

### Octagram to Become Weekly Publication

In an effort to continually improve communications with our members and friends while utilizing our resources wisely, the Octagram and the Weekly Bulletin will be merged into one weekly publication beginning in January 2012. This will result in more news, more often, while reducing redundancy, copying costs and the use of staff and volunteer time. The new weekly Octagram will now include the features formerly included in the monthly publication, such as full length articles from Abhi, the board President, Chorale, Religious Education, Social Justice and other committees and event coordinators. These full length articles now will appear in part in the weekly Octagram email and link to the full piece on our website. A "Save the Date" block will be added to the weekly Octagram to promote upcoming events further off in the future. These date markers will be linked to more information on our website, as available. Suggestions and questions may be sent to [Octagram@UUClearwater.org](mailto:Octagram@UUClearwater.org). Watch in January for the new weekly Octagram. To receive printed material from our online Octagram, please call the front office, T-F, 9 a.m. - noon, at 727-531-7704.

Thank you to Lary Crews for all of his wonderful work as the monthly Octagram editor. We wish him the best as he pursues his next adventure.

### Your Help is Needed for the Emerald Auction 2012

The Emerald Auction Steering Committee needs your help! Next month we will begin receiving donations for the auction. Please start thinking about what you can contribute. Leprechaun Abhi says, "Here's a good rule of thumb: Is this something that at least two people would be interested in bidding for?" Hosting a dinner with a special theme is one of the most popular silent auction items. Rides to the airport, boat rides and special outings are also popular. What creative things can you come up with?

Also, we will need the help of a number of volunteers to make this auction (on March 17th...St. Patrick's Day) a big success. More information will be coming to you soon about ways that you can assist. Please contact the UUC office to signup to contribute your time and energy to this really fun event.



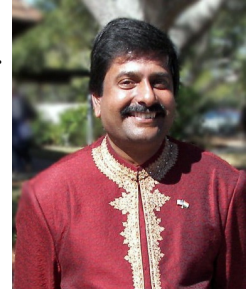
### Support the annual UUC Bake Sale, Sunday, December 11.

This is a major fundraiser supporting the UUC general budget. And remember...

Baked goods make great holiday gifts!

*Everyone is invited to create and share their favorite homemade goodies. Pack them in small, air tight plastic bags. We will be in the Social Hall to collect them on Saturday, Dec 10 from 10 am - 1 pm and on Sunday beginning at 7:30 am.*

*For more information phone Betsy Toelle at 727-773-2625 or [email Betsy here](mailto:Betsy@UUClearwater.org).*



"Peace is not the absence of war," said Spinoza. "It is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, trust, and justice."

If peace would only be approached as a "virtue, a state of mind, a disposition," the world would be a peaceful place.

Everyone wants peace. But for some people, peace means to be left alone, not to be disturbed with or interfered with. We want to live without hindrance, so we find some corner of the universe, or of our own being, in which we crawl, and we live in the shadows of self-enclosure. We think that peace is a matter of pursuing a principle, cultivating a particular tendency, a particular fancy, a particular wish.

But peace can't be found by running away from the world nor is it a destination, a place we will arrive. It is, instead, a way of being, the way to live in the midst of things.



Where do we begin?

As the hymn goes, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." If we want peace, we need to begin with ourselves. We need to find in ourselves the strength to forgive ourselves, to acknowledge to ourselves our sadness and anxiety about our anger. The anger that comes from fear. The work to do is to learn to stay still with the anxiety, not rush to solutions, not fix the fears, but to stay present to it, breathe in its presence, and wait. And to forgive ourselves, again and again, for not that we have been taught our lapses, but are really merely being who we are. Thus, we find peace in our hearts and therefore, in our minds as well.

And a religious community is a good place to begin together. A church is a place where we can think, speak, and act in holy, spirit-filled ways, not in the way of a fear-filled, conflict-ridden world. A church is a home for love, a home for brothers and sisters to dwell in harmony, to rest and be healed, to let go of our defenses and be free – free from worries and tensions, free to laugh or cry, free to let go of all that blocks us from living fully, and free to hold on to all that makes us whole.

Let us find that inner stillness not in isolation but in the company of each other, with each other, and strive together to create that peace in the larger community. This may be how we learn another way than war and hatred - as we can feel the wounded heart below the anger and self-hatred and feel the wounded heart in everyone. That is where we start where we are, to be in peace and to dwell together in peace.

In a world filled with conflict, may we be peace makers. May we fulfill the words of Rabbi Jesus: "Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the children of God."

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and peace-filled holiday season.

In faith,  
Abhi



Hello Friends,

Wow! December is a busy month! So many things are happening: Book Sale, Bake Sale, Spirited Sunday, Chorale Sunday, Festival Ruah, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and so much more!

With the holiday season just around the corner, we know it can be a stressful time for our families. In order to help alleviate some of that stress, the Religious Education Committee is sponsoring a **“Parents Night Out/Children’s**

**Pajama Party & Game Night” on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-10pm.** Parents will be able to get some time to themselves while their children enjoy fun and games with their friends at UUC. Have your children come dressed in their P.J.’s for crafts, video games and cookie decorating. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Register online or sign-up in the Social Hall at the Religious Education table. A suggested donation is \$5 per child.

**On December 25<sup>th</sup> there will be no Religious Education classes or childcare.** On January 1<sup>st</sup> children and youth may participate in a variety of arts and crafts activities and free play, or they may attend the worship service with their parents. Volunteers are needed!

We can’t wait for Sunday!

*Happy Holidays!*

*Christine Pensa,*

*Religious Education Coordinator*

The Religious Education Committee meets the first Thursday of the month in the Children’s Library from 7pm-9pm. Our meetings are open to the congregation and we encourage people to attend.

If you would like to know more about the Religious Education program at UUC, join our UUCRE yahoo group: [UUCRE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:UUCRE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or contact Christine Pensa at: [christinep@uuclearwater.org](mailto:christinep@uuclearwater.org)

**NEEDED: Leprechaun Chefs that can make Wee Delights for our Pre-Auction Party on January 7th, 2012.**

Call Joanne Osburn [727-230-2130](tel:727-230-2130) or email: [gogojoanni@aol.com](mailto:gogojoanni@aol.com) for more details. This will be a FUN event in the social hall, which doesn't require hosting in your home, and it's a great time to help with the auction effort if you love to make great snacks, hors d' oeuvres and tapas.

**On Sunday, Nov 13 th , Bill Dishongh, aka BiLLD, gave the Social Justice Report and Rev. Abhi asked him to share why Social Justice is important to him. Excerpts from his testimonial follow.**

“When I was 16 I fought two grown men in a hayfield, men who did not like that I stood against bigotry, prejudice, and against Gov. Faubus and segregation. At the time I did not know that what I believed was the first UU principle *'the inherent worth and dignity of every person.'* That belief led me to leave my denomination when the state convention of my church ordered the members to vote against Kennedy, because he owed his allegiance to the Pope instead of the USA. Those principles led me to wish I could have done more when Martin marched from Selma to Montgomery or spent the night in a Birmingham Jail. This was the same principle that Jimmy, Dave, Viola and some of the freedom riders died for.

The goal of *'world community with peace, liberty and justice for all'* resonated with me as marches and rallies called for the end of the Vietnam War. *'Acceptance of one another'* led me in the 70's to join others at an intersection in Houston, in support of my Gay brothers and sisters. As a UU, *'justice, equity and compassion in human relations'* as well as the other UU principles gave me no choice but to go to Phoenix last year. As I look at the work of my brothers and sisters on the Social Justice Teams, it is the UU principles that drive the actions of these dedicated folk.

*'Respect for the independent web of all existence of which we are a part'* directs our Green Team led by Dotti 'GreenJeans' Doyle and Jay Hardman. It was her devotion to UU principles that resulted in Dotti being named 'Volunteer of the Month.' It drives things like the Green Team Film Lending Library, the partnership that the Green Team has with TerraCycle, a recycling company (both of which are elaborated on later in this report). Another example of the interdependent web is the Green Team's very successful organic vegetable garden for which, by the way, they always welcome help.



are driven by UU principles.

When I see the commitment that Linda Stoller and her Economic Justice Team demonstrates repeatedly it is obvious that the principles of *'justice, equality, and compassion in human relations'* and *'the inherent worth and dignity of every person'* drives this team as well. I see the principles at work, when the team gives blankets to migrant workers, when UUC, led by this team, join hands with the Hispanic Outreach Center, when the Economic Justice Team sells free trade coffee, tea, and chocolate to benefit the growers and workers.

When the Interweave folks make a stand against bullying and lead UUs in the Gay Pride parade, they

Our UU principles are at the core of my beliefs, and why Social Justice is important to me, and the motivation to Stand on the Side of Love and Justice. As a great man once said, *'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'* And love is what doing Social Justice is all about.”

*Continued from previous page...*

UU's lend their voice and their feet to the local Occupy Movement. Several UU's from Clearwater and St Pete, driven by the principles of their faith, joined other concerned citizens in attending OCCUPY ST PETE in downtown St Petersburg on Saturday, November 6th. The events contained a rally at the Bank of America, a General Assembly, and a march around downtown St Pete. The group was made up of babies in strollers, parents, students, teachers, nurses, doctors, firefighters, seniors, government workers, unemployed, people in wheelchairs, and other groups. The common thread was they were the "99%," protesting against corporate greed and a system that is broken. The UU's were there because they believe in the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" and "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Be thinking of how you may exhibit your belief in our UU principles, and lend your voice, as we join with the hundreds of UU congregations and thousands of UU's in supporting the OCCUPY movement. For more information contact Linda Stoller, 727-481-0521, or BiLLD, 727-415-7676, or talk to anyone on the Social Justice Council.

### **From the SJC TREASURER – Marlene Calderone**

**Our Share-the-Plate program-** If you would like to nominate one of your favorite charities as a Share-the-Plate recipient, please fill out a form to do so. Forms are available on the UUC website and are also on hand in the UUC office and at the Social Justice table in the Social Hall after the service.

**The Mitten Tree 2011 -** In keeping with what has become a UUC tradition, we once again put up the Mitten Tree. This year we are ensuring that 135 children selected from three organizations are going to receive one of their "holiday wishes." The three area organizations are: the Shepherd Center of Tarpon Springs, the Homeless Emergency Project or HEP of Clearwater and Metro Wellness and Community Centers of St. Petersburg. Many of the children are homeless or about to become homeless and several are affected by HIV/Aids. In response to the deflated economy we have increased the number we hope to serve. We know UUC can meet the challenge.



For those of you who are new to UUC let me explain how the program works. Paper mittens are made and decorated by our RE children. A child's name and wish along with a number is taped to the back of each mitten. The mittens are then hung on the holiday tree in the UUC lobby. **Please visit the UUC lobby and pick a mitten from the tree.** Record your name and telephone number on the sign up sheet on the table next to the tree.

They will then purchase one of the requested items. Unwrapped gifts, placed in a large plastic bag with the mitten attached are to be returned to UUC by December 13 th so they can be delivered to the children in time for the holiday. Parents will wrap the items. Donations of wrapping paper, tape, tags and ribbon are greatly appreciated. We thank you again for your support of this program.

## **ECONOMIC JUSTICE Team – Linda Stoller**

The **Blanket Collection Needs Your Help!** The annual collection for the migrant farm workers in Hillsborough County will continue through the first week in December, so please bring them in ASAP. They are distributed in Plant City at the annual farm worker toy distribution, this year on December 17. Although it has picked up some steam the past week the drive started slowly. Last year over 500 people lined up to receive our blankets. The team ran out of blankets before the end of the line was reached. Please bring a new or slightly used blanket to UUC to donate; we do not want to run out this year. You may sign up to help distribute at the Social Justice Table, or contact Linda Stoller at 727-442-3551. Consider making a donation so that we may buy the blankets for you.



The **Hispanic Outreach Preschool Project**, a cooperative project with UUC and the Hispanic Outreach Center to aid preschool children and their moms in learning English and preparing for kindergarten will begin December 1st. Five members of the congregation have volunteered to work as teachers. We are still accepting donations of age appropriate (toddlers and preschoolers) new or lightly used learning toys. Please do not donate stuffed animals or dolls.

The **Dream Sabbath Petition** program is progressing well. We have already obtained five pages of signatures, and hopefully there'll be more. Various members of the team will contact legislators to present the petitions directly to them.



Thank you to Leslie Conrad for her work to publish this month's Octagram. Leslie acts as the backup to the Weekly Bulletin editor, assists with the RE program, is a member of the communications team, is the promotions coordinator for this year's Annual Auction and assists with countless other UUC activities. Thank you Leslie for all that you do.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (Green Team) – Dotti (GreenJeans) Doyle

The **Green Team Film Lending Library** is now open for business at the Social Justice table after Sunday services. Cheaper than Netflix - you can borrow a "big name" environmental film for a month for FREE. The only catch is that you need to invite a few friends to view it with you and give a love offering to help sustain our green activities. We have "Forks Over Knives," "Food, Inc.," "King Corn," and other such important films for you to see in the comfort of your own home. We hope to reach greater numbers of viewers this way. We are entering a partnership with a recycling company, **TerraCycle**, that accepts many items not usually considered recyclable, such as "Huggies" packaging, plastic scotch tape dispensers, juice boxes, candy bags, yogurt cups, writing implements, and potato-chip bags, and certain food packaging. They re-manufacture these items, sell them, make money and will send UUC (or other charities) a bit of their profit. More details will be available soon - in the new weekly Octagram.

## A Peaceful World

There are often few things that different countries can seem to agree upon. At least that is what the channel surfing of the cable news channels would have of us believe. The good news is that cultures can express themselves musically in a wonderful tapestry of diverse ideas and differences of opinions in a peaceful and often prophetic way.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the adult chorale, our third through fifth grade children and various instrumentalists from the UUC community will share a tapestry of diverse holiday music which ultimately contributes to a greater sense of peace among us.

The adult chorale will sing four pieces including one Hanukkah piece in Ladino, a language closely associated to Sephardic Jews. The other three Christmas pieces include a mixture of two French carols, a recently published choral work by an American composer using a 17<sup>th</sup> century British text and an Austrian carol. The children contribute two Christmas pieces reworked in the style and philosophy of German Composer and music educator, Carl Orff. Finally, purely instrumental contributions include pieces by composers Robert Schumann, Johann Sebastian Bach, Charles Gounod and Franz Joseph Haydn.

I hope our music buffet on December 18<sup>th</sup> resonates in your heart through this holiday season and the year to come. May you find peace throughout 2012.

Blessed Be and Shalom,

David, UUC music director





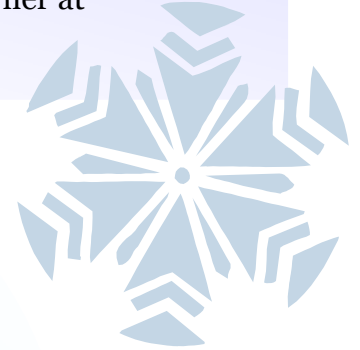
**Christmas Day Potluck Luncheon, December 25, 12:30 - 2 PM**

Join the Janamanchis and your fellow UUs for a sumptuous holiday luncheon at 12:30 pm in the Social Hall. Please sign-up to bring a dish to feed 10 people in the Social Hall after services starting Sunday, December 4. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Lalitha Janamanchi at 727-723-7252 or email her at [lalithajv@gmail.com](mailto:lalithajv@gmail.com).



The West Central Cluster of the Florida District, UUA, invites all area UUs to our annual Holiday Service on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs beginning at 7:00 pm. Celebrate all the winter holidays in UU style with seasonal music, meaningful messages, a touch of UU humor, and good fellowship. Bring a treat to share at the after-service reception!

The UU Church of Tarpon Springs is located at 57 Read St in Tarpon Springs.



**Annual UUC Holiday Open House  
5:30 p.m., Saturday, December 10th**

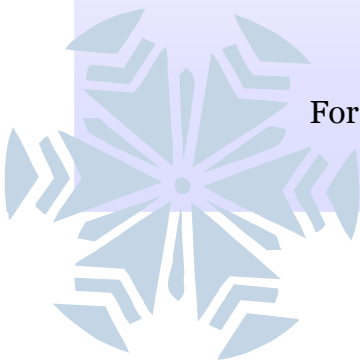
The Annual UUC Holiday Open House and Potluck will take place this year at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, at Joe and Ann Myers' home at 1902 Belleair Road, Clearwater.

Celebrate the holiday season with fellowship.

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share. Persons with surnames beginning with:

- A-C bring appetizers
- D-L bring salads
- M-R bring vegetables
- S-Z bring dessert

For more information, contact Joe and Ann at 727-535-2730 or at [hjmyers@alum.mit.edu](mailto:hjmyers@alum.mit.edu)

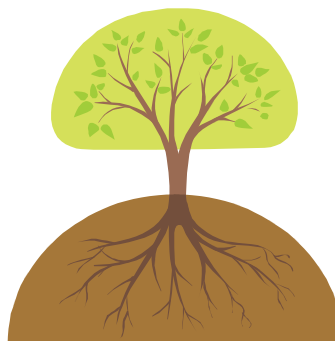


## GROWING IN SPIRIT

“Growing in Spirit” is our worship and learning program year focus for 2011-12. This year we will reflect, consider and act upon religious themes that connect us in community and help us live lives of joy, hope, and service. Each month a particular theme related to our overall focus guides us as we worship, learn and grow together as religious people.

The church’s offerings each month are by no means limited to the themes. However, these topics provide an axis around which many elements of congregational life gain more meaning and depth. They provide us with a set of common stories and ideas that become elements of an ongoing community conversation.

- ◆ **DECEMBER: PEACE**
- ◆ **JANUARY: EVIL**
- ◆ **FEBRUARY: LOVE**
- ◆ **MARCH: JOY**
- ◆ **APRIL: GRACE**
- ◆ **MAY: VOCATION**



### Monthly Theme Resources for December:

#### Books:

Irwin Abrams, editor, *The Words of Peace: Selections from the Speeches of the Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize*

Leif Enger, *Peace Like A River*

Mahatma Gandhi, *Peace: The Words and Inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi*

John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of Peace*

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Being Peace*

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life*

#### Movies:

*Amazing Grace & Chuck*, Starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Gregory Peck

*Star Wars*, Starring Harrison Ford, James Earl Jones, et al.

*Gandhi*, starring Ben Kingsley, Roshan Seth, et al.

*Henry V*, starring Kenneth Branagh

*Schindler's List*, starring Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley

*Wag the Dog*, starring Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro

### COME OUT AND PLAY

Duplicate Bridge at 9:30 in the Patio Room on December 12th and stay for lunch. We welcome all bridge players - new or experienced!

Cost is \$5.00 for guests. Bring a friend.....Contact Jane Torell, 733-8977, for information and reservations.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**Dec. 4**  
**Peace on Earth**  
**Abhi Janamanchi, Susan Hegner, & Others**

**Musical Guests - Emma's Revolution**  
A special spirited worship service on "peace," the theme for December, and its importance in the world, in our nation, community, family, and within.



**Dec. 11**  
**Blessed Are the Peacemakers**  
**Abhi Janamanchi**

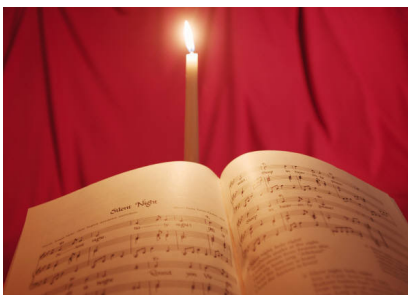
What does Unitarian Universalism have to say about peacemaking? What Unitarian Universalist values uphold peace? How can we put them into practice in our congregation? And how can we keep the peace in our own families as the December holidays approach? We will welcome new members during the service.

**Dec. 18**  
***A Peaceful World***  
**Dr. David Katz & Others**

The adult chorale, our third through fifth grade children and various instrumentalists from the UUC community will share a tapestry of diverse holiday music which ultimately contributes to a greater sense of peace among us.

**Dec. 24, 6 PM**  
**Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service**  
**Abhi Janamanchi & Others**

Our annual Christmas Eve service celebrating the joys and lights of the holiday season with stories, carols, music, and candle-lighting. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided.



**Dec. 25**  
**It's Christmas (Carols & Lessons)**  
**Abhi Janamanchi & David Katz**

A "*UU Carols & Lessons*" service with carols and readings celebrating the many moods and meanings of Christmas. Following the service, there will be a congregational Christmas dinner in the social hall.

## PSI Symposium

**Coming Attractions** – Future scheduled PSI meetings are as follows (topics are tentative, and the list below has changed since the prior notice):

December 18, 2011 (note date change to avoid conflicting with Christmas Day) – Frank Tedesco, PhD, will discuss “Connecting the Dimensions.”

January 29, 2012 – Patty Darcy will lead the discussion on the Tarot and related concepts.

See more at <http://uuclearwater.org/content/psi.htm> or contact Robert Watson at 813-251-2991 or email her at [rwatson@trenam.com](mailto:rwatson@trenam.com).

## Welcome your guest

By welcoming a **Guest at Your Table**, you are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and the UU values of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC’s human-rights work and our shared belief in social justice. Call UUC at 727-531-7704 to receive a box.





The December 2011 district monthly packet has been posted to the district website and may be viewed at the following [link](#) or by visiting FloridaDistrict.org.

### **Above & Beyond—November 2011**



Dotti Doyle, the November **Above & Beyond** honoree, is well known as Dotti Greenjeans. She has led UUC's environmental justice group for several years and is currently working to have UUC obtain the coveted designation of "Green Sanctuary" from the UUA. She has served on the UUC Board of Trustees, as secretary of the board, as a teacher in our children's religious education program and is an all around great UUC volunteer. Some of our members may not know that Dotti served as a state senator in

Maine and worked for reproductive choice legislation before Roe v. Wade was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard working member of our congregation. Great thanks to Dotti for going Above & Beyond for UUC.

### **Improvistional Acting Workshop**

The Improvisational Acting Workshop, led by Stephan Alpert, star of stage, screen and daytime TV's "One Life to Live," runs twelve consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning December 6.

Two-hour classes, no scripts to memorize. The finale will be a production open to the public in the Octagon, all proceeds going to UUC.

Classes are Dec 6,13, 20, 27; Jan 3, 10, 17, 24,31; Feb 7, 14, 21  
Class Fee- \$150. Contact Sharon LaPlume for more information, 727-674-5126, or email [dandyluk@gmail.com](mailto:dandyluk@gmail.com).



# OPEN ISSUES



Speakers on Topics of General Interest  
In the Patio Room at 9:30am Sundays

## December 4

**Patricia Wesley**

### ***Suncoast Hospice, Updated***

Suncoast Hospice is the nation's largest not-for-profit, community-based provider of hospice and palliative care. But it's more than just that. Patti, the coordinator for their "Faith in Action" program, will explain. Ref: <http://www.thehospice.org/about/>

## December 11

**Frank and Jenny Tedesco**

### ***Korean Comfort Women***

Frank and Jenny Tedesco will discuss the current plight of the so-called Korean *comfort women*, a few of whom survived their ordeal as sex slaves for the Japanese military during the Japanese imperialist period and WWII. Jenny interpreted and translated for them and their supporters when they first "came out" of hiding in the early 90s. They participated in weekly demonstrations with comfort women in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul. The Tedescos were staff at the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

## December 18

**John Chase**

### ***Beware of Online Filter Bubbles***

An eight minute Youtube clip describes how search engines, even online news sources, are becoming increasingly biased toward your biases. Is this important to the 4th principle of Unitarian-Universalism: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning? Ref: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8ofWfx525s>

## December 25

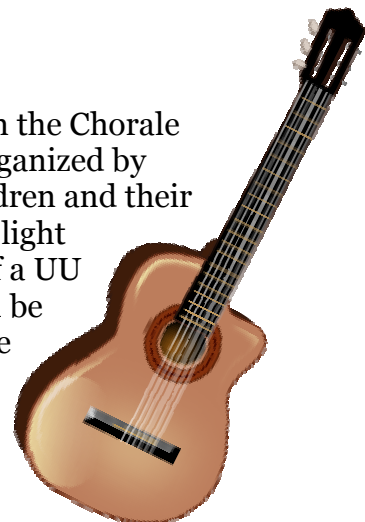
**Kamila Jacob** *My Job as a Youth Envoy Coordinator at the UN*

Kamila is at the UU Office in the United Nations in NYC. See <http://www.uu-uno.org/about/staff/>. She graduated recently from Muehlenberg College in Allentown, PA. She was dedicated 22 years ago in our UUC sanctuary at two months of age and is the granddaughter of UUC's Dorothy Wylie.

*If you have ideas for future presentations, please phone John Chase at 727-787-3085 or [email John here](mailto:john@uu-uno.org), or call Dorothy Wylie at 727-797-5736.*

## [Join the UUC TrUUbadoours](#)

On **Sunday, January 15, 2012 from 9:45-10:15 am** in the Chorale Room of the UUC Octagon. The **TrUUbadoours**, being organized by Dr. David Katz, will be an intergenerational group for children and their parents/grandparents. We will sing and play music that is light and of an eclectic nature that appeals to the many tastes of a UU congregation. There is no age limit. Our first rehearsal will be on "Bring A Friend" Sunday, January 15th. Participants are encouraged to bring a friend and join us at that time.



## FESTIVAL RUAH: A SPIRIT EXPERIENCE continues Thursday, December 22, 7 pm

An exciting new program began at UUC in November. UUC hosts **Festival Ruah: A Spirit Experience**, a series of monthly gatherings that help us live out our mission and vision to be a multicultural religious community.

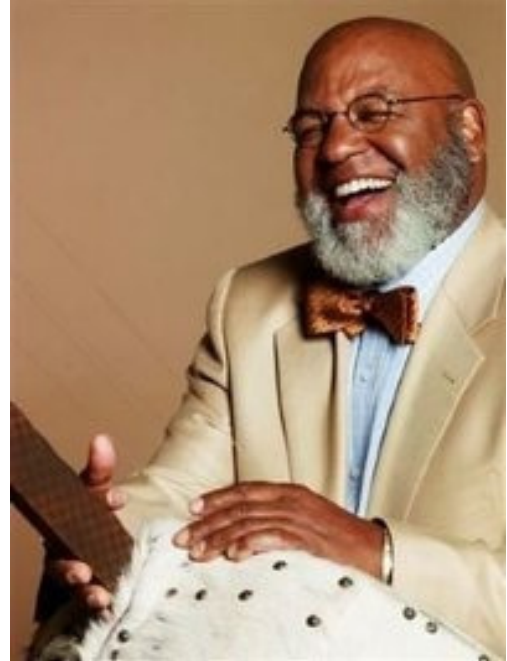
**Ruah means "breath" in Hebrew.** This is a gathering to celebrate and share the collective brea(d)th of life, love, faith, and diversity. In our world we have come to a place where many of us echo a desire to know and feel more deeply a presence of spirituality in our lives. And so, we come together to create a spiritual/breath experience of community that quickens our hearts and strengthens our bond with each other across culture, faith, tradition, and with all of Creation.



The first Festival Ruah got off to a great start! 140 adults and children gathered to "*Give Thanks Together*" with African drumming and dancing, Indian music and percussion, poetry, storytelling, and singing. The electrifying jam session between Malick Faye, the Senegalese drummer, Tanjore

Murugaboopathy and Venupuri Srinivas, the Indian percussionists, was especially memorable.

The next spirit experience is being planned for **Thursday, Dec. 22, 7 PM** to celebrate Diwali, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. The program will feature jazz pianist Norman Thalheimer, Rabbis David and Danielle Upbin-Weizman from Congregation Beth Shalom, Fred Johnson & Friends, and Abhi Janamanchi.





Now you can SEE SUUSI. *It's just like being there!*

Click Part 1 link: <http://bit.ly/uuc-suusi>

For more info: [www.suusi.org](http://www.suusi.org)

**SUUSI begins: July 15th 2012**

**Workshop proposal Deadline: Nov 1 (There's some leeway.)**



Be sure to peruse the holiday art around the Octagon during the month of December. In addition to some of our more familiar decorations, there are some wonderful new pieces on loan to UUC from our own multi-talented Genya Whitehurst. Genya, a native of Russia, is also an artist, a volunteer in our UUC main office, and an entrepreneur-in-the-making. Her holiday art appears all around the Octagon lobby, so let your eyes travel. The wreaths, floral arrangements, and whimsy creatures are for sale. Quantities are limited, so if you see a "MUST HAVE" piece, please note the title and identifying number next to the item as it appears in the lobby, then check out her catalog in the social hall for availability. Thank you, Genya, for making our Octagon even lovelier during this season of special celebrations and joys!

**SWIM (Southeast Winter Institute in Miami) is an intergenerational gathering that takes place from December 26th through January 1st each year at Camp Owiassa Bauer, a Nature park in Homestead FL.**

125 to 250 UUs from around the USA and Canada will gather in Dec 2012 for workshops, worship, campfires, and Everglades adventures for all ages.

You may download a full brochure and decide on your program choices and later register at <http://www.swimuu.org>.

Look for the full 24 page Brochure in the mail soon.

Jonathan Watterson, Board member

Southeastern UU Winter Institute in Miami





Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater  
2470 Nursery Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764  
727-531-7704

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

## OCTAGRAM

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2470 Nursery Road Phone: (727) 531-7704  
Clearwater, FL FAX: (727) 531-4188  
33764 [mail@uuclearwater.org](mailto:mail@uuclearwater.org)

Senior Minister	<b>Rev. Abhi Janamanchi</b> (727) 723-7252
President	<b>Roberta "Bobbie" Watson</b>
RE Coordinator	<b>Christine Pensa</b>
Office Administrator	<b>Karen Roeder</b>
Bookkeeper	<b>Karen Roeder</b>
Music Director	<b>Dr. David Katz</b>
Pianist	<b>Linda Jones</b>
Facilities Manager	<b>Janine Tompkins</b>

### 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:

**Sue Boone** (727) 531-5236  
**Jackie Brown** (727) 772-6764  
**Marty Pelham** (813) 205-6910  
**Ray Williamson** (727) 534-7964  
**Paul Langrock** (727) 784-6597.

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The new deadline for the weekly  
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