

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

June 2014

Volume XIII, Issue 6

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Minister

Memorial Day marked the “official” beginning of summer. Seersucker suits and white pants. Lazy days (if we’re lucky) of cook outs, travel, and other outdoor activities. And guess what? We’re almost halfway through the year 2014. To be sure, I certainly do enjoy all of the above, and even more so because time seems to have somehow speeded up. At least that’s the way it seems to me, making all of these summer days precious and memorable. I was even pleasantly surprised at our church attendance during our Memorial Day Service this year! Many people take this time to get away or even to take a break from their Sunday morning routine.

The other good news is that we did survive the bitter cold of this past winter and that seasons do change. Whatever you plan for the summer, enjoy each and every moment of it. Just remember that happiness happens only in the present moment. If you are happy now, there is nothing else left to accomplish. Indeed, if you are concerned as to whether or not you will be happy five minutes from now or even five years from now, you will forget to be happy in the present moment.

If you can make it to services, than by all means do. If not, all is forgiven. We know we will see you at some point. This is the time for rest and rejuvenation. Hopefully, at least one of those we can provide on Sunday morning for you. On June 8th we will have our “Animal Blessing Service,” in Tomahawk Park. This is a chance to introduce our congregation to the community at large so do come if you are so inclined and are in town. If you can make it, our New Member Sunday is June 22nd and we will be presented with our Chalice Lighter’s Check on that Sunday as well. Linda Bair will be here to present the check to our congregation.

Ours is a living church a living tradition. Each person is free to determine his or her own spiritual path. Freedom is granted and this freedom is given in return to others. We are not here to attempt to fix or to convert each other. Unconditional acceptance and support for the journey is key.

I also want to thank those who have responded to the, “All Hands On Deck,” email sent out by Jill Tagudin. As we have stated we need your time, talent, and treasure. Some have answered the bell and some may be still thinking about what they can offer. Jump in! If you can assist in any way by serving on a committee, being a greeter, cutting the grass, etc. WE NEED YOU! Thank you for your time and support. Thank you for sharing your unique gifts with this congregation and community.

Michael



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

Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 24 June, 10
a.m., covering July 2014

The Words of Max Coots

In March the Spring was little more than Winter's sigh of resignation, that no one heard. We never really knew just when it was it came beyond Winter-Doubt, until the Spring was April-Old.

But when it came, what April Fool, leaning on her rake, would have said she'd get enough of Spring or that he'd let it go to weeds?

Yet, somehow, May was overgrown with June. Somehow, Spring died into Summertime, and we forgot.

“Seasons Of The Self”

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 1 June 2014, 11 a.m.

Into the Woods

Pana Columbus

How do we embrace change with a spirit of adventure? How do our most painful experiences set us on course toward our sweetest joys? Guest speaker Pana Columbus will look at archetypal characters in fairy tales like the Trickster, the Old Woman, the Impossible Task and the Hero to show us the profound support that is waiting for us whenever we take the leap into the unknown.

Pana Columbus is an award-winning playwright as well as a private transformation coach. She has been a speaker at a TEDx conference at Acadia University, at churches, women's retreats, fundraisers and board retreats. Pana is currently a monthly guest speaker at the Unity Church of Asheville.



Sunday, 8 June 2014. 11 a.m.

Blessing of the Animals Service at Lake Tomahawk

Our Sunday service on June 8th will not be held at our church. The 11:00 Inter-generational Sunday service will be held at the pavilion at Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain. Rev. Carter will conduct a, Blessing of the Animals Service. We will be acknowledging the important role pets play in many of our lives. He will individually bless your pet.

A Sunday Service in the park is a nice way to introduce the community to our congregation. Please attend and welcome members of the community who show up for the service with their pet.

We urge you to follow these guidelines for participating in this unique service:

1. If you will be uncomfortable sitting without back support at a picnic table, please bring your own lawn chair.
2. We will not provide coffee hour after the service. We will, however, provide cold beverages in cups.
3. Bring your pet! Live pets are welcome, or a photo of your pet, or your favorite stuffed animal.
4. If you bring a dog, it must be on a leash or in its kennel. The dog must be under the supervision of an adult at all times. Think about how your dog behaves around other dogs (for instance, at the dog park). If your dog is likely to be relaxed in the presence of other dogs, your dog is a good candidate for attending the pet blessing service.
5. Every being's safety is our primary concern. As with children and animals we are prepared for the occasional disruption. That is not a problem, so long as we are safe in community, we will all be able to enjoy this special Sunday service.

FMI Contact: Carolyn Shorkey 299-9456 or
c14shorkey@gmail.com

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 15 June 2014, 11 a.m.

“Never rake uphill or against the wind.”

Dr. Jim Carillon

Early on my father taught me important life lessons that I remember distinctly to this day. I would say I owe much of my professional and personal success to him. Sometimes the lessons were sports aphorisms or simple landscaping tips that I have discovered in the years since that they often provide more than one meaning. On this Father’s Day Sunday, let’s share together some key life lessons that our fathers uniquely provided us and ask ourselves as fathers what key lessons we hope to pass on to our children.

Dr. Jim Carillon is a founding member of our church, chair of our Congregational Care Committee, RE helper and helps cut the church lawn. He has served as UUCSV treasurer, pledge chair, board member and president. Jim had a varied and successful professional career and has failed retirement at least twice so far. He and his wife Aline have two adult children with whom he still hopes to have modest influence occasionally.

Sunday, 22 June 2014, 11 a.m. New Member Sunday

The Living Church

Rev. Michael Carter

Sunday June 22 is our New Member Sunday. It is an exciting time in our church history as we are closing in on having 100 members. As of now that number stands at 97 new members total. We will also welcome Linda Bair, who will be presenting our Chalice Lighter’s check of \$27,000 to our congregation. It will be an uplifting and inspiring service. Be there!



Sunday, 29 June 2014, 11 a.m.

A Book of Revelation

Rev. Michael Carter

For some, the Bible is the literal word of God. For others it is the cause of much pain and conflict. Is there a middle ground? For many the Bible is The Book of Revelation. For some, it is one of many sources of revelation and inspiration. In other words, it is A Book of Revelation. Join us as we explore our UU denomination’s unique relationship with the most popular book in Western Culture---The Bible.



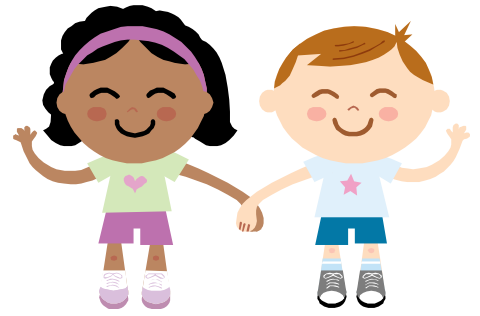
Sunday, 6 July 2014, 11 a.m.

SanKofa

Rev. Michael Carter

SanKofa means revisiting the past so that we one can move forward. This Sunday marks the 10 year anniversary of the purchase of our building. We will have several of our “elders,” or “founding members,” speak on what it was like to finally purchase the building we now gather in and the lessons learned from that time. In this way, we will acknowledge the gifts and dedication that these members contributed to what and who we are as a growing and vibrant congregation, and to take those lessons learned and gifts given to continue to build a bright tomorrow for each other, our congregation, and our community. See you at church!

Religious Education Corner



Welcome to Summer! As of June 1st we are officially on the summer RE schedule and what a great couple months it has been. In every way imaginable, it has been successful. To recap the end of the RE 2013-14 season:

Religious Education resumed in April and May with combined K-12 classes. For the last part of the unit on Shinto, Evelyn Carter finished up and May brought two Sundays about Hinduism, which was led by Monroe Gilmour and Fern Martin.

Evelyn educated youth about Shinto, "the way of the gods", which is the indigenous faith of the Japanese people and as old as Japan itself. It remains Japan's major religion alongside Buddhism. Youth learned that unlike other religions, Shinto does not have a founder and that this faith is deeply rooted in the people and traditions of Japan. The sacred spirits, which take the form of things and concepts important to life, such as wind, rain, mountains, trees, rivers and fertility are, in part, what make this religion particularly special.

With strong attendance, we revisited Calligraphy from China and the visual art related to writing. Evelyn Carter also led that lesson and children wrote their names and specific words like "hope", "faith" and terms of meaning. Evelyn's expertise in the Eastern religious was a beacon for us this year and we are deeply grateful for her wisdom and guidance.

The first Sunday of May teachers at all levels (K-12) led a Food Celebration from around the world (or much of it). Lisa Brooks, Heidi Blozan, Evelyn Carter, Sarah Kirkpatrick, myself and Linda Tatsapaugh participated by bringing in foods from the religions we have studied. Since there was no high school youth present, attendance from the elementary and middle school age youth benefit from the foods we shared. Together we tasted food from Islam, a date ball recipe that was easy and made on site; Buddhism, a rice curry dish prepared by Linda; seaweed from Evelyn; sushi and kimchi, the latter prepared by Heidi and Will Blozan; plus other items like tea, lemonade by Sarah Kirkpatrick, pita bread and hummus. All in all there were many delicious nibbles that some youth were surprised tasted good!

May also saw a stellar unit that came from our own Monroe Gilmour and Fern Martin. They, too, have particular expertise with Hinduism and brought dozens and dozens of objects, photographs, statues, sculptures, memorabilia and other items to showcase the unit on Hinduism.



Religious Education Corner

They shared with youth the basic information of the history of Hinduism, that is often regarded as the oldest religion in the world and currently the third largest of the world. Those who believe in Hinduism believe our beliefs determine our thoughts and attitudes about life, which in turn direct our actions. By our actions, we create our destiny.

As an offering to the God Shiva, Fern helped children make a flower headpiece and place the offering at the feet of the statue of Shiva. This was an amazing unit that highlighted the vastness of Hinduism for millions of people in India, Nepal and parts of Sri Lanka. This was an exceptional unit that we would like to bring back for next year. Thank you Fern and Monroe for sharing your knowledge from when you lived overseas and all the artifacts that you brought with you. We are blessed to have you as a resource for the RE program.

Related to Monroe and Fern, on May 18 at our End of the Year Service we had our bridging ceremony for their daughter Sarah Gilmour who has grown up in the UUCSV and now is heading off to college on a full scholarship. Congrats to Sarah for all she's accomplished and all she will do in the next few years. Sybil Argintar presented Sarah with her chalice necklace and that end of year service resulted in teacher appreciations for all teachers, staff, and volunteers who have so thoughtfully supported the RE program over the last year. Thank you all!!

SUMMER PLANS

Now that we are almost into June, we are scheduling a great lineup of activities: Crocheting, knitting, art projects in abundance from painting to working with clay, some tapestry/cloth projects, et cetera.

In June we have our Intergenerational Service with the Blessing of the Animals, which takes place on June 8th at Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain. Well-behaved animals, animals like cats or dogs in crates, and photographs of your beloved pets or furry creatures, are welcome to attend and be blessed by Rev. Michael Carter. Rather than hot coffee, cold refreshments will be served. Youth of all ages can participate in this service.

In July we have two events, one of which will take place during our 11 am time slot and will be a field trip to the Brother Wolf Animal Rescue of Asheville. We will cuddle some felines, make treats for dogs, perhaps brush them and take them for a walk outside. This visit to BWAR will follow with lunch out – to be determined. I will be available and we will need another driver or two depending on the number of children and adults in attendance.

Another July event is in the evening as youth and adults attend an Asheville Tourist Game. This was a huge hit last year and we hope to have a good turn-out for this game as well. Friday night works for some people and there are fireworks on Fridays, but there are also Saturday and Sunday games which are kid-friendly as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for this event, but if you have a preference please let me know via email: faheyp8@yahoo.com. I'll tally up the numbers and pick one date and purchase tickets in advance.

Religious Education Corner

COMING OF AGE

On June 1st after the service youth and adults who are interested in learning about the forming of the Coming of Age Group can join us at 12:30 pm for a PIZZA PARTY. Scott Conklin has agreed to be there and will share about his experience as a valuable mentor for the program. Other adults, we need you! Middle School Youth and High school youth we need you and we encourage you to bring a friend who is interested in this year-long personal study of growth and reflection. We need a minimum of six (6) youth to make this group work for the fall.

TEACHERS

Past and present teachers we need you to support the RE program this summer and in the fall. We will be losing some teachers and will need to gain a few more besides the newest additions of Sarah Kirkpatrick and Theresa Ballinger. We also need a chair person for the RE committee for next year since Sue Phillips will be stepping down, and we'll need a secretary to take minutes and a time keeper to keep us meetings running smoothly. We can figure this out at the next RE Committee meeting which will take place June 8th at 1230 at Lake Tomahawk.

On one last final note, a bit of gratitude to this congregation, to be among this engaging, active and receptive community during the last six months as I was learning my role here and particularly over last two months when I was handling my moms's diagnosis and short-lived passing from cancer. So many of you have stepped up, filled in and made the RE program continue to operate smoothly. Thank you, thank you, thank you, teachers and others who were there on Sundays when I wasn't and to those who were able in any way to support the program or to personally reach out to me to send me notes, email or messages of encouragement.

I hope to continue to work for the RE program and do it with grace as I learn from all of you. May this continue forth for next year. Thank you for your encouragement, support, guidance, and grit that you provided for and to the RE program. So for now, that's about it from the RE Corner. Many blessings for the start of a safe summer.

UUCSV renovations can begin as early as July 1st and may last 6-8 weeks. These renovations will affect the RE space. We will be using the large RE room for all classes and can use some of the other 2 rooms if there is a need. buy. We ask everyone to be patient during this process.

Teacher Recruitment for summer: We still need more RE volunteers to teach or help this for summer. You are needed to share in the duties of helping with projects, art, music, poetry, field trips.

Teacher Mentors needed for the Coming of Age Group for next year. Middle and High school will need mentors to commit to a year long journey of spiritual and personal growth that culminates in spiritual statements and a trip to Boston. Contact Patricia Fahey at: faheyp8@Yahoo.com

Shalom,

Patricia Fahey, Director of Religious Education

New Member Ceremony

As our UU church is consistently getting new members, we will celebrate this with a NEW MEMBER CEREMONY on June 22.

All new members, who have not attended such a ceremony, are cordially invited—yea rather urged—to attend this moving experience. This ceremony will be an important part of the church service on June 22. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

—Your membership committee.

Money Talk

As we head into summer and close out our fiscal year, I want to thank all of the 69 folks who made a pledge to support the financial health of our congregation over the next 12 months as well as the terrific team who conducted the canvass this spring. Collectively we have gathered \$76,000 in pledges for 2014-15.

We also thank those who attended the annual membership meeting on May 18th and voted in support of our operating budget for next year. Good stewardship in a healthy congregation requires engagement on many levels. We will sustain our beloved UU community if we all contribute our time, talent and treasure however we can. Keeping true to our promises also involves fulfilling the pledge we made for this year. If you are able, please complete your pledge by June 30th. The final thanks goes out to all of the volunteers working on our various committees and the Board for “stretching each dollar spent” on behalf of the congregation. This disciplined approach to spending within our means will enable us to remain on a solid financial foundation over the coming years.

With deep gratitude,

—Lee Reading, Treasurer

Birthdays

- June 24th David Reid
- June 25th Jane Carroll
- June 26th Heidi Blozan
- June 29th George Scott



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

Video Series about Corporate Rule

Sponsored by Move to Amend, Buncombe County, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Swannanoa Valley Social Action

Where: Unitarian Universalist Congregation

When: Thursday, June 5th “The United States of ALEC”

Thursday, July 3rd “Legalize Democracy”

Thursday, Aug 7th “The Story of Citizens United v FEC”

Doors Open at 6:30 PM, Event at 7:00, Q&A Session at 8:00

Learn about the nationwide campaign to amend the Constitution to return corporations to their earlier state when they were not given the rights of citizens, when money wasn’t speech and Congress could regulate money in politics.

For more information call: Geoffrey at (828) 669-0619 or Susan at (828) 669-1785

Friday Fling

June’s Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 20 June 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 *Nebraska* (2013; Bruce Dern) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (458-4537).

Summer Apartment Needed

Barb Pleasants wishes to rent a small apartment or house for a month duration this summer, or willing to house-sit. Call 828-430-8491.

Choir News

June is bustin' out all over! In the month of June, our choir will meet on the 15th at 12:15 after the service, then on the evening of the 18th (a Wednesday, change of date) and then on the day of performance, June 22nd at 10 AM. Come and sing with us!



—Linda Metzner, Choir Director

Monday Night Yoga

Monday night yoga in the sanctuary is being discontinued as of June.

From Willow: I want to thank the UU Congregation for the willingness to allow me to teach yoga at the church. Donations totaled \$150 for the UU Congregation over the course of 5 months. I would be glad to offer yoga at the church again in the future if there is genuine interest and commitment from more members. Namaste.

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

June 25-29, Providence, RI. See the poster in the foyer.

From the Editor—The Last Word

I want to encourage more of you folks to attend our monthly Friday Fling. The pot luck food has been outstanding, and we have some good movies planned for the next few months, including *Nebraska*, *The World's End*, *Blue Jasmine*, and *Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky*. The company, of course, has been nonpareil.

