



## AUUF Services • 10:00 A.M.

Dec. & Jan.  
2016



**December 4**

### “It Takes a Caring, Committed, Community”

**Sharing from the Unity Wellness Center**

Unity Wellness Center (UWC) formerly named AIDS Outreach of EAMC, is a service of the East Alabama Health Care Authority. Unity Wellness Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and Lee County United Way agency, and is devoted to the spirit of compassion and caring by working closely with health care professionals, community-based organizations, and the local communities in east-central Alabama.

**December 11**

### “Presents and Presence”

**Rev. Pamela Gehrke**

Food Bank Collection – Giving of the Plate (Unity Wellness Center)—Potluck—Board Meeting

The winter holidays offer us many opportunities for expressing appreciation, showing love, and sharing wealth. Through the lens of a cultural history of gift exchange, we consider how we might hold to our cherished values and traditions amid the hustle and bustle of the season.

**December 18**

### “Gifts of the Shadow”

**Rev. Pamela Gehrke**

As we in northern latitudes cycle through another winter season, how can we best appreciate the comforts of longer nights and the wisdom of the darkness?

**December 25**

### “Lessons and Carols”

**Rev. Pamela Gehrke**

A simple service for Christmas morning featuring readings, reflection, and music.

**January 1**

### “Time to Let it Go”

**The Humanist Group**

Why, or how, do we let things go that once seemed so meaningful? “Why am I keeping this hat that my Aunt Martha gave me 40 years ago?” Is this WHY we have New Year’s Day? We will share our stories of why it mattered and why we are letting it go. We will also have the opportunity to share/discard that item or items. Billy Welburn will organize tables for people to bring their disposable goods. People are invited to take whatever they need. Billy will take

Volunteering is the **heart** of this Fellowship.

Please do **your** part!

[www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0548ADA822A648weekly](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0548ADA822A648weekly)

care of leftovers.

**January 8**

### “TBA”

**The Humanist Group**

Members of the Humanist Group will present a service. Topic TBA.

**January 15**

### “Martin, Malcolm, and America”

**Rev. Pamela Gehrke**

Food Bank Collection – Giving of the Plate (Iris Field Fund)—Potluck—Board Meeting

Civil rights activist and religious leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is justifiably celebrated by a national holiday commemorating his birthday. We explore the life and legacy of King's contemporary and fellow Black liberation leader Malcolm X, with whom he is often compared.

**January 22**

### “Transforming Ourselves and the World”

**Rev. Pamela Gehrke**

Unitarian Universalists sometimes feel torn between spiritual pursuits and social justice work. We will explore ways of honoring both impulses to enjoy lives of wholeness and integrity.

**January 29**

### “Equal Justice Initiative”

**Rev. Pamela Gehrke**

It has been my privilege to meet Bryan Stevenson and to support his organization, Equal Justice Initiative. His book *Just Mercy* has brought global attention to the work of EJI, which has won the release of innocent people wrongly convicted and won new trials for those (including children as young as 13) unfairly sentenced. More recently EJI has launched an education initiative to confront the legacy of racial inequality and injustice in the U.S. “We are determined to deepen the national discourse about the legacy of slavery, racial terror and segregation” their annual report states. Based in Montgomery, EJI shines a bright light on places and practices too long hidden or ignored.

# December 2016

AllMonth: Services @ 10 am.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									1		2		3
								6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship		<b>2016 AUUF AUCTION!!!</b> <b>6 to 9 PM</b>		10 am Vipassana Meditation	
	4		5		6		7		8		9		10
3-4:15 Dream Work – Busch Center				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship		6 pm Community Game Night 6 pm Poetry and Prose – Busch Center		5:30-8:30 Greening of the Fellowship	
	11		12		13		14		15		16		17
Potluck Sunday Food Bank Collection Giving of the Plate (Unity Wellness Center) 12:15 – 2 pm Board of Trustees Meeting				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				10 am Vipassana Meditation 10 am Annual Vining – Amy and Robert’s house (on p. 5)	
	18		19		20		21		22		23		24
5 – 8 pm Humanist Potluck – Busch Center				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga 6:30-8 Human Rights Coalition		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship					
	25		26		27		28		29		30		31
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship					

## Humanist Holiday Potluck/Social

Welcome everyone to our monthly humanist meeting on Sunday, December 18th at the AUUF Busch Center, 504 Auburn Drive, at 5:00 p.m. This month, we will not have a formal program but will have a potluck and social. Please bring a dish and a beverage to share, and invite any folks who may be interested.

Typically, we meet on 3rd Sundays of the month. For more info, or if you wish to be added to the humanist email list (only two or three emails per month), please contact Marcia Rossi at [rossi.asu@gmail.com](mailto:rossi.asu@gmail.com).

# January 2016

All Month: Services @ 10 am.

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	29		30		31								
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga									

## Humanist January Potluck/Social

Please join us for our monthly Humanist potluck on Sunday, January 15th at the AUUF Busch Center on Auburn Drive, behind the fellowship hall. We typically have dinner around 5 and have a presentation and/or discussion afterwards starting around 6. This month's topic to be announced. If interested, please email Marcia Rossi at [rossi.asu@gmail.com](mailto:rossi.asu@gmail.com), or if you wish to be added to the humanist email list.

Please bring a dish and a beverage to share. All are welcome.

## A Message from the Interim Minister...

"The best thing for being sad," replied Merlyn, "is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world around you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the thing for you." ~T.H. White, *The Once and Future King*

In the days after the election, I was learning a lot while on the road in Cuba. It was a balm to the spirit to witness how the arts flourish there and to hear how the people have adapted to economic constraints and changes over the years. We learned about the "Special Period" after the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving Cuba with a severe energy shortage that caused widespread hardship throughout the country for the better part of a decade. We in the U.S. are entering our own "special period," and I know many of us are experiencing grief, anxiety, and dread. Let us face the challenges ahead by learning and working together, bringing our gifts, our passions, and our principles to the tasks of creating just and sustainable community. Remember you are loved and you are important. We will regain our bearings, and together we will find our way!

With gratitude,  
Pam  
Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD  
[psgehrke@gmail.com](mailto:psgehrke@gmail.com)  
(650)291-5539



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.

### December Giving of the Plate:

The Unity Wellness Center is an AIDS outreach center in East Alabama. Their purpose is to:

- Provide services to individuals and families infected or affected by HIV
- Advocate on behalf of persons who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS
- Conduct outreach and education efforts for a wide variety of targeted populations and locations.

### *giving the plate*

On the **second Sunday** of each month, we give all non-pledge donations to a local non-profit group. Please remember to bring something extra. Just write "plate" on the memo line of your check, with gratitude for all that we have.

### January Giving of the Plate:

The Iris Field Fund is the Minister's Discretionary Fund at the AUUF. Its name is based on the name of the mother of the person who initiated the fund. This fund enables the AUUF to assist members and occasionally folks in the community with medications, rent and utilities.

## IN CHINA

(by Conrad Ross)

In China

Hard rain drives the dragon  
From mists across the Li.

In China

The swift Yangtze seeks Guilin  
Splits and upturns mountains  
Where porcelain shards still rise  
To rest against a sky  
Painted with century old clouds.

It rains in China,  
And bikes weave and chirp and fill  
With din long streets where sidewalks  
Become ponds, vast fields spotted  
With creatures walking on water.

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## Annual Vining at Robert and Amy's house

564 Heard Ave, Auburn,  
Saturday December 17 from 10:00am-3:00pm.

*What is the Vining? It is an old fashion holiday gathering where folks make wreaths from grapevine and kudzu, then decorate them with pods and pine cones and other natural finds to take home to add a natural touch to holiday decor. We also make Stone Soup to enjoy at lunch. There will also be wassail and vegetarian chili and any other food guests wish to share.*

*What to bring: interesting pods, pine cones, dried grasses, etc*

*food to share at lunch*

*This is an informal drop-in event where people come when they can and stay as long as their holiday schedules will allow. Hope to see you!*




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## Greening of the Fellowship

Saturday, Dec. 10  
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Every year we decorate for the holidays. We used to try to squeeze it in at coffee hour, but more people were interested in conversation than decorating at that time so we moved it to its own event. This way, those that like to decorate are able to do so with space to move in and music to listen to.

This year's plan is to decorate the tree with white doves and a safety-pin chain garland. Carolyn Levy will be in charge of the tree decoration. Hopefully our children, members, and friends will help to make the doves to grace the tree. Laura will be coordinating the holly branches and berries, and who knows what, to be hung up high.

So come out to AUUF on Saturday evening, perhaps after you have shopped for special gifts at the Holiday Arts Sale over at Jan Dempsey earlier in the day, to have a fun time decorating with friends.

Laura J. Kloberg, [aura57@yahoo.com](mailto:aura57@yahoo.com)



## ...on Religious Education from the Director of Religious Education

# RE/DRE

As we close out the 2016 year our RE kids have had many experiences over the last three months they can reflect on. Many of our RE children and youth have enjoyed playing games during our monthly Community Game Nights. There have been two RE for All Ages to remember: Pinwheels for Peace and Cookie Decorating. During our class held between playground time and RE we have discussed our first UU Principle and also decorated and filled Holiday Helping Boxes. The kids also made bread together, on a Saturday, for the Bread Communion. Probably most memorable were the RE Overnight and Pancake Breakfast where those who stayed overnight slept in hammocks around the hammock circle and called down the much needed rain!! All this fun - in addition to all they do in their RE classes. This has been a very productive year with many fulfilling experiences.

This month we have many upcoming events to keep in mind. I do hope all will join us for the activities on the calendar below.

### December:

- 2- Auction
- 3- Habitat for Humanity Cookie Walk
- 4- Second Advent "Peace" RE Class
- 4- 2-6pm OWL 10th-12th Grade Parent Orientation meeting in RE building
- 9- Community Game Night (Angel Tree family; boys 4 and 5 years old, 2 month old girl and boy, clothes, shoes, toys, baby necessities. Gift cards and money can be donated and used to purchase items)
- 10- 5-8 pm Greening
- 11- Third Advent "Joy" Potluck and Board Meeting
- 18- Fourth Advent "Love" Combined RE
- 24- Christmas Eve Service
- 25- Christmas Day Combined RE

### January:

- 1- New Year's Day Combined RE
- 8- Potluck and Board Meeting
- 13- CGN (Humane Society donations)
- 15- RE Class (kids plan Teacher Appreciation gifts)
- 22- RE Class
- 29- Valentine Making RE for All Ages

A message from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade class:

Dumbledore's Army (AKA the middle RE class) has talked about the interdependent web of life through the topics of responsible pet ownership and humane society needs in our Care for Magical Creatures class. We have also talked about compassion in human relations while creating a soup mix in Potions class for our auction donation. We created new wands at Olivander's and learned about our personalities in Arithmancy. The kids are really enjoying themselves. We will continue with our jaunt through the magical world of Harry Potter in the coming weeks by talking more about the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the interdependent web of life, and the search for spiritual truth. As usual, if you'd like to stop by and join us, you know where to find us.

Thanks, Conar, Lisa, and Billy

## Volunteers are the Heart of AUUF

[www.signupgenius.com!/go/70A0548AD!A822A648w!eekly!](http://www.signupgenius.com!/go/70A0548AD!A822A648w!eekly!)

### DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

#### PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

December 4 Becki Retzlaff & ?  
 December 11 Becki Retzlaff & Amy Kaiser  
 December 18 ? & ?  
 December 25 Julie Meadows & Jim Newton

#### GREETERS

December 4 Jan & Jim Newton  
 December 11 Eddie Peek & Carolyn Levy  
 December 18 Emily & Peter Livant  
 December 25 Shawn Jacobsen & Peter Livant

#### STORYTELLERS

December 4 Carolyn Levy  
 December 11 Sally McCreary  
 December 18 Conar Rochford  
 December 25 ?

#### ANGELS

December 4 Kitty Frey & Michael Hein  
 December 11 ?, ?, ?, & ?  
 December 18 Nanette Chadwick & Jim Newton  
 December 25 ? & ?



### JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

#### PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

January 1 Julie Meadows  
 January 8 Temesgen Samuel  
 January 15 ? & ?  
 January 22 ? & ?  
 January 29 ? & ?

#### GREETERS

January 1 Jan & Jim Newton  
 January 8 Eddie Peek & Carolyn Levy  
 January 15 Emily & Peter Livant  
 January 22 Shawn Jacobsen & Emily Livant  
 January 29 Peter Livant & Shawn Jacobsen

#### STORYTELLERS

January 1 Richard Speake  
 January 8 ?  
 January 15 Pam Gehrke  
 January 22 Amy Kaiser  
 January 29 Conrad Ross

#### ANGELS

January 1 Jim Newton & ?  
 January 8 Emily Livant, Sharon Roberts, ?, & ?  
 January 15 Nanette Chadwick & ?  
 January 22 Laura Kloberg & ?  
 January 29 ? & ?

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

