



The UUCG
beacon

February 2009

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

Feb 1
"Inside a Surgeon's Head"
ECU Brody School of Medicine Readers Theatre,

Feb 8
Vocations and Callings
& New Member Recognition
Ceremony
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Feb 15
Commitment and Compromise
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Feb 22
Our Place within the Family
of Things
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Excitement and Joy

Early on, looking at the prospect of electing Barack Obama as President, I thought that I'd definitely like to go to Washington DC to experience the inauguration. As the date grew closer, I realized that it would not be feasible because I was already planning to attend a Thomas Jefferson District conference just days earlier. It also became increasingly evident that the demand for tickets and any other amenities in demand for visitors to the capital.

Eventually, I came to the conclusion that I'd have a much better vantage point watching online or on TV, without all the hassle or expense of travel, or the threat of standing for hours in the cold to only watch on a screen anyway.

But rather than having to listen or watch online at work, I was overjoyed that our significant recent snowfall gave me a day off from work, and I was able to enjoy the celebration uninterrupted. As expected, there was an historic turnout of people who showed up without tickets, not knowing whether they'd be able to see or experience anything, but just wanting to be there and be able to say that they were a part of the historic moment. Crowd estimates are that there were at least 2 million people on the mall, and DC police indicate that despite the huge crowd, there were no incidents resulting in arrest!

So as we turn from celebration and snow, back to our lives, work, and families, make sure to hold on to some of that excitement and channel it toward some effort to benefit the common good.

Yours in joy,

Rich Elkins

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Once again the time rolls round when you are going to be asked to make a financial commitment to UUCG. Every year, the leaders of this and many other congregations come up with a campaign meant to encourage their members and friends to consider and then declare what they can and will give for the following year. For a long time it has been common practice for congregations to first determine what their expenses will be, such as staff compensation, utility and phone bills, office supplies, coffee and paper goods, property and liability insurance, amounts needed to fulfill commitments to other organizations, all the things that need to be paid for. Then, after coming up with a total, congregations asked their members and friends to give what it needed to receive.

In the last several years, many UU congregations have turned this process around. Asking first for their members and friends to consider why they need to give, then to make a commitment that reflects their motivation for giving. Only, after financial commitments are turned in, does the congregation then determine how to spend the total of the monies it will receive.

There are some folks who are suggesting that it might be possible to do away with the yearly pledge drive altogether. So much energy goes into this one time of the year, which we set aside for the sometimes difficult and uncomfortable discussions about money. It would be great if we could talk about money in a more integrated, every day way. It would be great for it to be our common practice, to just “naturally” respond to how UUism makes a difference in our lives, by reliably setting aside a certain percentage of our income as if it was our investment in ourselves and our collective future... adopting a behavior of commitment and practice that shows how transformed we are by this way of being that is Unitarian Universalism!

—Ann Marie

Ambiance Committee

Our UU Congregation opens its doors to the public about every two months to view and discuss the art exhibits with interested community members, our neighbors and friends. It is a special time to relax, take refreshment, and enjoy analyzing the various perspectives of the diverse art brought into our environment. The public reception will be on Sunday, January 25, from 3-5 PM.

The current artist, Cornelio Campos was born in Cheran, Mexico, and now resides in Durham, NC. He began drawing and painting as a young child. His paintings are intensely personal and contain folkloric and political elements. Campos seeks to illustrate the experiences and impressions of Hispanic people as they are introduced to the many regional cultures of the United States.

The paintings will be on exhibit through February. Should you wish to show interested people through the exhibit during the week, please call Terry Shank for an appointment.

Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, February 19th at 8:00 pm

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

Worship Committee

The worship service format has become organized so that there is a more meaningful flow of spiritual expression. While change can be disruptive, the feedback has been generally encouraging. In planning ahead for Summer Services, which begin June 21st, we have decided to follow a "This I Believe" theme. Members are encouraged to volunteer to speak about how Unitarian Universalism has transformed their lives. Talks may focus on an individual's unique spirituality and how this is imbedded in their personal or vocational history. Speakers are welcome to be creative with their presentation. They might use poetry, music performance, panel dialogue or psychodrama. For example, Bev Harju's talk was focused on inner peace and how her religious and varied experiences helped shape her actions. Judi Hickson will give a "This I believe" type of talk on March 1st. Please email or talk to Ann Marie, Bev, Joannie, Ed, Michelle, Ray or Sean about your interests.

On January 12, Jim Scott, UU song writer and well known musician, played a full concert of peace, social justice and Unitarian hymns to a respectably sized audience of around 45. There was ample time for people to socialize during the intermission. We are grateful to many who helped implement this concert on short notice. They include Ann Marie, David, Charles, Betty, Janet, Rich, and Bev. We do not plan to meet in February so that our next meeting will be March 9 at 5 pm.

—Bev Harju

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, February 27th, to assist with the food distribution. The distribution begins at 8:30am until 12:00pm. This is the "Diabetic" distribution. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.

—Toni Tyer

Readers Theatre returns!

Feb 1st Worship Service will feature the ECU Brody School of Medicine's Readers Theatre. Two stories, by Richard Selzer, "Sarcophagus" and "Witness", will be told from the surgeon's perspective, taking us inside a surgeon's head while in the operation room, as he deals with surprises during surgery, with operating room staff, and with families both before and after the procedure. The stories will provide much to ponder. There will be time for some reflection during and after the service.

—Ann Marie Alderman



February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>01</u></p> <p>☐ 10:30am» Worship Service</p>	<p><u>02</u></p> <p>☐ 6pm» Girl Scouts</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Yorktown Condo Homeowners Meeting</p>	<p><u>03</u></p> <p>☐ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>☐ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p>	<p><u>04</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><u>05</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Course in Miracles</p>	<p><u>06</u></p> <p>☐ 10am» Building cleaning</p>	<p><u>07</u></p>
<p><u>08</u></p> <p>☐ 10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>☐ 11:45am» Membership Committee Meeting</p> <p>☐ 7pm» UU Meditation Group</p>	<p><u>09</u></p> <p>☐ 7:30pm» Sierra Club Meeting</p>	<p><u>10</u></p> <p>☐ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>☐ 6:30pm» Social Action Committee Mtg</p> <p>☐ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p>	<p><u>11</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><u>12</u></p> <p>☐ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Course in Miracles</p>	<p><u>13</u></p> <p>☐ 10am» Building cleaning</p>	<p><u>14</u></p> <p>☐ 9am» Building & Grounds Workday</p> <p>☐ 12pm» Karen Hall Rental</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)</p>
<p><u>15</u></p> <p>☐ 10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>☐ 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck</p> <p>☐ 6pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting</p>	<p><u>16</u></p> <p>☐ 6pm» Girl Scouts</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Board Meeting</p>	<p><u>17</u></p> <p>☐ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Magnolia Art Center rehearsal</p> <p>☐ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p>	<p><u>18</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Magnolia Art Center Rehearsal</p>	<p><u>19</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Course in Miracles</p>	<p><u>20</u></p> <p>☐ 10am» Building cleaning</p>	<p><u>21</u></p> <p>☐ 1pm» EDS Support Group in Library</p>
<p><u>22</u></p> <p>☐ 10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>☐ 11:45am» Adopt a Street project</p> <p>☐ 11:45am» Congregation Family Potluck</p> <p>☐ 5:30pm» UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck</p>	<p><u>23</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Interfaith Alliance/KTC Buddhist</p>	<p><u>24</u></p> <p>☐ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>☐ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Magnolia Art Center rehearsal</p>	<p><u>25</u></p> <p>☐ 7pm» Magnolia Art Center Rehearsal</p>	<p><u>26</u></p> <p>☐ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting</p> <p>☐ 7pm» Course in Miracles</p>	<p><u>27</u></p> <p>☐ 10am» Building cleaning</p>	<p><u>28</u></p> <p>☐ 9am» First Born Food Distribution</p>

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning



Thomas Jefferson District
of the
Unitarian Universalist Association
20TH ANNUAL ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE

Hosted by the

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Raleigh
3313 Wade Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27607
919-781-7634
<http://www.uufr.org>

Registration Fees

Registration is \$55.00/person.

For more information and to register,
visit www.tjd.uua.org.

Lodging

Ramada

1520 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 832 4100
www.blueridge.pmcproperties.com
Group Rate: \$84.00 single or double
Ask for Thomas Jefferson District Anti-
-racism Conference

Home hospitality is also available.
Indicate your interest on the
conference registration form.

TJ District UUA

9704 Mallard Creek Rd.
Charlotte, NC 29262

Phone: 800-549-0751
Fax: 866-648-6928
E-mail: tjd@uua.org

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, February 20, 2009

Join us for a light dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 pm., hosted by the UU Fellowship of Raleigh. The Friday night program runs from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

The Centrality of Whiteness and White Privilege

This session will help participants explore how whiteness and white privilege have influenced U.S. society from its founding to the present. Through an interactive activity, participants will examine how they have been personally impacted by whiteness, while also investigating how whiteness and white privilege have impacted institutional life in the U.S.

Saturday, February 21, 2009

- 8:00 **Light Breakfast**
9:00 **Opening worship**
9:30 **Keynote Address** by Annette Marquis, TJ District Executive
10:45 **Cosmic Race, Rainbow People and Other Myths: Race and Racial Identity in the Latino/a Community** by Jorge Zeballos
12:00 **Lunch**
1:00 **Breakout Workshops**
- *We're on the Same Boat: Our Shared Responsibility to Undo White Privilege*
 - *Congregations in Action to Undo Racism in their Communities*
 - *Developing an Anti-Racist Practice*
- 2:30 **Racial Identity Caucusing**
4:00 **Closing Worship**
4:30 **Dinner on your own**
7:30 **A special performance of *Blood Done Sign My Name*** by Mike Wiley and Mary D. Williams. Based on Tim Tyson's award winning memoir, *Blood Done Sign My Name* acknowledges America's painful racial history, "that our freedom and dignity, if we still have any, has been paid for in blood, that we have a contract with our ancestors not to let their sacrifices be in vain."

Tickets will be \$15 general admission, \$12 for TJ District Antiracism Conference participants, and \$10 for children under 18

About the Presenting Faculty

Annette Marquis has served as the District Executive for the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA for the past two and half years. She is one of the founding members and first president of UU Allies for Racial Equity and she has served as a JUUST Change Consultant and Beyond Categorical Thinking trainer.

Jorge Zeballos is a diversity consultant with years of expertise conducting workshops, presentations and leading long-term diversity initiatives at K-12 schools, colleges and universities, international and national conferences, and non-profit organizations. Throughout his career, he has sought to serve the Latino community in different capacities. He has served in various county wide taskforces and committees in New Jersey, and also served for several years on the advisory board of the State of NJ Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development. Mr. Zeballos was born in Washington, DC but grew up in Lima, Peru. He holds a B.A. degree in Political Science from Rutgers University. He currently resides in Greensboro, North Carolina, and is the Latino Community Coordinator and International Student Advisor at Guilford College in Greensboro.

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

Religious Education Committee

RE continues to progress, albeit by two steps forward and one step back. Sadly, we lost one of our new lead teachers, Rain Parker, in January. We hope she will return to us in the spring. The Nursery age class will be on hold until we can recruit a new lead teacher. The curriculums are going well in all the classes.

The teen New Year's Eve lock-in was a success thanks to Rich Elkins and Jennifer Barr. They chaperoned the teens as they brought in the new year with movies, monopoly and karaoke. A few of the teens are planning to attend the UU Con at the UU Church of Charlotte, February 6-8. Rich and Jennifer have volunteered to chauffeur and act as teen advisors at the con. The next teen night will be on February 14th at 7pm at the church. Because of all the activities in February (con, yoga, and clean-up), the teen class will only be held on February 1st.

We hope the children and their parents will join us for the "Clean-up the Street" on February 22nd at 11:45am. The congregation will pick up the litter on Oakmont Drive.

The next RE committee meeting is February 8th after the coffee time. We welcome new faces and new energy. The parents of younger children are especially encouraged to get involved.

There are no birthdays in Children's RE in February.

—Pattie Gade

FIRST BORN COLLECTIONS

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters. If you have food items, **non-perishable**, you can leave them in the library as well. I will deliver the food to First Born when I deliver the bags. If you have any questions concerning this Social Action project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.

—Toni Tyer, The Bag Lady

POTLUCK and STREET CLEAN UP

The Membership and Social Action Committees are jointly sponsoring an after church potluck and quarterly Adopt-a-Street clean up of Oakmont Blvd on Feb. 22!

Bring a dish to share, and enough energy to help clean up our neighborhood!

Acceptance of one another and encouragement of
spiritual growth in our congregation



Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina

P. O. Box 2841, Greenville, NC 27836
Interfaith@suddenlink.net

Prayers for Peace and Justice

Monday January 26, 7:00 pm
Congregation Bayt Shalom
4351 E 10th Street,

*A time to share prayers, poems, songs and silence as an inclusive
community longing for Peace and Justice.*

Educational Talk 7:45 pm

"The Garden of Eden - The *Real* Story"

Rabbi Steve Kirschner

There will time for questions following the discussion.

Please join us for one or both of these events

**Next Month hosted by the KTC Buddhists at UUC
Monday Feb. 23, 7:00 pm**

Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina Mission Statement:

*We promote peace and justice through open communication and understanding of various
faith traditions. We share religious values of harmony, compassion, human dignity and mu-
tual respect. We celebrate diversity through shared
worship, fellowship, service and education.*

Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Patrice Alexander
Secretary, Susan Foreman
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman

Committee Chairs:

Building and Grounds, Terry Shank
Endowment, Bill Paulson
Finance, Paul Alston
Hospitality, Gail Butler
Membership, Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education, Patty Gade
Social Action, Pat Tesh
Worship, Bev Harju

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