

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

Please do **your** part!

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August 2017



AUUF Services • 10:00 A.M.

August 6 **“Rhythms of Life”** **Potluck Drumming Choir**

Rhythm impacts all of us on a daily basis. From our heartbeat, to our circadian rhythm, to that obnoxious song on the radio that gets stuck in our heads even when we don't want it there. Come join us as we discuss how rhythm impacts our lives through personal stories and traditional African rhythms.

August 13 **“Ingathering”** **Potluck—Board Meeting**

We begin the new AUUF program year with the traditional mingling of water from our summer adventures, be they nearby or far away.

August 20 **“Sympathy for the Devil”** **Rev. Pam Gehrke**

Given the principle of the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" and our theological ancestry in the doctrine of universal salvation, how might we understand the mystery of evil, the will to do harm, and the desire to cause suffering?

August 27 **“Invitation to Love”** **Rev. Pam Gehrke** **Sundae Sunday**

Reflections on ways of deepening the sense of belonging, of which we are all worthy: an exploration of the many opportunities to participate in the life of the Fellowship.

Announcements

The Ministerial Search Committee would like to thank you all for empowering us to conduct the search for our new settled minister. We are in the very beginning phases of our search process which will involve considerable work over the course of this year. We are following the guidelines established by the UUA. You will be asked to provide information and attend services/programs to help us better understand what kind of minister will best fit our needs as a congregation. We look forward to your input as we move forward in this very important process. Stay tuned for more information!

Sincerely,
The MSC

The Humanist discussion group invites all interested persons to join our monthly potluck and discussion. We will meet on Sunday, August 20th at 5:00 at the AUUF Busch Center. Dinner about 5, discussion starts at 6. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage.

Topic for discussion:

We will watch the fiery and funny TED Talk, "What's wrong with what we eat," by New York Times food writer Mark Bittman in which he weighs in on what's wrong with the way we eat now (too much meat, too few plants; too much fast food, too little home cooking), and why it's putting the entire planet at risk. After watching the 20-minute TED Talk, Jan Newton will lead a discussion to let folks voice their thoughts about the topic.

For more information, please contact Marcia Rossi, at rossi.asu@gmail.com or Jan Newton, at jnewton728@gmail.com.

August 2017

All Month: Services @10 am.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
					1		2		3		4		5
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				10 am Vipassana Meditation	
	6		7		8		9		10		11		12
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				RE Work Party	
	13		14		15		16		17		18		19
Potluck Sunday 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	
	20		21		22		23		24		25		26
5 – 8 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: Act of Congress		Overnight for middle RE class	
	27		28		29		30		31				
Sundae Sunday Water play time for youngest RE				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist 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.

In the Loop

You Say Goodbye, and I Say Hello: Hello, Hello. (J. Lennon, P. McCartney)

This is the spot in the Newsletter where the President is supposed to keep you “In the Loop.” Please believe me, I would dearly love to keep you in the loop, but I haven’t definitively located it yet. I’ve been on the job about three weeks as I write this, and I have not yet achieved loopiness, although there are those who might argue I had achieved at least partial loopiness some time ago. Once I’m completely loopy, I’ll tell you all about it.

This will be The Year Of The Search. For the past six months or so, we’ve been fixin to search for a permanent Minister (or “settled” Minister in UU argot). We’ve recently voted (all of us) support for a Search Committee, and it is off and running on a one-year marathon. The members of the Search Committee are Tom Hodges, Marcia Rossi, Jenny Brooks, Ivan Phillips-Schmidt, Carol Carruth, Temesgen Samuel, and Robert Zabawa. Heroes, all. Give them a hug before they disappear into the black hole named Search. They have about a zillion things to do in the coming year. I hope we can carve out some space in the Newsletter for the Searchers to send us reports from the event horizon, via Hawking radiation of course. Perhaps the column could be titled Search Light. In months with little news, we could call it Search Lite.

I’ve been pondering the question, “How do you know when you’re really a UU?” I mean, the Archbishop doesn’t appear and do a confirmation ceremony. No UU bar mitzvah. No UU baptism. So how do you know when you’re a UU? Really UU, through and through. I keep rolling that question around in my little confused brain, and I’m not very close to an answer. But I have a theory. People say you don’t perform acts of kindness because you are a kind person; rather, because you perform acts of kindness, you become a kind person. Same with becoming a UU: Because you do UU-ish things, you become a UU.

Like I say, it’s just a theory. It raises the question, “What are these UU-ish things I should do?” One comes to mind immediately. It’s what the members of the Search Committee did. It’s what many do, around here.

Volunteer. Raise your hand, take a deep breath, and say (perhaps against your better judgment), “What the heck? I’ll help with that.” In August, we hope to devote one Sunday to making visible all the ways that you could help out.

Volunteering at AUUF moves you ever closer to what the Buddhists call Pat Sajak:

Near Vanna.

Over and out,
-Peter

RE/DRE

...on Religious Education

From Julie Meadows, the Director of Religious Education

First I want to welcome all the new families who have joined our RE ranks. I also want to welcome back our returning families. This is going to be our best RE year yet. We have some very excellent things planned for this year. The first day of RE is September 24. Teacher Dedication is September 10. I hope all will join us in welcoming these teachers back!! After talking to a number of DRE's, I know that we are extremely lucky (and GRATEFUL) to have our teachers returning for another RE year.

For our youngest class we have a back to RE bash planned (without an exact date yet) that will include a day of fun playing in the water. We are also in the process of getting trained for a new program we will use in that class. It is called Spirit Play and it is excellent! I hope all the plans for the training work out and we can start the year using this new curricula.

The middle class will also have a back-to-RE event that previously was the Overnight followed by the Pancake Breakfast. This year it will only be for the middle class and will include a taste of their new curricula for the year, Jedi Academy. This curricula was highly recommended by the other DRE's I met while at RE Week at the Mountain. I am thrilled that our middle class will have a chance to use it.

The oldest class will have a new way of experiencing RE this year. My hope is that we can work it out to have a theme each week that will keep the teens out of the classroom. The goal is to have each of the three RE Sundays be a different project. The first Sunday will be Water Watch Testing. The kids will go to the river they chose last year and test the water, record the data and then enter it into the Alabama Water Watch data base. If you are not familiar with AWW, please look them up and learn how important this program has been in catching water quality changes. The other two Sundays will also have repeating projects.

This year we also will have the opportunity to attend some youth cons at the Mountain. Since I was there last week I can tell you first hand that your kids need to attend. The Mountain is a UU retreat and it is a beautiful place full of amazing people! They are offering youth cons for 3rd-5th grade on November 3rd-5th, 6th-8th grade will be on November 10th-12th and 9th-12th grade will be on December 1st-3rd. I will be contacting families with more details very soon. I encourage all of you with youth old enough to attend to put it on your calendars and make it a priority to participate.

This will be my third year as DRE at AUUF, and I am so excited that I had a chance this summer to really delve into the UU larger world. I attended an OWL training in Knoxville, TN, I attended General Assembly in New Orleans, LA, and then I went to the Mountain in North Carolina for RE Week at the Mountain. I am bringing back lots of information on creating a better RE program for this year. I am grateful for the opportunities I had this summer; it has allowed me to also connect with other DRE's that are nearby and are eager to get together for some fun UU activities. I believe that we really will have the best RE year since I have been the DRE.

Julie Meadows
auufdre@gmail.com

RE Notable Dates:

Aug 12 - RE Work Party

Aug 26 - Overnight for middle RE class

Aug 27 - Pancake Breakfast, Sundae Sunday, and youngest class back to RE water play time!

A Message from the Interim Minister

Dear members and friends,

Last week as Wayne & I were enjoying the landscape and pace of summertime rural Sonoma County, he remarked that the high temperatures were the same there as they were in Auburn and in Burlingame (our suburban home)—89 degrees. I know that the experience of hot weather varies in different places, but this coincidence reminded me of our essential interconnectedness. In so many ways, we are connected with human beings around the planet and with events in the reaches of outer space that we can scarcely imagine.

For many of us, summer offers a break, a shift, a fresh perspective. We can take advantage of it to reflect on the abundance of life and the beauty of the interconnected web. As we begin a new cycle of congregational programs, may we celebrate the possibilities of renewal and rejoice in the embrace of the AUUF community!

In faith,
Pam

Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD
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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

August 6 ? & ?
August 13 ? & ?
August 20 Ellen Abell & ?
August 27 Jan Newton & Nanette Chadwick

GREETERS

August 6 Emily & Peter Livant
August 13 Carolyn Levy & Eddie Peek
August 20 Jan & Jim Newton
August 27 Shawn Jacobsen & Pat Kennealy

STORYTELLERS

August 6 Conar Rochford
August 13 Jan Newton
August 20 Ellen Abell
August 27 Diana Eidson

ANGELS

August 6 Nanette Chadwick & ?
August 13 Conar Rochford, Steve Harrison, Noriko Aoi, & Temesgen Samuel
August 20 Conar Rochford & ?
August 27 Conar Rochford & ?

LAWN MOWING

August 5 Shawn Jacobsen & Pat Kennealy
August 19 Shawn Jacobsen & Pat Kennealy