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2nd Sunday Potluck & Transitional Conversation

Sunday February 13th

Your participation in these conversations is vital and helps shape the future of this beloved community.

Note: This month the Membership Committee will be providing dessert so plan to bring, side dishes, main course dishes, salads, fruit or bread & butter or other spread.

In the Interim: Winter Pansies

I was more than a little surprised come the end of November to discover that once the marigolds have passed their prime and are pulled from the garden – they are immediately replaced by pansies. I had noticed and been mildly puzzled by the appearance of racks of pansies outside various stores – but the truth is I didn't give it a lot of thought – because everybody knows that you don't dare put out pansies before mid-March.

In fact, I was so sure of my knowledge that I didn't even stop to consider why all those racks of pansies had appeared, figuring that it must be some sort of indoors custom to brighten the winter. Helen Baisden very kindly and perhaps with an inner chuckle, explained to me that all those pansies were going to go directly into the ground. I was truly surprised and then I was bemused by the convoluted story I had concocted for myself to explain away the obvious evidence that it was time to plant pansies.

One of my favorite books of meditations is Open Mind by Diane Mariechild. Each daily reflection is titled and begins with a quotation that helps to frame the reflections that follow. One reflection, titled "Wisdom," opens with: "Knowledge is not reality." Knowledge is not reality! This quotation made enough of an impression on me that I wrote it on a note card so that it could be easily at hand for repeated perusal.

In response to this quotation, Diane Mariechild writes, "*Knowledge is often confused with reality. . . . When we rely solely on our past experience it can inhibit an accurate and appropriate response to a present situation.* She explains that, "*Knowledge helps us function in the world. We know how to drive a car, program a computer, knit a sweater, cook a meal. This knowledge helps us function in a physical world: it doesn't tell us about the ultimate reality of life.*"

All the experience we have comes from how we have related to situations in our past. Past experience is helpful in driving a car. We don't have to relearn each time we get behind the wheel. There is also a way in which experience can hinder us. When we rely solely on our past experience it can inhibit an accurate and appropriate response to a present situation. For example, we might hold tightly to one way of doing things because it worked in the past. This prevents us from finding new, creative solutions to the present challenge. When a present situation reminds us of the past, the mind prevents us from seeing what is truly happening because it is clouded with old ideas and memories."

(Continued on page 6)



Uncommon Sense

From the President

The Board, Committee Chairs, and interested others had a meeting on January 22 with Annette Marquis, the TJ District Executive. The broad agenda set by the Board consisted of covenant, structure, and communication. Annette gave a nice presentation on those subjects. My “take away” was that our first priority as a Board coming out of the meeting should be to begin the work of developing a church-wide covenant.

As is evidenced by the Board covenant that is posted in the hall, Jan Parsons, President-Elect, had already begun to spearhead covenant work in the church, based upon principles she studied, partly under Annette’s guidance I believe, at Leadership School last summer. I think that all who attended the meeting would agree that this project should be a priority for the church as a whole, particularly considering the events of the last year or two.

There will be other projects triggered or catalyzed by the meeting with Annette. Stay tuned, most immediately, for work relating to this covenant project. If any of you have any questions about this issue or about anything else, for that matter, don’t hesitate to contact me at (706) 399-2721 © or (706) 736-3981 (h).

-Jim Bentley,
Board President

Membership Memos

Tracy Craig & Liz Goodson, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Each year the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta (UUCA) conducts a review of the membership. This review helps us compile an accurate list of active members for our records, and for our national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA).

The UUCA is responsible for dues to both the Thomas Jefferson District and the UUA, for each active church member. For this reason, maintaining an accurate count of those who attend church services, volunteer, and make financial contributions is essential.

Our bylaws state: “Membership is maintained through contribution of time and/or talent, through participation in its mission and activities, and through making an annual financial contribution of record.”

Your Board Secretary, Office Administrator, and Membership Committee have worked together to compile an accurate membership count of #149 for 2011.

Our hope for this year is to accept many active new members into our beloved community, provide a welcoming home for our current members, and encourage those who have been away to return to our many wonderful and inspiring worship services, programs, and volunteer opportunities.

Vespers at UUCA

Full Moon Vespers at 7pm

The earth-centered Vespers on Sunday evening have been going very well with both members and visitors attending. For Winter Solstice, Joe and I did a meditation in darkness with drumming and didjing, then welcomed the return of the sun.

At the January Full Moon, our theme was breaking the ice, since in the Norse tradition the first full moon after Yule is the feast of Thor. Our February Full Moon vesper will be Sunday, **February 20th** in the sanctuary and all are welcome to attend. If you need childcare, please let us know. For more information, contact Jezibell kyriapanagia@yahoo.com.



Limbo Crowd Vespers at 5pm

February 27th: *Rebirth/Renewal/Post-traumatic Religion*
Chris Selmek and Buffy Duncan will present the service supported by Melody and Cosmo Franz.



Round Robin Dinners

Round Robin Dinners are underway for Saturday, February 5th.

For information, contact Wil Ortiz

Social Justice Committee News

Denice Traina & April Wilson, Committee Co-Chairs

The Torch Has Passed: Please contact Laura and Dana Linn in regards to future planning and participation in our Masters Table activities. Both Laura and Dana have been loyal participants and have graciously agreed to take over these responsibilities. We thank former coordinator, Sandy Hochel for her service and know that our congregation will continue to support this worthwhile effort both with their active participation and financial contributions.

Martin Luther King Parade: See <http://www.viddler.com/explore/AnibalShow/videos/14/> for highlights from this year. Thanks to Pat Lynch Hayes for being our driver and to Rev. Dacia for bagging candy as fast as she could! Thanks to Joey who led us with his voice along with Frank Carl who helped carry our UUCA banner, and to Jezibel Anat, Joe Z and Ruth Garrison for carrying our placards with images of MLK, and UU civil rights advocates Rev. Reeb and Viola Liuzzo and to the ever energetic Owen Zylla who joined me in giving out candy to the eager observers. "Peace on the Streets!"

Share the Plate donations totaling \$332 for January were sent to The Family Counseling Center of the CSRA who provide low or not cost services to our community. Please consider filling out a Share the Plate application (see folder in Social Justice Committee mailbox, outside of the office.)

Monthly meetings: The Social Justice Committee meets the First Sunday of the month at 12:30pm in the Common Room to share a light meal, conversation and planning. Please join us. Contact Greg Sutherland if you would like to be added to our email list.greg30808@comcast.net



Things Were Not Always as Expected

by Sandy Hochel

From June to December 2010, I taught on the Malaysian side of the island of Borneo. I learned much from living in such a multiracial and multiethnic area and from living in a country with the national religion of Islam. I went with certain expectations and many proved wrong. In the church service on February 20th, I will share some of the lessons that can be learned from my experiences.

Music News

by Joe Patchen

On YouTube you'll find a video called "Patchen Accompanies Queen". As much as I would enjoy stepping out with HRM Elizabeth, this is a mix of my two-piano arrangement of the band Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody with the band's original performance for a unique audio event. The Queen version was available for download free at their web site and the performance is intended as a tribute to the great Freddie Mercury."

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_PMHSHaofg

Josef Patchen is now accepting adult piano students. Any style or playing level is acceptable, as long as you are willing to practice! For more information email Joe at jcpatchen111@knology.net or call at 706.825.0328.

December Attendance

January 2nd	January 9th	January 16th	January 23rd	January 30th
109	151	132	114	114

Uncommon Sense



Sound of MUUSIC Sing-along

by Gaye Ortiz

Ten reasons to come to the "Sound of MUUSIC Sing-along" at the UUCA: **Saturday, March 5th at 7pm**

10. Because you'll be participating in a decade long tradition. The story goes that the first official movie sing-along took place at a nursing home in Inverness, Scotland, in the 1990s, where the nurses passed out song sheets before a rec-room screening of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." Staffers at the London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, hearing of such jollity, arranged for a subtitled sing-along screening of "The Sound of Music" during their 1999 festival. It was such a hit, the Prince Charles Cinema in London began regular sing-along screenings that year (which continue to this day), in which costumes and audience participation are encouraged, and the subtitled print has toured the world.

9. Because being in a roomful of elaborately costumed people, all of whom are trying to stretch their vocal cords to the limit in order to sing along with Peggy "Mother Abbess" Wood in the final notes of "Climb Every Mountain" (" ... TILL YOOOOO FIND [pause, as everyone including Peggy gathers strength] YOOOOOOUR ... DREEEEAAAM!!! ... ") is exhilarating, to say the least.

8. Because, really, what other chance are you going to get to gather your friends and dress up as Wild Geese That Fly With The Moon On Their Wings? (How do they keep the moon on there, anyway?)

7. Because the subtitles are very, very thorough. If you've yearned, throughout your life, to see the lyrics written out for the Latin chant performed by the nuns in the early scenes, now's your chance. Notice how, as the chant begins, all those people who were lustily singing along with Maria's opening song ("The hills are aliiiiive ... ") fall awkwardly silent, or just hum.

6. Because there's a goody bag, containing props to be used throughout the screening; among them a sprig of edelweiss to be waved during the "Edelweiss" song. You will find that being part of a crowd of people clutching tiny artificial flowers and swaying in unison is strangely calming.

5. Because underneath your wimple, you can wear curlers in your hair. And perhaps you should; wimples are hell on hair.

4. Because there will be a costume contest, which always features lots of lederhosen and at least one appearance of Brown Paper Packages Tied Up With String.

3. Because you can boo the villains (the Nazis, natch, and the ice-cold Baroness), cheer the heroes (all the von Trapps, and that woman who keeps bowing at the music festival), and yell out comments. None of these things can be done at regular movies, much as we might wish to.

2. Because, for heaven's sake, just listening on headphones to 30 seconds of "The Lonely Goatherd" on Amazon at my desk at work had my toes tapping.

1. Because, for good or ill, this movie means a lot to many of us who first saw it as small children and grew up listening to the soundtrack. And because gathering in a darkened room and singing together is a communal and joyous event, anytime.

We might add one more thing – our church members love to sing, and here is a great chance to do just that!

The Sound of Music will be screened in the church sanctuary at 7pm on Saturday March 5th. The Sound of MUUSIC Sing-along will be a fun evening for all ages. Everyone who comes gets a goodie bag with items to use during the Sing-along! A suggested voluntary donation of \$10 from those attending includes intermission refreshments.

**Top 10 reasons to attend a UUCA Sound of MUUSIC Sing-along (adapted from "Top 10 reasons to attend a "Sing-Along Sound of Music" by [Moir Macdonald](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/movies/2008578200_zmov02sound.html), *Seattle Times*, 2009, http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/movies/2008578200_zmov02sound.html)

Grandma Marian's Guidelines for Successful Potlucks

-- No matter what you bring to a potluck always bring 2 to 3 times as much as you would need to feed your own family. The reasoning behind this maxim is that at any given meal a family eats more than one dish – salad or other appetizer, main course, veggie, fruit/dessert, etc. And certainly at a potluck we all enjoy the variety and may sample more than we might eat at home.

-- If you are lucky enough to be near the front of the line – do remember that there are likely to be a lot of people behind you who would also enjoy the chance to savor the great variety of food – so take it a little easy on your first time through the line. Once everyone has been through the line – there's no limit on enjoying 2nd helpings.

Welcome Our Newest Member

Pam Harris

Pam Harris moved into the Augusta area in the spring of 2000 along with her husband, Dave, and their son, Ethan. Pam and her son first began attending the UU church of Augusta about 7 years ago and Pam has been teaching the Senior High Youth for the last 5 years. She recently graduated from ASU with a BA in Music and a minor in Women's Studies (Dec '10).



Building and Grounds Update

by Frank Carl

In a weak moment and under unassailable arguments by the president elect, I have volunteered my services as chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. A number of people have volunteered their assistance when I need it and I know that a number of others will help when asked, but I would like to ask for volunteers to serve on the committee. As I see it, the function of the committee members is to help to identify the physical needs in our church community and to meet periodically to brainstorm solutions to those needs, in effect, an advisory pool.

The Church Council will soon send out a survey to church members. That survey will ask for volunteers to adopt areas of the grounds or certain periodic chores in the building. The committee will also function to coordinate those adoptions.

The church kitchen is making slow progress, but the worst is behind us now. We just finished sealing the counter tops. We do not anticipate that the kitchen will be closed for any significant period of time as we finish up the remodeling. Still needed are the sliding door between the kitchen and the common room, finishing the ceiling around the upper cabinets, and finishing the doorway between the kitchen and the common area.

The chair replacement project is going well. We have replaced 51 so far. Our goal is 72. We will place some of them in the RE wing, some on the choir riser, and some in the minister's office, but most will remain in the common room. If you are willing to purchase one or more chairs at \$21 each, please let Laura know (706-733-7939).

Laura, who spends more time in the church than anyone else, is also grateful for the seals on the doors to keep the cold at bay, the lighting on the sign on the street between 5:30 and midnight to minimize the need for directions to evening meetings, the capacity of the kitchen door to close completely without assistance, and the softening of the thump in the closing of the main entrance door. The committee will continue to make minor improvements as requests are received.

Church Library Donation

Thank you to Saralyn Ingram for her generous donation to the church library.

The UUCA Church Library is located in the Minister's Office. If you borrow a book – do leave a note so we know where to find that book in the future. If you have a book or books from the church library that are gathering dust – please do return them.

Custodial Transition

Many thanks to Joey Traina for his work as Church Custodian. Due to new responsibilities elsewhere Joey has resigned as church custodian effective February 5th. We are fortunate that Joey will continue to be an active member, acting as co-advisor for our Youth Group and connecting with the Building & Grounds Committee and the Limbo Crowd. Do say thank you when you get a chance.

Interviews have been scheduled for the position and we anticipate a smooth transition.

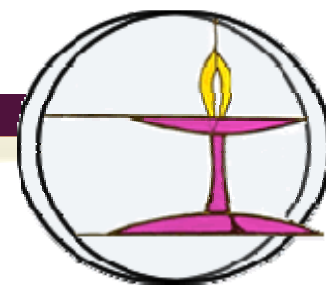
Summer Sundays

It's not too soon for the Worship Committee to start thinking about the worship services in July and August.

It's said that everyone has at least one good novel inside. Surely, it is equally true that everyone has a good sermon inside. To facilitate the development of these sermons Rev. Dacia will be offering a spring workshop on Sermon Development & Delivery. If you have a sermon -inside and would like to work on it – please contact Rev. Dacia. The scheduling of the workshop will depend on the participants. Hope to hear from you soon and this summer!-)

Uncommon Sense

AND FINALLY...



(*Winter Pansies* continued from page 1)

As we continue along the path of this Interim transition there are bound to be times when, at least some of, you have an “Oh-No-Not-Again!” response to the process. Your knowledge and your past experience; all the dedicated work with the Transition Team in the Interim with Rev. Roy, the visions and hopes that bloomed during the ministry of the Rev. Dan King and even the ups and downs with Rev. Beard are valuable experience. And yet, time has marched on; and we might go so far as to say that the pansies of hope, that you planted so confidentially in the past, have met with a rather harsh winter and are somewhat the worse for wear.

It is worth remembering that all congregations are encouraged to revisit their vision and mission every five years – even without the current transition you would be getting ready to engage some of these issues. Updating the vision, mission, goals & covenants of this congregation is important work – it is work that nurtures and protects the “Holy Place” for the heart of this congregation. When this work results in successful ministry it’s a lot like a field of spring wheat. The field looks great – beautiful and thriving and you only know about the fall planting and trust-through-the-winter if you were there, working in the field to make the new growth possible.

Your participation is vitally important. The Board and I really appreciate your on-going participation in the 2nd Sunday Transitional Conversations and look forward to our next conversation on Sunday February 13th.

Yours in celebration of Winter Pansies and Transition –
Rev. Dacia

P.S. – The lists of Hopes, Dreams, Ideas and Concerns that we created during the January Transitional Conversation are attached in a separate document.

Diane Mariechild, *Open Mind: Women’s Daily Inspiration for Becoming Mindful*, Harper San Francisco, 1995. All quotations are from the August 5th reading, titled, “Wisdom.” Her reflection begins with a quotation from Yosano Akiko.

“Holy Place” is a reference to “When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place” Hymn #1008 in the teal hymnal – Singing the Journey. We celebrated the gift of these hymnals on Sunday January 30th. UUCA first received enough of these hymnals for the choir when Pat Lynch Hayes made a donation from the Memorial funds collected in memory of her husband, Jack Hayes. And this year we celebrate the gift of 50 additional copies of Singing the Journey with gratitude and thanks to Alice & Andy Reese.

Wandering Hymnals

We have had several Sundays in which we have been short of hymnals in the sanctuary.

Theoretically, UUCA owns an adequate number of the gray (and now also the teal) hymnals.

Over time, for various reasons – hymnals leave the sanctuary and the building!

Please check around your home – if you discover a UUCA hymnal please return it.

If there is interest in purchasing a copy of either hymnal for personal use, they are available on-line through the UUA bookstore. If we have five people who want to buy their own hymnal – we can get a 5% discount. If ten people decide they’d like to own a personal copy – we can get a 10% discount.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the hall way between the sanctuary and the common room.

And – Thank you for returning any stray hymnals.

Mark Your Calendar!
Sunday, February 13th

**2nd Sunday Potluck &
Transitional Conversation**

We welcome stories, news
and pictures sent in for our
monthly Newsletter.
Send submissions to:
to the church office at:
officeadmin@uuaugusta.org

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