Called Minister. We also discussed various options regarding whether this called minister we are seeking should be currently UUA fellowshipped or in the process of becoming UUA fellowshipped minister vs. not. Separate votes indicated UUA fellowshipped or in the process of becoming so was widely preferred by those present yesterday to non-UUA ministerial leadership.

This means we need to form a new search committee to begin a new search process for a called minister. The board is seeking members to constitute this new search team. The prior search group will also help with the transition to the new team. While a few members volunteered yesterday, we are seeking a few more members to help us with this most important process. If you are interested in this journey and important responsibility for our church, please let one of the board members know right away. We hope to form a new search team soon and put this recommended team to a congregation vote in the near future. This team will start with determining whether the current set of skills and leadership qualities we have been seeking are the correct set or need to be revised.

So please consider helping UUCSV embark again on this interesting journey. Talk with one of our other search members to understand the range of responsibilities and joys of working on this important priority for the church. I hope you will step forward soon to help us achieve the long term ministerial leadership so many of us want.

~ Jim Carillon, Board President

Room in the Inn

Our last Room in the Inn for 2008 will be on Friday, Oct. 17. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up to help. We do appreciate this. This time, the women will be staying at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex.

If there are others who want to sign up, we still need backup van drivers (morning and evening shift) as well as backup overnight volunteers. A sign up sheet is available in the foyer, or call me at 686-3112.

~ Connie Krochmal, Room in the Inn coordinator, Social Action

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, October 5, 2008 11 a.m.

"Gifts of Unitarian Universalism"

Rev. Amy E. Brooks

What keeps you in this faith? What holds you, grounds you, gives you meaning? This is a question that I have been thinking about lately. I look forward to sharing some of my thoughts with you as we gather to worship and celebrate our shared life in community.

Amy is no stranger to our pulpit, having served as our consulting minister in 2003. She now is a consultant for the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network in Charlotte, NC. She lives in Huntersville, NC with her husband, Chris Paradise.

Sunday, October 12, 2008 11 a.m.

"Poetry Slam"

Council of Committee Chairs

This Sunday, various members of our church, who have chosen to be the chairperson of a committee, will be reading a poem. You'll hear from the poets themselves as well readings of poems written by published authors. Join us for a journey into the spirit of the volunteers who have assumed leadership roles at the UUCSV.

Sunday, October 19, 2008 11 a.m.

"Blue Eyes Looking Into Dark Eyes...."

Ymani Simmons

In March of 2007, 22 Americans went to the Islamic Republic of Iran as civilian diplomats with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Ymani Simmons, western North Carolina resident, was one of those individuals. Meeting the Iranian people, seeing the beauty and allowing communication and understanding to develop presents a perspective not known before and a quest for promoting peace continues to unfold within a deeply spiritual journey.

Ymani Simmons has called the mountains of western North Carolina home for 20 years. Peace and justice have spoken in undeniable voices since childhood. By accepting responsibility and accountability for what her government has done in her name, Ymani has completely immersed herself as a peace maker. Upon returning from Iran she quit her job as an advertising executive with WNC Woman magazine and devotes her life to living and promoting peace. Ymani has founded Crossroads of Peace (www.crossroadsofpeace.com) where several peace-related programs will be offered - Bridge to Iran Tours, non-violence training workshops, a Peace Makers Speakers Bureau, A World Peace Treaty, and her newest project - A Common Thread, a program to provide assistance to Iraqi women widowed by the occupation and Iraqi children orphaned by the same. She follows the spiritual way of life of the Native American branch of her family tree - Chickasaw and Cherokee.

A 28 minute video, Listen to Iran's People, a call for peace by videomaker, Margot Smith, March 2007 FOR delegate will be shown after the service for anyone interested in viewing.



Sunday, October 26, 2008 11 a.m.

"Into the Cauldron to Meet the Crone"

H. Byron Ballard

The dark nights and short days leading up to the solar new year in December are a time of rich possibilities for personal growth and spiritual introspection. H. Byron Ballard will guide us through this journey to meet the Crone and provide steps for using this natural time of challenge and rest. We will explore Samhain as a time to renew our connection to our Ancestors as well as our deepest selves.

In addition to being a Wiccan priestess, H. Byron Ballard is a bookseller, organic gardener and beekeeper. Her writings have appeared in local and national print and electronic media. Byron lives on an urban farmstead in Asheville's historic West End with her husband Joe and daughter Kate. She is working with a group of women to build a Goddess Temple in Asheville and blogs for the Asheville Citizen-Times as "the Village Witch."

Sunday, November 2, 11 a.m.

Welcome Home to Health and Wholeness - Part II

Rev. Dick Stennett

This is the second in a series of presentations as Dick shares with us his journey toward wholeness, a journey which he feels is more like home each step of the way. A significant part of this journey is in the discovery of what a wonderful teacher dreams can be when we learn to pay attention. Dick will share with us the way his dreams are becoming a window to the deeper, hidden parts of his being where healing needs to happen. By weaving together his dreams, meditations and journaling he finds that a definite pattern of healing is emerging.

PS: The dates of my ministry at UUCSV are Nov. 2003 through Jan 2006. The previous bulletin had incorrect dates. What do I care? I'm just an old goat farmer.

PSS: How do you spell journaling? My computer tells me I have spelled it incorrectly. [You're cool, my man.—Ed.] Hey! What do I know? An old goat farmer isn't expected to no how to spel.

Warblers!

The usual times for the Warblers to rehearse this month will be October 19 after the service and October 26 at 10:00, prior to the service. Please come sing along!

Greeters in October

- Oct 5: Dawn Wilson, Norm Kowal, Geoffrey Stone
- Oct 12: Kay-Sea Conklin, Scott Conklin, George LeRoy
- Oct 19: Evelyn Carter, Ruh Berg, Scott Traxler
- Oct 26: Connie Krochmal, Jay Ellis, Scott & Susan Shaw

Green Sanctuary

Plastics are ubiquitous. There are at least 40 different kinds. Americans use close to 100 tons of plastic every year with less than five percent of this being made from recycled material. If all the plastic were put in 40 foot tractor trailers, these would reach from New York City to LA and back to Chicago. Certain chemicals in plastics, particularly Bisphenol A (BPA), can leach and pose potential health risks. Pregnant women and infants are likely the most vulnerable. This chemical is present in plastic flatware, water cooler bottles, food processor bowls, some baby bottles, and a host of other food-related containers. By the way, Nalgene has already quit using this in its baby bottles. A recent Science News article linked BPA to a host of health and genetic problems in lab animals, including precancerous cell growth, behavioral changes, early onset of puberty, hormonal imbalances, and permanent genetic change. In fact, it caused some animals' coats to permanently change color.

Moving on to plastic bags, five hundred billion are used each year in the U.S. Though we can't eliminate all plastic use, we can make a difference. Our reusable cloth bags will mean fewer plastic ones reach local landfills (1.2 million annually in Buncombe County). Our cloth bags reduce risks to wildlife and aquatic life, drainage systems and waterways. Eight million pounds of plastic end up in the ocean each year (see <http://tinyurl.com/2xx234>).

When shopping, choose non-plastic food containers, such as glass. Replace regular plastic trash bags with ones that are biodegradable.

Encourage legislative officials to pass nationwide "take-back" laws that require manufacturers of appliances and electronics to pay for their products' recycling and disposal. Demand that retailers/manufacturers replace plastics with biodegradable packaging. Encourage garden centers and nurseries to use biodegradable labels and pots. We should also urge them to hold plastic recycle drives so gardeners can recycle pots, plastic packs, etc. The Missouri Botanic Garden has collected 300 tons of horticultural plastics.

When staying at motels and hotels, request that the management replace plastic key cards with wooden ones. Buy products made from recycled plastics, such as Home Depot's EcoOptions plastic storage bins, Tuff Totes for home and garden, Mad Mats indoor/outdoor floor mats, and the Dramm ColorStorm soaker hose. There are even t-shirts made from plastic bottles.

Don't buy bottled water or sodas. Eliminate soda bottles by using the Soda-Club kit. Requiring no electricity, the machine runs on compressed air. This carbonates the water for the drinks. To learn which plastics are recyclable, visit www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_11653.cfm.

Kay-Sea Conklin recommends the Carrotmob video at www.karmatube.org. Carrotmob is a new environmental advocacy group. The video shows how green consumers can influence local businesses.

Geoff Stone is co-chair of the Green Sanctuary Food Production sub-committee. He recommends www.eattheview.org. This site promotes edible landscapes in high-impact, highly visible places, such as schools and the White House lawn. In the following quote Geoff recommends edible fruits: "At a recent workshop the leader stated his opinion that every landowner can grow "bullet proof" fruits for their own use. Some of these won't be found in the super markets for one reason or another, but for home use there is no excuse not to grow the following: jujube, paw paw, persimmon, pomegranate (Geoff questions this one), and mulberry. I would add figs where a south facing wall is available to reflect sunlight onto the tree(s). I'd like for UUCSV to be a demonstration of this proposition. Can you imagine having these fruits ripening around our building with a sign that says "You are welcome to pick when ripe"? How about your homes demonstrating the same?"

↪ *Connie Krochmal*

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FIRST	9:45 RE Committee 12:30 Congregational Care Committee 12:00 Program Committee			1:00 Written Word CG		7:00 Open Mike Night
SECOND	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Membership Committee		7:00 Open Topic CG	5:30 Social Action Committee		
THIRD	9:30 Green Sanctuary Committee 12:30 Warblers		6:00 Board of Trustees	1:00 Written Word CG		6:30 Friday Fling
FOURTH	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Warblers 12:30 SOLS		7:00 Open Topic CG			

For the dates, times, and locations of specific events during the current month, go to the UUCSV website (www.uusv.org), and click on the UUCSV Calendar.

Grounds

A special thanks to all our volunteers who mowed and trimmed the Grounds this summer. These are Emily Paulsen, Scott Shaw, Monroe Gilmour, Sabrina Mills, and David Brown. This is no easy task, and we appreciate it. When you see these folks, thank them for a job well done.

↪ *Connie Krochmal, Grounds co-chair*

Getting to Know UU

New members and friends! Do you want to learn more about the history and workings of Unitarian Universalism and our own Swannanoa congregation? If so, Getting to Know UU, a new member/friend orientation will be held Monday, Oct 6 and 13, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the church. If you haven't attended this orientation, please plan to do so. No reservations required.

Announcing the New Visitor's Chat Room (VCR)

Our VCR may be nonvirtual, but it could be just what you're looking for. It's where you can chat with an UUCSV member – asking questions, voicing concerns, or just connecting with someone. The office/elementary children's classroom transforms itself into the VCR each Sunday after the service during the coffee hour. Come on in to the VCR if you want to chat.

Carolyn Metcalf

Caroline Metcalf, a founding member of UUCSV, has moved to Hickory, NC. The Congregational Care Committee has sent a letter expressing our appreciation for her numerous, kind, and generous contributions to our Congregation. If friends or members, would like to communicate further, please write to: Caroline Metcalf, Spring Arbor, Room 216-B, 2010 29th Avenue NE, Hickory, NC 28601.

SOLS

SOLS, our women's group, will meet on October 26th at UUCSV at 12:30, following the service. It's not too soon to start planning for Trillium, our Spring festival/fundraiser. We already have a windfall of rummage for the Trillium rummage sale so come with ideas and your wonderful, fun, cheery selves. DawnWilson@aol.com for more information.

Have You Done Your Ironing Lately?

The Hospitality Committee has not been able to locate 4 of the wonderful, hand batiked green/brown cotton table cloths that are used for our Fancy Dress Occasions. The fabric was made in Sri Lanka, before the Tsunami hit, was purchased by a congregant, sewed into table cloths and donated to UUCSV a few years ago. Perhaps one of you noticed the wrinkles and took them home to iron? So, check your ironing pile....no penalties for anonymous returns. Just slip them into the hall closet.

Friday Fling

October's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on October 17th 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 Big Chill" (1998; Glenn Close, Kevin Kline, William Hurt; great music!) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668). And don't forget Open Mike Night on the first Friday of the month.



Always good food at Welcoming Congregation events! Carolyn Shorkey serves up a potluck for the LGBT Equality Bus riders who were visiting Montreat College, April 2007.

Welcoming Congregation's First Anniversary

During the September 21 Sunday service, a special presentation was made to commemorate the first anniversary of our Congregation voting unanimously, 57-0, to affirm ourselves as a Welcoming Congregation under the UUA. As the big, beautiful, purple certificate hanging in the lobby states,

“This Unitarian Universalist community welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.”

Before the vote, the Congregation spent a year studying the issue through nine monthly workshops and other events. In the church lobby, there is a wonderful photo album of that year's activities for your perusal. There is also a pamphlet there explaining the program and outlining the workshops. The UUA manual we used throughout the process is in the library and makes for inspiring and fascinating reading. There are also powerful videos and books in the library. Congratulations, UUCSV!!

Harvest Potluck Planned

Mark your calendar for Oct. 19th! We will set up tables for a full church-wide potluck dinner following the Sunday service on that day. Our goal is to generate no garbage, so please bring your place setting from home including plates, silverware, cups/glasses, and cloth napkin. We look forward to tasting your favorite autumn recipe (hopefully made with locally grown produce) brought to church with a serving spoon.

Remember, starting in November we will discontinue serving potluck snacks after the service. We will resume setting up the snack table in the carport in April. During the colder weather months we hope to have a limited selection of food for sale after the service, as a fundraising activity for committees who wish to participate.

↪ *Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden, Hospitality co-chairs*

Birthdays in October

Oct 1st Marilyn Wells
Oct 11th Geoff Stone
Oct 12th Dawn Wilson
Oct 19th Karen McClelland



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

UUs in The News: Joe Haun Sends UU Youth to Europe



UU brothers, David & Aaron Gilmour (right side) along with fellow Berea students high in the alps with the help of Joe Haun

As the article in the September 18 Black Mountain News begins, “Retired Clemson horticulture professor Joe Haun got his early education at Berea College in Berea, KY, and wanted to give back. He told David Gilmour, a senior at Berea and fellow attendee of the Unitarian Universalist church in Black Mountain that he would subsidize a trip to Europe for David and other Berea students.” Thus, David, brother Aaron, and two other Berea students spent three weeks this summer among London, Paris, Rome, Chamonix, and Geneva. You can read about their adventurous and ultimately uplifting brush with the French military at: <http://main.nc.us/wncceib/BMNgenerosity91808.htm>.

What a great educator Joe Haun has been for us all in so many ways! Thank you, Joe. Or, as the BMN article ends, “Viva Joe Haun!”

Religious Education Corner

RE Classes Began September 14

We began our regular class schedule on Sunday September 14, with thirteen children and youth present, and almost all of our teachers. We started the morning with an ingathering service for all ages, since we had not all been together in one group since last May. Each group will hold its own circle/gathering time every week, to keep this tradition going among all of us. We currently have twenty-two children enrolled in the program. Parents, if you haven't registered your child please see me on Sunday mornings so we can complete the paperwork.

Our preschool curriculum is “Chalice Children”, where the children learn about our church and what we are about. Don't be surprised if you see them peeking into the sanctuary or wandering around the church building to learn more about our sacred spaces (they'll be accompanied by adults of course!)

The elementary class is learning about “Timeless Themes”. This is a curriculum where the children will learn about the Judeo-Christian bible stories, and then discuss what the moral meanings are and how they relate to our principles as UUs.

The middle and high school class is studying “Neighboring Faiths.” This curriculum will take the youth on field trips to visit many different faith communities and then spend some time discussing what they have learned. We will also invite guest speakers to come visit the class.

Class Times

Since we have such full curriculums for our elementary and middle/high school youth, the RE Committee has decided to extend class time to 12:15 for these two groups. Preschool class will still end at 12 noon. Parents, please pick up your children at these times. This is so children and teachers can finish up projects and processing of the week's lesson. A very light snack will be served in class, but children and youth will join the adults for coffee hour at the end of class time.

Weekly Snacks

Parents, please remember to bring a plate of healthy snacks to share during coffee hour, so we are sure we have enough for everyone. Beginning in November, various church committees will rotate serving food as fundraisers (see below for what we'll be involved with for the Coming of Age class).

RE Intergenerational Plans for the Year

In addition to our regular class schedule, the RE Committee has begun plans for intergenerational services. The children will join the adults for the first part of the service on October 12. Dates have been set for an intergenerational Thanksgiving service on November 23, and an RE Holiday Service on December 14. We will also begin our family greeters and elder partners program within the next month.

Rain Barrel Contest and Middle/High School Service Projects

The middle/high school class will complete the rain barrel we began during a workshop over the summer. This will be submitted as part of New Earth's contest, but we will then raffle this rain barrel as a fundraiser for the Coming of Age program (see below for more details). The youth will take pictures of the rain barrel and submit some written information to explain how we are working towards green sanctuary designation. This same group of youth will also select one or two additional service projects they would like to be involved with through the school year.

Coming of Age Class 2009-2010

During the 2009-2010 school year, our 8th through 12th grade youth will take part in a program known as “Coming of Age”. This is our confirmation class, if you will, with a curriculum that will guide the youth to learn more in-depth about our denomination and explore what they believe at this point in their lives. The culmination of this school year is a trip to Boston to see the headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and learn about some American history at the same time. This trip will require our church community to raise several thousand dollars to cover the expenses of nine or ten youth plus chaperones. We are starting early with these fundraising efforts, and will be planning events such as movie nights, “Boston Tea Parties” (after-church bake sales); soup and salad lunches after services; a coffee house; rain barrel raffles; and other events. The RE Committee, youth, and families of this group will be actively involved in the planning. So, as these events unfold, you will be asked as a congregation to support these youth in their efforts. What better way can you think of to support our denomination than to send a group of bright, involved youth out into the world as representatives of our principles and ideals? Stay tuned!

~ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator



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Out There Makin' a Difference: UUCSV Peace & Social Justice Contributions

Below are FY 2008 and FY 2009 lists of our Congregation's contributions to various peace, social justice, and environmental justice organizations and issues. Several years ago, a survey of the Congregation outlined five key areas of concern, Peace Advocacy, Protecting the Environment, Homelessness/Affordable Housing, Racial Oppression/Racial Bridging, and Hunger. Subsequent to the survey, our Welcoming Congregation process added BGLT issues to the mix.

The Social Action Committee was charged with deciding on the organizations and projects to fund. While not restricted to the survey areas, the SAC's decisions have aimed to balance global, national, local impacts, with an emphasis on the local. The Committee has also worked to find projects where UUCSV contributions will make a difference, at the margin, for grassroots and smaller organizations. In addition to these contributions, the SAC has purchased books and videos on social justice issues for the UUCSV library and recently the banner commemorating our friends at the TVUUC and Westside churches in Knoxville after the tragic shooting of July 27, 2008.

FY 2008

Katrina Relief – Kiln, Mississippi	\$250.00	<i>Support for six UUCSV volunteers to MS</i>
MacNeice Films	\$100.00	<i>Support for local documentary on peace movement</i>
Restorative Justice Resource Center	\$100.00	<i>Support for Marty Price's trip to Palestine/Israel</i>
People of Faith Against Death Penalty	\$100.00	<i>Support for key NC organization on this issue</i>
Planned Parenthood	\$100.00	<i>Support for fund for women unable to afford abortions</i>
Ministry of Hope	\$100.00	<i>Crises ministry for AIDS babies in Malawi</i>
AHOPE	\$100.00	<i>Support for homeless men & women in Asheville</i>
OREPA	\$200.00	<i>Oak Ridge Environmental & Peace Alliance (nuclear)</i>
UU Service Committee	\$200.00	<i>Support for UUSC's work around the world</i>
No More Victims – Asheville	\$100.00	<i>Support for medical exp. for Iraqi girl injured by US bomb</i>
Pisgah Legal Services	\$100.00	<i>Asheville based low income legal assistance</i>
Veterans for Peace	\$100.00	<i>Local organization working for Peace in Iraq</i>
Swannanoa Valley Dr. MLK Committee	\$40.00	<i>Support for annual breakfast via souvenir booklet ad</i>
Coalition for (BGLT) Equality	\$100.00	<i>UUCSV part of coalition to counter EXODUS conf.</i>
Prison Fellowship meal	\$19.26	<i>Meal at Lake Tomahawk, Black Mt. women's prison</i>
Prison Fellowship meal	\$18.86	<i>Meal at Lake Tomahawk, Black Mt. women's prison</i>
Clean Water for NC	\$50.00	<i>Support for their environmental justice work in NC</i>
Total FY 2008 Contributions:	\$1,778.12	

FY 2009

Olive Tree Circus	\$100.00	<i>Support for Wall & Reconciliation Circus trip to Palestine</i>
UU Service Committee	\$200.00	<i>Support for UUSC campaign for Darfur (Tents of Hope)</i>
Pridefest 2008	\$150.00	<i>Support for this BGLT Community festival (Asheville)</i>
Total to date:	\$550.00	

The Social Action Committee welcomes your input and participation. We meet once a month, at 5:30 PM on the second Wednesday. Our charge is to get the Congregation involved in social justice issues. We'd love to have your help! For more information, contact SAC Chair Emory Underwood 669-0869.

~ Monroe Gilmour