



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

**500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

*For more information about our
congregation, call*

(828) 669-8050 • uucsv.org

**Volume VIII, Issue 5
Published Monthly by UUCSV**

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Jim Carillon, *President* 628-1320
Robyn Schuster, *Vice-President* 713-2949
Heidi Blozan 669-7435
David Brown 242-8544
Ursula Goebels-Ellis 686-6325
Mamie Hilliard 779-9511
Jo Motzko 664-1557
Tim Perry 712-0984
Jerry Pope 686-3922
Dawn Wilson, *Secretary* 669-0214

Sally Beth Shore, *Consulting Minister*
 (Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9-2)
Rev. Dick Stennett, *Minister Emeritus*

Lee Reading, *Treasurer* 664-0082
Sybil Argintar, *RE Coordinator* 253-1392
Barbara Rogers, *Office Staff*
 (Office Hours: TWT 3-6)

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 19 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
 normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 10 a.m.
Covering June 2009

Design and Printing by

American Speedy Printing Center, Asheville, NC



From the Minister

May brings with it several opportunities to learn more about the rich history of Unitarian Universalism. May 3rd I will be speaking about Ralph Waldo Emerson and reading excerpts from his infamous Harvard Divinity School Address, which caught the imagination of young Unitarians and changed the face of the denomination. This sermon introduces a 4-session class on Unitarian Transcendentalism (see more in separate article.) On May 10 the Rev. Elinor Artman will bring us stories of some of the women who nurtured and sustained the development of Unitarianism and Universalism.

While some people think that Unitarian Universalism is a “new” religion, our past runs very deep. Our spiritual forebears were right there during the formative years of Christianity”— before Jesus’ exclusive divinity was made church doctrine, before God was “split” into a triumvirate. They didn’t prevail in that battle, but Unitarianism (God is one) and Universalist (God saves all) thought can be found erupting throughout Christian history, sometimes branded as heresy, other times buried as surprising insights in otherwise conservative theologies. As societies and cultures became more linked by communication, Unitarian Universalism has been able to broaden its scope to make use of wisdom found in other religious traditions and modern philosophies, and our thrust as a religious movement continues to evolve. As Emerson said, “All our progress is an unfolding...”

This month, I would like to acknowledge all those who have created the 2009-2010 budget so that it can be ready to present to the congregation on May 3rd. That includes the Finance Committee and the UUCSV Board, and our Treasurer Lee Reading, who have spent more hours than I want to know crunching numbers. When you encounter these people, please express your gratitude for their dedicated work on behalf of the congregation.

In gratitude,

~ Sally Beth

Board Notes...

The board is very excited and ready for our Annual Congregation Meeting to be held immediately following the service on Sunday, May 3rd. We hope you can all join us in addressing some very important issues for our church. All members and friends are invited and members will be voting on:

1. Changes in our bylaws to allow some longer board terms and other bylaw improvements,
2. Election of new board members (along with some board members continuing) for our new year starting July 1,
3. A vote for affirming our Green Sanctuary certification, and
4. Approval of our budget for next year, starting July 1, and discussion of what the new budget implies.

The board and other committees have worked very hard to bring you our best proposals with respect to these critical issues. The new year’s 2009/2010 budget and bylaws changes are posted on the church bulletin board and they will be presented on the big screen during our meeting. We welcome your nominations, questions, comments and concerns with regard to these issues and hope many of you join in supporting the board’s unanimous approval of these important items for the future of our church. We will follow this meeting with a sandwich pot-luck to celebrate our coming together for this meeting. See your invite letter to this meeting on lunch details.

I hope to see as many of you that can possibly come to this meeting on May 3rd. Let’s have a really big turnout and some interesting discussions!

~ Jim Carillon, *Board President*

New Member Recognition and Rededication to UUCSV

Sunday, May 3rd will be a time to recognize our New Members and for us to rededicate ourselves to UUCSV – if you choose to do it. Perhaps you want to share with others why you chose to join UUCSV or why you choose to stay. If you are so inclined to rededicate yourself as member, mark the first Sunday in May to do it. And please join in welcoming our newest members to UUCSV.

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, May 3, 2009 11 a.m.

“So shall we come to look at the world with new eyes”—Emerson and Transcendentalism”

Sally Beth Shore

The Unitarian Minister Ralph Waldo Emerson is the best known exemplar of the philosophical and spiritual movement known as American Transcendentalism. Emerson captivated huge audiences in his day, and 150 years later dozens of collections of his writings are still in print. While many Unitarians of his time shunned him, his message that the Divine acts within each individual deeply resonated with mid-nineteenth century America, and helped to spawn several other religious movements, in addition to indelibly shaping today’s Unitarian Universalism. This sermon introduces the Adult Religious Education class, “The God Within: American Transcendentalism,” meeting on Wednesdays in May—see separate article for details.

Today is New Member Sunday, when we officially honor and welcome members who have joined in the past year into our congregation. Please plan to stay for a celebratory lunch after the Annual Meeting.

Sunday, May 10, 2009 11 a.m.

A Ramble Through Three Centuries of UU Women’s Lives

Rev. Elinor Artman

... pausing at some known, and some unknown lives, and ending with the remarkable events since 1979. Do you remember Maria Cook, Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Olympia Brown, Emily Balch, Shirley Ranck, Lucille Longview?

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 and is writing a memoir of the women’s movement in the denomination since merger in 1961.

In honor of Mother’s Day, we celebrate the mothers of Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, May 17, 2009 11 a.m.

“Seeds of Our Garden”

Sally Beth Shore

The religious education of our children and youth is central to the growth of our congregation. Our service of gratitude and intergenerational worship will focus on the cultivation of young souls and the gifts we give and receive for sowing the seeds of our future garden. Children, youth and adults will share their memories and reflections of this year’s religious education activities, and we will enjoy a special visual exhibit as part of our harvest.

The service will also include a child dedication ceremony when parents who wish to dedicate their children to spiritual growth within Unitarian Universalism ask for the congregation’s covenant to help them in nurturing and sustaining their sons and daughters.

Special music will be provided by our UUCSV children’s choir.



Sunday, May 24, 2009, 11 a.m.

“Apocaphilia: Loving the End of the World”

Jerry Pope

An examination of the End of the World in Popular Culture. Pope takes a look at our fascination with the Apocalypse and the way it shows up in books, movies, and video games. Including a revue of Montreat’s own Bill Forstchen’s new apoca-thriller, “One Second After.”

Jerald Pope has had a tempestuous relationship with the theater for over thirty years. He has toured extensively in the grass roots theater movement, and directed internationally, including the Portuguese premier of Tennessee Williams’ “Camino Real.” He is a co-founder, with his wife Rebecca Williams, of Serpent Child Ensemble. They are currently making a documentary film about the Beacon Blanket Mill. He has a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the University of Tulsa and a Master of Humanities degree from Old Dominion University. He has written about this and that for the Mountain Xpress in Asheville. His cartoons have appeared there and elsewhere around the tabloid South. His children’s picture book, “Madeleine Claire and the Dinosaur” is available at better bookstores. “Step Back In Time: A Walking Tour of Black Mountain,” an illustrated guide written with Nancy Mason, will be out this May. His seven other books are still out searching for brave new publishers. He has a fine daughter out on the West Coast somewhere and a good dog sleeping in the sun.

Sunday, May 31, 2009 11 a.m.

“Held in the Light”

Anne Welsh

In 1965, Anne Morrison Welsh’s first husband, Norman Morrison, a Quaker, immolated himself outside the Pentagon. Anne will share about his ultimate sacrifice made to end the war in Vietnam; how his tragic death and witness for peace affected their family; and the transformative effect it had upon the Vietnamese people as she experienced on a visit in 1999.

Welsh will also share about her own journey, over a lifetime, to find acceptance, forgiveness, and recovery from life’s wounds. Anne was born in Valdosta, GA, grew up in Granite Falls, NC, graduated from Duke University, and did graduate study in Scotland and Pittsburgh before receiving a M.Ed. from UNC-Greensboro. Anne defines herself in three ways: a Quaker since her days at Duke; a grandmother with eight grandchildren, two of whom live here in Black Mountain; and a writer having written for several newspapers including the “Black Mountain News” and having recently published her memoir, “Held in the Light.” She has served on the national board of the American Friends Service Committee and is a member of the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting. Anne married Bob Welsh in 1974 and they live in Black Mountain.



Sunday, June 7, 2009 11 a.m.

“Getting the Logs Out of Our Eyes”

Sally Beth Shore

Valuing the inherent worth and dignity of each individual is our first principle, and a lofty one we aspire to. Yet in our quest to better the world, or even just to better ourselves, we can get so focused on the faults we see that practicing this principle becomes exceedingly difficult. Ironically, when this happens, we risk undermining our efforts and our own happiness. But we can counter this propensity with awareness and spiritual practices that help us to truly honor one another, and maybe even find (and spread!) a little more joy in this life.



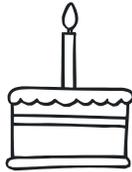
Sandwich Bar Potluck Planned

Following the congregational meeting on May 3rd, we invite you to stay for a Sandwich Bar Potluck lunch to honor UUCSV new members. The Hospitality Committee will provide the beverages, bread and condiments. Please bring a generous amount of sandwich meat, sliced cheese, egg salad, tuna salad, hummus, or sliced veggies for the Sandwich Bar. High fiber cookies and nuts are also welcome. We look forward to getting to know our new members at the sandwich social!

Congregational Care Committee

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 May is Kay-Sea Conklin (686-7502, cell: 230-2227). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

Birthdays in May



May 15: Kay-Sea Conklin

May 15: Peter Boggs

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

Class for Adults—The God Within: Unitarian Transcendentalism

The ideas of the Transcendentalists shaped 19th century Unitarian and American culture dramatically, and in many ways still do. “The God Within,” a 4-session class for adults, led by Sally Beth, will explore this exciting part of our Unitarian Universalist heritage, which flourished in the Boston area in the 1830s and 40s. Ralph Waldo Emerson is the best known of the Unitarian Transcendentalists, but there were many others, including:

Elisabeth Peabody, who started the Kindergarten movement in America.

George Ripley, who founded Brook Farm as an experiment in communitarian living.

Margaret Fuller, author of “Woman in the Nineteenth Century.”

Henry David Thoreau, whose book “Walden” advocated self-reliance, solitude, contemplation.

The May 3rd sermon introduces the class with a sermon on Emerson, and then we will meet the following four Wednesdays from 7:00- 8:30. (Previously, an after-church session was going to be held on May 3rd, but now this conflicts with the Annual Meeting.) POTLUCK will happen before each Wednesday class, so if you can, please arrive by 6:15 with a dish to share. Please sign up at the UUCSV or let Sally Beth know you will be attending by contacting her at minister@uusv.org.

Trillium a BIG Success!

SOLS sends big thank yous to all of the helpers at this year’s Trillium Festival. Barb Rogers and Ann Sillman kept the bake sale running smoothly while Evelyn Carter directed the children’s activities. We had more children this year than ever before participating in the Cake Walk and the games. Jane Carroll headed up the rummage sale and spent the week before pricing and sorting. She had help from Angie Underwood and Barb Pleasants. We had a posse of Coming of Age Parents help put out all the rummage at daybreak before masses of buyers showed up with fists full of cold cash. Sybil Argintar helped with every activity and Phil Fryberger kept us entertained with tunes on the piano and guitar. Boris the truck was a big help all week (donated by Milt Warden) and Sam Scott lifted and toted donated rummage all day Wednesday and Saturday. Under Connie Krochmal’s expert guidance we sold out of plants, especially Trillium; we will order many more for next year. Milt Warden and Carolyn Shorkey brought their amazing sandwiches for lunch. Thanks to all who donated baked goods, rummage and plants. This project is truly a recycling project, with every bit of rummage either sold or donated to a shop in Asheville. All of the cardboard boxes and packing materials were recycled. After serving

hundred of customers we only had one tiny bag of trash when all was said and done. Taking an unused item out of your closet or attic and putting it back into use is the Greenest thing we can do. The embodied energy in that item is being utilized, rather than powering a manufacturing plant to build a new item and polluting the air to transport that item to it’s final destination.

A true GREEN event! Over \$1600 was raised to be used for our partner church in Romania, Coming of Age and funding our new choir director.



Rummaging for Gold . . .



Show us the money!



Face Painting by Cora Blozan



Bake Sale Executives



Environmental Justice Action: *After a powerful Sunday message about his journey from “Black Panther to Green Thumb,” Bob White, center-back, and cohorts from Pisgah View Community Peace Garden in Asheville had a picnic lunch at the Earthhaven tire-built home of Sue & Geoffrey Stone. Here they’re visiting Earthhaven’s impressive nursery with nursery staff. During the service, Jane Carroll, Co-Chair of our Green Sanctuary Committee presented Bob White with a check to contribute toward his work.*

Green Sanctuary

Many thanks to everyone in the congregation who has helped out with the Green Sanctuary projects. These wouldn’t have been possible without you.

As I write this in mid-April, Green Sanctuary members are finishing up their reports. Even after the congregational vote on May 3rd, work will proceed on two on-going environmental justice projects with Pisgah View Gardens and Clean Water for North Carolina. In addition, Green Sanctuary principles will continue to guide future activities here at UUCSV, such as the use of native plants to replace invasive species on the church grounds.

At the individual level, we can also take further steps to protect the planet. For example, reading the UUCSV newsletter online at our website (www.uusv.org) will minimize the need for printed copies. This saves paper and ink. If you’re willing to take this step, contact Norm Kowal (normankowal@bellsouth.net) and ask him to remove your name from the printed newsletter mailing list; he can also have the newsletter e-mailed to you if you desire.

As individuals and as a congregation, we can continue to explore ways to reduce our carbon footprints. America is one of the world’s leading emitters of carbon dioxide. For 2009, take advantage of tax incentives for weatherizing your home. This will reduce your energy consumption.

↪ Connie Krochmal

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn provides meals and lodging to homeless women in our community. With the economic downturn, these women need more help than ever.

Our next Room in the Inn will be on Friday, May 29 at the Black Mountain Methodist church annex. UUCSV will provide all meals and volunteers for the day. Many thanks to all those who have already signed up. At this point we still need backups for overnight volunteers and backup van drivers (morning and evening). Please see the sign up sheet in the foyer or contact me (686-3112, cbk119@hotmail.com).

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

Sharing the Experience: Pollinating the Good Food Movement - the 12th Annual Georgia Organics Conference

The Green Sanctuary Committee and Black Mountain Farmers Market invite you to a potluck, overview and discussion to share the experience that Elaine and Harry Hamil recently had attending the 12th Annual Georgia Organics Conference--“Pollinating the Good Food Movement.” They visited the Serenbe sustainable development community of south Fulton County (www.serenbe.com). They attended workshops with Alex Hitt of Peregrine Farms in Durham, NC, Erika Lesser of Slow Food USA, Dan Imhoff (who dissected the last farm bill), Tom Stearns of High Mowing Seeds and the Center for an Agricultural Economy, Will Allen of Growing Power (www.growingpower.org), and more. And they attended the Farmers’ Feast, of Georgia grown and produced food, during which Michael Pollan updated his New York Times Op-ed “Letter to the Farmer in Chief.”

The potluck will be at 6:30 PM, Thursday May 21st. In keeping with the discussion topic, those attending are asked to bring a dish to share containing, at least, one locally grown or produced ingredient. Also, please bring your own plate, glass, and utensils. We’ll provide drinks. Please e-mail Bert Gaines at bertgaines@gmail.com or call him at 337-0873 to let us know if you’ll be attending. At about 7:30, Elaine and Harry will give us the overview of the conference. Those attending will then decide in which direction(s) the discussion will go. Coming just for the presentation and discussion is welcomed. For more information, call Harry Hamil at 669-4003.

Building and Grounds

A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with our spring clean-up on April 25th. We’re so lucky to have such a dedicated group of helpers year after year.

Grounds is also seeking volunteers who are willing to mow one time during the summer. Two people are needed for each slot as it is too much work for one person. Mowing/weed eating will only need to be done about every three weeks or so. This can be done at your own convenience during the week that you sign up for. Self propelled mowers and trimmers are stored in the shed. A sign up sheet is available in the foyer.

Greeters for May

May 3: Marjorie Starrs, Jane J. Carroll

May 10: Robert Tynes, Bette Bates, Marjorie Starrs

May 17: Robert Tynes, Bette Bates, Jerry Pope, Rebecca Williams

May 24: Barbara Pleasants, Kay-Sea Conklin, Scott Conklin

May 31: Kay-Sea Conklin, Scott Conklin

UUCSV Choir

The choir will meet to rehearse on Sunday May 3rd at 12:30, the following Thursday the 7th at 7 PM, and then on the performance day, Sunday May 10th at 10:15. There will be a talk about the history of women in the UU, and our songs will be a reflection on Women’s History. This is in four parts, so we do need basses and tenors!

Friday Fling

May’s Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on May 15th 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 “Chocolat” (2000, Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

Religious Education Corner

RE Class Activities and New Families

We welcome several new students and their families into our program— Sami and John Steele, daughter Aspen McKinney (age 3); Ryan Lane and Lena Feldmann, daughter Annie (age 3) and son Noah (age 8, third grade); and Sarah and Paul Miller (daughter Sadie, nine months old). In the final month of the school year, the preschool will wind up with a series of classes with Teddy Bear guests. The elementary school (Timeless Themes) will finish up with stories from the New Testament and will continue work on their garden. The Neighboring Faiths class on April 26 will visit Thomas Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Black Mountain and will wind up their year with some visits to our own church community and possibly a visit to the Greek Orthodox Church.



Our Middle/High School RE Neighboring Faiths class studied the Coptic Order last month with a visit and fascinating program by Loni French, second from right

Coming of Age

The rain barrel was won by Mamie Hilliard. This fundraiser brought in \$168.00 and the soup/movie night on April 4 brought in \$160.00. Our total amount raised so far is \$1521.50 (includes \$350 carryover from the previous COA class). Our goal for the entire trip to Boston in June 2010 is \$8000.00-9000.00, with a portion of that coming from the parents of youth in COA and the rest from additional fundraisers we will hold through the summer and into next year.

May 2 (Saturday), 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.:

Bring your own picnic dinner and join us for a fun evening with “Wizard of Oz” (does this one really need a description?!) and “Spellbound” (a documentary about the families and children bound for the National Spelling Bee). Popcorn available during the movies. Cost is \$2 for one movie, or \$3 for the double feature, per person.

May 3 (Sunday): picnic for COA families at Lake Tomahawk (12:30 p.m.):

The curriculum for the Coming of Age year will be “Deepening Ties Within the Congregation”. This year-long program focuses on the transition from childhood to youth, with two retreat weekends, a service project, a Sunday service designed by the youth, and sessions that include topics such as exploring values, bad things, after-death beliefs, God beliefs, faith, and a women’s and men’s circle. It’s a full curriculum that will give the youth a chance to develop their own “This I Believe” statements which they will present at their Sunday service. All youth will have a mentor (SEE BELOW) for the full year to guide them through the program. The year ends with a graduation trip to Boston in June 2010 to see more of UU and American history.

Coming of Age Mentors Needed

Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. As part of the Coming of Age program, each youth is paired up with an adult in the congregation for the year to help them through the program and to serve as a friend in the church community. Yes, this is a year-long commitment, but think of it as a spiritual

journey as you guide a young person towards their transition into adulthood within the congregation. There will be a meeting for all mentors later in the summer. Please see me if you have questions about the specific job description.

Seeds of Our Garden

The congregation is invited to our annual intergenerational RE service on May 17, with the theme “Seeds of Our Garden”. Sally Beth will welcome the children and youth into our congregational family through a child dedication service. We will showcase through a wonderful multimedia event our RE year, and will express our gratitude to all the many wonderful RE

volunteers this year. The children and youth will also take part in the service, but I don’t want to spoil all the surprises. This promises to be a wonderful morning, followed by a reception for the RE families and the congregation sponsored by the RE committee.

Summer Program Presenters and Assistants Needed

Get your thinking caps on for another fun, creative summer for our children and youth. So far, we have adults who have offered to do programs with clay, sign language, and theater. Other ideas include camping trips, hikes, scrapbooking (we have quite a backlog of photos to document our church community), Dr. Seuss stories, recycled materials art, and music. We’ll need one leader each week presenting the program, and one assistant. Let me know your ideas. I’ll post a sign-up sheet in the main RE space in the next couple of weeks.

Preschool Assistants Needed

We will also need helpers in our preschool program for the summer. This will involve story times, free play time, and outdoor play time. We’ll need two adults every week. A sign-up sheet will be posted by the office door soon.

Teachers Needed

Yes, I know it’s not even summer yet. And, yes, we do have lots of volunteer slots to fill. But we need to start lining up teachers for next year. I am still in the process of selecting specific curriculums for three of our classes, but all will have the theme of UU identity. The age groups will be preschool, Grades K-3, Grades 4-7, and the Coming of Age class, Grades 8 – 12. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. We will need a total of sixteen teachers.

Important Dates to Remember

May 2—Saturday, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. Picnic dinner and double feature movie night (see above)

May 3—12:30 p.m. Picnic for COA families at Lake Tomahawk

May 17—“Seeds of Our Garden” annual RE service.

June 7—Summer programs start

~ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator



Sahara Women's Peace Choir

Sahara Women's Peace Choir, directed by Linda Metzner, will give a "Concert for the Women of Palestine" with guest speaker Lissa Caldwell on Friday May 29th at 7 PM at the UUCSV, sponsored by the UUCSV Social Action Committee. Come and enjoy songs of peace blending traditions of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. Donations will benefit Lissa's work with women's self-help groups in Palestine, where she frequently travels. Audience members are asked to bring embroidery thread to contribute to the women's crafts in Palestine.

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FIRST	9:45 RE Committee 12:30 Congregational Care Committee 12:00 Program Committee			1:00 Written Word CG	4:00 Buddhist Study Group	
SECOND	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Membership Committee		7:00 Open Topic CG	5:30 Social Action Committee	4:00 Buddhist Study Group	
THIRD	9:30 Green Sanctuary Committee		6:00 Board of Trustees	1:00 Written Word CG	4:00 Buddhist Study Group	6:30 Friday Fling
FOURTH	9:30 Adult Forum 12:30 SOLS		7:00 Open Topic CG		4:00 Buddhist Study Group	

For the dates, times, and locations of specific events during the current month, go to the UUCSV website (www.uusv.org), and click on the UUCSV Calendar.