

----- AUUF Services · 10 a.m. -----

May 4

Every Life a Spiritual Life
Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

Our AUUF mission statement says (among other things) that the Fellowship is "dedicated to affirming a reverence for life and enriching the spiritual lives of its members." And our UUA principles affirm and promote "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth." To accomplish these worthy ends, we need some sense of what constitutes a spiritual life. As a pluralistic faith tradition, we need various ways of understanding how every life can be a spiritual life.

May 11

Growing and Greening the Auburn Day Care Center
Melissa Blackburn

Potluck & Giving Away the Plate

Join us this Mother's Day to celebrate and honor an institution that has served Auburn's mothers for over 40 years. Since its founding during the Civil Rights Movement, the Auburn Day Care Center has provided not just childcare but personal and professional support for the families it serves. Through the decades, ADCC has grown into one of only four accredited childcare centers in the Auburn area and now sits at the cusp of building a first-of-its-kind green and sustainable center as designed by the Auburn University Design-Build Masters Program. Folk-rock band "Martha's Trouble" will be

on hand to perform one moving and inspirational song in honor of this institution and the families it has served.

May 18

Faith in Action
RE Children, Youth, & Teachers
RE Art Show Artists' Reception

RE students from preschool through high school will be your teachers as they share with you their class rituals and lead you in a favorite activity from this year's exploration of "Faith in Action." Come ready to participate in active hands-on learning and to have lots of fun. Artwork made by the students in their RE classes will be on display. Please stay for a reception celebrating our young artists immediately following the service during coffee hour.

May 25

AUUF Annual Business Meeting
Sharon Roberts, President

Just as a congregation gathers to care for its spiritual health, a congregation must also gather to consider the financial health of its community and raise its voice in support of its leaders. Join us this Sunday as our congregation gathers to consider our budget and elect our leaders for the coming year.



**May
2008**

**
Conversation Café
May 4, 2:00-3:30
Delight in Disorder???

Theology Café
May 18, 2:00-3:30
Loosing Our Religion
(Rescheduled from April)

**
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 ↓	2 Macho Men @ 7 MSD Annual Assembly (in FL)	3 Meditation @ 10 ↓
4 Conv'n Café @ 2 NVC 4-6 pm, Ch.9	5 Sundilla @ 7:30	6 Com. Lunch @ 12	7 NVC 5:30-7:30 pm, Ch. 9	8	9	10
11 Potluck	12	13	14	15	16 Feminista @ 6:30	17
18 Theology Café @2 Teacher Picnic @4 (NVC rescheduled) Humanists @ 6	19	20 News Deadline	21 NVC 5:30-7:30 pm	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	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!

May is summer, August, fall. May is summer, August, fall. This is the new mantra for those of us involved in planning at the AUUF. It aims to keep us more or less in sync with university and public school schedules. So, May is summer, August, fall. This has not always been the case, of course, and for some of us it's a hard transition to make. Remember when school let out in June and didn't start again until September? Although not necessarily the 'good ol' days'—perhaps a summer that begins in May is much better than one that starts in June—nonetheless, we can still feel squeezed to wrap up the Fellowship year in May and then be up and at 'em once again by mid-August. As a practical matter, we still tend to spill over into June and don't get back into full gear until after Labor Day, but for *planning* purposes, May does look more like summer and August is mighty close to being fall.

So when you see that our business meeting this year is scheduled for May 25, don't panic. We just hope to vote on our budget and elect our trustees and committee chairs *before* too many scatter for the summer. Ingathering will likely be September 7, that first Sunday after Labor Day. A lot will happen in between the two.

For starters, we'll be welcoming several new committee chairs and Board members as some step down and others step up. Summer is the time when those new to their roles confer with me, their predecessors, and others in the Fellowship who share an interest in a particular area— for instance, Sunday services, social justice, or aesthetics. It's a time when RE teachers are recruited and the next year's theme is determined. For me, it is a time for study and planning—sermons, adult religious education, and other activities that enhance the ministry and outreach of the Fellowship. Consider this your invitation to think along with me. Are there topics you'd like to see addressed, a workshop you'd like to attend or lead? Watch for a suggestion box, or otherwise let me know.

One of the things I'd like to see us plan for and implement is a monthly "Parents' Night Out," a Friday night when AUUF parents could drop their children off at the Fellowship to be cared for by other AUUFers. Perhaps a "lock-in" for all ages. Such an intergenerational program would build relationships between the children and the adults of AUUF and would give parents a much needed opportunity for rest and relaxation. From living with a toddler myself, I believe this would be a valuable way of supporting the families of AUUF. So let me know if you would like to be part of the planning for this program. If you're a parent, let me know if this seems worthwhile to you. Share your suggestions for making the program work. If you're someone who could provide care, please let me know that as well.

Although a lot of things at AUUF will continue much the same over the summer, the tempo is somewhat slower, the mood is more light-hearted, more summer-souled. It's a good time for envisioning what we hope the new year will bring. It's a good time for becoming a more integral part of the whole.

Love, *Diana*

Nonviolent Communication Workshops

Please note that the Sunday NVC group may need to reschedule the May 18 session due to the RE picnic.



In the Loop

Years ago when I first started attending the AUUF, I was tickled to discover one June Sunday morning that the service that day was the AUUF Business Meeting. I figured I didn't have to go because I wasn't a member, and I could sleep in. But then I joined the AUUF and decided I should attend and see what happened at a business meeting. What I found that morning was a gathering of our faith community taking stock of the financial health of the AUUF. There was a well-concerned discussion of our finances and then a vote to approve the budget and the new members of the Board. So, this May 25th, join us and bring your questions and insights as we discuss the 2008-2009 budget and our search for a DRE, as well as elect our new leaders.

Yours,
Sharon Roberts
President, AUUF Board of Trustees



AUUF Committee on Ministry



Many UU congregations have a committee on ministry (COM) to focus on all aspects of the congregation's ministry, including professional leadership, music, social justice, religious education, and pastoral care. The purpose of the COM is to strengthen the quality of ministry within a congregation. The AUUF COM is appointed by the Board to work with the minister and Fellowship members to care for and strengthen the overall community. Because ministry is increasingly seen as a shared effort and not the sole responsibility of the professional or ordained minister, the COM strengthens the quality of ministry in the Fellowship.

One of the primary goals of the AUUF's COM is to encourage direct and constructive communication among our members, minister, and staff. Anyone with concerns about the health of our ministry and community is encouraged to contact a member of the COM. The AUUF COM meets monthly. It is currently working on a ministerial assessment/evaluation instrument, the covenant document, and the charge from the Board to develop a method or policy for dealing with dangerous & disruptive behaviors & conflict mediation within the Fellowship.

If you have questions or concerns, contact a COM member: Robert Zabawa, Chair; Samera Baird, Karen St.Clair, and Darrell Crutchley.

It's UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY time!

The 2008 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations will be in **Ft. Lauderdale, FL, June 25-29**. GA is a gathering of UU congregations and a feast of Unitarian Universalism worth at least one pilgrimage for any Unitarian Universalist! You can find more information about this rich annual event and register to attend at: <http://uaa.org/events/generalassembly>.

With the 2008 GA happening as close by as Ft. Lauderdale, folks from our region can imagine attending – so please give serious consideration to this opportunity this year. See you in Ft. Lauderdale!

--Mid-South District Office
(msduuoffice@aol.com; www.msduua.org)

Religious Education News

K – 3rd grade RE Class

February was LOVE month as we prepared for the Valentine Express by talking about the many forms of love and the many ways we show our love and know others love us—whether it’s family, friends, pets, etc. The children decorated cards, and then helped distribute the cards and candy at potluck. We shared the LOVE by voting on which organization would receive part of the proceeds. The children became informed voters by learning a little about each organization, then privately voting for one on their ballots. Their top choice was the Lee County Humane Society but they know their votes must still be tallied with the other classes'. For many of our K-3 kids, this was their first experience with this AUUF tradition.

Another first was the Flower Communion. Through the telling of the story of Norbert Capek and the original flower communion, the children learned some UU history and then created their own lovely “stained-glass” gardens to display at the Children's Service. These projects express how we as unique individuals form a community that we both contribute to and draw from. Warmer weather drew us outside for a group scavenger hunt, seed planting, and a great cooperative game which challenged us to arrive at the goal together. The game also challenged our quick-moving kids to SLOW WAY DOWN and think about how the group could win rather than an individual. Viewing “The Story of Stuff,” a short cartoon-style video, brought attention to the very real consequences of our desire for stuff and what we can do about it. Each child made little pads and an envelope from recycled office paper and brought these and a copy of the video home to share. This is an area that we may continue to explore in the next few weeks.

--Kitty, Conar, Shannon, and Jey



Teacher Appreciation Picnic

On May 18 at 4:00 PM we will have a Teacher Appreciation Picnic at Kiesel Park. Please bring a dish to share and join us in thanking the teachers for doing a wonderful job this year. You are all invited whether or not you have a child in RE. In keeping with our “Faith in Action” theme, we want to have a “green” picnic this year and limit the amount of trash we generate. You can help by bringing your own non-disposable plates, cups, and utensils and taking them home to wash.

--Claire and Emily



Congratulations on Graduating!!

to our High School Seniors



Carl Backman
Savannah Hein
Robinson Schelhas
Nick Smith





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Former AUUF Member to Visit!

Mike Mann and Robin Foster are two former members of the AUUF (along with their two children Nick and Jamie) who moved from Auburn to upstate New York (Corning) in 1997. Mike will be visiting Auburn the weekend of June 7 & 8, and he will be attending AUUF that Sunday, June 8th. He'd love to re-connect with friends from the church.

Jamie, who was in elementary school when she did one of the squares (a cat) on the AUUF quilt, is working in Miami now and attending college. Nick is a 2nd year student at the University of Virginia Law School. Mike is the program director for the regional AmeriCorps program at a local human service agency, and Robin is the director at a mental health center. Mike's e-mail is: manmic69@hotmail.com.

Second Lee County Master Gardeners' Home Garden Tour

Saturday, May 17, 10-5, and Sunday, May 18, 1-6
At your own pace and itinerary

Tickets are \$15 at the door, or may be purchased in advance for a lower cost. Money benefits the work of the Lee County Master Gardeners' Association, including developing and maintaining the lovely garden at Kiesel Park.

2008 Tour Gardens

In Opelika:

Tom & Michelle Westmoreland: 521 Lankford Street
A cottage garden with a folk art flavor. Magical places with surprises at every turn. (Thanks to fellow UU members Cindy Reinke and Jolly Roberts for their part in making this happen.)

In Auburn:

Richard & Suzanne Brinker

Open-work brick walls surround this Charlestonian-style shade garden where green and white predominate. All hardscape work was accomplished by the hands of the owners. The garden features terraces, a rondel and an arbored garden shed.

J.O. & Angie Conway

A children's delight with koi pond, imaginative play area and wooden folk-art sculptures and birdhouses all in a certified wildlife habitat. A plant collectors dream where one can learn about composting and attracting all varieties of backyard swimmers, crawlers, climbers & fliers.

Bob Eklund

Santa Fe-style garden featuring many unusual plants. A collection of 50 bromeliads was saved from New Orleans right before Katrina are displayed on pedestals in a special garden enclave. Massed plantings with colors running from cool to hot distinguish this garden.

Allen & Kay Harris

Stucco French country manor has a wall topped with flowers leading to the back yard. Entertainment is the focus. A columned terrace and large pool deck provide plenty of room for outdoor living. Rows of evergreen trees create privacy and serve as a backdrop for colorful plantings in beds and containers.

... .. Corner Quote

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity."

--Joseph Addison

Sundilla Concert

May 5, 7:30

John Flynn

More information available at www.sundilla.org

Speaking for Me

*You made the return to share my grief and
Celebrate the life of Myra a homecoming.*

*Mere thank-yous are not enough--
Only, that I always carry you in my heart.
My soul unfurls in your embrace.*

*AUUF, I love you.
In that, I speak for Myra too.*

Natalie Provo

Feeling the Burden of Paying for War?

Birmingham is the site for the May 2-3 meeting of the National War Tax Resisters Coordinating Committee. Judy Collins encourages people to visit www.nwtrcc.org, click on "Gatherings," and consider trying to attend at least part of the meeting. You will meet phenomenal people from all over the nation!

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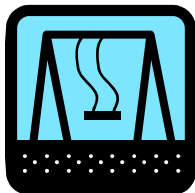
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Reminder: The deadline for newsletter items is the 20th of the month.



Schedules

Playground Volunteers

**

May playground volunteers are needed!

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

Storytellers for May

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May 4	Terry Rodriguez
May 11	Melissa Blackburn
May 18	RE Service
May 25	Jim Gravois

May's Gang of Gleeful Greeters

**

May 4	Angie Hodges, Mr. Congeniality
May 11	Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters
May 18	Greg Schmidt, Zandra DeLamar
May 25	Connie Salts, Janice Ross

Angels for the Merry Month of May...

**

May 4	Caroline and David Schaffer
May 11	The Walkers—Jack, Suzanne, Anna
May 18	Mysterious, forthcoming volunteers...
May 25	Emily and Peter Livant

This Lucifer needs replacing. Someone step up! –Chip B.