

----- AUUF Services · 10 a.m. -----

September 7 *Our Ingathering:*
The Sense of This Place
 Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

Welcome back from summer! Come into this place. Come into the circle of family and friends... this community of memory and hope... the struggle for justice and peace. Come and know joy. Bring your hearts and minds, your laughter and tears. We'll gather water collected from our summer adventures—in the garden, at the seashore, visiting relatives. And we'll embark on another year... together.

September 14
Hardwired to Connect:
What Children Need Most
 Rev. Diana Jordan Allende
RE Teacher Dedication,
Potluck & Giving Away the Plate

A 2003 commission on Children at Risk discovered that we are biologically hardwired to connect to other people and to meaning. Citing alarming trends in the mental health and well-being of large numbers of children, the commission called for authoritative (rather than authoritarian) communities of nurture and care. As human beings, we grow best in relationship with others. Authoritative communities, as defined in the commission's report, are groups of people who are committed to one another over time and who exhibit and are able to pass on what it means to be a good person. As we recognize those who will be teaching RE this year, we'll also consider our role in the caring and teaching community.

September 21
International Peace Day:
Who We Yet Might Be
 Rev. Diana Jordan Allende
RE for All Ages: Making Pinwheels for Peace @ 11:15

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggeman says that at the heart of the Hebrew scriptures lies an old debate about how the world should be rendered: according to the dictates of power and profit, or along the lines of neighborliness. On this UN Peace Day, we'll reflect on these competing visions and how we can be part of creating a culture of peace.

September 28
Finding Joy through
Committed Action
 Rev. Steve Shanks

Steve Shanks is an Episcopal priest, Chair of the Alabama Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and a national nonviolence trainer. Rev. Shanks provides nonviolence training for the School of Americas rally & vigil and is instrumental in the planning and logistics for the annual Jonathan Daniels pilgrimage to Hayneville, AL, which honors Alabama martyrs in the Civil Rights Movement.

Remember to bring your water for Ingathering on September 7th!



September 2008

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Conversation Café
 September 7, 2:00-3:30

Bring Your Own Topic!

Theology Café
 September 21, 2:00-3:30

“Toward a UU Understanding of Spirituality”
 (see p.2)
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 All are welcome

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	Weekly Events	Diana 1:30-6:30 Yoga @5		Diana 1:30-6:30 Choir 6:30-8		Meditation @ 10
	1	2 Com. Lunch @ 12	3	4	5 Macho Men @ 7	6 Work Party
7 Ingathering Sundae Sunday Conv'n Café @ 2	8	9	10	11	12 Sundilla @ 7:30	13
14 Potluck	15	16	17	18	19 Feminista @ 6:30	20 News Deadline
21 RE for all @11:15 Theology Café @2 Humanists @ 6	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Env't'l Film @ 7				*(Please see inside pages for more details about events.)*



Diana's Column

Office Hours—

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-6:30 p.m.

Time off: Mondays

Diana's office is in the lower level of the Busch Center, most easily reached by walking down the sidewalk and entering through the back door.

Do stop by!

At a regional gathering of UU ministers in the early '90s, the Rev. Joan Armstrong, a former minister at AUUF, announced that she was leaving Auburn and that the Rev. Barb Jamestone would soon replace her. I was a seminarian at the time, and I remember thinking to myself, "Auburn...I wonder where that is." Although I had been born in Alabama (north Alabama), I had lived most of my life in Georgia. When we traveled back to Ft. Payne, we headed north toward Chattanooga before turning west toward the blue ridges of Lookout Mountain. Auburn...Birmingham...Montgomery. Where did these lie, exactly? I hadn't paid much attention to central or east Alabama. After all, I hailed from the great city of Atlanta. And not being a football fan, I had never heard of War Eagles. Besides, my father had implied, if not outright proclaimed, that Alabama coach Bear Bryant walked on water. What did I need to know about Auburn?

Well, that was a long time ago. In the fall of 1993, I followed Barb Jamestone in the Auburn pulpit. Counting those first three years of part-time ministry, I have been in Auburn for fifteen years, a fact that in some ways astonishes me. How could a place I'd hardly heard of in 1992 come to be such an important part of my life a little over one year later? And how do fifteen years go by in a flash? It's been a memorable fifteen years. I'm still not a football fan, but at family reunions in north Alabama, I act like one, and I don't take any grief from my 'Bama-fan cousins! Auburn-Opelika has become for me the place I call home, and in a way that I can't quite articulate, it pleases me to be rooted in Alabama. Such is the power of place. And the sense of being in the right place.

Not everyone, of course, returns to the place in which they were born or grew up. Some wouldn't want to. Some can't. In our mobile society, often we seek out those places that help to root us, even if or as we are just passing through. The Auburn UU Fellowship is one of those kinds of places. Each year those of us have been "in place" for a while welcome new students, faculty, and community members from many different places. Together we make a home, a community, a holding environment that nurtures and challenges. That supports and celebrates. That searches and serves. That cherishes each and the place we make and keep together. It's that time of year again—time to begin anew, time to resume the journey.

This year we are fortunate to have Terri Albrecht-Schmitt on board as our Director of Religious Education (DRE). Terri is already bringing new ideas and the benefits of having someone devoted to our children's RE program 15 hours a week. If you haven't had the opportunity to welcome Terri, please do so. And please volunteer to help with the RE program.

This year we will also occasionally have with us Norman Horofker, a second-year seminarian at Emory's Candler School of Theology. Norm is a long-time member of the UU Fellowship in Columbus, Georgia, where he has served in many leadership roles, and he is currently the Trustee for Growth on the Mid-South District Board. His preparation for the UU ministry follows a career in engineering and manufacturing management, but his interest in religion and people are longstanding. As part of a contextual education requirement, Norm will spend several hours a week working in a 'church' setting, mostly at the Columbus Fellowship, but some of the time with us here at AUUF. You can meet Norm on Sunday, September 14, when he will be on hand for our service, potluck, and board meeting. I'm excited about working with him this year as his on-site mentor.

As we turn the page on summer and move into the fall, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Ingathering on September 7. The new year is upon us. May its blessings follow fast.

Love, *Diana*

"Toward a UU Understanding of Spirituality"

A Three-Session Conversation (September, October, November)

During Theology Café, 2:00-3:30, 3rd Sunday



Common to those who say they are seeking more spirituality and those who say they haven't a spiritual bone in their bodies are many shared values, hopes, and experiences. The differences between the two may have more to do with the language that we individually choose to describe these as well as past or present associations with the word "spirituality" and those who call themselves spiritual. Our third UU principle is "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." This suggests to me a need for a broad and generous Unitarian Universalist understanding of spirituality and spiritual growth. Regardless of where we are on the spectrum of affirming "every life a spiritual life," we need opportunities to talk with one another, to share our perspectives, to approach not a definition of spirituality, but a feel for what we're talking about. The plan will be for lots of conversation, a bit of reading, and keeping an open mind and heart. We'll be seeking some consensus around what it means to be a spiritual person, not necessarily a person who believes in God or follows a prescribed set of practices. All are invited. 1st session is Sept. 21, & subsequent sessions are Oct. 19 & Nov. 16.



In the Loop



As we gather back this fall to the AUUF, I'm looking forward to new ideas, projects and activities. We had a good summer with the "Six Sources" series of Sunday services. In early August, the Board and Council members had a Saturday retreat to reflect on what we do well at the AUUF and then to envision how we might expand beyond our current efforts. It was a wonderful experience dreaming with such a creative group. That Saturday spent together is already influencing our plans, and of course, we now need to include you in the process. So, in the coming weeks we'll get together and discuss your ideas and dreams for the AUUF.

As we get underway, we also are in need of a Secretary for the Board of Trustees. Karen St.Clair, who was an active member of the Fellowship throughout the two years she was in Auburn, has moved on to a new job in Boston, and we have lost our secretary. Please consider stepping forward to serve in this position and as you do, remember that all of the Board positions provide an opportunity to speak for the congregation and develop policy for the AUUF. Karen also prepared the Orders of Service, but we've been very fortunate that Susan McCallister stepped right up to take over.

So, as we gather together for a new year, here's looking forward to working together, too!

Yours,

Sharon Roberts

President, AUUF Board of Trustees



UU Connections

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It's Good to be Prepared!



Eunice Milton Benton, District Executive

Mid-South District – UUA; On the web at www.msduua.org

Mid-August marks the beginning of a new church year – the time full church programming begins again and the time congregations are most likely to be visited by newcomers, some who are new in town and some who are exploring a new church.

This year it's likely there will be more visitors to UU congregations than usual, given the heightened visibility of Unitarian Universalism around the events in Knoxville and the media coverage in many places.

It's a good time to remind ourselves to be prepared in all kinds of ways. Indeed, we need two kinds of preparedness this season!

First, each of us needs to be prepared to welcome folks who've come to visit a new church. Hospitality is what this is about! Surely we can get this part right in the South!

A visit to www.uua.org will find a wealth of resources about church hospitality in the "Leaders Library." Mid-South's website – www.msduua.org – has still more resources.

Then, there's another kind of preparedness that we need to address: being prepared in reasonable ways for the possibility of a natural disaster or a crisis of the sort that happened in Knoxville. We're reminded because it's hurricane season, and also because we have all just felt the blow of the Knoxville tragedy.

In the latter area, some specific plans for 'Preparedness Strategies' for Mid-South UU congregations will be introduced at the October 11th Healthy Congregation Conference.

It's a good thing to be prepared!

Knoxville Update

More than \$60,000 has been donated to the Knoxville Relief Fund following the shootings at Tennessee Valley UU Church. The fund will be used for ministry, counseling, and other practical expenses of those affected by this incident. AUUF collected \$528 for this fund at our August Second Sunday Give Away the Plate. Jenny Brooks, a former member at TVUUC, is exploring other ways for AUUF to be supportive of the congregation and the victims. Both TVUUC members and Westside UU Church members were killed and injured. The addresses of the congregations are: TVUUC; 2931 Kingston Pike; Knoxville, TN 37919; and Westside UU Church; 616 Fretz Road; Farragut, TN 37934.

AUUF NEWS

RE NEWS

Dates to remember:

- **Sept 7th** –Sundae Sunday (Registration for RE) follows Ingathering in courtyard
- **Sept 14th** –Teacher Dedication (Celebrate this year’s RE teachers!)
- **Sept 21st** –RE for All Ages (International Day of Peace and making pinwheels!)

This year’s theme is: **“Because we are UU!”**
Our first topic, on the 21st, will be: “Because we are UU, **we work for peace.**”



I am excited to start RE for this year. We will learn and grow together. My main job as DRE is to make sure the teachers can do their jobs as smoothly as possible. I hope to provide them with everything they need to enrich the spirits of the children in their classes. If I do my job right, everyone in our Fellowship will be in turn enriched. We are one community and we all affect each other.

The following is my DRE statement:
As DRE for the AUUF, I will maintain the quality of RE for all participants and will strive to increase it as I am able. I am a facilitator of the Religious Education service for AUUF, and as such, I intend to increase the numbers of those helping in some manner to better integrate the adults and children into a multigenerational community of faith.

In service,

Terri Albrecht-Schmitt
DREAUUF@gmail.com

AUUF’s Congregational Support Committee:

Invisible to Some, A Resource for All

Working in conjunction with the minister, AUUF’s **Congregational Support Committee** identifies and responds to the special needs of individuals within the Fellowship during times of transition or need. Because support is provided while respecting the privacy wishes of recipients, some AUUF members or friends may know little about Congregational Support’s role and activities.

During the 2007-2008 year, the committee, in conjunction with volunteers, provided support to approximately 40 AUUF members, families, or friends. The following types of services/support were provided: support related to illnesses, injuries, surgeries, and other medical needs; meals; short-term lodging; episodic/ongoing transportation; bereavement support; cards; ongoing /episodic contacts/calls; visits; organization of food deliveries and other forms of support at times of birth, death, or loss; hosting memorial services; problem-solving & brainstorming; home upkeep/repair; monitoring/maintaining contact; grocery shopping; internet searches; and accompaniment to doctor visits. Committee volunteer Dott Dailey sent birthday cards to all the children registered in our RE program.

We all need assistance at some time - yet some of us are reluctant to ask for or accept help. The Congregational Support Committee’s goal is to facilitate support for AUUF members and friends.



If the Congregational Support committee can be of assistance to you, please contact Samera Baird (334-559-0710), Billie Crumpton (334-749-2445), or Nancy Gell (334-559-4321) directly, or Diana (334-501-8621).



ANNOUNCEMENTS



AUUF Work Party

Saturday, September 6th, 8 – 12

Help us celebrate the end of summer! Join the work party on Saturday, September 6th as we prepare for In-Gathering on Sept. 7th. We'll provide coffee, juice and doughnuts. You provide the labor. We'll start around 8:00 a.m. and finish around noon - well before the later AU football activities.

We hope to hear from those who can attend.

Note that we have both indoor and outdoor activities, so this is a rain or shine event. Please bring appropriate tools—& bring a friend! You may perform your selected task before Sept. 6th if that date doesn't work for you.

These parties are fine ways to meet new friends as we take care of our buildings and grounds. We look forward to hearing from you.

--Shannon Price (cell: 275-5139)

Environmental Films are Back!

Tuesday, September 30 @ 7 pm

Enjoy two really good short films and organic cookies. We will watch "Flip Floatsam" and "For the Price of a Cup of Coffee."

Don't miss it!!

Questions? Email Gisela (buschgi@auburn.edu) or call 844-5468.

Laura's Art Show!

I wanted to let everyone know that some of my photos and two of my art pieces are hanging at the Gnu's Room for the next month. Their information is:

The Gnu's Room Bookstore and Dog & Pony Coffee
414 S. Gay St; Auburn, AL 36830; 334-821-5550
Tue – Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Sun – Mon closed

So go by there, have a cup of coffee or tea, maybe buy a book, and check out my work. I have a bio available if you care to read more about me.

--Laura Kloberg
334-332-5458; aura57@yahoo.com

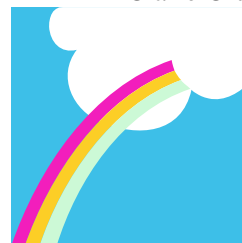
To AUUF Women...

Womenspirit at the Mountain

is October 15-17 and Oct 17-19. The theme is "The Sacred Calls; How Will You Answer?"

You can find out more about it from the brochure posted on the web at <http://uuwomenspirit.org/Fall%20events.html>. Dott and I will be going to the Gathering (the weekend event). We would love to have you come with us! If you have any questions, please let me know.

--Claire Crutchley



... .. Corner Quote
"Expect Nothing. Live frugally on surprise."

--Alice Walker

Sundilla Concert

September 12, 7:30

Tracy Grammer

More information available at www.sundilla.org

Healthy Congregation Conference:

Growing Beloved Community

OCTOBER 11, 2008

Save the date for the 2008 Healthy Congregation Conference in Birmingham, Alabama at the UU Church of Birmingham.

The keynote address is titled "Building the Common Good," with keynote speaker and UUA Moderator, Gini Courter. She will also lead a workshop on "Leading the Common Good."

All congregations are encouraged to send teams of leaders so that a congregation can have attendees at all the various workshops!

More information is available at www.msduua.org or from June Bryant, MSD TEACH Trustee, at junebryant@cox.net.

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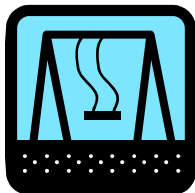
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Reminder: The deadline for newsletter items is the 20th of the month.



Schedules

Playground Volunteers

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September playground volunteers are needed!

Please contact Ben Rudgers on a Sunday or email him at:
teamsteam@bellsouth.net.

Storytellers for September

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September 7	Conar Rochford
September 14	Jenny Brooks
September 21	Terri Albrecht-Schmitt
September 28	Janice Ross

Grand and Glorious Greeters for September

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September 7	Teresa Hawkins, Claudia Highfill
September 14	Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters
September 21	Lindsay Amsberry, Shannon Price
September 28	Claire Crutchley, Paul Starr

Angels for September

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September 7	To Be Announced
September 14	The Walkers
September 21	To Be Announced
September 28	To Be Announced