
From the SUUSI Director

Our year started with a bang—and with very few of the problems predicted for Y2K. A lot of people wanted the theme to reflect this change to our calendar, and it does seem important somehow that we've advanced 2000 years from . . . well, from what, exactly? It's not a certain date in history, it's not (according to many) really the start of a new millennium, and it's not very important (in spite of all those world-wide celebrations we saw on television) to civilizations in most parts of the world.

This all started me thinking about what it really does mean, and what quickly occurred to me is that it reflects how extremely Euro-centric we are, both as a nation (yes, we're mostly US citizens) and as a religion. We talk a lot about other ideas, other ways to be, but by and large we are European. Now I am as immersed in European civilization as most, but I also believe that we miss a lot in our lives if we fail to recognize what the rest of the world—most of the world—has to offer.

One part of the world that seems to be particularly conspicuous by its absence in our thinking is the one right here in our own hemisphere. We all know a little about the people who were living on these two continents when we conquered them a few centuries ago, but we don't pay much attention to them or to their ideas. All civilizations change over time and our neighbors who were here before us have been affected by our civilization while we have been affected by theirs. But I think we have so far been the losers with respect to the learning in this exchange.

I am hoping that SUUSI 2000 will allow all of us time to consider the different civilizations that are right here. Our UU faith makes us open to new ideas and very specifically states that we will take our religious beliefs from other world cultures. I hope that we will all spend some time at SUUSI 2000 renewing our understanding of our personal beliefs in the context of a better understanding of the other civilizations of our hemisphere.

—Dee Medley
SUUSI 2000 Director

General Information

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) is an intentional community of UUs (Unitarian Universalists) and others. It's a great family experience, with workshops and nature trips and music and spirit and other activities that build relationships with new and old friends!

We gather annually for a week in July to explore our interconnectedness, to learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, to delight in the joys of sharing outdoor adventures, and to develop new insights and perspectives. Special programs for Youth, Teens, and Young Adults make it a full experience for all members of a family.

For SUUSI 2000, **we're returning to the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg**. The new dorms have lots of air-conditioned rooms, plus small lounges that offer a new way to make connections with the neighbors during the week of July 23-29 when we're together. The town offers bookstores, coffee shops, music stores, and all the other "necessities" at the edge of the campus, a short walk away from the SUUSI activities.

Will this be your first SUUSI?

Welcome! We're glad you're joining us. Several activities are planned to help you get acquainted and feel part of our large family. Take the campus tour Sunday afternoon after you complete Registration, and attend the Newcomers Reception on Monday afternoon to be welcomed officially by the SUUSI Board and Staff.

In planning your week at SUUSI, leave space to relax and reflect. It is common for first-year folks to over schedule. This is easy to understand—there are so many wonderful things to do! But, it isn't necessary to do it all this year. Save something for SUUSI 2001 and beyond.

If you have any questions while reading this catalog or before coming to SUUSI, please contact Catherine Ring at (703) 754-8191 (cring@erols.com), or Roz Massel at (770) 493-8385 (jazzie29@hotmail.com)



Getting to SUUSI in Blacksburg

Blacksburg is 40 miles southwest of Roanoke, VA, four hours from Richmond, VA and three hours from Charlotte, NC if driving by car. Take Exit 118 (Christiansburg) from Interstate 81 onto US 460 West. NOTE: Construction on the interstate will make this an “interesting experience” this year... Remain on 460 West (take the bypasses around Christiansburg and Blacksburg) for about 15 minutes, until the Virginia Tech exit (314 East) off US 460 Bypass.

The Greyhound bus goes directly to Blacksburg. Roanoke is the nearest airport served by a commercial carrier. Reservations for limousine service to and from the airport may be made by calling Blacksburg Limousine Service at (540) 951-3973 or Around Town Limousine Service at (540) 552-8114. Rental cars are also available at the airport. Better yet, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the New River Valley in Blacksburg offers transportation from the Roanoke airport (\$25), a potluck supper at the Fellowship (\$10), and home hospitality (\$8) on Saturday evening before SUUSI. Contact Rosemary Bazuzi at virgin@nrvworkshop.com or (540) 552-7294.

About the Campus and Accessibility

Virginia Tech is a large campus, surrounded by the forest-covered Blue Ridge mountains and near the majestic New River. This year, SUUSI will be concentrated in a section of the campus that offers a great environment for building relationships and a sense of community. We'll have campus tours on Sunday afternoon, July 23. Check your “Confirmation NUUS” in early July for details.

The Virginia Tech campus has been upgraded in recent years to improve accessibility, eliminating steps and creating gentle ramps that we can all enjoy. There are plenty of comfortable residence halls (including air-



conditioned rooms). The high-tech meeting rooms, classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasium facilities on campus provide everything we need to create the unique SUUSI experiences we treasure.

SUUSI works hard to accommodate any physically challenged persons. Virginia Tech has ramps, curb cuts, and other access to facilities for those with special needs. Realistically, SUUSI cannot guarantee the accessibility of all workshop space (we plan it, but inevitably some workshops move...) nor the ease of accessibility in all campus situations. Truly wheelchair accessible rooms (roll-in showers, etc.) are available in limited numbers. SUUSI provides limited on-campus shuttle transportation. Be sure to note special needs on your registration forms.

Community Expectations

We have an abundance of freedom at SUUSI. With it comes full responsibility. Be alert and let's all help make SUUSI safe and enjoyable for everyone!

- In our community of 800-1000 people, let us remember to respect each individual's rights and privacy.
- Parents and guardians are responsible for their children when the children are not in SUUSI-sponsored activities for youth.
- Excessive noise when others are trying to sleep is inappropriate. We ask that you be mindful of others and that you move to an area that will not be disruptive.
- Leave pets at home. There are no accommodations on campus for live animals.
- Skates and skateboards are not allowed in many areas; please respect the local rules.
- Fire is a serious concern in college residence halls. Don't use any open flames inside any building on campus, and turn off appliances (hair curlers...) when you leave the room. We have special arrangements when we light the chalice at Ingathering, Theme Talks, and Worship Services.
- The breaking of alcohol, drug, or any other local laws will not be tolerated. The Staff and Board are all committed to compliance with these laws, and will not allow violators to remain at SUUSI.
- SUUSI affirms its commitment to maintain an environment free of discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, handicap, gender, or affectional orientation.
- SUUSI expects its board, staff, and participants to conduct themselves in a mutually respectful manner, showing concern for colleagues, participants, and the surrounding community.
- Not everyone in Blacksburg will be in the SUUSI community or spirit. Recognize that your creativity and enthusiasm should have boundaries; be considerate of the neighbors.

Dining

The first meal served at SUUSI will be on Sunday evening, and the last meal is Saturday breakfast. Meals at SUUSI are designed to please as many of us as possible, while incorporating sound nutritional choices. Each meal has multiple offerings including unlimited seconds. Vegetarian selections are available at each meal—the university is accustomed to feeding students who are as concerned (and in a few cases, even as finicky) as SUUSI-ites regarding their meals.

Housing and Telecommunications

Virginia Tech has many air-conditioned rooms. If you are planning to share rooms, please indicate so on your housing form, and be sure **everyone** remembers to register. Space will not be held for unregistered room-mates when it comes time to assign housing in June. Fully-accessible rooms are available for individuals with special needs.

We will be staying in residence halls on campus. Each room is furnished with 2 beds, 2 desks and chairs, a double dresser, a night stand, window blinds, a recycling/trash bin, linens and pillows. You will want to bring a fan, if you are sleeping in the non-air conditioned dorms. In the air-conditioned dorms, rooms are in suite arrangements with 3 rooms sharing a small lounge and bath. You must bring your own telephone, plus hook-up cables if you want to use the cable TV system. Room phone connections are for local calls only. Long distance calls, including credit card calls, must be made from pay phones. At least two Internet Service Providers, Earthlink and AOL, have local numbers. You can also browse the Web from the library and other computers on the campus.

Housing areas will be set aside for child-care co-op, families, teens, young adults, and adults-only. Private rooms (“singles”) are available in non-air conditioned dorms by purchasing both beds in a room. You may also indicate a preference for loud or quiet housing on your registration form. Cost of housing is provided in the Registration section.

More detailed information will be provided in confirmation packets to be mailed in early July.



Artisans Bazaar

Bring your credit cards and come to SUUSI to shop! Between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm each day, we'll have:

- jewelry, crafts, and other 100% self-made merchandise
- books and items suggested by workshop leaders, and related to workshop topics
- SUUSI logo T-shirts and other memorabilia
- tapes and CD's by SUUSI performers

The Artisan's Bazaar is a workshop for the artists (they register for Workshop #102 and operate as a co-op for SUUSI week) and a delight for the rest of us. When you purchase co-op items, 10% of the selling price goes to SUUSI. You will be supporting both SUUSI and the UU artisans. If you want to be a volunteer in the store, please note that on the Volunteer Form and return it with your registration material.

Information Office

The Information Office is open daily from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to answer your questions and help direct you to resources for solving problems, or to staff members who can assist you. A message board is located in the Information Office so participants may exchange notes; this is the board where mail and phone messages you receive at SUUSI will be posted. If you expect to receive mail or phone calls, it's a good idea to check the board daily. Lost and found items? Check at the Information Office.

Late registration is conducted in the Information Office by the registration staff. They will also handle workshop changes and additions. Nature Trip changes and additions will be done at the Nature tent. Read your confirmation packet newsletter and watch the daily SUUSI NUUS for telephone numbers, mailing address, hours of service, and hours of late registration.

Child-Care Co-ops

Co-ops enable parents with young children to enjoy Nightlife. Families signing up for the co-op dorm have rooms grouped in clusters. Parents take turns watching over a small number of rooms. Two adults are always on duty in each co-op area, with one adult in plain view of any child who might need help.

The meeting to organize co-ops will be early Sunday evening prior to Ingathering. Watch the Sunday NUUS for details. SUUSI does not operate the co-ops, but rather provides help to enable parents to set up co-ops among themselves. Each child must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Any child found unsupervised or making excessive noise will be brought to Nightlife and turned over to their parents.

SUUSI NUUS

A key communication tool for the SUUSI community is the newsletter, SUUSI NUUS. The Morning NUUS is distributed each morning Monday through Friday at breakfast, while the Evening NUUS is distributed at dinner. They provide community news, updates to the basic daily schedule, a few spicy tidbits to get your mealtime conversations started, and, of course, those boring-but-necessary announcements.

Mug Book

The Mug Book is a portfolio of pictures and addresses of SUUSI attendees. Your photo will be taken at Registration, and the book will be compiled and distributed later in the week. If you would like a copy to remember your new friends (and how wonderful you looked in the picture), please order on the registration forms (Section IV, Line 5). Cost is \$7 per Mug Book.

Volunteers

Make magic and enrich your SUUSI experience by becoming a SUUSI Volunteer. SUUSI is an all-volunteer effort. By volunteering, you will learn more about how SUUSI fulfills dreams and maybe you'll help make a wish come true.

Please consider giving a half hour before Daily Ingathering or Worship Services to hand out programs. Also, practice random acts of kindness and keep your eyes open for someone who could use help. Fill out the Volunteer Form in the catalog and mail it in with your registration. Don't let the form confine you! Be sure to let us know of any special skills you'd like to share.

Our Volunteer Coordinator will contact potential volunteers before SUUSI. Some will receive their assignment(s) with their packets at Registration. If you can't decide what to volunteer for now, stop by the Volunteer table during Registration to sign up. You will be referred to the various areas where volunteers are needed.

During the week, be sure to check the Volunteer Board in the Information Office to see what other areas may need help. Your good service will keep the neighborly spirit of SUUSI thriving. For more information, contact the 2000 Volunteer Coordinator, John Mitchell at (530) 759-9712 (fro1do2@aol.com)

Health and First Aid

SUUSI maintains a first-aid liaison whose goals are to prevent illness and accidents and to assist you with any medical emergencies. Please complete the medical information on the registration form and attach a note explaining any special circumstances. We need to be aware of pre-existing medical conditions, but cannot treat them. Bring your own medications and supplies for these, or plan to seek treatment elsewhere.

Bring your own band-aids, aspirin, and the usual vacation remedies. We are here to provide tips and referrals only. We highly recommend that you not over-stress your body by pursuing activities way beyond your normal regimen. Remember, sleep is good.

Office hours are scheduled each day for wellness resource and first aid counsel or referral. Emergency service is available by contacting the Information Office and having the SUUSI staff paged. Emergency numbers, office locations, and hours will be listed in your confirmation packet, at Registration, and in the Sunday SUUSI NUUS.

Receptions

If you or your non-profit, non-commercial group would like to schedule a reception during SUUSI, please contact the Special Events Coordinator. Receptions planned include Newcomers, other UU Camps, and other groups. The schedule will be announced in the SUUSI NUUS. To schedule a reception, or volunteer to help, contact Jeani Jessen at (843) 851-2348.

Athletics

Looking for a break? Feel like a quick game of volleyball, or want to try your tennis skills against other SUUSI-ites? How about Capture the Flag, water polo, soccer, or frisby golf? Or just a relaxing swim, or a place to lift weights or practice your Tai Chi? This year, we will have access to the War Memorial Gym and its great facilities. The Athletic Kiosk, located near the cafeteria, will be your guidepost to organized athletic events for ALL ages and abilities. In addition, check out the athletics workshops #254-256, and the Fun Run (Workshop #100). For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jess Evans at (781) 324-2123 or at crassmonkey@hotmail.com



Teen Way Off Broadway (TWOB)

For the 14th year, the teens take to the stage and show us their multiple talents as they present an original play on Friday night. Great singing, dancing, acting, and laughs are promised. Teens—if you've got a hankering for the footlights, love building stuff backstage, or just want to make some great new friends, check out Workshop #400. For more information, contact Kimmer Cecci at kmrcc@aol.com or at (315) 457-5335.

Service Project

This year we're planning to contribute to our host community, Blacksburg, with a gift of our time and talents. In previous years we have worked on housing, a women's shelter, a facility for day care for adults, etc. You don't need to have great physical/technical skills or fancy tools, but those are always welcome. To join the Service Project, please register for Workshops #401-408 (in half-day increments). You may also make a donation in Section IV line 7 of the registration form or on Registration Sunday, to help with the cost of supplies.



Community Time

Parade to Ingathering: Gather with neighbors old and new for the famous Banner Parade to Ingathering on Sunday evening. Join us as we come together in our SUUSI 2000 community for the first time, and celebrate 50 years of fellowship. Bring a banner from your home congregation, or make one to show us who you are—or gather with friends under their banner. We will be led once again this year by the Teens and our own drummers, location and time to be announced in the SUUSI NUUS. Bring your drum and join us. Everyone is welcome and no training is required!

Daily: We gather each afternoon for Community Time from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Look for a large, varied group of SUUSI-ites of ALL ages having fun! We will be face painting, blowing bubbles, making buttons, creating sidewalk chalk art, and playing croquet and bocci ball. Live music will abound. Bring an instrument and join in!

Monday: Sidewalk Festival, with games for the little kids, ice cream, bubbles, fun for all.

Tuesday: New Games and other athletic happenings, plus tie-dying, with professional help, for ALL! (Cost: \$3.00 per person. Bring your cotton goodies and leave with a bona fide SUUSI masterpiece!)

Wednesday: SUUSI's 50th Birthday Party, complete with cake, watermelons and the famous Seed-Spitting Contest, open to all ages. Big doings planned for all, as SUUSI joins the AARP generation...

Thursday: You are invited to a Lawn Party, hosted by the Young Adults, who promise lots of fun including the famous corn starch thing!

Friday: Relax, catch up with friends and family, get ready for Teen Way Off Broadway (TWOB), look for special goodies at the Craft/Tee Shirt Sale. (Craft/Tee Shirt sellers are requested to contribute a minimum of \$10 for SUUSIships. Bring your own tables or ground cloth.)

Saturday: Gather at 9:00 am to say good-bye in a new way as we send our SUUSI energy out into the world. Location to be announced in SUUSI NUUS.

Community Time volunteers are needed, wanted, encouraged, and welcomed. Spend 30 minutes or 2 hours, and have fun while you help. To reach out and volunteer, fill out the registration form for Volunteers. For more information, contact Jane Sanders at (404) 634-6130.