



Here we are at the start of the Banner Parade on our way to opening ceremonies. Everyone's proudly wearing our Clearwater colors representing UUC at the second largest gathering of UUs in the world...The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute SUUSI! Join Us Next Year at SUUSI 2012! Celebrate being a UU next year at SUUSI - third full-week of July! It's heavenly.

www.SUUSI.org



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Our Summer Program “Around the World with Me and U.U.” continues to be a success! We had a costume party, made Laotian spring roles, explored the myth of Dracula (Romania), and discovered the wonders of Puerto Rico. Did you see the wonderful handmade beads from the women of Uganda? Can you believe that they were made from recycled paper?

Amazing! Just wait and see what we have planned for the rest of the summer:

- August 7th **Argentina**
- August 14th **Albania**
- August 21st **India/Khasi Hills**
- August 28th **Mexico**
- September 4th **Philippines**
- September 11th **Canada**



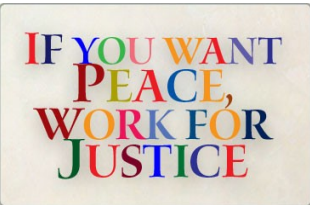
Mark your calendars! On August 13th from 9am- noon is our annual Religious Education Teacher Advisor Training. Childcare will be provided. This session is essential for individuals interested in teaching, advising or assisting our religious education classes. Not sure? That’s okay. Please join us and find out more!

Not only will we discuss curricula, classroom management and safety but also go a little deeper and discuss the philosophy of religious education for all ages.

Here’s what we have planned for our Religious Education Program 2011-2012

- Nursery (Ages 0-3)** Free play, art, music and lots of love
- Pre-K & Kindergarten:** Picture Book Bible Tales and World Religions
- 1st & 2nd grade:** Experience with the Web of Life (Celebrates the 7th Principle)
- 3rd-5th grade:** Treasure Hunting (UU identity, history, world community)
- 6th-8th grade:** Traditions with a Wink (Stories, activities to help gain an understanding of our faith)
- 9th-12th grade:** Heart and Hands (meets from 12-1pm after the worship service) Class and advisor designed program based on the “Hearts” and “Hands” of our community and youth.

This year we are also introducing our Faith in Action: Social Justice Sundays. Our children and youth will meet together once a month to learn about social justice, and the people who are working to do something about it. Are you passionate about helping others? Can you spare just one hour? Then, this is for you! We need guest speakers, activists and volunteers to help promote and support the helping hands of the next generation of Unitarian Universalists. Sign-up sheets are located in the Social Hall. Come make a difference in the life of a child and they will make a difference in yours. Let’s learn together....



If you are interested or have suggestions please contact me, Christine Pensa at: Christinep@uuclearwater.org or 727-644-1313.

We can’t wait for Sunday!

**Christine Pensa
Religious Education Coordinator**

My musical journey began at age 10 when I started playing the drum in the school band.

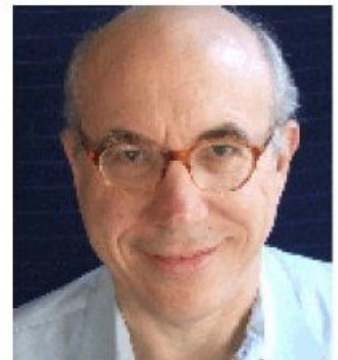
That Christmas, I received an LP record featuring the great jazz drummer Gene Krupa. Then my parents bought me a drum set, which I still play to this very day. I listened to and played along with that Gene Krupa record many times during the next few years, and my love for drumming, jazz, and music grew and expanded. Over the years I've had the opportunity to play the drums to various kinds of music, but my favorite is jazz.

For me, the great thing about jazz is that it's a wonderful means of creative expression.

When playing jazz, the musicians have a basic road map in mind of where they are going with a song. They generally start out playing the melody "straight," just as it's written. Then the musicians take turns playing improvised solos, keeping the basic theme of the melody but "jazzing it up," dancing around the melody, using their creativity and instincts to express themselves musically. This creative, spontaneous expression is what I find so rewarding and appealing about jazz.

My musical horizons were broadened considerably when I joined the choir here at UUC eight years ago. Singing in the choir has brought home to me the dramatic and profound way in which important values, ideas, and emotions can be expressed through music, much more effectively than words alone could convey. This includes songs with lyrics based on traditional religious and theological beliefs and concepts which ordinarily would not have much meaning for me. However, when these words are put to song with a stirring melody, somehow the spiritual essence underlying the words comes alive in an amazing way.

In many songs with a religious theme, the words and music were written by persons of a different time and place, so it's natural that their religious traditions and beliefs would be quite different from my own. However, when I really get into singing their music, I feel that I share with them the essential religious experience that their words and music were designed to express. Therefore my musical experience has confirmed a belief which I had previously arrived at in my study of philosophy: namely, that people of many different times and cultures share the same basic religious and spiritual experience. It's expressed using different words and concepts, but the underlying experience is, I believe, the same.



Ed Kraemer

Music's ability to express important values, ideas, and emotions is especially meaningful in relation to the worship experience. Music can reinforce and enhance the message from the pulpit, and the worship service as a whole, in a profound way. A memorable example of this occurred at UUC back in the fall of 2003.

The choir had learned several songs from a collection known as the Songs of Children.

The lyrics consisted of poems written by children while interned in a concentration camp during World War II. One Sunday that fall the guest speaker was talking about the Holocaust. At the end of his remarks he related a tragic, shocking incident in which a Nazi officer shot and killed a young boy. His voice rang out in loud, sharp, staccato tones, almost as if he were echoing the sound of the gun. When he sat down, there was a stunned silence in the sanctuary. The very next item in the order of service was the choir singing one of the Songs of Children. So we stood up and sang Birdsong, in which a child marvels at the beauty of a blackbird's song and other simple wonders of nature, and affirms the wonder and beauty of life, despite the horrendous circumstances. Singing these words, to an inspiring melody, in the emotionally charged context of what we had just heard, was incredibly moving, and forever drove home to me music's amazing ability to capture and express the most profound aspects of life and humanity.

Worship Services — Sundays at 10:30 am

Each summer while our minister, Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, is on leave, we offer a rich diversity of topics presented by guest speakers at the Sunday services, which also include the talents of one or more outstanding local musicians. We welcome you to attend any or all of these services.



August 7

6th Principle: World Peace - Loving Our Enemy

Rev. Naomi King

We're not going to reach world peace without learning how to love our enemies. How did the early Universalists do it? How shall we? Naomi shares some stories of her practice on being the enemy and loving one's enemy and some tales of Universalists of old. Rev. King lives Unitarian Universalism's embrace of wonderment and mystery and humanity's call to restore and nourish our world. She also knits, writes, and gardens in south Florida with her partner, Thandeka, and their dog, the Good Shepherd. You can follow Naomi's e-ministry through a variety of blogs, on Facebook, and on Twitter.

Worship Leader: Cathy Costa

Music: Peter Goldhammer

August 14

Democracy in India: A Traveler's Perspective

Allen Ongchangco

Allen will explore the fifth principle relating to the use of the democratic process in the world's largest democracy, India. Allen, his wife Lisa Baird, and their daughter, Maya have been members of UUC for three years. In February, 2011, Allen and his family, along with Rev. Abhi Janamanchi and several UUC members, went on a pilgrimage to India's sacred places.

Worship Leader: Jenn Bouchie

Music: Linda Jones

August 21

Why We Are Still Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi and Abhimanyu Janamanchi

A dialogue sermon about being a Unitarian Universalist - what nurtures us, what challenges us, and what keeps us in this faith.

Music: Ed Kraemer and Charlie Wheaton

August 28

Come Celebrate GA with US

Celebrate and learn about the General Assembly experience with five folks who attended this year's 50th anniversary celebration of the Unitarian Universalism Association in Charlotte NC:

**Debbie Bachtell, Sue Boone, Bill Dishongh, Harriet HaSidi,
and Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**

Worship Leader: Bill Dishongh and Sue Boone

Music: Peter Goldhammer and Van Fenstermaker

Social Justice Council News

Share the Plate & the Better World Emergency Fund

- *Marlene Calderone, Treasurer of the Social Justice Council*

The Mid-South District "2011 Severe Storm Fund" was sent a check for \$1,000.00 to assist with the recent tornado/storm damage affecting many states. \$823.00 was collected from the June Share the Plates and \$177.00 was added from the Better World Emergency Fund for a total donation of \$1,000.00.



With the opening of school fast approaching, Clothes to Kids, Inc. was selected to be our July Share the Plate recipient. CIK provides new and quality used clothing and shoes for children from low-income families in Pinellas County, free of charge. Each child selects five outfits and a pair of shoes twice a year. To be eligible, a child must be enrolled in school, reside in Pinellas County and be in financial need. A child may also be referred to CTK by a teacher, guidance counselor, social service agency, place of worship or law enforcement agency. The amount donated will be published in the September Octagram.

ASAP Homeless Services, Inc. of St. Petersburg was chosen to be the beneficiary of the August Share the Plates. ASAP provides a place to shower and receive clean clothes, a mailing address so the homeless can receive benefits, counseling and job seeking assistance. They also have a women/children shelter. Please give generously.



Recently, several Social Justice Council members toured Pinellas Safe Harbor. This program was started by Sheriff Jim Coates to help keep the homeless out of jail. Although a small percentage of residents have previously been in jail, the vast majority, approximately 85%, have no criminal record. We were very impressed with the facility. It was a safe, clean, organized space where everyone is treated with respect, aware of the rules and encouraged to follow them. A light lunch is available for those who are there during lunch time and dinner is served for all the residents each day. Counseling and job assistance is available.

ASAP Homeless Services, Inc. has been supported for several years through the Better World Emergency Fund. This year, after much deliberation, it was voted to have the BWEF support Pinellas Safe Harbor in Clearwater. We hope to establish a close relationship with Safe Harbor. There are many opportunities to volunteer and we encourage UUC members to provide their services. Ask any Social Justice Council member for contact information.

Economic Justice Team – Linda Stoller, Team Leader

The next meeting of the Economic Justice Team will be on Thursday night August 18th at 7 PM. We will be discussing our calendar and our goals for the coming year as we continue our support for Immigration Reform, Fair Trade, the farm workers and the homeless population in our community.

Please join us. For more information contact: Linda Stoller at 442-3551 or email her at

LStol10403@aol.com.

Please remember to bring nonperishable food products for the RCS Food Bank during the summer. The box for the collection is in the lobby. The bad economic situation in our community continues to leave many families without enough to eat. The Food Bank is in need of all kinds of canned foods during the summer. Please be generous!

Why We Sell Fair Trade products at the UUC

The UUC has been selling Fair Trade products distributed by Equal Exchange since 2005. The UU Service Committee and the UUC get a percentage of the sales; however, the reason we sell these products is explained in the following letter from our Fair Trade partners at Equal Exchange :

At Equal Exchange, we buy from co-operatives of small-scale farmers who love what they do. And they want you to love what they produce. But the system is stacked against them. While corporations strengthen their grip on the food system, consumers and farmers lose. (continued on next page)

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Our new campaign, "Small Farmers. Big Change: Creating a Green and More Just Food System," represents a path to bringing justice to the food system and health to the planet.

Through our actions, we can take steps to reduce our environmental footprint, help farmers save their local ecosystems, and advocate for agriculture and trade policies that actually benefit small-scale producers and workers instead of corporations. The positive impact of these actions would indeed represent a powerful change.

Why are small farmers and their organizations so important? Quite simply, they provide us with really great, high quality, healthy food. They also take care of the land. Sustainable farming protects the forests, soil and watersheds, and helps cool the planet. Small farmer co-operatives encourage democratic decision-making, provide dignified livelihoods for their members, and give opportunities for producers to feel pride in their accomplishments and hope for the future. These organizations help keep communities healthy and strong, and keep local cultures vibrant. They provide real alternatives to migration, gangs, and the cultivation of coca and other illegal crops.

Today, however, small-scale farmers face tremendous challenges. Many of our agriculture and trade policies are designed to favor large, agricultural corporations. The subsidies, credits, and tax incentives the government awards to agribusiness dramatically undermine the ability of small farmers to compete in the marketplace. Even our energy policies and consumption patterns, which contribute to global warming, affect small farmers disproportionately. Although they farm in ways that steward the land and keep the planet cool, global warming causes changes in weather patterns which affect crops and crop cycles.

Unusual storms have become more frequent and severe, causing a loss of lives, homes, crops and livelihoods.

But we can reverse this environmental degradation and take steps to ensure that we leave a greener planet for our children. We can take back the food system to maintain our connection to the land, the food we eat, and the farmers who grow it. We can demand the right to know what's in our food, and to have real choices over what we eat and from whom we buy. We can continue to support small farmers by purchasing Fair Trade products, buying from co-operatives, and supporting local farmers in our own communities. It's important to continue to exercise consumer power through our purchases and reduce our environmental footprints through changes in behavior. Today, we would also like to invite you to join with us to take further steps to affect change.

A variety of Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate products are on sale on the second Sunday of each month in the Social Hall after the service. Make drinking coffee and tea (and enjoying chocolate!) an act of justice. Please consider buying whatever you use of these products from the Social Justice Table – it's a win-win situation for everyone. For further questions about our Fair Trade program contact Linda Stoller.

Environmental Justice Team – Dotti "GreenJeans" Doyle, Team Leader

Although the Green Team did not meet in July, we have been busy planning for the fall.

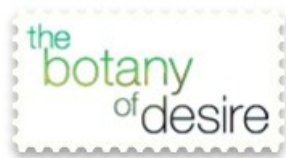
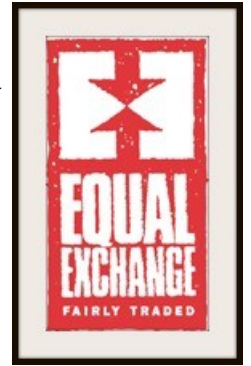
Our Demonstration Garden did yield some veggies, and we have bigger plans for a fall garden. Anyone with skills or just an interest in growing fresh organic vegetables right here at UUC is welcome to join us in this project. We have raised the money for our fee to apply to the UUA for the first step in the Green Sanctuary accreditation process. We hope to submit that application by this fall.

Jay Hardman has been working with Religious Education on a couple of projects for our children. One is a butterfly garden and the other involves growing different types of grass.

In cooperation with Open Issues a film in four parts, "The Botany of Desire," will be shown in the Open Issues forum, Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in August. This film is based on a book by Michael Pollan and demonstrates our relationship with various plants. After each Sunday service, members of the Green Team will be available at the Social Justice table with information on our activities and volunteer opportunities.

The next regular meeting of the Green Team is on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. That same night at 7:00 p.m., we will be hosting a second showing (by popular demand) of the film, "Renewal." This important film about various faith communities and their environmental activities is a "must see" for anyone wanting to help UUC be a green model for the larger community.

"It isn't easy being green" - Kermit the Frog



OPEN ISSUES
F O R U M
 Speakers on Topics of General Interest
 In the Patio Room at 9:30am Sundays

Throughout August we will be watching and discussing "The Botany of Desire" Michael Pollan lectures about his book of the same name on this DVD. He tells how plants fend for themselves and how it affects us all. The importance of the 7th principle of Unitarian-Universalists: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part".

Aug 7th
"The Botany of Desire"
Michael Pollan's DVD Part 1, The Apple.
 It will be the 30 minute DVD followed by discussion led by Jay Hardman.

Aug 14th
"The Botany of Desire"
Michael Pollan's DVD Part 2, The Tulip.
 It will be the 30 minute DVD followed by discussion led by Dotti Doyle.

Aug 21st
"The Botany of Desire"
Michael Pollan's DVD Part 3, Cannabis.
 It will be the 30 minute DVD followed by discussion led by John Chase.

Aug 28th
"The Botany of Desire"
Michael Pollan's DVD Part 4, The Potato.
 It will be the 30 minute DVD followed by discussion led by Jay Hardman.

UU 101 is a class that briefly explains the history and beliefs of Unitarian Universalism. It is offered the first Sunday of each month in the library at 12:30 pm. A light lunch is provided. **The next class will be August 7th** and Susan Hegner will be our resident expert. Anyone interested in attending this class may sign up online or **contact: Cindi Nohe at cindiln53@yahoo.com or**



A request from your editor to people sending material for the Octagram:
 This month, I got the following files for inclusion in the Octagram: Aug Octagram 2011, Aug 2011 Octagram, for Octagram Aug 2011, Octagram Aug 2011, Octagram Aug 2011 and Octagram 8/2011.

Please let me know what you're sending me with titles like:
 Open Issues July, Worship Services July and so on. That would help me so much.
Also, all I need is text (either in an email or attached to email) You can copy and paste into Email or actually type it in the email. I don't need .doc files or .pdf files.

Thank you. Lary



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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OCTAGRAM

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists
Of Clearwater and the Octagon Arts Center

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DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT OR A QUESTION RELATING TO THE MINISTER OR MINISTRY?

If so, please contact one of the Members of the
Congregational Committee on Ministry:

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Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email
to Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline
for each month's issue is midnight of the third
Sunday of the month prior to the month of issue.

Visit: www.uuclearwater.org