

## 1961-2011 Fifty Years of Unitarian Universalism in East Alabama



### AUUF SERVICES • 10:00 A.M.

#### September 4

**“Faith, Reason, and Respect”**

**Terry Rodriguez & the Fellowship**

On any given Sunday our community consists of Buddhists, atheists, liberal Christians, Humanists, Wiccans, the list goes on. How do we get along in our “free and responsible search for truth and meaning”? Come to this Fellowship Service and share your reflections.

#### September 11

**“Pondering September 11”**

**Rev. Diana Jordan Allende**

**Potluck, Food Bank Collection, Giving the Plate, Sundae Sunday, Board Meeting**

Although the memory of September 11, 2001, can feel very fresh, ten years have passed since the attacks that brought stark global changes. Although hardly the end of an Age of Innocence, we might say that 9/11 lifted a veil, opened a door, or otherwise revealed the political, economic and religious

complexities that characterize our one world. What have we learned, practically speaking? What deeper insights have managed to surface? As Unitarian Universalists, how might we think about and tell the story of 9/11 going forward.

#### September 18

**“Cultivating Wisdom”**

**Rev. Diana Jordan Allende**

**RE Teacher Dedication—RE Classes begin**

While age doesn’t necessarily bring wisdom, and children can be wonderfully wise, our AUUF Religious Education program operates on the premise that what we teach our children, how we teach them, and how we model what we believe is important to their overall social, intellectual and spiritual development. This Sunday we will each take our part in the RE Teacher Dedication, introduce our theme, and take up the serious and daunting task of teaching our children well.

**Services continued on page 2**

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday                               | Wednesday    | Thursday                         | Friday             | Saturday   |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Choir @ 9:00<br>Service @ 10:00<br>RE @ 11:15       |        | Diana 1:30-5:00/ by appt.<br>Yoga @ 5 | Choir @ 6:30 | Diana 1:30-5:00/ by appt.        |                    |  |
| ↓   |        | ↓                                     | ↓            | ↓                                |                    |  |
|   |        |                                       |              | 1                                | 2<br>Macho Men @ 7 | 3<br>Vipasanna<br>Meditation @ 10  |
| 4   | 5      | 6                                     | 7            | 8<br>PFLAG @ 7:00,<br>Gnu’s Room | 9                  | 10<br>RE Training, BC<br>yarnhouse studio,<br>10-12, today and<br>next 3 Saturdays |
| 11<br>Potluck<br>Sundae Sunday<br>Board Meeting     | 12     | 13                                    | 14           | 15                               | 16                 | 17<br>UU Work<br>Party!  |
| 18<br>First Day of RE<br>Humanist Dinner<br>@ 6, BC | 19     | 20                                    | 21           | 21                               | 23                 | 24   |
|   |        | News Deadline                         |              |                                  |                    |  |
| 25  | 26     | 27                                    | 28           | 29                               | 30                 |  |
|   |        |                                       |              |                                  |                    | Please see inside<br>pages for more info<br>about events.                          |

# Diana's COLUMN

As announced in the August newsletter, during the 2011-12 year I want to experiment with using monthly themes for the Sunday services I lead. I hope that there will be ways to incorporate these themes into group discussions as well, and perhaps the children's Religious Education program.

I chose the theme of "wisdom" for September, in part because the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks falls on a Sunday, and well we might wonder if these ten years have left us "sadder, but wiser," or simply sadder as we've watched violence and its causes increase. September is also the month we register children and youth for Religious Education (RE) classes (Sundae Sunday), dedicate RE teachers, and begin classes once again. So "wisdom" seemed a fitting theme for September.

The other reason I chose "wisdom" as a theme is its own seductiveness. Who doesn't want to be considered wise or at least found somewhere along a path toward wisdom. After all, Carolus Linnaeus gave the name *Homo sapiens* ("man of wisdom") to the human species, even though his first impulse was to name us *Homo diurnus*, or "man of the day." Wisdom carries the connotation of knowing how to live well, integrating knowledge and experience, insight and integrity, simplicity and depth. That's a lot to live up to—or grow into.

Philosophy, religion and psychology each have more than a passing interest in wisdom. Philosophy, in fact, means "the love of wisdom," and ancient Greeks considered wisdom a virtue. According to Hebrew scripture, wisdom (*Sophia*) was with God from the beginning, helping to lay the foundations of the earth and delighting in human beings. Ancient Israel's King Solomon is said to have prayed only for "a wise and understanding heart," not riches or honor. Here we see wisdom associated with temperance and justice. "Psychologists pretty much agree [wisdom] involves an integration of knowledge, experience, and deep understanding that incorporates tolerance for the uncertainties of life as well as its ups and downs. There's an awareness of how things play out over time, and it confers a sense of balance" (*Psychology Today*).

So how do Unitarian Universalists understand, cultivate and express wisdom? What is the relationship between intelligence and wisdom? Between power and wisdom? Can wisdom be taught or does it require at least some measure of adversity or challenge to take root and grow? How might we collectively enter a process of discernment worthy of being called wise?

May we take these and other questions into consideration as we explore the getting of wisdom together.

Love, 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  
1:30-5:00 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!

## UU WORK PARTY

8 a.m. until noon

Saturday, September 17

There are opportunities galore for sprucing up our buildings and grounds and ***we need your help.***

**No experience necessary.**

**Square "D" Donuts and coffee/tea will be supplied.  
There will be a sign-up sheet at the Fellowship.**

### Services continued from page 1

September 25

"Good Hands, Good Hearts and Long Range Planning"

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende and the Long Range/Strategic Planning Committee

Nelson Mandela has observed that "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." This Sunday the Long Range/Strategic Planning Committee, co-chaired by Robert Zabawa and Marcia Rossi, will introduce their process for encouraging all of us to put our good heads and good hearts to the task of planning our future.

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE: the We in RE

## FROM OUR DRE

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Religious Education at Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship! Hello and greetings! I'm so excited to start my third year as Director of Religious Education (DRE) at AUUF. This year I am thrilled to have two RE Co-Chairs, Debbie Bettis and Amy Kaiser. I am very lucky and blessed to have two members of the Fellowship so full of energy and knowledge. With double the support, this RE year looks to be incredible and filled with the wonderful traditions everyone looks forward to, many new activities, and a few surprises. This year's curricula choice will teach peaceful communication--a practice that should last a lifetime.

Every Sunday is a new opportunity to be great. See you all there!

---Rebecca Brushek

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

### RE Mission Statement

Five years ago, the AUUF Board endorsed the RE Long-Range Plan, proposed by the RE LRP Committee. This document, available online at [auuf.org](http://auuf.org), serves as a guide to maintain the focus and continuity of the RE program and to assist our children and youth in incorporating UU values into



their lives. All of the goals of the RE LRP derive from the RE Mission Statement: *The Religious Education Program of the AUUF is dedicated to fostering a sense of wholeness in our children and youth, and enriching their spiritual lives as they explore faith traditions and religious and ethical questions within a supportive UU community. Guided by the AUUF Mission*

*Statement and the UUA principles, and leading by example, those involved with the RE program empower young people to respect the inherent worth and dignity of themselves and others, search for individual spiritual meaning, make responsible decisions, and understand what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in a world of religious diversity. We strengthen the bonds between AUUF young people and adults, and help our children and youth understand the importance of working with the larger community to care for the earth and to bring about a safe and just world.*

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## Got Kids? New to AUUF?

Those of you who are new to AUUF, especially those of you accompanied by children, may appreciate an explanation of what is available at AUUF for children and youth.



While we have a nursery that operates during Sunday Services for the convenience of parents desiring child care at that time for infants through 3-year-olds, children of all ages are always welcome at our services and are encouraged to take part as they are able. Children generally stay in the Fellowship during the first part of the service, often participating in silent and spoken Joys and Concerns. Children are invited to the front of the Fellowship for the Children's Story, and on our monthly Potluck Sundays, they can bring non-perishable food items to put in the big basket before the Children's Story to be donated to the local Food Bank. At the close of the Children's Story, we "sing the children out," and they can leave for the playground, or choose to stay with their families for the remainder of the service. Our playground

workers, Alexis and Jeremy, provide supervision for the children's play, assisted by parent volunteers. We also provide a light snack during playground time. At the end of the service, children either go to their RE classrooms, or return to their parents' care.

**WHAT'S THE SCOOP?**



What tasty tradition kicks off RE each year?

Why **Sundae Sunday**, of course!

This Potluck Sunday, Sept. 11, all are invited to join our children, youth, and their parents for a scoop of ice cream topped with a varied choice of treats. Rebecca will be nearby with RE registration forms for parents to fill out and with information about our upcoming RE classes. Yes, the ice cream is there to entice families to enroll in RE, but once you hear what a sweet deal RE is, you will be delighted you got the scoop . . . with a scoop!

**A LITTLE OLD, A LITTLE NEW**

Just as a farmhouse pump is primed with water from another time so that old water helps fresh water come, this RE year seems to be a wonderful blend of a bit of the old along with something new. Debbie and I found as we began our work together as RE Co-Chairs that her fresh views and enthusiasm mingle well with my knowledge of RE from past years as we support DRE Rebecca so that the RE year runs smoothly. We are excited that the folks who have already committed to teaching RE this year include seasoned teachers and as well as new faces: Michael Brewer-Davis, Claire Crutchley, Jey Koehler, Shannon Price, Terry Rodriguez, Greg Schmidt, Ken Walters, and Robert Zabawa. And, with new RE events on

the calendar alongside the traditions we hold dear, this is sure to be a great year for RE.

---Amy Kaiser and Debbie Bettis

**LETTING PEACE BEGIN WITH US!**

UUs in 2010 passed a Statement of Conscience called "Creating Peace", which acknowledges our shared responsibility for creating peace at all levels of human interaction, including within ourselves, in our relationships, and in our congregations.

This year's Religious Education theme takes up the call to become co-creators of peace by learning the principles of Compassionate Communication and conflict resolution. Using the *Heart Talk for Kids* curriculum, our children will learn to connect with their own power to create peaceful relationships.



Lessons emphasize feelings, universal needs, making requests, gratitude, empathy for self and others, transforming anger, conflict resolution, and active peacemaking. Movement, activities, games, art, stories, songs, and time in nature make this curriculum *fun* for both children and teachers.

---Diana Jordan Allende

**RE HAPPENINGS AT A GLANCE**

**Saturday, September 10:** RE Teacher Training, 8:30AM-2PM, in the Busch Center

**Sunday, September 11:** Food Bank non-perishable food collection when children come forward for Children's Story

Sundae Sunday and RE registration during Potluck

**Sunday, September 18:** Teacher Dedication during Sunday Service

First RE class for the year, UN Peace Day, RE for all Ages

# Living Green, Living Well

## The Green Raven

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### Permaculture

Have you heard of “permaculture?” It’s a concept that originated in Australia and is spreading through the English speaking world. Soil scientists are telling us that our annual effort to get rid of weeds by ripping up the soil (and turning up new weed seeds) is hard on other soil inhabitants, not just weeds. We should let it lie. Plowing breaks up fungal and bacterial communities that would otherwise benefit the plants that grow in the same soil. Furthermore, plowing, harrowing, scratching up and turning over the soil exposes it to erosion. We have already lost thousands of years-worth of topsoil that was built by prairie grasses and herds of buffalo, or by forests. Great civilizations of the past have killed themselves by overspending their topsoil: the first centers of agriculture and the beginnings of cities and civilizations in the “fertile crescent.” The area has turned to desert; the “cedars of Lebanon” are gone; Carthage, the bread basket of ancient Rome has trouble feeding itself. Why? I can’t really blame it all on the plow: over-irrigation, too many trees harvested, fields “salted” by conquering Romans. But loss of once fertile soil is a feature. The American dust bowl of the ‘30s can more surely be attributed to the plow.

Why do we do all this plowing? It makes it easier to plant. We plant every year because we grow mostly annual crops. Wheat, rice, corn -- the staple grains can be stock-piled and monopolized. They can be collected by taxation. And they must be planted anew every year.



Permaculture suggests we select more perennials. If you plant an orchard the soil stays covered for many years. Nature protects soils with perennials when she can. The long dry early summer we've just suffered

left lots of bare spots in unwatered lawns, but they filled with grass or weeds as soon as there was rain.

What perennial vegetables are there? Asparagus, artichokes (both globe and Jerusalem -- which are

totally different veggies but both are perennials). I can’t think of many more. Lamb’s quarters and New Zealand Spinach come back pretty reliably. What else? Any beans? Most permaculturists are tolerant of an annual garden to grow tomatoes and sweet corn and some other annuals. What they deplore are the “amber waves of grain”— miles of monoculture -- grain and potatoes.

I’m trying to get some more fruit trees established. Peaches aren’t forever, but apples and pears are long-lived. Bramble fruits may push you off your own land, but I haven’t had good luck getting them started. I lost my last strawberries to a failure to keep them weeded. We’ve had blueberries, pomegranates chestnuts, persimmons, hazelnuts and pecans. I am trying hardy kiwis. Has anyone tried English walnuts? Its hard to get even a taste of our black walnuts.

I’m going to have to pull back from a spaded-up veggie garden; it is getting to be too much for me.

Does anyone out there want some good organic soil with a nice, small house about 15 miles from campus? It’s available. Take over most of the gardening, share the produce and live here pretty cheap(ly). See Chip!

-Chip Busch

### Help Needed!



I’m hoping that 2011-2012 will be a busy year for the AUUF Green Sanctuary program.

We’ve completed just about everything required to become a certified Green Sanctuary.

I’m hoping some of you will be interested in working on completing the application. This should be fun as we get to decide how to pull all of our activities together and present them. So, think of that as a shout out to you creative types! We need ya.

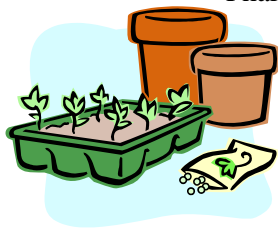
And of course, we won’t be done, just because we’re a Green Sanctuary. We’ll continue to do the environmentally responsible things that we have done and add new ones. If you’ve got ideas, send them along.

-Sharon Roberts

**Happy Labor Day, Friends! May the long weekend be a safe and healthy one this year.**

Afterwards, don't forget about the Standing on the Side of Love Alliance's vigil and press conference in opposition to HB 56, on Tuesday, September 6, at the Auburn City Public Safety Department Building. Contact Jenny Brooks for more information on that. The SOS-LOVE activism reminds me of the immediate effects of Georgia's own similarly ill-conceived law. In July, the president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, bemoaned, "We don't have a workforce," meaning many immigrant workers have fled the state, leaving food crops such as onions, cucumbers, squash, blackberries, blueberries and watermelons to rot in the fields because no one else is willing to harvest food for \$8 to \$12 an hour. Could the same happen in Alabama if HB 56 is not repealed?

Meanwhile, children---many of parents who support HB 56---are prime targets of food companies to convince parents to fork over dwindling income dollars for food that isn't all that healthy. Never mind that a full third of children in our country are overweight or obese. "Foods" such as sugary cereals, sodas and other drinks loaded to the gills with sugar AND corn syrup contributes greatly to this unprecedented situation. Let's not forget those "happy" meals and air-filled sacks o' snacks. Surprisingly, back in Spring Congress (yes, *this* Congress) requested that the federal government propose guidelines for best practices for food marketing to kids ages 2 to 17. Now, *guidelines* are not regulations, but simply *recommendations* for *voluntary* action. How did Big Agriculture respond to this proposal? Not very well it turns out. According to more media sources than I can cite here, the Grocery Manufacturers Association (the name alone freaks me out) claimed that the "restrictions" were "needlessly strict". The GMA went on to wail that "some soups, vegetable juices, cereals and yogurts currently marketed to *children* would not meet the standards." Skip to another industry: Big Pharmaceuticals. Are you getting the connection yet? cardiologist that his profession's is currently set up not to treat society's health problems, I can't help but think about the correlation between these two industries that literally hold our lives in their hands. Oh I



could go on, but I'll stop my badgering with an appeal to you all that in my humble opinion, it is high time to buy a hoe and order some seed catalogs, if you haven't already done so. Buy as local as you are able. Live healthy. Live wisely.

-Tom Hodges

**Sacred Waters  
40/40 Project**



Well, we started the Sacred Waters project last spring on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Flower Communion Service. Our goal was to have 40 members of the Fellowship pledge to adopt a new water saving behavior for 40 days.

So, how'd we do? Thirty-six members pledged to save water and well, actually, forty days was actually on June 6<sup>th</sup> and I know many of you are still following their new water conservation changes. That's fabulous! We are well past 40 days. I meant to keep track of the days as they passed, but I got side-tracked working at the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice Center's organic garden. I was keenly aware of water! We were busy planting potatoes, onions, squash, tomatoes; well it was a vegetable garden. And, we did not have enough water. When your garden is that big, it's hard to keep it watered.

But we did our best and so did the Fellowship. There was a wonderful variety of different water-saving changes adopted and shared with one another. It's obvious too from the comments made at our Ingathering that many of you are still saving water. We're still going strong too. I figure today is about day number 120. Good for you. Keep it up! If you just haven't had a chance to get in on the action, no worries. Just start now. Join us!

-Sharon Roberts

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

~Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732

# STANDING TOGETHER Against HB 56 in Auburn, Alabama Interfaith and Social Justice Vigil

Please join us for a peaceful vigil on Tuesday, September 6 from 5:30 till 7:30 p.m. at the southwest corner of Ross and Glenn Streets.

You can park at Felton Little Park on Glenn and gather at the vigil corner. A press conference at 6:30 will ask the Auburn City Council to call for repeal of HB56. We will then proceed to the City Council meeting to make individual statements of support. **Simply being present at the meeting will be effective.**

## RULES:

- dress in white shirts (or in Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts), or come as you are.
- no political signs or violent messages or behavior
- be respectful of others
- do not engage with any hecklers
- do not litter
- stand on grassy area or sidewalk but not in street.

Sponsored by Standing on the Side of Love Alliance

## Congregational Support

In our community, we are individual strands intertwined and woven together to form a rich textured whole. *Join the Congregational Support Committee (CSC) as we work together to weave and knit two comforters.* The CSC envisions these two comforters being used during unsettling times by those of us who may need the added comfort of being wrapped in a warm reminder of our caring AUUF community. In time, the comforter would be returned to the CSC and passed on as other individual needs arise. Member Cary Curtis and her mom, Ann, of *yarnhouse studios* in Opelika will guide us in weaving and knitting not only our Loving Hands Comforters but also a community.

Join us as you are able  
Saturdays 10-12  
Sept 10, 17, 24  
Oct 1

*the yarnhouse studio*  
South 8th St. across  
from *Jimmy's*  
Opelika

## In the LOOP

During this year the AUUF Board is focusing on unfinished projects that have been at least in the talking stage for a while. Some of these are B&G type projects, some are Fellowship goals and others are Board Administrative tasks that need to be completed. At the August Board meeting, we discussed the chalice lighter grant that was obtained to build an accessibility ramp for the RE Building. Although we don't have the necessary funds to build a ramp according to the original proposal we can build a ramp that will meet code recommendations. We have a request from the 'tweens requesting a separate play space for the small children. The children have funds saved from their Valentine Express to help with the purchase of materials. But we'll need some volunteer help from our adults to get these projects put onto the "finished" list.

The board also discussed a request that all the adults within the Fellowship need to help our children learn to respect the Fellowship Building as a shared space, a sacred space and a safe space for everyone. Helping our children learn that while our sanctuary might seem to be big enough to be the great outdoors, it is designed for our quiet inside voices. While we usually refer to the Fellowship as a safe space for the expression of our beliefs and wonderings, it also needs to be a safe space for our older members who may be fearful of falling or being bumped by children who are running or playing tag inside. So let's all help our children by reminding them to play more quietly and to play indoor games inside and outdoor games outside.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Connie Salts, Board President

## First Fall 2011 Environmental Movie and Organic Cookie Event

### Play Again

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 7 P.M.

Children today play and communicate for many hours in the virtual world. Due to media technologies and a changed life style, the average child in the U.S. spends about 90% of his/her time indoors rather than in nature. What are we missing when we are "connected?" This documentary show the experience of 6 kids on a wilderness adventure—their first ever—without cell phone, TV or even electricity. In *Play Again* these teenagers get unplugged. What are the consequences of a childhood removed from nature? How will those children handle the future?

See the trailer at <http://playagainfilm.com/>. The movie earned 7 awards and runs for 80 minutes. As always, the organic cookies are award-winning, too.  
~Gisela Buschle Diller

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

## SCHEDULES

### PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

September 4 Kitty Frey, Michael Hein  
September 11 Conor McGowan, Tem Samuel  
September 18 Tom and Angie Hodges  
September 25 Judy Lechner, Amy Kaiser

### STORYTELLERS

September 4 Amy Kaiser  
September 11 Debbie Bettis  
September 18 Susan McCallister  
September 28 Leigh Jacobson

### GREETERS

September 4 Matt Malczycki and Judy Lechner  
September 11 Susan McCallister, ?  
September 18 Peter and Emily Livant  
September 25 Leigh Jacobson, Susan McCallister

### ANGELS

September 4 Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters  
September 11 Jack and Suzanne Walker  
September 18 Judy Lechner, Susan Ledbetter  
September 25 Gisela Buschle-Diller, Laura Kloberg

## AUUF Launches Strategic/Long Range Planning Process

Attention AUUF! As we celebrate our 50th anniversary we are also starting to look anew at the direction of the Fellowship, past, present and future. To do this, a long range/strategic planning committee has been formed to help guide us in this endeavor. The members of the committee are: Marcia Rossi and Robert Zabawa, co-chairs, Shannon Price, Susan McCallister, and Suzanne Walker.

**It has been over ten years since our last plan**, so it's time to renew our efforts as we look ahead. Over the next several months you will be receiving announcements concerning a variety of activities where we will see where we have come from (what were our plans), how we are at present (how well did we fulfill our plans), and in what direction do we want to head (what are our future plans).

**Our number one priority as a committee is to be as inclusive as possible, to provide as many opportunities for the entire AUUF community to participate in this process as possible.** Our first activity will be an "introduction" to the process and committee at the September 25th service. Keep your eyes peeled for future announcements and activities and be prepared to share **your ideas** about AUUF.

~Robert Zabawa