

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Nov 2010

Volume IX, Issue 11

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



## From Your Intern Minister . . .

Yesterday I began writing this column thinking only about the flurry of preparations I needed to make and the work I needed to get done before my "pilgrimage" (as it has been called by my mentor) to Uganda. However, all that changed this morning when I got a phone call from my 15-year old, who was having difficulty breathing, hives, and panic, the symptoms of an allergic reaction we still don't know what to. As I sped with her in the backseat to the emergency room, I kept her trying to talk so, so I would know she was still breathing. Although I felt with great certainty that she would be okay, especially once we were in the hands of the doctors and nurses at Mission, it was one of those intense days in the never-ending adventure of mothering. After her condition normalized with medication and observation, she was released to go home late in the afternoon. When we got in the car—she said, "the car ride here was the scariest I've ever felt, I thought maybe I would die." I wasn't sure if she was referring to her swollen throat or my driving, but my heart ached for her.



The comment made me think about all those on our planet who live constantly in that state of fear, and how that would alter one's ability to dream, to love, and to connect. While none of us really knows exactly when we will die, really thinking you might die at anytime would make it very difficult to plan for the future. I think I will meet many such people whose ability to think about the future has been altered by the terror and insecurity they have experienced when I go to Uganda next week. And yet, among them, will be those, I know, who are ready to dream again, ready to move out of the refugee camps and recreate a "normal" life. They will somehow ricochet from what they have experienced and move forward. Such people have much to teach us all, and it is an honor to support their journey through the UU Service Committee.

As I embark on this journey to the other side of the world, I admit to having worries for my own skin. But, I do believe in that old adage "nothing ventured, nothing gained." What exactly will be gained, I don't know yet, but I'm sure something great will be, so off I go. I'll miss you, I'll be back on November 18th. I can't wait to tell you about it.

—Sally Beth

500 Montreat Rd  
Black Mountain, NC 28711  
(828) 669-8050, [www.uusv.org](http://www.uusv.org)

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**Board Meeting: Monday 15 November, 6 p.m.**

Send Newsletter Information to  
Norm Kowal, *Editor*  
[normankowal@bellsouth.net](mailto:normankowal@bellsouth.net)

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 23 November,  
10 a.m., covering December 2010

## From the Board

We had our first Town Hall/Harvest Potluck and we received many positive comments.

For ease of availability we decided to attach the approved minutes and treasurer's report to the weekly current as well as continuing to post them on the bulletin board.

Thanks to Su Temimsuk for being our new clerk of the board, Lee Reading chair of Finance and Jane J. Carroll chair of SOLS.

Thanks to Connie Krochmal and Dawn Wilson for your dedicated service as outgoing committee chairs.

Welcome back to Melanie Ross as Grounds Chair.

The board is scheduling an extra meeting this month with the sole purpose of being able to give the Ministerial Search Committee needed direction.

Our assets have been moved into the Self Help Credit Union as recommended by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

Last month we approved sending Sally Beth to Africa along with our blessings. This month she goes.

Bill Altork resigned from the board and we thank him for his participation while serving on the board: within the parameters of our bylaws the board decided that we will not fill the vacancy until the Annual Meeting in May. The board is 8 members strong.

Yours,

—Heidi Blozan, Board President

Tricia West, the UUCSV Office Staff,  
just in case you have missed her.



## News of Our Church Family

Jim Clayton and Lakshmi Gupta are hoping to move into their first apartment together soon! They need furnishings, kitchen utensils, and housewares. If you have any of these items available to offer them, please contact Jim at [desolationangel63@yahoo.com](mailto:desolationangel63@yahoo.com), or 280-6431 or 669-2601. They are also still looking for a reasonable rental here or in the Asheville area, preferably near a bus line.

## Finance Committee Has New Chair

The Finance Committee gives a warm welcome to Lee Reading, our new chair. He brings many years of experience to the position, as he was treasurer for a number of years. In addition, he has headed the annual budget drive on a number of occasions.

—Connie Krochmal, outgoing Finance chair



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**2011** *June 22-26*

*Charlotte, NC*

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

**50<sup>TH</sup>**  
  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**1961-2011**

## Sunday Programming

**Sunday, 7 November 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Margaret Fuller: A Woman for Our Time**

#### **Sisters of Lucy Stone**

This year marks the bicentennial of Margaret Fuller's birth. Fuller was a Unitarian, and a Transcendentalist, and became the first woman allowed access to the Harvard library. Her groundbreaking work, *Woman in the 19th Century*, is viewed as the first feminist work. UUCSV's Sisters of Lucy Stone women's group shares about the life and legacy of this pioneering woman, reminding us why she is still a woman for our time.

**Sunday, 14 November 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Varieties of Early Christianity**

#### **Rev. Dr. Farley Snell**

Dr. Snell will review the early varieties of Christianity in existence before the bible was codified by Constantine at the Council of Nicea. Why were the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John selected from amongst the plethora of text available at the time? And, why are there significant differences in each of these four gospels? Using textual analysis and other scientific means, Dr. Snell will serve as our history detective and trace the socio-historic forces that shaped the four canonical gospels known to us today.

Rev. Dr. Farley Snell earned his M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees are from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He taught religion at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas for 27 years (21 years as chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy). Dr. Snell currently teaches religion courses at the UNCA Center for Creative Retirement. He and his wife Ann, a retired attorney, have lived in downtown Asheville since June 2008.



**Sunday, 21 November 2010, 11 a.m.**

### **Here We Have Gathered, called to Celebrate**

#### **Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service**

In our UUCSV tradition of Thanksgiving, we will celebrate our annual Thanksgiving communion with local bread and grape juice in a ritual of giving and receiving that everyone is invited to participate in. As we focus our hearts and minds on gratitude, we will also discuss the idea of Unitarian Universalism as a "Living Tradition," in which we are continually called to re-imagine and adapt our practices to new truths in each new generation. Wonderful music made by the UUCSV choir will enrich our service.

Today, UU Service Committee "Guest at Your Table" boxes will be distributed by our youth. They and the UUCSV Social Action committee invite you contribute to the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, now in its 70th year of promoting the eradication of poverty and working for justice around the world.

## Sunday Programming

**Sunday, 28 November 2010, 11 a.m.**

**UU's in Uganda? Ubet!**

**Sally Beth Shore**



Last week you received your Guest at Your Table boxes, this week learn more about the work those contributions help support. I'll tell stories from my trip to Uganda where I'll witness the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in action, helping to resettle thousands of refugees who have lived for many years in tent camps during civil war. Part of the visit also includes meeting with the UU congregation in the capital of Kampala, which might just be one of the most inspiring in our movement: it supports a school with 500 children enrolled, has started an AIDS orphanage, and stood up to oppressive homophobic legislation even as members were receiving death threats earlier this year. I'm writing the description before I've even departed, so there may be some surprises, and hopefully some great Ugandan music to accompany!

**Sunday, 5 December 2010, 11 a.m.**

**All Are Architects of Fate—Intergenerational Beginning**

**Child Dedication Sunday**

**Sally Beth Shore**

The title of today's service refers to one of my favorite hymns in our hymnbook—which speaks to a common UU belief that we can, if not be masters of our fate, at least have a hand in its creation. As my internship at UUCSV draws to a close, I offer you my observations of, learnings from, and gratuities to, this congregation. I know many of you are concerned about the next steps on your path, but I believe that, as, Julian of Norwich put it, "all shall be well." Change can be unsettling, but without it, nothing happens. As you move ahead into a new stage of your evolution as a religious community, what is bright and beckoning? What do you want to leave behind?

## Religious Education Corner

### Registration

Currently we have fourteen families registered in the religious education program, with two preschoolers, seven in the K-4 class, six in the grades 5-8 class, and four high school youth. We have had lots of visitors through the fall, and hope to see our enrollment increase in the spring.

### Classroom Activities

Our littlest UUs spend their time in cooperative play, both inside and outside. Thanks to Pepe Acebo for making our preschool space much more welcoming and child-friendly through the donation of a table, chairs, shelves, and toys! The K-4 class, in their *Picturebook UU* curriculum, have studied Islam and are beginning their exploration of Judaism. While studying Islam, the class learned about the five pillars of the faith, learned about the Qu'ran, Arabic calligraphy, made no-bake cookies with dates, and learned about places and animals of the Muslim world. The grades 5-8 class, *Neighboring Faiths*, has discussed what is religious, selected their course of study for the year, and began their explorations by learning about Judaism, including a visit to Temple Beth Ha Tephila in Asheville. The high school youth have gathered for a covenant group, planned their schedule for the fall, and enjoyed a

movie night with Scott Conklin, one of their advisors. The group plans to hold a second covenant group on November 14 to discuss Islam, and plans to work with the Asheville church youth on some service projects, along with working with our social action committee.

### Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

In keeping with our annual tradition, the Thanksgiving service on November 21 will be fully intergenerational (meaning all ages are welcome!). We will have child care available in the preschool room for those youngest UUs who need it. Remember that this is also the kick-off for the "Guest At Your Table" service program.

### Christmas Parade

The theme for the Black Mountain Christmas parade is "The Spirit of Christmas". Bert Gaines and his wonderful team have begun making plans for the float design. We want lots of children, youth, and families to help out with decorating and riding the float. Linda Metzner will work with the children, youth, and adults who want to sing on the float. We also need a few folks to help carry the UUCSV banner. Let me know if you are interested and stay tuned for decorating party days!



### Child Dedication

Please let me know by November 15 if you are interested in participating in the child dedication ceremony at the beginning of the service on December 5. Sally Beth will welcome children and youth into the church and the RE community, and the congregation will extend their love and support. This is a simple, very moving ceremony. All ages may participate.

### Important Dates to Remember

- November 7 RE Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- November 14 Teacher check-in after class 12:30 p.m.
- November 21 IG Thanksgiving Service
- December 4 Black Mountain Christmas Parade
- December 5 IG beginning—CHILD DEDICATION

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator  
(sybil.argintar@yahoo.com, 230-3773)

## SOLS News

We met on Sunday, October 24th to undertake the changing of the guard and to plan activities for November and December. We are grateful to Dawn Wilson who served as our able and dedicated leader since our inception. Dawn resigned her post and was replaced by Dr. Jane Carroll. We welcome all women of UUCSV, friends and members, to join us at our meetings on the third Sunday of every month at 12:30 following the service.

Announcing a special event: On Sunday, Nov. 7th, SOLS will present the program at the Sunday service. We will commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of Margaret Fuller, a most extraordinary women about whom it was written in the latest edition of UU World, "If Unitarian Universalism were the sort of religion that canonized saints, then Margaret Fuller would be Our Lady of Wisdom—and Wit, Equality, and Social Justice." She is noted as the first

- American to write a book about equality for women,
- Woman foreign correspondent and war correspondent to serve under combat conditions,
- Woman journalist on Horace Greeley's New York Daily Tribune,
- Editor of The Dial, foremost Transcendentalist journal, appointed by Ralph Waldo Emerson,
- Woman literary critic who also set literary standards,
- Woman to enter Harvard Library to pursue research.

## Congregational Care

Barb Rogers has graciously agreed to take over from Marjorie Starrs as Congregational Care Coordinator. If you need a ride, help during a recuperation, or other assistance, please leave a message at the office or email Barb at [blackmtnbarb@gmail.com](mailto:blackmtnbarb@gmail.com).

## Birthdays in November

- November 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Scott
- November 7<sup>th</sup> Aaron Eliot-Gaines
- November 9<sup>th</sup> Roberta Madden
- November 10<sup>th</sup> Mark Manuel
- November 28<sup>th</sup> Aaron Gilmour

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

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 19 November 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 "Michael" (1996; John Travolta, Andie MacDowell, William Hurt; the arch-angel returns to earth for one last time—he's an angel, but not a saint) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



## Choir for November

The UUCSV Choir will be performing on November 21st this month. The theme is Thanksgiving, with a Unitarian-style communion, and new members will be welcomed. We will rehearse on November 14th at 12:15 p.m., then on Thursday the 18th at 6:30, and then on Sunday the 21st at 10 a.m., followed by the performance. Thanks to the choir who performed well in my absence in October!

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

### **Free Gift With Purchase of UUSC Holiday Cards**

As in previous years Social Action will be selling the UUSC holiday cards. Sales will begin in the foyer in November as soon as we receive the cards. All proceeds go to the UU Service Committee work. Make your dollars count by buying these cards so the work of UUSC can continue around the world. You can pay for cards with checks or cash.

These are \$10 per pack. All buyers will receive a free gift (mostly stationery items, calendars, and books). The card designs seem particularly beautiful this year, so buy your cards early for the widest selection. One called People Tree depicts people arranged in the shape of a tree. The Snow Globe Kids has kids forming a circle around the globe, and is particularly lovely.

One design has the words 'Plant Justice, Harvest Peace' on the front. This blank note card can be used year-round. It would make a great holiday gift for loved ones on your shopping list.

—*Connie Krochmal, Social Action Holiday Card Sales Coordinator*

### **Women's Spirituality Group**

Meeting Wednesday November 3rd from 6:30 to 8:00. This month's topic will focus on understanding our dreams. We will be utilizing the techniques from the work of Jeremy Taylor. An ordained UU minister, Jeremy Taylor is a renowned expert on the subject of dreams, having worked with dreams for more than forty years. His discoveries reveal how dreams can help us better understand our past, provide resolutions to our problems, and serve as inspiration to us creatively. We invite all interested women to bring a current or a recurring dream that you would like to share and have the group explore it's possible message. If you have any further questions please contact this month's WSG facilitators: Barbara Rogers at boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com or 333-2721 or Lauris Liljestrand at Lauris7@earthlink.net or 664-9678.

Movie Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. Signs Out of Time, the Story of Archaeologist Marija Gimbutas. At UUCSV, free for all men and women. Gimbutus' work on the Neolithic cultures of Old Europe reveals evidence of peaceful, woman-honoring, Goddess-worshipping, and egalitarian civilizations that existed for thousands of years without war. Amidst ridicule, criticism and controversy, Marija Gimbutus stayed true to what she saw. The film is a documentary by Donna Read and Starhawk narrated by Olympia Dukakis.

Contact Women's Spirituality Group (Barb Rogers ) at boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com or 333-3721 for reservations.

### **Room in the Inn Wrap Up**

Social Action sends a special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped out with Room in the Inn on Oct. 29th and also throughout the year. This event wouldn't be possible without your help. This was the last one for this year. Once the dates have been set for 2011, we'll let you know.

Meanwhile for those who aren't familiar with Room in the Inn, here is some basic background information on this program. It is organized by AHOPE, the Asheville day shelter for the homeless. They screen applicants and choose up to 12 homeless women on a first-come-first serve basis for participation in the program. Participating churches agree to host the women for one week. The host church provides the women with lodging, meals, and transportation for the entire week. The women generally spend three to four weeks a year in Black Mountain at the Black Mountain Presbyterian and Methodist churches. For each of those Black Mountain events, UUCSV provides food and volunteers for one day.

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY



UUCSV Seniors get around! On October 13 we took a great trip to the UNC Arboretum. Pictured (l-r) are Sally Beth Shore, Walter Hoffman, Vesta Stearn, Ann Sillman, Marjorie Starrs, Ida and Tom O'Connell, and Angie Manuel. We hope to plan another trip soon-- stay tuned!



Kimberly Briscoe, Black Mountain, is holding one of the 2 cards of support from UUCSV. The Briscoe family and the Salena Wilson's family of Fletcher received cards on Sunday, October 17, 2010. Both were recently racially targeted.

## Sunday Services at UUCSV

Your Worship Associates Committee Members have been working hard to prepare for the transition from employing Sally Beth to having a lay led church. The Rev. Michael Carter (an interfaith minister) has agreed to be in our pulpit on the second Sunday of the month from January 2011 through June 2011. We are presently seeking visiting UU ministers to be in our pulpit on the 4th Sunday of the month. For the months with a fifth Sunday, we are hoping to book a speaker to work with us on the skills of meditation to help us facilitate healthier bodies and calmer spirits. We will schedule speakers from within our congregation and outside speakers on the first and third Sundays of the month. We want to create an atmosphere of fairness by giving all members and friends of UUCSV a chance to submit a proposal for leading a Sunday service. After we have booked friends and members once during the calendar year, we will then accept proposals for members and friends to speak a second time. Please contact a Worship Associate if you would like to prepare a lay led Sunday Service or have input for us to consider an outside speaker for our pulpit. We currently have a request from Tim Perry, Bill Altork, Sue Miller and Jeff Hutchins who are volunteering to lead a Sunday Service in 2011. For this we are very grateful and look forward to hearing from others of you who have an interest in leading a service. Step up to the plate and your Worship Associates Committee will work with you to bring your creative ideas to fruition.

*—Respectively submitted by Carolyn Shorkey in consultation with Sally Beth Shore, Sue Stone, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, and Jim Carillon*

## From the Editor—The Last Word

The universe started off with a Big Bang about 13.7 billion years ago, and, since then, the universe has evolved to produce about 100 billion galaxies, each with about 100 billion stars. Most of those stars probably have planets. That makes at least  $10^{22}$  planets in the universe, one of which is our own Earth, which was formed about 4.5 billion years ago. Since intelligent life succeeded on developing here on Earth, it is almost a statistical certainty that the universe contains many, many different sorts of intelligent creatures. Because of the various physical and chemical conditions existent on this large number of planets, there is no reason that many of them may resemble us. One of these planets, the so-called “Goldilocks Planet” (Gliese 581g), has recently been discovered to have conditions somewhat similar to those on Earth, but its location about 20 light-years away means that any contact before our own species becomes extinct is extremely unlikely. Yet out there in this big universe that we live in—the Hubble Space Telescope has just found the oldest galaxy ever observed, about 13.1 billion light-years away (originating only about 600 million years after the Big Bang)—we know that there are many other intelligent beings. What do they think about? How do they deal with one another? What is their art and music like? Do they believe in gods of some sort?

