

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida May 2015

2487 A1A South, 3/4 miles south of State Road 312 Mail: PO Box 5117, St Augustine, FL, 32085 uufsamail@gmail.com http://www.uufsa.org/

Fellowship meetings are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m., September through June A program for youth, birth through eighteen, is provided at 10:30 a.m. Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available on request.

Board of Trustees 2014 - 2015

President Cherie Dolgin Vice President Pat Moore Secretary Nana Royer Treasurer Ruth Weber Trustee Elle Barry Trustee Charlie West Trustee Palmer Short Trustee Megan Porter Trustee Pat Maguire

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The *Quest* is published monthly from September through July.

Materials for inclusion in the June issue are due by May 22.

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

Contributions of content come from many members.



A Peace of Mind

From The President



What a week it has been! After a whirlwind visit, which included a pot luck dinner, meetings with the Board and other committees, and an open house, our ministerial candidate, Rev. Tom Schmidt, conducted the service on Sunday. A Congregational Meeting followed with an overwhelmingly positive vote to offer Tom a three year contract as UUFSA's first half-time minister! He has accepted and will begin working at our Fellowship in September.

These dates should be on your calendar:

Saturday, May 9th at 6:00 PM – A Celebration of Generosity Dinner

Sunday, May 17th – The Annual Congregational Meeting

And so after 29 years of UUFSA being a completely lay-lead congregation, we have chosen a new path. An exciting and challenging time awaits us. Drawing from the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan, Rev. Schmidt will assist us in working toward our deepest hopes and dreams. Welcome to our family, Tom!

Congratulations and thank you to the Ministerial Search Committee. Beverly Cree, Claudia Atkins, Cal Marshall and Barbara Battelle all deserve our deepest gratitude for the extensive work they did in recruiting Tom as our ministerial candidate. Their gift of time and energy is very much appreciated.

And another Congregational meeting is just around the corner! Please attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17th. We will be voting on the budget for FY 2016, as well as a new slate of Board officers. We will review the Third Sunday Share the Plate trial and hear from our Committee chairs. Members – let your voices be heard!

I would also like to thank Laura Cowart for introducing and leading the dance segments we have been treated to at our Sunday services. They have been a beautiful and refreshing change and I would like to extend kudos to all of the participants.

Finally, the Service Marketplace raised \$2030.00 for our Fellowship. Great work Elle Barry, who coordinated the entire happening! Thanks again to all of you who supported this effort. I hope that you are thoroughly enjoying your purchases.

In Fellowship, Cherie Dolgin, Board President



Sunday, May 3 and 24, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar on Video



This May we are pleased to present two video sermons from the Rev Dr Marlin Lavanhar, All Souls Unitarian Church Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Lavanhar is the senior pastor of the largest Unitarian Universalist Church in the United States. He grew up as a Unitarian Universalist in Illinois. He majored in Sociology at Tulane and graduated with his PhD from Harvard Divinity School. He is the youngest senior minister of a major congregation in the denomination. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he taught English and American Culture in Kyoto, Japan for two years. He followed that with a three year around the world bicycle trip, studying Buddhism in Asia, Hinduism in India, Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions in Israel, and cycling through much of Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and North America. Along the way he visited and wrote about Unitarian communities on the Island of Negros in the Philippines, the Khasi Hill in Northeast India, in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Rumania.

May 3 "The Temptation to be Good"

This sermon was delivered on Sunday, October 6, 2013, at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Few topics are as exciting or challenging for a theologian or philosopher. To reconcile the purpose of creation or the existence of God with the reality of evil is the challenge of every moral person. The temptation to be good, it seems, is often less powerful than the temptation to immorality in all its titillating and exhilarating forms.

May 24 "Our Evangelical Neighbors"

This sermon was delivered on Sunday, October 2011 at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa Oklahoma, by Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, Senior Minister, and Rev. Bruce Hoppe, Associate Minister, Christ Community Church, Greeley, CO. Rev Lavanhar and Rev Bruce Hoppe dialogue about how people with very different theologies can build enduring and enriching relationships of respect and affection. A very moving dialogue and an important topic for our polarized times.

Sunday, May 10, 10:30 a.m.

"Complaining - we all do it. But is it beneficial?" JoLaine Jones-Pokorney



How does it impact our lives and our happiness? Is it possible to be filled with complaints and be filled with gratitude at the same time? JoLaine explores the landscape of complaining and offers a vision of a complaint-free world.

JoLaine Jones-Pokorney has been a UU for 23 years and is a worship elder at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville under whose auspices she officiates at weddings (Wow! I don't have to put in "ceremonies of union" anymore!), memorial services, child dedications, and other life events, as well as being on the worship team at UUFG. She is employed with the University of Florida in Academic Technology. JoLaine and her husband Dave are avid contra dancers and JoLaine calls as well as

dances. JoLaine is in Musica Vera, an early music consort playing "forgotten music on obsolete instruments," as well as playing and singing with the choir at UUFG.

Sunday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.

"How Big is an 18-Wheeler?" Rev. Jack Ford



What an adventure I had last month! I took my motorcycle on a trip to the **UU Mountain Retreat and Learning Center** up in North Carolina on Easter weekend, to join with a group of volunteers – cleaning, painting, organizing the library, mulching the labyrinth, building signs, and many other activities to help maintain and improve the place for visitors who come. While I was there I preached the Sunday Easter sermon.

Along the journey, a number of strange and scary events took place that got me to thinking about the troubles that come our way and seem to run us over like some great big **semi** on the highway. My trip became a sort of reflection on that age-old question:

'Why do <u>bad</u> things happen to <u>good</u> people?' Or perhaps it was more a matter of 'why do <u>good</u> things happen to bad people?' Is fate just barreling down the highway or do we somehow play a role in all this drama?

The Rev. Jack Ford is a fellowshipped minister with the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association. He has been in UU ministry for 21 years serving in the Florida district. He is also a carpenter and a lover of nature. He was recently selected as minister of the Buckman Bridge UU Church.

Sunday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.



"Common Myths about Judaism" Rabbi Fred Raskind

Rabbi Fred Raskind was born and educated in Boston. After graduating from Boston University, he attended Columbia University, where he studied philosophy and comparative religion. He has taken coursework in 3 Christian Divinity Schools: Boston University, Union Theological Seminary [NYC], and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. After being ordained by Hebrew Union College in New York, Rabbi Raskind spent the next ten years serving Temple of Israel in Greenville SC and then Congregation Children of Israel, along with the College Campus Ministry, Hillel, in Athens GA.

For 15 years, he commuted from Atlanta to serve part-time small congregations in Gadsden, AL, and then in Anniston, AL. He has been involved in interfaith and outreach work throughout his career. As a Licensed Professional Counselor in Georgia, he started a private practice in pastoral, family, and career counseling. He also did consulting work in executive training, outplacement and career consulting with Atlanta-based firms. Rabbi Raskind advised and helped start two congregations in the Atlanta area.

In 1999, after moving to Vero Beach, FL to become Temple Beth Shalom's full-time spiritual leader for 3 years, he served as interim Associate Rabbi at Hollywood's Temple Solel. He came to Hagerstown in 2003 to Congregation B'nai Abraham, and served also as the Jewish Chaplain at the VA. The Congregation granted him a sabbatical one summer to study the role and experience of Jews during the Civil War.

He semi-retired in 2013 and moved to St. Augustine, where he serves Temple Bet Yam, is involved in congregational and community events, and helped found the St. Augustine Interfaith Community [SAIC].

He has two sons, one in Atlanta, and one in London, follows college football and the Boston Red Sox, and enjoys old movies & his 1973 Mustang.

Downstairs Dialogue

"Environmental Issues Update"

Sunday, May 10, 9:15-10:15am, Downstairs

This month's Downstairs Dialogue will feature a leader of the Sierra Club in Florida, Tom Larson. His presentation will be an update on energy and environmental issues, with a focus on northeast Florida. He will talk about good things happening, political challenges in Tallahassee, in national politics and in the economy. Also, the opportunities for everybody to engage in support of advancing to an attainable and economical clean energy future. He looks forward to an active conversation and plenty of Q & A.

The Sierra Club is the largest environmental advocacy organization in the world, with over two million members. Tom joined the Club in 1994, and got involved in a member's campaign for state Senate, later becoming Chair of the Northeast Florida Group in 2004. He has led the state Energy Committee for 7 years, and is currently Treasurer of Sierra Club Florida.

Presently, Tom works as a technical consultant for clients in energy policy, business planning and financial management. Following an earlier career principally as an executive in cargo transportation, he worked for the southern Alliance for Clean Energy from 2008 to 2014, doing energy policy research, analysis, and advocacy focused on Florida. Tom has a B.S. in Public Administration from Miami University of Ohio, and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. When hard to find, he may be off hiking or canoe paddling with his wife, Janet.

May Calendar

- 1 Darts Night 7:00 p.m. –
- 3 Dining with Dignity 6:00 7:00 p.m.
- 4 -Great Decisions 7:00 9:00 p.m.
- 6 Social Concerns Committee 11:00 a.m. –
- 7 Care Connection 10:30 a.m. noon
- 8 Food Pantry 1:00 4:00 p.m.
- 8 mUUvie Cedar Rapids 6:30 p.m. –
- 9 Celebration of Generosity 6:00 10:00 p.m.
- 10 Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 10:15 a.m.
- 11 Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 8:30 p.m.
- 15 Darts Night 7:00 p.m. –
- 17 Potluck lunch after service
- 17 Congregational Annual Meeting 12:15 1:45
- 19 Afternoon Book Club 1:00 p.m. –

- 20 Program Committee 3:00 4:00 p.m.
- 20 Sanctuary St. Augustine 6:30 7:30 p.m.
- 21 PFLAG meeting 7:30 9:00 p.m.
- 22 Field Trip to Jacksonville Zoo
- 22 mUUvie *Buddy* 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Deadline for Quest contributions
- 22 Food Pantry 1:00 4:00 p.m.
- 29 Darts Night 7:00 p.m. -





You are cordially invited to a Celebration of Generosity!

Come join us as we kick off our pledge drive and celebrate an amazing year for our Fellowship.

When: Saturday, May 9, 2015

Tíme: 6:00 pm

Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine

What: Italian dinner provided by our own chefs

BYOB: Please bring your own beverage of choice; wine, beer or non-alcoholic

RSVP by email to Ruth Weber (ruthweber@bellsouth.net) or call (904) 347-5293, by April 30

Please be sure to include the number of adults, and number of children who will be attending. Child care will be provided.

Denominational Report



At the District/Regional Assemblies held last month simultaneously in Orlando and three other regional cities, a historic vote was taken, in which the assembled delegates voted to dissolve the four District Boards, and consolidate their governance responsibilities into a single regional organization. Congregations in the Region will now be connected to the UUA Board of Trustees and UUA General Assembly through a team of UUA staff persons distributed throughout the region. The Regional staff team will be led by Rev. Kenn Hurto, Team Lead; and our primary contact staff person will be Maggie Lovins, as in the past. She is based in Pensacola.

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales, who was with us in Orlando, addressed the regional delegates electronically prior to the vote, and he was visibly pleased when the final favorable results from all locations were reported. Charlie West and Beverly Cree represented UUFSA as delegates, and were pleased to get a chance to meet our UUA President.

In the afternoon workshops, Charlie attended the annual meeting of UU Justice Florida, where we voted on new board members, and core issues to be worked on in the coming year. Also, a second workshop on environmental justice presented by the Chair of UU Miniustry for Earth. Beverly attended a workshop on Mid-Week Programming, and an interactive experience entitled "Be The Change Activist Dinner Party". For more information on these workshops or the Assembly in general, contact Charlie or Beverly.

Later in the year, UUA General Assembly will be held in Portland, OR, as previously announced. At press time, no one has expressed interest in serving as a delegate. Any UUFSA member so interested should contact Cherie Dolgin or Charlie West. More information is available at www.uua.org/ga

Charlie West Board Denominational Contact

Lifelong Learning Youth Program



Teen Program

We are very disappointed to have needed to postpone the teen Conference (CON) with neighboring congregations. The combination of severe weather predictions and plans for walking the Civil Rights Freedom Trail made it prudent to change our plans. Please stay tuned, and hopefully some of you can join us for future events.

May 17 – the teen-created video about living the UU Principles will be shown during the service. This short video reflects our teen's understanding of the benefits and challenges of living the UU Principles.

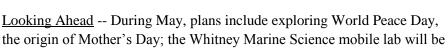
Middle Group







For Earth Day, we discussed the significance of this day celebrated around the world, and we played drums and sang "The Earth is Our Mother." In our garden, we got water from the rain barrel for planting the sunflower garden along the sidewalk. We also checked out the Seminole pumpkins recently planted by Nana Royer and added kitchen scraps to the compost bin. Thank you Stephen Ocean for bringing the sunflowers and helping us with this class as we explored our interdependent web.





here for a class adventure; and an Islamic woman will join our classes to discuss the Muslim beliefs and traditions. To complete our program year of exploring world religions, during June the children will be involved in considering why religion is part of the lives of people around the world, and what they might include in a religion they would plan. These are huge questions, and we are not expecting an "answer." The focus is on asking and considering the questions.

Supporting Our Program for Children and Youth

It takes a village and as we include more children in our village, we need more adults to help with the inspiring discussions and activities. Our two teachers are Flagler students, and are gone for summer break. Please talk with Beverly about ways you could be involved with our amazing young people. Your support will be appreciated – it could be one Sunday or more, let's consider the possibilities.

Beverly Cree

Great Decisions

"Africa" Monday May 4, 7:00 p.m.



On Monday May 4, the Great Decisions group discussion will on Africa: a continent in unprecedented transformation and tragedy.

The continent is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and it's become a draw for foreign investors from across the globe. After the "Obamamania" of 2008 died down, though, the realization that Obama wasn't going to overturn, or even prioritize, U.S. Africa policy kicked in. Still, the U.S. has promised to promote "strong institutions, not strong men," and to favor good governance and healthy economies over profit. How can U.S. policy live up to its promise and values while securing its interests in the region?

June's Great Decision topic will be on Syria's Refugee Crisis

Please join us. Guests are welcome!! The Great Decisions group meets the first Monday of every month.

For more information, contact **Yosi** (461 3175 or jomcintire@bellsouth.net).

Highway Cleanup

There will be a highway clean-up on

Thursday, June 11. Meet at the UU at 8:00 a.m.

(Yes, June, not May)



For more information, contact *Palmer Short*, 797-4774, palshort@gmail.com.

Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee addresses issues concerning rights and quality of life, such as hunger, homelessness, and discrimination in our greater community. The committee will meet again on May 6, at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact *JoAnne Englebert* at engsch@bellsouth.net or 460-1190.

Care Connection



Our Care Connection group provides short term support and assistance for members of the fellowship during times of difficulty.

We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing.

The Care Connection includes everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of difficulty.

Contact *Elle Barry* if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Group



Afternoon Book Club

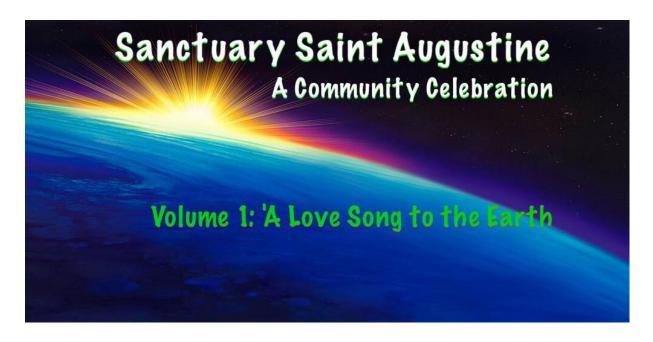


The Afternoon Book Club meets downstairs at the Fellowship on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. If you cannot attend every meeting but are interested in a particular book, please feel welcome to come for just that month. For more information, contact **Isobel Siegel**, 794-2293.

May 19 The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelco, led by Uldis Golts

June 9 Lunch – place to be determined

Sanctuary St Augustine



Sanctuary St Augustine will launch on May 20, 2015, 6:30 p.m., at UUFSA, upstairs.

Join celebrants of all ages in co-creating a joyous "Love Song to the Earth"

Jane Mahoney, Dave Perkins, Mary Kellough, Nana Royer

Environmental Action Team Field Trip



Let's go to the Zoo! Planned is a trip to the Jacksonville Zoo on **Friday, May 22, 9** am. The group rate of \$13.95 per person is available if at least 15 people pay one week in advance. Those who saw the film "The Bonobo Connection" know how interesting is

this great ape. The Jacksonville Zoo is one of the few zoos in the country who have a bonobo exhibit. If you did not see the film and would like to, we now own it and it can be loaned out. Let me know and I'll make a list of those who would like to borrow the film, as well as those who would like to commit to visiting the zoo. Its botanical gardens are also renowned. We could talk about bringing our lunch and perhaps eating on the grounds. We will plan to car pool once we have a head count.



Nana Royer for the Environmental Action Team

St. Johns Food Pantry

THE FOOD PANTRY WELCOMES APRIL SHOWERS



I hope you are enjoying this Spring weather. The April showers do not disappoint and it seems to get greener around town every day. The Food Pantry welcomes your continuing showers of blessings with food and cash donations. Your sharing with them is a true gift for those who need help in feeding themselves and their families. The increase in homeless families with children rose dramatically in the last few years so the need for help has increased proportionately. The Pantry fed 281 families in March, an increase of 50 more over February. It helped 423 adults, 267 children with 423 bags or 10,152 meals. In contrast, in February it was 7,824 meals. These figures dramatize the need for The UUFSA's ongoing generosity.

Cash still rules because it helps the purchase of foods that are needed to ensure balanced nutrition. You can give your cash donation or check made out to the UUFSA with a note that it is for the Food Pantry, to Ruth Weber, UUFSA Treasurer and she will donate it to the Food Pantry on your behalf. You can also use PayPal. This extra step documents UUFSA generosity on our own records. You can also make a donation with a gift card.

The Pantry will appreciate your continuing to provide items like canned meat, cereal, pasta/sauce, dried beans, rice, and soup, to help replace donations no longer coming from Nourishment Network. Peanut butter is plentiful at the moment; however, jam and jellies to top the peanut butter are welcome. All kids seem to love peanut butter, from three to a hundred.

Our generous volunteers this month for UUFSA include John Porter, Lou and Jill Cerulli (both dates!), Lenny Gemski, and Guy Reid. Cal Marshall and Pat Maguire also continue to be food shoppers for The Pantry whenever there is a fifth week in the month. Have you noticed that the nicest people always seem to be the ones who make those showers happen when they are needed. Thanks to all of our volunteers and to all of you who contribute food and/or money to help sustain this critical outreach program.

We welcome more volunteers. If you are interested shoot me an e-mail at watashiwasan@aol.com.

Guy Reid
Food Pantry Coordinator for UUFSA

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Easter Sunday, May 3, 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. For more information, contact a member of the Dining With Dignity Team:

Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Claudia Atkins



MUUvies







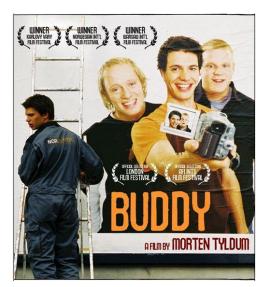
5/8/15 - *Cedar Rapids* (2011) 87 minutes - comedy - Rotten Tomato-85%. It's as conventional as its Midwestern setting, but *Cedar Rapids* boasts a terrific cast and a script that deftly blends R-rated raunch and endearing sweetness.



5/22/15 - *Buddy* an import from Norway. Kristoffer's love life is on the rocks. But what can you expect from a guy who likes to video tape himself and his friends

pulling outrageous stunts. When his video diary winds up at a popular T V show, it's not just his love life that turns upside down. A vibrant young cast explores the true meaning of friendship and love in a heart warming story about high jinks, crazy roommates and reality television. Solid beguiling characterizations writes Variety

6/12/15 - Lone Star (1996) 135 minutes - drama/mystery/romance - Rotten Tomato-93% When the skeleton of his murdered predecessor is found, Sheriff Sam Deeds unearths many other long-buried secrets in his Texas border town.



May Birthdays

- 3 Don Brandes
- 8 Pat Willott
- 16 Taffy Rook
- 18 Irene Klaw
- 22 Abe Cohen
- 24 Lyn Klarman
- 28 Jo McIntire



May Anniversaries

May 06 Brandes, Dot & Don

May 21 Wallace, Toni & Jim

May 21 Wilke, Anne & Bill



r

Beyond Our Congregation



Buckman Bridge Events

8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32244

Animals as Partners, Healers, Teachers, and Guides. Rev. Elizabeth Teal of the Ministry of Animals will be presenting a 4-part series at BBUUC beginning April 29 on the varied ways of including animals into our faith. Rev. Teal and the CUUPS group will delve into animals as partners, healers, teachers, and friends. What do they give us, and how do we care for them in return? This series of talks will investigate the many ways we can work in tandem and share our spiritual lives with other species. CUUPS continues this series on May 20, June 17, and Aug 19. Please contact cuups@bbuuc.org for more information.

WCM Film Series. The BBUUC Welcoming Congregation Ministry (WCM) is sponsoring a series of films highlighting issues that are familiar to the LGBTQ community. The May 15 movie will be *Anyone and Everyone*. Movie screenings will start at 7 p.m. All are welcome; there is no admission. For more information, please contact lgbtq_welcoming@bbuuc.org

Religious Texts and Society. On Thursday, May 7 at 7pm, BBUUC's Religious Texts and Society group will discuss The Holocaust, the Church and the Law of Unintended Consequences. Religious Texts and Society meets on a semi-monthly basis to discuss how religious history and documents reflect the societies from which they emerged, and how their influence has shaped the world we live in today. We meet the first Thursday of odd-numbered months at 7 p.m. All are welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Dale Crawford (treasurer@bbuuc.org) or Scott Cromar (pr_communications@bbuuc.org).

Universalist Convocation 2015. May 29 – 31. At Buckman Bridge. See poster on next page.

Florida Events

May 2, Social Justice Empowerment Workshop: "Unleash the Giant Within", First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches

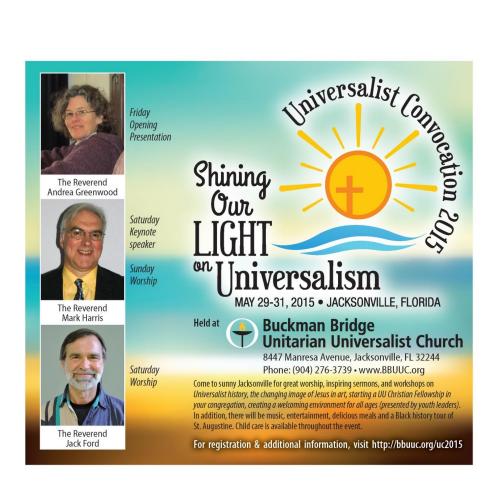
May 17, "Elder Abuse: More Common Than You Think," presented at The UU Church in the Pines, Weeki Wachee, 1:30-3:00.

May 29-31, 2015 Universalist Convocation at Buckman Bridge UU Church.

For more information about events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar

at:http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html





Happenings at The Mountain

Come to The Mountain for a great program at an amazing place in the Blue Ridge Mountains - join us and let your spirit soar!



A place. An experience. A way forward for all ages.

For more information about Mountain programs:

www.mountaincenters.org/calendar or 828.526.5838 or contact Lyn Klarman,

Priscilla Gulliver or Beverly Cree at UUFSA. Plan now to be part of these special programs. Register for early discount and assure you are included.

May 14 -17 UU Womenspirit

May 17 – 22 Mountain Hiking Retreat

May 22 - 25 Mountain Homecoming

May 25 - 29 Appalachian Spring

June 1-4 Mountain Hiking Retreat

June and July – Youth Camps for 6-year-olds through high school

June 29 – July 5 Fun and Adventure

July 21 - 24 Health and Wellness

July 26 - August 2 (also partial week programs) Intergenerational Family Camp

October 4 – 9 SUUFI – Southern UU Fall Institute



The view from Meditation Rock!

