

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Sept 2011

Volume X, Issue 9

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



500 Montreat Rd
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8050, www.uusv.org

From the Board



The Board has been getting organized this month, but we've got a doozie of a report for October!

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Geoff Stone, President
Mary Soyenova, Vice President
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Heidi Blozan
Jen Caldwell
Lynn Failing
Roberta Madden
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 19 Sept, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 20 Sept, 10
a.m., covering October 2011

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 4 September 2011, 11 a.m.

Spirituality in Nature

Dr. Peter Ronman

Dr. Ronman will share his belief that humans are a product of nature by presenting some of the highlights in our planet's history that give insight into our human origins. His view is that humans are a part of nature and are not separate from it. He will show a series of nature photos, mostly from his travels to our National Parks. He will share how these experiences have inspired and enriched him and given him pause to ponder the mystery of creation. He hopes his experiences will inspire others to see the natural wonders found in our National Parks.

Dr. Ronman studied chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill and received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Florida State University. He taught chemistry at various colleges over a twenty year period and has done research on an anti-cancer drug in current use. For the past twenty-five years he has hiked, backpacked and camped in almost all of the National Parks taking hundreds of photos of these beautiful natural settings. He and his wife, Lauris Liljestrang are member of UUCSV.



Sunday, 11 September 2011, 11 a.m.

911. Let The Healing Begin.

Rev. Michael Carter

Please join us for our service on September 11, 2011. This service will include the children from our Religious Education pro-

gram, as well as a "Water Communion". I would like to make time after the sermon to allow for a sharing of thoughts and feelings as we reflect on the events of September 11, 2001. This is not a time for debate, but a time for healing. That being said, we may extend our service(if needed) to 12:15pm on that day. I look forward to seeing you there.... Walk In Balance!



Sunday Programming

Sunday, 18 September 2011, 11 a.m.

Called to Love (on UUCSV's anniversary of our Welcoming Congregation designation)

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

Drawing on Luke 6:27-36, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara will be addressing the age old question that Jesus spoke of about loving your enemies and doing good to those who hate you. Jasmine will address this question as a gay woman who grew up in North Carolina and has returned home as an adult. She and her wife are legally married in Massachusetts, but their marriage is not recognized in NC and LGBT people in our state live without the most basic legal protections.

Beach-Ferrara asks, "how do we approach those who condemn us and deny our fundamental humanity?" In her sermon, Jasmine will explore the very human side of this question and offer the ethics of empathic resistance as a way to both resist persecution and love your enemies. This ethic is the basis for the Campaign for Southern Equality where Beach-Ferrara works, an LGBT organization in Asheville.

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara grew up in Chapel Hill, NC, and graduated from UNC. She taught creative writing at Warren Wilson College for several years and then went on to Harvard Divinity School. She is pursuing ordination through the UCC church and is a member at First Congregational UCC in Asheville.



Sunday, 25 September 2011, 11 a.m.

The Equinox of Balance

UUCSV Women's Spirituality Group

Celebrate the wheel of the year, the Equinox of Balance, before we begin the longer nights to come. Of the UU Living Traditions that we share, Earth Centered Spiritual teachings ask us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. How do UU's balance our post-transcendental neo-pagan tendencies to be out "communing in nature" with our urge for justice, fellowship, care giving and stimulating discussions? With our increasing dedication to social and environmental issues, this Fall Equinox challenges us to balance our accomplishments with what we want to do next. The UUCSV Women's Spirituality Group has explored various earth based teachings in the last year, and has offered to give back to the UUCSV community through this Sunday service.

Sunday, 2 October 2011, 11 a.m.

United in our Beliefs

Bill Altork

Religious Education Corner

Water communion. Ingathering. We say these words in passing but they are so important to us as a congregation and as a faith community. Traditionally in the UU faith, water communion is the ingathering of us all from our scatterings about during the summer. We celebrate the importance of water, but also come together again as a church family. With this being the tenth anniversary of the tragedies of 9/11/01, our togetherness becomes even more important. We remember those who gave their lives that day, and we move forward every day to strive to continue to help others in need. These ingatherings and communion are needed by the children, youth, and families within the religious education community as well. While many of our children have attended our Summer Sunday programs, we have not seen some children and families since last May. All children and youth will take part in the Water Communion service on September 11th and will then gather together in the RE space for our own welcome back and a chance to meet their teachers for the coming year. We will gather and learn together once again in the coming months as we reach beyond ourselves to understand what social justice means, not only in our own church community, but in the wider world. We invite visitors any time to see what we're all about!

Summer Sundays!!

We have a few more Summer Sunday

programs scheduled before we begin our regular school year together.

Many, many thanks once again to all who have given so generously of their time to make for a great summer!

August 28 "All I See Is Part of Me" Story and painting with Evelyn Carter

September 4 Nutrition and Cooking with Richard Heft

Curriculum Offerings

Here are our curriculum offerings for next year, all based around the theme of social justice:

Infant/preschool Class: *We Are Many, We Are One*; free play, stories, and songs

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*

Registration

Parents and all children/youth, we hope the curriculums noted above have perked your interest. Registration packets went out to families August 1 and are due back now. If you haven't submitted yours yet, please do so. You can hand them to me or leave them in the RE box in the main office. We must update these every year, so please help us with this administrative piece of our program!

Teaching Teams for the 2011 to 2012 School Year



A big thank you to the following individuals who have agreed to teach our children and youth in the coming year. We absolutely couldn't do this without you!

Preschool: Milt Warden, Carolyn Shorkey, Krista Brown, Heidi Blozan

K-4: Evelyn Carter, Lisa Brooks, Jim Carillon (assistant)

5-8: Susan Shaw, Beata Ball

9-12: Judy Curtis, David Brown

Resource speakers: Helen Bell and Monroe Gilmour

Teacher Training

Following the service on September 11, there will be a training for all classroom teachers from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Parents Night Out

We will finally begin this program on Saturday September 24th, if we have enough families available for childcare that night. I have sent a separate e-mail to families who expressed interest in this program back in the spring, but we will need at least four families to make this work. On a rotating basis, two families will provide childcare and pizza at church while the other two families are free to spend an evening out. Let me know right away if you are interested in this!

— Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education (sybil.argintar@yahoo.com)

Water Communion

Rev. Michael Carter will conduct our traditional UU Water Communion, on Sunday, September 11th. As you travel this summer, please remember to bring a small container with you to collect water from the area you visit. Our water samples will be combined in a ritual at our Water Communion Service.

Greeters

Dear friends and members, It would make it so much easier for all of us if you would take the responsibility to put your name on the greeter list, choose any Sunday and any month left this year. That way the membership committee members would not have to interrupt your visiting after church while we look for volunteers for the following Sunday.

—From Your Membership Committee

From the Treasurer

News from The Department of the Treasury: I wanted to thank all the committee chairs, employees, and subcontractors for their cooperation and eager compliance to the new procedures set up by your new treasurer. I also want to thank Jim Carillon for his yeomen work as treasurer. I am grateful for the well organized legacy he left for me to follow. Jim, enjoy your new freedom and thank you for your service to UUCSV.

—Dawn Wilson, Treasurer, 2011/2012

Friday Fling

September's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 16 September 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 "Rabbit-Proof Fence" (2002; in 1931 three aboriginal children escape from an Australian internment camp to seek their way home—based on a true story) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Choir News for September

In September, the UUCSV Choir will perform on the 25th for the Autumn Equinox service provided by the Women's Spirituality Group. We will rehearse on September 18th at 12:15, again on Thursday the 22nd at 6:30, and then on Sunday the 25th at 10 AM, the day of the performance. Hope everyone has had a restful and enjoyable summer! Come sing with us!



—Linda Metzner, Choir Director

Room in the Inn

Sign up for the October 14th Room at the Inn at the Black Mountain Presby. annex has begun. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer. You can also contact me by email (flora158@isp.com) or at 686 3112. UUCSV will be providing the food and all the volunteers for the day. We still need an evening driver for the Presby. church van. The driver should arrive at the Presby. annex around 5:20 pm to pick up the van keys and drive to Asheville in order to have the women in Black Mountain by 6:30 pm.

We are also looking for volunteers willing to provide the meal for breakfast as well as bag lunches for the women. For the evening meal, we're planning a cookout in the annex parking lot for the women. So, we're looking for volunteers who are willing to provide cook-out type foods for the evening meal, such as meats to grill, potato salad, cole slaw, condiments to go with the meat, and the like. As always Social Action is very grateful for all the help that all of our volunteers have provided over the years for Room in the Inn.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator

Birthdays in September

- September 3rd Norm Kowal
- September 4th Dan Stupka
- September 7th Lauris Liljestrand
- September 14th Carolyn Shorkey
- September 14th Milt Warden
- September 18th Tim Perry
- September 22nd Walter Hoffman
- September 24th Cora Blozan
- September 25th Olivia Mills
- September 25th David Gilmore
- September 30th Rebecca Williams



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

Becoming a More Caring Community

How can we as a congregation become a more caring community? How can we support others in times of illness or crisis while still taking care of ourselves and being mindful of our own needs and boundaries? What does a caring community really look like?

Join us Tuesday September 27th from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley as we explore the Care Team model. Lynn Pace, former community outreach coordinator for CarePartners Hospice and Palliative care, will conduct a care team training session for friends and members of the UUCSV and the Black Mountain/Swannanoa Valley community. Lynn has helped to implement care teams at the UU Congregation of Asheville, The Center for Creative Retirement, All Souls Cathedral, St. James Episcopal Church in Black Mountain, and conducted training worldwide, including England and India. There is no fee for the training and pizza will be available.

Please contact Barbara Rogers, chair of congregational care at the UUCSV for more information (boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com).

Becoming Women of Wisdom

Becoming Women of Wisdom, Marking the Passage into the Crone Years, is a 13 session class which begins Sun. Sept. 11, at 6:30-8:30 pm. Ancient European Pagan traditions mark the stages of women's lives (maiden, mother and crone) with ritual celebration for the individual and the group. We reclaim the word "crone" as a positive image of the wise older woman. The class will dance, sing, journal, meditate, create, and listen to each other's stories. Each participant will be asked to co-facilitate one class. Limited space, so please sign up at boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com or 333-2721.

—Barb Rogers



Women's Spirituality Group

Women's Spirituality Group meeting is Thurs. Sept. 1, 6:30 pm to finalize our plans for our Sunday Service. Bring any ideas you have that would contribute to a Equinox service! And for added fun (of course) we'll have our book exchange. Bring books, magazines, or movies you want to give away or loan. WSG is an open group for any interested women.

—Barb Rogers

From the Editor—The Last Word

“It would be foolish to despise tradition. But with our growing self-consciousness and increasing intelligence we must begin to control tradition and assume a critical attitude toward it, if human relations are ever to change for the better. We must try to recognize what in our accepted tradition is damaging to our fate and dignity—and shape our lives accordingly.”

—Albert Einstein, 1946, *The Negro Question*

[Speaking of tradition, I would like to remind newsletter contributors that placing two spaces between sentences is “so yesterday.” I wouldn’t call it damaging to our fate and dignity, but, since the replacement of the typewriter, the rule has been: “Use only one space after periods, colons, exclamation points, question marks, quotation marks—any punctuation that separates two sentences.” —Robin Williams (not that one), 1992, *The PC is not a Typewriter*]

