

Our last New Member Recognition Ceremony for this Church year was part of services on Sunday, May 15th. Eight new members joined our spiritual home. Please show them our usual warm welcome. A short bio of each is below.



Alice Anderson

Alice was raised in Chicago where she attended art school and studied portraiture and illustration. Following a year or two in the art business, she married and raised two children on a farm in Vermont. Then, she followed family members to Tampa Bay, where she works with seniors in a retirement community. Now that she has made Clearwater her home, she is happy to have found UUC. She has been singing in the chorale since Thanksgiving.

Marion Steinbrunner

Marion is a newly minted snowbird having spent her second winter in Clearwater. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and spent most of her life in the rural counties east of Cleveland. She enjoys reading, traveling, hiking, horseback riding and decorative painting. She has collected antiques since high school. After a varied career in lab work and real estate, she became an antiques dealer about 25 years ago. She has two children, a son and a daughter who live in Chicago. She enjoyed UUC from the very first visit because of the open friendliness of everyone she met. She wants to join because of the free inquiry into religion and spirituality. She sees that members are supported and guided on the path of their choosing, not pushed into a slot by fear, dogma or guilt trips.

John & Sandy Hoover

John & Sandy are both retired teachers who taught in the Jefferson County School System in Louisville, Kentucky. They have lived in the Largo area for the past seven years. **John** is a musician and taught instrumental music in elementary school through the college level. He was the bandmaster of an Army National Guard Band for 25 years. He is still actively playing the French horn in several local community groups.

Sandy taught economics and government in high school and college and is still involved in teaching as a lead teacher in an after school tutoring program. She is also a very active member of the ACLU, currently holding the Office of Secretary of the State Board. Both John and Sandy have, for the past several years, worked for the Board of Elections as trainers for poll workers. They have attended UUC since last October.

Wilmar and Marilena Canezo

They both grew up in Christian homes. **Wilmar's** family being mainly Catholic and Protestant and **Marilena's** Pentecostal and Catholic. When they started a family of their own, they realized they wanted to provide some type of religious stability for their children and Christianity wasn't for them. Through Marilena's father, Eliseo, they were introduced to UUC and began attending Sunday services. Six years ago, they were married here and presented their children at UUC and are now pleased to become members.

Roy & Beverly Swanson

Beverly was born in Chicago. She attended business school and the Art Institute of Chicago; she married and raised four children in Arlington Heights, IL. She has 13 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

Roy was also born in Chicago right next door to Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs and Bears. He worked in the electrical field and was a member of the Electrical Union of Local 134 IBEW for 50 years. He raised 4 children from a previous marriage and has 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

She and Roy were married in Maui and they lived in Illinois before moving to Palm Harbor in 2006.

Visitors who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUC should watch for our UU 101 and Pathways to Membership courses taught by Abhi, scheduled throughout the year. They are informative, interesting and a great way to meet others who might share some of the same values you do.

**Bill Snell
Membership**

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I find it both easy and hard to believe that another church year is drawing to a close. It is hard because it is sometimes difficult to come to terms with the lightning quick passage of time. It feels like it was only yesterday that we had our annual water communion service. All of a sudden, it's Father's Day! Where did those ten months go? [There are days when I can't believe that I am completing my twelfth year of ministry at UUC!] Hard, also because we said goodbye to some dear friends along the way (Owen Thompson, Pat McGiverin, Bill Loomis, Janet Blake, Edna Ziel, Glenn Moon, and Millicent Freundlich.)

It is easy to believe because of all that we have accomplished together: a new congregational vision and mission that came out of a weekend of engaged conversations among members, new initiatives such as monthly-themed and spirited worship services to enhance the Sunday morning experience and the pastoral associate program to strengthen our caring ministry; social justice programs - the social justice assessment workshop and the anti-racism workshop; So many milestones reached and celebrated (our 60th anniversary).

The list gets longer and longer if we were to include all of our usual tasks, meetings, events, and programs. It is good to name and honor all that has been done, because we all recognize how much still remains to be done to become the beloved community and people that we yearn to be. Easy, too, because of low energy and flagging spirits. Whatever your feelings may be about our tradition of taking the summer off, it still feels right to me that we should step back for awhile, allow our spiritual batteries to recharge, and make it possible to return in the fall renewed and refreshed by the respite that summer brings.

Everything won't come to a standstill in the summer. The office will still be open. Worship services, open issues, and children's religious education will continue to be held on Sundays. But we do slowdown a bit over the summer months. I hope we will use this time to savor what we accomplished, appreciate all that we have, and give some room and space for new ideas and new energies to take root and blossom.

As my colleague Harold Babcock has written,
"Alpha and Omega. Beginning and ending. So much in our lives is measured by beginnings and endings. It is natural, I think, that we should seek to make sense of our lives by separating them into discreet periods; when we were young, when we were in college, when the kids were little, and so on. It helps us to make sense of those lives amidst what we do not by mistake call the flow of time."

And before we know it, it will be fall again, time to make another new beginning. At least, that is how we will think of it, even though it will simply be a continuation of something that was begun 60 years ago and will continue for many years to come.

So, go in peace, my friends. Go making peace, living gently, loving mightily, and bowing to the mystery. And, return with hope, joy, and renewed energy. Have a relaxing, refreshing, and rejuvenating summer!

In faith,
 Abhi



Religious Education and Exploration

It's hard to believe it is June already. Where did the year go? Weren't we just wrapping up the winter holidays? How come the costumes for the Nativity play are still sitting on my desk? Yikes! What in the world am I going to do with my kids this summer? Yes, summer is only a few weeks away.

What are your plans? The beach? The pool? A road trip to see friends and family? Or maybe your plans are a little more exotic, or they could be. How would you like to travel the world? I would! Unfortunately, that's just not going to be possible for me right now because I really don't like to fly, I'm a picky eater and I just don't have the money. So what can we do?

Don't waste your summer and lose touch with your friends at UUC.

Join us at 10:30am on June 19th for an amazing summer program!

Around the World with Me & UU

- ◆ **Let's explore the world together!** Forget boring books and throw away crafts! Let's make some music, try new foods, build things, get messy and most of all have FUN!!!!
- ◆ **Can we travel alone?** NO! Let's find a tour guide! Have you visited a different country? Come share your experiences with our children and youth. Don't worry, our staff and volunteers will support you all the way! Come have fun with us!
- ◆ **When traveling, we all need days of rest so we don't get burnt out.** Do you have a special skill or passion that you would like to showcase? Music? Art? Drama? Sports? Science?
- ◆ **Maybe, you want to do something a little more laid back?** Well, how about blowing bubbles and finger painting with our toddlers or rocking our babies in our nursery?



Come be a part of our “Beloved Community” and dance like nobody is watching.

Sign up in the Social Hall or email Christine Pensa at christinep@uuclearwater.org.

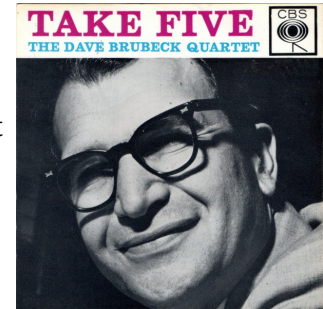
Hi All:

For the summer months, I've asked some of our chorale members to contribute their feelings on how music has enriched their lives. I won't be writing during the summer months. Here's my guest Sharon LaPlume:

A Life in Tune

Sharon LaPlume

“Do you know that there are people who don't get goose bumps when they hear stuff like this?” I was a young university student in Texas, hearing for the first time, Dave Brubeck's “Take Five” performed live at the Intimo Room in Dallas. The piano, the horns, the “brushes.” The artist was (to me) a marvel whose name I have long forgotten. And the atmosphere, to one barely emerging from her teens, was achingly sophisticated and urbane.



Nonetheless, I hear it all as clearly today as I did in 1960, in the company of the young man who would become my husband and father of our four sons. It would be forty years or so before I had the opportunity to meet Brubeck himself in live performance in New England. And so began the next leg of my own musical odyssey, a constant meter of joy and enlightenment in my life.

Our home was filled with music in those days. Among my earliest memories is a scratchy home recording of my mother singing “Be Sure It's True,” my dad's **black ebony flute** which he learned to play in an orphanage in Chicago and eventually played in symphony. (My grandfather was living, but had been abandoned by his immigrant wife, to raise two small sons alone, and times were hard. The German nuns were a godsend during those Depression days.)



They stressed the classics, particularly Wagner. Dad would regularly scale the brick wall at the orphanage, escaping for an afternoon the vigilance of iron-fisted and black-habited Wagnerian nuns, and taking refuge in the Chicago Opera House with a few pals. When caught, they'd have their heads shaved as a warning to the others. But they considered it a fair trade-off for their brief respite. At Mass the next morning, if one listened very carefully, the new lyrics of “Tantum Ergo – Make my Hair Grow” might be discerned.

Saturday afternoon's were spent in front of the big console radio, with the back lit station-selecting dial for “Live at the Met.” Dad sat in his red plush easy chair, his small daughter on the floor leaning back on his legs, listening and also anticipating the thrill of “Inner Sanctum” which followed later in the day.

Dad loved his experiences in his high-school marching band. I eagerly anticipated my own stint, once I entered high school in Texas, where Friday night football was the highlight of the week in so many small towns. I moved between flute and piccolo and felt privileged, during half-time formations and long bus trips between schools in our football conference, to have my pocket-sized instrument.

As I write, many more musical reveries surface. I will spare you my recollections of my reign as a disco queen in the seventies. In my work in communications, I learned the power of music in the areas of the brain that store memories. Relating the important segments of our lives in terms of our musical experiences is a fundamental aspect of our humanity. How fortunate I am to now be able to share this facet of my being, at this time in my life, with my fellow chorale members here at UUC. (Sharon LaPlume may be contacted at dandy luk@gmail.com)

Worship Services — Sundays at 10:30 am

June 5 A Faith Filled Partnership: Unitarianism in India Rev. Derrick Pariat & Abhi Janamanchi

Rev. Derrick Pariat, our guest preacher, is the President of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India (Khasi Hills). The service will explore the history and development of Khasi Unitarianism and its strong ties to Unitarian Universalism. A special luncheon honoring Rev. Pariat and his wife, Dani, will follow. Come find out more about the history and practice of Unitarianism in northeast India.



June 12 Tapestry of Faith

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, Christine Pensa, Charlotte Olson, & Others

Our last Spirited Worship service of the year featuring stories, interactive skits, wonderful music, recognition of Sunday School teachers, and a surprise finale!

June 19 Why Gay Pride Matters

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

The service will explore our Unitarian Universalist commitment to GLBT rights, marriage equality, and gay adoptions.

June 26

A Queer Reconciliation: Finding our inherent worth & dignity in the lives of others Martyr Pelham

The service will explore the first principle of Unitarian Universalism, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person."



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“Bill Dishongh Becomes Coordinator of the UUC Social Justice Council, effective June 1st.

Welcome Bill! We are delighted to have you lead us in our quest for peace and justice for all peoples. We look forward to an exciting, interesting and active year.” *Social Justice Council Treasurer – Marlene Calderone*

Share-the-Plate Moves to Twice a Month

At the suggestion of the UUC Board and with the Social Justice Council’s enthusiastic endorsement, we will be offering Share-the-Plate on the second and fourth Sundays of the month starting June 12th and June 26th. Anyone may recommend a charity for consideration for a Share-the-Plate collection. Suggestion/Application forms will be in the office and at the Social Justice table every week. In September, we will post an interactive application on UUC’s website. **The main reason we are doing this is the great need in our community, state, nation and around the globe. When we have a Share-the-Plate collection, our revenue increases overall.**



In fact, many congregations report an increase in their overall collection on Share-the-Plate Sundays. Among them are: The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, TX, The Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield, MA, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, OR, Dupage Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville, IL and Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek, CA. In fact, The Unitarian Society of New Brunswick, NJ congregation gives away its **entire** collection plate **each** Sunday, except for pledges. In the first eight months of this program the contributions

increased a whopping 167%. “It’s the most invigorating program I’ve ever seen,” says the Rev. Paul Mueller. “Giving went way up.” Rev. Mueller speaks these words each week before the offering is received: “We do not gather your gifts for ourselves, but for the world. All that we receive for the XYZ organization in this morning’s offering will be sent to them. As always, we encourage you to be generous.” This program is a winner; we help others and our congregation. Thank you, one and all, for your continued generosity.

On June 5th, the Reverend Derrick Pariat, President of the Unitarian Union of North East India, and his wife Danibha Pyrbot (Dani) will be visiting UUC. Reverend Pariat will share the pulpit with Reverend Abhi. Immediately after services, the Social Justice Council will host a luncheon in honor of Reverend Pariat at which he will entertain questions you may have about Indian Unitarianism and the School in Khasi Hills. Please plan on attending services and the luncheon on June 5th. We welcome Derrick and Dani and look forward to their visit.

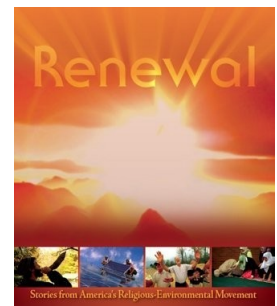
Social Justice Bulletin Board

Be sure to check out the new electronic slide show rolling picture frame on the Social Justice Bulletin Board showing a variety of social justice projects our members are involved in. Thanks to Eliseo Santana we will enjoy this new technology every Sunday. Eliseo graciously takes pictures of social justice events and will post them on the new screen. Watch for additional displays in the coming weeks.

Environmental Justice Team

The Demonstration Garden was dedicated by Rev. Abhi on May 14th. The crew doing grounds clean-up were in attendance. The next Green Team meeting will be on Saturday, June 18th. The next film in the Earth Cinema Circle series will be held that evening at 7 pm. **The film is "Renewal," a documentary about many different faith communities working on environmental justice.** We are compiling information to include in our application to the UUA for candidacy for Green Sanctuary status.

Dotti Doyle

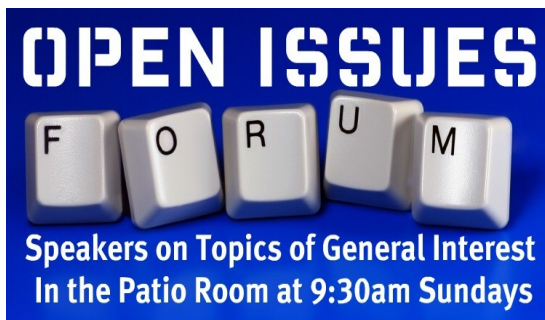


Peace & GLBT Team



Allison Snell

The 2011 St. Pete Pride Parade will be held on June 25th. We are looking forward to a great turn-out from the UUC community. There are many volunteer opportunities. You can march in the parade, ride on our float, man the booth and help with organizing. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Social Justice table in the social hall after services in June. Assembly at 7:30 am at 3rd Ave N and 31st Street N in the parking lot across from George's Alibi. We March at 9 am. Street Festival runs from 10 am to 3 pm in the area of Central Avenue bounded by 21st Street to 28th Street.



June 5th John Gambill and Libbie Ellis. "Residential Solar Electric Systems"

Types available, how to calculate size, approx cost and energy saving, rebates and tax credits available and how to qualify for them. John was designing solar photovoltaic systems for the Tampa Bay area before most of us heard the phrase "greenhouse gas."

John and Libbie also will be available for discussion at Coffee Hour, starting about 11:30.

<http://www.svhotwire.com/>

June 12th Julian Hartzog. "Mormonism and a Search for Truth"

Julian is a 4th generation Mormon who has been losing his faith since 2004, when he began researching Mormonism. He has documented his odyssey in a 10,000 word paper, which he will summarize for us.

June 19th Tom Bird, PhD, "Striving to Practice Non-Violence Toward All Creatures: the Profound Spirituality of a Peaceful Diet"

Compassionate respect for all living things is an enduring, central principle of the Unitarian Universalist faith and we can empower ourselves to lead a more compassionate, loving life by being mindful of what we eat. The interdependent connectedness of our diet, our health, our environment and our spiritual beliefs has been a subject of study for many years for Dr. Bird, who recently taught a 4-week course to seniors on this topic at USF's Learning in Retirement program.

June 26th. Sylvia Rockwell. "Oman: Tribes, Traditions, and Transformations"

Sylvia has just returned from Oman where she trained teachers on topics related to working with students with disabilities as part of a national initiative to improve educational opportunities for this underserved population. She was astounded by the rapid transformation of this Middle Eastern country over the past 41 years under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos. Sylvia will share before and after photographs, items she brought back that reflect the culture, information, and insights.



**Come on down to the
Patio Room each Monday
morning at 9:30
to watch, play or learn
Duplicate Bridge.**

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OCTAGRAM

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists
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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
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Sue Boone (727) 531-5236
Jackie Brown (727) 772-6764
Marty Pelham (813) 205-6910
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Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email
to Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline
for each month's issue is midnight of the third
Sunday of the month prior to the month of issue.

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

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