

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

January 2011

Volume X, Issue 1

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



From the Board

- # Please see the Board Bulletin Board for a copy of the last months minutes and Treasurer's Report (or me if it is not there).
- # The Ministerial Search Committee has decided to take a temporary break until we finish our spring Stewardship Campaign. However, they have already been contacted by several interested prospects.
- # A member of the Personnel Committee will become our Church administrator's new supervisor in the absence of a minister.
- # The Sisters of Lucy Stone (SOLS) are planning Trillium. The proceeds will be split three ways: our Partner Church in Medeser, a local WNC charity and UUCSV.
- # Lee Reading (appointed by the Social Action Committee) will be chairing our second involvement in the annual Martin Luther King Habitat House.
- # Committee Chairs may send out one congregation wide email per month. There will be an opt-out option on each of these mailings.
- # There is a meeting scheduled in February with area UU Churches to publicize our movement in WNC. See Mary Soyenova if you would like to be involved.

Every member of this community is asked to contribute in some way. Those special contributions come in many forms. This month there is a few that we would like to mention:

- The entry into the Black Mountain Parade
- The bequest from a member of our congregation
- An increase in a family pledge
- The service of our longest involvement with a minister
- The proceeds from a personal book collection sale

With Great Gratitude,

—Heidi Blozan, Board President

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UUCSV Board of Trustees

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

Board Meeting: Monday 17 January, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 25 January,
10 a.m., covering February 2011

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 2 January 2011, 11 a.m.

Tim Perry

A Time to Forgive

The start of a new year is a great time to leave old wounds behind and move on to healing and wholeness. We all agree that forgiveness is a good thing, but we often seem to be a little fuzzy about exactly what we mean by it, and even fuzzier about how to do it in difficult circumstances. Let's take a fresh look at the concept, break it down, take it apart, analyze it, and see how it works. Then we'll see if we can put it back together in working order and figure out how to make the best use of it in our day-to-day lives.



Tim was a very conservative Christian for 25 years from adolescence well into adulthood, and a minister of one kind or another for most of that time. Then one day, without so much as a "good bye," his beliefs suddenly left him, and he had to find new ones. Now he's a member of UUCSV who considers himself a "Hopeful Agnostic." He's still working on finding those new beliefs, but he's usually more than happy to share what he's arrived at so far, either in private or from the pulpit.

Bill Altork is planning to do an original composition (song) of his, accompanied by his harmonium.



Sunday, 9 January 2011, 11 a.m.

Going Against The Grain

Rev. Michael Carter

The true measure of the individual is not how he or she handles life when things are comfortable and convenient, but how we handle life when things require our commitment and sacrifice. It takes courage to speak out and to stand up for what is right. This morning we will look at what it takes to live this way. It takes courage to live life while going against the grain. See you there!



Sunday Programming

Sunday, 16 January 2011, 11 a.m.

Suicide: A Fierce Goodbye

David Madden and Ursula Goebels-Ellis

After some known facts and reflections upon the many causes of suicide among young and old some of the many effects upon families, colleagues, friends, employers and institutions are presented, David and Ursula will share how suicide in their immediate families impacted their personal lives and professional careers. Ursula used the malleability of clay to express that for which she had no words and became an art therapist to help other in their journey. She will bring samples of her work. David used his imagination and writing skill to explore the mystery of his loss. His novel, *The Suicide's Wife*, was made into a movie in 1979, a time when suicide was little discussed, as it is even today. He will read passages from this book and show clips from the movie.

If there is enough interest (min. 6 people), David and Ursula will conduct two or three Adult Education discussion sessions on this difficult and painful subject. They are tentatively scheduled for January 19 and 26, 7pm. You can sign up by sending an e-mail to ursulage@bellsouth.net or use the sign up sheet in the lobby.

Born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, David Madden and his wife, Robbie, moved to Black Mountain a year ago. His first job teaching English and drama was at Appalachian State University in 1958; after 43 years, he retired from Louisiana State University as Robert Penn Warren Professor of Creative Writing Emeritus. He is a poet, novelist, literary critic, Civil War historian, and liberal activist.

Ursula Goebels-Ellis was born and raised in Germany. After immigrating to the US in 1971, she studied Art as a Therapeutic Technique. She was a faculty member at Duke University, Psychiatry, until 1989, when she resigned to work full time as an artist. Ursula and her husband Jay moved to Black Mountain and became members of UUCSV in 2005.



Sunday, 23 January 2011, 11 a.m.

Are We There Yet?

Rev. Elinor Artman

Today we will explore the history, progress, and challenges of the movement for parity for women within Unitarian Universalism. "Are we There Yet?" is the working title for Rev. Artman's book chronicling the UU Women's Movement since the consolidation in 1961.

Rev. Elinor Artman, a UU since 1955, ordained in 1980 at the beginning of the current wave of women ministers, has served on the Board of the UU Women's Federation (twice), the UUA Board's Task Force on Clergy Misconduct, on the Executive Committee of the UU Minister's Association, and is now on the UU Women's Heritage Society Board. She has served a number of UU churches, retiring in 2001 from Heritage UU in Cincinnati. She lives in Asheville, is a member of the Asheville UU congregation.

Sunday, 30 January 2011, 11 a.m.

Meditation Sunday

Sunday, 6 February 2011, 11 a.m.

Bill Altork Presents

Religious Education Corner



It's hard to believe I'm writing "January 2011". Where did the year go? 2010 was a great year for RE as we wrapped up our *Coming of Age* class with a fantastic trip to Boston, and have continued working with our youth to keep them involved in our congregation. Our younger children and youth are learning about faith traditions from around the world. Last week, we honored the time of our intern minister, Sally Beth Shore, who always made space to include our children and youth not only in Sunday morning story times, but in helping behind the scenes in the classroom, with *Coming of Age* fundraisers, and checking in with me as she planned her intergenerational worship time. I will miss this connection to RE over the coming months, but know that this congregation, as it moves forward, will continue to hold RE at a high level of focus and priority as the search for ministerial leadership continues. May the coming year be filled, for all of you, with love, surprises, forgiveness, learning, and care for others. As we teach the children every Sunday...love is the spirit of this church, and service is its prayer.

Classroom Activities and Attendance

Over the past month, we've had two or three of our littlest UUs spending their time in the infant/preschool room. The K-4 class, generally five to

seven children each week, have focused on Judaism and Christianity, in keeping with the holiday season. Some of this group also participated in our holiday play "Pagans, Jews, and Jesus Too"! They learned their lines better than the adults! Snow didn't keep this dauntless group of players from performing our play and we presented it, truly as an intergenerational production, at a rescheduled Wednesday evening service. This group, in the next couple of months, will focus on Buddhism and Hinduism. The grades 5-8 *Neighboring Faiths* class finished their study of Catholicism and spent some time talking about holiday traditions from around the world. They will focus, in the spring semester, upon additional faith traditions, with site visits and guest speakers. The senior high youth, led by Scott Conklin, gathered for a covenant group meeting in December, entitled "The Importance of Soccer", a lead-in to a discussion about love in our lives. This group will gather on January 8 for a movie and pizza night with the youth from the Asheville church. We will also have a guest speaker from Habitat for Humanity present to the youth how they can be involved in the next house UUCSV will be building.

Guest At Your Table

Please remember to turn in your Guest At Your Table donations from January 2 to 9 so Jim Carillon has

time to complete all the necessary paperwork. Please convert your change in the box into a check made out to UUSC, **NOT** UUCSV. These donations are just passed straight through to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Intergenerational Beginnings

We will continue the tradition of an intergenerational beginning the first Sunday of every month, with a story presented by me or someone from the RE committee or families. I see so often the difference this makes in our children being present in our full intergenerational services. It isn't strange to them to come in and feel part of things. This is so important for them as they continue their spiritual journey into the future.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 2 Intergenerational beginning; holiday program.
- January 8 RE Committee Planning Retreat 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Senior high youth pizza/movie night 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- January 9 Spring classes begin
— *Sybil Argintar*, RE Coordinator
(sybil.argintar@yahoo.com, 230-3773)

Committees and their Fearless Leaders

- Membership: Angie Underwood
- Building and Aesthetics: Jane J. Carroll
- Hospitality: Milt Warden and Lauris Liljestrand
- Congregational Care: Barb Rogers
- Religious Education: George Scott
- Personnel: Evelyn Carter
- Finance: Lee Reading
- Monthly Newsletter: Norm Kowal
- Social Action: Diane Hutchins
- Ministerial Search: Bert Gaines
- Stewardship Campaign: Jeffrey Hutchins
- Music: Linda Metzner

Please contact these people if you would like to get involved with a committee or you have an idea.

Membership Committee

Do NOT read the following announcement unless . . .

welcoming visitors and guiding potential members in joining our congregation are important to you!!

Our Membership Committee is meeting Sunday, January 30th, at 10:00 a.m. at the church. If the words in the fine print apply to you, then we want to see you at our meeting!!
—Angie Underwood, Chair

Holiday Card Sales

Social Action thanks all those who purchased UU Service Committee holiday cards during November and December. When you purchase these cards you're helping to support the work of UUSC. We raised over \$260, which will be sent to the service committee.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Holiday Cards Coordinator

UUCSV Receives Bequest

In early December UUCSV Treasurer Jim Carillon received an early holiday gift: a check for \$5,000, a bequest from the estate of Tom Rodman. Please join the UUCSV board in celebrating this unexpected legacy gift from one of our long-time members. At its December meeting, the Board sent a note expressing thanks to the Rodman family.

Birthdays in January

- January 1st Steve Traub
- January 4th Aven Blozan
- January 4th Caroline Metcalf
- January 5th Sophia Scott
- January 7th Robert Tynes
- January 9th Teresa Ballinger
- January 10th Chuck Cogdill
- January 15th Robin Tynes
- January 17th Mary Soyenova
- January 27th Pete Ronman
- January 31st Jim Carillon

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

January's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 21 January 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 "Everything Is Illuminated" (2005, Elijah Wood, Jonathan journeys to the Ukraine to find the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis in 1942) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Choir for January

This month, the choir will begin singing on the fourth Sunday instead of the third. Please come and sing with us! We will rehearse on Sunday January 16th at 12:15, and then the following Thursday the 20th at 6:30, and finally on the day of performance, the 23rd at 10 AM. We always have some fun, so come and join us!

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

Dialogue on Race

The third part of a Dialogue on Race, originally scheduled for December 14, will be held on Tuesday, January 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Town Hall. The dialogue will be based on "The House We Live In," the final segment of a film entitled "Race: The Power of an Illusion." It follows sessions held in October and November.

"The House We Live In" reveals how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics, and culture. It shows how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status, and wealth to white people.

Alton Hancock will facilitate the dialogue, which is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Corporation and Building Bridges of Asheville.

There is no charge for participation. For more information, please contact Roberta Madden at 669-2757 or robertamadden@yahoo.com.

Building on the Dream Opportunity

A hearty and hardy group of UUCSV volunteers have been helping build the twelfth interfaith house for Habitat this summer and fall. Like all Habitat projects this is an energy efficient and HealthyBuilt home. Thirteen diverse faith congregations have participated in this project. Many thanks to all of our participants, especially to Susan Culler for her coordination and leadership. Our Social Action Committee has endorsed this project again for 2011.

Plans are underway to launch the 2011 Building on the Dream Home on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. I have agreed to serve as the UUCSV point person for volunteer recruitment and project coordination. Volunteers are carefully supervised by Habitat's professional project managers. You just need to be willing and able bodied. A big heart, work boots and warm pair of gloves are recommended! More specifics will be released later in December. If you are interested in getting involved, please give me a call at 664-0082 or email at lreading0082@charter.net.

—Lee Reading, *Building on the Dream Coordinator*

Six-Month Report from Building and Aesthetics Committees

Bill Altork, Angie and Emory Underwood, Evelyn Carter, Sydney Wilson, and "yours truly" have been busy the past six months making some changes in what you may experience at UUCSV. Have you noticed: the new carpet in the office/nursery/library along with restructured office closets and working spaces; new shelves and organized working space in the outdoor shed and the indoor storage closet in the rear of the sanctuary; new water saver toilet in the unisex bathroom; energy-saving light bulbs everywhere; unused closet doors repurposed as the name tag holder; new bulletin board hung in the foyer to broadcast current events; newly painted ceiling in the foyer; decorated Christmas tree and handmade wreaths and garlands put in place during the holiday season; and various other changes and repairs? We have been happy to make the building more pleasant and comfortable. These committees welcome volunteers with an interest in the appearance and functioning of our physical surroundings, and who also may have special skills that apply. The volunteers may not be professionals, but it helps if they have a basic working knowledge of carpentry, electricity, roofing, painting, plumbing, interior design, art, or just handiness with a hammer or the color wheel. Contact me dr_jcarr@msn.com, 828-664-1695, or come to a joint meeting of these committees at 10:00 a.m. on the third Sunday of every month.

—Jane J. Carroll, *Chair*

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit

www.UUreHome.com

or write to

info@uurehome.com

Friends

Have you made a good friend as a result of your participation in our congregation? If the answer is YES!, would you be willing to interview your friend during the March 6th Sunday Service? I'm organizing a lay led service on Friendship using the format of NPR's StoryCorps. Get bit by the StoryCorps bug by listening to some stories on the website www.storycorps.org I'll need your name as an interested participant in January, so that we can prepare the service prior to the newsletter deadline in February. Please volunteer yourself for this fun project.

Contact: Carolyn Shorkey by email to c14shorkey@att.net

A Spiritual Australian Didgeridoo Workshop with Phil Shiva Jones

When: Saturday, January 8, 2011, 3:00-5:00

Where: UUCSV

Cost: \$20

Contact: Carolyn Shorkey: sign up sheet in the foyer

This interactive workshop explores the use of breath and sound frequencies to connect with the Divine, and create a deeply serene state of consciousness for the enhancement of healing, meditation, prayer and creativity.

The didgeridoo is an ancient mesmerizing drone instrument made from the eucalyptus tree and is traditionally played in healing ceremonies by the Aboriginal clans of Australia.

Playing the didgeridoo creates soothing and resonant harmonics that easily erase the ‘monkey chatter’ in the mind ~ enhancing mental clarity and emotional equilibrium.

The primordial vibrations of the didgeridoo, combined with the breathing techniques, help create a state of relaxation, lower blood pressure, relax the heart, improve digestion, and ~ as recently proven by the British Medical Association ~ significantly reduce sleep apnea.

~No prior musical experience is necessary~

All participants will be provided an instrument to play during the workshop.

Didgeridoos and meditation CDs will be available for purchase after the workshop.

Phil (Shiva) Jones was the lead singer/songwriter for the renowned English spiritual rock band ‘Quintessence’ (Island Records), and has been merging various spiritual mantras, sounds and themes into his professional music career since the 1960’s. He studied 7 years with an enlightened Hindu saint who embraced the fundamental truths of all religions. An engaging and inspiring interfaith minister and singer, Phil currently lectures and performs at churches and spiritual fellowships, wellness centers, yoga studios, and universities throughout the USA.



From the Editor—The Last Word

I would like to express my pleasure and thanks to Sally Beth Shore for our working relationship while she has been at UUCSV—It has been a wonderful experience.