

# UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

June 2008

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June 15 - Father's Day, with Shanna Flaschka as service leader

June 22 - book talk led by John Lober, on Eckhart Tolle's new book, *A New Earth:Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* (Oprah's Book Club, Selection 61), with Anne Quinney as service leader

June 29 - a recipe (and goodies!) to share, led by Anne Quinney; bring your favorite recipes and share the story behind them, as well as a tasty sample.

## -----HOW TO FIND US-----

1. Travel on College Hill Road towards Clear Creek.

2. At the intersection with Old Sardis Road, go past the stop sign and continue straight on CR 314 for 3.5 miles.

3. Turn right onto CR 198 (you should see a white sign saying "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford").

4. Go .2 miles. UU Hall, a light-colored building with a trailer next to it, is on your left immediately past CR 145.

## -----ACCOLADES FOR GRADUATES-----

Graduation season is upon us, and UUCO is proud of the success of our youth!

Sierra Gelbard, daughter of Elaine Gelbard and Dan Mattern, is a May 2008 graduate of Pomona College in California, earning a BA in psychology.

Riki Roederer, daughter of Laura Antonow and David Roederer, graduated from Oxford High School. Her immediate plans are to work at Newk's and participate in a photographic trip to Tanzania. In the fall she will begin studies at Northwest Community College in Senatobia, where she plans to pursue her interests in photography through the communications program.

Mac Warren, son of Ann Phillippi and Mel Warren, also graduated from Oxford High School, where he was elected to the OHS Hall of Fame. In the fall he will attend City College of New York as a student in their honors program.

**TUPELO GROUP:** The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tupelo welcomes visitors. They meet the first, second, third and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. in Temple B'Nai Israel, 1301 Marshall Street. Website: [www.UUTupelo.org](http://www.UUTupelo.org).

## -----SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JUNE-----

Our services start at 11:00 a.m. and childcare is provided.

June 1 - Sarah Sheffield, "A Glimpse into (My) Celtic Paganism"

June 8 - Community Voice

## -----HUMAN RIGHTS BANNER ACROSS AMERICA--AND AT UUCO-----

Sometime early in the month of June, you and

others passing by our church will see a banner hanging outside our building. The banner will carry this message: "The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford says that torture is a moral issue."

The Board of Trustees voted to participate in this action after being contacted by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, formed by progressive religious organizations and human rights groups from around the country (you can read more about them at <http://www.nrcat.org>). NRCAT created the "Banners Across America" campaign, asking religious groups from each state to volunteer to hang an anti-torture banner at their church or meeting place.

In addition to hanging the banner, the Board hopes to promote Sunday programming and youth discussions around the themes of the UU principles that our anti-torture action upholds: the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the practice of justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

UUCO is not alone in Mississippi: **five** UU congregations have stood up to represent our state in "Banners Across America." In comparison to other states where churches of many denominations, synagogues, religious orders and college religious groups have joined the cause, **the UU congregations are the only Mississippi churches that are participating.**

Unitarians really do make a difference in Mississippi, and we're putting Mississippi on the map!

**-----IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PAY YOUR 2007-2008 PLEDGE! -----**

The Stewardship Committee reminds us: June is the last month of the fiscal year and the time to complete pledge commitments. UU's are conscientious but they're also busy. If anyone is uncertain about how much they have paid or what they owe, our intrepid trustee Paula Shanks will be

glad to research it for you. Get in touch with her at [paulashanks@bellsouth.net](mailto:paulashanks@bellsouth.net).

**-----ANNOUNCEMENTS-----**

The Soto Zen Oxford Sunday morning meditation group is once again open to the public after some needed restructuring by its four founding members with the help of Les Kaye.

The main differences are:

1. We now officially follow the form of practice originated by Shunryu Suzuki in California.
2. We have articulated the protocol of our practice in writing. It is helpful for new and returning participants to read this document in advance.

After orientation, participants are welcome to attend any or all segments of the schedule. Newcomers who have not yet been oriented simply join in on what they observe.

Here is the new Sunday morning schedule:

- 7:00 newcomer orientation (by appointment)
- 7:30 zazen (sitting meditation)
- 8:00 kinhin (walking meditation)
- 8:10 zazen
- 8:40 chanting & bowing
- 8:50 work period
- 9:00-9:30 Dharma discussion & tea. Members take turns leading group discussions based on successive chapters from Shunryu Suzuki's 'Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind' while sharing tea.

**Newcomers** should attend the 7:00 instruction period before their first or second session. Please make an appointment with Jimmyle (or if she is unavailable, with Denton) in advance so that one of them will be there to meet you and can provide you with the new protocol ahead of time.

For more information contact Jimmyle Listenbee at [jlistenb@earthlink.net](mailto:jlistenb@earthlink.net) or 662-281-1968, and Denton Marcotte at [denton@ms.metrocast.net](mailto:denton@ms.metrocast.net) or 662-513-0177.

-----UU VISITORS TO OXFORD-----

We have received two requests to host Unitarians in our area, one from an individual and another from a student exchange organization.

From Sandi Johnston, a UU from Albuquerque:  
“I am a UU (and a school psychologist) that will be attending a one-week intensive class on Advanced Play Therapy at Ole Miss from about July 20-26th. I'm writing in hopes of finding a quiet, pet-free room to rent in the home of a UU member that lives close to the University. Have been surprised that my craigslist postings seeking a room to rent haven't led to one response. I'm clean, respectful, responsible, and can pay about \$30 per night.

“Please pass along my info if you know of anyone who'd be interested in renting a room. And if you've any leads for me to follow up on, I'd really appreciate it. Thanks,  
Sandi Johnston  
505 934 8314  
ABQ, NM”

The second request is from the Center for Cultural Interchange: “Host families are needed for Unitarian students wishing to continue in their faith while experiencing a new culture and high school. Students arrive with own spending money, insurance and speak English. Please open your doors to a Unitarian student and help us while we assist in changing the world, one friendship at a time!” You can call 1-888-679-0044 or go to [www.cci-exchange.com](http://www.cci-exchange.com) for more information.

**-NEWS FROM UU'S, DEAR BUT NOT HERE-**

An update on Terry and Dinah Swan: The Swans arrived safely in Durango and are getting settled. They report: “The moving van, with a somewhat cranky Ukrainian driver, arrived too, with everything intact. We note that the Durango Unitarians meet at 10 AM and wonder if they're crazy or what. We miss you all. We live at: 24-B Coalbank Drive; Durango, CO 81301.

970-247-1995. All the best!”

Toni and Billy Stevens plan to visit Oxford on June 19 or 20, with a stay of about 10 days. They would love to see their UU friends while they are here. An e-mail to reach them before the visit is [billy@carrom.org](mailto:billy@carrom.org). They can be reached by phone at 919-698-3151 (Billy) and 919-698-3150 (Toni).

-----A CLOSING THOUGHT AND A CLOSING PHOTO-----

Thanks to Ruby Reithel for the poem that follows, read at the May 4 youth-led service about hunger. And thanks to the whole youth group, guided by Ross Haenfler and Skadi Snook, for following words with action to alleviate hunger in the world. Be sure to ask them about what they're doing, and what you can do as well.

Hunger

The problem is a blindness, plain  
The consequence is pain

Words that absolve responsibility  
And say “we're not to blame”  
An ignorance of life

Should not the bounty  
Build up the bruised  
And the many more sustain?

When rows of wheat  
Such small portions reap  
Can you blame them, but to weep?

Do the strong not catch the fallen  
When their shattered bodies crumble

Sullen faces fade to shadow  
Enveloped by invisible need  
They begin to stumble, crumble  
Under burden of nature's creed

World maps and numbers  
Plans and blunders

Struggle to reflect on choice  
As one more  
Plague of blackness, empty  
Steals the breath from one more voice  
—Ruby Reithel

And a final photo, with thanks to our group of UU's who participated in the May 24 workshop on religious education entitled "Small Power" held at the UU Church of Jackson. A report on that workshop will appear in an upcoming newsletter. Here you can see Paul Goggans (from behind) and Susie Adams, cheerfully facing Gail Stratton's camera. In between are Connie Goodbread, Life-Span Program Consultant for the Mid-South District, and Susan Knipe. We thank our busy members who gave a Saturday to learn more about religious education for our benefit.



-----**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**-----  
Please let Luanne know of corrections and additions. You can reach her by phone at 234-3833, and at [lbuchana@olemiss.edu](mailto:lbuchana@olemiss.edu),

In summers past we have taken a break from newsletter communications, but a newsletter is possible if there is news to put in it! You can send submissions to [uuoxford@uuoxford.com](mailto:uuoxford@uuoxford.com), putting "for the newsletter" in the subject line. You also can call Luanne at the number above.