



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

Where Seekers Find a Home

OCTAGRAM

FEBRUARY 2011



Our consecration of those who many may shun, is our greatest virtue.

Dear Members and Friends,

Orestes Brownson (1803-76) stated “One of the greatest services a liberal faith has rendered to the world has been its consecration of poverty and its elevation of labor to the dignity of a moral duty.” He asked his many readers to in order to make a person happy “study not to augment his goods; but to diminish his wants.”

A liberal religion consecrates those who work in the strawberry fields of Florida, sweat shops in China, and dust covered farms around the world. Our consecration of those who many may shun, was for Brownson, our greatest virtue.

To consecrate we dedicate somebody or something to a particular place in our lives. We consecrate our spouse, children, and grandchildren by our daily ceremony of love. We consecrate with our respect and affection a special teacher of long ago, a friend who can make us laugh or a leader who inspires.

Over the coming months members of this religious community will be asked to define how important the UUC is in our lives and community. We will also be asked to look ahead to how the UUC will service the needs of future generations of UUs. Our joint effort will dedicate our community to a greater purpose; it will consecrate our work for a moral and virtuous society.

A special thank you to Johanna Moseley for her service as publisher of the Octagram. Her tireless efforts have enriched the ministry of this community. Thank you as well to Lary Crews for taking over the Editors job. I hope your deadlines will be met, and late entries, like this one, few.

Terry Stapleton



Terrence Stapleton

Inside this issue:

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi	2
Dr. David Katz	3
Social Justice	4
Interweave GLBT	5
Worship Services	6
Monthly Theme	7
Association Sunday	
and Open Issues	8
Racial Justice Team	9
Religious Education	10
Above & Beyond	
Racial Awareness	11



What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist?

As Unitarian Universalists, we value the individual. Each and every human being matters - everyone has inherent worth and dignity. Whether we see ourselves the intermediate product of an evolutionary process, a servant of God fulfilling a divine plan, an accident of fate, or seekers gradually awakening to an enlightened condition, we can all agree that each person matters a great deal and has enormous potential for growth and development. Each person has much to contribute to the wealth of the community.

Because we see the individual as our primary value, we do not accept the absolute authority of any revealed scripture or truth. Our minds help us understand that no limited sealed revelation can apply universally to the human condition.

Even though we put the individual first, we recognize the destructive result of unbridled individualism. We recognize and affirm that an individual's identity and humanity are formed and tested in community. As Unitarian Universalists we also value the development of world community extending the opportunity for a satisfying life to all people not just those who look like us or think like us. We realize the rights and freedoms of the individual must be balanced with the needs of the community. We value the community and our responsibility to be good citizens. The tool we choose to balance freedom of the individual with the needs of the community is our minds, our reason, our consciousness.

How do we gain our values and how do we share them?

It is fair to say that we come by our religious values democratically. As Unitarian Universalists we freely examine every idea which comes our way, keeping for tenets of faith only those wisdoms that prove truthful to ourselves and loving of others.

How do we express our values, our beliefs? We express them through our words and our deeds.

Our Unitarian Universalist way of religion is seldom easy. It entails a gradual, never-ending challenge. Many of us would even go so far as to assert that the full, robust existence means struggle. And when struggle is replaced by sedate doctrines or empty rituals, our soul goes flat, and boredom or conformity rush in.

As Unitarian A. Powell Davies put it:

“When someone asks where now is thy God, we can answer that the sacred is where it always was: in the struggle. In the pain of our hearts, in the growing clearness of our minds, in the sharpening edge of conscience, in the welling up of courage in the purpose we cannot forsake and never shall.”

How do we show our commitment to our faith? We show our commitment by supporting our faith community with our time, gifts, and substance. By showing up. By being involved. By being generous. By being good stewards and co-owners. As the Rev. John Wolf said, "There is only one reason to be part of a Unitarian Universalist congregation: to support it."

In faith,
Abhi Janamanchi

PS: INDIA TRIP - I will be leading a group of UUC members and other UUs on a trip to India (Feb. 15-March 6). We will be visiting sacred places (Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, and Unitarian) and other cultural landmarks, including a visit to the Margaret Barr School in the Khasi Hills of Northeastern India. Three wonderful colleagues will be filling the pulpit in my absence. The pastoral associates will be available to provide pastoral support to members in need.



While I was in graduate school and living in Baltimore, Maryland, I served as music director for a United Methodist Church located about halfway between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The pastor of the congregation was a woman with a beautiful set of twins, both boy and girl. This young, handsome family attracted many other young families and their children to the congregation.



As a result of the many young families, when the children would come down during the children's sermon, there was a scene wonderfully orchestrated chaos. Many of the children's sermons centered around stewardship and the importance of having ownership of a church life; a theme I think very important to share with young people.

One Sunday, the children (and the rest of the congregation) were led in the singing of the hymn "We Are The Church." Honestly, I really didn't like the melody to the hymn but the simple words continue to haunt my memory to this day:

"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people."

The words strike me as an impressive indoctrination through hymnody for young people. More importantly though, it is that last part that I think has the most importance to all who seek church for support, solace and spirit. Despite its outward appearance, the church is not so much an edifice but rather a group of collective souls who support each others lives and hearts. We are called to create a world that is better for ourselves and through and by that, a world better for those who we will never even meet but with whom we inhabit a very small rotational sphere.

As we go forward with a campaign of stewardship or "calling," I am reminded that through our collective worship, soul-searching and support every Sunday and into the following week, we support our immediate world and the world beyond that we may or may not ever see. As your director of music, I am honored to be able to provide programs with both adults and youth that inspire, challenge and support what we do as a Unitarian Universalist congregation. I pray that you won't think it presumptuous of me to thank you ahead of time for letting me continue this important work into the coming year. Thank you for permitting me to be an integral part of your inspired stewardship in order to create a greater tomorrow as the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater.

Sunday Flowers or a Rose for RCS

Carol Heichel



Honor a special person or a significant occasion with flowers and an announcement in the Sunday Order of Service. You may reserve a "special" date in advance on the flower calendar outside the office doors. You may bring your own flowers or order an arranged bouquet for \$40. You may choose instead to contribute \$40 to RCS (Religious Community Services) and I will provide a small token rose bouquet in a bud vase. All of your money then goes directly to RCS to provide for the needy and the food pantry. To date a "Rose for RCS" has contributed \$200 to RCS.

I will continue to provide this option as long as the congregation wishes to support it. **To schedule a flower contribution please contact:**

Carol Heichel 727 738-8982 or clheichel@hotmail.com

Economic Justice Team

The Economic Justice team has set the following three goals for this year in the area of Immigration Reform:

1. Educate ourselves, our congregation and our community about the many aspects of Immigration reform
2. Defeat any Arizona type legislation in Florida
3. Continue current support projects with the farm workers and develop new service projects with local immigrants.



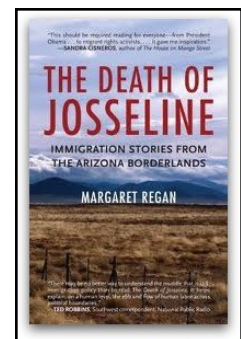
Immigration Reform

To carry out the first goal the team is planning a series of discussions about Immigration Reform. These discussions will be led by invited guests and take place on Sunday afternoon. Please watch the weekly news for details.

The UUA has invited congregations to engage in a Common Read project this year. This is a program that invites the congregation to all read the same book and have small discussions about the book during a specific time period.

The book that has been selected is **The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from Arizona-Mexico Borderlands** by **Margaret Regan**.

Our Friday morning readers Forum has already chosen this book to read in February.



If you are interested in participating in this project please sign up at the Social Justice table or contact Linda Stoller at 442-3551.

Discussion groups will be set up at times and dates convenient for the participants. Let's begin the discussion about this very important moral issue of our time.

Farm Workers

Thanks to everyone that contributed to our Maralyn Toman rice and beans collection for the farm workers. It was a huge success and provided much needed assistance to the farm workers in Plant City.

On March 5th the Coalition of Immokolee Workers (CIW) is planning a major march and demonstration in Tampa to once again ask Publix to support the Fair food campaign. Despite a major break through with the tomato growers this year, Publix refuses to participate in the Fair Food Campaign. It is time for Publix to step up and support fair wages and working conditions for farm workers.

Environmental Justice

The Green Team met on January 22nd and had a special guest speaker from Code Green Community (codegreengreencommunity.org). Code Green Community has as its goal, "growing a resilient and sustainable community in the greater Tampa Bay area." They have been involved in several interesting projects to date and are interested in working with UUC.

In conjunction with Code Green Community we will be showing the film, HOME, at UUC on February 12th at 7:00 p.m. This film will be shown at several venues in the area around Valentine's Day to promote Love for the Earth. It is a beautiful and compelling documentary demonstrating the interdependent web of all life on earth, what has happened to it, and what needs to be done to save it. It is very much in keeping with UU principles, and we are honored to have been asked to participate in showing this important film. The next meeting of the Green Team will be on February 19th from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Dotti "Greenjeans"

(ddoyle1962@tampabay.rr.com)

Christmas Eve Collection

Due to your continued generosity, the Homeless Emergency Project, Inc (HEP) received a check in the amount of \$898 to continue assisting the homeless in Clearwater. We thank each and every one of you.

Interweave Project Safe Haven Against Bullying Joe Weinstein

In behalf of Interweave GLBT at UUC, Joe Weinstein, co chair, has attended the monthly meetings of a new group known as "Safe Haven Against Bullying".

At their last meeting they finished their Mission Statement which reads:

Mission Statement:

Safe Haven Against Bullying's mission is to provide safe, liberating and supportive places for young people who are or feel bullied [ages 13-18 (18 in HS)] and to work for the elimination of bullying behavior in our communities.

Values Statement:

We will promote care and compassion for all other beings as we empower young people to create communities in their adult lives where diverse peoples successfully come together to work, learn and play.

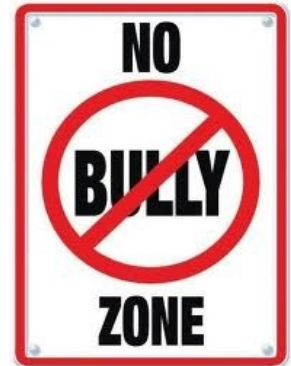
Definition

We define Bullying behavior to be: verbal, physical or emotional abuse, hazing or any other victimization of young people based on the following actual or perceived characteristics or traits, including: • Age • Color • Creed • National origin • Race • Religion • Marital status • Sexual orientation • Gender Identity • Physical Ability • Mental Ability • Socioeconomic • Familial Status • Club Affiliations

Action Plan

1. We will establish safe, liberating and welcoming places to support all those who are victims of bullying.
2. We will lobby for the effective enforcement of anti-bullying policies
3. We will advocate for effective anti-bullying training and education.

If you would like to share in this effort, please contact Joe Weinstein, 813-263-2989 (joeweinstein@yahoo.com).



The Khasi Hills Sponsor-A-Student Project

Donations of school supplies such as pens, pencils, magic markers, and crayons are being collected so that UUC members can bring them to the students when they visit in February. Please bring your donations of supplies to the Social Justice table on Sundays or leave them in the office. It is not too late to sponsor a student or donate to this year's collection for the children of the Margaret Barr Memorial School in India. We have not reached our goal and any donation in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Reverend Abhi would like to bring the funds with him when he visits the school in mid February. The final collection date is Sunday February 6th. Call Marlene Calderone at 727-669-9517 for information.



Opportunity to Host an Academic Foreign Exchange Student

PAX, the Program of Academic Exchange, seeks host families for exchange students. From around the world, PAX students will arrive in the Tampa Bay area in August to stay with host families for the upcoming school year. PAX Students speak fluent English, have full medical insurance and their own spending money.

Host families need to provide the student with their own bed, a quiet place to study, meals & a supportive environment. Help their dream come true to study in America, and you will learn about their culture and have a lifetime international friend.

For more information, please contact Karen, PAX Community Coordinator & Advocate at 727-329-8060. Please share this with anyone you know that might be interested.

Worship Services — Sundays at 10:30 am

Feb. 6 A Religion For Our Time Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

Worship associate: Megan Szczepanik

"A Religion for Our Time" has been the refrain of the President of our Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Peter Morales. The service will reflect on his words on what Unitarian Universalism - especially as it is embodied in our congregation - needs to do and needs to offer in order to truly be a religion for 2009 and beyond. We will welcome new members during the service.



Feb. 13 Myths of Scarcity Revs. Abhi Janamanchi & Meredith Garmon

Community doesn't just create abundance—community is abundance. Yet we find ourselves so easily seduced into believing myths of scarcity. Rev. Dr. Meredith Garmon is the senior minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, FL. He is our consecration Sunday speaker. Meredith is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, raised by UU parents, and attending several UU churches throughout his life. He was an assistant professor of philosophy at Fisk University (Nashville, TN) for four years, 1992-1996 before studying for the ministry. Meredith has studied and practiced Zen Buddhism since 2001. He currently runs the UU Dancing Crane Zen Center from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville.

Feb. 20 What Did Charles Darwin Think About God Rev. Dennis McCarty

Worship associate: Sue Boone

The great biologist, Charles Darwin, may be persona non grata among religious fundamentalists today--but was actually a devout believer as a youth. In fact, his Cambridge University degree was in divinity, not biology. His religious struggle connects with English and American Unitarian history in surprising ways; and his life and journey can help us understand our own Unitarian Universalist faith in our own time.

Over the years, Rev. Dennis McCarty has been a sailor, construction worker, freelance writer, and novelist. He taught English and studied Zen Buddhism in South Korea. He studied for ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. He published a book of essays, *On War--and Covenant: Reflections on Blind Violence and Religious Vision*, in 2007. His latest major work is *Servetus: the Radical Reformed Musical*, a rock/blues musical in honor of the 500th birthday of proto-Unitarian martyr, Michael Servetus. "Rev. Dennis" has been minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, Indiana, for the last 8 years.

Feb. 27 Loneliness Rev. Dr. Sara Zimmerman

Worship associate: Jenn Bouchie

Rev. Dr. Sara Zimmerman, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, will explore the difference between "aloneness" and "loneliness." She will draw on sacred texts including the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, as well as Eastern Sutras and the Unitarian Transcendental theology of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

March 6 What Good Is Faith? Rabbi Arthur Baseman

Rabbi Baseman will explore the meaning of faith from a Jewish perspective. Rabbi Arthur Baseman was ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, served 2 years as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army, and then served Temple Sinai in Roslyn Heights for 3 years, prior to coming to Clearwater, Temple B'nai Israel in 1969, from which he retired in 2008. He has been a neighbor and friend to our congregation and to Rev. Abhi. He is married to Renee, and the couple have 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

2010-2011 Program Focus for UUC

“**Building the Beloved Community**” is our worship and lifespan learning program year focus for 2010-2011. this year we will reflect, consider, and act upon nine religious and spiritual themes. Each theme plays a part in the development of a well-grounded religious and spiritual life. They provide us with a set of common stories and ideas that become elements of an ongoing community conversation.

September: **Mission and Ministry**
October: **God**
November: **Gratitude**
December: **Hope**
January: **Justice**
February: **Unitarian Universalism**
March: **Faith**
April: **Salvation/Resurrection**
May: **Growth**



Monthly Theme Resources for February: Unitarian Universalism/Freedom

Books:

John Buehrens & Forrest Church, *A Chosen Faith*
Ellen Brandenburg, editor, *The 7 Principles in Word and Worship*
John Gibb Millspaugh, editor, *A People So Bold: Theology & Ministry for Unitarian Universalists*
David Bumbaugh, *Unitarian Universalism: a narrative history*
Paul Rasor, *Faith Without Certainty*
Warren Ross, *The Premise & The Promise: The Story of the UUA*

Movies:

Chocolat, Starring Johnny Depp
Angela's Ashes, Starring Robert Carlyle, Emily Watson
Three Kings, Starring George Clooney
Chicken Run, with the voices of Mel Gibson
Orange County, starring Colin Hanks
Cry, Freedom, Starring Denzel Washington, Kevin Kline
All The President's Men, Starring Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman
Shawshank Redemption, Starring Morgan Freeman, Tim Robbins
Papillon, Starring Dustin Hoffman, Steve McQueen

Websites:

www.uua.org
www.uuclearwater.org
www.au.org
www.aclu.org

PaperSolo Art Lecture February 19, 2011 1:00 p.m.

Patricia McCandless will lecture about her art which we have on display in the current show. It is very unique and beautiful. She uses paper from around the world in her very impressive works of art.



Association Sunday is February 6th

As part of the Feb. 6 service, affirming our common bonds and purposes as Unitarian Universalists, we are taking a special collection. We ask you to make a tax deductible gift of \$20 or more.

The theme of the fourth annual Association Sunday is:

Celebrating 50 Years and the Future of Our Faith!

Proceeds from this service will go to ensuring that our religion thrives for generations to come by supporting the *Leap of Faith* growth action plan, which will establish mentoring relationships among congregations; funds will also support the celebration of this significant anniversary. Thank you for "Growing Our Faith" in one another and our way in religion.

We are better together!

"We can be the religion for our time. We can only do this together...as an Association."—
Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA



Feb 6th Amala M. Abdur-Rahman "My Life as a Muslim Woman in the U.S.A."



Amala studied law with a focus on issues of domestic violence and human trafficking. She is a graduate of Penn State Dickinson School of Law 2009. She served in the American Bar Association law School Division as a Lt. Governor of the 3rd Circuit. Amala is with the Center for American Islamic Relations in Tampa.

Feb 13th Bill Dishongh, "The Immigration Situation in Arizona"

Bill was UUC's point man on the ground in Arizona in 2010. He will give us a report on his adventures in civil disobedience anti-immigrant policies, including his time in the Phoenix jail as a cellmate of Peter Morales, President of UUA.

Feb 20th "Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)"

A farm worker leader from the CIW will tell of justice in the fields, including 90% of the Florida tomato industry, and include the penny per pound paid by McDonald's and other retailers and conduct against abuses in the fields. Next steps will call on the supermarket industry for reform. <http://www.ciw-online.org/>

Feb 27th Lt. Sean McGillen "New Homeless Shelter on 49th St."

Lt. McGillen, of Pinellas s Sheriff's Office, is Director of a shelter, Safe Harbor. He will update us on how it doing since it opened in early January, the importance of community involvement and its future.



The new Covenant Group for Snowbirds will meet and dine together on the third Wednesday of the month through March. **The next meeting will be February 16 at 4:00 pm, at UUC in the Library just off the Social Hall.** After the meeting, the Snowbirds will dine together at a local restaurant. Anyone interested in covenanting with Snowbirds is welcome, just drop in. For more information please email Gene or Susan Walker at walk2000@paonline.com or Tiffany Boggs at puggirl417@gmail.com.



Thanks to the efforts of so many in our congregation, January 14-17 was an amazing weekend at UUC of celebrating the life and profound ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and crystallizing our own vision of racial justice at UUC. Allow me to share some of our results.

We had a total of 34 people attend the Sacred Conversation on Race over Friday and Saturday. Donations at the door brought in \$284.50.

Every participant I talked to agreed that the Rev Karen Georgia Thompson, United Church of Christ Minister for Racial Justice, and Abhi did an excellent job and we had

very engaged,

important, and essential conversations. A special thanks to Bill Dishongh for his vision and his interfaith diplomatic skills bringing Karen here. Also, a special thanks to Ann Myers for ensuring we had great refreshments and lunch.

And our MLK concert... once again WOW! I think everyone who witnessed it was thoroughly energized and uplifted. We did a "share the plate" love offering that split the proceeds between support for our racial justice programs and UUC "Rice and Beans" collection to help support farm workers. We raised \$357 total. Special thanks to Cathy Costa and Barry Skeete for their talents and fantastic job putting together this incredible UUC

tradition. Abhi and Karen put together a powerful service Sunday. Thank you! Thank you!

Monday, despite rain and thunderbolts, a group of 15 or so represented UUC at the MLK Day Breakfast and rally in lieu of the parade.

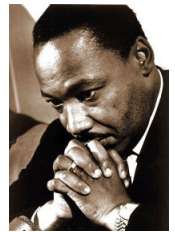
We had a solid group of volunteers who served breakfast along with other folks in the community.

We also were blessed with several youth and teachers from our RE program. Our smiling faces at 7 a.m. and our glad service to the community deepened our connections to the Clearwater community, I believe.

Our congregation was acknowledged to the gathering by name. Special thanks go to Denise Seeber and Arnt Monge for brilliant and gracious outreach to the NAACP and the organizers of the Breakfast.

Special thanks to Ches Applewhite and her AV team for their dedication in the sound booth.

Also, special thanks to Harriet Ha-Sidi for her social justice knowledge and the "share the plate" recommendation and approach that proved to be such a success. And thanks to everybody else who I have not mentioned because you all are so inspiring and vital to our racial and social justice work. As I sit quietly reflecting on our weekend together. I have no doubt "we shall overcome." Thank you all for that. Scott Milinder, for the Racial Justice



SUUSI - Order your FREE CATALOG today

(www.suusi.org) to a one week summer camp for UUs of all ages on a college campus and enjoy an incredible life experience with like-minded vacationers at the 2nd largest gathering of UUs in the world (July 17 - 23). Need some FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to attend? Just log-on and join the joyful staff.

Questions? Contact the SUUSI Answer Man:

Paul Langrock 727-784-6597, Paul@TheLangrocks.com.

Religious Education News

Christine Pensa, RE Coordinator



Have you made your New Year's resolution yet? Do you want to exercise more, learn a new skill, or give more of your time? Well, look no further because the children's Religious Education program can help you! **Our children and youth will keep you busy and your mind sharp.** All lesson plans and supplies are provided.

Teaching teams work together and support one another so you are never on your own. Our youth group (9th-12th grade) now meets from 12-1pm and could use some additional support as well. We are also looking for at least 2 dedicated individuals to join the Religious Education Committee.

Our December Parent's Night Out was a great success!

The kids had a wonderful time and so did the adults. I would like to thank Laura Gervasi, Kathy Krohn and Kyle Pensa for their hard work and cheery spirit. We couldn't have done it without you. Be on the look-out for another Parent's Night Out in the spring.

Even though it's still cold and dreary outside we are already planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Let's make it eggs-tra special this year for all ages. We welcome your ideas, donations and time.

I hope to see you on Sunday with a smile!

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 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@yahoo.com or contact Christine Pensa at: christinep@uuclearwater.org

"A huge thank you to the volunteers that helped with the bake sale! Y'all are awesome. I could not have done it without you. Thank you to Annaliese for all your guidance. And to the congregation for helping to make the bake sale a success." *Betsy Toelle*



Shopping's still not done now that holidays are over. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, household needs or just the need for "shopping therapy."



It pays for UUC members to use Amazon.com.

When you access the Amazon.com website from the UUC homepage, UUC gets 4% of the total! Please go to the UUC homepage, look at the right side of the page, and click on the Amazon.com icon. Then shop as usual. **You get the product you want at a great price, and UUC gets 4% of the total price of your order.**

It is time to turn in your "Guest At Your Table" box, benefiting UUSC.

UUSC works in response to disasters and human rights abuses around the world. It deals with earthquake victims, Darfur and its victims, water rights throughout the world and other issues. Some term it, "a UU Red Cross." If your donation is \$100 or more, it will be matched by Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. **Please return your "Guest at Your Table" box to the Social Justice table in the Social Hall.**



Above and Beyond Award - Hannah Krohn

Sue Boone



Hannah Krohn, a 10th grader at Palm Harbor HS, recently joined the International Baccalaureate program. Hannah plays a bass trombone in the Pinellas Youth Symphony and has had fun playing in jazz and marching bands as well. Hannah completed her Bright Futures volunteer hours with the U.S. Geological Survey, working on science literacy outreach for the 4th graders.

Hannah values the open discussions Cassie Alderman and the Teen group engage in. She enjoys chipping in on the "food based" fund raisers at UUC and working in the Nursery when she can. She also loves having an "extra grandmother" in Dorothy Wylie. She will be 16 on Valentine's Day and has been attending UUC for ten years.

Racial Awareness

Judy Wade

In 2010, the Social Justice Council launched a new team focused on Racial Awareness, led by Scott Milinder. This team contributed significantly to the January activities celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday. Bravo to Scott and his team members. Thanks to the efforts of this team and Rev. Abhi, we have a new momentum focused on building a multi-cultural and multi-racial congregation.

We can build on that momentum and learn from an expert in April.

At the Florida District meeting scheduled for April 8 - 10 in Orlando, Janice Marie Johnson, UUA Director of Racial and Ethnic Concerns, will be a keynote speaker. She and her twin sister, Rev. Hope Johnson, both received the Presidents Award for Volunteer Service at the 2006 General Assembly. **When presenting the award, UUA President William Sinkford mentioned that Nelson Mandela personally gave to Janice the word "Masakane," which means "let us build together."**

Janice uses this word as a salutation, a prayer and as the way in which she lives her life. Janice describes her mission as the Director of Racial and Ethnic Concerns as "to support the growth of healthy, inclusive, multi-racial and multi-cultural ministries." Who could better inspire and lead UUC in the accomplishment of our racial awareness goals?

At the April 2010 Florida District meeting, Sue Boone represented UUC and will be attending again in 2011. She has heard Janice speak before and she's excited that Janice will be one of this year's keynote speakers.

Sue reports that she enjoyed last year's District meeting because she met a lot of UU's from around the state, heard some great speakers from UUA, and learned that all congregations struggle with the same challenges. Sue recommends others from UUC to attend the District meeting in April. "It's a great opportunity to learn what others have successfully done and for UUC to share our successes, as well. Many new ideas come from the interaction with other UUs." **Please reserve April 8 - 10 now on your calendar.** More information will be coming out soon regarding transportation, housing options, and agendas.



Janice Marie Johnson

CDs and DVDs -- FREEBIES

The MLK weekend Interfaith Concert on DVD and the Sunday, 1/16/11 service have been purchased by several people who attended the services and who wanted to share them with others. Check with the Tech Team sales desk in the social hall. Many services in previous years are also available both on CD and DVD and now they're FREE!





UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
OF CLEARWATER

2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, FL 33764



SUUSI 2011

Joy!

July 17-23 Radford, VA
Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

OCTAGRAM

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

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

Senior Minister	Rev. Abhi Janamanchi (727) 723-7252
President	Terrence Stapleton
RE Coordinator	Christine Pensa
Office Administrator	Karen Roeder
Bookkeeper	Karen Roeder
Music Director	Dr. David Katz
Pianist	Linda Jones
Facilities Manager	Janine Tompkins
Octagram Editor	Lary Crews

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:

Jenn Bouchie	470-9422
Sue Boone	531-5236
Jackie Brown	772-6764
Pat McGiverin	771-1529
Lucille Odeneal	743-1304

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.

**Sunday Worship Service
information is on centerfold.**

Visit: www.uuclearwater.org