



AUUF SERVICES • 10:00 A.M.

May 2

“Annual RE Service”

RE Classes

Join us for this classic annual service that celebrates our kids in RE. There will be an art reception following the service.

May 9

“Motherfest”

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

**Potluck - Food Bank Collection- Board Meeting
Giving the Plate**

Let’s talk about moms—yours, mine and ours. It’s a tough role to play and I wonder how well we know these women at all. What hints do they give us about their hearts’ desires? In what ways do they protect us, even when we think we’re all grown up? For a while at least, they shield us from being on the frontier of eternity. And after they’re gone?

May 16

“The Five A’s of Relationship”

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

They are: attention, acceptance, appreciation, af-

fection and allowing. As children, we need them to develop healthy self-esteem, and as adults we need to give and receive them as we build healthy adult relationships. Who knew it was so simple?

May 23

“Lay Led Service”

TBA

May 30

“Margaret Fuller Turns 200”

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

If Margaret Fuller had been born into the 21st century, she might have become Krista Tippett—that is, she might have hosted her own radio show, discussing religion, meaning, ethics and ideas. As it was, born into the 19th century, she still exercised wide influence as the editor of the Transcendentalist *Dial* magazine, the convener of Boston Conversations with women, and author of the feminist manifesto *Woman in the 19th Century*. May 23rd marked the 200th anniversary of her birth. She was a lifelong Unitarian; let’s get to know something of this remarkable woman.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Events Choir @ 8:30		Diana 1:30-5, & by appt. Yoga @ 5		Diana 1:30-5, & by appt. Meditation @ 6		
						1 Meditation @ 10
2 <i>Always We Begin Again</i> 1 -2:30 Busch Cnt.	3	4 Comm. Lunch @ Fine Garden <i>(former China Palace)</i>	5	6	7 Macho Men @ 7 Sundilla @ 7:30 -----Mid-South Annual Meeting in	8 Fergus Piano Recital @ 9 a.m.
9 Potluck Board Meeting <i>Dahlonega, GA -----</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>RE Teacher Appreciation</i>	17	18	19	20 <i>News Deadline</i>	21 Feminista @ 6:30	22 Meditation @ 10
23 <i>Until It's Gone</i> 1 -2:30 Busch Cnt. Humanist Dinner @ 6	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					<i>Please see inside pages for more info about events.</i>

Diana's COLUMN

It is difficult to write a newsletter column less than a week after my mother's death. She was a faithful reader of our newsletter, although she once admitted to me that it was a toss-up whether she read my column first or Chip's. It's been many years since I had to 'fight' to keep her name on the mailing list, but for a long time the question would periodically arise, "Who is Opal Wilson, and why does she get our newsletter in Beaufort, SC?" By the time she moved to Fairburn, GA, in 2004, her name was recognized by the keeper of the lists. She followed the rhythms of AUUF life through the newsletter and told me on the Saturday before Easter this year to be sure and collect jonquils from her yard for our Flower Communion altar.

Opal seemed to have a psychic connection with my elder sister, Sherrill, especially when Sherrill was in crisis, and my family has a cache of spooky or uncanny stories that relate to my mother and her children, living and dead. So now that she is the one on the other side, so to speak, I shouldn't be surprised by what I am about to tell you. On the drive out to the crematory, through no intention of my own, my iPhone started playing music. It took me a moment to figure out from where the sound was coming. When I realized it was the iPhone's iPod, it took me another few seconds to realize what was playing. It was Judy Collins singing, "I'll Be Seeing You in All the Old Familiar Places." Once I recognized the song, I remembered that it had been played at a memorial service I once attended. "How curious," I thought, and found solace in the lyrics that speak of 'seeing' someone in every summer's day, in everything that's bright and gay. I held the phone to my ear and was comforted even as the tears streamed down my face. And then another song started playing, which I recognized as being from the soundtrack of the movie *Out of Africa*. That song was entitled, "The Music of Goodbye." I was beginning to think my mother had acquired technical skills in her new life. At the crematory, I joked with my sisters, Joyce and Alicia, that they should be sure to check their email in case mother was doing email now, too. And after we had attended to our sad duties at the crematory, I got back into my car and decided, "Oh, what the heck. Let's see what wants to play next." I hit the play button without looking and when a rock 'n roll tune began, I thought, "Oops, game over." Then I looked down at the title and recognized the song. It was Bruce Springsteen's song, "I'm On Fire." This was a little much. I had just watched my mother's earthly body enter the furnace. "Well, I realize you're on fire," I said to her, "but this is what you wanted, and while I'm glad you've still got a sense of humor, it seems a little mean to pick this song." So the next song to play was Brenda Lee singing a very exaggerated, "I'm Sorry, So Sorry." This was beginning to feel like a conversation, or "the iPhone as Oujia board". Perhaps this could be a new iPhone or iPad app....

What do I make of all this? It's hard to say. Even if the phone was simply playing songs in alphabetical order, it picked an interesting place to start. And if I scan through the list of songs on the phone, I don't find any other sequence as meaningful. It's "I'm On Fire" outside the crematory that really challenges me.

I remember a conversation in seminary with a Christian UU who was a Ph.D. student. Despite his Jewish background, he was explaining why or simply that he had chosen Christianity as his way of understanding the world. He had selected it as a set of symbols, rituals, teachings, meanings. This man was sophisticated and well-traveled. A native New Yorker. I didn't quite get it. I mean, I could understand and appreciate part of what he was saying, part of what he was embracing, but what about that assurance of heaven? Was he convinced of that? "Well," he said, "you can adopt a faith tradition and still be agnostic about certain elements it contains." "Agnostic" meaning, more or less, "not knowing" or "without knowledge."

As a person of faith, not necessarily the Christian faith, I am agnostic about what happens when we die. Life is full of mystery, and I wouldn't want it any other way. It seems to me that if I discern and trust a Loving Presence in my life, then I can trust that Presence with my death and that of my loved ones. Perhaps "dead is dead"—and perhaps it isn't. It is the trusting in whatever is that is the faithful response, without demanding proof. Still, it's fun to watch for signs and to be aware when the uncanny is playing across the field.

Much love and appreciation for your caring,

Diana



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

(o o)

\ / Conversations on the AUUF ListServe, and the Greening of Humanity

It is a peculiar feature of human beings that they so seldom seem to pick an appropriate scale. We have just passed thru a conference at Copenhagen where the scale should have been all-out-emergency (See Bill McKibben's new book, *EAARTH*), and we and our fellows and leaders managed to rise to a level of foot shuffling, piddling, nothing. On the other hand, a few months back some stolen e-mails that said essentially nothing were blown into an enormous mole hill into which most of the nation managed to stumble. We are probably in for some major extinctions within the lives of our grands or great grands as a result.



A number of years ago we discovered (much of the discovery coming thru the publication of *Silent Spring*) that DDT was really as serious a poison as its lethal impacts on insects might imply. By the time we made the discovery we had been spraying it on each other liberally, and bombing food crops

from crop-hopper planes long enough to create many strains of immune bugs. Still, in the 1960s there were two true-believer agricultural entomologists at the U of Arizona eating a teaspoon of DDT every morning (or claiming to). We banned the stuff. We couldn't just confine it to little, expensive spray cans for use on wool rugs. For a time we exported it. Now I think we've banned it utterly. It was killing our birds and needed to be shut down. It is not the way to fight malaria. Still, I never heard of any harm coming to all the Italian peasants and Pacific Islanders on the heads of whom our soldiers rubbed DDT to kill their lice. Nor do I know what befell the entomologists.

Now we are talking about banning atrazine. I don't know anything about atrazine. It know I don't like Round-Up. I don't find it useful against poison ivy. I used it year after year on the same recurring spots before I got smart and pulled the stuff up (carefully!). I rather imagine that it is being used too heavily and is causing all manner of trouble along the Mississippi and into the Gulf. You can't really expect a chemical that kills some kinds of life to be harmless to the rest of it. There was once an herbicide called Ammate. My dad thought it was very dangerous and kept us kids away from it. It was said to be a "soil-

sterilent" that would kill anything with roots under where it was sprayed. It is off the market. I don't think it was seriously worse than 2-4-D (Agent Orange). Its breakdown product was said to be nitrogen. There was Paraquat. There have been many herbicides.

Poisons are probably not healthy. But life is pretty tough. We are now finding weeds that are as immune to Round-Up as Monsanto's vaunted (and patented) "Round-Up Ready" crops. So we are using more Round-Up. Monsanto is happy, I guess, but it seems that amphibians aren't.

Can we do nothing in moderation? We have overproduced our own kind. We went forth and multiplied, exponentially. We preach growth, growth, growth, not realizing that we are becoming our globe's fatal cancer. I don't believe that I will live to die of global warming, but I fear my descendants may. Yet there was too much moderation in Copenhagen. Piddling, moderate, insufficiency.

About the listserv discussion of atrazine: I'd like to know if that is the soil poison the clear-cutters have used on some of the fields on my drive to Auburn; they've been brown since they were cut about a year ago. Or was it ammate, or paraquat, or 2-4-D? The fields are just starting to grow weeds after all that rain. Herbicides diminish tillage needs. Industrial factory farming makes the most money for investors, but I don't believe we know that it produces the most food per acre. Industrial methods do produce the most per man-hour. As we go increasingly organic and low tillage, we will need more farmers. (Plant veggies instead of lawn!)

About current events, about that lettuce on the listserv: I think it would be safer to grow your own. 5 or 6 one quart yogurt pots with one lettuce plant in compost or good soil in each would supply you for a month or two with lettuce (not abundant) without *E. coli* or other contaminants. It can grow in light without much full sun.

-Chip Busch

AROUND THE HODGEDEROSA

Buzzin' Around the Hodgederosa

Isn't it nice to see all the new green leaves? The recent pollen onslaught has kept us from our inviting porch more than we'd like, but it is necessary for Mother Nature to renew herself once again. We've planted our vegetable garden with a few things we love to eat---tomatoes, bush beans, cucumbers, okra, basil and other herbs---and we plan to keep going

until we're given out. There are the flower beds to populate, too. Angie and Lydia have planted swaths of sunflowers and other annuals and have utilized the reel mower already. Yep, Spring has sprung here.

When planting tomatoes, plant DEEP. If the starts are tall and skinny, rather than digging a 12"-deep hole we dig 4-6" trenches, laying the plants in them and covering all but the top few inches. Roots spring from the stems, anchoring the plant while feeding on soil nutrients for a successful harvest later on. They say to plant peppers like tomatoes, but we don't usually excavate for our chilis and sweet bells; we plant as deep as we can and let 'em go. Peppers, eggplants and other tomato-related nightshades are long-season edibles, so be patient. Okra, too, seems to tease us to no end as Lydia easily eats her weight in the scrumptious pods each summer.



Our honeybees arrived and we are happy to have our newest family members. Our primary purpose for starting a bee colony was to battle the noticeable

decline of pollination in our garden (but the clincher was the possibility of fresh honey!). A few carpenter bees can't seem to keep up with pollinating all we enjoy, and we'd rather not rely on yellow jackets. As a kid, I often had to seemingly negotiate hordes of honeybees, and most experts agree that an increase in pesticide application in the last 25 years has played a significant role in decreasing bee populations. While not all pesticides are deadly to bees, many affect their success. A list of pesticides harmful to bees can be found at <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1088/>. Not everyone needs to be a beekeeper to help, and we can easily play more than a passive role. Bees are attracted to plants with blue, purple, orange and yellow flowers; plant in full sun as bees aren't that keen for shade flowers. Even casual gardeners can plant and protect the following, even weeds, to help sustain bees: raspberries, blackberries, anise, milkweed, lavender, rosemary, ball clover, dandelion, black-eyed Susan, Shasta daisies, yarrow, bee balm, cosmos, violets, Siberian iris, sunflowers, sedum, asters, Jupiter's beard, blue hyacinth, holly, trumpet vine, marigold, hollyhocks, foxgloves and geraniums. A source of fresh water is great, too. I have heard that without bees, humankind would survive for about four years. Even if that estimate is way off, it makes me less likely to curse the pollen blanket we get each April.

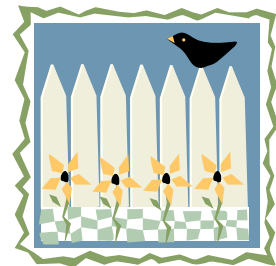
Garden on!

-Tom Hodges

A Green and Healthy Organic Lawn?

Over the last week we've had a healthy email exchange on our AUUF listserv about the use of the herbicide atrazine. Atrazine is an herbicide that also has demonstrated endocrine disrupting properties. Like many aspects of modern agriculture, I think there are multiple facets to this discussion and the right answer isn't necessarily cut and dried.

However, one aspect of this discussion that to my mind has been left out is the foolish use of hazardous chemicals for purely cosmetic uses. I'm referring to the use of herbicides, pesticides and excess fertilizers on our lawns. We douse our lawns with these chemicals and then send the kids and pets out to play! This is madness! We're doing this so the lawn looks good. Isn't it more important that if our children are going to play on them, that we not turn our lawns into toxic meadows.



In my on-going little personal skirmishes against suburban superciliousness, I've been looking for strategies for maintaining a pretty good suburban lawn organically and I'm giving it a try this summer. Admittedly, it will be an uphill battle as my lawn is pretty weedy but wish me luck. If you are interested in trying this too, here's a brief summary of the steps to take. I'll let you know how we do. Wish me luck!

- 1. Mow High.** Foster deep roots and shade out weeds by mowing your lawn high – 3 to 3.5 inches. Make sure those mower blades are sharp!
- 2. Get a soil test.** Our soils are often acidic. A soil test will tell you if your lawn needs a lime treatment and/or fertilizing. You can get your soil tested at the Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory.
- 3. Aerate.** Aerating the soil reduces compaction, a major cause of weeds. Leave the corings behind after you aerate, and then apply fertilizer so that it can reach the root zone.
- 4. Fertilize Gently.** Just after aeration is the best time to apply fertilizer – but go easy! Use an organic fertilizer like compost, and use it sparingly.

-Sharon Roberts



Mid-South District News

Unitarian Universalist Gatherings

It happens each year: May and June bring invitations to important gatherings and events! In our personal lives graduations and weddings celebrate passages for friends and family, and in our Unitarian Universalist 'family' important annual occasions invite us to join with other UUs, beyond our own congregations.

Those who attend Unitarian Universalist events always come away inspired and uplifted – and reminded that this chosen religion enriches not only our own lives but our whole world!

The **Mid-South Annual Assembly** (May 7-9 in Dahlonega, GA) is accessible and affordable and guaranteed to be stirring! And, for incoming congregation presidents, the **Presidents Convocation** (May 28-30) is not to be missed. (www.msduua.org has information on both.)

In June the **UUA General Assembly** will convene in Minneapolis, MN – the largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists of the year. It happens June 23-27th and is chock full of not only important information about our UUA but also inspiring worship, music, workshops and connections with other Unitarian Universalists. (<http://uua.org/events/generalassembly>)

Beyond June still more events invite us:

RE Week at The Mountain happens July 4-9th. (www.mountaincenters.org/2010_REWeek.pdf)

SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute) is July 18-24 in Radford, VA (www.suusi.org)

SUULE (Southeast UU Leadership Experience) is August 8-13th, also at The Mountain. (See www.uusouthland.org for info)

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Training is Aug. 20-22 (www.msduua.org)

Our own congregations are the places we come home to, but it is enriching to join with others beyond our own congregations as part of our Unitarian Universalist experience!

Eunice Benton, Executive Director
Mid-South District, UUA

In the Loop

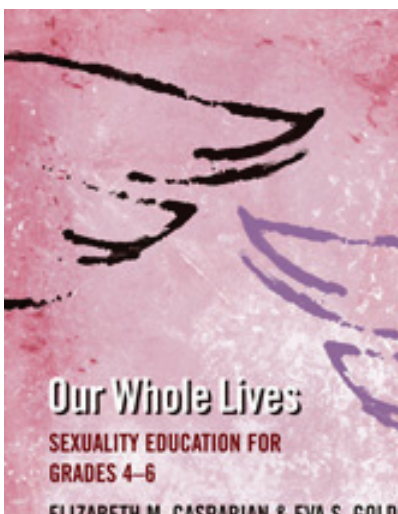
Welcome to May! As we enter May, the congregation is abuzz with activity including the canvass. This year, we used a new type of canvass card that allowed members and friends to select the way they would be canvassed by choosing either face-to-face, phone conversation, mail-in, or online. We have now entered the face-to-face phase of the canvass, so if you did not complete the canvass survey by May 1st, expect a call or visit from a canvasser and give them a warm welcome.

The canvass season is also the time when the nominating committee gets into full swing. Marcia Rossi is the chair of the committee and will be working with Ken Walters and Ralph Banks. The Fellowship thrives because we donate our time and talents as well as our money. Please carefully consider how best you can help the Fellowship get its work done. Our gifts will let us aim higher, get our work done faster, and make our community stronger!

Besides the canvass there are several other things the Board has approved or continues to address. First, the Board approved Amy Phillips' request to use a room in the R.E. Building to meet clients as she works to start her counseling practice. Second, the Board considered quotes to fix the rotted parts of the R.E. Building that were discovered during the recent work party. The Board has asked for a few follow-up details and will revisit the quotes at the May meeting. Finally, information on the adjacent property continues to be gathered and I will have more details by the May 9 Board meeting.

As always, feel free to contact any Board member or me if you have questions about any issue before the Board.

Carl Hudson
President of AUUF Board



Many UUs are familiar with "Our Whole Lives" (OWL), a sexuality curriculum developed by the UUA. It is based on a philosophy of comprehensive sexuality education that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. The AUUF has expressed a commitment to offering OWL sessions at the level of Jr. High youth, but sessions must be led by trained facilitators. Fortunately, there will be an OWL facilitator training session **Friday, August 20 through Sunday, August 22, 2010, in Hampton, GA**. My hope would be to have one male and one female member of AUUF step forward to complete the facilitators training and then to teach the Jr. High level starting January 2011. The commitment is great, but so are the rewards for both the youth of the Fellowship and the facilitators. Donna Sollie and Doug Hankes trained for and facilitated the OWL program that was offered several years ago. The group of kids that participated in that OWL class learned a lot, formed close bonds, and stayed in our RE program until leaving for college.

Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, comprehensive sexuality education provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps leaders and participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, social, and political aspects of sexuality as well. If you feel up this challenge please call Rebecca Brushek (334) 826-0592 or email dre@auuf.org. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

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



Yes, You Can Help East Alabama Food Bank

On **Saturday, May 8th**, letter carriers across the United States will collect food items and deliver them to the local food bank to help some of the millions of Americans (including 13 million children) who are struggling with hunger. You can help your neighbors in need: *simply place bags filled with nonperishable food items next to your mailbox* on Saturday before your mail is delivered. Your letter carrier will pick up the bags for delivery to the Food Bank.

SCHEDULES

Playground Volunteers

May 2	Leigh Jacobson, Zandra Delamar
May 9	Jey and Pop Koehler
May 16	Laura Kloberg, Peter Livant
May 23	Darrell Crutchley, Rebecca Bruscek
May 30	Jack and Suzanne Walker

Storytellers

May 2	RE Program
May 9	Tom Hodges
May 16	Greg Schmidt
May 23	Lay Led
May 30	Jenny Brooks

Greeters

May 2	John Ellisor, Jenny Brooks
May 9	Ken Walters, Terry Rodriguez
May 16	Peter and Emily Livant
May 23	Leigh Jacobson
May 30	Susan Ledbetter

Angels

May 2	Peter and Emily Livant
May 9	Walkers and Gisella Busche-Diller
May 16	?,?
May 23	Darrell and Claire Crutchley
May 30	?,?