

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Sept 2010

Volume IX, Issue 9

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From Your Intern Minister . . .

September is my favorite month of the year—when it is still warm, the days still long, but the humidity lessens and there is a promise of cool weather ahead (we hope!). I'm reminded of the song by Tom Jones that goes:

Try to remember the kind of September

When life was slow and oh, so mellow...

September makes me nostalgic, something about kids going back to school and routines returned to, I guess.

One routine at UUCSV is our annual Water Communion service at the beginning of the month, please come to the service with a small amount of water from a source special to you to share with your church community during this observance of connection with nature. I understand some of you will be away Labor Day weekend. If so, may you pause on Sunday morning to pour water and think of this religious community of which you are a part.

Every other week, our UUCSV Worship Associates do a fantastic job of putting on Sunday Services for our community. If you would be interested in joining this creative and committed group of people to create services that are enriching and meaningful for our community, please consider attending the Worship Associates training at the end of this month, on Saturday, September 25. To learn more, look for the write up about the workshop inside the newsletter.

I'm delighted to welcome Tina Rosato as UUCSV's Membership chair. Tina and her husband Phil have been active participants in our community for about a year now, and her enthusiasm is contagious. Thanks also to all that the Aesthetic Committee has been doing lately to spruce up the foyer as well as make the office more functional. The mowing crew has been working hard this summer due to lots of rain and heat; again I'm reminded often how much each individual contribution to this community makes for a truly vibrant church with rewards for all. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

—Sally Beth



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

Board Meeting: Monday 20 September, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 21 September,
10 a.m., covering October 2010

From the Board

We always seem to have busy, full board meetings.

This month I will highlight a few of the discussions.

Membership: We have found a new Membership Chair and she is Tina Rosato. She is eager to get started and contribute to our congregation in this way!

Chalice Lighters: We would like for everyone to consider being a member of Chalice Lighters. They give grants (and gifted us with \$25,000 several years ago!) and help new congregations grow.

Worship Associates; The WA Team presented the board with a proposal. They proposed that they engage a single minister for six pulpit times from January to June. This will begin after our intern minister departs us. This proposal was unanimously approved.

Board Retreat: This year the Board Retreat will include Committee Chairs! We will be led by Jim Keys, the President of the Thomas Jefferson District.

Not discussed at the board meeting but thought you would want to know:

FREE WORKSHOP for UU's: There is a FREE day long workshop that all Committee Members, Chairs, and Board Members are invited to attend. It will be on September 18 in Greenville, South Carolina. I plan to take a car load of UUCSV members. This is a great way to expand your UU World out of Black Mountain. See me or the bulletin board for more details.

Ministerial Search Committee: They have met three times and their retreat (as directed and approved by the congregation) is scheduled for October 2. They are on their way!

My hope for you: to enjoy the cooler temperatures and the last sounds of the crickets and katydids.

Yours,

—Heidi Blozan



Training for Leaders

Board Members and Committee Chairs of UU Congregations of the Western Carolina Cluster

Saturday, Sept. 18, 10am-2pm, Greenville, SC UU Fellowship

See the flyer on bulletin board for more information.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 5 September 2010, 11 a.m.

Intergenerational Water Communion

Sally Beth Shore

Today, the first Sunday in September, we celebrate returning home from summer travels with our annual UU Water Communion. This family-friendly service will be participatory and may have a surprise or two...Please come with 1) water from a source that is special to you and 2) stories of the waters you have brought or that you visited this summer. Our homily will focus on how we can honor, clean and preserve Earth's waters, with particular attention to the situation in the gulf of Mexico. Can we make a difference in a sea of indifference?

Sunday, 12 September 2010, 11 a.m.

Living into Our Potential

Rev. Amy E. Brooks

We all want to be our best and be a part of something that makes a difference. Our religious community is a place that can challenge and help us to live into our best selves. Likewise, our religious community has a mission we hope will be realized. How do our personal spiritual growth and congregational mission work together to help us live into our potential as individuals and as a community?

Rev. Amy E. Brooks is a Community Minister in the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1992. She worked for many years with the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network in Charlotte, NC, providing pastoral care and education. Amy is currently enrolled in the GreenFaith Fellowship Program to explore and develop an environmental ministry while providing sabbatical ministry support to several area UU congregations. She and her husband Chris enjoy an ongoing interest in local, organic food, cooking (and eating) delicious food. They are particularly enamored with their daughter Evelyn who just celebrated her second birthday.



Sunday, 19 September 2010, 11 a.m.

What We Want from Work

Sally Beth Shore

For most of us, a good portion of our lives is spent working. Aside from a steady paycheck, what do we want from that experience? A recent poll of American workers finds that our collective answers to that question aren't what we might initially expect. How can we create the work life we want? Ditto if you are retired, or a volunteer.... What makes it all worthwhile?

Sunday, 26 September 2010, 11 a.m.

It's All Happening In Boston!

Coming of Age Youth

With slides, video, music and some thoughtful words, the Coming of Age youth will show us the results of all those fundraising bake sales, concerts, movie nights and pancake breakfasts. Come see Boston, the birthplace of American Unitarianism and Universalism. Walk with Channing, Emerson, Thoreau and Louisa May Alcott. Ring the bells at Arlington Street Church, and descend into the catacombs of King's Chapel. Meet Sarah's giraffe and a whale named Fulcrum. If you have never visited Boston this service will make you anxious to go! If you are familiar with Boston, this will be like meeting old friends.

Sunday, 3 October 2010, 11 a.m.

Fear and Loathing and Overcoming

Sally Beth Shore

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 can 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 of our obvious fears, try to tease out some of our unconscious ones, and look for ways to lessen them.

Religious Education Corner



We began our teacher orientation on August 15 with the following reading by Antoine de St.-Exupery (#649):

In a house which becomes a home, one hands down and another takes up the heritage of mind and heart, laughter and tears, musings and deeds.

Love, like a carefully loaded ship, crosses the gulf between the generations.

Therefore we do not neglect the ceremonies of our passage: when we wed, when we die, and when we are blessed with a child.

When we depart and when we return, when we plant, and when we harvest.

Let us bring up our children. It is not the place of some official to hand to them their heritage.

If others impart to our children our knowledge and ideals, they will lose all of us that is wordless and full of wonder.

Let us build memories in our children, lest they drag out joyless lives, lest they allow treasures to be lost because they have not been given the keys.

We live, not by things, but by the meanings of things. It is needful to transmit the passwords from generation to generation.

Our teaching teams this year include a diverse group of friends and members of this church from all different ages, backgrounds, and life experiences. They will impart wisdom but will gain wisdom in working with our children and youth. I am so grateful they will be a part of RE

as we gently guide our young people forward in following our principles. Thank you to everyone who has so graciously volunteered to be involved in RE this year!

Summer Sundays

We've had a great series of summer programs this year, with many new volunteers stepping forward to offer their talents! Many thanks to the following individuals who have presented programs or helped out in the preschool: Tim Perry, Dawn Wilson, Jeff Hutchins, Beata Ball, Evelyn Carter, Linda Metzner, Bette Bates, Ann Sillman, Milt Warden, Carolyn Shorkey, George Scott, Sam Scott, Heidi Blozan, Will Blozan, Angie Underwood, Aaron Eliot-Gaines, Krista Brown, David Brown, Susan Shaw, Scott Shaw, and Pepi Acebo. I apologize if I've left anyone out!

Registration

If you haven't already, please fill out and return to me, absolutely no later than September 5, your registration forms for next year. Even if nothing has changed, we need to keep these updated every year. It also helps us plan for teacher scheduling and extra events. If you didn't receive the forms via e-mail, let me know and I'll get one to you.

Religious Education Teaching Teams

Classroom teaching teams for the coming school year include the following:

Preschool: Pepi Acebo, Milt Warden, Carolyn Shorkey, Krista Brown, Ann Sillman, Tina Rosato

K-4: Evelyn Carter, Beata Ball, Lisa Brooks, Jane Carroll

5-8: Susan Shaw, Tim Perry, Jeff Hutchins, George Scott

9-12: Judy Curtis, Scott Conklin, Sabrina Mills

Important Dates to Remember

September 5 Water Communion (intergenerational service, Grades K and up)

September 12 Ingathering and beginning of RE classes—IG beginning and welcome social

September 19 Classroom curriculums begin

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

230-3773

Greeters!

Have you ever been a newcomer someplace and come away with "No one even noticed me" ? We don't want that to happen to anyone who visits our congregation for the first time. Our greeters are a very important first impression, so please sign up to be a greeter-- if everyone would do just one Sunday every month or so, we'd have more than plenty! And hugs are one of the benefits. Research shows that the minimum daily requirement for hugs is 11.

The sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

Building/Aesthetics Committee

The church is taking on a new look. The Building/Aesthetics Committee has been hard at work. On the south wall of the foyer you will see one side of the banner UUCSV member Shari Spires made for us to carry in the grand parade of banners from hundreds of Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations at the opening of General Assembly every year. The other side of the banner hangs in the sanctuary. Also on the south wall is a bulletin board hung for the intent of posting information only about new members or upcoming UUCSV special events. You will notice that light reflects beautifully from the newly painted ceiling. The office/nursery/library has new carpet, replacing the green shag that was installed in the early 70s. A new nametag holder was installed. In addition to the work in the foyer, we installed a new efficient toilet in the unisex bathroom. There are more changes to come. We hope you like the new look. Committee members who worked on these projects are Jane Carroll, Bill Altork, Evelyn Carter, Angie Underwood, and Emory Underwood. We always can use new members. Would you like to join us? Just let one of us know you are interested.

—Jane Carroll, Chair

Membership Committee

The new chair of the Membership Committee is Tina Rosato—congratulations and thanks for volunteering, Tina. Beginning on September 26, the Membership Committee will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month. Meetings are at 10 a.m.

Drumming

If you haven't been to a Friday night drum circle in downtown Asheville, now's your chance! Meet at 5:30 at UUCSV on Friday, September 17th to carpool over to Pritchard Park. Please sign up on the sheet on the events bulletin board or let Sally Beth know you will be coming.

Friday Fling

September's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 17 September 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 "Bagdad Café" (1987, CCH Pounder, Marianne Sagebrecht, Jack Palance, "hilarious and touching") will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Choir News

With a theme for the September 19th service based on our attitudes toward our worklife, the UUCSV Choir is going to sing an old Union song, "Eight Hours," demanding that the work day be cut from twelve to eight hours a day! We will also sing John Lennon's "Imagine", a new score for four-part choir. We will meet on Sunday September 12th at 12:15 after the service, then on Thursday evening the 16th at SEVEN PM (no longer meeting early for the Park Rhythms concerts) and then again on the 19th at 10 AM before the performance. We would love to have you, especially basses!
—Linda Metzner, Choir Director
(annelinde@hotmail.com)

Room in the Inn

A number of churches in the area take part in the Room in the Inn program throughout the year. This provides homeless women with meals, lodging, and transportation to and from AHOPE. The next event will be on Friday, October 29 at the Black Mountain Presbyterian annex. UUCSV will be providing all the food and volunteers for the day. So, please consider signing up to drive the van, bring food, or serve as an overnight volunteer. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer, or contact me at flora258@isp.com, 686 3112. Thanks to everyone for all their help with this worthy project.

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

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.

Chalice Lighter Program

The Board recently decided to take part in the Chalice Lighter Program of the TJ District. About 5% of our members are already Chalice Lighters. Our church received a substantial grant from this fund raising program in 2006.

What is a Chalice Lighter? A Chalice Lighter is a person, a couple, or even a group of people who pledges to respond with a contribution when the call comes that it's time to light a chalice within the Thomas Jefferson District. Calls support specific growth initiatives in individual TJ District congregations.

The next step in this process is to find a Chalice Lighter Coordinator. For more details follow the following link: www.tjdistrict.org and search for "Chalice Lighter." Speak to Scott Shaw if you feel called to serve in this capacity. —*Geoffrey Stone, Board Member*

Birthdays in September

September 3rd Norm Kowal
September 4th Dan Stupka
September 7th Lauris Liljestrand
September 14th Carolyn Shorkey
September 14th Milt Warden
September 18th Tim Perry
September 22nd Walter Hoffman
September 24th Cora Blozan
September 25th Olivia Mills
September 25th David Gilmore
September 30th Rebecca Williams

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



The UUCSV Choir, led by Linda Metzner with accompaniment by Sue Stone, had as guest violinist Emily Eliot-Gaines for a Hungarian language piece in honor of our sister church in Medeszar, Romania



Life Without weekend a big success! The Social Action Committee thanks everyone who helped make the August 22 visit of Rev. Melissa Mummert and her impressive film makers, their mothers, and families a rewarding one for all. Their documentary Life Without: Voices of Children with Incarcerated Parents was well-received both at our Sunday service and at a packed house at the UU in Asheville the night before. Special thanks to potluck organizers Robbie Madden, Carolyn Shorkey, and Milt Warden and to all who brought goodies for the Super Summer Sunday Sandwich Bar Potluck.

Worship Workshop Scheduled for Sept 25

Last year, UUCSV created a Worship Associates program, following the experience of many UU churches who have trained teams of lay worship leaders to assist their minister in worship production as well create and coordinate services when s/he is not present. To serve in this capacity, you don't have to be a master of public speaking, and you don't have to lead extemporaneous prayers. However, you do need to attend the workshop, be committed to contributing your own experiences and committed to creating engaging UU worship. To serve as an Associate, you also need to have been a member of a Unitarian Universalist Congregation for at least a year, and be a member here at UUCSV. Each Associate is generally involved in 1-2 services a month, although depending on how many people we have, this could change.

The training will cover: UU worship resources and traditions, using sound and video, topics for worship, choosing hymns, etc. For more information or to sign up, contact Intern Minister Sally Beth Shore at minister@uusv.org. *The time for the workshop will be scheduled according to the needs of the participants.*



From the Editor—The Last Word

Below are the newsletter guidelines, recently approved by the Board:

UUCSV Newsletter Guidelines (approved 7/19/10)

The purpose of the UUCSV newsletter is for the purpose of disseminating information about activities and directions to the congregation and friends, and for the leadership of the church and its committees to let others know what is happening.

Articles and information for the UUCSV newsletter should be submitted (to the Editor) in RTF or Word Format by the deadline as posted by the Editor. Articles submitted after the deadline are not guaranteed print. Photos should be submitted in JPEG format.

The newsletter will be published before the 1st of each month, and printed copies to those who need them will be mailed so as to arrive by the 2nd of each month. The Church administrator will attach the newsletter in an email or send the link to its posting on the website.

Desired content includes:

- Minister's (350 wd) , Board President's (350 wd) , RE Column (1 page including photos)
- Worship programming (200 wd per Sunday)
- Information from Committees- reports of past activities or upcoming events (250 wd)
- Calendar
- Announcements of UUCSV sponsored or cosponsored events (150 wd)
- Individual Milestone news: Births, deaths, moving, illnesses (150 wd)
- Requests for volunteers for UUCSV activities or needs (150 wd)
- Photos from church-related events

Content not for the newsletter:

- Announcements for non-UUCSV related events
- Advertising
- Personal stories, artwork, poems, or photos

The online and printed versions of the newsletter should be in at least 11-point font. Its length should not exceed 8 pages. The Editor will have final say so over content and appearance.