

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

August 2009

Volume VIII, Issue 8

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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From Your Intern Minister

It is hard to believe it is already August, when it seems like the kids just got out of school last week. While technically July was the turning of the church year, it is in late August and early September that we usually get down to business—vacations end, RE youth programming returns, and the new board gets down to business. Your board members are making a strong commitment to this congregation by getting together for an all day retreat on August 8. This retreat will give board members a chance to know and understand each other outside of the environment of monthly decision-making. I believe our whole community is made stronger when we have opportunities to learn and grow together.



Another route to fortifying our congregational bonds is through Adult Religious Education. For example in May I offered a 4-session class on the Unitarian Transcendentalists of the 19th century; about a dozen of us had rich discussions and sharing as a result, and many of us were sorry when it was over. Adult RE not only helps us practice our commitment to spiritual growth, it also provides a tangible opportunity to build stronger personal ties and to learn from one other.

Did you know that there are many possibilities for adult RE that don't require "teaching" as much as simple facilitation? For example, this month, I'll be leading a film and discussion series on 3 Sunday nights around TED talks (see page 2 for details.) If you think you would be interested in leading an Adult RE course sometime in the coming year, or, if you could see yourself as part of a task force to create Adult RE programming, please contact me and let's talk about possibilities to fit in with your interests and scheduling. I'm eager to hear your ideas about Adult RE programming and any other "programming" issues you may have, so do please share. You know where to find me!

Best wishes for your August.

—Sally Beth

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(Office Hours: TWT 3-6)

Board Meeting: Tuesday 18 August, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 25 August, 10 a.m., covering September 09

Board Notes . . .

Dear friends,

Your new Board of Trustees has chosen me to be your new President. I am delighted and honored to take this role, especially after such a successful year! We paid off our mortgage in an economically challenging year and had a healthy budget campaign as well. Our outgoing president, Jim Carillon, and the outgoing board deserve many thanks.

Let me share some of my background which led me to accept this challenge. Having been raised in the Unitarian Universalist tradition I am very comfortable with our principles. I have been on several boards and discovered that I actually like meetings! I have been on the boards of the Black Mountain Presbyterian preschool and the Black Mountain Fire Department. My greatest accomplishment has been to start a Montessori School in 2003. I was the visionary/founder and was persuasive enough to assure funding. So, I bring enthusiasm and a positive outlook to this challenge. An added advantage is my marriage to a man who consistently chooses to support me in my endeavors. Besides our congregation being my support, so is he.

Mary Soyenova, Ursula Goebels-Ellis and I will soon join other UUs from around the South for a Leadership Conference at The Mountain (July 19-24) and the entire board has scheduled a facilitated retreat for August 7-8.

The new board has met and aims to serve our congregation well. Please keep us in mind when you have a dream for UUCSV. We'd like to hear it and perhaps implement it.

—Heidi Blozan



TED Ideas worth spreading

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design, and its conferences are renowned for bringing some of the world's most inspirational thinkers together to deliver short summaries of parts of their work. TED talks exude a global focus, a celebration of the intellect, and a commitment to a better world that is the very embodiment of humanism, and resonates deeply with Unitarian Universalism. This 3-part series will showcase some of the best of the TED talks, followed by facilitated discussion of the talks.

Three themed sessions are planned for the following Sunday evenings: 7:00 - 8:30 pm:

August 2--The Human Brain;

August 9--Creativity;

August 19--Happiness.

Contact Sally Beth (minister@uusv.org) for more information.

Drumming

If you would like to get together at the UUCSV to play hand drums and rhythm on other percussion instruments, please let Sally Beth know (minister@uusv.org).



Report from the Library

If you have not taken the opportunity to become acquainted with the UUCSV Library holdings, these summer months may be the time to begin. Because of the generous contributions of many of our members and friends, I would gamble that we have books, tapes, and DVDs for nearly every taste and interest—children and adults.

We have everything From *Angels and Demons* by David Brown to *How to Drink Wine out of Fish Heads* by Ziggy Zen. Perhaps you would prefer a little poetry or listening to the audiotape of *John Adams* by David McCullough. We have 10 publications written by visitors to our pulpit.

You can read ghost tales or about life after death, biographies of Gandhi and Einstein, cookbooks, and publications from the Sierra Club. Do you like a good Grisham novel? We have a few. We also have writings by Obama. We have an extensive collection of books and periodicals devoted to women's interests. Got problems? We actually have nearly 40 books just on Psychology/Sociology/Self-Help.

Come borrow some books and keep them until you are finished with them. The instructions for signing books out and returning them are in the library (to your left as you enter the office). We welcome your interest.

—Jane J. Carroll

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 2 August 2009, 11 a.m.

Food for the Gods -- a Sermon on Ethical Eating

Sally Beth Shore

Increasing information allows us to become increasingly knowledgeable and concerned about the food we eat, the production of which has changed markedly in recent decades. What we eat has ramifications for everything from farmworker's rights to petrochemicals to species preservation, leave alone hunger and health. Can we satisfy our wants and live our values? Can the world be fed? Should we see eating as a spiritual practice and if so, how can we deepen it?



Sunday, 23 August 2009, 11 a.m.

A Trip to the Moon

Sally Beth Shore

40 years ago this past July, Humankind, represented by astronaut Neil Armstrong, set foot on the moon-- and July's newspapers and magazines were filled with all sorts of history and commentary on the first moonwalk. Even if you subscribe to the view that this was wasteful use of resources to top and intimidate the Soviets, there is no doubt that this technological feat both inspired us and changed us as a people. Forty years later, what might drive and inspire us on such a level?

Sunday, 9 August 2009, 11 a.m.

A Path to the Heart

Bill Altork

Bill will share some of his choices, experiences and challenges that have nurtured him on the path to his heart. He believes that. "The greatest value lies not necessarily in which path you have chosen, but that it was your own awareness and personal choice that brought you there." Part of Bill's journey connected him with Barbara Brodsky, who channels Aaron. Bill helped transcribe Aaron's stories of his incarnation in the time of Jesus. In those stories Bill discovered the image of Jesus he had always envisioned: deeply pure and loving, yet free of attachment and affectation from any religious dogma.

Bill Altork was born in 1947 and grew up mainly in south Florida. He has a deep love for the mountains, the ocean and good music. He is a carpenter and has also written volumes of poetry as well as some essays, short stories, and a few books, one of which is Forty Seven Stories of Jesus, inspired by Aaron's stories of that time.

Like millions of others, Bill had a vision of Jesus, but it always became distorted due to its misrepresentation by the church. He became bitter toward organized religion, but kept the flame alive in his heart. Bill recently chose to leave a nearby conservative church and, out of his renewed volition, has realigned himself with the path that more completely nurtures his heart. Although Bill is new to UUCSV, he says, "It is familiar to me in a way that I feel I have always known about and believed in."

Sunday, 16 August 2009, 11 a.m.

Water, Communities and Environmental Justice

Gracia O'Neill

Clean Water for NC promotes clean, safe water and environments and empowers just-communities for all North Carolinians through organizing, education, advocacy and technical assistance. As an Environmental Justice organization, CWFNC works primarily with low-income communities, rural communities and communities of color. Gracia will talk about the life experiences that have led to her present line of work and the challenges and rewards of working with different communities for justice.



Gracia O'Neill grew up in an inner-city neighborhood, received an unusual community-based public education, and began working with non-profit organizations at the age of 12. She has a degree in Environmental Studies from Prescott College in Arizona, and has years of experience in community organizing and research on a wide range of social and environmental issues. Gracia is currently the Assistant Director of Clean Water for North Carolina (www.cwfnc.org), a statewide Environmental Justice organization with an office in Asheville.

Sunday, 30 August 2009, 11 a.m.

The Power of Human Kindness

Rev. Melissa Mummert

The Value of Kindness Author Leo Buscaglia says, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." How right he is. This service celebrates the power of simple human kindness.

Rev. Melissa Mummert is a community minister affiliated with the UU Church of Charlotte. She coordinates a counseling and advocacy program called, E-KWIP, Empowering Kids with Incarcerated Parents. Her 2007 documentary, Perversion of Justice, continues to find an audience and raise people's awareness about the impact of mandatory minimum sentences on families.

Sunday, 6 September 2009, 11 a.m.

Water Communion

Sally Beth Shore

Water is a focus in many religious traditions. Today we will discuss some of these customs and we will honor its role in our lives. We will also contemplate efforts to protect it and make clean water available to the world's poor.

Come prepared for Water Communion with waters from your travels, your homes, your favorite spring, or whatever source that has meaning for you. We will share about these sources of water and then mingle them in a common vessel, which we give afterward to plants on the UUCSV grounds. There will be no Joys and Concerns today.

Religious Education Corner



Summer Activities

Our summer programs have been varied, and we have a great line-up still to come. Most of our youth have been attending the service when they come on Sunday mornings, but we are averaging eight to ten children most Sundays. Here's what we have in store for the remainder of the summer:

July 26—Sign Language with Jeff Hutchins
Beata Ball assists

August 1 (Saturday)—Blueberry picking with Heidi
Beata Ball assists

August 2—Blueberry Market Day and cookout with Heidi
Sybil assists

(fundraiser for the Coming of Age class)

August 9—Recycled Creature with Sybil and Marjorie Starrs

August 16—Recycled Creature with Sybil and Sami Steele

August 23—Theater Improvisation with Rebecca Williams
ASSISTANT NEEDED

August 30—Rope Swing at Fern and Monroe's house
DRIVERS NEEDED

September 6—Balloons with Carolyn Shorkey

Children are in the first part of the service

Assistants and Preschool Helpers

Many thanks to everyone who has stepped up to help out for the remainder of the summer. We need an elementary classroom assistant on August 23, and need an additional adult in the preschool August 2, 9, 16, and 23. We need two preschool helpers on August 30 and September 6. See me or the sign-up sheets in the classrooms. We'll also need drivers to Fern and Monroe's on August 30th.

Coming of Age

We raised \$95 at our fundraiser on July 12. Many thanks for everyone's support. One more fun event on August 2 will be a blueberry market day and cookout. A separate announcement will go out about the blueberry picking the day before and the market day after church on the 2nd. Be prepared to buy rain barrel raffle tickets that day also!

More information to follow, but all Coming of Age families should mark Friday, August 28 for the opening ceremony and potluck dinner, 6 – 8 p.m.

Teachers Needed

We are filling in our slots for teachers, but still need several more. If you haven't been contacted already, feel free to give me a call and I can fill you in. We still need one or two more preschool teachers, one or two more K-3 teachers, and two more grades 4-7 teachers. The curriculum offerings are noted below:

UU Alphabet: preschool (ages 2 – 4)

Theme and Description

The curriculum for preschool offers an introduction to UUism through stories. It develops an awareness in children of their UU congregation as a good place to be. Lessons are arranged by the first letter, A to Z, of each topic, which usually deals with a famous UU individual. Each lesson can

stand alone.

Goals for Participants

To learn that church is a safe, supportive place;

To begin to learn about the UU Principles, in the form of Affirmations;

To begin to develop a UU identity through an introduction to UU history and heritage.

Picture Book UU: Grades K-3

This program is brand new, published in April 2009. It teaches UU identity through

stories, similar to the program for the preschool, but with age-appropriate books, discussions, and activities. See below for a list of books to be used in this curriculum

Traditions With a Wink: Grades 4-7

Theme and Description

Kate Tweedie Erslev's Traditions with a Wink! offers a comprehensive UU identity course, with lessons using diverse sources such as the Internet, the UU hymnbook Singing the Living Tradition, the Bible, UU history, and UU rituals including the Flower Communion.

Goals for Participants

To develop a UU identity which goes beyond "we can believe anything we want;"

To learn about Unitarian and Universalist history, including Jewish and Christian roots, our Principles and Sources, including the use of science and reason;

To learn about a diversity of UU communities by Internet and/or "real life" visits;

To use UU rituals and hymns to delve more deeply into Unitarian Universalism;

To learn about our traditions of good works

And speaking of donating a book.....The K-3 curriculum provides an excellent opportunity for us to continue to develop our church library. If you would like to donate a book or make a donation towards buying a book for this class, please see me. Here's the list of books we need:

- 1) The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Manus Pinkwater
- 2) Old Turtle by Douglas Wood
- 3) Henry Builds a Cabin by D.B. Johnson
- 4) Owen and Mzee by Isabella Hatkof, Craig Hatkof
- 5) To Everything There is a Season by Leo and Diane Dillon
- 6) Henry Hikes to Fitchburg by D.B. Johnson
- 7) Stone Soup by Marcia Brown
- 8) If I Ran for President by Catherine Stier
- 9) Fanny in the Kitchen by Deborah Hopkinson
- 10) Psalm 23 by Tim Ladwig
- 11) Over the River and Through the Wood by Lydia Maria Child (A Thanksgiving Session)
- 12) Grandad's Prayers of the Earth by Douglas Wood
- 13) Elijah's Angel by Michael J. Rosen
- 14) One Candle by Eve Bunting (A Hannuka Session)
- 15) The Shortest Day by Wendy Pfeffer (a Winter Solstice Session)
- 16) This is the Stable by Cynthia Cotten (a Christmas Session)
- 17) On the Night You Were Born by Nancy Tillman
- 18) The Everything Seed by Carole Martignacco
- 19) Maria's Comet by Deborah Hopkinson
- 20) Henry Climbs a Mountain by D.B. Johnson (a M.L.King Day Session)
- 21) The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

- 22) St. Valentine by Robert Sabuda (a Valentine's Day Session)
- 23) In God's Name by Sandy Sasso
- 24) Born with a Bang, the Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story by Jennifer Morgan
- 25) Families by Susan Kuklin
- 26) Henry Works by D.B. Johnson
- 27) All I See is Part of Me by Chara Curtis
- 28) Spring Equinox by Ellen Jackson
- 29) The Golden Rule by Ilene Cooper
- 30) Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco (an Easter Session)
- 31) Earth Day Birthday (an Earth Day Session)
- 32) From Lava to Life, the Universe Tells our Earth's Story by Jennifer Morgan
- 33) Love You Forever by Robert Munsch (a Mother's Day Session)
- 34) Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
- 35) Summer Solstice by Ellen Jackson

Class Registration for 2009-2010 School Year

Registration materials for next school year will go out the first week in August. All registration materials are due back by August 31st.

Important Dates to Remember

August 1: 8:30 – 12:30 p.m. Pick blueberries; car pool from UUCSV parking lot

August 2: 12:15 p.m. Blueberry/Farmer's Market and cook-out (COA fundraiser)

August 1 – 31 Rain Barrel Raffle

August 28 COA opening ceremony and potluck 6 – 8 p.m. for all families

August 30 Mentor orientation 9:30 a.m.

Teacher orientation 12:30 p.m.

September 13 RE classes begin

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

merlasybpenny@yahoo.com

230-3773

Green Sanctuary



The Green Sanctuary Committee is finishing up the projects UUCSV undertook during the past two years in our effort to become accredited as a Green Sanctuary by the UU Ministry for Earth. Reports on those projects will appear in a later edition of the newsletter so that you can appreciate the work the congregation has done. In the meantime, we have one more request of you as we complete our work for this two-year period. Previously sent to you is a questionnaire we hope someone in your household will complete and return to us ASAP. Instructions are on the first page of the document. In advance, thank you. We appreciate your help.

—Jane J. Carroll and Connie Krochmal, Green Sanctuary Committee Co-Chairs

Room in the Inn

Each week somewhere in the Buncombe County area some church serves as host for 12 homeless women. In Black Mountain the Methodist and Presbyterian churches participate in Room in the Inn several times a year. The Social Action Committee here at UUCSV helps out by arranging for meals and volunteers for one day. Our turn is on Friday, October 2nd and will take place at the Presbyterian church annex.

UUCSV members and friends can lend a hand by volunteering to help with this event. We will need breakfast and bag lunches for twelve as well as everything for the evening meal, including bread, entrees, etc. As usual we're seeking two overnight volunteers as well as backup overnight volunteers. We're also seeking volunteer drivers to drive the Presbyterian church van in the morning and evening. We can also use backup drivers.

The Social Action Committee thanks all the volunteers who have made it possible for UUCSV to take part in this program during the past four years.

A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer. You can also contact me at 686-3112, cbk119@hotmail.com.

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

Choir News

There will be no choir performance or rehearsal in August. We will meet again on September 13th. Many thanks to all who read and performed so beautifully at our July 19th Music Service. Happy Summer from Linda.

Congregational Care

The Congregational Care Committee is ready to assist our congregation in time of need by providing transportation and meals for those who are facing difficult circumstances. The Monthly Coordinator for August will be Kay-Sea Conklin (686-7502, cell: 230-2227, kaysea-conklin@charter.net). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

Hospitality News

UUCSV member and seasonal resident, Lauris Liljestrand hosted Sunday coffee hour 6 times this summer. Thank you, Lauris! Also, we are thrilled to have had Pat Middleton assist with the set up and clean up for the church picnic July 5th. David Brown, grill meister extraordinaire, once again volunteered to cook the hot dogs at the picnic. Thanks David! Did you know that Cora and Aven Blozen grew and cooked the yummy greens they contributed to the food table? Eating doesn't get much greener or more local than what the Blozen children demonstrated for us. We love you, Cora and Aven!

Birthdays in August

August 5 Margaret Bumgarner
August 11 Shari Spires
August 13 Joe 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.

Friday Fling

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 21 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 "About Schmidt" (2002, Jack Nicholson; after retirement and loss of his wife, a dour man finds himself) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc. (CG = Covenant Group)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First	9:45 RE Committee 12:00 Program Committee		6:30 Congregational Care Committee	1:00 Written Word CG		
Second	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Membership Committee		7:00 Open Topics CG	5:30 Social Action Committee		
Third	9:30 Green Sanctuary Committee		6:00 Board of Trustees	1:00 Written Word CG		6:30 Friday Fling
Fourth	9:30 Adult Forum 12:30 SOLS		7:00 Open Topics CG			

Galax Gathering and Auction

An all-church fun-d raising event is planned for Saturday, October 3, at 7 p.m. It is an opportunity for everyone to be involved with the congregation in a creative and enjoyable evening. To be successful in increasing our income for the operating budget, we will need contributions for the auction from the congregation. These contributions may take several forms. Events may be scheduled for any time in the fiscal year (through June 2010).

Live auction items—Skilled services from congregation members: carpentry, repair work, and technical skills.

Antiques, collectables, white elephants.

Silent auction items—Craft and art works.

Plants, event tickets, vacation house.

Services - yard work, knitting, bridge or drawing lessons, baby-sitting.

Baked goods (perhaps two or three times a year).

Food events—Dinners, lunch, afternoon tea, breakfast, specialty party. (Sign-up sheets with silent auction.)

Give some thought about what you might be able to contribute. For further information contact Jane Carroll, Evelyn Carter, or Marilyn Wells.



UUCSV's 5th Year Building Anniversary!

On Sunday, July 5, we celebrated the 5th anniversary of being in this lovely building. Fittingly, Kevin Campbell and family were there, and tribute was done to the fine work he did designing the renovations and making our beautiful podium. Also, afterward, we saw an equally lovely sight of "the old, the new, and the future." Shown are Minister Emeritus Dick Stennet, Intern Minister Sally Beth Shore (our newest addition to the service of this church), Phil Fryberger and Charlie Chilton (young at heart but old hands at starting our church), Jim Carillon (recent Chair of the Board of Trustees), and Heidi Blozan (new Chair of the Board of Trustees). There was good food and fellowship.

In the Mother Grove

"In the Mother Grove" is a multimedia concert of music and poetry devoted to the Divine Feminine written by Annelinde Metzner. This benefit for the Asheville Mother Grove Goddess Temple will include dance, puppetry, spoken word, choir, soloists and drumming. Taking place on August 30th, 2009 at 3 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville at Edwin Place, a love donation will be accepted at the door. Contact 712-6745 for more information.