



May 2017

AUUF Services • 10:00 A.M.

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

Please do **your** part!

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

**May 7**  
**“RE Service: The Water We Swim In”**

Celebrating the RE program and reviewing the topics children and youth have been exploring at AUUF this year. The service will include Teacher Appreciation and Bridging ceremonies!

**May 21**  
**Community Celebration Sunday**

Join us for an interactive service exploring AUUF's role in the lives of members and friends and in the wider community. Together, we will develop themes to help create a vision of the congregation's future.



**May 14**  
**“The Mother’s Day Proclamation”**  
**Rev. Pam Gehrke**

Giving of the Plate (Alabama Rural Ministry)—Potluck

Honoring the art and activism of Unitarian feminist poet and author Julia Ward Howe in the context of what was happening in the world in her time (1819-1910).

\*\*This month the Board meeting has been moved to Thursday evening, May 11, at 6:00.

**May 28**  
**“The Architecture of Happiness”**  
**Rev. Pam Gehrke**

Reflections on how the character and quality of our surroundings influence our thinking, our relationships, our behavior, and our well being.



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.

# May 2017

All Month: Services @10 am.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
			1		2		3		4		5		6
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga				12 pm Tazikis – Discussion of proposed 8 <sup>th</sup> UU Principle  6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship				10 am Vipassana Meditation  2 pm Lower Level Bush Center – 13th (Documentary by Ava DuVernay)	
	7		8		9		10		11		12		13
3 pm – Dream Work Group				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga				6 pm Board Meeting  6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship		6 pm – Poetry & Prose  6-9 pm – Art Pi Show Reception		10-4 pm – Art Pi Show	
	14		15		16		17		18		19		20
Giving of the Plate (Alabama Rural Ministry)  Mother’s Day Potluck  2-5 pm – Art Pi Show				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga  6:30 pm – HRC				6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship  7:30 pm Sundilla Concert: Jeff Black		6 pm - Community Game Night		10 am Vipassana Meditation	
	21		22		23		24		25		26		27
4 – 6 pm RE Picnic – MLK Jr. Park  5 – 7 pm Humanist Potluck – Busch Center				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga				6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship					
	28		29		30		31						
				5 – 6:30 pm Yoga									

# A Message from the Interim Minister

Dear members and friends,

A loved one just mentioned to me an article he saw on Nate Silver's web site, "Don't Bet on the Emergence of a Religious Left," by Daniel Cox. I haven't read the whole thing yet, but I would cite my experience here at AUUF to argue against the premise of the headline. People in the Fellowship are *acutely* aware of the need for this kind of community at this particular moment in history. AUUF provides strength and solace to individuals and families among us, and it offers support for those showing up in the name of justice, equity, and compassion.

As I write this, AUUF's stewardship campaign is in full swing. The Fellowship's potential to make a difference in the wider community depends on the full enthusiastic support of all members and friends! Specifically, the Board has discussed the need for increasing staff hours *just to maintain* current programming. To rise to the promise of its mission, AUUF needs a level of staffing in the coming year that will ensure smooth operations, consistent record keeping, and enhanced communications for growth—in numbers as well as in deepening involvement.

At the start of the campaign, VP for Finance Jey Koehler offered a "Blank Canvas Moment" and I gave a message ("A Bridge to Abundance") that included reflections on my experience of Cuba— which has an economic system very different from our own. If you missed that Sunday, you can listen to both of our talks here:

<http://auuf.org/canvass-kickoff-2017/>

For many of us, the threshold of "enough" is difficult to discern. Cultural norms keep us from reaching clarity on how much we can really afford to contribute. This promotes a sense of scarcity that keeps us from optimizing our real material strength. For example, is 90% of "enough" still enough? What can you actually afford to offer out of your personal household reckoning for the maintenance and *flourishing* of your communal spiritual home?

*New this year:* arrangements are being made for AUUF to receive your financial support by credit card. It will also be possible to specify automatic monthly contributions. If you find it possible to increase your level of support, please do! Look carefully at the numbers, and into your heart.

Know that *whatever* you decide to contribute will be gratefully embraced toward fulfilling the promise of the AUUF and its mission!

In faith,  
Pam  
Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD  
psgehrke@gmail.com



## ...on Religious Education

We made it through another year of RE. I believe this was a great year. We had some GREAT teachers that were really committed and really went the extra mile for our kids. I am so appreciative to these amazing volunteers!! I want to mention them by name because I want all of you, reading this, to know who they are and how incredible they were this year. In our pre-k classroom the teachers were Andrew DeVelschow, Amy Phillips, and Robin Russell. In our middle classroom there were Billy Welburn, Conar Rochford and Lisa Nathan. The teen classroom had Robert Zabawa, Natalia Ruiz-Junco and Shawn Jacobsen teaching. These are absolutely amazing people...they were there every RE Sunday and they came prepared to spend time with our AUUF children and youth. Without these fabulous people maybe you would have had more of a chance to get to know these kids because they would have been there during coffee hour trying to find something to do, partaking of the snacks and running around without hot cups of coffee. They were not in the Fellowship Hall at coffee hour though because these wonderful teachers committed their time to getting to know this next generation of AUUF congregants. The most amazing thing, the thing that you really need to know, is that next year they are volunteering their time AGAIN to teaching RE. What does that say about these people? I think it shows how AMAZING they are AND how important this time spent with our children and youth is. THANK YOU most amazing, most fabulous, most dedicated and selfless teachers. You are my favorite people!

There are a few upcoming events that will happen in May that are on the calendar below. I do want to say that there will be some fun stuff going on this summer. I do not have anything in writing yet but will let you know in the following newsletters. So stay tuned.

### **A Glimpse from Teen RE; a teacher and a teen:**

Teacher:

The big news from the teens is we are gearing up to start water quality monitoring through Alabama Water Watch. It's going to be great to get out in the woods for a good cause. How many teens will still be involved when it's 40 degrees and raining? We'll see! On April 9, six of us (two teens, four adults—you other guys really missed out) traveled to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta and joined in on their RE meeting. What a big place! What a lot of people! We had a great conversation with about 10 other kids about cool and not-so-cool things about RE. And, now summer. Go forth, and return with stories—not too crazy. – Shawn

Teen:

Hello everyone, today I'm going to tell you about my experience at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Keane Price, Shannon Price's son, and I were the only two teens that participated in this trip. When we first got to the UUCA the first thing I thought was that the church was quite big. Upon entering the building, I saw that they had quite a bit of art for sale. We were greeted by a very nice woman, she showed us around the building and eventually we ended up in the youth room they have in their fellowship. The teens at this congregation (the ones that were there that day) were all in the service. After the service ended we were joined by the teens in the youth room and we had our meeting. We talked about a lot of interesting subjects, one of them being how April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. After this we played a couple of games outside that helped us get to know each other. Eventually we got to talk to the teens and youth, they told us all about how they come to church each Sunday and when they do they make the best of their time there. That is something I think some of the teens in our congregation could learn from them. I talked to some of the teens after RE and found out how much I—and quite a few of our teens—have in common with the teens of the UUCA. The few I talked to told me about how they enjoyed playing video games, hanging out with their friends, and of course coming to RE and fellowship. After all of the things I have learned about the teens of UUCA I must say that I hope that our teens can learn from them and that they can come to more classes and when they do, take part in what we are doing and have a good attitude about everything. I also hope to get the chance to see the UUCA teens again. – Jebban

May calendar of events:

- 7- RE Service
- 14- Mother's Day Potluck
- 19- CGN (Wild Mammal Care of Alabama; <https://www.facebook.com/wmcoa/>)
- 21- RE Picnic 4-6 at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

# Announcements

May 4, 12:00-2:00, Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe  
Conversation about the proposed 8th UU Principle:  
“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and  
promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by  
working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved  
Community by our actions that accountably dismantle  
racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our  
institutions.” #UUWhiteSupremacyTeachIn

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May 6, 2:00-4:30, Busch Center Lower Level  
13th (Documentary by Ava DuVernay)  
Viewing and discussion  
#UUWhiteSupremacyTeachIn

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AUUF will be hosting the first GentleBirth childbirth  
education workshop on June 24-25 in the Busch  
Center. All expectant parents are welcome to come  
learn about a unique approach to childbirth that  
includes focus on brain training through mindfulness  
and hypnosis. Sign up and additional details at  
<https://www.gentlebirth.com/christinaclark>.

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## In Passing

(a poem by Conrad Ross)

A nod of the head, a lift of the hand  
Tells both travelers all-is-well.  
An open hand can greet a bobbing head  
Hid behind dark glasses.

They pass amicably, thinking  
Not more of one another, knowing,  
In their separate ways, the world  
Through which they pass teeters;  
Swerves; is out-of-control,  
Just up for the next turn.

Assured, however, of this passing  
Neither turns ‘round, nor looks back;  
The future, somehow, still beckons,  
Nods and waves.



UUCA and AUUF teens on April 9, 2017

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# HABITAT ROUND THE HEARTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!

THE GOAL: TO RAISE \$70,000 FOR NEW HOMES IN OUR AREA!

Time: Friday, May 19, 2017

Place: the Bottling Plant Event Center, Opelika

Time: 6 to 9:00 p.m.

Catered by Chef Jonathan Walker

Cash Bar and Live Jazz –

Silent and Live Auction

Tickets are \$35.00, available at the Event Center, Opelika; and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, Glenn Avenue  
Or by calling Auburn Opelika Habitat for Humanity, 605 2nd Avenue, Opelika, AL 36801, at 334 745 2123

Ruth Crocker  
(334) 826 3444

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## *AUUF Humanist Discussion Group*

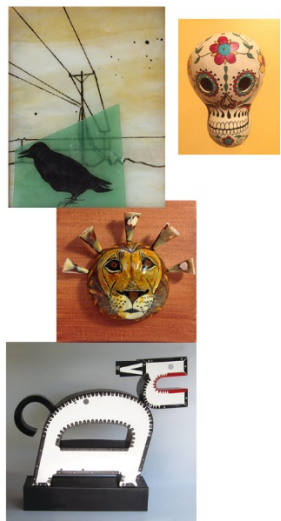
The Humanist Group will hold its monthly potluck and discussion on Sunday, May 21st from 5-7 at the AUUF Busch Center.

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](mailto:rossi.asu@gmail.com).

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## HAND MADE TALE

The Women  
of Art II

May 12-May 20, 2017

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**

# 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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It's that time of year when we all get the bug to spring clean and spruce up our homes and gardens. Sadly there are folks in our community who simply don't have the resources to maintain their own homes. In addition, there are critters out in our yards and gardens who unfortunately lose their homes. Fortunately, our plate partner this month is Alabama Rural Ministries and our Community Game Night partner is Wild Mammal Care of Alabama.

### ***Alabama Rural Ministry:***

Alabama Rural Ministry is a non-profit organization working to eliminate substandard housing in rural Alabama. They provide home repair services to people without the resources to repair and maintain their homes. They work throughout Lee, Macon and Sumter counties.

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 money for Wild Mammal Care of Alabama at the May Game Night (Friday, May 19th). Wild Mammal Care of Alabama is a network of volunteers who raise orphaned mammals. Spring is definitely their busy time of year with all the babies out there. They also transport injured mammals to veterinarians who work to treat wild species.

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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**

May 7 RE Service  
May 14 Amy Phillips & Carolyn Levy  
May 21 Laura Kloberg & ?  
May 28 Laura Kloberg & ?

**GREETERS**

May 7 RE Students  
May 14 Eddie Peek & Carolyn Levy  
May 21 Jim Newton & Emily Livant  
May 28 Emily & Peter Livant

**STORYTELLERS**

May 7 RE Service  
May 14 Amy Phillips  
May 21 ?  
May 28 Amy Kaiser

**ANGELS**

May 7 Conar Rochford & RE Parents  
May 14 Nanette Chadwick, Conar Rochford, Amy Phillips, & ?  
May 21 Conar Rochford & ?  
May 28 ? & ?

**Lawn Mowing**

May 13 Conar Rockford & Jeblan Meadows  
May 27 Patrick Kennealy & ?