



THE BEACON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF FAYETTEVILLE

AUGUST 2010



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Reminder:

Beacon submissions for the September issue are due **August 22**. Give them to Nancy Ward at the church, or email them directly (preferably in plain text) to Courtney Montgomery-Burnett at adlib77@gmail.com Also welcome are original art, copyright-free images and suggestions!!!

“ShaRE Sundays” Program—share your experience!

RE at the UUFF is presented as a “cooperative” program, yet the chronic lack of volunteers is a challenge and an opportunity. Engagement with the program is expected of parents and caregivers, and a diverse range of choices for volunteering should be offered. We want to offer you an opportunity to ShaRE your experiences and talents! Final Sundays of each month will no longer be led by the DRE regularly, but congregants and parents will be encouraged to share their own interests and activities with help, in the form of advance planning, from the DRE. These “ShaRE” Sundays will take what is working well in Camp UU and translate them to a last Sunday experience that will hopefully engage more of the congregation in working with the RE kids. For more information and to participate, contact Joy Berry uuffdre@yahoo.com



Youth Create Green Jobs in “Summer of Solutions”

Article reprinted from the Fayetteville Free Weekly with permission from the author, Amanda Bancroft

Imagine the possibilities for summer vacation through the eyes of a student—a whole two months for travel, swimming, fun and relaxation! Students could get a summer job, even though it might be a dead-end job. Instead of flipping burgers to earn extra cash, some students are making a different choice. Calling themselves “solutionaries,” these youth have joined 12 Summer of Solutions cities across the country to create green jobs.

In Worcester, Massachusetts, youth have “barn-raisings” to weatherize homes. The Twin Cities, Minnesota team has created a clean energy revolving fund called “Cooperative Energy Futures” and has been working with the city since 2008 to convert a Ford manufacturing plant into a green industry and housing site. In Burlington, Vermont, youth started a pellet manufacturing plant for pellet stoves and are teaching green engineering to high school students.

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New Beacon Editor Needed

Our current Beacon editor will no longer be able to produce The Beacon after the September issue. Courtney is willing to train a successor over the next couple of months to replace her. The volunteer would need to have a computer that will run Microsoft Publisher or time to work on the newsletter in the fellowship office. Time commitment is generally no more than 5 hours a month. Contact Courtney Montgomery-Burnett at adlib77@gmail.com

Celebrating Fifty-Eight Years of Liberal Religious Education in Northwest Arkansas

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There are also youth working in Asheville, North Carolina; Austin, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; Corvallis, Oregon; Dallas, Texas, Detroit, Michigan; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Iowa City, Iowa. These are the "Summer of Solutions" cities, when youth around the country come together as solutionaries to innovate solutions to the problems facing our communities.

Summer of Solutions was created in 2008 by Grand Aspirations, a non-profit organization founded by youth. Grand Aspirations' mission is to empower, connect, and support youth leaders as they create innovative, self-sustaining, and inter-dependent initiatives that systemically integrate climate and energy solutions, economic security, and social justice.

In its first year in Fayetteville, the Summer of Solutions team is focusing on sustainable agriculture. Sponsored by the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology, Summer of Solutions is a project run by OMNI TLC: Teen Leadership Corps, a program for youth interested in non-profit management and global issues. Andrea Love, 18, says she's a part of SoS "Because I don't think it's fair that people feel it's necessary to choose between poisoning their families with cheap food or starving because healthy food is expensive and not convenient."

Some of our projects include:

"Bamboo Beds" to utilize natural bamboo in the creation of raised garden beds. You can view these beds and sample herbs in the garden of the Fayetteville Public Library, who sponsored the project.

"Know Your Farmer" to raise awareness about local farming families and the importance of buying local. "Mobile Marketplace" to bring local, organic food and fair trade products to the consumer.

"Recycled Rain Barrels" making use of recycled materials to build affordable rain barrels for gardens.

The youth-made stop-motion video can be found at www.youtube.com by searching for Summer of Solutions Fayetteville. Made of real food, creative characters express the value of buying local.

To fund the SoS-Fayetteville program, we're developing a micro-loan investment system. Green businesses, churches, non-profits or individuals can invest in a youth whose green job matches their mission or interests. To qualify for the loan, the youth must attend a weeklong training to learn skills such as social entrepreneurship, make a solid timeline with measurable goals, plan ahead for potential challenges, and work with an adult mentor. Once their green job is created and income is available, the youth pays back the loan, which goes towards another youth's dream of having a green job. There are still youth who need support. For more information, please contact Amanda Bancroft: (479)799-9909.

On **Thursday July 29th at 6:00pm at the OMNI Center** (3274 N. Lee Ave.) SoS Fayetteville is hosting "A Change in Seasons" fundraiser with an art auction, music & food. We're currently seeking donations of food-related art from local artists. If you're interested in supporting the project, please contact Jeanie Hall at (479)595-9134.

From **August 14th-18th**, solutionaries from Summer of Solutions cities around the country are coming to Fayetteville to share their projects and learn about the sustainability initiatives here in Arkansas! We expect around 30-50 solutionaries to attend, join in discussions, and complete service projects with Fayetteville organizations.

More information about Summer of Solutions cities all over the country can be found here:

www.summerofsolutions.org Fayetteville Summer of Solutions information can be found here:

www.omnicenter.org/teen-leadership-corps-sos/



Month of Sundays

August 1 Renée Janski, *Hymnsing (with a focus on ethnic hymns)*

August 8 Rev. Dave Hunter, Rev. Kerry Mueller, and John Adams 3800 How does it feel to be in a room with 3800 other Unitarian Universalists?

August 15 Rev. Kerry Mueller *The Broken Places* None of us is perfect; we are each imperfect in our own way. How shall we accept and deal with our own imperfections and those of others?

August 22 Art Hobson, Professor Emeritus of Physics, University of Arkansas, *A Scientist Looks at Religion*

August 29 Rev. Dave Hunter *The Third Path in Religion: Unitarian Universalism*

September 5 David Garcia, special guest

From the Ministers

I was sorry to miss the Pride parade here in Fayetteville. I hear it was a great success, with many of our congregation marching or cheering on the marchers, and our own Will Phillips as the Grand Marshall. That day I was in Minneapolis at our UU General Assembly, an important annual meeting. We took time from the regular schedule for a big Public Witness event, "Standing on the Side of Love for Marriage Equality." Hundreds of Unitarian Universalists marched from the convention center to Loring Park, wearing our Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts, a sea of yellow and white. We had speeches from our President Peter Morales and others, and a rally, and a chance to check out the many vendors and displays in the park. I bought yarn from a woman who claimed to be the only Lesbian llama farmer in Minnesota, was given a much needed bottle of water and a chance to rest with a group of older gay men, and generally had a good time before heading back to the afternoon events. I even had a chance to send UUFF my picture in all my GA gear and LGBTQAI decorations, courtesy of Rev. Jonalu Johnstone of the Oklahoma City church.

When I got home, I learned that Mayor Lionel Jordan had been the subject of nasty letters to the editor for his support of our Pride event, so I sent him an email of gratitude and support – and recently at the Farmers' Market I had a chance to follow up in person. The mayor said that it was just the right thing to do – an easy decision for him. But I know it cost him something. "Everything worthwhile costs something," he said. It made me proud to be from Fayetteville.

Equal rights for GLBTQIA persons seems so obviously right to me that I find myself wondering why humanity ever took a different view. Everywhere I see ideas shifting, people accepting their queer* relatives, states and countries making marriage equal. And way to go, Argentina. But we are not there yet. As a nation, as a culture, we are still chipping away at the mountain of fear and prejudice. So it is up to all of us to keep trying, to keep showing up, to speak up at the water cooler and the Thanksgiving table, to march, to call our legislators. At UUFF I am most proud of our acts of sacred mutual hospitality, our acceptance of people in all their glorious diversity.

Blessings,
Kerry

* Did you see Raymond Sweet's excellent letter to the editor, pointing out that "gay" is not an adequate term to include all the different types of non-heterosexual people? It's important to recognize that lumping a lot of different people under one label can be hurtful. On the other hand, no list of initials is truly adequate either; the spectrum of human sexuality is too broad and the ways people identify themselves are too many. Many folks have reclaimed "queer" as an all inclusive term, and this is what I'm doing here. Or here's my tongue in cheek answer to the challenge: "Genderly or Otherwise Diverse." Abbreviated as GOOD. Or just leave out one of the O's. Remember that Jesus hung out with all sorts of social outcasts and said, "Whatever you do to one of the least of these, you have done unto me."



UU 101

Rev. Dave Hunter Sunday, August 29, 9 to 10:30

How much can you learn about Unitarian Universalism in an hour and a half? Come and find out. This one-session class is intended for those new to our faith this summer as well as for long-time members who want to brush up on their understanding or their ability to explain Unitarian Universalism to others, and for everyone in between. You're welcome, too. It would be helpful if you let Rev. Dave know in advance that you're coming, so we can meet in the right-sized room and have the right number of handouts. (dhhunter@sbcglobal.net, 444-8168)

What's Up Downstairs—From the DRE

Summer programming draws to a close this month as Camp UU ends on August 8th. There will be a lull in RE programming until August 29th, when regular classes resume.

Registration for the 2010/2011 RE year will take place in the foyer, before and after church, August 15th, August 22nd, and August 29th. Teacher and parent orientations will begin, and a postcard with finalized dates/times will be sent out to all registered families and teachers in the first week of August. Tentative dates are as follows:



August 15th 9:15-10:45 am (before the service)

UUFF RE Teacher orientation (for teachers of all RE classes, including COA & OWL)

Brunch will be served and training will follow—in the annex.

August 22nd 12:30-1:30 pm (after the service)

Parent/Teacher orientation (for all parents/caregivers of children in OWL and regular RE classes, with the exception of Coming of Age—see below). This is a required orientation and your attendance is extremely important! Baby/kidsitting will be provided downstairs—send kids with a sack lunch and their favorite card, board, or handheld electronic games for this Kids' Playoff activity.

One day during this week, likely Saturday Aug 28, OWL orientation for parents of 4th-6th graders will occur. Orientation is required for registration in the class. Look for more details in announcements, the RE postcard of events, and the Sunday bulletin—it will take place downstairs.

August 29th 11 am-12:15 pm

RE/OWL classes begin today. Exception: Coming of Age class begins September 5th. A WABIS (We All Begin In Sanctuary) program will include Teacher Dedication, then children/youth/teachers will go downstairs or to the annex for class.

12:30-1:15 pm: Grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us in the sanctuary—Coming of Age parents, mentors, teachers, and youth will have orientation for their upcoming class.

September 5th 11 am-12:15 pm

In-Gathering for regular RE classes downstairs (OWL 4/6 goes directly to class, location TBA).

RE classes begin at 11:20, after In-Gathering.

Adult Education Women of the Bible Rev. Dave Hunter

Almost all the books of the Bible were written by men for men, which makes approaching the Bible through the women a fruitful adventure. Join Rev. Dave and others on four Sunday mornings in the fall, 9 to 10:30. Tentative dates are September 19 and 26 and October 17 and 24.

Women's Drumming Class

We are organizing a women's drumming class to begin in September at UUFF. The class will be taught by Sheila Richards, a talented djembe drummer who has been playing for more than 30 years. The class will meet weekly for six weeks with each class being approximately 90 minutes. If you are interested, or want more details, please email Beverly Toll at btoll@hughes.net.



UUFF Religious Education Program Plan, 2010-2011

With so much going on in the right here and right now, it was nice to back up a little and see the “forest” instead of the individual trees of events and activities. I crafted a program plan for the upcoming year for our program, and though I am certain it is far from perfect or complete, it does help us to train our collective view toward the horizon—the bigger picture of what we want RE to be at UUFF. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions on this plan, but wanted to share with all of RE's constituents what we see happening in the year ahead.

At A Glance:

Religious Education at the UUFF will benefit from responding to the stated needs and goals of its stakeholders, those who are engaged and who give feedback about RE. The RE Town Hall meeting in March was well attended and the feedback received then has been used to craft the upcoming year's program plan.

Overwhelming support was voiced for an approach that makes children central to the life of the fellowship and gives them more opportunities to share worship and ceremony with the congregation, which is important.

The placement of RE before or after the worship service is desirable for our children's identity as UUs and for the health and growth of UUFF, and this re-structuring should be explored by a taskforce made up of RE constituents—teachers, youth, parents, and RE committee members—as well as others in the congregation, to determine whether this is the right move for our Fellowship.

Coming of Age and OWL, our most popular RE offerings, will continue or see expansion this year, and two class levels will undertake a community service project.

Yoga and a weekly playgroup for UU families with young children will continue, and events such as game night, a monthly potluck and other community-building events will be supported by the DRE. It is hoped that parents will take a lead role in this, but the REC should support their efforts when possible.

Teachers have been recruited or re-recruited for most classes, but gaps in the 10/11/12 (4th-6th) programming and the 10th-12th grade photography documentation course must be addressed. Mentors for COA must also be recruited.

OWL can be offered at the 4th-6th grade level*, in response to a groundswell of support from the parents of this age group. (As this class is only 8 sessions, it can be offered before or after a 16-session regular RE curriculum. The OWL class will end at year's end and a regular RE class for those kids who participated in OWL will begin).

*OWL facilitators trained at this level will also be trained in the K-1 level, allowing us to consider offering that expansion of OWL in the future.

Coming of Age (7th-9th grades) is an extremely important part of our programming but requires a huge expenditure of energy and time from the DRE, teachers, mentors, parents, and youth. Orientations and trainings are part of this experience, and the class takes youth out of the classroom to visit many other faiths in our area, as well as welcoming people of other faiths into the classroom here at UUFF. A community service project will be undertaken. A retreat experience is essential, but will require fundraising (likely two fundraising events) by youth, as well as the use of the restricted science field trip fund, both of which may need to be supplemented by the RE restricted fund (budget monies). Preliminary planning with the Ozark natural Science Center has begun, to create a weekend retreat that caters to our group's needs and also includes a “high-adventure” component like caving or kayaking. Around \$225 per youth in this group will need to be raised or allotted from funding to make the trip a reality. A youth service will be planned and presented by COA youth at year's end, and participants will share their personal beliefs at that time, an important bridging experience.

10th-12th grades will have an opportunity to take a photo documentation course if teachers can be recruited. One part autobiography, one part photography, this class facilitates older teens in constructing a visual narrative of who and where they are in this moment in time, at the end of their childhoods. This class is meant to give older teens a project-based class where their individuality and personal expression are fully engaged, and where community can be built between older teens. Some older teens may not wish to take part in the class, but it should be offered if even a few do have an interest. This class may take on the project of videotaping Sunday services and getting them on the web, if resources and technology is available to them and they agree to do so.

The UUFF Archives would like to encourage a collection of any stray bits* of information about/by the Fellowship or its members/friends (which may be in your home) to be given to Anne Prichard. Many thanks! There is a mailbox for the Archives/Historian in the Office.

*Sunday Service programs, newspaper clippings, Committee reports, anything!



Do you enjoy coffee and snacks after the service? Now it's your turn. Please volunteer to make coffee and set out snacks. It's easy and

fun! Volunteers are needed for every Sunday in August. There's a sign up sheet in the lobby by the snack table. Sign up with a friend or make a new friend. Instructions are clearly posted in the kitchen. Reimbursement funds are available.

Water Communion September 12

It is an "old" Unitarian Universalist tradition (more than 20 years old!) to collect small amounts of water on your summer travels, whether those travels are exotic overseas vacations or quiet contemplations in your own back yard. Then in our first post-Labor Day service of the fall season (Sunday, September 12), we will gather those waters in a large bowl, symbolizing the regathering of the community after a summer of coming and going. So fill your little spice bottles or single service jam jars or film canisters or Ozarka bottles and plan to bring them on September 12. (For newcomers, don't worry, we'll feed the garden with that water, we won't *drink it*. And, *don't worry, if you forget to bring water, we'll have extra.*)

Sunday Opportunities, September to December

You may recall that each week a year ago a member participated in the Sunday service by describing a mentor or hero in their life. This fall we will do something different. Each Sunday one of you will describe something that changed or transformed you. It could be an event (e.g. Katrina), an experience (your first visit to the Grand Canyon), a person (your kindergarten teacher), a book (*Moby Dick*), or something in a category I haven't thought of. If you would like to participate, contact Rev. Dave (dhhunter@sbcglobal.net, 444-8168). Don't delay, there are only 12 Sundays left!

Sunday Services Committee

We would like to reconstitute a Sunday Services committee, for people interested in supporting, participating in, or leading Sunday services. An organizing meeting will be held Sunday, August 15, after the service. If you plan to come or if this date doesn't work for you, please contact nancymcshane@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks,
Kerry

August Milestones

Birthdays

8/25 Janet F. Parks

Anniversaries

8/4 Christine and Roy Smith

8/10 Bianca and Justin Rucker

8/16 Beth and Ken Michaels

8/24 Ellen and Jeffrey Tate

8/25 Nancy and Earl McShane

8/26 Linda Flores and Robert Pressman



Treasurer's Report

As I write this I have just completed closing out the books for fiscal year 2010 – 2011. Our financial performance was significantly better than expected.

Of the total dollars pledged for fiscal year 2009 – 2010, including late pledges, 94% was paid. This compares favorably with an approximate pledge payment rate of 90% in 2008 – 2009.

Our total income (excluding Leadership transfers) for the year exceeded our budget by nearly \$10,000. In addition to the larger than budgeted percentage of pledge dollars collected, mentioned above, this is primarily due to a couple of new members who made large contributions during this fiscal year and have pledged for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year, as well as a larger than usual collection of prior year pledges.

We replaced the air conditioner and furnace in the downstairs RE area in June. This was a cost of \$4,130. The old air conditioning unit could not be feasibly repaired and the cost to replace the furnace at the same time was only slightly more than the cost of replacing the air conditioning unit alone, because of the differential in labor.

The budgeted maintenance and supplies expense for the year was exceeded by \$5,300. This includes the purchase of the air conditioner/ furnace mentioned above. Much of the balance of the overage is due to the problems downstairs in May with foreign matter having to be cleared from the air conditioning ducts. This is the only significant area in which we exceeded budgeted expense.

We ended the year with a surplus of \$5,060. The Board voted to allocate 50% of this net income to the capital maintenance fund and to send the remaining 50% to the UUA and the Southwest District, to partially make up for the funds we were not able to pay during the year. This allocation gives us \$5,700 for future capital maintenance needs, and brought our payments to the UUA and District up to 68% of our fair share amounts.

Our June Share the Plate collection, during the Pride service, was for the Northwest Arkansas Equality Center. We collected \$330; this is the second highest collection in the past 18 months, with the highest being paid to the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Equality.

Thank you for your continuing support of your Fellowship. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at btoll@hughes.net. I am honored to serve as your Treasurer.

Beverly Toll

New Office Hours

Nancy Ward is back from vacation and regular office hours have resumed. Thank you to Courtney Montgomery-Burnett for all her help during the break.

Please note that new office hours will begin August 2nd. Due to the 2010/11 budget shortfall, the Administrator's salary hours have been reduced to 20 hours per week. Office hours have been adjusted accordingly. The new schedule is:

Monday 10-3

Tuesday 1-4

Wednesday – closed

Thursday 10-3

Friday 10-1

The remaining 3 hours are “flex” time before and after the posted times.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville

A non-creedal church affirming the worth and dignity of all people

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Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
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Email: uuff@sbcglobal.net
On the web at www.fayettevilleunitarian.org



August 2010

GOVERNANCE

Our congregation is self-governing. We adopt our own bylaws and budget, and we elect our officers. An elected Board of Directors conducts the business of the church. Members are Carol Olson, President; Jessie Billings, Vice President; Beverly Toll, Treasurer; Sue Hankins, Secretary; RE Chair Gretchen Wilkes; Angela Peace, Roberta Kaplan, Birch Griesse, Janet Titus, Marty Faitak and Ken Michaels.

STAFF

Rev. Dave Hunter and Rev. Kerry Mueller,
Co-Ministers

Joy Berry, Religious Education Director

Claire Detels, Accompanist

Renée Janski, Music Director

Nancy Ward, Administrator

Office Hours: 10-3 Monday and Thursday

1-4 Tuesday

Closed Wednesday

10-1 Friday

WHO WE ARE

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville

Sunday services at 11:00 a.m. year round.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion. We believe personal experience, conscience, and reason are final authorities in religion. We put religious insights to the test of our hearts and minds. We uphold the free search for truth. We are bound to neither statement of belief or creed.

We offer a comprehensive religious education program for children and youth. We explore religious identity, social justice, teachings of other faith traditions, and our own Jewish-Christian heritage with a sense of worship and fun.

Please join us for Worship and Children's Religious Education (Pre-K through Grade 12) each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10:30 a.m.