

also hope to develop both interest and skill in landscaping and home improvement projects, since my new status as a homeowner seems to require both.

>>>>>>> SPAFER <<<<<<<<

South Points Association for Exploring Religion, is a group of individuals in the MidSouth area who enjoy meeting periodically and discussing religious issues in a free and respectful atmosphere.

SPAFER also from time to time sponsors speakers who provide different and stimulating insights into religion questions. We all know how critically important this kind of religious education is for the MidSouth. With conservative Christian churches speaking so loudly in public, it is easy to paste the conservative Christian label across the MidSouth and ignore the rich spiritual life that is to be found in this region. It can be difficult to hear other voices, other ideas, other perspectives.

Because of its location near the University of Mississippi, Oxford has been a center of thought

and culture. We can join with SPAFER as a way of bringing speakers who would not otherwise be heard in our area. The organization is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, and the speakers that they bring address audiences in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Tupelo, and, with some encouragement, Oxford, too. Don Manning-Miller of Rust College, Ruth Jaekel of the Tupelo UU Congregation, and Linda Foshee of Our Home are some of the individuals who participate in SPAFER. It is a 501(c)-3 non-profit organization, formed in 2000 to fill the need for a forum in the Mid-South to explore religious questions that orthodox religions will not address, open to individual membership. There are a number of free resources on the Web site and they also have a newsletter. To learn more and to join, here is the SPAFER Web site address: <http://www.spafer.org>, or you can contact them at SPAFER, Inc. P.O. Box 130267 Birmingham, AL 35213 (205) 252-9573.

Submitted by: Sharon Martinez

The board of UUCO and the editor wish everyone a safe and sane new year