



Please do **your** part!

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April 2017

April 2
“A Bridge to Abundance”
Rev. Pam Gehrke

Thoughts about how we assure the wellbeing and material support of the AUUF community, for now and for the future. How can we cultivate an attitude of abundance?

April 23
Music Service

Join us to hear the choir sing about Friends and Friendship. Sit back and enjoy the music—some oldies, some not-so-old. The choir loves to sing, and they love to be joined in this celebration of song!



April 9
“Everything is Art. Everything is Politics.”
Rev. Pam Gehrke

Giving of the Plate (Alabama Water Watch)—Potluck—Board Meeting

Exploring this provocative quote from Chinese activist artist Ai Wei Wei: how has it come about that the arts are considered by some to be optional? What is art, anyway, and what role does it play in our lives?

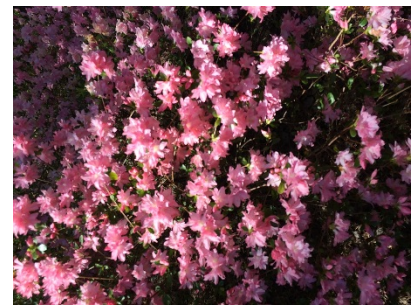
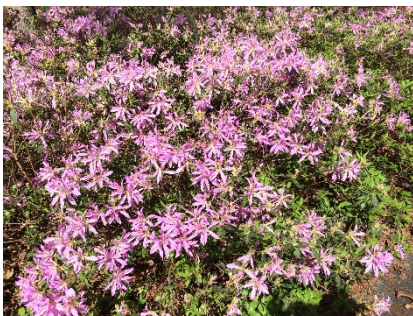
April 30
The Men’s Service

Omen. Oh, men. Oh *maaaaaan*!! Man o’ war. Manicotti. Mandalay. Delay. De lay of de land. Landed gentry. Gents try. Try try again. If at first you don’t succeed. Suck seeds. Nothing sucks seeds. Nothing succeeds like excess. Excess baggage. Baggage cart. Cartagena. Cart hay? Nah. Hay fever. Heinous crime. Heinous rhyme. Of the Ancient Mariner. Marryin’ her? Sure am. Am I? Miami. Miami five oh. Hawaii? I’m fine, thanks. Thanks be. Thank the bees. Thanksgiving. Giving up. Up. On the up and up. Up and at ‘em. Adam. Adam Ant. Adamant. Add a man. Add more men. Stir.

Men’s Service.

April 16
“Shaping Celebration – Flower Communion”
Rev. Pam Gehrke

We reflect on the purposes of ritual as we observe Easter with a Unitarian Universalist ceremony celebrating the AUUF community.



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.

April 2017

All Month: Services @10 am.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
													1
												10 am Vipassana Meditation 2 pm Long Strange Trip: UU History Video Series	
	2		3		4		5		6		7		8
3 pm – Dream Work Group				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: Dan Weber			
	9		10		11		12		13		14		15
Giving of the Plate (Alabama Water Watch) 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		6 pm - Community Game Night 6 pm – Poetry & Prose		10 am Vipassana Meditation 2 pm Long Strange Trip: UU History Video Series	
	16		17		18		19		20		21		22
Flower Communion 5 – 7 pm Humanist Potluck – Busch Center				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm – HRC		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship					
	23/ 30		24		25		26		27		28		29
Apr. 30: 12:30 – 2:30 Exploring the Purpose and Meaning of Sunday Services				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				2 pm Long Strange Trip: UU History Video Series	

DRE

...on Religious Education

from the Director of Religious Education

Spring is here! This is a time for new beginnings and fresh starts. It is also a time for closure. RE has some annual springtime activities this month. The kids will be creating flowers again that they can share during the Flower Communion and there is also the Cooperative Egg Hunt to which we can look forward. This is also the last month of RE. The kids will have their last class together and they will have a Sunday in which they will prepare for the RE Service that will be held on the first Sunday in May. It is a bitter sweet time of year.

Have you noticed the Little Free Library that the class “Dumbledore’s Army” has erected? If you are not familiar with the Little Free Library movement it is an amazing idea that has spread. You can google it to learn more and see the world map of Little Free Libraries! Around Auburn there are many and they range from the front yards of homes to the nature playground of the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve. Check it out and stop by the LFL at AUUF.

The teens have had a couple of field trips since March. They will also be heading to Atlanta this month to meet the teens at the UUCA. This month is an excellent time to strike up a conversation with our oldest RE class and ask them what has been going on with them. One of the privileges we have, as AUUF adults, is the opportunity to get to know these young people. When we engage with our youth and learn more about them, we are inviting them into the fold. This is their home on Sunday now and when they feel a part of it, when they have had a chance to get to know the rest of the congregation, we can hope that when they are no longer in RE this will still be the place they choose to make their home on Sunday. Take the opportunity this month, approach a teen and ask them about what they have been doing. Get to know these guys and gals before their lives change. This year we have 2 graduating teens, so act fast!

A Glimpse into RE:

Hey y’all.

Just wanted to send out an update for what we've been doing since the New Year. We've been talking about the environmental horcrux. The kids had a great time at the recycling center. A special thanks to Billy, Lisa, and Michael Kline for all of the recycling stuff. We talked about how to properly sort your recycling, as we did just that, and what they take at the Auburn Recycling Center and some of the things they take in Opelika. We discussed the interdependent web of life while making tasty stir fry and had a double potions class where we learned how to make our own laundry soap. You can find the recipe at this link: <https://wellnessmama.com/462/homemade-laundry-detergent/>

We came together and made Valentine's for the fellowship and talked about the 7 principles as we played two different Harry Potter themed games. The kids really had fun!

And lastly, I hope that everyone will stop by our new Little Free Library and borrow a book. The kids really enjoyed constructing it. And even though we got plenty of books from the folks at the fellowship, it actually came with several books as part of the deal. It's located in the parking lot near the RE building. Check it out.

- Much love from all of us in Dumbledore's Army.

April calendar of events:

- 2- Flower Making - Combined RE
- 9- Potluck and Board Meeting
- 14- CGN (Backpack program food donations)
- 15- Teens hide eggs
- 16- Flower Communion - Co-op Egg Hunt – Combined RE
- 23- Last RE Class - Class Photos
- 30- Practice for the RE Service - Combined RE



A Message from the Interim Minister

Dear members and friends,

In February, we created a timeline tracing the history of AUUF and placing it in the context of the wider world. To continue our work together in this period of transition, the Janus Team, who planned and hosted the February 11th "Memory Night Dessert Bonanza," has decided to follow up with a Sunday service and a series of activities to complement the linear historical reflection with deeper dives into the identity and spirit of the Fellowship. Stay tuned!

This is an ideal time to focus on the ways the AUUF community contributes to our lives: "Canvass Kickoff Sunday" is planned for April 2nd. As we explore and share our dreams for the future of the Fellowship, let's consider different language for the process of raising funds for its material support. We are guardians and stewards of this community, which gives us a more substantial role than "donors" to other organizations usually have. The Sunday service theme for April happens to be "creativity," which lends itself well to the work we do together, within and beyond the walls of the AUUF. In the abundance and beauty of the spring landscape I'm finding both comfort and inspiration!

With gratitude,

Pam

Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD
psgehrke@gmail.com

These Days in China

(by Conrad Ross)

Where the descendents of Han and Wei abound
The swells from carp in ponds lap wide
Tended by monks these days they ripple
Over temple walls down to stock the shops
Of Beijing and to Xi'an where Buddha
Smiles on each clay soldier of Emperor Qin.
But in parks without song old men watch
Quick birds engaged and sit on rocks
In dense gardens to tend the carp
Set deep on nets of stone in paths serene
These days in China.



**The Purpose and Meaning
of Sunday Services: a Collaborative
Exploration**

Sunday, April 30, 12:30-2:30

“Long Strange Trip”

This is a six-part video series on the history of Unitarian Universalist thought from the beginnings of Christianity to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each part runs about an hour, and there are accompanying questions for discussion—in case we don't come up with our own! Created by Ron Cordes. For more information, check out this article in UU World: <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/long-strange-trip-video>

Lower level of the Busch Center Saturday afternoons, 2:00-4:00: Mar. 11, 18, and 25; Apr. 1, 15, and 29.

AUUF Humanist Discussion Group

The Humanist Group will hold its monthly potluck and discussion on Sunday, April 16th from 5-7 at the AUUF Busch Center.

We have dinner around 5:00 and discussion and/or presentation starting at 6:00.

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.



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.

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.

It's Spring! Time to be outside, enjoying the great outdoors. This month we'll share our plate with Alabama Water Watch which is celebrating 25 years of "Loving Our Downstream Neighbor" (AWW; alabamawaterwatch.org). In addition to supporting AWW with our plate, members of our Teen RE class are becoming water monitors and will monitor sites along our nearby streams.

Alabama Water Watch:

Alabama Water Watch is a citizen volunteer, water quality monitoring program covering all of the major river basins in Alabama. The goal of AWW is to foster the development of statewide water quality monitoring by:

- Educating citizens on water issues in Alabama and the world
- Training citizens to do that monitoring, and
- Empowering citizens to make a positive impact by using their water monitoring data for environmental education, waterbody restoration and protection, and involvement in watershed stewardship.

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 Backpack Program at the **March Game Night (Friday, April 14th)**. The Backpack Program provides food on weekends and school breaks to chronically hungry children and is not federally funded. This program relies entirely on local donations.

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
~Unitarian poet, e.e. cummings



HAND MADE TALE

The Women
of Art Π

May 12-May 20

Auburn UU Fellowship
450 East Thach

Reception Fri., May 12 6-9 pm

Saturday, May 13, 10-4 pm

Sunday May 14, 2-5pm



June Corley, Susie Criswell, Leigh Hinton, Katie Jackson, Terry Rodriguez, Dee Smith, Deb Strawn, Gina Touchton, Brenda Wood

Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
450 East Thach
P.O. Box 669
Auburn, AL 36831-0669
E-mail listserv: connect@auuf.org
Web Site: www.auuf.org

Interim Minister
Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD, 650-291-5539
psgehrke@gmail.com

President
Alan Dahl,
president@auuf.org

Newsletter Editor
Cary Curtiss,
csock1@gmail.com

Minister Emeritus
Rev. Diana Jordan Allende, 334-501-8621
dallende1010@gmail.com

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

April 2 Julie Meadows & Carolyn Levy
April 9 Becki Retzlaff & Amy Kaiser
April 16 Julie Meadows & Becki Retzlaff
April 23 ? & ?
April 30 Julie Meadows & ?

GREETERS

April 2 Emily & Peter Livant
April 9 Eddie Peek & Carolyn Levy
April 16 Jan & Jim Newton
April 23 Shawn Jacobsen, Emily Livant, & Jeblan Meadows
April 30 Emily & Peter Livant

STORYTELLERS

April 2 Noriko Aoi
April 9 Martha Law
April 16 Terry Rodriguez
April 23 ?
April 30 ?

ANGELS

April 2 Conar Rochford & ?
April 9 Jim Bradley & Conar Rochford, Emily Livant & ?
April 16 Nanette Chadwick & Conar Rochford
April 23 Conar Rochford & ?
April 30 Conar Rochford & ?

Lawn Mowing

April 1 ? & ?
April 15 Gisela Buschle-Diller & ?
April 29 ? & ?