

Sunday at 11a.m. at Temple B'Nai Israel 1301 Marshall St. Tupelo. We would love to have you come over. Check out our website, <http://www.UUTupelo.org>

>>>> COMMUNITY CORNER <<<<<

This is a space in our newsletter reserved for an informal exchange of tidbits. Send in a line or two about what is happening in your life: ideas, losses, accomplishments, etc.

Another way to stay in touch and stay connected!

Several of our UU youth helped to make the annual Oxford High School musical a success. Mac and Winston were in the cast, and Matilda on the crew, of Bye Bye Birdie. Good work, you guys!

Mike Hoffheimer's father passed away this last week.

Elaine has ordered Volume 2 of Evensong, a sharing/discussion/exploration program that many of us enjoyed a few years ago. If you are interested in making connections with others and exploring your beliefs in a small-group circle, be thinking about what day and time each month would be best to reinstate this or a similar program.

We have some talented musicians in our midst.

- Joseph Hoffheimer has been named first chair clarinetist in the State Lions Band. He will compete in Boston with the band this summer.

Jean Hoffheimer won the position of first chair flute in two North Mississippi band clinics in February.

- Jillian Gelbard Mattern attended a piano festival in Corinth in February, where she received the highest possible ratings in solo playing, sight reading, and hymns (she is learning hymns from the UU Hymnal so that we can have an accompanist before long).

YOUR NEWS GOES HERE. Send it to John (at uuoxford@bellsouth.net) anytime with the heading "For Newsletter Community Corner" and he will save it for the next newsletter.

**>>>> MIDSOUTH DISTRICT <<<<<<<
MISSISSIPPI STRATEGIC PLANNING
HAS UUCO PARTICIPATION**

As one good result of Hurricane Katrina, a Strategic

Planning Team is being gathered for Mississippi UU congregations. The Team has representatives from all six Mississippi UU congregations, is joined by Rev. Jacqueline Luck and Rev. Doak Mansfield who serve in the state and Dr. Wayne Clark, a fundraising consultant with the UUA, and is facilitated by District Exec Eunice Benton.

Luanne Buchanan and Gail Stratton represent UUCO on the Team.

As part of gathering information for the team, each congregation was asked to contribute answers to three questions. At UUCO all members and friends were invited to contribute answers to the questions, and then the Board collated the answers. UUCO's responses are valuable not only for the Mississippi effort but for UUCO members and friends to see. Here they are:

UUCO's Responses to the Questions for Mississippi UU Congregations:

1. What are the greatest opportunities you would name for your congregation as 2006 begins? (Name three key ones.)

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Completion of building
2. Community outreach and recognition of UUCO in the Oxford-Lafayette community
3. Expanded communication with members and non-members (web-site, e-mail and newsletter)
4. College outreach

2. What are the most challenging barriers to your congregation's becoming 'all that it can be'?

MOST CHALLENGING BARRIERS:

1. Burn out of lay leaders
2. Financing goals

3. What are the issues or goals (or, other words) that are your congregation's 'growing edge issues' for the next couple of years? (More members, ministry, staff, building/space, RE, programs, outreach to the community, visibility?)

GROWING EDGE ISSUES:

1. Coherent RE program from birth to adulthood
2. Professional staffing to assume many responsibilities now shared by lay leaders

"Living Simply, Living Spiritually, Living

Sustainably” 2006 MSD Annual Assembly
April 28- 30, 2006
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta

Mark your calendars now! It's April 28-30 in Atlanta!

The 2006 MSD Annual Assembly will focus on the 'green theme': “Living Simply, Living Spiritually, Living Sustainably” and spotlight southern writer and environmentalist Janisse Ray as the keynote speaker.

Author, Naturalist, and Environmental Activist
Janisse Ray
Keynote Speaker for the Mid-South District Annual Assembly
April 28-30, 2006

Janisse Ray grew up in a junkyard on U.S. Route 1 outside Baxley, GA. She made her way from there to North Georgia College in Dahlonega and then onto Montana and Mississippi and now Vermont, with trips home to Georgia in between. Ever since she left home at the age of seventeen, she has held the beauty and wonder of the pine woods and wiregrass of southeast Georgia next to her heart. Today she actively works to preserve the natural beauty of this area. She is the perfect choice to deliver the keynote at this Annual Assembly focusing on Living Simply, Living Spiritually, Living Sustainably because these ideals are promoted in all of her writing and put into practice in her everyday life.

Ms. Ray is the author of "The Ecology of a Cracker Childhood," " Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home," and her newest book, "Pinhook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land." Don't miss the opportunity to meet this extraordinary woman and to hear her speak. Her books will be on sale in the bookstore and she will be available for book signing as well.

More information, including the other sessions and registration, is available online at www.uua.org/msd.

The weekend's events will begin with the traditional Service of the Lively Tradition on Friday evening and continue with a full line-up of speakers, workshops, and good UU fellowship all

day Saturday.

A bookstore will be open throughout the conference, featuring books by Janisse Ray (she will sign!), materials from the UU Ministry for Earth, and other UU resources and writings.

Closing Worship on Saturday afternoon will center around a Bridging Ceremony, celebrating youth who are moving up to being young adults. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta will host and invites all attendees to stay over for worship on Sunday morning.

Watch the Mid-South website for more information and registration forms.
See you in Atlanta in April!

More information on the Assembly:
MidSouth Annual Assembly
April 28-30, 2006
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta

Mark your calendars now. Make your plans to attend. Begin to organize car pools, make hotel reservations or arrange home hospitality. You do not want to miss this MidSouth District event! Nursery care and children's activities are available, at no additional cost. Don't miss the Good News from the Service of the Lively Tradition on Friday evening. On Saturday there will be a keynote address from author and environmental activist, Janisse Ray.

There will also be a Bridging Ceremony for the Youth. Be present to help move them from teenagers to young adults. Saturday night enjoy the talents of folks in the district at the Coffeehouse (bring your instruments). A bookstore will be open throughout the conference. You can purchase everything from jewelry to meditation manuals, from postcards to tote bags, and, of course, books! Janisse Ray will be in the bookstore providing signed copies of her books as well. You folks who like to sing, come early to choir practice, and join in the Amazing Choir of blended voices from around the District.

Of course there will be lots of "green" information and sessions. You can find out what other congregations are doing as they work to earn the

honor of becoming known as a Green Sanctuary. Share your own congregations' efforts. The UU Ministry for the Earth manuals will be available. Dr. Sharon Roberts, whom many of you had a chance to hear at the Healthy Congregations Conference in Auburn last fall, will be back along with members of the MSD Green Team.

More information, including registration, is available online at www.uua.org/msd. Be the first in your congregation to get signed up. See you in Atlanta on April 28th!

BEACON PRESS WEB-SITE

Here is good news! Beacon Press continues to operate within the parameters established by the Board of Trustees. And now they have made it easier for you to continue to support them by Buying Beacon Books on-line. Tom Hallock, Beacon's Associate Publisher, announces that Beacon has just launched its revamped web site: www.beacon.org

The new site should now be the most current source of information on the full range of Beacon titles. Here are some the new features:

1. The site is fully searchable by title, author, isbn and category.
2. Content on backlist books has been greatly expanded and updated: full descriptions and covers

on hundreds of new titles. (still a work in progress)

3. All Beacon books are now available for purchase. Free shipping via media mail on domestic orders. (Bulk orders still go through Houghton Mifflin for the book trade and UUA Bookstore for UU congregations)

4. Desk and Exam copies for educators can now be ordered online.

5. Expanded FAQ with a section for booksellers and librarians; directions to the press; recent media attention for the press, etc.

6. Affiliate programs for qualified organizations, offering a discount to their members and a rebate to the organization.

7. The site also has two points of entry especially for UUs. One is a category listing "UU Interest", with a pull down menu of books on anti racism, bgl matters, the environment, democracy and worship. The other is on the top bar menu and contains resources for UU congregations and a home page listing books that will be of special interest to UUs. And, as always, beacon.org has teacher's guides, reading group guides, suggestions for freshman year reading programs, congregational discussion guides, rights lists, first chapters and a history of the press. Since the new web site is built on our database, it will be regularly updated with prices, availability, review quotes, jacket art, awards and more.