

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

May 2011

Volume X, Issue 5

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From the Board

We are right on track in our budget and if the last three months of our fiscal year continue as projected we will end well. The reason for this good news, in a year starting with a budget shortfall, is the conscientious spending of committees and members who are able to meet their pledge commitments. Keep up the good work.

We will have our annual business meeting on May 15, immediately after the service. The Hospitality Committee will provide a light lunch so that we can be nourished and have our meeting at the same time. All members are requested to attend this meeting so that you can vote to approve the budget and approve a slate of new board members. This meeting is open to friends as well. Thanks in advance for your hearty participation.

More news worth smiling about:

The Annual Budget Campaign was a great success! The following is the run down that our campaign leader, Jeff Hutchins, provided.

Total Amount Pledged: \$75,165 (up 35.4% from \$55,504)

Number of Pledge Units: 77 (up 22.2% from 63)

Average Pledge: \$976.17 (up 10.8% from \$881.02)

Median Pledge: \$780 (up 13% from \$690)

Congratulations to all of us on that good news!

As a result of the success of the Annual Budget Campaign the board has recharged the Ministerial Search Committee. They have already scheduled their next meeting.

Please consider attending GA in Charlotte, NC this June. Go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/> to find out all you need to know. GA will never be closer. Do you ever feel out numbered in your perspective? I am going for the entire time because I want to be in the energy of literally thousands of UUs from all over the country. FYI: the Sunday worship service is FREE to everyone.

Sincerely,

—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 9:30-3:30,

Th 9:30-2:30)

Board Meeting: Monday 16 May, 6 p.m.

Send Newsletter Information to

Norm Kowal, *Editor*

normankowal@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 24 May, 10

a.m., covering June 2011

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 1 May 2011, 11 a.m.

Standing on the Side of Love ... Against Racism

Rev. Aubra Love

Rev. Love's topic will be "Standing on the Side of Love ... Against Racism."

Standing on the Side of Love is an advocacy campaign of the Unitarian Universalist Association designed to confront the exclusion, oppression, and violence that is based on identity and that seeks to diminish the worth and dignity of any person. It is a call to pursue social change through advocacy, public witness, and speaking out in solidarity with those whose lives are publicly demeaned. Stand Against Racism is a national YWCA program with the goal of bringing people together from all walks of life to raise awareness that racism still exists and that it can no longer be tolerated.



Rev. Love is Executive Director of Building Bridges of Asheville. She is a United Church of Christ ordained minister and served as the Interim Pastor of First Congregational Church of Christ in Asheville.

Sunday, 8 May 2011, 11 a.m.

A Mother's Day Sermon

Rev. Michael Carter

Just some thoughts on Mothers and Mother's Day from a married, father of one, middle aged, western educated, heterosexual man of color!



Sunday, 15 May 2011, 11 a.m.

Unitarianism

Stephen Spinder

Through photographs and heartfelt stories, Mr. Spinder will take us on a tour of the birthplace of Unitarianism. We'll learn about the history of the religion, Unitarianism, as it developed in Eastern Europe. Come to this service to relax and enjoy a photo journey through the countryside and meet the people who now live where the first Unitarian churches were built in Transylvania and Hungary.

Stephen Spinder is an internationally recognized photographic artist, dancer, performer and 16-year Budapest resident. He has a passion for all things Transylvanian. He will have books of his photography of this region for sale before and after the service.

REMEMBER: The church's annual meeting will be held following today's service.

Sunday, 22 May 2011, 11 a.m.

Our Sources of Our Inspiration

Sybil Argintar

We look to many different faith traditions from around the world as our sources for spiritual guidance and inspiration. Closer to our church home, we are inspired weekly by all that our children and youth have to offer to us and to our immediate community. Please join us as we celebrate our year of learning and express gratitude for all the many religious education volunteers who have given so much of themselves this past year. We will also honor and recognize our graduating senior, Aaron Eliot-Gaines, in a bridging ceremony from the religious education program into the larger church community. Children and youth will participate in this program, featuring an intergenerational choir.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 29 May 2011, 11 a.m.

Meditation Sunday

Kristine Kaoverii Weber

What is human existence about and what is human potential? The ancient yogis saw life as the journey towards the infinite and developed practices to facilitate that goal. From the yogic perspective life is not simply about surviving, it is about expanding your potential and possibilities – it is about thriving. And thriving is not necessarily material, or even knowledge-oriented, it is the expansion of the self into the limitless. Traditionally, the western scientific model of health and wellness has tended towards reductionism. Health is seen as something primarily physical – a lack of illness or injury. The yogic model of wellness takes an inverted perspective – it views health as a measure of the spiritual – the spiritual is the ultimate, the limitless and the changeless aspect of self. From this vantage point the psychological and physical aspects of self can better be brought into balance. Kaoverii will speak about yoga and thriving – how yogic philosophy and practices can complement our western scientific heritage and help us move toward a fuller, more meaning life.

Kristine Kaoverii Weber, MA, RYT500, took her first yoga course from her hippy social studies teacher in Pennsylvania when she was in sixth grade and has been hooked ever since. She began sharing yoga with others in 1995 and training yoga teachers in 2003. She teaches locally in Asheville, regionally and internationally. She is committed to creating opportunities for each student to discover and pursue his or her path to self-realization.

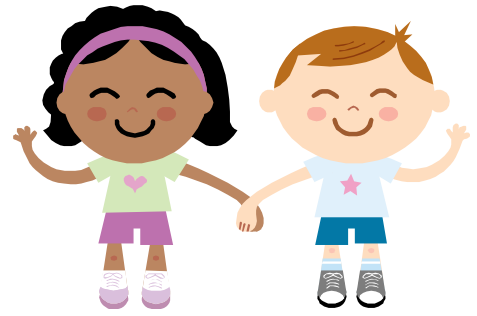


Sunday, 5 June 2011, 11 a.m.

Flower Communion Sunday

This is the annual flower communion Sunday service where we bring, share, and take home beautiful and meaningful flowers from the communal pot. This will also be the new member recognition day, very fitting as that also involves flowers. Bring flowers to share. but if you have none, there will be plenty of extras.

Religious Education Corner



Another school year is winding down. Children and youth this year all focused on the same theme of World Religions. Together we learned about Buddhism, Hinduism, Wiccan, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and Unitarian Universalism. We visited other faith communities and welcomed guest speakers into our classrooms. We met with high school exchange students to learn about their religious traditions. We talked about what to do when we witness prejudice and injustice to another human being. We opened our eyes and ears to the stories and experiences of others so that we can all remember our principles of the worth and dignity of every person, compassion in all our relationships, and acceptance of one another. There is no better way to work towards world peace than to understand others different from ourselves.

Classroom Activities

Our littlest UUs have fun playing together on Sundays, with two or three present most weeks. In recent weeks, they have planted flowers and cleaned up around the church grounds. The K-4 class, Picturebook World Religions, has been studying Unitarian Universalist principles. The Neighboring Faiths class has studied Wiccan traditions, and will wind up their year learning about A.M.E. Zion Christian traditions. On April 10, the senior high group hosted three exchange students, Rainsya Fikri Pri-mandika Akbar and Fauzan Mirza from Indonesia and Sasha Malyar, from Ukraine, for an informal gathering and discussion followed by a picnic and hike in Montreat (thanks to Milt and Carolyn for the yummy picnic!).

Summer Camp

We have four children signed up for our half-day summer camp program, *Journey for the Earth: Daily Travel Adventures*, set for July 18-22. We have room for up to twelve children, who will be in first to fourth grades next school year. If you haven't signed up, please check with Sybil soon, as spaces will fill up. We are advertising this to the community at large and to the Asheville UU church. Cost for members and friends is \$85 for the week. Parents (and grandparents!) sign up now, or please pass the information on to others. The camp flyer is included on a separate page in this newsletter. Please let others know!

Annual RE Service, *Our Sources of Inspiration*, May 22

We look to many different faith traditions from around the world as our sources for spiritual guidance and inspiration. Closer to our church home, we are inspired weekly by all that our children and youth have to offer to us and to our immediate community. Please join us as we celebrate our year of learning and express gratitude for all the many religious education volunteers who have given so much of themselves this past year. We will also honor and recognize our graduating senior, Aaron Eliot-Gaines, in a bridging ceremony from the religious education program into the larger church community. Children and youth will participate in this program, featuring an intergenerational choir.

Parents Night Out

Starting this summer, we will begin offering a Parents Night Out program open to all RE families and friends. Families

will be responsible, on a rotating basis, for providing childcare while parents enjoy a night out. We plan to offer this once/month on Saturday evening. All religious education families, if you haven't already signed up, please let Sybil know as soon as possible if you are interested.

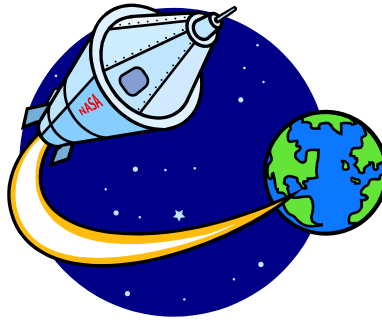
Important Dates to Remember

May 1 Intergenerational beginning, Story for All Ages: Standing on the Side of Love

Religious Education Committee Meets 9:30 a.m.

May 22 Annual Religious Education Service

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



Join us for a week filled with hands-on activities, adventures, and learning!

Build a Recycled Creature!! Take Home Your Own Special Garden!!

Space is limited, register early!

Who: Rising first through fourth grades

What: Half-day camp focusing on caring for our environment

Each day will carry a different theme:

Water

Energy Conservation

Sustainable Gardening

Recycling

Animal World

When: July 18 – 22, 2011 9 – 12:30 p.m. M through F

Where: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

500 Montreat Road

Black Mountain, North Carolina 28711

www.uusv.org

For more info: Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education

(828) 230-3773 sybil.argintar@yahoo.com

Cost: \$90 per child, general public; \$85 second child same family

\$85 per child for church members and friends

Greeters

Thank you members and friends of UUCSV for signing up to be greeters and ushers for every Sunday. We need to continue to fill out the empty spaces for the rest of the church year. This allows us to share the workload and be active members. 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

Room in the Inn on July 1st

Winter may be over but homeless folks in our community need year-round shelter. That is exactly what Room in the Inn offers homeless women. The Social Action committee is looking for volunteers to help out on Friday, July 1st. The women will be staying at the Black Mt. Methodist church annex. UUCSV will provide all the volunteers, food, and van drivers for the day. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer, or contact me at 686-3112, flora258@isp.com Thanks for all your help with this worthy program.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator

Choir for May

Our choir will sing one song on May 1st for the service, "Stand Against Racism." Then we will resume our regular schedule, singing on the fourth Sunday, May 22nd. This will be an RE Sunday based on their studies of World Religions. The choir will sing "Ishay Oluah," a Nigerian song meaning "God's Work will Never Be Destroyed" and also one more with the RE children, yet to be announced. We will rehearse after the service on May 15th at 12:15, the following Thursday the 19th at 6:30, and then again on Sunday May 22nd at 10 AM with the RE. Come sing with us!

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

No Social Hour May 15th

The annual church meeting will be May 15th, so there will not be a social hour as usual after the service. Instead, we will have a sandwich potluck for everyone staying after church to attend the meeting. The hospitality committee will provide beverages, bread, mustard and ketchup, and peanut butter and jelly. If you plan to attend the meeting, please bring sandwich fillings such as cheese, hummus, meat, lettuce, or sliced tomatoes to share with others. FMI Milt Warden 299-9456.

Friday Fling

May's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 20 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 "The Squid and the Whale" (2005; Jeff Daniels, Laura Linney; intimate look at a family coming apart in 1980s Brooklyn) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



SOLS Trillium Donations

As announced previously, SOLS will donate a portion of the proceeds from "Trillium" to three recipients: UUCSV, our partner church in Romania, and a non-profit organization in Buncombe County. We are asking UUCSV members and friends to submit suggestions and rationale for who the recipient of the donation to a non-profit should be. Please email or send your ideas to SOLS Chair Jane Carroll at dr_jcarr@msn.com or P.O. Box 1208, Black Mountain, NC 28711. SOLS, as a whole will determine who the recipient will be. Thank you for your help.

Women's Spirituality Group

Women's Spirituality Group meets May 5, 6:30 PM - Topic: "Sacred Relationship - from European Beltane to Hindu/Buddhist Tantra; Embodying the Goddess and God through ritual." How do we honor our relationships and create modern reminders of our sacred bond to each other and the Earth? Ramya Ruth Gleeson will facilitate this month. All women are welcome.

Birthdays in May

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

Hospitality News

Please join us for a church-wide potluck after the service on June 5th as we welcome and honor our new members. This is a great time to bring a dish from one of your favorite recipes. We also encourage you to bring your own place settings to help us reduce waste. The Hospitality Committee will provide a New Member cake and a wide variety of beverages. We look forward to this celebration for our new members and hope you can take part in this special occasion. If you would like any additional information or are interested in helping with the set-up and/or clean-up for this event please contact me at: Lauris7@earthlink.net or 772-0660.

—*Lauris Liljestrands*, Hospitality Co-chair

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

Membership Matters

We are pleased to welcome more new members to the UUCSV!! They are Chuck and Jeannie Shimer, former residents of Clearwater, FL and UU's for many years. Their new home is off Highway 9, with a Hendersonville mailing address. We look forward to getting acquainted with Chuck and Jeannie, our newest members, as we invite them to participate in the activities of our congregation.

The Membership Committee recently completed our Orientation to UU, held on April 11 and 12. Most of our new members attended the sessions which were led by Bill Altork, Evelyn Carter, Ann Sillman, Mary Soyenova, and Angie Underwood, Chair. Our current Board President, Heidi Blozan, made a special appearance, via a Power Point presentation, filmed by her daughter, Cora. Many thanks to all for your contribution!!
—Angie Underwood, Chair

Used Books Galore

The annual used book sale at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, featuring thousands of good-condition books in almost every category, will take place on May 13-14, 9am-4pm, at 1 Edwin Place, Asheville. For more information, call 828-254-6001.

Stephen Spinder on Transylvania

Our speaker Sunday May 15th, Stephen Spinder will offer an Intergenerational presentation/exhibition at the church Saturday May 14 7:00-8:30 PM. Mr Spinder, internationally recognized photographic artist, dancer, performer, will, through photographs and stories, take us on a journey through the folk landscape of Transylvania, revealing the still powerful vestiges of a rich Hungarian culture that remains. Stephen undertakes a journey of personal discovery to the birthplace of Unitarianism which he documents with images from his book, "Ten Years In Transylvania." Please join us to meet Stephen and share stories of Transylvania.

From the Editor—The Last Word

“As you are reading this sentence, your brain is (1) importing a stream of pixels from your retinas, (2) detecting features of these squiggles to perceive them as letters, (3) combining the letters into words, (4) finding the meaning of each word in the mental dictionary you memorized in childhood, (5) assembling the phrase fragments into sentences by hardwired rules of syntax, and finally—and here we cross from the subconscious to the semiconscious—(6) checking the validity of each statement vis-a-vis your mental encyclopedia of accrued knowledge. We take reading for granted. We shouldn't. It is a remarkable feat of information processing.” — Lewis I. Held, Jr., *Quirks of Human Anatomy: An Evo-Devo Look at the Human Body*, 2009.

