



Where Seekers Find a Home

# OCTAGRAM

MAY  
2006



## Special Events at UUC in May



Sunday, **May 7**, at 7:00 p.m.  
**“The Music Man (Junior)”**  
Presented by Safety Harbor  
Middle School, featuring  
Abhimanyu Janamanchi

Saturday, **May 13**,  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Rummage Sale**

Saturday, **May 20**, 5:30 p.m.  
**Buddha Birthday  
Party and  
Vegetarian Dinner**

Sunday, **May 21**, 12:30 p.m.  
**Annual Congregational  
Meeting**

Wednesday, **May 24**,  
7:00 p.m.  
**“UU Revival”**  
West Central Cluster  
with Rev. Bill Sinkford

## Spotlight on Religious Education

With appreciation, the congregation honored Jane Farkas on Easter Sunday, for her service as RE Assistant. Member Rosanne Silverman, who has been active at UUC as a teacher and on the RE Committee, was welcomed to the role. She, her husband Al Weaver, and daughter Allyson have been attending UUC for three years.

There is a lot of enthusiasm in the RE program this year, and Rev. Millie, Rosanne, and the RE Committee are planning for that spirit to grow further. Having two services next year will provide even more opportunities! Registration forms are available now for the 2006-2007 church year religious education programs. We encourage you to register early and indicate your choice of the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service, to help us plan.

Both services will offer a complete RE program, with an excellent array of curricula. Classes will be stimulating, and age groupings will allow an appropriate range of activity stations. Take a look, and sign up now to teach!

Babies and toddlers will continue to receive loving care, as our youngest children learn to feel comfortable in their church homes. Pre-K and kindergartners will learn with a UU literature based program, “Story Time.” First and second graders will explore their Unitarian Universalist faith, wonderings, and loves with “Treasure Hunting, Take Two.” Third, fourth and fifth graders will learn some of the stories from our Jewish and Christian roots that exemplify UU values, with “Timeless Themes.” Junior Youth will explore different faith traditions in our larger community, including trips to other local worship services, with an adaptation of “Neighboring Faiths.” Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) offers a balanced program of learning, community building, social action, leadership, and worship, meeting at 12:30 p.m., to allow attending church services.

Although we will continue to have some paid staff, all of the classes rely on volunteers – teachers to lead activities and assistants to assist them. Lesson plans and classroom preparation are provided, along with orientation and training. And with two services, you can attend one in the sanctuary and one in the RE area!

Don’t miss this chance to get to know our children and youth alongside other dedicated adults. For more information and to volunteer, talk with Rev. Millie or Rosanne Silverman.  
— *Millie Rochester*

## Inward Springs



*Rev. Millie Rochester*

My calendar notes many meetings throughout the year, most of them at UUC. But some take place away from Clearwater. Despite the need to travel (and some of you know the tendencies of my so-called sense of direction), I am glad to make the

effort to attend. This is especially so for three meetings in particular.

These are collegial gatherings. Once in the fall and again before the District Annual Assembly in the spring, the ministers of the Florida District convene to discuss membership issues, learn together, and simply be together. You may wonder why I take time from a busy schedule for these gatherings, and whether they are relevant to congregational life. These occasions are important for several reasons, most of which are specified in the UU Ministers Association Professional Guidelines.

The guidelines remind me to care for myself: “Because the religious life is a growing life, I will respect and protect my own needs for spiritual growth, ethical integrity, and continuing education in order to deepen and strengthen myself and my minis-

try.” The agenda always includes worship – a time to center the self in mind, body and spirit through silence, music, and well-chosen words – as well as some personal time to be alone or with others. Programming includes a day and a half long workshop on a specific topic – a chance to grow in understanding of even a familiar subject – learning I apply to my ministry.

This is a rare opportunity to nurture both the intellect and the spirit. As I worship and learn alongside my colleagues, longstanding relationships are nurtured and new ones are formed. Often these are the rare times to be with one another.

Members of the UU Ministers Association are charged specifically to “keep collegial relationships alive by attending UUMA Chapter meetings whenever possible and by thoughtfully considering matters of mutual professional interest.” I don’t want to give you the impression that I never miss a meeting – of course, other matters sometimes makes it impossible – and I confess to not having been to the smaller cluster groups. In the last several years, though, living in four districts as a member of each UUMA chapter, I can say that I have been consistently thankful to have these opportunities for further sustenance. Just before General Assembly begins, in June, I will join my colleagues at the continental UU Ministers Association meeting. I know you and I will all reap the benefits.

*~ Millie*

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## UUA Trustee Tidbits

As I sit at the computer writing the May column, with windows open, sunshine, and breezes coming my way, I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in Florida at this time of year. Early in April I attended the District Annual meeting and enjoyed meeting many fine Florida District UUs. Thank you for being there.

In my brief spoken report I mentioned an important upcoming pre-General Assembly (GA) event that I wish to encourage you to attend: “UU University.” This is a new program which was suggested by the

Congregational Presidents convening at GA last year. It is intended to be presented every other year in synch with GA, to help new and continuing congregational leaders gain the knowledge needed to be effective in their congregations. For a day and a half preceding GA, “UU University” will offer specialized training designed primarily for current and future congregational presidents, financial and membership leaders, and all leaders involved in congregational leadership.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke will be keynote speaker for congregational presidents. He will discuss congregations as emotional systems and leadership in

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message



*Bill Norsworthy*

Ah, Spring! What a wonderful time of the year. This year, the weather has been especially nice, even if it has been a little dry. This is a good time to sit down and reflect on what's happening at UUC. The Committee on Ministry has developed an extensive survey so that the congregation can express opinion on a wide range of questions. It is very important that you take a few minutes to complete this survey and let the leadership know what you're thinking. The survey can be returned anonymously to encourage everyone to be as straight forward as you would like to be. While there are a lot of questions, it really doesn't take long to complete. So please get it done and get it back as soon as possible. If we get a good response, we'll be able to report back to you at the

annual meeting which, by the way, is scheduled for May 21. Mark your calendar for that date.

The last word for Stewardship 2006 is ***Outstanding!*** Once again, the generosity of UUC members and pledging friends has been demonstrated in grand fashion. With the wonderful response to our matching gift appeal we have reached a total of \$294,000 toward next year's pledge budget. Many thanks to all of you who were able and willing to give to the work of this congregation. And congratulations to the Stewardship Team for a job well done. Ken Suggs, Molly Stephenson, Paul Langrock and Jeannie Shimer provided excellent leadership and direction. I would also like to thank all of the team, about forty in all, who served as team leaders and canvassers. This can be very challenging work, and this Stewardship Team did it graciously and tenaciously. The results speak for themselves. Our pledge total for next year is almost 20% more than the pledges we had at the end of last year's campaign. ***Outstanding!***

*Namasté, Bill Norsworthy*

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*(Continued from page 2)*

emotional systems. Rev. Steinke's insights and skill will provide leaders with the inspiration and critical skills needed for the demanding work done by them in their congregations.

All of the presentations in "UU University" will be led by dynamic leaders. Financial leaders will learn about the language of generosity, gain a solid understanding of effective stewardship, and build knowledge about managing your congregation's money both in a presentation and workshop. Membership leaders will learn how to "repel" fewer visitors and close the invisible "revolving door" in their congregations, while exploring effective means of moving visitors to enthusiastic membership. This tract will

be led by a congregation well-known for its success in welcoming, assimilating, and retaining its ever-growing congregation.

Registration for "UU University," June 20 and 21, 2006, is \$95 per person, and is separate from GA registration. For more information and registration, including a downloadable flyer and sign-up form go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), type UU University in the search box, or contact me at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org). Registration ends May 31<sup>st</sup>...so don't delay. I anticipate "UU University" will be a very worthwhile experience. You know you can also contact me with your Trustee concerns and questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

*-- Joan Lund*

## Random Reflections



Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

People across many faiths have been moved to speak out on the current debate over immigration policies. In the Tampa Bay area, Bishop Robert Lynch, in his Easter homily, asked, *“Is it not possible that the church and perhaps even we ordained have become too comfortable, too rich in a way, that we are no longer either the voice or steward of the church for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the vulnerable, the naked and the imprisoned? . . . My prayer and my firm belief is that we have not lost our soul but maybe our voices....”*

As a legal immigrant who has made this “land of immigrants” my home, I feel impelled to lift up my

voice on this issue. The way I see it, illegal immigration is driven by four factors: (1) rigid immigration policies that bar people from entering the US legally; (2) the alluring prospect of economic opportunity for newcomers; (3) American businesses that love cheap labor; and (4) a privileged American middle-class (of which I am a part) that is supported in thousands of ways by people whose labor is invisible and whose suffering is hidden. As a result, we have created a permanent under-class of people who play a vital role in society but are not accorded the same dignity and protection that citizens enjoy.

What we need is a solution that is workable and permanent, a solution that: (1) maintains the security of our borders; (2) preserves the sovereignty of this nation; (3) improves economic and labor conditions in Mexico and elsewhere (so that people are no longer driven to risk their lives in order to provide safety and sustenance for their families); and (4) paves the way for immigration reform which is based on a concern for our neighbors as well as ourselves. If we want permanent security (if there is such a thing), it must be based on solutions that provide justice for all, or

injustice will fester and threaten us all into future generations.

As Unitarian Universalists, I believe that we are called to advocate for policies and mindsets that do not foster hate and perpetuate fear and discrimination. Developing policies based on hate and fear of those who do not look like us runs contrary to our faith’s principles and purposes. That is why we need to urge our elected representatives in Congress and the President to pass comprehensive immigration reform that upholds the dignity of all people and reflects the principles for which our nation was founded.

As the Rev. Bill Sinkford said, “Each generation of Americans is called upon to define again who we mean when we say ‘We, the People.’” We must follow our conscience as we respond to this call and, along the way, rediscover our voice.

*In faith, Abhi Janamanchi*

### **ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS ARE DUE APRIL 30**

This is to remind each Committee Chair that you have the responsibility for submitting an annual report summarizing the work of your group. These reports are due by April 30 to the UUC office. While the format and length may vary, please be sure to highlight your major accomplishments and challenges during the past year. The turnaround time is tight for publishing the Annual Report. We need enough lead time to compile your reports and print the annual report, so our dedicated office volunteers very much appreciate your honoring this deadline.

## Social Justice Committee

Religious Community Services (RCS) is sponsoring two events that you will want to support. There will be a concert, Summer Fest, on May 19 from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Largo Central Park. All proceeds raised by this event go to the Gift of Food Endowment. Tickets are \$15 for adults and free for children under 10 years of age. The Surf City Allstars and the Original Vandellas will be featured.

The food bank is seeking volunteers to help sort food at the annual mail carriers' food collection. For information including the date and time call 443-4031.

The Social Justice Committee is continuing to raise money to buy a piano for the First UU Church of New Orleans. There will be a concert on August 19 at 4:00 p.m. featuring Betsy McGovern, choir director of the church and niece of Dorothy Wylie. Mark your calendars now for this special event. The committee is also selling trivets that say "Let the Good Times Roll" to raise funds. Thanks to O'Neil and Eileen Jacobs for their support of this project.

Our next committee meeting will be May 6, at 9:30 a.m. in the Westwood Room. Join us!

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## Serenity Garden

If you follow the sidewalk to the west of the Octagon, you will find a delightful "Serenity Garden" near completion behind the air conditioners. It has mostly native plants and has already attracted butterflies. The last stage is the walkway and we are in desperate need of expertise and assistance with laying pavers in sand. The pavers can be purchased for a donation of \$50.00. Since each paver can hold a maximum of three engraved lines, more than one person or couple can buy a paver together. It is also possible to make your own paver. Samples are available in the Social Hall after services. The donations will cover the majority of the cost of the garden and any remaining money will be used for watering, landscaping, and irrigation for UUC.



If you wish to purchase a paver with engraving or can help in any way, please contact Jeannie Shimer at 727-517-3801 or Ashlynn DeCosta-Ponnudurai at 727-510-481.

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## Split the Plate Sunday is May 14

The next Split the Plate Sunday will benefit "Home With a Heart," a St. Petersburg community service researched by the Social Justice committee. This non-profit organization is designed to combat crime, illegal drugs, and poverty in low-income communities. Brochures are available at the Social Justice literature rack in the Social Hall. Please bring your check book to services on May 14 and help end UUC's fiscal year with a generous gift to help fight Pinellas County poverty.

# UU Buddhist Fellowship at UUC



## UUC's Annual Buddha's Birthday Celebration & Vesak Year 2550 on May 20th

On Saturday May 20th we at UU Clearwater celebrate again the coming or descent of the Enlightened One, or Buddha, into the human plane on this troubled planet. In Mahayana countries such as Korea, the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha are celebrated by devotees on different dates and seasons of the year.

Buddha's birthday, however, is the most publicly recognized day. It is a national holiday with schools and government offices on holiday, TV entertainment specials, the freeing of prisoners from jail, speeches by the president and by prominent politicians, and miles-long parades with fire-breathing dragon floats in all the majorities.

Buddhists visit temples that are festooned with colorful paper lanterns. They perform rituals that are full of spiritual meaning. They make large annual offerings to the temples and have their names and wishes suspended from lanterns symbolic of enlightenment and the granting of meritorious blessings. They vow to cleanse their minds and hearts of the obscurations of greed, hatred and delusion while they ladle water over statues of the cute baby Buddha. Bowing with all their family members as their names are recited by monks and nuns playing wooden gongs, they prepare themselves spiritually to meet the exigencies of the coming year with hope and a lighter heart of compassion for all that lives on earth. Everyone shares a light vegetarian meal with the Buddhist clergy on this day. They may join in extended prayers and rituals led by monks. Or they

just hang out with their kids and lovers to enjoy the day off without cares, giving thanks to Buddha's extraordinary efforts.

On a similar note of joy and hope, Buddhists in Theravada countries like Sri Lanka commemorate the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the historic Lord Buddha one day on the ancient calendar month of Vesak. This year Vesak is particularly auspicious since it marks the 2550th anniversary of the Buddha's *mahaparinibbana*. This term refers to the total extinction of karmic traces on all psychophysical planes. Theravadins believe Shakyamuni achieved the complete ending of the cycles of birth and death and rebirth on this day. Mahayanists believe this was just one of the countless Buddhas miraculous manifestations on this one of many planets in an infinite number of world-systems.

Whatever story appeals to your imagination, UUs of Clearwater will join with members and invited celibate clergy of the Dhamma Wheel Meditation Society to celebrate this happy day on Saturday evening May 20 at 5:30 pm. We will bow, and bathe baby Buddhas, and offer flowers and incense, and hear the chanting of Pali verses by Theravada monks and the *Heart of the Perfection of Wisdom Sutra* by Mahayana acolytes in other languages. A dharma talk will be given on the theme of socially engaged Buddhism. Abhi Janamanchi will reflect on his encounter with leading Buddhists on his recent trip to Taiwan. After the service all are invited to share in an inexpensive vegetarian buffet feast prepared by the DWMS in the Social Hall at 7 pm.

Prior to the service, a Banner Parade from Bhante's new home across the street to UUC will take place at 4:30 pm. This is new addition to our annual Vesak event so please lend your cheer, encouragement and participation.

*True Dharma Frank Tedesco  
UU Buddhist Fellowship, Tampa Bay*



Want to learn Microsoft Publisher and exercise some creativity? Nancy Warner, the editor of the Octagram wants to go on vacation this summer and away boating for awhile this winter and needs someone to share in Octagram creation. If interested, please call Nancy at 744-7975. Thanks!



# **The Interdependent Web in Action**

A Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater Guide to helping one another  
through Hurricane Season 2006



**Precautions we can take together**

## **PLANNING FOR THE STORMY SEASON**

We will undoubtedly spend some time in the coming months in a watchful mode. We are committed to advance planning for the 2006 Hurricane Season and are asking you to collaborate with us here in the UUC office to be sure that we each take responsibility for our personal and collective safety. It is prudent to have our plans well thought out and ready to implement. Here are a few thoughts specific to UUC that we would like you to include in your planning.



In case the storm hits here: If you need to go to higher ground or are in a mobile home park and you do not have a place to evacuate to, please call us right away at the Church office at (727) 531-7704 so that we can match you with a Host Home of another member of UUC.

If you do go away due to a storm, please give us a quick courtesy call and let us know that you are going out of town and have a safe destination. For those of you who are away in the summer please let us know that you are not in town so that we don't try to track down members who may be out of town already. Knowing where you are keeps anxiety and risk at bay and assures that no one is lost in the shuffle. Leave a message if it is after hours. We don't want to spend precious time looking for you if you are safe already!

If you are able to help another UUC member by offering your services as a Host Home, please call the office and get on our list right away. Let us know that you can be a support and resource to another UUC member or family. Be sure that you have enough supplies for at least a week or two of power outages. If you need help planning for a severe storm or shopping for what you will need please call us now at the office at (727) 531-7704. Please do not wait until the last moment.

In case of a mass evacuation: We want to be sure that we all have a plan in case of a mass evacuation. Please accept this gentle nudge from people who care about you to get your plan in place.

In the event of a mass evacuation, help has been offered by the Atlanta, Georgia congregation. They would be available to provide housing either in host homes or at their church to those of us in need of such assistance. Part of the plan would be for them to reserve a block of rooms near the church for our use. They are currently on standby for us. Abhi will be talking directly with their contact person about the planning and arrangements for the 2006 season. If the time comes that we must implement the plan, the contact person is Dana Reynolds at the UU Congregation of Gwinnet, 12 Bethesda Church Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4236 and (770)717-7913.

If the storm hits elsewhere: There will undoubtedly be other UU congregations affected by storms this year. There may be a need for their members to evacuate to our geographical area. If you can serve as a Host Home for UU members, staff or clergy from another geographical area while the storm passes, please call the office with that kind offer.

We are asking that each member and friend of our UUC community complete the two-page 2006 Storm Emergency Information and Contact Form (included in the middle of the Octagram). Gathering this information now will prevent our staff and ministers from spending precious time attempting to track down folks who might need assistance. Thank you for completing this and returning it either by e-mail or to the box on the front desk in the foyer marked:

**Hurricane Questionnaire.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO OFFICE BY MAY 15, 2006**

**STORM EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND CONTACT FORM**  
**Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater**                      **2006 Storm Season**

**Name(s)** of all who are residents in your house:

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**Address** Please attach a MapQuest Map from the church to your house if possible. If you do not have the electronic capability to do that, give precise written directions. This is requested so we can find your house in the unlikely event that our street signs are out and we have enlisted help to make sure all our members are safe.

**Phone:** We recommend that you have a car charger for your cell phones. If the electricity is out, it will be the only way you can keep in touch with the outside world. Of course, a full tank of gas is needed too.

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Numbers:** Please leave us the number(s) of family members or friends who live outside the area whom we can contact in the unlikely event that we need to. Our ability to contact them will help us help you and might relieve their anxiety as well.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**We are stronger together than alone. Let's help each other!**



**Please answer the following questions**

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1. Are you staying at home in a storm?
  
2. Do you have anyone staying with you or would you like to be matched with a host home?
  
3. Do you need any help getting your home ready or needed supplies into your home to ride out the storm?  
Please tell us specifically what you need help with.

4. Are you able to provide help to others? What kind?

5. Could you be a host home?       Yes     No      If so, please specify:

# of adults you can host \_\_\_\_\_

# of children you can host \_\_\_\_\_

# of pets and what species you can accommodate

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What are your requirements for your guests (i.e. bring food, bedding, crates, litter, pans, etc.)

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The information will be used only to reach you in the case of an emergency when the members and friends of UUC are concerned for your safety and wellbeing. This information will not be published anywhere else or shared with anyone except the designated staff and members who are trying to offer assistance to you.

## **Keeping Informed**

Here are some helpful websites that offer information about the paths of tropical depressions, storms and hurricanes.

[www.wunderground.com/tropical/](http://www.wunderground.com/tropical/) (weather underground) this site takes you right to the tropical hurricane section of the website. Very accessible.

[www.noaa.com/](http://www.noaa.com/) is a more technical and comprehensive website than some.

[www.weather.com/newscenter/tropical/](http://www.weather.com/newscenter/tropical/) is the Weather Channel's website. It is easy to read and understand.

<http://americanfamilysafety.com/store/cart.php?target=communicationplan> This website has a wonderful family communication plan template on its website. It helps your family members let each other know to reach all the others in case you are separated. It recommends that you send copies of it to your families in other states so they know how to contact you as well.



## **After the Storm**

We want to make sure that you are in touch with us as soon as possible in the aftermath of a storm. Please reconnect as quickly as possible after “the big blow.” If you have telephone service, please call the office as soon as possible because we will be waiting to know:

- How you are? This is our primary concern, of course. We will worry about you if we do not hear from you!
- Do you need any physical assistance?
- Is your house damaged? If so, what is the nature of the damage?
- Can you help others? If so, how?

If you cannot reach anyone in your congregation, especially if you need help, please call the Florida District Office of the UUA and leave a message. Even if the phone is out there, they can usually retrieve their messages and will get back to you ASAP. There are volunteers, funds, chain saws and other assistance available to help us and our congregation get back on our collective feet, so please do not hesitate to call Jessica Curren at (407) 894-2119. She will be able to put you in contact with regional coordinators and get you friendly, cheerful help from other parts of our district.

**THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB IS ALIVE AND WELL  
AT UUC!**

# UU Church of Tampa Event “Speaking Out On Moral Values” Features Donna Brazile With Local Human Rights Activists Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Plan to attend and help spread the word about our major upcoming event: “**Speaking Out On Moral Values: Setting Priorities That Really Matter**,” **Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.** at Comfort Inn Conference Center, 820 E. Busch Blvd.

The **free event features keynote speaker Donna Brazile**, national media commentator and noted expert on grassroots organizing and voting rights. Ms. Brazile will be joined by a panel of Tampa Bay area speakers representing liberal faith communities and progressive organizations.

Part of our UU Tampa’s Defending Democracy project, funded in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, this community conversation is designed to help rally and inspire allies in other progressive congregations and organizations around common values. The goal is to transform the moral values dialogue which has dominated our country’s politics and culture in recent years from a mean-spirited conversation based on prejudice and judgment to one that focuses back on the most fundamental American values of equality, justice and compassion.

**Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley** will host the event, providing the opening words about the critical role the progressive faith community needs to play in standing up for positive moral values that unite, rather than divide people. The panel speakers include:

**Rev. Phyllis Hunt**, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church Tampa, is an active advocate for marriage equality and inspiring speaker on human rights.

**Rev. Charles McKenzie**, Florida representative for the RainbowPUSH Coalition, is a passionate speaker for peace and social change. An educator for more than 20 years, Rev. McKenzie is on the Executive Board of the Manatee County Educational Association and is associate minister of the Westcoast Center.

**Linda Osmundson**, executive director of Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA) in Pinellas County, is an international speaker and expert on domestic violence. As part of her mission to help create a community without violence, Ms. Osmundson is a frequent speaker and writer on race, housing, and children’s advocacy issues.

**Birgit Van Hout**, Executive Director of Community Tampa Bay, is a long-time advocate for intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity and has been a guest speaker at numerous international conferences. She spent nearly four years with the United Nations Human Rights office, and has served on missions to support peacekeeping, refugee relocation and democratic elections in Guatemala, East Timor, Bosnia and the West Bank and Gaza in the Middle East.

**Rob Lorei**, Public Affairs Director of WMNF, will moderate the panel discussion.

Don’t miss out on this exciting event! If you’ve been frustrated with the limited discussion on moral values, this is your opportunity to change the subject to issues that matter most to you. This is also our opportunity as a congregation to serve as leaders of the local progressive community. The facility at Comfort Inn Conference Center will hold several hundred people, so invite as many people as you can!

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., allowing an opportunity to learn how to get involved in local progressive organizations, with the speaker and dialogue program beginning at 7 p.m. No reservations are needed. If you have questions, contact Russ Patterson at 813-849-3919 or email: [russellpatterson1@earthlink.net](mailto:russellpatterson1@earthlink.net).

**WHAT: Speaking Out On Moral Values: Setting Priorities That Really Matter**

**WHO: Keynote Donna Brazile with panelists from progressive Tampa Bay area organizations**

**WHEN: Tuesday, May 9; doors open at 6:30 p.m., program begins at 7 p.m.**

**WHERE: Comfort Inn Conference Center, 820 E. Busch Blvd., off I-275**

# THE MUSIC MAN Jr.

Presented by the  
Safety Harbor Middle School Drama Club



Based on a story by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey.

Sunday, May 7, 2006, 7 PM  
At UUC

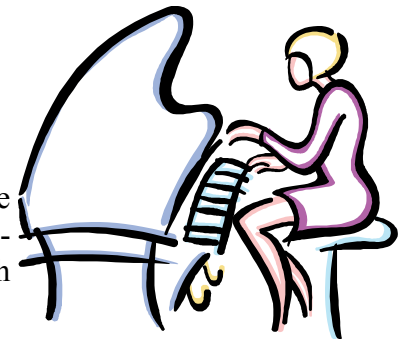
*The Music Man* is an American musical classic, following fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill and his visit to River City, Iowa where he meets and falls in love with the willful, spinster librarian, Marian Paroo. With his word-a-second style, Professor Harold Hill convinces the town to adopt his revolutionary music program, the Think System, or face the moral decline of the youngsters of River City. Chaos ensues as Hill's credentials are questioned and he is forced to prove himself to the citizens of River City.

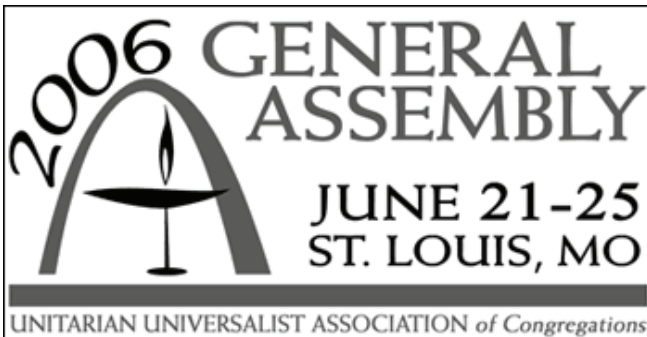
The cast includes Abhimanyu Janamanchi as Charlie Cowell.

**Suggested donation - \$5** (the entire proceeds will go towards supporting the drama program at Safety Harbor Middle School)

## Sharis Coleman-Derr has New CD!

Sharis' new piano CD is called "GITA" and will be for sale for \$15 in the Social Hall after services. Ten percent of the purchase price will be donated to UUC and one-third will go to Relief International for help with victims of natural disasters like hurricane Katrina.





Please notify the UUC office or any Board member if you would like to attend this fascinating event!

**Rummage Sale at UUC  
on Saturday, May 13  
from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Bring items for donation to the sale to UUC on Thursday, May 11 from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. or on Friday, May 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have items to bring but cannot meet these times, call Jeannie Shimer at 517-3801. Workers are also needed for the sale to run smoothly.

**Come to SUUSI this Summer**

Looking for a great, affordable vacation for your family, one with lots of adventures and filled with UU friends? Come to SUUSI! You'll be welcomed warmly and invited into our community of nearly 1,000. Together, we'll create a week of conversation, of reflection, of activity, of family. You'll be challenged intellectually and nurtured spiritually. You can stay up all night dancing or making music, and spend all day communing with nature or enhancing your personal growth. So many choices! We have special programs for youth and teens so be sure to bring the whole family. SUUSI is UU summer camp, July 16-22, 2006. We meet on the university campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA - a great little spot in the mountains. Visit [www.suusi.org](http://www.suusi.org) or call Paul Langrock at 784-6597.

**Planned Giving**

Have you remembered UUC in your will? Many of our members have. In fact, there are some excellent ways that you can arrange your finances so that support can be provided to UUC down the road without reducing your current income. For more information, please contact Randy Cooper or Mark Brandt.



**UU Singles 40+ Foreign Film Series  
Saturday, May 13  
Patio Room 7:00 p.m.  
\$5:00 Donation**

**Afterlife** (*Wandafuru raifu* or *Wonderful Life* - Japan, 2001)

118 minutes English Subtitles

Genre: Supernatural Drama

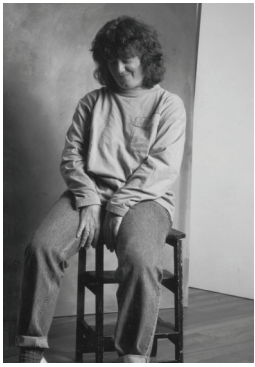
Written and directed by Hirokazu Koreeda

**Afterlife** (also known as **Wandafuru raifu**) is a thought-provoking film that challenges its audience to reflect on what happens to a person in the afterlife. The characters are placed in a way station and asked to choose a memory in which to dwell for eternity. Then the memory is staged and they depart into their memory.

Join us for this superb film. The director's inspiration for this film was his father who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Please stay for the discussion and the reception that will follow. We will offer Japanese Tea, Plum wine, Sake and Wasabi and fish crackers. *Gracias, Soledad Loba, 576-8003*

**Members Art Show**

The Members Art Show will be hung May 17 and stay until Labor Day weekend. Please let me know your intent to show your art. — *Charlene Carnes, Chair of Art Committee, 789-3536*



## CHERYL WHEELER

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2006

8:00 p.m.

\$17 in advance/\$20 at the door

It has always seemed as if there were two Cheryl Wheelers, and fans of the New England songwriter relish watching the two tussle for control of the mike. There is poet-Cheryl, writer of some of the prettiest, most alluring and intelligent ballads on the modern folk scene. And there is her evil twin, comic-Cheryl, a militant trend defier and savagely funny social critic. By creating a delightful contrast between the poet and the comic, Cheryl has made *Sylvia Hotel* her most comfortable and, well, Cheryl-est album to date.

Cheryl's concerts are more like what you would find at a comedy club than expect to find at a folk music concert. She will tell a story that has you rolling in the aisles, and then sing a song that leaves you wiping tears from your eyes. She will talk about some serious current event, and then sing a song that will have you howling with laughter. Her entire concert is an emotional roller coaster.

If your idea of a folk singer/songwriter concert is a bunch of people clapping politely after songs, and then sitting quietly while the performer says things like "This next song is about ...", well, you've never seen a Cheryl Wheeler concert before. For more information, visit [www.cherylwheeler.com](http://www.cherylwheeler.com)

### PSI Upcoming Meetings

The Celestine Prophecy movie was a great success, thanks to a huge amount of work done by Bill Newton and wonderful help from all the volunteers.

Future scheduled PSI meetings are as follows (topics are tentative):

May 28 – “All Life is an Illusion” – Abhi Janamanchi will lead a discussion on this interesting theory.

June 25 – Part III of *The Elegant Universe*, followed by a discussion.

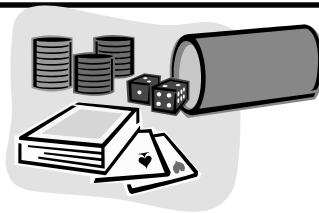
July 30 – Discussion of the *Conversations with God* books, by Neale Donald Walsh.

August 27 – Bill Newton will lead a discussion of "The Disappearance of the Universe," by Gary Renard. This book comes highly recommended as a good “prequel” to *A Course in Miracles*.

*Roberta (“Bobbie”) Casper Watson*  
(813) 227-7487 or [rcwatson@trenam.com](mailto:rcwatson@trenam.com).

### Florida Women and Religion’s Annual Spring Retreat, June 2—4

near Brooksville, FL. For more information, call Susan Pendergraft at 595-2661 or email [fossils@knology.net](mailto:fossils@knology.net). Pricing options (depending on staying on-site or off-site or Saturday only). Hurry — payments due by May 12. Check out the website [floridawomenandreligion.org](http://floridawomenandreligion.org)



### Mondays Are Better When Spent Together

Don’t forget the second Monday of each month is fun and games night for the women of UUC and their friends. What ever you want to do, play cards, scrabble, dominos, another game of your choice or just visit with each another, you are sure to enjoy the camaraderie. We meet at 7:00 P.M. in the Westwood Room. Won’t you join us on May 8?

— *Marlene Calderone*, 669-9517



# MAY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Healthy Children - Healthy Planet (L) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Open Issues (P) <a href="#">10:30 AM</a> Service "A Culture of Life" <a href="#">12:00 PM - 3:30 PM</a> Spring Work Party <a href="#">12:30 PM - 2:00 PM</a> PSI Symposium Meeting	<b>1</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM</a> Duplicate Bridge (P) <a href="#">6:30 PM - 8:30 PM</a> Drumming Circle (O) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> NVC Practice Group (L)	<b>2</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 1:30 PM</a> Eurythmy Class (P) <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</a> Meditation (O) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Bridge (P) <a href="#">7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</a> AA (W)	<b>3</b> <a href="#">5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</a> Waldorf School (P) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> Committee on Ministry (Abhi's office) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	<b>4</b> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Children/Youth RE Committee (L) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> New Member Orientation (P)	<b>5</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM</a> Staff Meeting <a href="#">12:00 PM - 1:30 PM</a> First Friday with the Ministers (W) <a href="#">7:00 PM</a> Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	<b>6</b> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</a> Suncoast May Faire (Playground) <a href="#">9:30 AM</a> Social Justice Comm (W) <a href="#">5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</a> Congregation Potluck <a href="#">8:00 PM</a> AA (P)
<b>7</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 10:30 AM</a> New Member Sunday <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Healthy Children - Healthy Planet (L) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Open Issues (P) <a href="#">10:30 AM</a> Service (O) <a href="#">12:15 PM - 2:30 PM</a> Foundation Board (L) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> Music Man (O)	<b>8</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM</a> Duplicate Bridge (P) <a href="#">1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</a> Sr. Adults Committee (L) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> UUWU Games & Card Night (W)	<b>9</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 1:30 PM</a> Eurythmy Class (P) <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</a> Meditation (O) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Bridge (P) <a href="#">7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</a> AA (W)	<b>10</b> <a href="#">5:00 PM</a> Finance Committee (P) <a href="#">6:30 PM</a> Executive Committee (P) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	<b>11</b> <a href="#">1:00 PM - 6:00 PM</a> Rummage Sale Set-up (S,P)	<b>12</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</a> Rummage Sale Set-up (S,P) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 11:00 AM</a> Friday Morning Book Discussion (C) <a href="#">7:00 PM</a> Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	<b>13</b> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 3:00 PM</a> Rummage Sale (S,P) <a href="#">2:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Private Event (O) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 11:30 PM</a> Singles 40+ Foreign Film (P) <a href="#">8:00 PM</a> AA (P)
<b>14</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Healthy Children - Healthy Planet (L) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Open Issues (P) <a href="#">10:30 AM</a> Service (O) <a href="#">11:30 AM - 2:00 PM</a> Rummage Sale (S,P) <a href="#">11:45 AM - 12:30 PM</a> Light Lunch (S)	<b>15</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM</a> Duplicate Bridge (P) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> NVC Practice Group (L)	<b>16</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 1:30 PM</a> Eurythmy Class (P) <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</a> Meditation (O) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Bridge (P) <a href="#">7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</a> AA (W)	<b>17</b> <a href="#">6:30 PM</a> Board Meeting (P) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	<b>18</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 4:00 PM</a> Hanging new art show (Octagon) <a href="#">12:00 PM - 2:00 PM</a> Religious Services Committee (W) <a href="#">2:00 PM</a> Women's Book Club (L) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> Adult RE (L)	<b>19</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 11:00 AM</a> Friday Morning Book Discussion (C) <a href="#">7:00 PM</a> Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	<b>20</b> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Buddha's Birthday (O,S,P) <a href="#">8:00 PM</a> AA (P)
<b>21</b> <a href="#">OCTAGRAM DEADLINE</a> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Healthy Children - Healthy Planet (L) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Open Issues (P) <a href="#">10:30 AM</a> Service (O) <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</a> RE Sponsored Luncheon (S) <a href="#">12:30 PM - 3:00 PM</a> Congregational Meeting (O)	<b>22</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM</a> Duplicate Bridge (P)	<b>23</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 1:30 PM</a> Eurythmy Class (P) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Bridge (P) <a href="#">7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</a> AA (W)	<b>24</b> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:30 AM</a> Cluster Revival Service (O,S) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 11:00 AM</a> Friday Morning Book Discussion (C) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Men's Night Out (E) <a href="#">7:00 PM</a> Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	<b>27</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 4:30 PM</a> Conversation on Ministry To & With Youth (S) <a href="#">8:00 PM</a> AA (P)
<b>28</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Healthy Children - Healthy Planet (L) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</a> Open Issues (P) <a href="#">10:30 AM</a> Service (O) <a href="#">12:30 PM - 2:00 PM</a> PSI Symposium Meeting	<b>29</b> <a href="#">Office Closed</a> <a href="#">9:30 AM</a> Duplicate Bridge (P)	<b>30</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 1:30 PM</a> Eurythmy Class (P) <a href="#">4:00 PM - 6:00 PM</a> HIV Testing (W) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Bridge (P) <a href="#">7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</a> AA (W)	<b>31</b> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</a> Covenant Group Facilitator's Meeting (L) <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	<b>1</b> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</a> Children/Youth RE Committee (L)	<b>2</b> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 1:00 PM</a> Suncoast Kindergarten Ceremony (S) <a href="#">9:30 AM - 11:00 AM</a> Friday Morning Book Discussion (C) <a href="#">10:00 AM</a> Staff Meeting <a href="#">12:00 PM - 1:30 PM</a> First Friday with the Ministers (W) <a href="#">7:00 PM</a> Zen Buddhist Meditation (L) <a href="#">8:00 PM - 10:00 PM</a> Cheryl Wheeler in Concert (O)	<b>3</b> <a href="#">8:00 PM</a> AA (P)

For the most up-to-date (and legible) calendar information, visit [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org) and click on "Monthly Calendar."



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# OCTAGRAM

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

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

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

**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 Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline is midnight of the third Sunday of every month. For June issue, deadline is May 21, 2006.*

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

*Visit: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)*