

WELCOME TO **SUUSI NUUS**, YOUR
FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR SUUSI 2005.



Hopefully, reading the Winter NUUS will
inspire you to set aside July 17-23
to spend with your SUUSI family!

SUUSI Winter NUUS 2005

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

www.suusi.org

Time to Fly! July 17-23

At SUUSI, we create an intentional community where we acknowledge our diversity and (re)connect with others based on our shared humanity. By the end of a week together, our sense of trust and confidence in the inherent goodness of others reaches a new level. The good feeling is often reflected by simple things, such as a willingness to sit at a table with strangers and make friends through casual conversation. At SUUSI, that sense of solitude we sometimes feel in our day-to-day lives tends to fade, and a sense of belonging to a supportive community tends to grow. Come to SUUSI 2005 to have fun, renew your spirit, discover yourself, grow, and explore. In an environment of acceptance and openness, we are free to grow. Embrace this opportunity. It's Time to Fly. I hope to see you in July!

– Jen Lucas, Director

SUUSI is a Gift – Spread the Word!

Do you look forward to SUUSI all year?

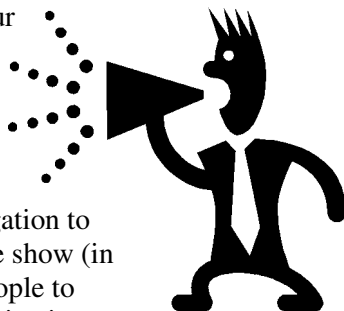
Do you tell everyone you see?

You may already be an amateur
SUUSI Ambassador!

Volunteer to get the word
out by publishing newsletter
articles, sending e-mail
promos, and hosting a SUUSI

Info gathering in your congregation to
view the fabulous SUUSI slide show (in
DVD format). The first 30 people to
e-mail director@suusi.org receive it
free!).

To learn more about spreading the word, visit
www.suusi.org/ambassadors.



Invite your friends to FLY at SUUSI!

Here are a few tips for getting your “peeps” to come fly
with you.

- Use the www.suusi.org link as part of your e-mail signature, so your friends can explore the site.
- Wear a SUUSI T-shirt to church on Sunday.
- Mention the unlimited food (fries included)!
- Show them last year's mugbook and point out all the cute kids (and adults!).
- Show them your catalog from last year so they can salivate over all the workshop possibilities and nature trips.
- Hang five posters at church with dates of the upcoming SUUSI and pics from last year.
- Tell your DRE about how to get on staff to make their bill lower and fun greater (contact Youth Directors at youth@suusi.org)
- As always, get more info at www.suusi.org.

Let Your Spirit Fly at SUUSI!

It is one of our goals to make SUUSI a place of spiritual growth for all who attend. Our denominational programming is designed to deepen the experience of our time together and to encourage worship as a community. SUUSI's denominational staff is busy scheduling speakers for the 2005 Theme Talks and Worship Services. Remember to check them out during your week!

At SUUSI, Ministers Get a Respite and Respect



Attention UU Ministers: Join our spiritual community at SUUSI and you can get a respite from the too-busy, day-to-day life. You can have fun and get inspired living with 1,000 or so other UUs in an intentional community. And you get respect that is tangible! You receive a substantial registration discount. If you would like more information, or to receive your registration discount (and plenty of hugs), contact Denominational Coordinator, Martha Shore at 757-489-7573 or denominational@suusi.org.

Bring Your Whole Family!

Are you twelve years old? Eight years old? Four months old (hmmm . . . how are you reading this?!)? SUUSI is a family-friendly community, and there are plenty of wonderful activities for youth of all ages – from our newborn friends to our pre-teen friends. Programming for SUUSI youth will continue to be spectacular in 2005. We look forward to seeing you!



Flying with Teens



The teen dorm is available to youth ages 14 – 17. Returning this year as the co-directors of the teen program are Marybeth Chaconas and Tom Macon. They will continue to create a community-friendly place for both teens and staff, and improve the communication of expectations between teens and their parents/guardians. There will be more of a focus on programming and lots of new workshops! New this year is a Ropes Course initiative. This is an all-day event of community building, and for those teens wanting to be on the Spirit Committee or in other leadership positions, this trip will be paid for! Among other things, the teens will be taking over community tie-dyeing, and RJ Perz-Edwards will be leading teen drumming workshops! We have several returning staff with openings for committed new staff as well. Come work and grow with us! Preference goes to those who have come through the program themselves and/or are working with teens in their communities. There will be a staff orientation/training May 22-24 and attendance is expected. Contact our co-directors at teens@suusi.org if interested.

Flying with Young Adults

The Young Adult program is an age-centered program for participants 18 to 25 that offers lots of fun workshops and activities, plus an awesome community. This year's directors, Kirsten deFur and Meredith Nevin, are currently organizing staff and have some great ideas for SUUSI 2005. If you are interested in learning more about the program, about becoming part of the staff, or joining the YA listserv, e-mail ya@suusi.org – that's where we will be discussing ideas for SUUSI, and it's a great way to connect with a large group of young adults with lots of energy and enthusiasm.

SUUSI Nature – Even Better in 2005!

Everyone deserves to leave campus and enjoy the beautiful Virginia mountains. Look for more trips this year for families, and trips returning, including family-friendly Stargazing and Sex without Flowers, which explores ferns and mushrooms and trees. All ages are invited for a new evening forest ecology walk. Try a SUUSI favorite like Dixie Caverns or Travertine Falls, or take a trip that focuses on wildflowers, birding, or fossil hunting. On campus we will visit the horticultural gardens, geology museum, and historic Smithfield house. If you're seeking vistas and leisure, try shopping in Floyd, talking to historic interpreters at Explore Park, dining at Chateau Morissette, or touring a new winery overlooking Roanoke Valley. You can also bike along the New River, spend the day photographing nature, or tour an organic farm.

There are many changes in the Adventure Program this year: Rappelling will add ascending to the trip. Upon completion of this trip you will not only be able to rappel into a cave or off a cliff, you will be able to

ascend out of the cave or back up the cliff face you just rappelled from! We will be using Camp Roanoke a lot this year – two all-day ropes courses (one for teens) and two half-day trips to use their fabulous climbing wall. We will also provide four caving trips not offered for a while – Tawney's Cave (an old favorite), Smoke Hole Cave, New River Cave, and Cracker Neck Cave – a combination canoeing and caving trip!



There will also be an assortment of hikes, old and new, and the ever-popular canoe, kayak and sit-on-top outings on the New River. And tubing, of course, with a new YA-Median (adults 18-35ish) tubing trip offered this year. Let your imagination fly and choose something new to do this year at SUUSI!

Mark Your Calendar: Important SUUSI Dates!

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| ✓ | April | Receive your SUUSI catalog in the mail! |
| ✓ | May 1 | Deadline to notify us if you want your group to be housed together on campus. |
| ✓ | May 15 | SUUSIship applications due to suusiships@suusi.org |
| ✓ | May 20 | Registration forms must be postmarked to avoid late fees. |
| ✓ | Sunday July 17 | SUUSI starts in Blacksburg, VA! |

Workshop Leaders!

Thanks to all for your inventive and classic proposals. We are hard at work deciding which workshops will be offered (of over 150 submitted!). Please look for workshop confirmations or regrets soon. For more info, contact Kate Hoffman at workshops@suusi.org. As usual, you can count on a wide variety of workshop opportunities!

Fly into the Night with SUUSI Nightlife!



We have so much fun available to choose from each night that you'll wish you could be in more than one place at a time! The typical SUUSI evening starts after Worship with Concert Hour at 8:30 (see schedule below). Then SUUSI Nightlife kicks into full gear at 10 pm. Nightly offerings include performances at Cabaret, and dancing at both Serendipity (with alcohol) and CACHE (Clean Air Clean Heads Everyone).

Look for the return of both favorite theme nights and a few new ones! And there's a casual place to meet and share conversation – Common Ground Cafe coffeehouse. Finally, we have a special Family Movie Night on Tuesday, featuring a family-friendly movie.

Concert Hour

Monday - Alexis Jones

Alexis is a long-time SUUSI participant and founder/leader of the SUUSIBOYZ. His performance of "Let it Be a Dance" is a tradition at Friday's Theme Talk. He's enjoyed making music and SUUSI reunions for some time. He will present music from some of his favorite performers – and maybe even a couple of surprises.

Tuesday - Emma's Revolution

Activist Pat Humphries, who has been called the "true spirit-child of Woody Guthrie," shares her powerful political songs all across the country. Her partner, Sandy Opatow, adds exquisite vocals, guitar playing and songwriting. They have a gift for tackling the toughest issues and always finding hope in the same place: community. www.pathumphries.com

Wednesday - Wishing Chair

Miriam Davidson and Kiya Heartwood are a Kentucky-based folk and soul duo full of soul, energy and power. Acoustic guitars, accordions and harmonies are their tools of the trade and great songs are their passion. www.wishingchair.com

Thursday - The SUUSI Chamber Music Concert

The traditional close to the Concert Hour series will again be led this year by Debbie Langrock. It is made up of SUUSI participants – both solo and ensembles – who love to perform music of a more classical nature. Some are soloists and others are ensembles that form either during the afternoon workshop or independently throughout the week. If you're interested in participating in the Chamber Music workshop and concert, please contact Debbie (dlangrock@yahoo.com).

Don't Want to Stay in a Dorm Room?



In the days before Virginia Tech had air-conditioned dorms, some participants stayed in local motels. You may still do this, but for the ultimate in on-campus pampering and privacy, you now have the choice of staying at the brand new conference center hotel at Virginia Tech. The good news is that it will be a brand new facility. The bad news is that it's located on the outskirts of campus and due to open only on July 10. (Anyone familiar with construction delays?) The Donaldson Brown conference center will be closed and unavailable to us. For answers to your questions about the new facility or to make reservations (do it early), call 540-231-8000 (tell them you want one of the rooms being held for SUUSI). Also, indicate where you'll be staying on your registration form, so we know you don't need a dorm room.

SUUSIships

SUUSIships are financial assistance grants awarded to individuals and families who want to come to SUUSI but are experiencing a difficult financial situation. SUUSIships are awarded based on need to defray the costs of registration, room and board (but not travel, workshops, or air-conditioning). They require a work/service commitment from each recipient (other than very young children). To be considered in the first round of SUUSIship awards, applications must be received by May 15, 2005. It is very important this year to submit your application as early as possible. For information, to make a donation, or to request an application, contact Karen Lauer at 850-651-3040 (suusiships@suusi.org).

SUUSIships fundraiser needs you! Start saving books, videos, CDs and cassettes for the SUUSIships fundraiser!

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute
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NOW is the time to fly . . . ON OUR STAFF!

When I hold a staff position at SUUSI, I _____

- a. meet new people and get to know them.
- b. save money on my SUUSI fees by earning staff credit.
- c. help create a functional and meaningful week for many people around me.
- d. have a GREAT time and build my SUUSI experience in a unique way.
- e. all of the above

Correct answer: **E**, of course! Below are just a few of the positions that are open. If you are interested in a position or just want to learn more, please contact our director, Jen Lucas, at 434-977-3369 or director@suusi.org. More details at www.suusi.org.

- **Equipment Coordinator** – This is a Core Staff position (train in 2005 and take over on July 24).
- Youth Staff – have fun with the kids!
- Nightlife Staff (experience with sound equipment a huge plus!)

Board Elections

The SUUSI Board is looking for two energetic, dedicated, experienced and capable new Board members. Each year at SUUSI, we elect one At-Large Adult Trustee for a three-year term and one At-Large Youth Trustee for a two-year term. If you would like to serve, get a friend to nominate you for a position. The nominator and the candidate must be members in good standing of a Unitarian Universalist congregation. The Church of the Larger Fellowship is deemed a congregation by the UUA. At the time of the election (Thursday, July 21, 2005), Youth candidates must be between 14 and 17 years old and Adult candidates must be at least 18.



Nominations are open until 5 pm Monday, July 18, 2005. If submitted before SUUSI, mail to Uncle Flip at uncleflip@mindspring.com or 1301 19th Street South, #304, Birmingham, AL 35205. While at SUUSI, just drop the nomination off at the SUUSI Information Office.