

Where Seekers Find a Home

OCTAGRAM

UUA President Will Lead Service On February 12

The Rev. William G. Sinkford, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be the featured speaker at our worship service on Sunday, February 12th. The sermon he will deliver is entitled, "Who Is My Neighbor." This service will focus on our social justice mission and will include Si Kahn, noted activist and musician, who will provide special music for this special service. This will also be one of our Bring-A-Friend Sundays...so please invite your friends to hear an inspiring message from our president.

Rev. Sinkford, 59, was elected president of the UUA in June, 2001. As president, he is responsible to the UUA Board of Trustees for administering staff and programs that serve more than 1,000 UU member congregations. He also acts as principal spokesperson and minister-at-large for the Association.

Prior to becoming the seventh president of the UUA, Sinkford served as the Association's director of Congregational, District, and Extension Services supporting the health and growth of UU congregations throughout the U.S.

Born in San Francisco in 1946, Sinkford's commitment to liberal religion dates to his teenage years, when he was an active member of the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, Ohio. While an undergraduate at Harvard University, he advised youth groups at UU churches in Boston and Lexington, MA. He graduated cum laude from Harvard in 1968 and spent the following year in Greece as a Michael Clark Rockefeller Fellow.



Rev. William G. Sinkford

After college, Sinkford worked in the field of marketing. Between 1970 and 1980 he held management positions with Gillette, Avon Products, Johnson Products, and Revlon. During this time, he received the Black Achievers in Industry Award from the Harlem YMCA. He later ran his own business, Sinkford Restorations, Inc. He was also active as a volunteer with community action groups and in not-for-profit housing development.

Sinkford heard his call to ministry after returning to Cincinnati, where he was an active lay leader in his home congregation. He also served on the UU Urban Concerns and Ministry Committee and as an officer of the African American Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Toward the end of his theological education at Starr King School for the Ministry, Sinkford joined the staff of the UUA. He earned his M.Div. in 1995, and was fellowshipped as a community minister and ordained by his home congregation in the same year. Sinkford and his wife Maria live in Boston. He is the father of two children: Bill, 24 and Danielle, 21. He is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead, MA.

We at UUC are honored to have Rev. Sinkford join our service on February 12. Please make every effort to attend this important event.

Remember:
Sunday, February 12 is
"Bring A Friend" Sunday!

Random Reflections



Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

"We affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." So reads our fourth principle. When I started to really read the principle, to look at it carefully and not just mumble over the words as we sometimes do on a Sunday morning, I realized that the fourth principle holds all the other six together. In it are contained no fewer than five key words that could each be explored in a sermon.

For example:

Free — what does free mean? Is it free from — or is it free to? Does it mean free as in "at no expense?" Or, does it mean, "I am entitled to?"

Responsible — what does that word really mean? Is it contradictory to free? How does one determine responsibility? To others? To an ideal or external authority? To oneself? To one's faith? To one's religious community? How does one go about balancing freedom and responsibility and learn to practice one's freedom responsibly?

Truth — As the philosophers are so fond of asking — What is truth? Is it more than not telling a lie? Is there more than one truth? How do we know truth when we see it? Is truth learned through investigation, discernment or is it experienced? What are the truths that guide our lives?

Meaning — Is meaning given by an external authority? Is it within our-

selves? Does life need to have meaning? If so, why? If not, why? If life does have meaning, how does one go about finding it and then, living it? Is there such a thing as meaning in the 21st century?

And last but not the least, we come to a verb form — **Search**. Some of my colleagues would argue that **that** is the religious quality in this principle — the other words are more philosophical than religious. The Rev. Edward A. Frost, in a series of essays about our principles, notes that the search is a religious search for truth and meaning. It is existential, going to the core of our concerns. For many of us, the search for truth and meaning is a search for God. It is a search for ultimate truth — that truth which stands the test of time, that undergirds one's life. This ultimate truth may vary from person to person. Each of us, being unique individuals, will have our unique truth and meaning. For some of us, it may be a theistic belief and understanding of the world. For others, it may be the Universal Doctrine identified by Joseph Campbell of how the universe is organized. For still others, it may be sensing the mysteriousness of all that is. There is no one answer that is right for all — there are a multitude of answers — each of which may be right for one person and not the other. That is what is so incredibly beautiful and awe inspiring about our religion — the affirmation of each person's search for their own truth.

There is a variable to the search which makes this whole quest religious and not merely an intellectual game. The search is **lived** by us. It is not something that is merely studied about or read about. If it is, it is merely philosophical. Instead, we experience this search for truth and

meaning. We compare our answers and findings against our internal self. Does it sound/feel/look right? Does it resonate with me? Is it authentic with the core of my being? Is it consistent with my life's experiences?

Our struggle with truth and meaning is done in the context of community. We do not do it privately or alone, but together, where our search is affirmed and promoted. Yet, sometimes that means sharing the pain, loss, and frustration of a search that has come up empty, that has refused to yield satisfactory results. At other times, it means sharing tentative steps along a new rewarding path, one in which we are not yet certain. But that means we must trust others within our religious community. Our efforts here are an incarnation of our spirituality — of our attempt to seek and create the beloved community in our midst.

Although it is not mentioned in the phrase "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning," a fair amount of discipline is implied. Without focused attention, our minds and interests will wander. We will turn away when the going gets tough — and it does at times get tough. There may be pain and anger involved in our search, just as there is joy and wisdom to be found in our search as well. Any of these extreme feelings can arouse anxiety and avoidance behaviors in us, as we question do we really want to search this freely and intensely. Are truth and meaning worth the struggle in our religious understandings? Such a search can be truly transformative of ourselves and our congregation. Transformation is creative — but when in the midst of transformation, one often perceives it as a

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

crisis. Discipline helps us to stay the course, to see our search through to its end. There is another variable besides the search that is important. It is the freedom to conduct the search, to not be constrained, to be able to ask questions which challenge authority and our self understanding. This freedom from restraint, and freedom to ask and think, is critical for us in our searching, for without freedom, the search is abruptly aborted. And for this search to be fulfilling for us, it truly must be free.

So we gather together, searching for truth and meaning in our lives and in the lives of those we love, being free in our search, but also being responsible towards ourselves and others. Will we find that for which we search? Some

of us will — but not all will succeed in their search. There is no guarantee. But I truly do believe the search — the living of it — is what we are all about as a religious community — one which covenants to engage each other in this search for truth and meaning. The going at times is difficult, and the roadway does have bumps. But we nevertheless strive to create our beloved community, here in Clearwater. We live with diversity, love, hurts, pains, joy, acceptance, compassion, and each other. May we all enjoy the search and do it with compassion, humor, and holy curiosity!

— *Abhi Janamanchi*

Inward Springs

The destruction of Chicago's historic Pilgrim Baptist Church by fire less than two weeks before Martin Luther King Day is an irony of timing. The church dates to the late nineteenth century, and sadly, heating torches used in the last stages of a major renovation were determined to have sparked the fire. I can imagine, having moved less than a year ago from the south side of Chicago, what a loss this is to the community.

The church has a particular link, among many, to Martin Luther King Jr. Pilgrim's music director from 1932 until the late 1970s was Thomas A. Dorsey, who is considered the father of gospel music. His all-time greatest hit was "Take My Hand, Pre- the Reverend King.

Thinking of Martin Luther song is a reminder he wasn't for peace, justice, and human was influenced by other people, as we all are. Mahatma Gandhi and the Reverend whose writings are significant to his personal and professional formation. Less famous, so did his father, the senior Martin Luther King.

Several years ago, I read about an experience of the young Martin. His father needed new shoes, and took his son shopping with him. In the store, the older man was subjected to discrimination. He responded with a dignity that

impression on his son. Human dignity, worth, and non-violence were a way of life, not only to be espoused, but woven into the fabric of their lives.

January and February, associated as they are with MLK Day and Black History Awareness, are often marked by public demonstrations as well they ought to be. Now Martin Luther King Day has passed for another year, Black History Awareness Month will pass too, and others do the same. But what happens after the particular day or month of observance? Then we are called to express and transmit our values of freedom, justice, peace and human dignity in the way we live our daily lives. We each have a greater influence more than we ever know.



Rev. Millie Rochester

King Jr. as having had a favorite only a public figure, a symbol of dignity, he was a person. He ple, as we all are. Mahatma Howard Thurman, both of to us UUs, famously contributed to our personal and professional formation. Less famous, so did his father, the senior Martin Luther King.

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Love, Millie Rochester

President's Message



Bill Norsworthy

We are an active congregation! We are a people of action, dedicated to the proposition that we can make a difference in the lives of others, whether they are members of our congregation, migrant farm workers in Florida or young students in a school in the Khasi Hills of India.

This commitment to “make the world more compassionate, just, free and affirming of diversity” is enshrined in the UUC Vision. Obviously, they aren’t hollow words that we just like to have on the cover of each Sunday’s Order of Service. We really do live them in many, many ways. The UUC Social Justice Committee sets the standard for taking action that counts. Last year, it was recognized by the Florida District which awarded its Social Justice Award to UUC. Linda Stoller and her very large and active group of dedicated UUs are greatly appreciated for their work. If you would like to contribute your own efforts to the cause, please visit the Social Justice table during the Social Hour every Sunday. You might buy some free-trade coffee while you are there. By the way, we also serve that coffee during the coffee hour. Your financial support of the coffee contributes to the well-being of people in Central America.

We are also active in other ways. We share our music and visual arts talent. The current art on display is a wonderful combination of bright, colorful images and whimsical characters. The Art Committee does a masterful job of presenting artists, mostly from the Tampa Bay area, with interesting shows that enhance the Octagon space that we enjoy every week. Many thanks go to Charlene Carnes who is a member of the Board of Directors, but who prefers to be known for her work as chair of the Art Committee.

And then there is the Ways and Means Committee. What a challenging job they have. Mark Brandt and his able crew do so much for us. They raise money through fun activities like the recent Trivia Contest and the upcoming Auction. I hope you have all looked around for items to donate to the auction. This is our major fund raiser of the year, contributing a significant amount to our revenue, and we need that revenue to help pay for the many services and functions provided by this congregation...to each other and to the world. It’s up to us to make these things happen.

And so it goes; a busy congregation with lots of creative and talented people each doing their own thing to the betterment of all. We need everyone to contribute in this way, if we are to reach our potential as a spiritual community. I hope you will all do your part. Please don’t take this beloved community for granted. It just doesn’t work very well that way.

Namaste’, Bill Norsworthy

President-Elect Tim Hamilton’s Resignation

Tim Hamilton, this year’s president-elect, has resigned his position effective immediately. He has decided to go to back to college to work on a degree in accounting, which greatly reduces his time availability for UUC activities. He continues with his very full-time employment, as well. Tim will be missed as both an officer and board member.

Tim’s resignation means that the Nominating Committee will be recruiting for this key position in addition to its search for a number of other leadership positions. If you have an interest in serving our community as an officer or board member, please contact: Jean Weigelt, Nominating Committee Chair at 584-3330. And should the Nominating Committee invite you to serve, please step up to the job. Your spiritual home needs you!

Stewardship Committee: “Let Us Come Together”

It’s been said that bringing Unitarian Universalists together to the same line of thought is “like herding cats”. How true! As UUs we welcome diversity and provide security while promoting individual freedom and intellectual growth. Our spiritual journey takes us to places where we support those in need, causes of justice, equity, compassion, and peace. The seven UU principles represent a presence in our community through our actions and good examples.

But there are times when the “herd of cats” must become a unified, cohesive, and solid group. That time is now! It is time for UUC members and friends to join together to give generously of our selves, our time, and our money, to help develop the skills, resources, and programs so our people can live lives with meaning and purpose.

Present and new programs will reach out and inform other seekers about Unitarian Universalism. With better visibility, we represent a center for progressive thought and programs to bridge social divides. The social activism efforts, genuine friendliness and concern for others, the dedication of our members plus our ministers, Abhi and Millie, make us all proud to be a part of UUC.

The mission of our Adult Education is to “provide a forum for seekers who wish to learn and grow in a caring, spiritual Unitarian Universalist community,” of-

fering the opportunity for UUs to explore an assortment of various topics.

Social and spiritual events such as the Community Forum, bridge, the Legacy series, Sunday services, music, Religious Education for children, youth, and adults, covenant groups, the library, special events and art exhibits, committees and social hour offer opportunities to act on our beliefs and provide fellowship and involvement. While each program represents a useful part of UUC, bear in mind that none of them are free. They need our financial support if they are to continue.

And in addition to our involvement with community outreach we have an active Social Justice committee, becoming involved in community efforts when the need arises. Recently, UUC was directly involved with the Earth Charter Summit, and hosted a Peak Oil conference. These are efforts of importance not only to members of UUC, but the community at large. But these programs and efforts need funding.

In order to maintain the programs and services we offer, we have to be willing to give. Surely, our pride in our UUC friends and fellowship will prompt our continued efforts to give to keep alive the programs we have. Yet there is still more that we, as a congregation, can achieve. There are worthy new ideas that many among us would like to see realized, e.g., more contact with ill or home-bound members, a “Little Theater” group, retirement housing, a retreat center, upgrade of facilities, more inter-faith activities, a transportation vehicle, a

lecture tour, support for foster care and increased publicity of our events and activities. These visions will help UUC establish a stronger sense of community, meet and extend relationships, and minister to those in need.

But we must be mindful that all of our programs, activities, and endeavors take effort and money. Without our financial contribution, expansion would be impossible, and most programs would cease to exist. So let us continue our inspiring worship services, fantastic music, events, programs, and activities for our children, grandchildren, friends, and newcomers. Let us come together to give generously of our time and money. Caring about the world and believing in the UU principles will allow each of us to expand our vision and collectively achieve our UUC mission.

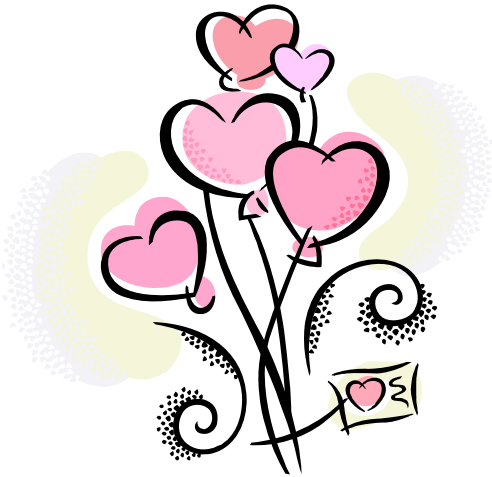
Thank you all for your participation in the UUC stewardship program. Your continued support is critically important and appreciated more than you can possibly know.

— *Stewardship Committee*



UUA Trustee Tidbits

Greetings for the month of February, a time when our thoughts may turn to love. And what better “love” to have than for a wider UU world: our District. I write this column several weeks before it reaches your newsletter; the January District packet was full of exciting, wonderful, diverse, interesting February weekend opportunities available for our congregations and/or individual UUs. This column will highlight some of these, with the hope that you will want to participate in one or more of these offerings.



The first February weekend brings a one and a half-day seminar led by Michael Durall, called Creating the UU Church of the Future, will be at the UU Fellowship at Vero Beach. His most recent book, *The Almost Church: Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era*, is a challenging and provocative critique of the UUA and our UU religion. I have heard Durall speak, read the book, and strongly suggest attendance at this conference. Because this is a fast-approaching event I suggest you telephone the District Office to determine how you may participate.

The next super weekend (February 11-12), devoted to social justice, will be held at the UUs of Clearwater, with Si Kahn, a noted social reform activist, songwriter, and author PLUS Rev. William Sinkford, UUA President. This is a not-to-be-missed event. Si, who began his work in 1965 in Arkansas, has worked for over 40 years as a civil rights, labor, and community organizer and musician. He founded, and is the Executive Director of Grassroots Leadership.

Included in the Saturday schedule will be a panel discussion with prominent persons involved in social justice law and the ACLU. Rev. Sinkford will be in the pulpit at the Sunday worship.

If you miss hearing Rev. Sinkford in Clearwater, he will be preaching at the UU Church of Tampa on February 18. Better yet, you are welcome both Sundays so plan to be in the congregation each Sunday Bill speaks.

There will be an Interweave Convo, “Accepting Ourselves, Accepting Each Other,” also in Clearwater, February 24-26. Congresswoman Sabrina Sojourner will speak Saturday evening on “Diversity and Living by the Heart.” Sojourner is the first open lesbian to be elected to the U.S. Congress and is a nationally recognized educator on diversity and multiculturalism. She is past Director of Diversity Programs and Woman of Color Programs for the National Organization for Women.

Whew! A full month, for sure. I look forward to seeing you at some of these events. Stay in touch, in good health, and active in your congregation. I enjoy and profit from hearing from Florida UUs, and can be reached at jlund@uua.org or (813) 931-9727.

— Joan Lund



Check out uuworld.org, the UUA’s new Internet Publication. The site, www.uuworld.org has been transformed from a digital archive of past issues of UU/world to a dynamic web magazine that is updated weekly with articles about congregations and Unitarian Universalism. It now contains more UUWorld articles than ever.

Social Justice Committee Report

Our Fair Trade Coffee Project began six months ago and has been very well received by our congregation. We have sold fair trade coffee, tea and cocoa for a total of \$975.00. Purchasing fair trade products is an act of social justice. When we consider our role as consumers in the global economy and change just a small portion of our buying habits, we can make a great deal of difference to poor farmers and their families. In addition our purchases also support the projects of the UU Service Committee. We will be selling these products on February 12 and on the second Sunday of each month.

On February 19, Charlie Clements, the executive director of the UU Service Committee will be at the UUC. You will have an opportunity to learn more about the many projects sponsored by the UUSC and how you can support these projects.

Please remember to continue to bring in food for the RCS Food Bank. We are also collecting long grain rice and pinto beans for the farm workers during the month of February.

Our next Social Justice Committee meeting will be on February 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Westwood Room. Please join us.



Split the Plate Sunday, February 12

In January, we shared our plate with Pinellas County's Cold Night Shelters. For what was the coldest weekend of the year, we were able to send them \$533 to buy food and supplies for the seven shelters between Tarpon Springs and south St. Petersburg.

On February 12, we will slit the plate with "Grassroots Leadership, Inc." This is a team of activists who do civil rights, labor, and community organizing across the South. Si Kahn, the executive director of this 25 year old non-profit, will participate in the UUC workshop "Criminal Justice and Prison Reform" on Saturday, February 11. As always, please bring your checkbook and be generous.

Open Issues Forum

- February 5 Linda Paey
“CBS 60 Minutes Report on Chronic Pain”
- February 12 Pancake Breakfast
- February 19 James Guess
“The Possible Regulation of the Internet”
- February 26 Dorothy Wylie
“Open Discussion on Topic to be Chosen”

Open Issues Forum Committee

Dot and Chuck Sollinger 797-7784
John Chase 784-1234
Herb Blume 461-5414
Dorothy Wylie 849-6889
Marion Davis 527-1192
Charlene Carnes, Liaison 789-3536

Worship Services

- February 5 “Encounters With Another Kind “
Abhi Janamanchi

The service will explore the history and development of Khasi Unitarianism and Abhi's recent experiences over there.
We will share joys and sorrows during the service.

- February 12 “Who Is My Neighbor?”
Rev. Bill Sinkford & Abhi Janamanchi
Musical Guest Si Kahn

On Bring-A-Friend-Sunday, we are privileged to have Rev. Bill Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and singer-activist Si Kahn.

- February 19 “Who Are the Righteous Among the Nations Today?”
Charlie Clements & Abhi Janamanchi

Charlie Clements is the Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He will talk about how two of UUSC's founders, the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp, risked their lives to rescue Jews and others during the Nazi Holocaust of World War II. The legacy of the Sharps' heroic work for justice has inspired UUSC for more than 65 years, and stands today as a call to action to challenge modern-day forms of genocide. Dr. Clements will also explore some of the issues that the UUSC is working on currently and lead a post-service conversation on UUSC programs.

- February 26 **TBA**
Rev. Meg Riley & Abhi Janamanchi

Rev. Meg Riley is the Director of Advocacy and Witness at the UUA.

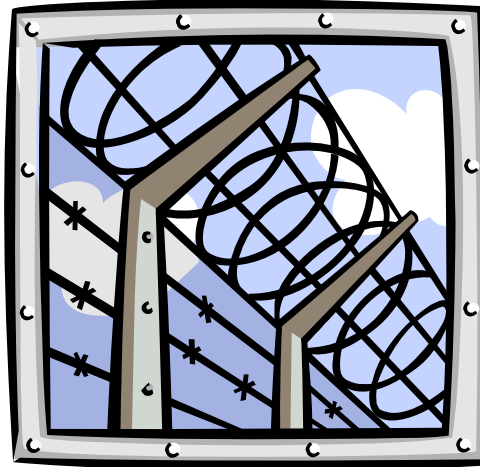
FEBRUARY 2006

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service (O) An Uncertain Path to Truth & Meaning 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM PSI Symposium Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indian Meditation Workshop (O) 5:00 PM Sunset Ritual- Indian Rocks Beach	30 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Stewardship Training (P) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indian Meditation Workshop	31 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Meditation (O) 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Stewardship Training (P) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Indian Meditation Workshop 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bridge (C) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indian Meditation Workshop 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM RE Council Meeting (L)	1 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Committee on Ministry (Abhi's office) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	2 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Member Orientation (P) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Building your own Theology (P) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indian Meditation Workshop	3 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch with Ministers (W) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	4 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Work Party (Outdoors) 9:30 AM Social Justice Comm (W) 8:00 PM AA (W)
5	New Member Sunday 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service (O) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Parent's Meeting	6 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Toastmasters (S)	7 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bridge (P) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA	8 5:00 PM Finance Committee (P) 6:30 PM Executive Committee (P) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	9 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Children/Youth RE Committee (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Building your own Theology (P)	10 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Suncoast Assembly shop (S) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	11 9:15 AM Criminal Justice and Prison Reform Workshop (S) 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Leadership Event (off site) 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM St. Kahn Concert (O)
12	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Pancake Breakfast (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service (O) 11:45 AM Mystery Friends Celebration (S)	13 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Stewardship work party (W) 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Sr. Adults Committee (L) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM UUWU Games & Card Night (P)	14 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Non-Violent Communication (L) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	15 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Community Forum (P) 6:30 PM Board Meeting (P) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	16 2:00 PM Women's Book Club (L) 7:00 PM Darfur Awareness Event (O) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Adult RE (L)	17 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Friday Morning Discussion (L) 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Stewardship Training (P) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	18 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Stewardship Training (P) 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Stewardship Training (P) 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM International Picnic (John Chestnut Park) 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM UU Singles 40+ Foreign Film Series (P) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)
19	OCTAGRAM DEADLINE 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service (O) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM RE Sponsored Luncheon (S) 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM Stewardship Training (P) 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Sue Merriam Memorial Service (O,S)	20 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Toastmasters (S)	21 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bridge (P) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	22 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Ways and Means Committee (at Brantds) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	23 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Handing new art show (Octagon) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Building your own Theology (P)	24 Interweave Con (entire campus) 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Friday Morning Discussion (L) 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Stewardship work party (W) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Men's Night Out (E)	25 Interweave Con (entire campus) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)
26	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service (O) 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM PSI Symposium Meeting	27 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P)	28 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bridge (P) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	1 7:00 PM Program Council (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Committee on Ministry (Abhi's office) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	2 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Children/Youth RE Committee (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Building your own Theology (P)	3 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Friday Morning Discussion (L) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch with Ministers (W) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Cheryl Yellowhawk Reception (O. Lobby) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	4 9:30 AM Social Justice Comm (W) 6:00 PM Congregational Dinner (offsite) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)

Conference: Criminal Justice and Prison Reform, February 11

In 2004, the United States incarcerated 2.2 million people in its prisons and jails. Among industrialized nations, the United States incarcerates the largest percentage of its population. Additionally, there are stark disparities in the racial composition and comprise only thirteen African Americans account for At the UU General Assembly in was approved which stated in and inequity in this system values that our nation and our pelled to witness this dissonance for criminal justice and what

On February 11, the Social a day long conference to explore develop strategies to promote system. Registration for the a.m. Abhi will conduct a special 11:00 a.m. Si Kahn, a nationally presenting a workshop on the privatization of the prison system and organizing for change. In the afternoon there will be discussions on restoring felon rights, mandatory sentencing, and the death penalty.



tion of our nation's prisons, as fully half of the prison population of the total population. 2005 a Statement of Conscience part "The magnitude of injustice stands in stark contrast to the faith proclaim. We are compelled between what America proclaims America practices."

Justice Committee is sponsoring this important issue and to de-change in our criminal justice conference will begin at 9:15 worship service at 10:15 a.m. At known grass roots activist will be

The workshop is free. Lunch costs \$5.00 and the dinner on Saturday night before Si Kahn's concert is \$10. This will be an informative and inspirational day. To register come to the Social Justice table after service or call the UUC office.

Octagon Arts Center Presents Singer and Songwriter Si Kahn

Saturday, February 11, 8:00 p.m.
2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, FL
(phone 543-0288)
\$17 in advance / \$20 at the door
Groups of 10 or more:
\$15 in advance / \$17 at the door



Art Committee News

A reception to meet artist
Cheryl Yellowhawk
and to see her paintings
will be held March 1
from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.,

Ms. Yellowhawk's paintings will be displayed from February 24 through April 5.

Nine paintings were sold from "Revealing the Land" (plein air show), UUC income from those sales is \$496.50.

Conference: National Interweave Convo, February 24 to 26

UUC is hosting the **National Interweave Conference, Feb. 24 - 26, 2006**. The theme for the weekend is "Accepting Ourselves, Accepting Each Other". There are 12 workshops where participants from all over the country may learn more about issues pertinent to GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender) rights within and without Unitarian Universalism.

You are invited to attend the day of workshops, and come to hear Sabrina Sojourner speak on Saturday evening. The music for the weekend will be provided by Amy Carol Webb. Please visit our website for information on the workshops and the agenda for the weekend.

Fees for the weekend (non-Interweave registration) are:

Workshops and Lunch - Pre-registered	\$50
Walk-in price for workshops and lunch	\$65
Workshops only	\$45
Keynote	\$20



For pre-registrations, please make your check to UUC and indicate in the "memo" your registration preferences. We are still in need of volunteers. Please let Kris Temple (543-0288) know if you are able to help and you have not previously signed up.

Keynote Speaker Sabrina Sojourner

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20

Congresswoman Sabrina Sojourner is the first openly lesbian, African-American to be elected to the United States Congress. Having been elected by a whopping 83% of the vote, Sabrina represented the District of Columbia in the U.S. House of Representatives where in her non-voting position she lobbied not only for Statehood for the District of Columbia, but impacted other legislators on a whole spectrum of issues. Sabrina is also a nationally recognized educator on diversity and multiculturalism.

You may also hear Sabrina being interviewed by Arlene Englehardt on the "Women's Show" on WMNF, Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m.



LIFE SPAN LEARNING - ADULT R.E.

The Adult R.E. committee is offering two exciting classes in February. To register, contact the church office at 531-7704. The classes are described below:

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

Dates/Time: Thursdays, February 2, 9, 23 and March 2, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Instructors: Abhi Janamanchi and Millie Rochester

Description: Adapted from the Unitarian Universalist Association's Adult program by Richard S. Gilbert, the purpose of this course is to create a community context in which individuals can create their own credos. Sessions will include presentations, activities, and opportunities to share and discuss. Stimulating presentations will cover such areas as liberal religion, human nature, the ultimate realities, ethics, and meaning. There will be homework assignments to aid in the development of participants' credos, which may be expressed in the form of prose, poetry, narrative, drawing and/or other creative expressions. This course is intended for members of UUC and those familiar with Unitarian Universalism.

About the Instructors: Abhi is the senior minister of UUC and Millie is the assistant minister.

Fee: \$15.00

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION, AN INTRODUCTION

Dates/Time: Tuesdays, February 14 and 21, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Instructors: Ray Williamson, Lore Eargle, and Mo Sheedy

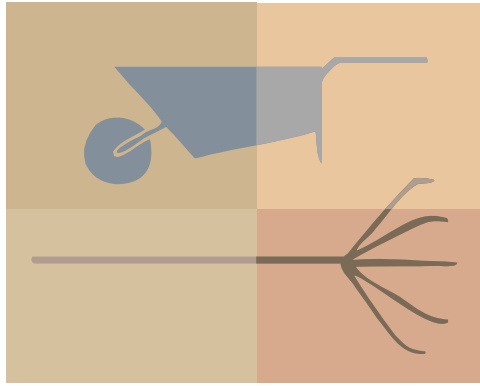
Description: We will explore the theory, framework, and practice of Non-Violent Communication (NVC). NVC is a system based on a compassionate and empathetic view of humanity. We will begin by learning its basic four-step process and working with a vocabulary list of feelings and needs. Before you know it, we'll be exploring unfamiliar emotional territory. The techniques of NVC can help deepen relationships while providing more of what you want; resolve conflicts without anyone losing; reveal difficult truths without burdening you with guilt, fear, or anger; and increase a sense of peace within yourself. You can use NVC in intimate relationships and parenting, the workplace, and reconciliation and negotiation in a variety of situations, including international disputes.

Like a great puzzle, NVC is simple on the surface but challenges the mind and heart to stretch in unexpected directions.

About the Instructors: Ray was introduced to NVC in 1990, and has attended many practice groups and seminars and read several books on the subject. He introduced Lore to the system in 1993. Lore has attended several seminars and an ongoing practice group. Mo is an intuitive and compassionate woman with intensive training in NVC. Mo conducts workshops and facilitates two ongoing practice groups, one in St. Petersburg and one in Sarasota.

Fee: \$10:00 per session

Prerequisite: None required, but we recommend that you read "Non-Violent Communication, a Language of Life" by Marshall Rosenberg, available through <http://www.nonviolentcommunication.com/shop/communication-training-books.htm>



UUC WINTER WORK PARTY

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006
8 AM TILL NOON
DRINKS AND LUNCH PROVIDED**

Our goal is to maintain and improve the grounds and structures of our property.

We will be raking leaves, trimming trees, pulling weeds, painting, and weed-eating.

Join us in this opportunity to get acquainted with other UUC members while contributing to the beauty of our spiritual home.

Please bring gloves and any tools you think we can use.

**Sign up in the Social Hall after Sunday service or contact Ashlynn
727-510-4811 or ad69dd99@hotmail.com**

Wall Painting Volunteers Needed

Del "Scotty" Scott, our resident painting contractor, says he needs two or three volunteers he can call on to help him renew certain tired surfaces of our interior walls, rooms, ceilings. Experience not required; gentle instruction will be provided by Scotty. Sign up by calling and leaving a message for John Chase at 787-3085 or 784-1234.



13th or 14 Annual Semi-Annual PANCAKE BRAKFAST!

Don't miss THE Fundraiser and "Fun" raiser of the year! Learn about food-based religion Men's Group style on Sunday February 12 at 9:00 a.m.! It's all-you-can-eat, speak, and laugh along with blueberry, chocolate chip, sensitive pancakes and more. See you there!



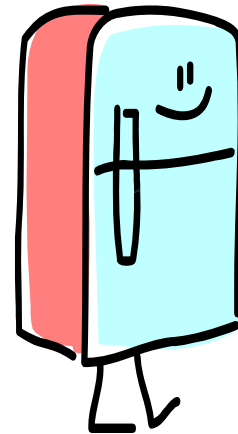
Only 23 Weeks 'til SUUSI!!

Up to the *second* countdown at: www.suusi.org/cgi-bin/countdown



Needed...One Refrigerator

Our UU retreat center in Brooksville, The Pines, has experienced an appliance breakdown. The refrigerator in Cedar House recently stopped working...for good. If you have a spare unit that you're wondering what to with, please contact the UUC office right away. Remember, the Men's Group weekend at The Pines is coming up on April 7-8. Refrigeration will be very helpful.



Calling All Bridge Players

We continue to play bridge every Monday morning and we KNOW there are more of you out there to join us. We charge \$2 to play and coffee and ice water and often some-

What is the level of play? Well, there are many more novices. You do one for you if you come alone.

May we expect you next Mon-Room at 9:30 a.m.. If you want more son at 723-1543 or Mary Flanagan at 799-6281.

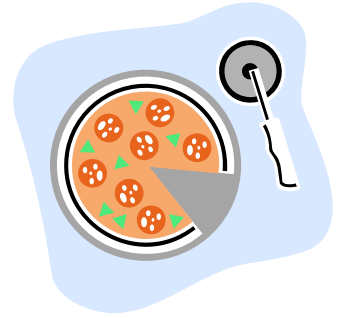


always give prizes. We have one brings goodies to share.

there are some experts. But not need a partner—we will find day? Just show up in the Patio information, call Molly Stephen-

Community Forum Lunch Topic for February 15

Community Forum will present Bill Norsworthy on Wednesday, February 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Patio Room. His topic will be "The Tipping Point." While the book of this name focused on big business, government and other big organizations, Bill states the ideas relate also to UUC. Bill thinks you will enjoy the morning more and be better able to participate in the discussion if you read the book before the meeting. He also says there is enough of interest to discuss the topic all morning. Bring a brown bag lunch or join in an order for pizza.



Picnic Time !

An intergenerational picnic will be held at John Chestnut Park, 2200 East Lake Road on Saturday, February 18 from 2:00 p.m. until dark at Shelter #9. This picnic is for families, singles, young and old.

Bring a dish to share, own tableware and drinks. For questions call Ruth Samuel at 791-1216.

Join the UU Coaching Network!

UUCN is growing and invites you to join! This non-profit association is a community of professionally trained life coaches anchored in the UU principles of compassion, integrity and inclusion. To learn of its mission and how you can benefit from membership, please visit www.uucoachingnetwork.org. If you are considering hiring a coach, UUCN is also a resource for finding the right coach for you.

Elderhostel at UU in the Pines

UU in the Pines is a UU conference center in west central Florida that specializes in Elderhostel programs that explore Florida wilderness. The course, "Explore Florida's Ecosystems from the Water Up: Canoeing Three Rivers," will be held February 12-17 and February 26 – March 3. Study flat water river systems to outlets. See plants, animals, and their interaction with one another and man. A seven to ten mile slow-paced canoe trip, mostly downstream, will be taken on three different rivers on three different days, with supper and sleeping. History, geology, literature and folk music will be explored as we go. Classes are indoors and on the river banks. Minimal hiking if desired. For more information contact UU in the Pines directly at (352) 796-4457 or email uupi-nes@bellsouth.net or contact Elderhostel at (877) 426-8056 or www.elderhostel.org.





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OCTAGRAM

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Of Clearwater, Inc. 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:

Ina Alexander 531-6110
Sol Winner 397-1935
Dorothy Wylie 797-5736
Steve Poekert 804-4735
Chuck Shimer 517-3801

*Please send OCTAGRAM submissions to the church
office by mail, drop off in the Octagram mailbox, or by
email to mail@uuclearwater.org. Deadline is midnight
of the third Sunday of every month. For March issue,
deadline is February 19, 2006.*

**Sunday Worship Services
are at 10:30 a.m.**

Visit: www.uuclearwater.org