

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

February 2011

Volume X, Issue 2

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



500 Montreat Rd
Black Mountain, NC 28711
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From the Board

Our Stewardship Campaign for the fiscal year July 2011-June 2012 will begin later this month. Our goal will be set by the desire our congregation has to have a part time minister.

We need to raise \$3400 to finish closing the budget gap for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2011. The board will be putting out a challenge that will easily and quickly eliminate this deficit. However, we have a back up plan that the FUNd Raising Committee is working on as well.

Last month it was announced that UUCSV received a bequest from Tom Rodman. The board would like to use this money for something special to honor our deceased member. We are waiting a little longer before designating this gift.

We will continue to have an advertisement in the Black Mountain News about our congregation. Mary Soyenova will be redesigning it.

Our Minister Emeritus, Richard Stennett, suggested that it is time for us to remove his name from the Order of Service. We have been honored to have him as our Minister Emeritus and appreciate all he means to us.

A special note of thanks:

We are an organization of largely volunteers. While I know that the more each of us gives the more we receive, Ursula Goebels Ellis is one of those who must have received a lot. She was on the Program Committee which turned into the Worship Associates for 5 years before she recently decided to take a break. Thank you Ursula for your long and steady commitment to our Sunday morning services!

—Heidi Blozan, Board President

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Heidi Blozan, *President*
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Sybil Argintar, *RE Coordinator* 230-3773
Linda Metzner, *Choir Director*
Tricia West, *Office Staff*
(Office Hours: W 9-3, Th 9-2)

Board Meeting: Monday 21 February, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 22 February,
10 a.m., covering March 2011

Sunday Services

New Associates:

After an extended tenure as Worship Associates, Sally Beth Shore and Ursula Goebels-Ellis have passed on the Sunday service responsibilities to a new and committed team of Worship Associates. The new Associates are: Scott Conklin, Ann Sillman, Su Temimsuk, Deb Vingle, and Rebecca Williams. Sue Stone and Carolyn Shorkey will continue to support the new team, by mentoring and leading an occasional Sunday service. Jim Carillon will continue through June as Rev. Carter's Worship Associate and he will also provide support for some upcoming services. Please contact one of the new Worship Associates with input about our Sunday Services.

Sunday Line Up:

Rev. Michael Carter will provide us with pulpit supply on the second Sunday of each month through June 2011. Four times a year there is a month which has five Sunday's. When a month has five Sunday's we will call this fifth Sunday, Meditation Sunday. We will bring into our church a variety of meditation practitioners to lead a meditation service. Sunday's from now until the end of June are scheduled. Please be thinking about how you would like the Sunday pulpit to be supplied for the remainder of the year from July to December and give this feedback to a Worship Associate.

I'd Be Happy To!:

When a Worship Associate asks for your assistance at a Sunday Service, please respond with, "I'd be happy to!" We will be asking for helpers to do readings, lead songs, play music, present a point of view, tell a personal story, or read an essay. Also, if you have something you feel you would like to contribute to a service topic of particular interest to you, offer your services to the Worship Associate for that Sunday topic of interest. Perhaps you have a personal story, a poem, a song, or an essay on that topic, which you would like to share. Notifying the Worship Associate two weeks in advance of the service is helpful. Look for the advance listing of the service topics in your monthly newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Your Worship Associates Team*

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 6 February 2011, 11 a.m.

To Emulate Jesus

Bill Altork

It has been said that the only problem with Christianity is the Christians. Likewise, the only problem with Jesus Christ is in great part due to what Christianity has so narrowly declared him to be. Take a refreshing look at Jesus without the attached dogma of his past. Bill will apply the UU tradition of... "Utilizing words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." He will share a story of Jesus that was channeled by a dear friend of his. He will also include his own personal and spiritual philosophy regarding the man Jesus.

Bill Altork is a member of UUCSV and has been attending regularly for over two years. He has been a certified minister with the Universal Life Church since 2005. He is also a writer, a poet, and a song writer/composer.

Sunday, 13 February 2011, 11 a.m.

Rev. Michael Carter

How Do I Love Thee?

Love is "the mother of all emotions." Join me in exploring the many ways our culture engages with the emotion we call love. Through the use of poetry, philosophy, biblical scripture, and personal experience, we will explore the human capacity to experience the love of a spouse, a friend, and most importantly, the love of self.



Sunday, 20 February 2011, 11 a.m.

What Inspires You?

Dick Wolgamott, Ann Sillman

This service deals with what it means to be inspired, how it happens, and why it is important. It closes with tips on how we can "Nurture Our Spirits and Help Heal

the World".

Wolgamott has had careers as an engineer, Air Force pilot, United Methodist clergyman, and county administrator. He retired from California and moved to Western NC in 1992. He has taught numerous classes at college lifelong learning centers, Elder Hostels, and churches-- emphasizing connections between psychology, spirituality, and science. He and his wife Barbara are active members of the UU Fellowship of Hendersonville.

Sunday, 27 February 2011, 11 a.m.

Annual Pledge Drive Kick-Off

Jeff Hutchins

Sunday, 6 March 2011, 11 a.m.

Friendship: Intergenerational Lay Led Service

Carolyn Shorkey, Worship Associate

Have you ever arrived at our church on Sunday morning and been graced with a warm and caring smile? For many of us, Sunday morning is a time to care for one another. Today we will witness the stories and music of friendships formed at UUCSV. The Harvard Medical School reports that, "Social connections like these not only give us pleasure, they also positively influence our long term health." Please join us for this intergenerational celebration of friendship.

Religious Education Corner



Your highly dedicated volunteer Religious Education Committee met for over five hours last Saturday morning/early afternoon at the home of Susan and Scott Shaw to take some time to plan more long-range activities, one of which, a summer camp program, is detailed below. Even though we say thanks in a more formal way at our annual RE Sunday service in May, I would like to extend my gratitude now as well. This committee, comprised of George Scott, Susan and Scott Shaw, Evelyn Carter, Krista Brown, and Aaron Eliot-Gaines is so committed to the spirit of our RE program, ensuring that it runs smoothly, and that we include everyone from our littlest babies to our senior high youth. So thank you all so much for your time—our children and youth are in excellent hands!!

Classroom Activities and Attendance

We continue to have two or three of our littlest UUs spending their time in the infant/preschool room every Sunday. The K-4 class generally has five to seven children in attendance each week, including some visitors. This group has been focusing their time learning about Hinduism and will begin a unit on Buddhism over the next few weeks. The Neighboring Faiths 5-8 class has just completed a unit on Hinduism, and is now also beginning an exploration of Buddhism. Many, many thanks to Monroe Gilmour and Fern Martin for the fantastic program they presented to this group, including a display of many items in their own collections related to Hinduism. If you see them, ask how they got all this to the church in a still snow-covered driveway at their house. Dedication in action! Activities of the senior high group, four youth, are noted below. They will hold their next covenant group meeting on Sunday February 13.

Senior High YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Youth Group Activities

After much back and forth discussion, numerous e-mails, and checking of available dates, our senior high youth group finally resched-

uled their gathering from January 8, snowed out, to January 15! Several youth from the Asheville church joined us and we had a great social gathering complete with pizza, cookies, and drinks. Additionally, Jeff Paul from Habitat for Humanity presented a program on the organization and volunteerism. We are in the process of following up on those activities, and tentatively are planning a day to collect and pack up books from Judy Curtis' dad which will be donated to the Habitat store. We hope some of the youth can help in construction or other support activities for the house we are part of building. In addition to our discussion about Habitat, we viewed a movie "Let's Get Real", dealing with bullying issues in schools, followed by a great discussion led by youth advisor Judy Curtis. The ideas and thoughts presented were so right on target and made me realize once again how much our youth contribute. We are sending fantastic young people out into the world!

Summer Camp!!

A main focus of the RE committee planning retreat on Saturday January 22 was development of details for a summer day camp program to be offered for the first time. We will be presenting a detailed outline of this half-day, five-day offering to the Board for approval at their February meeting, and then will take part in the WNC Parent Camp Expo event on March 5 at Biltmore Square Mall. This Expo will not only serve as an opportunity to advertise our camp program, but as a chance to let the public know more about our church community. The theme for the summer camp program, open to rising first through fourth graders, will be Journey for the Earth: Travel Adventures, focusing upon stewardship of the earth (our seventh principle), with a different theme each day including many hands-on activities and discussion time. Tentatively, we will offer this program July 18 - 22, with a limit of twelve children, and will have three adults and senior youth present at all times as camp counselors. The program will be open to church members and friends, as well as the

community at large. We plan to keep costs reasonable, covering all our expenses, but making it affordable to as many children as possible. More details will follow in the March newsletter!

Intergenerational Beginnings

Heidi Blozan has graciously agreed to present the Story for All Ages at the February 6 service. We will continue this tradition of an intergenerational beginning the first Sunday of every month, with a story presented by me or someone from the RE committee or families.

Important Dates to Remember

February 6	Intergenerational Beginning
	Religious Education Committee meeting 9:30 a.m.

— Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

(sybil.argintar@yahoo.com, 230-3773)

Ushers/Greeters

As you all may know we are now a church being led by lay people, members and friends like yourself. This is an awesome but exciting responsibility. It also means that we all depend on each other to carry some of the jobs that go with the smooth functioning of our church. Please find a place where you can help. We need people to be greeters and ushers every Sunday, This is an easy job and we have instructions for you. Please do not wait for us to ask you, but sign up and see where there is a need. The sign up sheet is in the foyer. We will remind you if you sign up weeks or even months in advance. This job is easy, pleasant, and very important, it is the first impression newcomers have of our church. Our church needs you to pitch in where ever you can be of service. Any questions, call Angie Underwood at 669-0869.

Choir for February

We will sing on February 27th as part of the Pledge Kick-off. We will rehearse on the previous Sunday, February 20th, at 12:15 after the service, and then on the following Thursday the 24th at 6:30 PM. On the day of performance, the 27th, we will meet at 10 AM. Come sing with us—we always have fun!

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

Attention Singers and Musicians: If you have a special musical talent you would like to offer to the congregation for Music Sunday, March 27th, please get in touch with Linda Metzner, the UUCSV choir director. Share your talents and joys with us!

Birthdays in February

February 7 th	Sherrie Traub
February 7 th	Sue Miller
February 15 th	Phyllis Robertson
February 17 th	Sarah Scott
February 17 th	Friend Skinner
February 19 th	Annelies Fryberger
February 22 nd	Jerry Pope
February 23 rd	Will Byers
February 24 th	Evelyn Carter
February 24 th	Jeffrey Reckinger
February 25 th	Frohm Lutvack
February 27 th	Marjorie Alexander
February 29 th	Tom O'Connell

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

February's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 18 February 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 "i am sam" (2001, Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer; a mentally challenged father enlists the aid of a high-powered attorney to help him regain custody of his daughter; great soundtrack) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Room in the Inn

We'll be helping out with Room in the Inn three times during 2011. This year-round program provides shelter, meals, and transportation for homeless women in our community. Our first date will be Friday, April 1st. The women will be staying at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex that week. Though it is still a bit too early to begin sign-up, do save the date. We'll need plenty of help from our faithful volunteers as UUCSV will be providing all meals and volunteers for that day.

In a few weeks I'll have a sign-up sheet in the foyer and will begin contacting those who usually help out with this worthy project. Thanks in advance for all your help.

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

Building on the Dream Volunteer Opportunity

A hearty and hardy group of UUCSV volunteers have been working on the 2011 Building on the Dream Home for Asheville Area Habitat. Our crew has helped to deck the porch, build the walls, raise them, get everything plumb and nail on the top plates. The roof will be set on the walls next, then decked. Once it is dried in, sub-contractors will come in for electrical, plumbing, mechanical systems and dry wall installation. Habitat carefully orchestrates each phase of construction to ensure efficient work flow and energy conservation.

Our next workday is set for Saturday, February 26th. We have 8 spots reserved for painting, trim work and clean up. The house will have heat by then! If you are interested in helping out, please give me a call at 664-0082 or email at lreading0082@charter.net.

—*Lee Reading, Building on the Dream UUCSV Coordinator*

Hospitality News

The hospitality committee needs volunteers for cleanup after the coffee break that we have after Sunday morning services. We will show you this easy way to help keep the Sunday service running smoothly. We will remind you when it is your turn. The more people who sign up, the fewer Sundays you will be needed. Please contact Milt Warden at 299-9456.



Our own George Scott recently at the White Horse Black Mountain.

IT IS TRILLIUM TIME and WE NEED YOU

The Sisters of Lucy Stone (SOLS), our women's group that is open to all women of UUCSV, is now planning for our sixth annual "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings" that will take place on the church grounds on April 30th. We Need Volunteer Men and Women. Lots of jobs need doing—big and small, heavy and light, requiring time and not. Please contact Jane Carroll (828-664-1695; dr_jcarr@msn.com) if you are willing to lend a hand with any of the following:

Sort and price items at Dawn Wilson's house for a pre-sale yard sale on April 16th

Donate baked goods to Trillium bake sale

Set up tables and put out goods for rummage sale on the morning of the festival

Cleanup in the afternoon

Help Heidi and her kids make some new posters and signs

Donate plants for the plant sale

Donate rummage for the rummage sale (see guidelines below)

Pick up items that people need help getting to the church

Help with the children's activities—talk to Evelyn Carter

Help set up the first-ever "First Glance" presale rummage sale on April 29th

SOLS wants your rummage and white elephants. They are things you no longer want or use, but are things we can sell at UUCSV's annual rummage sale, a part of "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings" on April 30th. Donations may be delivered to the church from Sunday, April 24th through Thursday, April 27th. If you will need help with delivery to the church, contact Jane Carroll at 828-664-1695 or dr_jcarr@msn.com.

Just about anything is accepted except junk. We don't sell junk. It is not junk if:

The motor is working.

The batteries will charge.

All parts are present.

It is clean.

It is mildew-free.

The owner's manual (if you have it) is included.

DVD cases contain the DVDs.

It is free of pet hair and smell.

It is unbroken.

It is in working order.

It is non-toxic.

It is an antique.

Proceeds will be distributed among UUCSV, a WNC charity or non-profit, and our partner church in Romania.

Bill Walz – Meditation Intensive

Sunday, February 13, 2-4pm, at UUCSV

Zen meditation; So much more than a relaxation or concentration technique, so much more than an esoteric spiritual practice. This contemporized approach takes the essence of Zen meditation and explores its profound capacity for opening us into our fullest psychological potential. For those looking to begin a meditation practice or deepen their existing practice. We will explore and experience what meditation is and what its true purpose is. The afternoon will explore meditation's capacity to transform and evolve your life into vibrantly sane, wise and clear consciousness. We will also explore how this consciousness is necessary for the transformation of our society into a compassionate, sustainable world community. Albert Einstein said, "Problems cannot be solved on the same level of consciousness that created them." We will explore the consciousness that can solve the problems of contemporary society. \$10-\$20 donation requested. Please contact Sue Stone if you wish to attend (669-0619 or sueastone@bellsouth.net).

Women's Spirituality Group

Note new day, first Thursday of the month - Feb. 3, 6:30 pm.

In February our circle of women will explore Brigid, and all the great stories of the Bright Arrow goddess and saint from Celtic lore, she who gave us the skills of smithcraft, healing, poetry, weaving, divination, raising livestock, keening and whistling. How do our lives today relate to her attributes? We will consider clouties, the bright fabric ribbons that grace holy wells where people come for healing...what kind of brightness do we now use to attract healing energies? Is healing our earth, trees, waters, animals, and ourselves a goal on which we can work together as women of spirit? The fire of our bright spirits will be kindled from Brigit, including a blessing of our candles (bring your new ones for your altar this year). Newcomers always welcome! Facilitator this month is Barbara Rogers, boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com for information.

From the Editor—The Last Word

The universe is now estimated to have more stars than previously thought—about 3×10^{23} . That is the number 3 with 23 zeros after it—a lot of stars! Our own galaxy, the "Milky Way," contains about 200 billion (2×10^{11}) stars, many with their own planets. In an article on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), in the January 2011 issue of *Scientific American*, it is estimated that the number of detectable civilizations in our galaxy right now is 10,000. This provides a humbling perspective on our own civilization—we are not alone. Besides wondering what many of these intelligent creatures might look like and be made of, we might also wonder: What codes of behavior do they practice? Are they happy? Do they have a sense of humor? What sorts of gods or spirits, if any, do they worship or fear or ignore?

