



New River News

September 2009

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
911 South Kanawha Street, Beckley

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Meditation: To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly, to listen to stars and birds, to babies and sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never. In a word, to let the spiritual unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common. This is to be my symphony. William Henry Channing

President's Update

The event in the spotlight this month is **Nature Spirituality Alliance Day on September 26** at the Appalachian South Folklife Center near Pipestem State Park. Everyone who holds nature and the environment sacred and respects varied spiritual paths is welcome. The last page of this month's newsletter has full information with a schedule for NSA Day. A **Membership Orientation** is being developed and is tentatively set for **October 17**. Those considering choosing Unitarian Universalism as their faith tradition and our Fellowship as their spiritual home are encouraged to inquire about the orientation. Attending the orientation does not obligate anyone to become a member. Please contact Al Youmans (497-3810) if you would like more information. We are seeking volunteers to be part of a Caring Committee to regularly contact folks experiencing illness or some other challenge, or those simply

unable for whatever reason to attend Fellowship activities. This is a type of pastoral care. If you are compassionate, notice someone's absence, and enjoy contacting folks to find out how they are doing, let them know we miss them and we care, and find out if they have a need we can help address, then please consider being a Caring Committee volunteer. We also are seeking volunteers to sign up as Sunday morning greeters to welcome everyone – visitors, new members, and long-time members – with a smile and a handshake or, if appropriate, a hug. Volunteer assignments are made according to your own preferences and availability. To sign up, please see me.
Evelyn Phillips, President

Treasurer's Report

As promised, this is a partial look at where our money went this past fiscal year (July to June). Our biggest single grouping was our Reserves category. (By "Reserves," I mean I set aside money every

month to cover expenses in these categories, as opposed to paying as the expenses come up.) We spent \$1,750 on speakers this past year (primarily Kelly Kaufman) and \$1,452 on Maintenance expenses. Insurance for both 911 Kanawha and 312 Maxwell Hill was \$1,027, and charity contributions to Helping Hands and Pine Haven were \$460. Rental income and property taxes on the Maxwell Hill property were \$498 (which we have to pay even though we are a church, because it is not our church sanctuary). For Lay Leadership, we spent \$569 (Summer Institute primarily). Our two final Reserves categories were our obligations to the UUA (\$882) and the OMD (\$441). Thus, the total Reserves expenses were \$7,079, or 33.6% of all the money we spent last year. Next month, we'll continue to look at last year's expenses. As always, if you have any questions on this, please let me know! *Cathy Abernathy, Treasurer*

Joys and Concerns

We have several joys. Our best wishes for happiness go to Amanda Lilly and Bobby Stowers as they start their lives together as a married couple. It was a great joy to see Burchell Pierce at a recent service after some time away. It also was a joy to have Matthew and Duncan, the grandsons of Bev and Tom Kinraide, join us at two recent Sunday services.

We continue to keep Burchell Pierce, Dolores Wender, and Wally Johnson in our thoughts and hearts for the best possible health and well-being.

Upcoming Events

Our **Monthly Luncheon Fundraiser** will be held on Sunday, **September 6** following our service. All proceeds support the Fellowship. If you would like to volunteer to bring a dish to the October luncheon, please call Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

The **Pagan Circle** will have an informal gathering at 1:00 p.m. after the Fellowship luncheon on **September 6**. For more information, contact Al Youmans at (304)497-3810 or yurya2@yahoo.com.

Amnesty International

For information about meetings, call John Newby at (304) 252-4016.

The **Native American Group** will meet at the Fellowship on Saturday, **September 12**, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

The board meeting will be held on **September 20** at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Wally and Joy Johnson following the service. Joy will serve a wonderful lunch. For more information or transportation, contact Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

Pagan Circle Meeting

Sunday, September 27, 1:00 pm A formal meeting with a service and pagan ritual will be conducted. Members and non-members of the Pagan Circle are welcome to attend. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810 or yurya2@yahoo.com.

Announcement

If you are parking at the Fellowship, please pull in facing the fence or on the street. We are trying to preserve the grass. Thanks!

Sunday Services

@ 11:00

9-6 The Meditative Epiphany Path to Enlightenment

Yvonne and Gavin Frost will lead the program after a brief look at the Sephiroth and the old Tantric path. They will examine the possibilities of using the five levels inherent in the triple circle and its central pentanfaen to develop similar personal multi meditative techniques to gain enlightenment.

9-13 Cooking Herbs / Magical Herbs

Teresa Rose will present the service.

9-20 Fall Equinox / Mabon

Teresa Rose and John Newby will lead the service.

9-27 Cutting the Cord – Releasing Permanency

In our everyday lives, we make contracts and commitments which we intend to be permanent in this life and sometimes into the next. When these relationships transition, they have a tendency to hold us back. Explore ways to move on, reclaim your spiritual magic and power after the breach of contract experience from the loss of a partner, parent, child, job or other life commitment. Performed by Ron Walks with Fire & Raven.

Other Events of Interest

The **Beckley Drum Circle** will gather the first and third Saturdays of each month starting at 6 p.m. Bring a friend, a chair or blanket, and your drum(s)! A few loaner drums will be available. There will not be fire. The planned location is New River Park, the grassy area behind the pool & tennis courts. Folks may have to park at the Exhibition Coal Mine area and walk up if gates are closed. The tentative rain location is the pavilion near the state building downtown. More information is online at <http://beckleydrumcircle.ning.com>.

Please email submissions for upcoming newsletters to newriveruuf@yahoo.com and apuzzuoli@frontiernet.net.



Nature Spirituality Alliance Day

September 26, 2009

Where: Appalachian South Folklife Center in Summers County near Pipestem State Park just off Rt. 20 between Athens and Hinton.

Time: From 9:00 a.m. to just after sunset.

Events: Speakers and presenters will share their expertise on topics related to alternative spiritualities, environmentalism, and sustainable living. Also, there will be children's activities, Neo-Pagan and Native American ritual, live music, possible drumming circle, vendors, beautiful outdoor setting, networking, fellowship and fun.

The purpose of the Nature Spirituality Alliance Day (NSAD) is to hold an annual event in the Southern Appalachian Mountains that focuses on the parallel themes of Nature and Spirituality. The NSAD will serve as a gathering event for folks who feel a deep sense of awe and wonder at all the beauty and mysteries of nature and who seek inner development and spiritual growth.

This is a welcoming and safe family- and children-friendly event where spiritual beliefs and experiences can be shared. Activities will facilitate opportunities for people to learn about alternative Earth-Centered Spiritualities, to form groups or networks of kindred spirits, and explore ways to honor and protect our environment and the planet which gave us life.

A tentative schedule follows:

10:00 A.M. **Opening Ritual**, "Past and Future," presented by Gavin and Yvonne Frost.

1:00 P.M. **Alternative Spiritualities** presented by Al Youmans, Chief of the New River UU Pagan Circle.

3:00 P.M. **Spiritual Practice Round Table**, moderated by Al Youmans. This will be an open forum for leaders from any Spiritual Path (Pagan, Abrahamic, Buddhist, Eastern, or other) and others who may simply want to learn about alternative and orthodox spiritual paths, where we can share our beliefs, network, and possibly plan future events or invite folks to join us.

4:00 P.M. **Wicca 501**, presented by Gavin and Yvonne Frost.

6:00 P.M. **Chocolate Ritual**, presented by Ron Walks With Fire and Raven.

7:00 P.M. **Closing Ritual** to ask for the healing of the planet, led by Torula Chanlett-Avery, a local leader from the Reclaiming Witchcraft Tradition. There will be a modest bonfire with this ritual.

Planned children's activities will last all afternoon and will be organized and supervised by experienced teachers.

There is no fee for this event but voluntary donations will be solicited to defray costs and to go toward planning next year's event. Signs on Rt. 20 near Pipestem State Park will direct people to the event. It is uncertain whether food vendors will be at the event, so attendees should plan to bring their own food and drink for the day. Professional security is also being provided at the event. No alcohol or weapons are allowed.

More information is online at <http://naturespiritualityalliance.ning.com> In the forum section, click on Nature Spirituality Alliance and you can post a question. Also, go to www.folklifecenter.org to see pictures of the location, get driving directions, reserve a campsite or bunk in the dorm. For further information contact Al Youmans at yurya2@yahoo.com or (304) 497-3810.

THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person,
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.