

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

October 2014

Volume XIII, Issue 10

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Minister

There are times when only the eloquence of poetry can capture the feelings that we may find difficult to articulate. For this month, I've decided to let the words of some of the most talented writers of our time speak of the glorious month of October. My prayer is that you enjoy this month, and these 3 poems, and the brief meditation that follows, as much as I do.



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The Love of October by W.S. Merwin

A child looking at ruins grows younger by cold
and wants to wake to a new name. I have been younger in October than in all the
months of spring
walnut and may leaves the color of shoulders at the end of summer, a month that
has been to the mountain and become light there, the long grass lies pointing up-
hill, even in death for a reason none of us knows.
And when the wren laughs in the early shade now, come again shining glance in
your good time
naked air late morning, my love is lightness of touch foot feather, the day is yet
one more yellow leaf, and without turning I kiss the light by an old well on the
last of the month, gathering wild rose hips in the sun.

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

Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Deadline: Friday 24 October, 10
a.m., covering November 2014

October by Robert Frost

Thy leaves have ripened to the fall; tomorrow's wind, if it be wild should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call; Tomorrow they may form and go,

O hushed October morning wild.

Begin the hours of this day slow, make the day seem less brief, hearts not averse to being beguiled, beguile us in the way you know.

Release one leaf at break of day, at noon release another leaf.

One from our trees, one far way,

Retard the sun with gentile mist, Enchant the land with amethyst,

Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all

Whose leaves already are burnt with frost

Whose clustered fruit must else be lost--

For the grapes' sake along the wall.

To Autumn, by William Blake

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stain'd
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.

“The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

“The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.”
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.

Whatever we have known and loved is ours while life shall last. Help us to see, O God, that what we love becomes a part of us, interfused with our lives, blended with mind and memory, joined to our souls. Strengthen us in resolve that the good we knew in those who have passed from us shall live on in ourselves and be passed from one generation to another, immortal both with God and humanity.

From “The Language of The Heart” by the late Unitarian Minister, A. Powell Davies

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 5 October 2014, 11 a.m.

**Your Birthright: The Healing
Power of Creativity**

**Guest Speakers: Liza DiSavino and
A.J. Bodnar**

Join talented and versatile musicians Liza and A.J. in exploring the mighty power of the arts in healing our broken places on our individual spiritual journeys.

Liza and A.J. have performed in concerts and at festivals across the United States for nineteen years. Winners of a grant from the Puffin Foundation and two fellowships from the Hutchins Library Sound Archives at Berea College in Kentucky, their performance credits include the prestigious Old Songs Festival in New York and twelve years as faculty for the folk arts school Common Ground on the Hill in Maryland. Their music draws upon the well of traditional folk, New Orleans jazz, and their own original compositions. Bodnar is a self-taught pianist, singer, and songwriter; DiSavino is a conservatory graduate who plays a dozen instruments, and sings and writes as well.

Sunday, 12 October 2014, 11 a.m.

It's All Love Comin' At You

Pana Columbus

How do we stay grounded in love when frightening things happen in our lives or in the world? Pana Columbus explores through stories how to transform our fear when addressing challenges in our personal lives, and when facing tragedies that occur around the planet.

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, 19 October 2014, 11 a.m.

A Time of Remembrance

Rev. Michael Carter

The Jewish Holiday of Yom Kippur occurred earlier in the month of October, October 3rd and 4th to be exact. Yom Kippur is a holiday which places great

focus and intentionality on the practices of atonement and repentance.

Naturally, for some, these words bring back painful memories of traditional Jewish or Christian teachings which may not make sense to a lot of us. I believe that although we may not use these words exactly, UUs are in need of both. We are imperfect beings living

in an imperfect world. At times the cacophony of noises, voices, and distractions can knock us off center causing us to forget who and what we really are. In a world where the times seem out of joint, and men and women have lost their reason, perhaps a time of quiet reflection on what it really means to be human (especially at this time of year as we face the upcoming seasons ahead) would be time well spent. Because I was not scheduled to speak the week of this holiday, it seems to me that anytime is an appropriate time to take the time to reflect and to remember. See you at church!



Sunday Programming

Sunday, 26 October 2014, 11 a.m.

Inter-generational Service: “I Promise You...”

James L. Adams says that, “Human beings, individually and collectively, become human by making commitments, by making promises.” A church covenant is a statement of agreement about how congregants choose to be in healthy relationship with each other. What is it we at UUCSV want from each other? What is it we want from our minister? And what are we personally willing to promise about our own behaviors to create and sustain a healthy faith community?

Join us for a discussion about the role of commitment and covenant in our relationships in the world and here at UUCSV with members Rebecca Williams, Jim Carillon, and our minister, Reverend Michael Carter. Please note: the youth will join us at the beginning of the service in the sanctuary before joining their religious education classes.



Sunday, 2 November 2014, 11 a.m.

What Do You Do in There?

Rev. Chris Andrews

Our guest minister will reflect on what goes on when a church gathers for worship. He says, "This comes from a question I was asked once by a man who saw me standing in front of a church as services ended. The building was not very traditional and was not obviously a church. The man asked, 'Hey, what do y'all do in there?' It got me to thinking, and I believe there is a sermon in responding to the question. Like: we get people to think; we care for one another; we raise questions without easy answers; we sing; we laugh; we cry; we hope; we help. ..."

The Rev. Chris Andrews is a lifelong resident of Louisiana except for stints in graduate school in Missouri and a work assignment in England. Formerly a minister in the United Methodist Church for 42 years, he now leads Jubilee Pioneers, an eclectic group of folks in Baton Rouge seeking ways to practice “good religion.” He is not a Christian, but instead calls himself a “follower of Jesus.” He and his wife love North Carolina and have a cabin just off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Religious Education Corner



RE Curriculum for October

Preschool

Chalice Children (ages 0 - 4 years old) began September 28

Grades K-2

Denton the Dragon

We'll continue to read about Denton, Rachel and their adventures in Bubbleland and to review morals about how to share, respect everyone, and to live in community with others.

Grades 3-5

Spirit of Adventure

Unit: Medicine

The unit on medicine explores historical figures like Elizabeth Blackwell and Albert Schweitzer and takes kids on a journey of first aid and other important discoveries in medicine.

Grades 6 – 12:

See Coming of Age update (below). To those youth who are not involved in the COA group, when you come to UUCSV on Sundays you can help out with the younger groups. Also, we are planning service projects for this fall.

Religious Education Corner



Coming of Age

***Youth will not be meeting this Sunday 9/28. Instead, we have pushed back the first youth/facilitator date to early November (11/9).** This extra time will allow us to review the COA handbook, which has been ordered but hasn't arrived, and to adequately prepare for the upcoming weeks. As soon as the handbook arrives all Facilitators and Alternates will be contacted so we can schedule a curriculum planning meeting.

***We still need more adults to serve as Facilitators and Mentors** for middle (Gr 6-8) and High School (Gr 9-12). Please state your preference (if you have one). We are calling those of you who have said you want to be involved and will also email information to those of you to explain more about the roles of Mentor or Facilitator.

One of our volunteer teacher, a parent, Jesse F, working on Origami with some of our youth. September 2014.



Halloween!

Mark your calendars now! Saturday October 25, 2014, 5pm-8pm at UUCSV.

Games, trunk or treat, and other fun activities are on tap at UUCSV for all ages as we celebrate Halloween. Meet our RE families, learn more about our RE department, and you can even support our Coming of Age group at their snack sale.

Wear your favorite costume (even if it's just jeans & a t-shirt) and join us for fun and fellowship!

We're in need of around 2 dozen volunteers throughout the evening to help with running activities and/or participating in the trunk or treat. Please contact Beata Ball (828-337-3866) to let her know how you want to help out!!



Congregational Care Committee

Dear members and friends, thank you so much, all of you, who are on our church list of Congregational Care participants. I now have a full list of everyone and can with one mailing ask all when we have a need or a call for help. Thanks to several of you for responding to the last call. And for the rest of our church community, please add your name to this list. I have asked before and will ask again. Call me, Ann Sillman, at 8283575206 and leave your name, cell phone number, and e-mail, and you will be added to the Congregational Care giver list. Our church works best when everyone participates as they can, both in giving and in asking for help when needed.



With Love.

Choir News

In October, the UUCSV Choir will meet on Sunday the 19th at 12:15. Our midweek rehearsal will be on Wednesday at 7 PM, a change to accommodate some of our singers who sing in two choirs! Then we will meet at 10 AM the day of performance, October 26th. Come and sing with a bunch of friendly people!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director



Programs at The Mountain for October

Southern UU Fall Institute: October 6-10 SUUFI welcomes you for its 3rd year, featuring Rev. Amy Carol Webb of Miami bringing her Music, Wisdom and Ministry to "The LIFE in Your Years!!"

Do you hear The Mountain calling you...? You are invited! Please register for this wonderful week of warm fellowship, cool weather, stimulating presentations and wholesome re-connection with nature and yourself. Go to mountaincenters.org to register and find out more.

Thanksgiving: November 26-30 Start a new Thanksgiving tradition at The Mountain. Take part in a relaxed environment with evening programs, programming for children, and Sunday morning worship service. Thanksgiving dinner will be delicious. The best part: you don't have to cook or clean! Go to mountaincenters.org to register and find out more.

Friday Fling

October's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups, usually every third Friday of the month, will be held on 31 October (the fifth Friday, because of WI travel) 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 *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* (2013; Idris Elba, Naomi Harris) will be shown. Next month we are planning *Blue Jasmine*. For further information call Norm Kowal (458-4537).



Money Talk

I am continually inspired by the many volunteers who contribute so much of their time and talents to doing the work of our congregation. To highlight just a few examples; we all enjoy the output from our remarkable Hospitality Team, our Sunday Service Associates recruit and host outside speakers when our Minister is not in the pulpit, and our RE Program would not be able to serve such a wide range of infants, children and teens were it not for our volunteer teaching corps. Our heroes!

Of course, our Membership Committee provides friendly greeters each Sunday morning in the foyer and they follow up with our visitors who indicate an interest in becoming a member of the congregation. Then there is the work of our Board of Trustees. As our governing body, the Board provides supervision and mentoring for all of our paid staff, establishes and monitors policies, conducts congregational meetings and responds to any ideas, suggestions, concerns or conflicts that may arise from time to time. All of this work gets done somehow, usually with a smile and going the extra mile to ensure a job is well done. I appreciate each and every one of you!

One area that needs an infusion of new volunteer energy is Finance. As your Treasurer, I hope to organize and activate a Finance Committee this fall. What kind of talent and experience are we looking for? I need help with money counting each Sunday, organizing and conducting the annual pledge drive, as well as developing and monitoring the operating budget. Other work for our committee will involve organizing and/or monitoring the financial aspect of special projects as they arise, such as Coming of Age, building projects such as our current Trading Spaces, or the proposed Memorial Garden.

Please give me a call at 664-0082 or send an email to lreading0082@charter.net if you would like to get involved.

—Lee Reading, Treasurer

Birthdays

October 11th Geoff Stone
October 12th Dawn Wilson
October 15th Diane Graham



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

Concert on 4 October—Liza and A.J.

Liza and A.J., versatile musical duo from Berea, Kentucky, will play their unique mix of folk and New Orleans jazz with progressive social themes, in concert here. (Liza brought a student group from Berea College previously.) 7:30 pm, Saturday, Oct. 4. Admission \$12.



From the Editor—The Last Word

Life is good!