

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

May 2010

Volume IX, Issue 5

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From Your Intern Minister . . .

Next month, on June 6, we will have a Flower Communion service, which has become traditional for many UU congregations since it was introduced in the United States in 1940. Norbert Capek, who began the custom, was a Czech minister who had left the Catholic Church to become a Baptist, only to be tried for Heresy by the Slovak Baptist association while he was serving as a Baptist Minister in the United States. He left the Baptist church and joined the Unitarian Congregation in Orange, NJ. After WWI, Capek and his wife returned to the newly formed Czechoslovakia to start a Unitarian church in Prague, which he was sure would tap into a latent need for liberal religion in his homeland. He was apparently right; by the time WWII broke out, the church had become the largest Unitarian congregation in the world with some 3200 members.



Capek is but one name of thousands who devoted their energies to build the free religious movement. As a student of our history, I am both inspired and intimidated by the gall of these people. Inspired because through the ages there have been people with a vision that people could develop a transformative religious life that included science and reason and individual freedom of thought, and intimidated because I can't imagine being so bold as to start a church that grows to include thousands... one thing I've learned about Capek is that he was sure about his mission. So, no matter where I am planted, that seems to be a good start. Right now, my mission with you, as I see it, is to work together to create the best free religious community that we can in this small town, and to put our religious values into action through service and example with each other and in advocating for justice and love in our world. Small church, big heart-- what a great place to be!

—Sally Beth

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Tricia West, *Office Staff*

(Office Hours: TT 10-2)

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

Send Newsletter Information to

Norm Kowal, *Editor*

normankowal@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 25 May, 10 a.m., covering June 2010

Board Notes . . .

Dear Members and Friends,

We have two Congregational Meetings scheduled. The first is on May 9 and will be very short. At this meeting the congregation has the opportunity to direct the board to go into search for a minister. In other words, this is when the congregation formally decides to form a ministerial search committee. The second meeting, May 16, is our Annual Congregational Meeting. At this meeting the board will be able to present a slate of search committee members to the congregation. The annual meeting will as usual include approving the budget and voting on a slate of new board members. Both of these meetings are vital to the life of UUCSV. One responsibility and privilege of being a member is that you can vote at such meetings. We welcome all friends to attend the meetings; however the responsibility of voting will fall to the members.



By now you have probably read the survey results. Hopefully this information will prepare you for the 2 upcoming Congregational Meetings. The board deliberated for quite some time about how to keep individual comments confidential. We unanimously decided that by omitting the personal comments we would be doing that. Some of the comments were quite identifiable and thus we chose this route. We read the comments, and looked for any recurring messages. Well, typical of UU's perhaps, there were lots of individual ideas! We realize that next time we do a survey we may do things a little differently. All in all, this was a very successful survey and informative about our community. We had a healthy level of participation and I thank you for that. Enjoy the data!

Although I could report numbers on the Stewardship Campaign I will refrain because by the time you receive this information we will have new totals. I will say we are a generous congregation and your individual giving sustains the life of this loving community. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and money.

The Sisters of Lucy Stone (SOLS) had their 5th annual Trillium festival. It has become a community event. This year we had 4 Dawn Fairies under the age of 18 and 17 in all! A Dawn Fairy is someone who comes out at the crack of dawn to move rummage from inside the building to the parking lot. The Trillium Festival's success is not only marked by money but also by how much fun we have, how much rummage is moved, how many families helped, how many new people show up in the sanctuary the next day and the list goes on... how many drawers and closets cleaned. Thank you for whatever type of participation you may have chosen. Added altogether it became a success. A special thank you goes to the SOLS. You did it again!

Connie Krochmal recently resigned as Ground Committee Chair. She is a steady and often behind the scenes contributor to UUCSV. Thank you Connie for ALL you do around UUCSV and especially what you have done on grounds! On that note please welcome Melanie Ross as our new Grounds Committee Chair. Even before Melanie became a member of our congregation she was planting flowers. Thank you in advance Melanie for sharing your talent and love of plants and leadership with UUCSV. If anyone wants to contribute to UUCSV in this way please contact Melanie and volunteer your time to make our little spot even more beautiful!

Our Church Administrator, Barb Rogers, recently resigned from her position. During the year and a half that Barbara served in this role she brought our office along in many ways. Thank you, Barbara, for serving UUCSV. On that note please welcome our new church administrator, Tricia West, to our staff. Tricia comes to us with lots of relevant experience and we look forward to her administrative support and ideas to help us to continue to run more efficiently.

Please contact me or another board member if you have a praise, idea or question. We are elected to carry out the will of the congregation and we use the mission statement as our guide. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this way.

Sincerely,

—Heidi Blozan, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 2 May 2010, 11 a.m.

Stress and Distress—Is There a Way Out?

Sally Beth Shore

Our national conversation about stress really got going in the 1980s, and since then, research has honed in on answers to questions such as, "Why are some people stressed and others not?" , "Does stress really cause health problems and which ones?" and, most importantly, "What is the antidote for stress?" The answers, according to scientists, are not all intuitive. Invest some time thinking about how you can both use and dissipate stress in your life with this funny and interactive service, and be a better person for it. Jerry Williams and Rebecca Pope will assist with this lively service.



different ways we can express our Unitarian Universalist principles, in song, readings, play, and art. This special end-of-the-school-year service will honor our many RE volunteers and will welcome more of our children and youth into the congregation with a child dedication ceremony.

Sunday, 9 May 2010, 11 a.m.

An Interview with Mom

What makes your relationship with your Mom special? What have you learned from her and what has she learned from you? We will interview some of our very own Mothers at UUCSV along with their children to see what makes our relationship with our mothers so special. Everyone also please bring an extra flower or two to share with all the mothers present this morning. See how this flower in-gathering will serve as a visual symbol of the diversity and beauty of our mothers present this Mothers Day morning.

Sunday, 16 May 2010, 11 a.m.

Send Me On My Way

Join us for this special service presented by the Coming of Age class as we send them on their way to Boston and to their future as young adult Unitarian Universalists. Youth will provide special live and recorded music, an overview of their journey this year, gifts and gratitudes, and will share their faith statements with the congregation.

Sunday, 23 May 2010, 11 a.m.

Bringing Us Back to UU

Our annual religious education service will present the many

Sunday, 30 May 2010, 11 a.m.

Meditation Sunday

Margie Meares

Through brief meditations, demonstration, story, and direct experience we will explore the fundamental teaching of the Buddha. The Buddha said, "I teach one thing and one thing only and that is suffering and the end of suffering". Beginning from this teaching, Buddhism has many skillful practices we can use to free ourselves from our suffering.

Margie Meares is a Lay Minister in training with the Anattasati Magga Shanga of Asheville. Nancy Spence is the teacher at Anattasati Magga, a Shanga of a Soto Zen Lineage. The Shanga stays true to the Buddha through teaching which draws on the most skillful aspects of Buddhism's various traditions. Margie has wandered on or near the Buddhist Path since the 1970's and has now been a dedicated student of Nancy Spence for more than 10 years. If you wish to know more about our Shanga, please visit the website at www.anattasati.org

Sunday, 6 June 2010, 11 a.m.

Flower Communion—New Member Sunday

Sally Beth Shore

Flower Communion or "Flower Celebration," is a tradition begun by Rev. Norbert Capek in the Czech Republic in 1923, and introduced to American Unitarians in 1940. Each of us is asked to bring one long-stemmed flower from your home or elsewhere to contribute to our community bouquet. This custom, now celebrated in nearly all UU congregations, links us with each other and reminds us of our aspirations for world community as a free religious faith. Melanie Ross, UUCSV's new Grounds Committee chair and flower fanatic will assist with the service. What a perfect occasion to welcome and acknowledge the new members who have joined our community in the past six months.

Religious Education Corner



Gratitudes appear in this newsletter this month and in the services coming up in May. Gratitude from me, for all the incredible volunteer teachers, mentors, committee members, board, congregational members and friends, and parents I've worked with this year. You all have contributed so much to the lives of our children and youth. Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a thank you note from all of the Coming of Age youth to the congregation who has supported them spiritually and monetarily all through the year. I echo that as I have seen how much this congregation cares about our youth and what they are about. On May 16, our youth will be presenting a service of their own design, *Send Me On My Way*, with only minimal adult assistance for some of the logistical part, including moments of gratitude. On May 23, we will officially recognize and thank all of the volunteers throughout the RE program in our annual service, *Bringing Us Back to UU*. I invite you all to attend and to bring friends and family to both of these services which are guaranteed to inspire and move you when you see what all of our children and youth have to say. Kleenex will be available at both services.

Religious Education Classes

Preschool attendance over the past month has been one or two most Sundays. They spend time playing, hearing stories, and lighting "their" chalice. (If you don't believe me, ask Tre to tell you what the preschool chalice looks like!). They are also working with Carolyn and Milt on their song they will sing at the May 23 service. We welcome these youngest of our congregation to join us for the opening of many of our services, with childcare provided in their classroom for the remainder of these service mornings. Many thanks to the parents who accompany their children to the front of the sanctuary for Sally Beth's story times. This helps a lot to keep them focused and less squirmy! The K-3 class in the past month had five or six in attendance most Sundays. They are wrapping up their year with stories about the seventh principle, the web

of life, and created their own web last Sunday as they celebrated the earth. They, too, are preparing for our service on May 23. Our Traditions With a Wink class, with two or three in attendance, has focused on the earth and the web of life, viewing photos from space, learning about the interconnectedness of animals in nature, and eating dirt and worms (well, Oreos and gummy ones that is). They will wrap up their school year learning about evolution and will take part in Mother's Day activities. They will contribute to the May 23 service also. The Coming of Age class took part in a wilderness retreat and will be winding up their curriculum with separate men's and women's circles. The rest of the time in May we will be hard at work preparing our service

Child Dedication Ceremony May 23

As part of our annual RE service, we will hold a child dedication ceremony. This is a very moving portion of the service where we welcome children into the congregation, promising to love and support them along their journey. If you are interested in participating in this, please let me know by May 2nd.

Summer Sundays

We had a wonderful line-up of programs last summer, and hope to do the same again this year. If you can volunteer your expertise one Sunday during the summer, that would be great. We will also have an on-going need for preschool helpers and assistants during the summer months. Please see me as soon as possible if you have a program you would like to present. I will post sign-up sheets in the RE classroom by May 2nd. Summer Sundays are appropriate for children in grades K-8. Hopefully we can offer walks, hikes, science experiments, crafts, and stories to enrich our children during their break from school. Tentative plans are underway for a week-long day camp for late July or early August. We'll keep you posted on that.

Summer Programs In Other Places

And speaking of summer, there are many other UU camps close by and in other parts of the country which are now taking registrations. I will post this information by May 2nd on the bulletin board for you to look at.

Coming of Age Trip to Boston

The Laura Blackley and A Band of Friends concert will have taken place by the time this newsletter goes to print. This was our last fundraiser for the year. I will report in the June newsletter what the proceeds were from that concert, and hopefully how much we have to put into a "pay it forward" account for the next Coming of Age class. Boston is getting closer and closer, and we are all very excited!

Important Dates to Remember

- May 2 All children, preschool through grade 7 in first part of service with Sally Beth
- May 15 COA family and mentor potluck 6 - 8 p.m.
- May 16 Coming of Age Sunday—*Send Me On My Way*
Family and chaperone meeting following the service
- May 23 RE Sunday, volunteer appreciation, child dedication—*Bringing Us Back to UU*
- May 30 Special program in RE
- June 6 Summer Sundays begin
RE Committee potluck and planning session, 4 - 7 p.m. at church

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator, 230-3773

"Thanks for supporting us
through thick and thin!"

"Thank you for your support through the year!"

"Thanks for guiding us
what to do and not to do!"

"During our journey of self-exploration
and search for truth and meaning, thank you!"

"Thank you for helping us."

"Thank you for being totally awesome!"

Ann Scott

Ann & G's

Sarah
Eilmour

Kim Everly

Emily & James

Building and Aesthetics Committees on a Roll

You may have noticed some physical changes around our church building lately. Your eyes are not deceiving you. The Building and Aesthetics Committees are collaborating to make our surroundings even more comfortable, convenient, and easy on the eye. As we move forward, we always are aware of our being a Green Sanctuary and keep that status uppermost in our minds.

Our latest projects include:

- a) Providing a new nametag board in the foyer. It still has a few finishing touches we will add.
- b) Putting slurry in the valleys in the roof to protect against leaks. Eventually we will paint the foyer ceiling to remove the signs of old leaks.
- c) Cleaning out the outdoor storage shed to remove materials and items that were put there years ago and never used or removed. We are fortunate to have some people on these committees that know the history of the building, including the shed. Some of the derelict items will be sold at Trillium (we hope).
- d) Cleaning out the storage room inside the building behind the pulpit. Thanks to Connie Krochmal for helping us with this one. We even found some old bulletin boards we may use in the foyer.
- e) Making plans for removing the old window AC in the office and repairing the wall.
- f) Removing the wall shelves over the sink in the office. Maybe they will be sold at Trillium.
- g) Pricing and planning some projects for the next fiscal year. We will tell you about them later, but think "outdated and inefficient bathrooms" and "green carpet."

Who is performing all this labor? In particular, we have Bill Altork to thank for his inestimable efforts, skill, and readiness to tackle the work. We have Emory Underwood to thank for his constant attention to detail and willingness to take on any project he can handle. Additionally, we have the talent and enthusiasm of Evelyn Carter, Angie Underwood, Sydney Wilson, Sami Steele, and David Brown. Maybe you would like to become a part of our energetic and capable group. We would welcome your participation. Let us know if you see something that needs doing and probably we will put it on our "to-do" list.

—Jane Carroll, Chair

Congregational Care

Congregational Care, now under the Membership Committee umbrella, 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 Marjorie Starrs (664-9320). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

Friday Fling

May's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 21 May 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 "Motorcycle Diaries" (2004, producer Robert Redford, the youthful origins of Che Guevara's revolutionary spirit, "a beautiful movie" says Linda) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925). And don't forget the drum circle at 5:30.



Room in the Inn

Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped out with Room in the Inn on April 23rd. Social Action is indebted to you for helping out time after time. With the nights still being very nippy, these women definitely needed a warm, safe shelter. They had a wonderful week in Black Mountain.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action coordinator for Room in the Inn

Choir News

In May, the choir is going to be part of RE Sunday on May 23rd. We will be helping the K through 3 class with a song on Unitarian principles, and also sing a joyful tune from the hymnbook, "Color and Fragrance." Our rehearsals will be Sunday May 16th at 12:15 PM, Thursday May 20th at 7 PM, and Sunday May 23rd at 10:15, the day we perform. Please come and sing with us! We'd love to have you join us with your voice.

—Linda Metzner

A Bill Altork Poem: The Light I Leave On

Far from rushing time,
kept from fear or doubt
there is a light I leave on.
It shines through the cracks,
sending rays of promise, able to reach
the heat-pulse, ever beating...
even the deepest cell.

The cookies and milk I left out,
the tooth for the fairy,
the egg for the bunny,
the boy for the man,
the mother for the wife:
connected, sending current
to the light I leave on.

Spoils from defeat;
child scorning child.
Parents draw the line
till the message is clear:
this land is void; venture not
lest you create mine fields of your own.

Severe storms blowing the roof
off the top of my dreams
like a magician foolishly playing tricks
on an innocent boy.

That light, tucked away,
speaking only to me.
Finding me when I need,
reminding me when I don't.

A bridge spans toward tomorrow.
The towers reach the clouds,
drawing strength from the heavens
for the crossing.
The light I leave on, a silent beacon.
Matters of the heart
sometimes lost, never forgotten.

Men's Group

Don't forget that the Mens Group meets
every other Sunday, 9a.m., at the Dripolator,
starting on 23 April.



Laura Blackley and A Band of Friends performed at UUCSV on April 23 as the final Coming of Age fundraiser for the year. Thanks to all these great musicians who donated their time to the youth program!

Birthdays in May

- May 11th Angie Underwood
- May 11th Cecilia Shaw
- May 12th Charlie Chilton
- May 13th Joe Haun
- May 14th Kim Taylor
- May 14th Tom Motzko
- May 15th Kay-Sea Conklin
- May 15th Peter Boggs
- May 17th Harry Hamil
- May 18th Bobby Decker
- May 20th Sue Stone
- May 20th Devon Jennings
- May 24th Jeffrey Carillon
- May 24th Trish Byers
- May 25th Emory Underwood
- May 26th Jay Ellis
- May 27th Sue Everly
- May 28th Maggie Decker
- May 31st Lisa Constable

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



There was excitement at 500 Montreat Rd. on Sunday, April 25th when the President of the United States, Barack Obama drove by on his way to Montreat....and back! Lots of UUs turned out for the historic moment.

We Help Build Houses, Change Lives

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity (AAHH) each year builds a "Building on the Dream" house sponsored by a coalition of diverse Buncombe County churches. The goal of "Building on the Dream" is to bring together local churches to build a Habitat house in tribute to the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 2010, the project began January 12, with the wall-raising celebration on January 15, King's birthday.

UUCSV's Building the Dream Team – 19 strong – completed seven workdays (one was snowed out) on the four-bedroom/two-bath home for Ruben and Luz Maria Llamas and their four children. Our construction team built and raised walls, roof trusses and the front deck, installed Tyvek and other insulating materials to the walls, painted, and trimmed cabinets. By the end of the project, our team, including three lunch providers, contributed 220 hours of their time, which is comparable to \$4,450. In addition, other members and friends in our congregation contributed more than \$625 cash to the project.

Before moving to their Habitat home, the Llamas lived in an overcrowded apartment in a neighborhood with documented drug activity, prostitution and violence.

Luz Maria sums up her desire for a Habitat house: "I don't want to have my kids grow up in a place where drugs are sold, fights happen all the time and the police are always searching someone's apartment. I want a Habitat house so that my kids will have a healthy and safe place to live so they don't have to worry about getting picked on and getting sick."

The UUCSV Building on the Dream Team included the following: Bill Altork, Cindy Jordan, Diane Hutchins, Emory Underwood, Evelyn Carter, George LeRoy, Jeff Hutchins, Mamie Hilliard, Marguerite Gregory, Mary Soyenova, Monroe Gilmour, Norm Kowal, Peter Boggs, Ruthye Lovinsohn, Sally Beth Shore, Su Lebund, Susan Culler, and lunch providers: Dawn Wilson, Evelyn Carter, Dr. Jane Carroll, Linda Metzner and Mamie Hilliard.



Thank You from Habitat for Humanity

Betsy Warren, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity wrote to say:

"Thank you so much for your recent donations for the 2010 Building on the Dream House. Your small congregation has raised over \$625! There's nothing small about your hearts at UUCSV, and all of us at Habitat are proud to have you as our newest Faith Community sponsor.

"The Llamas family, who will be the homeowners are thrilled with the progress of their future home....their eyes glisten when they think of closing sometime this summer."

—Betsy Warren, Faith Community Relations Manager

From the Editor—The Last Word

When searching for the photo of the Llamas family, and finding it in our February newsletter, a pet peeve of mine came to mind. The word February is pronounced "feb-ROO-ary," and not "feb-YOO-ary." Likewise, Arctic and Antarctic are pronounced "ARC-tic" and "ant-ARC-tic," not "AR-tic" and "ant-AR-tic." And don't tell me about library as "li-BAR-y." Yes, I know, I'm an old fart.



**A Person of Privilege Has An Intimate Encounter With
Poverty and Tells His Story With Compassion,
Pathos, and Humor**

**The Social Action Committee of the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley (UUCSV)**

Presents

The Fever

a one-act play by

Wallace Shawn

as performed by actor and story-teller

Jack Pine

7 PM Saturday, May 15

UUCSV

500 Montreat Rd.

Black Mountain, NC 28711

Discussion follows

Free and open to the public

Voluntary donations go to

UUCSV Youth, Coming of Age Program

Playwright and actor Wallace Shawn performed *The Fever* in London, Los Angeles, and New York where it was the **1991 Obie for BEST PLAY**. Shawn is probably most widely known for his unique film, *My Dinner with Andre*.

“The Fever is a work that asks, in a highly original way: is it possible, or even right for a sensitive person to be happy in today’s world?” – NEW YORK TIMES

Jack Pine has performed *The Fever* in theaters, churches, art galleries, town halls, classrooms, student unions, and homes. He came to develop a production of this play because of its intense framing of the themes of privilege, poverty, human rights, social justice, compassion, and personal responsibility. As an actor and story-teller, he has performed in the US, Germany, and Great Britain.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 669-6677

