



First Leadership Development Series to Start in January

Beginning January 18, 2009, the Leadership Development Committee will be offering its first leadership development series open to ALL members, whether you are currently in leadership at GUUF or simply have an interest in potential future leadership at GUUF. The skills taught in these sessions are transferable skills that can carry over into other volunteer organizations and workplace situations.

THE DIFFERENCE IS LEADERSHIP!

The six week course will be held in the Founder's Room beginning at 12:45 each Sunday and will last one hour. Classes start January 18, 2009. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

The course outline is as follows:

Week 1 (1/18/2009): What kind of leader are you?

Week 2 (1/25/2009): GUUF Structure 101

Week 3 (2/1/2009): Resonant Leadership

Week 4 (2/8/2009): GUUF Leadership Decision making and Collaboration Processes

Week 5 (2/15/2009): Inspiring and Renewing Volunteers

Week 6 (2/22/2009): Wrap-up/Celebrating our Successes!

The moderator of the series is our Past-President/Leadership Development Committee Chair, Candy Kern-Fuller. Candy is a ten plus year member of GUUF and graduate of *Connections: Women Leaders of the Upstate*. At GUUF, she served two terms as the Social Responsibility Chair and two years as the Board Secretary before accepting nomination as the 2006-2007 President-Elect. Prior to her service at GUUF, she served in various capacities for the National Organization for Women (NOW), serving as their State Coordinator, a National Board Member representing the Southeast Region, and she helped create and then served on the first Young Feminist Committee for NOW nationally. She also served at the state and local levels of the S.C. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Please RSVP to candy@upstatelawgroup.com or at (864) 905-3610 by Sunday January 11th so we can plan for course materials and food for the first class. Please also let us know if you have special meal needs or childcare needs on or before January 11th.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and good conversation after the service. We have a special newcomer's table with coffee mugs and information about Unitarian Universalism. Our greeters will be there to speak with you and help you feel at home.

~ Congregational Care Items ~

We extend our loving support to:

Gordon Branson -- death of uncle
Michaela Crain -- uncle facing cancer treatment
Pascal Couasnon -- long-time friend died suddenly
Charles Boggs -- facing surgery
Sharon & David Miracle -- life changes
Mark Hauser -- friend Robbie Chapman died
Steve Compton -- recovering from surgery
Susan Cooper -- nephew recovery from surgery
Norma Green's granddaughter, Hannah who gave birth early
Family of Evelyn Sangster who died on December 19 in Vermont. Evelyn, along with Audrey Klute, began our thrift Shop -- AUDREY'S CLOSET. Many of us worked with the two of them.

We celebrate with:

Walter Lavash, Joe Norwood, Jim Yockey, Jim Cooney -- birthdays
Annie Pal -- son graduated from college
Charlie & Betsy Smith -- daughter Laura home for the holidays from Utah
Bob & Jean Howorth -- Jean finished nine months of chemo
Pam Yockey Stevenson -- best dad in the world award to Jim Yockey

NOTE!! Upcoming Western Carolinas Cluster Gathering!! We'd like to have a number of people in attendance.

Please mark your calendars NOW! The seventh annual gathering of the Western Carolinas Cluster is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2009, from 9 am until 4:30 pm at the Hendersonville fellowship. Ever wanted to meet other UU's from congregations in the Carolinas? This is your chance. The Cluster includes the following congregations: Asheville, Black Mountain, Boone, Brevard, Charlotte, Piedmont, Clemson, Franklin, Greenville, Hendersonville, Hickory, Spartanburg, and Tryon. The day will include workshops, music, networking and sharing, youth programs, and a soulful sundown service.

Weekly Updates on Attendance & Contributions
12/21/08 Attendance: 187
12/21/08 Contributions: \$4,696

Columbarium Meetings

There will be meetings held on December 21st and January 11th and 25th at 9:30 am in the right overflow room. Contact: Jim Yockey, 246-5777 or jimyockey@juno.com. All interested and public are invited.

We are studying plans for the construction of a Columbarium in our memorial garden, a wall of niches for the storage of cremains. Watch the bulletin board for some sketches and further developments. Ever since the scatter garden was established there has been some interest in a separate space to store cremains. This will give our members a choice for the remembrance of their loved ones. If you have some interest in this project contact Jim Yockey, 246-5777 jimyockey@juno.com

~ ~On Going Meetings and Classes~ ~

Childcare begins at 9:30 am each Sunday

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

African Drum Classes (FH) No class in December, January 2009 class will be 2nd Thursday, 6:30 — 7:30 pm, February 2009 will be back on schedule to 1st Thursdays again, Contact: Joan Baker (232-1660)

Community Drum Circle (FH) Last Sundays of each month, 1:00 — 2:00 pm, Contact: Joan Baker (292-6054)

Discussion Group (FR) Every Sunday, 9:45 — 10:45 am, Contact: Cliff Beck (848-9734)

Women's Book Group (WR) 2nd Sunday each month, 9:45 — 10:45 am, Contact: Susan Cooper (288-4912)

Zen Meditation (LOR) Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Contact: Carole McAfee (236-8484)

Senior Fellowship (FH) Cancelled until further notice.

Dinner & A Movie (FH) Every 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm, Contact: Bo Boghani (458-8332)

The ManKind Project (WR) No meetings in December, Every Wednesdays of each month, 7:00 — 9:00 pm, Contact: John Szczesniak (901-6068)

UUs Helping UUs

Our UU Fellowship is overflowing with very large variety of conscientious, talented, skilled, and highly educated individuals. Most of us would prefer do business with others in our congregation. In this period of world economical downturn, many in our congregation need our help. Likewise, our Fellowship wants to provide services without adding additional financial stress on our congregation.

To help one another, the Fellowship is providing a very low-cost system to promote the businesses and services to our members and friends that will be circulated only within our congregation. It is called **UUs Helping UUs**.

Individuals can advertise their businesses and services on an ad the size of a business card for as little as \$30 a year or a whole page for only \$210 a year. The cost includes design workup from our very own graphic designer. The booklet will be printed in color and distributed online, much like our electronic directory newsletter. A small number of hard copies will be printed and distributed in black and white. The ads for members and friends will be available and provided to members and friends throughout 2009.

All ad applications must be in by January 31st, and the goal is to have the ads published and distributed in Mid-February. So please hurry!

Pick up an ad outline and information sheet in the Fellowships foyer or contact Glen Rowley, Email: glenrowley@charter.net, phone: 859-9992 Ad requests can be turned in or mailed to the office, or given to Glen Rowley.



Highlights in Lifespan Religious Education

From Babies to Sages

December 28, 2008

Happy Holidays!!!



Classes and Events Today

9:30 *Childcare begins*
10:00 *No Children or Youth RE Today*
11:00 *Worship for ages 6th grade and up. Children younger than sixth grade may go to the game room.*

New Books IN—Including Children's Books!

The Book Nook has a wide selection of new Skinner House and Beacon Press books available for purchase during coffee hour. Service provided by the Adult RE Committee.



Special Friends Week is Coming!

Do your Grandchildren live far away? Have your children left the nest? Or maybe not ready to start your own family yet? Have we got a deal for you!!!!

During the week of February 9-15, 2008 you can have the opportunity to connect with or even lavish affection upon one of the bright, beautiful younger members of the GUUF family. And the best part...NO diaper changes, NO late night feedings, and NO sassy back talk!!! (We said it was a deal!)

We need adults to sign up to be paired with a child. During Valentine's Week, you will contact your child two or three times by sending valentines, poems, riddles, etc. You'll send one of two identical nametags at the end of the week to be worn by each of you on Sunday, February 15th when your "Special Friend" identity will be revealed. If you would like to participate, please sign up in the RE area to receive further details. There will also be sign-up sheets distributed in the weekly Spark. Don't miss this opportunity to win a child's heart!

We invite friends, young and old, to participate in a Valentine's week of delightful surprises. Please join us in an opportunity to make an interesting new friend in the congregation.

PARENTS: We hope your children will want to participate. It is a lot of fun, and we have had excellent participation in past years, forging strong intergenerational bonds. Please contact Jennifer Cowden (dave.cowden@gmail.com or 675-0373), or Kris Beliakoff (kris.beliakoff@gmail.com or 906-5368) if you have any questions. Drop children's forms in the Special Friends box in the RE area. Extra forms are available. Deadline to sign up is January 25, 2008.

Next RE meetings:

Children and Youth – January 4th, 12:30 PM, RE Classroom. Adult RE January 11, 12:30 PM, Annex building. New committee members always welcome!

Saving Jesus Begins Again in February
9:30 AM Sundays, Teen Lounge downstairs

We are planning to run this popular class again for new participants beginning February 1st. We have only a couple spots left.. Please see Jackie Weddington or Kris Beliakoff to pre-register Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right or the Secular Left? Saving Jesus is a revolutionary DVD-based small group exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. Featuring leading religious voices of our day, the 12-week program includes historical, theological, spiritual and social justice themes for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus Christ for today. Facilitator Karen Conrad, Jackie Weddington.

By Request: Saving Jesus – Extended Discussion Group
9:30 AM Sundays, place to be determined

Sometimes when a course ends the participants want to continue to meet. This class is winding down and gearing back up. If you were a member of the first run of the *Saving Jesus* course, please join in the extended discussion and chosen enrichment activities. We are finding a space for you, but talk to Jackie and let's keep the group fed.

Speaking of "fed": Let us whet your appetite for Adult Enrichment
Upcoming topics in Adult RE – Check your Flame and your January Sparks for start dates, places and times.

Power of Myth, Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers – DVD series and discussion. Mythology is humanity's universal method of seeking the transcendental, and "follow your bliss" is the timeless formula for spiritual satisfaction. Campbell himself is the embodiment of these themes, an erudite scholar and quintessential storyteller, recalling a wide spectrum of myths from throughout history (Japanese, Native American, Egyptian, Mayan, and many more) to illustrate humankind's eternal quest to grasp the mysteries of creation. Historical artifacts and illustrations bring these timeless stories to life. Women's Room downstairs every Sunday but the second Sunday, 9:45 AM, starting date to be decided.

Living Wills, Ethical Wills, End of Life Planning, Hospice

How do you know your wishes will be followed at your time of death? What do you really wish to leave behind? How will folks know of your wishes? Part of what we provide as a spiritual home is guidance and support for both the happy and the toughest times in our lives. Adult RE is continuing topics from our Death and Dying course in small stand alone seminars to help all adults in our community.

In Discussion: Russian lessons, Square Foot Gardening for Adults, Healthy Living (food and home products), Meditation in Motion Saturday seminar, *Rise Up and Call her Name* (feminist theology for women and men).