

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

March 2011

Volume X, Issue 3

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From the Board

Treasurer's Report: Please see the Board Bulletin Board for this months report.

Summer Camp at UUCSV: The RE Committee is organizing our first ever Summer Camp. Camp will be a half day program in July. Look for more details soon.

We are changing Sybil Argintar's title to Director of Religious Education (DRE) to more accurately describe her role at UUCSV.

Scott Shaw will lead a Nominating Committee to replace our outgoing board members. Please see Scott if you would like to be a board member starting in July or would like to be on the Nominating Committee.

General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association is having its General Assembly (GA) in Charlotte, NC this year. This is the closest it will ever be to us. The dates of GA are June 22-26. Early bird registration is as follows:

Adult full time \$315

Adult one day \$130

Youth full time \$190

Youth one day \$80

The Sunday morning worship service is free. Check out all the details at uua.org.

I have special gift to give the first five people who register.

—Heidi Blozan, Board President

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Heidi Blozan, *President*

Teresa Ballinger

David Brown

Roberta Madden

Scott Shaw

Mary Soyenova

Geoff Stone

Emory Underwood

Jim Carillon, *Treasurer*

Sybil Argintar, *Director of Religious Education* 230-3773

Linda Metzner, *Choir Director*

Tricia West, *Office Staff*

(Office Hours: W 9-3, Th 9-2)

Board Meeting: Monday 21 March, 6 p.m.

Send Newsletter Information to

Norm Kowal, *Editor*

normankowal@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 22 March, 10 a.m., covering April 2011

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 6 March 2011, 11 a.m.

Friendship: Intergenerational Lay Led Service

Carolyn Shorkey, Worship Associate

Have you ever arrived at our church on Sunday morning and been graced with a warm and caring smile? For many of us, Sunday morning is a time to care for one another. Today we will witness the stories and music of friendships formed at UUCSV. The Harvard Medical School reports that, "Social connections like these not only give us pleasure, they also positively influence our long term health." Please join us for this intergenerational celebration of friendship.

Sunday, 13 March 2011, 11 a.m.

The "G" Word

Rev. Michael Carter

What is it about the word God That gets us so riled up as Unitarians? Certainly, not all UU's dislike the word, but many of us. Yes, the word carries much baggage but I think we can handle an exploration of how and why this word causes us so much consternation, and how we can get over it...By the way, I'm not even sure there is a God. See you in March.

Sunday, 20 March 2011, 11 a.m.

Sacred Chocolate Bunnies? Exploring the Rich Beginnings of the Agricultural Year

Byron Ballard

Byron Ballard returns to UUCSV to share the histories and anomalies around the Vernal Equinox. What do eggs, flowers and resurrection have in common? Join us for a lively exploration of the commonalities found in regional and spiritual traditions of springtime.

In addition to being a Wiccan priestess, H. Byron Ballard is a writer, organic gardener, and beekeeper. Her writ-



ings 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, 27 March 2011, 11 a.m.

The Gift of Music

Linda Metzner

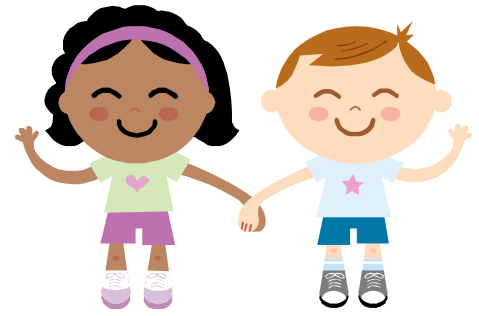
Today we will present to you a special Music Sunday. Under the direction of Linda Metzner, our wonderful choir will perform two pieces. In addition, selected choir members will perform in smaller ensembles. You will also be gifted with a variety of musical performances from members of our talented congregation. This service is a gift of gratitude to all UUCSV volunteers. Volunteers will be recognized by the Board of Trustees. Special recognition will be made to our Guest of Honor, Sue Stone, who has volunteered to provide us with music nearly every Sunday for as many years as most of us can remember. Please join us in honoring our volunteers this Sunday as we provide them with, The Gift of Music.

Sunday, 3 April 2011, 11 a.m.

Creating Resilient Communities: The Transition Town Movement

Climate change is resulting in more violent storms, natural disasters, food shortages, and civil unrest, and oil is becoming more expensive and difficult to obtain. Seeing the possibilities of severe energy, climate or economic shocks, local communities around the world are beginning to organize, not only to withstand such crises, but to create a better quality of life for all their citizens. This is the Transition Town approach to community empowerment and change, now in its beginning stages here in Black Mountain.

Religious Education Corner



Dare we think it's spring yet? I always tread lightly when we have these warm days in February, remembering that some of our biggest snow storms have been in March. But it's also hard not to relish these beautiful days and see how our children and youth have grown through yet another year in RE. These next couple of months will be busy ones for the children, youth, teachers, and RE leaders as we finish up our curriculums, plan for the summer and next year's curriculum offerings, and work towards our annual RE service scheduled for May 22, including a bridging ceremony for our graduating senior, Aaron. Spring is coming. New beginnings. New hopes.

Classroom Activities and Attendance

We continue to have two or three of our littlest UUs spending their time in the infant/preschool room every Sunday. We have had one older preschooler register with us in the past month, along with three new students in the K-4 class. The K-4 class has been studying Buddhism and will wind up their year focusing on our UU principles and faith traditions. This is the busiest of our classes, with an average of six to seven children each week. The Neighboring Faiths class has been studying Islam, and will next look at the A. M. E. Zion church experience. Attendance in this class is generally two or three youth most Sundays. The senior high group held their second covenant meeting for the spring semester on February 13, focusing on the revolution in Egypt, service work, and some sort of fun gooey project that Judy planned for the morning! They will help with a Habitat service project (see below), and are following that with a social event of

bowling. This group will hold another covenant group meeting on March 13.

Senior High YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Youth Group Activities

On Saturday February 26, our great group of teens will be helping our social action group's Habitat for Humanity project with books! The group will be packing up a very large collection of books from a friend of the church, and will then donate them to the Habitat Homestore. Emily will be joining other youth from around western North Carolina at the SUUPER CON (youth conference) on April 1 - 3 at the Asheville church. CONs are a great way for youth to connect to the broader UU community, be creative, have fun, and talk about important social issues.

Summer Camp

The Board has approved our proposal for our very first UUCSV summer camp program, *Journey for the Earth: Daily Travel Adventures*. This half-day program, scheduled for July 18 - 22, 2011, will be open to rising first through fourth graders, and will focus on our seventh principle, the interconnected web of life. Each day's adventure will focus on a different topic of water, energy conservation, sustainable gardening, recycling, and the animal world. Aaron, our youth representative on the RE committee, has spent a lot of time helping to plan for this week, and will be one of our youth counselors. He will be taking an infant/child CPR course in the next couple of weeks, part of our safety policy for the camp. Aaron and I will be detailing more specific daily activities and pro-

gramming in the next few weeks. More detailed registration materials will go out to families soon.

Camp Expo

As part of our publicity for the summer camp this year, Aaron and I will attend the Summer Camp Expo at Biltmore Square Mall on March 5, from 11-4. This will be not only an opportunity to market the camp program, but we will have lots of information there about RE and the church. The RE committee and the Board have been working together to update our church brochure, and that will be available for families to pick up. We have such a great church community, and we want others to know about it!

Intergenerational Service

Please join us on March 6 for a fully intergenerational service as we celebrate the many ways we are connected in our church community. Many of our children and youth, partnered with each other and with adults, will be participating in what promises to be a deeply moving service.

Important Dates to Remember

March 6 Intergenerational Service

Religious Education
Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m.

March 13 Youth Covenant Meeting

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

Choir for March

March 27th will be Music Sunday as well as a day to honor those who have given generously to the church as volunteers. The UUCSV Choir will sing two songs. In addition, some members of the choir will perform favorite songs as a duo and a trio. Others of the congregation will be offering their music as well. The choir will rehearse on Sunday March 20th at 12:15, the following Thursday the 24th at 6:30 PM, and also on Sunday the 27th at 10 AM. Please come sing with us- we're a friendly group!

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

Greeters

Thank you, members of UUCSV, for signing up to be greeters and ushers for every Sunday in February. We now have the rest of the church year, up till July, to fill out.

Volunteering is good for you and for our congregation. It allows us to share the workload and be an active member. I have several empty sheets ready for you. When you are signed up, we will contact you in advance to remind you and give instructions. If you are worried about signing up so far in advance, please do not worry, there will be plenty of time for you to find an alternate or for us to do so if need be. Thank you.

—Ann, your friendly greeter coordinator

From the Library Lady

A recent inventory of the books we have in the UUCSV library can be found on our web page. You are welcome also to visit our library any time you are at the church and check out any books that interest you. May I suggest *Ahab's Wife* in the fiction section. Also, a wonderful book about autism from the eyes of a 15-year-old autistic boy is now in the fiction section: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Do you want to read about mystics? Try *The Essential Mystics*, by Harvey.

We welcome donations. Please remember to return the books you borrow when you are done reading them. Thank you.

—Jane J. Carroll

Birthdays in March

March 4 th	Scott Shaw
March 10 th	JoAnn Hansen
March 10 th	Howard Hansen
March 11 th	Evan Shaw
March 13 th	Judy Curtis
March 14 th	Ann Lutz
March 14 th	Marjorie Starrs
March 16 th	Bertha Baxter
March 18 th	Elaine Hamil
March 18 th	Linda Metzner
March 23 rd	Lee Reading

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

March's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 18 March 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 Shipping News" (2001; Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore, Judy Dench, Cate Blanchett) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Room in the Inn on April 1st

Every week of the year somewhere in Buncombe County some church is hosting homeless women in our community. During 2011 the women will spend three separate weeks in Black Mountain.

It may be April Fool, but the Room in the Inn is definitely coming to Black Mountain on April 1st. UUCSV participates in this country-wide program for homeless women several times a year. We will be providing all the meals and volunteers for the day. Sign-up has started, and there is a sheet in the foyer as well as one on the bulletin board. If you can serve as a volunteer for this event please add your name to the sign-up sheet. You can also contact me at flora258@isp.com, 828 686 3112. We're also requesting that people donate food and drinks for the evening meal. Thank you for all of your generous help in the past.

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

From the Membership Committee

Let's welcome three new members, David Bowling, Helen Bell, and Richard Heft!!

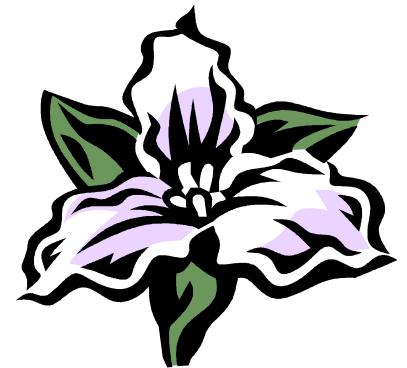
David, who lives in Old Fort, had a starring role on our Christmas Parade float and has been sharing his singing talents by joining our choir.

Helen, a resident of Swannanoa, attends our Social Action Committee meetings and is looking forward to helping out with Trillium, the SOLS Annual Festival and Rummage Sale.

Richard lives in Black Mountain. He is the author of a recent book about how to be healthy and enjoys helping people learn simple, effective ways to regain physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Thank you, David, Helen, and Richard, for becoming part of the UUCSV congregation and participating in our activities!!

—*Angie Underwood, Chair*



Trillium Bake and Plant Sale Donations Needed

Your generous donations of baked goods are much needed for Trillium. In addition to breads, muffins, coffee cakes, cookies, and other items we would also welcome cakes for our popular Cake Walks. These are always a big hit.

We ask that you please label the items so people will know what they're buying. Please drop them off here at the church either sometime on Friday, April 29th or on Saturday morning, April 30th.

We are also seeking plant donations of all types for the Trillium Plant Sale. We can use all kinds of hardy plants, including perennials, ground covers, wildflowers and other native plants, shrubs, vines, fruit plants, and trees. If you have extra annual and vegetable plants you're willing to share, these would be very welcome as well. Please drop plants off at the church on Friday or Saturday. If you can't deliver them we can arrange for pick-up.

—*Connie Krochmal, Trillium Bake Sale coordinator*

IT IS TRILLIUM TIME and WE NEED YOU

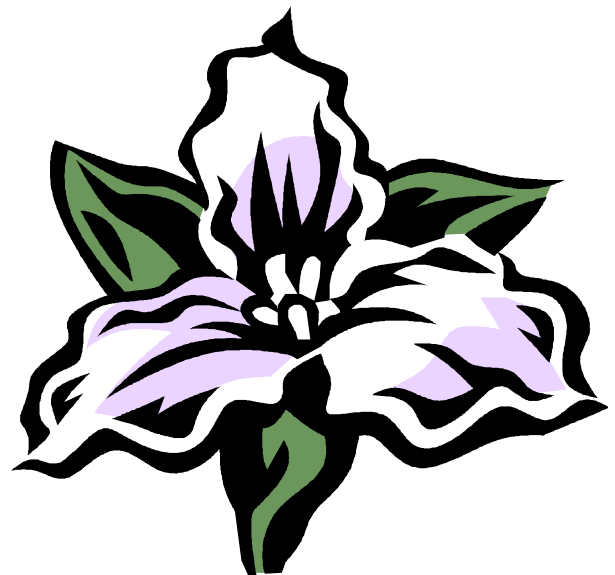
The Sisters of Lucy Stone (SOLS), our women's group that is open to all women of UUCSV, is now planning for our sixth annual "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings" that will take place on the church grounds on April 30th. We Need Volunteer Men and Women. Lots of jobs need doing—big and small, heavy and light, requiring time and not. Please contact Jane Carroll (828-664-1695; dr_jcarr@msn.com) if you are willing to lend a hand with any of the following:

- # Sort and price items at Dawn Wilson's house for a pre-sale yard sale on April 16th
- # Donate baked goods to Trillium bake sale
- # Set up tables and put out goods for rummage sale on the morning of the festival
- # Cleanup in the afternoon
- # Help Heidi and her kids make some new posters and signs
- # Donate plants for the plant sale
- # Donate rummage for the rummage sale (see guidelines below)
- # Pick up items that people need help getting to the church
- # Help with the children's activities—talk to Evelyn Carter
- # Help set up the first-ever "First Glance" presale rummage sale on April 29th

SOLS wants your rummage and white elephants. They are things you no longer want or use, but are things we can sell at UUCSV's annual rummage sale, a part of "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings" on April 30th. Donations may be delivered to the church from Sunday, April 24th through Thursday, April 27th. If you will need help with delivery to the church, contact Jane Carroll at 828-664-1695 or dr_jcarr@msn.com.

Just about anything is accepted except junk. We don't sell junk. It is not junk if:

- # The motor is working.
- # The batteries will charge.
- # All parts are present.
- # It is clean.
- # It is mildew-free.
- # The owner's manual (if you have it) is included.
- # DVD cases contain the DVDs.
- # It is free of pet hair and smell.
- # It is unbroken.
- # It is in working order.
- # It is non-toxic.
- # It is an antique.



Proceeds will be distributed among UUCSV, a WNC charity or non-profit, and our partner church in Romania.



Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group will have a guest speaker on Thursday, March 3 at 6:30 pm. Lisa Kretschmer will explain what ANCHI Crystals are, how they may be used, and some details of research that is being conducted with them. Our circle will be informal, including everyone's contributions of ideas, and hopefully another lively discussion. Bring your own lovely crystals for the central altar. Newcomers are always welcome.

From the Editor—The Last Word

“How do humanists feel about Jesus? I say of Jesus, as all humanists do, ‘If what he said is good, and so much of it is absolutely beautiful, what does it matter if he was God or not?’ But if Christ hadn’t delivered the Sermon on the Mount, with its message of mercy and pity, I wouldn’t want to be a human being. I’d just as soon be a rattlesnake.” — Kurt Vonnegut, *A Man without a Country*.

