

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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August 2011

Volume X, Issue 8

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



500 Montreat Rd  
Black Mountain, NC 28711  
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## Meet Helen Bell

We are pleased to welcome Helen Bell as a new member of our congregation. She lives with her husband, Ralph, on Inspiration Way in Swannanoa. Ralph and Helen have two adult children and five grandchildren, ages 5 through 22! She visits her son in Alaska and daughter in upstate New York.

Helen spent her early years in Utica, Canton and east end of Long Island, NY. Education was her focus, including 21 years as an elementary classroom teacher, and nine years in educational service. Ralph is a retired school superintendent. Helen became a UU in 1998 before moving to NC in 2000.

Helen is now very active in social justice work. She serves as Guardian Ad Litem, as a member of scholarship committee with Building Bridges, and on Helping the Homeless for the Ethical Society. In addition to volunteering she is a gardener, hiker, reader, and yoga practitioner.

### UUCSV Board of Trustees

Geoff Stone, President  
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Linda Metzner, *Choir Director*

Tricia West, *Office Staff*

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

**Board Meeting: Monday 15 Aug, 6 p.m.**

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 23 August, 10  
a.m., covering September 2011

## Sunday Programming

**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.



**Sunday, 21 August 2011, 11 a.m.**

### **Gardening and Spirituality**

**Diana Schmitt McCall**

A look at gardening in the container of spirituality--from the individual gardener's connection to place and personal nourishment, to the impact gardening has at the community level through its ability to blur social and class lines, educate and empower, and build a congregation of faithful and committed participants.

Diana Schmitt McCall has managed the Black Mountain Community Garden since 2007. Her many responsibilities include supervising volunteer groups, coordinating garden membership, maintaining production for donation to families in need in the valley, leading school field trips, hosting monthly educational workshops and teaching cooking classes. Additionally, Diana teaches yoga at Black Mountain Yoga Studio and at her home.

If you are a member of the Black Mountain Community Garden or a lifelong gardener and would like to contribute to the Gardening and Spirituality service please contact Rebecca Williams, UUCSV worship associate at [serpentchild@earthlink.net](mailto:serpentchild@earthlink.net) or 686-3922. Everyone is invited to bring in flowers and vegetables from their garden to help decorate the sanctuary.

**Sunday, 14 August 2011, 11 a.m.**

### **The Artist As Non-Conformist**

**Rev. Michael Carter**

What is it about creative people that compels them, despite the odds, to stay true to their unique vision of life as they see it? To become not only an artist, but social activists as well. Many, but not all, do not achieve celebrity or fame until after the deaths, and many do not achieve this at all. And still they rise. I will be focusing mostly on literary artists that morning but I feel there is a common thread to be found in all artists who become committed to assisting us in the development of what is commonly known as, "The Beloved Community." See you on Sunday, August 14th!



## Sunday Programming

**Sunday, 28 August 2011, 11 a.m.**

### **Dream of Democracy**

**Suchittra Temesrisuk**

Join us for a passionate and in-depth look at Su's own experiences in demonstrating for Democracy in Bangkok, Thailand. There will be film clips of the Thammasat University massacre, in 1973 and 1976. Then Su will tell you of her own attendance to this fatal demonstration and how it affected her as well as her family and friends, and ultimately the entire country of Thailand. Su will also share with you her passionate desire to come to America on her own so she could live a life with much more freedom and choices. In closing, she will acknowledge the valiant and sacrificial efforts of more and more people around the world who are asking for similar freedom.

Suchittra was born in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1957. She was sixteen when she attended the demonstrations at Thammasat and witnessed the massacre. In 1983 Su moved to America of her own volition to pursue freedom. She first lived in Boston for one year, then heard about Asheville from a friend. She then moved here and has been a resident of this area ever since.



**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 Liljestrand are member of UUCSV.

## Religious Education Corner



Those lazy days of summer. The days seemed to drag for a while, but all of a sudden it's only a few weeks until school starts again. We've had a wonderful variety of programming for our children this summer, with more to come over the next month. Our first-ever summer camp program was a great success, and we've had lots of visitors in RE. We're looking forward to a great new year as our children begin to focus on social justice in our world. We'll carry this theme from our littlest UUs through our senior high group. As we all recite together every Sunday in circle time, "Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its prayer". We will all walk the walk this year as we explore the many needs within our community near and far.

### Summer Sundays!!

July 31 Democracy flags with Milt Warden and Carolyn Shorkey

August 7 Plant Pressings with Susan and Scott Shaw

August 14 Printmaking with Bette Bates

August 21 Music with Linda Metzner

August 28 Open

September 4 Nutrition and Cooking with Richard Heft

September 11 Water Communion IG Beginning and Start of New School Year!

### Meet Pooshie from Summer Camp

We had six children participate in our half-day summer camp program, *Journey for the Earth: Daily Travel Adventures*, on July 18-22. We all had a great time exploring recycling, taking field trips to the community garden and Montreat Park, building solar cookers and pinwheels to study solar and wind power, making sun tea, building animal habitats, and best of all, creating Pooshiedashay Recycle Bob (I call him Pooshie for short). Pooshie will be in the RE room for a little while longer, but may also visit the Black Mountain Library. If you haven't met him, or seen photos from our camp week, be sure to do so soon! All evaluations from the children and families were stellar, so we hope we can expand and make this an annual event!

### General Assembly in Charlotte

Aaron Eliot-Gaines and I attended the UUA's General Assembly in Charlotte Wednesday and Thursday, June 22 and 23. I picked up many great ideas about lifespan religious education, multi-cultural training, and some about our denominational history. Aaron had a great time too, especially having the opportunity to meet over 150 youth from all over the country.

### Teacher Recruitment

We have begun recruiting teachers, but still need a few more. If you have a passion for social justice and enjoy working with any age level of children and youth, please see me right away. You will learn so much and will be amazed at all that our children and

youth have to offer. Training will be provided for all volunteers, so don't let the logistics stop you! All parents will be required to assist in the classroom at least once/semester so that we have plenty of volunteers in all classrooms.

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

### RE Committee for 2011 - 2012:

Our committee for next year will consist of Scott Shaw, chair; Susan Shaw; Evelyn Carter; Aaron Eliot-Gaines; Krista Brown; George Scott; and Lisa Brooks. Thanks to all those continuing to serve and welcome to Lisa!

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

## Religious Education Corner



Campers at our summer environmental camp, Journey for the Earth, made solar cookers and pinwheels, visited the community garden, went creek wading, designed animal habitats, and built a fantastic recycled creature, Pooshidashay Recycle Bob.

### 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.

### Indoor Plant Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed to water the three indoor plants once a week. This can be done any time that is convenient for the volunteer. No prior experience is needed. Just remove the plant from its waterproof outer pot or basket, and set the plastic pot in the kitchen sink. Add enough water to the pot so that the potting soil becomes thoroughly soaked. Drain the excess water from the pot and set it



### Hospitality Changes

Hospitality is changing its name to Sunday Coffee Hour to better reflect the volunteer level we are seeing on the committee. The Sunday Coffee Hour hosts will no longer organize potlucks or memorial services which means that each group or committee in the church will be responsible for planning these events. Coffee Hour hosts may be willing to assist with these events if asked.

As you know, Marilyn Wells has moved away, and she was a dedicated volunteer for this committee. Lauris Liljestrang has been co-chair but is stepping down to put energy into other committees. Lauris will continue to be a Coffee Hour host. Angie Manuel has joined the committee and has jumped right into the job. Many thanks to our regular volunteers George Scott, Ann Sillman, Connie Krochmal. If anyone else wants to help out, please contact Milt Warden, Chair.

### Choir News for August

Many of us enjoyed a beautiful concert by Jim Scott and Elliot Wadopian which we cosponsored in July with the Social Action Committee. Thanks especially to Diane Hutchins.



Our choir will sing on the 28th of August this month. We will sing two songs relating to Suchittra's service on the Democracy Movement in Thailand and the Middle East. Our rehearsals will be on Sunday the 21st at 12:15 after the service, the following Thursday the 25th at 6 PM, and the day of the performance, the 28th, at 10 AM. Come sing with us!

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

### Room in the Inn Signup for October

Signup for our next Room in the Inn will begin in August. This program provides homeless women in the area with housing, meals, and transportation. UUCSV is seeking volunteers to help out on Friday, Oct. 14th. The women will be staying at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex. As always we will need volunteers to provide food for all three meals as well as morning and evening van drivers and overnight volunteers. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer, or contact me at [flora258@isp.com](mailto:flora258@isp.com), 686 3112.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator

### Friday Fling

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 19 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 "Brokeback Mountain" (2006; Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



**Building/Aesthetics Committee Report (June 10, 2011)**

A summary of the committee’s progress follows:

A donation of \$5000 from Tom Rodman was designated by the Board for use, in part, to replace the front doors and windows of the church building. The new doors should arrive in about a week. After the doors are installed by members of our committee, the side windows in the foyer will be replaced. We have already purchased the windows and have them on hand.

The Rodman donation also was to be used to replace the sanctuary chairs. The chairs are on order. As soon as they arrive, we will make arrangements to pick them up at a site near Hickory. Our transporting them will save us approximately \$250 of the \$300 transportation fee.

The Board approved our committee spending as much of the balance of the Rodman donation as we may need to frame pictures that were donated to us by Mary Rodman. We plan to undertake that work so that the pictures can be hung in the newly refurbished minister’s office and restroom.

The bathroom that was formerly a “Women’s Room,” is in the process of being transformed to a unisex, ADA-compliant restroom. A new water-saver toilet has been installed, partitions in the room were removed, plastic walls were covered with a bonding agent and have received the first coat of paint. The ceiling was painted. The entry door will be enlarged to accommodate a wheelchair. The cabinet under the sink will be removed and the sink replaced with one that meets ADA requirements. The fan in the ceiling will be made operational. Handrails installed at the proper heights near the toilet will be added. The last step will be to install vinyl tiles on the floor.

Changes to the minister’s office are almost complete. We still need to hang Mary Rodman’s pictures and to find two chairs we can use as visitors’ chairs. The walls and ceilings in this room were painted. The bookcase and file cabinet were treated to a coat of paint. We have a table and lamp on loan to us in this room. The desk that was there is useable. A new chair to go with the desk was purchased.

The Board voted to use funds to complete the carpeting in the RE section of the building. This work is now complete. The cost of this work was not to have come from the limited Building/Aesthetics budget. We made the arrangements for the work to be done, however, following the action by the Board to proceed.

Our committee members have given many hours to accomplishing the goal of making our building comfortable, safe, and attractive. I think it is important that we recognize the contributions, in particular, of Bill Altork, Evelyn Carter, Lauris Liljestrang, Pete Ronman, and Emory Underwood.

**Birthdays in June**

- 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
- August 29      Barb Pleasants



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



### Library Lady's Report for August, 2011

Some books on our UUCSV library shelves are ignored or just not noticed. This situation is sad for the Library Lady because she assumes all books, although not created equal, have their strengths. One book, in particular, that has gone uncirculated seems like it would be a runaway first choice among socially conscious UUs: *The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter* (2006), by Peter Singer and Jim Mason. Lauris Liljestrand and Pete Ronman recommend it.

You will notice on our library inventory list that books written by people who have spoken at our church or are otherwise associated with it, are marked in red. If you have authored a book and would like a copy of it to appear on our shelves, please let the Library Lady know. We welcome donations. Just put them in the basket on the shelf so they can be processed.

Our library inventory is updated periodically and posted on our website. Please let us know if you have suggestions for additions.

—Jane J. Carroll

### Women's Circle News

We have a new curriculum at UUCSV: *Becoming Women of Wisdom, Marking the Passage into the Crone Years*, distributed by UU Women & Religion ([www.uuwr.org](http://www.uuwr.org)). *Becoming Women of Wisdom* will be offered at UUCSV for 13 weeks on Sun. evenings starting in Sept. Co-facilitators are invited. Call Barb Rogers, 828-333-2721 to hold a place in the group. This class is open to all women.



Women's Spirituality Group regular monthly meeting is Aug. 4, at 6:30 pm. Topic is *The Mayan Calendar*, with a video and discussion, and copies of the calendar. This topic will also be discussed again at our September meeting, including learning more about our own Mayan sun signs.

WomenSpirit Retreat at The Mountain: Women & Religion is the backbone organization for the Goddess curriculums, (Cakes, and Rise Up) and WomenSpirit retreats district-wide. Our SE district WomenSpirit group will be holding a retreat in Oct. at the UU retreat center, The Mountain, in Highlands, NC. We are invited. For more information and a link to the brochure, see: [www.uuwr.org/calendar-m/view/124](http://www.uuwr.org/calendar-m/view/124).

—Barb Rogers

### From the Editor—The Last Word

From a letter PFC Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., wrote to his family on 29 May 1945, concerning his experiences as a Prisoner of War in Germany:

“On about February 14<sup>th</sup> the Americans came over, followed by the R.A.F. their combined labors killed 250,000 people in twenty-four hours and destroyed all of Dresden — possibly the world's most beautiful city. But not me.

“After that we were put to work carrying corpses from Air-Raid shelters; women, children, old men; dead from concussion, fire or suffocation. Civilians cursed us and threw rocks as we carried bodies to huge funeral pyres in the city.”



Western Carolinas Cluster

# Training for Leaders

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## Asheville Church

### **Board Members and Committee Chairs**

Morning Session

Annette Marquis, District Executive

*Leading Through Vision*

How the board can lead the congregation to achieve its vision. Each congregation will have a chance to strategize together about its next steps to make its vision become real and to create a learning community with other congregations to bring new ideas and strategies home.

### Afternoon workshops

- 1 Involving Members in Creating Services, led by Clark Olsen
- 2 Membership and Stewardship, led by Larry Wheeler
- 3 Leadership as a Spiritual Practice, led by Annette Marquis
- 4 Managing a Meeting Effectively, led by Anna Olsen

## Clemson Fellowship

### **Religious Educators, Comm. Members & Teachers**

Rev. Sue Sinnamon

*The Future of Religious Education and  
Religious Educators*

**Morning**

Trends and driving forces affecting the future of faith formation in our congregations. The primary resources for this presentation are Faith Formation 2020, designing the future and American Grace, how religion divides and unites us.

## Afternoon Workshops

- A Social Justice for all Ages.
- B Beyond Sunday morning programs.
- C Faith Formation as a network of learning opportunities.
- D Small Group Ministries for families.
- E The use of social media as a community- building tool.

Registration is free at [gjohnson@uaa.org](mailto:gjohnson@uaa.org). Lunch and supply donations will be requested. More information on the Southeast District Web site.