

# AUUF News



## AUUF SERVICES • 10:00 A.M.

### August 1

“Nina Lou Dean Pittman”

**Ralph Banks**

Ralph will talk about his hero--his grandmother, who lived from 1890 till 1976.

### August 8

**Picnic at Grove Hill Pool**

Join the fun from 10:00 a.m. till one. Sharon Roberts will be sending directions. Don't forget sunscreen!

### August 15

“Richard Bach, Hero”

**Ila Calloway**

Presenting her hero, Richard Bach, Ila Calloway will share how this biplane pilot and author created a chain of events in 1977 that saved her best friend's life and changed hers forever.

*“Don't believe what your eyes are telling you. All they show is limitation. Look with your understanding, find out what you already know, and you'll see the way to fly.” - Richard Bach*

### August 22

“Our Ingathering: The Kin-dom at Hand”

**Rev. Diana Jordan Allende**

Welcome back from summer and to all the lovely possibilities of the upcoming year! We'll gather to collect water from our summer adventures—in the garden, at the sea shore, visiting relatives. We'll ponder what Jesus might have meant when he said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” And we'll embark on another year... together.

### August 29

“Villagers: Everyone's Role in Religious Education” RE Teacher Dedication

**Rev. Diana Jordan Allende**

We're familiar with the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child,” but how many of us think of ourselves as villagers. What, if anything, changes when we take this metaphor seriously? This Sunday we will recognize and honor those volunteers who serve as RE teachers as we dedicate ourselves as well to our role in the lives of the youngest members of our community.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Choir @ 8:30 Service @ 10:00 RE @ 11:15		Diana 1:30-5:30/ by appt. Yoga @ 5		Diana 1:30-5:30/ by appt. Meditation @ 6		
1	2	3 Comm. Lunch @ Fine Garden	4	5	6 Macho Men @ 7 Sundilla @ 7:30	7 Meditation @ 10
8 Picnic @ Grove Hill Pool Board Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Humanist Dinner @ 6 in Fellowship Hall	16	17	18	19	20 Feminista @ 6:30  News Deadline	21 Meditation @ 10
22 Ingathering	23	24	25	26	27 Sundilla @ 7:30	28
29 RE Teacher Dedication	30	31				Please see inside pages for more info about events.
<b>Mid-South Healthy Congregation Conference coming to AUBURN in October!! YOU CAN HELP.</b>						

# Diana's COLUMN

Rarely have I seen a summer as busy as this one! Perhaps it is the influx of new committee chairs full of great ideas. Perhaps it was weighty issues before the Board—issues related to the property next door, a capital campaign, and renting space to the Village Montessori School. Perhaps it has been in completing projects long on the table, such as clarifying the purpose of our listserv, developing additional options for in-depth discussions, and publishing a *Guide to Community at AUUF*. Perhaps it is all the folks coming and going to trainings: RE Week at the Mountain (Rebecca), Southland UU Leadership Experience (Susan McCallister and Debbie Sneed), Our Whole Lives (OWL) training (Ila and Conar). No doubt it was all of the above!

Sadly we say goodbye to John, Lindsay, and Liana, as well as Teresa and Betty, John, Susie and Robinson. We wish them well as they move on to new adventures and as we prepare to welcome those who come seeking a liberal faith community. Over the summer we've added a weekly Dream Group on Wednesday evenings to yoga, meditation, choir, Macho Men, Feminista and the Humanist Group as a routine part of Fellowship life.

As a group of adults work on the celebration of our 50th anniversary in 2011, children and youth in our RE program will also engage in exploring our UU history in Auburn, Alabama. Great ideas emerged from the RE brainstorming session in July. In October we'll welcome UU's from the Mid-South District as the AUUF hosts the annual Healthy Congregation Conference as we did several years ago. Once again the congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church is graciously opening their facility for our use, so be sure to hug any Lutherans you know.

An over-arching theme of my sermons this year will be "spirituality as relationship." Our UUA principles speak of "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth" and our AUUF mission statement speaks of "enriching the spiritual lives" of our members. While spirituality may be viewed through many lens, a focus on being in right relationship with ourselves, other people, the natural world and our best understanding of "transcending mystery and wonder" is a spiritual journey open to various religious perspectives, including agnosticism and atheism. Perhaps we'll discover that a deeper understanding of "right relationship" is central to 21st century Unitarian Universalism. Our UUA turns 50 next year, too, although the streams that feed it, Unitarianism and Universalism, are much older.

As we prepare to embark on a new year of companioning one another, I hope that each of us will take seriously the question: What am I—and what are we—being called and empowered to be and do? Standing in a liberal faith tradition that extends back for hundreds of years, how can we honor our roots and spread our wings for the next fifty years of flight?

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the so-called lazy days of summer. Remember to bring water from your summertime fun for our Ingathering on August 22.

Love, Diana Allende

*Note: Diana's regular office hours (Tues.-Thurs.) resume August 3, from 1:30-5:30.*

**A suggestion has come forward that we'd like to try.**

**Instead of lighting candles (drippy, precarious, environmentally unfriendly candles,) we're going to use Stones and Water during Joys and Concerns.**

**Let us know what you think!**

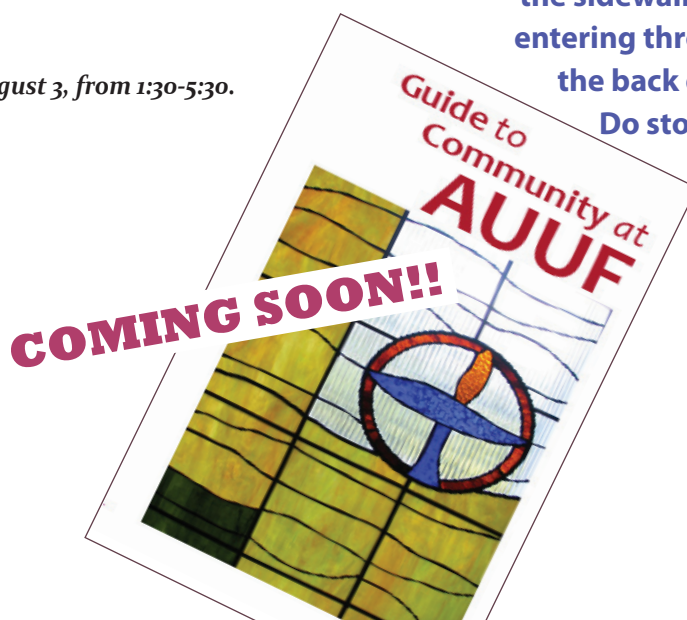
**Terry Rodriguez, Sunday Services**



*The Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a community dedicated to affirming a reverence for life and enriching the spiritual lives of its members. Here we honor the one and the many; here we welcome a diversity of thoughts, beliefs and passions; here we speak without fear and listen with open hearts. We gather to care for one another, share our burdens and joys, and celebrate life's passages. Strengthened by this fellowship, we bring a liberal religious presence to our larger community and work for a safe and just world.*

Office Hours—  
Tuesdays and  
Thursdays  
1:30-5:30 p.m.  
and by appt.  
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!**



# Living Green, Living Well

## The Green Raven

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### What Does Green Mean?

Green can mean unripe and immature.  
Or just unseasoned.  
Still wet, not just behind the ears.  
Unburnable, producing too much creosote  
to congeal inside the flue and clog the chimney.  
Or not to be used in building, subject to warp.

Green is the envy monster, jealousy.  
The feeling people have when those they think they own  
have fun with others.

Green is a color.  
One that swallowed blue in Eastman's Kodachrome.  
Kodak could see the sky, but flowers  
Would melt into the foliage.  
Agfa did blue; Eastman managed red.

Green is the color the earth was when we got it from our  
parents.  
Greens are those who work to keep it so.

What color will it be when we leave it to our kids?  
The "blue planet" photographed from space may be a  
sickly green.

I'm sorry.

### Energy

Our desperate groping for more energy has been  
producing horror stories in recent years: A mine disaster  
in April in West Virginia apparently caused by neglect of  
safety regulations. BP's gusher in the gulf, also in April  
caused by neglect of safety regulators.

Earlier we had: A coal fly-ash spoil pile overflow in  
Tennessee in 2007 caused by neglect, lying, and lack of  
regulation. A BP refinery explosion in Texas, in 2005  
caused by neglect of safety regulations. And on and on.  
With ever increasing aggressive wars for oil, ever  
increasing cases of childhood asthma, and global  
warming, including rising sea levels and temperatures,  
and ocean acidification.

Soon it will be "defensive" wars as we fight to make  
lowlanders stay and drown rather than letting them  
immigrate to higher, safer ground, and fight to make those  
who once were watered by high mountain glaciers,  
continue to farm without irrigation and get along on dry  
summers. We don't admit environmental or economic  
refugees, only some political ones. [And, of course, the  
desperate ones from south of the border who are willing

to harvest our crops for pitifully low wages.] We forced  
Jews back to Europe to face Hitler. Not so very long ago.

Also, consider the impact of crude oil and dispersants on  
sargassum, the seaweed that is born in the Gulf of Mexico  
and travels the loop current and the gulf stream to the  
Atlantic where it is swept into the Sargasso Sea, the great  
whorl of seaweed that forms the other large spawning  
ground of all things marine in the mid latitudes of the  
Atlantic Ocean.

The Sargassum is extremely sensitive to crude oil, and  
probably doesn't like the poisons in the super-detergent  
(dispersant) that is making it impossible to corral the  
crude these days. (It was not a cure, but perhaps a cover-  
up). The Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean will be poor  
nurseries for many years. They've been fighting the battle  
against crude for years and may now be losing it. The  
sargassum sickened by the crude will do little to replenish  
the Sargasso Sea.

Without its supply of carbon sequestering seaweed, the  
oceans have a more daunting task as our last great carbon  
sink. How fast will they acidify? How quickly will they  
be poisoned. How much time do we have?

Shall we worry about the deficits, instead?

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-Chip Busch

## AROUND THE HODGEDEROSA

### It's getting' squirrely at the Hodgederosa!

Who knew that squirrels loved tomatoes as much as  
we do? I guess you did. I just forgot. A good  
portion of our young green tomatoes went to sneaky  
little rodents this summer, but we are managing to  
salvage some for ourselves. As the old saying goes,  
"One for the critters, one for me." Except squirrels  
can't count like that. Trust me. Next year, we will  
use netting or some other *strategy*. Have any  
ideas? Let me know.



Peppers sweet and hot are still coming.

They should produce until  
October, especially the chilies.  
And squash? Pounds and pounds  
of delicious yellow squash have  
made their way through our

kitchen, to casseroles, to fritters, to neighbors,  
enemies and beyond. The second round of bush  
beans will be coming in by the time you read this,  
too. Pole beans just take a while. Lydia's okra is  
now occupying a significant portion of our little  
garden but has supplied us with many yummy meals.

A second okra crop was planted around July 4. Lydia loves okra, by the way. If you planted okra, *don't forget*: they have a second life by cutting them back to 6-8" high. Side shoots will continue to produce pods as you plant garlic in October.

An herb we tried for the first time this year is stevia. It has insect-repelling qualities---always a good thing--- but is known more for giving a wonderful flavor to anything you want to sweeten. Just don't call it a "sweetener", says the FDA. According to Stevia.net, the FDA has in times past made "searches and seizures, trade complaints, and embargoes on importation". Only after passage of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act in 1994, was stevia allowed to be sold in the U.S., but as a "dietary supplement", not a sweetener. Even describing this Peruvian perennial as "sweet" could land me in the pokey. Nevertheless, we have illicitly used it in several dishes already, though the experts say that cool weather brings out the intensity of its "sweetness". Can't wait for pumpkin pie!

The biggest change concerning our gardening exploits this year has been an expansion of our "edible space". We plan to double the size of the garden and plant more vegetables, berries, herbs, fruit trees and vines over the coming year. This means that we will need another dehydrator and shelf space, but we'll cross those bridges next Spring. Dehydrating and vacuum sealing extends the shelf life of much of our crop, so it's not just pickles in February anymore. Though a little time-intensive, "putting up" your own for the winter sure beats anything else. Just ask a squirrel.



**Garden on!**

-Tom Hodges

**Tomato and Avocado Salad**

If like Tom, your vegetable garden is really producing, here's a wonderful salad. From *California Sol Food Casual Cooking*.

*Dijon Balsamic Dressing:*

- 6 T extra virgin olive oil
- 2 T balsamic vinegar
- 1 t mild Dijon mustard
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1/2 t salt
- Freshly ground pepper to taste

*Salad:*

- 1 small Hass avocado, chopped
- 3 Roma tomatoes or small vine-ripened, chopped

- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted
- 1 1/2 to 2 ounces goat cheese, crumbled
- 1 head butter, red leaf, or green leaf lettuce, torn and chilled
- Freshly ground pepper to taste

*Vinaigrette:* Combine the olive oil, vinegar, mustard, garlic, salt, and pepper in a jar with a tight-fitting lid and seal tightly. Shake to mix.

*Salad:* Toss the avocado, tomatoes, cranberries, pine nuts, and goat cheese with 1/4 cup of the vinaigrette in a salad bowl. Let stand for 10 minutes. Add the lettuce to the salad mixture and toss to coat. Divide the salad evenly among 4 serving plates and sprinkle with pepper. Serve immediately.

**Update on Equal Exchange Coffee Prices**



Coffee prices will increase by 50 cents per bag this Fall at the Fellowship. While our prices will still remain well below the price of Fair Trade coffee in the stores, I always loathe raising our prices.

But we've decided to do this now so that coffee sales can better contribute to the operating costs of the Fellowship. Specifically, my goal has always been to cover the cost of serving coffee during coffee hour and of pizza for our children during potluck. So, as always thank you for your support of our Fair Trade products!

Here's a run-down of our items and prices.

Coffee	\$7.50
Candy bars	\$2.75
Tamari Almonds	\$4.50
Dried Cranberries	\$4.00
Hot chocolate mix	\$5.00

**A Sense of Place**

*As time went by, I realized that the particular place I'd chosen was less important than the fact that I'd chosen a place and focused my life around it. Although the island has taken on great significance for me, it's no more inherently beautiful or meaningful than any other place on earth. What makes a place special is the way it buries itself inside the heart, not whether it's flat or rugged, rich or austere, wet or arid, gentle or harsh, warm or cold, wild or tame. Every place, like every person, is elevated by the love and respect shown toward it, and by the way in which its bounty is received.*

-Richard Nelson, *The Island Within*



## Have you ever wanted to make a difference?

Thought about your strong desire to share your knowledge and faith with others and wondered, "What am I to do?"

Well, wonder no more, the answer is clear - you can volunteer to help with Youth Religious Education (RE) this year!

A lot of exciting things will be happening, and we're looking forward to sharing it all with you.

Here's a list of a few ways you can get involved with RE:

1. Volunteer to be an RE Teacher (or Substitute)
2. Be on the RE Committee
3. Volunteer to help with special projects/field trips/events
4. Sign up to be a guest speaker in an RE Class
5. Donate supplies as needed
6. Attend inter-generational activities
7. Help plan the RE Service next spring.

If you have any questions or you are interested in getting involved with RE this year please contact Rebecca Bruscek ([dre@auuf.org](mailto:dre@auuf.org)) or the RE Committee Chair, Ila Calloway ([ila.calloway@gmail.com](mailto:ila.calloway@gmail.com)).

## Our theme for this RE year will be: Our History, AUUF's 50th Anniversary.

Classes will be focusing on the Fellowship's 50 years and also greater UU history. Long term AUUF members will be one of our resources for memories, stories and experiences. So dust off those photographs and help us all remember our half a century.

The following members have decided to volunteer to teach RE again this year; Shannon Price, Conar Rochford, Robert Zabawa, Kenneth Walters and Terry Rodriguez. RE Substitute volunteer teachers are: Casey Stanfill and Ila Calloway. *But the program still needs more teachers for all grade levels.*

Please contact Rebecca if you can teach!

Conar Rochford and Ila Calloway have generously signed up to be trained as OWL facilitators, we hope



## UU Opportunities Abound!

As August rolls around, the prospect of a new church year emerges and new opportunities announce themselves and ask to be noted on our calendars. There is a veritable cornucopia of these for Unitarian Universalist folks this fall!

First, mark your calendar for **October 9th, Auburn, AL**, for the **Mid-South Healthy Congregation Conference** that Saturday! This annual fall gathering is always inspiring and informative. More details about it soon!

Then, sign up for the electronic *Mid-South NUUS* at the link on the district website - [www.msduua.org](http://www.msduua.org) -- to be sure you're in the loop for news around the district and the region! Two clicks will get you announcements and 'nuus'!

New *A Religion for Our Time* videos about great initiatives in UU congregations are posted on the front page of [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). Enjoy!!

The **2010 UUA General Assembly** happened in June, and great coverage by the UU World at [www.uuworld.org/news/articles/167331.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/167331.shtml) allows anyone to almost be there! Check it out!

To see what rousing things UUs are up to as we try to make the world a more just and loving place, visit Standing On the Side of Love ([www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org)) Wow!!

Then, check out plans for an **Association Sunday** at your congregation this fall. It's a grand time to reach out and remember what a fine thing it is to be a UU congregation that is linked to 1000 other UU congregations! Go to [www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml) to get some inspiration about what to do!

Unitarian Universalist happenings are always inspiring and uplifting - and remind us that this chosen religion enriches not only our own lives but our whole world!

**Eunice Benton**, Executive Director  
*Mid-South District, UUA*

to begin the class January, 2011. A parents meeting will be held after Ila and Conar return. More information will be coming.

Please come and join us. Play a part in the learning and in the fun.

### Important RE Dates:

**Teacher Training: Saturday, August 28**  
**RE Teacher Dedication: Sunday, August 29**  
**RE Registration, Sundae Sunday: Sunday, September 12**  
**First Day of RE: Sunday, September 19**

Rebecca Bruscek and Ila Calloway

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

## BE A PART of the Aesthetics Committee!!

There are **5 altars** that need particular attention each year. I would like to find a person or two to commit to preparing one or more. **Dott Daily** will be preparing **Ingathering**. Would you like to arrange an altar for the **Day of the Dead, the Bread Communion, or the Flower Communion** in the spring? Could you help with the **Christmas Greening**?

There are **art shows** that can be planned and coordinated. Also under aesthetics is the general appearance of all of the buildings, as well as **chair arrangements** (coordinated with the Sunday Services Committee.)

If you have interest in a particular altar please let me know that. Perhaps you would just prefer to be a part of keeping the aesthetics of the Fellowship in general order from week to week, or perhaps you have ideas about what kind of art shows you would like to see hang in the Fellowship Hall during the year and want to take part in that aspect. **I welcome your input, and plan to have a meeting early in September to discuss the year ahead.**

Contact me by e-mail. Hope to be hearing from you soon.

Laura Kloberg, [aura57@yahoo.com](mailto:aura57@yahoo.com)

## SCHEDULES

### PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

August 1	Leigh Jacobson, Peter Livant
August 8	Brunch!! Yay
August 15	Angie Hodges, Peter Livant
August 22	Amy Phillips, Future Draft Choice
August 29	Shannon Price, Tom Hodges

### STORYTELLERS

August 1	Conar Rochford
August 8	Pot luck Picnic
August 15	Lay Led Service
August 22	Jim Gravois
August 29	Angie Hodges

### GREETERS

August 1	Suzanne Walker, Leigh Jacobson
August 8	Potluck Picnic @ Grove Hill Pool
August 15	Peter and Emily Livant
August 22	Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters
August 29	Tom Hodges

### ANGELS

August 1	Chip Busch, Janice Ross
August 8	Potluck Picnic @ Grove Hill Pool
August 15	Claire and Darrell Crutchely
August 22	Gisela Busche-Diller, Claudia Highfill
August 29	Cindy Reinke, Noriko Aoi