

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

Please do **your** part!

www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0548ADA822A64-weekly



March 2017



AUUF Services • 10:00 A.M.

March 5 **“Coming Together”**

Rev. Pam Gehrke

If there is one thing we all know about Unitarian Universalism, it is probably that we have no creed. What is less well known is what then brings and keeps us together. What is meant by “covenant” in the context of our communities?

March 12 **“This is What Democracy Looks Like!”**

Rev. Pam Gehrke

Giving of the Plate (UU Musician’s Network)—
Potluck—Board Meeting

An exploration of the fifth of our seven UU principles: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large.”

March 19 **“Faith, Trust, and Pixie Dust”**

Rev. Pam Gehrke

We will consider the moral and spiritual dimensions of trust. How is it earned by individuals, and how can it be cultivated collectively? What is the role of trust in sustaining the fabric of society?

March 26 **The Women’s Service**

Under construction. More information coming soon.

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



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.

March 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		7:30 pm Sundilla Concert: Eric Taylor		10 am Vipassana Meditation	
	5		6		7		8		9		10		11
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		6:30 pm Community Game Night 6 pm – Poetry & Prose		2 pm Long Strange Trip: UU History Video Series 6 pm Art Reception: Portraits by Janice Ross	
	12		13		14		15		16		17		18
Giving of the Plate (UU Musicians Network) 12:15 – 2 pm Board of Trustees Meeting 5 pm WrenSong				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga		6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers		6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				10 am Vipassana Meditation 2 pm Long Strange Trip: UU History Video Series	
	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: Tret Fure		2 pm Long Strange Trip: UU History Video Series	
	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					

A Message from the Interim Minister

Dear Members and Friends,

A couple of years ago, the Unitarian Universalist Association board created the membership status of “covenanting communities.” Unlike affinity and interest groups of people who are members of UU congregations, these communities provide diverse contexts for their members to live out their UU faith in covenant without being members of congregations. To qualify as a “covenanting community,” these groups do not need to have Sunday services or Bylaws, as is required for member congregations. They may take forms entirely distinct from congregational life, and they can also provide opportunities to grow Unitarian Universalist congregations.

This month's Sunday service theme is “covenant.” The Latin roots of this word translate as “coming together.” A covenant may be unwritten and unspoken among people who share common values and goals. For Unitarian Universalists, it is a promise made in the context of community—beloved community, religious community, this community. As we anticipate next month's canvass, it is a good time to be contemplating our promises to each other!

With
gratitude,

Pam

Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD
psgehrke@gmail.com

On Gold Hill

(by Conrad Ross)

On Gold Hill time finds its mettle in mottled spots
Through grass that never knew cutting.
In sun-lit fields where squinted eyes
Fall on scattered bits of Southern shard.
Where the bread of hard red clay lies broken
And every heart sits at a sacred dinner.
We can see the kitchen of lonely delights
And squeeze through the cracks of sighs and
kisses
To where the weeping of urgent wishes lie.
We leave the table of the rock and mark
Our meal with a pebble to remain
Where tarnished lives outlive eternal glitter.



RE/DRE

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

Just a little return to February (and my soapbox) before we move on to March. I want to thank everyone who helped make Valentine cards and to those who bought them. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to those who helped in all the other places that needed many hands to pull together this tradition. I do hope the time spent with the children creating the cards and the joy of receiving a card delivered by a RE child left you wanting to spend more time with them. These kids are amazing and we are lucky, as a congregation, to have them in our Fellowship. If you have not seized the opportunity to spend time with them yet, you are missing out. Sign up today to be on the playground with them or offer to share something of yourself during their RE class. These are AUUF kids, our community children, and they need all of us taking part in their lives. Remember, it takes a village to raise a child and we are the village.



Now for a little insight into the Pre-K class as told from their teachers:

Pre-K RE class adventures

The last few months have been very exciting for our Pre-K class! Each week we share our “gripes and grins” in our group circle before beginning our lesson. This provides a window into the children’s lives so that we can get to know one another and be supportive of each other, too. We continue to learn about UU values such as “Respect” and “Valuing Diversity.” The creative Pre-K teachers use books, stories, art activities, videos and music to engage our exuberant youngsters. We have read stories that teach the children about the importance of helping our neighbors (The House in the Hole in the Side of the Tree), learning to like ourselves as we are (The Happy Dromedary), and learning to solve problems by talking things out (The Parade to Paradise). We are developing an appreciation for the value of our natural world by learning about different animals and by playing outside. Robin shared a messy and REALLY fun activity that involved shaving cream and food coloring! Andrew shares songs that lead to dance and pretending to be various animals- including “birds” that wanted to fly off the furniture! Recently, we had new kids (Alice and Florrie) join our class which made for even more fun! We hope to see ALL the Pre-K children again every RE Sunday and we send our thanks to the parents for sharing your kids with us!

Andrew, Amy and Robin

March calendar of events:

- 5 - RE Class
- 10 - CGN (Backpack program food donations) <http://foodbankofeastalabama.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Backpack-Program-Brochure.pdf>
- 12 - Potluck and Board Meeting
- 19 - RE Class
- 26 - RE Class

AUUF Humanist Discussion Group

The Humanist Group will hold its monthly potluck and discussion on Sunday, March 19th 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.

Portraits by Janice Ross

AUUF will have an exhibit of portraits in oil and pastel by Janice Koenig Ross, completed during her career of many decades. Janice has helped raise money for our annual auction by offering for donation a painted portrait to the highest bidder. Over the first 12 or so years of the auction, this was a sought after commodity. She has also offered her work to the Auburn Arts Association Auction and some of those works will be in the exhibit, as well as work that has been commissioned by the various owners. Janice has since retired from this practice.

Acquiring these portraits for exhibit from their owners has been a loving endeavor by Conrad Ross and a few of them have required several hoops to traverse in their acquisition. So with this in mind, our AUUF community is grateful to those owners of the portraits who were available to be contacted and willing to lend them for this particular exhibit honoring the work of Janice Koenig Ross. The show will be up for the months of March and April, 2017.

We will have a reception celebrating this exhibition on Saturday, March 11, 2017. It will be on site at Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 450 E. Thach Ave. from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All are invited. Be sure to tell your friends. It will be a unique opportunity to see the gathered portraiture of Janice Koenig Ross.

Laura Kloberg, aesthetics chair

Getting Ready for GA?

Here is a link with some resources to help you prepare for the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans, June 21-25, 2017: <http://www.uua.org/ga/ga-prep-resources>

The theme this year is 'Resist and Rejoice,' and the topics in these resources touch on the history of New Orleans, understanding the intersection of race, class and economics, building relationships, the experiences of people of color, and examining whiteness. There's no need to read and digest all of this material before GA, but this is an opportunity for all of us to move a little further down that path!

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.

Hmm.... March is both the name of the month and also a type of musical piece. Admittedly, not a type of music we generally think of in the context of ministry, but still this seems like the perfect month to have the UU Musician's Network as our "Sharing the Plate" partner this month. This month too we'll be collecting donations for the Backpack program of the Food Bank of East Alabama at Community Game night. Please remember all of these opportunities to be generous on the second Friday and Sunday of every month. March forth!

UU Musician's Network:

The UU Musicians Network is a professional organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association that provides resources to UU musicians to enhance the musical ministry in our congregations. Our Musical Director, Martha Law, has attended their annual conference for a number of years. Please speak with her if you'd like more information on this organization!

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, February 10th)**. The Backpack program provides food on weekends and school breaks to chronically hungry children. Food is packed into the student's backpack during the day so that they can take it home for themselves and any younger siblings at the end of the school day. This program is not federally funded and relies entirely on local donations.

“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.

Next month!!...



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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

March 5 Julie Meadows
March 12 ? & ?
March 19 ? & ?
March 26 ? & ?

GREETERS

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

STORYTELLERS

March 5 Masha Kloberg
March 12 Carolyn Levy
March 19 ?
March 26 ?

ANGELS

March 5 Conar Rochford & Carolyn Levy
March 12 Noriko Aoi, Sharon Roberts, Emily Livant, ?, & ?
March 19 Nanette Chadwick & ?
March 26 ? & ?

March Lawn Mowing ? & ?