

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

Please do **your** part!

[www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0548ADA822A64-weekly](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0548ADA822A64-weekly)



## AUUF Services • 10:00 A.M.

**February 5**  
**“What’s Your Song? Reflections on Identity and Music”**  
**Rev. Pam Gehrke**

February 2017

There is an invitation circulating on Facebook asking you to “list the ten albums that were most important to you in your teen years.” To what extent does musical preference reflect identity, and how, in turn, does it shape us?

**February 12**  
**“Hunger for Heritage”**  
**Rev. Pam Gehrke**

Giving of the Plate (Domestic Violence Intervention Center)—Potluck—Board Meeting

Working to understand the past—personal as well as collective—grounds us in the present and brings clarity to our vision for the future. What does our heritage and history say about us as Unitarian Universalists?

**February 19**  
**“The Endless Cycle of Divine Creation”**  
**Dr. Ram Chandra Purohit**

Dr. Ram Chandra Purohit will discuss aspects of Reincarnation. A major tenet of Hinduism is that the soul is eternal and part of a spiritual realm. Dr. Purohit is Professor Emeritus of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University. He received his DVM degree in Rajasthan, India and his PhD from Auburn in 1974. He then taught Undergraduate classes in Clinical Sciences and guided the dissertations of 39 PhD students.

**February 26**  
**“Beyond Belief”**  
**Rev. Pam Gehrke**

An exploration of the role of belief in shaping religious identity. How does belief function in Unitarian Universalism, which does not entail conformity to any creed or doctrine?



### Spring Art Exhibit

Portraits by Janice Ross will grace our walls for the months of March and April.

Please join us at the reception: **Saturday, March 11, 6–8 p.m.**

Laura Kloberg, aesthetics chair

It's time for  
**AUUF Valentine Express!!!**  
On Sale February 5  
Delivered on February 19 after Fellowship



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.

# February 2017

All Month: Services @10 am.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
							1		2		3		4
						6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				10 am Vipassana Meditation	
	5		6		7		8		9		10		11
11-12 During coffee hour – buy Valentines for Valentine Express!				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga  7 pm Poetry and Prose		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship  7:30 pm Sundilla Concert: Harpeth Rising		6:30 pm Community Game Night			
	12		13		14		15		16		17		18
Potluck Sunday & Valentine Express! – Valentines are delivered!  Giving of the Plate (Domestic Violence Intervention 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	
	19		20		21		22		23		24		25
5 – 7 pm Humanist Potluck – Busch Center				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship  7:30 pm Sundilla Concert: Dana Louise & Glorious Birds					
	26		27		28								
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga									

\*\* We are pleased our Yoga group facilitated by Michael Klein is increasing in numbers. There is room for anyone who wishes to stretch and reflect Tuesdays at 5 in sanctuary.

## A Message from the Interim Minister

Dear Members and Friends,

This afternoon as I drove back to Opelika from the Fellowship, the beauty of the sky took my breath away: after the second tornado warning in as many days, the cloudscape was putting on a world-class performance. The play of light and water served up thick, dark, towering, roiling shapes over half the sky in one direction, while bright sunshine peeked through behind fluffy, wooly piles of cloud straight ahead of me. I almost expected putti (baby angels in Rococo paintings) to appear around the edges. I was tempted to stop and take a photo, but I knew there was little chance it would capture the splendor of the moment.

This spectacular display called to mind my experience of yesterday's Sister March in Birmingham, not only because it was sunny there all afternoon, but also because the gathering and march represented a ray of sunlight on the otherwise hard, uphill struggle ahead. I wish for all of us such moments of beauty and joy as we work together for a safe and just world!

With gratitude,

Pam

Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD  
psgehrke@gmail.com

## Old Friends, a meeting

(by Conrad Ross)

Talking to old aging friends now in straits ideal  
On islands where health care matters (no stairs to climb),  
Packed for luxury sights abroad (with a group, so as not  
to strain).

And for those nearby, a mild broth served to taste.  
There are only days now to waste in idle culture, to consider  
By experienced hands gnarled and quaint by service  
rendered.

We tend to remember children, grandchildren,  
And those streams of names trickled over the children's  
children,  
Of places where the tumbling names place the mind at  
ease,  
And through the painful growth and familial care cross  
centuries  
(or so it seems). Story without end; son-of-a-son doing  
well,  
And is the twice-married daughter (now happy),  
forgetting the past.

We part snapping pictures, shuffling to take a frozen shot  
(yet we can stand) with our long-ago fading friends.

## WrenSong

WrenSong, the AUUF's small group program for those whose spirituality is grounded in nature, meets about twice a month throughout the year. We've often shared stories of our outings such as canoeing on the Cahaba River or our nighttime walks in the Tuskegee Forest. You may remember someone at Joys and Concerns recounting our encounters with big snakes, frog choruses, shoal lilies, thunder and lightning, flat tires and even broken bones. But we also have many gatherings that are far less dramatic, such as watching the ducks at the Wood Duck Heritage Park in Opelika or even just enjoying the evening in the backyard of the Busch Center. Even these undramatic outings however, provide the opportunity to connect with nature in unexpected ways. Two weeks ago, Julie rescued a young mouse that had fallen from its nest in a bird blind while the rest of us whispered to the mother to be patient and calm as Julie placed the youngster back in the nest. This weekend we discovered raccoons playing in the neighbor's backyard next to the Busch Center and a flying squirrel in the trees overhead. These two occasions reveal that one doesn't need to go far or make extensive preparation for the opportunity to discover nature. Just find a few minutes to go outside. Sit quietly and let yourself tune into the sounds around you and the tiny movements underfoot. Pay attention and let yourself be drawn into the wondrous natural world all around you.



# RE/DRE

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

Incredibly it is already February. On the 5th of this month, head to the back of the Fellowship Hall after service to buy your Valentines cards. I have found that not only are these cards great to send to folks in the congregation but really nice to give to others outside of AUUF. There are cards that are quirky and fun while others are sweet and loving and there are always those that we know were made by the youngest members of our community (personally some of my favorites!) There is something for everyone!! Then on the 12th, potluck Sunday, be sure to attend the service because immediately afterwards there will be RE kids delivering cards and you will want to be present to receive yours. I find there is nothing better than being given a card and a sweet by some of the best delivery folks around. What a great tradition AUUF has and I want to thank Claire for starting this many years ago.

Feb calendar of events:

- 5 – Valentines for sale; RE class
- 10 – CGN (Humane Society donations)
- 12 – Potluck and Board Meeting; Kids deliver valentines
- 19 – RE Class
- 26 – RE Class



A voice from the teen class:

“Within the mysterious confines of our dark and colorful room the teens have studied Unitarian Universalist religious heritage through “Truth and Meaning.” Four thousand years of the major religions’ histories are scratched (using xylene-infused pens) on our wall. Everyone, at least to a small extent, is a more peaceful person because of Natalia’s lessons on meditation. We made paper mâché “Day of the Dead” skulls that would do well in an art contest. Most importantly we have had many free, dynamic, constructive, philosophical, profound, profane, and enlightening discussions on school, relationships, and life during the last years of growing up. It seems apparent some of the teens own stock in Krispy Kreme. Today, we discussed how we can find our way out of the mysterious room and into nature more often on Sunday mornings. The future of our planet is in the hands of our youth. We’re going to be okay.”

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## ***AUUF Humanist Discussion Group***

The Humanist Group will hold its monthly potluck and discussion on Sunday, February 19th from 5-7 at the AUUF Busch Center.

We have dinner around 5:00 and discussion and/or presentation starting at 6:00. Our topic this month will be "Is Humanism for the Privileged?" and discussion will be led by James Newton and Shawn Jacobsen. There is nothing to join, nor any membership criterion. We welcome all, and encourage folks to attend who just like to have a spirited discussion, are curious and open to new ideas, or who just like to listen and meet new folks.

Please bring a dish to share. For more info, contact [rossi.asu@gmail.com](mailto:rossi.asu@gmail.com).

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# Sharing our Abundance

Here at the AUUF, we have many opportunities to share our many blessings with one another, including our Potluck Sundays and Community Game Nights. These gatherings provide a chance to share wonderful food, fun and one another's company. In addition to sharing our good fortune with one another, these gatherings also provide the opportunity to share our abundance with others in our community. Here's more information about our partners this month. Please remember all of these opportunities to be generous on the second Friday and Sunday of every month.

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## *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.

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Ah, February! It's the month of love. Valentine's Day is February 14th. But life for many women and children in our community isn't all hearts and roses. In fact, their lives may be filled with threat and violence. These circumstances can be hard to escape for many reasons, but the Domestic Violence Intervention Center is there for these families. It's fitting then that they are our "Sharing the Plate" partner this month. Remembering too that many companion animals find themselves without a home and care, we will collect for our local humane societies at Community Game night. Please remember all of these opportunities to be generous on the second Friday and Sunday of every month.

### ***Domestic Violence Intervention Center:***

Serving five counties (Chambers, Lee, Macon, Randolph and Tallapoosa), DVIC provides a 24-hour crisis line, confidential emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, referrals to agencies and organizations that assist victims, support group, and a school-based violence prevention program.

To make a donation to "Sharing the Plate", please write a check and put "Plate" on the memo line or place your cash donation in the basket during the Offertory.

**Please too, remember to bring your donation of non-perishable food for the East Alabama Food Bank.**

## ***Community Game Night***

We will be collecting items for the Macon and Lee County Humane Societies at the **February Game Night** (Friday, February 10th). Both societies provide shelter, care, fostering and education for homeless animals in these two counties.

**UU Musician Lifts Spirits, Thurs., Feb. 2--**Jim Scott, singer/composer/former Paul Winter Consort guitarist, former co-chair of UU Ministry for the Earth who helped create the Green Sanctuary movement and author of the "Earth and Spirit Songbook"\* (partially funded by a UU grant) comes to the Fredonia Community House, 6160 Co. Rd. 222, Five Points, to raise wintry spirits on Ground Hog Day. He invites all to join him in "singing-in the spring." Judy and Jim, AUUFers who only occasionally come into Auburn, invite you to experience a bit of country life and delight in an extraordinary "old school" musical event, 7:00 p.m. Eastern. The Fredonia Heritage Association welcomes all (including donations which will go to our performer).

\* Remaining songbooks, currently reduced from \$25 to \$19 because of forthcoming 2017 revised version with minor corrections, should still be available.

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

**Volunteers** are the Heart of AUUF  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0548ada822a64-weekly>

#### PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

February 5 Amy Kaiser & ?  
February 12 ? & ?  
February 19 ? & ?  
February 26 ? & ?

#### GREETERS

February 5 Emily & Peter Livant  
February 12 Eddie Peek & Carolyn Levy  
February 19 Jan & Jim Newton  
February 26 Shawn Jacobsen, Peter Livant, & Jeblan Meadows

#### STORYTELLERS

February 5 Sally McCreary  
February 12 Sharon Roberts  
February 19 Terry Rodriguez  
February 26 ?

#### ANGELS

February 5 Conar Rochford & ?  
February 12 Conar Rochford, Jim Newton, ?, ?, & ?  
February 19 Conar Rochford & ?  
February 26 Nanette Chadwick & Conar Rochford