

----- AUUF Services · 10 a.m. -----

**November 2**

*A Congregation of All Souls:  
Day of the Dead*

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

Our annual service of remembrance. Please bring photos, flowers, or food for our altar. Feel free to tell a story, share a memory, raise a toast, or shed a tear. Practice your sixth sense as we take time to remember those who have gone on and are said to return around this time each year!

**November 9**

*The Watseka Wonder:  
Ken's Auction Sermon*

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

*Potluck & Giving Away the Plate*

Speaking of the return of the dead (above), in 1865 Mary Roff died in Watseka, Illinois, at the age of 18. In 1878, she took up residence in the body of Mary Lurancy Vennum, aged 14. Come hear the details of this well-documented case. What are we to make of the uncanny events of the Watseka Wonder, the uncanny events in some of our own lives? An exploration of the possibility—even evidence—of life after death.

**November 16**

*Six Sources Series:  
The Wisdom of Earth-  
Centered Traditions*

Chip Busch & Sharon Roberts

The teachings of Earth-centered traditions provide rich and varied perspectives on our relationship to the world around us. They have much to teach those of us caught up in modern life if we be still and listen. Join Chip and Sharon as they share our appreciation of the wisdom of these traditions.

**November 23**

*Sufficiency*

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

*Bread Communion Service & Guest at  
Your Table Kick-Off*

Bread is basic. So are friendship, stories, and thanksgiving. Our Bread Communion service combines all three. Bring the bread of your choice, be it biscuits, muffins or lovely loaves. If your bread has a story, share that with the rest of us. Poised at the threshold of the holiday season, let us break bread together and give thanks for enough.

**November 30**

*Service TBA*

Lay-Led Service

Please see our website [auuf.net](http://auuf.net) for the latest information about this service.

Don't forget to  
**VOTE**  
on November 4<sup>th</sup>!!



**November  
2008**

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**Conversation Café**  
November 2, 2:00-3:30  
*Living Through the 'Most  
Important Election Ever!'*

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**Theology Café**  
November 16, 1:00-2:30  
*Toward a UU Under-  
standing of Spirituality*

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*All are welcome*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Weekly Events Choir @8:45	Terri 11-1	Diana 1:30-6:30 Yoga @5	Terri 11-1	Diana 1:30-6:30		Meditation @ 10
2 Conv'n Café @ 2	3	4 Com. Lunch @ 12 <b>Remember to VOTE!</b>	5	6	7 Macho Men @ 7 Sundilla @ 7:30	8
9 Potluck	10 Diana @ SEUUMA-----	11 Env't'l Film @ 7 -----	12 -----	13 -----	14	15 Harvest Hey Day @ 1
16 Theology Café @1 New UU Session Humanists @ 6	17	18	19	20 News Deadline	21 Feminista @ 6:30 Youth CONfront the SOA -----	22 Cookie Bake @1 -----
23 Guest at Your Table begins -----	24	25	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29
30					<i>Upcoming: December 5<sup>th</sup> is the AUUF Auction!!</i>	<b>*(Please see inside pages for more details about events.)*</b>



# 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!

As I write this, both the election and Thanksgiving loom large before me. Which to address? IRS rules forbid clergy from endorsing candidates from the pulpit and so, presumably, in their newsletter columns. So I will simply urge you to vote for the candidate that you believe will work for "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." The fact that I cannot endorse doesn't mean, however, that the election isn't weighing heavily on my mind and heart. Taking my yard sign in at night and putting it back out in the morning has become something of a spiritual discipline, something 'hands-on' that I can do every day. Very soon we will know not only who our next president will be, but also a bit more about the nation in which we live. Let us hope there is something to admire and celebrate on both counts.

In my backyard, if I stand with the Robert G. Pitts Airport behind me, I can imagine myself to be living in a simpler time, say, 1950. There's my little house. There's its garage, a separate, wooden structure. There's my neighbor's clothesline, his large oak tree, his mop leaned against the porch railing. There are the apple tree, the pear tree, and the pecan tree that straddle the property line. There is my compost pile (also part of my spiritual practice). On a recent rainy morning, I surveyed all of this and thought of William Carlos Williams' poem, *The Red Wheelbarrow*:

*so much depends  
upon*

*a red wheel  
barrow*

*glazed with rain  
water*

*beside the white  
chickens.*

I have always liked this poem even though discerning its meaning functions something like a Buddhist koan for me. I have come to think that surely one day Mr. Williams happened upon a scene just like this one and was literally (or literarily) 'struck' by the poem. Everything essential is represented: work, art, nature, grace, beauty, interdependence. So much depends—everything depends—on its all being here. And it is here! That's the glory!

I am using this poem to steady me over the next two weeks, to quell my anxiety, to keep things in perspective. On the one hand, this election seems crucial to determining what kind of country we will be and become in this new century. The financial instability of October has put a fine point on the need for change. On the other hand (or perhaps regardless of election outcomes), there are some fundamentals that we dare not lose sight of: the good earth and its gifts, our work as our gifts, and a deep-felt appreciation of the whole.

Counting my blessings as we move toward the election and beyond....

Love, *Diana*

P.S. Diana will be at the Mountain attending the fall SEUUMA meeting Nov. 10-13. Cell phone coverage is spotty, but she will be checking email!



## "Toward a UU Understanding of Spirituality"

A Continuing Conversation during Theology Café

November 16, 1:00-2:30

Even if you've missed the first two sessions, please join the conversation on Nov. 16 from 1:00-2:30.

You might be surprised by what UU's are saying about spirituality. You might actually agree!

# It's Auction Time!!



Everyone who's attended the Annual UU Auction knows—**It's Great Fun!**

With equal parts generosity and energy, we come together every year to provide **appealing items, delicious meals, and unique services** that we and our friends in the community love to bid on. Pictured to the left are some of the donations for the 2004 auction.

Ken Walters is auction chair again, and he will be calling soon to line up people to "work" the auction. He's already asked me to be auctioneer. ☺

So, as auctioneer, I am asking you to **donate now!**

Go to our website [www.auuf.net](http://www.auuf.net) to find a donation form. Last year's catalog is online, as well. You can check to see what you donated before or use it for ideas of what to donate this time.

Mark your calendar, **Friday night, December 5**, and invite your friends. This is our big fund-raiser; let's all make it a success.

--Terry Rodriguez, Auctioneer



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## *UU Connections*

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### **THE PRACTICE OF GENEROSITY**



More and more Mid-South congregations are “giving away the plate” periodically – and what these congregations are finding is that this custom is creating a culture of generosity in their congregations. Some do this as a once-a-month practice – but some are doing it almost every Sunday!

This bigheartedness is a gift to the recipients – who may be community organizations or individuals with special needs or Unitarian Universalist congregations with special needs.

But the real reward of this practice is felt by those who give. Realizing that we can share out of the abundance available to us, that we can truly afford to be generous even in tight times is a gift to the human spirit. Practicing generosity like this is spiritual practice for congregations.

One focus of this kind of giving could be the once-a-year day practice of giving to our UUA family. “ASSOCIATION SUNDAY” is what we call the day, once a year, when we “give away the plate” as extra support for our family of UU congregations across the country.

November, the time of harvest and thanksgiving, calls us to both gratitude and generosity – a time to “count our blessings” and then to share them to bless the world beyond ourselves. It's a good season for generosity.

Generous living is also a balm for the kind of anxious times the roller-coaster financial world is thrusting upon us. Finding ways to live with abundance in times shot through with fears of scarcity is good spiritual practice for us all.

You can find stories about generosity at the Mid-South website, and information about “Association Sunday” at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), the UUA web site.

--Mid-South District – UUA; On the web at [www.msduua.org](http://www.msduua.org)

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# RE NEWS

## DRE Spotlight

### *Homecoming*

Going back to the beginnings of civilization, people wandered during the warmer months, then settled into some kind of encampment for the winter. Perhaps that is why fall seems like a time to draw closer to each other. We stay closer to home to prepare for winter. I have never been big on spring-cleaning, but fall-cleaning is instinctual for me. It is time to take stock of what I have collected too much of, what has worn out and what I never should have had in the first place. Never do I want my home more inviting for others than during the fall and winter. May be I am creating a shelter for the community. I am preparing my camp for guests.

I decided to try the first RE for All Ages on the first day of RE for specific reasons. The practical one was to promote International Day of Peace, which fell on the first day of RE. More importantly I wanted to reinforce the spiritual practice of coming together in community. This is essential in order to be a nurturing religious community, for our children and for us all. There will be another chance in January to come together. Please come to give and receive in community.

Fall is a time to come together. Perhaps it is because of school bringing people together or maybe it stems from the Ingathering. For me part of it has to do with the change in the sun's rays. I feel the switch from the harshness of summer's intense heat to the fall's comforting cast, and I begin my ritual.

Chalice Times are designed to reinforce that "coming-together" essence of fall. The coming together will not just be for fall, but throughout the RE year. Once a month for just 5 to 10 minutes, all RE kids gather for a chalice lighting and a bit of a lesson concerning the UU community. My intent is to come together to develop a spiritual UU community. As diverse as this may be, the developing of spiritual and religious practices for our young people offers them a homecoming. This homecoming might be needed for the first time when they go away to college, when they move into their first home, or perhaps much earlier when they go to an overnight summer camp. In any case, they will have a foundation of faith, *their faith*, to nurture themselves until they find another community to help them along on their journeys.

*Gratefully,*

Terri Albrecht-Schmitt

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## **Harvest Hey Day!**

**November 15, 1 – 5 pm**

This activity is for children 3 yrs to 13 yrs old. We will play fun



Fall games, make a craft of the season, enjoy a snack, and just have a good time. Come dressed for the weather. Parents contact Terri Albrecht-Schmitt (Director of Religious Education) to sign-up for this event. Then enjoy an afternoon away from the kids to holiday shop, bake, clean, nap, or take in a movie. The choice is yours!

## **High School Teen RE**

With four returning high schoolers and three junior high schoolers who've moved up, we have started the RE year fast and furious. Taking the lead from the national UUA which is examining the Seven Principles, we are also doing the same. First we spent some time discussing those qualities we thought were important to us as individuals and have then spent the last two weeks looking at the first two principles (the inherent worth and dignity of every person & justice, equity and compassion in human relations) through readings, music, sculpture, and even equations. Our goal is to come up with a revised set of principles that speak to teens. Also coming up in November, AUUF is hosting "CONfront" (see below). So keep a watch out as Teens Rule!  
--Claire, Sally and Robert

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## **CONfront the SOA Nov. 21-23**

The AUUF is hosting the Mid South District youth and advisors (YAC) CONfront, a gathering to protest at the School of the Americas. High-school-aged youth will stay at the AUUF the whole weekend, traveling to Ft. Benning on Saturday, to attend the protest.

We can use lots of help. We need people willing to cook meals (food costs will be reimbursed), help serve meals, and the favorite: stay up as "up-all-night" adults. We need adults to take 3-hour shifts in the middle of the night Friday and Saturday so that the advisors can get some sleep. Please let Claire Crutchley or Robert Zabawa know if you are willing to help in any way.

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## **Volunteer to Help Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> –**

### **We Help Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser**

The AUUF is participating in a large fundraiser for the We Help Coalition. We will be monitoring the Auburn University Credit Union parking lot on Nov. 15 for the Georgia football game. Football fans have bought permits, and We Help gets to keep the money. We will need volunteers all day to check parking lot passes before the game. Please check your schedules and see if you can hang out for a few hours tailgating with your friends at the AUUF and help raise money to build a Habitat House.

## *A Letter from Susan Ellzey...*

I want to thank the members of AUUF for the warm welcome and open arms since my son Sam and I have started attending.

Sam has Down syndrome, but just refuses to fully submit to the sweet, kind, loving angel stereotype. He's more rough and tumble, mischievous and silly, loud, and just very there. He loves being around people, and the Fellowship has already turned into part of the week's agenda he likes to run through ("Thursday, Friday, cereal, juice, school, sleep, then Saturday, Sunday, egg and bagel, Fellowship, pizza, then computer.") Sam can get so excited around large groups of people that he has difficulty containing himself, and his disability makes it hard for him to understand why he shouldn't grab people, hug too hard or when it's not welcome, or play rough with children smaller than him. He has some habits and mannerisms that are also hard to accept or understand on the surface as well. I'm offering the following information and suggestions to help others be more comfortable around him, so everyone can see what a wonderful person is under his disability.

Sam has 13 years of life experience and wisdom, is a seventh-grader at Drake Middle School, and is physically developing as a typical teenage boy, so he is not a "child forever" as a recent *OA News* article declared intellectually-disabled teens and adults to be. Mentally, he is a mix of a middle-schooler trying to fit in with his peers, but feeling more comfortable at some level with smaller children and their toys and activities. I try to keep a close eye on him when he's around small children as he doesn't really understand his potential to hurt them, but if I miss it and you see him behaving inappropriately, he understands "Sam! Gentle!" (I am going to try to stop him from playing on the stage area, and would appreciate assistance if he escapes my eagle eye!)

If he tries to hug you when you would rather not or to physically contact you in any way when it bothers you, please don't feel you have to submit – look him in the eyes and firmly say "NO, Sam. Stop it!" If he persists, turn away from him, or offer to shake his hand instead (we are working on this at school as well). He has received too much positive reinforcement for the behavior from well-meaning people, and you would be helping him understand how to behave appropriately and be happier in his world. But if you would like a hug – by all means, let him give you one! Learning the difference is also important.



Sam's speech and comprehension are both limited, so he probably won't understand anything other than simple short sentences. He picks up non-verbal language quite well, though – gestures, facial expressions, body language. (Unfortunately, we were never able to teach him much sign language.) Showing him things or demonstrating rather than explaining work better with him – he catches on quickly to things that are shown to him step-by-step as a rule.

Sam has fine motor skills problems – using a pencil or fork correctly or completing the final steps in making pinwheels, for example. He can only write a few words and has what appear to be bad table manners. Sam cannot feed himself well without "hovelling" his food from plate to mouth. (His bad habit of eating with his mouth open is related to facial structure associated with Downs, but we are working on correcting that.)

On the more positive side...Sam adores people and celebrations – thus his wishing everyone happy birthday! He will enjoy any attention you give him. He picks up on sadness, will put an arm around you, try to comfort you, and shed tears with you if it's called for. He doesn't judge on externals, could not care less whom you choose to love, can't stand meanness, and desperately wants everyone to love each other and get along.

I am very open to answering questions about Sam, both his abilities and his disability, and about Down syndrome in general. Don't worry about using the correct language or offending me – as long as it is meant kindly, and I'm sure that will be the case at AUUF, it won't bother me. Thanks again for all of the loving support.

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## **AUUF Congregational Support Committee**



In the September newsletter we included a piece describing the purpose of the committee and various ways we have assisted Fellowship members, friends, and families over the past year. The support provided was based on requests and identified needs of members. Now we want to ask you for other ideas on how the committee can be of assistance. If you have suggestions for additional ways we can be helpful, please don't hesitate to let us know. We are open to hearing about what has been particularly helpful in the past, what has not been quite as useful, & other ideas to help us serve the Fellowship members and friends. Please contact any of us: Samera Baird (334-559-0710), Billie Crumpton (334-749-2445), or Nancy Gell (334-559-4321 or nmgell@gmail.com).

## WeHelp Needs You

Dear Friends:

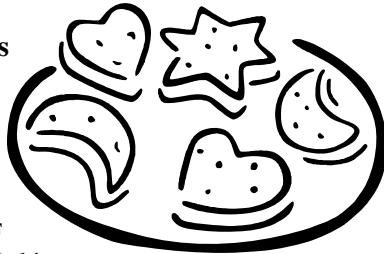
The WeHelp Coalition is sponsoring the 13th Annual Cookie Walk on **Dec 6th from 8am – 1 pm** at Auburn First Baptist's activities building. This event raises funds in order to build homes for low-income families, and in support, the AUUF pledges to bake cookies for the walk. We need your help in a variety of ways to make this event a success.

Please consider:

- \*baking and decorating holiday cookies or rum balls (see the next announcement below)
- \* help with set up on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>
- \*volunteering to help at the CookieWalk
- \*purchasing (and eating) as many cookies as you like for your family, work, or friends
- \*purchasing raffle tickets for a unique Mozell Benson quilt given away on the 6th

Get involved by contacting Kitty Frey, Ralph Banks, or Greg Schmidt

**2008 Circle of Friends  
Cookie Baking and  
Decorating  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at the AUUF**



Let's get together and bake cookies at the AUUF Circle of Friends Cookie Baking and Decorating. We'll gather together at the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 to 4 pm to bake, decorate, and just have fun. Bring your cookie doughs, cookies already baked and ready to decorate, and lots of colorful decorations! Roll up your sleeves, tie on the old apron, and let's bake cookies to build homes!

## Bookworms be aware! AUUF Library!!

Yes, we do have a library. It is still small, sort of doing baby steps, but quite cozy, and the perfect place for those bookworms among us. Its physical location is the Bush Center, across the hall from the hospitality room. A list of the books we have can be found under [www.auuf.net/newcomers](http://www.auuf.net/newcomers) (thanks, Darrell!). Categories include spiritual topics, religions, meditation, self-help, and youth. We also have some literature on environmental and political issues and even a few novels & one year of *SUN* journals. Some books, of course, could fit more than one category, so please keep looking through the list.

Checking books out is very easy: write your name, the date, and a phone number or email address on the fluorescent card you will find in each book and place the card in the little black check-out box. Returning your books is even easier – just place the book in the red “return box”. More of a challenge is to *remember* to



return them! Please be responsible and considerate and give others a chance to enjoy them as well. The fluorescent stickers on the back of each book should remind you that they belong to the AUUF library. As a rule - if the stickers fade, you've had them on your shelf for too long!

There is also a “donation” box. Please drop any books in there you want to part with and you think might be of interest to others in the community (no junk please!). The box marked with “yard sale” refers to just exactly that, but please only for books, not general yard sale items. Check it out! Questions? Call (821-4293) or email ([buschgi@auburn.edu](mailto:buschgi@auburn.edu)).

--Gisela Buschle-Diller

## A Memorial Book for AUUF

The Memorial Book, Plaque, and Garden Committee appointed by the Board to gather information regarding ways to memorialize former members and friends of the AUUF recently met with the Minister.

We determined that one of our first orders of business should be to identify those to be so honored. We have a great history, one to be proud of, and one which should be celebrated, the Fellowship having begun its association with the UUA in 1961.

To that effect, we are starting with the idea of first establishing a memorial book in which pictures and a short bio with birth and death dates can be collected and kept in a place that can be easily accessed.

We began by creating a list of names of past members and friends with the thought of later following up by contacting their next of kin. All that would be at a future date.

Presently we seek names to be memorialized and welcome your effort to add names to our list. Please contact the Minister, Jennie Raymond, Tom Hodges or Conrad Ross, the committee. At this time our list is not complete although we would like it to be, including middle names or initials.

Our list: Leonard Blanton, Hazel Blanton, Norman Brittan, Charlie Busch, Ed Clark, Helen Doughty, George Garin, Mary Garin, Bob Golden, Walter Greenleaf, Carolyn Havens, Ann Ward Huey, Robert Hyde, Tim Kramer, Alberta McMillan, Norman Perry, Francis Perry, Myra Provo, Jerry Roden, Rebecca Rousseau, Ed Schlesinger, Kay Stevens, Lilian White, Harry White.

--Conrad Ross





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## *Environmental Movie*

### **- The Price of Renewal -**

**Tuesday, November 11,\* at 7:00 PM**

(\*Please note the early date due to Thanksgiving!)

What are the challenges of bringing the “neighbor” back into the “hood”? How can an urban village be built from an ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse background? This movie documents the issue of community development and civic engagement of the once crime-ridden, deteriorating neighborhood of City Heights of San Diego, CA. This district, earmarked for a freeway and abandoned by its citizens, was transformed and revitalized into a lively area by people working together and helping each other. The movie is a part of the series “California and the American Dream” by Paul Espinosa, Lyn Goldfarb, and Jed Riffe. In September, another film of this series, “Ripe for Change,” was shown at Auburn’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. The documentary runs for 55 min and is highly recommended (and so are the cookies!). You can find out more at [www.californiadreamseries.org](http://www.californiadreamseries.org).



--Gisela Buschle-Diller (821-4293)

## **Auburn vs. Alabama**

### **Bed and Breakfast**

Instead of a crowded hotel, make your reservations now for a wonderful Bed & Breakfast Weekend with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tuscaloosa. Your \$100/night fee will be a donation to the congregation. Reserve your November 29th weekend (or for any other Univ of Alabama home game) with [deborah.crocker@ua.edu](mailto:deborah.crocker@ua.edu) with “B&B” in the subject line.

\* No declaration of team allegiances required

### ***Callaway Gardens***

Twice a year Callaway Gardens has a free day: November 6 (the birthday of co-founder, Cason Callaway) and February 21 (the birthday of co-founder, Virginia Hand Callaway.) A great outing, and save yourself about \$14 per person.

--Tom Westmoreland

## **Sundilla Concert**

November 7, 7:30

**Jeff Talmadge**

More information available at [www.sundilla.org](http://www.sundilla.org)

## **Converge on Fort Benning!**

Vigil and Direct Action to Shut Down the SOA

November 21-23, 2008

See Lu Stand for a copy of the *Presente* newspaper or go online to [www.SOAW.org](http://www.SOAW.org).

## **Entertain a Guest at Your Table!**

Each year the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) invites us to keep others in mind during the busy holiday season by keeping a colorful Guest At Your Table box close at hand. At meals or other times of the day, drop coins or dollar bills into the box as a practice in sharing. It’s a great way for families to teach and practice generosity. Our GAYT kick-off will be Nov. 23, at our Bread Communion service. Boxes will be distributed then, ‘fed’ throughout the remaining weeks of November, December, and early January, and returned on January 11. Together we can collect hundreds of dollars for UUSC service projects around the world. Thank you in advance for participating if you can and for keeping others in your hearts and minds during the holidays.

--Amy Phillips and Ryan Rood, Co-Chairs of the AUUF UUSC

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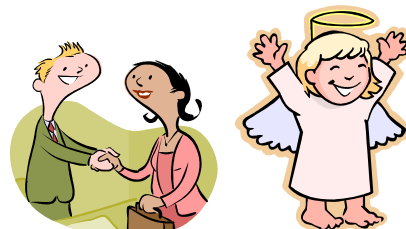
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**Reminder:** The deadline for newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



## Schedules



### Playground Volunteers

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November 2	To be announced
November 9	To be announced
November 16	To be announced
November 23	To be announced
November 30	To be announced

### Storytellers for November

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November 2	Shannon Price
November 9	Conar Rochford
November 16	Sharon Roberts
November 23	Jim Gravois
November 30	Some marvelous person...

### Gleeful Greeters for November

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November 2	Samera Baird, Carl Hudson
November 9	Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters
November 16	Ann & Joy Huyler
November 23	Lu Stand, Jerry McCreary
November 30	Toobie D. Termined, M.I. Agreeter

### Angels for November

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November 2	Ryan Rood, Chip Busch
November 9	Potluck—The Walkers
November 16	Greg Schmidt, Diana Jordan Allende
November 23	Claudia Highfill, Judy Booth
November 30	Pop & Jey Koehler