



THE BEACON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF FAYETTEVILLE

SEPTEMBER 2010



Join Our Community!

Welcome home! The UUFF is a place where you are important and are accepted for your true self. We create this community together and there is definitely room for you to share your talents and energy here.

Page 1: Community; Auction Date Change

Page 2: Committees, etc.

Page 3: From the Ministers; Month of Sundays

Page 4: What's Up Downstairs; Healthy Sexuality for Children

Page 5: ShaRE Sundays, Bowling, Drumming, RE Teacher Fun Night, Adult RE class

Page 6: Water Communion, Special Sundays, Milestones, Thanks

Page 7: Game Night, Book Club, UUFF Auction details

There are so many ways to get involved at the UUFF. Join a committee, work on a specific project with a task force, share with children your passion for something or be part of the team that keeps things running smoothly on Sunday mornings. Here's how you can make friends and be part of our community.



Committees: There are several committees that handle various aspects of our community life. Anyone can join most committees, but a few are only by invitation or election. Here is a brief description of the committees. You can contact the person listed or the UUFF office and let them know you want to help:

Membership: welcomes newcomers, leads "New UU" classes and new member ceremonies, maintains membership directory, trains and organizes Greeters. Contact: Charlotte Taylor chtaylo@uark.edu (587-0513).

Communications: coordinates the web site, newsletter, and Facebook page, publicizes events, connects congregation with community and our UU Association of Congregations. Contact: Chava Schacter btoll@hughes.net (790-2387)

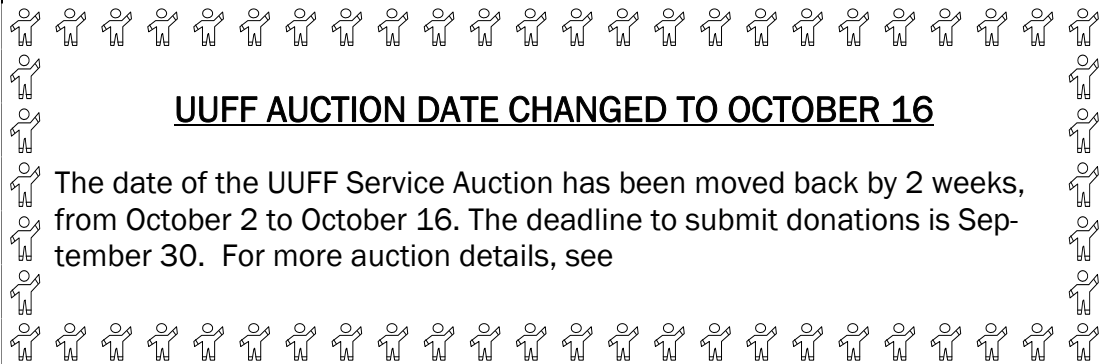
Grounds: maintains landscape and Memorial Garden, plants flowers and ground cover. Contact: John King jwking@uark.edu (799-9559)

Religious Education: coordinates Sunday School and summer programs for young people, grades K-12, family fun activities, and evening YoUuth Group. Contact: Gretchen Wilkes gwilkes@farmcards.org (267-2717)

Continued on page 2

Reminder:

Beacon submissions for the October issue are due **September 19**. 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, and copyright-free images!



UUFF AUCTION DATE CHANGED TO OCTOBER 16

The date of the UUFF Service Auction has been moved back by 2 weeks, from October 2 to October 16. The deadline to submit donations is September 30. For more auction details, see

Celebrating Fifty-Eight Years of Liberal Religious Education in Northwest

Continued from page 1

Hospitality: organizes Coffee Hour snacks after the Sunday service and social events throughout the year. Contact UUFF office.

Music: coordinates choir practices (**anyone can join the choir**), pageants and musical events and guest musicians. Contact: Kathy Skaggs kasdesign@hotmail.com (225-1575) or Renee Janski janskistudio@gmail.com (200-4892)

Social Justice: liaisons with local community action and service organizations, selects recipients for Share the Plate collections, organizes actions that promote justice and help others, oversees the Green Sanctuary task force. Contact UUFF office.

Stewardship: encourages the spirit of generosity throughout the year, plans the annual pledge drive and activities to raise awareness and offer appreciation. Contact Jim Longino jimlongino@usa.net (521-8768)

Building: helps maintain the church building and annex. Contact UUFF office.

Sunday Service: works with ministers to plan lay-led services, assists with services, coordinates and trains ushers, decorates the sanctuary. Contact Rev. Kerry uurevkerry@sbcglobal.net or UUFF office.

Caring and Sharing: contacts members who are ill or in need, coordinates getting what they need, helps with funerals and other special occasions. Contact UUFF Office.

Membership of the following committees is by invitation or election only, but you should know who's working behind the scenes to keep everything functioning:

Board of Directors: makes policy for the fellowship, monitors finances and all committees, fundraising, and future planning.

Finance: keeps track of budgets, pledges, expenses and income, guides the Board in allocating expenses.

Leadership Development: identifies, encourages, and develops leaders, allocates resources for sending leaders to workshops and conferences.

Personnel: oversees paid staff, hiring, job descriptions and evaluations.

Ministerial Relations: liaison between ministers and congregation, helps with conflict resolution, job descriptions and evaluations.

Other Groups: Groups built around a specific task or idea are open to anyone who wants to join. These include:

Fundraising:

The Annual Auction (October 2) – Contact Roberta Kaplan bertielee7@yahoo.com (927-9055)

Parking for Razorback Football Games – Contact Kathy Benton landdyke@gmail.com (501-551-2116)

Parking for U of A Students – Contact UUFF office

The Annual Jazz Concert (December) – Contact Gretchen Wilkes

gwilkes@farmcards.org (267-2717)

Affinity Groups:

Interweave (for GLBTQ and allies) – Contact Denise & Raymond joyandgratitude@yahoo.com (387-2871)

Web of Life (for Earth-based and Pagan interests) – Contact UUFF office

Book Club – Contact Nancy McShane nancymcshane@sbcglobal.net (442-2114)

Fiber Arts (Yarn and fabric arts) – Contact Linda Peck lindapecck2@gmail.com (846-3044)

Chalice Circle (small group discussion) – Contact Kim Davis kimdavis73@netzero.com

Yoga (evening group) – Contact UUFF office

Full Circle of NWA (adoption support group) – Contact Marty Smith memarty22@yahoo.com (479-305-1017)

If you don't see your interest represented, speak to the ministers about starting a group that matches your talents

Does it seem to you like our world is falling apart? There's record flooding in Pakistan, record heat and massive forest fires in Russia, the devastating earthquake in Haiti, millions of barrels of oil contaminating the Gulf of Mexico, islands of ice breaking off from Greenland. Then we have a mess still in Afghanistan and Iraq; Iran and the Koreas make us very nervous; little hope for success in new talks between Israel and Palestine. Back home a large proportion of the citizenry distrusts Muslims and Mexicans; expressions of displeasure toward our president even exceed those toward his predecessor; the poor are forgotten by both our parties; the Senate is primarily a roadblock; half a billion eggs may be contaminated. What is one to do? Where is hope to be found?

The mail that I brought in after I wrote that gloomy paragraph brings me hope (not a lot, but some). First, a magazine article entitled "the Art of Resilience." The blurb explains: "Haiti's devastating earthquake is a source of inspiration for many of the island's surviving painters and sculptors." Second, a brochure from Baltimore (how does one escape a mailing list?) for a course on "Reclaiming the Center," designed to help participants understand and celebrate what is "distinctive or particular" about different religious traditions. And then a newsletter explaining how young students have learned about butterflies. Can anyone who has learned to appreciate the beauty and delicacy of a butterfly grow up to be a psychopath? And more good news this morning. A couple on their way home from church recognizes that a wandering dog is lost, befriend the dog, give it water, and phone its human companion (the number was on its tag), who responds quickly. A small step towards a better world.

But where I was supposed to be going with this column was to ways in which you could make the world a better place. Here are a few. Work with others on one of the issues on which we passed resolutions at General Assembly earlier this summer: peacemaking (the end of a lengthy study process) or immigration as a moral issue (the start of a lengthy study process). Combat the craziness surrounding the proposal to build an Islamic center on the site of a defunct Burlington Coat Factory, in lower Manhattan. (Have we let the terrorists win?) Help strengthen one of our programs at UUFF (sing in the choir, make coffee, volunteer in the nursery, edit this newsletter, etc.) Remember, in community there is strength, and our fellowship can be a more effective instrument for creating a world of peace with justice the stronger we make it.

Love,
Dave



A Month of Sundays

September 5 David Garcia, special guest *The Elaine Massacre: Racism and the Labor Movement*, from violence to redemption and hope.

September 12 Rev. Kerry Mueller *Gathering of the Waters (intergenerational)* We will celebrate the opening of our congregational year with a special ritual, pouring water from our summer travels (geographic or metaphoric), a story for all ages, and a short homily. Be sure to collect and bring a small amount of water from your summer journey, but if you forget, don't worry, we'll have plenty available. The Adult Choir will sing.

September 19 Rev. Dave Hunter *Was Confucius a Unitarian Universalist?*

September 26 Rev. Kerry Mueller *To Begin Again in Love* We've seen a number of public apologies this summer, some apparently sincere, some self serving. What is apology for? How do we go about apologizing? What could we hope for if we were all readier to apologize? At this service we will rededicate our peace pole (and rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of peace).

October 3 Riverstone, special guest—*Willie's New Shoes*, a parable about gratitude.

What's Up Downstairs—From the DRE

As I (and the whole RE Team) scurry to do all the legwork of registration, trainings, orientations, parent meetings, and planning meetings for the new RE year, I'm taking a break from writing a long article this month and sharing instead a great blog post by Michelle Richards. Her blog title is <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting> and is home to so many wonderful articles about raising UU kids.

As we break new ground in our fellowship this year by offering a 4th-6th grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality class on Sunday mornings, I thought this post was particularly relevant.

[Helping children develop a healthy sexuality](#)

By Michelle Richards

Messages about sexuality are everywhere in our culture, from the magazines lining the shelves at the check-out line at the grocery store to suggestive dances and lyrics in music videos. News reports casually mention the latest politician or celebrity to succumb to an extramarital affair (sometimes with particularly vivid detail), while television commercials promote prescription drugs for erectile dysfunction. Even cartoons for children often feature animated drawings of extremely well-endowed female characters flirting and cajoling the male heroes.

Developing a healthy sexuality is a life-long process of forming attitudes about identity, intimacy, and relationships. It needs to begin at home—and not only to counteract the bombardment of negative messages in our culture. While most Unitarian Universalist parents today are much more comfortable talking about sexuality than in generations past, the question remains: How much, how soon—and what exactly do kids need to know?

Just like other issues of spirituality, ethics, and theology, using teachable moments to introduce or reaffirm your values about sexuality can take pressure off of the parent. Instead of giving “the big talk,” which only makes both parent and teen or pre-teen uncomfortable, using everyday happenings to bring your values into focus can be a more effective tool. For example, when watching a television program about two teens who are contemplating sexual activity, you could explain why you might think they are not ready. For example, you might say, “See how uncomfortable they are just talking about the subject? Usually, if two people are unable to talk with each other about important issues like protection against pregnancy or STDs, then they are clearly not ready for the responsibilities involved in sexual intercourse.”

It's also helpful to remember that children have different concerns and questions about sexuality at different ages and in different life stages. They also have different abilities to understand these concepts—depending upon where they are in terms of emotional, moral, and social development—along with different attention spans and levels of concern. While young children are merely curious because they heard a word they didn't understand or they wonder about the miracle that brings new people into the world, preteens and older youth spend a lot of time worrying about whether or not they are “normal.” We can help youth understand that it is “normal” for everyone to be different and unique. Perhaps, the most important message we can give our teens is just that—**it is normal to be different.**

Giving our children the opportunity to participate in the UUA's groundbreaking curriculum [Our Whole Lives](#) (created in conjunction with the United Church of Christ) is another way we can affirm healthy choices and promote positive messages of sexuality. Although most people are familiar with the program for junior high, the OWL curriculum has age-appropriate materials for children, youth, and adults all throughout the lifespan.

Finally, we parents can feel some reassurance that the actual words we use to teach our children about sexuality are probably less important than the attitude that we communicate about the subject. As renowned sexuality educator Pamela Wilson explains in her book *When Sex is the Subject*, “It is not so much what we say but how we say it that provides children with healthy messages about sexuality.”



ShaRE Your Talents!

ShaRE Sundays will begin on September 26th and will take place every last Sunday of the month thereafter. This is the one Sunday a month that our amazing teachers are off and out of the classrooms. On this day, we present volunteer-led alternative programming for a group that is mixed in age, from about 4-10. One of the ideas to come out of the RE Town Hall meeting was the idea that lots of people would like to come downstairs and present a session or class, one that reflected their own individual talents and interests. This is the format that Camp UU has used for several years, and it's been very successful. Whether it's engaging them with storytelling or yoga, facilitating a pagan ritual or making dreidels with the kids, getting them involved in a social justice project or drumming and dancing, our kids will love you for it! The DRE will assist volunteers in creating a developmentally appropriate plan from your interests and energy. Please contact Joy Berry with any ideas or suggestions you may have.



UU Sexuality Education Resources

“Don’t Just Say No” (UU World, Fall 2005)

“Sexuality Education Is a Religious Issue” (UU World, Fall 2006)

“Non-UU Youth Learn about Sex through UU Program” (uuworld.org, 7/20/09).

See also UU minister Debra Haffner’s books:
From Diapers to Dating: A Parent’s Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Children

Beyond the Big Talk: A Parent’s Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Teens.

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.

R.E. Start Up Celebration!

Let's bowl! All are welcome!

The Austin family will get there early and reserve a few lanes.

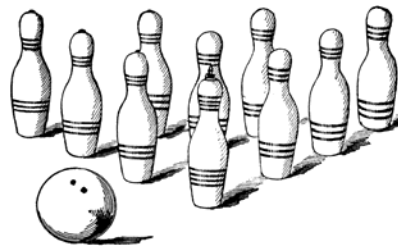
We look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday, September 12th at 1pm

Ozark Lanes Bowling Alley

2300 N. College Ave.

Each family will be responsible for the costs of bowling.



Per person, per game:

Adults - \$3.11

Children under 12 -
\$2.84

Shoe rental - \$1.91

Teachers’ Fun Night!

All R.E. teachers, past and present, and their spouses and children are warmly invited to come together in community and get to know one another better! Drinks and light refreshments will be served and childcare will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there! Saturday, September 11th 6pm-8pm in the sanctuary!

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. September 19 and 26 and October 17 and 24.



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.)

MANY MANY THANKS— To those generous folks who provided lunch for the Board Retreat on August 28: Jackie T., Chava S., Susan S., Mary Kay W., Kris H., Lois A., Anne P., Mary M., Marcia G. and Janet T.

Sunday Services of Special Note

Monday, September 6, is Labor Day, which commemorates a powerful UU idea – that all people deserve justice and equity in working conditions and salary. On September 5, David Garcia will be the pulpit guest for our Sunday Service. He'll be discussing the 1919 Elaine racial massacre in Arkansas, where more than one hundred black men, women, and children were slaughtered simply because black sharecroppers tried to form a union and demand decent pay and fair treatment. Don't expect that Mr. Garcia's talk will be boring or depressing. After discussing the decades of bloody struggle for social justice and human rights, he describes the transformation of human consciousness already underway. He writes, "There are some amazing, beautiful and wonderful things on this earth. And then there are some things that are not. Denying or hiding the harsher realities is not the answer— healing and transforming them is."

Looking Ahead to Riverstone, Pulpit Guest on October 3:

The title of my talk is "Willie's New Shoes". I will be telling the true story of Willie Quill Pettway as told to me by the Grand Dame of Storytelling, Ms. Katherine Windham Tucker. It won't be a sermon in the traditional sense. I plan to simply tell a story and let the story speak for itself. It's a wonderful story that I think everyone will enjoy and think about. The theme of the service will center around gratitude.

		<i>September Milestones</i>
Birthdays of our esteemed elders –	Anniversaries -	
9/11 Mary Fyles	9/5 Nancy Garner and Mort Gitelman	
9/17 Barbara Dow	9/5 Susan and David Schroeder	
9/27 Winifred Shanor	9/8 Lois and Harry Alward	
	9/20 Gisela and Jeff Erf	
	9/30 Marcia and Matt Gordon	



September Game Night and Potluck
Friday, September 24th, 6-9pm in the sanctuary
Help setting up and cleaning up is appreciated!

The August game night and potluck was a great time! We had 18 adults and 12 kids sharing a great meal and playing fun games. We hope to see even more of you in September! Many thanks to all of you who helped with set up and clean up as well as all who remembered to wash your own dishes; this really makes it easier for me to step up and "host."

"I attended the UU Game Night recently and was delighted with the turnout and the general mood of the event. It was a potluck, and children and adults were doing something almost anachronistic in this day and age—playing games together! I saw games of Blockus, UNO, Mousetrap, and many more I didn't recognize! It reminded me of being a kid again—my own family used to play games together about once a week, usually checkers or LIFE or Rook. My hat is off to those who collaborated to make this a reality. What a great opportunity for real fellowship for the families and folks of our Fellowship!" - Joy Berry, DRE

The UUFF Service Auction is Saturday, October 16. The deadline to submit donations is September 30. The Auction committee is soliciting donations for the Auction. There were 8 dinners offered at last year's auction and they brought in a significant portion of the total proceeds. This year we'd like to double or triple that number! Need ideas? Here are proven winners from UU auctions: Beer, Bocce & BBQ; Backyard Bash (cookout and lawn games); Picnic in the Park; Mexican Fiesta; Pool Party; Christmas Caroling Party (hot soup & warm drinks then out to carol); Chinese Dinner (or substitute your favorite ethnic food); Game Night (snacks, drinks & board games); Hootenanny (jam session with food & drinks); Murder Mystery Dinner (they offer scripts for these on the web). Contact Roberta or Megan Kaplan, Jacki Tighe or Earl and Nancy McShane for more ideas.

UUFF Readers Gather September 16 for First Discussion

The UUFF Book Club will discuss "**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian**" by Sherman Alexie on Thursday, 9/16 at 1:00 and 7 pm. For location, call Nancy (442-2114).

Some books are available at church Sunday or check these libraries:

- Bella Vista Public Library (<http://www.bvpl.org>)
- Bentonville Public Library (<http://www2.youseemore.com/bentonville/default.asp>)
- Fayetteville Public Library (<http://www.faylib.org>)
- Rogers Public Library (<http://library.rpl.lib.ar.us>)
- Washington County Library (<http://orion.wcls.lib.ar.us>)

"The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," Alexie's first novel for young adults, tells of an unusual boy trying to rise above the life everyone expects him to live. Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian reservation. Born with medical problems, he is picked on by many, but discovers inner strength when he leaves the reservation in order to make positive changes in his life.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville

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

901 West Cleveland Street
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
Office: 479-521-8422
Fax: 479-521-8839
Email: uuff@sbcglobal.net
On the web at www.fayettevilleunitarian.org



September 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.