

The Flame

Greenville Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship Newsletter



"We are a
deliberately diverse
community."

September 2010

Always Available Online at www.greenvilleuu.org

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September & October
Calendars
can be viewed at the
following link:

<http://greenvilleuu.org/calendar/calendar.html>

The Mission of the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*Offer a diverse, welcom-
ing and accepting com-
munity.*

*Encourage spiritual and
intellectual growth.*

*Promote stewardship of
our community and envi-
ronment through social
action.*

Sunday Services at 11 am

September 5, 2010

Hinduism, A UU Perspective

Dr. Savita Nair

Dr. Savita Nair, an Asian Studies professor at Furman will lead us in considering the beauty and strength of the Hindu path.

September 12, 2010

Our Annual Water Service

Reverend Pat Jobe

"An Ongoing Stream," History, tradition, charity, love, social justice form up a stream of endless service and experience for the UU's in Greenville and beyond.

September 19, 2010

Nonviolence and The Obama Peace Prize Speech

Reverend Pat Jobe

A movement with its roots in the Hebrew Prophets, Jesus, Thoreau, and Tolstoy, nonviolence offers more than the president gives it credit for.

September 26, 2010

The Power Of Words

Reverend Pat Jobe

11 o'clock on Sunday morning is a time when we talk and listen. How can we best sensitize ourselves to the power in words? Consider: "We hold these truths to be self-evident," as an example.

Share Your Vacation Photos

This is your chance to share your vacation photos at the GUUF annual Water Service. All you need is a few of your favorites on a picture CD and get them to the Social Events co-chair Carolyn Kelly-West no later than September 5th. Carolyn will start collecting the CD's at the August 8th service. We will have our Water Service on September 12th with a luncheon sponsored by the UU World of Children, and a viewing of the photos on the big screen in the Sanctuary. The lunch will consist of a sandwich, drink and chips or fruit. Cost will be \$5 and proceeds will go to the UU World of Children. We would like to hear your comments along with the viewing of your photos.



Don't forget,

Game Night is Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex. Bring your kids, your games and a snack.



Jobe's Turkey

Pat Jobe

Sharon Miracle said she had never heard the phrase "Jobe's Turkey," before finding it as the header on this column. Mama, who not born a Jobe, but became one by walking down the aisle with Daddy, used it as much as anyone from my childhood. "They're as poor as Job's turkey," was the way she would use it; or if we had too much money left at the end of the month, she would use it to describe our family's being, "as poor as Job's turkey."

Of course, Job is my legendary ancestor from the holy writings. His name is spelled without an "e," as my own English and undocumented immigrant American forebears were until late in the 18th century when one of them got tired of being called "job," as in "get the job done." He added the "e."

My own use of the phrase here is simply another attempt at humor, should any of you have use for such.

Mae Tromsness proved a point, on Aug. 29 in worship, that many of us who love the UU World of Children have been trying to make as our beloved Fellowship works to find its identity. Instead of calling ourselves a Fellowship which has a preschool, we might do well to consider ourselves an educational institution that takes an hour off each week to hold a worship service.

Consider the masterful job Kris Beliakoff does in putting together classes, events, learning trips and experiences that benefit more than 140 young people from preschool to teen, plus a myriad of adult experiences. Education is happening all the time at 1135 State Park Road, under Kris's awesome leadership.

The UU World of Children, although it is a separate nonprofit organization with its own board, is, like the thrift shop, the food pantry, the fair-trade candy and coffee sales, the Roland-McFerrin House, the twice annual visits by GAIHN families to our facility and so many other grand and glorious ministries, the UU World of Children is an integral and shining ministry of who we are and what we claim to stand for in our community.

A recent gathering of ministers at the United Way offices was presented with the overwhelming case that one of the best things any church or synagogue or mosque in Greenville County can do is get in the early-childhood education business. The consequences of not doing early-childhood work are devastating to poor, marginalized, second-generation and other categories of children. The benefits of work like the UU World of Children are expansive and liberating. A child prepared to enter public school by knowing how to read at a basic level, having rudimen-

tary math skills, and most importantly having a strong sense of self and confidence, is a child with a bright, creative future.

Mae Tromsness, now in the fifth grade, stood before a large crowd and read a piece she wrote herself in a strong voice with a stage presence that surely made her thespian parents, Anne and Jayce, very proud. She had a great smile and delivered a strong message that the UU World of Children is great, and we would all do well to support it with our dollars and our cheers.

Here is Mae's talk. The piece sings and speaks beautifully for itself. Happy trails until we meet again:

"Hi. My name is Mae Tromsness. I hope that all of you have figured out that this church is a fantastic place. It's welcoming and when you step in, you feel that this is the perfect place for you. Now I want you to imagine this place as a school. The school you are imagining is the UU World of Children. I was a student at UU and I am very proud to be a graduate.

"At UU, I learned about different cultures and the ways they celebrate. I learned to read at UU. I learned about working together. When you have a group of seven people and two disagree with each other, you have to take a minute and figure out your conflict. I learned that at UU. I also learned how to share at UU. Sharing can be difficult sometimes, but Miss Maureen and Miss Jackie helped us learn that sometimes you just have to take turns. UU taught me how to help. At UU we sent stuff to other countries that needed our help – for instance -- Japan and Iraq and Afghanistan. Now I think about other countries and people in trouble.

"When I moved into public school I had tons of worries, but then I said, 'Hey, I can do this. My teachers at UU taught me how to deal with life!' Now I have a lot of friends and I am really successful at my school. If I wouldn't have gone to UU, I wouldn't be the girl I am today. I just want to thank all the teachers at UU.

"Well, thank you for having me up here today. Bye bye."

Just one more thing: Oct. 16 at 4 p.m. Pam Harrison (a friend of the Fellowship) and I are sponsoring a seminar on dealing with financial, spiritual, and health issues for our aging population and those who care for our elders. The seminar, "The Good Life," will be held in the sanctuary, and feature a number of professionals speaking briefly about end-of-life issues. Light refreshments will be served. Look for more on this in the October Flame.

THE PRESIDENT'S POST
REED HUMPHREY**ON BALANCE**

During a stroll with Rev. Pat, the word "Balance" came up again. We smiled again. Whenever we talk, now including email and phone, "Balance" comes up. In a good, Balanced way.

UUWoC toddlers can easily explain Balance: It's what keeps you from falling down! Explaining how to get or keep Balance, is much harder. Just ask any UU group.

As we do life's dance, we lead with head and heart. It seems to depend on what music is playing at the time whether more heart or head is applied, to keep our balance.

GUUF is constantly adjusting to keep our balance. Standing now at the beginning of our 60th birthday as a UU Fellowship, we have some bumps and bruises, but so few it's clear we don't fall down much. Good balance, GUUF.

New balancing acts are about to begin for us together. (Don't everyone stand on the same side - some will need to move a little bit so we don't all tip over.)

In August a well-Balanced Ministerial Search Committee started working hard to recommend to the congregation a

minister to "call" as our "settled" minister.

For our wider ministry, momentum is growing to review our mission and vision.

Ron Reece recently said from the pulpit, "This Fellowship began 60 years ago ... Maybe the mission changes over time. Is it time to revisit ours now?" If so, we will need a Balanced approach true to our hearts and thoughtful of our resources.

Preparation is also being made to review our By-laws: Are they still suitable to what this Fellowship does, how our size has grown, how our self-governance works? If revisions are recommended to the congregation for changes, a Balance will be needed for both "the letter and the spirit" of the [by-] law.

There is so much more to say and do as GUUF continues forward.

Please use some of your time to read the Balance of this issue of *The Flame*.

In harmony,
Reed



THE WORKS FROM PROGRAM COUNCIL
JUDY ROOT

What a pleasure it is to work with all the committees and lay leaders of our Fellowship who make things happen with us!

Adult & Child/Youth Religious Education offerings,
Buildings and Grounds workdays to keep us spiffy,
Membership connections, diversity support through
Welcoming Congregation, fundraising for our shared life and accomplishments through **Ways and Means**,
Social Responsibility activities among our own and in community outreach, **Sunday Services** which works with Rev. Pat Jobe, links with the Unitarian Universalist

Association through **Denominational Affairs** for some leadership training, **Volunteer Coordinators** creating a new *Volunteer "Time and Talent" Survey*, and **Communications** to get the word out -- **TO US!**

Please read *The Flame* and Order of Service and attend or volunteer for activities which appeal to you. GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

Judy Root, President-Elect

By-Law Changes?

The Board sees a need to update our GUUF By-Laws but we need your input. Please tell us of any changes to the By-Laws you think would make our governance and policies better serve the total congregation.

Please respond by Sept 20th to Dianelawrence@charter.net and/or scompton1251@charter.net. This project will take a few months, but we'll let you know how we are progressing. For copies of the GUUF By-Laws, please go to the following link: <http://www.greenvilleuu.org/pdf/By-laws20081026.pdf> or call the office at 281-4883 to make arrangements to pickup a copy.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

JANIE, JEANNETTE, MARK & RON

Greetings from your Committee on Ministry

Welcome to a new UU church year from your Committee on Ministry, or CoM, as we call ourselves. We are a committee elected by the congregation to strengthen the quality of every facet of GUUF's ministry. We monitor, evaluate, consult, educate, and advise the congregation, as well as help facilitate any issues of conflict management. Communication with any of our committee members is confidential, and we invite anyone in the congregation to contact any of us if you have any specific concerns about the ministry of this Fellowship or if there are things that you like and want to see continued.

We are charged to do some sort of assessment of the total ministry every year, and every third year we are required to conduct a full evaluation to assess the Fellowship's progress toward GUUF's ministerial and program goals. We will probably have some sort of evaluation ready in early spring, so that it can be presented to the Board and the congregation no later than the annual congregational meeting. This year we are thinking of doing an online evaluation that all of you will be invited to complete and return to us. Of course, for those of you without email, we will make arrangements for you to have a paper copy of the survey to fill out.

We normally have five members on our committee. For the moment, we are only four, as we sadly had to accept the resignation of Barbara Gill, due to family illness. We meet monthly for the most part. If you would like to contact us, here's how to reach us:

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864-299-3456 (Mark work)

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reeceteam@aol.com
864-233-6648 (Ron work)

Jeannette Winn
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Home phone: 864-242-9897
jeannette.winn@gmail.com
864-270-2094 (Jeannette cell)

WAYS & MEANS

MARION & JON GRIER

First Ways and Means event of the year! It's OKTOBERFEST on the front lawn to help celebrate GUUF's 60th anniversary!! \$10/each admission for fun, music, and bratwurst and more! Bring the whole family! Look for more details in the weekly SPARK. Stay tuned!

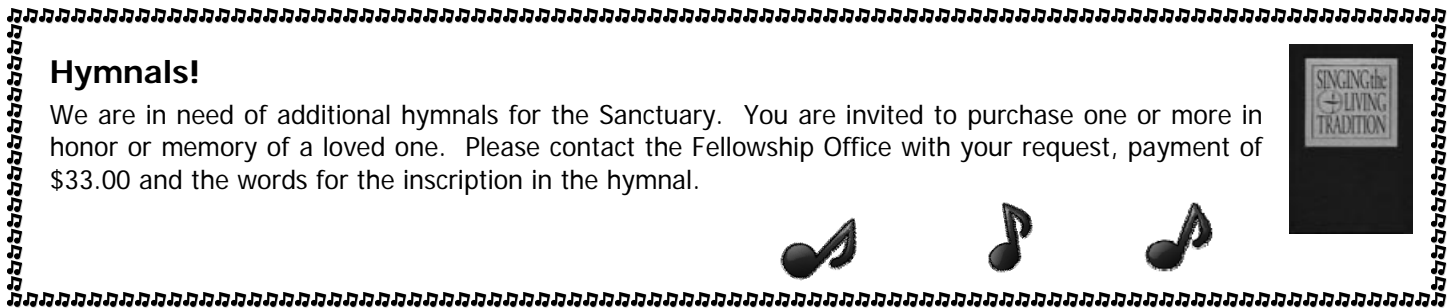
Heads up!! Auction is coming and it's going to be big! It will have a 60's theme to go with our 60th anniversary. The date is Nov 13th. So mark your calendars now and start to dust off all those antiques, fine china and fur-

niture that are just taking up space. This is your chance to de-clutter!

We want to try some new things this year -- some of the larger or more collectible items will be auctioned on-line, but the rest of the auction action will be live right here at GUUF. Let us know NOW, please, about any large items that you want to donate. (Griers 675-0705 or 354-8582). We need you and your unwanted stuff, but we need to know now about larger items!!!!!! Thanks!

Hymnals!

We are in need of additional hymnals for the Sanctuary. You are invited to purchase one or more in honor or memory of a loved one. Please contact the Fellowship Office with your request, payment of \$33.00 and the words for the inscription in the hymnal.



GREENVILLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

**Youth (Teen) Summer
Curriculum
Popcorn Theology**

Teens, come chill, watch a flick, discuss and see what theology is presented in pop culture. Where do you stand on the issues they bring up? Ages? For rising 6th graders to 12th grade. Movies are PG and PG-13. Starts promptly at 11 AM. Our summer movie series will conclude with the following film and dates:

The Crucible

August 29th and September 5th

Starring: Daniel Day Lewis and Winona Ryder

Rating: PG 13

What lengths would you go to stand for your ideals? Politics, discrimination, and religion mix in old Salem, MA. Considered a remarkable screen adaptation of the play by the same name. While the story isn't true, much of the events are strikingly similar to historical ones in our national history. Requested by the teens after visiting Salem, MA as part of the Coming of Age program.

**Messy Game Night
Returns!**

September 18th

Teens, check your Evite for details.

Wild, crazy, and definitely a time you will talk about later!

Prepare to laugh, cringe, and perhaps yell a bit as we spend an evening in a wild event designed to get you to know each other and to do things you would probably never do any where else.

Make sure you have registered an email with Sydnie or Kris so you don't miss out on the details!



**The September 2010
Sparkler**

For forms and more details on teen programming go to
<http://www.greenvilleuu.org>



Our Schedule for Lifespan Programming

- 9:30 *Childcare Opens— ages newborn to 3 years old, 4 if newcomer., Women of Wisdom (starts 9/19)*
- 9:45 to 10:45 *Course in Miracles, Discussion Group, Katie Byron,*
- 11:00-12:15 *Middle School class (6th—8th) and High School class (9th— 12th grade) — Popcorn Theology or other activities. See schedule.*
- 11:20 to 12:15 *K4 through 5th Grade — Culture Camp —finishes Sept. 5th. Learning about peace and conflict resolution while also learning about specific countries around the world. Spirit Play begins September 19th. 4th—6th grade Kingdom of Equals begins September 19th.*



**Family Orientation to Fall
Children and Youth Religious
Education
September 12th
10 AM, RE Lobby**



Please join us for our annual orientation to the year in children and youth religious education.

Find out more about the following planned curricula:

- Preschool — Spirit Play
- Elementary — Spirit Play
- 4th-6th grade — Kingdom of Equals
- 7th-8th grade —You the Creator
- 9th grade — Coming of Age
- 10h-12th Grade — Leadership, World Religions, Social Action
- 7th-9th — OWL (Our Whole Lives)

Meet the class coordinators and the new youth director. Hear what youth group plans are proposed. Find out where the volunteer needs are. Get class calendars, and meet the other families.

Light breakfast food served. Children may join their parents or play or work on crafts during this time. Volunteers will help supervise them.

We hope to see you there!

Adult Mentors for teens sought

We have 15 potential candidates for our 2010-11 Coming of Age (our largest group ever). We seek adults willing to each mentor one youth through a year-long program that asks the teen to examine their religious and spiritual beliefs, and to decide for themselves what it means to be Unitarian Universalist. Commitment includes a couple 10 AM meetings with other adult mentors, attendance at four class periods throughout the year at 11 AM on Sundays, assisting in a social action project either with the teen or with the group, participating in a four-hour retreat at Paris Mountain State Park at the end of the program (a highlight for all), and being honored in our Coming of Age worship service. Occasional emails or phone calls help to keep the bond strong. We have several adults already signed up. You would join a vibrant, fun group of young-at-heart people dedicated to helping our 14-15 year olds stand on their own spiritually. Requirements — Must have been a member of the Fellowship for at least a year come September 2010, must enjoy the company of young people, must be open to new ideas, and must be willing to share thoughts as asked; but most importantly, be willing to listen. Interested? Please contact Kris at dre@greenvilleuu.org or 864.906.5368.

Fall Volunteer Needs

Looking for a way to get involved that has a HUGE positive impact on another's life? Consider volunteering in Lifespan Religious Education!

Where can I help?

Teach an adult class of one hour to ongoing as your interests dictate. We offer classes based on requests or offerings from the adult members of the Fellowship. For children and youth, we have need for 40+ volunteers to share the offerings in the following ways. (Help once, or better yet, several times so the children and/or youth get to know you.):

Volunteer in the nursery for children birth to aged three.

Teach in our youngest classes in Spirit Play.

Teach our tweens with their very UU Bible studies.

Lead our Middle School in their spiritual/theology studies with art.

Mentor a teen in our Coming of Age class or lead a class discussion.

Teach a senior high class sharing your personal spiritual practices or leadership ideas/topics.

Chaperon an overnight event pt lead a just for fellowship event (Halloween, Easter, youth group activity, etc.)

What requirements are there?

Requirements vary depending on the role, but mainly you communicate with the Adult RE committee or the Children and Youth Committee or with the RE Director your intent. For classes, the majority of the time a curricular lesson available to guide you. Those working with children and youth are placed based upon experience and if new, are offered assistance by seasoned staff or volunteers. Spirit Play teachers (storytellers) must be trained ahead of time, but Spirit Play assistants may be "trained" briefly before class.

When am I needed?

Fall religious education classes start September 19th (after the September 12th Intergenerational Water Service. Adult classes are at 9:45 AM. CYRE classes are at 11 AM. Help once or ongoing as you wish throughout the year.

Becoming Women of Wisdom Marking the Passage into the Crone Years*

Judy Root will facilitate a small group of mature women in community through an abbreviated life review to reveal memories, thoughts, feelings & experiences most valuable for a vibrant mature life. The process will celebrate the cycle of life & the sacred feminine. What are the most significant threads from your past? What were or are the challenges & opportunities of life stages? What infuses, gives your life meaning now? How do you connect & contribute? With whom? Begins Sept. 19th -- & group plans Croning Ceremony Oct. 31st .

Required: Register at the GUUF Office (271-4883 or via email at adultregistration@greenvilleuu.org for the SIX, one-hour 15 min. sessions Sept. 19th, 26th; Oct. 3rd, (no session Oct. 10th), Oct. 17th, 24th & 31st at 9:30 am in the Women's Room. Limit 10 GUUF members in circle. Let us know if you have any specific physical or seating needs. *With inspiration & some materials from curriculum of same title by Melody Lee, with Karen Edwards and Dorothy May Emerson.



The Earth Spirit Group is Celebrating One Year!

Our gatherings around the fire begin with acknowledging the elements that sustain us: our earth home, the air, fire, and flowing water. We claim our outdoor space as sacred and the beating of drums keep rhythm throughout the evening. The energy is positive and loving!

This year we have sent our prayers into the night sky with an offering of prayer bundles at Yule. Beltane was a joyous dance to welcome the spring! During our Lammass gathering, we held our first elemental blessing of an infant in the native tradition.

We have sent the scent of sage into the sky with a ceremonial smudging as the participants enter our circle. We have passed our warm intentions hand by hand around the circle to bind together each one present. The magic of our gathering is always captured in the warm hues of the coals, and the dancing flames of the fire, which is tended by Firehawk and little Fire-Fly- our firekeepers.

All are invited! Our next two gatherings on the lawn of the GUUF are:

Mabon, September 25th 6:30 PM, 5:30—6:00 will be a covered dish in the Annex, bring a dish to celebrate the harvest!
Samhain, October 30th, 6:30 PM

We will also hold an indoor gathering on November 13th at 7:00, at the GUUF, on the coming Yule. Join us to explore the ways we can bring the spirit and joy of the winter traditions into our hearts and homes. And the wheel turns again.

The UU Women's Book Group

The UU Women's Book Group will not meet during the summer months. Our next meeting is on Sunday, September 12 at 9:45am in the Women's Room. Our book selection is *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick. This is described as being "a glittering, poisoned ice-cube of a tale." Discussion will be led by Susan Cooper. Questions? Contact Susan at: 288-4912.



September Short Story Selection for the Discussion Group

"Interior Space" by John Irving will be the selection for the Short Story Discussion September 19 at 9:45 p.m. in the Founders Room. For more information contact Herb Reeves at hrbrvs7@gmail.com.

Upcoming Plans for the Discussion Group Holocaust Through Film Series 9:45 AM, Founder's Room

Lucy Hoffman will lead a five-part "Holocaust through Film" series starting October 3rd. This series will merge with the Discussion Group for the month of October and the majority of November. Everyone is welcome to attend without registration.

The Work of Byron Katie recruiting newcomers

9:15 AM, Sundays, Downstairs classroom

Rev. Pat Jobe continues to lead The Work Of Byron Katie in the downstairs classroom, next to the women's room. The class is open to newcomers and the work is easy to learn, but ongoing to practice. The class has voted to begin meeting at 9:15 a.m. in order to get more work done. Please call Rev. Jobe at the office, 271-4883 or on his cell 843-708-1033 or email him at patjobe13@gmail.com if you have questions. Just show up if you'd like to sample the work. He also encourages those interested in sampling The Work Of Byron Katie to look at the-work.com, especially her free videos.

Next RE Meetings: Children and Youth – September 19th — 9:30 AM. Adult RE — TBD 12:30 PM, Middle School Room. New committee members always welcome! Childcare provided by childcare staff or volunteers.

How to Reach Us:

Kris Beliakoff, Director of Lifespan Religious Education & Administration

Office 271-4883, Cell 906-5368, Email: dre@greenvilleuu.org, Office Days: Sun – Thurs

Sydney Pye, Youth Director

Office: Sundays. Email: sydniepye@gmail.com

Karen Conrad, Adult Religious Education Co-Chair

Email: innisfreedesigns@yahoo.com

Dana Couillard, Adult Religious Education Co-Chair

Email: windwalkermoon@yahoo.com

Jennifer Cowden, Children and Youth Religious Education Co-Chair,

Email: cowden@charter.net

Steve Duda, Children and Youth Religious Education Co-Chair,

Email: Steve.Duda@aecom.com

Alona Lindsey, Childcare Coordinator, 864.268.2105

Sunday morning adult RE classes

Childcare and/or children's activities are provided for the littlest ones so all of you (with children or without) can come early and replenish your spirit, meet some great fellow GUUF community members and enter into great dialogue. Grab a cup of coffee from our GUUF Café and try one of the following:

Course in Miracles — What if we are all connected and what we see is an illusionary experience? 9:30 AM, PK—K class room.

Discussion Group — Topical and changes week to week. Occasionally hosts a curricular topic. 9:45 AM, Founders Room.

Women of Wisdom — Celebrating aging and the feminine divine. By registration only.

The Work of Byron Katie— By registration only. Let us know if you are interested in the next run of the course.

Choir — Sing, play an instrument, tap your toes, just join! 9:30 AM.

Knitting ministry — Relaxed time to chat and knit for good causes. 10 AM, GUUF Café.

--On Going Meetings and Classes--

Childcare begins at 9:30 am each Sunday

Alcoholics Anonymous (CR) Thursdays, 7pm, Contact: Cathy Jaggars (349-1251)

A Course in Miracles (RE Classroom) Sundays, 9:45 — 10:45 am, Contact: Jean Blank (239-0110)

Beginner African Drumming (ANX) **No beginner classes with Greg until September, 4th Thursday 6:30 – 7:30 pm** beginner practice, Contact: Joan Baker (232-1660)

Discussion Group (FR) Sundays, 9:45 — 10:45 am, Contact: Herb Reeves (297-4929, hrbrvs6@yahoo.com)

Women's Book Group (WR) 2nd Sunday each month, Contact: Susan Cooper (288-4912)

Old GUUFers (ROR) 2nd Thursday each month, 12:30 - ? contact: Suzanne Hart (235-1714)

Zen Meditation (CC) Tuesdays, 7:30 pm promptly, if you need some guidance then show up at 7:15 pm, website: meditation.meetup.com/216 Contact: Carole McAfee (834-7390)

GUUF Singers (CR) Sundays, 9:30 – 10:45 am, Contact: Miriam Davidson (285-0994 or miriam@wishingchair.com)

Hiking Group (Off Site) on going with dates and locations to be determined, Contact: Karen Csizmadia (322-6441)

Earth Spirit Group (TBA) 2nd Saturday each month, will support all fire ceremonies, interested persons should contact: Dana Couillard at (423-4221 or earthspiritquuf@yahoo.com)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SHARON FREE & ROBIN DEL FAVERO

Update on the Social Justice & Responsibility Committee

by Sharon Free, co-chair

Wednesday, August 11 was the first Social Responsibility Committee meeting of the new program year. We took a "field trip" to the Roland- McFerrin House, which are two sides of a duplex providing temporary housing to homeless families who are working within the care and nurturing of the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (GAIHN) program. This program is in place to help improve or resolve the temporary troubles which brought families to homelessness.

Finding the B-side vacant, we had a look inside and determined that the house needed a thorough cleaning in order that it be ready for the next family. We had to move quickly so decided that Saturday, August 21 would be our R-F House Cleanup Day. We put word out via a few media (announcement, song, email, phone) and an able and willing crew volunteered. Through their efforts, we put the house back in a clean and livable condition, ready for the next family to move in. We are so grateful to those who participated! Thank you a million times over!

We are still in the planning stages as to additional efforts and areas and will put the word out via any promotional avenues-both traditional and non-traditional. In addition to the GAIHN projects like the R-F House and the temporary housing week at the Fellowship, there are other important

areas under our umbrella and we will investigate new ones as the year continues. The Alternative Gift Fair, Pat's Pantry, Audrey's Closet, Fair Trade Coffee/Chocolate are all places to donate, purchase, and support.

Our Autumn GAIHN program will be October 17 through 24. Please note that this time is earlier on the calendar than it has been in the past. We need participation in the following areas: Assistant Coordinator (works in tandem with the Coordinator on all duties as assigned); Overnight Volunteers (sleep at the Fellowship during the stay of the families. They are provided their own private space and are there to ensure that the families needs are met overnight); Meal Preparers (prepare a meal to share with the families); Set-Up and Take- Down. If you can help in any of those areas, please let us know as soon as possible.

A newsletter is planned as well as more announcements. Please join us in our quest for right in the area of Social Justice. Keep an eye out for our next meeting and join us. For more info in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact Robin Del Favero or Sharon Free.

Sharon Free
 Sharon Free Design
 Greenville, SC
 864-987-0847
 fax: 864-752-1355
<http://www.thecreativediva.com>
zonker@charter.net

Southernside Help Needed

If you are interested in preparing bagged lunches for Southernside please contact Francine Proulx at 704-3263 or e-mail me at theproulxfamily@mac.com. This is a great project for Covenant Groups. We have a complete set of instructions on what to do and where to bring the food.

**SAVE THE DATE!
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009
 WALK FOR THE HOMELESS**
 thru United Ministries of Greenville

Young and old, WALK a little, WALK it all, Donate a little or a lot (including non-walkers).

WALK together with GUUF members and friends along with hundreds of folks from many Greenville churches to raise money to help the homeless.

Big party afterwards at Fleur Field.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS today.

Watch for more info to come or call Pat Jobe 271-4883 or Diane Lawrence 246-2305.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

to sign up for the **FREE Training** sponsored by the Western Carolinas
Cluster

being held here **at the Greenville UU Fellowship**
Saturday, Sept. 18, 9:30am-2pm

board members, committee members

(or **ANY** GUUF members Who are Interested)

are invited to attend

- **meet people from other UU congregations**
- **network and share ideas**
- **learn skills you can use at GUUF or at work**
- **learning and fun guaranteed!**

Contact Bibi Harris for more info or to register

836-0399 or bibiharris@bellsouth.net

Compassionate Imagination Needed

The following members, friends and families need your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, casseroles (use your imagination)

Kim Williams was diagnosed with cancer. On a positive note, she was nominated and accepted the position as director of the Greenville area PFLAG.

Pat Dillow who is in Florida helping her daughter, Laurie, who's recovering from cancer surgery.

Lynda Molnar who is headed to England to spend time with her father who is near the end of his life's journey.

Martha Baron's daughter, Melanie Alpert, who underwent cancer surgery and is beginning six months of chemotherapy.

(Melanie is on a restricted diet and the family asked that those who wish to offer a meal might instead purchase a gift certificate to EarthFare or Whole Foods. Her address is: Melanie Alpert, 101 Clearbrook Court, Greer, 29650)

In memory of dear ones who passed away:

Annette Garver's brother, Barbara Gill's father, Susan Cooper's mother

Other Milestones:

Walter Lavash was declared cancer-free and is headed out on a week-long cruise with his bride!

Jeannette and Marshall Winn's son, Richard, was married in Germany.

Shawnetta Bryant is taking her nursing boards and changing careers.

Nan Lundeen retired from the Greenville News and went to Michigan to help take care of her new baby grandson for the next three months.

Betsy and Charlie Smith celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Elaine Norwood celebrated her 86th birthday. Joe & Elaine have been married 64 years!!!

UU World of Children

Maureen Nery



You have to keep reminding yourself how close they are to the womb. It was silent and they didn't have to listen to adult voices, put on clothes, wash their hands, go to bed at a certain time, or learn to tie their shoes.

And they can't appreciate this yet, but they didn't have to study Algebra or Western Civilization.

It's a great world out here. There's fresh air and ice cream and mama's lap, bikes and friends and swings,

cuddling and running and showing off. And a million other, yet unexplored things. But there's a catch.

They have to buy into it. They have to understand, at some level, that this is better than the womb, even though it's not as safe, quiet, or warm. Even though they lose one of their socks and their dad yells, "How can you lose one sock?" Even though they can fall down and get hurt.

People keep forgetting how close they are to the womb. This means they pay attention only to what is in front of them, they have accidents (the womb system was much more efficient about that), they think eating is when you cram as much food as possible into your mouth. When their names are repeated four or five times, and they don't respond, it's because they are listening to water.

A three year old passed my desk on his way to change his clothes. His nose was running, so I scooped up a Kleenex. "Blow your nose." He did. No wipe. I repeated those words, "No wipe." By now he was on the bathroom floor, beginning the laborious clothes-changing process. He yelled, "Snow White!" because of course that was what he heard me say.

What is more interesting, "No Wipe" or Snow White?

Then, trying to assist this agonizing process of dressing, I said, "Use your other hand." He had this hand on the wall, and immediately began studying it with the focused concentration of a doctoral student on his dissertation.

Which is more engrossing, pulling up your pants or familiarizing yourself with one of nature's amazing inventions: the human hand?

David Pence walked into the office with his daughter one of their last days here. He said, "They must think we're really dumb, because they keep asking questions we can't answer. "Why is that gray? Can fish sing? Where is everything that gets lost?"

Yea, but those questions we can't answer are the gems. They open us up to all of the mystery and delight of this world. That's what three year olds give us, and why we're glad they come out of the womb. After all, if you stay in there, you can't laugh.

Maureen

Welcoming Congregation Welcomes You!

Welcoming Congregation is a designation approved by the congregation stating that the Greenville UU Fellowship welcomes, supports and honors the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community among ourselves and in the greater community.

The Welcoming Congregation film series has been so successful, the WC Task Force is continuing it through the fall. Upcoming movie dates are: Sept. 15th; Oct. 20th; and Dec. 1st. The movies are free and open to the public. Light snacks are provided; beverages are not. All movies begin at 7 pm in the Founder's Room.

September 15: "A Single Man"--- This stream-of-consciousness, 1960s-era drama centers on a day in the life of George Falconer (Colin Firth, in an Oscar-nominated role), an English-born, Los Angeles college professor reeling from the death of his lover of 16 years.

October 20: "Ma Vie en Rose"--- Convinced he's a girl trapped in a boy's body, 7-year-old Ludovic (Georges Du Fresne) expresses his true self by regularly donning girls' clothing, putting a strain on his perplexed family -- and, of

course, sending shockwaves among his bigoted neighbors. This whimsical Belgian comedy received a Best Foreign Film Golden Globe.

Other Upcoming Events:

WC Task Force Meeting: Sept. 19th after Sunday Services in the Founder's Room. All are welcome to help us plan and dream!

Coming Out Day October 11: Celebrated nationally every October, this GLBT holiday focuses on acceptance and support. More details to come.

GLBT Social Night: An opportunity to make new friends and strengthen others by sharing conversation and activities. The first one is planned for Wednesday, Nov. 17th. More details to come.

World AIDS Day Dec. 1: The grim toll of this disease is acknowledged internationally on this day annually. We will have a special movie showing and other events. More details to come.

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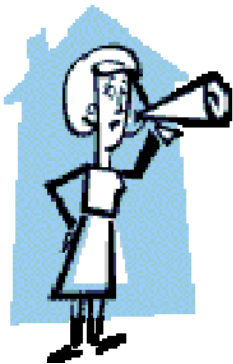
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

The Old GUUFers start lunching together at the Fellowship again on Thursday, September 9th at 12:30 pm at the GUUF Café.

If any retirees not on last year's call list wish to join or rejoin us please get in touch with Suzanne Hart at 235-1714 or Martha Baron at 675-9863

About *The Flame*

This newsletter is published to communicate news and information about the congregation to members and friends of the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. **The deadline for the next issue is the 18th of this month at 5pm.** Articles can be emailed to office@greenvilleuu.org, faxed to 271-6088, or left in the newsletter mailbox in the Fellowship Office. Please call before faxing. Contact for the newsletter is Corry Clark, Office Administrator. She can be reached at the same phone number or email address listed above. If you wish not to receive this newsletter, please contact us to have your name removed. from our mailing list.