

Neshoba Church- November 2011 Newsletter

7350 Raleigh LaGrange Road
Cordova, TN 38018
901-266-2626 - www.neshobauu.org



The purpose of Neshoba Church is to provide a caring community that fosters spiritual growth through free thought and respect for personal beliefs. This church seeks the wisdom of many religious traditions and encourages the expression of our ideals in service to all people.

Neshoba Church: A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

November Worship Calendar ***Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.***

November 6 *Holdfast*

November 13 *Native American Spirituality*
Pulpit Guest: Kerrel Ard

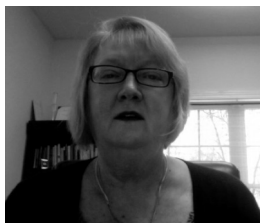
November 20 *Together We Share, From This We Live*
Guest At Your Table

November 27 *Bread and Gratitude*

Thanksgiving multi-generational service & and communion. There will be no Religious Education classes this day, but the nursery will be open for toddlers and babies.

IN THE INTERIM:
Wednesday Night Live
(WNL)

By Rev. Cynthia Prescott



Wednesday night in the South is *church night*, something I've always appreciated about my adopted home turf. Here in the South, even Unitarian Universalists have seized this glorious weekly opportunity to nourish community among ourselves and share what we've found with newcomers who want to get to know us in our "natural habitat", separate or together with Sunday worship.

Is Unitarian Universalism for real? Is Neshoba Church really who you say you are on your website?

Some Neshobans work irregular hours and can be here on Sunday morning only every few weeks or so. Some are parents who long to take part *together* in a lifespan religious education class, a book group, or to join in a social activity, but can't, because they lack reliable childcare. Some relish the thought of sitting down to an inexpensive meal they didn't have to cook for themselves that night and enjoying that meal in the company of friends. There you have the *Wednesday Night Live* agenda: community, childcare, food.

Since it started in September, *Wednesday Night Live* has been coordinated every week by a core crew of volunteers who stepped forward because they *themselves* wanted a regular

occasion to relax and have fun while caring for and feeding the kind of community Neshoba envisions itself to be. Between now and January 2012, they will be evaluating WNL and ultimately deciding its future. *Would your group or committee like to be more accessible to newcomers? Would you enjoy taking part in worship alternatives to the "Sunday Sermon Sandwich", such as a vesper service, meditation group, or a sacred circle with CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)? How about a dance lesson, film showing, a single-session crash course in UU history? These are but a few tempting ideas for a Wednesday Night Live experience. Start with one or two or even three possibilities, add a light meal, garnish with free childcare. What's not to like?*

Blessings,

Rev. Cynthia



Neshoba Pride!
Mid South Pride Parade (Memphis, TN)
October 15, 2011

*Director of Religious
Education*

Sarah Osborne, DRE



As November rolls around, we begin to think about family, home, gratitude, and what we're going to fix for Thanksgiving dinner. We eagerly await those who are coming home to Neshoba-our college kids, family that has moved away, cousins, grandparents and good friends. November is a time to catch-up with loved ones. It is also a time to reflect on our lives-to be grateful for the wonderful things, to be hopeful for better times, and to be mindful of how we impact the world around us.

Of course, we should be grateful, hopeful, and mindful every day of the year. But in our busy lives, it can be hard to focus on these ideals. Yet, I advocate taking time in November to actively find ways to live out these 3 things. Be intentional about it! We're entering a joyous season, but on the flip side, we will also encounter many cranky people who are stressed out, unhappy, and struggling. What can you do to help or navigate this holiday season? Take some inspiration from the amazing Sark. She has this to say about how to really love a child, though I think this could apply to many adults too: "Be there. Say yes as often as you can...Read books out loud with joy. Go find elephants and kiss them. Encourage silly. Giggle a lot...Search out the positive. Keep the gleam in your eye. Go see a movie in your pajamas. Teach feelings...Stop yelling. Invent pleasures together. Surprise them. Express your love a lot."

When we aim to live joyfully, we make the world a better place. When we express our love, gratitude happens. When we see ourselves in others, peace can exist. When the holy in us recognizes the holy in them, we become more mindful of the way we treat each other. This Thanksgiving season, let us be gracious. Let us joyfully welcome everyone home to Neshoba.

Namaste,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah".

Director of Religious Education

HOMEschool Co-Op

The Neshoba HOMEschool co-op meets on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm. Our last date for the fall semester is November 15. We will resume in January. Families are offered a unique opportunity for group learning with an emphasis on cooperation and participation. Our goal is to provide a diverse, supportive and respectful learning experience for our members. The co-op is made up of individuals from a wide range of beliefs and practices, therefore we ask that all learning materials presented are from a secular viewpoint. For more information, please contact DRE Sarah Osborne dre@neshobauu.org or visit Homeschoolers of Memphis eclectic <http://homeschoolersmemphis.org/>

**It's that time of year again!
RE Volunteer Recruitment**

The Religious Education Program is seeking a few good volunteers to serve in the classroom as teachers or assistants, in the nursery as caregivers, and in the hallway as hall monitors. The spring semester runs January 29th through May 27th. If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more, please contact DRE Sarah Osborne dre@neshobauu.org

**Neshoba N.U.U.T.s Youth Group News (for
grades 6 and up)**

- Next NUUT Business Meeting- WHEN: Sun, November 6th 12:15 - 1:00 pm- WHAT: Monthly NUUT Business and Planning meeting- BRING: Nothing but your creative ideas and a great attitude!- CONTACT: April Fowler
- Murder Mystery Party!- WHEN: Friday Nov 11th Time TBD- BRING: TBD- WHAT: A night of spooky, scary fun! Invitations and character assignments and more details coming soon but save the date in the meantime!- CONTACT: Gretchen Peters

Adult RE

Bill Siler's hugely successful inaugural class on writing our personal creeds already has people clamoring to have it offered again. We'll be letting you know when that is as soon as we've organized our spring schedule. In the meantime, we want to express our appreciation to Bill for leading this workshop and also to thank participants who shared their inspiring personal creeds at our service on Sunday, October 16.

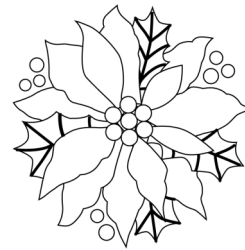
Looking ahead to November, Joe Ventigmilia will wind up his three-week class, "Styles of Loving" on November 6, and after skipping a week, we'll pick up with another speaker worth waiting for: Kerrel Ard.

In a timely short course that coincides with Native American History Month, Kerrel will speak, answer questions, and facilitate discussion of the "The Two-Spirit Traditions," which he describes as "the LGBT of the Native world, yesterday and today." Through its research, the History Project of Gay American Indians (GAI) has been able to document in 135 North American tribes alternative roles where women were the hunters and warriors who brought food for their families and defended their communities; and where Two Spirit males often specialized in their tribes' sacred arts and crafts and were valued for their expertise in celebrating religious rites. Kerrel's class will explore how these tribes "incorporated and honored their people of two sprites (male and female) and how these traditions have evolved in our modern world." He will also speak to the question of why the world knows so little about this topic.

This I believe...

Thank you to the following Neshoban's who shared their "This I Believe" statements during the October 16th service:

**Sharon Roehrig
Melissa Mann
Shirley Nunley
Jason Moody**



Poinsettia Fundraiser

The Neshoba RE department is now taking orders for Poinsettia plants for the holiday season. These are beautiful 15" plants available in five different colors, red, pink, white, marble and novelty (both a mixture of colors that are truly stunning). Orders will be taken for the next two weeks until November 4th and plants will be delivered between November 28th – December 9th. Each beautiful plant is approximately 15" tall and 15" wide across the top!

We are able to sell these beautiful plants for only \$16 each! Order 2 for just \$30 One for your home - One for the Office - The sanctuary and podium need some donated plants for our holiday decorating - Donate one for our Sanctuary in honor of a loved one - Support Neshoba's Youth RE program with every purchase. We need to sell 100 plants!

We will have an order sheet on a table in the back of the Sanctuary after service. For more information see Sarah Osborne, Stephen Guenther or Carolyn Clements. Let your family, friends or co-workers know how they can order a beautiful Poinsettia plant for the holidays and support Neshoba's youth RE program. Each plant sold helps us reach our goal of 100 plants.

From the Music Director

Want an enjoyable way to express yourself, add harmony to our worship services, and get to know interesting people, all at the same time? Join the Neshoba Church Choir! The choir is open to everyone and rehearses Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:45. (The choir will not meet on November 27, however.) Contact any choir member or me, Dave Orland at music@neshobauu.org for more information.

October Board Meeting

MINUTES

Neshoba UU Board Meeting Oct. 11, 2011

Present at the meeting were: Cathy Chapman, Will Batts, Christopher Douglas, Walt Holmes, Dennis King, Carolyn Clements, Virginia Ralston, Rev. Cynthia Prescott and Jack Seubert. Absent members were Mary Hartmann and Ralph Chumbley.

The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved. The consent agenda including DRE, MInsiter's Report, Committee Reorts-SJC, RE, Admin. were approved.

Attendance was taken and there was a quorum. Treasurer, Carolyn Clements reported that we have spent more than we have taken in. Will Batts reported that for the past 4 years that has generated a deficit of \$139,000:
2007-2008 \$28,000 deficit;
2008-2009 \$52,000 deficit
2009-2010 \$28,000 deficit
2010,2011 \$31,000 deficit.

It was noted that with 109 members, our church needs an average annual contribution from each member of \$1,562 to cover our expenses.

A motion was made and approved to have an audit of our finances at an expected cost of \$2,000. Will Batts and Carolyn Clements will work on forming a viable Finance Committee including adding membership.

FORTH-a long term financial program offered by the UUA will be applied for by Cathy Chapman. Our next board meeting will be Nov. 8 at 7 PM at Neshoba.

Christopher Douglas and Cathy Chapman will work on committee structure and plan for a church wide retreat for this.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Ralston

Auction Ending Credits

See UU At The Movies was directed by Victor and Carolyn Lendermon, and produced by The Men's Group.

Ralph Chumbley, Chris Ferguson, Wes Mueller,
John Stinchfield
Production Team

Amanda Hayes & Anthony Culver
Set Design

Carolyn Clements, Tony MacCabe, Markus Rostig
Post-Production & Accounting

Walt Holmes & Lynne Shultz
Drinks & Catering

The crew would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help make our auction such a success, who donated their awesome items and services so we'd have something to sell, and who came to bid and party and make up our fabulous cast.

This has been a 2011 Neshoba UU Production.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Ministerial Search Committee put in many hours during the month of October evaluating the findings of the Neshoba survey and cottage meetings. This important information was used to complete our Congregational Record and meet the deadline to have it submitted to the UUA by October 31st. We are now in the process of completing the Neshoba packet, which we hope will wow prospective ministers and help them see that there is no better place to be than Neshoba Church. Your support of the Committee's efforts is invaluable and they continue to welcome your comments and questions.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact one of the members of the committee. <http://neshobauu.org/ministerial-search-committee>

Book Signing for New Members
November 6th @ 12pm

If you have been attending services for a while now and have decided you're ready to make Neshoba your 'spiritual home' we invite you to sign our membership book on the first Sunday of the month immediately after church. For more information, please contact Trish MacCabe at trish.maccabe@neshobauu.org or 901.229.2042 or see Rev Cynthia Prescott

We are Proud!

A HUGE thank you to all 51 Neshobans and friends (40 adults & 11 kids) who showed up at the Mid-South Pride Festival. 52, if you count Chip on a Stick! We had helpers setting up, manning the booth, riding and walking in the parade, and then helping to break down our tent at the end of the day. We met a lot of new people and let the Memphis community know there is a Welcoming Congregation in Shelby County. 2012 Pride will be bigger and better, so mark your calendars and break out your rainbow gear - we'll be there again next October!

Foyer Art Reception

Nov 13th, 12-2pm

Our November/December Foyer Art Exhibit will feature paintings by Daniel Rickard and photography by Annelise Rostig. We will be hosting a wine & cheese reception on Sunday, November 13th from 12pm-2pm. Please join us as we celebrate these two young Midtown artisans.



Wednesday Night Live

Join us every Wednesday night for social time, inspiration, and learning opportunities from 6-9pm. Childcare is available. Dinner is served from 6-7pm with a \$5 per person or \$15 maximum donation. Programs, games and a movie are available each week. Please call the office at 266-2626 or e-mail office@neshobauu.org for more info.

WNL special events for November:

11/2, The Social Justice Committee is hosting a Planning Session during Wednesday Night Live. This is a church wide event and everyone is welcome. What Social Justice efforts do you think we should be making? How can Neshoba make a positive impact our community? Together let's put our compassion into action and be found Standing On The Side Of Love ! Please join us as we plan the upcoming year. Please e mail socialjustice@neshobauu.org for more info.

11/9 Neshoba Sacred Circle -CUUPS Join us for our monthly open ritual. This month we will be celebrating the "Grains of the World". This is a great family friendly ritual of Thanksgiving honoring the Grains of the World represented by the people of the four directions. Everyone is welcome.

11/16 What Makes Worship? (Please join us at 7pm in the couch room to meet the members of the Worship Committee and join the discussion about "What Makes Worship?")

11/23 Neshoba Idol! Join us for a family fun evening of Karaoke! This is a churchwide event and all are welcome. Michael Owen will be setting up his professional quality Karaoke equipment with over 100,000 songs to choose from. Practice your best performance and come entertain your fellow Neshoban's. We have a wealth of talent at Neshoba and this is a great way to lead into the Thanksgiving weekend.

11/30 Join us for Neshoba's annual **Hanging of the Greens**. We'll decorate the church following the evening potluck.

Parent's Time Out

Parent's Time Out is a great opportunity to catch a movie, have a quiet bite to eat, or run errands while your kids pester someone else for a change! You deserve a break, and your kids deserve a chance to create lasting relationships with other mini-Neshobans.

Participants are expected to volunteer to watch the kids for an afternoon in the near future & might need to chip in for lunch/snacks (this might be up to \$5 per child & not more than \$10 per family).

We will alternate between Sunday afternoons & Saturday late afternoon/evenings. The next event is Sunday November 13th 12-4pm.

Please sign up at least one week in advance of each event. For more information, contact Melissa Mann at Tatatowanz@gmail.com

WOW

November WOW will be on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at the church. There will be sandwich fixings in the kitchen for a \$5 donation. You can start helping yourself as early as 6:00. WOW will be settling in the Susan B. Anthony couch room by 7:00.

Carolyn Clements will make sure there is a table in there for any sides, desserts, beverages you would like to bring. For more info, please e-mail Linda Woodbury at wow@neshobauu.org

Mental Health Art

The Mental Health Art Group is for anyone with a mental illness who likes to draw or paint. Members provide their own art supplies. This is an opportunity for mental health consumers to socialize and expand their art skills. It is not a class, just a group of artists who like to share. We meet at Neshoba Church on Mondays from 2pm to 4pm **ONLY WHEN IT IS NOT RAINING**. Space is limited, so please contact Ellen at 758-3130 if you plan to come.

Book Club

The Neshoba Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Neshoba kitchen. Please join us any month for potluck and discussion. For our November 10th gathering we are reading the classic "Watership Down," by Richard Adams. See the bulletin board in the hallway for upcoming selections."

Communication Committee

1. The Communications Committee is working to update the church website.
2. We are in the process of deactivating the Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church Facebook Group. (This was a closed group and was causing confusion.) For official Neshoba Church Facebook Communication see item #3 below. ☺
3. We recently converted the Neshoba Church Facebook page to a Fan Page. Please "like" us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/neshobauu>
4. Recently a visitor came by the church and somehow found the contact information for many of our members (We suspect they "borrowed" a hard copy of the 2009 Directory.) Many folks received calls asking for money. If you ever get a call from a stranger saying they were told to call you for money, please contact Rev. Cynthia (or the office) to confirm.
5. We are working on updating the Membership Directory and will continue to remove hard copies from the hallways & foyer.
6. Our next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 20th @ 12:15pm. If you have any questions about the Neshoba Communications Committee, please contact Lorena Rostig at communication@neshobauu.org

Igive.com Sign up by 11-21-11

By Gail Weesner

I want to tell you about a free and easy way to raise money for your favorite cause (Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church). Just sign up for a free [iGive.com](http://www.igive.com) account, your favorite cause (Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church) will earn \$5 and so will mine (Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church)--that's \$10 total. It's free and easy! When you sign up be sure to tell them I referred you (Gail Weesner). Any questions contact me at gailweesner@comcast.net or [754-1277](tel:754-1277). You don't have to give them a credit card and there is no obligation to make any purchases. Also, if you happen to shop online at any of their 936 participating stores, your favorite cause (Neshoba) earns even more money, at no additional cost to you. I hope you'll give it a try. Here's the link: <http://www.igive.com/D3M1016>

Are You Able To Help Out?

Make "Heavy Hands Create Light Work" Neshoba's motto! Please stop by the bulletin board in the hall today and sign up to bring **FLOWERS** and post service **BAKED GOODS** sometime over the next 5 months. Contact Trish at flowers@neshobauu.org for more info.

Ink Jet Recycling

Neshoba can earn \$3 for each undamaged **HP, Dell or Lexmark ink or toner cartridge**. The cartridges can be dropped off in the green box on the shelf immediately to the left of the entrance by the office. Neshoba has received several hundred dollars of benefits from past donations so keep those cartridges coming. For more info, please contact Markus at markus.rostig@neshobauu.org

Grocery Connection

Do you shop at Kroger? If your answer is yes, and you don't have a Neshoba card, please see Victor Lendermon after church or call the office at 266-2626.

Bella Luna Bliss

Bella Luna Bliss is one year old! We will honor the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi on Saturday, Nov. 5 and will focus on her gifts of Fortune and Prosperity - we all need that! Come celebrate through ritual, learning, craft, and sharing with your Sacred Sisters and help us launch our second year! Open to all women, girls, and those identifying as female. Gather with us from 6:00 - 8:30 pm in the Church foyer. Bring drums, snacks to share if you like, and bright smiles!

Circle Suppers

Bunko for Blankets! Nov 19th

Come to the November 19th Circle Supper at Neshoba for a night of good food, good fun and good deeds!

Please bring a comfort food dish to pass for the potluck dinner. We'll be playing an easy and fun game of Bunko (No experience necessary)

We're also collecting new, or clean and gently used, full size blankets which will be donated to a local shelter.

If you choose to play Bunko please bring \$5 to help cover the cost of PRIZES! Childcare will be provided, however some older kids may wish to play this easy dice game too!

Important Note: Due to the holiday season we will not be having Circle Suppers in December, however in January we hope to have enough interest to begin our new "Family Friendly" Circle Suppers. Look for information in the December newsletter.

For more information or to sign up to host a Circle Supper please contact Trish MacCabe at circlesuppers@neshobauu.org. Thank you!

December Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, November 18th at 4pm

If you would like your article included in next month's newsletter, you must submit "cut-and-paste-ready copy" of 100 words or less to office@neshobauu.org by 4pm on the 3rd Friday of each month. If you have any questions, please call 266-2626.

Soup Kitchen

November 27 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) is our volunteer day at the soup kitchen. We need 10 to 12 people to sign up to serve food on Sunday afternoon at First Presbyterian, downtown.

Volunteers will arrive at First Pres at 1:30, start serving at 2:30, and be finished by 4 pm. The soup kitchen is also in need of men's clothing, especially jeans/trousers with a waist-size of 30-34, though they noted that they are not in need of winter clothes at this time.

Community Plate Update

On the second Sunday of each month, we send the offering plate, "out the door." October's Community Plate Recipient was SRVS (Shelby Residential & Vocational Services.) Neshobans donated over \$328.00 to this worthy organization.

Bond Homes is our Community Plate recipient for the second Sunday of November, in conjunction with our Bond Homes holiday gift program, organized by Linda Holmes.

December's Community Plate recipient will be Turning Point Partners.

**Bonds Care Homes Project
By Linda Holmes**

Hello Neshobans...

It's time for our annual tradition of adopting the residents at the Bond Care Homes! Sign up sheets with specific holiday gift requests will be posted on Sunday, November 12th. Wrapped, labeled gifts to be brought to Neshoba by 12-11-11. Bond Home visit this year will be on 12-18-11. Sign up sheets will be located on the hallway bulletin board on 11-12-11. Stay tuned! Please contact Linda Holmes if you are interested in assisting with the coordination of the event. Thank you!

On November 2nd, in conjunction with Wednesday Night Live, the Social Justice Committee will be hosting a discussion: Social Justice at the World Café, from 7-8:30 pm. Come enjoy dessert and coffee, and be a part of the conversation about what social justice issues are important to you and to us as a congregation. We'll see you there!

Pride Parade and Festival

A big thank you to all the Neshobans who came out for the Pride Parade and Festival on October 15. We had over 50 members representing us at the Festival; 35 of us marched down Beale Street in the Pride Parade! At our booth, we handed out lots of info cards about Neshoba, and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Chrysti Hogan for orchestrating our presence at Pride

Heifer Ranch Trip

Neshoba's trip to Heifer International on October 1st was a blast! About a dozen people, both kids and adults, carpoled to Heifer Ranch in Arkansas, where they toured the Ranch and got to see some examples of the sustainable agricultural practices that Heifer International teaches its partners in various parts of the world. They also donated the money Neshoba had collected, and brought back a quarter-stacker to collect quarters for Heifer International as well as gift catalogues, which will be available in the foyer.

Stay tuned for more information about Heifer, and about addressing global hunger and poverty. The tour group is partnering with Christopher Douglas for our December 11th worship service.





“This I Believe” October 16, 2011

By Melissa Mann

Editor’s note: During the October 16th service, four members of the Adult RE Class titled, “This I Believe” (led by Bill Siler) shared their statements with the congregation. For the next four months, we’ll print these statements. Thank you to Melissa Mann for sharing her statement this month.

UUs believe in deeds over creeds. I guess in effect my creed has become the deeds themselves.

I am agnostic. It is not belief in a higher power that gives me strength, holds me up when I'm down, it's my village. Belief in a higher power is largely irrelevant to my life. I believe in the power of community. This belief is what makes me UU. I'm not waiting around for prayers to be answered. I seek out communities of people who are as determined as I am to mold the world into an acceptable home for everyone. Maybe there is an all powerful genie out there who will grant wishes. I don't put my faith in it. I put my faith in community.

It is my community, this Neshoba community in particular that I rely on to keep me on my path. It is my community that inspires me to do good, to stand up, to be a better daughter, wife, mother, friend, person. It's that community that kept me strong this week.

A few months ago I found myself buying rain boots with my four year old son Silas. He had his eye on a pair of green, frog boots but when we were ready to buy them the frog ones were not in his size. It was then that he saw a pair of plink, Hello Kitty, rain boots. Pink had become his favorite color a year earlier, just before his little sister Amalie came into our family. I don't know if it was all the talk of pink for her or just the extra exposure to the color, but whatever the reason pink is usually Silas's favorite color. When he expressed his desire to get pink boots I didn't think much of it until I saw my husband's face.

Jason was rightfully worried that other kids would make fun of a boy in pink, polka dot, hello kitty boots. I wasn't really sure what to do at that point. I am extraordinarily happy that Silas thinks for himself, makes decisions on his own, & knows what he likes. I also suffer beyond measure when I see him hurt, physically or emotionally. Do I tell him no, you cant have those boots (without offering a good explanation, because there isn't one) or do I let him have them knowing that they will undoubtedly make him the center of

attention & most likely ridicule at school? I went with the latter, I can't lie to him & I can't perpetuate a ridiculous stereotype.

But those boots have brought my boy trouble. Most recently this week! He's excited to wear them - Every time, almost as if he doesn't remember that the kids are going to make comments about them. I know this isn't the case, Silas forgets nothing! So when it rained this week Silas wore his boots to school. The first thing I heard when he walked in his classroom was a little boy say "Silas! Those are girl boots". The second thing I heard made my heart swell. Silas said "No they aren't! They're MY boots!". Way to go Silas! Even with his confidence, Silas asked me if I had brought his canvass shoes (I always bring them because rain boots get hot & I do worry that he will become embarrassed by them). I took Silas away from the other kids and asked him why he wanted his other shoes. He told me it was because the other boy said he was wearing "girl boots." I commended him for telling the boy that they weren't girl boots, but his boots. I also told him for the first time that some people think that pink is for girls, but I don't think that. I think that every color is for every person & he is free to like whatever he wants. At the end of the day Silas was wearing his boots.

This story might seem simple & unrelated to my belief in the power of community. That couldn't be farther from the truth. I rely on my village, especially those of you here at Neshoba to get me through this mothering thing. I couldn't do it without you. The whole time I was talking to Silas about his boots I kept thinking thank god Saturday is pride!

Yesterday Silas was able to see all sorts of people wearing all sorts of things. It isn't often that a boy who loves to wear costumes & pink & rainbow tie dye can actually blend into the crowd. It isn't everywhere that a mom who values her child's creativity & individuality over social norms can find support in those around her. It is community that gives me this strength.

It is not just the power of my community that I believe in, but also the world community. The interconnected web of being. It is difficult, especially in this age of information, to have hope that peace and tolerance can prevail in the world. We hear about & all too often witness bad things happening. That really tests my faith in the greater good, but still, the tangible good that I see working in the world is brought about by groups of determined people, communities and villages working together to affect change in the world.

I believe in the power of community.

SEE UU at the Movies: Live Auction Parties/Dinners Remainders

To purchase any of these remaining spots, please contact Victor Lendermon at auction@neshobauu.org

<p>Vegetarian Chili Dinner – November 12, 2011 Lots of extra spots@ \$40 per spot</p>

This complete dinner including vegetarian chili with all the fixin's, cornbread, dessert and various beverages. This has been moved the church so seats are unlimited.

Donor: Shirley Nunley

<p>Gingerbread House Making Party – December 3, 2011 7 spots left@ \$50/per spot</p>
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Back by popular demand! Last year we created a winter wonderland of beautiful gingerbread houses. This holiday season we hope to make an even bigger village. Sign up for a festive afternoon of warm apple cider and holiday music while we create our masterpieces. Open to kids & kids-at-heart.

Donors: Merilynn Rowan & Trish MacCabe.

<p>Authentic German Dinner at The Rostigs – January 8, 2012 4 spots added @ \$30/per spot</p>

This dinner sold out, but Lorena will set the table for 4 more! Enjoy a homemade meal of Rolladen, Salat, Spaetzle, Torte, Kaffee & more.

Donor: Lorena & Markus Rostig

<p>Chinese New Year Celebration – January 21, 2012 9 spots left @ \$45/per spot</p>

Come share a dinner at the home of Elizabeth Upchurch to share warm glows of winter fires and friendship to carry on Chip's celebration of the Chinese New Year. Come find out what the stars hold for you next year.

Donor: Elizabeth Upchurch.

Workshop on Writing Your Memoir or Biography – January 28, 2012
4 spots available @ \$30/per spot

Whether they be family histories or intimate tributes to mentors or friends, the narrative we create are what gives us our anchorage and links to the past and future. a mixture of informal lectures, discussion, short exercises and Q&A's, this workshop will draw participants into this transformative process of building stories from oral history, photographs, letters, scrapbooks, and diaries. This workshop will include a light lunch.

Donor: Cyndy Tucker

Oscar Party– Feb. 26, 2012
6 spots available @ \$40/per spot

Dress up in your favorite red-carpet outfits (tuxes, gowns and outrageous jewelry encouraged, but not required!) and come out for a star-studded evening of good company, appetizers and champagne. Join your hosts, Sue and Lorena (with Eddie Murphy) and root for your favorite movies & stars during the show!

Donors: Sue Hand & Lorena Rostig

Dinner & Delayed Wedding Reception for Bill & Susan Siler – March 11, 2012
12 spots available @ \$40/spot

Join us at the home of Elizabeth Upchurch on March 11, 2012. Meal provided. BYOB.

Donor: Elizabeth Upchurch

New Orleans Style Pool Party – June 2, 2012
14 spots left @ \$40/per spot

You are invited to this New Orleans style pool party at Ann Florendo's house. The fare will include gumbo, red beans and rice and drinks. Swimming optional.

Donors: Ann Florendo & Tom Crutcher.

NEWSLETTER/Nov 2011

Neshoba Church

Phone: 901-266-2626 · Fax: 901-266-2626

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901-266-2626 · minister@neshobauu.org

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Board President:

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Office Administrator:

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**Neshoba
Church**

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Do you receive the 10-Day Forecast and Monthly Newsletter by email? If not, please visit our website to sign up. The 10-Day Forecast is our most comprehensive reminder of events coming up at Neshoba. A hard copy is posted each Friday on the Communications Committee Bulletin Board in the hallway (near the nametags.) For more info, please call the office (266-2626) or e-mail Lorena at communication@neshobauu.org

Neshoba Church

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Cordova, TN 38018

To keep our newsletter mailing list updated, please call the church office, 901-266-2626, to let us know if you wish to have your name deleted, added, or your address changed.