



THE UUFM VOICE

AUGUST 2009
Volume 48, Issue 3

AUGUST 2009 PROGRAMS

AUGUST 2 "POETRY READING"

Members, friends, and guests are invited to share and listen to words we find meaningful or inspirational. While reading from a favorite poet is an option, we encourage people to share poems they have written themselves. We will also read poems from recently departed members, offering an opportunity to learn about those we may have had the misfortune not to have known. Bring something you have written or come to listen! Contact/convener is Charley Kempthorne at 564-1118 or charleykempthorne@dishmail.net

AUGUST 9 "MORALITY AND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE"

From Fairy Tales to "Twilight" novels, what stories grip children and young people and what do we--writers, parents, gift givers, teachers, friends--hope they will take away from these tales? Members and friends--young and old--are invited to bring a favorite childhood story to share Contact/convener is Jennifer Askey at 537-1272 or jda127@gmail.com

AUGUST 16 "TRUE INTENT"

Reverend Michael Nelson reflects, "Unless we sometimes enter the endless cycle of time, it's difficult to sense the comprehensive reason for our existence as individuals, members of the UU fellowship, and world community. Grounding ourselves in natural rhythms allows awareness to expand from a limited sense of self and purpose to one that becomes unified and universal." Contact Michael at 913 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

AUGUST 23 EIGHTH ANNUAL UUFM MUSICALE

Our many talented members and friends will share vocal and instrumental performances. We are grateful to all who contribute to this popular annual program including the performers, accompanists, and outstanding music and audio volunteers. Learn more from Music Committee chair Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu. Michael Nelson convenes.

AUGUST 30 "AT HOME IN THE HOLY LAND"

Fellowship member Reverend Thea Nietfeld shares, "The overall question I brought on my May-June trip to Israel/Palestine concerned who lives there and why; what does it mean to make a home on the bit of land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River? How do Unitarian Universalists make the world our common home--wherever we are?" Contact/convener is Cathy Hedge at 537-1101 or cjhedgewriter@yahoo.ca

UU FELLOWSHIP OF MANHATTAN

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SUNDAY SERVICES
begin at 10:45 AM
at 481 ZEANDALE ROAD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE PAGE

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Michael's Musings | 2 |
| RE / Youth Activities | 3 |
| Reflections / DRE's Schedule | 3 |
| Activities and Events | 4 |
| Social Action | 5 |
| Volunteer Opportunities | 5 |
| Words from Our Chair | 6 |
| Executive Board Mtg | 6 |
| Coffee and Greeting Teams | 7 |
| Administrator's Schedule | 7 |
| Member Info / Subscriptions | 7 |
| A Note from Edith Hinrichs | 8 |
| August Calendar | 9 |

CALL FOR POETRY

Our program on August 2 is an audience participation Sunday. We're asking people to bring in poems they have written (or, in a pinch, something from a favorite poet) so that we get to know each other more by sharing, in the warm and encouraging environment of our fellowship, words we find meaningful. Please feel encouraged to bring something you have written, or bring in poems from others of our community who are no longer with us. Learn more from Alley Stoughton at 341-3041 or stough@k-state.edu



UUFM is a
WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Learn more about the Welcoming Congregation initiative at
www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml

The largest skink I've seen lives under our cement porch.



Almost a foot long, it bathes in the sun on the stone pavers in front of the porch. Its scales gleam in a geometric pattern that bedazzles. It looks as well fed as the bunnies who favor my patch of Swiss chard. I'd never classify Skinky as plump. When necessary it moves

into its cave of safety in a blink of an eye. The cylindrical body holds the pent up energy of a torpedo. When it's just going about its business it's all slick and liquid ease. When I move too close it blasts into its dark cave.

Skinky is a member of the "cosmopolitan family of pleurodont lizards." Why they don't have sockets for their teeth in the inner surface of the alveolar ridge is beyond me. The skinks I've observed don't seem to have a wide interest in many parts of the world either. They barely tolerate me and I've never seen them hanging out together on a rock wall. They seem to be loners, unless they have a private social hall where their world rocks and insider trading occurs. I assume they don't have a complete aversion to each other, because small skinks also patiently wait for lunch to land close by.

I enjoy watching Skinky relax in the sun, but if I had the inclination, I'm not sure I'd choose these lizards to study seriously. The choices for sustained inquiry are vaster. I might choose the Ouachita map turtle. Their post orbital, oblong spot fascinates, as does its numerous yellow lines. But it may not be such a good choice for a closer and prolonged inspection since they are highly secretive and acutely sensitive to any disturbance. The damsel fly appeals, at least the *Enallagma civile*, who sometimes has a blue thorax. They are graceful and active over still waters. The diaphanous wing light reflected in a pool on a tributary of Mill Creek could be just what I need to be in fuller synch with summer rhythms; but the Kansas City house must be packed up and there's a contract pending on our West Spring Creek house. Arranging, coordinating, filling hundreds of boxes ... often feels like waves pounding ...

Soon we will be out of the Bermuda Triangle of houses. Our two-year renovation/addition project northeast of Alta Vista will be far enough along so that we can begin

to live there. The mailbox will be about a half mile from the house. They can't move it closer because their rules require another mailbox be less than a mile away on that route. I'll be hoofing it down the lane across the iron and wooden planked bridge and the pool underneath where the big blue heron likes to fish. Sitting on the bridge with my feet dangling over the darting minnows and the bullheads centers me in the moment that flows into timelessness. Fireflies from this seat transport me into the mystery of the night, raccoon mischief and the haunting song of the chuck-wills-widow.

Being lulled from the linear demand of facts opens the round world of wholeness. Yes, we need to pay attention to reality in all of its parts, but we need enchantment and wonder to release us to a kinetic oneness where we can experience our true and unencumbered selves.

May we put the pieces together and be held in wonder.

Michael

REVEREND MICHAEL NELSON'S SCHEDULE

In August, Michael Nelson will be available in the Fellowship office on:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Thursday, | August 13 - | 4 to 7 pm |
| Tuesday, | August 18 - | 3:30 to 4:30 pm |
| Thursday, | August 20 - | 4 to 7 pm |
| Tuesday, | August 25 - | 3 to 5 pm |
| Wednesday, | August 26 - | 12 to 2 pm |

During office hours, contact Michael at the Fellowship at 537-2349. At other times, Michael may be contacted at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net to arrange meetings, talk, or make appointments for other get-togethers.

RE NEWS

REFLECTIONS - MARIA SNYDER, DRE, JULY 23, 2009

For me, July has been a month of learning and self-discovery.



I am writing this in the middle of Mid West Leadership School. I just made it back to Manhattan from San Diego, where I spent a weekend at the national conference for Gamma Rho Lambda, when it was time to get ready for this trip.

I had no idea what to expect from Leadership School. I have learned some leadership skills, lots of UU History, and I am finally getting a handle on how some things work and why. For the first year there is a youth leadership program running side by side with our group and we have worked together to build worship services. Working with this group of teen leaders has opened my eyes to a world of possibilities for more youth involvement in the congregation. I do not know now what I will bring home from Leadership School, but what I do know is that you will see a new me when I return. Thank you all for this opportunity.

In the classroom we will continue with the UU travelers program for August. Our programs will include folk dancing, New Orleans, Africa, and the Galapagos Islands. We will also be attending the Musicale.

We still need a couple of people who are interested teaching RE in the fall, specifically in the Teen room, where we will be using the music based curricula, *Listening Between the Lines*, to the seven principles through a response to music.

As always if you know kids who want to attend, and need a ride, let us know and we will get that organized.

Maria

TEENS - POPCORN THEOLOGY

Teens, tweens, and parents are invited to join us for Popcorn Theology every other Wednesday, at 6 pm. On **AUGUST 12**, we'll watch *Contact*, and on **AUGUST 26**, *Bowling For Columbine*. Invite your friends! Learn more from Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

POSTCARDS FROM UUFM ...



This month, our RE students continue their wide ranging travels. Thanks to the efforts and contributions of Fellowship members young and old, students have already visited the small world of our own backyards, and climbed the mountain ranges of Colorado.

In August, a new series of explorations awaits:

August 2: *Folk Dancing* w/ Mark Moser

August 9: *New Orleans* w/ Christy Crenshaw

August 16: *Africa* w/ Autumn Scoggans

August 23: *UUFM Musicale* w/ adults

August 30: *Galapagos* w/ Carolyn Ferguson

Learn more about our summer curriculum from Director of Religious Education Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir rehearses on Sunday, **AUGUST 2**, and **AUGUST 16**, at 10:15 am, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). All kids who enjoy singing are invited to join us. Learn more from Sarah Nuss-Warren at 537-3586 or nusswarr@gmail.com

MARIA SNYDER'S SCHEDULE

In August, Maria will be available in the Fellowship office on:

Tuesdays, from 9 am to 12 noon, and

Fridays, from 2 pm to 5 pm

During office hours, call Maria at 537-2349, or drop by the Fellowship building. Contact Maria by email at anytime at dre@uufm.net



SARAH NUSS-WARREN SHARES A "STORY FOR ALL AGES," DURING THE SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE ON JULY 12, 2009

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The **MEN'S LUNCH** meets EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 12 noon, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Bring a desire for stimulating conversation and a sack lunch for yourself. Learn more from Jack Warren at 539-4073 or jomega@ksu.edu

The **WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets Wednesday, AUGUST 12, at 12 noon, in the Living Room of the Main Building at the Meadowlark Hills Retirement Center. We will be ordering from the lunch menu. For more information, or to arrange a ride, please contact Florence Schwab at 539-0976 or fschwab@cox.net

The **UUFM DRUM CIRCLE** gathers on Friday, AUGUST 14, at 7 pm, at the UU fire pit outside, or inside in the event of rain. UUFM members, guests, and community people of all ages are welcome. We drum, sing and dance and are learning some new songs. Bring you favorite instrument, or there are also plenty of instruments available to borrow. Learn more from Pat Embers at 539-2819 or embers1@cox.net

MEDITATION practice resumes on Thursday, AUGUST 20, in the new sanctuary, from 5:30 to 6 pm, before our regular Third Thursday meal. Come take a deep breathe after a long day, and then join us for supper. Learn more from Michael Nelson at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

THIRD THURSDAY SUPPER gathers on AUGUST 20, at 6 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). This is not a potluck. Those attending may bring a dish to share, but it is not required. Just bring your smile, family, friends, and guests, and join us for supper and conversation! Contact Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net to learn more.

Join us for a fun evening at UUFM's annual **PICNIC IN THE PARK**, on Saturday, AUGUST 22, from 5:30 to 8 pm, in Manhattan's City Park on Poyntz Avenue.

We'll eat around 6 pm, but come early to enjoy park activities.



Bring a dish to share, chairs, and table service. Our Social Committee will provide brats, hamburgers, condiments, lemonade and water. Alcohol is not allowed on park property. Learn more from Social Committee members Shirley Hobrock, 776-3175 or shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com or Kathy Swenson at 537-4733

This month, the UUFM **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will read "*Dreams of My Father*," by Barack Obama. The group gathers at 7 pm, on Wednesday, AUGUST 26, at the Hacker residence, in Manhattan. All interested Fellowship members and friends are encouraged to join us. Learn more from Barbara Hacker at 587-8002 or bjhacker@networksplus.net

HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The First United Methodist Church of Manhattan, 612 Poyntz Avenue, hosts a performance of the Hope for Africa Children's Choir on Thursday, AUGUST 6, at 7 pm. Learn more from Diana Chapel at 776-8821 ext 27 or visit www.fumcmanhattan.com

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FORUMS

There will be an opportunity for members and friends to discuss the Emergency Preparedness Guide after morning services on **AUGUST 30** and **OCTOBER 4**, at 12:15 pm. Contact Fellowship administrator Sue Turner, at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net for a hard copy, or download and print the Guide from our Website at www.uufm.net. Click the "Documents" button in the column on the left side of the home page to find the Emergency Preparedness Guide link. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the forums to familiarize themselves with this important document and to ask questions. Learn more from Fellowship Chair Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or bhobrock@uufm.net

UUFM SINGERS

The Choir rehearses this month on Saturday, **AUGUST 22**, from 1:30 to 3 pm, and Sunday, **AUGUST 23**, at 9:30 am, both in the new sanctuary. Learn more about choral opportunities at UUFM from Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu



THE UUFM CHOIR SINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICE ON MAY 17, 2009

SOCIAL ACTION AT UUFM

VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

Our Welcoming and Membership Committee is in the process of recruiting one or two additional **REFRESHMENT AND GREETING TEAMS**, as well as substitute volunteers to fill in when a team member is unable to attend. Teams have four members--one leader/coordinator, and three additional members who share greeting, and preparation and service of coffee and refreshments. Each team will choose three or four Sundays during the year. This is an easy way to give to the Fellowship with a minimal investment of time. Learn more from Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com

This month, Fellowship volunteers prepare and serve **HAPPY KITCHEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** on Friday, AUGUST 7 and AUGUST 21, from 7:30 to 9 am, at St Paul's Episcopal Church. Occasional **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to fill in when regular volunteers are absent. The meal is free and all are invited to join us for good food and fellowship. Of course, your donations are welcome. Learn more from Shirley Hobrock, 776-3175 or shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com

The **FLINT HILLS AREA AGENCY ON AGING** is seeking volunteer Medicare insurance counselors to provide free, unbiased and confidential assistance to beneficiaries, caregivers and others with questions about Medicare. Volunteers will help people understand, compare, and enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and are primarily active during the annual enrollment period from Nov 15 to Dec 31. The agency is specifically seeking those with experience with seniors, and retired health care professionals. Learn more from Karen Mayse at 776-9294 or kmayse@ncfhaaa.com

HELPING HANDS SUNDAY

Each month our Social Action Committee designates an agency or association to receive the morning offerings. On Sunday **AUGUST 9**, our morning collection will go to **MANHATTAN DAY CARE**. Manhattan Day Care provides services for pre-school aged children with emphasis on low-income families. Donations enable the center to provide care on a sliding scale based on income. Learn more about their services at <http://daycare.manhattanks.org/>

All cash contributions and checks placed in the offering basket on the second Sunday of the month will go to the Helping Hands Sunday beneficiary, and should be made out to UUFM. Write "UUFM" in the memo line if you wish your contribution to benefit the Fellowship. Learn more from our Helping Hands Sunday coordinator Betty Banner at 776-1887 or bettybanner@gmail.com

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CFL SALES

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS are offered for purchase at the Fellowship following Sunday programs. Whole bean, ground, and decaf coffees, as well as chocolate, and tea are available. To learn more, or to purchase Fair Trade products, ask Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net or ask her on Sunday mornings.



Anne also coordinates the sale of **COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLs)** on Sunday mornings, in support of the Fellowship's efforts to encourage green living. Bulbs are \$4 each, and may be purchased for your own use, or donated to families seeking help through Shepherd's Crossing.

CASA SUMMER TRAINING

Volunteer to be the difference between abuse and hope--become a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Independent study training is available for those wishing to participate. Learn more at 537-6367 or sunfcasa@interkan.net, or visit <http://casa.manhattanks.org>. There is a child waiting for your voice.



Shepherd's
Crossing
FAITH HOPE LOVE

Eat at **SIRLOIN STOCKADE** on the *Third Tuesday* each month. Sirloin Stockade will donate a generous part of the cost of your meal to Shepherd's Crossing to assist families with rent, utilities, or prescription medication. Give this coupon and your receipt to the cashier at Sirloin Stockade on Tuesday any time after 11 am.

WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR - BRICE HOBROCK, JULY 22, 2009

My thanks to everyone who participates in so many meaningful ways in the life of the Fellowship. Your



active engagement: **PAR-TICIPATION** on committees, **STAGING** social events, **HELPING OUT** with RE, **CONVENING** a Sunday program, **MAKING** a generous pledge, **SERVING** as an officer, Board member or committee chair, **JOINING** a

team, and **ATTENDING** regularly adds up to a positive experience for you and makes us a strong voice for liberal religion in Manhattan. Your continued **PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS** are essential to our continued viability.

We are fortunate to be members of such a unique and diverse congregation. We face a challenging time, however. Membership remains stable and the **NET GROWTH** that our program planning requires is slow to materialize. In these unstable economic times, it is important that each of us evaluates what the Fellowship means to us. We must commit ourselves to take a personal role in membership growth. Please ask a friend to church and pledge as much as you can afford.

Brice Hobrock, UUFM Executive Board Chair

Contact Brice at 776-3175 (home), 477-3982 (cell), or bhobrock@uufm.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board meets Thursday, **AUGUST 13**, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Interested members and friends are invited to attend and observe the proceedings. Learn more from Executive Board Chair Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or bhobrock@uufm.net

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FORUMS

There will be an opportunity for members and friends to discuss the Emergency Preparedness Guide after morning services on **AUGUST 30** and **OCTOBER 4**, at 12:15 pm. Ask Fellowship administrator Sue Turner, at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net, for a hard copy, or download and print the Guide from our Website at www.uufm.net. Click the "Documents" button in the column on the left side of the home page to find the Emergency Preparedness Guide link. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the forums to familiarize themselves with this important document and to ask questions. Learn more from Fellowship Chair Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or bhobrock@uufm.net



THE BANNER-RAGAN FAMILY HELPS DURING ONE OF OUR TWICE YEARLY FELLOWSHIP WORK DAYS



GREETING AND REFRESHMENT TEAMS

- August 2: Elke Lorenz, Marolyn Caldwell, Steve Mull, and Yvonne Lacy
- August 9: Harriette Janke, Tom Phillips, and Anne Marchin
- August 16: Courtney Markle, Jennifer Askey, Dick & Sylvia Beeman
- August 23: Barbara Hacker, Jim Shanteau, Sam Lacy, Gwen Geiselman, and Terri Franz
- August 30: Jo & Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson

Coffee and greeting teams of four volunteers consist of one leader/coordinator, and three friends to help provide Sunday morning greeting and refreshments. Teams sign up for only three Sundays each year. We hope this new organizational method will allow those without much time to give a little.

THANKS SO MUCH to everyone who has already volunteered to join or lead one of our teams! We're still recruiting additional teams! Learn more from Welcoming and Membership Committee chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com

Administrator's Schedule

In August, Susan Turner will be available in the Fellowship office on:

- Monday, August 3 - 3 to 5 pm
 Tuesday, August 4 - 12 to 5 pm
 Thursday, August 6 - 4 to 7 pm
 Monday, August 10 - 3 to 5 pm
 Tuesday, August 11 - 12 to 5 pm
 Thursday, August 13 - 4 to 7 pm
 Thursday, August 27 - 12 to 5 pm
 Saturday, August 29 - 11 am to 6 pm
 Monday, August 31 - 3 to 5 pm

Sue will be using some of her accumulated vacation time during the week of August 16 to August 22. Call Susan at 537-2349 during office hours, or drop by the office. She may be reached at any time by email at office@uufm.net

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net to **UPDATE YOUR MAILING, PHONE, or EMAIL** information, or to **CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION** to this newsletter. Members and friends may also reach Sue during her posted office hours (*seen at bottom left*) at 537-2349.

If you have been considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UUFM, please contact our Welcoming and Membership Committee chair, Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com, or Rev Michael Nelson at 913 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net, for information and assistance.

Fellowship members may receive the UUA magazine **UU WORLD**, without cost. Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net. View UU World online at **www.uuworld.org**

Join in email discussions of interest to Fellowship members and friends on our **EMAIL LIST SERV**. List serv members may choose to receive each message individually; as one daily "digest;" or check messages by logging into our list serv web site. Contact list serv moderator Ruth Welti at welti@ksu.edu to subscribe.

UUFM bookkeeper Kathleen Oldfather would be happy to help you set up **ELECTRONIC PAYMENT** of your pledge contributions. If you wish, pledge installments can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. There is no cost for this service. Ask Kathleen at 537-3738 or koldfather@yahoo.com, or pick up literature and a form from the information rack in our narthex.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net, **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY EVENING** with announcements and events for inclusion in the Sunday morning Order of Service bulletin. Remember to check the bulletin each week for important announcements of upcoming activities and events.

CARING FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

If you could use a hand, or if you know members or friends who are experiencing life challenges, and would appreciate assistance, please let our Caring Committee know. Contact Caring Committee co-chairs Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net, or Barbara Hacker at 587-8002 or bjhacker@networksplus.net

BUILDING USE AND SCHEDULING

Please check with Susan Turner to be sure your desired date is available before finalizing plans for **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**, Fellowship activities, or private events that will be held in the Fellowship building. To confirm building availability and schedule your activity, or for more information, contact Sue at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the September edition of *The UUFM Voice* is Wednesday, **AUGUST 15**. Please send news, meetings, announcements, and events to Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net

A SPECIAL GIFT ...

In March, Fellowship Caring Committee co-chair Barbara Hacker asked our longtime friend Edith Hinrichs about the beautiful, intricately woven baskets we still use every Sunday morning for our collection. Beginning in the 1960's, Edith, her husband Carl (who is deeply missed following his passing in 2006), and their sons were active Fellowship members over four decades. Edith served as UUFM's Board Chair in 1980/1981, when we purchased and began holding services in the Oak Grove School building on Zeandale Road. She and Carl retired to a milder climate several years ago. Edith writes ...

I am delighted that [my baskets] have held up as well as they have, and that the Fellowship is still using them.

I began making pine needle baskets in the 1990's when Carl and I began "snow-birding" and camping down on the Gulf of Mexico in Gulf Shores, Alabama. I saw a few very old baskets at a museum in the area and decided that I would like to try making some with all the long leafed pines that we were surrounded by. I would rake up the needles on the ground under trees that caught my eye, about three huge trash bags full, then I would sit and sort the needles, the longest and most boring part of the procedure, keeping only the ones that were in the best of shape and the longest, usually winding up with perhaps less than a half bag's worth, rubber banded into neat piles. Then the fun could begin.

I bought a book on the various stitches and styles of pine needle basketry, and experimented with various kinds of materials to literally sew the rounds of pine needles into the coils that built up the basket shapes. I've used raffia, crochet thread, yarns and other materials, and finally decided that my favorite was artificial sinew, that looked like the raffia used in the old time baskets, but held up much better and was much stronger. I also began using slices of English walnuts, from the tree in our backyard in Manhattan that Carl would slice into rounds for me. I used those to begin a basket, and also to decorate my baskets as I built them.

As for gauges to keep the needles the same width, I use very high tech stuff. Plastic straws in various diameters, from fast food places. I have about three or four different sizes that I really like working with, cut into about one inch lengths that I stuff full of needles as I work around the basket.

I finally hit on some designs that I like and [use] often, as I start a basket. I have no idea how it is going to finish up. It just "happens." I like the challenge of making fairly large, sturdy baskets. Most that you find these days are pretty small and considering how long it takes to make even a small one, I can understand that. One basket that I made for a silent auction for the local no-kill animal shelter down here in Alabama was on display for a while at the Houston Natural History museum, so I guess I can call myself an "exhibited craft-person."

I wanted to do something for the Manhattan UU way back when David Grimm was minister and I asked him to choose from several baskets that I had, and those were the two he chose, so I guess y'all are stuck with them. Like I said before, I am so pleased that they have held up and that the Fellowship still enjoys using them.

What with moving down here to Fairhope, and working on this house, and dealing with life in general, I haven't made any baskets in a very long time and am thinking of starting back up again. I still have needles from several years ago that Carl helped me gather and sort and I really should use them up. A good soaking in very hot water for about 15 minutes and they are ready to go.

So ... include my regards to all my friends in the Fellowship that I truly do miss very much. Carl and I left a good part of our hearts up in Manhattan when we moved south ...



Edith