

Highlights in Lifespan Religious Education

From Babies to Sages

April 26, 2009



Classes and Events Today

- 9:00 Adults — Rise Up and Call Her Name
Childcare begins
- 9:45 Adults — Course in Miracles, Discussion Group, Saving Jesus,
UU Orienteering
Children -- Children's Chapel with Kris Beliakoff
- 10:00 3 Years to 5th Grade – Choir Practice
- 11:00 Middle School, Coming of Age, 10th-12th Grade – Service or
assist with fundraiser
- 11:20 Elementary – Project in service.



Easter Appreciation



Thank you, Joe Schumaker, for the egg rocket and egg drop! Thank you MaKensie Schumaker for all the wonderful game time with the children. Thank you Laura Christenbury and family and helpers for hiding all those eggs. Thank you to the parents and teens that helped throughout. Thank you to the 75 children and teens that joined us in our fun. What a wonderful Easter we had! Look for a link soon to the GUUF website for photos.

Our Seder for All Ages – WOW!



A huge thank you to Wendy Plummer (and her right hand man, Larry) for organizing and leading our Seder and to Laura Christenbury for the idea and the assistance through it all. Thank you also to Wendy's parents who donated a lot of the food. We had 100 people on our guest list and everyone learned, enjoyed each other's company, and ate a fabulous meal!

Lunch Fundraisers after the Service Today April 26th and May 31st



Join us for a meal prepared by the teens and their families as fundraisers for their trips 9th grade to Boston and 10-12th grade to NYC. Today's meal is Asian chicken/rice and vegetables -- with sherbet and a fortune cookie for dessert. The meals are \$5 and a wonderful way to relax and visit with one another as well as stay for a congregational meeting. May will be our annual chili cookoff!



Game Night May 8th



RE invites all families to come and hang out for an evening of food and fun. Dinner and games will be provided for all ages, though we invite you to bring your favorite game. This annual event is a favorite that many of the children look forward to. So please, come enjoy a family night together. Our treat. 6 – 8 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



It's Duck Derby Time! – Last Week to Adopt!

A donation helps charities *and our own Fellowship* and may win you big prizes!

\$5 a duck/ \$25 for 6 ducks

This year marks the third year that Children and Youth Religious Education at GUUF will assist the annual Rotary Club Duck Derby. On May 2nd, 2009, the Rotary Club will put 8000 rubber ducks into the Greenville Reedy River. The large crowd will watch as each duck floats over the falls crossing the finish line. If your little rubber duck is one of the first 25 ducks over the finish line, you may win one of the fabulous prizes like a year's supply of groceries or \$1,500.

Derby date: May 2, 2009

Derby times: 10am - 4pm (booths and family fun begin at 10 AM, duck race to begin at 2:30 PM)

Derby location: Reedy River (Falls) Park

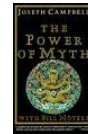
All proceeds benefit local charities and GUUF (we retain 20% of any duck adoptions we generate). This year's charities are GAIHN and Mauldin Miracle League. Wish to Adopt a Duck? See one of GUUF's own fabulous teens or one of the displays around the Fellowship. Any one of our envelopes mailed in is number-coded to give credit to us. Take a handful to work and spread the word! You can also come visit us at our wildly popular booth the day of the race! For more information, please see Kris or Jennifer Hauser.

Power Of Myth Begins May 3rd!

Sundays* 9:30 AM

Six sessions, *skip second Sunday of each month

Almost FULL, please register if you intend to come!



Joseph Campbell and the *Power of Myth* is an encounter between teacher- mythologist Campbell and student-journalist Bill Moyers covering a galaxy of topics related to Campbell's central themes: Mythology is humanity's universal method of seeking the transcendental, and "follow your bliss" is the timeless formula for spiritual satisfaction. Campbell recalls 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. Includes The Hero's Adventure, The Message of the Myth, The First Storytellers, Sacrifice and Bliss, Love and the Goddess, Masks of Eternity. Facilitator: Deborah Hickey. Format: DVD and discussion. Please RSVP to Kris or the office.

**Liberal Christian Study Group Meeting
Sundays, 9:30 AM**

Interested in studying Liberal Christianity? Meeting in the UU World of Children classroom, Sundays at 9:30. Need to know more, call Jackie Weddington at 934-6464 or Diana Miel at 276-1338.

**Joint Social Justice Committee/Adult Religious Education Movie
Premier and Discussion
May 27th, Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall**

Join internationally accredited speaker and facilitator Ron Chapman in a premiere of *The First Millimeter: Healing the Earth*, a national PBS documentary about healing the land around the world - and the lives of those who are dependent on it. Produced by 17-time Emmy award-winning director Chris Schueler, who says that it may be the most important story he has ever told. Ron is the Past Chairman of the Board of Holistic Management International (HMI), whose work is central to the film's focus. HMI is a global environmental education non-governmental organization headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico that works with stewards of large landscapes—agricultural producers, pastoralists, and government agencies—to help them partner with nature to create a positive ecological footprint. Through improved natural resource management practices, these managers improve soil health, which results in a host of benefits including: improved water quality, carbon sequestration, drought mitigation, flood resilience, and food security.

We will serve a light dinner at 6:15 PM. \$5 per person. RSVP requested for dinner. Call the office at 271-4883 or email Kris Beliakoff at dre@greenvilleuu.org.



***Rise Up and Call Her Name, A Woman-honoring
Journey Into Global Earth-based Spiritualities*
9:00 AM Sundays* , Women's Room**

Designed for female and male participants from mature teen to adult, this curriculum explores ethical principles central to a variety of Earth and woman-honoring traditions around the globe and throughout history. We will offer this course in several blocks, with this block focusing on Native American studies. A wide range of activities including music, art, dance, poetry, dialogue and ritual provide diverse opportunities to develop fresh perspectives on fearlessness, compassion, nurturing and numerous other aspects of personal spirituality. Registration required along with childcare needs. Contact the office, Kris Beliakoff or Annie Pal. *Dates: March 22nd, March 29th, April 5th, April 19th and April 26th.

How to Reach Us:

Kris Beliakoff, Director of Lifespan Religious Education & Administration
Office 271-4883, Cell 906-5368, Email: Dre@GreenvilleUU.org or Kris.Beliakoff@gmail.com
Office Days: Sun - Thurs
Karen Conrad, Adult Religious Education Chair
Email: innisfreedesigns@yahoo.com

Next RE Meetings

Children and Youth – TBA 12:30 PM, RE Classroom. Adult RE May 17 12:30 PM, Annex building. New committee members always welcome!

Summer in Children and Youth Religious Education Volunteers Needed, plans being made

GUUF religious education continues over the summer beginning in June, though with a condensed Sunday morning schedule. Children's classes begin after the story in the service and the teen classes begin at 11 AM. Our children's curriculum this summer is from the Culture Company which advocates peace through play (see the May Flame for more details). We need folks to lead one or more of the following sessions:

PEACE: Peace is the Path
AUSTRALIA: Responsibility to Others
BRAZIL: Respect the Earth and Each Other
GHANA: Different yet Familiar
GREECE: The Golden Rule
INDIA: Fairness
MOROCCO: Being Thankful

If you would like to teach, please see Kris or Laura Christenbury and we will help schedule the summer sessions around your summer plans. Lessons and materials provided.

Teens ---

You will be involved in Social Action and brush up on your theology with an unusual but highly popular curriculum called The Gospel According to the Simpsons. Yes, those Simpsons. True to the themes of the ancient texts but taught in an unforgettable style, this curriculum promises to break up those summer blahs. Plus, we will add more social plans as you wish. Teachers needed. All materials and discussion questions provided.

~ ~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) 1st Thursday each month, Contact: Joan Baker (232-1660)

Discussion Group (FR) Sundays, 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)

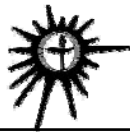
Zen Meditation (LOR) Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Contact: Carole McAfee (236-8484)

Senior Fellowship (FH) 2nd Thursday each month, 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Contact: Suzanne Hart (235-1714).

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

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

Yoga (FH) Tuesdays beginning April 21st until May 19th, 5 weeks, 6:30 — 8:15 pm, Contact: Bruce Cable (906-8067)



Greenville
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

The Weekly Spark

April 26, 2009
Spark the Memory, Spark the Spirit

~ **IMPORTANT** ~
Congregational Meeting



TODAY

Immediately Following the Service in the Fellowship Hall

Meeting is for the election of officers for the coming year. We will also select our congregation's choice for UUA president. Please plan to attend.

~ *Congregational Care Items* ~

We extend our loving support to:

Diane Shipp who suffered a heart attack and is recovering at home.

Jim Yockey who underwent a hip replacement and is doing well.

Melissa Williams' mother who suffered a fall.

Suzanne Hart who is recovering from her third operation.

The family of Rachel Johnson (former GUUF member) who passed away.

*If you or a member of your family are in crisis or are hospitalized, please contact
Richard Elliott at 255-5131.*

*For any other pastoral care needs, please call the office during regular business hours.
After hours please call Mary Margaret Dragoun at 288-6194.*

Spring Hymn Toss May 17, 10:30 am

Come one and all, one half hour before the service and sing and play your favorite hymns! We had so much fun the first time that we're ready to rock it again! Bring your voices, instruments and a list of your favorites and we'll play through as many of them as time allows. Its great way to get into the spirit for worshipping together, go come on, and jam!

Clip Coupons for Pat's Pantry

Please donate any coupons you are not using to the Coupon Box, above the little red wagon, for Pat's Pantry. Betty Gibson knows how to use coupons with sales to get free or almost free food for the Pat's Pantry

IN 30 SECONDS FLAT, YOU CAN HELP START A NEW UU CONGREGATION...BECOME A CHALICE LIGHTER

In the 30 seconds it takes to go to this link, <http://tjd.uua.org/cl/tjd-chalice-lighter-pledge-form.htm> and fill out the pledge card, you can help start up new UU churches in America, help a congregation call their first UU minister, expand or re-build current UU buildings, or start UU ministries on college campuses. It's easy when thousands of individual UU's come together, each giving as little as \$10, three times a year, in what is called the "Chalice Lighters Program". The money is rolled together from lots of congregations to help individual congregations. Perhaps even GUUF! Very cool!

Our neighbors, the Spartanburg congregation have been the beneficiary of this program twice--first with a \$2400 grant in 1990 to call their first minister, and again with a \$26,140 grant in 2006 for a building expansion. Clemson fellowship benefited from the program in 1998 with a \$15,837 grant to call their first minister. While GUUF has never applied for a grant, we certainly could! We could receive funds to expand or renovate our building, for example. But to be a beneficiary of the program, we must have a substantial number of members contributing as Chalice Lighters for other congregations.

When a congregation applies for a grant, the district will send out a "call", never more than three times per year, to everyone who has signed up to be a Chalice Lighter. For each call, you send in however much you have pledged--\$10, \$20, \$50, \$100--whatever is the right amount for you. Our goal is to have 75% of our members sign up to be Chalice Lighters. When you sign up, you accomplish two enormously important things: help grow UUism across America, and help make GUUF eligible to receive a grant at some point.

I signed up to become a Chalice Lighter on Friday, April 17th. It took 30 seconds using the online link. They'll send me a welcome packet and a Chalice Lighter decal to wear on my name badge (if I ever remember my name badge). They'll contact me by mail no more than three times per year to help out another congregation. I felt great about standing up for this program. Will you stand with me? Will you take the 30 seconds to click on the link to the online pledge card and sign up today? Let's overwhelm the district office with dozens of Greenville Unitarian Universalist folks' pledge cards, and show that we walk our talk, that we believe in deeds not creeds, and that our deed for today is to become a Chalice Lighter. Thanks

Susan Crow-Granger, Denominational Affairs Chairperson

This is the link: <http://tjd.uua.org/cl/tjd-chalice-lighter-pledge-form.htm>

National Day of Prayer Event

A National Day of Prayer event will be held on Thursday, May 7th at 12:30pm at the Allen Temple AME Church located in the West End of Greenville (across from the baseball stadium), on 401 Vardry Street. Our own Gordon Branson will be participating along with a dozen other faith communities and organizations. This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Forum -a community organization here in Greenville. The topic for the service is "Caring for Our Community." Questions? Contact Susan Cooper at: 288-4912.

BATTER UP!

No, not time for fish sticks. It's time for the Greenville Drive - GUUF fund raiser partnership. Yes. It is that time already. Starting the middle of April It's Drive Time! The Ways and Means way to get cash for GUUF that doesn't come from you.

Join your friends and fellow UU's at the Drive Ball Park concessions stand serving the crowds and taking their money. Have some fun and chuckles, while bringing in hundreds of dollars for the Fellowship (income that isn't money from our member's pockets).

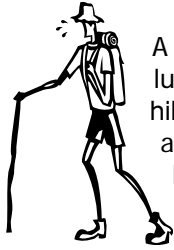
If you have ever volunteered for this before, John Emery remembers who you are and will be contacting you SOON. If you haven't tried this and have any interest, or questions, John will be downstairs in the fellowship hall almost every Sunday signing folks up. So just ask him how this works and how you'll fit in. You can also reach him by email dorajonry@aol.com Make another home run for GUUF!



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.

Hiking Anyone?



A hike is planned for **TODAY** after the service. We will have lunch at the Fellowship and head to Table Rock State Park to hike the Carrick Creek trail. This is a 2-mile loop that runs along a creek with waterfalls. The trail is suitable for children. If you have questions or would like to be placed on the hiking groups e-mail list please contact Karen Csizmadia at jdinsc@bellsouth.net

Dinner and a Movie

Movie: *Night on Earth* (1991)

When: Sunday, May 10th, 2009

Time: Potluck Dinner 6pm, Film 7pm

Place: Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Movie: OK, we have had enough of sad movies for a while so let us change the mood. This collection of five stories involving cab drivers in five different cities. Los Angeles - A talent agent for the movies discovers her cab driver would be perfect to cast, but the cabbie is reluctant to give up her solid cab driver's career. New York - An immigrant cab driver is continually lost in a city and culture he doesn't understand. Paris - A blind girl takes a ride with a cab driver from the Ivory Coast and they talk about life and blindness. Rome - A gregarious cabbie picks up an ailing man and virtually talks him to death. Helsinki - an industrial worker gets laid off and he and his compatriots discuss the bleakness and unfairness of love and life and death. This movie has been rated R by the MPAA. Time 128 minutes.

The Food: We will have a potluck at 6PM before the movie. Well, you have a choice to bring an American, Italian, French, African or Danish dish to share with 4-6 people (Did I leave any country out!). I like both fooddownunder.com and www.recipesource.com. If you plan to drink, please bring beer or wine. The Fellowship has a stove, refrigerator and microwaves.



*Please contact Bo Boghani at 458-8332 or
boghanibs@bellsouth.net with questions.*

The UU Women's Book Group will meet on Sunday, May 10 at 9:45am in the Women's Room located beside the fellowship hall. Diane Lawrence will lead us in the discussion of the book, *The Music Lesson*, by Catherine Weber. This will be our last meeting until the fall. Questions? Call Susan at: 288-4912.



Want to Contact Us?

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Office Hours
Monday – Friday
10 am – 4 pm

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Lana Gilbert, Childcare Coordinator