



The Unigram

June 26, 2005

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

July 3

Reflections and Meditations on the Declaration of Independence Don Mohr and Friends

Join us for several reflections on the Declaration, some of the signers and a conversation about what it may mean for us 229 years after its adoption. We'll listen to several applicable works of music.

July 10

The Quaker Poet: A Meditative Reflection on Hymns of John Greenleaf Whittier Rev. Hal French

Several of John Greenleaf Whittier's many poems were transformed into hymns, and these reflect his deep inward spirituality, but also his strong commitment to social justice. You are invited to meditate on their message as these are read, with piano accompaniment, and other biographical information is shared.

July 17

Goodbye, Aunt Bee Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Aunt Bee of "The Andy Griffith Show" is the model of the perfect caregiver -- always putting the needs and wishes of others before her own. But when is caregiving caring and when is it codependency? This is an issue this new part-time minister needs to explore (and maybe some of you do, too).

July 24

The General Assembly Service Joe Long and Friends

What happens when 4000 UU's get together, in a state where the secretary of state claims the right to decide which religions are real? (Among other things, two of the three largest merchants in the display area sell books!) Come hear our delegates to General Assembly describe their experiences and inspirations from the wider world of UU'ism.

July 31

AN UNDECLARED WAR Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Have you noticed that the middle class and the working poor seem to be working harder and longer but are falling further behind, while the rich are getting richer? Is this an inevitable consequence of the new global economy, or is it a direct consequence of the powerful and the privileged hijacking our government for their own benefit? (Bet you can't guess my position).

Forum Topics for July

July 3 - Hypnosis
July 10 - What Is Personal Integrity?
July 17 - SC Dept. of Peace
July 24 - What is Success?

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Summer Discussion Group Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths, by Bruce Feiler

The discussion group will meet on July 3rd at 2:00 pm at the Fellowship. A few copies of the book are available here at \$12.95. Abraham, the spiritual forefather of the New Testament and architect of the Koran, is the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Bruce Feiler has a very engaging way of describing his journey to discover the "Real Abraham" while traveling in the Middle East. He has a unique and enlightening approach to the subject. Interested? Contact **Gertrude Edge** (xxx-xxxx)

Join the Fourth of July Celebration!

You are invited to celebrate the 4th of July with UU Friends at the Edges' lakeside back yard, starting at 4:00 PM. Please bring what you need for your own comfort: chairs, blankets, swim items and some food of your choice to share. Ice tea and beer will be available. We expect to have a wading pool for toddlers and water crafts for use on the lake. Contact **Gertrude and Ron Edge**, xxx-xxxx or gedge@sc.rr.com.

DIRECTIONS

Follow Leesburg Road going along Fort Jackson for about 6 miles and turn RIGHT on James Browder Road (one mile after you cross Lower Richland Blvd. The area is called Green Lakes. (After one block James Browder is called Green Lakes Drive.) Turn LEFT on Spreading Branch for a short block and then LEFT on Jadetree Drive. Go around a sharp turn and look for the party at 220 Jadetree, on the left.



Women's Book Group Continues Through Summer

The UUF Women's Book Club will continue meeting during the summer on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Next book is The Longings of Women, by Marge Piercy, to be discussed July 12 at the home of **Sally Guest**, 21 Summit Place, Columbia. Please contact Sally if you will attend: 254.6987 (h) and xxx-xxxx cell.

Subsequent books will be: August 9, Assassination Vacation, by Sarah Vowell and September 13, To the Lighthouse, by Virginia Wolfe. Hostesses to be announced.



Science & Religion Book Group

The Science and Religion Book Group will next meet in the Library at 7 PM on Thursday, July 14, to discuss A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness by V.S. Ramachandran. Call **Ann Johnson**, xxx-xxxx, or **Joe Long**, xxx-xxxx, for more information.

Seeds of Hope

Juicy peaches and tomatoes, crisp corn, and mouth watering melons are among the varieties of fresh produce offered at our Seeds of Hope stand, outside on the Heyward Street side of the building.

Volunteers are needed to staff the stand on Sunday mornings. Please contact Social Action Chair, **Jan Fulcher**, at xxx-xxxx.

Membership Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Membership Committee will be July 17, after the service. For more information contact **Larry Siegel**, xxx-xxxx.



New to UU?

The next Visitors' Orientation will be Sunday, July 24, after the service in Room 6 in the R.E. wing. This one-hour

meeting will give you a chance to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation in particular. Snacks will be served.

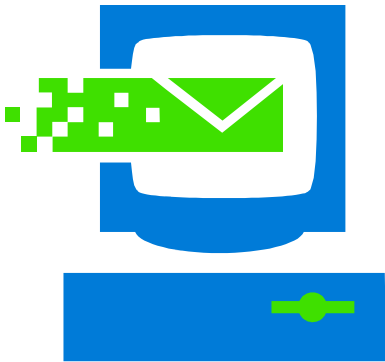
If you have any questions, please : **Larry Siegel** (xxx-xxxx) **Barbara Allen** (xxx-xxxx), **Carita Barr** (xxx-xxxx), **Beth Crawford** (xxx-xxxx), **Gertrude Edge** (xxx-xxxx) or **Joyce Rodgers** (xxx-xxxx).

September Set Monthly Potluck

Joyce Rodgers will host the September Set on July 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Anyone who would like to bring a dish and join the fun is cordially invited. If you have any questions, you may e-mail Joyce at jrrodgers@bellsouth.net or call xxx-xxxx.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E Pluribus Unigram E for Electronic Pluribus for two options!



Option 1:
Sign up to receive the Unigram by e-mail. This will be sent directly to your designated e-mail address on the day of publication! No more waiting for snail mail. The Unigram will be sent as a

Microsoft Word attachment. You can print the whole newsletter to hang on your fridge or print just the pages or articles you will need for reference.

Option 2: Don't want big files in your inbox? Can't open Word documents? Sign up to receive a personal e-mail notice when the Unigram is posted to the UUFC website. The e-mail will have a link to our website so you can click right to it. How easy is that?

To receive the news sooner, help cut postage expenses, and save paper, contact **Isabel Oake**, in the office, to sign up for one of the electronic options.

UUFC Bantu Refugee Task Force Formed

We have a wonderful opportunity to be co-sponsors of a Bantu refugee family already here in Columbia. As secondary sponsors we have no financial responsibility and need only offer our time and caring to help with transportation, teaching English, especially about bills and bank accounts, some other papers they need, helping coordinate children's issues with the schools, sharing holidays, cultural outings, etc. What an opportunity for us! To join, call **Dan Thompson**: xxx-xxxx.

I wanted to share with you a letter one of the children wrote at our Bantu Summer SPLASH Camp (to volunteer call Michelle at xxx-xxxx):

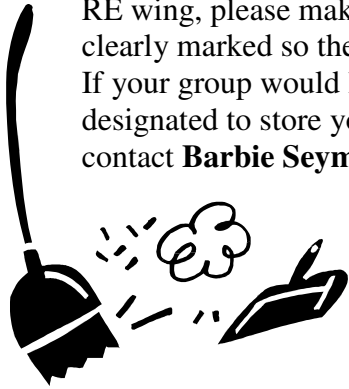
"My dear teacher,

This is your student Aden. You know we didn't learn when we were young in Somalia because there were no school. And then we came the United States of America. Here we found out is when we make mistakes the American students laugh at us and they have to know that one daytime we will do like them or more and we know more than them but we can't express so teacher here I want to say is bare with us. We will be okay the following month I pretty sure so I just wanted to tell you this is all about that I didn't understand. I want you to come and help me."

-15 year old eldest son of Bantu refugee widow in Columbia, SC

RE Wing Clean-Up: Claim Stored Items

The RE Committee will be working to clean up the RE wing this summer. If your group or committee stores items in the RE wing, please make sure that they are clearly marked so they don't get discarded. If your group would like a cabinet designated to store your items, please contact **Barbie Seymour** to see if space is available. She can be reached at xxx-xxxx or bseymour@scbar.org.



New Time for Voyagers

Voyagers, our young adult group will be meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. They will no longer be meeting at the Fellowship on Sunday evenings. Please call **Dan Thompson**, xxx-xxxx, for meeting location.

Congratulations! We Are A Fair Share Congregation!

This year the UUFC has contributed the full amount assessed by the Unitarian Universalist Association as our "Fair Share" in support of the mission, services and programs of the UUA. This is the first time we've accomplished this since 1986!

From the Finance Committee

Generosity is eternal,
circulating treasure



The following shows all offerings collected for the general operating fund. The figures do not reflect money collected and passed through to specific funds such as the Capital fund, Minister's Discretionary Fund, or TJ District or UUA dues. Our adopted budget for FY0405 reminds us that we need a minimum of \$1875 per week in offerings to run our Fellowship.

May 29	\$1227	June 12	\$2119
June 5	\$1518	June 19	\$753

Thank you for your generosity.

Religious Education

Calendar items: *July 3* – no RE programming. Children are invited to attend the service with their families. Children may not hang out in the RE wing as there will be no adult supervision. Only children 3 and under are allowed in the nursery.

July 10 – RE Committee meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Summer RE Program

Carolina Fence Project. The children have been working very hard to prepare our beautiful native habitat. Please take a moment to visit the garden in the courtyard between the main building and the library. SPECIAL THANKS to our tireless volunteers Trish Jerman, Caroline Eastman, and Tammy Jenkins for leading us in this wonderful springtime project. We also want to thank those of you who donated items from your own gardens to make ours so special.

Summer Music Extravaganza. All children are welcome to join us each Sunday in July for a musical experience like no other. If you have a favorite instrument, bring it along and join in our joyful noise-making. Parents with (or without) musical talent are still needed to help with this program on July 24 and July 31. Please contact **Gertrude Edge** (xxx-xxxx) if you are interested in helping out.

Super Hero Sundays Adult volunteers are still needed to help with our August RE program. If you work with people with physical disabilities, particularly spinal cord injuries, or if you have an special interest in issues of safety or accommodation and accessibility, please contact **Joan Watterson** (xxx-xxxx)

R. E. Fall Programming Notes

We were saddened to learn of the resignation of our beloved Director of Religious Education, Hope Andonovska. Hope has taken a full time teaching position and we want to wish her all the best. Our appreciation for the gifts Hope gave to our congregation over the past year can not be adequately expressed in words. She brought fresh, new ideas and contagious energy and enthusiasm. She will be missed.

Without a DRE, the congregation must come together to share the work of running a Religious Education program for our wonderful children. We need your help. Please review the following list of responsibilities and contact RE Committee Chair, **Barbie Seymour** (xxx-xxxx) if you are interested in doing your part for the program.

Social Action Team member: We have a coordinator. We need two or three other team members to help plan and execute social action projects for the children 4K-6th grade. Social action will be scheduled about one Sunday per month. Responsibilities of the team will be planning, purchasing supplies, supervising & assisting the children, publicizing and communication with parents, reporting attendance, set-up & clean-up, etc.

Children's Chapel Team member: We have a coordinator. We need one or two other team members to help plan and lead worship services for 4K-6th grade. Chapel will be scheduled about one Sunday per month. Responsibilities of the team will be planning, purchasing supplies, supervising the children, publicizing and communication with parents, maintaining attendance records, set-up & clean-up, etc.

Sunday School Coordinator for 4K-6th grade: Curriculum has already been selected. Sunday School will be held two Sundays per month. Responsibilities will include recruiting and training teachers, purchasing supplies, coordinating substitutes, general supervision/presence in RE wing on Sunday, snack, reporting attendance, publicizing & communication with parents, etc.

Sunday School Coordinator for 7th-8th grade: Curriculum has already been selected. Sunday School for this grade level will be held every Sunday except holidays and intergenerational service Sundays. Responsibilities will include recruiting and training teachers, planning social action projects and field trips, purchasing supplies, coordinating substitutes, reporting attendance, publicizing & communication with parents, etc.

Senior High Sunday School Advisors: We have a coordinator. Curriculum has already been selected. Sunday School for this grade level will be held every Sunday except holidays and intergenerational service Sundays.

Youth Group Coordinator: Responsibilities include planning and supervising social activities for Youth including lock-ins, parties, CONS, trips as well as fundraising projects to pay for those activities, recruiting chaperones, enforcing conduct and safety rules, set-up & clean-up, publicizing & communicating with parents.

Registration Coordinator: Work registration table four Sundays in August and first two Sundays in September, provide information about the program to parents, provide registration information to program Coordinators, maintain registration records.

Holiday Service Coordinator: Consult with Worship Committee and plan and lead one or more intergenerational Sunday worship services (options are Halloween, Thanksgiving, Winter Holiday, Easter/Flower Communion, Bridging Ceremony).

Coordinator for Time for the Children: Plan story or other activity for the children at the beginning of the service; recruit and coordinate volunteers; communicate with Worship committee.

Coordinator for Playground Volunteers: Recruit adults to supervise the children during services when no RE programming is scheduled.

As you can see there is much to be done. Any program/activity that does not have a coordinator committed by August will be suspended until the volunteer slots are filled.

The Unigram

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia
2701 Heyward Street
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The Mission of our Fellowship is:

- To nurture and respect each other in our spiritual growth and pursuit of meaning,
- To create a welcoming and engaging environment through which we work for positive change in our community and the world.

Unigram Deadlines

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **5:00 p.m. July 24**. Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to Isabel Oake at UUFC@bigfoot.com with a copy to iioake@hotmail.com. Legible hard copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.