

----- AUUF Services · 10 a.m. -----

October 5

Blessing of the Animals
Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

One way of honoring the Interdependent Web of All Existence is to take time to appreciate our animal companions, so this Sunday, bring them to ‘church’! We’ll gather behind the Busch Center for a service of blessing and thanksgiving. There will also be an altar for photos or other representations of the animals you love. We’ll also take up a special collection to benefit both the Lee and Macon County Humane Societies.

October 12

*Association Sunday:
Growing Our Spirit*
Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

*New Member Recognition Sunday,
Potluck & Giving Away the Plate*

Today we celebrate Association Sunday to affirm AUUF’s common bonds and purposes with UU congregations across the continent and beyond. Honoring that connection and common vision can be a rewarding and empowering experience. We’ll take up a special collection in support of the \$1 million goal for initiatives related to growth in spirit. Please see Diana’s column for more information. Don’t miss the AUUF choir’s special music in honor of our association and our newest members—from the macro to the micro!

October 19

Religion and Politics
Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

Fundamentalist movements worldwide make us all a bit wary of the relationship between religion and politics, but how could they not be related? Both deal with how we order our common life.

October 26

Election—It’s in Your Hands
Mrs. Amelia Boynton-Robinson

AUUF is honored to have Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson of Tuskegee, a mother of the Civil Rights movement who worked with Dr. King and others in founding the Selma campaign. On Bloody Sunday March 1965, she was gassed, beaten and left for dead on Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge, but she “rose up.” Through determination and committed actions, she and others were instrumental in “electing” National Voting Rights to become U.S. law later that same year. At age 97 she travels and speaks internationally, inspiring citizens of all colors and all nations to continue the struggles for justice and peace, hereby electing a better world for all. Bridge Across Jordan is an account of the life-long struggle, “which gives me strength!”



**October
2008**

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Conversation Café
October 5, 2:00-3:30

“Interior and Exterior
Geographies: Which
Landscape Influences Us
Most?”

Theology Café
October 19, 2:00-3:30

“Toward a UU Under-
standing of Spirituality”

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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	3 Macho Men @ 7	4
5 Conv'n Café @ 2	6	7 Com. Lunch @ 12	8	9	10	11
12 Potluck	13	14	15	16 UUA Principles feedback due	17 Feminista @ 6:30	18
19 Theology Café @2 Humanists @ 6	20 News Deadline	21	22	23	24 Sundilla @ 7:30	25
26	27	28 Env't'l Film @ 7	29	30	31	*(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!

This year October could be called “the Month of Our Interconnections.” We’ll start by blessing the animals on the 5th, celebrating our Unitarian Universalist Association on the 12th, and considering the proper relationship of religion to politics on the 19th. On the 26th Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson will share the story of her very long engagement in the struggle for civil rights from Selma, forward, and along the way, we’ll recognize our newest members, potluck together, meet in myriad small-group settings, and move into autumn. Given the turbulence of tropical storms and hurricanes, the presidential election, and the U.S. financial crisis, we can use these reminders of our interconnectedness and opportunities to practice and deepen community.

Speaking of Association Sunday on October 12, this will be AUUF’s second year to participate. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) asks all congregations to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association. By scheduling a Sunday to focus on our larger shared commitment and by bringing our resources together for greater effect through a special collection, it is hoped that we will be able to “grow” Unitarian Universalism both in depth and breadth, and extend our influence in the world as well. Increasingly we need inclusive, caring communities that share a commitment to justice, equity, and compassion in the world, communities that treasure the great interconnected web of being.

Last year, \$1.4 million was raised in support of *Growth in Outreach*, underwriting major ad campaigns, among other things. The focus of this year’s Association Sunday is *Growth in Spirit*, and the goal is to raise \$1 million which will be used in a variety of ways, including grants for lay theological education programs in congregations, continuing education grants for ministers, scholarships for seminarians, and support for ministers of color. In subsequent years, the focus will be on *Growth in Diversity*, *Growth in Witness*, and *Growth in Leadership*—initiatives based on survey responses of almost 2,000 UU leaders.

As before, the suggested giving goal is \$50 per member. For us, this would mean raising \$5,000. Our collective donation last year was approximately \$1,600. Since most of the money will flow back into the Districts and congregations, our generous giving, as we say each Sunday, is an act of commitment to one another and to fostering UU values in the world. Please be on hand to celebrate our larger movement as well as the newest members of AUUF.

Love, *Diana*

“Toward a UU Understanding of Spirituality”

A Continuing Conversation during Theology Café

October 19, 2:00-3:30

Even if you missed session one, please join us for part two of this important conversation. To help focus our discussion, we will read two brief essays, which may be found at: http://www.uusdn.org/what_is_spirituality.html and <http://jesspages.net/bestofuu/04/connected-to-something-larger-or-deeper>, or ask Diana for a copy of the readings.



If You See Norman, Say Hello!

As many of you know, UU seminarian Norman Horofker, from the Columbus Fellowship, will be spending some time with us this year as part of his second-year contextual education program at Emory's Candler School of Theology. Although he will be working primarily with the Columbus Fellowship, Norman will also participate in or lead various activities at AUUF so that he gains experience in multiple areas of congregational life and leadership. As his on-site mentor, I will meet with him twice a month to discuss this part of his preparation for the UU ministry. I will also be responsible for submitting an evaluation at the end of each semester. Both Norman and his wife, Janet, are seasoned lay-leaders. UU ministry is a second career for him, and his interest at this time is in helping small UU congregations to grow, or perhaps in some kind of community ministry. Many of you met Norman on September 14, and I expect he'll join us again soon. Please take time to say hello and welcome him to AUUF.



**As the Excitement builds for this year's UU Auction,
it Time for YOU to be thinking about your donation!!
AUUF AUCTION, Friday, December 5**



UU Connections

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Mid-South District's HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS CONFERENCE

**Saturday, October 11, 2008
Hosted by the UU Church of Birmingham
4300 Hampton Heights Drive; Birmingham, AL; 205-945-8111**

The big news for the 2008 Healthy Congregation Conference on October 11th is that Gini Courter will be with us! It's her first visit to a Mid-South event, so southern hospitality demands a big turnout to welcome her!

Get folks in your congregation organized to be in Birmingham on October 11th for the day-long conference! In addition to Gini's morning presentations, there will be afternoon workshops on Minister Transition Times, Preparedness for Congregations, Social Justice, Sustainable Growth for Small Congregations (UP!), and a YAC gathering for youth!

The annual Healthy Congregation Conference is always structured so that lots of folks in a congregation can attend and get different kinds of information and wisdom – in addition to meeting UUs from other congregations. It begins at 9 a.m. and finishes in time for attendees to get home the same day.

So – come meet and welcome Gini Courter and glean resources and inspiration for your congregation! Gini is an energetic and inspiring leader in our UU family, and she is the highest-ranking volunteer leader in our UUA. She is the UUA Moderator and, in that position, presides over the General Assembly, all UUA Board meetings, and is an important voice for Unitarian Universalism.

See you in Birmingham on the 11th!

June Bryant, MSD TEACH Trustee

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

AUUF NEWS

DRE Spotlight

Have you ever felt like Winnie-the-Pooh when you need an idea, but don't know how to have one? Much of my work coming up with an RE theme for the year was, "Think. Think. Think." I was not sure what to think, but knew I was supposed to be thinking. What else was I to do? In the end, when I opted to just let ideas come to me, the theme was there. Because it was so simple, I wondered if it was any good. I have been doing a lot more thinking on "Because we are UU" since then. There are many ways to help young UU's understand their religion. Most of what they hear is "It depends." It depends on what perspective, as a UU, each of us comes from, and it depends on who you ask, etc. But, the uncertainties are not what will help them become strong in their own faiths. Ultimately, what matters is that they know we come together to celebrate and mourn, to study and worship, as one family, not despite our differences, but because of them

I am happy to announce that we have a large and terrific mix of new and experienced RE teachers this year. Our first-time teachers are Susan McCallister, Leigh Jacobson, and Ginny Jones. They will be guiding and celebrating our preschool children this year. We have two teachers who slid into RE part way through last year. Shannon Price and Jey Koehler will brave a whole year with our Kindergarten through 3rd grade class this year! Welcome!

I enjoyed my first "Teacher Training." Claire Crutchley and Robert Zabawa took the helm. What a great ride it was! Through our Saturday morning journey, we were brought closer together. We grew to understand each other's perspectives more and to know each other better. We have a stronger teaching base because we thought, shared, and worked together. Thank you for the workshop!

AUUF does value its children and youth. We value the children in our community and around the world. Thank you for being so dedicated to the children to laboriously create the DRE position. I also thank everyone, especially our great RE teachers for this year, Diana, and past RE chairs for their guidance and faith in my abilities. Let us all continue the peregrination together.

Gratefully,

Terri Albrecht-Schmitt

Service News

Blessing of the Animals: October 5th

Can you help with the Blessing of the Animals Service on Oct. 5th?

Since we will meet behind the Bush Center, we will need to set up chairs, put up signs, sweep the sidewalk and who knows what else! Please let Diana know if you can help with set-up beforehand or clean-up afterwards, or if you have portable sound equipment that could be used to amplify the speakers... squeakers... barkers... and mewers.



Donate to Humane Societies on Oct. 5th

At Oct. 5th's Blessing of the Animals service, a second collection will be taken up for the purpose of blessing those who work year-round to make the lives of animals better.

This second collection will go to the Humane Societies of Lee and Macon Counties. Lee County is raising money to build a spay and neuter clinic. They've already raised \$130,000 of the \$200,000 they need, so our donations will help them get closer to their goal. The Macon County Humane Society is a volunteer organization that cares for abandoned and neglected animals rescued in Macon County. Having no shelter, they use a small foster care network of six volunteers to provide temporary care. The Macon County Humane Society seeks funding to establish a state-of-the-art adoption and humane education center. This is a much-needed facility that will have an immediate and positive impact on many animals and on the people who live and work in our community. Please plan to give generously to support these two organizations.

--Greg Schmidt, Social Action Chair



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Environmental Movie

- King Corn -

Tuesday, October 28, at 7:00 PM

You gotta see it! Two college students go on a quest to find out where America's food comes from. By planting an acre of corn they follow its fate from seed to harvest and beyond. They learn how genetically modified seeds perfectly match up with specific herbicides. Biting into a corn ear, fresh from their field, they are surprised that it does not taste very good. Eventually they discover that it is not meant to be for human consumption, and the term "corn-fed beef" gets a whole new meaning. Then they turn their kitchen into a chemistry lab and produce high-fructose corn syrup. Are you reading the label of ingredients on the food you serve for dinner? Did you notice how limited your choices are in the grocery store if you try to stay away from corn syrup?



Don't miss the movie. It is excellent! You can read more and watch a segment on: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/kingcorn/film.html>. It runs for 88 min.

--Gisela (821-4293)

September's Giving of the Plate

Thanks to your generosity, we collected **\$443** for the **East Alabama Food Bank** on September 14. Each month we identify an agency (usually within the local community) to be the recipient of all non-pledged funds collected that Sunday. Cash donations from visitors and members, as well as checks marked as "plate" on the memo line are given away. Last year we donated several thousand dollars to the community. If we all give a little, we can help a lot.



UUA Principles & Purposes Revisions

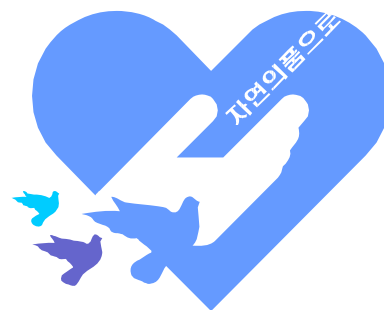
October 16 is the Deadline for giving your feedback on the proposed revision of the UUA Principles and Purposes. To read the proposed draft and complete an online survey, go to: <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/electedcommittees/appraisalcommission/119345.shtml>. Practice the democratic process! Make your views known! Help shape Unitarian Universalism in the 21st century!

Sundilla Concert

October 24, 7:30

Red Molly

More information available at www.sundilla.org



... .. Corner Quote

"Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it lit."

--Mary Lou Retton

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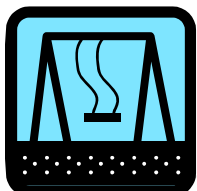
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Reminder: The deadline for newsletter items is the 20th of the month.



Schedules

Playground Volunteers

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October 5	Tom Hodges, Suzanne Walker
October 12	Noriko Aoi, Ralph Banks
October 19	Tem Samuel, Gisela Buschle-Diller
October 26	Jim Gravois

Storytellers for October

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October 5	Tom Hodges
October 12	Jim Gravois
October 19	Suzanne Walker
October 26	Melissa Blackburn

Meting Out Greetings for October

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October 5	Angie Hodges, Susan McCallister
October 12	Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters
October 19	Nancy Gell, Leslie Moland
October 26	Betty Gorke, Teresa Hawkins

Angels for October

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October 5	Conrad & Janice Ross
October 12	Potluck—The Walkers
October 19	Darrell Crutchley & someone special
October 26	Jim Gravois, Gisela Buschle-Diller