

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

October 2010

Volume IX, Issue 10

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From Your Intern Minister . . .

The past few weeks have been a time of sadness and challenge for our congregation, as we have had to say rather abrupt goodbyes to two of our long-time members, Shari Spires and Esther Miller. Both of their families have expressed to me their deep appreciation for the support and kindness of the church during this time. In addition to these deaths, several in our church family have had surgeries and other difficulties this past month. One of the goals of a church community is to take care of each other in tough times. Many of you have informally been doing this work for a long time. While in recent months the Congregational Care Committee has been a part of the Membership team, as I prepare to depart it seems best for this group to reform so as to insure that all of our members can find the help that the congregation has to offer, and whether there is a settled minister or not. If you think you would be interested in being part of this group (which will meet together for a training/organizational session in late November or early December) please contact me.

Many of you are familiar with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work to alleviate poverty and oppression. You may also know that the UUSC traces its origins to World War II, when the Unitarian Service Committee was established to aid European war refugees. Today, the UUSC is still engaged in assisting refugees, most recently it has been involved with the resettlement of refugees from the decade long civil war in northern Uganda. This fall, the UUSC is organizing a "Just Journey" for supporters to witness firsthand what this work means to the people of Uganda, as well as giving participants an opportunity to interact with the UU congregation of Kampala, which has taken a strong and risky stand in support of homosexual rights in Uganda. I have been honored to be selected for a scholarship to join in this journey, through a program of my seminary (Meadville Lombard Theological School) and the UUA. At its September meeting the UUCSV Board graciously granted me the 2 weeks away I will need to do this pilgrimage (with the time to be made up). I am deeply, deeply grateful for being allowed to be a part of this life-changing journey, and I look forward to sharing with you all that I can of what I learn and see.

Sincerely,

—Sally Beth



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appointment)
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Sybil Argintar, *RE Coordinator* 230-3773
Tricia West, *Office Staff*
(Office Hours: W 9-3, Th 9-2)

Board Meeting: Monday 18 October, 6 p.m.

Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 26 October,
10 a.m., covering November 2010

From the Board

From the Board of Trustees:

We received a thorough Financial Internal Review thanks to the Finance Committee, with a recommendation to transfer our funds into a higher interest bearing situation.

We fully support our minister to accept the opportunity to travel and work in Uganda for 10 days in November.

Member Friend Skinner has offered us the proceeds from his large book collection. This will be a year long process that we are grateful to benefit from financially.

An anonymous donor has personally increased the annual pledge promise by \$2000 as a way to close the gap in our budget. Thank you!

The board appreciates Suchitra Temesrisuk for agreeing to be our recorder.

We are plan to have regular Town Hall meetings in order to increase communication between the board and the congregation. The first meeting will be on October 17.

For more details on what the board is doing please refer to the posted minutes and Treasurer's report on the Board bulletin board or speak to any board member.

Standing on the side of Love and UUCSV,

—Heidi Blozan



Save the Date: October 17 for UUCSV Town Hall

You are invited to attend a short Question and Answer session immediately following the service. Board members will be present to answer any questions and to receive ideas, suggestions, and thoughts for the continued maturation and progress of our beloved community. Everyone is welcome.

At our August Board retreat there was unanimous enthusiasm to follow a model that other UU Congregations use: the idea is to have regular quarterly meetings of this nature. The goals of this meeting are (1) to increase transparency of the Board of Trustees, (2) to incorporate congregational input into the way we govern, and (3) to improve two-way communication between the Board and the Congregation.

UU 101 Classes

Want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Want to prepare to become a member? We can help. UU 101 classes, a primer on our beliefs, will be held the evenings of October 18 and 19, 7-9 p.m. Preregistration will help us plan. Please call either the church or Tina Rosato at 669-9377 for information or to register.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 3 October 2010, 11 a.m.

The Shadow Knows (but do we know the Shadow?)

Sally Beth Shore

It's the month of Halloween—a holiday devoted to fear (sort of...is it devoted to candy and costumes?). In the midst of the Great Depression President Franklin Roosevelt said that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..." While that statement might be an oversimplification, fear itself does wreak havoc with us, and is the root cause of much oppression and injustice in our world. This morning we will take a look at some obvious fears, try to tease out some of our unconscious ones, and reflect on how we respond to them.

Children will enjoy the intergenerational beginning that makes use of the Halloween theme!

Sunday, 10 October 2010, 11 a.m.

Just Home in the Mountains

Just Home in the Mountains is the community performance project of Homeward Bound of Asheville. This performance is an excerpt from a longer play, Always Expect Miracles, based on stories gathered from Asheville residents and first performed by a cast of over 50 community members last February.

The community performance project is a part of Homeward Bound's mission to work with others to end homelessness. By presenting stories from all walks of life, including the stories that are often left out of official history and mainstream media, the play helps community members gain greater understanding of each other's experiences.



Sunday, 17 October 2010, 11 a.m.

A Beacon on a Hill

**Scott Shaw, Sally Beth Shore,
UUCSV Chalice Lighters**

Unitarian Universalism was born out of the New England Congregational church, which, in founding the Massachusetts Bay Colony, saw itself as being a "pure church," an example for others to look to and be inspired by. As we too hope to be Beacon for faith, hope, and justice in the world, one way we have to help evangelize Unitarian Universalism is through our UU Chalice Lighter program, which pools small donations into larger grants for startup and growth projects of congregations. Our service today includes the testimonies of some of UUCSV's participating chalice lighters as well. The sermon discusses the blessing and opportunities we have by being part of our larger, loosely international, denomination.

Today the choir enriches our worship service with their wonderful collective voice, directed by Linda Metzner.

Sunday, 24 October 2010, 11 a.m.

Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Atheist?

Jeffrey Hutchins

In this service, Jeff Hutchins looks at the historical -- and hysterical -- reaction to atheism, and attempts to understand what it is about atheism that provokes such fear and loathing.

Jeff is a lifelong Unitarian and Humanist. Born in New York City, he grew up in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon until he attended Boston University, where he met Diane, his wife of nearly 40 years. They have lived in Black Mountain since 2008. Jeff helped develop the technology of closed captioning, the process that makes video programs accessible to deaf people. He is a frequent speaker at UU congregations throughout the East.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 31 October 2010, 11 a.m.

Beyond the Veil of Memory

Byron Ballard

In these uncertain times, where do we find the strength, the courage and the grace to love our neighbor and ourselves? Join Byron Ballard for a session in grounding and meditative techniques, and a time of deep contemplative practice in honor of the Celtic New Year.



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.

Religious Education Corner

My husband Gary and I just returned from a wonderful opportunity to travel to Greece. The first leg of our trip was from Kennedy International Airport in New York, to London. As I'm sure you all are aware, there has been extensive controversy in New York over the past few weeks regarding the building of an Islamic community center near Ground Zero. It has brought out some of the worst, in my opinion, of the level of intolerance that some Americans feel towards other human beings. On the plane from New York to London, there was an Islamic family traveling for the first time with their young son of eighteen months old. He was adorable, as all children are, and only got fussy when he wasn't able to move up and down the aisles to greet everyone with his happy, giving smile. I took the time to interact with this little one and his parents, who were worried their baby was being disruptive to others. I assured them he hadn't been a problem at all and that his presence was a welcome one. I could only help but wonder how they might have felt uncomfortable on many levels, given the amount of anger being expressed recently towards the Islamic community. I also wondered why more people aren't able to just speak to someone who is different from them and not label them before getting to know them as other members of the human race. If everyone took the time to do this, what a peaceful world we would have. One based on understanding, respect for differences, and friendship, rather than fear and anger. So the next time you meet a stranger, near or far, take some time to talk and greet them with a welcoming smile.

Registration

We still have a few families who haven't registered for the current school year. Please be sure to get these to me the next time you are at church. We must keep all information current, so even if you've registered before, you will need to do so again. Blank forms are available in the preschool and the main RE classroom. Thanks!

Religious Education Teacher Needed

While Evelyn is recovering from her surgery, we could use one more lead teacher to help out in the K-4 classroom through the fall. Ideally, we need coverage on the last Sunday of the month beginning in October. Please let me know if you are available to help on October 31, November 28, and December 26. I will work closely with you on the programs for those days. November and December will be non-teaching Sundays, and will instead be holiday activities.

Boo at the UU!

Mark your calendars for our annual Halloween Party, Boo at the UU! We'll gather on Friday October 29 at 6 p.m. for lots of fun activities, ghoulish snacks, and of course, contests for the best costumes! More information will follow. We need folks to help out decorating the church beginning at 4 p.m. that day, so if you can help with that, please let me know!



Christmas Parade

This year UUCSV will participate in the Black Mountain Christmas Parade on Saturday December 4. Bert Gaines is in charge of the float, and needs a storage place for his trailer so we can begin scheduling work days to decorate our entry. Please contact Bert if you have a space available (a garage or other covered storage space). Bert can be reached at 337-0873 or sbrfast@charter.net

Important Dates to Remember

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 3 | Intergenerational beginning |
| October 29 | Halloween Party—Boo at the UU!! 6 - 9 p.m. |
| December 4 | Black Mountain Christmas Parade |

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator, 230-3773

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 coordinator is Marjorie Starrs (644-9320). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

Room in the Inn

Extend a helping hand to homeless women in our community. Become a Room in the Inn volunteer. UUCSV will be providing meals, transportation, and the volunteers on Friday, Oct. 29th. This will take place at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex.

We still need back-up overnight volunteers and back-up van drivers. We also need food for the evening meal (salads, veggies, entrees, desserts, and bread).

Sign up by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer or contact me at flora258@isp.com, 686-3112. Thanks for all your help with this worthy project.

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

Harvest Potluck Planned

Mark your calendar for Oct. 17th! We will set up tables for a full church-wide potluck dinner following the Sunday service on that day. Our goal is to generate no garbage, so please bring your place setting from home including plates, silverware, cups/glasses, and a cloth napkin. We look forward to tasting your favorite autumn recipe (hopefully made with locally grown produce) brought to church with a serving spoon.

Remember, starting in November we will discontinue serving potluck snacks after the service.

—*Milt Warden and Lauris Liljestrang, Hospitality Co-chairs*

Birthdays in September

Oct 1 st	Marilyn Wells
Oct 11 th	Geoff Stone
Oct 12 th	Dawn Wilson

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

SOLS News

The monthly meeting of SOLS will be Sunday, October 24, at 12:30 p.m. at the Church.

Friday Fling

October's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 15 October 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 "Kinky Boots" (2005, a failing Irish shoe factory and its workforce are saved by adopting a new line) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Choir News

The UUCSV choir will sing on October 17th with rehearsals on October 10th at 12:15, October 14th at 6:30 PM, and on the performance day, October 17th at 10 AM. Thank you, choir, for a beautiful performance in September. We're happy to have our new tenor, David Bowling, and thanks to Ann for costuming herself again!

Shari Spires

We are Grateful for Her Many Generous and Loving Gifts to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

Shari the Leader:

Founding member of UUCSV.

President of the Board of Trustees 2003-2004.

Member of the Board for three years.

Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Member of the Aesthetics Committee.

President of the Board during the Capital Campaign to raise money to buy the church building.

Shari the Participant:

Shared her beautiful singing voice as a member of the Capital Campaign Quartet.

Capital Campaign captain.

Part time piano player for church services.

Made the curtains in the office/nursery/library as a member of the Aesthetics Committee.

Shari the Artist:

Created a quilt that became the first item to hang in the sanctuary of our newly acquired church building.

Created the quilt that hangs in the minister's office.

Created the hanging that now graces the front of the pulpit.

Quilted the two-sided banner that is on the walls of the sanctuary and the foyer and is carried in the annual Parade of Congregations at UUA General Assembly.

Handmade the offertory baskets used every Sunday.

Proposed the idea of forming a group to make lap quilts for people in military service abroad.

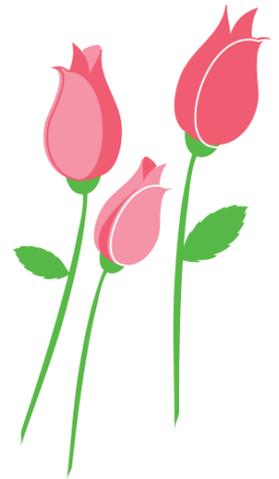
Shari the Writer:

Wrote the book Sunshine and Shadows that contains a collection of her poetry.

Provided a Sunday service featuring her poems and quilts.

Organized and facilitated a writing group within the church.

Shared her writing and quilting skills as a member of the Creative Life Covenant Group.



In Gratitude

The Spires/Hoffman family have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to our congregation for the outpouring of support during their time of bereavement. The ministerial support, visits, hugs, food donations, written and verbal tributes to Shari, photo's, attendance at the reception, and most importantly, our atmosphere of caring was most appreciated. A special thanks to Evelyn Carter for recruiting Angie Underwood and Carolyn Shorkey to coordinate food donations for the reception held in Walter's home. It is a difficult, confusing and tiring time for families and we at UUCSV are honored to lend support in times of need.

Women's Spirituality Group

Creativity and Spirituality, led by Joni Stone. Wed, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. We will make something that is significant for our individual spiritual lives. This free group is open to all women. We explore different cultures' spiritual practices, ancient and modern, and join to enrich our internal journey as well as to share a global one.

Spiritual Cinema. Oct. 20 - "River of Love" (1990) a Documentary Drama on the Life of Amma, one of the greatest living manifestations of the Divine Mother, from a southwestern India fishing village. All women and men are welcome for films and discussion at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Wed. of the month.

Contact Barbara Rogers for more information 333-2721, boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com

Dialogues on Race Set This Fall in Black Mountain and Swannanoa

The popular Dialogue on Race series, in which dozens of local citizens participated this spring, will resume this fall. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Corporation is sponsoring the program, which is open to everyone interested in better communication among people of different races.

The Town Hall board room will be the site of a three-part series based on the DVD, "Race: The Power of an Illusion." The meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

On October 12, Session 1, "The Difference Between Us," examines the contemporary science that challenges our assumptions that human beings can be bundled into three or four fundamentally different groups according to physical traits. O.L. Sherrill will facilitate a dialogue following the viewing.

On November 9, Session 2, "The Story We Tell," uncovers the roots of the race concept in North America, the 19th century science that legitimized it, and how it came to be held so fiercely in the western imagination. The episode is an eye-opening story of how race served to rationalize, even justify, American social inequalities as "natural." Roberta Madden will facilitate the dialogue.

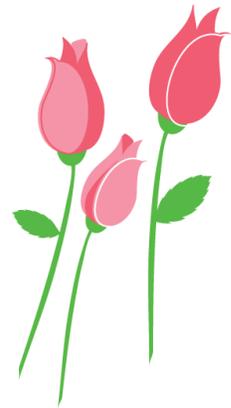
On December 14, Session 3, "The House We Live In," reveals how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics, and culture. It shows how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status, and wealth to white people.

A second Dialogue on Race series is planned this fall at Stephanie's Roadhouse Bistro in Swannanoa. It will be a six-week series based on readings, current events, and personal experience of the participants. The schedule will be announced soon.

There is no charge for participating in the Dialogue on Race. For more information, please contact Roberta Madden at 669-2757 or robertamadden@yahoo.com.

Esther Miller

Esther Miller, beloved elder in our church community, died the afternoon of 21 September at Mission Hospital after a two-week battle with sepsis during which she never fully regained consciousness. We mourn her loss but celebrate her loving, playful spirit. Esther is survived by a beloved nephew as well as three stepchildren, and three of them had been by her side during the past two weeks. The family plan to schedule a memorial service either at UUCSV or at Highland Farms.



Esther I remember ...

...your beautiful flowers you so lovingly brought on Sunday mornings.
...your beaming smile and your firm hug shared during every greeting.
...your clear writing of your earlier years - your stories always so engaging.
...your love of Topeka and Mimie your constant four-legged companion.
...your cheerfulness and good nature on many subjects.
...your electronic holiday cards of birds and nature scenes.
...your fondness and pride for Highland Farms including
...your sharing an evening meal there with some of us one night.
...your dancing with anyone who joined you at the Coming of Age talent show.
...your grace in showing us the way for our later years.
[...and your wonderful Maxine cartoons. —Editor]

I miss you dearly Esther; you are too soon gone for the rest of us!

-- your boyfriend Jim

From the Editor—The Last Word

A possible rationalization for simply enjoying the human comedy, from Jacques Barzun's *From Dawn to Decadence*: "Sovereignty; the rule of law; obedience and revolt; truth and its attainment through debate; science, nature, and pleasure; reason and revelation, justice and mercy—all these find their assessment somewhere in [Milton's] poems. Add the prose works, which are political journalism, and Milton becomes the living embodiment of the battle of ideas in his time. Thousands of pamphlets and sermons record the intensity of the struggle and its thoroughness. Those ideas still agitate the western mind, and the contradictory merits of this mid-17C debate suggest that resolving the conflict is impossible, not because of human ignorance or perversity, but because of the nature of human needs and the hopes that call forth ideas and systems."

